

1 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

September 11, 2012 Tuesday

Underclared millionaires (HL)

BYLINE: Farrah Naz Karim; Alang Bendahara

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 459 words

KAMUNTING: For years, they brazenly smuggled migrants in and out of this country, fuelling a billion-ringgit "business".

After painstaking investigations involving countless hours of surveillance, intelligence-gathering and agents going deep undercover, the Special Branch smashed the operations of five human-smuggling syndicates, but not before they had smuggled close to 1.2 million people in and out of Malaysia.

Bosses of seven other human smuggling syndicates are behind bars at the Kamunting detention camp.

Authorities believe there are at least 16 more active syndicates, and the number is rising.

Syndicate members, whom the New Straits Times spoke to on condition of anonymity, agreed with the assessment.

Dossiers on them, mostly three inches thick, also showed that the smugglers had wide transborder networks, using air, land and sea to move migrants in and out of the country.

These syndicates used Malaysia as a transit point to smuggle migrants - particularly from China, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar - to Australia, the United States, Canada and countries in Europe.

Their case files showed that the push-off points to third countries included the coastlines of Johor, Selangor, Perak, Kedah, Negri Sembilan and Malacca, as well as via land, through the Malaysia-Thai border.

The journey to these countries would take 18 weeks and included stopovers in Indonesia to refuel and take on fresh water.

The boats they used for sea transfers included fishing vessels and motorboats (bot panchung), fitted with three 250hp outboard engines that could outrun enforcement pursuit boats.

One active illegal jetty used by human-smuggling syndicates as a pick-up point is located a few kilometres from a marine police base in Lumut. "No, no, too dangerous," was the response from a Special Branch officer accompanying us when we wanted to take a closer look.

The NST yesterday exposed that human smugglers currently detained under the Internal Security Act at the Kamunting detention camp were counting the days to their release as they were all set to resume their multi-million ringgit business.

Authorities had expressed concern that these syndicates, with solid foreign networking, were even looking at breaking into new markets, like New Zealand and Canada.

The NST learnt that the Special Branch began using the Internal Security Act against human smugglers in 2009.

This resulted in the United States' Department of State revising Malaysia's ranking up one notch to **Tier** Two in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report **watch list**.

A Special Branch report said the move to deal decisively with human smugglers had also helped in the decision by the British government to refrain from imposing a visa requirement on Malaysians.

(END)

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2 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Philippines Daily Inquirer

August 30, 2012 Thursday

Hellooo?!? DOJ hotline manned by clueless call center; Loren fumes

BYLINE: Cathy C. Yamsuan

LENGTH: 605 words

A HOTLINE of the government's antihuman trafficking program manned by a clueless call center agent left Sen. Loren Legarda fuming.

To find out whether the hotline was working, Legarda called 1343 and was surprised to be answered by an agent who simply asked her to leave her name and number.

The anonymous female call taker told Legarda pointblank that the number she called was not the hotline of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Iacat).

Red-faced officials of the Department of Justice (DOJ), meanwhile, listened with bated breath to Legarda's end of the conversation during a Senate hearing on their 2013 budget yesterday.

The DOJ is seeking a budget of P10.8 billion for next year. From this total, P100 million is intended to finance the department's participation in the global agency's efforts against the trafficking of women and children.

"Is this the Iacat hotline?" Legarda asked the receiver after DOJ officials provided her the number.

"No, it's not? This is a wrong number? How did that happen? They said this is the number to call when you have information or you have to report about trafficking," she told the person at the other end.

"This is different from Iacat? So, this is not a hotline? So how would you help me," Legarda went on.

Angry, frustrated

The senator eventually put the phone down and told Ruby Ramores, Iacat's executive director in the Philippines, that she gave Ramores' name and phone number when the call center agent asked.

The experience left the senator angry and frustrated. Legarda intentionally made the call in front of justice officials to test the government's sincerity in combating trafficking. Justice Secretary Leila de Lima called in sick and did not attend the hearing.

Antitrafficking law author

The senator is the principal author of the 10-year-old Anti-Trafficking Law that is up for amendments in Congress. "She sounded articulate but not competent," Legarda said of the one who took her "hotline" call.

"I think I caught her off-guard because she suddenly added that she would help and just refer me to the (Commission on Filipinos Overseas). Obviously, she's just a call center operator," she told no one in particular.

Still, Legarda lamented that had she been a caller with a legitimate tip against a trafficker, she would have simply been given the runaround despite her good intentions.

Tier 2 ruling

"You must have people who are competent and who know the law and have a direct link to authorities. I'm sorry to test the hotline but I had to see (if it) works," she told the fidgety officials.

Ramores and company could not provide an explanation to Legarda.

The senator's decision to call 1343 was apparently spurred by her disappointment at the Tier 2 ranking that Iacat gave the Philippines.

Tier 2 means the country has not yet satisfied the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** but is making headway in efforts to achieve this.

Legarda wants the DOJ to be more "proactive" in antitrafficking efforts, noting that Cambodia and Laos have signs in public places warning of strict penalties against the crime.

The senator told the Inquirer after the hearing that call center agents were more appropriate in cases of business-oriented inquiries.

Helloo!

"Hello! Iacat is not a credit card company or a mall," she fumed. The DOJ said the proposed P100-million budget for Iacat would be used for operational funds for the rescue of trafficking victims, surveillance of suspected traffickers' activities, administrative costs and allowances of employees involved in the operations. Congress gave the DOJ P50 million for Iacat-related activities this year.

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3 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 28, 2012 Tuesday

ICT and Telecom; Using Modern Technology to Combat Modern Slavery

BYLINE: MediaGlobal (New York)

LENGTH: 1195 words

Sofia's childhood was stolen at the age of 9, when she was raped by a 48-year-old man in her hometown of Welcome, in Free State province of South Africa. Five years later, she lost the last traces of her childhood when her mother died. Sent to live with an abusive uncle, Sofia ran away. Instead of freedom, she found slavery. Kidnapped and raped yet again, Sofia became a commodity. Human traffickers bought and forced her into prostitution.

Changed for her privacy, Sofia's name is made-up, but her story is not. Stories like hers are a daily occurrence in Africa's wealthiest country. Yet, little is known of lives like Sofia's. Even when helped in shelters, victims of human trafficking often find it difficult to open up, either because of language barriers or because they have been threatened by their exploiters. Also, the significant decrease of awareness since the 2010 FIFA World Cup - when many campaigns were deployed to halt the expected expansion in trafficking linked to the sport event - has kept this crime in the dark corners of South Africa.

Not For Sale, a California-based non-profit-organization, wants to bring again public attention to this issue.

In partnership with Mxit, Africa's largest social networking service, it has created a platform for use on mobile phones. Basically, it works as a quiz and aims to gather data on three subjects: what people know about human trafficking, which trends of trafficking are taking place in various regions, and how to detect and support victims.

"An initiative such as this will not only provide valuable information for key stakeholders and decision makers, but also motivate community efforts to raise awareness of the problem, support law enforcement and possibly identify victims," declared Carol Allais, professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of South Africa.

When people log on to Mxit using their mobile phones, the Not For Sale logo appears along with an advertisement inviting to take the survey. If users click on it, the survey starts in a format of 11 "yes" or "no" questions.

Here are two examples: "In South Africa, are only young local females at risk for being trafficked?" or "A young boy from the Eastern Cape needs money to help his family buy food. An uncle tells him of a job in Cape Town where he can make enough money to send some home to his mother and sisters. He boards a taxi van with other young boys thinking he is going to Cape Town, but instead he is taken to a farm where he is forced to work long hours with no pay. If he tries to escape, he is beaten. Is this human trafficking?"

By offering free air-time and other credits to its 40 million users, Mxit - and so does Not for Sale - hopes to achieve 150,000 responses to the survey over a two months period.

By collecting data, Not for Sale hopes to better understand people's general perception of human trafficking, one of the world's fastest-growing criminal industries, generating more than \$32 billion per year.

Not For Sale will also identify areas where it is needed to implement anti-trafficking initiatives.

Another outcome, no less important, is an increase in the culture of reporting human trafficking incidences. Mxit's users are encouraged to report cases of people affected by trafficking. For this purpose, a toll-free number is provided.

Though too early to draw conclusions from the new findings, what is already known is that South Africa remains a main source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and organ harvesting.

In spite of its overall growth - the country's GDP is expected to increase by 2.8 per cent in 2012, outperforming the US and the EuroZone - South Africa's urban and rural poverty is the most evident cause of trafficking in humans.

"Local South Africans from the rural areas are tricked into taking jobs in the cities and then are exploited both sexually and domestically," Christina Bacino, Not For Sale's South Africa coordinator, told MediaGlobal.

This trend is confirmed by Myriam Danam, founder of S-Cape Home, a project launched by the counter-trafficking network Justice ACTs, that provides a safe environment and a holistic restoration process for young exploited women. "Mainly the girls we've been helping come from rural or suburban provinces of South Africa," said Danam. "They usually go to the cities by themselves and from these cities they're trafficked by Nigerian rings that bring them to Cape Town."

Both Not for Sale and Justice ACTs' experiences on the field are corroborated by the latest results described in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report released by the US Department of State.

The US State Department uses a 3-tier scale regarding **human trafficking** where 3s are the worst offenders. South Africa ranks as a Tier 2 country in the TIP report, meaning that its government, like many others including the ones of Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, and Brazil "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

Currently, South Africa's laws do not prohibit all forms of human trafficking. Moreover, law enforcement efforts are focused on sex trafficking, with little attention to forced labor. The US State Department recommends that South Africa compile national statistics, as the current lack of data inhibits effective response. "I've had a meeting with the South African Department of Social Development; what I've heard is that they [the government] don't have enough reports and statistics to believe human trafficking is a reality," Danam stated.

Experts agree much needs to be done in the realms of prosecution, protection, and prevention. The Parliament's justice committee has recently adopted the long-awaited Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, drafting of which began in 2003. The legislation, under discussion in Parliament for the past five years, still needs to be enacted.

Despite the South African government's slowness, the civil society has proven ready to act. Social networks can be the new frontier for all the stakeholders to do an even better job in fighting this modern form of slavery.

Thanks to social networks potential victims can better understand the dynamics of human trafficking, recognize and avoid it. Also, a real-time reporting of such crimes can induce real-time responses by authorities. Trafficking detection can also be managed through social networking sites like Twitter as shown in Mark Latonero's study "Human Trafficking Online."

"Raising awareness and gathering opinions are important parts of the anti-trafficking movement," Latonero, Research Director at Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy at the University of Southern California, told MediaGlobal. "At the same time, social media and mobile phones are used to facilitate human trafficking, for example, to recruit, control, and advertise victims. We need to find innovative ways to detect both victims and exploiters on these digital networks and provide real-time information to those who are able to help."

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HERE 4 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Business Wire

August 22, 2012 Wednesday 10:17 PM GMT

Demonstration at the Netherlands Embassy; Alleged Victims Accuse Joris Demmink of Pedophilia And Call for his Arrest

LENGTH: 372 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Shared Hope International , The Rebecca Project and The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies are demonstrating to raise awareness on Thursday, August 23, 2012 from 1-2pm at the Netherlands Embassy located at 4200 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

The non-profit organizations are calling for an investigation of Joris Demmink, Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands, who has been accused of child rape, sex tourism, and child sex trafficking. Read more: <http://arrestdemmink.com/>

Victims within the Netherlands and Turkey allege that Demmink raped them when they were boys and that he was part of a group of pedophiles committing these crimes. Demmink has been accused of using his power to obstruct justice efforts by eluding investigation and prosecution. Demmink stands accused of child sex tourism, a form of child sex trafficking.

The allegations against this high ranking government official are not reported in the 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** Report by the U.S. Department of State, Office to Combat and Monitor **Trafficking in Persons**, which gives the Netherlands a **Tier 1** ranking - the highest ranking available indicating compliance with the standards to combat trafficking. These allegations have not spurred the European Union to take action, raising serious concern as to the level of seriousness with which governments are responding to human trafficking. Reporters, law enforcement agents, prosecutors, and victims in the Netherlands report that they fear grave personal danger in exposing these crimes.

Who: Shared Hope International, The Rebecca Project, The Protection Project, and advocates
Where: Netherlands Embassy
 4200 Linnean Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20008
When: Thursday, August 23, 2012 1:00-2:00pm

Contact Janet Fallon at O: 703.469.3766, M: 703.625.2532, or proptionsdc@gmail.com, for interviews with: Shared Hope International Linda Smith (U.S. Congress 1995-99), Founder and President and Samantha Vardaman, Senior Director The Rebecca Project for Human Rights Imani Walker, Executive Director and Kwame Fosu, Policy Director

CONTACT: for Shared Hope International
 Janet Fallon, 703-469-3766
 Mobile: 703-625-2532
proptionsdc@gmail.com

URL: <http://www.businesswire.com>**LOAD-DATE:** August 23, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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5 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

August 21, 2012

Vice trap probe

BYLINE: SANDEEP SINGH GREWAL

LENGTH: 322 words

THAI authorities are investigating claims that a group of 10 women could be forced into prostitution in Bahrain.

Members of the Thai police have already contacted government ministries here in an attempt to seek more information and plan a potential rescue.

It comes after they received a call from a distressed Thai woman who claimed she and nine others were being detained in Bahrain with the intention of being forced into prostitution.

"The woman said they would be forced into prostitution at the end of Ramadan and called for an emergency rescue," Police Colonel Sanpisit Yaemkesorn told Bangkok daily paper The Nation.

He revealed the woman, who called last Friday, claimed she was being detained at an apartment opposite the French Embassy.

Col Yaemkesorn said an investigation was launched after a check on the woman's identity showed she was genuine.

He said she also alleged that diplomats in Bahrain had been involved in trafficking the group and expressed fears that they would soon be shifted to another location.

According to this year's US State Department Trafficking in Persons report, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Bahrain reported 128 victims of human trafficking, some of whom were referred by the government.

The government reportedly investigated 18 cases, five of which resulted in convictions of those found guilty.

"Bahrain is a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking," said the report.

It placed Bahrain on the **Tier 2 watch list** for countries where the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was significant or increasing and there was failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year.

The report stated Bahrain "does not" fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but said it was making significant efforts to do so.

sandy@gdn.com.bh

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6 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 21, 2012 Tuesday

MARRIAGE CONDITIONS TIGHTENED

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 713 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

Laos moves to close a loophole in marriages exploited by human trafficking syndicates.

AFP

Laotian girls throw buckets of water on colleagues during the water festival celebrations in Vientiane, April 13, 2012.

The Lao government is tightening conditions under which foreigners marry local women in a bid to combat human trafficking, according to officials.

Under new rules introduced recently, foreigners wanting to marry local women should be a resident in Laos for at least three consecutive months and have to provide a variety of personal documents for the government to conduct background checks, the officials said.

The stringent conditions are aimed at plugging the marriage loophole that foreign human trafficking syndicates have been using to smuggle Lao women out of the country.

The foreigners quickly get married with local women in Laos and then take them to their countries where the women are forced into prostitution and other illicit activities, the officials said.

"The government has just issued a new law that basically states that if a foreigner wants to marry a Lao girl, he must stay in Laos for three months to obtain proper documents, not just obtain documents and then leave," a Lao anti-human trafficking officer told RFA's Lao service.

"Many women have been missing and sold," the officer said, without giving details on the foreign human trafficking syndicates that are linked to such marriages and smuggling Lao women.

The officer said that under the new rule, a foreigner who wants to marry a Laotian has to submit documents of "his nationality, background and other necessary information to Lao authorities."

"The authorities will investigate and the investigation will take at least three months. If the foreigner is trustworthy, he will be allowed to marry [much] faster; but if [the application is] in doubt, the marriage will be delayed or never permitted."

Smuggling rings

In recent months, officials have exposed foreign sex rings smuggling Lao women to China, Thailand, and Malaysia.

In May, the government reported that hundreds of girls have been trafficked into China from the northern provinces of Laos.

One official had said that over the past two years, hundreds of families from provinces bordering China had approached the government requesting help in locating their missing daughters.

The girls, many of them from the ethnic Khmu minority, were lured with the prospect of work, or had married Chinese nationals.

Human trafficking rings are also increasingly using Thailand as a transit country to send Lao girls to Malaysia where they are sold into prostitution, according to a Lao official, also in May.

Based on statistics provided by the immigration bureau of Thailand's Songkla province, which borders Malaysia to the north, 48,000 Laotians crossed into Malaysia in 2011, but only 46,000 returned.

Some 35 percent of Lao nationals trafficked to Thailand end up in prostitution, U.N. figures have shown.

Across the border

Earlier this month, a Thai official claimed that more than 500 underage Lao girls are working as sex slaves in eastern Thailand, saying that authorities in both countries need to step up the fight against human trafficking.

Chuvit Kamolvisit, a Thai member of parliament and advocate for social issues, said that the girls, aged 13 to 18 years, were discovered in a karaoke bar in the Chachoengsao district of Chachoengsao province.

But Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung denied Chuvit's claims in a statement to the Thai media, saying no such karaoke bar existed.

He called on Lao officials to take measures which included more scrutiny of Lao girls traveling to Thailand to look for work and targeting officials who have assisted traffickers.

A Lao draft law on human trafficking is currently under review and is likely to be put into law by 2014, officials have said.

The U.S. State Department maintained Laos at "**Tier 2**" in its annual report on **human trafficking** in June, saying it does not fully comply with minimum standards for protecting trafficking victims, but that it is making significant efforts to comply with those standards.

Reported by Sidney Khotpaya for RFA's Lao service. Translated by Max Avary. Written in English by Parameswaran Ponnudurai.

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7 of 492 DOCUMENTS



August 14, 2012 Tuesday

61 misconduct cases awaiting action

BYLINE: Farah Adilla

SECTION: C - CENTRAL; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 351 words

A total of 61 cases of misconduct by the Comprehensive Legalisation Programme for Illegal Immigrants (6P) agent, Akhwan Group of Companies, has been reported to Tenaganita, according to executive director Dr Irene Fernandez (picture).

She said out of the 61 cases, Tenaganita and various migrant workers have filed 12 police reports against the manpower agency and its chief executive officer Sirajul Amin Rumel for various alleged misconduct.

In June, Tenaganita filed a case with the commercial crime division at Bukit Aman and the Immigration Department in Putrajaya against the Akhwan Group. She told reporters in Petaling Jaya yesterday that Tenaganita has yet to receive updates on the police reports.

Tenaganita is a Malaysian-based non-governmental organisation which protects and promotes the rights of women, migrants and refugees.

The 6P, which was launched in October 2011, aims to help the government settle issues regarding illegal immigrants and foreign workers in Malaysia.

The 6P stands for pendaftaran (registration), pemutihan (neutralise), pengampunan (amnesty), pemantauan (monitoring), penguatkuasaan (authorisation) and pengusiran (expulsion).

Meanwhile, Malaysia was placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for a third consecutive year, according to a US State Department release of its latest **trafficking in persons watchlist**.

The report said the government of Malaysia "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

"Malaysia's anti-trafficking law does not include adequate provisions for the protection of victims, and the government did not take steps to amend its laws to allow certified victims to reside outside government facilities.

"The government took steps to ameliorate the poor conditions faced by officially certified trafficking victims - such as granting three-year work permits to one group of 32 male victims of forced labour - but it did not take the more meaningful steps of structurally reforming the unnecessarily complex victim identification and protection regime that likely causes further harm to victims," the report said.

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8 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 14, 2012 Tuesday

IOM HELPS TEENAGE KENYAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS RETURN HOME FROM SOUTH SUDAN

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 501 words**DATELINE:** South Sudan

The following information was released by International Organization for Migration (IOM):

IOM, working with UNICEF, has helped two teenage Kenyan victims of human trafficking to return home from South Sudan.

In the first case of its kind handled by IOM South Sudan, the teenagers, who were recruited in a rural Kenyan community for domestic servitude and later forced marriage, escaped and were referred to IOM and UNICEF by the Kenyan community.

Following IOM screening, they were referred to a safe house in the South Sudanese capital, Juba. IOM has since returned them to Kenya, where they will receive shelter, counselling, education and reintegration support to restart their lives.

Human trafficking has been identified as a growing problem in South Sudan, with evidence that trafficking for forced labour and the sex industry are particularly prevalent in the countrys urban centres.

Young girls from rural areas and women who are internally displaced are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for forced labour as domestic servants.

The US State Departments 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report placed South Sudan on its **Tier 2 Watch List**, citing the countrys failure to convict and prosecute those involved in **human trafficking**. Tier 2 indicates that South Sudan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so.

According to South Sudans Ministry of Justice, the country has drafted an Anti-Trafficking Bill. But there are currently no existing policies or processes in place to combat the trade and prosecute traffickers.

IOM is working closely with the Ministries for Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs and has trained over 170 immigration and police personnel in the past 18 months. Border guards, immigration officers and members of the South Sudan Police Service have attended IOM training workshops on identifying and assisting trafficking victims and prosecuting traffickers.

In the absence of legislation, IOM alerted border officials and police officers to the range of crimes traffickers commit during the act of deceiving, transporting and exploiting victims.

IOM has called on the international community to intensify efforts to address the issue and has appealed for funding to conduct an initial base-line assessment to determine the extent of human trafficking both across the border into South Sudan from neighbouring countries, and internally between rural areas and urban centers.

The Government of South Sudan also needs technical assistance to increase its capacity to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, and to prevent the crime and effectively prosecute traffickers. Public awareness campaigns are also needed to inform the public about the issue and to inform victims about the resources available to help them.

IOM works to combat human trafficking in 94 countries. Its counter trafficking activities target prevention of the crime, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.

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9 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CNN Wire

August 10, 2012 Friday 10:10 PM EST

U.S. states of play in anti-trafficking laws

BYLINE: By Sugam Pokharel, CNN

LENGTH: 482 words

DATELINE: (CNN)

(CNN) -- The state of Massachusetts was named among the most improved in the U.S. in 2012 after it passed wide-ranging anti-human trafficking laws.

A report published by Polaris Project, one of the leading organizations in the global fight against **human trafficking** and modern-day slavery, rated and placed all 50 states plus the District of Columbia in one of four **tiers** based on the **human trafficking** laws in the state.

South Carolina, West Virginia and Ohio were also rated 'most improved' for taking concrete steps to address human trafficking. Of those states, Massachusetts was singled out for particular praise as it is now also ranked in the top four states having the strongest legal framework.

Washington tops the list, with Minnesota third and Texas fourth.

The Polaris Project, which published its "2012 State Ratings on Human Trafficking Laws" on Tuesday, believes it is critical that state trafficking laws exist to punish the criminals in the global trade and support the survivors.

"Since 2004, Polaris Project has been tracking state laws," said Mary Ellison, Polaris Project's Director of Policy. "In 2004, only four states had human trafficking laws. But in 2012, we are happy to report that 49 states plus District of Columbia have some type of human trafficking laws. In fact, over the past year, 28 states, or 55% of the states, have passed new human trafficking laws."

After enacting a comprehensive **human trafficking** law in November 2011, Massachusetts moved from the bottom **tier** in 2011 to the top **tier** in 2012, and earned the 'most improved' distinction.

"Massachusetts has taken major steps to combat the egregious crime of human trafficking, and we are pleased that this report recognizes those efforts," Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley said.

"We continue to work towards a successful implementation of the new law through investigations, prosecutions, and policy change and look forward to working with stakeholders to end the exploitation of people in our commonwealth."

Meanwhile, Wyoming, Arkansas, Montana and South Dakota were included in the bottom **tier**, or as the report calls them - the Faltering Four - for what Polaris says was a minimal effort to enact **human trafficking** legislation.

Wyoming, according to the report, is the only state that has failed to pass any robust laws against human trafficking at the state level.

"Passing strong state laws is a critical step to increasing prosecutions of traffickers and providing local support for survivors," said Ellison.

"It is exciting to see so many state policy makers actively seeking ways to stop human trafficking, but using these new laws to save lives and hold traffickers accountable is what we are ultimately striving for. While states like Washington and Massachusetts are clearly at the top of the pack in our ratings, every state can and should do more to improve and implement their laws."

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10 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 10, 2012 Friday

IOM TRAINS NAMIBIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 321 words**DATELINE:** Namibia

The following information was released by International Organization for Migration (IOM):

Nine Senior Namibian immigration officers have completed a two-week training of trainers course in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, focusing on migration management, counter-trafficking and passport examination procedures.

The nine officers who come from four immigration zones will help to train 225 of their colleagues after completing the course.

Based on Namibia's Immigration Standard Operational Procedures Manual, the training, which was funded by the IOM Development Fund and ends today ((10/8), was organized by IOM at the request of Namibia's Home Affairs and Immigration Ministry.

It was designed to help the officers to better understand migration management and human trafficking in a Namibian context, to enable them to identify victims and refer them to appropriate agencies. Participants are expected to subsequently train other immigration and police officers in these fields.

A vast country with porous borders, Namibia is an important transit country for migrants heading to South Africa and is also a final destination for migrants from neighbouring countries.

As a result, its immigration services are overstretched and need capacity building, particularly in the areas of border control, migration management and counter-trafficking.

The US State Department's 2012 annual report on **Trafficking in Persons** placed Namibia on its **Tier 2 watch list**, citing the country's failure to convict and prosecute those involved in **human trafficking**. Tier 2 indicates that Namibia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so.

The report identified various forms of trafficking in the country, including exploitation of children from Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe for forced labour in agriculture, cattle herding, fishing, domestic servitude and prostitution.

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11 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 8, 2012 Wednesday

Nigeria; Kogi Deputy Governor Fingered in the Hasty Release of 267 Children, Traffickers

BYLINE: This Day (Lagos)

LENGTH: 868 words

At a time the crusade against child trafficking is supposed to be intensified, given the poor rating of Nigeria in the international circle, the controversy over who ordered the release of some rescued 267 children as well as those suspected to be trading with them, has cast a shadow over government's sincerity in tackling the incident. Many stakeholders have questioned government's sincerity since the traffickers were released when they were supposed to be arraigned.

But the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has absolved itself from blame in the release of the victims and their traffickers who were apprehended at various times by the Joint Task Force of the Kogi State Army Command on July 28.

According to the agency' spokesman, Mr. Orakwue Arinze, the children, their traffickers and the 13 vehicles which they were travelling in were reportedly released on the orders of Kogi State Deputy Governor, Mr. Yomi Awoniyi, on humanitarian grounds.

The agency said this is in response to statements credited to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in charge of operations in Kogi, claiming that the agency failed to heed its invitation to take possession of the victims and suspects, and it had therefore approached Awoniyi for directive.

This allegation has given rise to speculations that the agency may have connived with influential Nigerians to release the victims and suspects so as to ensure that their sponsors do not face prosecution.

Arinze, who is Assistant Director of Press and Public Relations of the agency, briefed journalists in Abuja yesterday and presented what he called facts of the matter.

According to him, the agency received news of the interception on July 2 and immediately contacted the Kogi State DCP, Operations to take over the victims and the suspects into custody. He added that the DCP expressed concern at the challenge of logistics being faced by the command to take care of such a huge number of people.

Arinze added that the agency activated its evacuation and reception mechanism in its shelters owned by some of its partners.

"The agency then requested the DCP Operations to formally forward an official communication to it to enable us to take over the matter since NAPTIP does not have an office in Kogi State. Another call was placed to the DCP Operations to follow up on the matter at 1700 hrs same Saturday and he informed the agency that the Kogi State Government had intervened and provided minimal refreshment to the victims who according to him, were at that time kept at the Kogi State township stadium," he said.

He added that the agency was told to stay action and wait until July 30 for the handover. However, on the day, the agency's Director, Investigation and Monitoring, Mr. Ezekiel Kaura, was told to hold on as the deputy governor was meeting with senior officials of the police command over the matter, Arinze added.

"As at Wednesday, August 1, 2012 when we did not get any information, it became necessary for the agency to move to Lokoja to evacuate the 267 persons to Abuja. On Thursday, August 2, 2012 our officers visited the DCP Operations

who now informed us that the 267 persons victims and suspects and 13 vehicles handed over to them by JTF had since been released on Sunday, July 29, 2012 on the orders of the Deputy Governor of Kogi State," Arinze said.

Fielding questions from reporters, Arinze said the agency is already working to ensure that the suspects are re-apprehended and charged to court.

"We will not let the matter go, we will formally protest to the relevant authorities," he said.

Many, however, have wondered why it took NAPTIP as long as six days to get to the spot where the victims were supposedly kept, given the short distance between Abuja and Lokoja.

Even then, questions are being asked whether the deputy governor, as claimed by the police, has the powers to order the release of both the victims and their traffickers. Or was the state forced to order the release because of the cost implication of both hosting and feeding the arrested persons?

And was NAPTIP consulted before the release was made? Given the notoriety of the police in such matters, many believe that the haste in releasing both the suspects and the victims cannot be unconnected with "settlement efforts" by the parties involved in the illegal racket.

THISDAY gathered that the suspects were apprehended on different days by the JTF, which initially kept them in the barracks. It later raised the alarm and paraded them as it became evident that the number of victims was increasing and subsequently handed the victims and their traffickers over to the police.

At least 103 of the victims were children ranging from ages seven to 15. The victims are from Benue, Kogi and Cross River States and their parents had received N5,000 for each child. They were being taken to work in some states of the South-west such as Lagos, Ogun, Oyo and Ondo.

It is recalled that Nigeria was recently downgraded from **Tier 1** status to **Tier 2** by the US Department of State on the anti-**human trafficking** index due to its inability to ensure the persecution of traffickers on a rate proportionate to the level of the scourge in Nigeria.

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

12 of 492 DOCUMENTS

This Day (Lagos)

August 08, 2012

Kogi Deputy Governor Fingering in the Hasty Release of 267 Children, Traffickers

BYLINE: Damilola Oyedele

LENGTH: 868 words

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LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

13 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

August 8, 2012 Wednesday

PLAN TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO LIVE IN CAMPS ON BORDER Most of the 100,000 will be Karen, Karenni and Mon

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 454 words

Eleven Media

Yangon

Myanmar is mapping out a plan to allow more than 100,000 refugees who fled from conflict at home to now live in camps along the Thai border for a long time, officials from Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Myanmar's Ministry of Immigration will take part in the plan to call back the refugees, who are mostly Karen, Karenni and Mon nationalities.

According to the plan, the refugees will receive aid for their cost of living and career opportunities.

"Initially, we will work on accepting those in Thailand who want to come back to Myanmar, after being scrutinised," said U Than Htut Swe, director-general of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement. "This matter is a national issue. Our department cannot do it on our own. We are trying to carry this out after it was submitted to the president's office. The president has also highlighted the issues about the refugees and migrant workers during his recent trip to Thailand," he said.

A senior official at the Thai Foreign Ministry said Thailand also has a clear policy to repatriate Myanmar refugees in nine camps in four border provinces when the situation in their home country is safe enough. Authorities in Nay Pyi Taw are now in the process of having peace agreements with armed ethnic minorities who took up weapons against the regime for more than half a century.

Human rights defenders often urge the two governments to ensure safety of the refugees as they really wanted to bring them back.

There are about 95,000 registered refugees and some 9,000 asylum seekers in Thailand.

Most refugees are ethnic minorities from Myanmar, mainly Karen and Karenni.

The Thai government runs all camps, with most assistance provided by non-governmental organisations, while the UNHCR basically provided protection and programmes to ensure their safe living.

However, refugees are just a part of more than 1 million Myanmar citizens in Thailand. Most of the Myanmar people in Thailand are migrant workers. There are also dissidents, exiled political activists in Thailand. A certificate of identity will be issued to any Myanmar migrant worker from Thailand who wants to return home for good. An absconder in a criminal case must be ready to face the law.

Thailand has appeared on the US State Department's **Tier Two Watch List for Human Trafficking** this year because it still has many routes for **human trafficking**. Most of the trafficked women from Myanmar work as prostitutes and housemaids while men are forced into hard labour or to work on fishing boats.

The authorities in Nay Pyi Taw want them to return home and bring their skills to help develop the country but they are afraid of being persecuted.

LOAD-DATE: August 7, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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14 of 492 DOCUMENTS

OrangeChat

August 8, 2012 Wednesday 10:19 PM EST

BLOG: OrangeChat: UPDATE: North Carolina toughens laws against human trafficking**BYLINE:** Mark Schultz**LENGTH:** 259 words

Aug. 08--<http://media.chapelhillnews.com/smedia/2012/07/27/15/28/80DZ.Em.34.jpeg>
[<http://media.chapelhillnews.com/smedia/2012/07/27/15/28/80DZ.Em.34.jpeg>]Reader Donna Bickford, who wrote us a guest column [<http://www.chapelhillnews.com/2012/07/28/72276/help-stop-human-trafficking.html>] after correspondent Amanda Keener's recent stories [<http://www.chapelhillnews.com/2012/07/17/72130/triangle-groups-tackle-human-trafficking.html>] on **human trafficking**, emailed us today that the Polaris Project [<http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/current-laws>] has upgraded North Carolina from **Tier 2** to **Tier 1** status among the 50 states based on legislation to combat the problem.

There are an estimated 18,000 to 20,000 trafficking victims -- essentially modern-day slaves -- in the United States, and North Carolina is among the top 10 states where trafficking has been reported, according to agencies that work on the problem.

The Washington-based Polaris Project began tracking anti-trafficking laws in 2007 when only 28 states had anti-trafficking criminal statutes. As of July 31, the number of states with anti-trafficking criminal statutes, including the District of Columbia, has grown to 48 with sex trafficking offenses and 50 with labor trafficking offenses.

As of July 31, 2012, 21 states are now rated in Tier 1, up from 11 states in 2011. Tier 1 states have passed "significant laws" against trafficking. Twenty-eight states (55 percent) passed new laws to fight human trafficking in the past year, according to the Polaris Project.

LOAD-DATE: August 08, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Blog**JOURNAL-CODE:** CX-113781

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15 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 7, 2012 Tuesday**MASSACHUSETTS NAMED MOST IMPROVED STATE IN POLARIS PROJECT RATINGS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS MASSACHUSETTS CATAPULTS FROM THE WORST TIER TO THE BEST****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 268 words**DATELINE:** BOSTON, MA

The following information was released by the office of the Massachusetts Attorney General:

Polaris Project named Massachusetts the most improved state in their annual ratings on state human trafficking laws, Attorney General Martha Coakley announced today.

In a conference call today, Polaris Project announced its 2012 Annual Ratings Map on state human trafficking laws. Massachusetts was recognized for passing a comprehensive human trafficking law in November. In just one year, Massachusetts catapulted from the worst tier to the best in the ratings.

Polaris Project rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on ten categories of laws that are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors.

The following is a statement from Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley on the Polaris Project Report:

"Massachusetts has taken major steps to combat the egregious crime of human trafficking, and we are pleased that this report recognizes those efforts. We are proud to be recognized as the most improved state by Polaris Project. The recent passage of a human trafficking law in Massachusetts recognizes that these crimes are happening in our own communities, and gives us the tools to combat those crimes and offer critical services to victims. We continue to work towards a successful implementation of that law through investigations, prosecutions, and policy change as recommended by the Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force. We look forward to working with stakeholders to end the exploitation of people in our Commonwealth."

LOAD-DATE: August 7, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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16 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 3, 2012 Friday

US concerned over rising religious "radicalization" in Maldives

LENGTH: 1388 words

Text of report headlined "US challenges Maldives' prosecution of terror suspects, among concerns over rising radicalization" published by Maldivian newspaper Minivan News website on 2 August; subheadings as carried

The US State Department has reported there were no successful prosecutions of suspected terror suspects during 2011 in the Maldives, and raised wider concerns about the potential radicalization of young people from the country in foreign madrassas [religious schools].

According to the US government's recently published "Country reports on terrorism 2011", the Maldives was viewed to have "severely limited" legislation to prosecute alleged cases of terrorism and extremism in the country's courts.

While the Maldives government said it was presently looking to address several security and terrorist threats, such as piracy and organized crime, through existing legislation and proposed legal amendments, it moved to deny any truth in claims Maldivian citizens were being radicalized at Pakistan-based madrassas.

President's Office Spokesperson Abbas Adil Riza said that the government was presently collecting information in regards to the issue of radicalization in the country. He stressed active steps had been taken against permitting clearance for local students to study in any madrassas in the country.

"No Maldivians right now are being trained in Pakistani madrassas. Steps are being taken to ensure this with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and authorities in Pakistan," he said. "We will not issue visas to go there in this regard. So to say that such a threat exists is definitely not true."

Key threats

In addressing other key threats to the nation, Abbas claimed that the incursion of pirates from Somalia into the Maldives' territories on two reported occasions, as well as human trafficking resulting from organized crime were seen as "particular dangers".

"The threat we currently face from pirates and traffickers is being dealt with via existing legislation, as well as some new amendments that have presently been proposed in parliament," he said.

Abbas said the new government had not opted to make any drastic changes to existing counter-terror policy enacted under former President Mohamed Nasheed's administration.

"We will not be making a 180 degree reversal on the last government's stance," he said, adding that a focus on further legislation would be sought under President Dr Mohamed Waheed Hassan.

US State Department view

According to the US State Department, the American government was partnering with Maldivian counterparts in attempts to "strengthen" law enforcement in the Indian Ocean nation. The US was also said to back establishing community outreach schemes based around countering terrorist ideologies, as the state department stressed alleged radicalism remained a concern in the Maldives.

"The government believes that hundreds of young Maldivians attended madrassas in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and was concerned that these students were bringing home radical ideology," stated the report. Two Maldivians, in separate instances in March and October, were arrested in Sri Lanka on charges linked to terrorism. Their cases were pending at year's end."

One of the suspects, Mohamed Ameen, was released from police custody in May this year by the criminal court after it did not issue an extension to his detention period.

Local media reported that the suspect was released by the court "on the condition that he not get involved in any further terrorist activities, and not leave the country."

Beyond legislation, the report also pointed to the signing of an agreement signed with Malaysia-based IT group Nexbis to install a new border control system with an integrated database in an effort to try and combat human trafficking into the country.

"However, alleged corruption concerns and subsequent legal proceedings made it unclear when the system would be installed," the report stated.

The Maldives was last month included on the US State Department's **Tier Two Watch List for Human Trafficking** for a third year in a row.

The US State Department added that the Maldives, during 2011, had become a partner in its Antiterrorism Assistance programme focused on training in areas such as "counterterrorism leadership", as well as regional cooperation with other authorities.

The report also noted the Maldives inclusion in the regional Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, where it had been submitting annual updates on its work.

"Maldives underwent a mutual evaluation conducted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the final evaluation report was adopted by the members in July 2011. Maldivian law does not criminalize money laundering apart from a small provision in the Drugs Act. The Maldives Financial Intelligence Unit took the lead in drafting an Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism act with assistance from the IMF," the report stated.

"The draft bill was sent to the Attorney General's Office in July 2010 and was sent back to the Maldives Police Services and the prosecutor general for review and comment. In July 2011, Maldives Financial Transactions Reporting came into effect, which aims to safeguard Maldives financial and payment systems from being used to promote acts of terrorism and money laundering, and to protect financial services and products from being used to conceal the proceeds of crime."

According to the state department, the UN 1267/1989 and 1988 consolidated lists detailing individuals or entities with associations to the Taleban and Al-Qa'idah had also been sent to the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The MMA was said to have instructed banks creditors to then take action on the matter with a set time frame, according to the report.

As part of the US State Department's findings during 2011, recognition was also given to efforts made by the Maldives government to pursue initiatives and mechanisms designed to counter "violent extremism".

"The Ministry of Islamic Affairs implemented a programme designed to mobilize religious and social leaders to work against all forms of violence in society, including religious extremism that leads to violence," stated the report. "The Ministry conducted over 15 seminars and workshops for religious leaders, educators, and local government officials. Several of these workshops included participants from across the country.

"Ideological problems"

Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed said in June that he was seeking to counter the "ideological problems" of extremism in the country.

Shaheem claimed that the threat of home-grown terrorism was a key issue needing to be addressed in the Maldives - something he alleged the previous government under former President Nasheed had neglected to assist with through funding.

"The previous government did not give us the budget we needed to run programmes to address these issues," he said at the time. "There are problems here with extremism and terrorism, these are ideological problems that need to be targeted through religious awareness campaigns."

Shaheem himself previously served under the Nasheed government as Islamic State Minister before resigning in December 2010 over differences of opinion with the administration over issues such as claims it was strengthening links with Israel.

However, the now opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) - to which Nasheed remains the current presidential candidate - was sceptical of the commitments of religious figures attached to the Waheed administration. It contends the government came to power on 7 February in a "coup d'etat".

Party Spokesperson and MP [Member of Parliament] Hamid Abdul Ghafoor claimed that with the MDP failing to recognize the legitimacy of the current government, the same was true for ministerial appointments like Sheikh Shaheem.

Ghafoor also alleged that issues such as Islamic fundamentalism were a well established tool used during the 30 year rule of former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to pit different factions in the country against each other, something he believed was once again happening with the present government.

"I see Shaheem as a just a little cog inserted into the larger machine of Gayoom's political control," he said.

Source: Minivan News website, Male, in English 02 Aug 12

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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17 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 1, 2012 Wednesday

LAO SEX RING EXPOSED

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 1024 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

In a screen grab from a YouTube video, Chuvit Kamolvisit discloses the discovery of the Lao girls, July 29, 2012.

A Thai official has claimed that more than 500 underage Lao girls are working as sex slaves in eastern Thailand, saying that authorities in both countries need to step up the fight against human trafficking.

Chuvit Kamolvisit, a Thai member of parliament and advocate for social issues, said that the girls, aged 13 to 18 years, were discovered in a karaoke bar in the Chachoengsao district of Chachoengsao province.

"A total of more than 500 Lao child prostitutes were found in the area of Chachoengsao, with the youngest only 13 years old," he said.

"The place they were held in was a one-floor building set up as a karaoke bar, with a restaurant as a front business."

Chuvit said he had video footage to back his claims. It was recorded on a hidden camera that was taken into the karaoke bar as part of an effort to compel concerned officials and police to tackle the problem of human trafficking.

A local television station broadcast Chuvit disclosing information about the Lao girls and showing the undated video footage on Sunday.

It is believed that the girls are still working in the karaoke bar.

But Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung denied Chuvit's claims in a statement to the Thai media, saying no such karaoke bar existed.

The police chief in Chachoengsao province also denied existence of any such place but acknowledged that in the past there had been karaoke restaurants with Lao girls working as waitresses and involved in prostitution.

The police had cracked down on the activities, detaining several suspects about a month ago and closing down many restaurants, he said.

The Lao Embassy in Bangkok said it had not received any official confirmation of the report from Thai authorities, though a staffer acknowledged having heard the claims on a television news broadcast.

An official with the Lao Internal Security department contacted by RFA refused to comment on Chuvit's claims.

MP Chuvit said that some 50 karaoke bars exist in Chachoengsao, with each bar holding about 30 Lao girls, most of whom are in possession of a passport issued by their home country.

He said that the girls usually travel to Chachoengsao from Louang Prabang and Vientiane provinces in Laos, entering Thailand legally on a tourist visa, which allows them to stay in the country for 30 days.

Chuvit was a former businessman who became wealthy through the massage parlor industry in Thailand before becoming a politician based on his advocacy work on social issues, including illicit gambling and prostitution.

The member of parliament claimed that human trafficking had grown in his country due to the complicity of Thai authorities, who he said often look the other way or have a hand in the large profits that can be reaped from sex slavery.

"Human trafficking has expanded because some officials in the police immigration department and local police have an interest in the trade," he said.

Chuvit said he was concerned by the ease with which Lao girls can enter the country and become victims of human trafficking, and called on the authorities of both countries to work together in solving the problem.

Word of mouth

A Lao expert on human trafficking and women issues said that regardless of who smoothes the path for these girls to enter Thailand, one of the biggest problems to address was their lack of education about the dangers of human trafficking.

The expert said that Lao girls are often lured to Thailand with the promise of work through their social contacts and by word of mouth.

"These are people that they trust, which makes them easy to follow without doing any research into what really is going on," the expert said.

"These young girls have no idea what their arrival in Thailand holds in store for them, and most of them have never been to Thailand, so when they get there they have no choice but to listen to the people who brought them there."

And an official from a Thai nongovernmental organization that focuses on human trafficking said that while the Lao government has made efforts to combat the problem, it has not produced laws that are far-reaching enough to make a real difference.

He said that an anti-trafficking law which is being drafted in Laos will help limit the activities of traffickers in some ways, but falls short because it will not include more restrictions on the ability of Laotians to travel to Thailand.

"If the draft law is adopted as it stands, it will only address domestic issues," he said.

"I don't believe the law will reduce human trafficking because most people from Laos can still enter Thailand easily."

He called on Lao officials to take measures which included more scrutiny of Lao girls traveling to Thailand to look for work and targeting officials who have assisted traffickers.

The Lao draft law on human trafficking is currently under review and is likely to be put into law by 2014.

Trafficking report

In June, the U.S. State Department maintained Laos at "**Tier 2**" in its annual report on **human trafficking**. The department says governments of countries in that group do not fully comply with minimum standards for protecting trafficking victims, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Laos has stepped up efforts to investigate trafficking offenses and to prosecute and punish traffickers, the report said.

It said inefficiencies within the Lao bureaucracy delayed approvals for nongovernmental organizations to implement anti-trafficking projects and that the prime minister has yet to approve a final draft of the anti-trafficking national plan of action.

The United Nations has said human trafficking remains the second largest illegal trade next to drugs, with traffickers earning tens of billions of U.S. dollars annually. It also estimated that 2.5 million trafficked people worldwide come from the Asia-Pacific region.

Reported by Nontarat and Apichart for RFA's Lao service. Translated by Somnet Inthapannha and Bounchanh Mouangkham. Written in English by Joshua Lipis.

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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18 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

July 30, 2012 Monday

SINGAPOREAN'S JAIL SENTENCE FOR SMUGGLING BOY UPHELD

LENGTH: 482 words

DATELINE: PUTRAJAYA July 30

A Singaporean taxi driver was sent to prison to serve a four-year term for smuggling an 11-year-old boy of a Chinese national to Germany, via the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Describing human trafficking as a grave offence, Court of Appeal president Tan Sri Raus Md Shariff, chairing a three-man bench, unanimously dismissed Ng Gim Teck's final appeal to set aside a decision of the Shah Alam High Court which enhanced his jail term from six months to four years.

He was sentenced to six months' jail and fined RM20,000 in default six months jail, by the Sepang Sessions Court when he pleaded guilty to the charge of smuggling Zhang Xu at the Immigration Counter, Departure Hall, level 4, KLIA, Sepang, Selangor at 7pm on Sept 29, last year.

However, his jail sentence was enhanced to four years by the Shah Alam High Court on Nov 11, last year, upon revision by the prosecution over the inadequacy of the jail sentence. The RM20,000 fine imposed by the Sessions Court was maintained.

Ng paid the fine. However, he brought the matter up for appeal to the Appeals Court over the enhancement of his jail term.

The other two judges presiding on the panel were Datuk K. N. Segara and Datuk Azhar Ma'ah.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Farah Ezlin Yusop Khan told the court that investigations showed that Ng intended to smuggle the boy to Germany via KLIA.

He was caught by immigration department officials as he had in his possession, the boy's fake Singaporean passport.

She said there was no record to show his purpose of smuggling the boy but usually, it was for sexual purposes.

When Azhar asked his purpose of smuggling the boy, Ng replied he was asked to do so, by a friend.

Farah Ezlin said, according to the 12th Annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report, Malaysia was currently in the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third year after getting a waiver.

"We were able to come up with a plan to combat human trafficking. This would be the third year that our country is placed at the Tier 2 Watch List," she added.

Farah Ezlin said the High Court judge was correct in enhancing the jail term after taking into consideration that the image of the country was tarnished as Malaysia was currently ranked in the Tier 2 Watch List.

"We are seen by the western world as not being serious in combatting this matter at hand. Therefore, it is our contention that the High Court enhancing the imprisonment period, is one way of showing to the world how serious we are in curbing this matter.

"It is pertinent for our country to portray a strict implementation of the law. By giving a heavier sentence, it would operate as a deterrent sentence which is not only as a lesson to the appellant (Ng) but also to those offenders or potential offenders at large," she said.

She said the offence committed by Ng was a serious one.

Ng, who was unrepresented, pleaded to the court to reduce his jail term, saying he had a sick mother.

LOAD-DATE: July 30, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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19 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Himalayan Times

July 27, 2012 Friday

Report paints gloomy picture

BYLINE: HIMALAYAN NEWS SERVICE

LENGTH: 406 words

KATHMANDU: Trafficking in women and children continues unabated despite the public awareness campaign and police crackdown on traffickers.

According to Maiti Nepal, a non-government organisation working for girls and women, the total number of trafficking deaths in 2011 was 25.

Till the end of June in 2012, trafficking has already claimed 21 lives. With the average half yearly calculation of both years, trafficking cases have increased 42 per cent.

The half-yearly data of Maiti Nepal also indicate the increase in domestic violence in the country.

The total cases of domestic violence reported in 2011 were 843, while till the end of June in 2012, there were 470 such cases. On an average, domestic violence in 2012 has increased 11 per cent.

The data also paint a gloomy picture of rape. The total number of reported rape cases in 2011 was 25, whereas in 2012 till the end of June, the number is 14.

If the trend continues, the rape case is expected to increase 14 per cent in 2012.

Although violence against women existed in the past, most cases would go unreported due to deep-rooted patriarchy, social values and culture, and fear of stigma and discrimination, Bishwo Khadka, director of the organisation, said. "However, awareness and empowerment programmes have encouraged women to become alert and concerned about their rights. More cases are reported these days."

A recent **Trafficking in Person** (TIP) report published by the US Department of State has placed Nepal in **TIER 2**. It described Nepal mainly as a source of country for men, women and children, who are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. According to the report, Nepali men are subjected to forced labour, most often in the Middle East and, to a lesser extent, within the country. Nepali women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking in Nepal, India and the Middle East, and are also subjected to forced labour in Nepal and India as domestic servants. They are subjected to sex trafficking in other Asian destinations as well.

The report also indicated the increasing number of Nepali minor girls being trafficked to Gulf countries with fake documents in recent times.

Maiti Nepal said they have reported many cases in which girls below the age of 15 are presented as 22-year-olds in legal documents.

The Central Investigation Bureau of Nepal Police had intercepted as many as nine underage girls at the Tribhuvan International Airport in the past one year.

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20 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

July 25, 2012 Wednesday

Binay commits to enhanced service

BYLINE: Noemi M. Gonzales

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 575 words

EFFORTS TO assist Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), intensify the crackdown against human trafficking and address the housing backlog will be continued as Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay yesterday outlined his accomplishments for the past two years.

In his report released to media, Mr. Binay said he has secured the repatriation of thousands of OFWs from Saudi Arabia, many of whom have overstayed.

As presidential adviser on OFW concerns, the Vice-President said a technical working group had finalized the guidelines on blood money or diyah which is paid as compensation for the private aspect of murder, homicide and manslaughter committed by Filipinos in Arab nations.

The guidelines are awaiting approval of President Benigno S. C. Aquino III.

The Philippines, he added, retained its **Tier 2** status in the 2012 Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report of the United States Department of State as a result of efforts by the Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and the Presidential Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment. He chairs both groups.

The IACAT, as lead entity against human trafficking, coordinated and monitored the trafficking cases filed in court. By 2012, the IACAT secured 44 convictions for trafficking-related cases with a total of 58 persons convicted, Mr. Binay said.

"This shows that our government is serious and sincere in its efforts to protect our kababayans and bring to justice those who try to take advantage of them," he said in the report.

In the housing sector, Mr. Binay, as chairman of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), vowed to address the 3.6 million housing backlog within 10 years.

To achieve this, the Vice-President said partnerships with local government units (LGUs) and various organizations have been forged, in particular with agencies involved in home financing such as the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Government Service Insurance System.

HLURB also introduced a cluster approach to fast-track the preparation or updating of Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinances (ZO) of LGUs.

"The CLUP and the ZO identify land areas for residential-particularly socialized housing-agricultural, industrial, commercial and institutional purposes. They also incorporate measures for climate-change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation," the report said.

From July 2010 to May 2012, HLURB assisted 977 LGUs with their CLUP and ZO. The agency exceeded the target of 665 for the same period and aims to reach zero backlog by 2013, the report said.

Other achievements cited by Mr. Binay in his report were:

- . * the revival of the au pair program, a scheme whereby Filipinos perform housework and child care and receive monetary allowance with their host families, with the passage of new guidelines on the departure of au pairs in February 2012 that provide "safety nets for their protection without restricting their rights to self-improvement," added to this is the recommendation to Malacanang to exempt these workers from paying travel tax and airport terminal fee;
- . * a scholarship grant-in-aid program for students in state colleges and universities;
- . * financial assistance for the construction and repair of senior citizen centers nationwide; and
- . * cleansing the housing sector of graft and corruption with the filing of syndicated estafa charges against property developer Globe Asiatique, including owner Delfin Lee who has a standing arrest warrant.

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21 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 13, 2012 Friday

Uganda; Fighting Human Trafficking

BYLINE: New Vision (Kampala)

LENGTH: 305 words

Questions such as, can you find human trafficking in Uganda or is it a myth, causes of human trafficking, and how do traffickers make money will be debated, argued and dissected during the 'Capacity Building Workshop for the National Task Force' and other government officials involved in fighting human trafficking.

The program manager of the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), Dorah Caroline said Kampala will also focus on what is the human traffickers business model and how government can combat human trafficking.

She said in a statement on Wednesday that 2012 has seen Uganda make significant strides in her efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

In February this year, the internal affairs ministry designated the prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) office.

Two months later in April, the National Task Force and Steering and Policy Committees were inaugurated.

"Setting up a three-tier governmental structure to address TIP issues and implement the Prevention of **Trafficking In Persons** Act of 2009 (PTIP Act) are some of the big strides government has made," Mafabi said.

Even with such developments, she cautioned that the mechanisms and structures will only be effective and efficient if government is equipped technically and logistically to combat human trafficking.

Government officials should be armed with knowledge to fight the vice.

ABA ROLI is a non-profit program founded on the belief that rule of law promotion is the most effective long-term antidote to the most pressing problems facing the world today.

Among the problems the program looks at are poverty, conflict, endemic corruption and disregard for human rights.

It implements legal reform programs in over 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

22 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Vision (Kampala)

July 13, 2012

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BYLINE: Darius Magara

LENGTH: 305 words

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

23 of 492 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

July 9, 2012 Monday

Trafficking cloud hovers over HK

SECTION: NEWS; Editorial; Pg. 12

LENGTH: 343 words

The Security Bureau has taken issue with a closely watched annual report on human trafficking by the US State Department, which says Hong Kong has failed to make any discernible progress in enforcement of the law against sex trafficking or labour trafficking. "Over the years, there was no difference ... in the trend of human trafficking," said a Security Bureau spokesman, although he confirmed that police had recently broken up two trafficking syndicates. Since it is difficult to reconcile those two statements let us assume that the truth, as usual, lies somewhere in between. As a result, the State Department dropped the city from **tier** one to **tier** two on a three-**tier** scale of performance in combating **human trafficking**, placing it in the company of Russia, Ukraine, Iran, Congo, Indonesia and Cambodia. That is not good for the reputation of a city that prides itself on upholding the rule of law and human rights.

The report also said that fees gouged from foreign domestic helpers in return for job placement in Hong Kong can lead to debt bondage and their unknowing involvement in trafficking by their employers and immigration offences. Solicitor Mike Vidler, who has represented helpers caught in this trap, says the emphasis is on charging them with immigration offences rather than the crime of human trafficking.

No one has an accurate idea of the extent of trafficking, mostly of women and children for prostitution and forced labour. It is not long since the State Department praised Hong Kong for its efforts - despite concerns about organised gangs bringing women here from Southeast Asian countries for prostitution. On the face of it, it is difficult to dismiss suspicions that some unsavoury and unscrupulous people are profiting from involvement in sex tourism to Hong Kong and exploitation of helpers saddled with crushing debt. If the State Department report serves any practical purpose, it might be to spur governments generally to do better in targeting legislation at a form of slavery in a 21st century setting and enforcing it.

LOAD-DATE: July 9, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

24 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 6, 2012 Friday

Eritrea; Foreign Affairs Statement on U.S. Lobby at UN

BYLINE: Shabait.com (Asmara)

LENGTH: 1346 words

1. The current UN Human Rights Session in Geneva was virtually turned into a venue for intensive lobbying by US State Department officials in their dogged attempts to sully Eritrea's image and to ram through a "resolution" to condemn it for numerous, fabricated, allegations of "gross violation of human rights". This new ploy originates from the desire to open a "new front" so as to tighten, or at least maintain, the unwarranted UN Security Council Resolutions (1907 and 2023) that the US had managed to impose against Eritrea in the past three years. The timing is deliberately calibrated to coincide with the pending review of these resolutions by the UN Security Council in July or August.
2. Earlier in the preceding weeks, the US mission to New York employed heavy-handed means to compel the UN Secretary General's Office to withdraw the Report on Eritrea that was issued on 8 June last month. Operative Paragraph 19 of Resolution 2023 requests the Secretary General "to report within 180 days on Eritrea's compliance with the provisions" of these resolutions. The Report under consideration was issued formally on that date in accordance with this directive and after it went through the usual consultation processes. Yet the US Representative to the UN reportedly resorted to unorthodox tactics to pressurize the Secretary General's Office to remove the Report from the UN website and to meekly inform UNSC members that a "revised report" will be resubmitted in early July. Several members of the Security Council questioned the "rationale and wisdom of the embarrassing act", warned that the "unhelpful precedence would entail undesirable ramifications", and urged for the case to be handled with "transparency, neutrality and objectivity".
3. On June 26, the "Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group" submitted its report to the UN Sanctions Committee. As it will be recalled, Eritrea had requested for the replacement of this body as it was found wanting in the minimum standards of neutrality, objectivity, professionalism and credibility. But this is not the point here. As long as the "Monitoring Group" is authorized to submit its lopsided reports, Eritrea has the right and should at any time have unfettered access to these reports. This is a matter of principle and law. Established procedures and the principle of "equality of arms" indeed dictate that Eritrea receive, in real time, copies of any accusations leveled against it. However, pressure from the same US officials prevented the Chair of the UN Sanctions Committee from observing this rudimentary right and to ignore, with profuse regrets, Eritrea's express requests.
4. In the same vein, US Secretary of State falsely blamed Eritrea on June 16th for "**human trafficking**" including it in its **blacklist** of 16 other countries. Leaving aside whether the United States has the moral or legal prerogatives to categorize sovereign countries for whatever "misdeeds" it chooses to pick out, its accusations of Eritrea for "human trafficking" is baffling at best. The fact is Washington has been openly pursuing, in the past years, a hostile policy of enticing Eritrean youth to seek asylum in the United States. The US Bureau for Refugee Affairs allocates, on an annual basis, around 10,000 slots for "Eritrean potential applicants who dodge military draft" for asylum in the United States. US Embassies in Khartoum and Nairobi routinely issue entry visas for Eritreans without verifying whether they have exit visas from their home country in contravention of normative consular practices. It is thus the United States which is culpable for an elaborate programme of "human trafficking" to advance its sinister objectives in Eritrea and the region.
5. On July 3, the UN Sanctions Committee included the personal details of two Eritrean military officials in its new list of persons allegedly "associated with terrorist activities" in Somalia. The circulated document does not indicate who the

plaintiffs are. Nor does it establish the veracity of the allegations. It merely tries to ensure, through what is known as a "silent motion", to validate the accusations "unless there is an objection from a

member State of the Sanctions Committee within 48 hours". Again, the game plan and sinister ploys are transparent. The Eritrean military officials are targeted not because there is a shred of truth or material evidence to the false accusations heaped upon them, but mainly because it evokes the message and impression, at least in outward appearances, of a "tightening" sanctions regime.

6. Furthermore, US spiraling hostilities have gone beyond defamatory media and diplomatic campaigns. In the past few months, Washington has incessantly encouraged the regime in Ethiopia to launch publicized and reckless military intrusions and assaults on sovereign Eritrean territories. The primary purpose behind these provocative acts of aggression is to create an environment of confrontation and instability, and thereby dilute in the fog of war, Ethiopia's legal culpability for its continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories in contravention of the UN Charter and international law. But in addition, the audacious publicity of these acts, which were often accompanied by subtle US diplomatic cover-ups, is aimed at legitimizing and depicting these blatant acts of aggression as "proportionate and lawful measures of self-defense".

The hostile acts enumerated above are part and parcel of the persistent policy of the United States to destabilize Eritrea and to undermine its sovereignty and

territorial integrity in pursuit of its misguided regional objectives and strategies. As we have underlined in several of our previous communications, sovereign Eritrean territories, including the town of Badme, remain occupied by the Ethiopian regime in contravention of international law. The flagrant acts of occupation and aggression by the regime in Ethiopia would have long solicited appropriate punitive action by the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of applicable articles of the UN Charter and the Algiers Peace Agreement. This did not occur principally because in reality the main culprits were, and remain, successive US Administrations who have long decided to compromise and undermine international law and the fundamental rights of a UN member State in pursuit of their narrow regional interests and objectives.

As we have explained extensively by Eritrea in its previous communications, it is indeed a travesty of justice when the very victim of aggression and occupation is falsely framed for "acts of regional destabilization" to become a target of punitive sanctions that have no basis in law and fact. But that is precisely what has transpired in the last three years when the Security Council imposed

Resolutions 1907 and 2023 on Eritrea on account of overbearing US diplomatic and political clout.

The litany of these ongoing US-inspired accusations and vitriolic diplomatic campaigns against Eritrea constitute a continuation and escalation of these well trodden ploys and patterns. They are singularly aimed at fabricating new cases and opening new platforms, such as the UN Human Rights Council, for entangling Eritrea in a web of unlawful sanctions and agonizing environments. If these ploys are tolerated with impunity, the ultimate casualty will be international justice and the rule of law

In the event, the Government of Eritrea urges all Governments to use their influences to:

1. Ensure the respect of international law and compel Ethiopia to withdraw from the occupied territories; respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea and desist from all provocative acts of aggression and military intrusion;
2. Lift the unfair sanctions that have been imposed against Eritrea as a result of

the US-engineered Resolutions 1907 and 2023.

3. Ensure that the UN Security Council and other UN institutions are not inappropriately and unlawfully instrumentalised by the United States to advance its misguided policies against Eritrea.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Asmara, 6 July 2012

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25 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

July 6, 2012 Friday 10:04 AM GMT

Thai pregnant migrant worker plan slammed

LENGTH: 338 words

DATELINE: BANGKOK, July 6 2012

Thai government proposals to deport pregnant migrant workers will heighten discrimination rather than boost the fight against human trafficking, Human Rights Watch said Friday.

Thailand's Labour Ministry recently proposed expelling migrant workers, believing they will receive better care in their own countries.

The rights group said the measure was floated in response to the US State Department's recent classification of Thailand in "**Tier 2**" of its **watch list**, a status for countries demonstrating poor efforts to stamp out **human trafficking**.

"It's an idea to send them back home because they can receive better care while they are pregnant so that mothers will not have health problems," Somkiat Chayasriwong, permanent secretary to the Labour Ministry, told AFP.

"We have set up committee to study in detail how to take care pregnant migrant workers at this stage," he added.

But the proposal has provoked fury among rights groups who decry the scheme's potential to worsen the lot of migrants, while simultaneously failing to tackle the root causes of people trafficking.

"The labour minister's plan has nothing to do with stopping human trafficking but will cause further discrimination against women migrant workers," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"Prime Minister Yingluck should immediately direct the Labor Ministry to drop this unlawful and thoroughly bad idea."

If it is sincere about tackling the trafficking scourge, Thailand should ensure the children of migrants go to school while cracking down on government officials and labour recruiters who hire victims, he added.

Last month's State Department report criticised Thailand for failing to respond to trafficking -- mostly from neighbouring countries -- into work as forced prostitutes, beggars and labourers in fishing industry and factories.

The report highlighted Thailand's failure to identify and protect victims adding "the government has not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking" compared to 2011.

ask-abd/apj/emb

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

26 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

July 6, 2012 Friday

ministry's proposed plan for pregnant migrant workers misguided: cRITICS**BYLINE:** The Nation**LENGTH:** 390 words

Henry Lewis

The Nation

Non-governmental organisations and the academia spoke up against the Labour Ministry's plan to deport migrant workers who get pregnant while in Thailand, at a discussion yesterday.

The ministry initiated this policy as a response to Thailand's inclusion, for the third consecutive year, in the United States' **Tier 2 watch-list** for countries with **human-trafficking** issues in its annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report.

The three speakers at the forum all agreed that the ministry's plan would not provide a long-term solution. The speakers were Tatiya Likitwong, coordinator of the Foundation for Child Development; Kritaya Archavanitkul, professor for the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University; and Tatsanai Kantayaporn, representative of the Programmes for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH).

The discussion was held yesterday at the Thai Journalist Association Headquarters.

"This law splits up families, forcing stable couples in Thailand to stay apart for at least six months," Tatiya said. "Then, if the children are left behind with relatives in their home countries, they grow up without proper resources and end up causing more problems in the future by either getting trafficked or working as traffickers.

"This policy is championed as an effective way to fight child labour, but there are much better ways than this one, like the Education Ministry's recently drafted plan allowing any child, regardless of their citizenship or legal status, to go to school."

Kritaya, meanwhile, talked about the danger of making more migrants cross Thai borders, even if it is to their own home country.

"This policy promotes the crossing of the border, so pregnant mothers will return to Thailand after delivering their baby at home. Research shows that people crossing the border have a lot to do with human trafficking. Hence, when a young woman crosses the border with a baby, claiming it is hers, it is very difficult to verify if she is really the mother."

Tatsanai also questioned the plan's appropriateness as a response to the TIP report. "Responding to the report is important because there are economic and political ramifications for a nation to be considered a human-trafficking centre, but ,[#x20ac]" as far as I can remember ,[#x20ac]" there is only one mention of child-labour in the report."

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

27 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Shabait.com (Asmara)

July 06, 2012

Press Release

LENGTH: 1346 words

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Asmara, 6 July 2012

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28 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Mizzima

July 5, 2012 Thursday

Movie star to fight child trafficking

LENGTH: 619 words

Action movie star Jackie Chan will meet Burmese officials in Rangoon and Mandalay this week to support children who are recovering from human trafficking experiences, says UNICEF.

Chan will visit a vocational training centre for trafficked children who need special care and support. He will also travel to UNICEF-supported projects assisting children at risk of being trafficked, including those without parental care and children who are living and working on the street.

A UNICEF ambassador, Chan will meet officials at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and members of Burma's Police Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Mandalay.

Chan said: "Trafficking and exploiting children are horrific crimes. They leave lifelong scars and rob children of their childhoods. Children are not for sale. For the sake the world's children, we must work hard to stamp out these damaging and criminal practices."

Trafficking exposes children to physical violence, sexual abuse, and grave emotional distress. In East and Southeast Asia the trafficking industry is fueled by demand for cheap or exploitable labour, commercial sex with children, adoption outside legal channels, and forcing women or girls into exploitative marriages, said a UNICEF statement.

Trafficking is also closely linked to migration. Tens of millions of people migrate for work within their own countries and across borders in the region. When they are far away from their homes and support systems, families - and especially children - face an increased risk of being trafficked.

Chan plans to deliver messages about self-protection to young people in Myanmar during his visit.

"It is very important that young people know how to protect themselves," said Chan. "Simple things, like knowing not to trust anyone who promises you a dream job in another country; never going to an unknown place alone; knowing your parents' and your own full name and age; and being able to explain where you live, help children guard against traffickers."

Chan has been a UNICEF Goodwill ambassador since 2004, using his fame as a vehicle to promote humanitarian progress for the most disadvantaged children.

In late June, the U.S. removed Burma from the bottom tier of countries for its efforts to stop human trafficking during the past year, according to a State Department report.

One of the world's worst offenders of human trafficking laws in the past, Burma was urged to continue with its "unprecedented steps" over the past year.

Luis CdeBaca, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for human trafficking issues, said Burma was upgraded after the Parliament repealed an antiquated law that had been used to justify forced labor and replaced it with a law expressly forbidding the practice.

The government also made progress identifying and helping trafficking victims, and a national trafficking hotline introduced in September has led to the rescue of 57 victims. Much of its recent efforts have been undertaken with the cooperation of the International Labour Organization.

However, the report said many Burmese men, women and children who travel abroad for work are subjected to forced labor or sex trafficking, as trafficking by both private individuals and government officials "continues to be a significant problem."

The country is taking steps to alleviate Burma's chronic underdevelopment and lack of jobs, said the report, but trafficking within Burma by both government officials and private actors continues, including involvement by military personnel and militant ethnic groups.

The Burmese government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the State Department said, but "it is making significant steps to do so."

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29 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 5, 2012 Thursday

THAILAND: DON'T DEPORT PREGNANT MIGRANT WORKERS**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 952 words**DATELINE:** NEW YORK, N.Y.

The following information was released by Human Rights Watch:

Brad Adams, Asia director

Thailand's government should scrap the labor ministers proposed regulation to deport migrant workers who become pregnant, Human Rights Watch said today. The proposal discriminates against women workers and would not advance the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's stated aim of reducing human trafficking.

On June 26, 2012, Labor Minister Padermchai Sasomsap announced a plan to send home migrant workers who authorities learn are three to four months pregnant. He stated that this would curb the use of migrant child labor by reducing the number of migrant children in Thailand. He maintained this measure would help respond to the US State Department's recent classification of Thailand in the **Tier 2 Watch List** as a country making consistently poor efforts to eliminate **human trafficking**.

The labor ministers plan has nothing to do with stopping human trafficking but will cause further discrimination against women migrant workers, said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. Prime Minister Yingluck should immediately direct the Labor Ministry to drop this unlawful and thoroughly bad idea.

On June 19, the US State Department released its annual report on human trafficking, which criticized Thailand for its failure to prevent and respond to trafficking into forced prostitution, forced begging, and forced labor, especially in the fishing industry, domestic work, and factories. The report highlighted Thailand's failure to identify and protect victims and concluded that the country's migrant labor policies continued to create vulnerabilities to trafficking and disincentives to victims to communicate with authorities.

Human Rights Watch's 2010 report *From the Tiger to the Crocodile: Abuse of Migrant Workers in Thailand* found that undocumented migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking due to unregistered, unscrupulous brokers, lack of valid travel documents, fear of authorities, and limited information about their rights and where to get help.

Thailand has a long list of actions to take if it really wants to stop trafficking, such as ensuring that migrant children can go to school, cracking down on abusive government officials and labor recruiters, and providing better protection for trafficking victims, Adams said. Adopting such measures, rather than deporting pregnant migrant workers, would be the best way forward.

While the labor ministers proposal does not bar pregnant migrants from working, it penalizes them by forcing them to stop work for several months and return to their home countries to give birth. This deprives migrant women, often from poor backgrounds, of equal work opportunities and income. They may also face uncertainty regarding the ability to reclaim their job upon return and additional expenses related to travel and recruitment fees.

Padermchai's plan has reportedly created panic among pregnant migrant workers, the vast majority of whom come from neighboring countries of Burma, Cambodia, and Laos. Many fear they will lose their jobs and be deported, Human Rights Watch said. Service providers are concerned that some migrant women may risk unsafe abortions as their only option to stay employed. Women migrant workers in Thailand often lack access to adequate reproductive health services, including contraception.

Thai law criminalizes abortion in most circumstances except in cases of rape or to protect the mothers health. Unsafe abortion can cause serious injury, disability, and in some cases death among migrant women workers. According to the Thai Public Health Ministry, nearly 1,000 women die each year from fatal infections caused by incomplete abortions.

Governments are obligated under international human rights law to ensure that women have the same employment opportunities as men and cannot be dismissed from jobs because of pregnancy. These standards are established by the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Thailand in 1985, and core labor standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The committee of independent experts overseeing CEDAW stated in its General Recommendation No. 26 that governments should ensure that women migrant workers have the same rights and protections extended to all workers in the country and should lift bans prohibiting migrant workers from getting pregnant.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Thailand ratified in 1996, provides that citizens and non-citizens both benefit from the general requirement of non-discrimination. The Human Rights Committee, the international expert body that monitors compliance with the Covenant, stated in its General Comment No. 15 that while states are entitled to admit or deny entry of persons, in certain circumstances an alien may enjoy the protection of the Covenant even in relation to entry or residence when considerations of non-discrimination, prohibition of inhuman treatment and respect for family life arise. Depriving pregnant migrant women of their employment and separating them from their families by deporting them, meets that threshold.

A working group under the Labor Ministrys Department of Labor Protection and Welfare has two months to draft regulations for the implementation of this proposal. Human Rights Watch called upon foreign embassies and UN agencies in Bangkok to urge the Thai government to rescind the proposal.

Forcing pregnant migrant workers to leave their jobs flies in the face of Thailand's international legal obligations, Adams said. Adoption of this plan would further tarnish Thailand's poor record in protecting migrant workers rights.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

30 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

July 3, 2012 Tuesday

Drive vs human trafficking obtains budgetary support

BYLINE: Aubrey E. Barrameda

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 552 words

THE GOVERNMENT'S drive against human trafficking has obtained a higher budgetary support next year through the agency tasked to lead in the campaign.

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), an attached agency to the Justice department, said in a statement yesterday that its proposed P100-million budget for 2013 has been approved by the Budget department, doubling the current outlay of P50 million.

Director Tina Rose Marie L. Canda of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) confirmed that the proposed higher funding for IACAT was included in the proposed P2.006-trillion national budget for 2013 that was approved by President Benigno S. C. Aquino III on Friday.

The budget will be submitted to Congress a day after it resumes session on July 23.

The DBM approval "will further increase the capability of government agencies and its private sector partners in tracking down and prosecuting criminal elements and organized syndicates involved in human trafficking," said IACAT head and Justice Undersecretary Jose Vicente B. Salazar in the statement.

The budget increase "will also go a long way in helping the IACAT in its victim and rehabilitation efforts," he added.

Approval of the IACAT budget proposal, said Mr. Salazar, is consistent with recommendations of the Global Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012 released by the US State Department last June 19. The report, which covered the year 2011, retained the Philippines in its **Tier 2** status, citing increased funding as among other efforts to support the campaign. The IACAT's budget last year was P64 million.

For his part, Jan Chavez-Arceo, executive officer of the IACAT's Public Information and Communications Division, said the IACAT has a projected budget of P150 million in its Second Strategic Action Plan, which lays out the council's strategies until 2016.

The higher funding for next year will be spent to address the plan's key result areas, namely, advocacy and prevention; protection, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration; prosecution and law enforcement; and partnership and networking.

The plan has yet to be finalized, the council said.

Aside from the budget increase, the report also recommended that the government sustain its intensified efforts to investigate and convict labor and sex traffickers; develop mechanisms to track and monitor trafficking cases at the Department of Justice and in the courts; increase victim processing centers and shelter resources to improve identification of victims and allow them to be safely processed and assisted after rescue operations; and implement programs to reduce demand for commercial sex acts.

A country is placed under **Tier 1** if it fully complies with the minimum standards in combating **human trafficking** based on the US' 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act and in **Tier 2**, if it shows significant efforts to meet those standards.

If it does not show significant anti-trafficking efforts and its recorded number of trafficking victims significantly increases, the country is placed under Tier 2 Watch List.

If, on the other hand, the country does not fully comply with the minimum standards and does not show any significant effort to lessen **human trafficking** incidents, it is liable to be downgraded to **Tier 3**, which will mean less financial support from the US.

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31 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 3, 2012 Tuesday 10:35 PM EST

Reform Movement Praises Israel's Human Trafficking Record

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 518 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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

In response to the release of the State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

"The release of the State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report highlights the importance of stringent accountability and monitoring of human trafficking. The scourge of human trafficking violates the inherent dignity of every human being. Around the world, year in and year out, hundreds of thousands of women, men, and children are victimized by those who enslave them using deception and often outright force. This report remains a critical tool for ensuring that human trafficking is no longer allowed to occur in the shadows as governments turn a blind eye. We are proud of the role our Religious Action Center played in the drafting and passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

While we take this time to express our disappointment with the countries that have not worked hard enough to eradicate **human trafficking** within their borders, we are greatly encouraged by the 29 countries that were upgraded from a lower **tier** to a higher one. We are especially pleased by the fact that Israel has been categorized as a "**Tier One**" country for the first time, after years of consistent efforts to eliminate **human trafficking**. Having moved from **Tier Three** in the original report to **Tier One** in this year's report signifies the tremendous progress that the Israeli government has made, including the legislation passed by the Knesset to prohibit the purchase of sexual services, and to provide comprehensive crucial services for victims of **human trafficking**, and can be a model for other nations across the globe on the progress in addressing this moral tragedy that is possible.

We are also encouraged to see the steady advances that the Canadian government has made in its efforts to combat **human trafficking**, earning it an eighth **Tier 1** ranking on the TIP Report. Particularly, we welcome Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plans to launch the National Action Plan to Combat **Human Trafficking** and the Canadian government's continuing efforts to prevent trafficking and to improve victim services. We commend our synagogues in Canada, many of whom have been outspoken and have helped spur public support on this issue.

We are proud of the global efforts to decrease the incidence of trafficking and improve the lives of victims of human trafficking, but we know there is still much more work to be done in Israel, Canada, the United States, and around the world. Jewish tradition teaches that there is no greater mitzvah than redeeming the captives - those who are hungry, thirsty, oppressed, abused and whose lives are in danger. We will continue to work to bring about an end to human trafficking and ensure that no woman, man or child knows the experience of functional captivity."

Contact: Sean Thibault, 202/387-2800, news@rac.org

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TNS MT93 120704-3939428 61MarlizTagarum

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32 of 492 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

July 1, 2012 Sunday

HK laws 'fail to combat human trafficking'; Annual US report says the city's failure to get appropriate legislation in place to combat the problem puts it on a par with Cambodia and Congo

BYLINE: John Carney john.carney@scmp.com

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 07

LENGTH: 500 words

A US State Department report has delivered a scathing assessment of Hong Kong's laws against human trafficking, comparing the city's record on combating the problem to that of Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Serbia.

The Trafficking in Persons Report 2012 sets out the city's failure to meet minimum international standards and highlights a lack of progress in getting appropriate legislation in place. It also confirms that Hong Kong that has dropped down a **tier** in international rankings for efforts to combat **human trafficking**.

In a three-tier system of rankings, Hong Kong's position has dropped from tier one in 2008 to tier two today.

The report says Hong Kong "does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and "authorities have made no discernable progress over previous years in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking or forced labour [labour trafficking]".

The city's ranking is now on a par not only with that of Congo, Serbia and Cambodia, but also with that of Ukraine, Iran, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

"Due to Hong Kong's failure to fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and the lack of discernable progress over previous years in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking or forced labour [its ranking has been dropped down a tier]," the report says.

It also says that foreign domestic helpers face notable indebtedness assumed in their countries as part of the terms of job placements, which has the potential to plunge them into debt bondage.

This is prevalent in Hong Kong, where Filipino and Indonesian domestic helpers are brought to the city under false pretences to work and are unknowingly involved in trafficking by their employers. Some of these domestic helpers have been imprisoned for immigration offences, while those trafficking them have not been prosecuted.

Solicitor Mike Vidler has represented Filipino and Indonesian domestic helpers who have been caught up in this situation and was critical of how these cases are handled. "The emphasis is always on the domestic helpers being charged with immigration offences rather than the much more serious crime of human trafficking," he said.

The report also says that Hong Kong secured only six sex-trafficking convictions and no forced labour convictions, which gave the false impression that there was no problem. "To say that only six prosecutions have been made defies belief. It's just because there is no system in place to identify what the real problem is," Vidler said.

A Security Bureau spokesman refuted the report's findings. "Over the years, there was no difference, certainly no deterioration, in the trend of human trafficking and the effectiveness of our law enforcement in terms of number of arrest, prosecutions or convictions," the spokesman said.

"Hong Kong's legislation already provides a solid framework for the law enforcement agencies to prevent and combat human-trafficking activities," the spokesman said.

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33 of 492 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

July 1, 2012 Sunday

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34 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 30, 2012 Saturday

The Ministry of Labour is drafting legislation that will allow pregnant migrant women to return to their country of origin from the time when they are three to four months pregnant. After giving birth, they will be able to come back to Thailand to start working again. The idea, according to the government, is to prevent the trafficking of children. The policy was enacted following the recent release of the US State Department's 2012 "Trafficking in Persons**" report, which has again placed Thailand on the **watch list of Tier 2**.**

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 600 words

The ministry may say it has the best interests of migrant women in mind, but in real terms this is nothing less than deportation. It could also mean forced abortions, given the economic reality of these migrant workers from neighbouring countries, who are employed here only because their labour costs Thai companies less than employing Thai workers.

The official explanation is that by refusing migrant workers the opportunity to give birth in this country, it will bring down the use of child migrant workers. This is absurd.

The migrant workers have reason to be concerned. Beside the fact that many have their families here in Thailand already, they should also be worried about not having the money to pay the traffickers and other bloodsuckers who organise their journeys to Thailand. They should also be worried that they will not be able to bring their new child back here with them.

It would not be a big surprise, given the circumstances, if many women in this position opted for abortion. There are obvious risks involved in such a decision. Too often we read about how abortions performed by quacks in backstreet clinics end in either the injury or death of the woman.

According to the Public Health Ministry, nearly 10,000 women die each year from infections caused after unsafe abortions. But instead of supporting safe services to end unplanned pregnancies, we still live with the fact that our official policy pushes many women to their death.

Perhaps we are asking too much from our policy-makers. If they can easily turn a blind eye to unsafe abortions, why should they even care about the predicament of pregnant migrant women?

It should be noted that Thailand's reputation regarding treatment of migrant workers is not good. To call them second-class citizens is a gross understatement. Moreover, how this new policy will improve Thailand's poor record in the area of human trafficking is still not known.

This year's US State Department report on trafficking places Thailand once again in Tier 2. If there is no real improvement soon, we could drop to Tier 3, which would subject the country to a number of boycotts by the United States.

But instead of going after the bloodsucking traffickers and the police and immigration officials who cooperate with them, our government thinks it better to take it out on the migrant workers.

Perhaps if our Labour Ministry could put on a human face, it would reconsider this plan. But if the recent past is any indication, regardless of political parties, such a heartless and short-sighted policy will certainly go ahead regardless.

Why? Because we do not see migrant workers as people who deserve to be treated with respect. We see them as machines that are expendable, and we believe that the supply of these workers will continue forever. And to criminalise them and subject them to absurd rules and regulations is easier than a more thoughtful policy that takes into consideration certain values such as compassion, justice and equality.

The quality of a society should not be measured by its material wealth and economic might (which, by the way, is made possible by migrant workers), but by a sense of fairness and a sense of justice.

Our leaders often talk about how the countries of Southeast Asia are uniting to become one integrated economic region. But in order to achieve this ideal oneness, we have to be equal in the eyes of each other. At the human level is where it counts, not on some negotiated text sanctioned by Asean government officials and diplomats who are unable to consider people's real lives when they make their policy decisions.

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35 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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36 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 29, 2012 Friday

Nigeria; Nigerian Girls Serve As Sex Slaves in Asia, Europe, Africa

BYLINE: This Day (Lagos)

LENGTH: 1096 words

Tokunbo Adedjoja in New York

Despite the huge effort by Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, wife of former Edo State governor, Lucky Igbinedon, in combating female trafficking in Edo State, a new report released by the United States government has detailed how Nigerian women and girls were trafficked to Asia, Europe and other parts of Africa to be used as sex slaves and for forced labour. Edo State was identified as one of the largest exporters of sex workers to parts of Europe, especially Italy.

Mrs. Igbinedion had founded Idia Renaissance, a platform she used in battling the malaise of female trafficking in the state. She mounted strong re-orientation programmes which not only exposed the antics of the dealers, but also equipped rescued erstwhile sex workers with the skills and enterprise to start life anew in other vocations. She left office when the tenure of her husband expired in 2007.

The recently released report titled, '2012 Trafficking in Persons Report', further added that Europol (European Police Office) has identified Nigerian organised crime as one of the largest law enforcement challenges to European governments.

The report indicated, "Nigerian women and girls, primarily from Benin City in Edo State, are subjected to forced prostitution in Italy, while Nigerian women and girls from other states are subjected to forced prostitution in Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Russia."

It specifically noted that Nigerian women trafficked to Malaysia are not only forced into prostitution, they were also made to work as drug mules for their traffickers.

Noting that Nigerian women and children are recruited and transported to destinations in North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, where they were held captive in the sex trade or in forced labour, the report observed some are trafficked to other West and Central African countries, as well as South Africa, where they were exploited for the same purposes.

According to the report, Nigerian traffickers rely on threats of voodoo to compel their victims into prostitution often with an understanding on how to repay their "madams or masters". Most of the dealers who recruit their victims from the rural communities often paint bright prospects to the parents of the victims, especially when they are promised regular remittances of foreign currency from their children or wards who are "working in Oyinbo land". The victims on their part are excited about the prospect of "travelling abroad" and earning a living in foreign currency, without knowing that the "work in Oyinbo land" is a smokescreen for prostitution and servitude.

While noting that Nigerian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it observed that during the reporting period, Nigerian government has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. "Roughly, a third of convicted traffickers received fines in lieu of prison time," adding, "despite identifying 386 labour trafficking victims, the government prosecuted only two forced labour cases."

The report also states that despite documentation on a staggering number of Nigerian trafficking victims identified in countries around the world, the government has inconsistently employed measures to provide services to repatriated

victims. It noted that in one particular case and for unknown reasons, Nigerian officials did not assist prosecutors, representing a Nigerian victim in a foreign country, in locating a Nigerian trafficker who was in Nigeria during the case proceedings.

The report also indicted Nigerian diplomats in a neighbouring West African country for referring most of the Nigerian trafficking victims identified in that country to local NGOs rather than arranging for their repatriation to National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) shelters in Nigeria. "Despite the growing number of Nigerian trafficking victims identified abroad, the government is yet to implement formal procedures for the repatriation and reintegration of Nigerian victims," it stated.

In the report, Nigeria was described as a source, transit and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The report observed that trafficked Nigerians are recruited from rural areas, and to a lesser extent urban areas, within the country.

While women and girls were used for domestic servitude and sex trafficking, it indicated that boys are used for forced labour in street vending, domestic service, mining, stone quarries, agriculture, and begging.

In this year's report, which analysed countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing to tackle modern slavery, Nigeria slid down the ranking scale from Tier 1 to Tier 2. The annual report grouped countries into four tiers using the 3P paradigm of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. **Tier 1** consists of countries which comply with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**, **Tier 2**, consists of countries that are not yet compliant but are making efforts in that direction.

There is also the Tier 2 Watch List, which consists of countries that are in danger of falling down to Tier 3. Countries under Tier 3 are those that do not comply with any of the minimum standards and are not working towards attaining them.

For Nigeria to tackle these challenges, the report recommended that NAPTIP, established to coordinate and facilitate government's anti-trafficking agenda, be sufficiently funded to be able to prosecute trafficking offenders and provide adequate care for victims.

It further recommended increased investigations, prosecutions, convictions and punishments of labour trafficking offences; training of police and immigration officials to identify trafficking victims among vulnerable populations; development of a formal system to track the number of victims repatriated from abroad; and taking proactive measures to investigate and prosecute government officials suspected of trafficking.

Speaking while unveiling the report at the Benjamin Franklin Room, State Department in Washington DC, Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, said an estimated 27 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery. She said the report "gives a clear and honest assessment of where all of us are making progress on our commitments and where we are either standing still or even sliding backwards."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

37 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
 Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 29, 2012 Friday

Guyana dismisses US human trafficking report

LENGTH: 578 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Jun 29, CMC - Guyana has once again dismissed a United States report critical of the country's efforts on human trafficking to combat trafficking in persons.

A government appointed Ministerial Task Force established to tackle human trafficking here said that the US State Department's assessment in its 2012 report is "a difficult pill to swallow" and that Washington failed to establish a single fact.

"The Task Force notes several inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the Report that must be addressed. What is clear is that the architects of this Report have not made significant progress in improving the veracity, coherence and validity of their annual assessments" it said, noting that the report comprises unsubstantiated generalisations and repetitive uncorroborated claims.

"The Task Force strongly recommends that the US State Department seek to improve its methodology, establish proper baselines to guide comparisons, avoid use of anecdotal claims and develop a consistent, understandable, transparent and logical tier ranking system if countries are to benefit from these rituals. "The plethora of uncorroborated claims made in the Report can only result in a distorted view of the Guyanese reality as regards the national trafficking in persons' situation" the statement said.

Guyana said it considered the report "an affront" to its members, frontline government staff and over 100 citizens who have been trained to identify and report trafficking in persons and have been doing so along with several non-government organizations.

"While we were encouraged by what we felt at the time was meaningful dialogue between the Ministerial Task Force and US Embassy Officials, this Report raises significant concerns over the efficacy of these engagements" the statement said.

It said that a perusal of the report reveals "two inescapable inferences; one, the architects had already decided what they wanted to put in the Report and two, the architects gave little or no credence to the information presented by government in partnership with NGOs. Consequently, those two factors begs the question of the usefulness of such engagements in future.

"The danger of these unfounded claims and anecdotes that are replete in the US Report is that even though they are not the product of systematic research nor critical analysis they have never-the-less been published in the local media thus influencing public opinion" it added.

The Task Force said that the "US Report's misrepresentation and scaremongering must be refuted because of its impact on the country's image and the perpetuation of stereotypes and fears. Worst yet, it can lead to a waste of resources and energy, and a reduction in traditional opportunities for personal economic development and educational advancement".

The US State Department report released last week took the Guyana government to task for its failure to prosecute and convict human traffickers. It said Guyana, while there was some progress, there was a lack of political will and negligence on part of the state for not adequately addressing the human trafficking.

Guyana again was placed on **tier** two of the US **Human Trafficking watch list** for more than five years in succession. Georgetown has always dismissed the report as being inaccurate.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1200 gmt 29 Jun 12

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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38 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CANA News

June 29, 2012 Friday

GUYANA-RIGHTS-Guyana dismisses US Human trafficking report

LENGTH: 543 words

Guyana has once again dismissed a United States report critical of the country's efforts on human trafficking to combat trafficking in persons.

A government appointed Ministerial Task Force established to tackle human trafficking here said that the US State Department's assessment in its 2012 report is "a difficult pill to swallow" and that Washington failed to establish a single fact.

"The Task Force notes several inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the Report that must be addressed. What is clear is that the architects of this Report have not made significant progress in improving the veracity, coherence and validity of their annual assessments" it said, noting that the report comprises unsubstantiated generalisations and repetitive uncorroborated claims.

"The Task Force strongly recommends that the US State Department seek to improve its methodology, establish proper baselines to guide comparisons, avoid use of anecdotal claims and develop a consistent, understandable, transparent and logical tier ranking system if countries are to benefit from these rituals. "The plethora of uncorroborated claims made in the Report can only result in a distorted view of the Guyanese reality as regards the national trafficking in persons' situation" the statement said.

Guyana said it considered the report "an affront" to its members, frontline government staff and over 100 citizens who have been trained to identify and report trafficking in persons and have been doing so along with several non-government organisations.

"While we were encouraged by what we felt at the time was meaningful dialogue between the Ministerial Task Force and US Embassy Officials, this Report raises significant concerns over the efficacy of these engagements" the statement said.

It said that a perusal of the report reveals "two inescapable inferences; one, the architects had already decided what they wanted to put in the Report and two, the architects gave little or no credence to the information presented by government in partnership with NGOs. Consequently, those two factors begs the question of the usefulness of such engagements in future.

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LOAD-DATE: August 17, 2012

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39 of 492 DOCUMENTS

This Day (Lagos)

June 29, 2012 Friday

Nigerian Girls Serve As Sex Slaves in Asia, Europe, Africa

LENGTH: 1096 words

Tokunbo Adedoja in New York

Despite the huge effort by Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, wife of former Edo State governor, Lucky Igbinedon, in combating female trafficking in Edo State, a new report released by the United States government has detailed how Nigerian women and girls were trafficked to Asia, Europe and other parts of Africa to be used as sex slaves and for forced labour. Edo State was identified as one of the largest exporters of sex workers to parts of Europe, especially Italy.

Mrs. Igbinedion had founded Idia Renaissance, a platform she used in battling the malaise of female trafficking in the state. She mounted strong re-orientation programmes which not only exposed the antics of the dealers, but also equipped rescued erstwhile sex workers with the skills and enterprise to start life anew in other vocations. She left office when the tenure of her husband expired in 2007.

The recently released report titled, '2012 Trafficking in Persons Report', further added that Europol (European Police Office) has identified Nigerian organised crime as one of the largest law enforcement challenges to European governments.

The report indicated, "Nigerian women and girls, primarily from Benin City in Edo State, are subjected to forced prostitution in Italy, while Nigerian women and girls from other states are subjected to forced prostitution in Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Russia."

It specifically noted that Nigerian women trafficked to Malaysia are not only forced into prostitution, they were also made to work as drug mules for their traffickers.

Noting that Nigerian women and children are recruited and transported to destinations in North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, where they were held captive in the sex trade or in forced labour, the report observed some are trafficked to other West and Central African countries, as well as South Africa, where they were exploited for the same purposes.

According to the report, Nigerian traffickers rely on threats of voodoo to compel their victims into prostitution often with an understanding on how to repay their "madams or masters". Most of the dealers who recruit their victims from the rural communities often paint bright prospects to the parents of the victims, especially when they are promised regular remittances of foreign currency from their children or wards who are "working in Oyinbo land". The victims on their part are excited about the prospect of "travelling abroad" and earning a living in foreign currency, without knowing that the "work in Oyinbo land" is a smokescreen for prostitution and servitude.

While noting that Nigerian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it observed that during the reporting period, Nigerian government has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. "Roughly, a third of convicted traffickers received fines in lieu of prison time," adding, "despite identifying 386 labour trafficking victims, the government prosecuted only two forced labour cases."

The report also states that despite documentation on a staggering number of Nigerian trafficking victims identified in countries around the world, the government has inconsistently employed measures to provide services to repatriated victims. It noted that in one particular case and for unknown reasons, Nigerian officials did not assist prosecutors, representing a Nigerian victim in a foreign country, in locating a Nigerian trafficker who was in Nigeria during the case proceedings.

The report also indicted Nigerian diplomats in a neighbouring West African country for referring most of the Nigerian trafficking victims identified in that country to local NGOs rather than arranging for their repatriation to National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) shelters in Nigeria. "Despite the growing number of Nigerian trafficking victims identified abroad, the government is yet to implement formal procedures for the repatriation and reintegration of Nigerian victims," it stated.

In the report, Nigeria was described as a source, transit and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The report observed that trafficked Nigerians are recruited from rural areas, and to a lesser extent urban areas, within the country.

While women and girls were used for domestic servitude and sex trafficking, it indicated that boys are used for forced labour in street vending, domestic service, mining, stone quarries, agriculture, and begging.

In this year's report, which analysed countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing to tackle modern slavery, Nigeria slid down the ranking scale from Tier 1 to Tier 2. The annual report grouped countries into four tiers using the 3P paradigm of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. **Tier 1** consists of countries which comply with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**, **Tier 2**, consists of countries that are not yet compliant but are making efforts in that direction.

There is also the Tier 2 Watch List, which consists of countries that are in danger of falling down to Tier 3. Countries under Tier 3 are those that do not comply with any of the minimum standards and are not working towards attaining them.

For Nigeria to tackle these challenges, the report recommended that NAPTIP, established to coordinate and facilitate government's anti-trafficking agenda, be sufficiently funded to be able to prosecute trafficking offenders and provide adequate care for victims.

It further recommended increased investigations, prosecutions, convictions and punishments of labour trafficking offences; training of police and immigration officials to identify trafficking victims among vulnerable populations; development of a formal system to track the number of victims repatriated from abroad; and taking proactive measures to investigate and prosecute government officials suspected of trafficking.

Speaking while unveiling the report at the Benjamin Franklin Room, State Department in Washington DC, Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, said an estimated 27 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery. She said the report "gives a clear and honest assessment of where all of us are making progress on our commitments and where we are either standing still or even sliding backwards."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

40 of 492 DOCUMENTS

THE KOREA HERALD

June 29, 2012 Friday

Korean victims of sex trafficking in Japan receive renewed attention

LENGTH: 335 words

Yonhap Photo

"I've lost so much blood, I feel dizzy. It's debt. They won't listen."

A Korean female victim sent an urgent text message for help to an anti-trafficking group. The group revealed sex trafficking stories of the victim and others at a press conference in Tokyo Wednesday.

The unnamed victim was malnourished and suffering from abdominal inflammation when she sent the distressed message to Polaris Project Japan's hotline.

The woman, who is in her twenties, had been forced into prostitution after she had arrived in Japan with false hopes of making money as a bar hostess to pay off her debt.

She had gotten the idea from her female employer at a Seoul bar, who had recommended that she move to Japan to quickly make money.

But her nightmares began when she met the broker in Tokyo. She was taken to an apartment in the Ueno district, where she was under constant monitoring with surveillance cameras in her room and corridor. The broker took away her passport. All of the money she made working as a prostitute went to the pimp.

The victim recalled that she had been too afraid to call the police, as she was a foreigner unprotected by the law. After she came across the hotline for women, she took actions.

About 30 percent of S.O.S calls made to the hotline since 2005 were by Koreans, making them the most targeted foreign victims, according to the PPJ.

Filipino and Thai women came in second and third, taking up 11 percent and 7 percent of the calls, respectively. Thirty-six percent of the calls were from Japanese women.

The group disclosed other detailed stories of sex trafficking cases in Japan, including that of a Korean student who started out working in the kitchen of a hostess bar and ended up being forced into prostitution due to debt.

According to the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report published Tuesday by the U.S. State Department, Japan was categorized as a **Tier 2** country whose government "does not fully comply with minimum standards."

By Sim Guk-by

Intern Reporter

(simgukby@heraldm.com)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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41 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 29, 2012 Friday

CAMBODIA TO REPATRIATE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 686 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

Cambodia will bring home four men who were sold as slaves to a South African fishing company.

RFA

Police officers speak to a group of girls after they were rescued from a human trafficking ring, Oct. 11, 2011.

Cambodia is working with the South African government to repatriate four Cambodian men who worked as slaves for years after being sold to a fishing company, highlighting the plight of impoverished Southeast Asians who commonly fall prey to human traffickers while seeking work abroad.

Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Kuy Kong said in a statement Friday that the four men were rescued from South African firm Giant Ocean International Fishery Co. Ltd., where they had worked for "several years."

The group included Seng Sokha, 25, from Kampot province, Phan Chanden, 34, from Kompong Cham province, Chea Nara, 24, also from Kompong Cham, and Chap Sinath, 21, from Siem Reap province.

"The Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok is working with the South African government to provide the men with temporarily shelters until they are repatriated to Cambodia," the statement read.

The ministry did not provide any details about how the four Cambodians ended up in South Africa, their current state of health, or the abuses they faced while held captive by the fishing company.

Maids in Malaysia

News of the trafficking victims' rescue came as anti-human trafficking group CARAM-Cambodia urged women who have been abused while working in Malaysia as maids to work with their organization to prosecute their former employers.

CARAM-Cambodia Executive Director Ya Navuth made the appeal Friday after announcing the successful prosecution of a Malaysian employer who had withheld the salary of a Cambodian maid for more than two years.

Ya Navuth said that the 30-year-old maid, whose name was withheld for reasons of privacy, was awarded U.S. \$1,400 for her two years of salary through an appeals court in Malaysia.

"Winning this case in Malaysia has set a precedent for those who endure abuse from their employers," he said.

"The victims must inform the Cambodian Embassy and the nongovernmental organizations that are working against human trafficking of their situations. When we have information, we can help."

Ya Navuth said that the victim will be repatriated to Cambodia soon.

Little recourse

Maids are common in middle-class households in Malaysia due to a large migrant labor population who total up to 2 million people or 21 percent of the country's workforce.

Women's rights groups say there are no accurate statistics of how many Cambodian women are currently working in Malaysia, though some estimates put the number at around 50,000.

They say that these young women typically have little recourse against abuse through local law enforcement because they do not speak the local language or have entered the country illegally.

In addition, labor firms that recruit them in Cambodia rarely provide support once the women are employed.

Earlier this month, a 28-year-old maid was admitted to a hospital in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur after suffering a broken jaw and being tortured by the couple that hired her to clean their home.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also announced in June that the Cambodian Embassy rescued eight fishing boat workers and four maids who had been trafficked to Malaysia where they had been forced to work for several years.

And in March, a Malaysian couple was charged with killing domestic worker Mey Sichan, 24, who was allegedly subjected to repeated physical abuse and starved.

Cambodia imposed a freeze on sending domestic workers in October last year after activists exposed dozens of cases of sexual abuse, overwork, and exploitation among Cambodian maids in Malaysian homes.

The U.S. State Department ranked Cambodia a **Tier 2** country in its 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** report, saying the government had failed to make progress in prosecuting human traffickers and protecting trafficking victims.

Reported by Samean Yun and Ouk Savborey for RFA's Khmer service. Translated by Samean Yun. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

42 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 28, 2012 Thursday

Lesotho; Traffickers Prey On Desperate Job Seekers

BYLINE: UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (Nairobi)

LENGTH: 1188 words

At the age of 15 and with no money for school shoes or a uniform, Linda* was forced to accept that her education was over and it was time to look for a job. In Lesotho's southern Quthing District, where she lived, it is accepted wisdom that finding a job means crossing the border into South Africa, which completely surrounds this mountainous kingdom of 1.8 million people and dwarfs its tiny economy.

Linda's own mother made the move five years ago and never returned. "I don't know where she is," said Linda, whose sister also lives in South Africa.

In May 2011, Linda was approached by a woman she knew from her village who had a business about 50km across the border in the town of Sterkspruit. "She invited me to come and stay with her and work for her as a shop assistant," recalled Linda.

She did not question why she and her new employer had to cross a freezing river to enter South Africa instead of using the nearest border post, and for the first three months she was treated well enough and received a small salary. But when her employer abruptly left, putting a relative in charge of the shop, no more pay was forthcoming and Linda embarked on a relationship with the night watchman. By the time her sister arrived in December to bring her home, she was pregnant.

"I feel so sorry and angry," said the girl, now eight-months pregnant and living with her ailing grandmother.

Four months after recruiting Linda, her employer returned to the village and met Mahleki*, another 15-year-old school dropout and orphan. This time she offered to help the girl attend school in South Africa.

"I didn't really believe her," said Mahleki, "but my brother forced me to go because he couldn't look after me."

After another river crossing, Mahleki was put on a bus to Rustenberg, a mining town in the country's North West Province, and then taken to a tavern where she worked from 7am until midnight for the next seven months. In return she received two meals a day and a one-off payment of R350 (\$42) to buy clothes.

In April of this year Maggie Monongoaha, a member of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service's Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) who happened to live in the same village as Mahleki and Linda, made a phone call to their recruiter demanding she send Mahleki home. The woman complied but remained in Rustenberg where she faces no legal charges.

What happened to Linda and Mahleki is not unusual in Lesotho but until recently, it is unlikely that anyone in their community or even local authorities would have identified them as victims of human trafficking, which the UN's 2000 Palermo Protocol defines as: "the recruitment, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception... for the purpose of exploitation".

Human trafficking survey

In 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned a rapid assessment of human trafficking in Lesotho to try to gauge the magnitude of the problem. The findings did not provide much in the way of hard data, but did highlight some of the conditions that have made the country particularly vulnera-

ble to trafficking both internally from rural to urban areas and transnationally. These include Lesotho's high levels of poverty and unemployment, the large number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and its porous borders and long tradition of migration to South Africa which began with Basotho men going to work in the mines.

The report noted that men, women and children are trafficked not only for sexual exploitation, but also for forced labour on farms, for cattle herding, construction work and domestic work.

In January 2011, the Lesotho government passed anti-trafficking legislation under pressure from the USA, an important donor which had placed Lesotho on its **Tier 2 Watch List** for countries not showing sufficient progress in combating **human trafficking**.

"It's common knowledge that it was rushed through," said Sonya Martinez, director of the Beautiful Dream Society (BDS), a faith-based US NGO which runs a shelter and transition programme for victims of human trafficking in Maseru, the capital. "The move to pass the law was very good, but training and infrastructure are lacking."

Although the CPGU has been tasked with investigating trafficking cases, no budget has been allocated and training of its officers has so far been limited to Maseru. Of 40 cases reported in 2011, only one conviction was made under the new law and the offender was later released from a 15-year prison sentence after successfully appealing the verdict.

The recently released US State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report notes that the government has yet to complete a national action plan on human trafficking which would guide implementation of the new law, and that NGOs are the sole providers of protective services to victims.

NGO helps victims

Since opening its shelter in April 2011, BDS has helped 21 trafficking victims with trauma counselling, skills training and legal assistance, about half of them Basotho nationals and the rest Ethiopians, Zimbabweans and one Chinese. Martinez noted that the foreign victims were often more visible and tended to be perceived as more serious than the cases involving locals. "I believe there are many more local cases," she said, adding that orphans and young people with a history of abuse or who were the sole breadwinners for their family were particularly vulnerable.

Martinez said the greatest barrier to prosecuting more traffickers is the lack of resources for the CPGU to travel to South Africa to investigate suspected cases and bring victims home. "Often nothing ever happens to the perpetrators in South Africa," she told IRIN. "We've helped out with funding for rescues on a couple of occasions; the government hasn't budgeted any funds for this."

Senior Superintendent and Head of the CGPU Mamojela Letsie said her unit relied on a good working relationship with the South African Police Service for tip-offs which had resulted in the rescue of several men from Quthing who were promised jobs in a factory but ended up "sold" to remote cattle posts.

However, a CPGU officer based in Mohale's Hoek, about 50km north of Quthing, said that although his office sometimes received reports of locals promised employment in South Africa who ended up being exploited, it was difficult for them to follow up.

"For us at district level, it's not yet clear how we can investigate cross-border cases," he said.

At the level of prevention and awareness-raising, both the CPGU and the Ministry of Home Affairs are conducting campaigns in areas identified as high risk. NGOs including BDS, Lesotho Save the Children and World Vision are also targeting schoolchildren, border officials and radio listeners with information about the threat of human trafficking.

But Letsie admitted that most Basotho still do not know what human trafficking is. "Once people know, we think there'll be many more cases," she said.

*Not their real names

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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43 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 28, 2012 Thursday

Improved protection or just opportunism?

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 521 words

On June 25 the MCOT reported that the minister of Labour is drafting legislation to allow pregnant migrant women to return to their country of origin when they are three to four months pregnant. After giving birth, they can come back to Thailand to start working again.

This policy is being enacted following the release of the US State Department's 2012 "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, which placed Thailand on the **Tier 2 watch-list** for the third consecutive year.

According to the MCOT, the minister thought this policy would prevent trafficking of children.

The Mekong Migration Network congratulates the Thai government for extending the length of paid maternity leave for migrant women. We assume that migrant women will be entitled to nine months' paid maternity leave since they'll be required to take maternity leave from the fourth month of pregnancy until three months after giving birth. We also expect the government to provide free appropriate transportation to their home and back to work in Thailand.

Or is it possible that Thailand is so desperate to appease the anti-trafficking lobbyists that it is sacrificing women's fundamental rights by deporting pregnant women?

Reiko Harima

Bangkok

Ignoring all the #124warning signs

Re: "Meeting to plot euro-zone crisis reaction", News, June 27.

Escalating concerns over the debt crisis in the euro zone seem to have caused the Thai government to be terribly fearful.

PM Yingluck and the Pheu Thai Party, under the guidance of Thaksin Shinawatra, won by a landslide in the 2011 election because they promised to spend more on populist programmes than their competitors. As a result, two big problems have emerged:

First, Thailand has a very large stock of rice in hand, maintained at a very high cost as a result of the government's rice-price support scheme. Second, Thai products have become more expensive since another Pheu Thai populist scheme started the raising of the minimum wage to Bt300 a day nationwide.

Hence, if ever the problem in the euro zone escalates to the point that Thailand suffers severely, could it be said to have been because of the recklessness of these people?

Vint Chavala

Lamphun

Diplomacy and #124cyberwar

Re: "Cyberwars loom over mankind, and they'll be cheap and nasty", Opinion, June 23.

Jonathan Eyal is right in asserting that it's largely immaterial that, so far, cyber warfare has killed no one and inflicted little damage. However, his conclusion, according to which new treaties to govern the use of cyberspace can be adopted only after bloody confrontations, seems too pessimistic.

Within the framework of preventive diplomacy, it is high time the United Nations Security Council seriously dealt with the dangerous consequences of potential cyber warfare. It must prove that, indeed, it respects its own role, clearly reflected in the UN Charter, as the principal organ having primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The 193 UN members are expected to avoid the marginalising of the world organisation during an era of global vulnerabilities with cyberwars threatening humankind.

Ioan Voicu

Bangkok

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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44 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 28, 2012 Thursday

thailand remains

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 653 words

major centre for

human trafficking Several border provinces in the North and Northeast are starting points; the problem is getting more serious in the South

Chaiyakorn Bai-ngern,

Thachayan Waharak

Special to The Nation

Many locals and job-seekers from neighbouring countries continue to be ensnared in the sex industry or trapped in slave labour despite the enactment of the Anti-Human-Trafficking Act in 2008,

"Thailand is still a source, transit and destination in human trade," Yanee Lertkrai, inspector-general of the Social Development and Human Security Ministry, said yesterday.

Several border provinces in the North and Northeast are the starting points.

"The victims are sent from there to other provinces in Thailand and often to a third country," she said.

Today, the victims also come from nearby countries such as Laos, Myanmar and even China.

Nukool Chinfuk of Hat Yai University's Political Science Faculty has conducted research on the problem and found that it is getting very serious in the South.

"Some gangs have brought Myanmar people to Ranong, from where some are sent to Samut Sakhon, while some others are sent to Thailand's lower Southern region, Malaysia and Singapore," he said.

More than 120 establishments are offering sex services in Songkhla's Sadao district alone, he said. Most of the sex workers there come from Thailand's northern and northeastern regions as well as China and Laos.

"The longer the problem persists, the younger the victims become," he said.

Many sources put the ages of the youngest victims of prostitution at 11-15. They enter the flesh trade in the hope of providing financial support to their impoverished families.

Pol Lt-Colonel Jatuporn Arunrerkthawin from the Department of Special Investigation said Chinese-speaking women were now much in demand among customers of brothels in the South.

"Those places serve many Chinese-Malaysians," he said. "Women from countries north of Thailand have nice skin and good #124figures."

Pol Captain Yin Yin Ae, head of anti-human-trafficking in Myanmar's Tachilek, said late last year that joint operations with Thai officials had rescued 36 Myanmar girls younger than 18 from a human-smuggling gang.

"These girls left their home towns without knowing that they would be forced into prostitution," he said. "After they crossed the border, they were sold to a Thai agent who locked them up and beat them in a bid to force them into the flesh trade."

Another source said many Myanmar girls were brought into Thailand via Tak's Mae Sot district or Chiang Rai and sent to a holding centre for training in sex services. "The good-looking ones will be taken to Bangkok and the rest to the southern border provinces," the source said.

Since Thailand clearly has many **human-trafficking** routes, it still appeared in **Tier 2** of the **Watch List** of the US State Department's report on **human trafficking** this year.

Boys and men are not exempt, because many of them are forced into backbreaking work on fishing trawlers.

Yanee said her ministry was trying hard to suppress human trafficking and urged anyone with a tip-off to call her ministry's 1300 hotline.

Pol Lt-General Pongpat Chayaphan, commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau, said he hoped that the upcoming Asean Economic Community in 2015 would make it easier to stamp out human traffickers.

"The loopholes in the different regulations and laws used by each country will be reduced," he said. When the databases of various countries are linked, prevention of human trafficking will also get a big boost.

"Cooperation will help a lot. We have to do our best," he said.

The bureau has compiled criminal records and continues to try out new techniques and procedures to raise efficiency in its operations.

"We have sent some staff to Britain and Canada to improve our investigations. We have also worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in trying to solve the problem," he said.

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45 of 492 DOCUMENTS

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (Nairobi)

June 28, 2012 Thursday

Traffickers Prey On Desperate Job Seekers

LENGTH: 1181 words

DATELINE: Quthing

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In April of this year Maggie Monongoaha, a member of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service's Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) who happened to live in the same village as Mahleki and Linda, made a phone call to their recruiter demanding she send Mahleki home. The woman complied but remained in Rustenberg where she faces no legal charges.

What happened to Linda and Mahleki is not unusual in Lesotho but until recently, it is unlikely that anyone in their community or even local authorities would have identified them as victims of human trafficking, which the UN's 2000 Palermo Protocol defines as: "the recruitment, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception... for the purpose of exploitation".

In 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned a rapid assessment of human trafficking in Lesotho to try to gauge the magnitude of the problem. The findings did not provide much in the way of hard data, but did highlight some of the conditions that have made the country particularly vulnerable to trafficking both internally from rural to urban areas and transnationally. These include Lesotho's high levels of poverty and unemployment, the large number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and its porous borders and long tradition of migration to South Africa which began with Basotho men going to work in the mines.

The report noted that men, women and children are trafficked not only for sexual exploitation, but also for forced labour on farms, for cattle herding, construction work and domestic work.

In January 2011, the Lesotho government passed anti-trafficking legislation under pressure from the USA, an important donor which had placed Lesotho on its **Tier 2 Watch List** for countries not showing sufficient progress in combating **human trafficking**.

"It's common knowledge that it was rushed through," said Sonya Martinez, director of the Beautiful Dream Society (BDS), a faith-based US NGO which runs a shelter and transition programme for victims of human trafficking in Maseru, the capital. "The move to pass the law was very good, but training and infrastructure are lacking."

Although the CPGU has been tasked with investigating trafficking cases, no budget has been allocated and training of its officers has so far been limited to Maseru. Of 40 cases reported in 2011, only one conviction was made under the new law and the offender was later released from a 15-year prison sentence after successfully appealing the verdict.

The recently released US State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report notes that the government has yet to complete a national action plan on human trafficking which would guide implementation of the new law, and that NGOs are the sole providers of protective services to victims.

Since opening its shelter in April 2011, BDS has helped 21 trafficking victims with trauma counselling, skills training and legal assistance, about half of them Basotho nationals and the rest Ethiopians, Zimbabweans and one Chinese. Martinez noted that the foreign victims were often more visible and tended to be perceived as more serious than the cases involving locals. "I believe there are many more local cases," she said, adding that orphans and young people with a history of abuse or who were the sole breadwinners for their family were particularly vulnerable.

Martinez said the greatest barrier to prosecuting more traffickers is the lack of resources for the CPGU to travel to South Africa to investigate suspected cases and bring victims home. "Often nothing ever happens to the perpetrators in South Africa," she told IRIN. "We've helped out with funding for rescues on a couple of occasions; the government hasn't budgeted any funds for this."

Senior Superintendent and Head of the CGPU Mamojela Letsie said her unit relied on a good working relationship with the South African Police Service for tip-offs which had resulted in the rescue of several men from Quthing who were promised jobs in a factory but ended up "sold" to remote cattle posts.

However, a CPGU officer based in Mohale's Hoek, about 50km north of Quthing, said that although his office sometimes received reports of locals promised employment in South Africa who ended up being exploited, it was difficult for them to follow up.

"For us at district level, it's not yet clear how we can investigate cross-border cases," he said.

At the level of prevention and awareness-raising, both the CPGU and the Ministry of Home Affairs are conducting campaigns in areas identified as high risk. NGOs including BDS, Lesotho Save the Children and World Vision are also targeting schoolchildren, border officials and radio listeners with information about the threat of human trafficking.

But Letsie admitted that most Basotho still do not know what human trafficking is. "Once people know, we think there'll be many more cases," she said.

*Not their real names

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

46 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Azeri-Press news agency (APA)

June 26, 2012 Tuesday

U.S. 'Worst Human Trafficker' - Russian Diplomat

LENGTH: 350 words

The United States, which has accused Russia of insufficient effort in combating human trafficking, is itself the world's biggest importer of trafficked humans, a Russian diplomat said on Monday, APA reports quoting Ria Novosti. Russia was marked a **Tier 2 Watch List** country in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012 by the U.S. State Department.

Up to 1 million people in Russia could qualify for victims of human trafficking, according to the report, which was released last week. But the report was heavily biased for political reasons, Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said in a statement on the ministry's website.

The report paints the United States and its allies as "straight-A students" on fighting **human trafficking** while criticizing their geopolitical opponents such as Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Zimbabwe and Syria, a new addition to the **Tier 3** list of worst offenders, Lukashevich said.

Meanwhile, between 100,000 and 500,000 illegal migrants arriving in the United States each year are victims of human trafficking, Lukashevich said, citing unspecified rights activists.

Up to 100,000 minors a year become involved with the illegal child sex industry in the U.S., and there are reports of sex slaves supplied to U.S. military forces outside the country, the diplomat said.

At the same time, Russia does not deny the serious situation with human trafficking within the country and is putting every effort into combating this illegal transnational business, Lukashevich said. The State Department has not commented on Lukashevich's statement as of Monday evening.

The United States has been increasingly criticizing Russia for various human rights violations since President Vladimir Putin first came to power in 2000.

The criticism has been eliciting an increasingly vehement reaction from Russian officials, culminating in the creation in 2011 of the office of a special ombudsman with the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The ombudsman's office presented in December a global report on human rights which featured extensive criticism of the United States and other Western countries.

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

47 of 492 DOCUMENTS



June 26, 2012 Tuesday

Government criticised for trafficking failures

SECTION: IRELAND

LENGTH: 454 words

As with last year, the US state department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012 keeps Ireland in the top **tier** of countries because it "fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking".

However, it says Ireland is a "destination, source, and transit country for women, men, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour", with children subjected to prostitution "in various cities in Ireland, including Kilkenny, Cork, and Dublin".

It finds Ireland has yet to fully prosecute and convict any trafficking offenders, as defined by international standards using the 2008 anti-trafficking law, in spite of sex trafficking victims having been found in this country from "Eastern Europe and African countries including Nigeria, South America, and Asia".

"According to an NGO review of the national action plan in Jun 2011, the low number of prosecutions for trafficking contributes to an under-estimation of the severity of the trafficking problem in the country," the report states.

Its authors point out that although the Government reported four trafficking convictions in 2011, only one conviction involved a human trafficking offence consistent with international standards.

"In the trafficking case, a Nigerian woman who subjected a 16-year old girl to exploitation in prostitution received a sentence of four years' imprisonment, with two of the years suspended.

"The other cases reported by the Government involved sexual assault without commercial exploitation, organised prostitution of adults without force, fraud, or coercion, or solicitation of pornographic images of children without a commercial sex act."

It calls for the Government to make a greater effort to implement the 2008 anti-trafficking law.

The report also says the authorities should ensure proactive screening for trafficking during asylum intake interviews and ensure all potential trafficking victims, regardless of immigration status, are given an official "recovery and reflection period" during which they can decide whether to assist authorities with prosecuting their traffickers.

Last Friday, the Government announced a four-month-long consultation on the "future direction of prostitution legislation".

It listed four possible approaches that may be taken:

- * Complete criminalisation of all aspects of the trade;
- * Partial criminalisation, which could adopt the Swedish model of targeting penalties at people paying for sex rather than those working as prostitutes;
- * Legalisation to remove any involvement of the State in policing it and accept it is a part of society;

* Legalisation, but regulation of prostitution to ensure that prostitutes benefit from health checks, are protected, and brothels are registered.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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48 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 26, 2012 Tuesday

move to bar pregnant workers

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 261 words

Thanongsak Muennoo

The Nation

Labour Minister Phadarmchai Sasomsap is mulling a plan to bar migrant workers who are more than three months' pregnant from the country. The aim of the initiative is to discourage migrant workers from having babies in this country in order to end a misunderstanding that Thailand exploits child labour.

"Children of migrant workers have in fact stayed around factories and sometimes help with their parents' work, because if they stay at home, they are completely on their own. But some non-governmental organisations have misinterpreted their presence [at work sites] as exploitation," he said.

Phadarmchai said that to protect the image of Thailand, he was seriously considering the plan to require pregnant alien workers to leave.

"I have already asked the Labour Protection and Welfare Department to draft the regulation," he said. "I will then present the draft to relevant agencies as well as neighbouring countries for consultation."

The labour minister insisted this was not a violation of human rights.

"The migrant workers can return after they deliver their babies," he said.

Phadarmchai said the presence of migrant workers' children at factories was one of the reasons that Thailand was still on the United States' **Tier 2 Human Trafficking Watch List**.

He said some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had reported sightings of migrant workers' children shelling shrimp in Samut Sakhon.

"I would like to ask the NGOs to allow us to explain before reporting these misunderstandings to the International Labour Organisation," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

49 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The South Asian Times

June 26, 2012 Tuesday

US worst human trafficker: Russia

LENGTH: 298 words**DATELINE:** Moscow

oscow, June 26 -- Russia has accused the US of being the world's biggest importer of trafficked humans

The Russian foreign ministry said Monday that the US which has accused Russia of insufficient effort in combating human trafficking is itself the world's biggest importer of trafficked humans.

Russia has been marked a **Tier 2 Watch List** country in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012 by the US State Department. According to the report released last week, up to one million people in Russia could qualify for victims of human trafficking.

The report was heavily biased for political reasons, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich in a statement on the ministry's website.

The report paints the US and its allies as "straight-A students" on fighting **human trafficking** while criticising their geopolitical opponents such as Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Zimbabwe and Syria, a new addition to the **Tier 3** list of worst offenders, he added.

Meanwhile, between 100,000 and 500,000 illegal migrants arriving in the US each year are victims of human trafficking, said Lukashevich citing unspecified rights activists.

Up to 100,000 minors a year become involved with the illegal child sex industry in the US and there are reports of sex slaves supplied to US military forces outside the country, he added.

At the same time, Russia does not deny the serious situation with human trafficking within the country and is putting every effort into combating this illegal transnational business, Lukashevich said.

The US State Department was yet to comment on Lukashevich's statement. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The South Asian Times. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

50 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Business Insider

June 25, 2012 Monday 6:00 PM EST

The Russians Just Tweeted An Epic Diatribe Against The State Department's New Human Trafficking Report

LENGTH: 130 words

The Russian government's use of Twitter is legendarily melodramatic and far more enthralling than most of what the U.S. government puts out.

So the Russians did not disappoint when earlier today they responded to the State Department's new report, which labels them a "**Tier-2 Watch List**" violator of international **human trafficking** standards the second worst level of offense.

Alexander Lukashovich, the spokesman for Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, launched into an enraged, 7-tweet response accusing the U.S. of hypocrisy and ulterior motives.

Check out the rant below.

Meanwhile, the State Department's account continues to Tweet links to read-outs of official statements...

Unfollowed.

Please follow Politics on Twitter and Facebook.

Join the conversation about this story ^a

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Blog**JOURNAL-CODE:** BZIN-5352

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51 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 25, 2012 Monday

106 trafficking victims rescued in June

BYLINE: Noemi M. Gonzales

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 233 words

AT LEAST 106 persons were rescued from being smuggled in June as the government intensifies efforts against human trafficking, the Vice- President said yesterday.

In a statement, Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay said the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) rescued 85 victims on board the M/L Kadrina at the boundary of Zamboanga and Pilas Islands on June 4, while the other 21 were rescued in other separate operations this month.

"This is one of the biggest hauls we had this year," Mr. Binay said. "What is worse was that the lives of the legitimate passengers were also put at risk because the boat was overloaded," he added, referring to the ship that was intercepted in Zamboanga.

Ten persons intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on June 12 claimed an illegal recruiter promised work in the US. Others were rescued at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. Suspected traffickers will be charged with violating Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2003.

The US Department of State had released the 2012 Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report which maintained the **Tier 2** status of the Philippines. The category groups countries that do not meet the minimum requirements prescribed in the US Trafficking Victims Protections Act, but are doing significant efforts to do so.

Mr. Binay said he will convene the IACAT next month to discuss reform programs.

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

52 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Independent.ie

Irish Independent

June 25, 2012 Monday

Gangs use voodoo to force women into prostitution

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 458 words

CRIMINAL gangs are using voodoo rituals to traffic young African women into the country to be exploited as prostitutes.

The "black magic" hoodwinks the women into believing their families will suffer if they don't agree to travel here.

Gardai encountered the practice during a wide-ranging investigation into human trafficking.

The women are targeted by local 'witch doctors' who are hired by gangs to act as recruitment agents in areas where voodoo rituals are part of the culture.

The victims are then forced into prostitution and put to work in brothels, earning huge profits for the gang controlling the racket.

Now gardai are satisfied they have identified the organisers of the biggest prostitution and human-trafficking ring to operate here for several years.

An investigation discovered evidence to show it was the first prostitution racket run jointly by Irish and Nigerian criminals.

As a result of their inquiries, gardai have rescued 12 trafficking victims and the young women are being given an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

The gang is being targeted under Operation Mast, which is led by the human-trafficking investigation and co-ordination unit within the Garda National Immigration Bureau and has been under way for the past three-and-a-half years.

Complex

Mast has concentrated, in particular, on the gang's activities in counties Sligo, Longford, Monaghan and Limerick.

Officers have sent a complex file on a dozen Irish and Nigerian suspects to the Director of Public Prosecutions -- and this is currently under consideration by lawyers.

Apart from the voodoo ploy, other Nigerian women have become victims of debt bondage. They owe sums of between EUR2,000 and EUR5,000 to the traffickers, who arranged for them to come here on the basis of finding legitimate jobs as nannies and domestic employees.

When they arrived here, they were forced into brothels set up around the country.

Gardai made a breakthrough when they found a woman who had been working as a prostitute from a house in an estate in Sligo town.

Gardai raided the house after it was noted some Nigerian women were living there without making themselves known to the relevant authorities.

One woman claimed she had earned EUR44,300 working as a prostitute by that stage and had given half of that directly to her controller, while the rest went on rent and bills.

A large chunk of the profits was then wired back to Nigeria through Western Union.

Meanwhile, a review by the US State Department has placed Ireland in the top **tier** of countries deemed to be meeting their obligations in tackling **human trafficking**.

This is the third year in a row for Ireland to be included in Tier One.

Gardai rescued 69 trafficking victims in 2009, 78 in 2010 and 57 last year.

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53 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CANA News

June 24, 2012 Sunday

CMCFeature: Caribbean countries still not doing enough against human trafficking - US report

BYLINE: Nelson King**LENGTH:** 253 words

Despite the adoption of treaties and laws prohibiting the return to slavery that formally ended in the Caribbean two centuries ago, the United States says more than a dozen Caribbean countries participate in human trafficking in which many men, women, and children continue to live in modern-day slavery.

In its **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012, the US Department of State has identified English and Spanish-speaking Caribbean nations as not making the minimum effort to fight the scourge, ranking them according to their alleged violations as **Tier 2**, **Tier 2 Watch List** and the worst offenders, **Tier 3**.

It places in "Tier 1" those governments that fully comply with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. No Caribbean countries are on this list.

But those countries which, while not fully complying with the TVPA's minimum standards, are making "significant efforts" to comply with those standards are placed on "Tier 2": Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Beyond Tier 2 is the Tier 2 Watch List, where the State Department places the Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname. It is in these countries where the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing. The US says these governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts towards compliance.

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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54 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

June 22, 2012

128 trafficking cases last year

BYLINE: Sandeep SINGH Grewal

LENGTH: 704 words

NEARLY 130 cases of human trafficking were recorded in Bahrain last year.

The US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report said around 70,000 domestic workers in Bahrain were also considered to be "highly vulnerable" to forced labour and sexual exploitation because they were not protected by the country's labour laws.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Bahrain reported 128 victims of human trafficking, some of whom were referred by the government, according to the publication, which was released yesterday.

"Abuse and sexual assault of domestic workers are significant problems in Bahrain, however, strict confinement to the household and intimidation by employers prevent these workers from reporting abuse," said the report, quoting government and NGO officials.

The government reportedly investigated 18 cases, five of which resulted in the conviction of those found guilty.

The TIP report, released by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, gives a detailed account of trafficking, slavery and the testimonies of victims, including forced labour, for 186 countries.

Bahrain was placed on the **Tier 2 watch list**, the same ranking it had last year, for countries where the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was significant or increasing and there was failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year.

Standards

The report stated Bahrain "does not" fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, however, it is making significant efforts to do so.

"The government continued to investigate and prosecute a few trafficking offences during the reporting period," the report said.

Among the other GCC countries, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were placed in Tier 3 - for nations which do not comply with the minimum standards - while Oman, Qatar and the UAE were also in Tier 2.

The report is prepared by US diplomatic posts and domestic agencies and is based on meetings a wide variety of government officials, local and international NGOs, journalists and academics.

"NGOs report that Bangladeshi unskilled workers are in particularly high demand in Bahrain and are considered exploitable since they do not typically protest difficult work conditions or low pay," it said.

Quoting a Labour Market Regulatory Authority study, the report said 65 per cent of migrant workers had not seen their employment contract and 89pc were unaware of their employment terms upon arrival in Bahrain.

It also stated 70pc of foreign workers borrowed money or sold property in their home countries to secure a job in Bahrain.

The TIP report praised the Interior Ministry for operating a freephone hotline for trafficking victims, but noted a significant drop in the number of calls it received in 2011.

However, it criticised the government for failing to follow up and ensure prosecution of people involved in human trafficking and those guilty of negligence in incidents involving injury or death of expatriates.

"It is not known how many of these convictions, if any, involved human trafficking offences," it said.

"The media reported possibly negligent deaths of foreign workers in labour camps due to carbon monoxide poisoning and electrical fires; it is unclear whether the government investigated these deaths."

The report recommends Bahrain enforce the 2008 anti-trafficking law and significantly increase investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences - particularly those involving forced labour.

It also urged authorities to expand the government-run shelter to have qualified staff who are able to communicate in different languages.

Bahrain has also been asked to identify victims among vulnerable groups, such as migrant domestic workers who have left their employers or women arrested for prostitution.

"Bahrain is a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking," said the report.

"Men and women from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Eritrea migrate voluntarily to Bahrain to work as domestic workers or as unskilled labourers in the construction and service industries," the report added.

sandy@gdn.com.bh

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 5

55 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 22, 2012 Friday**NK worst in combating human trafficking: US report****BYLINE:** By Kim Eun-ji**LENGTH:** 219 words

The two Koreas showed a stark difference in the U.S. annual report on human trafficking, released on June 19, which covers 185 countries.

North Korea was placed in Tier 3, the worst and last of the four grades, against South Korea's Tier 1. The placing was determined on the 'extent of government action to combat trafficking rather than the size of the problem,' according to the report.

The 33 nations in **Tier 1** have acknowledged the existence of **human trafficking** and made efforts to address the problem, the report said.

North Korea does not fully comply with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and is not making significant efforts to do so.

The report also pointed out Korean sailors abused Indonesian migrant laborers under the section Exploiting the World's Oceans.

'[The laborers'] alleged physical and psychological abuses as well as severe underpayment or nonpayment of wages by Korean fishing vessels operating under contract to New Zealand companies,' said the report.

'This year's report tells us that we are making a lot of progress. Twenty-nine countries were upgraded from a lower tier to a higher one,' said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Clinton noted, however, that an estimation of 27 million 'modern slaves' are still suffering as victims of human trafficking.

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56 of 492 DOCUMENTS

THE KOREA HERALD

June 22, 2012 Friday

Korean victims of sex trafficking in Japan receive renewed attention

LENGTH: 335 words

Yonhap Photo

"I've lost so much blood, I feel dizzy. It's debt. They won't listen."

A Korean female victim sent an urgent text message for help to an anti-trafficking group. The group revealed sex trafficking stories of the victim and others at a press conference in Tokyo Wednesday.

The unnamed victim was malnourished and suffering from abdominal inflammation when she sent the distressed message to Polaris Project Japan's hotline.

The woman, who is in her twenties, had been forced into prostitution after she had arrived in Japan with false hopes of making money as a bar hostess to pay off her debt.

She had gotten the idea from her female employer at a Seoul bar, who had recommended that she move to Japan to quickly make money.

But her nightmares began when she met the broker in Tokyo. She was taken to an apartment in the Ueno district, where she was under constant monitoring with surveillance cameras in her room and corridor. The broker took away her passport. All of the money she made working as a prostitute went to the pimp.

The victim recalled that she had been too afraid to call the police, as she was a foreigner unprotected by the law. After she came across the hotline for women, she took actions.

About 30 percent of S.O.S calls made to the hotline since 2005 were by Koreans, making them the most targeted foreign victims, according to the PPJ.

Filipino and Thai women came in second and third, taking up 11 percent and 7 percent of the calls, respectively. Thirty-six percent of the calls were from Japanese women.

The group disclosed other detailed stories of sex trafficking cases in Japan, including that of a Korean student who started out working in the kitchen of a hostess bar and ended up being forced into prostitution due to debt.

According to the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report published Tuesday by the U.S. State Department, Japan was categorized as a **Tier 2** country whose government "does not fully comply with minimum standards."

By Sim Guk-by

Intern Reporter

(simgukby@heraldm.com)

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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57 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Northwest Voices: Letters to the Editor

June 22, 2012 Friday 11:43 PM EST

Human-trafficking legislation

LENGTH: 171 words

Rid the world of slavery

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** Report [U.S. adds Syria to **human-trafficking blacklist**, seattletimes.com, June 19], which ranks 184 countries on their efforts to combat **human trafficking**, including the United States.

While the U.S. has long been a global leader in the fight against modern-day slavery, this Congress has thus far failed to pass a critical piece of anti-trafficking legislation: The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

This bill renews the landmark TVPA of 2000, which made human trafficking a federal crime and established the Trafficking in Persons Office to combat trafficking internationally.

Fighting slavery has always been a rare point of bipartisan cooperation in Washington. As we approach the anniversary of our nation's founding—a nation conceived in liberty, in the words of President Lincoln, Congress should come together again to rid the world of slavery, once and for all.

Ruthanne McPhaden, Seattle

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Blog**JOURNAL-CODE:** SE-3860

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58 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Singapore Government News

June 22, 2012 Friday 6:30 AM EST

Government of Singapore: Response to the 2012 US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report

LENGTH: 753 words

Singapore, June 22 -- The Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) notes that Singapore has maintained its **Tier 2** position in the US Department of State's TIP Report 2012. While the Taskforce notes some inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the report, it is a balanced report.

2. In the past year, the Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on TIP, co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), and consisting of representatives from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), have stepped up efforts to respond proactively to TIP on our shores (see Annex A for Taskforce efforts in 2011). The Taskforce recognises Singapore's allure as a potential destination for human trafficking syndicates, and the need for a robust response involving coordination between government agencies and partnerships with other governments and non-governmental stakeholders.

3. Singapore's response to TIP is based on our 4 Ps strategy (Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership).

a. Prevention: To reduce the incidence of TIP through early detection and reporting of potential cases and the raising of awareness of TIP amongst key stakeholders not limiting to government officials, employers, workers and the general public.

b. Prosecution: To enhance the effectiveness of investigation and prosecution of TIP cases, and pursue commensurate criminal penalties and deterrent sentencing against perpetrators in serious cases, consistent with local laws.

c. Protection: To enhance the management of victims through proactive identification of victims and the setting up of a protection and care system supportive of victims' needs.

d. Partnership: To create strong partnerships with foreign governments, businesses, media, academia and civil society so as to maximise resources in combating TIP.

4. In 2011, the Taskforce started work on a National Plan of Action (NPA) based on these 4 Ps, which would serve as our holistic strategy to respond to TIP threats. The NPA was crafted after intensive consultation with stakeholders, and launched on 21 March this year by Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister of State for National Development and Manpower (his speech can be found at <http://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/Pages/SpeechesDetail.aspx?listid=375>). The NPA contains 31 initiatives and is a roadmap for concerted action from 2012 to 2015. It will strengthen current policies and systems, as well as develop new ones to address current gaps.

5. The Taskforce's current focus is to implement the deliverables set out in the NPA, including reviewing the adequacy of existing legislation in tackling TIP crimes. One immediate task is to build victim identification capabilities in government agencies so that our frontline officers are able to identify potential trafficking victims and that our processes are able to appropriately handle these cases. Another challenge is that the concept of 'human trafficking' is not widely un-

derstood, or misunderstood, in Singapore. For a case to be classified as sex or labour trafficking, it must involve the act, the means and be clearly for the purpose of exploitation. While certain elements of a case (e.g. incurring high levels of debt) may be indicative of trafficking in persons, it may not be sufficient. We will also continue to work with interested stakeholders to raise public awareness of TIP to businesses and the general public so that more people can play a part in fighting this crime.

6. Singapore has shown that it takes a serious view of TIP and its related crimes, first with the setting up of the Inter-agency Taskforce in 2010, and then with the launch of our first NPA in March 2012. We look forward to continued co-operation with NGOs, embassies, academia, the private sector and the general public as we implement our NPA initiatives.

7. As a final point, while we welcome the United States' efforts to produce an annual report to highlight this important global issue, we remain of the view that the United States needs to adopt a more objective methodology in future editions of its TIP Report. This will ensure that a consistent, transparent, and measurable standard is applied to all countries and a better understanding of the different legal structures and domestic contexts of countries ranked in the report is taken into account.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

59 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE

Singapore Government News

June 22, 2012 Friday 6:30 AM EST

Ministry of Manpower: Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce's Official Statement in Response to the 2012 US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report

LENGTH: 743 words

Singapore, June 22 -- 1. The Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) notes that Singapore has maintained its **Tier 2** position in the US Department of State's TIP Report 2012. While the taskforce notes some inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the report, it is a balanced report.

2. In the past year, the Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on TIP, co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), and consisting of representatives from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Immigrations & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), have stepped up efforts to respond proactively to TIP on our shores (see Annex for Taskforce efforts in 2011). The Taskforce recognises Singapore's allure as a potential destination for human trafficking syndicates, and the need for a robust response involving coordination between government agencies and partnerships with other governments and non-governmental stakeholders.

3. Singapore's response to TIP is based on our 4 Ps strategy (Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership).

a. Prevention: To reduce the incidence of TIP through early detection and reporting of potential cases and the raising of awareness of TIP amongst key stakeholders not limiting to government officials, employers, workers and the general public.

b. Prosecution: To enhance the effectiveness of investigation and prosecution of TIP cases, and pursue commensurate criminal penalties and deterrent sentencing against perpetrators in serious cases, consistent with local laws.

c. Protection: To enhance the management of victims through proactive identification of victims and the setting up of a protection and care system supportive of victims' needs.

d. Partnership: To create strong partnerships with foreign governments, businesses, media, academia and civil society so as to maximise resources in combating TIP.

4. In 2011, the Taskforce started work on a National Plan of Action (NPA) based on these 4 Ps, which would serve as our holistic strategy to respond to TIP threats. The NPA was crafted after intensive consultation with stakeholders, and launched on 21 March this year by Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister of State for National Development and Manpower (his speech can be found at [here](#)). The NPA contains 31 initiatives and is a roadmap for concerted action from 2012 to 2015. It will strengthen current policies and systems, as well as develop new ones to address current gaps.

5. The Taskforce's current focus is to implement the deliverables set out in the NPA, including reviewing the adequacy of existing legislation in tackling TIP crimes. One immediate task is to build victim identification capabilities in government agencies so that our frontline officers are able to identify potential trafficking victims and that our processes are able to appropriately handle these cases. Another challenge is that the concept of 'human trafficking' is not widely understood, or misunderstood, in Singapore. For a case to be classified as sex or labour trafficking, it must involve the act,

the means and be clearly for the purpose of exploitation. While certain elements of a case (e.g. incurring high levels of debt) may be indicative of trafficking in persons, it may not be sufficient. We will also continue to work with interested stakeholders to raise public awareness of TIP to businesses and the general public so that more people can play a part in fighting this crime.

6. Singapore has shown that it takes a serious view of TIP and its related crimes, first with the setting up of the Inter-agency Taskforce in 2010, and then with the launch of our first NPA in March 2012. We look forward to continued cooperation with NGOs, embassies, academia, the private sector and the general public as we implement our NPA initiatives.

7. As a final point, while we welcome the United States' efforts to produce an annual report to highlight this important global issue, we remain of the view that the United States needs to adopt a more objective methodology in future editions of its TIP Report. This will ensure that a consistent, transparent, and measurable framework is applied to all countries and a better understanding of the different legal structures and domestic contexts of countries ranked in the report is taken into account.

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60 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Advertiser (Australia)

June 21, 2012 Thursday
1 - State Edition

Millions living in slavery Report outlines modern state of global people trafficking

SECTION: FOREIGN; Pg. 53

LENGTH: 354 words

WASHINGTON: Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says.

At the launch of an annual report into human trafficking yesterday, she said: "The end of legal slavery in the US and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery.

"It is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons.

"Those victims . . . remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," said Mrs Clinton.

The report, however, showed that as governments became more aware of the issue, progress was being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking".

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking** - putting them at the top of a four-tier ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom black list known as tier 3, including Burma and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Syria, however, fell on to the black list for the first time.

"The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said.

Among the 16 other countries on the blacklist were Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Kenya slipped down on to the watchlist for the first time in five years.

Nigeria lost its place on tier 1 - moving down a notch as the report outlined how in Nigeria in recent times, women and children had been forced into labour and sex trafficking.

However, Mrs Clinton hailed the fact that a total of 29 countries had been upgraded to a higher ranking, "which means that their governments are taking the right steps".

They included Bangladesh, which was bumped up to tier 2 for making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards, including passing "a comprehensive anti-trafficking law" in December.

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JOURNAL-CODE: ADV

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61 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Advocate (Burnie)**June** 21, 2012 Thursday**27 million living in slavery: Clinton****SECTION:** Pg. 21**LENGTH:** 165 words

WASHINGTON (AFP) _ Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says.

At the launch of an annual report into human trafficking on Tuesday, she said: "The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons.

"Those victims ... remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," Ms Clinton said.

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LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

62 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Bendigo Advertiser

June 21, 2012 Thursday

WASHINGTON Up to 27 million people are living in**SECTION:** EARLY GENERAL NEWS; Pg. 14**LENGTH:** 218 words

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63 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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64 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 21, 2012 Thursday

Manila's trafficking grade maintained (... as US cites added funding to boost campaign)

BYLINE: Aubrey E. Barrameda

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 916 words

THE PHILIPPINES has maintained its **Tier 2** status in the 2012 Global **Trafficking in Persons** (GTIP) report of the US government, an indication that the country is making significant efforts in curbing the crime.

"The government of the Philippines does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," stated the report released yesterday.

The Philippines was cited for a higher budget given to the Inter- Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) to \$1.5 million in 2011 from \$230,000 in 2010. IACAT leads in the campaign against human trafficking.

Others were:

- . * prosecution and conviction of trafficking offenders and implementation of a new program to protect and rehabilitate victims;
- . * addressing trafficking-related corruption as well as the filing of criminal cases against 18 officials since last year;
- . * coordination with other countries to protect the rights of overseas Filipino workers;
- . * training of officials; and
- . * strengthening and expanding structures to screen for trafficking indicators before Filipino migrant workers' departure overseas.

Under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Tier 2 countries are those whose governments are making significant efforts to bring themselves at par with those standards.

The Philippines, for its part, welcomed the report.

"The report recognized our government's increased funding for its efforts in curbing the problem through its primary anti-human trafficking outfit, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking," IACAT chairman and Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima said in a statement.

"We hope to sustain this consistency and improve upon our efforts to curb trafficking in persons in the country," Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay, who is chairman emeritus of the IACAT, was quoted as saying in a separate statement.

Despite Philippine achievements in combating human trafficking, however, the GTIP report also noted areas where the country needs improvement.

"The government, however, did not make progress on efforts to criminally prosecute labor recruitment companies involved in the trafficking of migrant workers abroad," it said.

It added that "overall victim identification and protection efforts remained inadequate" and that "rampant corruption at all levels continues to enable traffickers and undermines efforts to combat trafficking."

It also mentioned that "although the DoJ (Department of Justice) continued to encourage courts' expedited processing of trafficking cases, inefficiencies in the judicial system continue to pose serious challenges to the successful prosecution of some trafficking cases."

The GTIP noted that there are over 680 pending trafficking cases in courts and 129 other cases pending at the DoJ.

The "no progress" areas could be attributed to lack of funding, said Jan Chavez-Arceo, executive officer of the IACAT's Public Information and Communications Division.

"In terms of what we need to do, the efforts are unrelenting...but there are limitations," she said, explaining that though there were direct instructions from the Justice secretary and from President Benigno S. C. Aquino III to pursue the prosecution of human trafficking perpetrators, the resources to facilitate anti-trafficking operations remain inadequate.

"Yes, the budget increased, but... the entire operation requires more than that," she said.

Aside from recommending that the government sustain its intensified efforts to investigate and convict labor and sex traffickers, the GTIP report also recommended to increase the funding for anti-trafficking programs as well as for the DoJ's witness and victim protection programs.

The report also suggested, among others, the development of mechanisms to track and monitor trafficking cases at the DoJ and in the courts; the increase in victim processing centers and shelter resources to improve identification of victims and allow them to be safely processed and assisted after rescue operations; and the implementation of programs to reduce demand for commercial sex acts.

Ms. Arceo said IACAT is requesting a P100-million budget next year but the Department of Budget and Management, in a meeting yesterday, set the amount at P40 million

The current budget of P50 million, she added, is even lower than last year's P65 million.

The Philippines risks being downgraded to Tier 2 Watch List category in the next GTIP Report if the budget for IACAT is increased, Ms. Arceo further said.

Mr. Binay, meanwhile, said that they "have taken note of the recommendations of the US State Department and will act on these at the soonest possible time."

Countries ranked under Tier 1 are those whose governments fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking.

This is the highest ranking a country may receive, according to the Justice department.

Tier 2 Watch List countries, on the other hand, are those which the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing with no evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year.

This was the status of the Philippines before its was upgraded to Tier 2 last year.

Lastly, Tier 3 ranking is given to countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so, and will be subject to the withholding of non-humanitarian and non-trade assistance from the US.

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65 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

June 21, 2012 Thursday

Human trafficking prevention: US hails Lanka

LENGTH: 109 words

DATELINE: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, June 21 -- The Sri Lankan government made significant progress in its efforts to prevent human trafficking last year, the US annual report on global human trafficking said. The 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report released on Tuesday by the US State Department placed Sri Lanka among **Tier 2** countries.

The 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report analyzed 186 countries by looking at what the governments are doing against human trafficking. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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66 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

June 21, 2012 Thursday
1 - First Edition Edition

IN BRIEF

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 398 words

Melbourne's HIV test hope

A CRUCIAL new low-cost blood test for HIV sufferers in developing countries that could help 33 million people worldwide may be available later this year. The simple test, developed by researchers at Melbourne's Burnet Institute, shows how much damage the HIV virus has done to the immune system and whether lifesaving antiretroviral drugs are required. The finger-prick blood test would ideally target developing African and Asian countries in which laboratories and expensive equipment normally needed to carry out the tests were scarce, said the co-head of Burnet's Centre for Virology, Professor Suzanne Crowe.

Australian slave verdict

SMALL but sophisticated organised crime networks built around family and business connections are responsible for most labour slavery in Australia, the US Government says. The annual US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report ranks Australia in the top tier of countries fighting **human trafficking** and slavery. But that does not mean Australia has no trafficking problem, the report says. "Australia is primarily a destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution and to a lesser extent, women and men subjected to forced labor," the report says.

Baden-Clay in court

ALLEGED murderer Gerard Baden-Clay's application for bail is expected to be heard in Brisbane today, eight days after he was charged with killing his wife. Lawyers have lodged an application in the Queensland Supreme Court indicating the 41-year-old will seek conditional release while he awaits trial. The real estate agent is charged with murdering his wife, Allison, and interfering with her body. He remains in custody in the medical wing of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre at Wacol, west of Brisbane.

PM warning on stumbles

PRIME Minister Julia Gillard has warned of "further stumbles" in the global economy, but says Group of 20 leaders have made good progress toward restoring growth and stabilising European banks. Ms Gillard was speaking ahead of her departure to Rio de Janeiro for United Nations environmental talks after two days of economic debate at a G20 summit in the Mexican resort city of Los Cabos. "There will continue to be, no doubt, further problems and potentially further stumbles on the road to global recovery," she said. "But throughout all of that, Australia, with its strong economy, will stand tall."

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JOURNAL-CODE: GAT

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67 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)**June** 21, 2012 Thursday
B - Main Edition**Slavery rife around world****SECTION:** WORLD; Pg. 17**LENGTH:** 178 words

WASHINGTON: Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says.

At the launch of an annual report into human trafficking yesterday, she said: "The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons," said Clinton (pictured).

"Those victims . . . remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings."

But the report showed progress was being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking".

Out of the 185 countries in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-**tier** ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Burma and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** GCB

68 of 492 DOCUMENTS



June 21, 2012 Thursday

Stop sending workers to countries where their lives are at risk, Manila says

BYLINE: Gilbert P. Felongco Correspondent

LENGTH: 580 words

Manila:

Recruitment agencies have been warned by the government against recruiting and sending Filipinos to jobs in countries where their lives are placed at risk.

In an advisory, Philippine Overseas and Employment Agency (POEA) Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac warned placement agencies to stop recruiting workers for Syria and other countries declared by the government as dangerous to Filipinos. Likewise, the agency asked job applicants not to accept job offers to these countries.

"These recruiters are heartless, sending their recruits to actual war zones and other destinations with hostile and hazardous working conditions," Cacdac said in obvious reference to dozens of workers who accepted job offers in strife-torn countries such as Syria.

The Philippines had been bearing the cost and trouble of repatriating Filipinos from Syria despite a 2009 order banning Filipinos from taking up jobs in the Middle East country.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, as of June 18, a total of 1,643 Filipinos have been repatriated since December 2011 when violence flared up in Syria as a result of political unrest.

Cacdac said the POEA is filing charges immediately against licensed recruitment agencies found to have sent workers to countries with existing restrictions.

Other countries

Aside from Syria, the POEA chief noted that other countries where restrictions on recruiting and deploying Filipino workers is observed include Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen.

In the case of Afghanistan, only Filipino rehires working inside American military camps and facilities with existing employment contracts are allowed.

In Iraq, Filipinos are banned from working in the country except in Kurdistan region.

Returning workers who were processed prior to June 18, 2007 and returning to the same employer are allowed in Lebanon.

In Jordan, newly hired household service workers are not allowed.

As for Yemen, only workers returning to existing employers are allowed.

Cacdac believes that some recruiters are circumventing the ban by using another country.

"The deployment of OFWs [Overseas Filipino Workers] to prohibited destinations cannot proceed without those illegal recruiters who continue to circumvent the ban by sending Filipino workers to their destinations through a third country," he said.

He added that the POEA has already filed charges against nine recruitment agencies for deploying household service workers to Syria early this year.

Trafficking report

In a related development, the Philippines has retained its **Tier 2** status in the latest Global **Trafficking in Persons** (GTIP) Report of the United States Department of State.

Vice-President Jejomar Binay, in a statement in his Office of the Vice-President website, reportedly announced the development during an event in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"As Chairman Emeritus of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), I am pleased to announce that the Philippines has retained its **Tier 2** status in the US State Department's Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2012," Binay said.

"Being in Tier 2 status means that we are making significant efforts to comply with the requirements of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act [TVPA]," he said. "We were in Tier 2 Watch List status during the previous administration, in danger of being placed under Tier 3, which means being included in the list of countries that do not cooperate in the fight against trafficking and subjected to US foreign assistance sanctions," he added

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 57

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69 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Hobart Mercury (Australia)**June** 21, 2012 Thursday
1 - Edition

Slavery blacklist

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 29**LENGTH:** 220 words

UP to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says.

At the launch of an annual report into human trafficking yesterday, she said: "The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons.

"Those victims remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings." The report, however, showed as governments became more aware of the issue progress was being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking".

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-**tier** ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Burma and Venezuela, to be included in the 42 countries on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Syria fell onto the blacklist for the first time.

"The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** MER

70 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Jerusalem Post

June 21, 2012 Thursday

Israel ranks high in US annual report on fight against human trafficking. State Department calls nun working with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel 'anti-trafficking hero'

BYLINE: HILARY LEILA KRIEGER in Washington and RUTH EGLASH from Jerusalem.

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 1218 words

Israel scored two significant successes with the release of this year's US State Department report on **human trafficking**, as the country moved up to the top **tier** recognizing government efforts to end trafficking, and a nun working in Israel was singled out for her work in the field.

Azezet Habtezghi Kidane, who is Eritrean but lives with her order in Jerusalem and volunteers with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, was one of just 10 individuals from around the world whom the State Department recognized Tuesday as an anti-trafficking "hero."

She received the honor for her work recording and raising awareness regarding the plight of African migrants who have been tortured, raped and held for ransom by Beduin tribes in Sinai who smuggle them across Egypt to reach Israel.

Israel has provided medical care for those migrants who do cross the border, and Kidane praised the government for the treatment it gave those who made it into the country. But she said the government should do more to help these people after they were healthy, rather than "leaving them alone" as it does now.

Still, Israel has worked hard in the past five years to be more aggressive in stopping human trafficking, increasing enforcement and sentencing for perpetrators. Those efforts helped move Israel up one level to the report's highest tier for the first time, for taking adequate steps to combat the phenomenon.

From the legislative level down to non-profit organizations working with victims of sex and labor trafficking to Israel, the annual report commended the country's efforts to tackle the problem, including prevention and treatment for the victims.

"The Government of Israel fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," noted the 2012 report, released Tuesday afternoon. "The Israeli government sustained strong law enforcement actions against sex trafficking and strong overall prevention efforts during the year."

Luis CdeBaca, the US ambassador-at-large for monitoring and combating trafficking in persons, praised Israel's improvements and even called one of its policies a model that other countries should emulate.

"We've seen a lot of progress," he told The Jerusalem Post, pointing to increased laws and enforcement. He especially highlighted a Justice Ministry program seeking restitution for victims of trafficking.

"That's something that we very much see as being on the leading edge," he said. "That's a best practice that we think other countries need to learn from."

But he said there remained areas in which Israel could do better.

"We're calling upon the government of Israel to look at their own situation. There's been some cases in the last few years where you've had Israeli citizens as well as foreign nationals that have been abused," he said.

Indeed, despite the commendations, the report highlighted some of the country's weak points, including the lack of adequate places in treatment shelters for victims, and pointed out that the authorities relied too heavily on reports from NGOs instead of initiating its own investigations.

CdeBaca also said that when it came to how Israel dealt with the cases of African migrants whom Kidane identified in the Sinai and who then entered the country, "we want to make sure that there's increasing improvement to identify victims of forced labor and of internal sex trafficking."

He said the "zone of impunity" that had developed in the Sinai had led to some of the world's worst crimes against trafficked people.

He described the past year as "challenging" for Egypt, but did note that the government had passed laws against human trafficking and that police and prosecutors had undergone training to combat the practice even as the country underwent tremendous upheaval.

Kidane said she hoped receiving the award Tuesday would help draw attention and international effort to combating what was happening in the Sinai. She said that first and foremost, the Egyptian government needed to take steps to end the abuse, but she also said the international community must pressure Egypt to do what was needed.

Her order assigned her to Israel a little over two years ago, and she wanted to use her ability to speak several African languages to help the migrants. In conversations with them, she began to hear horrific stories of torture and sexual abuse.

She was told that many migrants, who had scraped together a few thousand dollars to pay traffickers to help them reach Israel or European destinations, would be held captive in the Sinai and tortured and abused unless friends and relatives paid sums often 10 times as much as the original price.

"We heard things that we didn't want to hear, that we didn't want to know," she said.

Kidane said she was accepting the award on behalf of these victims.

"I am celebrating for them more than for me," she said, adding, "We need to stop what's happening. People are suffering. People are dying. People are slaves."

The TIP report is the most comprehensive worldwide study on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, and its assessments are based on material collected from local government and non-government organizations.

It was first compiled in 2000, when Israel was placed in the lowest category. Since then, Israel's status has improved due to increased legislation and the willingness of the authorities to recognize the problem.

While it spent one year, 2006, on the Tier 2 Watch List level, it has been ranked at Tier 2 since then for its continuing efforts to eliminate this form of modern-day slavery.

Guy Rothkopf, director-general of the Justice Ministry, which coordinates the country's anti-trafficking efforts, said Wednesday that he was delighted that the government's work was finally bearing fruit.

"First and foremost, we have brought a positive change in terms of trafficking prevention and also in providing assistance to the victims," he said, commending the joint efforts of the Prime Ministers Office, the Knesset and NGOs.

Rothkopf also paid tribute to the country's national coordinator for combating human trafficking, Rachel Gershuni, who has been the driving force behind many legislative and practical changes.

MK Orit Zuaretz (Kadima), chairwoman of the Knesset Sub-Committee on Human Trafficking, recognized that there was still more work to do in fighting against trafficking, but she welcomed Israel's upgrade and the recognition from the State Department.

"Determination to combat this despicable phenomenon and improve enforcement activities has led to unprecedented results," said the MK, who held a session in the Knesset Wednesday morning to discuss the report. "For many years, Israel was ranked in second place, despite efforts that we have made here especially to develop the cooperation between government agencies and human rights groups working the field. All of this has led to a noticeable change in the national assessment of the situation, detection and treatment of victims."

Zuaretz has been active in recent months in preparing legislation that would make utilizing the services of a prostitute a criminal act. She believes that cutting off the demand for such services would also stem the supply of human trafficking victims into Israel and within Israel. The bill is currently making its way through parliament.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Azezet Habtezghi Kidane (Credit: US State Department)

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71 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 21, 2012 Thursday

US criticizes N. Korea's forced labor

BYLINE: By Kim Young-jin

LENGTH: 464 words

The United States ranked North Korea among the world's worst human trafficking countries, Wednesday, highlighting its practice of forced labor among other abuses.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, the State Department again designated the North as a 'Tier 3' state along with 16 others with the poorest record of combating trafficking.

The North 'is a source country for men, women and children who are subjected to forced labor, forced marriage and sex trafficking'(and) made no discernible law enforcement efforts to combat trafficking in persons during the reporting period,' it said.

In addition to reiterating concerns of trafficking of North Korean women across the Chinese border, this year's report emphasized Pyongyang's practice of forced labor both in and out of the country.

The North sends workers abroad to Russia, Africa, Southeast Asia and elsewhere under bilateral contracts in what analysts say is a bid to earn hard currency for the regime. The laborers are said to have severely restricted movement and be under constant surveillance.

There were 'credible reports that these workers faced threats of government reprisals against them or their relatives in North Korea if they attempted to escape or complain to outside parties,' it said.

'Workers' salaries are deposited into accounts controlled by the North Korean government, which keeps most of the money, claiming fees for various 'voluntary' contributions to government endeavors.'

The report said Pyongyang worked harder to place North Korean workers in Russia especially in the Far East, where it estimated there were between 10,000 and 15,000 North Korean workers employed in logging camps. Such workers reportedly have only two days of rest per year, it said.

Within its borders, the North is known to use forced labor as part of a system of repression that maintains power for its ruling Kim dynasty, now led by young leader Kim Jong-un. Pyongyang is said to hold up to 200,000 political prisoners in a sprawling gulag system.

It pointed out that some North Korean women who escape to China 'are lured, drugged, or kidnapped by traffickers upon arrival' and compelled into forced marriages with Chinese men. They are also often forced into prostitution or jobs as hostesses in nightclubs and karaoke bars.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently called on Kim to improve the country's human rights situation, calling on the 'young man' thought to be 29 to be a transformative figure. This week Pyongyang shot back, referring to Clinton as 'Hillary' in state media and slamming her "reckless" assessment of the situation.

Meanwhile, Seoul ranked as a Tier 1 country in line with international prevention norms. But it called on the South to implement clear laws prohibiting all forms of trafficking.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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72 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 21, 2012 Thursday

N. Korea on US list of worst-human trafficking nations for 10th year

LENGTH: 290 words

WASHINGTON (Yonhap) -- North Korea remains on an annual U.S. list of the nations that could face sanctions for making little effort to combat human trafficking for a 10th consecutive year, according to the State Department's report Wednesday.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, the State Department ranked North Korea once again in "**Tier 3**" for countries with the poorest record of fighting **human trafficking**. A total of 17 nations were included in the 2012 list with Syria newly added.

North Korea is a "source country for men, women and children who are subject to forced labor, forced marriage and sex trafficking," the report said.

Since 2003, North Korea has been on the list of the Tier 3 countries that may "be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the U.S. government may withhold or withdraw non-humanitarian, no-trade-related foreign assistance," according to the department.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, the director of the department's office to combat human trafficking, said, "One of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor.

"And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places," CdeBaca told reporters.

North Korea sends workers overseas along with its police officers, who keep the workers under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave, the ambassador said.

"So, we continue to see the situation of forced labor and human trafficking in North Korea as very grave," CdeBaca said.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

73 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
THE KOREA HERALD

June 21, 2012 Thursday

Korean victims of sex trafficking in Japan receive renewed attention

LENGTH: 333 words

"I've lost so much blood, I feel dizzy. It's debt. They won't listen."

A Korean female victim sent an urgent text message for help to an anti-trafficking group. The group revealed sex trafficking stories of the victim and others at a press conference in Tokyo Wednesday.

The unnamed victim was malnourished and suffering from abdominal inflammation when she sent the distressed message to Polaris Project Japan's hotline.

The woman, who is in her twenties, had been forced into prostitution after she had arrived in Japan with false hopes of making money as a bar hostess to pay off her debt.

She had gotten the idea from her female employer at a Seoul bar, who had recommended that she move to Japan to quickly make money.

But her nightmares began when she met the broker in Tokyo. She was taken to an apartment in the Ueno district, where she was under constant monitoring with surveillance cameras in her room and corridor. The broker took away her passport. All of the money she made working as a prostitute went to the pimp.

The victim recalled that she had been too afraid to call the police, as she was a foreigner unprotected by the law. After she came across the hotline for women, she took actions.

About 30 percent of S.O.S calls made to the hotline since 2005 were by Koreans, making them the most targeted foreign victims, according to the PPJ.

Filipino and Thai women came in second and third, taking up 11 percent and 7 percent of the calls, respectively. Thirty-six percent of the calls were from Japanese women.

The group disclosed other detailed stories of sex trafficking cases in Japan, including that of a Korean student who started out working in the kitchen of a hostess bar and ended up being forced into prostitution due to debt.

According to the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report published Tuesday by the U.S. State Department, Japan was categorized as a **Tier 2** country whose government "does not fully comply with minimum standards."

By Sim Guk-by

Intern Reporter

(simgukby@heraldm.com)

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

74 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
North West Star**June** 21, 2012 Thursday**UP to 27 million people are living in slavery around****BYLINE:** AMANDA WRIGHT**SECTION:** EGN; Pg. 8**LENGTH:** 193 words

UP to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says.

At the launch of an annual report into human trafficking on Tuesday, she said: "The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons.

"Those victims ... remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," said Clinton.

The report, however, showed that as governments became more aware of the issue progress was being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking".

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-**tier** ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Burma and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Syria, however, fell onto the blacklist for the first time.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

75 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Pakistan Today (Newstex Blog)

June 21, 2012 Thursday 6:32 AM EST

Up to 27 million people living in slavery: US

LENGTH: 515 words

0

28 mins ago |

WASHINGTON - Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton estimated Tuesday as the US unveiled its annual report into human trafficking.

But the report showed that as governments become more aware of the issue, instigating tough new laws and programs to help victims, progress is being made in wiping out what it called the scourge of trafficking. The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery, said Clinton.

Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons, she said at the unveiling of the report at the State Department. Those victims of modern slavery are women and men, girls and boys, and their stories remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings, said Clinton. Whatever their background, they are the living, breathing reminders that the work to eradicate slavery remains unfinished.

As America prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the emancipation of US slaves, people must reflect on how much further we have to go to free all these 27 million victims, Clinton added. Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-tier ranking system. But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Myanmar and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Myanmar was removed from the **blacklist** because the government took a number of unprecedented steps to address forced labor and the conscription of child soldiers; these steps amount to a credible commitment to undertake anti-trafficking reforms over the coming year, the report said. Syria however fell onto the **blacklist** for the first time, in a move which could cut off any US aid and make it harder to get US backing for funds from organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, the 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** report said.

Among the 16 other countries on the blacklist were Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia. Kenya slipped down onto the watchlist for the first time in five years, while Nigeria lost its place on tier 1, moving down a notch as the report highlighted that women and children were forced into labor and sex trafficking. But Clinton hailed the fact that a total of 29 countries had been upgraded to a higher ranking, which means that their governments are taking the right steps. They included Bangladesh, which was bumped up to tier two for making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards, including passing a comprehensive anti-trafficking law in December.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Blog**JOURNAL-CODE:** APAK-111350

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76 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Phnom Penh Post

June 21, 2012 Thursday 11:36 AM EST

No movement for Thailand, Malaysia in human trafficking report

LENGTH: 690 words

Trafficked fishermen who were made to work in appalling conditions on Thai fishing boats are repatriated to Cambodia this month. Photograph: Heng Chivoan/Phnom Penh Post

Both Malaysia and Thailand, the major destination countries for Cambodian migrant workers, narrowly escaped being downgraded in the US's annual Trafficking in Persons report, released yesterday, despite being found to have made no increased efforts to address the problem.

The report from the US State Department found that both countries would have been placed at the bottom of the TIP index, **Tier 3**, had they not been granted a waiver because they had submitted plans to meet minimum standards to eliminate **human trafficking**.

But no specific outlines of these plans were given and inquiries for more details from relevant embassies were not responded to yesterday.

Endemic police corruption, including the direct involvement in and facilitation of **human trafficking** by law enforcement officials was one of a litany of criticisms levelled against the Thai government, which remained on the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

The government has not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address **human trafficking** compared to the previous year; therefore, Thailand is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for a third consecutive year, the report states.

Despite conducting 1,000 inspections and searches of fishing boats for which Cambodian and other migrant men have become a notorious source of slave labour the Royal Thai Navy did not identify a single case of suspected trafficking.

Citing findings from the United Nations Inter Agency Project on Human Trafficking, the report states that 23,000 Cambodian trafficking victims are deported from Thailand every year, and separately concluded that 100 victims had been repatriated from fishing boats.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch, said that the game of which tier a country landed in was largely immaterial to the fundamental problem of the entrenched corruption in Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia that enabled trafficking.

The real situation that is most worrisome is that you have these tie-ups between Cambodia and Thailand and Cambodia and Malaysia that ensure that the people who go through these recruitment centres do so with insurmountable debts.

The central point is, I don't see any systematic changes happening in the core factors that allow trafficking to continue.

Malaysia, long favoured by Cambodian recruitment firms as a destination country for domestic workers until a temporary ban on sending them there was put in place by the government last year, was found to prosecute sex traffickers but often failed to acknowledge victims of labour trafficking.

NGOs reported that police and Labor Department officials often failed to investigate complaints of confiscation of passports and travel documents or withholding of wages especially involving domestic workers as possible trafficking offences, the report found.

Raja Saifull Ridzuwan, deputy chief of mission at the Malaysian embassy, said he would not be able to comment until tomorrow as he had yet to read the report.

But Muhammad Sha Ani Bin Abdullah, commissioner at the independent Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, said the waiver was an opportunity for Malaysian officials and police to mend their ways.

Police are not adequately equipped with the knowledge to handle trafficking victims. Often, they treat trafficking victims as criminals, he said.

Cambodia, which remained at **Tier 2**, is making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards to eliminate **human trafficking**, according to the TIP report, but these are undermined by endemic corruption at all levels.

In particular, the pardoning of three pedophiles, among them notorious Russian sex offender Alexander Trofimov, had undermined the credibility of Cambodian efforts to combat child sex tourism .

Officials from the Cambodian Ministry of Interior and Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection could not be reached for comment yesterday.

To contact the reporter on this story: David Boyle at david.boyle@phnompenhpost.com

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77 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The South Asian Times

June 21, 2012 Thursday

27 mn living in a world of slavery, bonded labour continues in India

LENGTH: 899 words

DATELINE: New York

New York, June 21 -- Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US secretary of state Hillary Clinton estimated as the US unveiled its annual report into human trafficking.

But the report showed that as governments become more aware of the issue, instigating tough new laws and programs to help victims, progress is being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking."

"The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery," said Clinton.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons," she said at the unveiling of the report at the state department.

"Those victims of modern slavery are women and men, girls and boys, and their stories remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," said Clinton.

"Whatever their background, they are the living, breathing reminders that the work to eradicate slavery remains unfinished."

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-**tier** ranking system.

On India, the report states that the country is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

India, however, has maintained its position at tier 2, which it climbed to in 2011. Tier 2 is defined as a country whose government does not fully comply with the TVPA's (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

"The forced labor of millions of its citizens constitutes India's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children in debt bondage are forced to work in industries such as brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories. A common characteristic of bonded labor is the use of physical and sexual violence as coercive tools," it says.

According to the report, 90% of trafficking in India is internal, and those from India's most disadvantaged social strata, including the lowest castes, are most vulnerable. It also states that children are subjected to forced labour as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, agricultural workers, and to a lesser extent, in some areas of rural Uttar Pradesh as carpet weavers.

"There were new reports about the continued forced labor of children in hybrid cottonseed plots in Gujarat, and reports that forced labor may be present in the Sumangali scheme in Tamil Nadu, in which employers pay young women a lump sum to be used for a dowry at the end of a three-year term."

The report also recommends that India develops a comprehensive anti-trafficking law or amend anti-trafficking legislation to be in line with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol, with adequate penalties prescribed by the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention. It also suggests that India increase prosecutions and convictions on all forms of trafficking, including bonded labour.

Prosecution of officials allegedly complicit in trafficking, and convict and punish officials complicit in trafficking; encourage states to establish special anti-trafficking courts and improvement in distribution of state and central government rehabilitation funds to victims under the Bonded Labour (System) Abolition Act (BLSA), improve protections for trafficking victims who testify against their traffickers, encourage AHTUs to address both sex and labour trafficking of adults and children as well as encourage state and district governments to file bonded labour cases under appropriate criminal statutes are some of the suggestions.

Five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Myanmar and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Among the 16 other countries on the blacklist were Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Kenya slipped down onto the watchlist for the first time in five years, while Nigeria lost its place on tier 1, moving down a notch as the report highlighted that women and children were forced into labor and sex trafficking.

But Clinton hailed the fact that a total of 29 countries had been upgraded to a higher ranking, "which means that their governments are taking the right steps."

They included Bangladesh, which was bumped up to tier two for making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards, including passing "a comprehensive anti-trafficking law" in December.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the office to combat trafficking in persons, said while the number of people officially identified as victims of trafficking and slavery had gone up by 28% since last year to 42,291, the numbers of prosecutions in 2012 had also increased by 10% to 3,969.

So while countries "still have a little ways to go" there was "the beginnings, I think, of a real trend," he said.

This year's report focuses on how to better protect the victims, and urges governments to meet the challenge head-on. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The South Asian Times. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2012

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78 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sri Lankan Government News

June 21, 2012 Thursday 5:06 PM EST

SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT MAKES SIGNIFICANT TO ELIMINATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TAKES STRONG PREVENTIVE MEASURES

LENGTH: 384 words

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 21 -- Policy Research & Information Unit of the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka issued the following news:

The Sri Lankan government is making significant to eliminate human trafficking and took strong preventive measures last year, the United States said in a report on global human trafficking.

The 2012 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report released Tuesday by the U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton placed Sri Lanka among **Tier 2** countries. The 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report analyzed 186 countries by looking at what the governments are doing against human trafficking which is defined as modern day slavery.

Tier 2 countries are the countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

The report said Sri Lanka is primarily a source for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking and Internally-displaced persons, war widows, and unregistered female migrants remained particularly vulnerable to human trafficking.

The report noted that the government convicted two labor recruitment agents who committed fraudulent recruitment offenses, and enhanced inter-ministerial coordination through monthly meetings.

According to the 2012 TIP Report the government's law enforcement response to human trafficking offenses was minimal during the reporting period. Although the government agencies including National Child Protection Authority and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigated 44 cases of trafficking in 2011, the government has not convicted any human trafficking offenders in the reporting period.

However, the report recognized that government made progress in its efforts to prevent trafficking during the last year.

The government has worked on several awareness-raising initiatives with the International Labor Organization (ILO) such as developing a handbook for migrants bound for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait including information on the relevant labor laws, descriptions of forced labor and trafficking, and contact information. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

79 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 21, 2012 Thursday

Human trafficking report: US keeps S'pore in Tier 2; But report notes Republic's significant efforts to improve

BYLINE: AMELIA TAN**SECTION:** SINGAPORE**LENGTH:** 428 words

SINGAPORE still falls short of international standards to fight human trafficking, going by an annual US State Department report.

It has again been put in 'Tier 2' in the report's ranking system - like last year - alongside countries such as Cambodia and Bangladesh.

Tier 2 countries are those which do not fully comply with minimum international standards of protecting migrant workers from forced labour or other forms of trafficking in people, even if they are making 'significant efforts' to do so.

Since the US State Department began publishing the **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) Report in 2001, Singapore has mostly been in **Tier 2**.

The exception was in 2010, when it slipped one category into the 'Tier 2 Watchlist'.

This tier is for countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, which have fallen short of minimum standards, have a significant number of victims of trafficking and have failed to show increasing efforts to combat the situation.

Tier 1 countries, which fully comply with international standards, include the United States and Australia.

Tier 3, the bottom category, includes countries such as Algeria and Zimbabwe, which are deemed to have fallen far short of standards and are not making significant efforts to redress the situation.

All in, 186 countries were rated for this year's report, based on research done from March last year to February.

The report acknowledged Singapore's 'significant efforts' to eliminate trafficking, notably through its National Plan of Action unveiled in March. The plan, put together by an inter-agency task force formed in 2010, aims to prevent trafficking, protect the victims and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The TIP report noted that four sex-trafficking offenders were convicted in the year, but no labour-trafficking offenders were prosecuted.

The Government's inter-agency task force said the report is balanced but noted 'some inaccuracies and misrepresentations'. It said one of its immediate tasks is to help government frontline officers better identify trafficking victims and develop the processes to handle these cases.

Migrant worker rights group Transient Workers Count Too executive committee member John Gee said the TIP report recognised 'the steps forward' Singapore has made, but urged the Government to ratify the United Nations' Palermo Protocol on human trafficking.

He said: 'The Palermo Protocol will put in place a strong tool for recognising trafficked people and enhance the capability of the police and other authorities.'

ameltan@sph.com.sg

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80 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Targeted News Service

June 21, 2012 Thursday 4:40 AM EST

SL Making Significant Efforts to Eliminate Human Trafficking - US Report**BYLINE:** Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 363 words**DATELINE:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

The government of Sri Lanka issued the following news release:

The Sri Lankan government is making significant to eliminate human trafficking and took strong preventive measures last year, the United States said in a report on global human trafficking.

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81 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 21, 2012 Thursday 5:25 AM EST

Philippine gov't vows to address human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Economic**LENGTH:** 208 words**DATELINE:** MANILA June 21

The Philippine government on Thursday pledged to work harder to combat human trafficking as it seeks to be removed from a list of countries that do not comply with international anti-trafficking standards.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the Philippines will aim for its removal from **Tier 2** ranking as indicated in the U.S. State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012.

"We would like to be taken out of the Tier 2 (rank) and that's certainly a goal that we are looking forward to," said Lacierda said in a news briefing.

While the US State Department recognized the progress that the Philippines has made in addressing human trafficking, it noted that Manila did not fully comply with international anti-trafficking standards.

The report said the Philippines needs to improve the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of both labor and sex trafficking offenders; bolster the anti-trafficking training for police recruits, front-line officers, and police investigators; and increase funding for anti-trafficking programs.

Washington, however, recognized the efforts of the Philippine government to protect its workers abroad and for training public officials to fight human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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82 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Xinhua General News Service**June** 21, 2012 Thursday 1:15 AM EST**Philippine gov't vows to address human trafficking****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Economic**LENGTH:** 208 words**DATELINE:** MANILA June 21

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LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

83 of 492 DOCUMENTS

AAP Newsfeed

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 2:45 PM AEST

FED:Australia ranks high in anti-slavery fight**BYLINE:** Adam Gartrell**SECTION:** DOMESTIC NEWS**LENGTH:** 357 words**DATELINE:** CANBERRA June 20

Small but sophisticated organised crime networks built around family and business connections are responsible for most labour slavery in Australia, the US government says.

The annual US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report ranks Australia in the top **tier** of countries fighting **human trafficking** and slavery.

But that does not mean Australia has no trafficking problem, the report says.

"Australia is primarily a destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution and to a lesser extent, women and men subjected to forced labor," the report says, adding that some child sex trafficking also occurs.

Women from Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, China and to a lesser extent India, Vietnam, Eastern Europe and Africa are the most common trafficking victims.

They are sometimes held in captivity, subjected to physical and sexual violence, drugged and forced to pay off massive debts to their captors.

Men and women from the Pacific Islands and Asia also are being subjected by unscrupulous employers and labor agencies to forced work in agriculture, construction, cleaning, hospitality and manufacturing.

"Most often, traffickers are part of small but highly sophisticated organised crime networks that frequently involve family and business connections between Australians and overseas contacts," the report says.

The report says Australia fully complies with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, but also makes some recommendations for improvement.

It says the government should finalise draft amendments to Australia's criminal code to ensure all forms of trafficking are prohibited.

"Existing criminal laws do not adequately prohibit deceptive recruitment for labor services and offences related to receiving and harbouring trafficking victims," the report notes.

The government should also expand efforts to identify, prosecute, convict and stringently sentence labour trafficking offenders, it says.

It should also improve efforts to coordinate case information between government agencies.

But Australia remains a regional leader in combating human trafficking, the report says.

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84 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE



Agence France Presse -- English

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 4:16 AM GMT

Up to 27 million people living in slavery: US

LENGTH: 729 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 20 2012

Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton estimated Tuesday as the US unveiled its annual report into human trafficking.

But the report showed that as governments become more aware of the issue, instigating tough new laws and programs to help victims, progress is being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking."

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"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons," she said at the unveiling of the report at the State Department.

"Those victims of modern slavery are women and men, girls and boys, and their stories remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," said Clinton.

"Whatever their background, they are the living, breathing reminders that the work to eradicate slavery remains unfinished."

As America prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the emancipation of US slaves, people must reflect on "how much further we have to go to free all these 27 million victims," Clinton added.

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-tier ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Myanmar and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Myanmar was removed from the blacklist because the government "took a number of unprecedented steps to address forced labor and the conscription of child soldiers; these steps amount to a credible commitment to undertake anti-trafficking reforms over the coming year," the report said.

Syria however fell onto the blacklist for the first time, in a move which could cut off any US aid and make it harder to get US backing for funds from organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said.

Among the 16 other countries on the blacklist were Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Kenya slipped down onto the watchlist for the first time in five years, while Nigeria lost its place on tier 1, moving down a notch as the report highlighted that women and children were forced into labor and sex trafficking.

But Clinton hailed the fact that a total of 29 countries had been upgraded to a higher ranking, "which means that their governments are taking the right steps."

They included Bangladesh, which was bumped up to tier two for making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards, including passing "a comprehensive anti-trafficking law" in December.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the office to combat trafficking in persons, said while the number of people officially identified as victims of trafficking and slavery had gone up by 28 percent since last year to 42,291, the numbers of prosecutions in 2012 had also increased by 10 percent to 3,969.

So while countries "still have a little ways to go" there was "the beginnings, I think, of a real trend," he said.

This year's report focuses on how to better protect the victims, and urges governments to meet the challenge head-on.

"Traffickers are criminals. Governments -- which alone have the power to punish criminals and provide legal recourse to survivors -- cannot waver in their efforts to confront modern slavery," the report says.

But it also argues that human trafficking takes many guises and it is not just about moving people across borders to trap them in prostitution.

"The United States government, and increasingly, the international community, view 'trafficking in persons' as the term through which all forms of modern slavery are criminalized," it says.

"The essence of the trafficking experience is the denial of freedom, including the freedom to choose where and how you live, the freedom to work or choose not to work, the freedom from threats, and the freedom of bodily integrity," the report says.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

85 of 492 DOCUMENTS



June 20, 2012 Wednesday 7:57 AM EET

US upgrades Estonia's rating in human trafficking report

LENGTH: 265 words

US upgrades Estonia's rating in human trafficking report

TALLINN, Jun 20, BNS - The US State Department moved Estonia from the **human trafficking tier 2 watch list to tier 2**.

On the basis of the annual US State Department report Estonia is still a prostitution transit and target country. The report says that Estonian women are objects of sex trade in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, France, Cyprus Portugal, Cyprus, Ireland and Italy.

The Estonian government does not fully meet the minimum standards in the elimination of human trafficking, while the government is making considerable efforts to meet these requirements.

The report gives to Estonia the recommendation to vigorously apply the act against human trafficking that was passed recently and to bring up efforts in order to open investigation with respect to persons engaged in human trafficking, charging and punishing them.

Last year the United States added Estonian into the **human trafficking tier 2 watch list**, because the country had not achieved sufficient success in the prevention of prostitution and slave labor. "Estonia is both a source and transit and target country for women who are forced to practise prostitution and for men and women who work in conditions comparable with forced labor in several European countries," the report said.

Countries are assessed in four different categories (tier 1, tier 2, tier 2 watch list, tier 3). In the recent years Estonia has belonged into the so called second grade, or tier 2 group countries.

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Baltic News Service

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86 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Bangladesh Business News (BBN)

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

US releases 2012 TIP Report, Bangladesh position upgraded

LENGTH: 409 words

DATELINE: Bangladesh

Bangladesh, June 20 -- The U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the release of the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) on Tuesday in Washington, DC, a US embassy press statement said.

This year's TIP Report theme is "The Promise of Freedom." The theme encourages every government, including the United States, to commit to fulfilling the promise of freedom from slavery embodied in modern anti-trafficking laws and international protocols by punishing traffickers, providing services and legal recourse to victims and preventing the crime of trafficking from occurring.

As required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the TIP Report assesses governments around the world on their efforts to combat modern slavery. The 12th installment, this year's Report includes narratives of 186 countries and territories. The United States is among the countries and territories.

Bangladesh was upgraded to "**Tier 2**" in the 2012 TIP Report in recognition of the Government of Bangladesh's important accomplishments in the past year, including enactment of the landmark **Human Trafficking** Deterrence and Suppression Act, which the President of Bangladesh put into effect as an ordinance in December 2011 and the Bangladesh Parliament passed as law in February 2012, as well as the launch of a National Plan of Action for Combating **Human Trafficking** in May 2012.

These steps ensure Bangladesh has a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder legal framework to address all forms of trafficking, including labor trafficking and trafficking of men.

Bangladesh's immediate challenge and opportunity will be to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the new law and plan of action to develop an effective regime of prevention, protection and prosecution.

The U.S. Government strongly supports the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to address trafficking and will continue its support through the U.S. Agency for International Development's program Actions for Combating Trafficking in Persons (ACT).

ACT works with NGO partners such as Winrock International and with the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop a comprehensive approach to the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of the crime of trafficking. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Bangladesh Business News. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

87 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 1:02 PM TST

U.S. gives Taiwan **Tier 1** ranking in anti-human trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Nancy Liu

LENGTH: 361 words

DATELINE: Taipei, June 20

Taiwan maintained its **Tier 1** ranking in an annual **human trafficking** report published by the United States Department of State, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Wednesday.

Taiwan was listed as a **Tier 1** country in the report for the third year in a row, indicating that "(its) achievements in preventing and combating **human trafficking** have been highly recognized by the international community," the ministry said in a statement.

The rankings of countries in the "2012 **Trafficking in Persons** Report," are classified into three-**tiers** based on the governments' counter-**human trafficking** measures.

Taiwan was one of only two East Asian countries, along with South Korea, to be given the highest ranking possible in the report.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry pledged that Taiwan will continue to enhance protection of victims of human trafficking and strive to bring perpetrators to justice.

American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Deputy Director Eric Madison delivered the report to the National Immigration Agency Tuesday and congratulated Taiwan for its achievements in the area, AIT spokesman Christopher Kavanagh told CNA.

The AIT represents U.S. interests in Taiwan in the absence of diplomatic ties.

The report, released Tuesday, found that most trafficking victims in Taiwan are migrant workers from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Cambodia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and India.

Women and girls from various Asian countries are also lured to Taiwan through "fraudulent marriages and deceptive employment offers for purposes of sex trafficking and forced labor," the report said.

Although Taiwanese authorities continued to punish trafficking offenses, the report suggested that the country "improve (its) efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict trafficking offenders using the anti-trafficking law enacted in June 2009."

It also recommended that Taiwan continue to fund foreign language translators for shelters and hotline staff and make greater efforts to increase public awareness about all forms of trafficking.

In 2011, Taiwan identified 319 trafficking victims, 56 of whom fell prey to sex trafficking and 263 to labor trafficking, the report noted.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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88 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 12:03 PM TST

Taiwanese diplomat included in U.S. human-trafficking report

BYLINE: Nancy Liu

LENGTH: 357 words

DATELINE: Taipei, June 20

A Taiwanese diplomat who pleaded guilty in the United States to labor fraud was highlighted in a human trafficking report released by the U.S. Department of State Tuesday, but it did not affect the country's overall ranking.

Jacqueline Liu, former director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, pleaded guilty to "subjecting her two domestic workers to conditions of forced labor, including withholding their passports and paying inadequate wages," according to the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report.

The 64-year-old diplomat was deported in mid-February after the court approved a plea agreement that sentenced her to time served following her arrest and detention on Nov. 10, 2011 and required her to pay US\$80,044 in restitution to the two Filipino housekeepers she abused.

Although Liu spent about four months in U.S. prison before being deported to Taiwan, "she has not yet been sentenced (in Taiwan) as the investigation against her in Taiwan remained ongoing as of April 2012," at the close of the reporting period, the report said.

In May, however, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office decided against indicting Liu on criminal charges because it did not find evidence that a crime had been committed.

Steve Hsia, the Foreign Ministry's deputy spokesman, said that Liu's case was a "single case" that "did not influence the U.S.' recognition of Taiwan's ongoing efforts in combating human trafficking."

Taiwan was given a **Tier 1** ranking in this year's anti-**human trafficking** report, the only East Asian country along with South Korea to receive the report's highest rating, which is given to "countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards."

Taiwan moved to Tier 1 in 2010 and has kept its status for three consecutive years.

China, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar were placed on the Tier 2 watch list, the second-to-lowest rating, while only North Korea among East Asian countries was placed in the lowest Tier 3 category, given to "countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

89 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Channel NewsAsia

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 5:58 AM GMT

Singapore at Tier 2 in US Trafficking in Persons Report**SECTION:** SINGAPORE NEWS**LENGTH:** 219 words

SINGAPORE: The recent court cases of men allegedly having paid sex with an underage girl have made their way into the Trafficking in Persons Report 2012 released by the US State Department.

The report alleges that child sex trafficking occurred in Singapore.

In the 2012 Report, Singapore has been classified under Tier 2 of countries reported upon and this refers to countries where governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

The US report noted that the Singapore government has increased its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons during the year.

In March 2012, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Trafficking launched Singapore's first National Plan of Action to coordinate the government's anti-trafficking activities.

The government has also increased efforts to educate the public through television and print media campaigns about the dangers of trafficking.

It put up posters at a fishing port providing information for exploited workers to contact the government for assistance.

During the year, the task force produced a newsletter and brochure for work permit holders, which provides a checklist for workers about situations in which they should approach the Ministry of Manpower for assistance.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Transcript

90 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

US asks India to make strong anti-trafficking law

LENGTH: 410 words**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, June 20 -- A US report accusing India of being a source, destination, and transit country for forced labour and sex trafficking, has asked New Delhi to develop a comprehensive anti-trafficking law.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Tuesday places India for the second year among **Tier 2** countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

The forced labour of millions of India's citizens constitutes India's largest trafficking problem, the report said noting men, women, and children in debt bondage are forced to work in industries such as brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories.

A common characteristic of bonded labour is the use of physical and sexual violence as coercive tools, it said.

Ninety percent of trafficking in India is internal, and those from India's most disadvantaged social strata, including the lowest castes, are most vulnerable, the report said.

Some Indians who migrate willingly every year for work as domestic servants and low-skilled labourers find themselves in forced labour in the Middle East and, to a lesser extent, Southeast Asia, the United States, Europe, Southern Africa, the Caribbean, and other countries, it said.

The report noted that In March 2012, a US court entered a default judgment of \$1.5 million in favour of an Indian domestic worker who sued a former Indian consular officer who had employed her while assigned to duty in the United States

No appeal was filed in the case, the report said. The domestic worker had accused the Indian diplomat of forcing her to work without adequate compensation for three years and subjecting her to physical and mental abuse.

Noting that the India was making significant efforts to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the report recommended that India develop a comprehensive anti-trafficking law or amend anti-trafficking legislation to be in line with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol.

It also asked India to increase prosecutions and convictions on all forms of trafficking, including bonded labour and encourage states to establish special anti-trafficking courts. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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91 of 492 DOCUMENTS

THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

Jordan a transit, destination country for forced labour - report

LENGTH: 701 words

by Hani Hazaimeh | Jun 20, 2012 | 19:49 AMMAN - Jordan is a destination and transit country for adults and children subjected to forced labour and, to a lesser extent, commercial sexual exploitation, according to a US State Department report. However, the report showed that Jordan has kept its classification at **Tier 2** for the fourth year in a row. . Issued annually to measure countries' efforts in combating **trafficking in persons, the Trafficking in Persons** Report said some of the domestic helpers who voluntarily migrate to the Kingdom for employment are subjected to conditions of forced labour after arrival. The report cited practices such as unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats of imprisonment and physical or sexual abuse. Referring to migrant workers in the Qualifying Industrial Zones, the report said "some of these workers encounter conditions indicative of forced labour, including unlawful withholding of passports, delayed payment of wages, forced overtime, and verbal and physical abuse; female factory workers are also vulnerable to sexual harassment". With regards to the thousands of Syrian refugees who poured into the Kingdom since the Syrian crisis started in March 2011, the US State Department said "some of these migrants" could include trafficking victims. They may also "be further susceptible to situations of forced labour or forced prostitution in Jordan", the report said. "Moroccan, Tunisian and East European women are subjected to forced prostitution after migrating to Jordan to work in restaurants and nightclubs," it added.

The report said although the government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant efforts to do so. "During the year, the government sustained law enforcement efforts against trafficking offenders and police continued to refer trafficking victims to shelter services." "The government's anti-trafficking efforts, however, continued to be hindered by several government reshuffles, limited capacity in key ministries, and a general lack of inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation," said the report. The US study recommended that the government take serious measures to address loopholes in the efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons, such as using the anti-trafficking statute, increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence trafficking offences. Furthermore, the report suggested strengthening efforts to proactively identify victims of forced labour and prostitution and to increase penalties for forced labour offences. Other suggestions included implementing an awareness campaign to educate the general public and foreign migrant workers in all sectors on human trafficking, particularly forced labour and the proper treatment of domestic workers under Jordanian law. Citing the 2008 Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the report said the law prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes penalties of six months to 10 years imprisonment for forced prostitution, child trafficking, and trafficking of women and girls, adding that these penalties are sufficiently stringent, but not commensurate with those for other serious crimes, such as rape. With regards to protection efforts, the report said the government made minimal efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the reporting period and did not provide any specialised services to trafficking victims. "It did, however, identify and refer trafficking victims to shelter services, and it took initial steps to identify victims of trafficking sheltered within foreign embassies." "The police reportedly referred 26 potential female trafficking victims to a local NGO-operated shelter, a noted improvement compared with the previous reporting period when the government did not refer any victims," the report argued. Earlier this month, the labour ministry and the Public Security Department signed an agreement to coordinate

efforts to combat human trafficking in the Kingdom. Labour Minister Atef Odeibat said at the signing ceremony that trafficking in Jordan "is not a big issue and does not qualify as organised crime".

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92 of 492 DOCUMENTS



M2 PressWIRE

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

Press Releases: Briefing on 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

LENGTH: 4068 words

June 19, 2012

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large Via Teleconference

Washington, DC

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in -- very much in keeping with the -- this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing -- there was still a war to fight and win -- it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal -- a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much -- while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those **tiers** are **Tiers** 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on **Tier 3**, 17 countries; on **Tier 2 Watch List**, 42 countries; on **Tier 2**, 93 countries; and on **Tier 1**, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who -- within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how -- what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2 Watch List** this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the **human trafficking** that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state -- basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is -- was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they -- and they've been in existence for several years -- had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue -- the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we -- most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras -- that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking -- excuse me -- but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year -- and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a -- that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's -- that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the -- now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send

workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask -- and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it -- but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and --

QUESTION: Could you give numbers --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because --

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically -- can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world -- excuse me -- these are victims identified by governments in the last year -- has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards -- and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that --as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know -- I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same -- 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some -- the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also -- excuse me -- that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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JOURNAL-CODE: M2PW

93 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

SINGAPORE AT TIER 2 IN US TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT**LENGTH:** 177 words**DATELINE:** SINGAPORE June 20

The recent court cases of men allegedly having paid sex with an underaged girl have made their way into the Trafficking in Persons Report 2012 released by the United States State Department.

The report alleges that child sex trafficking occurred in Singapore, reported local television Channel NewsAsia (CNA). CNA said in the 2012 Report, Singapore had been classified under Tier 2 of countries reported upon and this referred to countries where governments did not fully comply with the minimum standards, but were making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

It said the US report noted that the Singapore government has increased its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons during the year.

In March 2012, CNA said the Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Trafficking launched Singapore's first National Plan of Action to coordinate the government's anti-trafficking activities.

The government has also increased efforts to educate the public through television and print media campaigns about the dangers of trafficking, CNA said.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

94 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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Malaysia General News

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95 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Mizzima

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

Burma takes 'unprecedented steps' to fight human trafficking: U.S.

LENGTH: 1003 words

Burma was moved one notch higher for its efforts to stop human trafficking during the past year, a new report by the U.S. State Department showed on Tuesday.

Burma moved from **Tier 3**, which it had occupied since 2001, to **Tier 2**, because of positive efforts to combat **human trafficking** and arrest and prosecute offenders, including members of the military.

One of the world's worst offenders of human trafficking laws in the past, Burma was urged to continue with its "unprecedented steps" over the past year.

Luis CdeBaca, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for human trafficking issues, said Burma was upgraded after the government repealed an antiquated law that had been used to justify forced labor and replaced it with a law expressly forbidding the practice.

The government also made progress identifying and helping victims, and a national trafficking hotline introduced in September has led to the rescue of 57 victims. Much of its recent efforts have been undertaken with the cooperation of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

However, the report said many Burmese men, women and children who travel abroad for work are subjected to forced labor or sex trafficking, as trafficking by both private individuals and government officials "continues to be a significant problem."

The Burmese military still conscripts child soldiers and is the leading perpetrator of forced labor within the country, particularly in conflict-prone ethnic areas, said the report.

The country is taking steps to alleviate Burma's chronic underdevelopment and lack of jobs, said he report, but trafficking within Burma by both government officials and private actors continues, including military personnel and militant ethnic insurgents.

"The climate of impunity and repression and the government's lack of accountability in forced labor and the recruitment of child soldiers represent the top casual factors for Burma's significant trafficking problem," the report said.

The Burmese government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the State Department said, but "it is making significant steps to do so."

CdeBaca praised the work of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in combating human trafficking and forced labor in the country.

CdeBaca said that the State Department had been particularly concerned in recent years by "state-sponsored forced labor" in Burma which had been allowed to continue under the 1907 Villages and Towns Acts.

The law has been repealed by the newly formed Parliament.

Since the dissolution of a cease-fire with the Kachin Independence Army in June 2011, fighting has displaced an estimated 60,000 Kachin residents, who are highly vulnerable to forced labor and sex trafficking, said the report.

An NGO study published in 2010 found an acute problem in Chin State, where a survey of over 600 households indicated that over 92 percent experienced at least one instance of a household member subjected to forced labor, it said. The Burmese military reportedly imposed two-thirds of these forced labor demands. Because authorities refuse to rec-

ognize members of certain ethnic minority groups (including the Rohingyas) as citizens and do not provide them with identification documentation, members of these communities are more vulnerable to trafficking.

"The Kachin ethnic minority is particularly vulnerable to trafficking due to an ongoing conflict between the Burma Army and the Kachin Independence Army. Military and civilian officials subject men, women, and children to forced labor, and men and boys as young as 11 years old are forced through intimidation, coercion, threats, and violence to serve in the Burma Army as well as the armed wings of ethnic minority groups," said the report.

"The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," it said. "The Burmese government took a number of unprecedented steps to address forced labor and the conscription of child soldiers; these steps amount to a credible commitment to undertake anti-trafficking reforms over the coming year."

The report called for the implementation of the terms of the ILO action plan for the elimination of forced labor offenses perpetrated by government employees, particularly military personnel.

It said that 26 Anti-Trafficking Task Forces operated in key cities and at international border crossings, and the police continued to identify and investigate trafficking offenses and to arrest suspected trafficking offenders. The government reported investigating 136 cases of trafficking, and prosecuting 231 offenders in 2011 - 160 of whom were female - compared to 234 convicted in 2010, but it said the statistics are based on a lack of transparency and hard to verify.

During the year, it said the government showed unprecedented cooperation with the ILO and other international partners in discussing remedies for the long-standing problems of forced labor and child soldier conscription committed by members of the military or civilian administrators.

The ILO continued to receive and investigate forced labor complaints; 324 were received in 2011, of which 236 involved alleged conscription of children for military service. The ILO submitted 145 cases to the Burmese government for action in 2011. The government resolved 80 cases; 65 cases are pending resolution by the government and six cases were closed with an "unsatisfactory outcome," according to the ILO.

For the first time in several years, the Ministry of Defense provided data on military personnel disciplined for forced labor offenses: four officers and 37 enlisted personnel were punished for "improper recruitment," though none of these offenders were imprisoned. The four officers received official reprimands and, of the 37 enlisted personnel, 22 received reprimands, nine were suspended without pay for seven days, five were suspended without pay for 14 days, and one was reduced in rank, said the report.

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96 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Pioneer (India)

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

US raps India for human trafficking record

LENGTH: 457 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 20 -- The US has come up with a damning report on the poor record of India and many others in dealing with forced labour and sex trafficking. It wants New Delhi to enact a comprehensive anti-trafficking law and step up enforcement to ensure increased prosecutions and convictions.

Placing India on a **Tier 2** list for the second consecutive year, the India segment of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2012 says, "India is a source, destination and transit for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The forced labour of millions of its citizens constitutes India's largest trafficking problem."

Tier 2 represents governments which do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report says, noting the Home Ministry's establishment of Anti-Human Trafficking Units and the CBI's launch of anti-trafficking unit.

The report calls upon India to develop a comprehensive anti-trafficking law or amend legislation to be in line with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol, with adequate penalties prescribed by the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention.

"Challenges remain regarding overall law enforcement efforts against bonded labour and the alleged complicity of public officials in human trafficking," it says, noting that 90 per cent of trafficking in India is internal, with those from India's most disadvantaged social strata, including lowest castes, being most vulnerable.

Dealing with sex trafficking, the report speaks of an increasing number of job placement agencies luring adults and children for forced labour or sex trafficking under false promises of employment.

"Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of forced prostitution," it says, noting: "Religious pilgrimage centers and cities popular for tourism continue to be vulnerable to child sex tourism. Women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh, and an increasing number of females from Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Russia, are also subjected to sex trafficking in India."

"There were increasing reports of females from northeastern states and Odisha subjected to servile marriages in states with low female-to-male child sex ratios, including Haryana and Punjab, and also reports of girls subjected to transactional sexual exploitation in the Middle East under the guise of temporary marriages," it says. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Pioneer. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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97 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Registan.net

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 1:16 AM EST

Written Plan Saves Uzbekistan on Trafficking Report

LENGTH: 427 words

The State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** report has been released and Uzbekistan pulled a **Tier 2 Watchlist** ranking again. Here's the key passage from the report on why Uzbekistan gets to stay at Tier 2 Watchlist for the fifth consecutive year rather than dropping down to Tier 3:

The Government of Uzbekistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The government has not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address **human trafficking** over the previous year; therefore, Uzbekistan is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for a fifth consecutive year. Uzbekistan was granted a waiver of an otherwise required downgrade to Tier 3 because its government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan.

The report methodology explains that a 2008 amendment to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) requires downgrades for countries who fail to progress from Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2 in a two consecutive year period. That requirement went into effect last year, and the Secretary of State can waive the downgrade twice, meaning this should be Uzbekistan's last free downgrade.

The big issue for Uzbekistan is cotton. A couple months ago, I wrote that it is hard to tell what Uzbekistan has done this year that it did not do last year. The Trafficking in Persons determinations have a lot to do with momentum. The situation can quantitatively be the same year-over-year in a country, but still lead to a fall to a lower tier for a lack of government effort. In 2011, Uzbekistan declared its intent to police itself to reduce forced child labor. In 2012, Uzbekistan has declared its intent to police itself to reduce forced child labor. It is hard to identify anything in State's narrative for Uzbekistan that illustrates how Tashkent is devoting sufficient resources to implementing its written plan. Sure, UNICEF poked around, but even they say Uzbekistan's government will not change. And some say they are going to probably be worse this year.

Of course, we all know this has entirely to do with avoiding angering Uzbekistan's government and preventing headaches on the NDN, all the more important with US-Pakistan relations on the rocks. That said, it is unfortunate that there cannot be some real keeping in explaining the decision.

Here is how the rest of Central Asia fared:

Kazakhstan: 2

Kyrgyzstan: 2

Tajikistan: 2

Turkmenistan: 2 watch list

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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98 of 492 DOCUMENTS

RTT News (United States)

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

Trafficking In Persons Report Finds Progress In Myanmar, Latin American Nations

LENGTH: 901 words

(RTTNews) - The United States' Trafficking in Persons Report 2012 shows that Myanmar and Latin American countries are making progress in the fight against what it calls "the modern form of slavery."

The report was released in Washington on Tuesday by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Under Secretary of State Maria Otero, and Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

At a special briefing after releasing the report, CdeBaca said that the number of victims identified around the world had increased by almost a third, which showed that governments were stepping up and were meeting their obligations. As many as 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped last year.

Myanmar was considered as a country of state-sponsored forced labor, and its people going up to China for sex trafficking or to Thailand for sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

CdeBaca said that over the last year, the government in Myanmar had taken a number of significant and unprecedented steps in advancing reforms in fighting human trafficking.

"As a result, we've seen improved protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries," she told reporters. A law was repealed, so there was no longer state-sponsored forced labor that was legal in Myanmar.

Five countries in Latin America have improved their ranking, and there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And for the first time Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1 of the report. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Venezuela was removed from the Tier 3 part of the report, while Haiti was removed from the category of special cases.

The report lists countries onto four **tiers**: **Tier 1** is a level of a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2** lists countries that are not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List** comprises countries that are in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3** is a grouping of countries that are not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

This year's report has 17 countries on Tier 3, 42 on Tier 2 Watch List, 93 on Tier 2, and 33 on Tier 1.

The report expressed concern over state-supported forced labor in North Korea, as well as increased labor exporting of North Koreans to regions such as the Middle East and Russia. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave, the report noted.

The report says the United States continues to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report.

CdeBaca said the number of victims identified by governments last year had increased by 28 percent -- from 33,113 in 2011 to 42,291 in 2012. Convictions are up by 10 percent - from 3,619 to 3,969.

Last year saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. As per the ILO, the number of people who are in modern slavery in the world is estimated at at least 21 million. There are other researchers that put the number as high as 27 million.

This year, Tier 2 has got bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year, which means that countries are passing laws.

A total of 186 countries that appear in the report received rankings under the minimum standards, except Somalia, which does not have a functioning government.

But CdeBaca noted that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice.

At a ceremony held at the State Department, Clinton honored ten heroes of the anti-trafficking fight from different parts of the world, from Argentina to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo.

The honorees included a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai, a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now raising awareness of labor exploitation in the fishing industry, and a woman who was the first female lawyer in Mauritania, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in that country.

Speaking on the occasion, Clinton said the report gives "a clear and honest assessment of where all of us are making progress on our commitments and where we are either standing still or even sliding backwards" in fighting this modern form of slavery.

Clinton recollected that during her visit to the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, she met several young women from the United States who had been working with organizations, NGOs, and the faith community, trying to help protect victims of human trafficking in the city.

Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, human trafficking is defined as slavery.

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99 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 11:41 PM EST

Obama Admin. AGAIN Refuses to Hold China Accountable for Rampant Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 677 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following news release:

The Obama Administration's failure to hold China accountable for its atrocious **human trafficking** violations in this year's annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report was called "shameful" and a "dereliction of duty" by Chris Smith, the lawmaker who wrote the first-ever U.S. law to combat trafficking in 2000 and whose law created the annual report with its **tier** ranking system (Public Law 106-386).

Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), author of the landmark the Trafficking Victims and Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as well as subsequent laws to adapt and strengthen the TVPA, said he was "appalled" that China was given a political waiver despite its rampant and growing problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls.

"China has remained on the '**Watch List**' for eight years now, evading a downgrade to **Tier 3**--and sanctions--by stringing this President along with empty promises," said Smith, who chairs the House subcommittee that oversees human rights and co-chairs the Congressional **Human Trafficking** Caucus. "Congress could not have been more clear that the **Tier 2 Watch List** was not meant to be a sanctuary for countries that fail to address--or themselves commit--the atrocious human rights abuses of **human trafficking**."

The report contains the litany of trafficking crimes perpetrated in China including forced labor of children and of the disabled in brick kilns, repatriation of North Korean trafficking victims, the trafficking of women and children from surrounding countries for sexual exploitation, and the trafficking magnet effect of China's one-child policy, which, coupled with a cultural preference for sons, creates a skewed sex ratio in China. According to the report, the one-child policy is a key cause of trafficking of foreign women as brides for Chinese men and for forced prostitution. China's own statistics show a substantial increase in the number of women trafficked to China in 2011.

"China was granted a waiver last year because its government allegedly had a 'written plan that, if implemented, would constitute a significant effort to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards' and it was allegedly 'devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan'-- it is the exact same story this year, except for that we still do not know the contents of the plan and its release has been postponed yet again," Smith said. "Where are the results? When will the Administration say that enough is enough?"

In the most recent reauthorization of the TVPA, Congress decided that no country should be allowed to skirt sanctions on the Tier 2 Watch List for more than two years. This year, 2012, represents the second year that the limit was put to the test.

"Our obligation is to the victims of trafficking, not the dictatorship, as I have stressed in the past," Smith said.

The report showed good news in other parts of the world, with an overall increase for 2011 in the number of traffickers convicted (3,969) and the number of victims identified (42,291) ([Click Here to Read the 2012 Report](#)).

This year's report evaluated 186 countries, 28 of which were upgraded in the tier rankings. Fourteen countries were downgraded this year--including three previous Tier 1 countries. Bosnia Herzegovina, Nigeria, and Portugal were downgraded to Tier 2 this year, underscoring the importance of consistent implementation of anti-trafficking laws.

"It is not enough to have good laws on the books here or anywhere else," said Smith. "They must be funded and implemented in order to meet the minimum standards of combating human trafficking."

Notably, only one additional country was downgraded to Tier 3 this year.

In addition to the original 2000 law which provided for the annual reports, Smith wrote two subsequent anti-trafficking laws (PL 108-193 and PL 109-164) increasing resources for crime prevention and expanding treatment assistance for victims.

Contact: Jeff Sagnip, 202/225-3765

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100 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 3:49 AM EST

Uzbekistan: US Report Fails Child Labor Victims

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 915 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Human Rights Watch issued the following news release:

The United States (<http://www.hrw.org/united-states>) government's decision not to cite Uzbekistan (<http://www.hrw.org/europecentral-asia/uzbekistan>) for its widespread practice of forced and child labor in the country's cotton sector sends the wrong message to the Uzbek government, a broad coalition of groups said in a letter (<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/06/19/uzbekistan-joint-letter-regarding-us-failure-downgrade-uzbekistans-tip-tier-status>) to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on June 19, 2012. The coalition called on US officials to press the Uzbek government to invite the International Labour Organization (ILO) to monitor the 2012 cotton harvest.

The letter followed the US government's release on June 19 of its annual Global **Trafficking in Persons** (GTIP) report (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/index.htm>). The report fails to cite Uzbekistan as a country that does not comply with minimal standards to combat forced and child labor, or a "**Tier** III country," the groups said. Under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), the Uzbek government should have demonstrated that it was making "significant efforts" to eliminate forced labor to avoid a downgrade to Tier III, which would carry the threat of sanctions.

"Forced labor of adults and children is human trafficking under US law," said Steve Swerdlow (<http://www.hrw.org/bios/steve-swerdlow>), Central Asia Researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The failure to classify Uzbekistan properly for the fifth straight year is wholly inconsistent with the well-documented evidence of its systematic abuses. The US effectively sent a message to Uzbek authorities that enslaving children for profit in abusive conditions is cost-free."

The coalition consists of human rights, trade union, apparel industry, retail, investor, and other nongovernmental organizations, including groups from Uzbekistan.

Uzbek authorities use a cotton production system that in practice relies on the use of forced labor, while consistently denying that forced labor is used and cracking down on rights activists who try to monitor it. Reports (<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/64362>) about the 2011 harvest by local monitoring groups and academic studies highlighted the coercion of children as young as 10 and adults to pick cotton and to fulfill government quotas.

The State Department report identifies the Uzbek government's state quota system for cotton production as a root cause of the practice of forced labor. However, even though Tashkent has clearly made no progress in addressing the issue, the State Department waived the threat of sanctions, as it did last year.

The global trafficking report acknowledges that during the cotton harvest, working conditions include long hours, insufficient food and water, exposure to harmful pesticides, verbal abuse, and inadequate shelter. The report also noted that the use of forced labor and child labor was higher than in the previous years.

The relentless crackdown on the independent civil society activists who attempt to monitor the cotton sector abuses is a further indication of the Uzbek government's lack of political will to address this issue, the groups said. In 2011, Uzbek authorities arbitrarily detained at least three prominent rights activists - Elena Urlaeva, Gulshan Karaeva, and Nodir

Akhatov -while they were photographing and interviewing Uzbek school children forced to pick cotton. Karaeva was recently violently attacked for her human rights activism in an event that appeared to be orchestrated by authorities.

In addition, school officials in Jizzakh in 2011 fired a teacher, Ziyadullo Rizzakov, after he protested the mobilization of his students into the cotton fields. Later, local prosecutors threatened him with a criminal investigation if he persisted in his human rights work.

International nongovernmental organizations and foreign media outlets are prevented from operating in Uzbekistan, making it difficult to report on forced and child labor or other human rights abuses. For years the Uzbek government has refused to allow the ILO to send independent experts to the country to monitor forced and child labor during the fall cotton harvest.

"We are concerned that with quotas set so high for this fall, according to all reports, the Uzbek government will demand even more from the children and adults forced to grow and harvest cotton," said Brian Campbell, policy director at the International Labor Rights Forum. "Only the ILO has the technical expertise and experience to properly monitor this practice, and it should have unfettered access throughout the cotton harvest and the ability to fully engage Uzbek civil society."

This appeal follows a letter (http://www.cottoncampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CottonCampaignLetter_to_Sec_Clinton_April2012_final.pdf) from the coalition to Clinton in April, urging the US government to downgrade Uzbekistan in the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report.

"The practice of forced labor in Uzbekistan has persisted for far too long and should be urgently ended," said Nate Herman, vice president of international trade for the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), which said it will continue speaking out about Uzbekistan until forced and child labor are eradicated. "This year's report missed a crucial opportunity to end this abominable practice sooner."

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101 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 2:35 AM EST

Secretary Clinton Releases 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 204 words

DATELINE: YAOUNDE, Cameroon

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled on June 19 the 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report at a ceremony at the United States Department of State. As required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the TIP Report assesses governments around the world on their efforts to combat modern slavery. This year's Report is the 12th installment and includes narratives of 186 countries and territories.

This year, Cameroon has been moved up from the **Watch list onto the Tier 2** list. This improvement is partly a result of Cameroon's new **Trafficking in Persons** law, which extends protections to adults as well as children.

At the event, Secretary Clinton also honored the 2012 TIP Heroes, ten men and women whose personal efforts have made an extraordinary difference in the global fight against modern slavery. The event will also be attended by members of the diplomatic corps, nongovernmental and international organization representatives, and anti-trafficking activists.

The 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report on Cameroon can be found on the U.S Embassy website at www.yaounde.usembassy.gov

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The Telegraph

telegraph.co.uk

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 7:27 AM GMT

Hillary Clinton: up to 27 million living in slavery; Up to 27 million people are living in slavery around the world, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton estimated on Tuesday as the US unveiled its annual report into human trafficking.

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 709 words

But the report showed that as governments become more aware of the issue, instigating tough new laws and programs to help victims, progress is being made in wiping out what it called the "scourge of trafficking."

"The end of legal slavery in the United States and in other countries around the world has not, unfortunately, meant the end of slavery," said Mrs Clinton.

"Today it is estimated as many as 27 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery, what we sometimes call trafficking in persons," she said at the unveiling of the report at the State Department.

"Those victims of modern slavery are women and men, girls and boys, and their stories remind us of the kind of inhumane treatment we are capable of as human beings," said Mrs Clinton.

"Whatever their background, they are the living, breathing reminders that the work to eradicate slavery remains unfinished."

As America prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the emancipation of US slaves, people must reflect on "how much further we have to go to free all these 27 million victims," Clinton added.

Out of the 185 countries included in the 2012 report, only 33 complied fully with laws in place to end **human trafficking**, putting them at the top of a four-tier ranking system.

But five countries had moved up from the bottom blacklist known as tier 3, including Burma and Venezuela, to be included among the 42 countries now on what is known as a tier 2 watchlist.

Burma was removed from the blacklist because the government "took a number of unprecedented steps to address forced labour and the conscription of child soldiers; these steps amount to a credible commitment to undertake anti-trafficking reforms over the coming year," the report said.

Syria however fell onto the blacklist for the first time, in a move which could cut off any US aid and make it harder to get US backing for funds from organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said.

Among the 16 other countries on the blacklist were Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Kenya slipped down onto the watchlist for the first time in five years, while Nigeria lost its place on tier 1, moving down a notch as the report highlighted that women and children were forced into labour and sex trafficking.

But Mrs Clinton hailed the fact that a total of 29 countries had been upgraded to a higher ranking, "which means that their governments are taking the right steps."

They included Bangladesh, which was bumped up to tier two for making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards, including passing "a comprehensive anti-trafficking law" in December.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the office to combat trafficking in persons, said while the number of people officially identified as victims of trafficking and slavery had gone up by 28 per cent since last year to 42,291, the numbers of prosecutions in 2012 had also increased by 10 per cent to 3,969.

So while countries "still have a little ways to go" there was "the beginnings, I think, of a real trend," he said.

This year's report focuses on how to better protect the victims, and urges governments to meet the challenge head-on.

"Traffickers are criminals. Governments - which alone have the power to punish criminals and provide legal recourse to survivors - cannot waver in their efforts to confront modern slavery," the report says.

But it also argues that human trafficking takes many guises and it is not just about moving people across borders to trap them in prostitution.

"The United States government, and increasingly, the international community, view 'trafficking in persons' as the term through which all forms of modern slavery are criminalised," it says.

"The essence of the trafficking experience is the denial of freedom, including the freedom to choose where and how you live, the freedom to work or choose not to work, the freedom from threats, and the freedom of bodily integrity," the report says.

Source: agencies

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

JOURNAL-CODE: WEBDTNS

103 of 492 DOCUMENTS

United News of Bangladesh

June 20, 2012 Wednesday

Bangladesh upgraded to Tier 2 in US TIP report

BYLINE: UNB Connect

LENGTH: 338 words

Bangladesh was upgraded to "**Tier 2**" in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, 2012 released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington on Tuesday.

The report says Bangladesh was upgraded to "**Tier 2**" in recognition of the Bangladesh government's important accomplishments in the past year, including enactment of the landmark **Human Trafficking** Deterrence and Suppression Act.

The Parliament passed the law in February this year. The government also launched a National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking in May.

The report says these steps ensure Bangladesh has a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder legal framework to address all forms of trafficking, including labor trafficking and trafficking of men.

TIP report observes Bangladesh's immediate challenge and opportunity will be to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the new law and plan of action to develop an effective regime of prevention, protection and prosecution.

It says the U.S. Government strongly supports the Bangladesh government's efforts to address trafficking and will continue its support through the U.S. Agency for International Development's program Actions for Combating Trafficking in Persons (ACT).

ACT works with NGO partners such as Winrock International and with the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop a comprehensive approach to the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of the crime of trafficking. A release of the US embassy in Dhaka said this year's TIP Report theme is "The Promise of Freedom."

It says the theme encourages every government, including the United States, to commit to fulfilling the promise of freedom from slavery embodied in modern anti-trafficking laws and international protocols by punishing traffickers, providing services and legal recourse to victims and preventing the crime of trafficking from occurring.

As required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the TIP Report assesses governments around the world on their efforts to combat modern slavery.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

104 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 6:40 PM EST

U.S. human trafficking cases slipping through cracks: report

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 633 words

DATELINE: by Matthew Rusling WASHINGTON June 20

Cases of human trafficking are rarely prosecuted in the U.S. despite a recent surge of federal and state laws aimed at combating modern day slavery, a report released Wednesday found.

Researchers from the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center and Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice found that police, prosecutors, judges, juries, and government officials lack awareness of human trafficking law and do not consider such cases a priority.

As a result, many cases are overlooked by state and federal legal systems.

"Our study showed that our legal systems are further concealing the nature and prevalence of these crimes," said the Urban Institute's Colleen Owens, adding that law enforcement and prosecutors "unintentionally reinforce the idea that human trafficking is not a problem in the United States."

The researchers analyzed data from 140 closed human trafficking cases in 12 counties nationwide, reviewed 530 incident reports of related crimes and interviewed 166 law enforcement officials, prosecutors and service providers.

They found that only 7 percent of cases resulted in a state or federal sex trafficking charge, 9 percent in a sex trafficking of a minor charge, and 2 percent in a labor trafficking charge.

The study also found that high rates of trafficking victims are being arrested, including minors, and illegal migrant victims are being deported, despite federal legal protections.

The study also found that local law enforcement have trouble identifying and investigating cases for a number of reasons, including insufficient resources and lack of specialized units to look into labor trafficking cases. They often lack language skills and cultural knowledge to communicate with immigrant communities.

They also lack victim support services, such as safe housing, and in some instances police harbored negative views of victims, the study found.

State prosecutors have difficulty pursuing trafficking cases because they lack legal precedent and because there are no incentives to pursue trafficking cases.

In some cases, they are unaware of their states' anti-trafficking laws, and often believe victims lack credibility because they are undocumented migrants or runaways.

Prosecutors also have a hard time getting victims to cooperate due to fear, intimidation, or trauma and lack training in using their states' laws to litigate and investigate cases.

Owens said the findings are not nationally representative, "so we can't project those findings on the entire country."

The report comes a day after the U.S. State Department released its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which gives nations worldwide a ranking -- **tier 1** is the best and **tier 3** is the worst -- for their efforts in combating trafficking.

While it received a **tier 1** rating -- the highest possible -- activist groups said the U.S. often fails to protect victims of **human trafficking**, defined as coercion into sex work or labor.

And while the State Department report focuses on the federal government's anti-trafficking efforts, a number of U.S. states fail to provide victims -- both children and adults -- with the full legal protection that activists say they need.

According to the anti-trafficking group Polaris Project, 42 states lack "safe harbor" laws, which recognize that minors trafficked into commercial sex are victims and prevent them from being prosecuted for prostitution.

Activist groups are also pushing more states to implement "vacating conviction" laws -- the majority of states have not yet done so -- which ensure that sex trafficking victims are not treated as criminals and that prostitution convictions be expunged from their records.

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105 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 2:10 AM EST

News Analysis: Despite good marks, human trafficking remains a problem in U.S.

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 839 words

DATELINE: by Matthew Rusling WASHINGTON June 19

Despite giving itself good marks for efforts to combat human trafficking in a State Department report released Tuesday, the United States still has a problem with modern day slavery.

While it received a **tier 1** rating - the highest possible - the U.S. often fails to protect victims of **human trafficking**, defined as coercion into sex work or labor.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which rates anti-trafficking efforts of countries worldwide with a **tier 1** to **tier 3** ranking, said the U.S. complies with the minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**, but that improvements are needed.

"Trafficking in persons can occur in many licit and illicit industries or markets, including in brothels, massage parlors, street prostitution, hotel services, hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health and elder care, and domestic service, among others," the report said.

While the U.S. does more than many other countries to combat human trafficking, Bangkok-based EPCAT International published a report in March saying the U.S. is only making "some progress" in protecting children from sex trafficking.

And while the State Department report focuses on the federal government's anti-trafficking efforts, a number of U.S. states fail to provide victims -- both children and adults -- with the full legal protection that activists say they need.

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Activist groups are also pushing more states to implement "vacating conviction" laws - the majority of states have not yet done so -- which ensure that sex trafficking victims are not treated as criminals and that prostitution convictions be expunged from their records.

"Trafficked persons are rarely recognized as victims by the police and prosecutors, and are thus pressured into pleading guilty and/or do not understand the consequences of the charges," according to the website of the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center.

Multiple arrests, incarceration, police violence, deportation and social stigma are just a few of the barriers faced by those who have been forced into prostitution, the site said.

Crystal DeBoise, co-director of the Sex Workers Project, said criminalizing sex work, which is punishable by incarceration in the U.S., spurs it to go underground, and argued that the more secret the location, the less access health workers and others will be able to help potential trafficking victims.

Others say that stopping demand for commercial sex is the key to halting trafficking.

The report also noted allegations last year, brought to light in a New Yorker article that made international waves, that tens of thousands of workers from Fiji and elsewhere recruited by U.S. government subcontractors were tricked

into working in war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. They were forced to live in squalid conditions resembling indentured servitude while working on U.S. bases, according to U.S. media reports.

And in another horrific case that came to light last year, authorities charged two Ukrainian brothers with smuggling young Ukrainian men and women to the U.S. and forcing the illegal immigrants to work long hours for little or no pay. The brothers used threats and force, including rape, to keep them from fleeing.

The report added that non-governmental organizations noted "increasing reports" of children recruited into criminal activity at the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as traveling sales crews peddling rings that used forced labor.

In another shortcoming, state and federal funding for victim services decreased since last year, the report said.

The report made a number of recommendations for the U.S. including improving data collection and analysis on human trafficking, offering comprehensive victim services to all victims and increasing outreach to local, federal and state law enforcement.

Some experts contend that the U.S. is the only developed country in which its own citizens comprise a disproportionately large chunk of victims, although precise figures on the number of victims are difficult to nail down.

Also notable in this year's report is that Thailand, which was placed on the tier 2 watch list for the last two years, escaped a downgrade to tier three, as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton granted the Southeast Asian nation a waiver on grounds that it has penned a new anti-trafficking plan and is "devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan."

Meanwhile, neighboring Myanmar, which previously held a tier 3 ranking, the lowest possible, was upgraded to tier 2 watch list. While the government has failed to meet the minimum standards, it is making "significant efforts" to comply, the report said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

106 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Xinhua General News Service

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 1:17 AM EST

U.S. human trafficking cases slipping through cracks: report

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 633 words

DATELINE: by Matthew Rusling WASHINGTON June 20

Cases of human trafficking are rarely prosecuted in the U.S. despite a recent surge of federal and state laws aimed at combating modern day slavery, a report released Wednesday found.

Researchers from the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center and Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice found that police, prosecutors, judges, juries, and government officials lack awareness of human trafficking law and do not consider such cases a priority.

As a result, many cases are overlooked by state and federal legal systems.

"Our study showed that our legal systems are further concealing the nature and prevalence of these crimes," said the Urban Institute's Colleen Owens, adding that law enforcement and prosecutors "unintentionally reinforce the idea that human trafficking is not a problem in the United States."

The researchers analyzed data from 140 closed human trafficking cases in 12 counties nationwide, reviewed 530 incident reports of related crimes and interviewed 166 law enforcement officials, prosecutors and service providers.

They found that only 7 percent of cases resulted in a state or federal sex trafficking charge, 9 percent in a sex trafficking of a minor charge, and 2 percent in a labor trafficking charge.

The study also found that high rates of trafficking victims are being arrested, including minors, and illegal migrant victims are being deported, despite federal legal protections.

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They also lack victim support services, such as safe housing, and in some instances police harbored negative views of victims, the study found.

State prosecutors have difficulty pursuing trafficking cases because they lack legal precedent and because there are no incentives to pursue trafficking cases.

In some cases, they are unaware of their states' anti-trafficking laws, and often believe victims lack credibility because they are undocumented migrants or runaways.

Prosecutors also have a hard time getting victims to cooperate due to fear, intimidation, or trauma and lack training in using their states' laws to litigate and investigate cases.

Owens said the findings are not nationally representative, "so we can't project those findings on the entire country."

The report comes a day after the U.S. State Department released its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which gives nations worldwide a ranking -- **tier 1** is the best and **tier 3** is the worst -- for their efforts in combating trafficking.

While it received a **tier 1** rating -- the highest possible -- activist groups said the U.S. often fails to protect victims of **human trafficking**, defined as coercion into sex work or labor.

And while the State Department report focuses on the federal government's anti-trafficking efforts, a number of U.S. states fail to provide victims -- both children and adults -- with the full legal protection that activists say they need.

According to the anti-trafficking group Polaris Project, 42 states lack "safe harbor" laws, which recognize that minors trafficked into commercial sex are victims and prevent them from being prosecuted for prostitution.

Activist groups are also pushing more states to implement "vacating conviction" laws -- the majority of states have not yet done so -- which ensure that sex trafficking victims are not treated as criminals and that prostitution convictions be expunged from their records.

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107 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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June 20, 2012 Wednesday 1:17 AM EST

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SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

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"Trafficking in persons can occur in many licit and illicit industries or markets, including in brothels, massage parlors, street prostitution, hotel services, hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health and elder care, and domestic service, among others," the report said.

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Meanwhile, neighboring Myanmar, which previously held a tier 3 ranking, the lowest possible, was upgraded to tier 2 watch list. While the government has failed to meet the minimum standards, it is making "significant efforts" to comply, the report said.

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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108 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Africa News

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

United States, Canada and Africa; Amb. Cdebaca On 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: United States Department of State (Washington, DC)

LENGTH: 4048 words

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in - very much in keeping with the - this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing - there was still a war to fight and win - it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal - a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much - while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own

country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those **tiers** are **Tiers** 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who - within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them

learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how - what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state - basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is - was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they - and they've been in existence for several years - had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue - the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we - most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras - that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking - excuse me - but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year - and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a - that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's - that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the - now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask - and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it - but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and -

QUESTION: Could you give numbers -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because -

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically - can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world - excuse me - these are victims identified by governments in the last year - has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards - and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that -as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know - I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same - 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some - the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also - excuse me - that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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109 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 19, 2012 Tuesday 10:22 PM GMT

Syria added to US trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 269 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 19 2012

The United States on Tuesday added Syria to a **blacklist** of countries failing to abide by conventions barring **human trafficking** and slavery, a move which leads to sanctions and cuts in US aid.

"The government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said.

It voiced particular concerns about Filipina maids being sent to Syria via Dubai who were vulnerable to "conditions of forced labor" and to allegations reported by the United Nations that the Syrian opposition was using child soldiers.

US officials had not been able to fully assess the situation on the ground due to fierce fighting in the 15-month conflict, as the opposition seeks to oust President Bashar al-Assad, the report said.

But some 95 Filipina domestic workers were believed to have been trapped in the cities of Homs and Hama which have come under attack from the regime forces, and the government made no effort to help their embassy free them.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that some economically desperate Syrian children are subjected to conditions of forced labor within the country, particularly by organized street begging rings," the report added.

While some Syrian women and girls were being forced into prostitution in neighboring Lebanon, it said.

Syria's designation on tier 3, the bottom of the ranking system, means the US administration could withhold non-humanitarian aid from October 1 and Syria could face US opposition to aid from bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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110 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

June 19, 2012 Tuesday 08:45 PM GMT

US adds Syria to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 684 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Tuesday added Syria to the list of countries that could face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat trafficking. Sixteen other nations were included among those not even making significant efforts to meet minimum standards, while Venezuela and Myanmar were among those removed from the group of worst offenders.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department said that Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime fails to investigate and punish offenses or offer protective services to victims. It says thousands of women, from countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Somalia, have been trafficked into forced labor and prostitution in Syria after being falsely recruited by employment agencies as domestic servants.

Traffickers in Syria particularly prey on Syria's large Iraqi refugee population, said the report, which analyzed conditions in more than 180 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many term modern-day slavery. The State Department says up to 27 million men, women and children may live in such bondage around the world.

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

Seventeen countries in all were included in the worst-offending group of countries not reaching minimum international standards to fight the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims, and not making any significant effort to do so. That's down from 23 last year. More than 40 other nations were placed on a watch list that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

Venezuela still doesn't fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, but is now making an important effort, the report said. President Hugo Chavez's government has clashed repeatedly with Washington over the last decade, but it was commended it for strengthening anti-trafficking laws, undertaking public information campaigns and training law enforcement and borders personnel in prevention.

"However, prosecution and conviction efforts appeared to remain weak, and specialized victim services were lacking," said the report, which included Venezuela on the U.S. watch list. The efforts of Nicaragua, another Latin America country with a leftist government that has been at odds with the U.S., also were recognized. It joined the list of countries in full compliance.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, was urged to continue with its "unprecedented steps" to address trafficking after long being considered among the world's worst respector of labor rights.

Luis CdeBaca, U.S. ambassador-at-large for human trafficking issues, said Burma's status was upgraded after the government repealed an antiquated law that had been used to justify forced labor and replaced it with a law expressly for-

bidding the practice. The government made progress identifying and helping victims, and a national trafficking hotline introduced in September has led to the rescue of 57 victims.

Nevertheless, the report said many Burmese men, women and children traveling abroad for work are subjected to forced labor or sex trafficking, as trafficking by both private individuals and government officials "continues to be a significant problem." The military conscripts child soldiers and is the leading perpetrator of forced labor within the country, particularly in conflict-prone ethnic areas.

Beyond Syria, the blacklist includes Algeria, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

U.S. NATO ally Portugal was dropped from the top tier into the list of countries not quite reaching minimum standards, while Israel was promoted to the top group.

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111 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CNN Wire

June 19, 2012 Tuesday 9:04 PM EST

Trafficking report spotlights slavery efforts

BYLINE: By Simon Rushton, CNN

LENGTH: 672 words

DATELINE: (CNN)

(CNN) -- The annual Trafficking in Persons Report -- the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts -- was published Tuesday by the U.S. State Department.

It identifies countries that the U.S. says meet minimum standards of anti-trafficking efforts, countries working towards them and countries that appear to be doing little to stop trafficking.

The report is compiled with the help of U.S. embassies, non-governmental organizations, aid groups and individuals around the world.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said: "Ultimately, this report reminds us of the human cost of this crime. Traffickers prey on the hopes and dreams of those seeking a better life and our goal should be to put those hopes and dreams back within reach, whether it's getting a good job to send money home, to support a family, trying to get an education for one's self or for one's children or simply pursuing new opportunities that might lead to a better life.

"We need to ensure that all survivors have that opportunity to move past what they endured and to make the most of their potential."

Each country is put into one of four grades - Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier Two Watch and Tier Three. Tier 1 is achieved by reaching minimum anti-trafficking standards and it does not highlight countries doing above and beyond the minimum.

For the first time in 11 years Myanmar has been promoted from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch. The report says Myanmar is primarily a source country for trafficking to other Asia countries, but there are still significant domestic trafficking problems and children can be conscripted into the national army.

It recommends Myanmar demobilizes child soldiers and focuses more attention on domestic sex trafficking of women and children.

The Czech Republic -the only country last year to slip out of the top-ranked countries - regained its Tier 1 status having introduced a series of anti-trafficking laws and securing successful trafficking convictions.

Iceland, Israel and Nicaragua were also promoted to Tier 1.

Portugal, however, was downgraded to Tier 2 because while new laws and initiatives were introduced, there was no evidence it was leading to prison sentences for the majority of convicted traffickers.

Nigeria and Bosnia-Herzegovina also fell out of the top-ranked countries.

Kenya was downgraded to **Tier 2** Watch because it did not show evidence of increasing efforts to combat **human trafficking**.

Syria -- with its ongoing violent conflict -- was the only country relegated into Tier 3. The report said the lack of security made it difficult to check anti-trafficking measures.

Before the unrest Syria was primarily a destination country for trafficked women and children. The report found the unrest had put more people at risk from traffickers, particularly vulnerable segments of the population like Iraqi refugees.

The Tip Report's ranking system is largely dependent on the amount of work being done by the national government rather than non-government or international organizations.

It includes counting known cases of human trafficking in more than 175 countries, whether for commercial sex, bonded labor, child labor, involuntary domestic servitude or child soldiers. And it tracks new legislation, prosecutions and convictions.

Tier 1 ranking indicates a government has acknowledged the existence of **human trafficking**, has made efforts to address the problem, and meets minimum standards.

Tier 2 is countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Tier 2 watch is countries where governments do not fully meet minimum standards, and although they may be making significant efforts the country has a particularly large number of victims, or is not providing evidence of its efforts.

Tier 3 is countries that do not fully comply with minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Tier 3 countries face the possibility of US sanctions because of their poor **human trafficking** record.

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112 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, HOLDS A STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING
VIA TELECONFERENCE ON THE 2012 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

EVENT DATE: June 19, 2012

TYPE: NEWS BRIEFING

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER: LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,

WITNESSES:

AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS PATRICK VENTRELL, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

TEXT:

VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in -- very much in keeping with the -- this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing -- there was still a war to fight and win -- it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal -- a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer

today. This is very much -- while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those **tiers are Tiers** 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who -- within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the front lines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now,

through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long- form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question- and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how -- what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state -- basically state- sponsored forced labor that arises from and is -- was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they -- and they've been in existence for several years -- had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue -- the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she

was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we -- most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras -- that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking -- excuse me -- but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

CDEBACA: Oh, OK. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year -- and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a -- that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's -- that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the -- now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask -- and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it -- but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could...

CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and...

QUESTION: Could you give numbers...

CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because...

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically -- can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world -- excuse me -- these are victims identified by governments in the last year -- has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards -- and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

CDEBACA: So it's not something that -- as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know -- I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same -- 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some -- the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also -- excuse me -- that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

CDEBACA: Thank you all.

END

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June 19, 2012 Tuesday

**State Department Conference Call Subject: Trafficking in Persons Report
Briefer: Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
in Persons, State Department Moderator: Patrick Ventrell, Spokesperson, State
Department Time: 3:04 p.m. EDT Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2012**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

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PATRICK VENTRELL: Hi and good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, who is our ambassador-at-large and director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m.

Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions.

So without further ado, over to Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA: Thank you. And welcome, everyone.

This afternoon Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Undersecretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protection Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton administration's signature anti-slavery achievement, continued and intensified by the Bush administration, and now taken to the next level by the Obama administration.

We see the trafficking-in-persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy, and in -- very much in keeping with the -- this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing, there was still a war to fight and win, it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery, continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today.

This is very much -- while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the three-P paradigm, in which we look at the prevention, protection and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an

issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime, or a civil rights crime, as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country, it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor; if the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations. And we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we are looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go, and this report this year, looking at the promise of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counterintuitively, those **tiers** are **tiers** one through three, but that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **tier** one which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **tier** two, a country that is not yet compliant, but is taking great strides; **tier** two **watch list**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **tier** three; and **tier** three, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on tier three 17 countries; on tier two watch list, 42 countries; on tier two, 93 countries; and on tier one, 33 countries. A hundred and eighty-six countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight. Particularly, a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice.

Heroes. Much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leads them to be singled out as heroes of the fight. And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work. We've seen the people who -- within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity.

We also see people who are on the front lines. One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry.

All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks, with that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official legal outlawing of this practice, is not something for the history books; it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries.

And I think that it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is, so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long- form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen, with the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International, that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this, who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling up on you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time we will begin the question- and-answer session. (Gives queuing instructions.)

Our first question today is from Joshua Leipps (sp). Your line is open.

Q: Hi, Ambassador CdeBaca. Thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how -- what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 watch list this year.

AMB. CDEBACA: You know, one of the things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see within Burma of, say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state -- basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is -- was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks in -- as everything from porters for the military to, you know, working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There's a good interministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese government's inability to work with other governments around the world. But they -- and they've been in existence for several years -- had worked within that constraints to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims, and most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law, so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the government of Burma on but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll say one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the long- standing and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy- building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue -- the issues of forced labor. The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hordes of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse.

The next place that she went, when she went to Europe, was to address the ILO.

This is a woman who, even when she was under house arrest, sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we -- most of us know as a democracy activist. But many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague and, frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that

her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

Q: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you.

Luis Cilanzo (ph), your line is open.

Q: Yes, hi, good afternoon, many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you with -- about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm the -- whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in tier 1. Thank you.

AMB. CDEBACA: Of course. You know, I think that there is a trend in Latin America that it's improving its efforts. Part of this, perhaps, comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward. But I think we've also seen political will.

The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras -- that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may be in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic. We saw the government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that in -- at first, they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues, and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work and, through political will, started putting together the structures in place. And so, as a result, we've seen convictions for not only -- (inaudible, audio interference) -- trafficking -- (coughs) -- excuse me -- but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic: the conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **tier 1** in the "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," and we see this as a improvement over previous years. This year the government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. You know, just look back to 2009 when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims, and I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the government of Nicaragua.

Q: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you.

Luciene Eliel (ph), your line is open.

Q: Hi, yes, I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that. And also, about the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMB. CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again; I didn't hear it very well.

Q: Yes, it's Luciene Eliel (ph) from SA.

AMB. CDEBACA: Oh, OK, hi, Luciene (ph). You know, I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of, on the one hand, increased public awareness: you know, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. You know, those typically, you know, will have an impact.

And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings, we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly, 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you

know, for us that's one of the most important things, is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year -- and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so, and this year we saw the National Assembly adopting a reform, you know, that's looking at this. This is actually a reform of the organized crime law, but one of the things that we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthen the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the National Assembly, and I think that that's -- you know, that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things we looked at and, when we did the analysis, came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special-case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the -- now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from (an elected ?) administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So, you know, in looking at that, we always look to see, you know, what's the situation on the ground; is there political stability, are the courts functioning? While there are still some, you know, remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, you know, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special-case category.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hijung Ying (ph). Your line is open.

Q: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particularly different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the third **tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMB. CDEBACA: Well, you know, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is again this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean -- often men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places.

And of course, you know, with most countries when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave. So we continue to see the situation of forced labor human trafficking in North Korea as very grave.

The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report.

That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of, you know, were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis, but it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

Q: Thank you.

AMB. CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. the next question is from Indira Lachsman (ph). Your line is open.

Q: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask -- and I apologize if you addressed at the very top of the briefing, because I missed it, but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And can you give a number --

AMB. CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question. And I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again because --

Q: OK. Can I just ask, specifically can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now, while you answer that question?

AMB. CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again. And like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world -- (clearing his throat) -- excuse me -- these are victims identified by governments in the last year -- have increased by 28 percent. In 2011 it was 33,113; in 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28-percent increase.

Convictions are also up by 10 percent, from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline. This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated, as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated.

So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers -- (audio break).

I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked?

Q: Mmm hmm. (Affirmative.)

AMB. CDEBACA: This year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked. Somalia was not. This year Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards -- and I'd caution you that that's not saying the countries are doing a great job on this. It's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

Q: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out --

AMB. CDEBACA: Right.

Q: -- when you said the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMB. CDEBACA: You know, I don't really count that way. So, you know, it's not something that, you know -- as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is. I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they had been.

Q: OK.

AMB. CDEBACA: You know, Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger, with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tier 1 and Tier 2 watch lists are basically the same, 33 in Tier 1, last year was 32; Tier 2 watch list is 42, last year was 41; and Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23; this year it's 17. So there's a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws, it means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think -- you know, the beginnings, I think, of a real trend.

And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also -- that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, you know, that is, I think, a very positive step.

Q: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMB. CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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My Republica

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

Ministry urges proper implementation of human trafficking laws

LENGTH: 215 words

DATELINE: KATHMANDU

KATHMANDU, June 19 -- The government has urged one and all to cooperate from their respective capacities for the enforcement of rules and policies related to public awareness and social reform programs against trafficking in persons.

Organizing a press conference in the capital on Tuesday, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has requested all the bodies concerned for the help to implement the National Action Plan -2068 against Trafficking in Women and Children.

Ministry's Secretary Balananda Poudel stressed the need of all-side support and cooperation to combat the human trafficking.

According to information shared by Secretary Poudel, Nepal is in the forefront regarding the human trafficking cases.

Implementation of available laws and acts against the human trafficking was not effective, he said, expressing commitments to provide care and protection to the victims of human trafficking.

A report **Tier -2** on **trafficking in persons** published from the US also reflects that implementation of rules and policies against **human trafficking** in Nepal was not satisfactory, he added. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Republica. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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June 19, 2012 Tuesday

US Adds Syria to Human Trafficking Blacklist

LENGTH: 66 words

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The Obama administration added Syria to the list of countries that could face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat trafficking. 16 other nations were included among those not even making significant efforts to meet minimum standards. (June 19) Powered by www.newslook.com

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DUPLICATE

States News Service

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

2012 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 4059 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Special Briefing

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Via Teleconference

Washington, DC

June 19, 2012

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. Im pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Todays conference call is on the record. Hes going to discuss the release of this years Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administrations signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in very much in keeping with the this years 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing there was still a war to fight and win it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much while we call it human trafficking, its kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those tiers are Tiers 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they and they've been in existence for several years had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether its the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking excuse me but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether its American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the

things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and

QUESTION: Could you give numbers

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world excuse me these are victims identified by governments in the last year has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was

42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that were seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also excuse me that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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117 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

BURMA, VIETNAM IMPROVE ON TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1404 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

New laws aid the countries' anti-trafficking efforts, according to a new U.S. report.

Courtesy of U.S. State Department

In an undated photo, a Cambodian policeman escorts 30 trafficked fishermen returning from Indonesia after being freed.

Burma and Vietnam have been upgraded from their low rankings in an annual U.S. report on human trafficking as the two countries were highlighted Tuesday for taking effective steps to check the scourge.

Burma was cited for repealing an antiquated law used to justify forced labor and replacing it with a legislation expressly forbidding the practice while Vietnam received praise for introducing a sweeping law to check human smuggling.

North Korea continued to languish in a **blacklist** for its forced labor and **human trafficking**, with the situation in the impoverished and nuclear-armed nation described as "very grave."

China remained on the so-called Tier 2 watchlist, for countries in danger of falling down to the Tier 3 blacklist. **Tier 3** countries do not comply with any of the minimum standards required to contain the **human trafficking** problem and are not working towards that goal.

Burma

Burma this year improved to the **Tier 2 watchlist**, after being ranked **Tier 3** since the report was first compiled in 2001, due to steps taken by the new nominally civilian government to keep citizens away from **human trafficking** syndicates abroad.

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca said that the State Department had been particularly concerned in recent years by "state-sponsored forced labor" in Burma which had been allowed to continue under the 1907 Villages and Towns Acts.

"What we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and, frankly, unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms," he said.

"We've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who have come back from other countries, we've seen the inauguration of a new hotline which has led to the rescue of 57 victims, and most important, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there is no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma."

The report also applauded the government for beginning to address the "systemic political and economic factors" that cause many Burmese to seek employment through both legal and illegal means in neighboring countries, where some become victims of trafficking.

But trafficking within Burma by both government officials and private actors continues to be a problem, it said, and military personnel and militant insurgents conscripting children are the leading perpetrators of forced labor in the country.

"The climate of impunity and repression and the government's lack of accountability in forced labor and the recruitment of child soldiers represent the top casual factors for Burma's significant trafficking problem," the report said.

The Burmese government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the State Department said, but "it is making significant steps to do so."

CdeBaca also praised the work of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in combating human trafficking and forced labor in the country, noting that after travel restrictions were lifted against her, the Nobel Laureate first went to Thailand to address abuse against Burmese migrant workers housed in camps across the border.

Vietnam

Vietnam's upgrade to Tier 2 from the Tier 2 watchlist last year was based on the country's new "comprehensive" anti-trafficking law, which was adopted in March 2011 and took effect in January this year.

In 2011, the government finalized and disseminated a five-year national action plan on human trafficking, which covers all forms of trafficking and coordinates the government's anti-trafficking responses through a national steering committee.

The report noted that trafficking-related corruption appeared to continue at the local level in Vietnam, where officials at border crossings and checkpoints took bribes from traffickers and, at times, opted not to intervene on victims' behalf when family relationships existed between traffickers and victims.

A lack of financial resources, trained personnel, poorly coordinated enforcement, and an obsolete legal structure all remain obstacles to greater progress in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, it said.

China

China remained on the Tier 2 watchlist for the eighth consecutive year in the report, which cited forced prison labor, abduction of children for forced begging and thievery, and involuntary servitude of children, migrant workers, and abductees.

"The Chinese government made minimal efforts to prevent trafficking in persons during the reporting period," the report said.

China was "granted a waiver of an otherwise required downgrade to Tier 3," it said, because its government has a written plan that would demonstrate a significant effort to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, if implemented.

The report said trafficking is most pronounced among China's internal migrant population, which is estimated to exceed 221 million people.

"Forced labor remains a problem, including in brick kilns, coal mines, and factories, some of which operate illegally and take advantage of lax labor supervision," it said.

Cambodia

Cambodia, meanwhile, remained a Tier 2 country, based on what the report described as a lack of government progress in prosecuting human traffickers and protecting trafficking victims.

"Endemic corruption at all levels continued to impede anti-trafficking endeavors and local observers believe it to be the cause of impunity afforded to firms engaging in illegal recruitment practices that contribute to trafficking," the report said.

It also noted that the country's "weak and corrupt" judicial and law enforcement systems, lengthy legal processes, credible fears of retaliation, and the lack of witness protection and access to resources continued to hinder victims' willingness to cooperate in cases.

But the State Department acknowledged "significant progress" in the government's efforts to combat the transnational labor trafficking of Cambodians.

North Korea

The report kept North Korea at the lowest ranking, citing estimates that as many of 70 percent of the thousands of undocumented North Korean refugees in China are females, many of whom are trafficking victims.

Pyongyang also uses forced labor and recruits citizens to work abroad for North Korean entities, often withholding their wages until they return home.

Most commonly, women and girls from one of North Korea's poorest border areas cross into China and are then sold and re-sold as "brides."

North Korea's government does not acknowledge the existence of human trafficking either within its own borders or trans-nationally and actively punishes trafficking victims for acts they commit as a direct result of being trafficked, the report said.

CdeBaca said that the U.S. continues to see the situation of forced labor and human trafficking in North Korea as "very grave."

"With most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, and the employers," he said.

"When North Korea sends workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave."

Laos

The TIP report maintained Laos at Tier 2, citing "significant" efforts by the government to fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking.

Laos stepped up efforts to investigate trafficking offenses and to prosecute and punish traffickers, it said.

But trafficking laws do not fully protect all victims, the report said, adding that neither proactive identification measures nor systematic monitoring efforts were implemented during the current year.

It said inefficiencies within the Lao bureaucracy delayed approvals for nongovernmental organizations to implement anti-trafficking projects and that the prime minister has yet to approve a final draft of the anti-trafficking national plan of action.

The United Nations has said human trafficking remains the second largest illegal trade next to drugs, with traffickers earning tens of billions of U.S. dollars annually. It also estimated that 2.5 million trafficked people worldwide come from the Asia-Pacific region.

Reported by Joshua Lipen.

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118 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
States News Service

June 19, 2012 Tuesday

OBAMA ADMIN. AGAIN REFUSES TO HOLD CHINA ACCOUNTABLE FOR RAMPANT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 661 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith:

The Obama Administration's failure to hold China accountable for its atrocious **human trafficking** violations in this year's annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report was called "shameful" and a "dereliction of duty" by Chris Smith, the lawmaker who wrote the first-ever U.S. law to combat trafficking in 2000 and whose law created the annual report with its **tier** ranking system (Public Law 106-386).

Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), author of the landmark the Trafficking Victims and Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as well as subsequent laws to adapt and strengthen the TVPA, said he was "appalled" that China was given a political waiver despite its rampant and growing problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls.

"China has remained on the **'Watch List'** for eight years now, evading a downgrade to **Tier 3**-and sanctions-by stringing this President along with empty promises," said Smith, who chairs the House subcommittee that oversees human rights and co-chairs the Congressional **Human Trafficking** Caucus. "Congress could not have been more clear that the **Tier 2 Watch List** was not meant to be a sanctuary for countries that fail to address-or themselves commit-the atrocious human rights abuses of **human trafficking**."

The report contains the litany of trafficking crimes perpetrated in China including forced labor of children and of the disabled in brick kilns, repatriation of North Korean trafficking victims, the trafficking of women and children from surrounding countries for sexual exploitation, and the trafficking magnet effect of China's one-child policy, which, coupled with a cultural preference for sons, creates a skewed sex ratio in China. According to the report, the one-child policy is a key cause of trafficking of foreign women as brides for Chinese men and for forced prostitution. China's own statistics show a substantial increase in the number of women trafficked to China in 2011.

"China was granted a waiver last year because its government allegedly had a 'written plan that, if implemented, would constitute a significant effort to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards' and it was allegedly 'devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan'- it is the exact same story this year, except for that we still do not know the contents of the plan and its release has been postponed yet again," Smith said. "Where are the results? When will the Administration say that enough is enough?"

In the most recent reauthorization of the TVPA, Congress decided that no country should be allowed to skirt sanctions on the Tier 2 Watch List for more than two years. This year, 2012, represents the second year that the limit was put to the test.

"Our obligation is to the victims of trafficking, not the dictatorship, as I have stressed in the past," Smith said.

The report showed good news in other parts of the world, with an overall increase for 2011 in the number of traffickers convicted (3,969) and the number of victims identified (42,291) ([Click Here to Read the 2012 Report](#)).

This year's report evaluated 186 countries, 28 of which were upgraded in the tier rankings. Fourteen countries were downgraded this year-including three previous Tier 1 countries. Bosnia Herzegovina, Nigeria, and Portugal were downgraded to Tier 2 this year, underscoring the importance of consistent implementation of anti-trafficking laws.

"It is not enough to have good laws on the books here or anywhere else," said Smith. "They must be funded and implemented in order to meet the minimum standards of combating human trafficking."

Notably, no additional countries were downgraded to Tier 3 this year.

In addition to the original 2000 law which provided for the annual reports, Smith wrote two subsequent anti-trafficking laws (PL 108-193 and PL 109-164) increasing resources for crime prevention and expanding treatment assistance for victims.

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119 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Briefing on 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

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2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

Special Briefing

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Via Teleconference

Washington, DC

June 19, 2012

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in -- very much in keeping with the -- this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing -- there was still a war to fight and win -- it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal -- a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much -- while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those **tiers** are **Tiers** 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who -- within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how -- what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state -- basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is -- was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they -- and they've been in existence for several years -- had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue -- the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we -- most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras -- that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking -- excuse me -- but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year -- and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a -- that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the

things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's -- that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the -- now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask -- and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it -- but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and --

QUESTION: Could you give numbers --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because --

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically -- can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world -- excuse me -- these are victims identified by governments in the last year -- has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by govern-

ments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards -- and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that -- as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know -- I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same -- 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some -- the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also -- excuse me -- that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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2012 Trafficking in Persons Report

Special Briefing

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Via Teleconference

Washington, DC

June 19, 2012

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in -- very much in keeping with the -- this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing -- there was still a war to fight and win -- it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal -- a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much -- while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those **tiers** are **Tiers** 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is **Tier 1** which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat **trafficking in persons**; **Tier 2**, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; **Tier 2 Watch List**, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to **Tier 3**; and **Tier 3**, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who -- within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how -- what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state -- basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is -- was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they -- and they've been in existence for several years -- had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue -- the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we -- most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras -- that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking -- excuse me -- but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year -- and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a -- that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the

things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's -- that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the -- now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask -- and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it -- but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and --

QUESTION: Could you give numbers --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because --

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically -- can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

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QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

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AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that -- as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know -- I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same -- 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

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OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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And Secretary Clinton will honor 10 such heroes today, those people from countries around the world, from Argentina, to the United States, from Mauritania to Israel, from Greece to the Republic of the Congo. We see people who have done the cutting-edge legal work; we've seen the people who - within government who have brought their government colleagues together to uncover human trafficking cases, to take a stand against official complicity. We also see people who are on the frontlines.

One of the honorees today is a nun who works with human trafficking victims in the Sinai. Another of the heroes that we honor today is a young man who was enslaved for three years on the fishing fleet in Southeast Asia and now, through his art and other activities, is raising awareness of the fact of labor exploitation in the fishing industry. All of these people are heroes, most notably the hero from Mauritania, a woman who was the first female lawyer in that country, and in the last five years has been able to obtain legislation for the first time outlawing slavery in Mauritania.

And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, we will begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly at the prompt. Once again, please press *1 if you would like to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how - what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state - basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is - was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they - and they've been in existence for several years - had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

As a result, we've seen improved victim protection measures for victims who've come back from other countries. We've seen the inauguration of a new hotline, which has led to the rescue of 57 victims. And most importantly, this notion of repealing that antiquated law so there's no longer state-sponsored forced labor that is legal in Burma. This is something that not only the United States has worked with the Government of Burma on, but also the International Labor Organization, and I think you may be familiar with some announcements that the ILO made last week as far as that was concerned.

I'll tell you one last thing on Burma, and that is that one of the things I think that many people report on as far as Burma is the longstanding and heroic work that Aung San Suu Kyi has done for democracy building in that country, but people often tend to forget her activism on the issue of human trafficking, on her issue - the issues of forced labor.

The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we - most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras - that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking - excuse me - but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year - and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a - that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's - that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the - now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask - and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it - but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and -

QUESTION: Could you give numbers -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because -

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically - can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world - excuse me - these are victims identified by governments in the last year - has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers

have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that countries are meeting the minimum standards - and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that - as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know - I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same - 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some - the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also - excuse me - that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all.

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122 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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June 19, 2012 Tuesday 2:36 AM EST

2012 U.S. Department Of State's Trafficking In Persons Report Released

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 543 words

DATELINE: ABUJA, Nigeria

The U.S. Diplomatic Mission issued the following news release:

On June 19, 2012 U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton released the Department of State's annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report in a public event in Washington, D.C. In the 2012 TIP Report, Nigeria was downgraded from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2** status because the Government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. While the National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is doing well, it cannot be done without increased support and resources from the Nigerian government. The U.S. continues to support the work of NAPTIP and Nigeria's return to Tier 1 status through continued collaboration and joint training programs.

The Nigerian government has been urged among other remedial measures to ensure the activities of NAPTIP are funded sufficiently, particularly for prosecuting trafficking offenders and providing adequate care for victims; increase investigations and prosecutions of labor trafficking offenses, and convictions and punishments of labor trafficking offenses; and impose adequate sentences on convicted trafficking offenders, including imprisonment when appropriate.

TIP Report Background: The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual Report to Congress. The goal of this Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. The United States Government approach to combating human trafficking follows the TVPA and the standards set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (commonly known as the "Palermo Protocol"). The TVPA and the Palermo Protocol recognize that the crime of human trafficking includes obtaining or maintaining victims' labor or services (including in the "sex industry") through force, fraud, or coercion, whether overt or through psychological manipulation. Both the TVPA and the Palermo Protocol focus on the exploitation of the victim, and do not require that the victim be moved to be considered trafficked.

Countries determined to be a country of origin, transit, or destination for at least two victims of severe forms of trafficking are included in the Report and assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as fully complying with the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance are classified as Tier 3. The TVPA Minimum Standards are generally consistent with the UN TIP Protocol.

The report can be read in full at the U.S. Embassy's website: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

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123 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
US Fed News

June 19, 2012 Tuesday 12:10 PM EST

2012 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

LENGTH: 4091 words

WASHINGTON, June 19 -- The U.S. Department of State issued the following transcript of remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State:

MR. VENTRELL: Hi. And good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. I'm pleased to introduce Ambassador Luis CdeBaca who is our Ambassador-At-Large and Director of our Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Today's conference call is on the record. He's going to discuss the release of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, which the Secretary will introduce at 4:00 p.m. Having said that, this call and all of its contents are embargoed until the Secretary finishes speaking at approximately 4:30 p.m. But this will give a chance for Ambassador CdeBaca to give you a preview and answer some of your questions. So without further ado, over to you, Mr. Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, and welcome, everyone. This afternoon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and I will be unveiling the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report. This is a statutorily mandated report that comes out of the Victims of Trafficking Protections Act of the year 2000, which was the Clinton Administration's signature antislavery achievement continued and intensified by the Bush Administration and now taken to the next level by the Obama Administration.

We see the trafficking in persons issue and the bipartisan consensus against human trafficking to be something that is in keeping with the core United States values, both as far as how we conceive of ourselves as a nation and how we do our foreign policy and in - very much in keeping with the - this year's 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22nd of this year, we will observe the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln declaring to the world that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist. And while that was not self-executing - there was still a war to fight and win - it resulted in the ending of legalized slavery in the United States.

But this promise of freedom, the notion of the universal right to be free, the notion of a universal - a requirement to fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery continues into the modern era, and it is that call that we answer today. This is very much - while we call it human trafficking, it's kind of the new and modern term for an old evil. This is truly what President Obama has called the intolerable yoke of modern slavery.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report analyzes countries from around the world by looking at what the governments are doing against modern slavery. It does so through the 3P paradigm, in which we look at prevention, protection, and prosecution alike, not simply looking at this as a development issue or a public awareness issue, but also an issue of rehabilitation of victims and bringing the traffickers to justice. This is, as the report says this year, a crime first and foremost.

Now, this particular type of crime, a human rights crime or a civil rights crime as it were, is a crime that more countries and more governments are addressing. The report this year notes that the number of convictions globally reported is up from 3,619 last year to 3,969, and those are convictions of traffickers. That is not, however, a large number when one compares that to the global estimates of the victim population. A study released two weeks ago by the International Labor Organization estimates at least 21 million people held in bondage worldwide, and other estimates show it up to 27 million.

Human trafficking, just very quickly, a definitional point: This is not a crime of movement across borders for prostitution, although that is often how people see it. Both under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and under the United Nations Palermo Protocol, the protocol to monitor and combat trafficking in persons from the year 2000, under both of those instruments, trafficking is defined as slavery. It doesn't matter if someone is in their own country; it doesn't matter if they're in sex or if they're in labor. If the person is not free to leave, if the person is unable to

go get another position and is being held through some type of coercive force, that person is considered a trafficking victim, and that person is entitled to the protections that we look to governments to provide.

Now, having said that, we've seen the number of victims identified around the world has increased by almost a third. And this is, again, a very heartening piece of data, because it shows that governments are stepping up and are meeting their obligations, and we are very happy to see that 42,291 trafficking victims were identified and helped in the last year.

The issue, of course, continues to be, as I mentioned earlier, that we're looking at that within the context of almost 27 million people who are enslaved in the world. So there's a long way to go. And this report this year, looking at the problems of freedom and what we can do to deliver on it, is very much a challenge for all countries, the United States included, to address this and to intensify our efforts.

Now, one of the things that the report does each year that you may be familiar with is that it arranges countries onto four tiers. Counter-intuitively, those tiers are Tiers 1 through 3. But that is the magic of the congressional action on this. It is Tier 1 which is a country that is complying with the minimum standards to combat trafficking in persons; Tier 2, a country that is not yet compliant but is taking great strides; Tier 2 Watch List, which is basically a country that is in danger of falling down to Tier 3; and Tier 3, which is a country that is not complying with any of the minimum standards and is not working towards that.

We see this year on Tier 3, 17 countries; on Tier 2 Watch List, 42 countries; on Tier 2, 93 countries; and on Tier 1, 33 countries; 186 countries total appear in the report; 185 of them received rankings under the minimum standards. One of them did not, and that is Somalia, which does not have a functioning government such that we could include it in the report.

I would note, however, that even in Somalia, there are heroes of the anti-trafficking fight, particularly a recent prosecution that was brought in Puntland, shows that even in countries where there is not a functioning government, the legal system and others can work together to bring traffickers to justice. Heroes, much like that prosecutor in Somalia, we see that in this global and modern abolitionist fight, there are people whose commitment and whose excellence and whose innovation leaves them to be singled out as heroes of the fight.

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And I think that that brings us to the conclusion of my remarks. With that, I think, chilling notion that there are countries in the world where the abolition of slavery, the official, legal outlawing of this practice is not something for the history books, it's something within the living memory of the people in those countries. And I think it is a particular challenge as we address this in the modern era.

I will pitch you one thing before I get off and take questions, and that is so much of what is happening on the fight against modern slavery is dependent upon good and solid reporting, and I want to make sure that you know that my office is ready and willing to help you with that. This is an area that actually lends itself well to long-form or investigative reporting, and I think that we've seen with both the longer work and the commitment over the course of a year now that we've seen from CNN International that it's also something that the viewers or the readers very much will respond to. And so we think there's room for everybody, and we are certainly here and will support any of your work as you report on these stories. We're hoping that this isn't just today's news, but something that we can support going forward.

And I will also challenge everybody by saying that one thing that we hear from people in countries around the world is young journalists who want to work on this who look to the American media and others as a resource that can help them learn how to address this and how to investigate this. So we may be calling upon you for more than just press conferences.

Anyway, I'll turn it over for questions at this point. I've got, I think, about 15 minutes where I can answer some questions.

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Our first question today is from Joshua Lipes. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Ambassador CdeBaca, thank you for your introduction. I was wondering if you could comment a little bit on how - what changes in Burma brought about the increase in the rank from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List this year.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of things that we have been very concerned about over the last few years was not simply the human trafficking that we see in Burma of say, for instance, going up to China for sex trafficking or over to Thailand for the labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking, but also the notion of state - basically state-sponsored forced labor that arises from and is - was supported by the 1907 Villages and Towns Act that was being used to justify the forced impressment of villagers and rural folks. And it has everything from porters for the military to working on construction projects and what have you.

And what we've seen over the last year is that the government in Burma has taken a number of significant and frankly unprecedented steps in advancing these reforms. There is a good inter-ministerial working group that had been limited by the Burmese Government's inability to work with other governments around the world, but they - and they've been in existence for several years - had worked within that constraint to actually try to bring on some best practices.

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The first place that she went outside of Burma when she was able to travel again was to the areas in Thailand where hoards of Burmese migrant workers are exploited and abused in the Thai fish processing plants, and she addressed their abuse. The next place that she went when she went to Europe was to address the ILO. This is a woman who even she was under house arrest sent some of the money from her Nobel Prize to Thailand to be able to care for, shelter, and feed Burmese trafficking victims.

So this is a woman who we - most of us know as a democracy activist, but many of us who work on human trafficking also know her as a good friend and colleague, and frankly, an expert in the field of human trafficking. And I think that her ability to take part in the governance of her own country will bode well for the fight against human trafficking in Burma.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Luis Alonso, your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. Hi. Good afternoon. Many thanks for taking this call, Mr. Ambassador. I would like to ask you about Latin America. I see that five countries in the region have improved their tier, and I would like to hear from you whether there is a trend in the region to better fight the traffic of persons. And also, if you could please confirm me whether it's the first time that Nicaragua is placed in Tier 1. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. I think that there is a trend in Latin America that is improving its efforts. Part of this perhaps comes out of the last few years. There's the action plan now with the Organization of American States, and I think that that has been a very positive framework in which countries can find a way forward.

But I think we've also seen political will. The upgrade recently in the country of Honduras - that was legislation that had been stuck for several years. It wasn't that anyone opposed it; it just never really was going anywhere. We worked with the Honduran Government and were able to come up with a way forward on bipartisan legislation that everyone agreed

on for the protection of Hondurans and the protection of others who may in Honduras from labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

So, too, with the Dominican Republic, we saw the Government of the Dominican Republic take on a number of concerns that at first they were a little bit defensive and didn't know what to think about some of these issues and then rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and through political will started putting together the structures in place. And so as a result, we've seen convictions for not only trafficking - excuse me - but also the first labor trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic, a conviction of two people who forced children into begging rings.

Now, you're correct that this is the first year in which Nicaragua has been on **Tier 1** in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and we see this as an improvement over previous years. This year, the Government of Nicaragua convicted nine traffickers. Just look back to 2009, when only two traffickers were brought to justice. This last year, they opened a dedicated shelter for adult human trafficking victims. And I think that's specifically interesting in Central America because so much of the shelter opportunities in Central America are limited to children and are often donor-funded, whether it's American or other religious groups that are taking care of children in Central America. The fact that the Nicaraguan Government stepped up and is putting together services for adult victims was, we think, a very positive step on the part of the Government of Nicaragua.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Lucia Leal, your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi. Yes. I wanted to ask about the decision to remove Venezuela from the Tier 3 part of the report, if you could describe what kind of progress has led to that, and also the removal of Haiti from the category of special cases, please. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Of course. Tell me your name again. I didn't hear it very well.

QUESTION: Yes. It's Lucia Leal from Ese.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Oh, okay. Hi, Lucia.

QUESTION: Hi.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that what we saw with Venezuela this year was the notion of on the one hand increased public awareness, the public information campaigns, trainings of government officials on human trafficking. Those typically will have an impact. And I think that that's what we saw in Venezuela, is that by committing to doing those trainings and by actually being out and doing those trainings we saw that happening.

What were some of the things we saw? Well, one of the main things that we saw was that there were a couple of traffickers convicted, but more importantly 38 trafficking victims were identified and were helped. And of course, as you know, for us, that's one of the most important things is, is a government helping the victims that they find, whether those are Venezuelan nationals or whether those are foreigners who are in Venezuela.

The other thing that we thought was very notable this year - and again, the minimum standards that we apply, Tier 3 is a country that is not meeting the minimum standards and is not trying to do so. And this is the year we saw the national assembly adopting a reform, a - that's looking at this. This is actually a form of the organized crime law, but one of the things we've seen is that they were working with civil society organizations to try to make sure that that law could be brought into place and strengthened the legal reform and legal framework against trafficking.

So we think that that was a very positive step on the part of the national assembly, and I think that that's - that plus the 24-hour hotline and a few of those other things, we looked at. And when we did the analysis came to the conclusion that this was not a Tier 3 country this year.

As far as Haiti is concerned, Haiti has been on the special case category for several years. And one of the things that we saw over the last year is that the - now the governance situation in Haiti is stable and largely peaceful. President Martelly and his government came to power in the first peaceful transition from an elected administration to the opposition, and the reconstruction efforts and development efforts continue to progress.

So in looking at that, we always look to see what's the situation on the ground. Is there political stability? Are the courts functioning? While there are still some remaining issues as far as parliament and the government and the prime minister

and things like this, we see a functioning government now in Haiti at a level that we feel justified bringing them into the report as a ranked country as opposed to on the special case category.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. And the next question is from Hee Jung Yang. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to ask what was the particular different situation regarding North Korea in terms of human trafficking. And also, I would like to ask whether there has been any cases that U.S. Government prohibited North Korea from getting any loan from the IMF and World Bank because it was recorded as the Third **Tier** in terms of **human trafficking** by the State Department's report.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we've seen with North Korea repeatedly over the years is, again, this notion of state-supported forced labor. And we are, of course, concerned not just about forced labor within the country, but also in recent years more and more labor exporting of North Korean, often, men, whether it's into the Middle East, whether it's into especially Russia and other places. And of course, with most countries, when they send workers overseas, it's between the workers, the recruiters, the employers. When the North Koreans send workers overseas, they send the police with them and keep them under surveillance and retaliate against them if they try to fight for their rights or if they try to leave.

So we continue to see the situation of forced labor/human trafficking in North Korea as very grave. The United States is required to vote no in the international financial institutions when countries are on Tier 3 of the trafficking report. That's something, frankly, that the Treasury Department and some others work on, and I don't have an immediate answer for you on that notion of were there votes this year in which the United States voted no on this basis. But it's something that we can look at and we can circle back.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question is from Indira Lakshmanan. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. I wanted to ask - and I apologize if you addressed this at the very top of the briefing because I missed it - but have you gained or lost ground over the last year in the fight on human trafficking? And could -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: That's a wonderful question, and -

QUESTION: Could you give numbers -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I did address it a little bit, but I think it's something I want to address again, because -

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just ask specifically - can you tell us how many countries were upgraded, how many were downgraded, and how many people are in slavery right now while you answer that question?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I can totally do that. I will do that again, and like I said, I'm glad to do it, because I think that these are concepts that we really need to make sure people are hearing.

So the number of identified victims around the world - excuse me - these are victims identified by governments in the last year - has increased by 28 percent. In 2011, it was 33,113. In 2012, the number of identified victims by governments was 42,291. That is a 28 percent increase. Convictions are also up by 10 percent from 3,619 to 3,969. Now, conviction numbers typically lag one or two years behind victim identification and investigation numbers because of how long it takes for cases to go through the pipeline.

This last year we saw 7,909 prosecutions initiated as opposed to the year before, which was 6,017 prosecutions initiated. So we do think that we're seeing some real positive movement as far as those numbers are concerned, but those numbers have to be placed in the context of the overarching number of people who are in modern slavery in the world, and that is, per the ILO, at least 21 million people worldwide. There are other researchers that put that number as high as 27 million.

So I think that's the numbers case. I think the upgrade and downgrade question you had asked, this year there are 186 countries on the report; 185 of them were ranked; Somalia was not. This year, Tier 1 of the report, which says that coun-

tries are meeting the minimum standards - and I'd caution that that's not saying that countries are doing a great job on this; it's simply that they're meeting the minimum.

QUESTION: I actually got those numbers, because you had read them out, the four tiers, but did you have a number of how many were upgraded and how many were downgraded among the categories?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I don't really count that way.

QUESTION: Okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: So it's not something that -as far as kind of what the raw up and down number is, I know - I can tell you how big each of the tiers are compared to how they have been. Tier 2 has gotten a little bit bigger with 93 as opposed to 85 last year. Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 Watch List are basically the same - 33, Tier 1, last year it was 32; Tier 2 Watch List is 42, last year was 41. And Tier 3 is smaller this year by five countries. Last year it was 23, this year is 17.

So there is a little bit of movement up into Tier 2, which means that countries are passing laws. It means that countries are starting to address the situation. They still have a little ways to go, but that's, I think, some - the beginnings, I think, of a real trend. And we also see a number of countries that have prosecuted cases for the first time this year. And so I think that that is also - excuse me - that's something that when you see countries taking that first step, like we saw in Brunei, for instance, like we've seen in Somalia, that is, I think, a very positive step.

QUESTION: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Thank you. That is the final question for today's call.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you all. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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124 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

June 19, 2012 Tuesday 8:45 PM GMT

US adds Syria to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 684 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Tuesday added Syria to the list of countries that could face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat trafficking. Sixteen other nations were included among those not even making significant efforts to meet minimum standards, while Venezuela and Myanmar were among those removed from the group of worst offenders.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department said that Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime fails to investigate and punish offenses or offer protective services to victims. It says thousands of women, from countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Somalia, have been trafficked into forced labor and prostitution in Syria after being falsely recruited by employment agencies as domestic servants.

Traffickers in Syria particularly prey on Syria's large Iraqi refugee population, said the report, which analyzed conditions in more than 180 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many term modern-day slavery. The State Department says up to 27 million men, women and children may live in such bondage around the world.

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

Seventeen countries in all were included in the worst-offending group of countries not reaching minimum international standards to fight the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims, and not making any significant effort to do so. That's down from 23 last year. More than 40 other nations were placed on a watch list that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

Venezuela still doesn't fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, but is now making an important effort, the report said. President Hugo Chavez's government has clashed repeatedly with Washington over the last decade, but it was commended it for strengthening anti-trafficking laws, undertaking public information campaigns and training law enforcement and borders personnel in prevention.

"However, prosecution and conviction efforts appeared to remain weak, and specialized victim services were lacking," said the report, which included Venezuela on the U.S. watch list. The efforts of Nicaragua, another Latin America country with a leftist government that has been at odds with the U.S., also were recognized. It joined the list of countries in full compliance.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, was urged to continue with its "unprecedented steps" to address trafficking after long being considered among the world's worst respector of labor rights.

Luis CdeBaca, U.S. ambassador-at-large for human trafficking issues, said Burma's status was upgraded after the government repealed an antiquated law that had been used to justify forced labor and replaced it with a law expressly for-

bidding the practice. The government made progress identifying and helping victims, and a national trafficking hotline introduced in September has led to the rescue of 57 victims.

Nevertheless, the report said many Burmese men, women and children traveling abroad for work are subjected to forced labor or sex trafficking, as trafficking by both private individuals and government officials "continues to be a significant problem." The military conscripts child soldiers and is the leading perpetrator of forced labor within the country, particularly in conflict-prone ethnic areas.

Beyond Syria, the blacklist includes Algeria, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

U.S. NATO ally Portugal was dropped from the top tier into the list of countries not quite reaching minimum standards, while Israel was promoted to the top group.

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125 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 15, 2012 Friday

Thailand, Myanmar fight human trafficking

BYLINE: The Nation**LENGTH:** 453 words

Thanapat Kitjakosol

The Nation

Chiang Rai

Thailand and Myanmar continue trying to fight human trafficking, with the latter establishing more centres along border towns such as Myawaddy and Koh Song to tackle the problem. However, the situation in Thailand continues to worsen, with more young people becoming victims.

Despite the implementation of the 2008 Prevention and Suppression of **Human Trafficking** Act, Thailand was included in the United States' "**Tier 2 Watch List**" in 2010 and 2011, with the number of cases getting particularly severe in the North.

The crime includes forcing women to become surrogate mothers, luring them into hard labour or prostitution abroad via marriage to foreigners, and luring men to become forced labourers on fishing boats. The victims include women and children from Uzbekistan and Vietnam as well as minorities from China.

Pol Captain Yin Yin Aye, chief of the Thai-Myanmar border coordination centre against human trafficking in Tachilek township, said the centre had dealt with 11 major cases since it was set up in 2006. She said most of the victims were women, and the centre had rehabilitated them before returning them to their families.

Cooperation in running anti-trafficking centres continues on both sides of the border, with Thailand having set one up in Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district.

Mae Sai immigration police inspector Pat Pantanapon said Chiang Rai was known as the starting point for transnational human-trafficking gangs.

Social Development and Human Security permanent secretary Wichien Chawalit said his office had also taken many measures to control human trafficking. He urged members of the public to participate by keeping an eye out and providing information via the 1300 hotline.

Department of Special Investigation inspector Pol Major Jatuporn Arunreukthawil said his anti-trafficking centre would take up cases that were more complicated or tied up with other countries.

He said cases within the human-trafficking frame included gangs smuggling workers over the border, luring women into prostitution, forcing women to become surrogate mothers and buying children from their parents and forcing them to beg on the street. He said some children refused to return home as their parents had sold them at least four times.

Saying that human-trafficking cases in the upper North had been rising every year, the manager of the Foundation of Child Understanding, Duan Wongsas, said 13-to-18-year-old Thais fell victim to prostitution gangs, but these cases received less attention than those involving foreigners.

The comments and data were presented at the Social Development and Human Security Ministry's workshop attended by 50 media members on May 18 and 19 in Chiang Rai.

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126 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Cape Times (South Africa)

June 06, 2012 Wednesday
E1 Edition

'Revolutionary' trafficking bill gets go-ahead

BYLINE: Deon de Lange Political Bureau

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 763 words

EFFORTS to stamp out human trafficking received a boost yesterday when Parliament's justice committee adopted the long-awaited Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill.

Once enacted, the new law will provide a co-ordinated response to all forms of human trafficking, set out the social services that victims will be entitled to, and will prescribe punishments for those found guilty of trafficking offences - including the possibility of life behind bars and fines of up to R100 million.

The bill was to have been completed in time for the World Cup after civil society groups warned the event would attract dealing in people - primarily sex workers.

However, once the scale of the task became clear, lawmakers abandoned this deadline and opted for a single, comprehensive law instead of a piecemeal approach.

The US first placed SA on its **human trafficking watchlist** in 2004. In a follow-up report in 2008, the US State Department noted that SA did not have any laws specifically aimed at combating trafficking and did not "fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking", despite being a signatory to UN protocols against trafficking.

"South African girls are trafficked within their country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, while boys are trafficked for use in street vending, food service and agriculture," the report stated.

It said women from elsewhere on the continent were brought to SA, while locals were duped or sold into domestic servitude in Ireland, the Middle East and the US.

Existing laws - the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Children's Act - have been used to combat certain aspects of human trafficking.

The proposed law includes a legal definition for "slavery" - nearly 200 years after abolitionist William Wilberforce's campaign to end slavery in the British Empire culminated in the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. Slavery is defined as "reducing a person by any means to a state of submitting to the control of another person as if that other person were the owner of that person".

The new law will enable authorities to seize property used during or for the commission of a trafficking offence. It will also punish landlords who allow their buildings to be used if they knew or "ought reasonably to have known or suspected" they would be used for this purpose.

Crucially, any person who benefits from the services or labour of a victim will be guilty of an offence.

Electronic communications service providers, such as internet service providers and cellphone network providers, who become aware of any of their services being used to facilitate trafficking and who fail to report this, will be guilty of an offence.

While the bill stops short of requiring them to monitor their networks for such information, they will have to hand over customer information at the request of the police if such activities are brought to light. The bill indemnifies such companies from any loss sustained or damage caused by the release of this otherwise confidential information, provided this was done in good faith to reveal trafficking offences. The law will punish the parents or guardians of minors who consent to their exploitation.

The extra-territorial scope of the bill will grant SA courts jurisdiction to try cases involving trafficking offences committed anywhere in the world if such acts would have constituted an offence under the new law in SA.

The bill establishes mechanisms by which undocumented foreigners living in SA could be temporarily spared deportation if they can contribute to the investigation or prosecution of a trafficking offence. Victims in the country without documentation will be assisted to obtain residency if they risk harm by assisting local authorities or face harm if repatriated to their country of origin.

In what one MP described as a "revolutionary" approach, victims will not have to go to the civil courts to claim compensation. The law will grant courts jurisdiction to order a person convicted of a trafficking offence to pay his or her victims compensation as part of the criminal trial.

Compensation could be claimed for damage to or the loss or destruction of property (including monetary loss); physical or psychological injuries; becoming infected with a life-threatening disease; or the loss of income or support. In another first, carriers will be held liable if a court finds that they knowingly or ought reasonably to have known or even suspected that they were transporting trafficked people.

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127 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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The Mercury (South Africa)

June 06, 2012 Wednesday
E2 Edition

Parliament moves to stamp out human trafficking

BYLINE: Deon de Lange Political Bureau

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 483 words

EFFORTS to stamp out human trafficking received a boost yesterday when Parliament's justice committee adopted the long-awaited Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill.

Once enacted, the new law will provide a co-ordinated response to all forms of human trafficking, set out the social services that victims will be entitled to, and will prescribe punishments for those found guilty of trafficking offences - including the possibility of life behind bars and fines of up to R100 million.

The bill was to have been completed in time for the 2010 World Cup after civil society groups warned the event would attract dealing in people - primarily sex workers.

However, once the scale of the task became clear, lawmakers abandoned this deadline and opted for a single, comprehensive law instead of a piecemeal approach to the problem.

The US first placed SA on its **human trafficking watchlist** in 2004. In a follow-up report in 2008, the US State Department noted that SA did not have any laws specifically aimed at combating trafficking and did not "fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking", despite being a signatory to UN protocols against trafficking.

"South African girls are trafficked within their country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, while boys are trafficked internally for use in street vending, food services and agriculture," the report stated.

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Slavery is defined as "reducing a person by any means to a state of submitting to the control of another person as if that other person were the owner of that person".

Punish

To attack the nexus of human trafficking and organised crime, the new law will enable authorities to seize property used during or for the commission of a trafficking offence.

It will also punish landlords who allow their buildings to be used if they knew or "ought reasonably to have known or suspected" they would be used for this purpose.

Crucially, any person who benefits from the services or labour of a victim will be guilty of an offence.

Electronic communications service providers who become aware that their services are being used to facilitate trafficking and who fail to report this, will be guilty of an offence.

The law will also punish the parents or guardians of minors who consent to their children's exploitation.

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128 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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The Star (South Africa)

June 06, 2012 Wednesday
E2 Edition

Tough legislation meant to stamp out all forms of human trafficking

BYLINE: Deon de Lange

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 488 words

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Once enacted, the new law will provide a co-ordinated response to all forms of human trafficking, set out the social services that victims will be entitled to, and prescribe punishments for those guilty of trafficking offences - including possible life behind bars and fines of up to R100 million.

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While the bill stops short of requiring them to monitor their networks for such information, they will have to hand over customer information at the request of the police if such activities are brought to light.

The law will punish parents or guardians of minors who consent to their exploitation.

Also, the extra-territorial scope of the bill will grant SA courts jurisdiction to try cases involving trafficking offences committed anywhere in the world if such acts would have been an offence in SA.

The bill, which enjoys cross-party support, will now go to the National Assembly for a debate and a vote, before being referred to the National Council of Provinces.

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129 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

May 31, 2012 Thursday 5:05 PM TST

Taiwan holds Asian forum on human trafficking

BYLINE: Christie Chen

LENGTH: 601 words

DATELINE: Taipei, May 31

An Asian forum on human trafficking was held Thursday in Taipei to facilitate international cooperation in the fight against human trafficking in the region, the National Immigration Agency said that day.

The forum, the first of its kind held in Taiwan, was attended by 33 government officials, scholars and NGO workers from 12 Asian-Pacific countries, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as foreign dignitaries based in Taiwan.

At the event, representatives from Taiwan's immigration, labor and NGO sectors gave speeches on the prevention of the crime, implementation of anti-human trafficking policies and protection measures for victims in Taiwan.

Joe Parker, assistant regional security officer from the American Institute in Taiwan, also shared the U.S. experience in fighting human trafficking.

At the forum, foreign delegates also asked questions ranging from Taiwan's measures to protect undocumented foreign workers and its benefits for pregnant foreign workers to how the country ensures that workers entering the country are above the legal working age.

Hsieh Li-kung, director-general of the agency, told CNA that his agency organized this forum because it hopes to play a "more active" role in clamping down on human trafficking in the region.

"Many of the human trafficking victims in Taiwan come from Asian countries, so the most practical way (to combat the crime) would be to first cooperate with our neighbors," Hsieh said.

"We hope that not only Taiwan, but all Asian countries can eventually be listed as a **"tier 1 country,"** Hsieh said, stressing the importance of transnational efforts to crack down on **human trafficking.**

Taiwan was listed as a **"tier 1 country"** in the U.S. State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report in 2010 and 2011, meaning that Taiwan has complied fully with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The only other Asian country to receive the ranking is South Korea.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Lee Hong-yuan said at the opening of the forum that he hopes the forum can help Taiwan establish partnerships with Asian countries and "facilitate an international network."

Hsieh said his agency is currently holding talks with a number of Southeast Asian countries to sign memorandums of understanding that would allow Taiwan and these countries to hold joint training sessions and share intelligence on trafficking crimes.

Mary Ann C. Velasco, supervisor of the Travel Control Enforcement Unit of the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration, told CNA "it's about time" for Taiwan and the Philippines to sign such an agreement, given the large number of Filipino workers in Taiwan.

Many Filipino workers who have received permits to work in Taiwan often leave the Philippines on tourist visas for speedier exits, making it hard for the Philippines to accurately track the number of its nationals working in Taiwan.

She said it would greatly help the prevention of human trafficking if the two sides could cooperate on a reporting mechanism that gave details of Filipino workers entering Taiwan.

"The forum gave us much practical information about Taiwan's anti-human trafficking measures," said Samarn Laodamrongchai, a researcher at the Asian Research Center for Migration at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University.

Laodamrongchai, who specializes in issues involving Thai workers in Taiwan, urged a government-level agreement between the two countries, saying that it would offer more legal protection for victims of human trafficking or labor exploitation.

Thailand is one of the countries with which Taiwan is seeking to sign such agreements.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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130 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

STAR

May 30, 2012 Wednesday 5:34 PM TST

Participants in human trafficking forum visit immigrant call center

BYLINE: Johnson Sun and Kendra Lin

LENGTH: 340 words

DATELINE: Taipei, May 30

Immigration officials from 12 Asian countries and non-government organizations who are attending a forum in Taiwan on the fight against human trafficking visited a call center for a 24-hour protection hotline for immigrant workers Wednesday.

On the second day of the forum being hosted for the first time by Taiwan to discuss cooperation on fighting human trafficking in Asia, 33 officials, NGO representatives and eight diplomats were introduced to the counseling service run by the National Immigration Agency (NIA).

The 1955 hotline, launched in 2009, has recruited foreign spouses from Asian countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam as call receivers as part of efforts to provide better services to new immigrants, many of whom come from Southeast Asia.

The new immigrants, as well as their employers, can use the hotline to seek legal counseling, register complaints or obtain protection services.

Human trafficking cases are often cross-border crimes, said NIA Director-General Hsieh Li-kung, who added that some of the more complicated human trafficking crimes need further cooperation among nations to combat them.

Taiwan, ranked **Tier 1** in the 2010 and 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by U.S. Department of State, will share its experience in fighting **human trafficking** with the other participating countries, which include Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Australia.

Tier 1 countries consist of those that comply fully with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as set forth by the U.S. Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

In addition to the forum, Taiwan is also continuing to seek memorandums of understanding on the prevention of human trafficking with other countries, Hsieh added.

The forum, which runs through June 1, will be highlighted Thursday by three workshops on various aspects of the issue.

The representatives will also visit two facilities in Taipei and Nantou, central Taiwan that provide shelter for human trafficking victims, according to the agency.

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

131 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Pakistan Observer Blog

May 22, 2012 Tuesday 8:39 AM EST

LEAs capture 6,835 human traffickers

LENGTH: 322 words

Islamabad: Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in the country have arrested more than 6,835 persons allegedly involved in illegal human trafficking during the last four years. As per data, 1642 smugglers or traffickers were arrested in 2008, 1775 in 2009, 1779 in 2010 and 1639 were apprehended during 2011. In addition, 1,842 Proclaimed Offenders (POs) were also nabbed during the period with 376 arrests in 2008, 441 in 2009, 522 in 2010 and 503 POs in 2011.

An official source on Friday said 507 Court Absconders (COs) were also arrested during the last four years with year wise details of 77 in 2008, 54 in 2009, 200 in 2010 and 176 in 2011. He said thanks to steps taken by Ministry of Interior and introduction of different methods that Pakistan got upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II in Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP Report) published by US State Department and maintained the same status during 2011 whereby 188 countries around the global were categorized. This report has direct impact on US and UN financial aid.

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LOAD-DATE: May 22, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Blog

JOURNAL-CODE: APAK-115001

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132 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Edge Malaysia

May 21, 2012

My Say: We can, t stay blind to migrant workers, rights

BYLINE: R B Bhattacharjee

LENGTH: 1044 words

Issues relating to migrants have been in the news since the 1970s, when the country, s economic development created a growing demand for workers, which began to attract plane- and ferry-loads of people from neighbouring countries looking for a better life on our shores.

Today, the migrant population in Malaysia is around two million documented and 1.9 million undocumented workers, according to the US State Department, s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2011. This report is described on the State Department, s website as , the world, s most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts, . The 2011 Report surveys 184 countries, including the US.

In the report, the State Department places each country in one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments, efforts to comply with the , minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, as described in the US, Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). For the second consecutive year, Malaysia was placed in the Tier 2 Watch List, facing a possible downgrade to Tier 3, the category for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards under the TVPA and are not making significant efforts to do so.

On two occasions, in 2007 and 2009, Malaysia was placed in **Tier 3**. However, it enacted the **Anti-Trafficking in Persons** and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 and opened shelters for victims of **human trafficking**. This resulted in the country, s elevation to the Tier 2 Watch List in 2008. However, in 2009, Malaysia fell again to **Tier 3**, leading the government to draft a national plan of action to address **human trafficking**.

The 2011 report notes that the government still does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so.

Human trafficking covers a range of activities in which one person holds another in forced service, the report states. These include forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour, debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude and forced child labour. In truth, these are various forms of modern day slavery.

Anyone who needs confirmation that significant numbers of victims of human trafficking exist in Malaysia can read the current TIP Report or a range of other documents available online that discuss the problem.

The crux of the matter is the unpalatable truth that too few Malaysians are concerned enough to make their feelings known that many migrants are being denied their human rights. If more people would do so, our leaders would surely take notice and press for better protection for these workers.

It is as simple as that. The TIP Report would then have far less reason to make statements like these:

, Many migrant workers in plantations, construction sites, textile factories and employed as domestic workers throughout Malaysia are subject to practices indicative of trafficking such as restrictions on movement, deceit and fraud in wages, passport confiscation or debt bondage at the hands of agents or employers. Passport confiscation is widespread, and there were reports that employers also opened joint bank accounts as a form of control on workers.,

If Malaysians do not tolerate such treatment from their employers, by what rationale do we allow migrant workers to be subject to such conditions? This is a question that we as a society need to ask ourselves. The answer would partly explain why neighbouring countries have repeatedly banned their citizens from coming to work in Malaysia.

Sadly, the situations described so far are somewhat milder than some of the abuses that migrant workers are subjected to. To quote the TIP Report:

, Many Malaysian labour outsourcing companies recruit excess workers from Bangladesh, Vietnam and other countries, who are then often held in warehouses or other locations and handed over to unscrupulous employers, who subject them to conditions of forced labour.,

Exploitation comes in various forms. Some employers reportedly did not pay their foreign domestic workers three to six months' wages in order to recoup recruitment agency fees and other debt-bonds charged to employers, the report states. In some cases, employers illegally withheld employee wages in escrow until completion of the contract, forcing workers to continue working for fear of not receiving their pay if they stop.

Unfortunately, it gets much worse for others, sometimes involving public institutions. During the report period, the RELA volunteer corps continued to conduct raids targeting illegal migrant communities and detained refugees, asylum seekers and trafficking victims along with allegedly illegal migrants, though this practice had reportedly decreased compared to previous years.

The report notes further that while the number of convictions under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act increased and public awareness efforts on trafficking continued, the government did not effectively investigate and prosecute labour trafficking cases, and failed to address its own complicity in trafficking as well as the lack of effective victim care and counselling by authorities. Many serious concerns remained regarding trafficking in Malaysia, including the detention of trafficking victims in government facilities, it said.

Moreover, while the network involved in the trafficking of Myanmar nationals to Thailand was believed to be substantial, this was not reflected in the record of prosecutions. The acquittal rate of alleged trafficking offenders was high, which observers attributed to the lack of adequate victim-witness protection and poor judicial training on human trafficking.

These issues are merely one part of the complicated web of human trafficking that has merged into the fabric of Malaysian society. The misery that it causes for the most vulnerable victims of this underground economic activity is nothing short of harrowing. It has also been documented well enough to satisfy the most sceptical of critics.

The thought that large numbers of migrant workers in our midst are subject to such oppression ought to move us to change the way they are treated. At the very least, it should be robbing us of our sleep.

R B Bhattacharjee is associate editor at The Edge

LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

133 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

May 19, 2012 Saturday

LEAs capture 6,835 illegal human traffickers in four years

SECTION: Vol. XXXVI No. 139

LENGTH: 473 words

Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in the country have arrested more than 6,835 persons allegedly involved in illegal human trafficking during the last four years.

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During the period, 2114 persons were Off-loaded On Fake Documents (OFDs) with details including 572 in 2008, 669 in 2009, 504 in 2010 and 369 in 2011 while the number of Deportees on Fake Documents (DFDs-A Category) was 56 in 2008, 31 in 2009, 37 in 2010 and 15 in 2011. The number of Deportees on Fake Documents during the period in Category B was 52 in 2008, 43 in 2009, 42 in 2010 and 20 in 2011.

Giving further details, the official said 15,213 persons were convicted with details including 4641 persons in 2008, 4396 in 2009, 3115 in 2010 and 2861 persons were convicted during 2011.

He said Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) is very much beneficial since its establishment at main Anti Human Trafficking Circles (AHTCs) for entering detail of Human Traffickers.

As per information provided by the HUTIS at FIA, Headquarters, 1793 Human Traffickers have been included with details.

Furthermore, he said, Zonal Offices are also being asked to update the system and enter detail of all the agents/human traffickers.

LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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134 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 19, 2012 Saturday

US envoy urges Bangladesh to take "strong steps" to stop human trafficking

LENGTH: 346 words

Text of report headlined "Human trafficking: US envoy urges govt to take strong action" published by Bangladesh newspaper The Daily Star website on 18 May

Expressing concern over the present situation of human trafficking from Bangladesh, US Ambassador Dan W Mozena urged the government to take strong steps against the offence, a gross human rights violation.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain conveyed the concern of the ambassador to reporters after Mozena called on the minister at the ministry yesterday.

"We are not saying that human trafficking is not happening. But we are already working to check it. The home ministry enacted an anti-human trafficking act recently," said Khandker.

For the last two years, Bangladesh has been ranked at **Tier 2 watch list** by the **Trafficking in Persons** report, annually published by the US.

Khandker, however, said there is no link between human trafficking and labour migration.

Traffickers allure both men and women into going abroad using tourist visas. Moreover, cross border trafficking occurs as Bangladesh has a long land border, he said.

Khandker, also the labour and employment minister, said to have sought US help in tackling the problem.

He said Mozena also voiced his concern over the killing of labour rights activist Aminul Islam, whose body was found near Ghatail Police Station on April 5.

"I told him that we are no less concerned about it." The government came to know that Aminul was neither involved in instigating labour unrest nor had any conflict of interest with anyone, he said.

The facts will finally be known once the investigation into the killing is complete. "We are giving it the utmost importance," he noted.

Khandker said Mozena was pleased about the overall labour situation in the readymade garment sector.

"However, I requested him to take measures so that buyers increase the prices of the garment products they buy from Bangladesh," he said, adding that as a result, workers here will get better salaries.

Source: The Daily Star website, Dhaka, in English 18 May 12

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

135 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Daily Regional Times

May 19, 2012 Saturday

LEAs capture 6,835 illegal human traffickers in four years

SECTION: Vol. VII No. 271**LENGTH:** 474 words

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LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

136 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Pakistan Observer

May 19, 2012 Saturday

LEAs capture 6,835 human traffickers

SECTION: Vol. XXIII No. 193

LENGTH: 321 words

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LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

137 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Right Vision News

May 19, 2012 Saturday

Pakistan: LEAs capture 6,835 illegal human traffickers in four years

LENGTH: 486 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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138 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

May 14, 2012 Monday

FIA nabbed 6,835 human traffickers in four years**SECTION:** Vol. XXXVI No. 134**LENGTH:** 468 words

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has nabbed 6,835 persons for human trafficking during the last four years. Giving year-wise details about the arrests, an official source on Sunday said 1642 smugglers or traffickers were arrested in 2008,

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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139 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Daily Regional Times

May 14, 2012 Monday

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LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

140 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Pakistan Today (Newstex Blog)

May 14, 2012 Monday 11:49 AM EST

FIA nabbed 6,835 human trafficker nabbed in 4 years

LENGTH: 473 words

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33 mins ago |

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Blog

JOURNAL-CODE: APAK-111350

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141 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Right Vision News

May 14, 2012 Monday

Pakistan: FIA nabbed 6,835 human trafficker nabbed in four years

LENGTH: 479 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

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He said Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) is very much beneficial since its establishment at main Anti Human Trafficking Circles (AHTCs) for entering detail of Human Traffickers.

As per information provided by the HUTIS at FIA, Headquarters, 1793 Human Traffickers have been included with details.

Further more, he said, Zonal Offices are also being asked to update the system and enter detail of all the agents/human traffickers Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News.

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142 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 13, 2012 Sunday

Maldivian police arrest 47 unregistered Bangladeshi migrants

LENGTH: 905 words

Text of report by Neil Merrett headlined "Police arrest 47 Bangladeshi nationals after raid on unregistered security firm" by Maldivian newspaper Minivan News website on 9 May

A total of 47 Bangladeshi nationals working for a local security firm were seized on Thursday by the Department of Immigration as part of a wider crackdown on unregistered migrant workers.

The detention of the expatriate workers comes after police late last year reported a "day-by-day" increase in human trafficking in the Maldives. The Maldives Police Service's claims were based on a surge in the numbers of illegal expatriate workers found in the country.

Assistant Controller of the Immigration Department Ibrahim Ashraf told Minivan News that the 47 Bangladesh nationals were all apprehended following a raid of a company providing security guards that was not registered to employ foreigners.

Ashraf claimed that the company the men had been working for had been in operation for 10 -12 years, yet no information could be found on its operations.

"During the raid, we found 47 Bangladeshi nationals all wearing security uniforms along with equipment like walkie talkies and badges," he said. "They were not registered for this work and we could not find any records linked to the company."

While the Department of Immigration has said that it was not cracking down specifically on security firms employing expatriate workers, Ashraf added that concerns remained about ensuring the industry had correctly licensed its foreign staff.

"Until recently, the Ministry of Human Resources did not provide [expatriate] work quotas to security firms," he said. "There has been a growing demand among local businesses to hire security services. The Ministry of Human Resources has therefore begun issuing quotas for hiring expatriates in security services."

Ashraf added that the Immigration Department's concerns were not focused just on security firms, but instead on companies from various industries that had failed to obtain and then correctly register staff.

"Right now we are looking for expatriate workers on the run. We have received a lot of reports from employers about staff going missing," he said. "This is especially true in the outer atolls, where we are getting complaints about unregistered employees travelling between islands."

Ashraf claimed that the 47 Bangladeshi nationals who had been detained Thursday would not necessarily be deported if a sponsor could be found to provide employment and accommodation for them.

"We will try and give the employees the opportunity to stay here and work if a sponsor is willing to regularise them," he said.

High Commission

The High Commission of Bangladesh in Male' said it had been made aware of the 47 detained workers, who had been seized for not having proper documentation.

The commission said it was often notified regarding such cases, and was presently awaiting travel documentation for the detained expatriates before considering possible deportation.

The High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Rear Admiral Abu Saeed Mohamed Abdul Awal, said today that he believed workers from the country were regularly being brought to the Maldives to perform unskilled work, usually in the construction industry. Awal alleged that upon arriving, expatriates from Bangladesh were suffering from the practices of "bad employers".

"This is a real problem that is happening here, there have been many raids over the last year on unskilled [expatriate] workers who are suffering because of the companies employing them. They are not being given proper salaries and are paying the price for some of these employers," he said.

Rear Admiral Awal added that it was the responsibility of employers to ensure expatriate staff had the proper documentation and suitable living standards.

Concerns about the treatment of expatriates from across the South Asia region were also shared by Indian High Commissioner Dynaneshwar Mulay. Speaking to Minivan News last month, Mulay raised concerns over the general treatment of Indian expatriates in the Maldives, particularly by the country's police and judiciary.

Mulay claimed that alongside concerns about the treatment of some Indian expatriates in relation to the law, there were significant issues relating to "basic human rights" that needed to be addressed concerning expatriates from countries including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Mulay's comments were made following an alleged attack on a Indian resort worker, who was reported to have been struck with a hammer and mugged while staying in a hotel in Male'. The attack was allegedly committed by a former employee of the same resort.

Big business

Beyond concerns about the basic human rights of foreign employees in the country, labour trafficking is also believed to represent a significant national economic issue.

An ongoing police investigation into labour trafficking in the Maldives last year uncovered an industry worth an estimated US\$123 million, eclipsing fishing (US\$46 million in 2007) as the second greatest contributor of foreign currency to the Maldivian economy after tourism.

The authorities' findings echo concerns first raised by former Bangladeshi High Commissioner Dr Selina Muhsin, reported by Minivan News in August 2010. The comments by Muhsin were made shortly after the country was placed on the US State Department's **Tier 2 watchlist for human trafficking**.

Source: Minivan News website, Male, in English 09 May 12

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

143 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Pakistan Observer Blog**May** 8, 2012 Tuesday 7:24 AM EST**6,835 involved in human trafficking nabbed in 4 yrs: FIA****LENGTH:** 172 words

By: Staff Reporter

Islamabad: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has nabbed 6,835 persons involved in illegal human trafficking in the country during the last four years. Giving year-wise details about the arrests, an official source on Friday said in 2008, 1642 smugglers or traffickers were arrested, 1775 in 2008, 1779 in 2010 and 1639 were apprehended during 2011. In addition, the Agency also nabbed 1,842 Proclaimed Offenders (POs) during the period with 376 arrests in 2008, 441 in 2009, 522 in 2010 and 503 POs in 2011.

The official said 507 Court Absconders (COs) were also arrested during the last four years with year wise details of 77 in 2008, 54 in 2009, 200 in 2010 and 176 in 2011. The official said thanks to steps taken by Ministry of Interior and introducing different methods that Pakistan got upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II in Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP Report) published by US State Department and maintained the same status during 2011 whereby 188 countries around the global were categorized.

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144 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

May 7, 2012 Monday

Trafficking tops Hillary agenda

LENGTH: 413 words**DATELINE:** Kolkata

Kolkata, May 7 -- More than politics or the need for reforms, US secretary of state Hillary Clinton chose, on the first day of her visit to Kolkata, to focus on the tragic reality of West Bengal topping the country in the illegal trafficking of young women and girls.

Not only did Clinton express concern and alarm over the issue, but also committed to raising it on the international stage, apart from at her meeting with chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday.

On Sunday, she spent an hour at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), where she met and promised to help women rescued from human traffickers in Kolkata and participated in a closed-door discussion with NGOS and other social-welfare organisations on the rampant trafficking of girls and women in India. The talks focused on the problems of prevention, rescue and repatriation of victims in India, as well as neighbouring Nepal and Bangladesh.

Interestingly, India was dropped from the US government's **watch list** on **human trafficking** in 2011 for making "significant efforts" towards combating the menace.

"Clinton expressed concern that human trafficking was rampant in India at a time when the country was witnessing an economic boom," said Manab Roy, deputy programme director of Save the Children India, who participated in her meeting with NGOS. "She told us it was part of her India agenda, and that she would raise the issue at high forums," he added.

Clinton will stay in the city for two days before flying to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The US secretary of state was greeted by a welcome dance at ICCR'S Rabindranath Tagore Centre by seven women rescued from human traffickers. She clapped enthusiastically during the four-minute show on the power of womanhood, and took time to ask detailed questions about the significance of the performance. Clinton is scheduled to meet the chief minister on Monday, before heading to New Delhi. Apart from various issues, such as the political scenario in India and FDI in retail, the trafficking issue will also be raised.

"She has worked personally with the issue for years. Various NGOS have told her about their research and findings. The focus is on prevention and how to go about it. She reacted to everyone's statements and stressed that all agencies in the government should work together for prevention," said Amitava Bhattacharya, founder-director of banglanatok.com. Published by HT Syndication with permission from HT Kolkata.

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LOAD-DATE: May 7, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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145 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

May 5, 2012 Saturday

6,835 involved in illegal human trafficking nabbed in four years

SECTION: Vol. XXXVI No. 125

LENGTH: 479 words

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has nabbed 6,835 persons involved in illegal human trafficking in the country during the last four years.

Giving year-wise details about the arrests, an official source on Friday said in 2008, 1642 smugglers or traffickers were arrested, 1775 in 2008, 1779 in 2010 and 1639 were apprehended during 2011.

In addition, the Agency also nabbed 1,842 Proclaimed Offenders (POs) during the period with 376 arrests in 2008, 441 in 2009, 522 in 2010 and 503 POs in 2011.

The official said 507 Court Absconders (COs) were also arrested during the last four years with year wise details of 77 in 2008,

54 in 2009, 200 in 2010 and 176 in 2011.

The official said thanks to steps taken by Ministry of Interior and introducing different methods that Pakistan got upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II in Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP Report) published by US State Department and maintained the same status during 2011 whereby 188 countries around the global were categorized. This report has direct impact on US and UN financial aid.

He said the Agency was giving priority to control the illegal human trafficking in the country and in this regard it had successfully launched Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) at Islamabad and Peshawar airports.

The other measures were installation of Edison System at major airports through Australian High Commission, creation of Immigration Intelligence Unit (IIU) in collaboration with UK, creation of Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) with collaboration of Australia.

He said all these measures have helped drastic reduction in number of Deportees on Fake Documents (DFDs).

The official said traffic handled at airports during the last four years was 34.5 million, of which 7.8 million in 2008, 8.2 million in 2009, 8.7 million in 2010 and 9.8 million traffic was handled during 2011.

During the period, 2114 persons were Off-loaded On Fake Documents (OFDs) with details including 572 in 2008, 669 in 2009, 504 in 2010 and 369 in 2011 while the number of Deportees on Fake Documents (DFDs-A Category) was 56 in 2008, 31 in 2009, 37 in 2010 and 15 in 2011. The number of Deportees on Fake Documents during the period in Category B was 52 in 2008, 43 in 2009, 42 in 2010 and 20 in 2011.

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As per information provided by the HUTIS at FIA, Headquarters, 1793 Human Traffickers have been included with details.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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146 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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147 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Pakistan Observer

May 5, 2012 Saturday

6,835 involved in human trafficking nabbed in 4 yrs: FIA

BYLINE: Staff Reporter

SECTION: Vol. XXIII No. 179

LENGTH: 167 words

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148 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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149 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

May 3, 2012 Thursday

Pakistan: Some 137405 Pakistanis deported in three years.**LENGTH:** 543 words**DATELINE:** Islamabad

Islamabad, May 3 -- Almost 137405 Pakistanis have been deported from various countries on different charges during last three years.

Mainly Pakistani expatriates have been deported over visa violations and their alleged involvement in drugs/ narcotics trafficking related crimes as well as illegal human trafficking.

Well placed sources privy to Interior Ministry, Tuesday, revealed to 'Right Vision News' that 42435 Pakistanis were deported in 2009 and 43854 in 2010 and 51120 Pakistanis were sent back to home in 2011 by different governments.

Sources said that Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) had taken stern action against human traffickers/smugglers/facilitators and sub agents to control human trafficking from the country.

According to sources close to FIA, Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) was established and promulgation of prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) 2002.

Moreover Anti Trafficking Units at Provincial Police HQs for combating internal human trafficking was also established and special campaigns for the arrest of Proclaimed Offenders (POs) and Court Absconders (CAs) had also been launched to eradicate this menace:

Furthermore, FIA Anti Trafficking Sub-Circle, Gujrat was established and declared as Police Station on 15th January, 2009.

Similarly, Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCE) was replaced with Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) as well as Machine Readable Passports (MRP) introduced.

Sources said that human traffickers had been black listed as well as Immigration Liaison Office in Muscat, Oman was set up. Furthermore, Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) placed as well as Case Monitoring System had been installed.

Moreover, coordination with Provincial Police via establishing Provincial Anti Trafficking Units (ATU) as well as effective coordination with NGOs/IGOs for public awareness campaign, through electronic/print media, by conducting meetings, seminars, documentary, walks, pamphlets, theater in rural/urban areas launched.

To avert human trafficking bids for capacity building of immigration check-posts/immigration staff in coordination with international community were carried out along with installation of Immigration Intelligence Unit at FIA HQ, Islamabad with the help of British High Commission and Australia. Moreover, proposal for establishment of Border Liaison Office (BLO) was underway through UNODC.

Sources close to Interior Ministry said that FIA had successfully launched IBMS (integrated Border Management System) at Islamabad and Peshawar Airports and installed Edison System at Major airports through Australian High Commission Islamabad.

Moreover, Immigration Intelligence Unit (IIU) had been created in collaboration with UK. while Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) with the collaboration of Australia set up, consequently, number of deportees on fake documents (DFDs) had reduced drastically.

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150 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

May 2, 2012 Wednesday

Some 137405 Pakistanis deported in three years.

SECTION: Vol. XXXVI No. 122

LENGTH: 524 words

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151 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Daily Regional Times

May 2, 2012 Wednesday

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SECTION: Vol. VII No. 254

LENGTH: 529 words

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LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2012

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152 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

The Frontier Star

May 2, 2012 Wednesday

Some 137405 Pakistanis deported in three years.

SECTION: Vol. 17 No. 122

LENGTH: 525 words

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153 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Patriot, The

May 2, 2012 Wednesday

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Furthermore, FIA Anti Trafficking Sub-Circle, Gujrat was established and declared as Police Station on 15th January, 2009.

Similarly, Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCE) was replaced with Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) as well as Machine Readable Passports (MRP) introduced.

Sources said that human traffickers had been black listed as well as Immigration Liaison Office in Muscat, Oman was set up. Furthermore, Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) placed as well as Case Monitoring System had been installed.

Moreover, coordination with Provincial Police via establishing Provincial Anti Trafficking Units (ATU) as well as effective coordination with NGOs/IGOs for public awareness campaign, through electronic/print media, by conducting meetings, seminars, documentary, walks, pamphlets, theater in rural/urban areas launched.

To avert human trafficking bids for capacity building of immigration check-posts/immigration staff in coordination with international community were carried out along with installation of Immigration Intelligence Unit at FIA HQ, Islamabad with the help of British High Commission and Australia. Moreover, proposal for establishment of Border Liaison Office (BLO) was underway through UNODC.

Sources close to Interior Ministry said that FIA had successfully launched IBMS (integrated Border Management System) at Islamabad and Peshawar Airports and installed Edison System at Major airports through Australian High Commission Islamabad.

Moreover, Immigration Intelligence Unit (IIU) had been created in collaboration with UK. while Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) with the collaboration of Australia set up, consequently, number of deportees on fake documents (DFDs) had reduced drastically.

Sources said that Pakistan got upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II** in **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP Report 2010) published by US State Department and maintained the same status during 2011 where, by 188 countries around the global were categorized.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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154 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

STAR April 27, 2012 Friday

SECRETARY CLINTON: URGE UZBEKISTAN TO FIGHT FORCED CHILD LABOR

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 147 words

DATELINE: NEW YORK, N.Y.

The following information was released by the Open Society Institute:

The Open Society Foundations and partner organizations have written to Secretary of State Clinton asking her to urge the Uzbek government to take meaningful steps to come into compliance with its international obligations to fight forced labor, particularly during the annual cotton harvest.

This request comes on the eve of an Uzbekistan-sponsored convening of the United Nations Children Fund, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Moscow Office, and the European Commission in Tashkent to discuss Uzbekistan's compliance with its ILO commitments. The letter urged the State Department not to waive downgrading Uzbekistan to **tier** three (the lowest status) in this year's **Trafficking in Persons** report unless the Uzbek authorities allow ILO representatives unfettered monitoring of this fall's cotton harvest.

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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155 of 492 DOCUMENTS

ArabianBusiness.com

ArabianBusiness.com

April 18, 2012 Wednesday

Human trafficking cases down 37%, says UAE gov t

BYLINE: Shane McGinley**LENGTH:** 398 words

The number of workers illegally trafficked into the UAE dropped by 37 percent last year, according to a report by the state news agency. While the WAM report did not give exact figures for the number of people trafficked into the Gulf state, it said tackling the subject was a major priority for the government. "For the majority of trafficked people, it is only when they arrive in the UAE that they realise that the work they were promised does not exist and they are forced instead to get employed in jobs or conditions to which they did not give their consent. Since the criminal activity begins from source countries, creating partnerships with both source and transit countries is now of paramount importance to the national strategy of the UAE," the government's report on the issue read. The investigation, compiled by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, added that ?

the implementation of the UAE's legal and social support mechanisms during the last five years of its concerted fight against **human trafficking** has been recognised by the international community". Despite the positive results in the UAE, a US State Department report last year said the fight against **human trafficking**, from abuses of migrant workers to organised prostitution networks, has lost ground in the past year. The number of countries failing to comply with international standards to prevent **human trafficking** almost doubled to 23, according to US State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released in June. "The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement accompanying the report. "But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable." As many as 27m people are "living in a state of modern slavery," she said. Eleven countries have dropped into so-called **Tier 3**, those with the poorest record of fighting trafficking, joining 12 nations previously listed in that category under guidelines set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The 11 countries are: Lebanon, Yemen, Algeria, Libya, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. They join nations such as Iran and Saudi Arabia with the poorest records on taking action to prevent human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: April 18, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication**JOURNAL-CODE:** 167

156 of 492 DOCUMENTS

AAP Newsfeed

April 11, 2012 Wednesday 1:34 PM AEST

ASIA: Rally against Vietnam child trafficking**BYLINE:** Helen Clark**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 432 words**DATELINE:** HANOI April 11

An Australian-organised motorbike rally that crosses Vietnam to raise money for children's charity Blue Dragon started on Wednesday with almost double the number of participants from last year.

A dinner for participants was held in Hanoi on Tuesday night with the Australian ambassador to Vietnam Allaster Cox and Blue Dragon founder Michael Brosowski from Sydney.

Brosowski said riders started the ride with breakfast at the charity's headquarters before heading to Hue in central Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail, an old wartime supply route.

"All money is going to our anti-trafficking (work)," he said.

"We are expanding our scope to include kids from ethnic minority villages in Dien Bien Phu province and also girls taken to China."

Blue Dragon assists street kids and other underprivileged children in Vietnam and also works against traffickers who often hire young children from Vietnam's poorest areas to work in garment factories in Ho Chi Minh City.

The charity has worked with local authorities to secure the release of 23 children, some as young as 12, from garment factories in Ho Chi Minh City. They had been taken over a period of two years from their families from a small hamlet in remote northern Dien Bien Phu province.

Vietnam is rated as a **Tier 2 Watch List** nation in a worldwide report on **human trafficking** released by the US State Department last year.

Glenn Philips, one of three Australian organisers, who has flown back to Vietnam from the UK, says that some \$50,000 has so far been raised up from \$40,000 last year.

Philips says that given close to double the number of riders are attending the second Rally Indochina, the event is being divided into two groups.

The mostly Australian group -- though participants also hail from New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands and Azerbaijan -- will ride on 650cc Urals, some in side cars. Though the bikes are still made today, the Indochina fleet are from the 1970s.

Many older models of motorbike in communist Vietnam were manufactured in various Soviet republics through the once strong friendship between Hanoi and the USSR during the Cold War.

'Minsk' motorcycles long popular with farmers and expats are now fashionable

with sections of Hanoi's youth.

"Personally, I am very excited to be involved in the second Rally Indochina and to see it grow from the previous year," Phillips said.

"I have relocated to the UK but have come back to Vietnam to be involved in the rally -- and I'm also looking forward to getting out on the road again in Vietnam for a great ride and a great cause."

LOAD-DATE: April 11, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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157 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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AAP Newsfeed

April 10, 2012 Tuesday 10:31 PM AEST

VIC:Aussies kick off Rally Indochina

BYLINE: Helen Clark

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

LENGTH: 318 words

DATELINE: MELBOURNE April 10

The Australian-organised motorbike rally that crosses Vietnam to raise money for children's charity Blue Dragon will set off again with almost double the number of participants from last year.

A dinner for participants was held in capital Hanoi on Tuesday night, with the Australian ambassador to Vietnam Allaster Cox attending. The rally begins on Wednesday.

Blue Dragon founder Michael Brosowski, from Sydney, also attended. He said riders will drop in at the charity's headquarters on Wednesday for breakfast. They'll then drive to Hue in central Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail, an old wartime supply route, before flying on to Ho Chi Minh City.

"All money is going to our anti-trafficking (work). We are expanding our scope to include kids from ethnic minority villages in Dien Bien Phu province and also girls taken to China," he told AAP via email on Tuesday.

Blue Dragon assists street kids and other underprivileged children in Vietnam and also works against traffickers who often hire young children from Vietnam's poorest areas to work in garment factories in Ho Chi Minh City.

Last year, AAP reported the charity had worked with local authorities to secure the release of 23 children, some as young as 12, from garment factories in HCMC. They had been taken over a period of two years from their families from a small hamlet in remote northern Dien Bien Phu province.

Vietnam is rated as a **Tier 2 Watch List** nation in a worldwide report on **human trafficking** released by the US State Department last year.

Glenn Philips, one of three Australian organisers, says about \$50,000 has been raised so far.

Each of the 25 participants paid a \$3990 fee, \$1600 of which goes direct to the charity.

Last year, riders handed over a cheque for \$40,000.

"Personally, I am very excited to be involved in the second Rally Indochina and to see it grow from the previous year," Mr Philips said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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158 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Los Angeles Times

April 8, 2012 Sunday
Home Edition

Coming for work, arriving at misery; African migrants lured by Libya's relative wealth find abuse, detention and worse.

BYLINE: Glen Johnson**SECTION:** MAIN NEWS; Foreign Desk; Part A; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 1227 words**DATELINE:** TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Ahmed Mostafa and his friends paid thousands of dollars among them to get to Libya recently, traveling with gangs of smugglers through Western Africa. It was to be their escape from the sprawling slums of Ghana's capital city, Accra.

Mostafa had heard rumors of arbitrary arrests and Libyan lynch mobs during the war last year in which longtime Libyan leader Moammar Kadafi was ousted and killed. But he was counting on luck: "It was not something I really thought about," he said. "I thought I would come and secure some work. Then send some money to my family."

Instead, he and his 10 friends wound up in a government-run prison, Twoshi Detention Center, sleeping on small foam mattresses, dozens to a room. A militia had spied them two weeks earlier walking along a dusty road in the country's north and detained them. They remain in the prison, uncharged and without legal representation.

In Libya, illegal migration is once again picking up, conducted through two primary trafficking corridors in the east and west of the country. A stream of Africans -- Somalis, Eritreans, Nigerians, Sudanese, Malians -- dreaming of a new life have made the perilous trip to Libya. But as turmoil continues to reign through much of the country, many of these migrants are being rounded up and detained, in some cases, to be exploited as forced laborers.

"The going rate for a migrant is anywhere from 260 to 800 Libyan dinars," or about \$210 to \$645, said Jeremy Haslam, chief of the Libya mission for the International Organization for Migration. "One of the problems is that many detention facilities are not currently under state control, instead administered by local councils and even private parties. The latter may involve organized crime, running human trafficking operations -- modern-day slavery."

At some detention facilities, staff members lease out black African detainees to employers, who make a contribution to the jails to help cover costs. Other migrants are said to be sold outright to employers.

"In some circumstances, it can appear like a legitimate transaction but is essentially exploitative," Haslam said. "And it's widespread."

Migrants often "work off" the debt of their sale, Haslam said, and have no chance to negotiate hours or rates or the kind of work they do.

"With no status in the country, the cycle can continue indefinitely, with the migrant re-traded once the employer no longer needs their services," he said.

Libya's borders have long been haunted by smuggling rings that ferry drugs, arms and migrants through an intricate web of clandestine trading routes. The country's relative wealth, gleaned mainly from its oil industry -- providing an annual per capita income of \$12,000, the highest in Africa -- has ensured its place as a destination for illegal immigrants.

Cleaner. Builder. Farmhand. Prostitute. Domestic servant. Libya's migrant workers, at least 1.5 million strong at the outbreak of last year's warfare, were all of these things, and the country depended heavily on them. Yet they were always viewed as outsiders, necessary for filling jobs that Libyans would not do.

Some, meanwhile, were reviled as drug dealers and participants in a dark underworld of gang violence.

In the end, they stood as exemplars of how Kadafi's focus on sub-Saharan Africa -- after numerous scuttled attempts to fit into the Middle East and North Africa -- came at the expense of his own people. And resentment grew.

Libya has no legislative framework to protect migrants from abuse and exploitation. In its 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the U.S. State Department ranked Libya in the bottom **tier**, reserved for countries that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts" to eliminate **human trafficking**.

Racially motivated and xenophobic attacks, which occurred frequently before the insurgency, increased vastly over the last year as the country descended into chaos. Rumors swirled throughout Libya -- wildly embellished, according to Amnesty International -- that Kadafi was flying in mercenaries en masse, with terrifying consequences for black migrant workers.

Recently released undated video shows black Africans held in a cage, surrounded by a mob. They sit, feet tied and hands bound behind their backs. All have the green former Libyan flag stuffed into their mouths. Men shout "dogs" and "God is great" and force them to gnaw on the flags.

The slide of a pistol is pulled back and a gunshot rings out. The men stand up and hop, like an act from a demented circus, in front of their tormentors. Another shot rings out. The video cuts.

"I want to tell the guards that I am not a mercenary," said Mostafa, standing in a courtyard outside his cell. "But I cannot speak Arabic. I cannot express myself to them."

Nearby, other migrants set to weeding a patch of grass, under the eyes of prison guards.

No one really knows how many detention centers -- increasingly notorious for human rights abuses, including torture and rape of inmates -- are operating in Libya or how many people are being held.

The United Nations estimates that at least 7,000 people are locked up -- including migrants, Kadafi loyalists and criminals -- and has advocated for the issuance of temporary documentation to illegal migrants to offer some protection.

According to Haslam, about 90% of illegal migrants have no valid identification, which complicates the process of repatriation, prolongs their detention and leaves them vulnerable to arbitrary arrest and exploitation.

"They should give them all visas," said Mohammed Khoja, who supervises a team of four Nigerian street cleaners who are illegal immigrants. "We need them."

His workers sift through the accumulated junk in their patch of the city long into the night. It chokes the edges of streets and comes in waves down alleyways. Three years now they have toiled, his four workers, amid Tripoli's waste.

Wraith-like and filthy, they flit between stalls and parked cars, clutching brooms. Emaciated forms stooped in the night. A deathly odor -- rotten fruit, chicken feces and slaughtered animals -- clogs the air.

Some people see the four of them as no better than the trash they collect or the pavement they clean, says one of the men, Abdallah.

They bought cheap portable CD players to block out the abuse. Bob Marley and Rihanna accompany them long into the night, when family and friends back in Nigeria's slums drift into their thoughts.

They were smuggled into Libya. They say the trip was simple brutality as they were juggled between ruthless gangs of traffickers and corrupt, profiteering officials, mostly from Chad and Libya. "Everything you can imagine happened. Rape. Theft. Beatings," Abdallah said.

Clashes in the remote southern town of Kufra, a staging post for traffickers, have escalated over the last few months. Rumors quickly spread that Chadian mercenaries were seeking to destabilize Libya. In fact, rival gangs of traffickers, many of them Libyan nationals, were battling for control over migration routes.

The rumors fed into a cycle of discrimination in which anyone with black skin was subject to arrest and imprisonment.

Like Mostafa.

He is unsure what will happen to him. But he knows his dream of a world outside Ghana's slums is over.

"I want to tell my family to come and rescue me," he says. "I want to go home."

--

Johnson is a special correspondent.

LOAD-DATE: April 8, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: IMMIGRANTS FILL a makeshift detention center in Gharyan, Libya. Many migrants are held without charge; some enter forced labor. PHOTOGRAPHER:Mahmud Turkia AFP/Getty Images PHOTO: IN LIBYA'S eastern city of Benghazi, Somali immigrants gather at a detention facility. Attacks on immigrants have sharply increased in Libya in the last year. PHOTOGRAPHER:Abdullah Doma AFP/Getty Images

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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159 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

March 27, 2012

House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Informational Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform Hearing;
"Labor Abuses, Human Trafficking, and Government Contracts: Is the Government Doing Enough to Protect Vulnerable Workers?";
Testimony by Richard Ginman, Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, U.S. Department of Defense

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2311 words

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss our efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

I am Richard Ginman, the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(ATandL)), where I am responsible for Department-wide contracting policy and functional leadership. I am a Career Civil Servant, with more than 40 years experience in government and commercial business in the fields of contracting, acquisition, and financial management. Before returning to DPAP duties in October 2006, I held several private sector positions including Vice President of General Dynamics Maritime Information Systems and Director of Contracts for Digital System Resources. I served in the United States Navy for 30 years, retiring as a Rear Admiral, Supply Corps. In addition to three tours afloat, I served in a variety of contracting and acquisition positions that included Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; Deputy for Acquisition and Business Management in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research Development and Acquisition; and Deputy Commander for Contracts, Naval Sea Systems Command.

I work closely within the Office of the Secretary of Defense to ensure that DoD policies for other functional areas which affect contractors are properly implemented into the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to provide guidance to contracting officers and contractors for executing DoD contracts. With regards to Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP), my top priority is to support the Federal Government and Defense Department's zero tolerance policy. We support the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in their efforts to manage the DoD Trafficking in Persons Program required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent Reauthorizations.

We promulgate contracting guidance to DoD's contracting community primarily through policies and the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). The purpose of the DFARS is to provide the roadmap for the acquisition workforce to acquire the goods and services DoD requires to ensure America's warfighters continued worldwide success. At the Federal level, we participate in the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and work with the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Federal Procurement Policy, the General Services Administration, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration to manage the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR provides uniform policies and procedures for acquisition by all Executive agencies.

The DoD CTIP program implements requirements of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent Reauthorizations in DoD Instruction 2200.01 Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Series (latest version September 2010). The Department of Defense policy has evolved over time. In 2004, the Secretary of Defense put forth his zero tolerance policy on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which was addressed to all DoD members - military, government

civilian and contractor civilian. This was followed in 2007 by Department of Defense Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," which requires the incorporation of provisions in overseas contracts that: a) prohibit any activities on the part of contractor employees that support or promote trafficking in persons and b) impose suitable penalties on contractors that fail to monitor the conduct of their employees. Due to the interagency nature of the policy, a Federal Acquisition Regulation prescription and clause was developed and implemented as an interim rule in April 2006 and as a final rule in August 2007. Subsequently, the Federal Acquisition Regulation CTIP requirements were updated in 2009. The Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement at subpart 222.17 provides DoD contracting guidance to implement CTIP in DoD solicitations and contracts. This includes: 1) key policy references; 2) basic contract requirements; 3) Quality Assurance Surveillance Plans requirements; 4) information on where to find Geographic Combatant Commander related CTIP guidance when incorporating such requirements into the contract; 5) notification that the FAR clause cannot be deleted if its use is prescribed; and 6) actions the contracting officer must take when notified of a violation of the clause.

For Iraq and Afghanistan, US Central Command, through the Joint Contracting Command (Iraq/Afghanistan) and subsequently, its successor, the Joint Theater Support Contracting Command, has required that all services and construction contracts which require performance in Iraq and Afghanistan, incorporate into the associated solicitations and contracts, a local clause "Prohibition Against **Human Trafficking**, Inhumane Living Conditions, and Withholding of Employee Passports." This clause provides additional requirements that contractors must follow to protect its employees and subcontractors at all **tiers**. This includes:

(a) Reminding contractors of the prohibition contained in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1592, against knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person, to prevent or restrict or to attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority, the person's liberty to move or travel, in order to maintain the labor or services of that person.

(b) Requiring contractors to comply with the following provisions: 1) Hold employee passports and other identification documents discussed above only for the shortest period of time reasonable for administrative processing purposes; 2) Provide all employees with a signed copy of their employment contract, in English as well as the employee's native language that defines the terms of their employment/compensation; 3) Do not utilize unlicensed recruiting firms, or firms that charge illegal recruiting fees; 4) Provide adequate living conditions (sanitation, health, safety, living space) for their employees. Fifty square feet is the minimum acceptable square footage of personal living space per employee. Upon contractor's written request, contracting officers may grant a waiver in writing in cases where the existing square footage is within 20% of the minimum, and the overall conditions are determined by the contracting officer to be acceptable. A copy of the waiver approval shall be maintained at the respective life support area; 5) Incorporate checks of life support areas to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Trafficking in Persons Prohibition into their Quality Control program, which will be reviewed within the Government's Quality Assurance process; and 6) Comply with International and Host Nation laws regarding transit/exit/entry procedures, and the requirements for visas and work permits.

(c) Advising the Contracting Officer if they learn of their employees violating the human trafficking and inhumane living conditions provisions contained herein. Put on notice that contracting officers and/or their representatives will conduct random checks to ensure contractors and subcontractors at all **tiers** are adhering to the law on **human trafficking**, humane living conditions and withholding of passports.

(d) Requiring incorporation of the substance of this clause, including this paragraph, in all subcontracts under this contract.

More recently, DPAP, in coordination with the CTIP Program Manager, has taken additional actions to improve awareness and the effectiveness of DoD's CTIP Program as applies to contracting and contractors. A brief chronology and description of these efforts follows:

* DECEMBER 2007 - The Defense Contingency Contracting Officer's Guide initially published. It has been updated twice (last update in June, 2010) and exists in both print and electronic versions. Interim updates are published electronically. These guides have all included CTIP content.

* JUNE 2010 - The Defense Contingency Contracting Officers Representative (COR) Guide initially published electronically on the DPAP website, followed by a print version in December 2010. Includes CTIP content.

* FEBRUARY 2011 - DCMA Afghanistan created and published a more robust stand-alone CTIP Examination checklist used by CORs, Quality Assurance Representatives (QARs) and Government Product Representatives (GTPRs) on contracts delegated to DCMA for administration. Similar requirements for Iraq and Kuwait.

* AUGUST 2011 - DPAP released CTIP Brochure "Fair Treatment for All Workers: Supporting U.S. Installations Abroad." Printed copies shipped to C-JTSCC in Iraq and Afghanistan. Electronic copy posted to DPAP and CENTCOM Contracting Webpage.

* AUGUST 2011 - CTIP related guidance for contracting officers approved for addition to DFARS PGI at 207.1(b)(20)(C)(10) (planning guidance) and 222.170 (updated guidance and references).

* NOVEMBER 2011 - Pocket sized CTIP reference card produced, translated into 7 languages: Pashtu, Malay, Urdu, Thai, Tagalog, Arabic and Dari. Printed copies shipped to C-JTSCC in Iraq and Afghanistan. Electronic copy posted to DPAP and CENTCOM Contracting Webpage.

* NOVEMBER 2011 - The DoD amended DFARS PGI 222.1703 to update the link to the DoD CTIP webpage and also update the policy guidance to reflect the 2010 version of DoDI 2200.01 .

* DECEMBER 2011 - Added a CTIP Topic Section to the DPAP Contingency Contracting Webpage

* FEBRUARY 2012 - New contract administration function (S-73) for administering TIP added to DFARS 242.302. Associated language at DFARS 222.1703.

* MARCH 2012 - DoD publishes in Federal Register a proposed DFARS Rule "Alleged Crimes By or Against Contractor Personnel (DFARS Case 2012-D006)." Proposes to expand existing DFARS coverage currently applicable only to DoD contracts performed in Iraq and Afghanistan and make it applicable worldwide for contractors supporting contingency operations, humanitarian or peacekeeping operations, or other military operations or military exercises, when designated by the Combatant Commander. Expanding the coverage worldwide will provide contractors the guidance they need to take actions should alleged offenses by or against contractor personnel occur.

DPAP will continue to work aggressively with the CTIP Program to support their efforts to improve visibility of and compliance with the Federal and Department of Defense CTIP Program among contracting officers and contractors worldwide. Two of my staff are members of the DoD CTIP Program Manager's Task Force. We participated in the development of the Department's CTIP Plan of Action and Milestones.

Contractors are paramount to the success of DoD's missions. Our efforts include initiatives for their compliance with DoD's CTIP policy. In October 2006, DoD published an anti-trafficking interim rule clause within the DFARS for contracts performed outside the United States. The clause required contractors to establish an awareness program to inform employees regarding TIP. The clause also required contractors to develop policy and procedures that prohibit any activities on the part of contractor employees to establish an awareness program to inform employees regarding TIP.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation was amended to include a TIP clause in 2009 that required the contractor to notify its employees of the US Government's zero tolerance policy toward TIP and to take appropriate action against employees or subcontractors that violate the policy. It did not require contractors to establish an awareness program for their employees. When the FAR rule was published, the DFARS Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI) Part 222, was modified to add a clause for contractors regarding DoD's zero tolerance policy and CTIP training program. A DFARS requirement, published in February 2012 the Federal Register, adds additional contract administration duties to maintain surveillance over contractor compliance with Trafficking in Persons requirements for all DoD contracts, as specified in the FAR clause 52.222-50 on TIP.

At the end of the 90's our nation implemented a deliberate strategy to reduce reliance on organic forces for combat and combat service support in favor of contracted support. However, during OIF/OEF, the rate of growth of contracted support challenged DoD's ability to put in place the overarching framework necessary to properly manage and control contractors in forward areas, including aspects related to management of their personnel on the battlefield. The growth of contracted service support resulted in a huge expansion of contractor personnel working and residing on forward operating bases, including many personnel from third country nations and local nationals. While traditionally contractors are responsible for the logistics support of their personnel stateside, the hostile environment in Iraq and Afghanistan dictated that DoD rapidly grow its capability to manage and control the masses of contractor personnel who now lived and worked on forward operating bases. DoD policies and doctrine associated with managing these contractor personnel continue to evolve. The Department takes seriously the responsibilities associated with countering Trafficking in Per-

sons and the need to ensure we properly manage and oversee all contractor personnel authorized to accompany the force, regardless of origin.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak about the DoD's CTIP program and some of our DPAP initiatives to combat trafficking in persons.

Read this original document at: <http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/3-27-12-TechIP-Ginman.pdf>

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160 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Congressional Documents and Publications

March 27, 2012

**House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Informational Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform Hearing;
"Labor Abuses, Human Trafficking, and Government Contracts: Is the Government Doing Enough to Protect Vulnerable Workers?";
Testimony by Kenneth Moorefield, Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations, U.S. Department of Defense**

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2906 words

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss past and ongoing efforts by the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) in the area of combating trafficking in persons (CTIP). The DoD IG previously presented testimony on oversight efforts concerning the topic of human trafficking in 2004, 2006, and before your subcommittee on November 2, 2011.

Completed DoD IG Efforts

DoD IG initiated its first assessment of DoD CTIP as a result of a May 31, 2002 request made by thirteen Members of Congress to the Secretary of Defense seeking a "thorough, global and extensive" investigation into the publicized allegation that U.S. military leadership in Korea had been implicitly condoning sex slavery at the hands of traffickers.

In response to those Congressional concerns, the DoD IG initiated an assessment project to assess efforts to combat human trafficking within the United States Forces-Korea. In addition, DoD criminal investigations of DoD contractors underway during this period led the DoD IG to expand its assessment focus to incorporate DoD and DoD contractor activities in the European theater of operations, in particular, in n1 The two assessments recommended that the Secretary of Defense issue a policy statement that clearly and unambiguously set forth DoD opposition to any activities promoting, supporting, or sanctioning human trafficking. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Subsequently, on January 30, 2004, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum, "Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Department of Defense," that stated "It is the policy of the DoD that trafficking in persons will not be facilitated in any way by the activities of our Service members, civilian employees, indirect hires or DoD contract personnel." In addition, DoD established annual CTIP awareness training for all DoD Service members and civilians, which has been in effect since 2004. With respect to the trafficking in persons (TIP) issues raised concerning Korea, the Command has taken multiple actions to prohibit and prevent DoD military, civilian, and contractor personnel from patronizing establishments it had declared off-limits.

In 2005, the DoD IG initiated an evaluation of CTIP efforts across DoD in further response to the 2002 request from Members of Congress. The resulting report, issued in November 2006, recommended that the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Services and Combatant Commands develop CTIP policy and program guidance, and that the military commands evaluate the effectiveness of their CTIP awareness training. In response to the report, in 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," that established policy and assigned CTIP program responsibilities across the Department. The Under Secre-

tary also created and filled the position of DoD CTIP Program Manager within that office. Additionally, the CTIP Program Officer for each DoD Component is required to report annually to the DoD CTIP Program Manager on CTIP training metrics and effectiveness.

The most recent oversight efforts conducted by the DoD IG were in response to Public Law 110-457, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008," signed on December 23, 2008. Section 232 of the Act required the Inspectors General of DoD, State and USAID to "...investigate a sample of ... contracts, or subcontracts at any **tier**, under which there is a heightened risk that a contractor may engage, knowingly or unknowingly, in acts related to **trafficking in persons**...." The Act also required the respective Inspectors General to submit a report to Congress, no later than January 15, for three consecutive years beginning in 2010.

The DoD IG consulted with the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and selected for assessment four Combatant Commands with overseas responsibilities and contracting presence: U.S. Pacific, U.S. Central, and U.S. European, and Africa Commands issued January 17, 2012, n2 The reports primarily focused on whether the contracts sampled were in compliance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requirements.

The contract sample in each assessment included all construction and service contracts within the respective combatant command's area of responsibility, with a place of performance outside the United States, a period of performance in FY 2009 or later, and with a total contract value of \$5 million or greater. This provided a reasonable data set which particularly focused on labor-intensive contracts.

The U.S. Pacific Command CTIP report, issued on January 15, 2010, was based on a sample of 99 contracts with places of performance in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Territory of Guam. We found FAR clause 52.222-50, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," present in 93 percent of the contracts we reviewed. However, 42 percent of those clauses were added shortly before the site visit. Further, the team found that the Command's contract quality assurance reviews did not specifically include reviews of contractor TIP compliance and/or violations.

The DoD IG also recommended in that report that the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy modify widely-used contract writing software to ensure that the FAR CTIP clause was automatically included in contracts or solicitations. We also recommended that the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement guidance be updated to require CTIP oversight in contract quality assurance plans. The Director, Defense Procurement, and Acquisition Policy, initiated the software modification and, in January 2011, revised the relevant guidance.

In addition, the DoD IG team determined that contracting offices did not have access to an effective DoD process for obtaining TIP violation information from DoD criminal investigative organizations once their cases were closed, which would then provide the option of administrative contract remedial action. To address this issue, DoD updated DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)", September 15, 2010, requiring the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Commanders of the Combatant Commands to "provide information on all known TIP cases to the USD (PandR) DoD Program Manager." However, providing timely, publicly releasable information on TIP-related criminal indictments and convictions to DoD contracting organizations remains a challenge.

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The team also found that the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command had published its own supplement for inclusion in all service and construction contracts within the Command's area of responsibility to strengthen the FAR CTIP clause. This was in response to allegations received by the Command that some DoD contractors were providing poor living conditions or withholding employee passports.

However, the DoD IG team also identified a significant number of contracts where the Command supplement was mistakenly used to replace the required pre-existing FAR clause. The team recommended that the Commander, U.S. Central Command Contracting Command modify the guidance to clarify proper usage of both the FAR and Command supplement CTIP clauses. The Commander concurred and issued modified guidance in September 2011.

The team also identified examples of proactive action taken by two DoD contracting commands in Kuwait, both of which had implemented a requirement to include CTIP compliance in contract quality assurance reviews. Further, Army Contracting Command-Kuwait had developed and implemented a CTIP questionnaire, translated into five common employee languages, as part of quality assurance audits.

In addition, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Kuwait had included CTIP-focused questions into a Theater Quality Plan for quality assurance contract audits reviewing contractor knowledge and understanding of CTIP clause requirements. DCMA representatives also provided reports based on periodic health and sanitation inspections they had conducted of employee camps in Iraq. In 2010, the DoD IG team visited several employee camps run by sub-contractors in Iraq; the employees interviewed verified that DCMA personnel checked conditions on a regular basis. The team did not observe any living conditions in the camps that would constitute a violation of CTIP statutes or regulations.

The DoD IG report on the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command n3, issued January 17, 2012, was based on a sample of 267 contracts executed in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United Kingdom.

We found some form of a CTIP clause present in 70 percent of the contracts reviewed; however, only half had the current required FAR clause. We recommended the Military Departments correct the contracts identified as deficient in our review. The team also determined that three DoD contracting organizations specifically discussed the FAR CTIP clause during post-award orientations with contractors to increase awareness of CTIP programs.

In neither Combatant Command did the team find or have reported to it TIP violation incidents.

DoD IG TIP Investigations

There have been systemic obstacles which have hindered successful TIP criminal investigations, including jurisdiction limitations, foreign law enforcement capabilities, command investigative standards of evidence, and the challenges of evidence collection in contingency operation contracting environments.

In spite of these difficulties, since 2006 the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the DoD Office of Inspector General has investigated 21 TIP-related allegations worldwide, resulting in five cases being referred to the Department of Justice, of which one was accepted for prosecution. The violation in the accepted case was determined to be centered more on fraud against immigrants than on human trafficking, and, in any case, did not have a DoD nexus. Therefore, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service closed its investigation. The case was pursued by local law enforcement organizations and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security.

DoD Non-Appropriated Fund Organizations

During the DoD IG CTIP assessment of the U.S. Pacific Command in 2009, the team noted that non-appropriated fund entities were not required to include the FAR CTIP clause in their contracts. Therefore, we included an assessment of the Navy Exchange (NEX), and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) CTIP policy and procedures within the reviews of the U.S. Central Command and the U.S. European and Africa Commands.

The DoD Resale Activities and Non-appropriated Fund Policy office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness has issued guidance to DoD Non-appropriated fund organizations reinforcing the application of trafficking in persons statutory requirements to their contracting activities.

The review of AAFES Europe identified that the Commander had issued a Manpower Associate "Bill of Rights," available in English and eight other languages, that subordinate organizations were directed to post on employee bulletin boards for easy access. The Commander also had established an employee passport possession policy to ensure that "contractors do not withhold the passports of TCNs [Third Country Nationals] working in our facilities."

In Kuwait during the 2010 field assessment, the DoD IG team observed AAFES passport checks and employee interviews first-hand while accompanying a contracting officer representative to several facilities. No CTIP violations were observed. The team also received a detailed briefing from the AAFES legal counsel outlining several additional TIP-related incidents and the contract remedies applied.

Ongoing DoD IG Assessments

A DoD IG team evaluating the DoD CTIP program in Afghanistan completed fieldwork in February 2012. The draft report will be provided to the Department for management comments within the next few weeks, and the final report is expected to be issued in May 2012.

The team examined 240 contracts administered by Army, Navy, and Air Force commands, as well as Defense Agencies in Afghanistan, and visited nine separate installations throughout Afghanistan. It conducted over 110 interviews with

military commanders and contracting personnel, interviewed representatives from 10 U.S. and foreign contractors, and met with 145 contractor employees (Afghan and third-country nationals).

It is worth noting is that the mandatory CTIP clause was included in 93 percent (224 of 240) of the contracts reviewed, a significant improvement from previous Combatant Command assessments, including for the rest of U.S. Central Command.

During our fieldwork, the DoD IG team was made aware of an investigation recently conducted by the NATO International Military Police that had identified an Afghan company as involved in TIP violations. The case had been subsequently referred to the contracting officer, who took action recommending debarment. Additionally, the team was informed by third country nationals at one U.S. base that they were living in what could be adverse living conditions. We referred this complaint to the prime contractor, the U.S. contracting organization responsible for the administrative oversight of the contract, and the base commander/commandant, who initiated an immediate investigation.

In addition to and concurrent with the multi-year review of contracts required by PL 110-457, the DoD IG has self-initiated an assessment of DoD Component CTIP program compliance and performance. As of this date, we have reviewed CTIP policies, procedures, awareness, and implementation in over 70 DoD organizations, including responsible officials in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and headquarters and major subordinate commands of the Military Services, Defense Agencies, and Combatant Commands. At each location, the team interviewed:

- . commanders and staff responsible for the CTIP program,
- . law enforcement personnel and legal counsel,
- . contracting officers, specialists, and quality assurance specialists, contracting officer representatives, and
- . representatives of contracting firms, and when possible, their employees.

This report is scheduled for final release in the summer of 2012.

November 2, 2011 HOCR Hearing

During the November 2 hearing before this subcommittee, the Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations was asked to provide recommendations for improving CTIP compliance and enforcement. Our response, dated January 31, 2012, included suggestions designed to strengthen DoD TIP-related oversight, compliance, enforcement, and data availability and accuracy, to include:

- . DoD Component Commanders and their Component Inspectors General could make CTIP a special interest item in Command inspections, assessments, or program reviews. Further, these special interest item inspections should include non-appropriated fund activities conducted by any DoD Component. Regular comprehensive reviews by DoD Components oversight agencies would increase Command awareness, improve policies, ensure the inclusion of required CTIP language in contracts, and verify contractor and subcontractor compliance.
- . DoD could assess and centralize its TIP-related data collection with respect to: identification of the number of third country nationals supporting DoD contingency operations; consolidating contractual remedies applied in cases of TIP allegations; and identifying instances of criminal violations and sanctions.

Conclusion

The DoD IG remains committed to providing oversight support of the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance policy" against trafficking in persons. We will continue to evaluate the related DoD programs for compliance with relevant statutes, policies and regulations.

I thank you again for this opportunity to update you on DoD IG oversight of DoD actions to combat trafficking in persons.

n1 "Assessment of DoD Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Phase I - United States Forces Korea," July 2003, www.dodig.mil/fo/Foia/H03L88433128PhaseI.pdf, and "Assessment of DoD Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Phase II - Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo," December 2003, www.dodig.mil/fo/Foia/HT-Phase_II.pdf.

n2 IE-2010-001, "Evaluation of DoD Contracts Regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons," January 15, 2010; SPO-2011-002, "Evaluation of DoD Contracts regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons: U.S. Central Command," Janu-

ary 18, 2011; DODIG-2012-041, "Evaluation of DoD Contracts Regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons: U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command," January 17, 2012. For copies of the reports see <http://www.dodig.mil/Inspections/IE/Reports.htm>.

n3 U.S. Africa Command is headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

Read this original document at: <http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/3-27-12-TechIP-Moorefield.pdf>

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161 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
CQ Congressional Testimony**March** 27, 2012 Tuesday**GOVERNMENT PROTECTIONS OF VULNERABLE WORKERS;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM;
SUBCOMMITTEE: TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY, INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT REFORM**

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 2356 words

TESTIMONY-BY: MR. RICHARD T. GINMAN, DIRECTOR

AFFILIATION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Statement of Mr. Richard T. Ginman Director, Defense Procurement And Acquisition Policy U.S. Department of Defense

Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform

March 27, 2012

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss our efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

I am Richard Ginman, the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)), where I am responsible for Department-wide contracting policy and functional leadership. I am a Career Civil Servant, with more than 40 years experience in government and commercial business in the fields of contracting, acquisition, and financial management. Before returning to DPAP duties in October 2006, I held several private sector positions including Vice President of General Dynamics Maritime Information Systems and Director of Contracts for Digital System Resources. I served in the United States Navy for 30 years, retiring as a Rear Admiral, Supply Corps. In addition to three tours afloat, I served in a variety of contracting and acquisition positions that included Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; Deputy for Acquisition and Business Management in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research Development and Acquisition; and Deputy Commander for Contracts, Naval Sea Systems Command.

I work closely within the Office of the Secretary of Defense to ensure that DoD policies for other functional areas which affect contractors are properly implemented into the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to provide guidance to contracting officers and contractors for executing DoD contracts. With regards to Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP), my top priority is to support the Federal Government and Defense Department's zero tolerance policy. We support the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in their efforts to manage the DoD Trafficking in Persons Program required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent Reauthorizations.

We promulgate contracting guidance to DoD's contracting community primarily through policies and the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). The purpose of the DFARS is to provide the roadmap for the acquisition workforce to acquire the goods and services DoD requires to ensure America's warfighters continued worldwide success. At the Federal level, we participate in the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and work with the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Federal Procurement Policy, the General Services Administration, and National

Aeronautics and Space Administration to manage the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR provides uniform policies and procedures for acquisition by all Executive agencies.

The DoD CTIP program implements requirements of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent Reauthorizations in DoD Instruction 2200.01 Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Series (latest version September 2010). The Department of Defense policy has evolved over time. In 2004, the Secretary of Defense put forth his zero tolerance policy on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which was addressed to all DoD members - military, government civilian and contractor civilian. This was followed in 2007 by Department of Defense Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," which requires the incorporation of provisions in overseas contracts that: a) prohibit any activities on the part of contractor employees that support or promote trafficking in persons and b) impose suitable penalties on contractors that fail to monitor the conduct of their employees. Due to the interagency nature of the policy, a Federal Acquisition Regulation prescription and clause was developed and implemented as an interim rule in April 2006 and as a final rule in August 2007. Subsequently, the Federal Acquisition Regulation CTIP requirements were updated in 2009. The Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement at subpart 222.17 provides DoD contracting guidance to implement CTIP in DoD solicitations and contracts.

This includes: 1) key policy references; 2) basic contract requirements; 3) Quality Assurance Surveillance Plans requirements; 4) information on where to find Geographic Combatant Commander related CTIP guidance when incorporating such requirements into the contract; 5) notification that the FAR clause cannot be deleted if its use is prescribed; and 6) actions the contracting officer must take when notified of a violation of the clause.

For Iraq and Afghanistan, US Central Command, through the Joint Contracting Command (Iraq/Afghanistan) and subsequently, its successor, the Joint Theater Support Contracting Command, has required that all services and construction contracts which require performance in Iraq and Afghanistan, incorporate into the associated solicitations and contracts, a local clause "Prohibition Against **Human Trafficking**, Inhumane Living Conditions, and Withholding of Employee Passports." This clause provides additional requirements that contractors must follow to protect its employees and subcontractors at all **tiers**.

This includes:

(a) Reminding contractors of the prohibition contained in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1592, against knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person, to prevent or restrict or to attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority, the person's liberty to move or travel, in order to maintain the labor or services of that person.

(b) Requiring contractors to comply with the following provisions: 1) Hold employee passports and other identification documents discussed above only for the shortest period of time reasonable for administrative processing purposes; 2) Provide all employees with a signed copy of their employment contract, in English as well as the employee's native language that defines the terms of their employment/compensation; 3) Do not utilize unlicensed recruiting firms, or firms that charge illegal recruiting fees; 4) Provide adequate living conditions (sanitation, health, safety, living space) for their employees. Fifty square feet is the minimum acceptable square footage of personal living space per employee. Upon contractor's written request, contracting officers may grant a waiver in writing in cases where the existing square footage is within 20% of the minimum, and the overall conditions are determined by the contracting officer to be acceptable. A copy of the waiver approval shall be maintained at the respective life support area; 5) Incorporate checks of life support areas to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Trafficking in Persons Prohibition into their Quality Control program, which will be reviewed within the Government's Quality Assurance process; and 6) Comply with International and Host Nation laws regarding transit/exit/entry procedures, and the requirements for visas and work permits. Page 5 of 10

(c) Advising the Contracting Officer if they learn of their employees violating the human trafficking and inhumane living conditions provisions contained herein. Put on notice that contracting officers and/or their representatives will conduct random checks to ensure contractors and subcontractors at all **tiers** are adhering to the law on **human trafficking**, humane living conditions and withholding of passports.

(d) Requiring incorporation of the substance of this clause, including this paragraph, in all subcontracts under this contract.

More recently, DPAP, in coordination with the CTIP Program Manager, has taken additional actions to improve awareness and the effectiveness of DoD's CTIP Program as applies to contracting and contractors. A brief chronology and description of these efforts follows:

-- DECEMBER 2007 - The Defense Contingency Contracting Officer's Guide initially published. It has been updated twice (last update in June, 2010) and exists in both print and electronic versions. Interim updates are published electronically. These guides have all included CTIP content.

-- JUNE 2010 - The Defense Contingency Contracting Officers Representative (COR) Guide initially published electronically on the DPAP website, followed by a print version in December 2010. Includes CTIP content.

-- FEBRUARY 2011 - DCMA Afghanistan created and published a more robust stand-alone CTIP Examination checklist used by CORs, Quality Assurance Representatives (QARs) and Government Product Representatives (GTPRs) on contracts delegated to DCMA for administration. Similar requirements for Iraq and Kuwait.

-- AUGUST 2011 - DPAP released CTIP Brochure "Fair Treatment for All Workers: Supporting U.S. Installations Abroad." Printed copies shipped to C-JTSCC in Iraq and Afghanistan. Electronic copy posted to DPAP and CENTCOM Contracting Webpage.

-- AUGUST 2011 - CTIP related guidance for contracting officers approved for addition to DFARS PGI at 207.1(b)(20)(C)(10) (planning guidance) and 222.170 (updated guidance and references).

-- NOVEMBER 2011 - Pocket sized CTIP reference card produced, translated into 7 languages: Pashtu, Malay, Urdu, Thai, Tagalog, Arabic and Dari. Printed copies shipped to C-JTSCC in Iraq and Afghanistan. Electronic copy posted to DPAP and CENTCOM Contracting Webpage.

-- NOVEMBER 2011 - The DoD amended DFARS PGI 222.1703 to update the link to the DoD CTIP webpage and also update the policy guidance to reflect the 2010 version of DoDI 2200.01 .

-- DECEMBER 2011 - Added a CTIP Topic Section to the DPAP Contingency Contracting Webpage

-- FEBRUARY 2012 - New contract administration function (S-73) for administering TIP added to DFARS 242.302. Associated language at DFARS 222.1703.

-- MARCH 2012 - DoD publishes in Federal Register a proposed DFARS Rule "Alleged Crimes By or Against Contractor Personnel (DFARS Case 2012-D006)." Proposes to expand existing DFARS coverage currently applicable only to DoD contracts performed in Iraq and Afghanistan and make it applicable worldwide for contractors supporting contingency operations, humanitarian or peacekeeping operations, or other military operations or military exercises, when designated by the Combatant Commander. Expanding the coverage worldwide will provide contractors the guidance they need to take actions should alleged offenses by or against contractor personnel occur.

DPAP will continue to work aggressively with the CTIP Program to support their efforts to improve visibility of and compliance with the Federal and Department of Defense CTIP Program among contracting officers and contractors worldwide. Two of my staff are members of the DoD CTIP Program Manager's Task Force. We participated in the development of the Department's CTIP Plan of Action and Milestones.

Contractors are paramount to the success of DoD's missions. Our efforts include initiatives for their compliance with DoD's CTIP policy. In October 2006, DoD published an anti-trafficking interim rule clause within the DFARS for contracts performed outside the United States. The clause required contractors to establish an awareness program to inform employees regarding TIP. The clause also required contractors to develop policy and procedures that prohibit any activities on the part of contractor employees to establish an awareness program to inform employees regarding TIP.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation was amended to include a TIP clause in 2009 that required the contractor to notify its employees of the US Government's zero tolerance policy toward TIP and to take appropriate action against employees or subcontractors that violate the policy. It did not require contractors to establish an awareness program for their employees. When the FAR rule was published, the DFARS Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI) Part 222, was modified to add a clause for contractors regarding DoD's zero tolerance policy and CTIP training program. A DFARS requirement, published in February 2012 the Federal Register, adds additional contract administration duties to maintain surveillance over contractor compliance with Trafficking in Persons requirements for all DoD contracts, as specified in the FAR clause 52.222-50 on TIP.

At the end of the 90's our nation implemented a deliberate strategy to reduce reliance on organic forces for combat and combat service support in favor of contracted support. However, during OIF/OEF, the rate of growth of contracted support challenged DoD's ability to put in place the overarching framework necessary to properly manage and control contractors in forward areas, including aspects related to management of their personnel on the battlefield. The growth of contracted service support resulted in a huge expansion of contractor personnel working and residing on forward operating bases, including many personnel from third country nations and local nationals. While traditionally contractors are responsible for the logistics support of their personnel stateside, the hostile environment in Iraq and Afghanistan dictated that DoD rapidly grow its capability to manage and control the masses of contractor personnel who now lived and worked on forward operating bases. DoD policies and doctrine associated with managing these contractor personnel continue to evolve. The Department takes seriously the responsibilities associated with countering Trafficking in Persons and the need to ensure we properly manage and oversee all contractor personnel authorized to accompany the force, regardless of origin.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak about the DoD's CTIP program and some of our DPAP initiatives to combat trafficking in persons.

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162 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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TESTIMONY-BY: KENNETH P. MOOREFIELD, DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

AFFILIATION: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Statement of Kenneth P. Moorefield Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations Department of Defense
Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Inter-
governmental Relations and Procurement Reform

March 27, 2012

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss past and ongoing efforts by the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) in the area of combating trafficking in persons (CTIP). The DoD IG previously presented testimony on oversight efforts concerning the topic of human trafficking in 2004, 2006, and before your subcommittee on November 2, 2011.

Completed DoD IG Efforts

DoD IG initiated its first assessment of DoD CTIP as a result of a May 31, 2002 request made by thirteen Members of Congress to the Secretary of Defense seeking a "thorough, global and extensive" investigation into the publicized allegation that U.S. military leadership in Korea had been implicitly condoning sex slavery at the hands of traffickers.

In response to those Congressional concerns, the DoD IG initiated an assessment project to assess efforts to combat human trafficking within the United States Forces- Korea. In addition, DoD criminal investigations of DoD contractors underway during this period led the DoD IG to expand its assessment focus to incorporate DoD and DoD contractor activities in the European Command theater of operations, in particular, in Bosnia- Herzegovina and Kosovo.¹ The two assessments recommended that the Secretary of Defense issue a policy statement that clearly and unambiguously set forth DoD opposition to any activities promoting, supporting, or sanctioning human trafficking.

Subsequently, on January 30, 2004, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum, "Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Department of Defense," that stated "It is the policy of the DoD that trafficking in persons will not be facilitated in any way by the activities of our Service members, civilian employees, indirect hires or DoD contract personnel." In addition, DoD established annual CTIP awareness training for all DoD Service members and civilians, which has been in effect since 2004. With respect to the trafficking in persons (TIP) issues raised concerning Korea, the Command has taken multiple actions to prohibit and prevent DoD military, civilian, and contractor personnel from patronizing establishments it had declared off- limits.

In 2005, the DoD IG initiated an evaluation of CTIP efforts across DoD in further response to the 2002 request from Members of Congress. The resulting report, issued in November 2006, recommended that the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Services and Combatant Commands develop CTIP policy and program guidance, and that the military commands evaluate the effectiveness of their CTIP awareness training. In response to the report, in 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," that established policy and assigned CTIP program responsibilities across the Department.

The Under Secretary also created and filled the position of DoD CTIP Program Manager within that office. Additionally, the CTIP Program Officer for each DoD Component is required to report annually to the DoD CTIP Program Manager on CTIP training metrics and effectiveness. The most recent oversight efforts conducted by the DoD IG were in response to Public Law 110-457, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008," signed on December 23, 2008. Section 232 of the Act required the Inspectors General of DoD, State and USAID to ". . .investigate a sample of . . . contracts, or subcontracts at any **tier**, under which there is a heightened risk that a contractor may engage, knowingly or unknowingly, in acts related to **trafficking in persons**. . ." The Act also required the respective Inspectors General to submit a report to Congress, no later than January 15, for three consecutive years beginning in 2010.

The DoD IG consulted with the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and selected for assessment four Combatant Commands with overseas responsibilities and contracting presence: U.S. Pacific, U.S. Central, and U.S. European, and Africa Commands, in that order. To date, the DoD IG has issued all three annual reports assessing these commands, the final one on January 17, 2012.² The reports primarily focused on whether the contracts sampled were in compliance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requirements.

The contract sample in each assessment included all construction and service contracts within the respective combatant command's area of responsibility, with a place of performance outside the United States, a period of performance in FY 2009 or later, and with a total contract value of \$5 million or greater. This provided a reasonable data set which particularly focused on labor-intensive contracts.

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The DoD IG also recommended in that report that the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy modify widely-used contract writing software to ensure that the FAR CTIP clause was automatically included in contracts or solicitations. We also recommended that the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement guidance be updated to require CTIP oversight in contract quality assurance plans.

The Director, Defense Procurement, and Acquisition Policy, initiated the software modification and, in January 2011, revised the relevant guidance. In addition, the DoD IG team determined that contracting offices did not have access to an effective DoD process for obtaining TIP violation information from DoD criminal investigative organizations once their cases were closed, which would then provide the option of administrative contract remedial action. To address this issue, DoD updated DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)", September 15, 2010, requiring the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Commanders of the Combatant Commands to "provide information on all known TIP cases to the USD (P&R) DoD Program Manager." However, providing timely, publicly releasable information on TIP-related criminal indictments and convictions to DoD contracting organizations remains a challenge.

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However, the DoD IG team also identified a significant number of contracts where the Command supplement was mistakenly used to replace the required pre-existing FAR clause. The team recommended that the Commander, U.S. Cen-

tral Command Contracting Command modify the guidance to clarify proper usage of both the FAR and Command supplement CTIP clauses. The Commander concurred and issued modified guidance in September 2011.

The team also identified examples of proactive action taken by two DoD contracting commands in Kuwait, both of which had implemented a requirement to include CTIP compliance in contract quality assurance reviews. Further, Army Contracting Command- Kuwait had developed and implemented a CTIP questionnaire, translated into five common employee languages, as part of quality assurance audits. In addition, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Kuwait had included CTIP-focused questions into a Theater Quality Plan for quality assurance contract audits reviewing contractor knowledge and understanding of CTIP clause requirements. DCMA representatives also provided reports based on periodic health and sanitation inspections they had conducted of employee camps in Iraq.

In 2010, the DoD IG team visited several employee camps run by subcontractors in Iraq; the employees interviewed verified that DCMA personnel checked conditions on a regular basis. The team did not observe any living conditions in the camps that would constitute a violation of CTIP statutes or regulations.

The DoD IG report on the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command³, issued January 17, 2012, was based on a sample of 267 contracts executed in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United Kingdom.

We found some form of a CTIP clause present in 70 percent of the contracts reviewed; however, only half had the current required FAR clause. We recommended the Military Departments correct the contracts identified as deficient in our review. The team also determined that three DoD contracting organizations specifically discussed the FAR CTIP clause during post-award orientations with contractors to increase awareness of CTIP programs. In neither Combatant Command did the team find or have reported to it TIP violation incidents.

DoD IG TIP Investigations

There have been systemic obstacles which have hindered successful TIP criminal investigations, including jurisdiction limitations, foreign law enforcement capabilities, command investigative standards of evidence, and the challenges of evidence collection in contingency operation contracting environments.

In spite of these difficulties, since 2006 the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the DoD Office of Inspector General has investigated 21 TIP-related allegations worldwide, resulting in five cases being referred to the Department of Justice, of which one was accepted for prosecution. The violation in the accepted case was determined to be centered more on fraud against immigrants than on human trafficking, and, in any case, did not have a DoD nexus. Therefore, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service closed its investigation. The case was pursued by local law enforcement organizations and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security.

DoD Non-Appropriated Fund Organizations

During the DoD IG CTIP assessment of the U.S. Pacific Command in 2009, the team noted that non-appropriated fund entities were not required to include the FAR CTIP clause in their contracts. Therefore, we included an assessment of the Navy Exchange (NEX), and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) CTIP policy and procedures within the reviews of the U.S. Central Command and the U.S. European and Africa Commands.

The DoD Resale Activities & Non-appropriated Fund Policy office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness has issued guidance to DoD Non-appropriated fund organizations reinforcing the application of trafficking in persons statutory requirements to their contracting activities. The review of AAFES Europe identified that the Commander had issued a Manpower Associate "Bill of Rights," available in English and eight other languages, that subordinate organizations were directed to post on employee bulletin boards for easy access. The Commander also had established an employee passport possession policy to ensure that "contractors do not withhold the passports of TCNs [Third Country Nationals] working in our facilities."

In Kuwait during the 2010 field assessment, the DoD IG team observed AAFES passport checks and employee interviews first-hand while accompanying a contracting officer representative to several facilities. No CTIP violations were observed. The team also received a detailed briefing from the AAFES legal counsel outlining several additional TIP-related incidents and the contract remedies applied.

Ongoing DoD IG Assessments

A DoD IG team evaluating the DoD CTIP program in Afghanistan completed fieldwork in February 2012. The draft report will be provided to the Department for management comments within the next few weeks, and the final report is expected to be issued in May 2012.

The team examined 240 contracts administered by Army, Navy, and Air Force commands, as well as Defense Agencies in Afghanistan, and visited nine separate installations throughout Afghanistan. It conducted over 110 interviews with military commanders and contracting personnel, interviewed representatives from 10 U.S. and foreign contractors, and met with 145 contractor employees (Afghan and third-country nationals).

It is worth noting is that the mandatory CTIP clause was included in 93 percent (224 of 240) of the contracts reviewed, a significant improvement from previous Combatant Command assessments, including for the rest of U.S. Central Command. During our fieldwork, the DoD IG team was made aware of an investigation recently conducted by the NATO International Military Police that had identified an Afghan company as involved in TIP violations. The case had been subsequently referred to the contracting officer, who took action recommending debarment.

Additionally, the team was informed by third country nationals at one U.S. base that they were living in what could be adverse living conditions. We referred this complaint to the prime contractor, the U.S. contracting organization responsible for the administrative oversight of the contract, and the base commander/commandant, who initiated an immediate investigation.

In addition to and concurrent with the multi-year review of contracts required by PL 110-457, the DoD IG has self-initiated an assessment of DoD Component CTIP program compliance and performance. As of this date, we have reviewed CTIP policies, procedures, awareness, and implementation in over 70 DoD organizations, including responsible officials in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and headquarters and major subordinate commands of the Military Services, Defense Agencies, and Combatant Commands. At each location, the team interviewed:

- . commanders and staff responsible for the CTIP program,
- . law enforcement personnel and legal counsel,
- . contracting officers, specialists, and quality assurance specialists, contracting officer representatives, and
- . representatives of contracting firms, and when possible, their employees. This report is scheduled for final release in the summer of 2012.

November 2, 2011 HOCR Hearing

During the November 2 hearing before this subcommittee, the Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations was asked to provide recommendations for improving CTIP compliance and enforcement. Our response, dated January 31, 2012, included suggestions designed to strengthen DoD TIP-related oversight, compliance, enforcement, and data availability and accuracy, to include:

- . DoD Component Commanders and their Component Inspectors General could make CTIP a special interest item in Command inspections, assessments, or program reviews. Further, these special interest item inspections should include non-appropriated fund activities conducted by any DoD Component. Regular comprehensive reviews by DoD Components oversight agencies would increase Command awareness, improve policies, ensure the inclusion of required CTIP language in contracts, and verify contractor and subcontractor compliance.
- . DoD could assess and centralize its TIP-related data collection with respect to: identification of the number of third country nationals supporting DoD contingency operations; consolidating contractual remedies applied in cases of TIP allegations; and identifying instances of criminal violations and sanctions.

Conclusion

The DoD IG remains committed to providing oversight support of the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance policy" against trafficking in persons. We will continue to evaluate the related DoD programs for compliance with relevant statutes, policies and regulations. I thank you again for this opportunity to update you on DoD IG oversight of DoD actions to combat trafficking in persons.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Congressional Testimony

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STAR 163 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily Times (Asianet-Pakistan)

March 24, 2012 Saturday 1:41 PM EST

More steps required to counter human trafficking: media experts

LENGTH: 566 words

By: Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Human trafficking is a very serious social issue and has brought Pakistan in the limelight, but there is not much focus in the media on this critical issue, media experts concurred during a consultation held on Thursday.

The consultation was a critical part of a project of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and was arranged and conducted by PINFO, an info-knowledge and communication management organisation. The IOM at present is working to create 'Counter Human Trafficking District Taskforce's in districts of Pakistan where human trafficking is endemic.

Human trafficking cannot be seen in vacuum, the participants said and shared that the countries where this issue was rampant were usually politically unstable and economically challenged. "The people of these countries only wish to leave and go to greener pastures, no matter what," a participant said and added that the situation in Pakistan was also challenging. There was a consensus among the participants that Pakistan's society must appreciate the actuality of the problem and should not fall prey to the fallacious promises that human traffickers usually made. It is to be noted that Pakistan is a source, transition and destination of the human trafficking phenomenon.

Human trafficking expert, Aarish Khan, said that Pakistan's biggest problem was its internal human trafficking that both the government and people did not regard as a form of trafficking.

"Considering that **human trafficking** means only crossing border into another country is erroneous, internal trafficking for child sex trade, bonded labour and other forms of modern human slavery are intertwined issues with state of Pakistan's political and economic affairs." Adding to the subject, he mentioned that Pakistan had been categorised as a '**Tier-II**' country in the US State Department's recent '**Trafficking In Person**' report, released earlier this month. This means that the issue exists and the government is doing something to counter the problem, he said.

Journalists from various media organisations took part in the consultation along with researchers and experts on the subject. It was emphasised that media organisations must start treating human rights issues as a 'beat' and under that beat, this issue could be covered.

Furthermore, the participants criticised the model of awareness raising of the international development organisations and said that such activities must not be driven by the availability of the funds. "There should be a permanent forum, organisation or a think tank that should keep providing valuable information to the media professionals that they could utilise in their routine assignments," a print media journalist said.

The participants of the consultation agreed that the government was taking steps in the right direction but should make these efforts coherent to achieve the maximum impact. In his concluding remarks, Mubashir Akram, the chair, encouraged the media to focus on the real humanitarian and socially realistic issues also. "Not everything news worthy has to be grand politically or economically, these human issues must be given priority and preference by the media professionals," he mentioned.

The participants appreciated the IOM for holding a constructive consultation and hoped that more events of this kind would become a routine and media professionals would be engaged.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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JOURNAL-CODE: APAK-115063

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164 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

March 24, 2012 Saturday

Call for highlighting human trafficking

BYLINE: OUR STAFF REPORTER**SECTION:** Vol. XXVI No. 33**LENGTH:** 429 words

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There was a consensus among the participants that Pakistan's society must appreciate the actuality of the problem and should not fall prey to the fallacious promises that the human traffickers usually make. It is to be noted that Pakistan is a source, transition and destination of the human trafficking phenomenon.

Human trafficking expert, Aarish Khan, in his presentation said that Pakistan's biggest problem is its internal human trafficking that both the government and people do not regard as a form of trafficking. Adding to the subject, he mentioned that Pakistan been categorized as the "**Tier-II**" country in State Department's recent **Trafficking In Person's** report, released earlier this month.

This means that the issue exists and the government is doing something about it to countering the problem, he said.

It was emphasised that media organisations must start treating the Human Rights issues as a "beat" and under that beat, this issue could be covered.

Furthermore, the participants, while appreciating the occasion, criticized the model of awareness raising of the international development organizations and said that such activities must not be driven by the availability of the funds.

"There should be a permanent forum, organization or a think tank that should keep providing valuable input/information to the media professionals for their information that they could utilized in their routine assignments," a participant noted.

The participants of the consultation agreed that the government was taking steps in the right direction but should make these efforts coherent to achieve the maximum impact.

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165 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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166 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

March 24, 2012 Saturday

Thai fishing trade under fire for human trafficking

BYLINE: Nirmal Ghosh, Thailand Correspondent

SECTION: ASIA; South-east Asia

LENGTH: 555 words

BANGKOK: Thailand's fishing industry has come under increasing scrutiny for human trafficking as desperate Cambodians continue to jump off Thai fishing boats to escape life-threatening conditions with no pay.

The country now risks being downgraded to **Tier 3** on the United States' annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report due out in June.

A Tier 3 listing can trigger sanctions and suspension of some bilateral programmes. The looming downgrade comes as Thailand does little to address the structural issues that make trafficking possible, activists say, despite a warning last August from a United Nations rapporteur.

Mr Eaklak Loomchomkhae, who heads Thai non-government organisation (NGO) Mirror Foundation's anti-trafficking efforts, estimates that there is a labour shortage of 70,000 in Thailand's fishing industry.

Migrant labour from poorer neighbours, especially Cambodia, helps fill the gap. But poor migrants often fall prey to illegal brokers.

'The fishing industry is substandard, dirty and dangerous, and the pay is low,' Mr Eaklak said. In many cases, workers are virtually used as slave labour and not paid.

Trafficking is rampant across the region, with trafficking for the sex trade, often involving children, making headline news.

But the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that this group comprised less than 10 per cent of the 9.5 million victims of human trafficking in Asia in 2005.

Over the past three months, about 30 Cambodians have been rescued after jumping overboard from Thai fishing vessels.

Last year, Tenaganita, a Malaysian NGO, helped in the rescue and repatriation of some 100 Cambodians. Many had swum ashore at Tanjung Manis, Sarawak's largest harbour.

Activists want not only a Thai crackdown on trafficking, but also an Asean-wide agreement and mechanism to tackle the issue.

'There has to be a regional approach to this,' Ms Irene Fernandez, director of Tenaganita, said in a telephone interview.

Cambodians have told harrowing tales of being promised decent jobs in Thailand only to find themselves put on fishing boats to work long hours without pay far out at sea. Those who fall sick get a few anti-fever tablets. Some of those deemed too ill to work are simply thrown overboard, they claim.

The ILO's 2005 report concluded that 10 per cent of young men who worked on fishing boats in South-east Asia did not return from their trips.

The adoption of a law on human trafficking in 2008 has brought little or no change.

Speaking at the end of her visit to Thailand last August, Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, cited 'weak and fragmented' implementation of the 2008 law, due partly to corruption among low-level law enforcement officials.

The Thai government has objected to what it calls Washington's 'unilateralism' and the use of the TIP report as 'an effective foreign policy tool'. But a senior Thai official has also acknowledged that the TIP report 'does help focus' on the problem.

Mr Chutintorn Sam Gongsakdi, deputy director-general of the Thai Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organisations, told a forum on trafficking in the fishing industry recently: 'There will be a significant improvement in two to three years. Maybe not enough for the TIP report this year.'

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167 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily Times (PK)

March 23, 2012 Friday

More steps required to counter human trafficking: media experts

LENGTH: 576 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD

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168 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Daily Times

March 23, 2012 Friday

More steps required to counter human trafficking: media experts

BYLINE: Staff Report

SECTION: Vol. VIII No. 74

LENGTH: 562 words

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169 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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170 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 23, 2012 Friday**FIRST FSM/US PRELIMINARY JOINT BUDGET CONSULTATIONS HELD IN POHNPEI****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 393 words**DATELINE:** POHNPEI, FM

The following information was released by the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia:

Officials from the US Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and five governments of the FSM recently met in Pohnpei for Amended Compact Preliminary Joint Budget Consultations. Under the terms of the Amended Compact, Annual Budget Consultations between the US and FSM are meant to ascertain consistency with the funding requirements of the Amended Compact as well as the appropriateness of performance objectives and the adequacy of expenditures in achieving stated purposes. Since early years of the Amended Compact, budget consultations have typically occurred in late May to early June, utilizing draft implementation plans and proposed budgets, prior to finalized versions being consolidated by the FSM National Government and submitted to OIA by the required deadline of July 1st. In the three most recent budget development cycles, suggestions were made to SBOC's Division of Compact Management to hold advanced consultations, prior to Executive Budget Review Committee hearing sessions and budgets being finalized for submission to Congress and the four respective State Legislatures.

This year, to better assist with Compact budget formulation, particularly on those issues that have been directed by JEMCO, the Offices of SBOC and Insular Affairs scheduled the first ever preliminary joint budget consultations from February 13-15, 2012, followed by an FSM internal Budget Meeting on February 16th. In a Presidential letter to the four FSM State Governors inviting their respective State Budget Officer, Directors of Health and Education and other key representatives relevant to Compact budgeting, the purpose of the preliminary consultations was noted as being primarily focused on guidelines, utilization and implementation of the seven Compact Sector grants.

Among the issues discussed were effects of cuts made by JEMCO to Scholarships and the College of Micronesia-FSM's operational budget. Other priority concerns addressed ranged from infrastructure development and the FSM's allocation distribution formula, to Compact Impact and the FSM's undesirable **tier 3** standing on the US **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The PJBC was also meant as a precursor to the upcoming Midyear JEMCO Meeting, scheduled for March 23, 2012 in Pohnpei.

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

171 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

March 22, 2012 Thursday
Final Edition

News briefs

BYLINE: Wire reports

SECTION: News; Pg. A6

LENGTH: 747 words

Havana : Amnesty International blasts Cuba detentions Amnesty International on Wednesday placed four jailed Cubans on its global list of prisoners of conscience, the only inmates on the island to have such a designation, and denounced the Communist-run government for what it called a campaign of intimidation and short-term detentions targeting the opposition. The report, released just days ahead of a visit to Cuba by Pope Benedict XVI, said the human rights situation on the island "has further deteriorated" with thousands of express detentions meant to cow the small dissident community. It said detainees are threatened and sometimes beaten before release. "Criticism of the government is not tolerated in Cuba and it is routinely punished," Amnesty wrote.

There was no immediate reaction from the government. Tallinn, Estonia: Estonian legislators vote to ban human trafficking Estonia's Parliament passed legislation on Wednesday banning human trafficking and making the Baltic nation the last EU country to enact such laws. The lawmakers voted 91-0 in favor, with 10 members absent. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves is expected to make the bill law by approving it in the coming weeks. Estonia had been under pressure from the United States to adopt such legislation and thereby avoid being kept on a **watchlist** the U.S. State Department keeps of countries it regards as lax in fighting **human trafficking**. The list has included Belarus and Russia and EU members Cyprus and Malta. Bamako, Mali: Soldiers in Mali mutiny, cut off broadcasts Disgruntled soldiers in Mali on Wednesday mutinied at two military bases and cut off broadcasts at state TV and radio, but the president insisted that the country was not facing a coup attempt. The sounds of heavy weaponry range out into the night in Bamako, where recruits had earlier mutinied at a military base, shooting volleys in the air. Other soldiers stormed the state broadcaster, witness said. The mutiny spread to a military base in Gao, a strategic northern town, where troops captured a half-dozen senior officers and were holding them, according to a military student at the base who requested anonymity because he feared for his safety. A Twitter message from the account of Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure insisted Wednesday: "There is no coup in Mali. There's just a mutiny." Berlin: Israel to buy another German submarine Israel has signed a contract in Berlin for a Dolphin-type submarine from Germany, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak's office said Wednesday. Germany's Parliament approved the purchase in November and agreed to pay \$180 million or about one-third of the cost. Israel already has three Dolphin submarines from Germany and two more are under construction. Beijing: China requiring lawyers' allegiance to communism The Chinese government said Wednesday that lawyers are now required to swear allegiance to the Communist Party, a move criticized by prominent human rights lawyers who have defended the authoritarian government's critics. The Ministry of Justice said in a notice posted on its website that first-time applicants or lawyers requesting renewals of professional legal licenses must take an oath of loyalty to the country, the Communist Party and the people. The oath is intended to raise the political, moral and professional quality of the country's lawyers, the notice said. London: Prince William returns home from deployment Prince William has returned to Britain after his deployment to the Falkland Islands, St. James' Palace said Wednesday. William has been stationed on the Falklands since February. Flight Lt. Wales, as he's known in the Royal Air Force, was one of several pilots on call for search and rescue missions in the archipelago of 704 islands. William's tour angered Argentina, which claims the islands 290 miles off its coast and refers to them as Las Malvinas. His deployment added to growing tension in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of Argentina's April 1982 invasion. Brussels: Belgium holds memorial for bus-crash dead King Albert II and thousands of mourners at a memorial service on Wednesday remembered the 28 victims of last week's bus crash in a Swiss tunnel. The victims included 22 schoolchildren. The students were from two

schools in northern Belgium that shared a bus for a traditional "snow class" vacation in Switzerland. The bus, carrying 52 people, slammed into a tunnel wall on March 13. In addition to the dead, 24 children were injured.

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The Associated Press

March 21, 2012 Wednesday 04:51 PM GMT

Estonia makes human trafficking illegal

BYLINE: By JARI TANNER, Associated Press**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 423 words**DATELINE:** TALLINN, Estonia

Estonia's Parliament passed legislation on Wednesday banning human trafficking and making the Baltic nation the last EU country to enact such laws.

The lawmakers voted 91-0 in favor, with 10 members absent. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves is expected to make the bill law by approving it in the coming weeks.

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Such criticism embarrassed Estonia, a small country that considers the U.S. a key ally and has long been sensitive to its image overseas.

Andres Anvelt, of Estonia's opposition Social Democratic Party, called the bill passed Wednesday "a breakthrough" for the nation of 1.3 million people. "This is the first step forward in fighting human trafficking," Anvelt said in Parliament as lawmakers prepared to vote.

The U.S. Embassy in Tallinn also praised Estonia's government.

The new law "is a testament to the commitment both of Estonian lawmakers and of the NGOs who have worked tirelessly to secure justice for the victims of human trafficking and ensure substantial punishment" for perpetrators of the crime, embassy spokeswoman Michelle Schohn said in an email to The Associated Press.

The measure, fast-tracked by Estonia's Justice Ministry, makes human trafficking punishable by a maximum 15-year prison sentence. It also criminalizes sexual exploitation, including forcing minors to work as prostitutes or to appear in pornographic films and erotic performances.

Existing laws had ignored human trafficking issues such as the recruiting, transporting and exploiting victims, and allowed perpetrators to get away with short jail sentences or fines.

The last U.S. watchlist report said Estonia was not sufficiently fighting forced labor and forced prostitution.

"Estonia is a source, transit, and destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution" that report had said, noting that women, particularly from rural areas, were at risk of being forced into prostitution in the capital, Tallinn. They also risked being taken abroad to work as prostitutes in countries such as Finland, Britain, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, the report said.

Estonian support groups for victims say typical cases involved women who were lured to work in striptease clubs as dancers but ended up being forced to offer sexual services to club clients.

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ABC Premium News (Australia)

March 17, 2012 Saturday

Baby's death shines spotlight on human trafficking

BYLINE: By Monique Ross

LENGTH: 868 words

The death of a battered two-year-old girl in India has thrust human trafficking in the country into the spotlight.

The girl, dubbed Falak by doctors, was taken to a New Delhi hospital in January by a 14-year-old girl who claimed to be her mother.

Doctors say Falak had severe head injuries, broken arms, branded cheeks, and bite marks covering her body when she was admitted.

For two months Indians followed the story as she underwent multiple surgeries. But on Thursday she suffered a cardiac arrest - the third in her short life - and died.

The case made headlines across the country, but it was just the beginning of a much darker story.

Once police began looking into the case, they uncovered a suspected human trafficking ring.

'Slave trade'

According to reports, the teenage girl who took Falak to hospital had been sold into a brothel. She began living with Rajkumar, a man she met through the brothel.

One day, he allegedly brought home baby Falak.

The woman believed to actually be Falak's biological mother, 22-year-old Munni, was tracked down in Rajasthan.

Munni had been sold by her first husband to another man.

She was reportedly forced to leave the baby with the teenager when she was sold. She also left behind her two other children.

The Indian home ministry says it is a case of human trafficking.

"This has turned out to be one of the biggest sex rackets involving minors and child prostitution and sale of women for marriage," Raaj Mangal Prasad, the head of India's Child Welfare Committee, told CNN.

"This shows this is a classic case where the magnitude of trafficking has come to light."

The girl is now in a juvenile home and Rajkumar has been detained by police - one of a handful of people arrested.

Shocking statistics

The case has reignited debate about human trafficking in India, a country with a population of 1.2 billion people.

The UN defines human trafficking as "the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them".

It notes it is difficult to get a clear number of the amount of people affected because it is an underground crime.

However, the UN estimates that at any one time 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking across the globe, and the most common form is sexual exploitation.

In a 2011 report the US State Department ranked India as a **tier 2** country in terms of **human trafficking**, meaning it does not do enough to eliminate trafficking but is taking steps to curb the problem.

"Ninety per cent of trafficking in India is internal, and those from India's most disadvantaged social economic strata including the lowest castes are particularly vulnerable to forced or bonded labour and sex trafficking," the report said.

"Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of forced prostitution ... cities popular for tourism continue to be vulnerable to child sex tourism. Indian nationals engage in child sex tourism within the country and, to a lesser extent, in other countries."

In a 2003 report the National Human Rights Commission of India estimated that nearly 40,000 children are abducted in India each year, with around 11,000 of those never being found.

The NHRC estimates that almost half of the children trafficked within India are between the ages of 11 and 14.

Stolen and sold

But not all the trafficking cases in India are internal.

In 2009, the ABC's Sally Sara investigated the trade of children in India, looking into cases of children being stolen and trafficked to Australia under the guise of adoptions.

Australia has several laws and bodies aimed at halting the trade in people.

Officials say the number of cases in Australia is relatively low, but they also admit the extent of the problem remains unclear.

According to the Australian Federal Police, nearly 200 people in Australia have been rescued from people-trafficking arrangements.

Australia's student visa program has also been hit by allegations that women entering Australia on student visas are being forced into the sex industry.

The AFP has recently held a series of forums to raise awareness of the problem, and last year it backed a campaign aimed at dismantling stereotypes of human trafficking:

What next?

According to the US State Department, the Indian government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking ... [but] it is making significant efforts to do so".

Last year India ratified the protocol to prevent people trafficking and it also prohibits some forms of trafficking - including for sexual exploitation and forced labour - in its local laws.

But critics say the laws are not effectively enforced and a clear definition of trafficking is not provided.

Delhi-based writer Namita Bhandare says there is plenty more that can be done to stop cases like this happening again.

But she argues that the "biggest stumbling block" is a lack of willpower to bring about concrete change.

Online, meanwhile, people are taking to social media sites like Twitter in a bid to keep the case of baby Falak in the spotlight.

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March 17, 2012 Saturday
DUPLICATE

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LENGTH: 886 words

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Shocking statistics

The case has reignited debate about human trafficking in India, a country with a population of 1.2 billion people.

And while the story of baby Falak is a tragic tale, statistics suggest there may be many similar stories.

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177 of 492 DOCUMENTS



M2 PressWIRE

March 16, 2012 Friday

Press Releases: Annual Meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

LENGTH: 11803 words

March 15, 2012

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State Eisenhower Executive Office Building

Washington, DC

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. We want to welcome you to the White House for our annual President's Task Force to Combat and Monitor Trafficking of Persons. We're delighted to have it here hosted at the White House. It's indicative of the President's commitment to this issue, and we want to thank all of the members of the agencies who have joined us this morning for this meeting.

In 2008, the President spoke at Pastor Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, and he called human trafficking the modern-day enslavement of men, women, and children for sex or labor, and he referred to it as a debasement of our common humanity, which I think sums it up perfectly. As chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls, this issue is of particular importance to me as a leader but also to our council, which is represented by all of the agencies in the federal government as well. And it's why we're pleased to have you all here today.

We are confident with the Administration working together, with civil society, with not-for-profits, with the private sector, we can actually tackle this issue head on and conquer it. And we're delighted to have here Secretary Clinton, who has chaired this task force, and I'll turn it over to her in a second. But I wanted to, by way of introduction, mention that yesterday we were at the State Department for a luncheon with Prime Minister Cameron, and he said about Secretary Clinton that she has been a strong advocate who is committed to the emancipation and empowerment of women. And I thought that that was a perfect way to describe one of her many roles and one that is particularly germane to the topic of this morning.

So with that, again I want to welcome everyone here and tell you how committed the President is to making sure that we are all collaborating and sharing information together and intending to conquer this issue head on. So with that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Clinton. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you. Well, thank you very much Valerie. And thank you for hosting us here at the White House. This annual event is a good opportunity to hear about the progress that our government is making to combat modern slavery and to talk about our goals going forward. And so I very much appreciate the President's commitment to this work and the collaboration that has been accomplished throughout the United States Government. So with that, I'm delighted to call this meeting to order.

I want to thank Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff not only for the work they put into staffing the task force, but for the zeal with which they lead this fight around the world. Of course, if this issue doesn't demand zealous advocacy, it's hard to figure out what does.

This September marks the 150th anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. And it's a good time for us to recommit ourselves, not only to the promise of freedom, but to the work against ending modern slavery.

Around the world, as many as 27 million men, women, and children toil in bondage. This crime undermines economies and the rule of law. It shatters families and communities. It is an affront to our most fundamental values.

This issue is very near and dear to my heart, since the time I was first lady. And we began a full-hearted effort by our government -- both the executive branch and Congress -- to address this issue. And I've had the experience of meeting with survivors here at home and around the world. I've seen firsthand what a horrible toll this takes, and so I'm delighted that we have such a dedicated group of members.

This is a priority in the Obama Administration, starting with the President, as Valerie said. And the first time we convened the task force under this Administration, we laid out a set of commitments -- a call to action. And in answering that call, we've tried to elevate the fight against trafficking to the highest levels of policymaking.

This goes hand in hand. This is not an individual, one-off effort. This goes hand in hand with other work that we've been doing on behalf of women and girls and other marginalized people. The White House recently issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security to ensure that women are full partners and participants in our efforts to reduce conflict and promote peace and prosperity around the world, because after all, modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls. And as it does so, it disrupts family networks, and it undermines the foundation of stable economies and societies. So the Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security contains specific steps to prevent human trafficking of women and children as a result of conflict and to provide assistance to victims.

The State Department has made the struggle against modern slavery an important part of our diplomatic engagement. Our annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive assessment of how well governments are doing to address this crime. The TIP Office's foreign assistance grants are making a difference in 37 countries, supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to survivors and help governments build their capacity to fight this crime. And thanks to our leadership, the international community is getting behind the effort. Nearly 140 countries have enacted modern anti-trafficking laws, and nearly 150 are party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

And we've taken action here at home. For instance, we learned that survivors were being made to pay taxes on restitution payments from their abusers. And, well, some of the people in this room as well as colleagues from the Treasury Department who are not with us today saw the problem and said, "This isn't right; we're going to do something about it." So now the Treasury Department has made clear that victims are not liable to pay taxes on the wages of slavery.

Another example: We thought it was unfair for diplomats who victimized their own domestic workers were, because of diplomatic immunity, virtually untouchable. So now, we're making sure that diplomats coming to this country understand their obligations and responsibilities, and we're taking action when we have evidence that they are not.

We're trying to ensure that resources and support are available to victims wherever we find them, and one of those resources is the Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Its operations have been expanded. It now fields an unprecedented number of calls. And it is really making a difference in reaching out to survivors and helping us prosecute abusers.

Other agencies led by the Department of Homeland Security recently held a public listening session to hear from stakeholders about new ideas for victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and NGO private sector initiatives. Now, we've also tried to streamline how we approach cases. And instead of a muddle of agencies claiming or rejecting different responsibilities, thanks to the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Homeland Security, we have in place in the Obama Administration efficient, coordinated, anti-trafficking teams, and they're making investigations and prosecutions more effective and helping victims.

To help gauge our responses, I've included a **tier** ranking for the United States in the annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report. I thought it was important, if we were going to be judging other countries, we judged ourselves. And so we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others. It's not only the fair thing to do; it's turned out also to be the smart thing as well, because including us in the report made it more credible and effective as a diplomatic tool. It shows we're all in this fight together, that we have a problem, which we are continuing to address, and it's not just a document that names and shames, but instead it serves as a guide to what practices are working, and more importantly, what every government, including our own, needs to do better, and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts on this. This latest publication from the President's Interagency Task Force Progress in Combating Trafficking in Persons really summarizes a lot of the progress we've made in the Obama Administration over the last three-plus years.

Finally, we know that the future of this struggle will depend on innovative solutions, so we are partnering with thinkers whose bold ideas are already helping to make a difference. We now have online tools like the Slavery Footprint so that people can understand the ways in which this crime affects them. It doesn't just happen to somebody far away, but it does have ripples of criminality that come across the globe.

We have new ways of looking at supply chains and policies, so that can help us cut off the demand that traffickers cruelly exploit. That's particularly important when you think about the buying power of the federal government. So I think that we meet at a time when we have a lot to be grateful for in terms of the enhanced efforts that we've made, the results that we're getting, but I think this task force is really focused on the challenge and the way ahead.

So let me now turn to Ambassador CdeBaca, who will say a few words about why we consider this such a high priority in our government.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's this Administration's priority to give voice to the survivors of modern slavery whether in court or in our foreign policy, but those voices have been calling for justice for more than 150 years. A letter from the National Archives recently surfaced, a letter written in September of 1864 by Spotswood Rice to Katherine Diggs, his former master. He wrote from the lines of the Union Army as he and his new comrades marched back to Missouri, back towards the plantation where he had been held. Among those still enslaved was his daughter, Mary. His strength and righteous anger rings out through the years. And I quote:

"I want you to understand that mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own. And you may hold on to hear as long as you can, but I want you to remember this one thing -- the longor you keep my Child from me, the longor you will have to burn...and the qwicer youll get their..."

"I want you now to just hold on to hear if you want to iff your conchosence tells thats the road go that road and what it will brig you to kittey diggs I have no fears about geting mary out of your hands the whole Government gives chear to me and you cannot help your self."

We know from the oral histories that once freed, that little girl lived a long and prosperous life. And in 1937, an aged Mary told a WPA historian: "I love army men. My father, brother, husband, and son were all army men. I love a man who fights for his rights and any person who wants to be someone."

Slavery and the ways that we fight it have changed so much since Spotswood Rice and those other survivors marched with that terrible, swift sword. But as you said last year, Madam Secretary, when we take up this burden at home and abroad, we do it because fighting slavery is part of our national identity. It's who we are.

Together, we can and we must rise to meet Spotswood Rice's challenge to go back for everyone's daughters and sons who remain in servitude. Together, we can give cheer to those who answer the call and march with today's survivors on their road to freedom.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Lou. And one of the things that Lou has done over his professional life of commitment to this issue is to continually link it to larger struggles for human freedom, including our own.

I want to turn now to the Attorney General, because the Attorney General and the Justice Department have been great partners in our efforts to combat this scourge. And I want to thank Attorney General Holder.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, thank you, Secretary Clinton. And also let me start by thanking President Obama for hosting us and for his extraordinary leadership in this global fight against human trafficking, and also thanks to my good friend Valerie Jarrett for bringing us together today and for her attention to this issue.

It's really an honor for me to join with my colleagues and partners to discuss the progress that we have made over the past year, but also to identify ways in which we can continue the momentum that we have built up over the past year and make sure that all that we have pledged to do in this Administration actually does occur.

One of the things I would point out is that one of the four priorities that I've identified for the Justice Department is that we protect the most vulnerable among us. And this fits right into one of those four core priorities for the United States Department of Justice. For Justice, our commitment to preventing human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and assisting victims has really never been stronger, and our approach, I don't think, has ever been more effective. Our work has sent a clear and critical message that in this country and under this Administration, human trafficking crimes will simply not be tolerated.

I'm proud to report that in the past year we charged a record number of people with human trafficking offenses, and over the last three years we have achieved significant increases in human trafficking prosecutions, including the rise of more than 30 percent in the number of forced labor and adult sex trafficking prosecutions.

Now, this work is really more than statistics. It has saved lives. It has ensured freedom. It has restored dignity to women, to men, to children, in virtually every corner of this country. We have liberated scores of victims. We have secured long prison sentences against individual traffickers. But we've also dismantled really large transnational organized crime enterprises. As many of you will recall, last February the Justice Department launched a human trafficking enhanced enforcement initiative in order to take our counter-trafficking enforcement levels -- efforts to a new level.

Now, as part of this commitment, I announced the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team, or ACT Team, initiative that's an interagency collaboration among the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor, aimed at streamlining federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenses. And following a very rigorous and competitive interagency selection process, we launched six Phase One Pilot ACT Teams around the country. And they are located in Atlanta, El Paso, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Miami, and today these teams are fully operational. And by bringing federal investigative agencies and federal prosecutors together, they are allowing us to develop and to advance high-impact human trafficking prosecutions.

And let me just share some examples with you. Over the last year we have dismantled a large transnational organized crime enterprise that held Ukrainian victims in forced labor in Philadelphia. We have brought freedom and dignity to undocumented Central American women and convicted the traffickers who, with threats of violence and abuse, compelled them into forced labor and prostitution in restaurants and bars on Long Island in New York. We have restored freedom to undocumented Eastern European women and convicted the traffickers who brutally exploited them in massage parlors in Chicago and even branded them with tattoos to claim them as their own property. We have secured a life sentence against a gang member in the Eastern District of Virginia, just across the river here, for sex trafficking of victims as young as 12 years old.

By providing grant funding to our state and local law enforcement partners and to victims service organizations really across the country, the Justice Department is also supporting proactive efforts to stop traffickers and to help victims heal and to rebuild their lives.

And for the entire anti-trafficking community, we are continuing to provide training and technical assistance as well. And over the last year these efforts have included hosting three regional training forums that have focused on improving collaboration as well as the development of a training curriculum to help state prosecutors and state judges better understand human trafficking crimes. This is something that has to be done at the state and local level as well as at the federal level.

We're also taking steps to forge and strengthen partnerships across international borders, understanding that this is not simply an American problem. And we have seen that this effort is really essential. Over the last year, by working with our Mexican law enforcement partners, we have dismantled sex trafficking networks that operate on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and have brought freedom to victims and secured really landmark convictions and substantial sentences against the traffickers in these high-impact bilateral cases. We've had good cooperation with our Mexican counterparts.

So I think we can all be encouraged by our recent achievements in the fight against human trafficking, but I think we would all agree that we have still more to do and that far too many people remain in desperate need for the help that we can provide. And that's why I think that our joint efforts and our outstanding efforts really must continue. I am committed to this. The Justice Department is committed to this. This group that meets today is obviously committed to this. This Administration has identified this as a priority.

So I look forward to our discussions as to where we will go from here and how we can keep working in partnership to increase the impact of these very critical efforts. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Attorney General. Now I'd like to invite Secretary Hilda Solis to share the Labor Department's update. And I want to thank Hilda for making this a high priority within the Labor Department.

SECRETARY SOLIS: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary, and also to our colleagues. I want to also congratulate President Obama and Valerie Jarrett for having this meeting convened here. This is a topic that obviously is very controversial and one that some of us in this room we know take very seriously and, of course, feel that we need to do as much as we can to make sure that every effort, especially at the Department of Labor, is focused in on combating this terrible error that occurs not just in our shores but also abroad.

I want to applaud President Obama. He's been very clear in his vision for an America built to last, one where everyone has a fair shot at success and where everyone plays by the same rules. Our actions to end the exploitation of workers are critical to achieving that vision. That's why the Department of Labor is here.

The Department of Labor's efforts to combat human trafficking have been broad and varied and can be broken down into two -- three main categories. The first is detection and law enforcement. Our investigators are on the front lines of trafficking, identifying potential cases and providing critical support such as translation services during investigations.

We've revamped the integrity and enforcement actions of our guest worker program to ensure a fair process for employers who use temporary foreign workers and to enforce protections for all of our workers. We've now announced new protocols to begin certifying new visas. That's allowed us to help immigrant victims of trafficking assist in investigation of those crimes.

The second category involves transnational engagement and research. We've signed currently declarations with Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and DR to ensure that foreign workers, often the most vulnerable, are informed of their labor rights here in the U.S. This is very important as well because, in many cases, folks come here thinking that there are no serious protections available to them, there is no one that's going to listen to them, so it's a course of trying to reeducate people over and over again that there are different laws here, and there is a responsibility and accountability process.

The funding that we have included in these programs includes technical assistance projects and research that we're doing across the board on child and forced labor across the globe. And since 1995, the Department of Labor has been

funding projects to combat the worst forms of child labor. And as a result, hundreds of thousands of children have been prevented from being trafficked.

The third and final category in our efforts to combat trafficking victims is services -- services that must be provided, a full restitution for the labor that they have performed. So we are very excited to be working with our friends in Department of Justice and our other sister agencies on these issues. Alongside our agency partners, we've been proud to assist these victims by computing the back wages that they are rightfully owed. So that's a big message, I think, to the overall community that it's time to speak up and not be afraid to speak out.

Another critical part of helping trafficking victims is to make sure that they have the support they need to get back on their feet, so we're proud to offer employment and training services to victims of severe forms of trafficking through our network of one-stop career centers so they can enter and get information and, hopefully, get on their feet again. And of course, we're aiming to support workers.

We're also aiming to support employers in helping us combat trafficking, so that's another big part of our effort. Our enforcement officers are working both to ensure a level playing field of law-abiding businesses, because we don't agree that unscrupulous businesses should get away with this crime, and to protect the rights of workers to deter unscrupulous employers that continue to exploit workers.

Looking ahead, we continue to remain committed to further these efforts. Soon, we'll be providing awareness training to our national field staff so that even more prepared individuals will know about this issue. We'll also be announcing a new joint declaration with the following -- the Philippines, Ecuador, and Peru -- to make sure that their vulnerable workers here in our country know of their rights and protections available.

Additionally, we'll do more to engage with our stakeholders in this critical issue by hosting listening sessions, roundtables, and making sure that our fact sheets and reports are also equally translated in those various languages that are much needed as well.

Finally, I look forward to partnering with all of you in fulfilling the Promise campaign, which is critical to our collective action on the issue.

I want to thank everyone. I'm incredibly proud of the work that all of you and all of us have been able to accomplish under your leadership in this Administration. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Hilda, and let me now turn to Secretary Sebelius. Obviously the Department of Health and Human Services is an absolutely essential partner in everything we do.

Kathleen.

SECRETARY SEBELIUS: Well, thank you, Secretary, for your leadership on this task force. And Valerie, I hope that you convey to the President how important we all think it is that he has provided the kind of vision and leadership that brings us all here today, because this collaborative effort is incredibly important.

On this issue, the Department of Health and Human Services is motivated by the collaboration across federal agencies to raise public awareness and make the most of our resources. And we're especially motivated to continue the important role in reaching and helping human trafficking victims every day. So over the past year, we have really deployed a lot of assets to our regional offices, 10 of them around the country, who have expanded their efforts to develop staff capacity through multiple trainings and meetings to monitor and combat human trafficking. We substantially expanded our outreach efforts through the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign, which includes now an online posting of the Look Beneath the Surface training video that is both available in English and Spanish.

During the last fiscal year, we built on our anti-trafficking efforts by providing services and resources on human trafficking through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. Going forward, the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget includes a new \$ 5 million proposal to award competitive grants focused on reducing the exploitation of children in the form of domestic sex trafficking. HHS also, as Secretary Clinton has referred, funds the

National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which is a nationwide resource for potential victims and the public who may encounter a trafficking situation.

We maintain a national toll-free hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. And last year, the hotline received over 16,000 calls, a 43 percent increase in the last fiscal year, which I think is both an indication of the depth of the problem, but also an indication that people now are aware that there's someplace to go for help. Of this total, we have close to 800 cases resulting in direct report to law enforcement, which is a 51 percent increase, so that connecting the hotline with actual action on the ground, thanks to our partners in the Department of Justice, has been a really important initiative.

Through a recently established interdepartmental working group, HHS and other agencies are discussing better coordination of the federal anti-trafficking efforts when dealing with victims and attendant services training and technical assistance. And as a group, we've identified the need for two types of call lines -- a central hotline for calls regarding victims and investigative tip lines. We've also agreed to explore additional opportunities to appropriately highlight and differentiate between the resource center and the investigation hotlines.

So I feel confident that our efforts at HHS, hand in hand with our federal partners here at the table, continue to move us closer to our ultimate goal of freedom for all by bringing an end to this inexcusable human rights abuse.

And again, thank you, Madam Secretary, for convening this critical meeting, for the report that you're doing, and we look forward to continuing this critical work together.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Kathleen.

Now let me turn to the Department of Homeland Security's update. Certainly, DHS personnel are on the front lines not only here at home but literally around the world, and we greatly appreciate Secretary Napolitano's leadership.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO: And thank you, Secretary Clinton. I also appreciate the leadership you've shown on this issue and the leadership of the President. It's a social issue, it's an economic issue, it's a law enforcement issue, it's a moral issue, and I think that joins us all around the table. We have also been working through partnerships of various types under an umbrella we call the Blue Campaign at DHS. It is leading directly to more tips, more investigations, improved services for victims, and I think will help us serve our ultimate goal of finally getting some deterrence to this issue.

We have partnered with the Department of State to develop two online trainings, one for the federal acquisition workforce. Our contractors have a zero-tolerance clause built into every federal contract, so we're now training them and also training for the general public. CBP has worked with the Department of Transportation to launch something called the Blue Lightning Initiative, teaching airline employees the signs of trafficking and how to notify law enforcement. We're working with the firefighter and EMS communities to create training for first responders who may come into contact with victims, and we are in the process of putting the finishing touches on a one-week interdisciplinary training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, which will bring together teams representing victim services, investigations, prosecutions, a first of its kind type of training in this area. And we expect it to be available no later than this summer.

We've worked to increase public awareness of human trafficking through targeted video messages and public service announcements, including CBP's No Te Enganes campaign, Don't Be Fooled, and ICE's Hidden in Plain Sight campaign, which reached an estimated 5 million people.

We've worked to address and recognize the needs and unique challenges of trafficking victims. We have now put 39 specially trained human trafficking experts in each of our ICE field offices, and we've doubled the number of forensic interview specialists. CIS has developed a one-pager for law enforcement on options for victims, including the T and the U visa programs.

The efforts are succeeding. We are finding more investigations with a nexus to human trafficking. Last year, we initiated 722, we obtained 271 convictions. Eric, working with your folks, seized assets worth well over \$ 2 million. We also

have seen a steady increase in the number of reports to the tip line, up 69 percent between FY2010 and 2011, and I think looking at the '12 numbers, there will be another record, unfortunately, in a way.

This year, we plan to do even more. We are requiring all of our contracting professionals to take training on combating trafficking in persons, and we have already trained 600 acquisition personnel on how to use that clause in the standard federal contract. We're working to assure that age-appropriate care and services are provided to unaccompanied minor children encountered by us typically through the immigration system. We had a roundtable discussion here at the White House with retail, hotel, and airline industry leaders, and also with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies and associations discussing ways we could work together to raise awareness. We are continuing to deploy ideas from those sessions.

And we are expanding the reach and scope of our free, interactive computer-based training system for local law enforcement partners. We work extensively with Justice, with Labor on the ACT teams that the Attorney General referenced, because those teams, I think, hold great promise in actually dealing with this problem. So we will continue to listen, we will continue to work, and like everyone else around the table, we intend to, if anything, increase our commitment. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Great. Thank you very much, Janet. Now let me turn to Cecilia Munoz, the assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Council Director.

Cecilia.

MS. MUNOZ: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. It's a real honor to be part of this gathering today. This is obviously incredibly important work and it falls to me to talk a little bit about the work of the Domestic Policy Council on the domestic side of this issue.

As everyone in this room knows, two years ago, the President forcefully articulated his personal commitment to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking, described it as a shared responsibility. And as we're hearing today, the -- since the President made that commitment two years ago, we've been making progress through investigations and prosecutions, the victims assistance programs, we've been hearing about technical assistance for states and localities. I mean, it's a good list and it's a long list, but it doesn't involve only the work of government. The conscience of the country was really awakened by the President's remarks. And we have churches, we have businesses and communities across the country heeding the President's call to action, finding ways to combat trafficking, and to serve those who have been victimized by it.

The Domestic Policy Council has partnered with many of you in this important work, and the President has really reiterated just this morning in a statement his commitment to these issues. He's instructed his Cabinet, all of us, to find ways to strengthen the good work that we're already doing, and to expand our partnerships with civil society and the private sector so that we can bring more resources to bear on this terrible problem.

As the President announced in his statement, in the coming weeks, the White House will build on this gathering on behalf of human dignity. This is an issue that the President understands the way that your agencies do -- as a crime, as a violation of universal human rights -- and it's a policy priority on both the domestic and international fronts. We are committed to maximizing our efforts in every way possible, and we're confident that working together, we can -- collectively, we can strengthen the efforts of both the federal government and civil society in ending the scourge of modern slavery.

So our direction is clear. We intend to continue to work in partnership with all of you and your teams. The White House intends to redouble its efforts and build on this already strong record of accomplishment, and we're going to reach out to our partners outside of government in the hope that, together, we can really make an unprecedented push to raise awareness and have further real and sustained results. We don't have any illusions about this task being easy. If it -- this were an easy issue with simple solutions, we wouldn't need to be here having this gathering today. But we are persuaded that by working with each other effectively and working with our partners around the country and around the world, we can really bring positive change to this issue.

So we will be working with you to expand the resources, to leverage our efforts and our coordinated -- coordinating capacity. And so I look forward to working with all of you to do that. I look forward to playing a role in helping lift up the work that you're already doing and helping to coordinate it as strongly as possible. And we're convinced that with this partnership within government and partnerships outside of government, we can make an enormous difference on this issue, and we're honored to be part of it.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Cecilia. Now I will turn to someone I work with practically every day on a wide variety of security issues around the world, and I'm delighted that he would be here for this meeting.

So, Assistant to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough.

MR. MCDONOUGH: Madam Secretary, thank you very much, and allow me to join Cecilia in thanking all of your teams who we get to work with every day on this matter. Let me just take a minute too to highlight our team -- Rob Berschinski, Quintan Wiktorowicz, and most especially, Samantha Power, who, on behalf of the National Security staff, have really made this a priority and have been working with your teams to push this through.

Human trafficking is just one of those topics that doesn't make it in the paper every day. But I think what we see in this year's report and in each of the reports that are coming from the agencies now is that the work that all the agencies are doing is actually having a very profound, life-changing impact on Americans and non-Americans, men, women, and children all around the world. So it's something about which I think we should feel quite good, recognizing, of course, as everybody said, that there's an awful lot of work to be done.

The fact is that the -- when the United States Government, when our people, are understood to be an international leader on this issue, it speaks to something at the heart of the President's National Security Strategy, which he put out in 2010 -- one, that we're strengthened by the power of our example, and that we're strongest when we're working to advance the dignity of individuals all around the world. So for us at the National Security staff, this is a national security issue.

It is -- human trafficking is at the nexus of organized crimes, is a source for funding for international terrorist groups, is a source for funding for transnational criminal groups. It fundamentally endangers international security. And so while we're trying to create an international economy in which everyone can choose and be paid for for their work, it, by lifting this up, will strengthen our ability to be a leader in the global marketplace as well.

Now I know Ash, Raj, and Maria have not had a chance to brief out their results yet, so I'm not going to steal their thunder. But I do want to highlight a couple of things that I see from my position in terms of coordinating the interagency's work on this effort.

First, as I said above, when we lead by example, we're standing as a model for other governments in how we train our people, hold them to the highest ethical standards when it comes to trafficking, and makes it able for us to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. As Raj will no doubt highlight, USAID has been at the forefront of this effort through the standards it's applying to all its employees -- contractors, subcontractors, and grantees. We recognize that across the government, there's still an awful lot to do to improve on this in terms of procurement of goods and labor, and the President is demanding that we do more in exactly this area as the report pulls forward.

As Secretary Clinton said, being a model also means we're willing to place ourselves to the same level of scrutiny that we're applying to others, which is why he was so appreciative of the report including the United States on the list of countries that are graded in this and State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report this year.

Second, let me emphasize that when it comes to trafficking, one thing that we do know is that we don't know enough. In addition to what Cecilia has mentioned, in his statement today, the President spoke of trafficking as a form of exploitation that hides both in the dark corners of our world and in plain sight in our own towns and country -- towns and cities. We know in certain areas we don't have great data on the scope of the problem. And in terms of our programming, we may know what works and what doesn't, but we're still learning precise causal relationships. That's why the President's demanding that we keep the focus on learning and improving on our interventions.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we would urge that on topics like our anti-trafficking work, we maintain laser-like focus on mainstreaming what we're doing in all our day-to-day operations. Whether in your internal strategy development or in policy papers you bring to the interagency coordination arena, if the majority of your staff are diplomats, are development experts, are service members, see efforts to counter trafficking as a silo, as a job of only people in the Trafficking Office, rather than as a core component of their job then we will not have lifted this up the way the President, Secretary, all of you are demanding that we do.

So I'll leave it at that. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the tremendous work that all of your teams have -- are underway. And obviously, as each have highlighted, I think we're here to be commended here -- on the work done heretofore. And just to echo Cecilia on the President's direction today, our team is looking forward to working with each of you and your teams on the months to come to build on all the good work that we already have in place.

So, Madam Secretary, thank you very much.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Denis. We really appreciate that overview. Now let me turn to the director of National Intelligence, Lieutenant General Jim Clapper.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLAPPER: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And again, I join colleagues in praising you for -- commending you for your leadership, and it's an honor to be here. I thought I'd discuss very briefly the intelligence community's role in combating transnational organized crime, and in particular, the understanding and combating trafficking in persons. My priority in this job is to integrate collection analysis across the intelligence community in line with policy-maker needs.

Now after last year's meeting of this group, I rededicated some internal assets to stand up our own transnational organized crime team on my staff, and we never had -- in the history of the DNI, never had a single office for that sort of focus. And in line with the theme of leveraging across the government, we've become very engaged with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office, and are experiencing Lou's zeal. (Laughter.)

I've only been active for a short time, but we are seeing an increase, however modest -- and I anticipate this will gain momentum through our channels, and I just -- I think this is the beginning. We expect bigger results in the future as we continue to strengthen partnerships with key NI human trafficking advocates. And as others have eluded on this issue, partnerships are absolutely crucial to success.

And just to underline a point that Denis just made -- certainly we in the intelligence community recognize this --that trafficking in persons is a national security issue in addition to be a social, economic, and law enforcement issue. And so we're committed to doing our part to defeat it.

Our efforts across the intelligence community to integrate collection analysis and work with state, local, and tribal law enforcement will improve our ability to combat this appalling crime, and we can and must do more.

In October, my team attended the Trafficking in Persons Reporting Conference hosted by the State Department, Miami; made sure that different agencies within the intelligence community attended. This was the first time the IC has ever integrated with the State Department on this mission of ensuring that trafficking in persons reporting is accurate.

In November, our team hosted our own transnational organized crime event at my headquarters via video teleconference, and it was a global thing throughout the IC to many interested members of the intelligence community. And this was, I think, part of my responsibility to ensure awareness within the intelligence community. And a special presentation by the State Department's Trafficking in Persons team was the highlight -- had a huge impact, feedback I got.

We also coordinate extensively to have attendees who represent the nations we refer to as our Five Eyes allies. Those are the commonwealth countries with whom we have the closest, most intimate intelligence relationships. So I refer specifically to the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian Federal Police, and the New Zealand Customs agency. We're starting -- we're working towards the goal of a better understand-

ing of the role that trafficking plays in persons in national instability, corruption, and crime around the globe. I think it's our job to shine a light on those dark corners.

So I'll just say that we are committed to this and we do recognize that it is a national security issue. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks so much, Jim. Now I'd like to invite Acting Director Zients to share OMB's update. Jeff?

MR. ZIENTS: Thank you. Now given the fiscal situation -- everybody knows that budgets are very tight, difficult budget environment; many agencies are experiencing actually lower budget. In this environment, it's OMB's job to make sure every dollar's well spent and importantly, that the most important priorities of the Administration, of the President, are well funded, and that we allocate dollars accordingly. Preventing human trafficking is a clear priority for the President and the Administration, so we are committed to working with each agency to make sure that we have the appropriate resources to fund these important efforts. I think we have good working relationships with each agency and your teams, but we will make sure that adequate resources are allocated to these efforts. We also stand ready to help -- in any way to help manage cross-agency processes to ensure that we continue to make significant progress. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. We like hearing that. (Laughter.) I hope everybody really (inaudible.)

PARTICIPANT : It was the shortest --

SECRETARY CLINTON: Yeah. We should meet at the White House more often. (Laughter.) Now let me turn to Deputy Secretary Ash Carter to give the Department of Defense's update.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CARTER: Thank you, Secretary Clinton. The President's determination to combat trafficking is reflected in each of the three ways that we, the Department of Defense, touch this problem. Namely, through our own people, uniformed and civilian and their conduct. Second, through our contractors. And the third, in our foreign military training programs. So let me just take each of those in turn.

First of all, for our own folks, both uniformed and civilian, they are required to receive training. I've reviewed the curriculum. It's very good, it's incisive. It basically has two parts: Don't do it and learn to recognize it. So let me take the don't do it part first.

The don't do it part -- you may not know this, I was a little surprised myself, but it has only been recently that patronizing a prostitute became an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is, and that's something that we need to begin to and continue and increase our enforcement of that provision. Because in the neighborhood around bases here or abroad, obviously, there's an opportunity for that. So don't do it.

And the second part of the training is recognize it. And that -- for that, it's part of the annual training. We also have public service announcements on Armed Forces Network and that kind of thing. If you're in a gym somewhere around the world or in Afghanistan, you'll frequently see them to increase awareness and to give the tell-tale signs of it to our people. We do some specific things regionally in PACOM, USFK -- U.S. Forces Korea -- where we've had -- historically had an issue there. So wherever we detect it, we try to follow up. And there have been some cases recently, which we have aggressively followed up in the law enforcement sense.

Contractors. You know that for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine deployed, there's at least one contractor that ends up in theater at the same time. They're all employed by us. Secretary Napolitano already made it clear. It's part of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and it's Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement that contracts are to have a provision forbidding trafficking as in any connection with the country. Now, it's one thing to write it into the contract and you say, "How do you make sure you get it done?" We're going to make it training for the contractors mandatory, even as it is for our own people, civilian and military -- number one.

Number two, contracting officer representatives, a COR. What is a COR? COR is the person who makes sure that the contract is executed. So there's somebody who follows around the contractor and makes sure it gets done. Those people

are now trained, which they didn't used to be, in recognizing trafficking. So they can see if an association with one of our contracting activities -- this has gone on, very important. And we have our inspector general now tracking to make sure that those contract clauses are all there and the contracting officer representatives are, in fact, monitoring compliance with those. Very important, because contractors is a huge part of what we do.

Last piece is our foreign military training engagements. All of our programs, be they 1206, be they IMET, JSET, our training of UN peacekeepers and so forth, it is a required part of that curriculum. If we offer it as a department to another military that it include training for those foreign military members in trafficking, both don't do it and recognize it. So for example, just to give you one example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, AFRICOM, our African Command, works through DIILS -- the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies -- maybe some of you may be familiar with -- to train justice professionals in the prosecution of trafficking crimes and Congolese military commanders in how to prevent their troops from engaging in this. It's very important in all of our training. So those are our training activities.

So in those three arenas where we might touch this problem and do touch this problem, we're trying to make sure that we're reflecting the President's fight.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks very much, Ash. Now, Deputy Secretary Porcari, would you please report from the Department of Transportation?

DEPUTY SECRETARY PORCARI: Thank you, Secretary Clinton, and we appreciate your leadership on this. And Valerie, we very much appreciate the clear and consistent direction the President has given us on this. It's energized all of us.

We want to make sure, first and foremost, that the transportation system is not inadvertently an enabler of human trafficking. We're very committed across land, sea, and air to making sure that's not the case. Marlise Streitmatter, our deputy chief of staff, has been our lead person on this and will continue to be, but we're using all of our resources across borders and agencies to make sure that we can positively impact this problem.

For example, working with Secretary Napolitano in Customs and Border Protection, the Blue Lightning Initiative provides an in-flight procedure to report human trafficking events, law enforcement, as well as awareness for the flight crews. We've gotten very positive response from our airlines on this; they're very interested in moving forward on this. Likewise, on the highways, we want to make sure they're free of human trafficking. If a commercial truck or bus driver commits a felony, we can take them off the road -- and obviously, human trafficking is a felony. This gives us an opportunity to remove the bad actors.

We're also pursuing opportunities with Amtrak and the motor coach industry to develop a public awareness campaign and specialized training for our inspectors that are out in the field all across the country to recognize the warning signs of human trafficking. We're also collaborating with our Mexican and Canadian partners to increase awareness, and we look forward to expanding on those partnerships.

There are also some less conventional partnerships that can be very effective. Working, for example, with our local and state departments of motor vehicles, as well as truck stops, to build public awareness, and give people that are literally on the front lines of this fight the tools to recognize and report suspicious activities.

And finally, this really starts at home, and we're working internally within our Department of Transportation, across all the transportation modes, to make sure that we educate our team on identifying human trafficking, and we're building, essentially, on the DHS program that's out there.

So we're dedicated to moving forward with this. This is an unconscionable and unacceptable activity, and we are looking forward on building the -- on the progress to date. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. Now I'd like to invite from the State Department, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Maria Otero, to go into a little more detail about what we're doing at the State Department.

UNDER SECRETARY OTERO: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. And I also want to express appreciation for the leadership that our President is giving us on this issue, and Valerie, convening us here, and of course, express the importance for us to be able to work with every department across the board under the commitment and leadership of Secretary Clinton, who has really enabled our Department to push forward in this area.

Over the last year, the TIP Office, under the leadership of Ambassador CdeBaca, but working in partnership with our regional bureaus and with all of the other colleagues across the Department, we've made advances in several areas that I think are important to highlight in addressing the State Department's response to modern slavery. And let me just touch on a couple of them, as Secretary Clinton has also talked about some of them.

First, the Department -- as other departments have stated here -- is in the process of developing a training program that is going to be applicable for all of our direct hires. And this is with the purpose of helping all of our employees understand the nature of this crime better. And not only be able to understand it but to be able to recognize it when it happens and to be able to see the warning signs before it is happening and also take action if that is necessary. So this is in the process of being developed, and we anticipate through it that the degree of understanding of this issue will increase by all of those that are working at the Department.

Second, Secretary Clinton, last year at this task force, announced the establishment of a new trafficking investigation unit that would be set up by our Diplomatic Security Bureau. And I'm very pleased to say that, indeed, that was not only set up, but that in fact it has been operating this last year. And it is very exciting that it has already carried out a number of investigations that have led to indictments. And that for us is a real sign of being able to move this forward. The unit's Victims' Resource Advocacy Program is also equipped to fully support the victims themselves that are discovered in the course of any of these investigations. So we are applauding our Diplomatic Security Bureau for how quickly they've put together this team, and not only set forth its parameters, but also how its work is already showing results.

Third, we're working to protect the visa holders who come to the United States as domestic servants of diplomats. Thanks to the works of one of our working groups, which is headed by our chief of protocol, we are working closely with the diplomatic community to raise their awareness of this issue and to make sure the diplomats that bring domestic workers to the United States now follow a set of requirements that are in place that will prevent those workers from being abused.

Finally -- and Secretary Clinton mentioned this briefly -- the TIP Office has partnered with an NGO to develop a tool that allows anybody and everybody to go online, to take a survey, and then to see how many victims of human trafficking it takes to sustain their lifestyle. This is called the Slavery Footprint, and it is the kind of innovation that is helping create change and also create awareness not only of the existence of this crime but also of the challenges that we face in addressing it, and it is bringing people to this issue.

We know that more than three million people from more than 200 countries have logged on to this site, and we're confident that tools such as this one are going to be some that are going to help make a difference in engaging those around the world in addressing this issue in the years ahead. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you, Maria. Since we are being broadcast here, perhaps, Lou, you could give the website for the Slavery Footprint, because it's had a remarkable impact, and we want to encourage everybody everywhere to sign on.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Certainly. Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's pretty intuitive. It's the slaveryfootprint.org -- not dot com -- slaveryfootprint.org.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Right. So we invite everyone to log on.

Now let me turn to Dr. Raj Shah, the USAID administrator, who is such a great partner in this and so much of the work that we do.

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: Thank you, Madam Secretary, for your focus and direction on these issues, and to President Obama for elevating the attention and the resources that we will hope to invest against results in this space.

In the past year, our agency has made significant progress trying to live up to commitments we've made around this table for each of the past two years as part of this task force. We are implementing a more results-oriented approach to counter-trafficking efforts around the world, which starts, as Denis mentioned, with the adoption of a strict, new code of conduct for ourselves, our partners abroad, our contractors, and in particular, our security contractors that often operate in high-risk conflict environments. The code of conduct, much as Ash Carter described, will make sure that more people serve as eyes and ears in the search for those at risk or those enslaved. And we have intensified procurement actions and implementation of that code of conduct so that those terms are written into our contracts and enforced through our contracts' officers and reviewers.

We've also launched a new counter-trafficking policy developed in close partnership with many agencies represented around the table. This policy requires every USAID mission in a high-risk country to conduct baseline surveys on trafficking and develop clear metrics to assess progress against prevention for our efforts and efforts of others in the international community. It also directs us to create more multi-country databases so victims can be tracked across countries and supported in their efforts as they -- as that is such a critical barrier, having that data be accessible in a number of different environments. And it prioritizes investments in technologies, like mapping platforms, mobile applications, and other innovations.

We also believe that the -- one of the challenges is getting the word out and making sure that people who are in a difficult situation have the capacity to seek help. In that effort, we have expanded a highly successful partnership with MTV EXIT into Russia for the very first time, but it is a global program that has had some real successes, especially in Asia. Through the partnership with MTV EXIT, they have created public service advertisements, music videos, and other efforts to create awareness about trafficking and provide hotlines so that people can access resources to fight back. We believe it has reached more than 300 million households in Asia over the last seven years.

And just to share one story that we heard about just a few weeks ago, that for more than three years a young Cambodian boy and his three friends had been essentially enslaved on a Thai fishing boat. Just a few weeks ago, their boat docked at a port in Thailand, and they happened to see on television one of the MTV EXIT advertisements about trafficking. The video flashed a free hotline number in both Thai and Cambodian so the kids could read it and respond. They did. Immigration authorities responded immediately, and they were freed. We seek many, many more stories like this and believe our expanded efforts are helping to get us there.

We also know, as the President mentioned in his statement today, that we want to work more effectively with partners throughout our own country in the private sector, on universities and campuses, and in faith-based communities. I recently visited Bethel University, a Christian college outside of Minneapolis, and I met with about 100 students the day after we had released our counter-trafficking policy, actually, in this room. And sometimes it takes in the federal government -- as everyone here knows -- some time for these policies to be read by our teams and really inform changes and action and behavior. I know we all address that. Every one of the 100 kids that I met with had already read our policy online, and they had ideas, they had things they wanted to contribute.

So today, we're thrilled to announce that we will launch a college -- a campus challenge to combat trafficking, and we'll seek to partner with the most innovative, creative ideas in the realm of prevention and protection. And we'll match our campus challenge champions, the winners of our awards, with our missions in the field, so students have access to many of our partners who are on the frontlines of trying to help victims or help communities that are in high risk. We look forward to working with the next generation of American students to craft the next generation of solutions to this critical challenge.

And thank you for the chance to be here.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Raj. That's very exciting news. Let me now ask Deputy Director Sean Joyce of the FBI to share the FBI's update.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And thank you to the White House for hosting this event today. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on the street that work this issue each and every day and many of the

folks in this room in some of the chairs behind us that work tirelessly every day on some of the policy issues regarding this issue.

The FBI continues its commitment to fighting human trafficking and child exploitation in coordination with our federal, state, and local partners. Over the last year, we've increased our resources approximately 66 percent dedicated to this issue, especially against instances of coerced or forced adult labor, in addition to our agency placing a tremendous significance on ensuring child victims are safe, secure, and away from those who would prey on their innocence.

I can tell you I've been personally involved in rescuing some child victims, and as a father and a special agent, it is both emotional and rewarding, but devastating for the victims. The FBI recognizes these investigations require specialized resources, and thus we commit 80 victim specialists from our Office of Victim Assistance to our human trafficking efforts. To facilitate our fight against human trafficking and child exploitation, we participate in 77 task forces in 47 working groups across the country.

One highlight is our Innocent Lost National Initiative we started in 2003. This initiative addresses the tragic challenge of children recruited into prostitution. It is supported by the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation/Obscenity Section, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. To date, the initiative has resulted in 1,961 children being rescued. There have been nearly 1,500 investigations initiated, resulting in 927 convictions, to include seven life sentences and several ranging in length from 25 to 45 years.

Recognizing this is also an international problem. The FBI continues to build capacity through a number of training efforts, and in conjunction with our partners in the Department of State, we recently administered a two-week human trafficking course for law enforcement officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. The FBI looks forward to the continued collaboration with our law enforcement partners, both at home and abroad, to ensure that child exploitation and/or forced or coerced adult labor is met with swift justice.

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for this opportunity.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Deputy Director and Special Agent. That was a very stirring rendition of the great work you're doing, and I appreciate it.

Let me now turn to Assistant Secretary Russlynn Ali to share the Department of Education's update.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALI: Thank you, Madam Secretary, Ms. Jarrett, and to all of you for your commitment on this issue. Secretary Duncan shares in that commitment and this sense of urgency.

Over the past year, we have set about using all of the tools within our disposal to really launch an awareness through -- prevention through awareness efforts in our schools, through technical assistance and supports and training for educators that need it so that they can spot the warning signals. We know that these signals, whether they be absenteeism or signs of abuse or behavioral problems, they prevent children from learning. They not only affect the victim and those at prey of traffickers but the entire school community. And schools have a responsibility and need help and support.

So it is about identifying where those problem areas exist, working with so many of you to target our solutions and our efforts, to answer the calls of educators and school districts around the country that are dealing with these problems in ways that they have never before, helping them with language and talking to school-age children about very difficult and grown-up issues. And how they do that with sincerity and the education they need to help their children be safe is something that is hugely important as well.

We are also doing the kind of technical assistance through web-based tools on what services are available, what supports are available. We've brought together, just last summer, over 2,000 educators to deal with issues of climate and safety in their schools writ large and highlighted and focused on issues of trafficking and ways to help. Finding those places that are also doing great things to eradicate trafficking where in exist -- a school district in San Diego, for example, Grossmont Union High School, we've worked with them to create a training video, which we will disseminate to all school districts that need it as we find those places that are eradicating this and work to take their lessons to scale.

We've also worked closely with the Office of Violence Against Women, our colleagues at the Department of Justice, and elsewhere to ensure that we bring best practices to bear and outreach with as many groups as possible and interested on this issue. In the future, we will continue to work with our sister agencies in finding the places that need the help most, understanding the data better, learning about those solutions and bringing them to scale.

We look forward to sharing those tools, like the Slavery Footprint, to working with Raj and others on things like the campus challenge while we do climate checks and climate schools in our schools, making sure that we hear from students themselves on both problems and solutions, and working with our colleagues and our school resource officers and our colleagues in the Department of Homeland Security on training for law enforcement officers on how they, too, can help change the school environment. We will use all of the tools in our disposal to help you and help our schools deal with this tragic problem. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. And now let me invite our final speaker, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Jacqueline Berrien.

MS. BERRIEN: Thank you so much to President Obama for his leadership and commitment to end human trafficking, and thank you, Secretary Clinton, for your leadership and the opportunity to participate in this very important discussion.

On behalf of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I am privileged to report on the EEOC's work to identify and remedy the trafficking of workers. EEOC staff across the country work diligently to protect one of the most fundamental human and civil rights -- the right to work without being harassed, intimidated, or mistreated on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The EEOC plays an important role in helping to make victims of trafficking whole. We seek and obtain civil remedies, such as back pay and monetary relief, for the harm caused by employment discrimination as well as punitive damages and equitable relief to deter and prevent future discriminatory conduct.

Since the last meeting of this task force, EEOC has worked with enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels to improve outreach to vulnerable populations, including victims of trafficking. For example, we trained representatives from state and local fair employment practice agencies to identify and remedy trafficking. EEOC also certified new visas last year to ensure that victims of sex harassment and other discriminatory treatment at work could participate fully in related law enforcement efforts without fear of deportation.

Building on the successful resolution of anti-trafficking cases against J.J. Pickle and Trans Bay Steel, the EEOC is challenging discriminatory working conditions and terms of employment in two recently filed cases. In one case, the EEOC alleges that more than 200 Thai men were subjected to a pattern or practice of national origin and race discrimination, harassment, abuse, and retaliation on farms in Hawaii and Washington. The second case alleges that hundreds of Indian employees were recruited to work as welders, pipe fitters, and ship fitters in Mississippi and Texas, but after arriving in the United States as guest workers, they were subjected to abuse based on their national origin and race and encountered other forms of discriminatory treatment, including segregated and substandard housing. Both of these cases are pending now, and we're seeking not only relief for the affected workers, but also injunctive relief to prevent future occurrences.

Last January, the commission conducted a public meeting on human trafficking, and with the insights provided by Ambassador CdeBaca and other witnesses, we have redoubled our efforts to identify and remedy trafficking. In the past year, my colleague, Commissioner Stuart Ishimaru, launched the EEOC's immigrant worker team to improve the commission's outreach to immigrant workers, strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting national origin discrimination, and increased collaboration with other agencies addressing human trafficking and related issues affecting immigrant workers. The immigrant worker team of the EEOC will continue to address these issues in 2012.

Once again, thank you for convening us, Madam Secretary. My EEOC colleagues and I look forward to continuing to work with all of the members of this task force towards the goal of ending the scourge of human trafficking.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much. And again, thanks to everyone, not just for being here today for this meeting, but for the work that everyone has done since our last meeting. I think it does help to focus our attention that we do have an annual meeting where we come together and share the results of our efforts. I think it's especially mean-

ingful to be meeting here in the White House, because, after all, this is a national priority, it's a priority of the President's, and we do have to do more to reach out to have partnerships with the private sector, with NGOs, state governments, local governments, and the like.

So again, Valerie, thank you for hosting us, and we appreciate the emphasis that the White House has put on this program.

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Thank you all for being here.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you.

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178 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Federal News Service

March 15, 2012 Thursday

Remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Annual Meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Moderator: Valerie Jarrett, Senior Adviser to the President Location: The White House, Washington, D.C. Time: 10:34 a.m. EDT Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

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VALERIE JARRETT: So with that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Clinton. Thank you.

SECRETARY HILLARY CLINTON: Well, thank you very much, Valerie, and thank you for hosting us here at the White House. This annual event is a good opportunity to hear about the progress that our government is making to combat modern slavery and to talk about our goals going forward. And so I very much appreciate the president's commitment to this work and the collaboration that has been accomplished throughout the United States government.

So with that, I'm delighted to call this meeting to order. I want to thank Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff, not only for the work they put into staffing the task force but for the zeal with which they lead this fight around the world. Of course if this issue doesn't demand zealous advocacy, it's hard to figure out what does.

This September marks the 150th anniversary of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, and it's a good time for us to recommit ourselves not only to the promise of freedom but to the work against/ending modern slavery.

Around the world, as many as 27 million men, women and children toil in bondage. This crime undermines economies and the rule of law. It shatters families and communities. It is an affront to our most fundamental values.

This issue is very near and dear to my heart, since the time I was first lady and we began a full -- a full-hearted effort by our government, both the executive branch and Congress, to address this issue. And I've had the experience of meeting with survivors here at home and around the world. I've seen firsthand what a horrible toll this takes. And so I'm delighted that we have such a dedicated group of members.

This is a priority in the Obama administration, starting with the president, as Valerie said.

And the first time we convened the task force under this administration, we laid out a set of commitments, a call to action. And in answering that call, we've tried to elevate the fight against trafficking to the highest levels of policymaking. This goes hand in hand -- this is not an individual, one-off effort; this goes hand in hand with other work that we've been doing on behalf of women and girls and other marginalized people.

The White House recently issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to ensure that women are full partners and participants in our efforts to reduce conflict and promote peace and prosperity around the world, because after all, modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls. And as it does so, it disrupts family networks and it undermines the foundation of stable economies and societies. So the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security contains specific steps to prevent human trafficking of women and children as a result of conflict and to provide assistance to victims.

The State Department has made the struggle against modern slavery an important part of our diplomatic engagement. Our annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive assessment of how well governments are doing to address this crime. The TIP office's foreign assistance grants are making a difference in 37 countries, supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to survivors and help the governments build their capacity to fight this crime. And thanks to our leadership, the international community is getting behind the effort. Nearly 140 countries have now enacted modern anti-trafficking laws, and nearly 150 are party to the U.N. Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

And we've taken action here at home.

For instance, we learned that survivors were being made to pay taxes on restitution payments from their abusers. And -- well, some of the people in this room, as well as colleagues from the Treasury Department, who are not with us today, saw the problem and said, you know, this isn't right, we're going to do something about it. So now the Treasury department has made clear that victims are not liable to pay taxes on the wages of slavery.

Another example: We thought it was unfair for diplomats who victimized their own domestic workers -- were, because of diplomatic immunity, virtually untouchable. So now we're making sure that diplomats coming to this country understand their obligations and responsibilities, and we're taking action when we have evidence that they are not.

We're trying to ensure that resources and support are available to victims wherever we find them. And one of those resources is the Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Its operations have been expanded. It now fields an unprecedented number of calls, and it is really making a difference in reaching out to survivors and helping us prosecute abusers.

Other agencies, led by the Department of Homeland Security, recently held a public listening session to hear from stakeholders about new ideas for victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and NGO private sector initiatives.

Now, we've also tried to streamline how we approach cases, and instead of a muddle of agencies claiming or rejecting different responsibilities, thanks to the Departments of Justice, Labor and Homeland Security, we have in place in the Obama administration efficient, coordinated anti-trafficking teams. And they're making investigations more effective and helping victims.

To help gauge our responses, I've included a **tier** ranking for the United States in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report. I thought it was important, if we were going to be judging other countries, we judged ourselves.

And so we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others.

It's not only the fair thing to do. It's turned out also to be the smart thing as well. Because including us in the report made it more credible and effective as a diplomatic tool. It shows we're all in this fight together, that we have a problem which we are continuing to address.

And it's not just a document that names and shames, but instead it serves as a guide to what practices are working and, more importantly, what every government including our own needs to do better, and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts on this. This latest publication from the president's interagency task force, "Progress in Combatting Trafficking in Persons," really summarizes a lot of the progress we've made in the Obama administration over the last three-plus years.

Finally we know that the future of this struggle will depend on innovative solutions. So we are partnering with thinkers whose bold ideas are already helping to make a difference. We now have online tools, like the Slavery Footprint, so that people can understand the ways in which this crime affects them. It doesn't just happen to somebody far away, but it does have ripples of criminality that come across the globe. We have new ways of looking at supply chains and policies. So that can help us cut off the demand that traffickers truly exploit. That's particularly important when you think about the buying power of the federal government.

So I think that we meet at a time when we have a lot to be grateful for, in terms of the enhanced efforts that we've made, the results that we're getting, but I think this task force is really focused on the challenge and the way ahead.

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179 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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Federal News Service**March** 15, 2012 Thursday

Annual Meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (As Released by the State Department) Speakers: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca; Attorney General Eric Holder; Labor Secretary Hilda Solis; Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius; Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz; Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough; Lieutenant General James Clapper; Acting Director Jeffrey Zients, Office of Management and Budget; Deputy Secretary of State Ashton Carter; Deputy Transportation Secretary John Porcari; Undersecretary of State Maria Otero, Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights; USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah; FBI Deputy Director Sean Joyce; Assistant Secretary of Education Russlynn Ali; U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Jacqueline Berrien Moderator: Valerie Jarrett, Senior White House Adviser Location: Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

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VALERIE JARRETT: Thank you. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. We want to welcome you to the White House for our annual President's Task Force to Combat and Monitor Trafficking of Persons. We're delighted to have it here hosted at the White House. It's indicative of the President's commitment to this issue, and we want to thank all of the members of the agencies who have joined us this morning for this meeting.

In 2008, the President spoke at Pastor Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, and he called human trafficking the modern-day enslavement of men, women, and children for sex or labor, and he referred to it as a debasement of our common humanity, which I think sums it up perfectly. As chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls, this issue is of particular importance to me as a leader but also to our council, which is represented by all of the agencies in the federal government as well. And it's why we're pleased to have you all here today.

We are confident with the Administration working together, with civil society, with not-for-profits, with the private sector, we can actually tackle this issue head on and conquer it. And we're delighted to have here Secretary Clinton, who has chaired this task force, and I'll turn it over to her in a second. But I wanted to, by way of introduction, mention that yesterday we were at the State Department for a luncheon with Prime Minister Cameron, and he said about Secretary Clinton that she has been a strong advocate who is committed to the emancipation and empowerment of women. And I thought that that was a perfect way to describe one of her many roles and one that is particularly germane to the topic of this morning.

So with that, again I want to welcome everyone here and tell you how committed the President is to making sure that we are all collaborating and sharing information together and intending to conquer this issue head on. So with that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Clinton. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you. Well, thank you very much Valerie. And thank you for hosting us here at the White House. This annual event is a good opportunity to hear about the progress that our government is making to combat modern slavery and to talk about our goals going forward. And so I very much appreciate the President's commitment to this work and the collaboration that has been accomplished throughout the United States Government. So with that, I'm delighted to call this meeting to order.

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This issue is very near and dear to my heart, since the time I was first lady. And we began a full-hearted effort by our government -- both the executive branch and Congress -- to address this issue. And I've had the experience of meeting with survivors here at home and around the world. I've seen firsthand what a horrible toll this takes, and so I'm delighted that we have such a dedicated group of members.

This is a priority in the Obama Administration, starting with the President, as Valerie said. And the first time we convened the task force under this Administration, we laid out a set of commitments -- a call to action. And in answering that call, we've tried to elevate the fight against trafficking to the highest levels of policymaking.

This goes hand in hand. This is not an individual, one-off effort. This goes hand in hand with other work that we've been doing on behalf of women and girls and other marginalized people. The White House recently issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security to ensure that women are full partners and participants in our efforts to reduce conflict and promote peace and prosperity around the world, because after all, modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls. And as it does so, it disrupts family networks, and it undermines the foundation of stable economies and societies. So the Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security contains specific steps to prevent human trafficking of women and children as a result of conflict and to provide assistance to victims.

The State Department has made the struggle against modern slavery an important part of our diplomatic engagement. Our annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive assessment of how well governments are doing to address this crime. The TIP Office's foreign assistance grants are making a difference in 37 countries, supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to survivors and help governments build their capacity to fight this crime. And thanks to our leadership, the international community is getting behind the effort. Nearly 140 countries have enacted modern anti-trafficking laws, and nearly 150 are party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

And we've taken action here at home. For instance, we learned that survivors were being made to pay taxes on restitution payments from their abusers. And, well, some of the people in this room as well as colleagues from the Treasury Department who are not with us today saw the problem and said, "This isn't right; we're going to do something about it." So now the Treasury Department has made clear that victims are not liable to pay taxes on the wages of slavery.

Another example: We thought it was unfair for diplomats who victimized their own domestic workers were, because of diplomatic immunity, virtually untouchable.

So now, we're making sure that diplomats coming to this country understand their obligations and responsibilities, and we're taking action when we have evidence that they are not.

We're trying to ensure that resources and support are available to victims wherever we find them, and one of those resources is the Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Its operations have been expanded. It now fields an unprecedented number of calls. And it is really making a difference in reaching out to survivors and helping us prosecute abusers.

Other agencies led by the Department of Homeland Security recently held a public listening session to hear from stakeholders about new ideas for victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and NGO private sector initiatives. Now, we've also tried to streamline how we approach cases. And instead of a muddle of agencies claiming or rejecting different responsibilities, thanks to the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Homeland Security, we have in place in the Obama Administration efficient, coordinated, anti-trafficking teams, and they're making investigations and prosecutions more effective and helping victims.

To help gauge our responses, I've included a **tier** ranking for the United States in the annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report. I thought it was important, if we were going to be judging other countries, we judged ourselves. And so we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others. It's not only the fair thing to do; it's turned out also to be the smart thing as well, because including us in the report made it more credible and effective as a diplomatic tool. It shows we're all in this fight together, that we have a problem, which we are continuing to address, and it's not just a document that names and shames, but instead it serves as a guide to what practices are working, and more importantly, what every government, including our own, needs to do better, and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts on this. This latest publication from the President's Interagency Task Force Progress in Combating Trafficking in Persons really summarizes a lot of the progress we've made in the Obama Administration over the last three-plus years.

Finally, we know that the future of this struggle will depend on innovative solutions, so we are partnering with thinkers whose bold ideas are already helping to make a difference. We now have online tools like the Slavery Footprint so that people can understand the ways in which this crime affects them. It doesn't just happen to somebody far away, but it does have ripples of criminality that come across the globe.

We have new ways of looking at supply chains and policies, so that can help us cut off the demand that traffickers cruelly exploit. That's particularly important when you think about the buying power of the federal government. So I think that we meet at a time when we have a lot to be grateful for in terms of the enhanced efforts that we've made, the results that we're getting, but I think this task force is really focused on the challenge and the way ahead.

So let me now turn to Ambassador CdeBaca, who will say a few words about why we consider this such a high priority in our government.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's this Administration's priority to give voice to the survivors of modern slavery whether in court or in our foreign policy, but those voices have been calling for justice for more than 150 years. A letter from the National Archives recently surfaced, a letter written in September of 1864 by Spotswood Rice to Katherine Diggs, his former master. He wrote from the lines of the Union Army as he and his new comrades marched back to Missouri, back towards the plantation where he had been held. Among those still enslaved was his daughter, Mary. His strength and righteous anger rings out through the years. And I quote:

"I want you to understand that mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own. And you may hold on to hear as long as you can, but I want you to remember this one thing -- the longor you keep my Child from me, the longor you will have to burn -- and the qwicer youll get their --

"I want you now to just hold on to hear if you want to iff your conchosome tells thats the road go that road and what it will brig you to kittey diggs I have no fears about geting mary out of your hands the whole Government gives chear to me and you cannot help your self."

We know from the oral histories that once freed, that little girl lived a long and prosperous life. And in 1937, an aged Mary told a WPA historian: "I love army men. My father, brother, husband, and son were all army men. I love a man who fights for his rights and any person who wants to be someone."

Slavery and the ways that we fight it have changed so much since Spotswood Rice and those other survivors marched with that terrible, swift sword. But as you said last year, Madam Secretary, when we take up this burden at home and abroad, we do it because fighting slavery is part of our national identity. It's who we are.

Together, we can and we must rise to meet Spotswood Rice's challenge to go back for everyone's daughters and sons who remain in servitude. Together, we can give cheer to those who answer the call and march with today's survivors on their road to freedom.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you so much, Lou. And one of the things that Lou has done over his professional life of commitment to this issue is to continually link it to larger struggles for human freedom, including our own.

I want to turn now to the Attorney General, because the Attorney General and the Justice Department have been great partners in our efforts to combat this scourge. And I want to thank Attorney General Holder.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, thank you, Secretary Clinton. And also let me start by thanking President Obama for hosting us and for his extraordinary leadership in this global fight against human trafficking, and also thanks to my good friend Valerie Jarrett for bringing us together today and for her attention to this issue.

It's really an honor for me to join with my colleagues and partners to discuss the progress that we have made over the past year, but also to identify ways in which we can continue the momentum that we have built up over the past year and make sure that all that we have pledged to do in this Administration actually does occur.

One of the things I would point out is that one of the four priorities that I've identified for the Justice Department is that we protect the most vulnerable among us. And this fits right into one of those four core priorities for the United States Department of Justice. For Justice, our commitment to preventing human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and assisting victims has really never been stronger, and our approach, I don't think, has ever been more effective. Our work has sent a clear and critical message that in this country and under this Administration, human trafficking crimes will simply not be tolerated.

I'm proud to report that in the past year we charged a record number of people with human trafficking offenses, and over the last three years we have achieved significant increases in human trafficking prosecutions, including the rise of more than 30 percent in the number of forced labor and adult sex trafficking prosecutions.

Now, this work is really more than statistics. It has saved lives. It has ensured freedom. It has restored dignity to women, to men, to children, in virtually every corner of this country. We have liberated scores of victims. We have secured long prison sentences against individual traffickers. But we've also dismantled really large transnational organized crime enterprises. As many of you will recall, last February the Justice Department launched a human trafficking enhanced enforcement initiative in order to take our counter-trafficking enforcement levels -- efforts to a new level.

Now, as part of this commitment, I announced the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team, or ACT Team, initiative that's an interagency collaboration among the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor, aimed at streamlining federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenses. And following a very rigorous and competitive interagency selection process, we launched six Phase One Pilot ACT Teams around the country. And they are located in Atlanta, El Paso, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Miami, and today these teams are fully operational. And by bringing federal investigative agencies and federal prosecutors together, they are allowing us to develop and to advance high-impact human trafficking prosecutions.

And let me just share some examples with you. Over the last year we have dismantled a large transnational organized crime enterprise that held Ukrainian victims in forced labor in Philadelphia. We have brought freedom and dignity to undocumented Central American women and convicted the traffickers who, with threats of violence and abuse, compelled them into forced labor and prostitution in restaurants and bars on Long Island in New York. We have restored freedom to undocumented Eastern European women and convicted the traffickers who brutally exploited them in massage parlors in Chicago and even branded them with tattoos to claim them as their own property. We have secured a life sentence against a gang member in the Eastern District of Virginia, just across the river here, for sex trafficking of victims as young as 12 years old.

By providing grant funding to our state and local law enforcement partners and to victims service organizations really across the country, the Justice Department is also supporting proactive efforts to stop traffickers and to help victims heal and to rebuild their lives.

And for the entire anti-trafficking community, we are continuing to provide training and technical assistance as well. And over the last year these efforts have included hosting three regional training forums that have focused on improving collaboration as well as the development of a training curriculum to help state prosecutors and state judges better under-

stand human trafficking crimes. This is something that has to be done at the state and local level as well as at the federal level.

We're also taking steps to forge and strengthen partnerships across international borders, understanding that this is not simply an American problem. And we have seen that this effort is really essential. Over the last year, by working with our Mexican law enforcement partners, we have dismantled sex trafficking networks that operate on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and have brought freedom to victims and secured really landmark convictions and substantial sentences against the traffickers in these high-impact bilateral cases. We've had good cooperation with our Mexican counterparts.

So I think we can all be encouraged by our recent achievements in the fight against human trafficking, but I think we would all agree that we have still more to do and that far too many people remain in desperate need for the help that we can provide. And that's why I think that our joint efforts and our outstanding efforts really must continue. I am committed to this. The Justice Department is committed to this. This group that meets today is obviously committed to this. This Administration has identified this as a priority.

So I look forward to our discussions as to where we will go from here and how we can keep working in partnership to increase the impact of these very critical efforts. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Attorney General. Now I'd like to invite Secretary Hilda Solis to share the Labor Department's update. And I want to thank Hilda for making this a high priority within the Labor Department.

SECRETARY SOLIS: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary, and also to our colleagues. I want to also congratulate President Obama and Valerie Jarrett for having this meeting convened here. This is a topic that obviously is very controversial and one that some of us in this room we know take very seriously and, of course, feel that we need to do as much as we can to make sure that every effort, especially at the Department of Labor, is focused in on combating this terrible error that occurs not just in our shores but also abroad.

I want to applaud President Obama. He's been very clear in his vision for an America built to last, one where everyone has a fair shot at success and where everyone plays by the same rules. Our actions to end the exploitation of workers are critical to achieving that vision. That's why the Department of Labor is here.

The Department of Labor's efforts to combat human trafficking have been broad and varied and can be broken down into two -- three main categories. The first is detection and law enforcement. Our investigators are on the front lines of trafficking, identifying potential cases and providing critical support such as translation services during investigations.

We've revamped the integrity and enforcement actions of our guest worker program to ensure a fair process for employers who use temporary foreign workers and to enforce protections for all of our workers. We've now announced new protocols to begin certifying new visas. That's allowed us to help immigrant victims of trafficking assist in investigation of those crimes.

The second category involves transnational engagement and research. We've signed currently declarations with Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and DR to ensure that foreign workers, often the most vulnerable, are informed of their labor rights here in the U.S. This is very important as well because, in many cases, folks come here thinking that there are no serious protections available to them, there is no one that's going to listen to them, so it's a course of trying to reeducate people over and over again that there are different laws here, and there is a responsibility and accountability process.

The funding that we have included in these programs includes technical assistance projects and research that we're doing across the board on child and forced labor across the globe. And since 1995, the Department of Labor has been funding projects to combat the worst forms of child labor. And as a result, hundreds of thousands of children have been prevented from being trafficked.

The third and final category in our efforts to combat trafficking victims is services -- services that must be provided, a full restitution for the labor that they have performed. So we are very excited to be working with our friends in Department of Justice and our other sister agencies on these issues. Alongside our agency partners, we've been proud to assist these victims by computing the back wages that they are rightfully owed. So that's a big message, I think, to the overall community that it's time to speak up and not be afraid to speak out.

Another critical part of helping trafficking victims is to make sure that they have the support they need to get back on their feet, so we're proud to offer employment and training services to victims of severe forms of trafficking through our

network of one-stop career centers so they can enter and get information and, hopefully, get on their feet again. And of course, we're aiming to support workers.

We're also aiming to support employers in helping us combat trafficking, so that's another big part of our effort. Our enforcement officers are working both to ensure a level playing field of law-abiding businesses, because we don't agree that unscrupulous businesses should get away with this crime, and to protect the rights of workers to deter unscrupulous employers that continue to exploit workers.

Looking ahead, we continue to remain committed to further these efforts. Soon, we'll be providing awareness training to our national field staff so that even more prepared individuals will know about this issue. We'll also be announcing a new joint declaration with the following -- the Philippines, Ecuador, and Peru -- to make sure that their vulnerable workers here in our country know of their rights and protections available.

Additionally, we'll do more to engage with our stakeholders in this critical issue by hosting listening sessions, roundtables, and making sure that our fact sheets and reports are also equally translated in those various languages that are much needed as well.

Finally, I look forward to partnering with all of you in fulfilling the Promise campaign, which is critical to our collective action on the issue.

I want to thank everyone. I'm incredibly proud of the work that all of you and all of us have been able to accomplish under your leadership in this Administration. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you so much, Hilda, and let me now turn to Secretary Sebelius. Obviously the Department of Health and Human Services is an absolutely essential partner in everything we do.

Kathleen.

SECRETARY SEBELIUS: Well, thank you, Secretary, for your leadership on this task force. And Valerie, I hope that you convey to the President how important we all think it is that he has provided the kind of vision and leadership that brings us all here today, because this collaborative effort is incredibly important.

On this issue, the Department of Health and Human Services is motivated by the collaboration across federal agencies to raise public awareness and make the most of our resources. And we're especially motivated to continue the important role in reaching and helping human trafficking victims every day. So over the past year, we have really deployed a lot of assets to our regional offices, 10 of them around the country, who have expanded their efforts to develop staff capacity through multiple trainings and meetings to monitor and combat human trafficking. We substantially expanded our outreach efforts through the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign, which includes now an online posting of the Look Beneath the Surface training video that is both available in English and Spanish.

During the last fiscal year, we built on our anti-trafficking efforts by providing services and resources on human trafficking through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. Going forward, the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget includes a new \$5 million proposal to award competitive grants focused on reducing the exploitation of children in the form of domestic sex trafficking. HHS also, as Secretary Clinton has referred, funds the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which is a nationwide resource for potential victims and the public who may encounter a trafficking situation.

We maintain a national toll-free hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. And last year, the hotline received over 16,000 calls, a 43 percent increase in the last fiscal year, which I think is both an indication of the depth of the problem, but also an indication that people now are aware that there's someplace to go for help. Of this total, we have close to 800 cases resulting in direct report to law enforcement, which is a 51 percent increase, so that connecting the hotline with actual action on the ground, thanks to our partners in the Department of Justice, has been a really important initiative.

Through a recently established interdepartmental working group, HHS and other agencies are discussing better coordination of the federal anti-trafficking efforts when dealing with victims and attendant services training and technical assistance. And as a group, we've identified the need for two types of call lines -- a central hotline for calls regarding victims and investigative tip lines. We've also agreed to explore additional opportunities to appropriately highlight and differentiate between the resource center and the investigation hotlines.

So I feel confident that our efforts at HHS, hand in hand with our federal partners here at the table, continue to move us closer to our ultimate goal of freedom for all by bringing an end to this inexcusable human rights abuse.

And again, thank you, Madam Secretary, for convening this critical meeting, for the report that you're doing, and we look forward to continuing this critical work together.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Kathleen.

Now let me turn to the Department of Homeland Security's update. Certainly, DHS personnel are on the front lines not only here at home but literally around the world, and we greatly appreciate Secretary Napolitano's leadership.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO: And thank you, Secretary Clinton. I also appreciate the leadership you've shown on this issue and the leadership of the President. It's a social issue, it's an economic issue, it's a law enforcement issue, it's a moral issue, and I think that joins us all around the table. We have also been working through partnerships of various types under an umbrella we call the Blue Campaign at DHS. It is leading directly to more tips, more investigations, improved services for victims, and I think will help us serve our ultimate goal of finally getting some deterrence to this issue.

We have partnered with the Department of State to develop two online trainings, one for the federal acquisition workforce. Our contractors have a zero-tolerance clause built into every federal contract, so we're now training them and also training for the general public. CBP has worked with the Department of Transportation to launch something called the Blue Lightning Initiative, teaching airline employees the signs of trafficking and how to notify law enforcement. We're working with the firefighter and EMS communities to create training for first responders who may come into contact with victims, and we are in the process of putting the finishing touches on a one-week interdisciplinary training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, which will bring together teams representing victim services, investigations, prosecutions, a first of its kind type of training in this area. And we expect it to be available no later than this summer.

We've worked to increase public awareness of human trafficking through targeted video messages and public service announcements, including CBP's No Te Enganes campaign, Don't Be Fooled, and ICE's Hidden in Plain Sight campaign, which reached an estimated 5 million people.

We've worked to address and recognize the needs and unique challenges of trafficking victims. We have now put 39 specially trained human trafficking experts in each of our ICE field offices, and we've doubled the number of forensic interview specialists. CIS has developed a one-pager for law enforcement on options for victims, including the T and the U visa programs.

The efforts are succeeding. We are finding more investigations with a nexus to human trafficking. Last year, we initiated 722, we obtained 271 convictions. Eric, working with your folks, seized assets worth well over \$2 million. We also have seen a steady increase in the number of reports to the tip line, up 69 percent between FY2010 and 2011, and I think looking at the '12 numbers, there will be another record, unfortunately, in a way.

This year, we plan to do even more. We are requiring all of our contracting professionals to take training on combating trafficking in persons, and we have already trained 600 acquisition personnel on how to use that clause in the standard federal contract. We're working to assure that age-appropriate care and services are provided to unaccompanied minor children encountered by us typically through the immigration system. We had a roundtable discussion here at the White House with retail, hotel, and airline industry leaders, and also with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies and associations discussing ways we could work together to raise awareness. We are continuing to deploy ideas from those sessions.

And we are expanding the reach and scope of our free, interactive computer-based training system for local law enforcement partners. We work extensively with Justice, with Labor on the ACT teams that the Attorney General referenced, because those teams, I think, hold great promise in actually dealing with this problem. So we will continue to listen, we will continue to work, and like everyone else around the table, we intend to, if anything, increase our commitment. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Great. Thank you very much, Janet. Now let me turn to Cecilia Munoz, the assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Council Director.

Cecilia.

MS. MUNOZ: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. It's a real honor to be part of this gathering today. This is obviously incredibly important work and it falls to me to talk a little bit about the work of the Domestic Policy Council on the domestic side of this issue.

As everyone in this room knows, two years ago, the President forcefully articulated his personal commitment to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking, described it as a shared responsibility. And as we're hearing today, the -- since the President made that commitment two years ago, we've been making progress through investigations and prosecutions, the victims assistance programs, we've been hearing about technical assistance for states and localities. I mean, it's a good list and it's a long list, but it doesn't involve only the work of government. The conscience of the country was really awakened by the President's remarks.

And we have churches, we have businesses and communities across the country heeding the President's call to action, finding ways to combat trafficking, and to serve those who have been victimized by it.

The Domestic Policy Council has partnered with many of you in this important work, and the President has really reiterated just this morning in a statement his commitment to these issues. He's instructed his Cabinet, all of us, to find ways to strengthen the good work that we're already doing, and to expand our partnerships with civil society and the private sector so that we can bring more resources to bear on this terrible problem.

As the President announced in his statement, in the coming weeks, the White House will build on this gathering on behalf of human dignity. This is an issue that the President understands the way that your agencies do -- as a crime, as a violation of universal human rights -- and it's a policy priority on both the domestic and international fronts. We are committed to maximizing our efforts in every way possible, and we're confident that working together, we can -- collectively, we can strengthen the efforts of both the federal government and civil society in ending the scourge of modern slavery.

So our direction is clear. We intend to continue to work in partnership with all of you and your teams. The White House intends to redouble its efforts and build on this already strong record of accomplishment, and we're going to reach out to our partners outside of government in the hope that, together, we can really make an unprecedented push to raise awareness and have further real and sustained results. We don't have any illusions about this task being easy. If it -- this were an easy issue with simple solutions, we wouldn't need to be here having this gathering today. But we are persuaded that by working with each other effectively and working with our partners around the country and around the world, we can really bring positive change to this issue.

So we will be working with you to expand the resources, to leverage our efforts and our coordinated -- coordinating capacity. And so I look forward to working with all of you to do that. I look forward to playing a role in helping lift up the work that you're already doing and helping to coordinate it as strongly as possible. And we're convinced that with this partnership within government and partnerships outside of government, we can make an enormous difference on this issue, and we're honored to be part of it.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you so much, Cecilia. Now I will turn to someone I work with practically every day on a wide variety of security issues around the world, and I'm delighted that he would be here for this meeting.

So, Assistant to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough.

MR. MCDONOUGH: Madam Secretary, thank you very much, and allow me to join Cecilia in thanking all of your teams who we get to work with every day on this matter. Let me just take a minute too to highlight our team -- Rob Berschinski, Quintan Wiktorowicz, and most especially, Samantha Power, who, on behalf of the National Security staff, have really made this a priority and have been working with your teams to push this through.

Human trafficking is just one of those topics that doesn't make it in the paper every day. But I think what we see in this year's report and in each of the reports that are coming from the agencies now is that the work that all the agencies are doing is actually having a very profound, life-changing impact on Americans and non-Americans, men, women, and children all around the world. So it's something about which I think we should feel quite good, recognizing, of course, as everybody said, that there's an awful lot of work to be done.

The fact is that the -- when the United States Government, when our people, are understood to be an international leader on this issue, it speaks to something at the heart of the President's National Security Strategy, which he put out in 2010 -

- one, that we're strengthened by the power of our example, and that we're strongest when we're working to advance the dignity of individuals all around the world. So for us at the National Security staff, this is a national security issue.

It is -- human trafficking is at the nexus of organized crimes, is a source for funding for international terrorist groups, is a source for funding for transnational criminal groups. It fundamentally endangers international security. And so while we're trying to create an international economy in which everyone can choose and be paid for for their work, it, by lifting this up, will strengthen our ability to be a leader in the global marketplace as well.

Now I know Ash, Raj, and Maria have not had a chance to brief out their results yet, so I'm not going to steal their thunder. But I do want to highlight a couple of things that I see from my position in terms of coordinating the interagency's work on this effort.

First, as I said above, when we lead by example, we're standing as a model for other governments in how we train our people, hold them to the highest ethical standards when it comes to trafficking, and makes it able for us to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. As Raj will no doubt highlight, USAID has been at the forefront of this effort through the standards it's applying to all its employees -- contractors, subcontractors, and grantees. We recognize that across the government, there's still an awful lot to do to improve on this in terms of procurement of goods and labor, and the President is demanding that we do more in exactly this area as the report pulls forward.

As Secretary Clinton said, being a model also means we're willing to place ourselves to the same level of scrutiny that we're applying to others, which is why he was so appreciative of the report including the United States on the list of countries that are graded in this and State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report this year.

Second, let me emphasize that when it comes to trafficking, one thing that we do know is that we don't know enough. In addition to what Cecilia has mentioned, in his statement today, the President spoke of trafficking as a form of exploitation that hides both in the dark corners of our world and in plain sight in our own towns and country -- towns and cities. We know in certain areas we don't have great data on the scope of the problem. And in terms of our programming, we may know what works and what doesn't, but we're still learning precise causal relationships. That's why the President's demanding that we keep the focus on learning and improving on our interventions.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we would urge that on topics like our anti-trafficking work, we maintain laser-like focus on mainstreaming what we're doing in all our day-to-day operations. Whether in your internal strategy development or in policy papers you bring to the interagency coordination arena, if the majority of your staff are diplomats, are development experts, are service members, see efforts to counter trafficking as a silo, as a job of only people in the Trafficking Office, rather than as a core component of their job then we will not have lifted this up the way the President, Secretary, all of you are demanding that we do.

So I'll leave it at that. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the tremendous work that all of your teams have -- are underway. And obviously, as each have highlighted, I think we're here to be commended here -- on the work done heretofore. And just to echo Cecilia on the President's direction today, our team is looking forward to working with each of you and your teams on the months to come to build on all the good work that we already have in place.

So, Madam Secretary, thank you very much.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Denis. We really appreciate that overview. Now let me turn to the director of National Intelligence, Lieutenant General Jim Clapper.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLAPPER: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And again, I join colleagues in praising you for -- commending you for your leadership, and it's an honor to be here. I thought I'd discuss very briefly the intelligence community's role in combating transnational organized crime, and in particular, the understanding and combating trafficking in persons. My priority in this job is to integrate collection analysis across the intelligence community in line with policy-maker needs.

Now after last year's meeting of this group, I rededicated some internal assets to stand up our own transnational organized crime team on my staff, and we never had -- in the history of the DNI, never had a single office for that sort of focus. And in line with the theme of leveraging across the government, we've become very engaged with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office, and are experiencing Lou's zeal. (Laughter.)

I've only been active for a short time, but we are seeing an increase, however modest -- and I anticipate this will gain momentum through our channels, and I just -- I think this is the beginning. We expect bigger results in the future as we

continue to strengthen partnerships with key NI human trafficking advocates. And as others have eluded on this issue, partnerships are absolutely crucial to success.

And just to underline a point that Denis just made -- certainly we in the intelligence community recognize this --that trafficking in persons is a national security issue in addition to be a social, economic, and law enforcement issue. And so we're committed to doing our part to defeat it.

Our efforts across the intelligence community to integrate collection analysis and work with state, local, and tribal law enforcement will improve our ability to combat this appalling crime, and we can and must do more.

In October, my team attended the Trafficking in Persons Reporting Conference hosted by the State Department, Miami; made sure that different agencies within the intelligence community attended. This was the first time the IC has ever integrated with the State Department on this mission of ensuring that trafficking in persons reporting is accurate.

In November, our team hosted our own transnational organized crime event at my headquarters via video teleconference, and it was a global thing throughout the IC to many interested members of the intelligence community. And this was, I think, part of my responsibility to ensure awareness within the intelligence community. And a special presentation by the State Department's Trafficking in Persons team was the highlight -- had a huge impact, feedback I got.

We also coordinate extensively to have attendees who represent the nations we refer to as our Five Eyes allies. Those are the commonwealth countries with whom we have the closest, most intimate intelligence relationships. So I refer specifically to the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian Federal Police, and the New Zealand Customs agency. We're starting -- we're working towards the goal of a better understanding of the role that trafficking plays in persons in national instability, corruption, and crime around the globe. I think it's our job to shine a light on those dark corners.

So I'll just say that we are committed to this and we do recognize that it is a national security issue. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SEC. CLINTON: Thanks so much, Jim. Now I'd like to invite Acting Director Zients to share OMB's update. Jeff?

MR. ZIENTS: Thank you. Now given the fiscal situation -- everybody knows that budgets are very tight, difficult budget environment; many agencies are experiencing actually lower budget. In this environment, it's OMB's job to make sure every dollar's well spent and importantly, that the most important priorities of the Administration, of the President, are well funded, and that we allocate dollars accordingly. Preventing human trafficking is a clear priority for the President and the Administration, so we are committed to working with each agency to make sure that we have the appropriate resources to fund these important efforts. I think we have good working relationships with each agency and your teams, but we will make sure that adequate resources are allocated to these efforts. We also stand ready to help -- in any way to help manage cross-agency processes to ensure that we continue to make significant progress. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much. We like hearing that. (Laughter.) I hope everybody really (inaudible.)

PARTICIPANT: It was the shortest --

SEC. CLINTON: Yeah. We should meet at the White House more often. (Laughter.) Now let me turn to Deputy Secretary Ash Carter to give the Department of Defense's update.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CARTER: Thank you, Secretary Clinton. The President's determination to combat trafficking is reflected in each of the three ways that we, the Department of Defense, touch this problem. Namely, through our own people, uniformed and civilian and their conduct. Second, through our contractors. And the third, in our foreign military training programs. So let me just take each of those in turn.

First of all, for our own folks, both uniformed and civilian, they are required to receive training. I've reviewed the curriculum. It's very good, it's incisive. It basically has two parts: Don't do it and learn to recognize it. So let me take the don't do it part first.

The don't do it part -- you may not know this, I was a little surprised myself, but it has only been recently that patronizing a prostitute became an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is, and that's something that we need to begin to and continue and increase our enforcement of that provision. Because in the neighborhood around bases here or abroad, obviously, there's an opportunity for that. So don't do it.

And the second part of the training is recognize it. And that -- for that, it's part of the annual training. We also have public service announcements on Armed Forces Network and that kind of thing. If you're in a gym somewhere around the world or in Afghanistan, you'll frequently see them to increase awareness and to give the tell-tale signs of it to our people. We do some specific things regionally in PACOM, USFK -- U.S. Forces Korea -- where we've had -- historically had an issue there. So wherever we detect it, we try to follow up. And there have been some cases recently, which we have aggressively followed up in the law enforcement sense.

Contractors. You know that for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine deployed, there's at least one contractor that ends up in theater at the same time. They're all employed by us. Secretary Napolitano already made it clear. It's part of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and it's Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement that contracts are to have a provision forbidding trafficking as in any connection with the country. Now, it's one thing to write it into the contract and you say, "How do you make sure you get it done?" We're going to make it training for the contractors mandatory, even as it is for our own people, civilian and military -- number one.

Number two, contracting officer representatives, a COR. What is a COR? COR is the person who makes sure that the contract is executed. So there's somebody who follows around the contractor and makes sure it gets done. Those people are now trained, which they didn't used to be, in recognizing trafficking. So they can see if an association with one of our contracting activities -- this has gone on, very important. And we have our inspector general now tracking to make sure that those contract clauses are all there and the contracting officer representatives are, in fact, monitoring compliance with those. Very important, because contractors is a huge part of what we do.

Last piece is our foreign military training engagements. All of our programs, be they 1206, be they IMET, JSET, our training of UN peacekeepers and so forth, it is a required part of that curriculum. If we offer it as a department to another military that it include training for those foreign military members in trafficking, both don't do it and recognize it. So for example, just to give you one example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, AFRICOM, our African Command, works through DIILS -- the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies -- maybe some of you may be familiar with -- to train justice professionals in the prosecution of trafficking crimes and Congolese military commanders in how to prevent their troops from engaging in this. It's very important in all of our training. So those are our training activities.

So in those three arenas where we might touch this problem and do touch this problem, we're trying to make sure that we're reflecting the President's fight.

SEC. CLINTON: Thanks very much, Ash. Now, Deputy Secretary Porcari, would you please report from the Department of Transportation?

DEPUTY SECRETARY PORCARI: Thank you, Secretary Clinton, and we appreciate your leadership on this. And Valerie, we very much appreciate the clear and consistent direction the President has given us on this. It's energized all of us.

We want to make sure, first and foremost, that the transportation system is not inadvertently an enabler of human trafficking. We're very committed across land, sea, and air to making sure that's not the case. Marlise Streitmatter, our deputy chief of staff, has been our lead person on this and will continue to be, but we're using all of our resources across borders and agencies to make sure that we can positively impact this problem.

For example, working with Secretary Napolitano in Customs and Border Protection, the Blue Lightning Initiative provides an in-flight procedure to report human trafficking events, law enforcement, as well as awareness for the flight crews. We've gotten very positive response from our airlines on this; they're very interested in moving forward on this. Likewise, on the highways, we want to make sure they're free of human trafficking. If a commercial truck or bus driver commits a felony, we can take them off the road -- and obviously, human trafficking is a felony. This gives us an opportunity to remove the bad actors.

We're also pursuing opportunities with Amtrak and the motor coach industry to develop a public awareness campaign and specialized training for our inspectors that are out in the field all across the country to recognize the warning signs of human trafficking. We're also collaborating with our Mexican and Canadian partners to increase awareness, and we look forward to expanding on those partnerships.

There are also some less conventional partnerships that can be very effective. Working, for example, with our local and state departments of motor vehicles, as well as truck stops, to build public awareness, and give people that are literally on the front lines of this fight the tools to recognize and report suspicious activities.

And finally, this really starts at home, and we're working internally within our Department of Transportation, across all the transportation modes, to make sure that we educate our team on identifying human trafficking, and we're building, essentially, on the DHS program that's out there.

So we're dedicated to moving forward with this. This is an unconscionable and unacceptable activity, and we are looking forward on building the -- on the progress to date. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much. Now I'd like to invite from the State Department, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Maria Otero, to go into a little more detail about what we're doing at the State Department.

UNDER SECRETARY OTERO: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. And I also want to express appreciation for the leadership that our President is giving us on this issue, and Valerie, convening us here, and of course, express the importance for us to be able to work with every department across the board under the commitment and leadership of Secretary Clinton, who has really enabled our Department to push forward in this area.

Over the last year, the TIP Office, under the leadership of Ambassador CdeBaca, but working in partnership with our regional bureaus and with all of the other colleagues across the Department, we've made advances in several areas that I think are important to highlight in addressing the State Department's response to modern slavery. And let me just touch on a couple of them, as Secretary Clinton has also talked about some of them.

First, the Department -- as other departments have stated here -- is in the process of developing a training program that is going to be applicable for all of our direct hires. And this is with the purpose of helping all of our employees understand the nature of this crime better. And not only be able to understand it but to be able to recognize it when it happens and to be able to see the warning signs before it is happening and also take action if that is necessary. So this is in the process of being developed, and we anticipate through it that the degree of understanding of this issue will increase by all of those that are working at the Department.

Second, Secretary Clinton, last year at this task force, announced the establishment of a new trafficking investigation unit that would be set up by our Diplomatic Security Bureau. And I'm very pleased to say that, indeed, that was not only set up, but that in fact it has been operating this last year. And it is very exciting that it has already carried out a number of investigations that have led to indictments. And that for us is a real sign of being able to move this forward. The unit's Victims' Resource Advocacy Program is also equipped to fully support the victims themselves that are discovered in the course of any of these investigations. So we are applauding our Diplomatic Security Bureau for how quickly they've put together this team, and not only set forth its parameters, but also how its work is already showing results.

Third, we're working to protect the visa holders who come to the United States as domestic servants of diplomats. Thanks to the works of one of our working groups, which is headed by our chief of protocol, we are working closely with the diplomatic community to raise their awareness of this issue and to make sure the diplomats that bring domestic workers to the United States now follow a set of requirements that are in place that will prevent those workers from being abused.

Finally -- and Secretary Clinton mentioned this briefly -- the TIP Office has partnered with an NGO to develop a tool that allows anybody and everybody to go online, to take a survey, and then to see how many victims of human trafficking it takes to sustain their lifestyle. This is called the Slavery Footprint, and it is the kind of innovation that is helping create change and also create awareness not only of the existence of this crime but also of the challenges that we face in addressing it, and it is bringing people to this issue.

We know that more than three million people from more than 200 countries have logged on to this site, and we're confident that tools such as this one are going to be some that are going to help make a difference in engaging those around the world in addressing this issue in the years ahead. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you, Maria. Since we are being broadcast here, perhaps, Lou, you could give the website for the Slavery Footprint, because it's had a remarkable impact, and we want to encourage everybody everywhere to sign on.

AMB. CDEBACA: Certainly. Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's pretty intuitive. It's the slaveryfootprint.org -- not dot com -- slaveryfootprint.org.

SEC. CLINTON: Right. So we invite everyone to log on.

Now let me turn to Dr. Raj Shah, the USAID administrator, who is such a great partner in this and so much of the work that we do.

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: Thank you, Madam Secretary, for your focus and direction on these issues, and to President Obama for elevating the attention and the resources that we will hope to invest against results in this space.

In the past year, our agency has made significant progress trying to live up to commitments we've made around this table for each of the past two years as part of this task force. We are implementing a more results-oriented approach to counter-trafficking efforts around the world, which starts, as Denis mentioned, with the adoption of a strict, new code of conduct for ourselves, our partners abroad, our contractors, and in particular, our security contractors that often operate in high-risk conflict environments. The code of conduct, much as Ash Carter described, will make sure that more people serve as eyes and ears in the search for those at risk or those enslaved. And we have intensified procurement actions and implementation of that code of conduct so that those terms are written into our contracts and enforced through our contracts' officers and reviewers.

We've also launched a new counter-trafficking policy developed in close partnership with many agencies represented around the table.

This policy requires every USAID mission in a high-risk country to conduct baseline surveys on trafficking and develop clear metrics to assess progress against prevention for our efforts and efforts of others in the international community. It also directs us to create more multi-country databases so victims can be tracked across countries and supported in their efforts as they -- as that is such a critical barrier, having that data be accessible in a number of different environments. And it prioritizes investments in technologies, like mapping platforms, mobile applications, and other innovations.

We also believe that the -- one of the challenges is getting the word out and making sure that people who are in a difficult situation have the capacity to seek help. In that effort, we have expanded a highly successful partnership with MTV EXIT into Russia for the very first time, but it is a global program that has had some real successes, especially in Asia. Through the partnership with MTV EXIT, they have created public service advertisements, music videos, and other efforts to create awareness about trafficking and provide hotlines so that people can access resources to fight back. We believe it has reached more than 300 million households in Asia over the last seven years.

And just to share one story that we heard about just a few weeks ago, that for more than three years a young Cambodian boy and his three friends had been essentially enslaved on a Thai fishing boat. Just a few weeks ago, their boat docked at a port in Thailand, and they happened to see on television one of the MTV EXIT advertisements about trafficking. The video flashed a free hotline number in both Thai and Cambodian so the kids could read it and respond. They did. Immigration authorities responded immediately, and they were freed. We seek many, many more stories like this and believe our expanded efforts are helping to get us there.

We also know, as the President mentioned in his statement today, that we want to work more effectively with partners throughout our own country in the private sector, on universities and campuses, and in faith-based communities. I recently visited Bethel University, a Christian college outside of Minneapolis, and I met with about 100 students the day after we had released our counter-trafficking policy, actually, in this room. And sometimes it takes in the federal government -- as everyone here knows -- some time for these policies to be read by our teams and really inform changes and action and behavior. I know we all address that. Every one of the 100 kids that I met with had already read our policy online, and they had ideas, they had things they wanted to contribute.

So today, we're thrilled to announce that we will launch a college -- a campus challenge to combat trafficking, and we'll seek to partner with the most innovative, creative ideas in the realm of prevention and protection. And we'll match our campus challenge champions, the winners of our awards, with our missions in the field, so students have access to many of our partners who are on the frontlines of trying to help victims or help communities that are in high risk. We look forward to working with the next generation of American students to craft the next generation of solutions to this critical challenge.

And thank you for the chance to be here.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you so much, Raj. That's very exciting news. Let me now ask Deputy Director Sean Joyce of the FBI to share the FBI's update.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And thank you to the White House for hosting this event today. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on the street that work this issue each and every day and many of the

folks in this room in some of the chairs behind us that work tirelessly every day on some of the policy issues regarding this issue. The FBI continues its commitment to fighting human trafficking and child exploitation in coordination with our federal, state, and local partners. Over the last year, we've increased our resources approximately 66 percent dedicated to this issue, especially against instances of coerced or forced adult labor, in addition to our agency placing a tremendous significance on ensuring child victims are safe, secure, and away from those who would prey on their innocence.

I can tell you I've been personally involved in rescuing some child victims, and as a father and a special agent, it is both emotional and rewarding, but devastating for the victims. The FBI recognizes these investigations require specialized resources, and thus we commit 80 victim specialists from our Office of Victim Assistance to our human trafficking efforts. To facilitate our fight against human trafficking and child exploitation, we participate in 77 task forces in 47 working groups across the country.

One highlight is our Innocent Lost National Initiative we started in 2003. This initiative addresses the tragic challenge of children recruited into prostitution. It is supported by the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation/Obscenity Section, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. To date, the initiative has resulted in 1,961 children being rescued. There have been nearly 1,500 investigations initiated, resulting in 927 convictions, to include seven life sentences and several ranging in length from 25 to 45 years.

Recognizing this is also an international problem. The FBI continues to build capacity through a number of training efforts, and in conjunction with our partners in the Department of State, we recently administered a two-week human trafficking course for law enforcement officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. The FBI looks forward to the continued collaboration with our law enforcement partners, both at home and abroad, to ensure that child exploitation and/or forced or coerced adult labor is met with swift justice.

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for this opportunity.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Deputy Director and Special Agent. That was a very stirring rendition of the great work you're doing, and I appreciate it.

Let me now turn to Assistant Secretary Russlynn Ali to share the Department of Education's update.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALI: Thank you, Madam Secretary, Ms. Jarrett, and to all of you for your commitment on this issue. Secretary Duncan shares in that commitment and this sense of urgency.

Over the past year, we have set about using all of the tools within our disposal to really launch an awareness through -- prevention through awareness efforts in our schools, through technical assistance and supports and training for educators that need it so that they can spot the warning signals. We know that these signals, whether they be absenteeism or signs of abuse or behavioral problems, they prevent children from learning. They not only affect the victim and those at prey of traffickers but the entire school community. And schools have a responsibility and need help and support.

So it is about identifying where those problem areas exist, working with so many of you to target our solutions and our efforts, to answer the calls of educators and school districts around the country that are dealing with these problems in ways that they have never before, helping them with language and talking to school-age children about very difficult and grown-up issues. And how they do that with sincerity and the education they need to help their children be safe is something that is hugely important as well.

We are also doing the kind of technical assistance through web-based tools on what services are available, what supports are available. We've brought together, just last summer, over 2,000 educators to deal with issues of climate and safety in their schools writ large and highlighted and focused on issues of trafficking and ways to help. Finding those places that are also doing great things to eradicate trafficking where in exist -- a school district in San Diego, for example, Grossmont Union High School, we've worked with them to create a training video, which we will disseminate to all school districts that need it as we find those places that are eradicating this and work to take their lessons to scale.

We've also worked closely with the Office of Violence Against Women, our colleagues at the Department of Justice, and elsewhere to ensure that we bring best practices to bear and outreach with as many groups as possible and interested on this issue. In the future, we will continue to work with our sister agencies in finding the places that need the help most, understanding the data better, learning about those solutions and bringing them to scale.

We look forward to sharing those tools, like the Slavery Footprint, to working with Raj and others on things like the campus challenge while we do climate checks and climate schools in our schools, making sure that we hear from stu-

dents themselves on both problems and solutions, and working with our colleagues and our school resource officers and our colleagues in the Department of Homeland Security on training for law enforcement officers on how they, too, can help change the school environment. We will use all of the tools in our disposal to help you and help our schools deal with this tragic problem. Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you very much. And now let me invite our final speaker, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Jacqueline Berrien.

MS. BERRIEN: Thank you so much to President Obama for his leadership and commitment to end human trafficking, and thank you, Secretary Clinton, for your leadership and the opportunity to participate in this very important discussion.

On behalf of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I am privileged to report on the EEOC's work to identify and remedy the trafficking of workers. EEOC staff across the country work diligently to protect one of the most fundamental human and civil rights -- the right to work without being harassed, intimidated, or mistreated on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The EEOC plays an important role in helping to make victims of trafficking whole. We seek and obtain civil remedies, such as back pay and monetary relief, for the harm caused by employment discrimination as well as punitive damages and equitable relief to deter and prevent future discriminatory conduct.

Since the last meeting of this task force, EEOC has worked with enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels to improve outreach to vulnerable populations, including victims of trafficking. For example, we trained representatives from state and local fair employment practice agencies to identify and remedy trafficking. EEOC also certified new visas last year to ensure that victims of sex harassment and other discriminatory treatment at work could participate fully in related law enforcement efforts without fear of deportation.

Building on the successful resolution of anti-trafficking cases against J.J. Pickle and Trans Bay Steel, the EEOC is challenging discriminatory working conditions and terms of employment in two recently filed cases. In one case, the EEOC alleges that more than 200 Thai men were subjected to a pattern or practice of national origin and race discrimination, harassment, abuse, and retaliation on farms in Hawaii and Washington. The second case alleges that hundreds of Indian employees were recruited to work as welders, pipe fitters, and ship fitters in Mississippi and Texas, but after arriving in the United States as guest workers, they were subjected to abuse based on their national origin and race and encountered other forms of discriminatory treatment, including segregated and substandard housing. Both of these cases are pending now, and we're seeking not only relief for the affected workers, but also injunctive relief to prevent future occurrences.

Last January, the commission conducted a public meeting on human trafficking, and with the insights provided by Ambassador CdeBaca and other witnesses, we have redoubled our efforts to identify and remedy trafficking. In the past year, my colleague, Commissioner Stuart Ishimaru, launched the EEOC's immigrant worker team to improve the commission's outreach to immigrant workers, strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting national origin discrimination, and increased collaboration with other agencies addressing human trafficking and related issues affecting immigrant workers. The immigrant worker team of the EEOC will continue to address these issues in 2012.

Once again, thank you for convening us, Madam Secretary. My EEOC colleagues and I look forward to continuing to work with all of the members of this task force towards the goal of ending the scourge of human trafficking.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you so much. And again, thanks to everyone, not just for being here today for this meeting, but for the work that everyone has done since our last meeting. I think it does help to focus our attention that we do have an annual meeting where we come together and share the results of our efforts. I think it's especially meaningful to be meeting here in the White House, because, after all, this is a national priority, it's a priority of the President's, and we do have to do more to reach out to have partnerships with the private sector, with NGOs, state governments, local governments, and the like.

So again, Valerie, thank you for hosting us, and we appreciate the emphasis that the White House has put on this program.

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Thank you all for being here.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you.

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180 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AS OF FEBRUARY 2012

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The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

March 15, 2012

Presidents Interagency Task Force and Senior Policy Operating Group

On February 1, 2011, National Freedom Day, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton chaired the Obama Administrations second meeting of the Presidents Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF). Agencies discussed a broad range of issues including the ongoing need for increased victim identification and assistance, collaboration across law enforcement agencies to dismantle human trafficking networks and bring traffickers to justice, and leveraging resources by expanding anti-trafficking work into broader agency efforts.

The Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) met four times in 2011 in January, April, July, and October and coordinated implementation of strategies and programs related to federal efforts to combat human trafficking. Building on advancements made in previous years, the SPOG sustained these efforts through standing committees, as well as new ad hoc working groups formed to address victim services and legislative matters.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) led a SPOG working group that developed and deployed an online, interactive training for the entire federal acquisitions workforce on combating human trafficking, and its contributing factors like the demand for commercial sex, using the pertinent provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The 35-minute module outlines the definition of human trafficking and describes vulnerable populations, indicators, and relevant legislation. It articulates specific remedies for use if contractors engage in human trafficking, including suspension or debarment. Personnel in more than 10 federal agencies have already taken the training.

Prompted by interagency efforts to address the issue of victim identification and assistance, relevant SPOG agencies participated in a public listening session hosted and organized by DHS, which was designed to allow stakeholders to share ideas on victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and non-governmental organization (NGO) and private sector initiatives and resources.

In 2011, the SPOG Chair invited the Department of Transportation (DOT) to participate in the policy group. DOTs participation has helped to expand federal coordination, particularly in increased victim identification and assistance in locating common routes used for trafficking within and into the United States. DOT joins the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Department of the Interior (DOI), which were first invited to participate in the PITF and SPOG in 2010.

A SPOG working group on legislative matters facilitated the consolidation of agency comments into an Administration response to the House version of the bill reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended.

Three standing committees continued to advance substantive areas of the SPOGs work: Research and Data focused on statistics and data collection, Grantmaking generated a series of promising practices for successful grants, and Public Affairs revitalized its members to coordinate government-wide messaging.

With participation of SPOG agencies, the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) included for the second year a ranking and full country narrative for the United States. The U.S. narrative and ranking incorporated the input of civil society through a call for information in the Federal Register. It generated significant press, foreign government interest, and praise from the NGO community, advancing U.S. diplomatic efforts on human trafficking worldwide.

DOS, the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Justice (DOJ), DHS, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of the Treasury (Treasury), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collaborated with the White House in the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The National Action Plans goal is to empower women as partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity. With interagency input, one of the plans objectives is to strengthen U.S. efforts to prevent and protect women and children from trafficking in persons in addition to other harms. Each agency will develop specific plans for implementing the National Action Plan in the first half of 2012.

DOS's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) created a shared intranet site to serve as a central clearinghouse of information that all PITF agencies can use to share resources, training, and information vital to their work.

SPOG agencies continued to share information on matters relating to grants, grant policies, and other significant actions regarding the international trafficking of persons to inform funding decisions and ensure they are not duplicative, but strategic and smart.

DOS and DOJ have signed a one-year Interagency Agreement creating an Advanced Human Trafficking Investigator course at the FBI Training Academy at Quantico for Central American law enforcement officers. The first pilot session, scheduled for February 27-March 9, 2012, will train a total of 20 investigators from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. An additional session for 30 more investigators is anticipated in late 2012. If the pilot is successful, the training may be expanded to other regions pending additional resources.

DOS, DOJ, and DHS have signed a one-year Interagency Agreement for INTERPOL Washington to replicate a successful capacity building program previously implemented in Africa to enhance the capacity of customs officials, immigration officials, border security officers, police officers and prosecutors in states with shared borders to enhance a regional response. This program will be implemented in three targeted countries with shared borders in the Central America region. It will culminate in a joint human trafficking law enforcement operation that will seek to reinforce the knowledge and skills learned during the training portion of the program and provide the nexus to allow ongoing activities of this type in the future.

Department of State

On June 27, Secretary Clinton released the 2011 TIP Report covering 184 countries and territories, including the U.S. ranking and narrative. Since 2000, the Report has encouraged the enactment of anti-trafficking laws in over 120 countries, increased the numbers of victims identified and traffickers facing justice, and prodded recalcitrant governments to take their first significant anti-trafficking steps, planting the seeds for sustained political commitment to protection, prevention, and prosecution.

The TIP Office conducted fair, transparent, and competitive grant reviews to support grassroots prevention, prosecution, and protection projects worldwide. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the TIP Office awarded \$24 million to 69 projects in 37 countries, including \$4.5 million in FY 2010 funds specifically appropriated for anti-trafficking projects in Haiti, and approximately \$3 million in FY 2010 funds allocated primarily for projects in India and Afghanistan. Together, these projects address both sex and labor trafficking and support efforts focused on child sex tourism, demand reduction, debt bondage, and forced child labor, among other things. As of January 2012, the TIP Office has 156 open and active projects in 66 countries totaling \$60.2 million. The TIP Offices foreign assistance budget was reduced from \$21 million in FY 2010, to \$16 million in FY 2011.

In 2011, the TIP Office supported both rigorous program evaluations and evidence-based research to identify trends, close knowledge gaps on TIP, and inform policy and practice. With TIP Office funding, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) published a comprehensive report in June 2011 on trafficking within Southeast Asia. The TIP Of-

Office also funded IOM to further expand its Global Human Trafficking Database, which contains primary data on more than 16,500 registered TIP victims in more than 100 source and destination countries.

The TIP Office is currently funding ongoing research projects including a case study assessing approaches to the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases and the protection of victims in three Tier 1 countries; a research study in a Middle Eastern country comparing a shelter for labor TIP victims and a shelter for sex TIP victims focusing on how each shelter is operated, similarities and differences between the victims, and the current rehabilitation methodologies being employed; and evaluability assessments, two of which were finalized in 2010 leading to the identification of two programs for full scale outcome evaluations, which are currently underway.

Through a grant from the TIP Office, the Fairtrade Fund developed the Slavery Footprint (www.slaveryfootprint.org), a web- and mobile-based application that allows users to understand how their lives may intersect with modern slavery. Nearly three million users in over 200 countries have visited the site. This self-assessment tool is a unique effort to expand consumers understanding of how their own actions can drive markets for human trafficking, in particular the demand for slave labor in supply chains, and call them to action to change those habits.

DOS is in the process of a fundamental reform of the J-1 visa Summer Work and Travel Program that will greatly reduce participants vulnerabilities to trafficking. The proposed new regulations represent the most significant reform of the program in its 48-year history. In 2011, a cap was placed on the number of participants and a moratorium was placed on new sponsor designations in order to focus on increased oversight by both sponsors and DOS. DOS consulted with a broad range of stakeholders including civil society, advocates, and local and federal government officials. Additional reforms are planned throughout 2012.

DOS augmented its ongoing work to help protect foreign domestic workers of foreign diplomats in the United States and hold diplomatic missions accountable for their personnel's treatment of their workers, including by implementing a system to track allegations of abuse and establishing additional requirements pertaining to the treatment of foreign domestic workers, including with regard to the payment of their wages. In early 2012, DOS will conduct briefings both for senior foreign mission personnel and for domestic workers on these matters. DOS has also met with foreign government officials and NGOs to learn about and consider additional protections.

DOS collaborated with DHS to create a 15-minute online, interactive general awareness training on human trafficking, which is available on both DOS's and DHS's Internet sites.

DOS issued a cable to embassies and consulates worldwide urging all contracting officers and contracting officers representatives to take the newly-developed FAR training for acquisitions personnel at the first opportunity.

In an effort to address potential vulnerabilities for human trafficking in DOS procurement, DOS released a Procurement Information Bulletin (PIB) applicable to all DOS domestic and overseas contracting activities and Regional Procurement Support Offices which gives guidance to personnel on how to monitor contracts for counter-trafficking compliance.

DOS's Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) established its Human Trafficking Unit at its headquarters to support its field offices, increase participation in task forces, centralize case referrals, and offer training, particularly on interviewing and supporting victims of human trafficking. The unit will also assist other domestic law enforcement agencies in overseas investigation activities. DS also has a Victims Resource Advocacy Program that is designed to fully support any victims, including trafficking victims, discovered during the course of DS investigations.

The newly formed DS Human Trafficking Unit was the lead investigative agency in a case that led to the indictment of a former foreign United Arab Emirates embassy employee Mervat Mohamed Fawzy Saleh Tolan, 52, and her husband Nabil Abdel Khalek Talaat, 55, both Egyptian citizens and formerly of Vienna, VA, by a federal grand jury on November 23 for forcing two Indonesian women to work long hours at well-below minimum wage as domestic servants in the defendants residence. The charges included forced labor, visa fraud, alien harboring, making false statements, and more. The victims alleged repeated sexual abuse and restrictions of their freedom over the course of their employment.

DOS collaborated with several partners including the Business for Social Responsibility, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, Christian Brothers Investment Service, and Rabbis for Human Rights-North America to develop two webinars promoting the importance of corporate social accountability in combating modern slavery and sharing information on resources, tools, and training. DOS also elevated trafficking awareness through a well-attended conference in Rome, Building Bridges of Freedom: Public-Private Partnerships to End Modern Day Slavery, which focused on sharing anti-trafficking promising practices from the faith-based, corporate, and civil society sectors.

DOS further engaged the hospitality, travel, and tourism sector in their efforts to develop training on human trafficking and raise awareness of the penalties associated with child sex tourism.

DOS provided support to the International Business Leaders Forums pilot project to provide job- and life-skills training to trafficking survivors in at least 13 hotel sites in three pilot countries.

In FY 2011, DOSs Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) contributed \$258,000 to the IOM for the Return, Reintegration, and Family Reunification Program for Victims of Trafficking in the United States. With the support of the TIP Office, PRM contributed an additional amount to enable IOM to clear a backlog of cases. Through the program, IOM helps trafficking victims who have been granted a T-visa status by providing financial and logistical support to family members who are eligible for T-visas so that they can join the victim in the United States. For trafficking victims who wish to return home, the program provides travel assistance, as well as help reintegrating into the home community to reduce the likelihood of re-trafficking. In 2011, the program helped 69 family members to join trafficking survivors in the United States, and made progress on dozens of ongoing cases.

DOSs Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) and TIP Office, and DHSs U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS) work together to resolve recurring T- and U-visa processing delays. The group collaborates regularly to expedite time-sensitive cases to ensure victims families reunite before the children age out, and shares documents that are needed for stranded victims and their immediate family to get visas to return to the United States.

DOSs CA distributes at all visa-issuing posts a know your rights brochure developed by the Department of State in consultation with DHS, DOJ, the Department of Labor (DOL), and NGOs to recipients of visas in certain visa classes vulnerable to trafficking. The brochure has generated nearly 2,000 calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline.

DOSs Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) awards grants on a fair and competitive basis to support organizations promoting internationally recognized labor standards, as laid out in the eight International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions. One portion of DRLs labor programming targets forced labor directly and engages stakeholders to address underlying conditions that can lead to forced labor.

DRL also participated in the roundtable launch of the USDOL-funded ILO guidelines to estimate forced labor of adults and children. The roundtable brought together United States Government (USG) and civil society actors to discuss the guidelines, in particular their usefulness to researchers and policymakers. The survey questions, which aim to identify involuntariness and coercion, can be streamlined into other surveys and tailored on a country-by-country basis to provide a more accurate measure of forced labor.

DOS successfully advanced multilateral policy, including drafting and negotiating the text of an OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking, adopted on December 7, 2011. Additionally, DOS provided expert input for the new ILO Convention adopted on June 16, 2011 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) and its Recommendation (R201), which include provisions to help prevent domestic servitude.

DOS supports International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs) overseas that deliver instructions to foreign law enforcement officials to address and help counter international crimes including trafficking in persons. In calendar year 2011, the ILEAs trained over 500 international law enforcement officials on counter-human trafficking topics.

Department of Defense

DOD produced new Public Service Announcements on combating trafficking in persons for the America Forces Network (AFN). The announcements seek to combat both sex and labor trafficking and are aired on the Pentagon station, as well as on AFN television and radio at overseas locations.

DOD enhanced individualized training by converting the latest version of the Trafficking in Persons General Awareness training course for delivery on mobile devices. The training is currently running on iPhone, iPod touch, iPad Androids, and Blackberry devices. A full course conversion, as well as a streamlined version, will run on any Internet accessible device.

The Department of the Army revamped its contract monitoring procedures by adding a new reason code on the Excluded Parties List System, which identifies if a firm has been suspended/debarred for violations of the FAR prohibitions of trafficking in persons. In this way, firms and debarments can be more easily tracked.

(<https://www.epls.gov/epls/jsp/CTCodes.jsp?type=recip>)

Senior Contracting Officials in Iraq and Afghanistan have awareness brochures for companies employing third-country nationals to alert them to the severe penalties for human trafficking. The brochure is also published on the CENTCOM Contracting Command Contracting Office webpage (<http://www2.centcom.mil/sites/contracts/Pages/GCO.aspx>) and on the OSD DPAP Contingency Contracting webpage (<http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pacc/cc/index.html>).

DOD created a wallet-sized card, translated into the seven languages most commonly spoken by workers in Iraq and Afghanistan that spells out their worker rights and provides hotline information to report suspected violations.

The Defense FAR Supplement added a requirement, published in the Federal Register in November 2011, mandating additional contract administration duties to maintain surveillance over contractor compliance for all DOD contracts.

DOD held a Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) workshop with presenters from other federal organizations and nongovernment organizations that provided DOD representatives with the latest TIP laws, regulations, and tools to improve the DOD CTIP program.

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) convened an interagency forum to address the problems of and to increase awareness of human trafficking within the USPACOM area of responsibility. Representatives attended from DOS, USAID, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The United States Forces in Korea (USFK) held meetings with bar owners, the Philippine Embassy, and Philippine women working as bar staff concerning Korean Immigration Law and the confiscation of employee passports. USFK Law Enforcement, DOD, and the Philippine Embassys efforts to identify possible trafficking victims have resulted in a noticeable reduction in the number of Philippine women working in bars outside USFK installations.

DOD provided information on its work to raise awareness of human trafficking and anti-trafficking training modules to foreign government representatives under the International Visitor Leadership Program sponsored by DOS.

The Army and the Corps of Engineers developed a requirement to perform reviews and assess contracts for trafficking indicators and report risk assessments and reviews, along with actions taken/remedies, when a problem is identified. The first data collection was completed on December 31, 2011.

The DOD Inspector General submitted a report to Congress on January 18, 2011 on its CTIP contracting efforts, and continues to conduct evaluations of DODs overall efforts regarding trafficking in persons:

The third of a three part series of evaluations regarding DOD contracts within U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command was completed in December 2011. The report was published in January 2012.

Fieldwork for an evaluation of DOD contracts performed in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan commenced in January 2012.

A report on an evaluation of DOD Component CTIP programs is planned for April 2012.

Department of Justice

Prosecutions

DOJs Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorneys offices (USAOs) together brought 41 forced labor and adult sex trafficking prosecutions in 2011, charged 117 defendants, and secured 65 convictions.

Regarding forced labor and adult sex trafficking cases:

DOJ secured a 12-year sentence against the lead defendant in a ground-breaking human trafficking and organized crime prosecution that dismantled a multi-national, organized criminal enterprise that exploited guest workers from multiple countries for forced labor in 14 states. Ten defendants were convicted in this prosecution in *United States v. Askarkhodjaev*.

In another organized crime and forced labor prosecution, *United States v. Botsvynyuk*, DOJ secured the convictions of two defendants after trial for their roles in a scheme to hold Ukrainian victims in forced labor. Two additional defendants charged in connection with the scheme are pending extradition.

DOJ secured life sentences against domestic and international sex traffickers in four separate cases.

DOJ secured a 40-year sentence against the lead defendant in the sex trafficking case of *United States v. Cortes-Meza* following trial on charges of victimizing young Mexican women and girls in the Atlanta area.

Regarding child sex trafficking:

In 2006, DOJ initiated Project Safe Childhood (PSC), which focuses on the effective prevention, investigation, and prosecution of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes. In May 2011, the Deputy Attorney General expanded PSC to cover all federal child sexual exploitation crimes, including the prostitution of children here in the United States. As a result, U.S. Attorneys are conducting a threat assessment of the harm posed in their districts by crimes involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, in conjunction with the Criminal Divisions Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), conducted training July 12-15, 2011 at the National Advocacy Center for prosecutors and investigators of cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The training included segments on trial preparation, how to obtain victim services, and unique issues related to these cases. Participants heard from attorneys, investigators, and service providers experienced in working with this population.

Selected Child Sex Trafficking Cases brought by CEOS and USAOs:

U.S. v. Mozie, et al. (S.D. Fla.) DOJ secured the conviction of three defendants on charges relating to their sex trafficking of minors. Two of the defendants, a common-law husband and wife, acted as pimps and prostituted adults and minors out of a house near Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at which the third defendant provided security. Defendant Mozie would initiate the minor victims by engaging in sexual intercourse with them. At least four minor girls between the ages of 13-17 were identified as victims. Defendant Laschell Shelly Harris was sentenced to 13 years in prison. Defendant Willie David Rice, who provided security, was sentenced to four years in prison. Sentencing for Mozie is scheduled for 2012.

U.S. v. Sullivan (N.D. Cal.) DOJ secured the conviction of Edward Lee Sullivan for producing and possessing child pornography. In 2008, Sullivan trained a 14-year-old girl to work for him as a prostitute and produced numerous photographs and videos of the minor engaging in sex acts. The photos and videos documented the steps Sullivan took to prepare the minor for acts of prostitution. Sullivan is scheduled to be sentenced in 2012 and faces a maximum sentence of up to life in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

U.S. v. Sanderson (D. Conn.) DOJ secured a sentence of over 25 years imprisonment for Jarell Sanderson of New Britain, Connecticut on child sex trafficking charges. Sanderson and his co-defendant Hassanah Delia of East Hartford, Connecticut recruited two 14-year-old girls to engage in prostitution in hotels in Connecticut. The defendants provided the minors with alcohol in order to dull their fears and threatened them on several occasions, including by telling the minors that Sanderson had a gun. Defendant Delia was sentenced to 110 months in prison.

Coordination

DOJ initiated a Human Trafficking Enhanced Enforcement Initiative to strengthen coordination within DOJ and among federal law enforcement agencies.

DOJ implemented a directive within the Department to enhance coordination on issues related to human trafficking among USAOs, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, CEOS, and the Civil Rights Divisions Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU).

DOJ collaborated with DHS and DOL through the Federal Enforcement Working Group (FEWG) to conduct competitive nationwide selection process and launch six Pilot Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams (ACTeams) to implement coordinated interagency strategy to develop high-impact human trafficking investigations and prosecutions in collaboration with national human trafficking subject matter experts, including DOJ prosecutors and experts at DHSs U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), FBI, and DOL headquarters. Developed and disseminated interagency ACTeams Operations Guide.

DOJ advanced the U.S.-Mexico Human Trafficking Bilateral Enforcement Initiative, in collaboration with DHS and Mexican law enforcement counterparts, to develop high-impact bilateral investigations and prosecutions to dismantle international human trafficking networks, resulting in landmark convictions in coordinated prosecutions under both U.S. and Mexican law.

Based on this collaboration, on September 3, 2011, Mexican authorities secured convictions and sentences of 37½ years each against two defendants and 28½ years against a third defendant in a bilateral sex trafficking case arising out of *United States v. Rugerio* in Atlanta, Georgia.

In a second bilateral case, on June 28, 2011, Mexican authorities secured sentences of 16½ years against three sex traffickers and a sentence of 18 years against a fourth co-defendant in connection with a case arising out of Miami, Florida. Three members of the same sex trafficking ring were each sentenced to 15 years in Miami on November 16, 2011, in *United States v. Cortes-Castro*.

Throughout 2011, DOJ's anti-trafficking grant programs and training and technical assistance initiatives continued to support communities in building capacity to combat human trafficking and assist victims:

DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) added six new enhanced model task forces to support a comprehensive, victim-centered approach to combating all forms of trafficking sex trafficking and labor trafficking of foreign nationals and U.S. citizens (male and female, adults and minors). BJA made six awards to support law enforcement agencies (one in each task force site) to coordinate the goals, objectives, and activities of the entire task force in close collaboration with the local U.S. Attorney's Office and victim service provider partner. OVC made six awards to support a victim service organization (one in each task force site) to coordinate the provision of a comprehensive array of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to all trafficking victims identified within the geographic area covered by the task force.

DOJ's BJA and OVC hosted three regional training forums across the United States to bring together active task forces with investigative and victim service functions. The forums facilitated an opportunity for tailored, peer-to-peer training focused on region-specific, skills-building, and intelligence-sharing for law enforcement, victim service providers, and other professionals engaged in combating human trafficking. The trainings took place as follows:

Western Regional Forum: Tampa, Florida, January 11-12, 2011

Northeastern Regional Forum: Hartford, Connecticut, March 23-24, 2011

Midwestern Regional Forum: Chicago, Illinois, June 29-30, 2011

DOJ's BJA and OVC publicly released an online technical assistance tool on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2011. The e-Guide is a comprehensive online resource to assist anti-trafficking task forces in establishing, strengthening, and operating multidisciplinary response teams to identify and assist trafficking victims across the country. The e-Guide can be found here: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/TaskForce/8204/Guide/EGuide/Default.aspx>

Ongoing Training and Technical Assistance Initiatives

DOJ's BJA-funded law enforcement agencies and OVC-funded victim services organizations conducted professional training with community stakeholders within their geographic regions in an effort to build capacity and improve the community's response to human trafficking.

DOJ's OVC supported requests from the mainstream victim services field for training focused on understanding the needs of human trafficking victims and incorporating appropriate services into their existing client service model.

DOJ's BJA and OVC supported technical assistance requests from non-DOJ funded anti-trafficking task forces to support their efforts to incorporate best practices into their task force structure.

DOJ's BJA supported the development of three skill-based trainings for law enforcement agencies, including: 1) Human Trafficking Training for State Prosecutors; 2) Human Trafficking Training for State Judges; and 3) Advanced Human Trafficking Investigation Training.

DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided training and technical assistance to Mexican prosecutors, law enforcement and emergency responders through its AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program. The purpose of this assistance is to prevent and combat cross-border child abductions and human trafficking in the U.S. and Mexico. These efforts were conducted in coordination with DOJ's OPDAT and the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City with the full support of the Attorney General of Mexico and will continue in 2012. As a result of these efforts, Mexico has adopted Alerta AMBER México, a system similar to the U.S. AMBER Alert program.

DOJ's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) conducted 69 trafficking in persons programs in FY 2011 to build prosecutorial capacity in 16 countries (Albania, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, and Ukraine), and organized programs for over 278 foreign visitors to participate in training programs with DOJ's human trafficking experts.

Below are three examples of achievements facilitated by OPDAT:

On December 23, 2011, the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) enacted a long-awaited comprehensive anti-trafficking law. The new law criminalizes all forms of trafficking, including the trafficking of male migrant laborers who comprise the majority of Bangladeshi trafficking in persons victims. This anti-TIP ordinance, a major milestone in Bangladesh's efforts to combat trafficking, is the result of years of sustained efforts by the OPDAT Resident Legal Advisor to Bangladesh, as well as other DOJ and USG officials, to work with champions of the issue within the GOB. The Prime Minister's personal involvement in pushing through the ordinance reflects GOB commitment at the highest levels to addressing this key human rights issue.

The OPDAT Resident Legal Advisor to Russia spearheaded a successful Russian-American Trafficking in Persons Forum in Moscow on November 8-9, 2011. U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Beyrle and U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca joined Russia's Presidential Administration Representative on Human Rights Vladimir Lukin and representatives from the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to discuss human trafficking in Russia. Participants included approximately 70 international and Russian experts from the government, academia, law enforcement, religious organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, including two leading NGO experts from the US. The Forum resulted in the recommendation of several concrete steps for progress, including the formation of a network of TIP NGOs and religious organizations, and the re-establishment of a Russian-American law enforcement working group on TIP.

On September 22, 2011, the OPDAT Resident Legal Advisor to the Philippines helped organize a judicial roundtable with the Philippine Judicial Academy focused on common appellate issues in TIP cases. The Philippines has struggled with **trafficking in persons**, but in the past year has made substantial progress, reflected in an upgrade to **Tier 2** from the **Tier 2 Watch List** in the most recent annual TIP Report by the State Department. A major reason for the improvement has been the increase in successful TIP convictions, which was brought about in part by the prior assistance work of the OPDAT TIP Intermittent Legal Advisor. With the increase in convictions, the focus is now turning to the courts of appeals, and this TIP roundtable included 42 appellate court judges, more than half of all appellate judges in the Philippines.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at DOJ continued to expand its research portfolio on trafficking in FY 2011. NIJ sponsored three new research projects. The first is a detailed examination of traffickers and those that facilitate trafficking, focusing on who they are, why they engage in trafficking and how they organize. The second is a detailed evaluation of an intake form for trafficking victims with an eye towards developing a common intake form for the United States. The last project focuses on labor trafficking and tries to ascertain the reasons for under-reporting of this crime in the United States.

DOJs OJJDP funded the Institute of Medicine and the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Research Council to study the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States. The study will be conducted by a committee of independent experts who will review relevant research and practice-based literatures and make policy recommendations. The committee will examine, through a comprehensive literature search, workshops, and site visits: the scope and severity of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and sex trafficking of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents who are under the age of 18; causes and consequences for CSEC and sex trafficking victims and offenders, including the role of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; evidence on efforts in human services, health care, and law enforcement to prevent CSEC and sex trafficking and to intervene with victims and offenders; lessons from international, national, state, and local advocacy efforts that contribute to successful intervention and prevention strategies; and the adequacy of current state and federal laws for addressing the CSEC and sex trafficking of domestic minors. The committee will recommend: strategies to respond to CSEC and sex trafficking of domestic minors; new legislative approaches, if necessary; and a research agenda to guide future studies in this field.

DOJs International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) supported the international anti-human trafficking effort through program activities in seven countries on three continents. ICITAP also graduated 350 students from anti-trafficking training programs in Nigeria, the Philippines, and Tanzania.

Anti-trafficking international diplomacy:

The Total Information Management System, developed by ICITAP and enabled with real-time checks against INTERPOL databases, was instrumental in the Albanian Border Polices arrest of Serbian national Hektor Kelmendi, wanted on human trafficking charges in the U.S.

ICITAP partnered with OPDAT and U.S. Embassy Belgrade to organize an anti-trafficking study trip for a Serbian delegation from the ministries of Interior and Justice, including visits to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) in Washington, D.C., the State of Ohio Attorney Generals Office, and the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force in Toledo.

ICITAP partnered with OPDAT and U.S. Embassy Belgrade to arrange for an FBI task force supervisor, an FBI victim specialist, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney from Ohio to travel to Serbia for a series of presentations and discussions about trafficking with police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, NGOs, and academics.

USG-funded international anti-trafficking programs:

ICITAP provided assistance to the USAID mission in Cambodia in the design of a new anti-trafficking program.

ICITAP served as a panel member at the U.S. Pacific Commands first interagency symposium on CTIP.

ICITAP gave trafficking presentations to 500 students at Kosovo high schools in support of the governments Anti-Trafficking-in-Persons Awareness Campaign, with the goal to help prevent Kosovos youth from becoming easy prey for human traffickers and recruiters.

Victim Assistance

Through its Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Program, DOJ's OVC made grant awards to 11 victim service organizations with a demonstrated history of providing trauma-informed, culturally competent services to male and female victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Funding under this program supports either a comprehensive array of services for trafficking victims in specific geographic areas, or specialized mental health or legal services over larger geographic areas. Funding also supports efforts to increase the capacity of communities to respond to victims through the development of interagency partnerships and public outreach and awareness campaigns. These 11 grant awards were made in addition to the 6 awards made by OVC in partnership with BJA under the enhanced task force model program. In total, OVC made 17 grant awards to support services for victims of human trafficking. A link to these victim service organizations can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/#8204;/ovc/grants/traffickingmatrix.html>.

Department of the Interior

Within the Department of Interior, the Federal Ombudsman (Ombudsman) provides assistance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' 30,000 plus nonresident workers with labor and immigration complaints. The Federal Labor Ombudsman participated in the Pacific Regional Conference sponsored by the DOJ, National Districts Attorneys Association, and DOS entitled, "Strategies for Justice: A Pacific Vision in January 2011. The agenda for the conference focused on trafficking in persons, child sexual exploitation, and technology facilitated crimes. Over 400 participants gathered in Guam representing law enforcement, educators, health care providers, and social service providers from around the Pacific Region.

In May 2011, the Ombudsman, along with other members of the Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition (HTIC) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), sponsored an educational conference entitled "Human Trafficking Regional Training Conference." The HTIC is a coalition of law enforcement and social service organizations dedicated to fighting trafficking in humans in the CNMI as well as to provide immediate social welfare services to victims of trafficking. It was established in 2006 and has received numerous federal grants to continue its work. On September 14, 2011, the Ombudsman was elected the chairman of the CNMI HTIC. The Conference was the first regional training in the CNMI exclusively devoted to trafficking in persons issues and brought speakers from around the United States including AUSAs from South Carolina and victim shelter and rehabilitation directors from Cambodia. The Conference was attended by more than 250 participants from faith based organizations, law enforcement officials, services providers, and health care professionals from around the Pacific Region.

Also in May 2011, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta expanded the geographic scope of the Ombudsman's work to include the entire Marianas. Since the announcement of the expansion of her region of responsibilities, the Ombudsman has made several trips to Guam to conduct out-reach to the community representatives from both faith-based and ethnic-based communities to begin to develop the mutual trust and partnerships necessary to combat trafficking of persons in the territory. She has also met extensively with Guam governmental officials, both executive and legislative, which is necessary for effective prevention and prosecution of this crime. Developing a federal and local partnership also helps to leverage the resources available for the protection of victims.

On August 9, 2011, the Ombudsman participated as a presenter during the American Samoa Multi-Disciplinary Team Against Family Violence, in collaboration with the U.S. National District Attorney Association's (NDAA) National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, hosted a conference entitled, "Weaving the Pacific to End Child Abuse." The focus of the Ombudsman's presentation was the experiences of establishing the Ombudsman office in the CNMI and its role in combating trafficking in persons. The presentation focused on the goal of establishing a regional approach to this effort.

During the course of 2011 calendar year, 10 more victims of human trafficking sought assistance from the Ombudsman. Of these, based on extensive interviews and documentary evidence, it was determined that nine of these aliens had credible claims of victimization under the TVPA. The Ombudsman also assisted in the successful completion of federal law enforcement investigations of complaints involving 13 victims of trafficking or labor fraud. These investigations were referred to the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and prosecutions are either underway or awaiting sentencing. The office continues to actively assist approximately 72 victims of trafficking or labor fraud whose complaints were referred in 2009 and 2010 to Federal law enforcement agencies with these on-going investigations as well as humanitarian relief.

The Ombudsman is working collaboratively with USAOs, FBI, and DHS in identifying and investigating claims of human trafficking.

Throughout the year, the Ombudsman office has worked cooperatively with the legal community, lead law enforcement agencies, and Guma Esperanza with regard to victims seeking immigration benefits. The Ombudsman is aware of ten individuals who have received continued presence, and three victims as well as their derivative family members who have received T nonimmigrant status.

In 2011, the Bureau of Indian Affairs began discussions with DOSs TIP Office in regards to possibly updating the training at the Indian Police Academy for new officers. On December 1, 2011, U.S. Park Police (USPP) units responded to a reported domestic situation on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in Laurel, Maryland. As a result of that response, USPP officers subsequently conducted an interview of an 18-year old female involved in the incident. Ultimately, it was discovered that the female was the victim of a kidnapping in August 2011 in North Carolina and was forced into providing sexual acts for money and moved state to state against her will. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Greenbelt, Maryland was notified and the victim was remanded to the FBI Human Trafficking Group for further follow-up.

Plans are also being developed to provide human trafficking training to USPP personnel in the near future.

Department of Agriculture

On April 12, 2011 USDA published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) to inform the public and seek comments on Guidelines for Eliminating Child and Forced Labor in Agricultural Supply Chains (Guidelines). These Guidelines were based on the December 21, 2010 recommendations of the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products (Consultative Group) and contained a key list of practices that should be considered by those who want to adopt a program to reduce child and forced labor in their supply chains. The Notice and all public comments submitted in response to it are available on USDA's website (http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/Child_labor/Childlabor.asp).

Having carried out the activities provided for in its authorizing statute, the Consultative Group agreed that a new phase of activities should be undertaken to explore whether there is a lasting role for the Guidelines in the larger discussion about how to address child and forced labor in international agricultural supply chains. USDA is in discussions with DOL and DOS, which have ongoing mandates and significant expertise to address these issues. An important element of this effort will be the identification of and engagement with additional stakeholders. USDA can continue to provide data and expertise on agricultural trade patterns that may be helpful as the group continues its work.

Department of Labor

Detection and Law Enforcement

DOLs Wage and Hour Division (WHD) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) have continued participating in the Federal Enforcement Working Group (FEWG) and are actively working alongside law enforcement partners in the six pilot ACTeams located in Atlanta, El Paso, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Miami. The WHD plays a key role, calculating restitution for victims, providing translation services where necessary during the course of anti-trafficking investigations, and helping to identify potential cases in the course of regular Wage and Hour inspections.

The OIG investigates fraud and abuse related to DOLs Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) Programs (PERM, H-2A, H-1B, H-2B, etc.), as well as non-traditional organized crime threats that may jeopardize the integrity of these FLC programs.

The WHD is also participating in 26 BJA/OVC-funded task forces that are operating in 13 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianas. These task forces, composed of both federal law enforcement agencies and NGOs, are working to strengthen domestic trafficking investigations and prosecutions. Additionally, the WHD is participating in 12 non-BJA/OVC funded task forces, located in nine states. These task forces are comprised of federal, state, and local government agencies, along with a number of non-governmental organizations who have come together for a common purpose to combat human trafficking and to provide assistance to victims within the capabilities of the individual organizations.

Some examples of interagency investigations involving DOL include:

United States v. Sabhani: In January 2011, the Supreme Court declined to review lower court judgments in the case involving two domestic servants and a Muttontown, NY couple that ran an international perfume enterprise. A federal human trafficking criminal trial occurred in 2007 that included Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) civil violations. Prosecution by DOJ resulted in a 2007 conviction on all 12 charges of a federal indictment that included forced labor, conspiracy, peonage, document servitude, and harboring aliens. The two defendants were convicted, and then sentenced in June 2008 to prison terms of 11 years and 40 months respectively. The criminal prosecution incorporated back wage restitution under the FLSA, consistent with restitution provision in Section 1593 of the TVPA. WHD and the NY Solicitor of Labor Regional Office coordinated with DOJ prosecutors, including development of the WHD issues and federal district court trial testimony by WHDs regional staff. The criminal case and judgment incorporated FLSA back wage restitution of \$679,866.98. The Supreme Courts denial of certiorari effectively ends any further legal action on the case. There were sufficient assets seized from the defendants and deposited with the Clerk of the Court to pay the damages awarded.

United States v. Akouavi Kpade Afolabi: In October 2010, Akouavi Kpade Afolabi was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Newark, New Jersey to 27 years in prison for running a human trafficking ring that smuggled African girls into the United States and put them to work for no pay in hair-braiding salons in the Newark area. The smuggled girls worked 14 hours or more a day in the salons for no wages at all. Ms. Afolabis husband, Lassissi, previously pled guilty and was sentenced to 24 years in prison. Afolabi's son, Derek Hounakey, was sentenced to 4 1/2 years. The WHD Northern New Jersey District Office provided assistance in the case, computing \$1,974,570.40 in minimum wage and overtime due 24 victims. The judge, struck by the egregious nature of the violations, doubled the amount, awarding the victims over \$3.9 million in restitution.

United States v. Liu: A complaint was referred to the United States Attorney and the FBI by the WHD Kansas City District Office regarding a domestic servant who had contacted the WHD. The victim stated that she was a native of the Philippines brought to the United States in early March 2011 on a B1 visa. She was brought into the United States by Hsien Hsien Jacqueline Liu, Director General for Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, after signing a contract in the Philippines agreeing to work for \$1,240 per month. She resided with Ms. Liu at her private residence and worked as a maid, gardener, and cook. The victim indicated that upon her arrival, Ms. Liu took her passport and visa information, and indicated that the victim did not need her papers while she was in the house. The victim also indicated that once she arrived, Ms. Liu told her she would be paid \$450 in cash per month, and that if she complained, she would have the victim deported. The victim stated that she worked six days per week, totaling approximately 84 hours per week. Information provided by the WHD resulted in an investigation of Ms. Liu that ultimately led to her arrest and guilty plea, in November 2011. During the course of the investigation, a second domestic servant who had worked for Ms. Liu was discovered and located in the Philippines. Working with the Kansas City AUSA, \$80,000 in FLSA back wages were computed and collected for the two women. Ms. Liu is awaiting sentencing, and will be deported immediately afterwards.

United States v. Askarkhodjaev: DOLs OIG was involved an interagency investigation that led to the government seeking over \$6 million in fraudulent profits via asset forfeiture. The investigation disclosed a Eurasian organized criminal enterprise that conspired and filed fraudulent labor applications that permitted over 1,150 foreigners to enter the United States on questionable work visas. The exploitation and intimidation of these foreign workers through fear, threats of deportation, and other adverse immigration consequences subjected them to conditions of servitude. In May 2011, Uzbek foreign national Abrorkhodjaev Askarkhodjaev was sentenced to 12 years in prison and three years of supervised release for his role as the leader of the criminal enterprise. Askarkhodjaev was also ordered to pay over \$1 million in

criminal restitution to victims in the following amounts: \$172,000 to the foreign worker fraud and forced labor victims, \$12,000 to an extortion victim, \$191,000 to insurance companies, and \$632,000 to the Internal Revenue Service. In April 2011, Kristin L. Dougherty was sentenced to 60 months in prison, followed by three years probation for his role in the conspiracy. Dougherty was the second highest ranking member of the criminal enterprise, and controlled the St. Louis based operation through several service companies that filed thousands of H-2B visas for foreign workers. In February 2011, Uzbek foreign national Ilkham Fazilov was sentenced to 41 months in prison for his role in the conspiracy. Fazilov fraudulently received certification for 87 H-2B workers from the DOL FLC program for his company, Five Star Cleaning. Five Star administered payroll for undocumented and H-2B workers it provided to Giant Labor Solutions.

The Department has taken steps to protect temporary foreign workers, a group at particular risk for trafficking, and U.S. workers performing the same work for their employers. Following the promulgation in March 2010 of a final rule regarding the Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A aliens in the United States, the WHD and the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Foreign Labor Certification, have stepped up both program integrity and enforcement actions to ensure a fair and reliable process for employers with a legitimate need for temporary foreign agriculture workers, while enforcing the necessary protections for all workers in the United States. DOL has also taken robust enforcement actions under the H-2B program for temporary non-agricultural employment since DHS delegated enforcement authority to the WHD in 2009. The WHD enforces broad federal minimum wage and overtime protections for other workers as well, including those who participate in the J visa program.

The Department published a final rule on January 19, 2011, regarding prevailing wages for the H-2B program (scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2012), and a final rule on February 21, 2012 (effective April 23, 2012), regarding other aspects of the H-2B visa program, both of which enhance worker protections and may impact labor-related aspects of trafficking in persons.

Examples of recent Wage and Hour Division H-2A and H-2B enforcement actions include:

The WHD obtained a judgment requiring Los Angeles based Global Horizons, Inc. and its president Mordechai Orian to pay \$153,000 in back wages to 88 temporary agricultural workers from Thailand employed in Hawaii, plus \$194,000 in civil money penalties for committing significant violations of the federal H-2A program. The defendants failed to pay employees for all hours worked and to pay the correct hourly wage rate, impermissibly withheld federal income tax and made illegal deductions from workers wages for meals and other basic living expenses. Defendants also failed to maintain required payroll records and produce them upon the Divisions request, and illegally solicited agreements from workers to waive their rights and decrease their wages. The defendants were found jointly and severally liable for 11 categories of violations, warranting back wage payments, penalty assessments, and a mandatory three-year debarment from participation in the H-2A program.

Kona Coffee Grounds LLC has paid \$25,290 in back wages to 24 employees from Michoacán, Mexico, after an investigation by the WHD determined that the Holualoa, Hawaii-based company violated provisions of the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers. The firm has also paid \$21,000 in civil money penalties after DOL determined that the company procured signed statements from workers in an attempt to make them waive their rights under the H-2A program, which is prohibited under the programs regulations. The firm had promised employees a set piece rate for each pound of picked coffee beans, with a minimum hourly rate guaranteed by H-2A program requirements; however, when the crop was light and their piece rate earnings were low, the employees were paid fewer wages than those to which they were entitled. The investigation also revealed that the company failed to pay workers an amount equal to at least three-fourths of the hours guaranteed in the work contract, as is required.

Vanderbilt Landscaping Inc., of Smyrna, Tennessee has agreed to pay \$18,496 to 42 workers after an investigation by the WHD found that the company violated the FLSA. The company did not compensate workers for visa and transportation costs, which reduced their wages to less than the federal minimum wage. The company also failed to compensate workers for all hours spent conducting job duties, resulting in employees not receiving premium pay when they worked more than 40 hours during a week. In addition to back wages, the company agreed to pay \$18,000 in penalties based on WHDs findings that the company had willfully violated the H-2B visa rules governing the employment of nonimmigrant temporary workers, and it has also agreed not to participate in DOLs foreign labor certification H-2B program for a period of three years. Investigators found that the company willfully violated certain provisions of the rules, including placement of workers outside the area of intended employment, not conducting required recruitment of U.S. citizens, and misrepresenting the reason for its temporary need to hire H-2B workers.

In April 2011, WHD announced new protocols for the certification of the Form I-918 Supplement B in U nonimmigrant visa applications for those immigrants who are victims of crimes and who are willing to assist in the investigation or

prosecution of those crimes. The function of certifying Form I-918 Supplement B has been delegated to the WHDs five Regional Administrators. The WHD is in the process of hiring permanent U visa coordinators in each of its five regional offices; until then, the Regional Administrators are actively considering requests for certification with the advice of interim coordinators.

On March 22-23, 2011, as part of the annual National Monitor Advocate training conference, the State Monitor Advocates received training from DOLs National Monitor Advocate and from a DOJ investigator on the Job Service Complaint System, and on human trafficking, respectively. The objective of these two sessions was to provide the State Monitor Advocates information on how and where to refer complaints filed by migrant and seasonal farm workers alleging human trafficking violations.

DOL is finalizing plans to provide basic awareness training to key enforcement field staff throughout the country in an effort to enhance the capability to detect and refer cases of trafficking in persons.

Transnational Engagement, Monitoring, and Research

On August 29, 2011, DOL finalized the signing of Joint Declarations with the governments of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, and the Letters of Agreement with all three, as well as with El Salvador. The Declarations aim to ensure that foreign workers in the United States are informed of their labor rights through information sharing, outreach, education, training, and the exchange of best practices. Such information can assist vulnerable workers, including those who may have been trafficked. The Declarations also represent a step towards enhancing coordination and cooperation with these governments on labor related issues.

According to grantee performance reporting, approximately 100,000 children have been prevented from being trafficked or have been withdrawn from trafficking and provided educational/training services as a result of DOL-funded technical assistance projects overseas since 1995.

In October of 2011, DOLs Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) released updates to three reports on child labor and forced labor: 1) the 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (TDA Report); 2) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor per the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA List); and 3) the Executive Order 13126 List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor (Executive Order List). ILAB updated the TVPRA List to add two new goods and one new country for a total of 130 goods from 71 countries. ILAB also published in the Federal Register a new initial determination proposing to add two new products and two new countries to the Executive Order List. These reports continue to serve as important resources for DOL to assess future technical assistance and research priorities as it seeks to combat child labor around the world.

Pursuant to mandates under the TVPRA, ILAB continues to provide funding for research related to child labor and forced labor in violation of international standards. In December 2011, the ILO published a study funded by ILAB, along with the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, titled, *Hard to See, Harder to Count: Survey Guidelines to Estimate forced labor of adults and children*. This guidance provides a comprehensive approach to operationalizing what constitutes forced labor through a set of forced labor indicators; step-by-step guidance to survey implementation; sampling techniques; core questions that must be asked to discern forced labor; data analysis techniques; and ethical considerations. Although the guidelines are explicitly designed for quantitative data collection, they are also applicable to qualitative research design and implementation.

Victim Services

DOLs Employment and Training Administrations network of approximately 2,900 One-Stop Career Centers and its Job Corps Program continue to offer employment and training services to victims of severe forms of trafficking, as provided under the TVPRA. Updated guidance to the Workforce system and the Job Corps Program is underway, including a revised Training and Employment Guidance Letter and a webinar training for One-Stop staff.

Victims of convicted traffickers must be provided full restitution for the labor they performed. DOLs Wage and Hour Division assists such victims in computing back wages as part of its interagency collaboration with law enforcement partners.

Department of Health and Human Services

HHS Certifications and Eligibility Letters completed in Fiscal Year FY 2011:

Certifications: 463

Eligibility Letters: 101

During FY 2011, HHS funds administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (HHS/ORR) supported/assisted:

Case management services to 729 foreign trafficking victims and their family members through 107 agencies in 124 locations.

HHS distributed 772,328 Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking public awareness campaign materials (posters, brochures, etc.) and posted online, in English and Spanish, its Rescue and Restore training video Look Beneath the Surface. See (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqyzW84I3Dc>) for English version.

An example of HHS support for increased sustainability is that at least 20 anti-trafficking coalitions have remained affiliated with ORR's Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking public awareness campaign after ORR funding ended. The coalitions continue to support the public awareness campaign by distributing Rescue and Restore materials during outreach activities. ORR lists the coalitions' contact information on its website and the coalitions participate in HHS WebEx trainings.

HHS-funded NHTRC received 16,244 calls and 733 emails and provided 227 trainings to 15,260 people.

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA):

Unaccompanied Alien Children:

HHS continues full implementation of Section 212(a)(2) of the TVPRA, which requires the HHS Secretary to promptly determine if an alien child in the United States who may be a victim of trafficking is eligible for interim assistance. The HHS Secretary delegated authority to implement this provision to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (ACF) who further delegated it to the Director of ORR.

The ORR Division of Unaccompanied Alien Children screened approximately 7,476 unaccompanied alien children during FY 2011 for trafficking.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons:

HHS/ACFs Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division in ORR has two Child Protection Specialists dedicated to reviewing requests and facilitating the prompt delivery of assistance to eligible children. In FY 2011, ATIP Child Protection Specialists have conducted training and outreach activities regarding services for foreign child trafficking victims including:

HHS conducted training at DHSs ICE headquarters for new ICE Victim Assistance Coordinators working with foreign born minors who are victims of trafficking. HHS presented on federal benefits available to potential foreign national child victims of trafficking and the process for requesting eligibility of children for these benefits and care options.

HHS attended a conference on child slavery hosted by a Minnesota-based anti-trafficking NGO. HHS presented on identifying foreign-born minor victims of trafficking. Approximately 100 service providers attended.

HHS Office on Womens Health in ACF Region VII hosted a Kansas City Human Trafficking Training focused on "Responding to Foreign Child Victims of Trafficking."

HHS presented at the National Symposium on Child Abuse, hosted by the National Childrens Advocacy Center. HHS presented on screening and identifying foreign national child victims of trafficking, referring them for federal benefits and HHS placement options for unaccompanied alien children.

HHS conducted trainings for ICE and FBI agents, and a non-profit that frequently refers minor victim cases to HHS.

HHS participated in a conference on child trafficking hosted by the Michigan State Refugee Coordinators office. HHS participated on a panel with an Assistant U.S. Attorney, FBI and ICE agents, and legal service providers who regularly work with victims of trafficking. Approximately 150 people attended the conference.

HHS partnered with DHSs USCIS to conduct five WebEx trainings on T and U visas, the Trauma Resiliency Model, first offender prostitution program, engaging volunteers in anti-trafficking outreach, and how to assist American Indian trafficking victims. Participants included social service providers, federal and local law enforcement, academic researchers, state officials, and representatives from international entities.

During FY 2011, the HHS/ACF Family Violence Prevention and Services Program supported anti-trafficking efforts by:

Partnering with DHSs USCIS to provide training for staff from domestic violence programs on immigration relief for vulnerable populations including victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and other crimes. In FY 2011, these webinar-based and in-person trainings have reached over 200 domestic violence victim advocates and State Domestic Violence Coalition staff.

Providing human trafficking training and technical assistance to domestic violence advocates through the Programs Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Center the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence (APIIDV). APPIDV developed a brief on the health issues, trauma, and oppression impacting people who are trafficked, and a technical assistance brief for domestic violence programs to navigate the implications of serving trafficked women and adapt their policies and procedures accordingly. This technical assistance brief can be downloaded from www.apiidv.org

Supporting over 1,700 local domestic violence programs and State Domestic Violence Coalitions in each State and Territory. Several Coalitions are conducting state-level training and coordinating services and advocacy for both domestic and foreign victims of trafficking who come in contact with domestic violence programs. For example:

In response to state anti-trafficking legislation, State Domestic Violence Coalitions in Georgia and Vermont will offer specialized training to domestic violence programs to build their capacity to respond to the very specific needs of trafficking victims, and work on a public awareness campaign.

Coalitions in Nebraska, Idaho, and Wisconsin facilitate state-wide Task Forces or networks to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts. Several other State Coalitions participate in such initiatives.

During 2011, the HHS/ACF Family and Youth Services Bureau continued to support anti-trafficking efforts by:

Providing 13 resource articles regarding Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children to Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Centers (RHYTTAC) website (<http://rhyttac.ou.edu/topic-specific-resources>).

Meeting with the FBI Crimes Against Children Unit to discuss the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative. An outcome of the initial meeting has been continued discussion on how HHS, the FBI Crimes Against Children Unit, and the Office of Victims Assistance can work collaboratively in the provision of safe and effective services for children and youth who have been identified as a victim of commercial sexual exploitation (trafficked).

Partnering with the FBI to bring together four HHS community-based runaway and homeless youth programs that currently work with the FBI as pilot programs to accomplish mutually agreed upon objectives and outcomes in the provision of services to trafficked children and youth.

Offering specialized services specifically geared towards sexually exploited youth through federal programs, such as FBI's Innocence Lost or OJJDP Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to several HHS Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees.

During 2011, the HHS continued to support anti-trafficking efforts by awarding grants:

On July 1, 2011, HHS awarded \$3 million in grants to 11 organizations for the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program. The central purpose of these grants is to increase the identification and protection of human trafficking victims in the United States and to increase public awareness about human trafficking. The grantees are responsible for leading or participating in an anti-human trafficking coalition, conducting public awareness activities, and providing training and technical assistance on human trafficking issues to local organizations. Each grantee must sub-award at least 60 percent of grant funds received to local organizations that can identify and/or work with victims of human trafficking.

On September 27, 2011, HHS awarded \$4.7 million in grants to three organizations for its National Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program. The central purpose of these grants is to provide comprehensive case management services on a per capita basis to foreign victims and potential victims of trafficking seeking HHS certification in any location in the United States.

On September 29, 2011, HHS awarded \$799,333 for a second-year continuation grant to Polaris Project, a D.C.-based anti-trafficking organization, to operate the NHTRC. The NHTRC is a dedicated, toll-free, U.S. national telephone hotline (1-888-3737-888) that provides emergency assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Polaris Project has been operating the hotline since December 2007. The NHTRC provides service referrals for victims, passes on tips to law enforcement agents, and provides information and training on human trafficking. In FY 2011, Po-

laris Project created nine online trainings that are available on its website (<http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org>), and it sent 12 monthly newsletters on trafficking issues to its listserv of 5,522 members. Polaris Project added a feature to the NHTRC website that allows web users to report possible tips of trafficking cases to the NHTRC via an online reporting form. Polaris passes on many of these tips to law enforcement.

During 2011, the HHS/ACF Regions continued to support anti-trafficking efforts by:

Identifying points of contact for each HHS/ACF Regional Office to coordinate with the ACF Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, sharing information regarding anti-human trafficking training opportunities and developing the network of resources available to those serving trafficking victims.

HHS/ACF Regional Offices also hosted anti-trafficking trainings or meetings including the following:

ACF Region II (New York; New Jersey; New York; Puerto Rico; the Virgin Islands): On December 16, 2011, ACF Region II hosted the first of an HHS-sponsored conference call series for ACF regions to explore issues and approaches to working with underserved populations. This particular session focused on Responding to the Issue of Domestic Violence Awareness among Service Providers Working with Refugees and Immigrants with presentations by stakeholder organizations such as the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence; Casa de Esperanza; the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Upcoming 2012 sessions include Anti-Trafficking 101, and Human Trafficking and Native Americans.

ACF Region IV (Atlanta; Alabama; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; Mississippi; North Carolina; South Carolina; Tennessee): In September 2011, the ACF Region IV office hosted a Strengthening Families State Forum in Columbia, South Carolina during which a DOJ attorney presented on human trafficking to approximately 70 community and faith based organizations, including Head Start.

ACF Region V (Chicago; Illinois; Indiana; Michigan; Minnesota; Ohio; Wisconsin): ACF Region V Office and the Illinois Rescue and Restore hosted its first in a series of Lunch and Learns on anti-trafficking in persons on April 25, 2011. Basic information on human trafficking, including how to identify victims, was provided. ACF Region V hosted Illinois Rescue and Restore Coalition meetings. At these meetings, Illinois Department of Human Services staff and ACF Regional staff facilitated meetings with discussion on local efforts to enhance statewide anti-trafficking strategies, including the current efforts of the coalition's Prevention and Intervention Action Teams and training opportunities for coalition members. The ACF Region V Office and the Illinois Department of Human Services Rescue and Restore Coalition hosted the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) a train-the-trainer seminar on a youth prevention curriculum, Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation the first curriculum in the country that directly addresses demand deterrence for commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking with young men. The three educational goals of the curriculum are: 1) raising awareness among high school age students about the harms of the sex trade; 2) helping young men understand how our culture pressures them to support and engage in sexually exploitive acts; and 3) empowering young men to identify tangible actions they can take to help eliminate sexual exploitation in their school, community, and city. Regional staff and coalition members were trained on becoming facilitators of this curriculum in schools and youth settings.

ACF Region VI (Dallas; Arkansas; Louisiana; New Mexico; Oklahoma; Texas): The ACF Region VI Federal Partners Collaboration Workgroup hosted an information sharing/training meeting on adult human trafficking. Presenters included the Region VI Regional Directors office, the HHS/HRSA Rural Health/Border Director, the Dallas Police Vice Unit/Strategic Deployment, and Mosaic Family Services.

ACF Region VII (Kansas City; Iowa; Kansas; Missouri; Nebraska): The ACF Region VII Office facilitated a panel discussion on human trafficking during the Region V and VII TANF Directors Technical Assistance meeting. The office also co-hosted a Region VII Human Trafficking Workshop in collaboration with HHS Office on Womens Health, and DOLs Womens Bureau in Kansas City, Kansas. They hosted visitors from China through the International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City and provided an overview of Human Trafficking Victim services and support in the metropolitan Kansas City Area.

ACF Region VIII (Denver; Colorado; Montana; North Dakota; South Dakota; Utah; Wyoming): On June 2-3, 2011, the ACF Region VIII office conducted two classes for its staff on human trafficking.

ACF Region IX (San Francisco; Arizona; California; Hawaii; Nevada; American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; Guam; Marshall Islands; Republic of Palau): With representatives from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's office, ACF Region IX met with a Human Trafficking Delegation from South Ko-

rea on July 28, 2011, in San Francisco. The Delegation was visiting as part of DOS's International Visitor Leadership Program. Participants discussed trafficking programs and services, cultural factors, practices that prevent victims from accessing assistance, and laws regarding protection.

On December 16, 2011, ACF Region IX staff met with the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence (San Francisco) to discuss and begin to explore sexual exploitation and trafficking of youth to the Bay Area, including convening meetings with refugee, domestic violence, trafficking, and AAPI organizations.

ACF Region X (Seattle: Alaska; Idaho; Oregon; Washington): ACF Region X Office collaborated with the Director of the Human Services Department for the City of Seattle on their strategic plan, and continues to provide the federal perspective on the steering committee for the city's projects, which serve local commercially- and sexually-exploited youth. Region X staff participates in local community fairs, along with DOJ and non-profits, to outreach to community members on the Rescue and Restore Campaign, and provides Rescue and Restore campaign materials. Region X staff support the efforts of Washington Engage, a local non-profit group, to develop a Code of Conduct for small to medium sized businesses, to raise awareness in the business community and to provide a standard for good businesses. The code will provide a zero-tolerance trafficking policy standard. The hope is that peer-to-peer influence will shift current practices in the local business community so that trafficking will be reported, remediated, and prevented more readily. The Code provides a means for the business community to communicate standards of practice for employees, suppliers, customers, and peers. Regional Office staff networked with the Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition in Anchorage, Alaska. Catholic Social Services (an ORR grantee) partners with the Anchorage Police Department and the FBI to identify and provide services to victims of human trafficking due to increased incidents of trafficking of Alaska Native girls who come to Anchorage from Alaska Native villages.

During FY 2011, HHS staff conducted trainings on human trafficking in several anti-trafficking conferences including:

The 2011 Office of Womens Health Conference, held in Alexandria on June 27-28. HHS presented at a poster session during the conference and hosted an information table to provide ATIPs public awareness materials. Multiple HHS program staff, HHS Regional Office staff, and state and local representatives indicated that they either have been using ATIPs Rescue and Restore information or plan to greatly expand the use of the materials and information, including for state-wide trafficking training for all state government employees in Georgia and Mississippi.

HHS spoke on accessing federal benefits and services for trafficking victims at an anti-human trafficking conference in Austin, TX. Attendees at the conference included law enforcement officers, prosecutors, service providers, state legislators, and other policy experts.

HHS discussed Federal benefits and services for trafficking victims and participated on the panel with staff from DOJ HTPU and OVC, FBI, and ICE at the National Center for Victims of Crimes annual conference held in Washington, D.C.

Department of Transportation

During this past year, the Department of Transportation formed an interdepartmental team to explore ways through which DOT can raise awareness and be helpful in addressing the role of transportation in human trafficking. The Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood is concerned that the perpetrators of this crime are using our transportation system as their means to achieve harmful and unlawful ends. This issue was brought to the Department's attention by some of our stakeholders, representing a range of transportation modes.

Over a number of months, DOT partnered with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the Blue Lightning campaign. Specifically, DOT's Federal Aviation Administration worked with DHS and CBP to establish in-flight advanced reporting procedures via flight deck communications that will reduce the response time for law enforcement. This voluntary, advance reporting allows CBP to research and formulate an appropriate response, including coordination with other federal agencies as needed. Airline personnel may report suspected human trafficking via DHS's ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) toll-free tip line, the online tip form, an internationally available tip line number, or through flight deck communications. In addition to the Blue Lighting Initiative, DOT is now reviewing how it can provide training for DOT employees, and is working with all of our modes of transportation - surface, air and sea - on other potential initiatives.

Department of Education

The Department of Education (ED) remains an active participant in a number of groups addressing the exploitation and abuse of youth. One immediate goal is to provide school districts with expanded services to address the issue of trafficking in youth.

The Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS, previously the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools) was reorganized under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at ED. However, the program office is continuing its strategy to consolidate and augment its existing work around child safety to build a more comprehensive program to educate school districts about human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Over the past year, ED accomplished the following on the topic of human trafficking:

OSHS developed web pages under the heading: The Prostitution of Children and Forced Child Labor or Human Trafficking. The web pages are presented on the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center website. The web pages include in-depth information describing human trafficking, the extent to which it is an issue across the nation, its impact on schools, and strategies for addressing it in a school setting (i.e. identification and reporting). The web pages include interactive links and information regarding federal agencies and organizations involved with human trafficking issues, available resources, and related publications and reports. The pages are accessible at http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources_Additionalion=1i1.

A National Conference sponsored by OSHS was held in the Washington, D.C. area, August 8-10, 2011. The conference was attended by nearly 2,000 professionals carrying out educational program activities in school districts across the country and in postsecondary institutions. Program areas included: school improvement, support, and safety; bullying, harassment, and violence prevention; health, mental health, physical education, and counseling in schools; alcohol and drug prevention; and readiness and emergency management for schools. The conference agenda included larger institutes and smaller workshops to elevate public awareness about trafficking and to highlight the positive impacts of domestic anti-trafficking programs. Targeted topics on trafficking included the commercial sexual exploitation of children and ways that schools can join the fight to end modern day slavery.

Grossmont Union High School District (San Diego, CA), with assistance from OSHS, the program office, developed a 90-minute training video to instruct school staff on how to identify commercial sexually exploited children and what to do when they are identified. The REMS Technical Assistance Center plans to assist in the distribution of these training materials.

Staff worked closely with the Office on Violence Against Women on issues related to sexual abuse and assault and, through several mechanisms including webinars and listserv articles, introduced and addressed trafficking in persons.

Announcements about training opportunities, reports, and other publications about trafficking in persons were included in program office publications, including the Safe and Supportive Schools Newsletter and the Prevention Newsletter. The newsletters are distributed through a very large and active listserv that is used as a mechanism to notify individuals about training opportunities, on-going research, new publications, and grant opportunities. The announcements included information about the issuance of a letter and fact sheet on trafficking; and the release and sharing of information about other agencies anti-trafficking in persons materials, conferences, trainings, and funding opportunities (i.e., HHS opportunities for national human trafficking victim assistance program, DHS online training through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, etc.).

OSHS staff actively participate in the Missing and Exploited Children Federal Working Group sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Senior Policy Operating Group sponsored by the Department of State; the Department of Justice External Strategy Working Group; the Teen Dating Violence Interagency Working Group sponsored by the National Institute of Justice; among others.

ED continues to make progress on several endeavors previously reported:

Dissemination of fact sheet that describes how human trafficking affects schools, the signs that school staff should be aware of, and how to report incidents of trafficking (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.html>).

Ensuring that materials on ED web pages is accurate and up-to-date and includes information and consolidated resources relevant to child trafficking http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources_Additionalion=1i1.

Identifying what school districts are doing that is effective in addressing the trafficking problem, including the use of OSHS listserv to solicit ideas about what is working.

Planning a webinar series created in collaboration with grantees already working on issues of child trafficking.

In addition to the accomplishments listed, ED will continue to focus on the following: providing outreach to schools to inform school leaders, staff, students, and parents about the issue of human trafficking; helping schools understand how the issue is related to teaching and learning and why it is important for schools to address; providing school security and police with information, additional assistance, and resources; and assisting other federal agencies in the dissemination of information about their efforts.

Department of Homeland Security

DHS increased its capacity to combat human trafficking through the strengthening of the DHS Blue Campaign, an initiative to coordinate and enhance departmental efforts to address human trafficking. Seventeen components collaborated on an integrated DHS strategy to combat human trafficking focusing on prevention of the crime, protection of victims, assistance in the prosecution of perpetrators and partnering with other law enforcement agencies and the public.

Training

DHS, in collaboration with DOS and with input from the interagency, developed an unprecedented interactive online training for the general public. The 15-minute training provides an overview of human trafficking, describes common indicators, and explains how to report tips to law enforcement. The training is available at (www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking).

DHS, in collaboration with DOS and with input from other agencies, produced an online training for the federal acquisition workforce on combating human trafficking using the pertinent provisions of the FAR. In addition to other remedies available to the government, the FAR articulates specific remedies for use if contractors engage in human trafficking, to include suspension or debarment. The training is accessible to the federal acquisition workforce on the Federal Acquisition Institute Training Application System at (<https://www.atrs.army.mil/faitas/>).

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) worked with DOT to launch the Blue Lightning Initiative, an in-flight protocol and a training program to educate airline employees on how to identify human trafficking in airports or during flights and how to notify law enforcement. This voluntary, advanced reporting allows CBP to research and formulate an appropriate response, including coordination with other federal agencies as needed. Airline personnel may report suspected human trafficking via the ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) toll-free tip line, the online tip form, an internationally available tip line number, or through flight deck communications.

DHS developed a computer-based training for DHS personnel who might encounter human trafficking within their scope of work. The online course trains employees in their anti-trafficking roles and responsibilities and familiarizes them with the roles and responsibilities of their colleagues throughout DHS. The Department also developed computer-based training for all DHS personnel on the statutory confidentiality provisions related to applicants for certain immigration benefits who are victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other crimes.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) conducted numerous in-person trainings on identifying indicators of human trafficking, case-studies of trafficking cases and immigration relief available to trafficked victims as part of its State and Local Law Enforcement Training Symposiums. FLETC has trained over 500 officers who attended these symposiums in Laredo, Texas; Gulf Shores, Alabama; Traverse City, Michigan; Virginia Beach, VA; and Maui, HI.

USCIS conducted numerous in-person and web-based trainings and presentations on combating human trafficking and on immigration benefits for victims, including to federal, state, and local law enforcement, immigration advocates and attorneys, judges, and more. Personnel traveled and conducted in-person trainings in cities across the United States, including in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Atlanta, Miami, Seattle, Portland, Philadelphia, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C.

USCIS conducted regular bimonthly WebEx trainings for federal, state and local law enforcement specific to law enforcement focused on concerns and issues unique to law enforcements role, rights, and responsibilities in the T and U visa programs, while also highlighting the certification process on the I-914B and I-918B law enforcement certification forms.

USCIS personnel conducted training in Asylum field offices on identifying trafficking victims in the context of affirmative asylum adjudications. All eight asylum offices have received this training. Training was also conducted on the asylum-related provisions of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA). Finally, USCIS personnel presented a module on trafficking issues at the Asylum Officer Basic Training Course, which is taken by all newly hired asylum officers. Each asylum office has designated a trafficking point of con-

tact, and these points of contact have established communication with their local ICE SAC trafficking points of contact and local ICE Victim Assistance Coordinators to establish referral and information-sharing mechanisms on trafficking-related cases.

ICE conducted trainings and distributed materials throughout the United States and around the world to raise awareness among law enforcement and the public about how to identify human trafficking and provide tips to law enforcement. In FY 2011, ICE trained or provided anti-human trafficking materials to over 47,000 people.

ICE provided international training and outreach on international forced child labor, trafficking in persons, and child sex tourism to over 1,000 foreign officials in Bahamas, Barbados, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hungary, Kosovo, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. ICE collaborated with foreign Cabinet-level officials in the respective host countries to engage appropriate and specialized law enforcement entities to participate in these prosecution, prevention, and protection efforts. This collaboration led to several joint or ICE-assisted foreign investigations.

Working jointly with the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), ICE conducted an advanced and interactive training in Costa Rica regarding Trafficking in Persons, Forced Child Labor, and Child Sex Tourism Investigations to law enforcement and prosecutors from 10 different countries in this multilateral forum.

Working jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Cabinet-level officials from seven Central American countries, ICE conducted advanced training in Costa Rica regarding Trafficking in Persons, Forced Child Labor, and Child Sex Tourism Investigations. The training to foreign law enforcement and prosecutors focused on investigative efforts, victim identification and protection, as well as multilateral efforts within the region.

Public Awareness and Engagement

DHS conducted a stakeholder meeting in January 2012. During the meeting, representatives from DOS, DOJ, DOL, HHS, DOT, and DHS made announcements and/or participated in a listening session on issues related to victim services and ongoing efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking.

DHS held a roundtable discussion with Secretary Napolitano on human trafficking at the White House in January of 2012. Representatives from the retail, hotel and airline industries, state, local and tribal law enforcement and NGOs discussed ways they could work to raise awareness and training on human trafficking.

This year, CBP released the Dont Be Fooled public awareness campaign in the United States. As part of DHS's continued efforts to engage a broader audience in efforts to combat human trafficking, "Dont Be Fooled" utilized award-winning public service announcements (PSAs) to educate the public on human trafficking in targeted communities throughout the country. The PSAs aired in Florida, Georgia, and the Washington, D.C. area.

CBP developed a public awareness video message that was played on the CNN Airport Network in airports throughout the country for the duration of the year. CBP also posted anti-human trafficking public awareness materials in ports of entry around the United States.

ICE produced advertisements for the 2010 and 2011 Hidden In Plain Sight campaign, which was featured in 64 different newspapers in languages including English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Thai. The campaign reached an estimated five million people. The goal of the campaign was to alert the public about the existence of human trafficking in communities nationwide and to prompt a call to action for individuals who encounter possible victims.

DHS provides a suite of materials to enhance public awareness and explain the types of services and resources that are available to victims of human trafficking. These materials are disseminated across the United States, are available for order, and are regularly distributed to domestic embassies by DOS.

USCIS developed a concise document for a law enforcement audience about immigration options for victims of crime, highlighting the law enforcement role, rights and responsibilities in the T and U visa programs and addressing frequently asked questions. This product was developed in response to requests by stakeholders for USCIS to address some misconceptions and spread awareness among law enforcement agencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) created a video for first responders that explains what indicators of human trafficking they might encounter and what they can do to direct victims to services. This video was developed as a result of feedback from stakeholders.

CBP created indicator cards for the Blue Lightning Initiative, featuring human trafficking indicators that may be seen in airports or on airplanes.

FEMA, USFA, and OHA tailored indicator cards to include health-related human trafficking indicators that first responders, such as firefighters and EMTs, may notice.

The DHS Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships produced an informational pamphlet on combating human trafficking geared toward the specific needs and interests of faith-based constituencies.

DHS created a one-page fact sheet for any business or community organization to provide a brief 3-5 minute training.

USCIS developed a video for the public about the immigration options available to victims of crime, including human trafficking. DHS also created a training video for first responders that explains what indicators of human trafficking they might encounter and what they can do to help victims. The videos are available online.

DHS continues to meet with its federal partners, nongovernmental and community organizations, and private sector partners to receive stakeholder feedback, individually, on its anti-trafficking programs and to help shape future initiatives. The semi-annual stakeholder meetings facilitate targeted outreach efforts, including engagement with emergency management and medical professionals.

DHS has also performed outreach to private companies to increase their awareness of human trafficking. In January of 2012, the DHS U.S. Fire Administration distributed human trafficking training materials to approximately 18,000 hotel and motel properties.

USCIS and ICE participated in an MSNBC-TV story about the experience of victims of human trafficking, adjudication of the T visa, and perpetrator justice. USCIS allowed the reporter to interview personnel at the Vermont Service Center, which adjudicates all T and U visa relief. This is the first time the broadcast media has been allowed to record video inside the Vermont Service Center. MSNBC broadcasted the segment as part of its series, *Enslaved in America*. DHS continues to raise awareness and engage a larger audience through use of social media. The Blue Campaign Facebook Page has reached over 1,200 likes and regularly posts human trafficking indicators, tips on how to report suspected human trafficking, and the latest news on Blue Campaign initiatives.

Victim Assistance and Perpetrator Justice

Together with Attorney General Eric Holder and DOL Secretary Hilda Solis, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the initiation of ACTeams in six districts around the country. These specialized teams of representatives from DHS, DOJ, and DOL receive support from foremost technical experts on human trafficking investigations, prosecutions, and victim assistance.

ICE has expanded its Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line to include an online submission form. Individuals around the world can report suspicious criminal activity, including human trafficking, through a phone line or online form 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Highly trained specialists take reports from both the public and law enforcement agencies on possible violations of more than 400 laws enforced by ICE. Report at (866) 347-2423 or www.ice.gov/tips.

ICE conducted more investigations containing a nexus to human trafficking this year than ever before, resulting in 722 initiated cases, 271 convictions, and seized assets of over \$2,000,000. In recognition of the needs and unique challenges of interviewing trafficked minors and other child and special needs victims, ICE doubled the number of Forensic Interview Specialists available to support ICE-led investigations.

ICE HSI amended and re-issued the Continued Presence Protocol, which included guidance to law enforcement agencies on victims of human trafficking who have filed a civil action and significant public benefit parole for family members of human trafficking victims who have received Continued Presence.

For the second year in a row, USCIS reached the annual statutory cap for U visas (10,000), which provide relief for victims who cooperate in the investigation or prosecution of certain crimes, including human trafficking and domestic violence. USCIS also saw an increase in T visa applications, which are set aside specifically for victims of human trafficking.

USCIS implemented greater confidentiality protections for victims with pending or approved applications for immigration relief. The Central Index System database now has a specific code that alerts DHS personnel when an individual is

covered by the confidentiality provisions associated with Violence Against Women Act self-petitions or T or U nonimmigrant status petitions.

As part of the ICE Victim Assistance Program, two full-time Forensic Interview Specialists are available to conduct developmentally-appropriate, legally-defensible, victim- and culturally-sensitive forensic interviews for all ICE investigations, domestically and internationally. Interviews can be conducted in English and Spanish, or in any language through an interpreter.

ICE has designated 39 specially trained human trafficking subject matter experts at least one in every ICE Special Agent in Charge office. These individuals are trained to handle human trafficking leads, address urgent victim needs appropriately, and serve as designated points of contact for local officers and leads.

DHS stood up a cross-component working group in July 2011 to proactively address concerns and ensure that age-appropriate care and services are provided to unaccompanied alien children encountered by DHS personnel. The working group contains subcommittees tasked with addressing three primary areas for improvement in the management of unaccompanied alien children: screening and training, including on child-trafficking victims; short-term care and custody; and external coordination.

The US Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center, in cooperation with the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC), co-hosted the seventh Maritime Migration and Human Smuggling and Trafficking Conference at the National Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland, Maryland. The three-day conference attracted over 80 representatives from 18 U.S. and nine Canadian government law enforcement and intelligence community agencies. The Conference addressed Intelligence Community (IC) Migration and Human and Smuggling Trafficking issues. The conference also provided a forum for analyst and operator dialogue, discussion of best practices, and IC/law enforcement networking.

ICE continues to play a leading role in the HSTC, which was established to achieve greater integration and overall effectiveness in the U.S. government's efforts to combat human smuggling, trafficking in persons, and clandestine terrorist travel. The HSTC coordinates activities to ensure that efforts are addressed globally. It also brings together federal agency subject matter experts from the policy, law enforcement, intelligence, and diplomatic arenas to work together and leverage all participating agencies' expertise and authorities to address the global threat of illicit travel.

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) took steps to raise the profile on human trafficking activities across the Intelligence Community, which included efforts to link policy makers with members of the Intelligence Community.

ODNI and DOSs INR and TIP Office held a small targeted seminar on human trafficking and intelligence. Members of the intelligence community and DOS officers gathered to discuss trafficking-related intelligence, with the goal of raising the intelligence community's awareness about this issue.

U.S. Agency for International Development

On February 23, 2012, USAID launched the new Counter-Trafficking in Persons Policy. The policy enables the Agency to be a catalytic partner in C-TIP, reinvigorating and focusing our efforts on concrete, measurable principles and objectives. These include integrating counter-trafficking activities across development sectors, improving program design to capture lessons learned and best practices; enhancing institutional accountability within USAID to address trafficking through training and coordination; increasing investments in countries with global strategic importance and significant trafficking problems, as well as in conflict and crisis-affected areas; leveraging innovation and technology and partnering with the private sector. The policy, led by the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), in partnership with the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning, reflects the Agency's renewed commitment to being a leader in this field.

USAID's new policy builds on the Counter-Trafficking Code of Conduct that the Agency launched in February 2011 in commemoration of National Freedom Day. The Code holds all employees to the same high ethical standard with respect to human trafficking that the Agency requires of its contractors and grantees through its application of the FAR and TVPA clauses. The Code prohibits employees from engaging in actions fostering trafficking and requires them to report suspected cases. In the Code, the Agency pledges to educate personnel and designate Counter-Trafficking Coordinators in Missions.

In 2011, USAID moved forward to train Agency personnel about trafficking, with a particular focus on the Agency's Counter Trafficking Code of Conduct. In February 2011, USAID conducted a two and a half day regional Latin America and Caribbean counter-trafficking training in Guatemala attended by participants representing four USAID missions, two U.S. embassies, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, implementing partner organizations, and the Government of Guatemala.

In 2011, DCHA, working in collaboration with Regional Bureau TIP Advisors, the General Counsel's office and the Bureau for Human Resources, incorporated trafficking into agency-wide ethics training and the Agency's mandatory New Employee Orientation training for civil servants. Additionally, DCHA is currently supporting the development of an online counter-trafficking training module for Agency personnel that will be launched later in 2012 and revising the two and a half day TIP training to incorporate the principles and objectives of the new C-TIP Policy.

DCHA is developing a Counter-Trafficking Field Guide that will be published later in 2012. The Guide will be distributed to USAID Missions and Washington operating units, as well as to implementing and donor partners, to aid in designing and monitoring effective counter-trafficking programs that are consistent with the principles and objectives of the C-TIP Policy.

In the field, USAID invested in innovation and technology to combat trafficking. For example, in June 2011, DCHA launched the Stop Trafficking App Challenge, completing phase I of the Using Technology to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Russia project that began in September 2010. Under the Agency's Global Broadband and Innovations Alliance, DCHA, NetHope, and the Demi and Ashton Foundation have partnered to support a mobile app to combat trafficking in Russia. The App will be piloted in Moscow in 2012.

USAID continued to leverage private sector partnerships to combat trafficking. The Agency continues to support a multimedia trafficking awareness campaign across Asia through a public private partnership with MTV Exit. This \$8 million USAID investment has leveraged \$100 million in contributions from other donors. Impact assessments of the campaign, which has reached millions of households through short videos, documentaries, and online content and over 650,000 youth through concerts, revealed that individuals exposed to the campaign had a substantially greater understanding of the dangers of trafficking than those not exposed. In Cambodia, USAID is investing in additional MTV Exit awareness activities in 2012. DCHA and the Europe and Eurasia Bureau (EandE) are currently expanding the MTV Exit campaign to Russia.

USAID remained committed to strengthening regional approaches to most effectively combat cross-border trafficking. In South Eastern Europe, for example, EandE supported a comprehensive cross-border referral mechanism for trafficking victims in ten countries. The referral guidelines and protocols helped shape local laws, including several National Action Plans to Combat Trafficking.

USAID supported programs to strengthen local and host government partnerships and to build local capacity to combat trafficking, for example:

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, USAID trained Congolese researchers to collect data to assess the country's complex human trafficking situation. Their findings will be released in a 2012 report to inform Congolese government and stakeholders and guide U.S. programming decisions moving forward.

In Mexico, USAID provided technical support to the Puebla State Congress for the drafting and approval of reforms to trafficking in persons legislation initially passed in 2010. This reform was the first of its kind in Mexico, consolidating several issues related to C-TIP into a single legislative package. This groundbreaking legislation provides a clear, unified legal framework for the prosecution and punishment of traffickers and also provides for prevention, protection, and victims assistance programs.

In Cambodia, USAID supported extensive counter-trafficking training, including: 1) the training of 130 members of the National Committee and Provincial Committee on Trafficking in Persons, who were trained on safe migration and National Minimum Standards for the Protection of the Rights of Victims of Trafficking; 2) the training of 485 government and 75 NGO social workers on the National Minimum Standards for the Protection of the Rights of Victims of Trafficking; 3) 100 people, either victims of trafficking or those vulnerable to trafficking, received vocational training assistance; 4) the training of 119 police officers from the Criminal Investigation Department and Anti-Human Trafficking Department on the Trafficking in Persons law, investigation techniques, and victim protection; and 5) the production of two training films for frontline service providers, one focusing on post-rescue victim rehabilitation and the other on safe migration practices.

USAID/Ghana, with technical assistance from DCHA, is incorporating counter-trafficking language into its solicitations for Feed the Future projects. The language will require all Feed the Future project implementers to conduct a TIP assessment in the sector in which they will work (fishing, rice, soya, etc.) prior to starting project activities. If TIP is a problem in their sector, implementers will be required to integrate C-TIP activities into their Feed the Future programs.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

The EEOC is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. It is also illegal to discriminate against a person because the person complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit. Most employers with at least 15 employees are covered by EEOC-enforced laws (20 employees in age discrimination cases). Most labor unions and employment agencies are also covered. The laws apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, harassment, training, wages, and benefits.

Because its core mission is to protect people from unlawful employment discrimination, the EEOC is well situated to partner with its sister agencies in combating trafficking. What first presents itself as sexual harassment, for example, may reveal through investigation a situation of coerced labor. Thus, the EEOC staff needs to be well-versed in trafficking indicators. They can insure that attorneys representing clients before the Commission have access to training, that the resources of state and local fair employment agencies are brought to bear, and that those offices around the country can participate in the federally-funded trafficking task forces. With these knowledge bases and proper resources, the Commission and its partners in civil enforcement could dramatically increase the number of trafficking victims identified and the remedies obtained for those victims. Whether or not a criminal trafficking prosecution is pursued in a particular case, civil enforcement and litigation of anti-discrimination laws can be important to vindicating the federal interest and obtaining civil remedies, as has been the case in workplaces as diverse as egg farms, welding yards, and garment factories.

Public Meeting of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

In January 2011, designated by President Obama as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the EEOC held a meeting designed to educate and inform the public about the problem of labor trafficking and the EEOCs role in combating the problem. It provided a public forum for participants to discuss the current state of the problem, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to EEOC Commissioners and staff for how to improve its work in this area. The meeting opened with testimony by the Ambassador-at-Large in the Department of States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. DOJ's Hilary Axam provided additional testimony concerning the federal governments role in ending human trafficking. EEOC Regional Attorney Anna Park and Sathaporn Pronsririrak, one of more than 48 workers victimized by modern slavery whose claims were litigated by EEOC in *EEOC v. Trans Bay Steel*, also testified. Finally, Panida Rzonca, Program Associate from the Thai Community Development Center, testified about her organizations work on the Trans Bay Steel case and Ana Vallejo, Supervising Attorney from the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, testified about the subject of trafficking in persons in the context of the agricultural industry. A transcript of the meeting and the full text of the witnesses written testimony may be accessed at (<http://eeoc.gov/eeoc/meetings/1-19-11/index.cfm>).

Related Litigation and Enforcement Activities

EEOC v. Global Horizons

In April 2011, the EEOC filed suits in federal district courts in Hawaii (Civ. No. CV-11-00257-DAE-RLP) and Washington (Civ No. 2:11-cv-03045-EFS) against Global Horizons (a farm labor contractor) and eight farms on behalf of 249 Thai male Charging Parties and a class of similarly situated Thai workers. The EEOC has alleged that Global Horizons and the farms violated Title VII by subjecting workers to a pattern or practice of discrimination based on national origin (Thai) and race (Asian), including harassment, setting different terms and conditions of employment including pay and constructive discharge. EEOC also alleged that the employers retaliated against the Thai workers by threatening them with or subjecting them to suspension from work, deportation, and physical harm.

EEOC v. Signal International

In April 2011, the EEOC filed suit in federal district court in Mississippi (Civ. No. 11-cv-00179) charging that Signal International, a marine services company with facilities along the Gulf Coast, subjected at least 500 Indian welders and pipe-fitters at its Mississippi and Texas locations to segregated facilities and discriminatory terms and conditions of

employment in violation of Title VII. The EEOCs suit alleges that these workers, brought into the country by a separate entity not part of the lawsuit, were required to live in segregated man camps enclosed by fences; were charged an inordinate amount for substandard housing and unwholesome food; were demeaned by being referred to by numbers instead of their names; and, in some cases, were subjected to unlawful retaliation for complaining about the substandard conditions and discrimination.

Public Education, Outreach, and Training

EEOCs Office of Communications and Public Affairs informed media outlets across the country about the January Commission meeting and the litigation against Global Horizons and Signal International.

<http://www.eeoc.gov//eeoc/newsroom/release/4-20-11b.cfm><http://www.eeoc.gov//eeoc/newsroom/release/4-20-11a.cfm>

Commissioner Stuart J. Ishimaru is leading EEOCs Immigrant Worker Team (IWT), a new nationwide convening designed to strengthen enforcement of Title VII's prohibitions against national origin discrimination and develop and implement a coordinated effort to combat discriminatory employment practices affecting immigrant workers, including human trafficking. IWT will assess the Commissions outreach to immigrant workers, and related training, data collection, and enforcement activities.

An EEOC delegation, led by Commissioner Ishimaru, attended the Freedom Networks Conference on Human Trafficking in March 2011. The Conference presenters and materials helped to inform the work of the IWT, expanded participants understanding of human trafficking issues, and allowed EEOC leadership and staff to network with representatives from other agencies and NGOs combating trafficking.

The EEOCs New Investigator Training was expanded to include information about the unique aspects of human trafficking cases. This training was conducted in March 2011 for 60 newly hired EEOC Investigators.

EEOC also trained representatives of state and local Fair Employment Practice Agencies (FEPAs) and Tribal Employee Rights Organizations (TEROs) in the identification, investigation and eradication of human trafficking (FEPAs and TEROs partner with the EEOC to remedy employment discrimination). A plenary session of the EEOCs National Fair Employment Practices Agencies Training Conference focused on human trafficking issues and was attended by approximately 120 of its enforcement partners from state and local anti-discrimination agencies.

EEOCs emphasis on the identification and investigation of human trafficking violations was presented to all EEOC District Directors and Regional Attorneys at the District Directors/Regional Attorneys meeting held in July 2011. The panel included Commissioner Stuart Ishimaru, General Counsel P. David Lopez, and Jennifer Sultan from DOJ's Office of Special Counsel.

To ensure the proper identification and tracking of human trafficking charges, EEOC is in the process of making changes to its charge data system, which will allow it to follow easily and in a timely manner human trafficking charges throughout the investigative and litigation process.

EEOC field offices have become members of external human trafficking task forces in their respective states, which comprise NGOs that assist trafficking victims and law enforcement agencies.

Outreach has been conducted nationwide by field offices to Hispanic rights groups, federal/state/local governmental agencies, educational associations, womens rights groups, and Asian American/Pacific Islander groups, on human trafficking issues. During 2011, EEOC representatives conducted 36 events conducted in communities impacted by human trafficking or reaching organizations that focus on trafficking issues. More than 1,100 people participated in these programs in 2011.

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DUPLICATE
States News Service**March** 15, 2012 Thursday**SECRETARY CLINTON: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 11737 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

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Remarks

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. We want to welcome you to the White House for our annual Presidents Task Force to Combat and Monitor Trafficking of Persons. Were delighted to have it here hosted at the White House. Its indicative of the Presidents commitment to this issue, and we want to thank all of the members of the agencies who have joined us this morning for this meeting.

In 2008, the President spoke at Pastor Rick Warrens Saddleback Church, and he called human trafficking the modern-day enslavement of men, women, and children for sex or labor, and he referred to it as a debasement of our common humanity, which I think sums it up perfectly. As chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls, this issue is of particular importance to me as a leader but also to our council, which is represented by all of the agencies in the federal government as well. And its why were pleased to have you all here today.

We are confident with the Administration working together, with civil society, with not-for-profits, with the private sector, we can actually tackle this issue head on and conquer it. And were delighted to have here Secretary Clinton, who has chaired this task force, and Ill turn it over to her in a second. But I wanted to, by way of introduction, mention that yesterday we were at the State Department for a luncheon with Prime Minister Cameron, and he said about Secretary Clinton that she has been a strong advocate who is committed to the emancipation and empowerment of women. And I thought that that was a perfect way to describe one of her many roles and one that is particularly germane to the topic of this morning.

So with that, again I want to welcome everyone here and tell you how committed the President is to making sure that we are all collaborating and sharing information together and intending to conquer this issue head on. So with that, Ill turn it over to Secretary Clinton. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you. Well, thank you very much Valerie. And thank you for hosting us here at the White House. This annual event is a good opportunity to hear about the progress that our government is making to combat modern slavery and to talk about our goals going forward. And so I very much appreciate the Presidents commitment to this work and the collaboration that has been accomplished throughout the United States Government. So with that, Im delighted to call this meeting to order.

I want to thank Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff not only for the work they put into staffing the task force, but for the zeal with which they lead this fight around the world. Of course, if this issue doesn't demand zealous advocacy, it's hard to figure out what does.

This September marks the 150th anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. And it's a good time for us to recommit ourselves, not only to the promise of freedom, but to the work against ending modern slavery.

Around the world, as many as 27 million men, women, and children toil in bondage. This crime undermines economies and the rule of law. It shatters families and communities. It is an affront to our most fundamental values.

This issue is very near and dear to my heart, since the time I was first lady. And we began a full-hearted effort by our government both the executive branch and Congress to address this issue. And I've had the experience of meeting with survivors here at home and around the world. I've seen firsthand what a horrible toll this takes, and so I'm delighted that we have such a dedicated group of members.

This is a priority in the Obama Administration, starting with the President, as Valerie said. And the first time we convened the task force under this Administration, we laid out a set of commitments a call to action. And in answering that call, we've tried to elevate the fight against trafficking to the highest levels of policymaking.

This goes hand in hand. This is not an individual, one-off effort. This goes hand in hand with other work that we've been doing on behalf of women and girls and other marginalized people. The White House recently issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security to ensure that women are full partners and participants in our efforts to reduce conflict and promote peace and prosperity around the world, because after all, modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls. And as it does so, it disrupts family networks, and it undermines the foundation of stable economies and societies. So the Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security contains specific steps to prevent human trafficking of women and children as a result of conflict and to provide assistance to victims.

The State Department has made the struggle against modern slavery an important part of our diplomatic engagement. Our annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive assessment of how well governments are doing to address this crime. The TIP Offices foreign assistance grants are making a difference in 37 countries, supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to survivors and help governments build their capacity to fight this crime. And thanks to our leadership, the international community is getting behind the effort. Nearly 140 countries have enacted modern anti-trafficking laws, and nearly 150 are party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

And we've taken action here at home. For instance, we learned that survivors were being made to pay taxes on restitution payments from their abusers. And, well, some of the people in this room as well as colleagues from the Treasury Department who are not with us today saw the problem and said, This isn't right; we're going to do something about it. So now the Treasury Department has made clear that victims are not liable to pay taxes on the wages of slavery.

Another example: We thought it was unfair for diplomats who victimized their own domestic workers were, because of diplomatic immunity, virtually untouchable. So now, we're making sure that diplomats coming to this country understand their obligations and responsibilities, and we're taking action when we have evidence that they are not.

We're trying to ensure that resources and support are available to victims wherever we find them, and one of those resources is the Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Its operations have been expanded. It now fields an unprecedented number of calls. And it is really making a difference in reaching out to survivors and helping us prosecute abusers.

Other agencies led by the Department of Homeland Security recently held a public listening session to hear from stakeholders about new ideas for victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and NGO private sector initiatives. Now, we've also tried to streamline how we approach cases. And instead of a muddle of agencies claiming or rejecting different responsibilities, thanks to the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Homeland Security, we have in place in the Obama Administration efficient, coordinated, anti-trafficking teams, and they're making investigations and prosecutions more effective and helping victims.

To help gauge our responses, I've included a **tier** ranking for the United States in the annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report. I thought it was important, if we were going to be judging other countries, we judged ourselves. And so we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others. It's not only the fair thing to do; it's turned out also to be the smart thing as well, because including us in the report made it more credible and effective as a diplomatic tool. It shows we're all in this fight together, that we have a problem, which we are continuing to address, and it's not just a document that

names and shames, but instead it serves as a guide to what practices are working, and more importantly, what every government, including our own, needs to do better, and I greatly appreciate everyones efforts on this. This latest publication from the Presidents Interagency Task Force Progress in Combating Trafficking in Persons really summarizes a lot of the progress weve made in the Obama Administration over the last three-plus years.

Finally, we know that the future of this struggle will depend on innovative solutions, so we are partnering with thinkers whose bold ideas are already helping to make a difference. We now have online tools like the Slavery Footprint so that people can understand the ways in which this crime affects them. It doesnt just happen to somebody far away, but it does have ripples of criminality that come across the globe.

We have new ways of looking at supply chains and policies, so that can help us cut off the demand that traffickers cruelly exploit. Thats particularly important when you think about the buying power of the federal government. So I think that we meet at a time when we have a lot to be grateful for in terms of the enhanced efforts that weve made, the results that were getting, but I think this task force is really focused on the challenge and the way ahead.

So let me now turn to Ambassador CdeBaca, who will say a few words about why we consider this such a high priority in our government.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Its this Administrations priority to give voice to the survivors of modern slavery whether in court or in our foreign policy, but those voices have been calling for justice for more than 150 years. A letter from the National Archives recently surfaced, a letter written in September of 1864 by Spotswood Rice to Katherine Diggs, his former master. He wrote from the lines of the Union Army as he and his new comrades marched back to Missouri, back towards the plantation where he had been held. Among those still enslaved was his daughter, Mary. His strength and righteous anger rings out through the years. And I quote:

I want you to understand that mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own. And you may hold on to hear as long as you can, but I want you to remembor this one thing the longor you keep my Child from me, the longor you will have to burnand the qwicer youll get their

I want you now to just hold on to hear if you want to iff your conchosence tells thats the road go that road and what it will brig you to kittey diggs I have no fears about geting mary out of your hands the whole Government gives chear to me and you cannot help your self.

We know from the oral histories that once freed, that little girl lived a long and prosperous life. And in 1937, an aged Mary told a WPA historian: I love army men. My father, brother, husband, and son were all army men. I love a man who fights for his rights and any person who wants to be someone.

Slavery and the ways that we fight it have changed so much since Spotswood Rice and those other survivors marched with that terrible, swift sword. But as you said last year, Madam Secretary, when we take up this burden at home and abroad, we do it because fighting slavery is part of our national identity. Its who we are.

Together, we can and we must rise to meet Spotswood Rices challenge to go back for everyones daughters and sons who remain in servitude. Together, we can give cheer to those who answer the call and march with todays survivors on their road to freedom.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Lou. And one of the things that Lou has done over his professional life of commitment to this issue is to continually link it to larger struggles for human freedom, including our own.

I want to turn now to the Attorney General, because the Attorney General and the Justice Department have been great partners in our efforts to combat this scourge. And I want to thank Attorney General Holder.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, thank you, Secretary Clinton. And also let me start by thanking President Obama for hosting us and for his extraordinary leadership in this global fight against human trafficking, and also thanks to my good friend Valerie Jarrett for bringing us together today and for her attention to this issue.

Its really an honor for me to join with my colleagues and partners to discuss the progress that we have made over the past year, but also to identify ways in which we can continue the momentum that we have built up over the past year and make sure that all that we have pledged to do in this Administration actually does occur.

One of the things I would point out is that one of the four priorities that Ive identified for the Justice Department is that we protect the most vulnerable among us. And this fits right into one of those four core priorities for the United States Department of Justice. For Justice, our commitment to preventing human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and

assisting victims has really never been stronger, and our approach, I don't think, has ever been more effective. Our work has sent a clear and critical message that in this country and under this Administration, human trafficking crimes will simply not be tolerated.

I'm proud to report that in the past year we charged a record number of people with human trafficking offenses, and over the last three years we have achieved significant increases in human trafficking prosecutions, including the rise of more than 30 percent in the number of forced labor and adult sex trafficking prosecutions.

Now, this work is really more than statistics. It has saved lives. It has ensured freedom. It has restored dignity to women, to men, to children, in virtually every corner of this country. We have liberated scores of victims. We have secured long prison sentences against individual traffickers. But we've also dismantled really large transnational organized crime enterprises. As many of you will recall, last February the Justice Department launched a human trafficking enhanced enforcement initiative in order to take our counter-trafficking enforcement levels efforts to a new level.

Now, as part of this commitment, I announced the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team, or ACT Team, initiative that's an interagency collaboration among the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor, aimed at streamlining federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenses. And following a very rigorous and competitive interagency selection process, we launched six Phase One Pilot ACT Teams around the country. And they are located in Atlanta, El Paso, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Miami, and today these teams are fully operational. And by bringing federal investigative agencies and federal prosecutors together, they are allowing us to develop and to advance high-impact human trafficking prosecutions.

And let me just share some examples with you. Over the last year we have dismantled a large transnational organized crime enterprise that held Ukrainian victims in forced labor in Philadelphia. We have brought freedom and dignity to undocumented Central American women and convicted the traffickers who, with threats of violence and abuse, compelled them into forced labor and prostitution in restaurants and bars on Long Island in New York. We have restored freedom to undocumented Eastern European women and convicted the traffickers who brutally exploited them in massage parlors in Chicago and even branded them with tattoos to claim them as their own property. We have secured a life sentence against a gang member in the Eastern District of Virginia, just across the river here, for sex trafficking of victims as young as 12 years old.

By providing grant funding to our state and local law enforcement partners and to victims service organizations really across the country, the Justice Department is also supporting proactive efforts to stop traffickers and to help victims heal and to rebuild their lives.

And for the entire anti-trafficking community, we are continuing to provide training and technical assistance as well. And over the last year these efforts have included hosting three regional training forums that have focused on improving collaboration as well as the development of a training curriculum to help state prosecutors and state judges better understand human trafficking crimes. This is something that has to be done at the state and local level as well as at the federal level.

We're also taking steps to forge and strengthen partnerships across international borders, understanding that this is not simply an American problem. And we have seen that this effort is really essential. Over the last year, by working with our Mexican law enforcement partners, we have dismantled sex trafficking networks that operate on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and have brought freedom to victims and secured really landmark convictions and substantial sentences against the traffickers in these high-impact bilateral cases. We've had good cooperation with our Mexican counterparts.

So I think we can all be encouraged by our recent achievements in the fight against human trafficking, but I think we would all agree that we have still more to do and that far too many people remain in desperate need for the help that we can provide. And that's why I think that our joint efforts and our outstanding efforts really must continue. I am committed to this. The Justice Department is committed to this. This group that meets today is obviously committed to this. This Administration has identified this as a priority.

So I look forward to our discussions as to where we will go from here and how we can keep working in partnership to increase the impact of these very critical efforts. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Attorney General. Now I'd like to invite Secretary Hilda Solis to share the Labor Department's update. And I want to thank Hilda for making this a high priority within the Labor Department.

SECRETARY SOLIS: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary, and also to our colleagues. I want to also congratulate President Obama and Valerie Jarrett for having this meeting convened here. This is a topic that obviously is very controversial and one that some of us in this room we know take very seriously and, of course, feel that we need to do as much as we can to make sure that every effort, especially at the Department of Labor, is focused in on combating this terrible error that occurs not just in our shores but also abroad.

I want to applaud President Obama. He's been very clear in his vision for an America built to last, one where everyone has a fair shot at success and where everyone plays by the same rules. Our actions to end the exploitation of workers are critical to achieving that vision. That's why the Department of Labor is here.

The Department of Labor's efforts to combat human trafficking have been broad and varied and can be broken down into two three main categories. The first is detection and law enforcement. Our investigators are on the front lines of trafficking, identifying potential cases and providing critical support such as translation services during investigations.

We've revamped the integrity and enforcement actions of our guest worker program to ensure a fair process for employers who use temporary foreign workers and to enforce protections for all of our workers. We've now announced new protocols to begin certifying new visas. That's allowed us to help immigrant victims of trafficking assist in investigation of those crimes.

The second category involves transnational engagement and research. We've signed currently declarations with Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and DR to ensure that foreign workers, often the most vulnerable, are informed of their labor rights here in the U.S. This is very important as well because, in many cases, folks come here thinking that there are no serious protections available to them, there is no one that's going to listen to them, so it's a course of trying to reeducate people over and over again that there are different laws here, and there is a responsibility and accountability process.

The funding that we have included in these programs includes technical assistance projects and research that we're doing across the board on child and forced labor across the globe. And since 1995, the Department of Labor has been funding projects to combat the worst forms of child labor. And as a result, hundreds of thousands of children have been prevented from being trafficked.

The third and final category in our efforts to combat trafficking victims is services services that must be provided, a full restitution for the labor that they have performed. So we are very excited to be working with our friends in Department of Justice and our other sister agencies on these issues. Alongside our agency partners, we've been proud to assist these victims by computing the back wages that they are rightfully owed. So that's a big message, I think, to the overall community that it's time to speak up and not be afraid to speak out.

Another critical part of helping trafficking victims is to make sure that they have the support they need to get back on their feet, so we're proud to offer employment and training services to victims of severe forms of trafficking through our network of one-stop career centers so they can enter and get information and, hopefully, get on their feet again. And of course, we're aiming to support workers.

We're also aiming to support employers in helping us combat trafficking, so that's another big part of our effort. Our enforcement officers are working both to ensure a level playing field of law-abiding businesses, because we don't agree that unscrupulous businesses should get away with this crime, and to protect the rights of workers to deter unscrupulous employers that continue to exploit workers.

Looking ahead, we continue to remain committed to further these efforts. Soon, we'll be providing awareness training to our national field staff so that even more prepared individuals will know about this issue. We'll also be announcing a new joint declaration with the following the Philippines, Ecuador, and Peru to make sure that their vulnerable workers here in our country know of their rights and protections available.

Additionally, we'll do more to engage with our stakeholders in this critical issue by hosting listening sessions, roundtables, and making sure that our fact sheets and reports are also equally translated in those various languages that are much needed as well.

Finally, I look forward to partnering with all of you in fulfilling the Promise campaign, which is critical to our collective action on the issue.

I want to thank everyone. I'm incredibly proud of the work that all of you and all of us have been able to accomplish under your leadership in this Administration. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Hilda, and let me now turn to Secretary Sebelius. Obviously the Department of Health and Human Services is an absolutely essential partner in everything we do.

Kathleen.

SECRETARY SEBELIUS: Well, thank you, Secretary, for your leadership on this task force. And Valerie, I hope that you convey to the President how important we all think it is that he has provided the kind of vision and leadership that brings us all here today, because this collaborative effort is incredibly important.

On this issue, the Department of Health and Human Services is motivated by the collaboration across federal agencies to raise public awareness and make the most of our resources. And were especially motivated to continue the important role in reaching and helping human trafficking victims every day. So over the past year, we have really deployed a lot of assets to our regional offices, 10 of them around the country, who have expanded their efforts to develop staff capacity through multiple trainings and meetings to monitor and combat human trafficking. We substantially expanded our outreach efforts through the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign, which includes now an online posting of the Look Beneath the Surface training video that is both available in English and Spanish.

During the last fiscal year, we built on our anti-trafficking efforts by providing services and resources on human trafficking through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. Going forward, the Presidents Fiscal Year 2013 budget includes a new \$5 million proposal to award competitive grants focused on reducing the exploitation of children in the form of domestic sex trafficking. HHS also, as Secretary Clinton has referred, funds the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which is a nationwide resource for potential victims and the public who may encounter a trafficking situation.

We maintain a national toll-free hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. And last year, the hotline received over 16,000 calls, a 43 percent increase in the last fiscal year, which I think is both an indication of the depth of the problem, but also an indication that people now are aware that theres someplace to go for help. Of this total, we have close to 800 cases resulting in direct report to law enforcement, which is a 51 percent increase, so that connecting the hotline with actual action on the ground, thanks to our partners in the Department of Justice, has been a really important initiative.

Through a recently established interdepartmental working group, HHS and other agencies are discussing better coordination of the federal anti-trafficking efforts when dealing with victims and attendant services training and technical assistance. And as a group, weve identified the need for two types of call lines a central hotline for calls regarding victims and investigative tip lines. Weve also agreed to explore additional opportunities to appropriately highlight and differentiate between the resource center and the investigation hotlines.

So I feel confident that our efforts at HHS, hand in hand with our federal partners here at the table, continue to move us closer to our ultimate goal of freedom for all by bringing an end to this inexcusable human rights abuse.

And again, thank you, Madam Secretary, for convening this critical meeting, for the report that youre doing, and we look forward to continuing this critical work together.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Kathleen.

Now let me turn to the Department of Homeland Securitys update. Certainly, DHS personnel are on the front lines not only here at home but literally around the world, and we greatly appreciate Secretary Napolitanos leadership.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO: And thank you, Secretary Clinton. I also appreciate the leadership youve shown on this issue and the leadership of the President. Its a social issue, its an economic issue, its a law enforcement issue, its a moral issue, and I think that joins us all around the table. We have also been working through partnerships of various types under an umbrella we call the Blue Campaign at DHS. It is leading directly to more tips, more investigations, improved services for victims, and I think will help us serve our ultimate goal of finally getting some deterrence to this issue.

We have partnered with the Department of State to develop two online trainings, one for the federal acquisition workforce. Our contractors have a zero-tolerance clause built into every federal contract, so were now training them and also training for the general public. CBP has worked with the Department of Transportation to launch something called the Blue Lightning Initiative, teaching airline employees the signs of trafficking and how to notify law enforcement. Were working with the firefighter and EMS communities to create training for first responders who may come into contact with victims, and we are in the process of putting the finishing touches on a one-week interdisciplinary training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, which will bring together teams representing victim services,

investigations, prosecutions, a first of its kind type of training in this area. And we expect it to be available no later than this summer.

We've worked to increase public awareness of human trafficking through targeted video messages and public service announcements, including CBPs No Te Enganes campaign, Dont Be Fooled, and ICEs Hidden in Plain Sight campaign, which reached an estimated 5 million people.

We've worked to address and recognize the needs and unique challenges of trafficking victims. We have now put 39 specially trained human trafficking experts in each of our ICE field offices, and we've doubled the number of forensic interview specialists. CIS has developed a one-pager for law enforcement on options for victims, including the T and the U visa programs.

The efforts are succeeding. We are finding more investigations with a nexus to human trafficking. Last year, we initiated 722, we obtained 271 convictions. Eric, working with your folks, seized assets worth well over \$2 million. We also have seen a steady increase in the number of reports to the tip line, up 69 percent between FY2010 and 2011, and I think looking at the 12 numbers, there will be another record, unfortunately, in a way.

This year, we plan to do even more. We are requiring all of our contracting professionals to take training on combating trafficking in persons, and we have already trained 600 acquisition personnel on how to use that clause in the standard federal contract. We're working to assure that age-appropriate care and services are provided to unaccompanied minor children encountered by us typically through the immigration system. We had a roundtable discussion here at the White House with retail, hotel, and airline industry leaders, and also with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies and associations discussing ways we could work together to raise awareness. We are continuing to deploy ideas from those sessions.

And we are expanding the reach and scope of our free, interactive computer-based training system for local law enforcement partners. We work extensively with Justice, with Labor on the ACT teams that the Attorney General referenced, because those teams, I think, hold great promise in actually dealing with this problem. So we will continue to listen, we will continue to work, and like everyone else around the table, we intend to, if anything, increase our commitment. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Great. Thank you very much, Janet. Now let me turn to Cecilia Munoz, the assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Council Director.

Cecilia.

MS. MUNOZ: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. Its a real honor to be part of this gathering today. This is obviously incredibly important work and it falls to me to talk a little bit about the work of the Domestic Policy Council on the domestic side of this issue.

As everyone in this room knows, two years ago, the President forcefully articulated his personal commitment to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking, described it as a shared responsibility. And as we're hearing today, the since the President made that commitment two years ago, we've been making progress through investigations and prosecutions, the victims assistance programs, we've been hearing about technical assistance for states and localities. I mean, its a good list and its a long list, but it doesnt involve only the work of government. The conscience of the country was really awakened by the Presidents remarks. And we have churches, we have businesses and communities across the country heeding the Presidents call to action, finding ways to combat trafficking, and to serve those who have been victimized by it.

The Domestic Policy Council has partnered with many of you in this important work, and the President has really reiterated just this morning in a statement his commitment to these issues. Hes instructed his Cabinet, all of us, to find ways to strengthen the good work that were already doing, and to expand our partnerships with civil society and the private sector so that we can bring more resources to bear on this terrible problem.

As the President announced in his statement, in the coming weeks, the White House will build on this gathering on behalf of human dignity. This is an issue that the President understands the way that your agencies do as a crime, as a violation of universal human rights and its a policy priority on both the domestic and international fronts. We are committed to maximizing our efforts in every way possible, and were confident that working together, we can collectively, we can strengthen the efforts of both the federal government and civil society in ending the scourge of modern slavery.

So our direction is clear. We intend to continue to work in partnership with all of you and your teams. The White House intends to redouble its efforts and build on this already strong record of accomplishment, and were going to reach out to our partners outside of government in the hope that, together, we can really make an unprecedented push to raise awareness and have further real and sustained results. We dont have any illusions about this task being easy. If it this were an easy issue with simple solutions, we wouldnt need to be here having this gathering today. But we are persuaded that by working with each other effectively and working with our partners around the country and around the world, we can really bring positive change to this issue.

So we will be working with you to expand the resources, to leverage our efforts and our coordinated coordinating capacity. And so I look forward to working with all of you to do that. I look forward to playing a role in helping lift up the work that youre already doing and helping to coordinate it as strongly as possible. And were convinced that with this partnership within government and partnerships outside of government, we can make an enormous difference on this issue, and were honored to be part of it.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Cecilia. Now I will turn to someone I work with practically every day on a wide variety of security issues around the world, and Im delighted that he would be here for this meeting.

So, Assistant to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough.

MR. MCDONOUGH: Madam Secretary, thank you very much, and allow me to join Cecilia in thanking all of your teams who we get to work with every day on this matter. Let me just take a minute too to highlight our team Rob Berschinski, Quintan Wiktorowicz, and most especially, Samantha Power, who, on behalf of the National Security staff, have really made this a priority and have been working with your teams to push this through.

Human trafficking is just one of those topics that doesnt make it in the paper every day. But I think what we see in this years report and in each of the reports that are coming from the agencies now is that the work that all the agencies are doing is actually having a very profound, life-changing impact on Americans and non-Americans, men, women, and children all around the world. So its something about which I think we should feel quite good, recognizing, of course, as everybody said, that theres an awful lot of work to be done.

The fact is that the when the United States Government, when our people, are understood to be an international leader on this issue, it speaks to something at the heart of the Presidents National Security Strategy, which he put out in 2010 one, that were strengthened by the power of our example, and that were strongest when were working to advance the dignity of individuals all around the world. So for us at the National Security staff, this is a national security issue.

It is human trafficking is at the nexus of organized crimes, is a source for funding for international terrorist groups, is a source for funding for transnational criminal groups. It fundamentally endangers international security. And so while were trying to create an international economy in which everyone can choose and be paid for for their work, it, by lifting this up, will strengthen our ability to be a leader in the global marketplace as well.

Now I know Ash, Raj, and Maria have not had a chance to brief out their results yet, so Im not going to steal their thunder. But I do want to highlight a couple of things that I see from my position in terms of coordinating the interagency work on this effort.

First, as I said above, when we lead by example, were standing as a model for other governments in how we train our people, hold them to the highest ethical standards when it comes to trafficking, and makes it able for us to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. As Raj will no doubt highlight, USAID has been at the forefront of this effort through the standards its applying to all its employees contractors, subcontractors, and grantees. We recognize that across the government, theres still an awful lot to do to improve on this in terms of procurement of goods and labor, and the President is demanding that we do more in exactly this area as the report pulls forward.

As Secretary Clinton said, being a model also means were willing to place ourselves to the same level of scrutiny that were applying to others, which is why he was so appreciative of the report including the United States on the list of countries that are graded in this and States annual Trafficking in Persons Report this year.

Second, let me emphasize that when it comes to trafficking, one thing that we do know is that we dont know enough. In addition to what Cecilia has mentioned, in his statement today, the President spoke of trafficking as a form of exploitation that hides both in the dark corners of our world and in plain sight in our own towns and country towns and cities. We know in certain areas we dont have great data on the scope of the problem. And in terms of our programming, we

may know what works and what doesn't, but were still learning precise causal relationships. That's why the Presidents demanding that we keep the focus on learning and improving on our interventions.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we would urge that on topics like our anti-trafficking work, we maintain laser-like focus on mainstreaming what we're doing in all our day-to-day operations. Whether in your internal strategy development or in policy papers you bring to the interagency coordination arena, if the majority of your staff are diplomats, are development experts, are service members, see efforts to counter trafficking as a silo, as a job of only people in the Trafficking Office, rather than as a core component of their job then we will not have lifted this up the way the President, Secretary, all of you are demanding that we do.

So I'll leave it at that. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the tremendous work that all of your teams have are underway. And obviously, as each have highlighted, I think we're here to be commended here on the work done heretofore. And just to echo Cecilia on the Presidents direction today, our team is looking forward to working with each of you and your teams on the months to come to build on all the good work that we already have in place.

So, Madam Secretary, thank you very much.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Denis. We really appreciate that overview. Now let me turn to the director of National Intelligence, Lieutenant General Jim Clapper.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLAPPER: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And again, I join colleagues in praising you for commending you for your leadership, and it's an honor to be here. I thought I'd discuss very briefly the intelligence community's role in combating transnational organized crime, and in particular, the understanding and combating trafficking in persons. My priority in this job is to integrate collection analysis across the intelligence community in line with policy-maker needs.

Now after last year's meeting of this group, I rededicated some internal assets to stand up our own transnational organized crime team on my staff, and we never had -- in the history of the DNI, never had a single office for that sort of focus. And in line with the theme of leveraging across the government, we've become very engaged with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office, and are experiencing Louis' zeal. (Laughter.)

I've only been active for a short time, but we are seeing an increase, however modest and I anticipate this will gain momentum through our channels, and I just I think this is the beginning. We expect bigger results in the future as we continue to strengthen partnerships with key NI human trafficking advocates. And as others have eluded on this issue, partnerships are absolutely crucial to success.

And just to underline a point that Denis just made -- certainly we in the intelligence community recognize this -- that trafficking in persons is a national security issue in addition to being a social, economic, and law enforcement issue. And so we were committed to doing our part to defeat it.

Our efforts across the intelligence community to integrate collection analysis and work with state, local, and tribal law enforcement will improve our ability to combat this appalling crime, and we can and must do more.

In October, my team attended the Trafficking in Persons Reporting Conference hosted by the State Department, Miami; made sure that different agencies within the intelligence community attended. This was the first time the IC has ever integrated with the State Department on this mission of ensuring that trafficking in persons reporting is accurate.

In November, our team hosted our own transnational organized crime event at my headquarters via video teleconference, and it was a global thing throughout the IC to many interested members of the intelligence community. And this was, I think, part of my responsibility to ensure awareness within the intelligence community. And a special presentation by the State Department's Trafficking in Persons team was the highlight had a huge impact, feedback I got.

We also coordinate extensively to have attendees who represent the nations we refer to as our Five Eyes allies. Those are the commonwealth countries with whom we have the closest, most intimate intelligence relationships. So I refer specifically to the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian Federal Police, and the New Zealand Customs agency. Where starting were working towards the goal of a better understanding of the role that trafficking plays in persons in national instability, corruption, and crime around the globe. I think it's our job to shine a light on those dark corners.

So I'll just say that we are committed to this and we do recognize that it is a national security issue. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks so much, Jim. Now I'd like to invite Acting Director Zients to share OMB's update. Jeff?

MR. ZIENTS: Thank you. Now given the fiscal situation everybody knows that budgets are very tight, difficult budget environment; many agencies are experiencing actually lower budget. In this environment, it's OMB's job to make sure every dollar is well spent and importantly, that the most important priorities of the Administration, of the President, are well funded, and that we allocate dollars accordingly. Preventing human trafficking is a clear priority for the President and the Administration, so we are committed to working with each agency to make sure that we have the appropriate resources to fund these important efforts. I think we have good working relationships with each agency and your teams, but we will make sure that adequate resources are allocated to these efforts. We also stand ready to help in any way to help manage cross-agency processes to ensure that we continue to make significant progress. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. We like hearing that. (Laughter.) I hope everybody really (inaudible.)

PARTICIPANT : It was the shortest --

SECRETARY CLINTON: Yeah. We should meet at the White House more often. (Laughter.) Now let me turn to Deputy Secretary Ash Carter to give the Department of Defense update.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CARTER: Thank you, Secretary Clinton. The President's determination to combat trafficking is reflected in each of the three ways that we, the Department of Defense, touch this problem. Namely, through our own people, uniformed and civilian and their conduct. Second, through our contractors. And the third, in our foreign military training programs. So let me just take each of those in turn.

First of all, for our own folks, both uniformed and civilian, they are required to receive training. I've reviewed the curriculum. It's very good, it's incisive. It basically has two parts: Don't do it and learn to recognize it. So let me take the don't do it part first.

The don't do it part you may not know this, I was a little surprised myself, but it has only been recently that patronizing a prostitute became an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is, and that's something that we need to begin to and continue and increase our enforcement of that provision. Because in the neighborhood around bases here or abroad, obviously, there's an opportunity for that. So don't do it.

And the second part of the training is recognize it. And that for that, it's part of the annual training. We also have public service announcements on Armed Forces Network and that kind of thing. If you're in a gym somewhere around the world or in Afghanistan, you'll frequently see them to increase awareness and to give the tell-tale signs of it to our people. We do some specific things regionally in PACOM, USFK -- U.S. Forces Korea -- where we've had historically had an issue there. So wherever we detect it, we try to follow up. And there have been some cases recently, which we have aggressively followed up in the law enforcement sense.

Contractors. You know that for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine deployed, there's at least one contractor that ends up in theater at the same time. They're all employed by us. Secretary Napolitano already made it clear. It's part of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and its Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement that contracts are to have a provision forbidding trafficking as in any connection with the country. Now, it's one thing to write it into the contract and you say, How do you make sure you get it done? We're going to make it training for the contractors mandatory, even as it is for our own people, civilian and military number one.

Number two, contracting officer representatives, a COR. What is a COR? COR is the person who makes sure that the contract is executed. So there's somebody who follows around the contractor and makes sure it gets done. Those people are now trained, which they didn't used to be, in recognizing trafficking. So they can see if an association with one of our contracting activities this has gone on, very important. And we have our inspector general now tracking to make sure that those contract clauses are all there and the contracting officer representatives are, in fact, monitoring compliance with those. Very important, because contractors is a huge part of what we do.

Last piece is our foreign military training engagements. All of our programs, be they 1206, be they IMET, JSET, our training of UN peacekeepers and so forth, it is a required part of that curriculum. If we offer it as a department to another military that it include training for those foreign military members in trafficking, both don't do it and recognize it. So for example, just to give you one example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, AFRICOM, our African Command, works through DIILS the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies maybe some of you may be familiar with to

train justice professionals in the prosecution of trafficking crimes and Congolese military commanders in how to prevent their troops from engaging in this. Its very important in all of our training. So those are our training activities.

So in those three arenas where we might touch this problem and do touch this problem, were trying to make sure that were reflecting the Presidents fight.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks very much, Ash. Now, Deputy Secretary Porcari, would you please report from the Department of Transportation?

DEPUTY SECRETARY PORCARI: Thank you, Secretary Clinton, and we appreciate your leadership on this. And Valerie, we very much appreciate the clear and consistent direction the President has given us on this. Its energized all of us.

We want to make sure, first and foremost, that the transportation system is not inadvertently an enabler of human trafficking. Were very committed across land, sea, and air to making sure thats not the case. Marlise Streitmatter, our deputy chief of staff, has been our lead person on this and will continue to be, but were using all of our resources across borders and agencies to make sure that we can positively impact this problem.

For example, working with Secretary Napolitano in Customs and Border Protection, the Blue Lightning Initiative provides an in-flight procedure to report human trafficking events, law enforcement, as well as awareness for the flight crews. Weve gotten very positive response from our airlines on this; theyre very interested in moving forward on this. Likewise, on the highways, we want to make sure theyre free of human trafficking. If a commercial truck or bus driver commits a felony, we can take them off the road and obviously, human trafficking is a felony. This gives us an opportunity to remove the bad actors.

Were also pursuing opportunities with Amtrak and the motor coach industry to develop a public awareness campaign and specialized training for our inspectors that are out in the field all across the country to recognize the warning signs of human trafficking. Were also collaborating with our Mexican and Canadian partners to increase awareness, and we look forward to expanding on those partnerships.

There are also some less conventional partnerships that can be very effective. Working, for example, with our local and state departments of motor vehicles, as well as truck stops, to build public awareness, and give people that are literally on the front lines of this fight the tools to recognize and report suspicious activities.

And finally, this really starts at home, and were working internally within our Department of Transportation, across all the transportation modes, to make sure that we educate our team on identifying human trafficking, and were building, essentially, on the DHS program thats out there.

So were dedicated to moving forward with this. This is an unconscionable and unacceptable activity, and we are looking forward on building the on the progress to date. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. Now Id like to invite from the State Department, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Maria Otero, to go into a little more detail about what were doing at the State Department.

UNDER SECRETARY OTERO: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. And I also want to express appreciation for the leadership that our President is giving us on this issue, and Valerie, convening us here, and of course, express the importance for us to be able to work with every department across the board under the commitment and leadership of Secretary Clinton, who has really enabled our Department to push forward in this area.

Over the last year, the TIP Office, under the leadership of Ambassador CdeBaca, but working in partnership with our regional bureaus and with all of the other colleagues across the Department, weve made advances in several areas that I think are important to highlight in addressing the State Departments response to modern slavery. And let me just touch on a couple of them, as Secretary Clinton has also talked about some of them.

First, the Department as other departments have stated here is in the process of developing a training program that is going to be applicable for all of our direct hires. And this is with the purpose of helping all of our employees understand the nature of this crime better. And not only be able to understand it but to be able to recognize it when it happens and to be able to see the warning signs before it is happening and also take action if that is necessary. So this is in the process of being developed, and we anticipate through it that the degree of understanding of this issue will increase by all of those that are working at the Department.

Second, Secretary Clinton, last year at this task force, announced the establishment of a new trafficking investigation unit that would be set up by our Diplomatic Security Bureau. And I'm very pleased to say that, indeed, that was not only set up, but that in fact it has been operating this last year. And it is very exciting that it has already carried out a number of investigations that have led to indictments. And that for us is a real sign of being able to move this forward. The units Victims Resource Advocacy Program is also equipped to fully support the victims themselves that are discovered in the course of any of these investigations. So we are applauding our Diplomatic Security Bureau for how quickly they've put together this team, and not only set forth its parameters, but also how its work is already showing results.

Third, we're working to protect the visa holders who come to the United States as domestic servants of diplomats. Thanks to the works of one of our working groups, which is headed by our chief of protocol, we are working closely with the diplomatic community to raise their awareness of this issue and to make sure the diplomats that bring domestic workers to the United States now follow a set of requirements that are in place that will prevent those workers from being abused.

Finally, Secretary Clinton mentioned this briefly the TIP Office has partnered with an NGO to develop a tool that allows anybody and everybody to go online, to take a survey, and then to see how many victims of human trafficking it takes to sustain their lifestyle. This is called the Slavery Footprint, and it is the kind of innovation that is helping create change and also create awareness not only of the existence of this crime but also of the challenges that we face in addressing it, and it is bringing people to this issue.

We know that more than three million people from more than 200 countries have logged on to this site, and we're confident that tools such as this one are going to be some that are going to help make a difference in engaging those around the world in addressing this issue in the years ahead. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you, Maria. Since we are being broadcast here, perhaps, Lou, you could give the website for the Slavery Footprint, because it's had a remarkable impact, and we want to encourage everybody everywhere to sign on.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Certainly. Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's pretty intuitive. It's the slaveryfootprint.org not dot com slaveryfootprint.org.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Right. So we invite everyone to log on.

Now let me turn to Dr. Raj Shah, the USAID administrator, who is such a great partner in this and so much of the work that we do.

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: Thank you, Madam Secretary, for your focus and direction on these issues, and to President Obama for elevating the attention and the resources that we will hope to invest against results in this space.

In the past year, our agency has made significant progress trying to live up to commitments we've made around this table for each of the past two years as part of this task force. We are implementing a more results-oriented approach to counter-trafficking efforts around the world, which starts, as Denis mentioned, with the adoption of a strict, new code of conduct for ourselves, our partners abroad, our contractors, and in particular, our security contractors that often operate in high-risk conflict environments. The code of conduct, much as Ash Carter described, will make sure that more people serve as eyes and ears in the search for those at risk or those enslaved. And we have intensified procurement actions and implementation of that code of conduct so that those terms are written into our contracts and enforced through our contracts officers and reviewers.

We've also launched a new counter-trafficking policy developed in close partnership with many agencies represented around the table. This policy requires every USAID mission in a high-risk country to conduct baseline surveys on trafficking and develop clear metrics to assess progress against prevention for our efforts and efforts of others in the international community. It also directs us to create more multi-country databases so victims can be tracked across countries and supported in their efforts as they as that is such a critical barrier, having that data be accessible in a number of different environments. And it prioritizes investments in technologies, like mapping platforms, mobile applications, and other innovations.

We also believe that the one of the challenges is getting the word out and making sure that people who are in a difficult situation have the capacity to seek help. In that effort, we have expanded a highly successful partnership with MTV EXIT into Russia for the very first time, but it is a global program that has had some real successes, especially in Asia. Through the partnership with MTV EXIT, they have created public service advertisements, music videos, and other

efforts to create awareness about trafficking and provide hotlines so that people can access resources to fight back. We believe it has reached more than 300 million households in Asia over the last seven years.

And just to share one story that we heard about just a few weeks ago, that for more than three years a young Cambodian boy and his three friends had been essentially enslaved on a Thai fishing boat. Just a few weeks ago, their boat docked at a port in Thailand, and they happened to see on television one of the MTV EXIT advertisements about trafficking. The video flashed a free hotline number in both Thai and Cambodian so the kids could read it and respond. They did. Immigration authorities responded immediately, and they were freed. We seek many, many more stories like this and believe our expanded efforts are helping to get us there.

We also know, as the President mentioned in his statement today, that we want to work more effectively with partners throughout our own country in the private sector, on universities and campuses, and in faith-based communities. I recently visited Bethel University, a Christian college outside of Minneapolis, and I met with about 100 students the day after we had released our counter-trafficking policy, actually, in this room. And sometimes it takes in the federal government as everyone here knows some time for these policies to be read by our teams and really inform changes and action and behavior. I know we all address that. Every one of the 100 kids that I met with had already read our policy online, and they had ideas, they had things they wanted to contribute.

So today, were thrilled to announce that we will launch a college a campus challenge to combat trafficking, and well seek to partner with the most innovative, creative ideas in the realm of prevention and protection. And well match our campus challenge champions, the winners of our awards, with our missions in the field, so students have access to many of our partners who are on the frontlines of trying to help victims or help communities that are in high risk. We look forward to working with the next generation of American students to craft the next generation of solutions to this critical challenge.

And thank you for the chance to be here.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Raj. Thats very exciting news. Let me now ask Deputy Director Sean Joyce of the FBI to share the FBI's update.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And thank you to the White House for hosting this event today. And Id like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on the street that work this issue each and every day and many of the folks in this room in some of the chairs behind us that work tirelessly every day on some of the policy issues regarding this issue.

The FBI continues its commitment to fighting human trafficking and child exploitation in coordination with our federal, state, and local partners. Over the last year, we've increased our resources approximately 66 percent dedicated to this issue, especially against instances of coerced or forced adult labor, in addition to our agency placing a tremendous significance on ensuring child victims are safe, secure, and away from those who would prey on their innocence.

I can tell you Ive been personally involved in rescuing some child victims, and as a father and a special agent, it is both emotional and rewarding, but devastating for the victims. The FBI recognizes these investigations require specialized resources, and thus we commit 80 victim specialists from our Office of Victim Assistance to our human trafficking efforts. To facilitate our fight against human trafficking and child exploitation, we participate in 77 task forces in 47 working groups across the country.

One highlight is our Innocent Lost National Initiative we started in 2003. This initiative addresses the tragic challenge of children recruited into prostitution. It is supported by the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation/Obscenity Section, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. To date, the initiative has resulted in 1,961 children being rescued. There have been nearly 1,500 investigations initiated, resulting in 927 convictions, to include seven life sentences and several ranging in length from 25 to 45 years.

Recognizing this is also an international problem. The FBI continues to build capacity through a number of training efforts, and in conjunction with our partners in the Department of State, we recently administered a two-week human trafficking course for law enforcement officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. The FBI looks forward to the continued collaboration with our law enforcement partners, both at home and abroad, to ensure that child exploitation and/or forced or coerced adult labor is met with swift justice.

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for this opportunity.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Deputy Director and Special Agent. That was a very stirring rendition of the great work you're doing, and I appreciate it.

Let me now turn to Assistant Secretary Russlynn Ali to share the Department of Education's update.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALI: Thank you, Madam Secretary, Ms. Jarrett, and to all of you for your commitment on this issue. Secretary Duncan shares in that commitment and this sense of urgency.

Over the past year, we have set about using all of the tools within our disposal to really launch an awareness through prevention through awareness efforts in our schools, through technical assistance and supports and training for educators that need it so that they can spot the warning signals. We know that these signals, whether they be absenteeism or signs of abuse or behavioral problems, they prevent children from learning. They not only affect the victim and those at prey of traffickers but the entire school community. And schools have a responsibility and need help and support.

So it is about identifying where those problem areas exist, working with so many of you to target our solutions and our efforts, to answer the calls of educators and school districts around the country that are dealing with these problems in ways that they have never before, helping them with language and talking to school-age children about very difficult and grown-up issues. And how they do that with sincerity and the education they need to help their children be safe is something that is hugely important as well.

We are also doing the kind of technical assistance through web-based tools on what services are available, what supports are available. We've brought together, just last summer, over 2,000 educators to deal with issues of climate and safety in their schools with large and highlighted and focused on issues of trafficking and ways to help. Finding those places that are also doing great things to eradicate trafficking where they exist a school district in San Diego, for example, Grossmont Union High School, we've worked with them to create a training video, which we will disseminate to all school districts that need it as we find those places that are eradicating this and work to take their lessons to scale.

We've also worked closely with the Office of Violence Against Women, our colleagues at the Department of Justice, and elsewhere to ensure that we bring best practices to bear and outreach with as many groups as possible and interested on this issue. In the future, we will continue to work with our sister agencies in finding the places that need the help most, understanding the data better, learning about those solutions and bringing them to scale.

We look forward to sharing those tools, like the Slavery Footprint, to working with Raj and others on things like the campus challenge while we do climate checks and climate schools in our schools, making sure that we hear from students themselves on both problems and solutions, and working with our colleagues and our school resource officers and our colleagues in the Department of Homeland Security on training for law enforcement officers on how they, too, can help change the school environment. We will use all of the tools in our disposal to help you and help our schools deal with this tragic problem. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. And now let me invite our final speaker, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Jacqueline Berrien.

MS. BERRIEN: Thank you so much to President Obama for his leadership and commitment to end human trafficking, and thank you, Secretary Clinton, for your leadership and the opportunity to participate in this very important discussion.

On behalf of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I am privileged to report on the EEOC's work to identify and remedy the trafficking of workers. EEOC staff across the country work diligently to protect one of the most fundamental human and civil rights the right to work without being harassed, intimidated, or mistreated on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The EEOC plays an important role in helping to make victims of trafficking whole. We seek and obtain civil remedies, such as back pay and monetary relief, for the harm caused by employment discrimination as well as punitive damages and equitable relief to deter and prevent future discriminatory conduct.

Since the last meeting of this task force, EEOC has worked with enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels to improve outreach to vulnerable populations, including victims of trafficking. For example, we trained representatives from state and local fair employment practice agencies to identify and remedy trafficking. EEOC also certified new visas last year to ensure that victims of sex harassment and other discriminatory treatment at work could participate fully in related law enforcement efforts without fear of deportation.

Building on the successful resolution of anti-trafficking cases against J.J. Pickle and Trans Bay Steel, the EEOC is challenging discriminatory working conditions and terms of employment in two recently filed cases. In one case, the EEOC alleges that more than 200 Thai men were subjected to a pattern or practice of national origin and race discrimination, harassment, abuse, and retaliation on farms in Hawaii and Washington. The second case alleges that hundreds of Indian employees were recruited to work as welders, pipe fitters, and ship fitters in Mississippi and Texas, but after arriving in the United States as guest workers, they were subjected to abuse based on their national origin and race and encountered other forms of discriminatory treatment, including segregated and substandard housing. Both of these cases are pending now, and were seeking not only relief for the affected workers, but also injunctive relief to prevent future occurrences.

Last January, the commission conducted a public meeting on human trafficking, and with the insights provided by Ambassador CdeBaca and other witnesses, we have redoubled our efforts to identify and remedy trafficking. In the past year, my colleague, Commissioner Stuart Ishimaru, launched the EEOCs immigrant worker team to improve the commissions outreach to immigrant workers, strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting national origin discrimination, and increased collaboration with other agencies addressing human trafficking and related issues affecting immigrant workers. The immigrant worker team of the EEOC will continue to address these issues in 2012.

Once again, thank you for convening us, Madam Secretary. My EEOC colleagues and I look forward to continuing to work with all of the members of this task force towards the goal of ending the scourge of human trafficking.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much. And again, thanks to everyone, not just for being here today for this meeting, but for the work that everyone has done since our last meeting. I think it does help to focus our attention that we do have an annual meeting where we come together and share the results of our efforts. I think its especially meaningful to be meeting here in the White House, because, after all, this is a national priority, its a priority of the Presidents, and we do have to do more to reach out to have partnerships with the private sector, with NGOs, state governments, local governments, and the like.

So again, Valerie, thank you for hosting us, and we appreciate the emphasis that the White House has put on this program.

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Thank you all for being here.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you.

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Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State Speaks on Annual Meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

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The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State:

MS. JARRETT: Thank you. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. We want to welcome you to the White House for our annual President's Task Force to Combat and Monitor Trafficking of Persons. We're delighted to have it here hosted at the White House. It's indicative of the President's commitment to this issue, and we want to thank all of the members of the agencies who have joined us this morning for this meeting.

In 2008, the President spoke at Pastor Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, and he called human trafficking the modern-day enslavement of men, women, and children for sex or labor, and he referred to it as a debasement of our common humanity, which I think sums it up perfectly. As chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls, this issue is of particular importance to me as a leader but also to our council, which is represented by all of the agencies in the federal government as well. And it's why we're pleased to have you all here today.

We are confident with the Administration working together, with civil society, with not-for-profits, with the private sector, we can actually tackle this issue head on and conquer it. And we're delighted to have here Secretary Clinton, who has chaired this task force, and I'll turn it over to her in a second. But I wanted to, by way of introduction, mention that yesterday we were at the State Department for a luncheon with Prime Minister Cameron, and he said about Secretary Clinton that she has been a strong advocate who is committed to the emancipation and empowerment of women. And I thought that that was a perfect way to describe one of her many roles and one that is particularly germane to the topic of this morning.

So with that, again I want to welcome everyone here and tell you how committed the President is to making sure that we are all collaborating and sharing information together and intending to conquer this issue head on. So with that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Clinton. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you. Well, thank you very much Valerie. And thank you for hosting us here at the White House. This annual event is a good opportunity to hear about the progress that our government is making to combat modern slavery and to talk about our goals going forward. And so I very much appreciate the President's commitment to this work and the collaboration that has been accomplished throughout the United States Government. So with that, I'm delighted to call this meeting to order.

I want to thank Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff not only for the work they put into staffing the task force, but for the zeal with which they lead this fight around the world. Of course, if this issue doesn't demand zealous advocacy, it's hard to figure out what does.

This September marks the 150th anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. And it's a good time for us to recommit ourselves, not only to the promise of freedom, but to the work against ending modern slavery.

Around the world, as many as 27 million men, women, and children toil in bondage. This crime undermines economies and the rule of law. It shatters families and communities. It is an affront to our most fundamental values.

This issue is very near and dear to my heart, since the time I was first lady. And we began a full-hearted effort by our government - both the executive branch and Congress - to address this issue. And I've had the experience of meeting with survivors here at home and around the world. I've seen firsthand what a horrible toll this takes, and so I'm delighted that we have such a dedicated group of members.

This is a priority in the Obama Administration, starting with the President, as Valerie said. And the first time we convened the task force under this Administration, we laid out a set of commitments - a call to action. And in answering that call, we've tried to elevate the fight against trafficking to the highest levels of policymaking.

This goes hand in hand. This is not an individual, one-off effort. This goes hand in hand with other work that we've been doing on behalf of women and girls and other marginalized people. The White House recently issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security to ensure that women are full partners and participants in our efforts to reduce conflict and promote peace and prosperity around the world, because after all, modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls. And as it does so, it disrupts family networks, and it undermines the foundation of stable economies and societies. So the Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security contains specific steps to prevent human trafficking of women and children as a result of conflict and to provide assistance to victims.

The State Department has made the struggle against modern slavery an important part of our diplomatic engagement. Our annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive assessment of how well governments are doing to address this crime. The TIP Office's foreign assistance grants are making a difference in 37 countries, supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to survivors and help governments build their capacity to fight this crime. And thanks to our leadership, the international community is getting behind the effort. Nearly 140 countries have enacted modern anti-trafficking laws, and nearly 150 are party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

And we've taken action here at home. For instance, we learned that survivors were being made to pay taxes on restitution payments from their abusers. And, well, some of the people in this room as well as colleagues from the Treasury Department who are not with us today saw the problem and said, "This isn't right; we're going to do something about it." So now the Treasury Department has made clear that victims are not liable to pay taxes on the wages of slavery.

Another example: We thought it was unfair for diplomats who victimized their own domestic workers were, because of diplomatic immunity, virtually untouchable. So now, we're making sure that diplomats coming to this country understand their obligations and responsibilities, and we're taking action when we have evidence that they are not.

We're trying to ensure that resources and support are available to victims wherever we find them, and one of those resources is the Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Its operations have been expanded. It now fields an unprecedented number of calls. And it is really making a difference in reaching out to survivors and helping us prosecute abusers.

Other agencies led by the Department of Homeland Security recently held a public listening session to hear from stakeholders about new ideas for victim services, federal government engagement with local communities, outreach to at-risk groups, and NGO private sector initiatives. Now, we've also tried to streamline how we approach cases. And instead of a muddle of agencies claiming or rejecting different responsibilities, thanks to the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Homeland Security, we have in place in the Obama Administration efficient, coordinated, anti-trafficking teams, and they're making investigations and prosecutions more effective and helping victims.

To help gauge our responses, I've included a **tier** ranking for the United States in the annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report. I thought it was important, if we were going to be judging other countries, we judged ourselves. And so we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others. It's not only the fair thing to do; it's turned out also to be the smart thing as well, because including us in the report made it more credible and effective as a diplomatic tool. It shows we're all in this fight together, that we have a problem, which we are continuing to address, and it's not just a document that names and shames, but instead it serves as a guide to what practices are working, and more importantly, what every government, including our own, needs to do better, and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts on this. This latest publication from the President's Interagency Task Force Progress in Combating Trafficking in Persons really summarizes a lot of the progress we've made in the Obama Administration over the last three-plus years.

Finally, we know that the future of this struggle will depend on innovative solutions, so we are partnering with thinkers whose bold ideas are already helping to make a difference. We now have online tools like the Slavery Footprint so that

people can understand the ways in which this crime affects them. It doesn't just happen to somebody far away, but it does have ripples of criminality that come across the globe.

We have new ways of looking at supply chains and policies, so that can help us cut off the demand that traffickers cruelly exploit. That's particularly important when you think about the buying power of the federal government. So I think that we meet at a time when we have a lot to be grateful for in terms of the enhanced efforts that we've made, the results that we're getting, but I think this task force is really focused on the challenge and the way ahead.

So let me now turn to Ambassador CdeBaca, who will say a few words about why we consider this such a high priority in our government.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's this Administration's priority to give voice to the survivors of modern slavery whether in court or in our foreign policy, but those voices have been calling for justice for more than 150 years. A letter from the National Archives recently surfaced, a letter written in September of 1864 by Spotswood Rice to Katherine Diggs, his former master. He wrote from the lines of the Union Army as he and his new comrades marched back to Missouri, back towards the plantation where he had been held. Among those still enslaved was his daughter, Mary. His strength and righteous anger rings out through the years. And I quote:

"I want you to understand that mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own. And you may hold on to hear as long as you can, but I want you to remember this one thing -- the longor you keep my Child from me, the longor you will have to burndz?and the qwicer youll get theirdz?

"I want you now to just hold on to hear if you want to iff your conchosence tells thats the road go that road and what it will brig you to kittey diggs I have no fears about geting mary out of your hands the whole Government gives cheer to me and you cannot help your self."

We know from the oral histories that once freed, that little girl lived a long and prosperous life. And in 1937, an aged Mary told a WPA historian: "I love army men. My father, brother, husband, and son were all army men. I love a man who fights for his rights and any person who wants to be someone."

Slavery and the ways that we fight it have changed so much since Spotswood Rice and those other survivors marched with that terrible, swift sword. But as you said last year, Madam Secretary, when we take up this burden at home and abroad, we do it because fighting slavery is part of our national identity. It's who we are.

Together, we can and we must rise to meet Spotswood Rice's challenge to go back for everyone's daughters and sons who remain in servitude. Together, we can give cheer to those who answer the call and march with today's survivors on their road to freedom.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Lou. And one of the things that Lou has done over his professional life of commitment to this issue is to continually link it to larger struggles for human freedom, including our own.

I want to turn now to the Attorney General, because the Attorney General and the Justice Department have been great partners in our efforts to combat this scourge. And I want to thank Attorney General Holder.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, thank you, Secretary Clinton. And also let me start by thanking President Obama for hosting us and for his extraordinary leadership in this global fight against human trafficking, and also thanks to my good friend Valerie Jarrett for bringing us together today and for her attention to this issue.

It's really an honor for me to join with my colleagues and partners to discuss the progress that we have made over the past year, but also to identify ways in which we can continue the momentum that we have built up over the past year and make sure that all that we have pledged to do in this Administration actually does occur.

One of the things I would point out is that one of the four priorities that I've identified for the Justice Department is that we protect the most vulnerable among us. And this fits right into one of those four core priorities for the United States Department of Justice. For Justice, our commitment to preventing human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and assisting victims has really never been stronger, and our approach, I don't think, has ever been more effective. Our work has sent a clear and critical message that in this country and under this Administration, human trafficking crimes will simply not be tolerated.

I'm proud to report that in the past year we charged a record number of people with human trafficking offenses, and over the last three years we have achieved significant increases in human trafficking prosecutions, including the rise of more than 30 percent in the number of forced labor and adult sex trafficking prosecutions.

Now, this work is really more than statistics. It has saved lives. It has ensured freedom. It has restored dignity to women, to men, to children, in virtually every corner of this country. We have liberated scores of victims. We have secured long prison sentences against individual traffickers. But we've also dismantled really large transnational organized crime enterprises. As many of you will recall, last February the Justice Department launched a human trafficking enhanced enforcement initiative in order to take our counter-trafficking enforcement levels - efforts to a new level.

Now, as part of this commitment, I announced the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team, or ACT Team, initiative that's an interagency collaboration among the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor, aimed at streamlining federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenses. And following a very rigorous and competitive interagency selection process, we launched six Phase One Pilot ACT Teams around the country. And they are located in Atlanta, El Paso, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Miami, and today these teams are fully operational. And by bringing federal investigative agencies and federal prosecutors together, they are allowing us to develop and to advance high-impact human trafficking prosecutions.

And let me just share some examples with you. Over the last year we have dismantled a large transnational organized crime enterprise that held Ukrainian victims in forced labor in Philadelphia. We have brought freedom and dignity to undocumented Central American women and convicted the traffickers who, with threats of violence and abuse, compelled them into forced labor and prostitution in restaurants and bars on Long Island in New York. We have restored freedom to undocumented Eastern European women and convicted the traffickers who brutally exploited them in massage parlors in Chicago and even branded them with tattoos to claim them as their own property. We have secured a life sentence against a gang member in the Eastern District of Virginia, just across the river here, for sex trafficking of victims as young as 12 years old.

By providing grant funding to our state and local law enforcement partners and to victims service organizations really across the country, the Justice Department is also supporting proactive efforts to stop traffickers and to help victims heal and to rebuild their lives.

And for the entire anti-trafficking community, we are continuing to provide training and technical assistance as well. And over the last year these efforts have included hosting three regional training forums that have focused on improving collaboration as well as the development of a training curriculum to help state prosecutors and state judges better understand human trafficking crimes. This is something that has to be done at the state and local level as well as at the federal level.

We're also taking steps to forge and strengthen partnerships across international borders, understanding that this is not simply an American problem. And we have seen that this effort is really essential. Over the last year, by working with our Mexican law enforcement partners, we have dismantled sex trafficking networks that operate on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and have brought freedom to victims and secured really landmark convictions and substantial sentences against the traffickers in these high-impact bilateral cases. We've had good cooperation with our Mexican counterparts.

So I think we can all be encouraged by our recent achievements in the fight against human trafficking, but I think we would all agree that we have still more to do and that far too many people remain in desperate need for the help that we can provide. And that's why I think that our joint efforts and our outstanding efforts really must continue. I am committed to this. The Justice Department is committed to this. This group that meets today is obviously committed to this. This Administration has identified this as a priority.

So I look forward to our discussions as to where we will go from here and how we can keep working in partnership to increase the impact of these very critical efforts. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Attorney General. Now I'd like to invite Secretary Hilda Solis to share the Labor Department's update. And I want to thank Hilda for making this a high priority within the Labor Department.

SECRETARY SOLIS: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary, and also to our colleagues. I want to also congratulate President Obama and Valerie Jarrett for having this meeting convened here. This is a topic that obviously is very controversial and one that some of us in this room we know take very seriously and, of course, feel that we need to do as much as we can to make sure that every effort, especially at the Department of Labor, is focused in on combating this terrible error that occurs not just in our shores but also abroad.

I want to applaud President Obama. He's been very clear in his vision for an America built to last, one where everyone has a fair shot at success and where everyone plays by the same rules. Our actions to end the exploitation of workers are critical to achieving that vision. That's why the Department of Labor is here.

The Department of Labor's efforts to combat human trafficking have been broad and varied and can be broken down into two - three main categories. The first is detection and law enforcement. Our investigators are on the front lines of trafficking, identifying potential cases and providing critical support such as translation services during investigations.

We've revamped the integrity and enforcement actions of our guest worker program to ensure a fair process for employers who use temporary foreign workers and to enforce protections for all of our workers. We've now announced new protocols to begin certifying new visas. That's allowed us to help immigrant victims of trafficking assist in investigation of those crimes.

The second category involves transnational engagement and research. We've signed currently declarations with Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and DR to ensure that foreign workers, often the most vulnerable, are informed of their labor rights here in the U.S. This is very important as well because, in many cases, folks come here thinking that there are no serious protections available to them, there is no one that's going to listen to them, so it's a course of trying to reeducate people over and over again that there are different laws here, and there is a responsibility and accountability process.

The funding that we have included in these programs includes technical assistance projects and research that we're doing across the board on child and forced labor across the globe. And since 1995, the Department of Labor has been funding projects to combat the worst forms of child labor. And as a result, hundreds of thousands of children have been prevented from being trafficked.

The third and final category in our efforts to combat trafficking victims is services - services that must be provided, a full restitution for the labor that they have performed. So we are very excited to be working with our friends in Department of Justice and our other sister agencies on these issues. Alongside our agency partners, we've been proud to assist these victims by computing the back wages that they are rightfully owed. So that's a big message, I think, to the overall community that it's time to speak up and not be afraid to speak out.

Another critical part of helping trafficking victims is to make sure that they have the support they need to get back on their feet, so we're proud to offer employment and training services to victims of severe forms of trafficking through our network of one-stop career centers so they can enter and get information and, hopefully, get on their feet again. And of course, we're aiming to support workers.

We're also aiming to support employers in helping us combat trafficking, so that's another big part of our effort. Our enforcement officers are working both to ensure a level playing field of law-abiding businesses, because we don't agree that unscrupulous businesses should get away with this crime, and to protect the rights of workers to deter unscrupulous employers that continue to exploit workers.

Looking ahead, we continue to remain committed to further these efforts. Soon, we'll be providing awareness training to our national field staff so that even more prepared individuals will know about this issue. We'll also be announcing a new joint declaration with the following - the Philippines, Ecuador, and Peru - to make sure that their vulnerable workers here in our country know of their rights and protections available.

Additionally, we'll do more to engage with our stakeholders in this critical issue by hosting listening sessions, roundtables, and making sure that our fact sheets and reports are also equally translated in those various languages that are much needed as well.

Finally, I look forward to partnering with all of you in fulfilling the Promise campaign, which is critical to our collective action on the issue.

I want to thank everyone. I'm incredibly proud of the work that all of you and all of us have been able to accomplish under your leadership in this Administration. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Hilda, and let me now turn to Secretary Sebelius. Obviously the Department of Health and Human Services is an absolutely essential partner in everything we do.

Kathleen.

SECRETARY SEBELIUS: Well, thank you, Secretary, for your leadership on this task force. And Valerie, I hope that you convey to the President how important we all think it is that he has provided the kind of vision and leadership that brings us all here today, because this collaborative effort is incredibly important.

On this issue, the Department of Health and Human Services is motivated by the collaboration across federal agencies to raise public awareness and make the most of our resources. And we're especially motivated to continue the important role in reaching and helping human trafficking victims every day. So over the past year, we have really deployed a lot of assets to our regional offices, 10 of them around the country, who have expanded their efforts to develop staff capacity through multiple trainings and meetings to monitor and combat human trafficking. We substantially expanded our outreach efforts through the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign, which includes now an online posting of the Look Beneath the Surface training video that is both available in English and Spanish.

During the last fiscal year, we built on our anti-trafficking efforts by providing services and resources on human trafficking through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. Going forward, the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget includes a new \$5 million proposal to award competitive grants focused on reducing the exploitation of children in the form of domestic sex trafficking. HHS also, as Secretary Clinton has referred, funds the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which is a nationwide resource for potential victims and the public who may encounter a trafficking situation.

We maintain a national toll-free hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. And last year, the hotline received over 16,000 calls, a 43 percent increase in the last fiscal year, which I think is both an indication of the depth of the problem, but also an indication that people now are aware that there's someplace to go for help. Of this total, we have close to 800 cases resulting in direct report to law enforcement, which is a 51 percent increase, so that connecting the hotline with actual action on the ground, thanks to our partners in the Department of Justice, has been a really important initiative.

Through a recently established interdepartmental working group, HHS and other agencies are discussing better coordination of the federal anti-trafficking efforts when dealing with victims and attendant services training and technical assistance. And as a group, we've identified the need for two types of call lines - a central hotline for calls regarding victims and investigative tip lines. We've also agreed to explore additional opportunities to appropriately highlight and differentiate between the resource center and the investigation hotlines.

So I feel confident that our efforts at HHS, hand in hand with our federal partners here at the table, continue to move us closer to our ultimate goal of freedom for all by bringing an end to this inexcusable human rights abuse.

And again, thank you, Madam Secretary, for convening this critical meeting, for the report that you're doing, and we look forward to continuing this critical work together.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Kathleen.

Now let me turn to the Department of Homeland Security's update. Certainly, DHS personnel are on the front lines not only here at home but literally around the world, and we greatly appreciate Secretary Napolitano's leadership.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO: And thank you, Secretary Clinton. I also appreciate the leadership you've shown on this issue and the leadership of the President. It's a social issue, it's an economic issue, it's a law enforcement issue, it's a moral issue, and I think that joins us all around the table. We have also been working through partnerships of various types under an umbrella we call the Blue Campaign at DHS. It is leading directly to more tips, more investigations, improved services for victims, and I think will help us serve our ultimate goal of finally getting some deterrence to this issue.

We have partnered with the Department of State to develop two online trainings, one for the federal acquisition workforce. Our contractors have a zero-tolerance clause built into every federal contract, so we're now training them and also training for the general public. CBP has worked with the Department of Transportation to launch something called the Blue Lightning Initiative, teaching airline employees the signs of trafficking and how to notify law enforcement. We're working with the firefighter and EMS communities to create training for first responders who may come into contact with victims, and we are in the process of putting the finishing touches on a one-week interdisciplinary training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, which will bring together teams representing victim services, investigations, prosecutions, a first of its kind type of training in this area. And we expect it to be available no later than this summer.

We've worked to increase public awareness of human trafficking through targeted video messages and public service announcements, including CBP's No Te Enganes campaign, Don't Be Fooled, and ICE's Hidden in Plain Sight campaign, which reached an estimated 5 million people.

We've worked to address and recognize the needs and unique challenges of trafficking victims. We have now put 39 specially trained human trafficking experts in each of our ICE field offices, and we've doubled the number of forensic interview specialists. CIS has developed a one-pager for law enforcement on options for victims, including the T and the U visa programs.

The efforts are succeeding. We are finding more investigations with a nexus to human trafficking. Last year, we initiated 722, we obtained 271 convictions. Eric, working with your folks, seized assets worth well over \$2 million. We also have seen a steady increase in the number of reports to the tip line, up 69 percent between FY2010 and 2011, and I think looking at the '12 numbers, there will be another record, unfortunately, in a way.

This year, we plan to do even more. We are requiring all of our contracting professionals to take training on combating trafficking in persons, and we have already trained 600 acquisition personnel on how to use that clause in the standard federal contract. We're working to assure that age-appropriate care and services are provided to unaccompanied minor children encountered by us typically through the immigration system. We had a roundtable discussion here at the White House with retail, hotel, and airline industry leaders, and also with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies and associations discussing ways we could work together to raise awareness. We are continuing to deploy ideas from those sessions.

And we are expanding the reach and scope of our free, interactive computer-based training system for local law enforcement partners. We work extensively with Justice, with Labor on the ACT teams that the Attorney General referenced, because those teams, I think, hold great promise in actually dealing with this problem. So we will continue to listen, we will continue to work, and like everyone else around the table, we intend to, if anything, increase our commitment. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Great. Thank you very much, Janet. Now let me turn to Cecilia Munoz, the assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Council Director.

Cecilia.

MS. MUNOZ: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. It's a real honor to be part of this gathering today. This is obviously incredibly important work and it falls to me to talk a little bit about the work of the Domestic Policy Council on the domestic side of this issue.

As everyone in this room knows, two years ago, the President forcefully articulated his personal commitment to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking, described it as a shared responsibility. And as we're hearing today, the - since the President made that commitment two years ago, we've been making progress through investigations and prosecutions, the victims assistance programs, we've been hearing about technical assistance for states and localities. I mean, it's a good list and it's a long list, but it doesn't involve only the work of government. The conscience of the country was really awakened by the President's remarks. And we have churches, we have businesses and communities across the country heeding the President's call to action, finding ways to combat trafficking, and to serve those who have been victimized by it.

The Domestic Policy Council has partnered with many of you in this important work, and the President has really reiterated just this morning in a statement his commitment to these issues. He's instructed his Cabinet, all of us, to find ways to strengthen the good work that we're already doing, and to expand our partnerships with civil society and the private sector so that we can bring more resources to bear on this terrible problem.

As the President announced in his statement, in the coming weeks, the White House will build on this gathering on behalf of human dignity. This is an issue that the President understands the way that your agencies do - as a crime, as a violation of universal human rights - and it's a policy priority on both the domestic and international fronts. We are committed to maximizing our efforts in every way possible, and we're confident that working together, we can - collectively, we can strengthen the efforts of both the federal government and civil society in ending the scourge of modern slavery.

So our direction is clear. We intend to continue to work in partnership with all of you and your teams. The White House intends to redouble its efforts and build on this already strong record of accomplishment, and we're going to reach out to

our partners outside of government in the hope that, together, we can really make an unprecedented push to raise awareness and have further real and sustained results. We don't have any illusions about this task being easy. If it - this were an easy issue with simple solutions, we wouldn't need to be here having this gathering today. But we are persuaded that by working with each other effectively and working with our partners around the country and around the world, we can really bring positive change to this issue.

So we will be working with you to expand the resources, to leverage our efforts and our coordinated - coordinating capacity. And so I look forward to working with all of you to do that. I look forward to playing a role in helping lift up the work that you're already doing and helping to coordinate it as strongly as possible. And we're convinced that with this partnership within government and partnerships outside of government, we can make an enormous difference on this issue, and we're honored to be part of it.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Cecilia. Now I will turn to someone I work with practically every day on a wide variety of security issues around the world, and I'm delighted that he would be here for this meeting.

So, Assistant to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough.

MR. MCDONOUGH: Madam Secretary, thank you very much, and allow me to join Cecilia in thanking all of your teams who we get to work with every day on this matter. Let me just take a minute too to highlight our team - Rob Berschinski, Quintan Wiktorowicz, and most especially, Samantha Power, who, on behalf of the National Security staff, have really made this a priority and have been working with your teams to push this through.

Human trafficking is just one of those topics that doesn't make it in the paper every day. But I think what we see in this year's report and in each of the reports that are coming from the agencies now is that the work that all the agencies are doing is actually having a very profound, life-changing impact on Americans and non-Americans, men, women, and children all around the world. So it's something about which I think we should feel quite good, recognizing, of course, as everybody said, that there's an awful lot of work to be done.

The fact is that the - when the United States Government, when our people, are understood to be an international leader on this issue, it speaks to something at the heart of the President's National Security Strategy, which he put out in 2010 - one, that we're strengthened by the power of our example, and that we're strongest when we're working to advance the dignity of individuals all around the world. So for us at the National Security staff, this is a national security issue.

It is - human trafficking is at the nexus of organized crimes, is a source for funding for international terrorist groups, is a source for funding for transnational criminal groups. It fundamentally endangers international security. And so while we're trying to create an international economy in which everyone can choose and be paid for for their work, it, by lifting this up, will strengthen our ability to be a leader in the global marketplace as well.

Now I know Ash, Raj, and Maria have not had a chance to brief out their results yet, so I'm not going to steal their thunder. But I do want to highlight a couple of things that I see from my position in terms of coordinating the interagency's work on this effort.

First, as I said above, when we lead by example, we're standing as a model for other governments in how we train our people, hold them to the highest ethical standards when it comes to trafficking, and makes it able for us to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. As Raj will no doubt highlight, USAID has been at the forefront of this effort through the standards it's applying to all its employees - contractors, subcontractors, and grantees. We recognize that across the government, there's still an awful lot to do to improve on this in terms of procurement of goods and labor, and the President is demanding that we do more in exactly this area as the report pulls forward.

As Secretary Clinton said, being a model also means we're willing to place ourselves to the same level of scrutiny that we're applying to others, which is why he was so appreciative of the report including the United States on the list of countries that are graded in this and State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report this year.

Second, let me emphasize that when it comes to trafficking, one thing that we do know is that we don't know enough. In addition to what Cecilia has mentioned, in his statement today, the President spoke of trafficking as a form of exploitation that hides both in the dark corners of our world and in plain sight in our own towns and country - towns and cities. We know in certain areas we don't have great data on the scope of the problem. And in terms of our programming, we may know what works and what doesn't, but we're still learning precise causal relationships. That's why the President's demanding that we keep the focus on learning and improving on our interventions.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we would urge that on topics like our anti-trafficking work, we maintain laser-like focus on mainstreaming what we're doing in all our day-to-day operations. Whether in your internal strategy development or in policy papers you bring to the interagency coordination arena, if the majority of your staff are diplomats, are development experts, are service members, see efforts to counter trafficking as a silo, as a job of only people in the Trafficking Office, rather than as a core component of their job then we will not have lifted this up the way the President, Secretary, all of you are demanding that we do.

So I'll leave it at that. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the tremendous work that all of your teams have - are underway. And obviously, as each have highlighted, I think we're here to be commended here - on the work done heretofore. And just to echo Cecilia on the President's direction today, our team is looking forward to working with each of you and your teams on the months to come to build on all the good work that we already have in place.

So, Madam Secretary, thank you very much.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Denis. We really appreciate that overview. Now let me turn to the director of National Intelligence, Lieutenant General Jim Clapper.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLAPPER: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And again, I join colleagues in praising you for - commending you for your leadership, and it's an honor to be here. I thought I'd discuss very briefly the intelligence community's role in combating transnational organized crime, and in particular, the understanding and combating trafficking in persons. My priority in this job is to integrate collection analysis across the intelligence community in line with policy-maker needs.

Now after last year's meeting of this group, I rededicated some internal assets to stand up our own transnational organized crime team on my staff, and we never had -- in the history of the DNI, never had a single office for that sort of focus. And in line with the theme of leveraging across the government, we've become very engaged with the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office, and are experiencing Lou's zeal. (Laughter.)

I've only been active for a short time, but we are seeing an increase, however modest - and I anticipate this will gain momentum through our channels, and I just - I think this is the beginning. We expect bigger results in the future as we continue to strengthen partnerships with key NI human trafficking advocates. And as others have eluded on this issue, partnerships are absolutely crucial to success.

And just to underline a point that Denis just made -- certainly we in the intelligence community recognize this --that trafficking in persons is a national security issue in addition to be a social, economic, and law enforcement issue. And so we're committed to doing our part to defeat it.

Our efforts across the intelligence community to integrate collection analysis and work with state, local, and tribal law enforcement will improve our ability to combat this appalling crime, and we can and must do more.

In October, my team attended the Trafficking in Persons Reporting Conference hosted by the State Department, Miami; made sure that different agencies within the intelligence community attended. This was the first time the IC has ever integrated with the State Department on this mission of ensuring that trafficking in persons reporting is accurate.

In November, our team hosted our own transnational organized crime event at my headquarters via video teleconference, and it was a global thing throughout the IC to many interested members of the intelligence community. And this was, I think, part of my responsibility to ensure awareness within the intelligence community. And a special presentation by the State Department's Trafficking in Persons team was the highlight - had a huge impact, feedback I got.

We also coordinate extensively to have attendees who represent the nations we refer to as our Five Eyes allies. Those are the commonwealth countries with whom we have the closest, most intimate intelligence relationships. So I refer specifically to the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian Federal Police, and the New Zealand Customs agency. We're starting - we're working towards the goal of a better understanding of the role that trafficking plays in persons in national instability, corruption, and crime around the globe. I think it's our job to shine a light on those dark corners.

So I'll just say that we are committed to this and we do recognize that it is a national security issue. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks so much, Jim. Now I'd like to invite Acting Director Zients to share OMB's update. Jeff?

MR. ZIENTS: Thank you. Now given the fiscal situation - everybody knows that budgets are very tight, difficult budget environment; many agencies are experiencing actually lower budget. In this environment, it's OMB's job to make sure every dollar's well spent and importantly, that the most important priorities of the Administration, of the President, are well funded, and that we allocate dollars accordingly. Preventing human trafficking is a clear priority for the President and the Administration, so we are committed to working with each agency to make sure that we have the appropriate resources to fund these important efforts. I think we have good working relationships with each agency and your teams, but we will make sure that adequate resources are allocated to these efforts. We also stand ready to help - in any way to help manage cross-agency processes to ensure that we continue to make significant progress. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. We like hearing that. (Laughter.) I hope everybody really (inaudible.)

PARTICIPANT: It was the shortest --

SECRETARY CLINTON: Yeah. We should meet at the White House more often. (Laughter.) Now let me turn to Deputy Secretary Ash Carter to give the Department of Defense's update.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CARTER: Thank you, Secretary Clinton. The President's determination to combat trafficking is reflected in each of the three ways that we, the Department of Defense, touch this problem. Namely, through our own people, uniformed and civilian and their conduct. Second, through our contractors. And the third, in our foreign military training programs. So let me just take each of those in turn.

First of all, for our own folks, both uniformed and civilian, they are required to receive training. I've reviewed the curriculum. It's very good, it's incisive. It basically has two parts: Don't do it and learn to recognize it. So let me take the don't do it part first.

The don't do it part - you may not know this, I was a little surprised myself, but it has only been recently that patronizing a prostitute became an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is, and that's something that we need to begin to and continue and increase our enforcement of that provision. Because in the neighborhood around bases here or abroad, obviously, there's an opportunity for that. So don't do it.

And the second part of the training is recognize it. And that - for that, it's part of the annual training. We also have public service announcements on Armed Forces Network and that kind of thing. If you're in a gym somewhere around the world or in Afghanistan, you'll frequently see them to increase awareness and to give the tell-tale signs of it to our people. We do some specific things regionally in PACOM, USFK -- U.S. Forces Korea -- where we've had - historically had an issue there. So wherever we detect it, we try to follow up. And there have been some cases recently, which we have aggressively followed up in the law enforcement sense.

Contractors. You know that for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine deployed, there's at least one contractor that ends up in theater at the same time. They're all employed by us. Secretary Napolitano already made it clear. It's part of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and it's Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement that contracts are to have a provision forbidding trafficking as in any connection with the country. Now, it's one thing to write it into the contract and you say, "How do you make sure you get it done?" We're going to make it training for the contractors mandatory, even as it is for our own people, civilian and military - number one.

Number two, contracting officer representatives, a COR. What is a COR? COR is the person who makes sure that the contract is executed. So there's somebody who follows around the contractor and makes sure it gets done. Those people are now trained, which they didn't used to be, in recognizing trafficking. So they can see if an association with one of our contracting activities - this has gone on, very important. And we have our inspector general now tracking to make sure that those contract clauses are all there and the contracting officer representatives are, in fact, monitoring compliance with those. Very important, because contractors is a huge part of what we do.

Last piece is our foreign military training engagements. All of our programs, be they 1206, be they IMET, JSET, our training of UN peacekeepers and so forth, it is a required part of that curriculum. If we offer it as a department to another military that it include training for those foreign military members in trafficking, both don't do it and recognize it. So for example, just to give you one example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, AFRICOM, our African Command, works through DIILS - the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies - maybe some of you may be familiar with - to train justice professionals in the prosecution of trafficking crimes and Congolese military commanders in how to prevent their troops from engaging in this. It's very important in all of our training. So those are our training activities.

So in those three arenas where we might touch this problem and do touch this problem, we're trying to make sure that we're reflecting the President's fight.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thanks very much, Ash. Now, Deputy Secretary Porcari, would you please report from the Department of Transportation?

DEPUTY SECRETARY PORCARI: Thank you, Secretary Clinton, and we appreciate your leadership on this. And Valerie, we very much appreciate the clear and consistent direction the President has given us on this. It's energized all of us.

We want to make sure, first and foremost, that the transportation system is not inadvertently an enabler of human trafficking. We're very committed across land, sea, and air to making sure that's not the case. Marlise Streitmatter, our deputy chief of staff, has been our lead person on this and will continue to be, but we're using all of our resources across borders and agencies to make sure that we can positively impact this problem.

For example, working with Secretary Napolitano in Customs and Border Protection, the Blue Lightning Initiative provides an in-flight procedure to report human trafficking events, law enforcement, as well as awareness for the flight crews. We've gotten very positive response from our airlines on this; they're very interested in moving forward on this. Likewise, on the highways, we want to make sure they're free of human trafficking. If a commercial truck or bus driver commits a felony, we can take them off the road - and obviously, human trafficking is a felony. This gives us an opportunity to remove the bad actors.

We're also pursuing opportunities with Amtrak and the motor coach industry to develop a public awareness campaign and specialized training for our inspectors that are out in the field all across the country to recognize the warning signs of human trafficking. We're also collaborating with our Mexican and Canadian partners to increase awareness, and we look forward to expanding on those partnerships.

There are also some less conventional partnerships that can be very effective. Working, for example, with our local and state departments of motor vehicles, as well as truck stops, to build public awareness, and give people that are literally on the front lines of this fight the tools to recognize and report suspicious activities.

And finally, this really starts at home, and we're working internally within our Department of Transportation, across all the transportation modes, to make sure that we educate our team on identifying human trafficking, and we're building, essentially, on the DHS program that's out there.

So we're dedicated to moving forward with this. This is an unconscionable and unacceptable activity, and we are looking forward on building the - on the progress to date. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. Now I'd like to invite from the State Department, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Maria Otero, to go into a little more detail about what we're doing at the State Department.

UNDER SECRETARY OTERO: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. And I also want to express appreciation for the leadership that our President is giving us on this issue, and Valerie, convening us here, and of course, express the importance for us to be able to work with every department across the board under the commitment and leadership of Secretary Clinton, who has really enabled our Department to push forward in this area.

Over the last year, the TIP Office, under the leadership of Ambassador CdeBaca, but working in partnership with our regional bureaus and with all of the other colleagues across the Department, we've made advances in several areas that I think are important to highlight in addressing the State Department's response to modern slavery. And let me just touch on a couple of them, as Secretary Clinton has also talked about some of them.

First, the Department - as other departments have stated here - is in the process of developing a training program that is going to be applicable for all of our direct hires. And this is with the purpose of helping all of our employees understand the nature of this crime better. And not only be able to understand it but to be able to recognize it when it happens and to be able to see the warning signs before it is happening and also take action if that is necessary. So this is in the process of being developed, and we anticipate through it that the degree of understanding of this issue will increase by all of those that are working at the Department.

Second, Secretary Clinton, last year at this task force, announced the establishment of a new trafficking investigation unit that would be set up by our Diplomatic Security Bureau. And I'm very pleased to say that, indeed, that was not only

set up, but that in fact it has been operating this last year. And it is very exciting that it has already carried out a number of investigations that have led to indictments. And that for us is a real sign of being able to move this forward. The unit's Victims' Resource Advocacy Program is also equipped to fully support the victims themselves that are discovered in the course of any of these investigations. So we are applauding our Diplomatic Security Bureau for how quickly they've put together this team, and not only set forth its parameters, but also how its work is already showing results.

Third, we're working to protect the visa holders who come to the United States as domestic servants of diplomats. Thanks to the works of one of our working groups, which is headed by our chief of protocol, we are working closely with the diplomatic community to raise their awareness of this issue and to make sure the diplomats that bring domestic workers to the United States now follow a set of requirements that are in place that will prevent those workers from being abused.

Finally - and Secretary Clinton mentioned this briefly - the TIP Office has partnered with an NGO to develop a tool that allows anybody and everybody to go online, to take a survey, and then to see how many victims of human trafficking it takes to sustain their lifestyle. This is called the Slavery Footprint, and it is the kind of innovation that is helping create change and also create awareness not only of the existence of this crime but also of the challenges that we face in addressing it, and it is bringing people to this issue.

We know that more than three million people from more than 200 countries have logged on to this site, and we're confident that tools such as this one are going to be some that are going to help make a difference in engaging those around the world in addressing this issue in the years ahead. Thank you.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you, Maria. Since we are being broadcast here, perhaps, Lou, you could give the website for the Slavery Footprint, because it's had a remarkable impact, and we want to encourage everybody everywhere to sign on.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Certainly. Thank you, Madam Secretary. It's pretty intuitive. It's the slaveryfootprint.org - not dot com - slaveryfootprint.org.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Right. So we invite everyone to log on.

Now let me turn to Dr. Raj Shah, the USAID administrator, who is such a great partner in this and so much of the work that we do.

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: Thank you, Madam Secretary, for your focus and direction on these issues, and to President Obama for elevating the attention and the resources that we will hope to invest against results in this space.

In the past year, our agency has made significant progress trying to live up to commitments we've made around this table for each of the past two years as part of this task force. We are implementing a more results-oriented approach to counter-trafficking efforts around the world, which starts, as Denis mentioned, with the adoption of a strict, new code of conduct for ourselves, our partners abroad, our contractors, and in particular, our security contractors that often operate in high-risk conflict environments. The code of conduct, much as Ash Carter described, will make sure that more people serve as eyes and ears in the search for those at risk or those enslaved. And we have intensified procurement actions and implementation of that code of conduct so that those terms are written into our contracts and enforced through our contracts' officers and reviewers.

We've also launched a new counter-trafficking policy developed in close partnership with many agencies represented around the table. This policy requires every USAID mission in a high-risk country to conduct baseline surveys on trafficking and develop clear metrics to assess progress against prevention for our efforts and efforts of others in the international community. It also directs us to create more multi-country databases so victims can be tracked across countries and supported in their efforts as they - as that is such a critical barrier, having that data be accessible in a number of different environments. And it prioritizes investments in technologies, like mapping platforms, mobile applications, and other innovations.

We also believe that the - one of the challenges is getting the word out and making sure that people who are in a difficult situation have the capacity to seek help. In that effort, we have expanded a highly successful partnership with MTV EXIT into Russia for the very first time, but it is a global program that has had some real successes, especially in Asia. Through the partnership with MTV EXIT, they have created public service advertisements, music videos, and other efforts to create awareness about trafficking and provide hotlines so that people can access resources to fight back. We believe it has reached more than 300 million households in Asia over the last seven years.

And just to share one story that we heard about just a few weeks ago, that for more than three years a young Cambodian boy and his three friends had been essentially enslaved on a Thai fishing boat. Just a few weeks ago, their boat docked at a port in Thailand, and they happened to see on television one of the MTV EXIT advertisements about trafficking. The video flashed a free hotline number in both Thai and Cambodian so the kids could read it and respond. They did. Immigration authorities responded immediately, and they were freed. We seek many, many more stories like this and believe our expanded efforts are helping to get us there.

We also know, as the President mentioned in his statement today, that we want to work more effectively with partners throughout our own country in the private sector, on universities and campuses, and in faith-based communities. I recently visited Bethel University, a Christian college outside of Minneapolis, and I met with about 100 students the day after we had released our counter-trafficking policy, actually, in this room. And sometimes it takes in the federal government - as everyone here knows - some time for these policies to be read by our teams and really inform changes and action and behavior. I know we all address that. Every one of the 100 kids that I met with had already read our policy online, and they had ideas, they had things they wanted to contribute.

So today, we're thrilled to announce that we will launch a college - a campus challenge to combat trafficking, and we'll seek to partner with the most innovative, creative ideas in the realm of prevention and protection. And we'll match our campus challenge champions, the winners of our awards, with our missions in the field, so students have access to many of our partners who are on the frontlines of trying to help victims or help communities that are in high risk. We look forward to working with the next generation of American students to craft the next generation of solutions to this critical challenge.

And thank you for the chance to be here.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you so much, Raj. That's very exciting news. Let me now ask Deputy Director Sean Joyce of the FBI to share the FBI's update.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And thank you to the White House for hosting this event today. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on the street that work this issue each and every day and many of the folks in this room in some of the chairs behind us that work tirelessly every day on some of the policy issues regarding this issue.

The FBI continues its commitment to fighting human trafficking and child exploitation in coordination with our federal, state, and local partners. Over the last year, we've increased our resources approximately 66 percent dedicated to this issue, especially against instances of coerced or forced adult labor, in addition to our agency placing a tremendous significance on ensuring child victims are safe, secure, and away from those who would prey on their innocence.

I can tell you I've been personally involved in rescuing some child victims, and as a father and a special agent, it is both emotional and rewarding, but devastating for the victims. The FBI recognizes these investigations require specialized resources, and thus we commit 80 victim specialists from our Office of Victim Assistance to our human trafficking efforts. To facilitate our fight against human trafficking and child exploitation, we participate in 77 task forces in 47 working groups across the country.

One highlight is our Innocent Lost National Initiative we started in 2003. This initiative addresses the tragic challenge of children recruited into prostitution. It is supported by the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation/Obscenity Section, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. To date, the initiative has resulted in 1,961 children being rescued. There have been nearly 1,500 investigations initiated, resulting in 927 convictions, to include seven life sentences and several ranging in length from 25 to 45 years.

Recognizing this is also an international problem. The FBI continues to build capacity through a number of training efforts, and in conjunction with our partners in the Department of State, we recently administered a two-week human trafficking course for law enforcement officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. The FBI looks forward to the continued collaboration with our law enforcement partners, both at home and abroad, to ensure that child exploitation and/or forced or coerced adult labor is met with swift justice.

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for this opportunity.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Deputy Director and Special Agent. That was a very stirring rendition of the great work you're doing, and I appreciate it.

Let me now turn to Assistant Secretary Russlynn Ali to share the Department of Education's update.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALI: Thank you, Madam Secretary, Ms. Jarrett, and to all of you for your commitment on this issue. Secretary Duncan shares in that commitment and this sense of urgency.

Over the past year, we have set about using all of the tools within our disposal to really launch an awareness through - prevention through awareness efforts in our schools, through technical assistance and supports and training for educators that need it so that they can spot the warning signals. We know that these signals, whether they be absenteeism or signs of abuse or behavioral problems, they prevent children from learning. They not only affect the victim and those at prey of traffickers but the entire school community. And schools have a responsibility and need help and support.

So it is about identifying where those problem areas exist, working with so many of you to target our solutions and our efforts, to answer the calls of educators and school districts around the country that are dealing with these problems in ways that they have never before, helping them with language and talking to school-age children about very difficult and grown-up issues. And how they do that with sincerity and the education they need to help their children be safe is something that is hugely important as well.

We are also doing the kind of technical assistance through web-based tools on what services are available, what supports are available. We've brought together, just last summer, over 2,

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183 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

March 14, 2012

Thailand Human Trafficking Problems Continue to Draw Scrutiny

BYLINE: Luke Hunt

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 583 words

Thai authorities are bracing themselves for a possible downgrade on the U.S. State Department's **watch list** of countries with the worst records in combating **human trafficking**.

Thailand was initially classified as a **Tier Two** country on the **Trafficking in Persons** list in 2010 for not complying with minimum standards required to address the trafficking of people. If a country shows no sign of improvement after two years at that level it automatically drops into the bottom, or Tier Three, list alongside North Korea, Cuba and Burma.

This can potentially trigger non-humanitarian sanctions.

Groups like Human Rights Watch and the Mirror Foundation say Thailand has experienced an increase in trafficking, in particular young girls, in recent years, putting it in jeopardy of joining the world's worst offenders.

Human Rights Watch Asia Deputy Director Phil Robertson told a panel discussion at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand that authorities have passed laws that should be sufficient to stem the tide of human trafficking, but there has been a reluctance to defend the rights of victims.

"Human trafficking has to be understood in the context of the migration of as many as two- to three-million migrant workers from Laos, Cambodia, and Burma who are in Thailand, many without documents and have no access to any sort of system that works for them," Robertson said.

Robertson says even those charged with breaking up trafficking rings are complicit in abuses against illegal workers. "The police themselves are frankly predatory. They see migrant workers as an opportunity to extort, abuse," he explained. "We have stories of instances where police have been involved in human-trafficking issues."

Criticism has been particularly harsh after a preliminary report was released last year by the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Trafficking in Persons. It criticized Thailand for a weak and fragmented legal framework on trafficking, deep rooted corruption among law enforcement officers, and poor victim identification.

The report was backed by Eaklak Loomchomkhae from the Mirror Foundation.

He told the panel through an interpreter that there has been an increase in girls between age 11 and 15 being trafficked into prostitution. Because they are underage, they are not being forced to work out of brothels or karaoke bars and instead they are being ferried directly to the homes of clients.

He says this has made it difficult to detect the true extent of the problem. "These children's clients, many of them are government servants or are well known people in their local area, so it is very difficult, hard, to follow them or do anything to them," Loomchomkhae stated.

Thailand Ministry for Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General for International Organizations Chutintorn Gongsakdi defends the government's anti-trafficking efforts, while facing a broad range of challenges in recent years.

"We are an upper middle-income country, according to the members of the committee on the rights of the child, and with that status comes greater expectation and we are finding it is not so easy to live up to those expectations," Gongskadi said. "But we have a willingness, we know we have those responsibilities."

Gongskadi added his government has also accepted more than 130 recommendations from the U.N. report by the Special Rapporteur. But analysts say those steps may not be sufficient to sway the U.S. State Department from relegating Thailand to Tier Three status in its 2012 report, expected in June.

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184 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The New Zealand Herald

March 2, 2012 Friday

David Farrar: Slavery on our seas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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185 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 29, 2012 Wednesday

IDLO SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN PARAGUAY

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 375 words

DATELINE: ASUNCION, Paraguay

The following information was released by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO):

IDLO, in partnership with the Inter-institutional Committee against Human Trafficking in Paraguay, is hosting three national and international meetings to strengthen the capacity of public officials engaged in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

These conferences are part of IDLO and the Office of the Public Prosecutor's efforts to combat human trafficking in the country.

"Effective investigation, prosecution and punishment are fundamental to protecting victims of trafficking and ensuring their access to justice" said IDLO Director-General Irene Khan. "Human trafficking remains a major problem in this region, which is why continued efforts by the government are crucial to tackling this problem."

"IDLO's work is extremely timely as we embark on a five-year Strategic Plan," said Dr. Teresa Martinez, Prosecutor of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation, "the government is ready to play a pivotal role to address human trafficking in Paraguay."

Background information Paraguay (**Tier 2 Watch List**) is recognized as a point of origin for victims of **human trafficking** for both sexual and labor exploitation. Women, children, and indigenous people are particularly at risk of being trafficked. The Government of Paraguay is making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking; greater public awareness and the ability to recognize human trafficking cases will be fundamental in this process.

IDLO's 15-month project "Strengthening Access to Justice and Prosecuting the Crime of Human Trafficking" is supported by the Dutch government. The Project aims at strengthening the ability to investigate and prosecute cases at the national and regional levels by providing technical assistance to: (i) review current procedural and criminal law related to human trafficking and its harmonization with international standards; (ii) train public officials involved in investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases; (iii) exchange intra-regional practices related to the investigation, prosecution and criminal sanction of human trafficking with officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia.

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186 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

February 21, 2012 Tuesday 3:00 PM TST**Taiwan, Thailand discuss possible anti-trafficking deal****BYLINE:** Christie Chen**LENGTH:** 366 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Feb. 21

Taiwan and Thailand have discussed the possibility of signing an agreement to jointly combat human trafficking, the National Immigration Agency said Tuesday at the conclusion of a visit to Thailand by its director-general Hsieh Li-kung.

In a meeting between Hsieh and Thailand's Immigration Bureau Commissioner Wiboon Bangthamai, it was agreed that their two agencies should move in the direction of such a pact, but no details were discussed, the agency said.

Taiwan signed a memorandum of understanding with Mongolia last August that allows the two countries to hold joint training sessions and share intelligence on trafficking crimes.

A similar agreement with Thailand would provide an institutional basis for mutual legal assistance in the fight against human trafficking, Hsieh said last week.

He was on five-day visit to Thailand to update officials there on Taiwan's efforts against human trafficking and terrorism.

In his meeting with Bangthamai, Hsieh mentioned a security system that was launched in Taiwan last year to allow immigration officers to screen passenger information in advance and thus help prevent terrorist attacks.

Hsieh also said one of the ways to prevent human trafficking is to develop policies that would require coordination among labor brokers, workers and employers.

Some Thai workers in Taiwan who were recruited by labor brokers have become victims of human trafficking because of poor coordination among the three sides, he said.

Hsieh also visited Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission and the Thailand office of Transparency International, a global anti-corruption organization.

He suggested that governments join forces with non-government organizations and civic groups to fight corruption and improve education at the primary and secondary school level on anti-corruption issues.

Taiwan was listed as a "**tier** 1 country" in the U.S. State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report in both 2010 and 2011, becoming the only country in Asia besides South Korea to obtain that ranking.

As of the end of 2011, there were 67,803 Thai workers and 8,262 Thai spouses in Taiwan. The number of trips in and out of the country by Thai nationals last year was 177,773.

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187 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

February 15, 2012 Wednesday

Uganda; 600 Girls Victims of Human Trafficking in Malaysia

BYLINE: The Monitor (Kampala)

LENGTH: 533 words

At least 600 Ugandan girls have been forced into Malaysia's sex trade in what has become a human trafficking epidemic, a foreign diplomat has said.

Hajah Noraihan, the Malaysian consul to Uganda, said despite an early warning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008 when the number of trafficked girls stood at 30, the constant flow of victims has not slowed.

She says Malaysian intelligence indicates 10 girls continue to fall through the cracks of Uganda's immigration and labour systems daily.

"Nothing was done and this is what happened," Ms Noraihan said.

Malaysia, a country known for its poor **human trafficking** record although it has traditionally been within the Asian region, is currently on a US state department **watch list** for not having shown adequate evidence of its efforts to combat the scourge.

However, it has been working to curb the illegal practice after a raid last October in which 21 Ugandan girls were freed from forced prostitution.

Only five of these have since returned to Uganda, while the rest are being held in a Malaysian detention centre, Ms Noraihan said.

A total of 60 girls are being held on fraudulent visa charges as a result of an ongoing immigration sweep.

The line between girls who are "caught" or "saved" as Ms Noraihan terms them, is often a matter of technicality. A victim's silence or shame can see them face criminal charges instead of being brought back to Uganda, she said.

Coming home

The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) says it has successfully returned 14 girls to Uganda from Malaysia, but that they are only able to move victims who have been clearly identified and volunteer to come home.

Director of Interpol Asan Kasingye, who confirmed the figure of more than 600, said young, poor and vulnerable girls are targeted by recruiters after being lured overseas with the promise of legitimate high-paying jobs.

He said many more may be trapped in an unknown location, or are intimidated into silence by their captors.

According to Ms Noraihan, three Ugandan women have been killed in Malaysia since 2010 for trying to escape.

Mr James Mugume, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said he was unaware of the staggering figures the consul presented. However, he said an Internal Affairs committee made up of Interpol, Immigration and Ministry of Labour representatives has been tasked with identifying recruiters and addressing lax immigration procedures.

The return trips for the 60 girls still in Malaysian prisons will have to be funded by their families or the IOM, Mr Mugume said.

"The biggest issue is we have to stop the traffic from here," Mr Mugume said. "You have to focus on the root causes - who is recruiting these people?"

Mr Kasingye said he could not discuss the details of the case, but that "some" people have been arrested and charged in Uganda.

He added that it has been difficult to bring suspects to justice with so few witnesses available in the country, as most are still in Malaysia.

However, Mr Kasingye said the findings of an ongoing investigation into a number of registered security companies suspected of involvement in fraudulent employment practices will be presented before Parliament this month.

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188 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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189 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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190 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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BYLINE: Philippa Croome

LENGTH: 531 words

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She says Malaysian intelligence indicates 10 girls continue to fall through the cracks of Uganda's immigration and labour systems daily.

"Nothing was done and this is what happened," Ms Noraihan said.

Malaysia, a country known for its poor **human trafficking** record although it has traditionally been within the Asian region, is currently on a US state department **watch list** for not having shown adequate evidence of its efforts to combat the scourge.

However, it has been working to curb the illegal practice after a raid last October in which 21 Ugandan girls were freed from forced prostitution.

Only five of these have since returned to Uganda, while the rest are being held in a Malaysian detention centre, Ms Noraihan said.

A total of 60 girls are being held on fraudulent visa charges as a result of an ongoing immigration sweep.

The line between girls who are "caught" or "saved" as Ms Noraihan terms them, is often a matter of technicality. A victim's silence or shame can see them face criminal charges instead of being brought back to Uganda, she said.

The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) says it has successfully returned 14 girls to Uganda from Malaysia, but that they are only able to move victims who have been clearly identified and volunteer to come home.

Director of Interpol Asan Kasingye, who confirmed the figure of more than 600, said young, poor and vulnerable girls are targeted by recruiters after being lured overseas with the promise of legitimate high-paying jobs.

He said many more may be trapped in an unknown location, or are intimidated into silence by their captors.

According to Ms Noraihan, three Ugandan women have been killed in Malaysia since 2010 for trying to escape.

Mr James Mugume, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said he was unaware of the staggering figures the consul presented. However, he said an Internal Affairs committee made up of Interpol, Immigration and Ministry of Labour representatives has been tasked with identifying recruiters and addressing lax immigration procedures.

The return trips for the 60 girls still in Malaysian prisons will have to be funded by their families or the IOM, Mr Mugume said.

"The biggest issue is we have to stop the traffic from here," Mr Mugume said. "You have to focus on the root causes - who is recruiting these people?"

Mr Kasingye said he could not discuss the details of the case, but that "some" people have been arrested and charged in Uganda.

He added that it has been difficult to bring suspects to justice with so few witnesses available in the country, as most are still in Malaysia.

However, Mr Kasingye said the findings of an ongoing investigation into a number of registered security companies suspected of involvement in fraudulent employment practices will be presented before Parliament this month.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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191 of 492 DOCUMENTS
NOT ABOUT REPORT



ENP Newswire

February 14, 2012 Tuesday

-POSCO Cheongam Award Winners Announced

LENGTH: 534 words

ENP Newswire - 14 February 2012

Release date- 10022012 - POSCO Cheongam Foundation held the board of directors on February 2 and appointed chairman Chung Joonyang the chairman of the board of the Foundation and also selected prof. Chun Jinwoo, department of chemistry, Yonsei University, Kwak Jongmoon, principal of Hangeore Middle & High School and Somaly Mam from Cambodia, president of Somaly Mam Foundation as the winners of POSCO Cheongam Awards 2012.

The foundation also re-appointed Lee Baeyong, president of the Presidential Council on National Branding, Lee Chae-wook, president of Incheon International Airport, and prof. Kim Byeonghyeon, professor of POSTECH, as directors, and appointed Park Seongbin, CEO of Translink Capital, and An Gyeongtae, chairman of Samil PricewaterhouseCoopers, as a new director and a new auditor, respectively.

On this day, chairman Chung said, 'With the 7th anniversary this year, the core business areas of POSCO Cheongam Foundation have been systematically established and now the foundation is contributing to enhancing the images of POSCO and Korea.' 'I will make all-out efforts for the development of this foundation, following the sublime nation view and patriotism and talent development philosophy of the Honorary Chairman.'

Prof. Chun Jinwoo, who was selected the winner of Cheongam Science Award, is a great scholar who pioneered and established nanomedicine, the new convergence area combining nano science and medicine, raising it to a world level. In particular, the top-tier nano thermotherapy he developed last year is expected to bring innovative advances in the treatment of brain cancer or pancreas cancer in the future.

The winner of Cheongam Education Award, Kwak Jongmoon, principal of Hangeore Middle & High School, suggested a new paradigm in education through night school and alternative education for adolescents from neglected families. Yongsansungji High School, the nation's first alternative school he founded, was selected the world's excellent school by OECD in 2001 and was introduced to many countries including the U.S., Japan and Germany.

Somaly Mam, president of Somaly Mam Foundation, who was selected the winner of Cheonam Service Award, is a women's rights activist. She was born into a poor family in Cambodia and overcoming the painful experience of becoming a victim of **human trafficking** when she was 16, she has conducted relief work for women in need. She established AFESIP, an NGO, in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, in 1996, and has provided job training programs to teach victimized women sewing and beauty treatment skills systematically since then.

POSCO Cheongam Award was established in 2006 to commemorate the achievements of the late Honorary Chairman Park Taejoon, who made POSCO the world's top-**tier** company and diffuse POSCO's founding ideas: Creation, Talent

Development, Sacrifice and Service Spirit. The ceremony for the awards will be held at POSCO Center on March 28, and each winner will be granted the prize money 0.2 billion won.

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192 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Tendersinfo News

February 11, 2012 Saturday 6:30 AM EST**BAHAMAS : Bahamas And US Hold Talks On The Trafficking In Persons****LENGTH:** 352 words

NASSAU, The Bahamas - Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Security met with United States Assistant Attorney Barbara Martinez to discuss ongoing cooperation between both governments relating to counter efforts in the trafficking in persons.

The meetings were held Monday, February 6 to Friday, February 9, the period in which The Bahamas Committee on Trafficking in Persons (TIP Committee) and the United States representative exchanged information and ideas on training and capacity building requirements.

The Bahamas has identified areas of law enforcement and criminal justice. The specific focus of the meetings dealt with how the US Government may assist in meeting The Bahamas requirements, so as to ensure that the country can effectively tackle any manifestations of trafficking in persons, a crime under The Bahamas 2008 Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act.

Following Miss Martinez's visit, a schedule of training and capacity building initiatives will be proposed for United State Government's assistance and cooperation.

The activities proposed will have in view, meet The Bahamas obligations under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

They will also seek to address issues raised in the United States 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, in which The Bahamas was included in the low, **Tier 2 Watch List** rank.

Consistent with the Protocol, **trafficking in persons** is defined in the Act as, the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring of, or receipt of a person by means of threat or use of force or other means of coercion, or by abduction fraud, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation .

LOAD-DATE: February 11, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

193 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 9, 2012 Thursday

100 ESCAPE FROM TRAFFICKERS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 872 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

NGOs are concerned by the growing numbers of Cambodians enslaved on Thai fishing boats.

RFA

At least 100 Cambodians have been rescued from Thai fishing boats in Indonesia over the last year.

At least 100 Cambodians have escaped from forced labor conditions on Thai fishing boats over the past year, according to rights groups, highlighting an increasing and dangerous trend in human trafficking in the Southeast Asian region.

All of them were found in Indonesia, where the boats linked to Thai human trafficking syndicates usually anchor at a fishing port on eastern Ambon island.

Ninety-three of the Cambodians have been repatriated home.

Mom Sok Char of Cambodia-based nongovernmental organization Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW) said that his organization had received a number of telephone calls over the last year from Cambodian nationals seeking help in Indonesia after escaping from the fishing vessels.

"Since [the beginning of] 2011 there have been at least 100 victims rescued from Thai fishing boats," he said.

Some of them had swam to shore in Ambon after jumping from their boats under the cover of darkness while others were rescued in raids on the high seas by Indonesian naval vessels on the lookout for boats involved in illegal fishing.

Mom Sok Char said that Thai boats fishing legally and illegally off Indonesian waters commonly unload their catch for processing at Ambon island, though they rarely dock at the island in order to prevent forced laborers from escaping. Vessels from the shore meet the boats at sea to ferry the fish back to land.

"This is a vicious cycle-each time the previous victims escape, the captors receive new victims," he said, adding that not only Cambodians, but Lao and Burmese nationals had also fallen prey to human traffickers who operate the boats.

Group of 14

Mom Sok Char said that LSCW's representative in Indonesia had been contacted by the most recent group of 14 victims who had escaped between December 2011 and January 2012.

His organization provided the funding to repatriate seven of them to Cambodia on Tuesday and plans to send the remaining seven men home next week.

The repatriated seven are now back with their families, while LSCW is seeking the trafficking ring leaders who had lured the men to Thailand with the promise of work before selling them to boat captains.

"The victims said some of them had worked in the boats for between one and six years. They said they were forced to work 24 hours non-stop without pay," Mom Sok char said. "This is modern slavery."

He said that some of the victims told him when the workers were sick their captors had simply dumped them into the sea.

Trafficking practices

Chris Lom, spokesman for the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM) told RFA in an interview that the organization's Indonesian office repatriated 63 victims trafficked for work on Thai fishing boats in December 2011.

The group had escaped from their Thai captors when their boats were forced to dock on Ambon island.

Lom said that slavery in Thailand is on the rise and is cause for concern.

"What happens is they sign on to Thai fishing boats and then find themselves in very exploitative situations. Frequently, an agent will sell them to a Thai captain," he said.

He added that the men are most frequently trafficked while aboard a vessel on the Andaman Sea off Thailand's southern Ranong province, or on the Gulf of Thailand.

"Once they are on the boats, it is very difficult for them to escape. They frequently go unpaid and are often abused by the Thai captains," he said.

"They can also remain at sea for a very long time-even several years-because Thai fishing boats commonly fish throughout the region."

Lom said the fishing boats transfer and receive supplies from other boats, making it difficult for trafficking victims to escape.

Navy intercept

Sometimes the victims are lucky enough to be rescued by the Indonesian navy as they intercept boats fishing illegally in Indonesian waters, leading to a confiscation of the vessel.

"In these circumstances, if the crews can contact the IOM or local NGOs to alert them that they were exploited in a trafficking situation, then we can sometimes help to repatriate them," he said.

He said a very large number of young and uneducated Cambodian men end up on Thai fishing boats after becoming the victims of human trafficking and called on the Cambodian government to raise awareness of the issue.

The U.S. State Department last year ranked Cambodia a **Tier 2** country in its 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** report, saying the government had failed to make progress in prosecuting human traffickers and protecting trafficking victims.

"Corruption at all levels continued to impede progress in combating trafficking and fostering an enabling environment for trafficking," the report said.

About 200,000 to 450,000 people are trafficked annually in the Greater Mekong sub-region, which includes southern China, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the countries joined by the Mekong River, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Reported by RFA's Khmer service. Translated by Samean Yun. Written in English by Joshua Lipos.

LOAD-DATE: February 10, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

194 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Phnom Penh Post

February 8, 2012 Wednesday 7:31 AM EST

11 years on, a mother still hopes

LENGTH: 710 words

Chea Mon cried at the arrival terminal yesterday when she saw that her son, who disappeared 11 years ago, was not among the seven rescued Cambodian trafficking victims stepping through the exit gate at Phnom Penh International Airport.

Heng Chivoan/Phnom Penh Post

Chea Mon, whose son has been missing for the past 11 years after going abroad to work on fishing boats, speaks to the Post yesterday at Phnom Penh International Airport.

As had been the case many times before when she had travelled to the airport, seizing on news that victims rescued from Thai fishing boats would return, she was sorely disappointed.

"I ran out of hope when I didn't see my son among the seven fishermen who arrived back in their homeland today after I heard that migrant workers had been sent back," she said.

Chea Mon told reporters that in the 11 years her son had been gone, she had received only one phone call from 38-year-old Soy Sros, who left Kampong Speu for Thailand, lured by the bait of rumoured high salaries.

"I don't know if he is alive or dead. I did not agree with him going, but in my village there are so many people who went," she said.

Those who did arrive yesterday, alive, if not well, are among a group of 14 rescued last week during a co-ordinated effort by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Organisation for Migration and Indonesian authorities, after desperate phone calls from the victims.

Seven others remain in Indonesia awaiting repatriation, while on Monday, families in Kampong Chhnang filed a complaint to provincial police seeking help to find relatives they say are stranded in Malaysia and Africa after escaping fishing boats.

Ben Channa, an official at the Ministry of Interior's anti-human trafficking and juvenile protection department, said police are now searching for the brokers who sent the men to Thailand.

More than 100 Cambodian men have been repatriated from abroad since December after escaping or being rescued from slave labour conditions on Thai fishing boats.

One of them, 23-year-old Eng Ros from Kampot province, recounted the familiar dilemma of those caught in a migrant labour trade where reports have surfaced for years of forced labour, beatings, shootings, drugging and murder.

"Once I was on the boat, I knew that I had been trafficked, but I could not do anything because it is a big sea," he said.

The Gulf of Thailand and surrounding waters such as the South China Sea are the trawling grounds for the tens of thousands of boats operating in the highly unregulated Thai fishing industry, which sells billions of dollars worth of fish each year primarily to foreign markets.

Andy Hall, foreign expert at Mahidol University's Institute of Population and Social Research in Bangkok, said it was "about time that the international governments that are buying these products start taking the issue seriously".

"The whole industry is reliant on trafficking, they can't get people onto the boats without deceiving them, and all we get is a denial from the fishing industry that there is a problem," he said.

"The fishing industry is connected to huge multinational companies across the world, and I think that what you have to remember is that governments like to take the easy options, so they give money to UN agencies."

Instead, real economic pressure needed to be applied to Thailand, which also should be downgraded to **Tier 3** in the next US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** report for its failure to take any serious action on the matter, he said.

Somkiat Chayasriwong, permanent secretary at Thailand's Ministry of Labour, said his government had taken steps to address trafficking in the industry, setting up offices to respond to the issue in every Thai province in December last year.

"However, right now, we haven't caught or arrested anybody," he said.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said real action would not come until consumers were made aware through the media of the conditions under which their fish were caught.

"It's going to be a battle of attrition to get these fishing associations to confess to the fact that they are systematically using forced labour and trafficked labour and that their economic model is based on human misery," he said.

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195 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

February 7, 2012 Tuesday 03:04 AM GMT

US to issue sanctions waiver for Myanmar

BYLINE: By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 613 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The United States on Monday eased one of its many sanctions against Myanmar as a reward for political reforms after five decades of direct military rule.

The step is very limited, and most of the tough U.S. economic, trade and political restrictions will remain in place.

But it should make it easier for Myanmar, also known as Burma, to secure help from the World Bank and other international financial institutions by lifting U.S. opposition to them conducting assessments.

Under anti-human trafficking legislation, the U.S. had to oppose these bodies using their funds to help Myanmar. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed the waiver Monday.

President Barack Obama authorized the move Friday.

Other U.S. sanctions, including the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, still require the U.S. to prevent the institutions from giving loans or technical assistance to the country. Years of mismanagement, isolation and internal conflict have turned what was once one of Southeast Asia's most prosperous countries into its least-developed.

The waiver follows Clinton's landmark visit to Myanmar in December, the first by a U.S. secretary of state in 56 years, when she expressed willingness to allow World Bank assessment missions. She said that was supported by Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

A State Department statement Monday said such assessments would enable greater understanding of Myanmar's economic situation, particularly its "severe poverty alleviation needs."

"The United States remains committed to supporting and partnering with the Burmese government along the path of reform," it said.

But administration officials and U.S. lawmakers, who have been instrumental in imposing myriad and overlapping sanctions on Myanmar since 1988, say more progress on democracy and human rights is needed before other sanctions can be lifted.

Conducting free and fair by-elections that Suu Kyi and her party will contest April 1 are seen as a key test of that. There is also concern over ethnic violence and Myanmar's ties to North Korea.

The waiver, effective through September, applies to some but not all of the restrictions that apply to Myanmar under the 2000 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. Myanmar received a "**Tier 3**" rating under its annual State Department assessment, meaning it has failed to comply with minimum standards for elimination of **human trafficking**.

The ambassador-at-large on human trafficking issues, Luis CdeBaca, who visited Myanmar in January, said Monday the waiver was rewarding Myanmar for its political reforms, including prisoner releases, the dialogue it has begun with Suu Kyi and cease-fires with ethnic minority armed groups.

But he said it also reflected the government's encouraging steps in improving its treatment of human trafficking victims, particularly those repatriated from other countries, although the U.S. remains concerned over authorities' use of forced labor and child soldiers.

"We have seen several decent things happen on the human trafficking front," CdeBaca said in an interview. "They (Myanmar) are not out of the woods by any means. But just as with democracy and electoral reforms, we also see the beginning of a positive trend."

The Obama administration has reversed a longstanding U.S. policy of isolating Myanmar, and in January announced it would restore full diplomatic relations after 20 years without an ambassador in Myanmar.

That step was supported by key Republican senators, but the administration still must tread cautiously in lifting other restrictions or face criticism for moving too fast to win friends in the country, where the strings of power largely remain in military hands.

LOAD-DATE: February 7, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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196 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 7, 2012 Tuesday

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ESCAPE AFTER ORDEAL**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 859 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

Forced Cambodian laborers on Thai fishing vessels manage to flee to Indonesia.

RFA

Victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats talk to reporters upon their return to Cambodia, Feb. 7, 2012.

Fourteen Cambodians forced by human trafficking syndicates in Thailand to work as fishermen in the deep sea have escaped from their captors under the cover of darkness, ending years of ordeal, officials said Tuesday.

Trapped on fishing vessels in the Gulf of Thailand and forced to work without pay, sometimes for years, the 14 men jumped off their boats and swam to neighboring Indonesia, where they were held by local authorities before the intervention of international maritime authorities.

Seven of them had returned to Cambodia while arrangements are being made by the Cambodian authorities and rights groups to fly home the others as well, the officials said.

Anti-human trafficking and rights group officials are working closely with the men to track down those behind the trafficking scam amid reports that many Cambodians have fallen prey to human smuggling syndicates.

The seven men who had returned home this week were all trafficked from Siem Reap and Kampot provinces in Cambodia.

Non-stop labor

Eng Rong, 23, from Kampot province, said his captors worked the boat crew mercilessly.

"They didn't torture me, but they forced me to work day and night without stopping," he said.

And Chhut Doeum, a 33-year-old victim from Siem Reap, said he had worked on a fishing boat for two years before escaping.

"I escaped from a boat but they got me back. They took me back to work," he said.

"I worked in the boat, fishing day and night. We went fishing every day."

Mom Sokcha, program director for rights group Legal Aid of Cambodia, said efforts to return the men home were launched after he received a phone call from one of them who was held by Indonesian authorities.

He demanded that Cambodian authorities find the trafficking suspects and bring them to justice.

"Inside Cambodia there are fewer job opportunities, so the victims migrate to work overseas," he said.

Pen Channa, an official with Cambodia's anti-human trafficking and juvenile protection section of the national police commission, said police are working to apprehend the suspects.

Family members of missing Cambodian workers in Kompong Chhnang, Feb. 7, 2012.

Workers missing

Meanwhile, a number of families from Cambodia's Kompong Chhnang province have filed requests with local authorities and rights groups for help to locate their loved ones who went missing after being recruited by a fishing company to work in Taiwan.

At least 23 complaints have been received of Cambodians missing at sea after being taken by trafficking syndicates.

Ky Thai, 48, said her 24-year-old son was recruited by Giant Ocean International Fishery to work in Taiwan, but had not been heard from since early 2011.

She said she had gone to the Giant Ocean International's recruiting office recently only to find that the company had closed down.

"The company has already stopped operating, so I don't have any information from my son. I am worried and I want him to return, so I filed a complaint with a rights group," she said.

Sum Chankea, an official with local rights group Adhoc, said he had already received nine complaints against the company from villagers whose children went missing.

And Prak Saony, deputy director of the anti-human trafficking and juvenile protection department in Kompong Chhnang province, said police had received 14 complaints from villagers whose children went to work in the fishing sector in a number of different countries through Giant Ocean International.

"We are searching for the [human trafficking] ring leaders. Our initial investigation has revealed three ring leaders," Prak Saony told RFA.

"We are requesting permission from the police commissioner to question them."

Abused labor laws

An official from Cambodia's Ministry of Interior said Giant Ocean International had been ordered to cease operations after the company was found to have abused Cambodian labor laws.

"The company was legally licensed, but they abused the law. After we received complaints from villagers, we filed complaints to the court to proceed with the case according to the law."

Officials have asked the missing workers' families to file complaints with police if their children were recruited by Giant Ocean International.

The U.S. State Department last year ranked Cambodia a **Tier 2** country in its 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** report, saying the government had failed to make progress in prosecuting human traffickers and protecting trafficking victims.

"Corruption at all levels continued to impede progress in combating trafficking and fostering an enabling environment for trafficking," the report said.

About 200,000 to 450,000 people are trafficked annually in the Greater Mekong sub-region, which includes southern China, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the countries joined by the Mekong River, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Reported by RFA's Khmer service. Translated by Samean Yun. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 2012

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

197 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Associated Press Online

February 7, 2012 Tuesday 3:04 AM GMT

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SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

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198 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 6, 2012 Monday 8:18 AM GMT

Laos probes sale of babies to foreigners: report

LENGTH: 342 words**DATELINE:** HANOI, Feb 6 2012

Laos is investigating a retired justice ministry official for allegedly selling adopted babies to Americans, Canadians and Australians for thousands of dollars each, a report said.

The official is accused of seeking out unwanted babies in poor, rural areas, obtaining adoption papers and selling the infants, all aged between one and two years, on to foreigners for up to \$5,000 each, according to Radio Free Asia.

He has been taken in for questioning and the adoption process for children thought to be caught up in the scam has been suspended pending the results of the investigation, RFA reported.

Mike Pryor, press officer at the US Embassy in Laos, told AFP that Laos "suspended foreign adoptions on January 9" but did not offer any specific reason for the move.

"Adopting a child for sale... is a crime related to human trafficking, no question about it," a government official told RFA.

The justice ministry is probing how the scam worked, including whether the birth parents sold their infants, which can constitute a human trafficking offence punishable by a three-to-five-year jail term, the official said.

It was not clear how many children were involved in the alleged adoption ring.

The retired official was "familiar" with most of the justice ministry's employees and had often applied for adoption and naturalisation papers, the report said.

Laos is listed as **Tier 2** -- out of three -- in the US State Department's 2011 anti **human trafficking** report, which praises the government's "significant efforts" to combat the problem.

The US however said the government had "never administratively or criminally punished any public official for complicity in trafficking in persons".

It said endemic corruption, a weak and ineffective judiciary and a failure to investigate or prosecute local-level officials suspected of involvement in trafficking were also key problems.

The Lao National Assembly approved a National Plan of Action on human trafficking in 2007 but it has not been endorsed by the prime minister's office, the state department report adds.

LOAD-DATE: February 7, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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199 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

February 6, 2012 Monday 4:00 AM EST

Determination and Memorandum of Justification With Respect to Foreign Governments' Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons - Burma

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 1052 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release:

Pursuant to section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Division A, Public Law 106-386), as amended (the "Act"), and the Presidential memorandum of delegation signed on February 3, 2012, I hereby determine, consistent with sections 110(d)(4) and 110(f) of the Act, that provision to the Government of Burma of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

This determination shall be published in the Federal Register, and copies shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees in Congress.

2-06-2012 (signed)

Date Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION CONSISTENT WITH THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000, REGARDING DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO BURMA

Pursuant to sections 110(d) and (f) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Div. A, P.L. 106-386), as amended (the "Act"), and the Presidential memorandum of delegation signed on February 3, 2012, the Secretary has made an additional determination regarding Burma, one of the 23 countries placed in **Tier 3** in the Department of State's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The Secretary has determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that the ability to provide the multilateral assistance referred to in section 110(d)(1)(B) to Burma would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Explanation of the Secretary's Determination

As assessed in 2011, the Government of Burma does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. Trafficking within Burma continues to be a significant problem, as elements of the armed forces engage in the unlawful conscription of child soldiers and continue to be the main perpetrators of forced labor inside the country. Burmese military authorities' use of forced or compulsory labor remains a widespread and serious problem, particularly targeting members of ethnic minority groups.

The Secretary has determined, consistent with the provisions of the Act, that provision of all programs, projects and activities described in section 110(d)(1)(B) would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. This amends the President's determination, with respect to Burma, of September 22, 2011.

Justification: The Secretary's determination with respect to Burma, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, is in the national interest because it will allow U.S. support for certain assistance by international financial institutions (IFIs) to support Burma's reform efforts.

Since formation of the new Burmese government in April 2011 under President Thein Sein, there has been a nascent political and economic opening in the country. Authorities have taken a series of steps to address longstanding concerns of the United States and the international community, including, but not limited to, releasing more than 500 political prisoners, relaxing media controls, approving new laws to protect workers' rights, allow for broader political participation, legalizing the freedom of assembly, facilitating humanitarian access to several conflict zones, and engaging in substantive dialogue with pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

Impact of Restrictions: The U.S. executive directors of IFIs currently are required to oppose and make best efforts to deny any loan or other utilization of funds to Burma, with certain limited exceptions and consistent with the Act's restrictions. In accordance with U.S. law, the U.S. executive directors have sought to prevent the IMF and multilateral development banks from undertaking any type of discretionary engagement with Burma, including technical assistance or assessment missions. This waiver enables the United States to support international financial institution (IFI) assessment missions and appropriate technical assistance that do not require a vote from an IFI board.

It is in the national interest of the U.S. government to support such technical assistance and assessments of Burma in order to promote reform, to respond to Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal for such assessments, and to pursue a more comprehensive poverty alleviation effort in Burma - the poorest country in Southeast Asia, with a GDP half that of Laos and Bangladesh. The United States will not actively oppose IFI assessments and appropriate technical assistance by IFIs such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the Asian Development Bank. Such needs assessments are critical to Burma's economic and political reform efforts, as the country has been isolated for over two decades and its capacity has significantly eroded. Such assessments will identify pressing needs and key impediments to poverty alleviation and democratic transition, and could provide a framework for future IFI technical assistance. The assessments and technical assistance will help support the effort to reduce poverty in Burma and promote reconciliation by enabling authorities and Burma's civil society groups to prioritize and properly sequence programs. The Burmese government and Burmese civil society leaders believe IFI assessments are crucial to provide independent and credible information and analysis, and requested the United States to support IFI needs assessments as soon as possible.

A number of legislative mandates remain in place that direct the U.S. executive directors in the IFIs to vote against any IFI loans or financial assistance before their respective boards for approval. There are a number of separate restrictions as well, including on new investment, imports, and exports of financial services, and restrictions on bilateral assistance and arms sales. Additionally, travel restrictions and financial sanctions have been imposed against senior Burmese government and military officials and their immediate relatives, a number of state-owned enterprises, and other individuals and entities affiliated with the regime.

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200 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sri Lankan Government News

February 3, 2012 Friday 1:24 PM EST

SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR TO US WICKRAMASURIYA HOSTS RECEPTION FOR GROUP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

LENGTH: 674 words

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Feb. 3 -- Policy Research & Information Unit of the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka issued the following news:

Sri Lanka Ambassador to the US, Jaliya Wickramasuriya hosted a reception for a group of foreign correspondents recently at his residence, prompting a discussion of events in Sri Lanka since the end of the conflict against terrorism nearly three years ago.

The reception was the first in 2012 of the National Press Club's Foreign International Correspondents Committee's "Embassy Nights," a series of meetings with ambassadors in Washington to discuss pressing international issues. It included correspondents from Al Jazeera, The Press Trust of India, Kyodo News, Reuters, Bloomberg and Mainichi Shimbun of Japan, and Voice of America, among others, as well as several travel and environmental writers.

Focusing on how Sri Lanka has pursued reconciliation and economic redevelopment following its decades long and ultimately successful conflict against terrorism, Ambassador Wickramasuriya outlined how the LTTE violated Sri Lankans' human rights by cutting off water to Eastern Sri Lanka. President Mahinda Rajapaksa, he noted, then decided to end the long-running conflict with the LTTE.

That victory over the terrorist group LTTE created opportunities in Sri Lanka to revive regions damaged by the conflict, he said, as well as new economic opportunities.

"Since then, there have been no terrorist incidents in Sri Lanka, not one," Ambassador Wickramasuriya said. "We are spending about \$1 billion a year to rebuild the North, and we have launched an ambitious reconciliation program to right any past wrongs and to achieve a new dialogue and understanding among all our people. All Sri Lankans agree that we do not want terrorism to return.

"Today we have a strong economy and the future looks bright for all Sri Lankans. We have held successful parliamentary and regional elections, and parts of the North that haven't had elected representatives for 26 years now have them. We believe that such a political solution will be the key to stability in the future, especially when combined with reconciliation and economic development."

The correspondents asked about a variety issues that post-conflict Sri Lanka has experienced, including a question about President Mahinda Rajapaksa's political popularity.

"The president was always for the people," Ambassador Wickramasuriya said. "That is why he has remained so popular. He reaches out to people. He is with them."

In that light, Sri Lanka is working to provide solutions to post-conflict issues, he said, including reconciliation and redevelopment.

"We will find a home-grown solution for ethnic concerns," Ambassador Wickramasuriya said. "We will provide the solutions required by our countrymen."

The correspondents also asked about human trafficking, press freedom and Sri Lanka's strategic importance in the Indian Ocean and South Asia.

"Sri Lanka has dozens of media organizations, including newspapers, radio and television stations and internet new outlets," the ambassador replied, "and you will find that they look critically at all issues. We enforce our **human traffick-**

ing laws, and our position in the State Department's annual trafficking report has improved to an upper tier that puts us above some other countries in our region and on same level as countries like Japan, Singapore and India.

We are working with other countries to help them and to help our citizens. Of course we are mindful of our place along vital ocean shipping lanes. We are a small country, and so we don't have any enemies. We are non-aligned."

Ambassador Wickramasuriya extended an open invitation to the correspondents to visit Sri Lanka and "see for yourself," the progress that has been made since the May 2009 end of the LTTE conflict.

"Seeing is believing," the ambassador said. "When people go to Sri Lanka they are amazed at what they find." For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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201 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Statesman (AsiaNet)

February 3, 2012 Friday**44 most wanted human traffickers nabbed during last 30 months****SECTION:** Vol. 12 No. 217**LENGTH:** 211 words

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) took stern action against human smugglers, facilitators and sub-agents and arrested 44 Most Wanted Traffickers (MWTs) during last two and half years. As per data, 26 MWTs were arrested in 2009, 16 in 2010 and 02 were nabbed till June during 2011. An official source while mentioning the steps undertaken to bring illegal migration at zero level, said establishment of Anti Trafficking Units at Provincial Police HQs and Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) had helped to combat internal human trafficking.

Around 10703 illegal migrants were intercepted in 2008, 5601 in 2009 and 3434 in 2010. The Agency also arrested 4,334 human traffickers during last two and half years which included 1755 human traffickers during 2009, 1779 in 2010 and up to June, 800 human traffickers were arrested.

He said due to these measures Pakistan's position was upgraded from **Tier-2 Watch List to Tier-2** in US State Department's **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) Report-2010 and the same position was maintained in TIP Report-2011. The number of deportation has gradually decreased which is done with the international cooperation. Bilateral Joint Working Groups were also established such as Pakistan- Oman, Pakistan-UK, Pakistan-Turkey and Pakistan-Australia.

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202 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

February 1, 2012 Wednesday 8:28 PM EST

USG Grant Supports Zambia's Anti-Human Trafficking Plan

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 399 words**DATELINE:** LUSAKA, Zambia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

The U.S. Department of State supports the Zambian government's National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons with a \$500,000 two-year grant to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Zambia's selection for the competitive grant award recognizes the government's concerted efforts to combat modern-day slavery.

With U.S. support, three government shelters for trafficking victims will be upgraded, staff will be trained to support trafficking victims, and direct assistance will be provided by IOM to trafficking victims. Funds will enable training to help 100 Zambian law enforcement representatives implement Zambia's 2008 Anti-Human Trafficking Act and to help 100 prosecutors identify trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers and people who profit from the crime. This grant award is in addition to a previous \$400,000 grant to IOM to assist the Zambian government with implementation of anti-human trafficking legislation.

Reporting Officer Desiree Suo of the Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons visited Zambia January 25 through February 1. She observed a government-led Break the Chain anti-human trafficking awareness program in Lusaka's Chaisa Compound, participated in IOM-conducted training for Zambian law enforcement, and met with anti-human trafficking stakeholders. Suo said, "Human trafficking is a global scourge. We support Zambia's efforts to address human trafficking because effective partnerships with committed governments, NGOs, and international organizations are essential to disrupting criminal trafficking networks."

Trafficking in persons, often dubbed "modern day slavery," comprises crimes involved in forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, and involuntary domestic servitude. Zambia is a source, destination and transit country for **human trafficking** and was ranked "**Tier 2**" in the 2011 Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report (www.state.gov/g/tip). **Tier 2** ranking means Zambia is making efforts to eliminate trafficking but does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The U.S. grant advances the Zambian government's efforts to comply with international standards to prosecute offenders, protect victims, and prevent the crime.

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203 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

January 24, 2012 Tuesday

**HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 4707 words

TESTIMONY-BY: NGUYEN DINH THANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFILIATION: BPSOS

Statement of Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD Executive Director BPSOS

Committee on House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights

January 24, 2012

Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member, and distinguished Subcommittee members, As the Vietnam Human Rights Act recognizes, human rights violations in Vietnam come in many categories and have many kinds of victims. I would like to focus today on three specific areas of human rights violations that have not yet been given appropriate recognition and emphasis by United States Government entities and others charged with monitoring and combating human rights violations in Vietnam:

(1) Systematic and widespread slavery-like conditions in Vietnamese government programs including the labor export program, drug rehabilitation centers, and prisons.

(2) The widespread use of torture and the increased frequency of police brutality against dissidents, intellectuals, bloggers, reporters, labor union organizers, social justice advocates, religious leaders and people of faith.

(3) Persecution of members of religions not recognized by the government and in some cases of members of recognized religions whose religious activities are perceived as a threat to the interests of the government or of the Communist Party.

For over two decades, my organization and I myself have monitored the country conditions in Vietnam. We have received information directly from the victims, their family members, or from witnesses. We have operations in different neighboring countries, where our staff and volunteers interviews asylum seekers who just arrived from Vietnam. In fact, I just returned from an extended trip to the region, where I talked to close to a hundred witnesses.

I. SLAVERY-LIKE CONDITIONS IN GOVERNMENT-RUN AND GOVERNMENTSANCTIONED PROGRAMS

Vietnam's new anti-trafficking in persons (TIP) law became effective a few weeks ago, on Jan 1 of this year. Unfortunately, however, it is unlikely that this new law will result in any significant change in the government's current practices and policies. The new law does not address either of Vietnam's two most serious modern-day slavery problems: trafficking within the government's own labor export program, and forced labor in rehabilitation centers and prisons.

These egregious forms of modern-day slavery take cover under Vietnam's national policies, involve billions of dollars, and are fiercely protected by well-placed stakeholders in the government. The government of Vietnam has not investigated, let alone prosecuted, a single case of human trafficking within its labor export program. In 2008 my organization, BPSOS, co-founded the Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA). Over the past 3.5 years we have

rescued over three thousand Vietnamese migrant workers subjected to slavery-like conditions and to debt bondage in a number of countries around the world. One of these victims testifies today.

Through interviews with the rescued victims, we have identified 35 Vietnamese labor export companies that were involved in human trafficking, engaged in fraudulent recruitment practices, and/or committed serious violations of Vietnam's own labor export laws. We have communicated these findings to the Vietnamese authorities by various means and at multiple levels. Instead of investigating these labor export companies, many of which are state-owned, the police interrogate and threaten the victims who spoke out against slavery. Almost routinely, the Vietnamese government has sent officials from Ha Noi to silence the victims, take the side of the traffickers, and impede justice. On multiple occasions we have had to deal with such delegations in places including American Samoa, Jordan, Malaysia, and even Houston.

In February of last year, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) issued a circular, accusing CAMSA, our partners, and religious organizations of "taking advantage of our worker's ignorance" to sabotage Vietnam's labor export program and requesting Vietnamese labor export companies to "post personnel in countries hosting large numbers of Vietnamese workers so that those representatives may monitor, detect early, and take timely action when such issues first arise." (Circular dated February 15, 2011)

To completely disempower migrant workers from defending themselves, the Vietnamese government bars all Vietnamese migrant workers from joining local trade unions. For example, the Vietnamese embassy in Kuala Lumpur has issued a sample contract that Malaysian employers must use when hiring Vietnamese workers. This sample contract stipulates that Vietnamese workers "shall not strike or being [sic] involved in any strike or industrial actions as well as any political activities and activities of those related with Trade Union in Malaysia, or instigate others to commit such acts," even though the law in Malaysia allows migrant workers to join trade unions.

Actual contracts are even more restrictive, prohibiting Vietnamese workers from entering into romantic relationship with the locals, getting married to the locals, or, for female workers, becoming pregnant. In my recent trip to Thailand I met four victims of labor trafficking, all Montagnards from Vietnam's Central Highlands, who in 2008 came to our newly opened office in Penang, Malaysia to seek help. They were not only exploited; the two female victims were sexually abused by their employers. Before we could act, some Malaysian Catholic sisters had already helped them return to Vietnam by land.

Upon return to their villages, they were immediately summoned by the police, detained and interrogated for two days; their interrogators beat them up and threatened that "whoever opens mouth about Malaysia will be killed." They were ordered to pay the labor export companies double the already exorbitantly large amount of service fees they owed these companies. Knowing that they would never be able to pay back that larger debt, they escaped to Thailand. (Unfortunately, all four of them have been denied refugee status by the UNHCR.)

Vietnam's TIP law, passed in March of 2011, is disappointing. The definition of human trafficking in its earlier drafts mirrored the one from the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. However, the actual law did away with that definition and practically excludes Vietnamese labor export companies from being incriminated for their being at the very source of the human trafficking chain.

I would also like to touch briefly on the issue of drug rehabilitation centers, which are also run by MOLISA. Human Rights Watch's report "The Rehab Archipelago" has pointed out that inmates are subjected to various forms of forced labor including producing cashews, sewing garments, and manufacturing other items. Through our interviews with asylum seekers in Thailand BPSOS has discovered that many individuals imprisoned because of their political opinions or because of their faith have also been subjected to exactly the same type of forced labor.

One Montagnard, jailed from 2002 through 2009, had to do this for 7 years. His hands were eaten by the acid from the cashew nuts because he was not allowed to use gloves. Another Montagnard jailed from 2005 until 2009 at Dai Binh Prison in Lam Dong described prisoners being divided into production teams (cashew production, farming, vegetation, packaging fish for exporting). Those failing to meet quota were beaten with a whip and kicked. A Vietnamese dissident sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for promoting democracy over the internet and for distributing leaflets was required to break cashew shells during his incarceration at the Z 30A Xuan Loc prison. His quota was about 22 kilograms per day.

Human Rights Lawyer Nguyen Van Dai, a recently released prisoner of conscience, also reported the wide use of forced labor in prison to manufacture products that were then exported to Western countries. Some people or agencies may report improvements in the fight against human trafficking in Vietnam. Such a finding is possible only if the analysis is

limited to the forms of human trafficking that the government of Vietnam has recognized and made illegal, including the sex trafficking of women and children to neighboring countries and the internal trafficking for child labor.

The government of Vietnam has played up its efforts to fight these forms of human trafficking, which usually involve only small-time criminals and perhaps low-ranking cadres. The government even invites international NGOs into Vietnam to fight human trafficking, but is careful to limit these invitations to these "privatized" forms of human trafficking. We are not aware of any NGOs, including those funded by US government programs, working to document and eliminate slavery in the labor export program, in rehab centers, or in prisons.

Vietnam has deftly deceived many of its international interlocutors by showcasing its efforts to fight the kinds of human trafficking it has chosen to make illegal while covering up the far more pervasive forms of modern-day slavery that are sanctioned by the government and whose perpetrators therefore enjoy impunity.

Recommendations:

(1) To the US government:

- a. Vietnam belongs in **Tier 3** on the annual United States report on **trafficking in persons - the tier** reserved for countries whose governments "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so", and must be ranked as such.
- b. Our government, especially the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) and Office of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), and USAID, should fund projects that devote at least as much attention to the government-sanctioned forms of human trafficking as to those the government has made illegal.
- c. The State Department's Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) should interview former political prisoners, and should make diligent efforts to interview current political prisoners, about the practice of forced labor in prison and include the findings in its annual country conditions report.
- d. G/TIP should use the following benchmarks, among others, in its ranking of Vietnam in its annual report:
 - i. Elimination of contract provisions that prohibit migrant workers from joining labor unions in destination countries.
 - ii. Statistics on and outcomes of the Vietnamese government's investigation and prosecution efforts relating to human trafficking under the labor export program, including cases already featured in past annual TIP reports.
 - iii. An end to the use of forced labor in rehab centers and in prisons.

(2) To the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

- a. Refugee status determination should take into consideration the risks faced by those who expose modern-day slavery in the Vietnamese government's labor export program.

II. TORTURE AND POLICE BRUTALITY

Since late 2006 we have observed significant increase in the use of violence and torture by the police, both in uniform and plainclothes, which coincided with the government crackdown against political dissidents and nonconformist churches. This crackdown has continued to this day.

In late 2010, at a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Ha Noi, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung requested US assistance in preparing Vietnam to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture. While we applaud the Prime Minister's expressed intention, we are troubled by the on-going widespread use of torture at the police stations, in detention centers, and in prisons. In recent interviews with asylum seekers who fled Vietnam to Thailand and Malaysia, I have collected vivid details on the use of torture against political dissidents, people of faith, Montagnards, Hmong, Khmer Krom, bloggers, artists. . . Forms of torture include:

- Lining up the victim against the wall and beating him in the chest, sides and legs.
- Handcuffing the victim to the upper rim of the window, causing him to stand on his toes, while beating him with batons and electric rods.
- Stripping the victim naked and flogging him with a belt.
- Kicking the victims in the chest, thighs, stomach with military boots.

- Punching the victim on the head and temples.
- Locking victim up in solitary confinement in a pitch dark and filthy place.
- Using a small knife to cut into the victim's flesh.
- Hitting the victim's ankles with a wooden stick.
- Standing the victim in water and electro-shocking him.
- Drawing a large amount of blood from the victim.
- Applying electric shocks to the victim's private parts.

Following are sample testimonies from the victims that we have interviewed:

"The police hung me to the ceiling beam of the investigation room. They stripped me naked and took turn to beat me on my chest and my stomach. They then applied electric shocks to my vagina until I went unconscious." Ms. Tran Thi The, September 2011. "They took a wooden stick, the size of my arm, and hit me nonstop. They hit me at the waist. They took out a pair of metal handcuffs, made me spread out my 10 fingers on the table, and smashed them with the handcuffs. Then they told me, 'We haven't applied to you the ways of the [criminal] underworld yet, otherwise in the next 3 days, your fingernails will fall off.' At that moment, I was so much in pain that I passed out." Ms. Phan Thi Nhan, September 2011.

We have learned that at least in Tay Ninh, the police operates a torture chamber separate from the police station. For example, in the vicinity of the B4 prison in Tay Ninh, there is a torture chamber known as BC14. Victims who are deemed by the prison interrogators as "recalcitrant" are sent to BC14 in the dead of the night (usually 1pm - 5pm). At BC14 there are special torture instruments, such as a special chair where the victim is put in, and the tendons behind his knees would be crushed between a metal bar and a torturer standing on the victim's knees.

The torturers at BC14 are big, muscular and much more vicious than the prison interrogators. We are compiling a report of our recent interviews with survivors of torture. We have also compiled cases of police brutality, which has been on the rise in recent years. We will gladly share both documents with this Subcommittee and our State Department.

Recommendations:

(1) To the US Government:

- a. The State Department's annual Human Rights Report on Vietnam should give a focus on torture and police brutality. At the very least DRL should verify the evidence that we have already compiled and report it if confirmed. Furthermore, the State Department should ask the officers in charge of human rights issues at our embassies in Thailand and Malaysia to interview the witnesses directly - we will help with the arrangements.
- b. As our State Department is engaging the Vietnamese government on issues relating the rights of the disabled, the dialogue should include those disabled by torture committed by the police.

(2) To the Vietnamese Government:

- a. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung should immediately issue a decree outlawing torture, order the immediate investigation of reported incidents of torture, and prosecute all perpetrators. This step is simple enough that Vietnam does not have to wait for US technical or financial assistance.

III. RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Overall, Vietnam's human rights practices have slid backward since early 1998 - the year that practically marked the end of the Renovation era launched by Nguyen Van Linh as Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) Secretary General in 1986 and continued by Vietnam's Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet till late 1997. The new team, led by VCP Secretary General Le Kha Phieu and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, reversed course. This reversal was probably prompted by the VCP's observation of what had happened to the Communist regimes in the Warsaw Bloc. There was a genuine belief of an international scheme led by the US government to systematically undermine the VCP's monopoly on authority. They dubbed this scheme "peaceful evolution."

The reversal manifested itself in a number of key developments:

(1) Brutal suppression of the Montagnard Protestant house churches in 2001-2004. Practically all four thousand house churches in the Central Highlands were closed down, some burnt and destroyed. Hundreds of pastors and lay leaders were arrested, tortured, sentenced and imprisoned. Many of them remain in prison to this day. The Vietnamese government views the rapid expansion of Protestantism as part of the peaceful evolution and called Protestantism the "American religion." We have compiled a list of over 300 Montagnard prisoners.

(2) Faced with the strong international reaction, especially from the United States, which designated Vietnam as a country of particular concern (CPC), the Vietnamese government made a temporary retreat during the years 2005 - 2006. It promulgated the Ordinance on Belief and Religion and registered hundreds of house churches - but only those willing to collaborate with the government.

At the same time, the government cultivated sympathizers and appointed them to leadership roles in the registered churches. The Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), even though it was still outlawed, was able to do certain charity work. Taking advantage of this lull, many pro-democracy groups emerged, including some that were supported and even funded by overseas groups. The dissidents started using the internet to organize, inform, and mobilize the public. There were some budding efforts to form independent labor unions and a growing movement of common citizens demanding social justice - mainly over land and anti- corruption issues.

The foreign embassies publicly interacted with members of the pro- democracy movement. On April 8, 2006 a number of the disparate groups came together and formed Bloc 8406. Although a number of political and religious activists were arrested and imprisoned during this period, we observed a significant decrease in police brutality and few arrests.

(3) In August 2006, the government started to clamp down on this movement, at first discreetly so. For instance, the police placed key dissidents under surveillance, hindering their coming together; there was increased harassment against Christian pastors and UBCV leaders.

This relatively discreet approach was probably calculated, since the government was working hard on hosting the APEC Summit (Nov 16-19, 2006), earning the Permanent Normal Trade Relations status with the US (Dec 12, 2006), and gaining accession to the WTO (Jan 11, 2007). In my opinion, it appears that the VCP truly believes this home-grown movement to be part of the international conspiracy to bring about "peaceful evolution", especially because it sometimes received financial and technical support from overseas groups, both Vietnamese and non- Vietnamese.

(4) In March 2007, with all of the above objectives achieved, the Vietnamese authorities launched a mass crackdown, the most brutal one since the mid-1980s, against all actors deemed to be seeds of dissension and of challenge to the VCP's monopoly on power. The government targeted the Khmer Krom in the South, Montagnards in the Central Highlands, Hmong in the Northwest Mountainous Region, members of UBCV, the Hoa Hao Buddhists, and elements of the Catholic Church. Bloc 8406 members and bloggers were arrested. We have compiled a list of over a hundred political and religious activists who were arrested and imprisoned; others went into hiding; some managed to flee the country.

Probably to pre-empt criticism from the international community, the charges were often nonpolitical or non-religious, such as "resisting on-duty officials" or "causing public disorder", although in some cases the dissidents were charged with overtly political crimes such as "injuring the national unity" or "propaganda against the state." There were also many incidents of arrest and detention without charges. The leadership of the pro-democracy movement was decimated. We have documented the return of police brutality and the pervasive use of torture at the police stations, at detention centers, and in prisons.

(5) In April 2007, the government indefinitely suspended its review of registration applications submitted by Hmong house churches in the Northwest Mountainous Region, all affiliated with the Evangelical Church of Vietnam North (ECVN-North). The governments in the three Northern provinces of Son Lai, Lai Chau and Dien Bien have been most ruthless in pursuing their policies to root out Christianity. There is practically not a single Christian church in these three provinces. We have obtained reports, from the victims or from eye-witnesses, of the following measures targeting the Hmong Christians:

- Arrests and detention of men, resulting in Hmong villages with few male adults
- Public transportation denied to Hmong Christians to block them from attending mass in near-by towns
- Prohibiting clergy members from visiting Hmong villages
- Confiscation of farm land

- Destruction of homes
- Forced renunciation of their faith
- Forced abortion

Some Hmong had to leave their villages and migrate to other areas, including in the South. Even so, they continued to be targeted by the local authorities with arbitrary confiscation of farm land, disruption of religious activities, pressure to renounce their faith, and different forms of discrimination. This policy apparently did not come from the local authorities but from the central government. In a leaked document issued in 2007 (TL2007), the Central Bureau of Religious Affairs called for "resolutely overcom[ing] the abnormal and spontaneous growth of Protestantism" and "propagandiz[ing] and mobiliz[ing] the people to safeguard and promote good traditional beliefs of ethnic minorities" (page 32, TL2007) - a euphemism for forced renunciation of their Christian faith.

(6) The implementation of this policy has led to the mass demonstration of Hmong Christians in Muong Nhe, Dien Bien Province, in May 2011. The immediate cause of this demonstration was the government's destruction of an entire Hmong village. On January 28, 2011, the government sent military troops with order to raze all the homes and confiscate all the farm land in the Hmong village of Xa Na Khua, Ban Nam Nhu, Huyen Muong Nhe, Dien Bien Province. The village is home to over a hundred households, all Protestant. The authorities told the villagers that Protestantism was an American religion and since they refused to renounce their faith, they had no place in Vietnam: "You should go to America to till America's land and follow America's religion."

The villagers decided to hold a demonstration to ask for an end to religious persecution and the confiscation of their homes and land. Words got out to Hmong populations living in other provinces, where they too suffered severe forms of religious persecution, including forced renunciation and confiscation of land. On May 1, 2011 thousands of Hmong, including men, women and children, gathered in a location near Huoi Khon Village in Muong Nhe, some coming from as far as Dak Lak and Binh Phuoc in the South. On May 5, hundreds of troops from the military and the mobile police encircled the demonstrators. The troops, carrying batons, electric rods and guns, suddenly attacked and beat up the demonstrators. According to eye-witnesses, many were killed. We have compiled a partial list of people killed, with confirmation from relatives or eye-witnesses.

The government arrested many demonstrators and taken them into custody. Those who escaped arrest were tracked down by the police. Reportedly hundreds of demonstrators hid themselves in the jungle. Many have since been captured while a number successfully made it to Thailand after months of trekking through Laos. Van Xin No, a resident of Ban Bong Phong, Xa Cu Pui, Huyen Kalabon, Dak Lak Province who participated in the May demonstration, was reportedly shot dead on December 12, 2011 when he ran away as the police was about to arrest him. Enclosed is a list of Hmong arrested and detained with confirmation from their relatives.

Independent religious organizations were targeted for particularly harsh treatment because they are correctly perceived as the most important focuses of moral authority and popular devotion outside the State and the Party, and therefore the only entities in Vietnam with the potential to organize the public to challenge the monopoly on power of the VCP. The government has made use of a wide range of repressive techniques: confiscation of church properties, forcing out non-conformist religious and lay leaders and replacing them with government sympathizers, using thugs to beat up religious and lay leaders, staging traffic accidents, threatening the livelihood of active church members, using school administrations to curb or prohibit students from engaging in religious activities, cutting off their phones, discrediting them in the government-controlled media, punishing a few key individuals to teach a lesson to others. There is a consistent pattern of the use of these techniques throughout the country in recent years.

Regardless of such aggravating human rights abuses in Vietnam, the UNHCR has routinely denied refugee status to Montagnards seeking refugee protection in Thailand. The UNHCR in Thailand has even denied many Montagnards the right to register for refugee protection, essentially excluding them from the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees.

The UNHCR has apparently relied on erroneous information to the effect that only "high profile" Montagnards face a risk of persecution. In recent months three Montagnard asylum seekers, including two whose applications had been denied by UNHCR in Bangkok, have been arrested upon their return to Viet Nam. Government-run news services have proudly reported the arrests of these "reactionaries" and have accused them of consorting with anti-government organizations.

Another UNHCR-rejected asylum seeker, a member of the Khmer Krom ethnic minority who face persecution similar to that inflicted on Montagnards, was arrested a few hours after returning to Viet Nam and has been convicted and sentenced for having organized peaceful demonstrations prior to his departure in 2008.

Recommendations:

(1) To the US Government:

- a. The Administration should re-designate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.
- b. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for Viet Nam should accurately reflect the continuing and severe repression of politically and religiously active Montagnards and Hmong; DRL should conduct interviews with Montagnard and Hmong asylum applicants and refugees both in Southeast Asia and in the United States to supplement its inadequate information on the human rights situation in the Central Highlands.
- c. DRL should verify the list of Montagnard prisoners compiled by human rights organizations and include its findings in the State Department's Human Rights Report. In some cases we have even provided the contact information of the prisoner's family members.
- d. The State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom should verify the status of the registration of 671 Hmong House Churches that we have compiled and report its findings in its annual report on international religious freedom.

(2) To the UNHCR:

- a. UNHCR should allow all Montagnard asylum seekers to register for protection, and should discard its "high-profile" standard and recognize refugee status on a case-by-case basis to Montagnard applicants who have come to the attention of the authorities, or who are likely to do so, because of their political and/or religious activism, even if these applicants are not currently well-known outside their local areas.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Subcommittee again for the opportunity to bring to light gross human rights violations that have become more brutal and more widespread in recent years in Vietnam. I would like to reiterate my strong support for the Vietnam Human Rights Act and other legislative efforts to stop the Vietnamese government's escalation of its exploitation, oppression and violence against its own citizens.

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Hearing of the Africa, Global Health and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subject: "Examining Ongoing Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam" Chaired by: Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ) Witnesses: Anh "Joseph" Cao, Former Member of Congress; Nguyen Dinh Thang, Ph.D., Executive Director, Boat People SOS; Rong Nay, Executive Director, Montagnard Human Rights Organization; Phuong-Anh Vu, Victim of Human Trafficking; John Sifton, Advocacy Director for Asia, Human Rights Watch Location: 2200 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Time: 2:00 p.m. EST Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

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REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ): (Sounds gavel.) The subcommittee will come to order, and I want to welcome all of you to our hearing on human rights in Vietnam. And I want to thank you for joining us at this very important hearing.

And before I introduce all the witnesses, I do want to say a very special thanks to a Anh Cao, who is a good friend, the first Vietnamese-American ever to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and a man who has spoke out bravely and repeatedly for human rights all over the world but with a particular emphasis and with a great deal of knowledge in depth on Vietnam.

So Anh, welcome back to the Congress, and it's great to see you again.

The Vietnamese government continues to be an egregious violator of a broad array of human rights. Our distinguished witnesses who are joining us here today will provide a detailed account. And I would like to highlight just a few areas of grave concerns.

Despite the State Department's decision in 2006 to remove Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular Concern, as designed pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act, Vietnam in fact continues to be among the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. According to the United States Commission for (sic/on) International Religious Freedom 2011 annual report, quote, "The government of Vietnam continues to control religious communities, severely restricts and penalizes "independent religious practice, and brutally" represses "individuals and groups viewed as challenging its authority.

I agree with the commission's conclusion where they have asked that Vietnam again be designated as a country of particular concern.

The State Department's designation of Vietnam as a **Tier 2 watch list** country with respect to the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** also needs to be critically examined. The department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report states not only that Vietnamese women and children are being sexually exploited but that there are severe labor abuses occurring as well, with the government's complicity. The report acknowledges that state affiliate labor export companies charge illegal fees for overseas employment, and recruitment companies engage in other trafficking-related violations.

There are also documented cases of recruited companies -- recruitment companies ignoring pleas for help from workers in exploitative situations.

As a sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I am deeply concerned that the tier rankings are not being better utilized by our State Department to pressure Vietnam to correct the trafficking abuses occurring within its government, and not to mention those in the private sector.

We are particularly privileged to have today Ms. Phuong-Anh Vu, and she will testify about the horrific suffering she endured when she was trafficked from Vietnam to Jordan. It is also troubling to hear about the abuse that she and others have had to endure at the Vietnamese government, even after their escape from the traffickers.

Ms. Vu, I greatly admire your courage, and the subcommittee is most appreciative of your presence, as well as your testimony.

I meet other courageous individuals -- I met other courageous individuals during my last trip to Vietnam who were struggling for fundamental human rights in their country. Unfortunately, many of them continue to be persecuted by the government. Father Ly is in prison and is suffering from very poor health, and Attorney Nguyen Van Dai remains under house arrest.

Despite this dismal status for human rights in Vietnam, there are new opportunities for the United States to exert pressure on the government to cease these abuses.

H.R. 1410, the Vietnam Human Rights Act, which I introduced last year and which passed the House on two occasions but mostly recently in 2007, would provide significant motivation to the government of Vietnam to respect its international human rights obligations. It would prohibit any annual increase in the amount of non-humanitarian assistance that the United States provides to Vietnam, unless there is an equal or greater increase in the amount of assistance for human rights and democracy promotion and programming in Vietnam.

An increase in non-humanitarian assistance would also be prohibited unless Vietnam satisfies certain requirements, including substantial progress towards respect for the freedom of religion and freedom of expression and assembly; respect for ethnic and minority rights; and allowing Vietnamese nationals free and open access to United States refugee programs.

The government would also have to end its complicity in severe forms of human trafficking. In addition, this legislation would reaffirm the United States' commitment to overcoming the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the Vietnamese government, to engaging in cultural exchanges in a manner that promotes freedom and democracy in Vietnam, and to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnamese nationals who have been deemed ineligible solely due to administrative errors or for reasons beyond their control.

Again, I want to thank our distinguished witnesses for being here and look forward to their testimony. And I'd like to yield to my friend and colleague Ranking Member Don Payne.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you -- thank you very much.

Excuse my voice, but -- became hoarse.

Let me start by commending my colleague Chris Smith for calling this very important hearing. I would especially like to thank our witnesses, a very distinguished group, for agreeing to testify here today.

Following the Vietnam War, relations between Vietnam and the United States were minimal until the mid-1990s. Since then, economic and security interests have resulted in increased partnership.

I became very involved in the humanitarian side of the Vietnam War and was in Vietnam during the -- after even the withdrawal of American troops and was working with -- helping to try to build cities up by the north, where the desire was to strengthen the community and to resist the North and VC from coming down. And so I -- up in Quang Tri prov-

ince, in cities in that area spent time working with various community development programs for a while. So I have a very strong interest and concern in Vietnam, as many of us have.

Since the 1990s, when we started to have some attention paid, economic security interests has (sic) increased, and there have been increased partnership. In 2001, the U.S. established normal trade relations with Vietnam. And in 2010, bilateral trade amounted to over \$15 billion. Vietnam has joined the U.S. as one of the nine countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership free trade agreement, which the administration intends to have in place no later than November of this year. However, as Secretary Clinton noted last November, the United States has made it clear to Vietnam that if the two countries are to develop a strategic partnership, Vietnam must do more to respect and protect the civilian rights under the rule of the Vietnamese Communist Party, the VCP. The Vietnamese people have faced oppression in a number of areas, including religious persecution, wrongful detainment, and suppression of expression, assembly and association. Political dissidents are routinely targeted, and ethnic minorities face repression and discrimination.

2004 Religious Freedom Report, the State Department designated Vietnam a Country of Particular Concern, CPC, principally because of reports of worsening harassment of certain ethnic minorities, Protestants and Buddhists. 2006, Hanoi promised to improve conditions and release some of the dissidents. The Bush administration subsequently removed Vietnam from the CPC list. However, according to numerous accounts, since at least early 2007, the Vietnamese government suppression of dissidents have intensified, and its tolerance for criticism have even lessened, markedly.

Beginning in 2009, the government began increasing the -- targeting bloggers, as well as lawyers who represent human rights and religious freedom groups, particularly those who are linked to a network of pro-democracy activists. Human Rights Watch and others rights groups have reported an increase in incidents of forced labor, torture and prison deaths. According to numerous accounts, the government suppressed -- suppression increased in 2010, 2011. In 2011 alone, 21 people died in police custody. This is a very troubling trend.

I will have to leave following the witnesses' testimony because of some special obligations with the State of the Union address, but I would ask unanimous consent that Congressman Al Green from Houston, who represents a great number of Vietnamese, be allowed to sit in.

Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

I'd like to now yield to Mr. Royce for his time, as he may consume.

REPRESENTATIVE ED ROYCE (R-CA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I really want to thank all of our witnesses, who have been so engaged on human rights, for being here today, and especially our former colleague Joseph Cao.

It's good to have you with us on an issue, which I think really, really touches all of us.

Earlier this month, the chairman and myself, along with Chairwoman Ros-Lehtinen, who is the -- and also the ranking member, Howard Berman -- we sent a letter to the State Department. And in that letter, we detailed the ongoing human rights abuses in Vietnam and how little things have changed. In this hearing, we intend -- and I appreciate the chairman holding this hearing -- we intend this to put that needed spotlight on a situation that is very dire for -- especially for activists and many young people in Vietnam. And I hope the administration is listening to this hearing.

I think one of the cases brought to our attention speaks to all of us, the case of Viet Khang, who is a songwriter in Vietnam. And he sits in a Vietnamese jail for simply writing songs and posting songs on the Internet. One song he wrote was entitled "Who Are You?" questioning the conscience of those police who brutally assaulted and arrested demonstrators who were peacefully protesting. And he, like so many political prisoners in Vietnam, should be free today.

Recently, I think we've seen a change in pattern. Instead of the show trials that we're used to, they're just skipping the show trials, the government of Vietnam, and they're going -- they're sending dissidents straight to administrative detention.

Just the other day, The Wall Street Journal editorialized against this new practice in Vietnam. But as one witness notes, here is how the editorial looked as -- to readers in Saigon. Here's The Wall Street Journal; they obviously went through a lot of magic markers in order to individually censor the Asia edition of The Wall Street Journal that was distributed in Saigon.

So you've got many brave Vietnamese men and women who are standing up for their rights, for the right to free speech, for the right to some measure of freedom. And they deserve our support. And what we're talking about today is not some isolated cases. We're talking about the norm in that society today. And we'll hear today that the situation, especially for young bloggers, young writers, young songwriters, for the youth, it's deteriorating in terms of the measure of freedom in Vietnam.

I have legislation that calls for Vietnam to be placed back on the CPC list with respect to religious freedom. I also have legislation that Joseph Cao and I worked on that would identify and sanction those individuals in the Vietnamese government committing those human rights abuses. It is the least we should do. We must do at least this and we should move these bills. And I thank the chairman for holding this hearing.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Royce.

Mr. Green?

REPRESENTATIVE AL GREEN (D-TX): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank you for allowing me as an inter-loper to be a part of the committee. I'd like to thank Ranking Member Payne for making the request and for all that he has done through the many, many years that I have known him to curtail human rights violations around the world. He's one of the preeminent spokespersons for human rights in the Congress of the United States of America. And I'm grateful to each of these men for giving me this opportunity to be a part of this committee temporarily.

I want to thank the witnesses, and I must especially thank Ms. Vu.

It does take great courage to come before a committee of Congress and make your statements known to the world. We appreciate you for what you are doing to help others. It means a lot to have someone who has empirical evidence, firsthand knowledge of what's going on presented.

I thank Member Cao for returning and being a part of this committee, but finally, SOS Boat People (sic/Boat People SOS), known to us in Houston quite well. We appreciate what you've done across the length and breadth of our city.

I am very concerned about human trafficking. And one of my concerns, quite candidly, when properly distilled becomes simply, is "human trafficking" a euphemism for involuntary servitude, which is a euphemism for slavery. Are people being detained against their will and forced to do things that we find unpleasant?

I'm eager to hear from the witnesses. I can -- I can tell you that I've heard enough anecdotal evidence from members of my district. I have a very large Vietnamese population in my district. The ballot is printed in Vietnamese, and that population and I have a kinship. And I am told quite regularly that things are in need of some attention. So I'm honored to have this opportunity to acquire some additional evidence of things that hopefully I can be of assistance with.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member.

I yield back.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Green.

Mr. Turner?

REPRESENTATIVE BOB TURNER (R-NY): OK, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm interested in hearing what the witnesses have to say. (Off mic) -- I'm hoping that by shining the light on problems -- (off mic) -- improve the living conditions, the -- and the rights conditions in Vietnam. (Off mic) -- thank you. I yield back.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Turner.

Let me introduce our distinguished panel, beginning with former Congressman Anh Cao, who was born in Vietnam, and at the age of eight was able to escape to the United States with his siblings. With the downfall in Saigon, he left without his parents. It was a -- it is an epic journey but one that he engaged in, and certainly he flourished. After learning English, he did well in school, went on to earn his undergraduate and master's degrees before teaching philosophy and ethics in New Orleans.

Congressman Cao became an attorney and worked for Boat People SOS, and that's how I first met him, when he was advocating on behalf of those who took to the seas, many of whom ended up in so-called refugee camps dotted throughout Southeast Asia and in the region. And he was a great, great advocate for those people who had been so disadvantaged by the invasion from the North.

He has assisted Vietnamese and other minorities ever since and he lost his home and his office in Hurricane Katrina but helped lead his community as it started to rebuild. He represented Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District in the 111th Congress, and as I said earlier, was a stalwart on behalf of human rights.

We'll then hear from Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, who came to the United States a refugee from Vietnam in 1979. After earning his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, he began volunteering with Boat People SOS in 1988. Now serving as the executive director of Boat People SOS, Dr. Thang has worked for the past two decades to resettle tens of thousands of Vietnamese boat people and other refugees to the United States, and has assisted more than 4,000 victims of human trafficking, modern-day slavery.

He has received numerous awards for his extensive human rights work. Dr. Thang travels to Asia frequently, where he documents ongoing abuses and strives to rescue victims. I would note parenthetically that it was Dr. Thang in the 1990s who came to this committee -- and I chaired the committee at the time -- with alarming information about how the -- there were many refugees in places like Hai (ph) Island and all throughout Asia -- boat people, some 40,000 -- and his estimation was that at least half of those, maybe more, had been improperly screened out from refugee status and were being involuntarily repatriated to Vietnam, where they were facing a very, very bleak future, if not re-education camps and incarceration.

He brought that to the committee. As a direct result of his intervention, my committee held four hearings. I offered legislation on the floor that passed by approximately a hundred votes, bipartisan amendment, that said no U.S. money will be used to involuntarily repatriate these individuals -- and Dr. Thang at each of those four hearings, including one closed hearing, where we desperately tried to get the administration to realize that these people were refugees and they were being sent back improperly in contravention of international law and U.S. law.

As a direct result, a program called Rover was established, because there were friends in the administration at the time who saw it as we did, and that program resulted in the rescreening of so many, and approximately 20,000 people made their way to the United States. And I say this with great admiration: Dr. Thang was the one who brought it, kept us very well informed, and I will be forever indebted for what he provided this committee, my -- me and my staff in terms of actionable information.

We'll then hear from Mr. Rong Nay, who has worked for over 30 years to improve the lives of the Montagnard people both in Vietnam and in the United States. After coming to the U.S., Mr. Nay was part of numerous groups working to help Montagnard people, including the Montagnard Human Rights Organization, which was founded in 1998, where he is currently serving as the executive director. He works on issues such as family reunification, refugee resettlement, cultural preservation and cultural challenges that the Montagnard refugees encounter when they come to the U.S. And of course, we all have been deeply distressed over recent events concerning the Montagnard and we look forward to hearing more on that, as well as the ongoing persecution of people of faith that we know is ongoing and totally repressive.

We'll then hear from Ms. Phuong-Anh Vu, who was trafficked by a Vietnamese labor export company to Jordan in 2008, where she and 260 fellow Vietnamese were exploited in slavery conditions. They went on strike and were beaten by guards and police. Ms. Vu quickly rose to become the de facto leader of the victims. She sought outside help and subsequently became the target of the Vietnamese government. And she -- as she was being returned to Vietnam for punishment, she managed to escape and took refuge in Thailand. She eventually resettled in Houston as a refugee and Ms. Vu continues to fight to end the trafficking of Vietnamese migrant workers -- a true hero.

We'll then hear from Mr. John Sifton, who is the advocacy director for Asia at Human Rights Watch -- no stranger, nor is Human Rights Watch, to this committee -- where he focuses on South and Southeast Asia. He was previously director of One World Research, the public-interest research and investigation firm that specializes in international human rights cases. Mr. Sifton traveled to Hanoi and Saigon late last year and has been actively raising the Vietnamese human rights record with various diplomats, trade representatives, officials, international financial institutions and journalists in the context of emerging Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Mr. Sifton, thank you for being here as well.

Congressman Cao, please proceed as you like.

Congressman Cao, if you could just suspend for one minute, I -- the vice chair of the subcommittee, Mr. Fortenberry, has arrived, and he's recognized for such time that he may consume.

REPRESENTATIVE JEFF FORTENBERRY (R-NE): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for running a little bit behind, but I'll give a brief opening statement, then turn to our former colleague, Congressman Cao.

Thank you for holding this important hearing as we work to develop effective, bilateral relationships with Vietnam. This hearing is of special interest to the Vietnamese Diaspora, particularly those in my home state of Nebraska. Many people of Vietnamese descent have chosen to make Lincoln, Nebraska their home and build their American dream there. They contribute immensely to the vitality of our community and have voiced agonized worry about the human rights situation of the Vietnamese government, as the Vietnamese government continues to repress groups viewed as challenging political authority, specifically, as was mentioned, country dwellers and minority ethnic groups in Vietnam such as the Hmong and Montagnard, who live far from the eyes of the foreign news agencies.

The persecution also extends to religious minorities. In May of last year, the village of Con Dau Catholic Parish faced government retribution in the form of three lost lives and hundreds of injuries in a funeral procession, of all things. Their offense? They were exercising earlier their right of protest against when the government decided to sell their land to build a resort, it's my understanding.

Simply being a woman or a child in Vietnam can be fraught with danger as well. According to the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, Vietnam is both a source and destination country for both sex and labor trafficking of women and of children. With China facing a shortage of women, Vietnamese women are recruited into servitude through fraudulent marriages. The Vietnamese government estimates that approximately 10 percent of women entering into arranged marriages may become trafficking victims.

Women who are fortunate enough to enter into legitimate marriages, with few exceptions, are subject to a one- or two-child policy, with tragic consequences.

Vietnamese women and their families suffered as many as 45 abortions per 100 live births, compared to 25 abortions in the United States in the last decade. It was also reported that this abortion practice counted for 11.5 percent of maternal deaths in Vietnam in 2002.

I note that Vietnam was removed as a, quote, "Country of Particular Concern" in 2006 by the State Department, despite lingering concerns whether that change in status made good sense. While economic development and market reforms have spurred a relative improvement in the living standards of many Vietnamese people, the welfare of the most vulnerable continues to be in jeopardy.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing, and I welcome our witnesses and look forward to your further comments on what I have raised and any other issues that we feel, that you feel are necessary that we may need to know. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice Chairman.

The Honorable Anh Cao.

ANH CAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Payne, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, I would like to thank you for holding this important hearing on the human rights condition in Vietnam.

The struggle for religious freedom and the promotion of justice and democracy in Vietnam remain in the hearts and minds of the 1.5 million Vietnamese-Americans presently living in the United States. Therefore, your dedication and support of these issues will be deeply appreciated and remembered by those who continue to struggle and fight for these righteous causes.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. These rights include the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, which encompasses the freedom to change a person's religion or belief and freedom either alone or in a community with others and in public or private to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. These words are expressed in Articles 1 and 18 of

the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights respectively. Vietnam, a member of the United Nations, has systematically violated this right and has no intention of keeping the promise that it made to the U.S. Congress in 2006 to steadily improve its human rights record as a condition for the Congress' support of Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Sadly, instead of improving its human rights record, the government of Vietnam has increased its repression of the centrist and religious leaders. To continue its imposition of an iron will on the people of Vietnam, the government detains, imprisons, places under house arrest and convicts individuals for their peaceful expression of dissenting political or religious views, including but not limited to democracy and human rights activists, independent trade union leaders, non-state-sanctioned publishers, journalists, bloggers, members of ethnic minorities and unsanctioned religious groups. The government of Vietnam especially continues to limit freedom of religion, pressure all religious groups to come under the control of government and party-controlled management boards, and restrict the operation of independent religious organizations. Religious leaders who do not conform to the government's demands are often harassed, arrested, imprisoned or put under house arrest.

As noted in the October 2009 report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, quote: "There continue to be far too many serious abuses and restrictions of religious freedom in the country. Individuals continue to be imprisoned or detained for reasons related to their religious activity or religious-freedom advocacy. Police and government officials are not held fully accountable for abuses, independent religious activity remains illegal, and legal protection for government-approved religion organizations are both vague and subject to arbitrary or discriminatory interpretations based on political factors. Moreover, property disputes between the government and the Catholic Church in Hanoi led to detention, threats, harassment and violence by contract thugs against peaceful prayer vigils and religious leaders."

A case that succinctly paints and substantiates the words of the Commission on International Religious Freedom is the case of Thai Ha Parish, a Catholic parish in Hanoi. The parish was founded by the Redemptorist Order in 1935 with the intention of providing educational and medical services to the region. Soon after the Communist government took over Hanoi in 1954, it confiscated schools that the parish had established, leaving only the facilities to house the Redemptorist Brothers, the church building, the community center and a few small structures around the church. But that was not enough for the Communist government. It subsequently seized all the land belonging to the parish around Thai Ha and underhandedly proceeded to take control of the remaining buildings that it did not want to confiscate in 1954.

For example, in 1959, the government forced the Redemptorists to loan one of the two buildings housing the brothers so that the government could turn it into a school. Because it was for a good cause, the order complied. In 1972, the government, without due process, seized the remaining building and converted most buildings used to house the brothers into a hospital. Subsequently, the government borrowed the community center and set up a wool-knitting factory. Then it borrowed the auxiliary building at the front of the church and turned it into a Red Cross station. Finally, it borrowed the last structure belonging to the church and turned it into a machine shop to initiate the -- (inaudible) -- Cooperative.

In 2008, during peaceful prayer vigils calling for the return of government-confiscated church properties, contract thugs harassed and dispersed the protesters and destroyed church properties. In this final act of usurpation, the government then decided only four months ago to construct a waste-treatment plant on or near parish grounds to effectively seize the rights of ownership and stewardship after they forcibly took over the right of use. Again, the parishioners protested, and again, the government sent in their thugs.

Father Nguyen Van Khai described what happened: "For a number of days, starting on October 2nd, 2011, high-powered loudspeakers belonging to the -- (inaudible) -- administrative area beamed towards Thai Ha church the government's plan to build a wastewater treatment plant for Dong Da hospital on the 2,000-square-meter lot belonging to the church. Later events took place over a number of days. First, representatives of Dong Da hospital came to the church to deliver the message. Subsequently, the -- (inaudible) -- people's committee requested a representative of Thai Ha Church to come to its offices to hear the message. In response, Thai Ha Parish promptly submitted a request to the appropriate government units to, one, stop all activities under the wastewater treatment project and, two, return the parish the land and buildings that the government borrowed. Furthermore, the parish used an electronic sign to display its legitimate demand."

"Concurrently, the government-owned media launched a serious campaign of libel, slander, false accusations and threats against parishioners, brothers and priests in Thai Ha. Following this, the government resorted to its familiar tactics. Its employees and police mustered a number of strangers, i.e., outside thugs, who came to the church to threaten,

harass and terrorize priests, monks and parishioners. On November 8, 2011, a government agent came to Mr. Yoong's (ph) house and formed (sic) a heated discussion. The police used this as an excuse to arrest Mr. Yoong" (ph).

"The underlying reality is that, like so many other Vietnamese, Thai Ha parishioners are being victimized by a corrupt regime that only cares about its own privileges. The regime frequently makes arbitrary decisions and backs them up by force instead of following the law. The government-owned media is trying to paint us as putting roadblocks to stop a humanitarian project that will yield public benefits. However, nothing is further from the truth. We followed the law, even as the government violates the law through its total disregard of its citizens' rights, the rights that the government is supposed to respect and protect," close quote.

Similar incidents occurred at both -- (inaudible). But religious repression is not limited to Catholics. The Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam suffers persecution as the government of Vietnam continues to restrict contacts and movement of senior clergies for refusing to join state-sponsored Buddhist organizations. The Bat Nha Buddhist Monastery at Lam Dong province was attacked by the government thugs in October 2009, and about 400 monks and nuns were physically abused and forcibly evicted from the monastery. Members of the Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, Mennonites and Montagnard Christians suffered detention and imprisonment.

Faced with these atrocities, the Obama administration's approach to the human rights conditions in Vietnam is to stand by and watch. Although administration officials expressed concerns, they continually push aside Vietnam's human rights abuses to further the interests of the administration. This approach stands in stark contrast to the intents of the Founding Fathers of this great nation, who built the foundation of this country on principles of religious freedom and tolerance. The United States has to be more assertive in forcing Vietnam to adhere to the promises that it made to the U.S. Congress in 2006, and this requires the passing and enforcing of the Vietnam Human Rights Act.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman Smith and members of this subcommittee for your commitment and support for the people of Vietnam. I know that if we persevere in this fight, Vietnam will one day be a free and democratic country. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Congressman Cao, thank you so very much for that testimony.

Dr. Thang.

NGUYEN DINH THANG: Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Payne, Congressman Royce, Vice Chairman Fortenberry, and Congressman Al Green, and Mr. Turner, first of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to send you our best wishes for Tet, that is our Lunar New Year that was yesterday. And then also would like to point out that we truly appreciate the fact that Congressman Al Green and Congressman Royce have been working very closely with our offices in Houston and in Orange County on different issues relating to the local communities and also relating to human rights issues in Vietnam.

And I'd like to point out one fact, very little-known fact about Congressman Payne.

You stood tall and strong beside us in the darkest moment when the international community and countries in the region pushed back the boat people. And thank you very much, Congressman Payne.

First of all, I'd like to express our strong support for the Vietnam Human Rights Act. I also support the call for our administration to place Vietnam on Tier 3 in its upcoming TIP reports. I also strongly support the re-designation of Vietnam as a country of particular concern. And I would also like to call on our own State Department to do a better job at reporting the violations of human rights, the gross abuses committed by the police, the widespread use of torture, atrocious forms of torture by the police, and the attacks on the ethnic minorities in Vietnam. These crimes and violations have been under-reported by our own State Department.

Today, I would like to focus on three specific areas of human rights violations that have not been given appropriate recognition so far. First of all is the systematic and widespread modern-day slavery, not just with the government's complicity, but the government in Vietnam was behind it. The Vietnamese government operates those programs.

Second, I'd like to touch on the widespread use of torture against political dissidents, people of faith, religious leaders and also the increased frequency of police brutality. And we have some pictures that I'd like to request the permission of the chairman later on after all the testimonies to show as illustration of the true face of brutality committed by the police.

And finally, I'd like to talk about religious persecution, focusing on the Hmong Christians. There has been very little news that could get out of Vietnam since last May. There was a massacre of Hmong Christians in the northwestern region of Vietnam. But we obtained never-seen-before footage and pictures that I show to the members of this subcommittee, very important.

So, first of all, let me talk about slavery-like conditions in government-run programs. It is very critical to make a distinction between two different categories of human trafficking in Vietnam. One would involve national policies, national programs run by the government, sanctioned by the government, operated by government, and protected and defended by the government, such as human trafficking under the cover of Vietnam's national policy of labor exports. Two, the forced labor inflicted on not only in the rehab centers, as reported by Human Rights Watch, but also subjected -- a lot of political dissidents have been subjected to those forms, similar forms of forced repatriation.

I just returned from an extended trip to Southeast Asia, and I talked to about over 100 victims, and what I found out was that in prison camps inside Vietnam right now, dissidents are being used through forced labor to produce goods for export overseas. So those are the forms, the most egregious forms of modern-day slavery that the Vietnamese government doesn't want anyone to talk about.

The Vietnamese government in recent days did invite a number of organizations to go into Vietnam to fight the other form of trafficking, the privatized form of trafficking that usually involves only small fish, small-time criminals, and some low-ranking police officers, and those sex trafficking of women and children to Cambodia and other countries. We don't condone that, but that is much smaller problem compared to the labor trafficking in Vietnam. And also, there's an issue of child-labor trafficking within Vietnam as well.

So I just came back from Southeast Asia and I talked with a lot of people there, and we monitor things constantly, the conditions in Vietnam. Just last year, the Vietnamese parliament, National Assembly passed the first law against trafficking. For the first time, they did mention labor trafficking. However, it was very disappointing as a document because, one, it doesn't include the standard definition of human trafficking. Initially, in its initial draft, there was a definition, but then they pulled that out in the law that got passed and that just became effective a few weeks ago, on January 1st. So the law that got passed essentially excludes all labor-export companies in Vietnam from being incriminated as the source of the trafficking chain from Vietnam to other countries. And also, there was no penalties prescribed against the traffickers.

Every year, Vietnam exported about 80,000 to 100,000 migrant workers. That is a \$2.2 billion industry -- very well protected by the government of Vietnam. And time and again, we had to deal with the Vietnamese government sending its delegations not from the embassy but from all the way from Hanoi to the American Samoa, to Jordan, to Malaysia, even to Houston, to silence the voice of those few courageous victims who came forth to expose the involvement of the government of Vietnam in trafficking them.

And over the past three and a half years, we have rescued thousands of victims. And we did thorough research, through interviews of victims, and we identified over 35 labor-export companies from Vietnam who are involved, completely involved in human trafficking, and we brought them to the attention of Vietnamese government for the past several years. To this day, not a single case investigated, not a single case prosecuted. But instead, the victims themselves had been persecuted and threatened. So that is the state of human trafficking, the side of against human trafficking in Vietnam.

Now I would like to mention very quickly about the Vietnamese ploy to play up its fight against the other form of human trafficking, the privatized form of human trafficking, just trying to cover up the bigger problem of labor trafficking. So please, do pay attention to the latter problem.

Now, of torture: There has been widespread use of torture from our own, my direct interview with the victims. In late 2010, communists in -- (inaudible) -- asked Secretary Clinton, Hillary Clinton, when she visited Vietnam, Hanoi, for assistance to help Vietnam prepare itself to ratify the U.N. Convention Against Torture. It should be very simple; there's no need for (her assistance ?). Just give, issue a decree to stop the use of torture.

We have observed a significant increase in the use of torture. Forms of torture would include: beating up the victims in the chest and the sides and legs; handcuffing the victim up (in the?) window and then beating him up with batons and electric rods; stripping the victim naked, including women, and flogging him or her with a belt; hanging the victim to the ceiling beam and punching in the stomach; drawing a large amount of blood every week to debilitate the victim; standing the victim in water, electro-shocking him or her; applying electric shocks to the victim's private parts, genitals for men and vagina for women -- horrendous forms of torture.

And what we've found out is even more troubling. The police in Vietnam maintains special torture chambers outside of the prison. For instance, I talked with -- (inaudible) -- who returned to Vietnam after being rejected by the -- (inaudible) -- and they were told, you'll be fine; just go back to Vietnam; you'll be safe. So they went back to Vietnam and they got arrested in Tay Ninh. And the police in Tay Ninh put them in prison, tortured them every day.

And for those few who was considered stubborn, in the dead of the night, at 1 a.m., that person be pulled out, taken to special place called BC-14, just outside the prison. And that's where the police operates special torture chamber with all the special instruments and equipment. And the guys are very big, muscular, vicious, and well- trained, specially trained to inflict torture on the victims. And most people had to admit to crimes that they never committed. And they were brought back to prison at around 5 a.m. And we have (companion ?) report of all those interviews, and I'd like to the subcommittee at another time. And we also have pictures of police brutality inflicted against people of faith that I'd like to show afterwards.

And finally, about the Hmong Christians: January of last year, the police came into a Hmong village of -- (inaudible) -- in Muong Nhe district and that Hmong village of about over 100 households all converted to Protestantism, and all the government was to raze flat the entire village. The order was this, the explanation was this: Either you renounce your faith or you have no place here. Protestantism is an American religion. If you stick to your religion, go to America, to America's land. Go to America to follow American's religion. And then, on January 28th, they proceeded to demolish the homes. So they completed demolition of 13 homes and they stopped because of Lunar New Year, and 15th of March of last year, they came back. The government came back with the military and workers to break down all the remaining homes.

And therefore, in May, on May 1st, these Hmong villagers, they gathered in Muong Nhe, a small village in Muong Nhe district, and other Hmong across the country who suffered the same atrocities got -- (inaudible) -- so they came to the same place from across the country, and there were about 4,000 to 5,000 of them. And the police moving, mobile police, and the riot police, and the military move in with guns, batons, electric rods, and assaulted these Hmong Christians. And their only demand was, one, don't destroy our home, don't take our land; two, allow us to be Christian. And you know that in the three provinces of Son La, Lai Chau, and Dien Bien in the northern part of Vietnam, there is not a single church. There is none. None allowed by the government. And that's their peaceful demonstration; that's very simple demands. And the troops attacked them. And a lot of people died, and some got buried alive. And we got a list that I'm going to submit for the record of 14 who got killed, just a partial list, and these 14 we (only ?) verified by talking either with eyewitnesses or the relatives of the deceased.

And according to a few who made it to Thailand, hundreds are still in hiding to this day in the jungle. And one by one, they're being hunted down by the police. Just last month, one of them got shot dead when he tried to escape as the police approached. So that is the degree of religious persecution. We're not talking about harassment. This egregious -- and with your permission, I'd like to show later on some of those footages. You can see with your own eyes the atrocities committed by the government of Vietnam against people of faith.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Dr. Thang.

Mr. Nay. And at the end of the testimonies, we will show those pictures, your pictures.

RONG NAY: Mr. Chairman --

REP. SMITH: Push the button please.

MR. NAY: -- the Montagnard Human Rights Organization. I represent the Montagnard people, both in U.S. and in Central Highland of Vietnam. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman and member, for the honor and opportunity to share our feeling and experience about ongoing human rights abuse in Vietnam.

I had honor to testify first at the U.S. congressional hearing about the Montagnard sponsored by the former U.S. Senator Jesse Helms in 1998. I am very sad to report that the human right for the Montagnard condition in the Vietnam have got much worse for the Montagnard in the past decade. My testimony is a summary from my written statement for focus this area.

The religious persecution -- after U.S. normalization with the Vietnam, the government of the Vietnam said there was the freedom of religion in Vietnam. But it's not reality. It is not true. Vietnam -- freedom of religious (sic) is to only to allow the worship in the government-sponsored churches, not in the house churches.

The Montagnard pastor continued to be arrest (sic), tortured and persecuted. The Human Rights Watch had published a detailed report in 2011 on continuing religious persecution on the Montagnard in Central Highland. We call on the U.S. government -- reinstate to Vietnam destination as a country of particular concern for extreme violations of religious freedom, prisoner abuse. The Montagnard Christians are forced to renounce their faith. There have been many put in jail, suffered long and terrible (jailed ?) in the prisons without enough food, medicine, even family visit. Many suffer solitary confinement, tortures. The Vietnam government continue arrests and torture and jail the Montagnard Christians. There are currently 390 of the Montagnard Christians in the prison for their religious or political beliefs up to (16 year with the sermon ?). We recommend that the release of all the Montagnard prisoners (and negotiate ?) and their release -- (inaudible) -- before anymore U.S. government (defense ?) or trade treaty with the Vietnam go forward.

(Inaudible) -- include in the record.

REP. SMITH: Without objection, it will be made a part of the -- (off mic).

MR. NAY: The Montagnard refugees protection -- UNHCR -- (inaudible) -- has been closed in February 2011. The Montagnard asylum seekers have no place to feel safe and -- (inaudible). Asylum seekers have -- fled to the Thailand have been arrest (sic) and put into detention. We have the report of the Montagnard hiding in the jungle in the Vietnam right now because they have no place for safe to hide. They are desperate.

There are -- the hundred of the Montagnard who fled persecution in the Vietnam were hunt (sic) down by the police, beaten and put in the jail. We urgently recommend that the U.S. State Department, in cooperate (sic) with the UNHCR, create a process and a place at the U.S. consulate in Ho Chi Minh City or another country, which allows the Montagnard asylum seekers to have a fair interview by the UNHCR or U.S. officials, taking into account the conditions of the ethnic discrimination persecution that the many Montagnard face in the Vietnam.

We ask the U.S. State Department to reopen its refugees program in the Vietnam because there are the many -- (inaudible) -- persecutions within -- in the Vietnam. Why are the Montagnard claims of persecution being ignored by the U.S. government?

We also have the propose (sic) that the U.S. satellite consular office be established in the Central Highland of Vietnam. Such an office would be beneficial -- (inaudible) -- and the refugees claim -- (inaudible) -- immigrant visa processing. This satellite office could also be utilized for humanitarian and development assistance programs focused on the Montagnard in Central Highland. The United States Department of Defense had shown interest in establishing the humanitarian aid program in the Central Highland.

Vietnam ethnic cleaning policy -- the Montagnard indigenous people have cried out to keep our ancestor land, our language, our culture, as we ask from help from the U.S. and United Nations and the world community to help us. And so many of our ancestral lands have been (stealed ?) by the (companies ?) of Vietnam for (river ?) or coffee plantation. The government of the Vietnam accused the Montagnard people for causing trouble.

But we want only to keep our land for farm, for habitat and (survive ?).

Need for development assistance -- the United Nations, European Union and the State Department have all acknowledged that the rate of the poverty for the Montagnard indigenous people is much higher than majority (to ?) Vietnamese population. We ask to recommend that the U.N. and U.S. put more emphasis on development assistance, scholarship and boarding school, Montagnard education in the Central Highland.

The Montagnard do not have the same opportunity in education development as the Vietnamese. For example, over 15,000 the Vietnamese students sent to the United States for education, but not a single -- the Montagnard (colleague ?) -- (inaudible) -- to allow to have a scholarship in the U.S.

The abuse of free immigration -- the government of the Vietnam continue to break agreement of free immigration that was outlined (in the ?) U.S. -- (inaudible) -- the U.S. and Vietnam trade agreement in the past year.

Mr. Chairman, it is our privilege to come here today and to tell you the truth about the Montagnard human rights abuse in -- abuse that the Montagnard indigenous people face now in the Vietnam Central Highland. We are -- the Montagnard treat like enemy in our homeland. A hundred of the prisoners in Ha Nam (ph) prison are suffering terrible abuse, (isolate ?) and other the Montagnard men and women and children quietly and suffer -- (inaudible) -- under constant fear and police surveillance. We hope that the committee today and the U.S. government and the world will hear our pray (sic) and plea for help.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve the plight of the Montagnard in the Central Highland of Vietnam, and our recommendation how to help.

Thank you, sir.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Nay, thank you so very much for your testimony and very practical recommendations.

I'd like to now recognize Ms. Vu for such time as she would like to use.

HANG SAN (ph): My name is Hang San (ph). I'm going to be translating for Ms. Vu.

PHUONG-ANH VU: (In Vietnamese.)

MS. SAN (ph): She would like to say thank you for the opportunity to be here, and she's wishing you're family a happy Lunar New Year.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) I grew up in a -- in poverty in the province called Lao Cai in Vietnam. My family is Catholic, so we have difficulties living there under the Vietnamese government policy of persecuting Christian -- I mean, Christian people.

MS. SAN (ph): Yeah, she restated that the government has the policy of persecuting Christian Hmong people and anyone that believes in Christianity.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) My family only have the two of us, my sister and I. And my father died when I was 11 -- I'm sorry, one years (sic) old.

When I turned 16, my sister was kidnapped, and she's been missing since then. Heeding to the Vietnamese government call for citizens' participation in their labor export program in --

MS. SAN (ph): I'm sorry, what? 2008?

MS. VU: 2008.

MS. SAN (ph): 2008.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) And I was transferred to Jordan and working at a sewing factory for a Taiwanese contractor. I was among 276 women, and we were promised to only work eight hours a day and that we would have -- earn \$300 a month.

That is an enormous amount of money for myself and along with the people that came with me. Myself, along with all of my friends, each of us have to pretty much mortgage our home and borrow money, \$2,000, to participate in this program.

We never were given any contract to sign, and it wasn't until we got on a plane where they gave us the contract. When we got to Jordan, it turns out that nothing was to the -- to what was promised to us. When we arrived, immediately the -- they took all of our paperwork, all our passports, and immediately put us to work.

Then starting the next day, we had to work, and the shift was 16 hours a day.

MS. SAN (ph): She worked for 10 days. And I mean --

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) I worked for 10 days and I received \$10.

MS. SAN (ph): She was very upset and surprised so she asked the employer. And the employer response was that she needed to talk to her -- the people that brought her here, which were the Vietnamese government.

She went on strike, along with some of her friends and -- to demand the payment for what was promised.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) We stopped working, and the owner would -- for 10 days.

MS. SAN (ph): And the owner gave her an ultimatum --

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) Gave us an ultimatum after that. They withheld food, electricity and water from us.

A lot of us -- or some of us were afraid, so they returned to work. But then 176 of us remained on strike. A woman named Vo Tu Ha (ph), she's a representative of the labor export company. She led a group of people to take our rooms and start torturing us.

All the women there are like me, very small and tiny, and we had been weakened by not having food and so forth. So they were beaten. I was beaten along with -- they took -- (inaudible) -- our friends, hit them, smashed their head on the floor. You know, so it was really brutal.

I witnessed myself that some of my friends were, you know, really weak and they're not able to defend themselves. And they were pulled -- hair were pulled and -- like an animal. And it's very heartbreaking.

And they continued to beat us, and I didn't know what to do. So I took a cell phone to try to record what was happening. So they started beating me, and the bruise is still there on my head. And it's -- you know, it's still there.

MS. SAN (ph): She's heartbroken to see -- you know, for herself along with all the women that -- having to suffer through this.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) What I don't understand is that after the owner of the company witnessed us all being beaten, and -- that he did not do anything. And then afterward, they all were shaking hands.

MS. SAN (ph): So she doesn't understand why that was happening.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) We were all isolated and confined in a room so we tried to get help and, you know, scream through the windows. Nobody came. The Jordanian police were there, but they were there to help beat us rather than helping us.

A lot of my friends were vomiting blood and they were obviously seriously injured. I tried to call for help, and no one came to help us. So I didn't know what to do so I have to gather everything that we have and even the tampons for women to sell to get money to buy noodles for my friends.

I'm sorry, but it gets very emotional for me.

And then one day the Vietnamese -- the one delegation came. I was happy because I thought they would be there to help us. But it turned out when they came, the -- it was very disappointing because not only they did not help us but they also threatened me. The reason they threatened me: Because I was the one that contacted the newspaper in Vietnam, and they did an article. And the article got to Dr. Thang. That's how he knew about it. Dr. Thang sent us money, and that's why they came to threaten me.

I used the money that was given -- Dr. Thang for -- to get medicine for my friends and -- but the government accused me of collaborating with NGOs for my own benefit. I asked Dr. Thang to help my friends because all of them were very sick from the -- being beaten. And Dr. Thang arranged to have some physicians from IOM to come and help them.

After the IOM delegation came and left, we were confined, isolated again and were not allowed to leave. And then we were able to return to Vietnam and we -- I learned that it was thanks to the congressman and Dr. Thang.

The two gentlemen named Jeung San Than (ph) and Nguyen Ve Tu (ph) announced that I was returning home, and there were threats that I would be imprisoned when I returned home. Dr. Thang helped me escape. And when I got to Thailand, I was able to escape from the government.

The journey of my escape was very long, so -- you know, the time is limited, so I won't be able to explain all that right now. While I was in Thailand, I was threatened by the Vietnamese Embassy. And they said that they would cut me into thousands of pieces.

MS. SAN (ph): And she had that recorded, that conversation.

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) While I was living in Thailand for three years, I -- there was a lot of suffering, you know, including my mom. And it was very emotional for me while I was staying there.

The most heartbroken (sic) for me was my three-years-old (sic) daughter was electrocuted and died. And I was not -- she was not allowed to be buried unless I am home. I mean, they wanted me to go home before they can allow her to be buried.

I was ready to go home to at least bury my daughter, but I learned that the police -- Vietnamese police were, you know, surrounding my home. One of my friends who was beaten has died because of the injury.

I don't know what else to say. I just want to send my gratitude to Dr. Thang and Congressman Smith and the panel and the U.S. government for allowing this hearing, and I hope to help my people. I know that there's going to be a lot of

(uncertainties ?) and threats for me participating in this hearing. However, I chose to do it because I don't want a second woman like myself and I'd like to be able to prevent this from happening to other people.

I wish that everyone on the panel along with everyone here in the -- in the room -- now that you hear my testimony that you would raise a voice and do something to help the Vietnamese women from suffering from human trafficking.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Vu, thank you so very much for that extraordinarily moving testimony. It moves this committee, it moves, I'm sure, the members of this committee to do even more to combat human trafficking so that there are no victims -- hopefully fewer and then no victims. So your testimony will be pivotal, so thank you so very much for sharing it.

If there is retaliation against you, your friends, your family, or any way, please let us know about that. We will also alert the administration as to that retaliation, and I know in a bipartisan way, we will do everything we can to ensure that that does not happen, because again, coming here was an act of bravery, especially knowing -- I mean, when an embassy person tells you they will cut you to pieces, I mean -- and after hearing Dr. Thang and others explain the widespread use of torture, which includes cutting, it is a threat that cannot be taken lightly, and it brings nothing but dishonor to the Vietnamese government.

Mr. Sifton.

MS. SAN (ph): If I may translate that to her.

JOHN SIFTON: Thank you also for the invitation to testify today, and I'd echo what other witnesses said. And all of us at Human Rights Watch appreciate the committee's interest in the human rights situation in Vietnam and welcome the efforts today to address it. The other witnesses today and the members of the committee themselves already provided a lot of information about many of the human rights issues in Vietnam today, including the crackdowns on religious activity, the problems facing ethnic minorities, the increased attacks on political dissidents, migrant and trafficking issues, and the worsening crackdown on free expression generally.

I will add from the written version of my testimony, there are some issues with land rights and land confiscation which need a little bit more attention paid to them and some continuing problems with torture and police brutality, which I highlighted in the written version of my testimony. There's also these worrying new facts about forced labor camps, administrative detention centers, and we don't have time to run through each of these points now again, but again, I've provided details in each of the points in my written version of the testimony.

In terms of the overall picture, I can sum it all up in a simple sentence: The state of human rights in Vietnam is very poor and it's growing worse. As the other witnesses have noted, in the last year the government has actually intensified its repression of activists and dissidents, bloggers, writers, human rights defenders, land-rights activists, anti-corruption campaigners, religious and democracy advocates, advocates for minorities. All of these folks from all across Vietnamese society are being subjected to harassment and intimidation and arrest and imprisonment and torture.

And I'm not even mentioning fully the issues of Internet restrictions, a topic on which you could easily have an entire hearing unto itself. But suffice it to say, we're seeing increased evidence on that front of government filtering of Internet content, blogs blocked by local Internet service providers, comments critical of the government being removed from news postings; Facebook is blocked intermittently in many areas. And indeed the only reason it's not being blocked everywhere appears to be the government hasn't completely figured out how to do that. The government's growing increasingly sophisticated in its filtering. It's not easy to block the Internet because of its design and its setup, but as China has shown, it's possible, and it's looking increasingly like Vietnam is following the China model.

I'd also repeat what the other witnesses have said, including Congressman Cao, which is that land rights issues, land confiscation issues, both for ethnic minorities and religious groups and just for Vietnamese citizens across the country, is an area of increasing concern. And again, police brutality, torture -- absolutely it's another issue I flagged in my written version of my testimony, which Dr. Thang mentioned.

Another issue, though, just to flag right now very quickly, is administrative detention. The report we issued last September, the Rehab Archipelago, Human Rights Watch documented a lot of abuses in the administrative detention centers, and that report, I'd, you know, love to submit for the record of this hearing. The details are all in there. But I just want to note now that administrative detention is not just for drug users. Drug users were what we talked about in that report, but it was also reported to us of Vietnamese citizens placed in administrative detention for being homeless, for engaging in prostitution. There's even a recent case of authorities using administrative detention camps for dissidents.

And last week, a people's committee -- end of last November, excuse me -- a people's committee in Hanoi ordered police to send a prominent land-rights activist to administrative detention center for 24 months. It's that news article that Congressman Royce referred to that result in this Wall Street Journal article being written, which then was blocked out in the editions that were delivered in Saigon, at least.

I think the image speaks for itself.

I can also offer the committee the actual text of the article that was blocked out, in case you actually would like to --

REP. SMITH: Without objection, we'll put both the blocked as well as the full.

MR. SIFTON: I'd echo and repeat Dr. Thang's point about products produced in forced labor entering the supply chain, including possibly into the United States. A good example of a product like that is cashews. Members of the committee may want to think about that, you know, the next time you're offered some cashews, for instance. Cashew nuts don't have certificates of origin like diamonds do, so you can't, you know, you can't prove that a specific cashew nut comes from a particular country, let alone a particular forced labor camp. But it's a fact that Vietnam is a leading exporter of cashews in the world, and the United States is its biggest importer of cashew nuts in the world. So if you perhaps eat 100 cashews over the year, there's a chance that some of them were shelled in a forced-labor camp in Vietnam. And I'd note, you know, that food writers now coined the term "blood cashews" to refer to Vietnamese cashews. This is perhaps the first report where I ever engaged in advocacy not just with the State Department and the White House and PEPFAR, but with food writers. I even corresponded with celebrity food writers like Anthony Bourdain about this issue.

So I raise these issues in order to make a point. There's a growing global awareness today that Vietnam is a country that has a very problematic human rights record. It's getting more attention, it's in the public consciousness, and this provides us a really great opportunity to talk about what can be done and how U.S. power can be leveraged to effect serious improvements on human rights in Vietnam. And that's really how I'd like to end.

There are several possible approaches I want to offer.

The State Department, as you referred to in your opening statements, is negotiating a strategic partnership with the Vietnamese government, U.S. trade representatives negotiating with Vietnam in the context of the Trans-Pacific free trade agreement. And so obviously, the administration has a lot of leverage to pull and push with Vietnam. Our understanding is that the State Department and the U.S. trade representative are pulling and pushing those levers. Michael Posner, the chief of the State Department's Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Section, has been a very vocal critic. During the recent U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, he didn't pull any punches. He arranged to have the Vietnamese government delegation sit down directly with us, at Human Rights Watch, and we gave them all kinds of criticism. Secretary Clinton was very vocal during her trip with President Obama through Hawaii and onto Bali during the East Asia Summit last November. She made clear Vietnam's human rights problems are an impediment to reaching better diplomatic relations with Vietnam. And other U.S. officials have made the same point; including members of Congress very recently have said the same thing.

But it's vitally important not to let up the pressure, and that's what I really want to say today, is the test will not come now but will come at the 11th hour, sometime in the next few years when the State Department is finalizing a strategic partnership, military-to-military relationships, the Pentagon will be involved, and the U.S. trade representative will be completing its agreement with the TPP nations, including Vietnam.

Let me say, as an aside, I very much doubt that the TPP negotiations will be finalized this year, despite what the U.S. trade representative says, but whenever it happens, U.S. resolve on human rights in Vietnam has to remain steady and strong.

So this committee, as well as the Vietnam caucus, another important player, are really important actors in clarifying and conveying those concerns to the administration. This is what we think, and I think this is what the administration thinks; I hope it's what you think. The U.S. has an agenda for change here. The idea is to encourage Vietnam to improve its human rights practices, and that will, you know, enable better international relations, increase military-to-military engagement, better trade engagement. But there can't be a last-minute change in heart. You can't have the administration suddenly leaping to a different idea, suddenly offering a new doctrine, suddenly making some claim, you know, based on faith that Vietnam's going to change gradually, organically, that it will take time, that the change will be more likely when the United States engages with Vietnam, that we should engage with Vietnam because that will bring about change. Those are the cliched theories of change that were offered with China in 1994 when the most favored nation status was up, and we can see how well that worked out.

So our request to you is simple: Don't let up. The administration may come later and offer the theory that I just articulated, and I imagine you'll hear it from the U.S. trade representative's office first, and I'm saying please don't accept it, don't take that bill of goods. Vietnam needs major reforms, and if they don't make them, Congress should just tell the administration, whatever administration it is, that it doesn't support broader agreements. Vietnam needs the United States more for its strategic objectives than the United States needs Vietnam, and that's leverage that just can't be wasted.

So we greatly appreciate your consideration and our recommendations, and as the other witnesses said, thank you for allowing me to testify.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Sifton, thank you very much for your testimony. Your report we'd like to make a part of the record, so if you could submit that, that would be very helpful. And your final words from the witnesses certainly was an indictment of the Vietnamese government. I mean, very poor -- the deterioration, worsening crackdown of free expression, worrying new facts about forced labor camps, crackdown -- ongoing crackdowns on religious freedom, and problems facing ethnic minorities, and then how you elaborated in your testimony just finishes what all of our distinguished witnesses laid out for us today -- an egregiously deteriorating situation in Vietnam. It was bad, but getting worse. And I think the pivot was right after the bilateral agreement was signed and all the false hope, perhaps well meaning, but unwittingly people said it will get better if we only trade a little more. That has not been the case.

And your point about MFN with China -- I remember that day, because I had gone over to Beijing midway through the review period, brought a letter signed by 100 members of the House and Senate, from Nancy Pelosi to so many members on the conservative side, Henry Hyde, many others. And I gave it to the foreign ministry, not the top guy but number two, who met with me, and he laughed. He laughed. He said, we're going to get MFN, and sure enough, on May 26th, 1994, and if you go to C-SPAN, you can watch, because I had a press conference, David Bonior did, and Nancy Pelosi did. President Clinton ripped up the executive order that linked human rights with trade, and that was a absolute pivot point for deterioration in China. Likewise, and in an almost identical parallel way, right after the bilateral trade agreement with no linkage to human rights, things have deteriorated massively.

So thank you, each and every one of you, for your testimonies. I would ask our panelists -- in a way you have touched on it in many ways. Ambassador John Hanford, our former ambassador-at-large for religious freedom, when he recommended, as did others in the administration, of the Bush administration, that CPC status, Country of Particular Concern, be rescinded for Vietnam, it was all based on promise. John Hanford would say there are "deliverables" that they are willing to engage in to stop the forced renunciation of the Montagnard, for example. And all of these other repression, you know, of Catholics, the Unified Buddhist Church and all the others, all these promises, promises, promises -- CPC was lifted, the bilateral agreement was agreed to, MFN conferred, and then a massive retaliation against religious believers, Bloc 8406, all leading to say, why wasn't CPC put back last year?

Well, the administration has the opportunity right now. I held all the hearings on the International Religious Freedom Act, Congressmen Frank Wolf's bill. I know exactly how the bill works. They could do it today. They could say, the record warrants it. So I would ask our distinguished panelists if they might want to talk about CPC and why it is critical that it be re-imposed right now with all 18 potential acts of -- what do you call it -- penalty that could be imposed on the government of Vietnam.

Secondly, on the issue of trafficking -- that's the bill I wrote. And I can tell you, when we did those minimum standards and then redid them in '03 and '05, because I wrote those bills as well, and then the final bill was done, the -- (inaudible) -- bill which further tweaked those standards.

It couldn't be more clear that both on labor and sex, but especially labor trafficking, Vietnam absolutely warrants a Tier 3 ranking, which carries with it penalties as well. And for reasons that are absolutely beyond me, the administration has failed to impose what is the facts on the ground, because those designations aren't about what you do with those facts, with that designation. You could do nothing with CPC or nothing with Tier 3, you know, if you think you're making progress. But it gives the opportunity to impose, you know, two sets of sanctions on the government of Vietnam for trafficking reasons.

Dr. Thang, if you might want to start, and I'll move to very big issues.

MR. THANG: Yes, chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just asked (Mark Cooney ?) to try to upload the video. If it doesn't work, then I can show it on my laptop here.

But about the CPC, in 2006, before the CPC designation for Vietnam was rescinded, we provided a list of 671 Hmong house churches in the northwestern highland of Vietnam, and they all tried to register themselves -- it's on the table right there, yes -- according to the new ordinance. And in 2007, the Vietnamese government decided to indefinitely suspend any review of those applications, in April 2007. So none of them got registered. And during the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in 2010, to the credit of our own State Department, they presented this list again to the Vietnamese government. That is four years later. And I had personally, and Congressman Cao was there too, a meeting with Congressman Howard Berman. And his staff delivered the good news. The Vietnamese government declared right at the moment that this will be our top priority when we go back to Vietnam. We'll revisit, review this list to make sure they get registered.

A few months later, what happened? That massacre in Muong Nhe just a few months later, after the promise from the Vietnamese delegation attending the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue. And when I look back at this list here, and I promise to provide this for the record, the village that got razed flat by the Vietnamese government was on the list. They try for so many years to register according to the Ordinance on Belief and Religion issued in 2004. And instead of reviewing, the government of Vietnam destroyed an entire village because they were all Protestants. And that's what happens to the CPC. So there's no improvement since ('07 ?). It's getting worse and worse.

Regarding trafficking, I would propose to our government to do a simple thing. Year after year after year, the Trafficking in Persons Report, annual report, the TIP reports, list the cases of trafficking from Vietnam to other countries in Malaysia, Jordan, Taiwan, et cetera. All we need to do is to go back to the Vietnamese government and ask them, what has happened to these victims? And what has happened to these export companies that were involved in these cases? We need to follow up. And it would be very clear that nothing had been done to investigate the culprits, the perpetrators, and a lot had been done to silence and threaten and persecute the victims. That's a very simple task. Just go back for the past five years through their own TIP reports and report that back to Congress and, based on that, make recommendations on ranking Vietnam, either Tier 2 Watch List or Tier 3. I believe it should belong to Tier 3 squarely. Thank you.

MR. CAO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate the words of Dr. Thang, and again, I just want to look at this issue from the standpoint of the leverage that we have to use against Vietnam in order to promote change. We have seen in the last two years, what at least I have seen in the last two years, is that our approach, the administration approach to Vietnam has all been about lip service. We say a lot of things, we might condemn publicly the actions of Vietnam, but behind the scenes other things occur. We increase trade relations, we increase military operations, so on and so forth, without putting very concrete steps that would require Vietnam to follow through with the promises that they made to the U.S. Congress.

So my plea to the U.S. Congress is, if the administration does not act, the U.S. Congress must act. And our action will put Vietnam on notice that we are paying attention to what they're doing, that their actions cannot escape unnoticed. Their actions cannot escape without ramifications. So again, my plea to the U.S. Congress is that the Congress must act. And I hope that the Congress will pass the Vietnam human rights bill, put Vietnam back on the list of Country of Particular Concern, passing the Vietnam sanctions bill being pushed forward by Congressman Royce, and other legislations that will force Vietnam to pay close attention to what they've been doing to their people.

REP. SMITH: I'd say to my good friend Anh Cao that we are scheduling a markup for the Vietnam Human Rights Act, and whoever seeks to block it -- because it twice passed the House and a third time we actually had it readied as an amendment to an appropriations bill, and it was blocked, all three, over on the Senate side. I will absolutely call out, as I have in the past, but more so now, given the fact that we have seen gross deterioration of the human rights situation in Vietnam -- I don't care who's in the White House. I will say this to someone who, when Bush, under George Bush, there was a relaxation of, or elimination of the CPC status, which was done purely on faith, and not, as I said, deliverables. Within months of seeing that things further deteriorated vis-a-vis religious freedom, I and so many others were speaking out, because I don't care who's in the White House. When you're getting abused, you don't say it's a Republican or Democrat, there's somebody trying to protect their man who happens to be at the White House or at the State Department -- not so, this chairman. So if that bill is blocked, because we will mark it up in a week or two in subcommittee, I will call them out and call them out every day of the week.

Yes, Mr. Sifton.

MR. SIFTON: A couple of low-hanging fruit about pushing these issues forward. I think that **trafficking in persons Tier 3** designation would be wonderful, CPC would be wonderful. We really welcomed a letter to Secretary Clinton

about the human rights report coming up. We're pushing the U.S. Committee on International Religious Freedom to strengthen its language. But a few words about some other players on the stage.

I can't overemphasize how important the U.S. trade representative is right now as an interlocutor on these issues. I mean, they'll say good things about how they are listening and they want to use congressional leverage to pressure Vietnam, but I feel like the whole situation is kind of in a state of unreality. The U.S. trade representative is insisting the negotiations are done quickly, and yet it seems inconceivable that Vietnam would make the kind of reforms that would be the precursor for it being a party to the TPP. So either they're planning to just throw Vietnam out of the TPP at the last minute, which is one way of getting the TPP finalized, or they're going to just give up on getting the reforms that they say they want to get. So some -- they need to be brought up here to explain exactly what the agenda is. Of course, it's difficult to get them to talk about their negotiating strategy, but there needs to be some accountability on the USTR.

Another thing is, I just, you know, it kind of galls me as the Asia director for advocacy that there's this big bank out of Manila, the Asian Development Bank, which gets an enormous amount of money from the United States government, and gives an enormous amount of that money to Vietnam. The World Bank does too, but I mean, the Asian Development Bank is a pretty big player, and they give a lot of money to Vietnam. And you know, we're a voting member. We're the second biggest shareholder in the bank out in Manila after Japan, and we ought to use that leverage at the bank, and we don't. If you go out to Manila and visit the ADB today, it's like walking into the World Bank 25 years ago. I don't speak from personal experience, but from what I've heard. Human rights is not on the agenda. It's just, you know, give out money. So again, if you can exercise the oversight over the Asian Development Bank and its funding for programs in Vietnam, that would certainly be great. World Bank too, but of course, you're at a little bit better on that.

And then lastly, the Pentagon: What exactly is on the table with the strategic partnership? What exactly is Ambassador Shear negotiating? I have, you know, full faith in Ambassador Shear in Hanoi. He's very serious about pushing these issues. I mean, they have pushed these issues. They've been helpful on a number of particular cases and they've raised general issues as well. But what exactly is being negotiated with the Pentagon, and how crucial is Vietnam to our naval posture in the Pacific? I mean, I'm not a naval strategist, but you don't have to be, you know, Admiral Nimitz to appreciate that there's more than one way to posture the fleet in the Pacific. And they have to be prepared that if Vietnam doesn't reform, then, you know, the strategic partnership isn't going to go forward.

REP. SMITH: Excellent points, Mr. Sifton. We were planning and are planning on inviting Ambassador or Assistant Secretary Michael Posner to testify and others within the State Department. But I think your point about USTR is a great one, and we will invite them to come and testify, so thank you for that recommendation.

In terms of the bank, I think it is time for some oversight and perhaps a letter that we could do jointly to them and follow up on that issue as well. So a very well-taken point.

My final question before going to Mr. Green, I just want to ask with regards to your point, Dr. Thang, about the Vietnamese law on human trafficking conveniently sidestepping the Palermo Protocol, which is the boilerplate language used all around the world, and if you weaken that, you absolutely will get a weakened version of any kind of trafficking. And the issue of torture, which you laid out in frankly nauseating detail, which it has to be, it has always been my observation that when a dictatorship is doing something hideous like torturing and doing it in a very pervasive way, they often talk about signing a U.N. convention or some other kind of convention which distracts and gets the eye to look askance as to what's happening on the ground. And you know, my sense, I mean, China perfected that art form when they continually announced upon coming here with a high-level delegation that they were going to sign the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and they milked that one for years. And then there's no enforcement mechanism to any of these, including torture, besides important reporting, and it's not to be discounted how important that is. But the torture issue, I don't think gets enough focus from Congress or from any one of us. So I thank you especially for bringing attention to that.

MR. THANG: Mr. Chairman, may I also suggest very quickly that now there are so many asylum seekers that have successfully fled to Thailand. They are the witnesses of the crime of modern-day slavery against them, of the crime of torture against them, of detention, of religious persecution against them. It's very simple for our own State Department to ask our own officer work on human rights issues. In Thailand, in Bangkok, they chose to make a visit to them and (talk with them for economic formation?). That could not have otherwise been collected inside Vietnam.

REP. GREEN: Again, I thank all of the witnesses for testifying, and I again will focus on Ms. Vu for your testimony.

As the chairman indicated, it was quite moving, compelling and candidly overwhelming. I'm very concerned about you. You're living in -- I'm not sure that I should say where you live, but I'm concerned about you, and my hope is that you will take to heart what the chairman said about any concerns that you might have being called to his attention, our attention through him, because I have to be concerned given what I have heard. I am concerned about persons who were left behind.

Doctor, you were helpful. How many people are still in that circumstance that she was extricated from? Do you have any guesstimate?

MS. SAN (ph): Her last knowledge was about 70 people remaining in Jordan.

REP. GREEN: And Doctor, from your intelligence, is this just one of multiple venues in Jordan, or is this the sole venue that we have intelligence on that's in this country, in Jordan?

MR. THANG: There's only two sweatshops operating with Vietnamese in Jordan that we are aware of. And the one that we (work on ?) was one of the two. There might be more. Vietnam is sending more and more workers to the Middle East these days. There are three major markets for Vietnamese labor export. One is the -- (inaudible) -- Malaysia, the second one would be Taiwan and the third one is now the Middle East.

But let me add one thing here, right on the spot, when you talk about safety, because right after this subcommittee announced the hearing with her name, she got a threatening call from the place that she's living. And I had to call someone who has security to protect her.

REP. SMITH: You've got to pass that on to the FBI immediately.

MR. THANG: Yes. I'd also like to add that this spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, back in 2010, that held a press conference denouncing her is now the general consul of Vietnam in Houston. And the one, Mr. Jun Sun Tang (ph), who came to join in the threaten her and try to deport her to Vietnam for punishment, he's now the general consul of Vietnam in Frankfurt, Germany. They all got promoted.

REP. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for pointing out that the FBI can be of assistance. Thank you for that.

Just an aside, if I may, the Vietnamese community in Houston did its part in protesting that consulate coming to Houston, and more specifically, we really took a hard stand on it coming into my district in Houston. There is concern. There is concern, and the Vietnamese people have raised these concerns

Let me ask Mr. Sifton: You mentioned the blood cashews and you spoke quite well. And my suspicion is that while I can't impact the policy of the United States, I can impact the policy of my congressional office. And I'm not as fond of cashews as I used to be. My suspicion is that we won't have a lot of cashews in my office.

But are there some other products that you can call to our attention that you have been able to trace back to involuntary servitude?

MR. SIFTON: Yeah. Let me start by saying it's very, very, very difficult, especially with Vietnam in particular. There are some textile products and some other camping-type mosquito nets and some other things that we identified in our report. And the companies that we identified took quite responsible actions when it was brought to their attention, cut off subcontractors. So we haven't had a problem sort of on the corporate side.

Rather, you know, the real issue is in Vietnam. What we have is the Ministry of Labor overseeing what is essentially a health issue, drug dependency. Why is the Ministry of Labor running detention camps for drug users? It really belongs in the health ministry. I mean, the real problem is there's a profit motive to the prison wardens who control these facilities.

So at the end of the day, it's a question of the United States, the European Union, which just engaged in a EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, just after Michael Posner had his, other interested nations, like Norway and Canada, all making it very clear, these drug treatment centers have got to close. You've got funding for HIV intervention into these centers. PEPFAR knew this. There was some HIV intervention in the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime. Funding goes to Vietnam for these centers. It's just got to stop. It's great to have drug treatment centers. People who have drug problems need to get treatment. But forced labor is not an effective form of drug treatment. And tell Vietnam, shut these facilities down.

David Shear in Hanoi agrees. He's said it. I think he should say it a little bit more vocally, but he's said it. I mean, that's what would end this, rather than going after the companies one by one, which we've done. The most effective thing would be for the trading partners to say enough is enough, close down the centers.

One word about Jordan, though; you mentioned Jordan. I'd just say, you know, Human Rights Watch globally has a huge number of problems with forced labor, not just from Vietnam into Jordan, but from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal. There's an active case in federal court right now against a company in Jordan for trafficking of people from Nepal, for instance. So it's a big problem just with Jordan, in particular, as a target country.

REP. SMITH: Let me just add, Mr. Sifton, before we go -- oh, I'm sorry. Were you done?

REP. GREEN: No, I will yield to the chair, of course. Yes, sir. I will yield.

REP. SMITH: I didn't mean to cut you off.

REP. GREEN: No, I'm fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for your testimony.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Sifton, if I could ask you, you know, PEPFAR is a focus country and they get hundreds of millions of dollars under PEPFAR. I've raised repeatedly that faith-based organizations are precluded participation by the Vietnamese government, which is contrary to Bush's vision of what PEPFAR was all about. And it has worked very well all over Africa and everywhere else where there's a PEPFAR country. But has our embassy or do you know of anyone within the U.S. government, have they investigated, as you called it, labor therapy, where PEPFAR money might be comingling and being used in such a terrible way?

MR. SIFTON: Yeah, I would be glad forward -- I mean, rather than take up a lot of time now, I'd be glad to forward you the correspondence we had with USAID and PEPFAR on this issue. The bottom line is a lot of money goes to Vietnam under PEPFAR, and not a lot of it goes into the drug treatment centers, but some does.

And the money that does go in goes for lifesaving antivirals for a very small number of HIV-positive people in the forced labor camps. So it's kind of difficult morally to say pull out and these prisoners suddenly have no HIV/AIDS antivirals. So it's a little difficult, but with that said, there's a lot of leverage that Ambassador Shear can exercise and I think he has exercised.

But again, to go back to my testimony, it's a question of keeping up the pressure and not letting it flag. That's our biggest fear is that at the 11th hour, when the agreements are finally ready to be signed, the administration will fall down and agree to all kinds of concessions and not continue to make these demands, and we will have squandered this amazing opportunity that is only going to present itself once to offer all these good things to Vietnam. I don't think they should be offered, but I'm not in charge of the foreign policy of the United States. But if they are going to be offered, it's an opportunity that can't be wasted.

MS. SAN (ph): Mr. Chairman, if I may translate a comment? Ms. Vu, she said: "I'm very concerned about my safety. I was recently involved in a hit-and-run car accident." So she just wanted to raise that and maybe seek for --

REP. SMITH: When was that?

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) Five days ago.

REP. SMITH: (Off mic.)

MS. VU: (Through interpreter.) She was exiting a highway and there was a white car without any license plate, just hit her and then ran off.

REP. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, if I may, just one liberty, please. It is of concern because I know that there are people who want to see us doing business with Vietnam. And so we're not necessarily talking about somebody doing something dastardly under the color of state protection. It could be someone totally disconnected from a state, but there are people who are interested in a business relationship. So I am concerned and I'll be amenable to working with you, Mr. Chairman, to do what we can to make sure that the proper authorities are notified.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Green.

REP. GREEN: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Royce?

REP. ROYCE: Just one question and I'll ask this of Mr. Cao. The case I talked about, Viet Khang, was the songwriter. He wrote that song appealing to the conscience of those who were brutalizing protesters. The protest in question was one protesting China's territorial ambitions.

And along the same lines, you had the situation of the editorial that I showed that had been blocked out, where painstakingly, with a marker, they had marked out on every page of The Wall Street Journal that was distributed -- they had marked out this comment about the case of a woman who'd organized protests of China's aggression in maritime territorial disputes. This topic really seems to get under the skin of the current government of Vietnam. I'd just ask you, what does that Vietnamese songwriter, Viet Khang, what does he mean to the Vietnamese people, and what do you make of the way the government is reacting to these protests of maritime aggression?

MR. CAO: Thank you for your question, Congressman Royce. With respect to the songwriters (in here), I would like to, again, bring attention to the many other activists who are involved in the promotion of democracy in Vietnam.

Obviously, any democracy activist, any persons who are involved in promoting freedom and religious freedom in Vietnam, they are all considered, at least by us here in the United States, as people of great importance. But they are seen by the Vietnamese government as enemies of the state, so that -- and the records show very clearly that many of these people are routinely beaten, imprisoned, arrested, falsely accused for actions that they deem to be illegal under state law.

But behind the scenes, obviously, their intention is all about intimidation. Their intention is about cracking down on democracy activism, on religious freedom activism. And this is something that we, as a Congress, you all, as members of Congress, must continue to pay close attention to, because freedom and democracy is not only confined to the United States. It should be an ideal that must be spread worldwide.

And we saw the significance of the activists in the Middle East, the Arab Spring. And I hope that something similar might occur in Southeast Asia. Call it the Asian Spring or what have you. But at least the goals and the aspirations of a people fighting for freedom would be fulfilled.

REPRESENTATIVE DANA ROHRBACHER (R-CA): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And first of all, I'd like to thank you on behalf of many of my own constituents, and Mr. Royce's constituents as well, for having this hearing today. Loretta Sanchez and Mr. Royce and myself represent large numbers of Vietnamese-Americans and we are very proud to do so and we are very grateful for the leadership that you've provided over the years, to make sure that their loved ones left back in Vietnam are not suffering horrible brutality from the regime that continues to oppress them.

I can't help but notice that when I go to a clothing store, more and more I'm finding clothing that says "Made in Vietnam." And that's very disturbing to me, because I realize that what we have here is American businessmen going into a dictatorship in order to make a bigger profit from repressed people, who are not permitted to form unions and go on strikes and demand better working conditions. And if American businessmen are going to be investing someplace, it should be in countries that are governed by democratic institutions.

I mean, we have people that are struggling now in Asia to create more democratic countries, like in the Philippines, for example. And we should not -- the United States should have, as our policy, that any export-import bank or any of the Pacific banks or whatever we're talking about, the international financial structure that we are subsidizing, that that money should not be going to dictatorships. And we should have that as the American policy and that would, and should, leave out Vietnam as it is today.

And unfortunately, even some of the businessmen that have gone to Vietnam have realized that the dictatorship -- that under such dictatorships, they're not going to treat foreign investors and foreign businessmen any more fairly or honestly than they treat their own population. And there are many businessmen that have gone there and lost their investment through swindles by the government, by out and out theft by government agents.

And why would we, as American citizens, as free people, want to subsidize through these investment banks that we have, these international banks, people who are taking the risk of going into Vietnam or other dictatorships? We should not. And if a businessman wants to go over there, let them take the risk, knowing that there's no free court system or judicial system in which these type of things can be taken up.

So none of that -- in fact, what we've heard today, and I will be -- I'm sorry, I was at another hearing, but I will be going through the transcripts. But I'm sure that you have underscored that the actually (sic) lack of freedom in Vietnam has gotten worse and not better and during the time period when people are investing money there.

And yet, we've been told over and over again, the more American interaction economically, the more investment, the more there will be reform. That has never worked in China. It hasn't worked elsewhere. It's not working in Vietnam.

And I appreciate you drawing attention to that through this hearing today. So I would just stand in solidarity with you. And I will be reading your testimony. I'm sorry, I had a -- you know, we have hearings at the same time here. We have to run back and forth.

But I believe that, one last note, we now have, I believe, an opportunity that we have leverage on the Communist Chinese government of Vietnam. And that is they feel threatened by another dictatorship. How about that, two dictatorships, two gangsters fighting over territory? We've had that happen in our own country. And when you've got the government of Communist China engaged in military action against the government of Vietnam over certain territories, it is now the moment for the United States to use that as leverage to make sure they concede points on human rights and democracy before we go in and help them.

But if they're willing to do that, maybe we should help them, because I do perceive that it is the Chinese who are being the aggressor. But let's use this as leverage to get some reform in Vietnam and then, before we proceed with helping that dictatorship. Thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: I want to thank Chairman Rohrabacher for his very eloquent summation of what this hearing has been all about. And I know Dr. Thang wants to show it -- I do hope the members will stay a moment -- that video. But I would like Congressman Cao or any of the -- you know, we had a hearing, and you remember it very well, about Wen Nam (ph), when he was murdered by the Vietnamese thugs, and you did mention, of course, Cung Dao (ph) earlier.

And it seems to be a pattern. You know, you want certain property owned by the church, regardless, or by one of the religious denominations? You take it. You call it eminent domain or some facsimile of that and then you beat the people to death, as they did there.

Your thoughts on that update on Cung Dao (ph)? And then please show that video. Very quickly --

MR. CAO: And again, the issue of land disputes is not an issue that is under any color of law. It's an issue of pure greed. Many of these land disputes are promoted by greedy officials who have some kind of business dealings that would lead them to make a lot of money. So again, do not listen to what is coming out of Vietnam, but pay attention to the intentions and the stories that are being told by the citizens who are repressed and who are being arrested and tortured by the Vietnamese government.

MR. THANG: (Off mic) -- anti-riot police who are armed to the teeth. How plausible was that? And regarding the death of Mr. Nam (ph), the reporter said that there's disagreement among the family members of Mr. Nam (ph), whether he died of a natural cause or because the beating. You can go back to the report and read that.

Clearly, there are some members of the family that have been approached by the police before our team from the U.S. Embassy met with the (leader ?) in Vietnam to investigate and they were told, "If you say anything, you will face the same fate as Mr. Nam (ph)." Of course they would say, "Yeah, he died of natural cause." Why didn't we, at the State Department, just present the facts: that he got beat up, he got tortured, he was poked through the ears with a sharp wooden stick, and he suffered injuries, internal bleeding, and he died a few hours later. Why did we have to go with -- be so speculating, whether he died of natural cause, and not just present the facts?

So it's very troubling, because after the UNHCR recognized 49 of those parishioners as refugees, the next six were excluded or denied refugee status, after that report came out. So we talked to Ambassador Posner and begged him to review that and please do talk to him, to revise that piece of the report.

Now, regarding making the case for CPC re-designation, right after we rescinded the CPC designation in late 2006, the central bureau of religious affairs, that is the counterpart that Mr. John Hanford had been dealing with, issued a document that was leaked out in 2007, saying that we should resolutely overcome the abnormal and spontaneous growth of (partisan season ?) and the propagandizing and mobilizing the people to safeguard and promote good, traditional beliefs of ethnic minorities. That is euphemism for fostering renunciation of the Christian faith. They are being pushed to go back to their traditional beliefs and stay away from -- (inaudible).

And here are a few pictures. In 2008, this is what happened to Pastor Nguyen Com Ching (ph), when he tried to help the Montagnard in the Central Highlands but got beaten up -- (inaudible). This was what happened in 2009 to a prominent member of the Unified Buddhist Church when he tried to deliver relief to the poor people in Vietnam, low-income people in Vietnam.

And this what happened in 2009 or so to Father Motabing (ph), who just led a delegation to hold a prayer of solidarity with the parish of Tangtua (ph) that was under threat of being taken away by the government of Vietnam. This is what happened to a parishioner in Dong Chium (ph), where the government of Vietnam blew up the cross, the crucifix with explosives.

This what happened to Father Nguyen Bon Thang (ph) of the Redemptorist Order, who came to Dong Chium (ph) to express solidarity with the parishioners in Dong Chium (ph). They're all beaten up by the police. This is what happened to a member of the Redemptorist Church here in Hanoi in 2010. This is college student and he protested the instructors from defaming his faith in class.

And this is -- you already saw this picture of Mr. Nam in Kungzhao (ph) in 2010, July. And this is what happened to a member of the Baptist Church in Guanghai (ph) just last year, October. The police broke in, disrupted the prayer and beat him up. And this just happened in December, that's last month, in Thai Ha, in an incident that Congressman Cao did mention. So this is parishioner that tried to peacefully put back church property.

So this is just a few examples of police brutality against religious leaders and people of faith.

And now your permission, very quickly, just three minutes, I'd like to show the video of -- (inaudible) -- of what happened in Mongyair (ph) village.

REP. SMITH: Lower the lights, please? Thank you. As soon as he gets it on.

MR. : Let me know when you're ready.

MR. THANG: So on January 28th -- yes.

MR. : (Off mic.)

MR. THANG: Oh, sure, afterwards.

REP. SMITH: (Off mic.)

MR. THANG: Oh, that's fine. Sure. Thank you, sir. So you can see here the military were moving in to demolish the entire Hmong Christian village of Sanapour (ph) in Mongyair (ph). And you see here the government workers, the cadres, the military sitting here. And you can see, soon, the workers breaking down the roof here. This is the homes. This is the homes, here.

And these are the Hmong Christians. This is what's left of the homes. Nothing left. You see all these -- (inaudible) -- here. And then, in mid-March, the government came back, after a temporary suspension due to the Lunar New Year, and they demolished the rest of the village. You see all the roofs here. And these people now have become homeless, these Christians.

And then May 1st, these Hmong religious (sic), they have no other choice but to come together peacefully to request for an end to religious persecution and an end to demolition of their homes and confiscation of their land, about 3,000 to 5,000, estimate. All these -- you can see the women, the children -- they all came peacefully, just begging the government to let them live. But then the government moved troops in, hundreds of them, surrounding, encircling the demonstrators with guns, live ammunition.

REP. SMITH: How did you get this video?

MR. THANG: From the Hmong themselves --

REP. SMITH: That's a big risk.

MR. THANG: -- at a very high risk to themselves.

You see batons here and electric rods. And these are the mobile anti-riot police coming in. And now they're being beaten up here. They're running away, escaping. And there's a total blockage of news reporters coming in or news getting out from Mongyair (ph) since.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, very much. Without objection, if there's any final statement our distinguished panel would like to say before we adjourn, we do have to make our way over to a vote. We're almost out of time.

MR. THANG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And please do keep the attention on the issue.

REP. SMITH: This is -- there will be a series of hearings here. And, like I said, Michael Posner and USTR will all be --

REP. GREEN: Mr. Chairman?

REP. SMITH: Yes?

REP. GREEN: I don't know whether it's in the record, but without objection, if there is none, I would ask that a copy of that be placed in the record officially.

REP. SMITH: Without objection, so ordered. Thank you.

And as soon as any final statement is made, the hearing will be adjourned, without objection. OK.

LOAD-DATE: January 26, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

205 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

January 22, 2012 Sunday

Pakistan senators express concern over foreign spy network in country

LENGTH: 468 words

Text of report by Ijaz Kakakhel headlined "Senators concerned over foreign spy network in country" published by Pakistani newspaper Daily Times website on 21 January

Islamabad: The senators on Friday [20 January] expressed concern over the existence of a foreign intelligence network in Pakistan.

Senator Raza Rabbani, on a point of order, said that it is reported that Norway has established its intelligence network in Pakistan, adding that the disclosure has resulted in the resignation of a Norwegian minister. "Who has allowed the foreign country (s) to establish such networks in Pakistan? Did the Norwegian agency take permission from the government of Pakistan? Is there any reciprocal arrangement and does Pakistan have also an intelligence network in Norway," the senator asked. He termed such activities on the Pakistani soil "not a good sign".

Replying to Rabbani's queries, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the existence of a foreign intelligence network in Pakistan is a serious issue, which should be discussed with the prime minister. He said he would be able to brief the Senate on the issue after having a consultation the prime minister.

The minister also requested Rabbani to provide details of his claim so that complete information might be provided to the Senate. Malik, however, made it clear that only the ISI and IB are allowed to carry out intelligence activities in the country, adding they are answerable to the prime minister.

The minister told the Upper House of parliament that some foreigners had been arrested in Balochistan for having fake ID cards.

He also said some foreigners were carrying out unlawful activities in Balochistan, adding, "From now on, every foreigner will have to explain his/her purpose of visit before entering the province." Earlier, during the question hour, Malik said human smuggling in the country was ongoing for the last several decades. He said a large number of people had been arrested for illegally sending Pakistanis to Turkey, Greece and other European countries. The minister said the number of human traffickers arrested during 2009 was 1,755, 1,779 in 2010 and up to 800 until June 2011. He said the majority of human traffickers were arrested from Gujrat.

The minister said Pakistan has been upgraded from **Tier-2 Watch List to Tier-2** in the Annual **Trafficking in Person Report (TIP) 2010**, published by the State Department of USA.

"Similarly, FIA takes stern action against human traffickers/smugglers/facilitators and sub agents. As such FIA has arrested Most Wanted Traffickers (MWTs) 26 in 2009, 16 in 2010 and two in 2011."

The government has also established Inter-agency Task Force (IATF). Some 10,703 illegal migrants were intercepted in 2008, 5,601 in 2009 and 3,434 in 2010.

Source: Daily Times website, Lahore, in English 21 Jan 12

LOAD-DATE: January 22, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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206 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

January 22, 2012 Sunday

Stepping up human trafficking war

SECTION: Pg. 25**LENGTH:** 148 words

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia will take a leaf out of the success of its neighbouring countries such as the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in combating human trafficking.

Home Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Mahmood Adam told the New Sunday Times that these countries were previously high on the United States' **watch list** for **human trafficking** activities, but had now improved their standing after stepping up their war against **human trafficking**.

He said for a start, Malaysia would soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the US embassy and the High Commissions of Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada to step up the fight against human trafficking.

Malaysia, which is on the US **watch list** for **human trafficking** activities, has bilateral agreements with these countries to fight transborder crimes and terrorism. It is now extending this co-operation to fight human trafficking.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: January 24, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

207 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

January 22, 2012 Sunday**Pakistan: FIA arrest 4334 human traffickers during last three years: Malik****LENGTH:** 218 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 22 -- Minister for Interior Senator A. Rehman Malik on Friday told the Senate that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested 4,334 human traffickers during last three years.

In a written reply to a question during Question Hour, Rehman Malik said that FIA has taken concrete steps to control **Human Trafficking** and added that up-gradation from **Tier-2 watch list of Trafficking in Person** (TIP) report of 2009 to **Tier-2** of TIP report 2010 and subsequently 2011 was a testimony to it.

He said that 1755 human traffickers were arrested in the year 2009, in 2010 a total of 1779 human traffickers were arrested and up to June 2011, 800 human traffickers have been arrested.

He said that Pakistan has been upgraded from Tier-2 watch list to **Tier-2** in the Annual **Trafficking in Person** Report (TIP) 2010, published by State Department of USA and this year Pakistan have maintained the same status due to active follow up by FIA.

Malik said that FIA took stern action against human traffickers, smugglers, facilitators, sub agents and FIA had arrested 44 Most Wanted Traffickers (MWTs) in last two years and further special campaign for arrest of Proclaimed Offenders (Pos) and court Absconders is also frequently launched to eradicate the menace Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: April 18, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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208 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Daily Times (PK)

January 21, 2012 Saturday

Senators concerned over foreign spy network in country

LENGTH: 461 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 21 -- The senators on Friday expressed concern over the existence of a foreign intelligence network in Pakistan.

Senator Raza Rabbani, on a point of order, said that it is reported that Norway has established its intelligence network in Pakistan, adding that the disclosure has resulted in the resignation of a Norwegian minister. "Who has allowed the foreign country (s) to establish such networks in Pakistan? Did the Norwegian take permission from the government of Pakistan? Is there any reciprocal arrangement and does Pakistan have also an intelligence network in Norway," the senator asked. He termed such activities on the Pakistani soil "not a good sign".

Replying to Rabbani's queries, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the existence of a foreign intelligence network in Pakistan is a serious issue, which should be discussed with the prime minister. He said he would be able to brief the Senate on the issue after having a consultation the prime minister.

The minister also requested Rabbani to provide details of his claim so that complete information might be provided to the Senate. Malik, however, made it clear that only the ISI and IB are allowed to carry out intelligence activities in the country, adding they are answerable to the prime minister. The minister told the Upper House of parliament that some foreigners had been arrested in Balochistan for having fake ID cards. He also said some foreigners were carrying out unlawful activities in Balochistan, adding, "From now on, every foreigner will have to explain his/her purpose of visit before entering the province." Earlier, during the question hour, Malik said human smuggling in the country was ongoing for the last several decades. He said a large number of people had been arrested for illegally sending Pakistanis to Turkey, Greece and other European countries. The minister said the number of human traffickers arrested during 2009 was 1,755, 1,779 in 2010 and up to 800 until June 2011. He said the majority of human traffickers were arrested from Gujrat.

The minister said Pakistan has been upgraded from **Tier-2 Watch List to Tier-2** in the Annual **Trafficking in Person** Report (TIP) 2010, published by the State Department of USA.

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The government has also established Inter- Task Force (IATF). Some 10,703 illegal migrants were intercepted in 2008, 5,601 in 2009 and 3,434 in 2010. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Times. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

209 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Daily Times

January 21, 2012 Saturday

Senators concerned over foreign spy network in country

BYLINE: Ijaz Kakakhel

SECTION: Vol. VIII No. 13

LENGTH: 427 words

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LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

210 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

The Messenger

January 21, 2012 Saturday

4334 human traffickers arrested during last three years: Malik

SECTION: Vol. IV No. 21

LENGTH: 204 words

Minister for Interior Senator A. Rehman Malik on Friday told the Senate that the Federal Investigation Agency FIA has arrested 4,334 human traffickers during last three years.

In a written reply to a question during Question Hour, Rehman Malik said that FIA has taken concrete steps to control **Human Trafficking** and added that up-gradation from **Tier-2 watch list of Trafficking in Person** TIP report of 2009 to **Tier-2** of TIP report 2010 and subsequently 2011 was a testimony to it.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

211 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
Pakistan Press International**January** 20, 2012 Friday**4334 human traffickers arrested during last three years: Malik****LENGTH:** 206 words

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LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

STARRED MAYBE 212 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Tico Times (San Jose, Costa Rica)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

January 20, 2012 Friday

Quepos Residents: No more abuse

BYLINE: Clayton R. Norman, The Tico Times, San Jose, Costa Rica

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 1649 words

Jan. 20--The week after police arrested the mayor of Aguirre for the second time in less than a month on charges that he used public cash to make sex videos with underage girls, members of the central Pacific beach community of Quepos and Manuel Antonio gathered to demonstrate against the effects of sexual violence and exploitation.

The Forum Against Violence Aguirre 2012 included a forum cataloguing the long-term effects on victims of violence and abuse and the communities they inhabit. The Rahab Foundation, a nongovernmental organization dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking, moderated the forum, which was sponsored by the Association for Prevention, Security and Peace in the Aguirre Canton (COPAZA).

A march followed, and some 300 participants, many dressed in white, filed through the street and stopped by the National Police office.

"The issue now isn't so much what happens with the mayor," said Boris Marchegiani, president of the COPAZA board of directors, referring to erstwhile Aguirre Mayor Lutgardo Bolanos, a National Liberation Party (PLN) politician who became mayor in February 2011. "The big problem here is getting together to fight against violence and sexual abuse," Marchegiani said.

Statistics provided by COPAZA show that three out of 10 children in Aguirre are abused at home. The grim result of that, Marchegiani said, is that 70 percent of those abused kids end up with serious alcohol and drug addiction problems later in life.

The Mayor Police

Judicial Investigation Police (OIJ) agents first arrested Bolanos on Dec. 21, when raids of his office and home turned up hundreds of CDs containing pornographic videos depicting sex acts with underage girls, and according to the OIJ reports that outlined the raids, similar videos were discovered on his personal computer. Bolanos' driver was also arrested that day.

OIJ reports indicated the men were being charged with child pornography and embezzlement after allegedly touring the country in municipal cars and using municipal cash to hire young girls to perform in pornographic films.

The men bonded out of jail the next day, but OIJ agents re-arrested them on Jan. 12 after, according to a second OIJ report, agents talked to three new alleged victims between the ages of 14 and 15. Three other suspects also were arrested at that time, including Jimmy Acuna, a bar owner, Vilma Campos, a woman accused of recruiting girls for the films, and Reymundo Herrera, a municipal employee, according to an OIJ spokeswoman. The OIJ report accompanying those arrests describes the suspects as "a band organized for the goal of human trafficking."

The next day, the suspects walked out of jail on "preventive measures," according to court officials in Aguirre and Parrita. Preventive measures mean that members of the alleged human-trafficking gang are free to roam the streets, but may not approach their alleged victims or leave the country, and they must register with the court every two weeks.

Human Trafficking

The United Nations estimates conservatively that there are about 2.5 million victims of human trafficking across the globe at any given time. In 79 percent of human trafficking cases the motive is sexual exploitation -- forced prostitution or rape -- with women and girls making up the bulk of victims.

In 2011, the U.S. State Department added Costa Rica to its **human trafficking tier-2 watch list**. Criteria for being included in the **tier-2 watch list** is lack of an overall increase in effort on the part of Costa Rican authorities to stop **human trafficking**. Other countries on the tier-2 watch list include Kosovo, Gabon, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and the six other Central American countries.

In Costa Rica's case, a U.S. Embassy source explained, there has been a failure to condemn or prosecute human traffickers and to maintain specialized services or shelter for trafficking victims, as well as only limited efforts to raise public awareness of the issue.

The Pacific province of Puntarenas -- home to Quepos, where Bolanos was mayor, and Costa Rica's famous Manuel Antonio National Park -- is specifically mentioned as a destination for national and international child sex tourism in the State Department's 2011 report on Costa Rica.

Being on the tier-2 watch list, as opposed to the third tier, indicates that in the eyes of the U.S., a country is at least attempting to conform to the minimum requirements of the U.S. Congress' Trafficking Victim Protection Act, which requires the U.S. Secretary of State to report to Congress annually on countries' efforts to stamp out the crime. Countries on the tier-3 watch list are viewed as making little or no efforts to fight trafficking and can face restrictions in the receipt of aid from the United States.

Countries that remain on the tier-2 watch list for two or more consecutive years may be automatically downgraded to the tier-3 list.

In order for Costa Rica to move off the tier-2 list, it must strengthen efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict and punish trafficking offenders, according to the State Department report.

In November 2011, the U.S. government donated \$200,000 to the Rahab Foundation to help the victims of human trafficking. Anne S. Andrew, U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, called human trafficking "a grave violation of human rights" when she presented the donation.

A bill that would strengthen prosecutorial ability and bolster punishments in cases of human trafficking was presented to the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly in 2011 and will likely be debated sometime this year.

Exploitation

"Above all, with commercial sexual exploitation, which is a form of sexual abuse because there are economic factors, unfortunately there is a very high level of tolerance from [victims'] families and from society toward abusers, [and] often blame is placed on the victim," Eugenia Salazar, Costa Rica prosecutor for sex crimes and domestic abuse, told The Tico Times.

Salazar said victims of commercial sexual exploitation seem to fit that category and are often viewed as participating willingly in forced prostitution or other forms of exploitation because society assumes they "like that life or they like the easy way."

"In terms of sexual tourism by foreigners, there are also domestic tourists who look for minors to abuse in that context, as well as foreigners who come in search of that," she said.

The OIJ report issued the day of Bolanos' first arrest on Dec. 21 states that Bolanos "allegedly rented cars for supposed tours where it seems he recruited girls in vulnerable locations like Los Guido, Pavas, La Carpio, Desamparados, Coronado, Perez Zeledon, Quepos and Golfito," areas of Costa Rica known to have high rates of poverty.

Salazar touched on a similar theme in her interview with The Tico Times, saying, "The abuser knows where weaknesses are and has mechanisms to get close to victims. How many underage girls prostitute themselves to buy a cellphone or to have brand-name things, [or] to buy a pair of jeans that are the latest fashion?"

Accusations, Resolutions and Lingering Effects

"I stayed 36 years with pain inside me," said Marchegiani, a hotel manager, sexual abuse survivor and recovering drug and alcohol addict. "When I came into a recovery program, which I've been in for 13 years, I found my answer. ... Very few of us have been lucky enough to be able to get away from the anger, the fear, the lack of self-esteem and self-worth that abuse causes."

You don't have to look far to see the effects of abuse in Aguirre, Marchegiani said.

"The results are very simple," he said. "When you walk down the street, you see people living on the street and you wonder why they dropped out of society. The effects are very dramatic, people who can't trust their family or the people around them drop out. That's where the desire to continue abusing others comes from, to abuse drugs or alcohol, theft, murder; it goes all the way up the scale."

The mayor's case will work its way through the Costa Rica courts, but in the meantime Marchegiani said he hopes to form a committee, with support from the U.N. and other foreign and domestic agencies, to try and address issues of abuse and human trafficking and their effects on individuals.

Some business and hotel owners in the Quepos and Manuel Antonio area, which hosts a thriving tourism industry, have called on the PLN for Bolanos' ouster.

Alvaro Emilio Castro is the president of the PLN's ethics tribunal. He said that until court proceedings take their course in this case, there's little the tribunal can do, unless someone presents evidence to the tribunal on which it can make a decision about Bolanos' ethics.

"There are two situations in which the tribunal can act," Castro said. "One, if he is accused and the courts arrive at a conviction. The other is for someone, maybe a hotel owner or resident of the area, to present themselves at the tribunal and say 'I will serve as a witness' and present us evidence. In that case, we don't have to wait for a resolution in the courts to start our own proceedings."

Castro reiterated that no verdict has been rendered in Bolanos' case.

"We can't do anything without proof," he said. "If someone presents us with evidence that this man is a good Liberacionista or a bad Liberacionista, then we can make a decision that corresponds to the evidence."

If Bolanos is found guilty in a court of law, or if the PLN ethics tribunal rules against him based on evidence presented to them, he could face suspensions of up to eight years from the party or life-long expulsion.

The acting mayor of Aguirre, Isabel Leon, was scheduled to attend Wednesday night's community meeting, but did not arrive. At press time her office did not respond to phone calls from The Tico Times for comment.

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213 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

January 18, 2012 Wednesday

NATO AND WESTERN BALKANS RELATIONS; COMMITTEE: SENATE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 488 words**TESTIMONY-BY:** BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, CO-CHAIRMAN**AFFILIATION:** COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement of Benjamin L. Cardin Co-Chairman Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Committee on Senate Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

January 18, 2012

Welcome and good afternoon to everyone. Today we will review the aspirations and preparedness of Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo to join or deepen engagement with the NATO alliance - an important step for us and for them, and quite timely in the run-up to the next NATO summit, which will take place in Chicago on May 20-21.

In the past I, and other commission Chairmen and Co-Chairmen, have been strong supporters of NATO enlargement. It has been a very good thing, for our country and for the new democracies in East-Central Europe that have joined the alliance since 1998. Not only did enlargement stabilize Central Europe, but countries that formerly threatened us, with militaries were integrated into the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact, have become some of our closest allies. They have shouldered real responsibilities, and some of their soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending liberty, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, Today I believe further NATO engagement or enlargement can do likewise - stabilize the western Balkans, and provide our country with responsible allies.

Yet of course countries that seek to join NATO have to meet military standards, and human rights standards. In these respects Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo will have different challenges, and they will probably not be ready to join the alliance at the same time.

In respect of human rights, many countries in the Western Balkans have made great progress in combating **human trafficking**, especially given the blatant and widespread trafficking of young women into the sex trade the region experienced only a decade ago. In 2011, Bosnia and Macedonia joined NATO-member Croatia on **Tier 1** in the State Department's report on **Trafficking in Persons**. Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia are at Tier 2, as is NATO- member Albania. As the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which mandates the tier rankings, I want to strongly urge all these countries take the action necessary to reach Tier 1 this year; nothing less should be expected from friends and possible NATO allies than to protect people from being sold into modern-day slavery.

Other issues before the alliance - Afghanistan, missile defense, Libya, the Eurozone crisis - should not cause us to forget the long-term imperative of bringing the countries of the Western Balkans into NATO. American soldiers have done duty there in Bosnia and Kosovo -we don't want that to happen again - the issue of stability remains - and NATO membership is key to the solution. This means we have to encourage their NATO aspirations, and move their applications forward.

LOAD-DATE: January 20, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Congressional Testimony

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214 of 492 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

January 18, 2012**Remarks to the Media at the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, Burma**

SECTION: PUBLIC AFFAIRS DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2417 words

Remarks to the Media at the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, Burma

Press Availability

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Rangoon, Burma

January 11, 2012

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Good afternoon, everyone. As Secretary Clinton noted during her visit to Burma, if the Government of Burma keeps moving in the right direction, the US is prepared to be a partner in the reform process.

One of the areas of reform that was raised in Secretary Clinton's meetings was trafficking in persons. As we examine potential new avenues for engagement, one possibility is fighting this scourge in concert.

No country is immune from modern slavery, and both the United States and Burma are affected with victims in our own countries and abroad. There are concerns with victim identification, investigation and prosecution of traffickers, and victims' access to justice and rehabilitation. Here, forced labor, whether by governmental actors or unscrupulous employers, is an ongoing problem, as is sex trafficking. Additionally, there continue to be problems with the recruitment of child soldiers and the use of villagers by municipal or military authorities for forced labor or forced portering.

All of these aspects of the trafficking problem were discussed in a series of frank and open exchanges in the last two days in Naypyitaw and Rangoon. Challenges of course remain, given the unfortunate record on this issue, but we saw in these discussions a recognition of the problem and an openness to act.

While this is a country endowed with many natural resources, the most precious is its people, and they deserve freedom from modern slavery whether here or abroad. I'm happy to take any questions.

QUESTION: You've met relevant ministers, including the Home Minister. I'm sure you must have discussed a range of issues regarding human trafficking. Are you now convinced that the Burmese Government is doing enough? Are they committed to eliminating **human trafficking**, forced labor, child conscription? As far as I remember, Myanmar was in **Tier 3** of the annual report. What do you think Myanmar's status will be this year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The country was in **Tier 3** of the annual report, this being the annual report [showing the report in his hand]. What we have seen in the annual report is an analysis of what governments are doing under 11 minimum standards set forth by the Congress on the elimination of **trafficking in persons**. And that ranges everything from victim identification to the laws that are in place. But most importantly, are the laws being enforced. And so one of the things that we discussed in the meetings, not just with the Ministers, but also with the inter-Ministerial working group (CBTIP) on this was what are some of the things that are happening out in the field?

And there are some things that we've seen in the last few months that are encouraging. For instance, no longer requiring that victims who come home are then kept involuntarily for two weeks in a shelter which -- what we've been hearing from many of the victims -- the returning victims felt that that was more like jail. The Government has issued a decree stopping that practice, which we welcome. We're hoping that we'll see more such reforms and more such policies on the

part of the Government going forward that would be able to be taken into account as we look at the ranking in the coming year. We don't presuppose a ranking. We still have three months left in the year that we look at. And there's plenty of time for the Government to continue to do positive steps towards compliance with these minimum standards. And we would certainly encourage them as we did in the meetings over the last couple of days.

QUESTION: Did you discuss with government officials anything about Burmese women being sold to China as brides? Do you have any concerns about that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: This is one of the facets of human trafficking that we discussed, both at the Ministerial level, and also with CBTIP, this issue of the women being sold as brides in China. And it's something that I have raised as well when I have travelled to China. It's an issue that can only be dealt with both the sending and the receiving countries. But what we very much feel is that there not only needs to be education of women so that they know that promises of a better life in China could be hiding exploitation and abuse, so that they have the information when the men come and try to take them north, but also then that there are opportunities for the women if they come back home; to make sure that they are not rejected by their family; to make sure that they have rehabilitation services. And so we spoke with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare about that issue of when people are coming home how they can best be served, how can they get the services that a trafficking victim requires. But it's something that's very much on our radar as we look at the problem of human trafficking.

QUESTION: Human trafficking most of the time is across borders. How do you see the cooperation between Burma and its neighbors on this issue? The second question is, how about the United States in helping combat this issue.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, first of all, much of the attention that's been paid here, and that the actors in Naypyitaw are looking at you're correct that there's more attention paid to the cross-border aspect of human trafficking. And the reality of course is that the migrants are more vulnerable to exploitation. They're more vulnerable to enslavement when they're in another country, when they're afraid of the immigration services, when they don't speak the language. But the United Nations' definition of human trafficking, the international standards, are very much about this is not about movement, this is a problem of enslavement and exploitation. And so we've seen cases where people have been held in modern slavery here at home without ever being taken across a border.

Having said that, we think it's very important for there to be regional focus on this because we recognize that a sending country has limited capacity to prosecute the factory owner who may be enslaving their people somewhere else. China, Thailand these are the places that I think many people think of when they think of the human trafficking problem here.

One of the things we've started doing in the United States is, in working with our Mexican counterparts on cross-border trafficking, is doing the cases simultaneously. So we will share our evidence with the Mexicans so that they can prosecute the recruiter in the village and we can prosecute the employer in the United States at the same time. And that's the type of model of cross-border cooperation that we think would be effective in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region as well. And it's the type of thing we think that ASEAN and the other regional entities would be good at helping foster. But we certainly have raised the issue of Burmese migrants when we talk to Thailand because those are so often the people who are being exploited, whether in prostitution, whether in factories, whether in the shrimp and fishing industries. So often when you see the exploitation and you meet the victims they are from here, and that needs to stop.

QUESTION: Can you elaborate on what sort of recommendations you have made to the Government authorities so that Myanmar will be upgraded from its present tier, or scrapped from the blacklist?

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QUESTION: So far, what do you think are the biggest obstacles that you are facing now to improve the situation?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of the biggest obstacles to improving the situation here seems to be the archaic legal structure, especially in the villages and towns act, which allows the civilian authorities to conscript labor for building projects or other things like that. So that it basically says that it is legal for the municipal government or the military to use forced labor. And even though there are positive things happening with transnational sex trafficking, and those types of trafficking, as long as it's still legal for the Government to use forced labor in that manner, it will be very hard for there to be improvement under these international standards. And so in some ways, it's not just an issue of resources or better training or political will to fight the criminal traffickers. It's changing the law to make it clear that the Government cannot actually hold its own people in forced labor. That's probably the biggest challenge that we see. But it's also a challenge that could be solved very easily if Government and Parliament took steps to end that practice.

QUESTION: Just a follow-up to the previous question. So what is the role of the U.S. Government and you in assisting this Government to solve this problem? What kind of offer have you made in Naypyitaw?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well we didn't make an offer on this trip. I think what we see in this trip is an opportunity to engage with our counterparts in the spirit of the last few months, as we look at these new avenues for potential collaboration. What we do in countries around the world ranges from supporting shelters, supporting police training, supporting the training of judges and other members of the Governmental response, but also making those linkages between civil society and Government. We have some limited funds that we spend each year in countries around the world. But we also have technical assistance, and we work within the international bodies. So, for instance, with ASEAN, the United States participated in a training that was held in Singapore last year under the auspices of ASEAN in which our counterparts from the Burmese prosecutors' offices were able to come and receive best practices from a host of prosecutors from around the world. Those are some of the types of things that we could see going forward, but much of the trip was to assess the situation, to see what the possibilities are, and to begin a conversation with our counterparts here. So we don't have an announcement for you about a particular pledge, or an amount, or anything like that. But when we do have an announcement if we do have an announcement we'll certainly let you know.

QUESTION: When you went to Naypyitaw, did the authorities mention the role of the local media in combating trafficking because in Burma we are still under heavy censorship.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: This is not something that we saw in these particular discussions, but I think it's something we will take under advisement for future discussions because one of the things that we've seen is that the role of the media in uncovering these situations and calling it to people's attention is critical. We talked earlier today to a number of the non-governmental and international organizations that are working on this, and they certainly raised this as being very helpful to their work in the last six months or so, as more news stories have come out about the human trafficking. And so we would certainly encourage all of you to continue to report on this issue and to intensify your reporting. It's not just for the print media either. Any of you who've seen the work being done on CNN International and otherwise, there are some very interesting ways to do reporting on this issue of modern slavery in series type of work. So not just reporting on one particular case, but reporting on the phenomenon of the women going to China, reporting on what's happening to the men who are on those Thai fishing boats, or even if there are people going on the Western borders into Bangladesh or India and being abused. Probably the most important is calling attention to the problems right here at home. But it is something that we'll want to continue to take on board and in fact it's something that, at the Embassy, press freedom is something we care about very deeply and if you have instances that you'd like to call to our attention, it's something that our Embassy staff would love to hear from you if there are impediments to your reporting on this issue. It's something that we not only can raise with Government, but something we would be very interested in raising if there are situations where you feel your coverage of this is being impeded.

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215 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Baluchistan Times

January 17, 2012 Tuesday

Five million illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan

SECTION: Vol. XXXVI No. 17**LENGTH:** 373 words

Around five million illegal immigrants have been residing in different cities of Pakistan for more than three decades. The illegal immigrants, around two million Bangladeshis, 2.5 million Afghans and 0.5 million other nationals including Africans, Iranians, Iraqis and Myanmar, are living at present in Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other cities, an official said on Monday.

Regarding steps taken to control flow of illegal immigration in the country, the official said Anti-Trafficking Units at Provincial Police Headquarters have been established to combat internal human trafficking while Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) has also been established.

He said the other measures are replacement of Personal Identification Secure Comparison Evaluation System (PISCES) by Integrated Border Management System (IBMS), having biometric facility, introduction of Machine Readable Passports (MRPs), black-listing of traffickers and installation of Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS).

Establishment of Immigration Check-post at zero point-250 in Balochistan, promulgation of Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) 2002, effective coordination with NGOs/IGOs for public awareness campaign through electronic and print media, installation of Immigration Intelligence Unit at FIA Headquarters with help of British High Commission were the other steps taken to control illegal immigrants.

Moreover, he said seminars, documentary, walks are being conducted regularly while pamphlets are distributed in different cities of the country as part of campaign to control those immigrants.

He said due to such efforts, Pakistan has been upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II** in the annual **Trafficking in Person** Report (TIP) 2010 published by State Department of United States and this year the country has maintained the same status of **Tier-II** in TIP Report 2011.

About the reasons, the official said partition of Pakistan in 1971, cold war in Afghanistan in 1980s, poor law and order situation in Iraq, deteriorated economic and social conditions in these countries and friendly policies and international obligations on Pakistan to accommodate Afghan refugees resulted in surge of immigrants number.

LOAD-DATE: January 17, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

216 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Daily Regional Times

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SECTION: Vol. VII No. 149

LENGTH: 377 words

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217 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
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BYLINE: Staff Reporter**SECTION:** Vol. XXIII No. 71**LENGTH:** 373 words

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LOAD-DATE: January 17, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

STARRED 218 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

January 11, 2012 Wednesday 04:46 PM GMT**US envoy: Myanmar weak against human trafficking****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 399 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, Myanmar

Myanmar's archaic laws that allow conscription of workers for public projects are the biggest obstacle impeding its fight against human trafficking, a top U.S. diplomat said Wednesday.

"As long as it is still legal for the governments to use forced labor, it will be very hard for there to be improvement" on meeting international standards, visiting U.S. ambassador for human trafficking Luis CdeBaca told reporters.

Forced labor, by local governments or unscrupulous employers, child labor and sex trafficking were also cited by CdeBaca as problems Myanmar needed to tackle better.

CdeBaca said those topics were discussed frankly and openly in his talks this week with Myanmar Home Minister Lt. Gen. Ko Ko and Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin.

"Challenges, of course, remain, given the unfortunate record on these issues, but we saw these initial discussions a recognition of a problem and an openness to act," he said.

An annual U.S. report on trafficking grouped Myanmar in the third, or worst, **tier** of countries last year for failure to comply with the minimum standards or make serious efforts to curb **human trafficking**. Others among the two dozen worst were North Korea, Venezuela and Iran.

CdeBaca, who arrived Monday along with U.S. special envoy and policy coordinator for Myanmar Derek Mitchell, acknowledged the country's efforts to combat human trafficking and welcomed its recent decision to stop detaining female trafficking victims involuntarily in a shelter.

Washington long shunned Myanmar under its repressive military government, but the Obama administration reversed policy to try to engage the Southeast Asian country's rulers.

The military-backed but elected government in office since March has made some mild reforms and promised more, and the pace of U.S. engagement has quickened, highlighted by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit in December. Several influential members of Congress are slated to visit in the next few weeks.

Myanmar seeks better relations so the United States and other nations ease economic and political sanctions holding back its development.

"We hope there will be more reforms that would be able to be taken into account as we look at the ranking in the coming year. We still have three months left. There is plenty of time for the government to continue to do positive steps towards compliance with these minimum standards," CdeBaca said.

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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STARRED 219 of 492 DOCUMENTS



FARS News Agency

January 11, 2012 Wednesday

Saudi Man Auctions His Boy on Facebook

LENGTH: 240 words

TEHRAN (FNA)- A Saudi man is trying to sell his son on Facebook for around \$20million to avoid 'living in poverty' after his illegal business was shut down.

Saud bin Nasser Al Shahry claims trafficking his son is the only option to continue providing for his wife and daughter.

He says he is willing to go to court to complete the sale, the only condition of which is to know which city the buyer lives in.

Saud bin Nasser Al Shahry is seeking that amount - or 73 million UAE Dirhams - in exchange for his son because a local court recently shuttered his illegal debt-collection business, VentureBeat.com reports, citing a report by Al Sharq, a news outlet based in Qatar.

Al Shahry reportedly resorted to child trafficking so that he, his wife and daughter could avoid "living in poverty". His only stipulation, according to reports, is that he knows the city in which the buyer resides.

The sale of children is illegal in Saudi Arabia, but the Saudi government does little to stop it, according to the US Department of State. It has been designated as a **Tier 3** country for **human trafficking**, indicating that the government doesn't meet minimum international standards of **human trafficking** or seek to uphold them.

Al Shahry is now ready to go to court to complete the "sale procedures," Al Sharq reports.

Russia Today, however, suggests the sale is merely a public stunt aimed to attract a rich investor to save Al Shahry from his financial troubles.

LOAD-DATE: January 11, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** 363

220 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 11, 2012 Wednesday**REMARKS TO THE MEDIA AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN RANGOON, BURMA - LUIS CDEBACA AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE , OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 2419 words**DATELINE:** RANGOON, Burma

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Press Availability

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Rangoon, Burma

January 11, 2012

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AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: One of the biggest obstacles to improving the situation here seems to be the archaic legal structure, especially in the villages and towns act, which allows the civilian authorities to conscript labor for building projects or other things like that. So that it basically says that it is legal for the municipal government or the military to use forced labor. And even though there are positive things happening with transnational sex trafficking, and those types of trafficking, as long as it's still legal for the Government to use forced labor in that manner, it will be very hard for there to be improvement under these international standards. And so in some ways, it's not just an issue of resources or better training or political will to fight the criminal traffickers. It's changing the law to make it clear that the Government cannot actually hold its own people in forced labor. That's probably the biggest challenge that we see. But it's also a challenge that could be solved very easily if Government and Parliament took steps to end that practice.

QUESTION: Just a follow-up to the previous question. So what is the role of the U.S. Government and you in assisting this Government to solve this problem? What kind of offer have you made in Naypyitaw?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well we didn't make an offer on this trip. I think what we see in this trip is an opportunity to engage with our counterparts in the spirit of the last few months, as we look at these new avenues for potential collaboration. What we do in countries around the world ranges from supporting shelters, supporting police training, supporting the training of judges and other members of the Governmental response, but also making those linkages between civil society and Government. We have some limited funds that we spend each year in countries around the world. But we also have technical assistance, and we work within the international bodies. So, for instance, with ASEAN, the United States participated in a training that was held in Singapore last year under the auspices of ASEAN in which our counterparts from the Burmese prosecutors' offices were able to come and receive best practices from a host of prosecutors from around the world. Those are some of the types of things that we could see going forward, but much of the trip was to assess the situation, to see what the possibilities are, and to begin a conversation with our counterparts here. So we don't have an announcement for you about a particular pledge, or an amount, or anything like that. But when we do have an announcement if we do have an announcement we'll certainly let you know.

QUESTION: When you went to Naypyitaw, did the authorities mention the role of the local media in combating trafficking because in Burma we are still under heavy censorship.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: This is not something that we saw in these particular discussions, but I think it's something we will take under advisement for future discussions because one of the things that we've seen is that the role of the media in uncovering these situations and calling it to people's attention is critical. We talked earlier today to a number of the non-governmental and international organizations that are working on this, and they certainly raised this as being very helpful to their work in the last six months or so, as more news stories have come out about the human trafficking. And so we would certainly encourage all of you to continue to report on this issue and to intensify your reporting. It's not just for the print media either. Any of you who've seen the work being done on CNN International and otherwise, there are some very interesting ways to do reporting on this issue of modern slavery in series type of work. So not just reporting on one particular case, but reporting on the phenomenon of the women going to China, reporting on what's happening to the men who are on those Thai fishing boats, or even if there are people going on the Western borders into Bangladesh or India and being abused. Probably the most important is calling attention to the problems right

here at home. But it is something that we'll want to continue to take on board and in fact it's something that, at the Embassy, press freedom is something we care about very deeply and if you have instances that you'd like to call to our attention, it's something that our Embassy staff would love to hear from you if there are impediments to your reporting on this issue. It's something that we not only can raise with Government, but something we would be very interested in raising if there are situations where you feel your coverage of this is being impeded.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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221 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Associated Press Online

January 11, 2012 Wednesday 4:46 PM GMT

US envoy: Myanmar weak against human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 399 words

DATELINE: YANGON Myanmar

Myanmar's archaic laws that allow conscription of workers for public projects are the biggest obstacle impeding its fight against human trafficking, a top U.S. diplomat said Wednesday.

"As long as it is still legal for the governments to use forced labor, it will be very hard for there to be improvement" on meeting international standards, visiting U.S. ambassador for human trafficking Luis CdeBaca told reporters.

Forced labor, by local governments or unscrupulous employers, child labor and sex trafficking were also cited by CdeBaca as problems Myanmar needed to tackle better.

CdeBaca said those topics were discussed frankly and openly in his talks this week with Myanmar Home Minister Lt. Gen. Ko Ko and Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin.

"Challenges, of course, remain, given the unfortunate record on these issues, but we saw these initial discussions a recognition of a problem and an openness to act," he said.

An annual U.S. report on trafficking grouped Myanmar in the third, or worst, **tier** of countries last year for failure to comply with the minimum standards or make serious efforts to curb **human trafficking**. Others among the two dozen worst were North Korea, Venezuela and Iran.

CdeBaca, who arrived Monday along with U.S. special envoy and policy coordinator for Myanmar Derek Mitchell, acknowledged the country's efforts to combat human trafficking and welcomed its recent decision to stop detaining female trafficking victims involuntarily in a shelter.

Washington long shunned Myanmar under its repressive military government, but the Obama administration reversed policy to try to engage the Southeast Asian country's rulers.

The military-backed but elected government in office since March has made some mild reforms and promised more, and the pace of U.S. engagement has quickened, highlighted by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit in December. Several influential members of Congress are slated to visit in the next few weeks.

Myanmar seeks better relations so the United States and other nations ease economic and political sanctions holding back its development.

"We hope there will be more reforms that would be able to be taken into account as we look at the ranking in the coming year. We still have three months left. There is plenty of time for the government to continue to do positive steps towards compliance with these minimum standards," CdeBaca said.

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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222 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily Times (PK)

January 7, 2012 Saturday

5 million illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan, NA told

LENGTH: 527 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 7 -- * 9,590 multiple passport holders blacklisted, legal action underway

The National Assembly was told on Friday that about five million illegal immigrants were residing in different parts of the country due to local and regional disturbances.

In a written statement, the Ministry of Interior told the NA that out of the five million illegal immigrants, approximately two million were Bangladeshis, 2.5 million were Afghans, and 0.5 million other nationals, including Africans, Iranians, Iraqis and Myanmarese, who had been living in the country for more than three decades.

The main reasons for these illegal immigrants was said to be partition of Pakistan in 1971, Cold War in Afghanistan in 1980's, poor law and order situation in Iraq, and the availability of safe havens in Pakistan. The Interior Ministry said that the friendly policies and international obligations of Pakistan to accommodate Afghan refugees was another reason for illegal immigrants in the country.

The NA was told that the government had taken a number of measures to discourage the inflow of illegal immigrants, including establishment of Anti-Trafficking Units at provincial police headquarters for combating internal human trafficking. For reducing illegal foreigner inflow the government has replaced Personal Identification Secure Comparison Evaluation System (PISCES) with Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) having biometric facility.

The Upper House was informed that the Interior Ministry has blacklisted traffickers, introduced Machine Readable Passports (MRP), established an immigration check-post at zero point-250 in Balochistan. The government has also promulgated Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) 2002.

Due to such efforts, Pakistan has been upgraded from **Tier-II Watch List to Tier-II** in the annual **Trafficking in Person** Report (TIP) 2010, published by the State Department of the United States. This year Pakistan maintained its Tier-II status.

The NA was told that to further strengthen the immigration system, particulars of all passengers with multiple passports and multiple CNICs are placed on the "Stop Person's List" in PISCES, which is installed at Exit and Entry checkpoints of the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) at airports.

This helps in detaining illegal immigrants, who are then handed over to the FIA and Anti-Human Trafficking Circles (AHTC) for legal action in accordance with the relevant laws.

The Interior Ministry said that 9,590 cases of multiples passports had been blocked in the system and legal action was underway.

The ministry said that the government had given general amnesty to such persons to surrender their multiple CNICs and passports voluntarily. However, 3,110 applications had been received for cancellation of one extra passport, out of which 1,720 passports had been cancelled, while 1,390 cases were pending for want of verification by security agencies or deposit of requisite fee. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Times. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: January 21, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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223 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Daily Times

January 7, 2012 Saturday

5 million illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan, NA told

BYLINE: Ijaz Kakakhel

SECTION: Vol. VII No. 366

LENGTH: 479 words

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224 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

December 31, 2011 Saturday

Pakistan: Pakistan no more on human-trafficking watch list: Malik**LENGTH:** 383 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 31 -- Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik Thursday told the parliament that name of Pakistan was removed from the international **watch list** in connection with **human trafficking** due to efforts of FIA.

Responding to queries during National Assembly session, he said that was on **watch list** but now due to FIA efforts **human trafficking** was discouraged.

On its role in addressing corruption, the minister said that so far FIA has recovered Rs. 808 million money lost in corruption.

To a question, he said that Transparency International is a small institution therefore its report is not final and it should be noted that corruption in Pakistan can never measured on the same tools as that in Europe.

To a question about small number of police in proportion to population in the country, Malik said that number of police personnel is being enhanced some more people were recruited and more would be recruited.

On situation in Bajur he said that law and order was improved in the tribal agency and number of decreasing check posts in the area is under consideration.

When he was asked about efficiency of NADRA, he said that 94 percent people were registered and the remaining would on roll soon. About fake NIC of Afghans, he said that 90,000 such NIC were cancelled and action was being taken against the responsible officers.

Meanwhile, to the question regarding relief and

rehabilitation in the flood-hit areas he said that about 3 lac families or 60-70 lacs of people were affected and now only 300 are homeless who never want to return. He blamed NGOs for bribing them to not return for their own interest.

This government, he said, faced natural calamities including flood of 2010, the situation in Swat, floods of 2011 and so on. "I say that this government was efficient enough in tackling the flood affected areas," he said, adding that rehabilitation of so a large population was not an easy task.

Earlier, at the start of the session under Chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Faisal Karim Kundi, Suriya Jatao, the new member of the national assembly on reserved seat, took oath as a member Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: December 30, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

225 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Baluchistan Express

December 30, 2011 Friday

Pakistan no more on **human-trafficking watch list: Malik**

LENGTH: 348 words

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Earlier, at the start of the session under Chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Faisal Karim Kundi, Surriya Jatao, the new member of the national assembly on reserved seat, took oath as a member.

LOAD-DATE: December 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

226 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
The Frontier Star

December 30, 2011 Friday

Pakistan no more on human-trafficking watch list: Malik**SECTION:** Vol. 16 No. 359**LENGTH:** 349 words

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LOAD-DATE: December 30, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

227 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

December 30, 2011 Friday

MALAYSIA HOPES FOR FAIR U.S. EVALUATION OF ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING RECORD

LENGTH: 242 words**DATELINE:** PUTRAJAYA Dec 30

Malaysia is confident of a fair and transparent assessment by the United States on its anti-human trafficking efforts, said Home Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Mahmood Adam.

Mahmood said Malaysia had always taken seriously the comments and suggestions made by the US to improve measures to stem the crime.

"In 2011, Malaysia was placed on **Tier 2** of the **Watch List**. It is the hope of Malaysia and the Anti-**Human Trafficking** Council (Mapo) that in 2012, Malaysia will be placed on a better **tier**."

"We have cooperated with them 100 per cent and they guided and trained us. Let us know what else we can do," he told a news conference after a Media Appreciation reception for helping make the Anti-Human Trafficking and Anti-Migrant Smuggling Campaign a success, here, today.

He said Malaysia was still finding it hard to deal with this new crime effectively.

Mahmood said in regard to this, Malaysia would be hosting a 'Bali Ministerial Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime on Victim Protection' workshop on Jan 12 and 13.

The workshop, organised with the cooperation of the International Organisation for Migrants (IOM), will involve the ministry and agencies under the Anti-Human Trafficking Council (Mapo) and about 50 representatives from the Bali Process member countries.

"The workshop will discuss issues related to victim protection, identification and assistance, and international cooperation," he said.

LOAD-DATE: January 3, 2012**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

228 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Pakistan Today (Newstex Blog)

December 29, 2011 Thursday 7:42 PM EST

Pakistan no more on **human-trafficking watch list: Malik**

LENGTH: 299 words

Online | 33 mins ago

0

ISLAMABAD - Interior Minister Rehman Malik told the parliament on Thursday that name of Pakistan was removed from the international **watch list** in connection with **human trafficking** due to efforts of FIA.

Responding to queries during National Assembly session, he said that Pakistan was on the **watch list** but now, due to FIA efforts, **human trafficking** was discouraged.

On its role in addressing corruption, the minister said that so far FIA has recovered Rs 808 million lost in corruption.

He said the Transparency International was a small institution therefore its report was not final and it should be noted that corruption in Pakistan could never be measured on the same tools as that in Europe.

He added that number of police personnel was being enhanced as some people were recruited and more would be recruited.

He said law and order was improved in the tribal agency and decreasing the number of check posts in the area was under consideration.

He said further that 94 percent people were registered with NADRA and the remaining would be on the roll soon. About fake NIC of Afghans, he said that 90,000 such NIC were cancelled and action was being taken against the responsible officers.

Meanwhile, to the question regarding relief and rehabilitation in the flood-hit areas, he said that about 3 lac families or 60-70 lacs of people were affected and now only 300 were homeless who never wanted to return. He blamed NGOs for bribing them to not to return for their own interest.

This government, he said, faced natural calamities including flood of 2010, the situation in Swat, floods of 2011 and so on. "I say that this government was efficient enough in tackling the flood affected areas," he said, adding that rehabilitation of such a large population was not an easy task.

LOAD-DATE: December 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Blog

JOURNAL-CODE: APAK-111350

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229 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

December 25, 2011 Sunday

Lanka's anti-trafficking measures commended

LENGTH: 385 words**DATELINE:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, Dec. 25 -- The 2011 Report on **Trafficking in Persons** prepared by the US State Department has upgraded Sri Lanka from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2** in recognition of efforts made by the Lankan Government to address **human trafficking**. Commending on the progress made by the Government, Political Officer of the US Embassy in Colombo Jacob Chriqui said Sri Lanka has made significant progress to reduce trafficking, both internally and externally.

"The Sri Lankan Government has increased public awareness about human trafficking, improved law enforcement efforts, and increased budgets for anti-trafficking activities. This year we saw the first convictions for trafficking offences under Sri Lanka's Anti-Trafficking Laws", he said. "In our report each country is placed in one of three tiers. This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on the size of the problem, although the latter is also an important factor.

"While **Tier 1** is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no **human trafficking** problem. Rather, a **Tier 1** ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of **human trafficking** and has made efforts that meet the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to address the problem.

Tier 2 countries are where governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 3 countries' governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. Sri Lanka was upgraded in 2011 from the Tier 2 Watch List, between Tier 2 and Tier 3, to Tier 2", he said.

Chriqui said the program's aim to increase the capacity of Sri Lankan law enforcement officials, prosecutors and the judiciary so that they will have the training and tools to combat trafficking. Our Embassy also meets regularly with the Sri Lankan Government and law enforcement officials working in counter-trafficking, and their dedication and the services they provide have been remarkable," he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

230 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

December 24, 2011 Saturday

SL curbs human trafficking

LENGTH: 307 words**DATELINE:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, Dec. 24 -- Drops to tier two:

Sri Lanka has been upgraded to **tier** two in the Annual Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011 as a result of increased efforts by the government in addressing the concerns, and the successful prosecution of offenders, ILO Country Director for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Donglin Li said. He was addressing the media at a Media Workshop on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour at JAIC Hilton on Thursday.

He said that Sri Lanka has made significant progress towards combating human trafficking, following the establishment of the National Task Force of Trafficking subsequent to the amendment to the penal law in 2006 and the Justice Ministry National Steering Committee on human trafficking in May 2010 under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Justice.

Li said the ILO has extended its support to the government by carrying out several initiatives together with national stakeholders to support in combating trafficking.

It will continue to support Sri Lanka in strengthening efforts to combat human trafficking and forced labour through its wealth of experience.

According to ILO estimates , there are at least 2.4 million traffickers at any given point in time, yet only a few thousand convictions of traffickers every year.

Most of the victims are not identified and consequently , never receive justice for the damage inflicted upon them. Li said despite growing awareness and more effective law enforcement responses, trafficking remains a low-risk criminal enterprise with high returns. He said according to ILO estimates, annual profit generated from human trafficking is as high as USD 32 billion. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: December 23, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

231 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

December 2, 2011 Friday

Bahamian inter-ministerial committee to examine US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 344 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

Nassau, Bahamas: The inter-ministerial committee appointed to review the United States 2011 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report on The Bahamas and to make recommendations on these matters to Cabinet has held its first meeting.

A government statement said that in order to carry out its mandate, the committee will hold consultations with Bahamian non-governmental organizations concerned with issues of trafficking in persons. It will report to Cabinet ahead of the February interim assessment report to the United States Congress and preparation for the 2012 Report. The statement said that the committee comprises various stakeholders including senior officials of ministries and agencies concerned with trafficking in persons, many of whom have been following such matters in regional and international forums.

According to the US Department of State, the objective of the report is to raise global awareness regarding trafficking in persons, to spur countries to take effective action to counter this trafficking and to give guidance to Governments to understand what is required to fight trafficking in persons. A release from the Ministry of National Security noted that in producing the report, Washington is seeking to encourage compliance with obligations arising from the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

The Bahamas was ranked as **Tier 2 Watch List**. The US report uses a three **Tier** system to rank the efforts of countries worldwide including those of the United States in countering **trafficking in persons**. The release states that this ranking is given to countries not fully in step with the minimum standards outlined in the United States Government's 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended, but that are making significant efforts to do so.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1640 gmt 2 Dec 11

LOAD-DATE: December 2, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

232 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Statesman

November 19, 2011 Saturday

4,334 human traffickers nabbed in last 30 months

SECTION: Vol. 12 No. 142**LENGTH:** 444 words

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested 4,334 human traffickers during last two and half years and adopted numerous measures to eradicate this menace from the society.

The Agency nabbed 1755 human traffickers during 2009, 1779 in 2010 and up to June 2011, 800 human traffickers have been arrested.

According to data available with APP here on Thursday, due to these measures Pakistan's position was upgraded from **Tier-2 Watch List to Tier-2** in US State Department's **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) Report-2010 and the same position was maintained in TIP Report-2011. The number of deportation has gradually decreased which is done with the international cooperation.

The FIA is taking stern action against human traffickers/smugglers/facilitators and sub agents. As such it has arrested Most Wanted Traffickers (MWTs) in last three years and their number was 26 in 2009, 16 in 2010 and 2 MWTs were nabbed till June 2011.

Moreover, special campaign for the arrest of Proclaimed Offenders (POs) and Court Absconders (CAs) was also launched to eradicate this menace.

Meanwhile, official sources said measures have also been adopted to bring illegal migration at zero level. FIA's Anti Trafficking Sub-Circle, Gujrat has been established and declared as Police Station.

The other steps are establishment of Anti Trafficking Units at Provincial Police HQs for combating internal human trafficking and establishment of Inter Agency Task Force (IATF). Around 10703 illegal migrants were intercepted in 2008, 5601 in 2009 and 3434 in 2010.

Bilateral Joint Working Groups were also established such as Pakistan- Oman, Pakistan-UK, Pakistan-Turkey and Pakistan-Australia. The Trilateral Group were Pakistan-Iran-Turkey and Pakistan-Turkey- Greece while Quadrilateral Group were Pakistan-Iran-Turkey- Greece and Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey.

The authorities also replaced Personal identification Secure Comparison Evaluation System (PISCES) by Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) and black-listing of traffickers.

The FIA has vigorously pursued the cases of human smuggling in the courts. Immigration Liaison Office in Muscat has been established while the authorities also installed Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) and Case Monitoring System (CMS). Public awareness campaign was also launched in collaboration with NGOs/IGOs, through electronic and print media, by conducting meetings, seminars, documentary, walks, pamphlets, theater in rural and urban areas.

Proposal for establishment of Border Liaison Office (BLO) is underway through SAARC and Dubai Process at Durand line. FIA has also launched its website www.fia.org.pk to entertain complaints etc.

LOAD-DATE: November 19, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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233 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Daily Regional Times

November 18, 2011 Friday

4,334 human traffickers nabbed in last 30 months

SECTION: Vol. IV No. 377

LENGTH: 445 words

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Meanwhile, official sources said measures have also been adopted to bring illegal migration at zero level. FIA's Anti Trafficking Sub-Circle, Gujrat has been established and declared as Police Station.

The other steps are establishment of Anti Trafficking Units at Provincial Police HQs for combating internal human trafficking and establishment of Inter Agency Task Force (IATF). Around 10703 illegal migrants were intercepted in 2008, 5601 in 2009 and 3434 in 2010.

Bilateral Joint Working Groups were also established such as Pakistan- Oman, Pakistan-UK, Pakistan-Turkey and Pakistan-Australia. The Trilateral Group were Pakistan-Iran-Turkey and Pakistan-Turkey- Greece while Quadrilateral Group were Pakistan-Iran-Turkey- Greece and Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey.

The authorities also replaced Personal identification Secure Comparison Evaluation System (PISCES) by Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) and black-listing of traffickers.

The FIA has vigorously pursued the cases of human smuggling in the courts. Immigration Liaison Office in Muscat has been established while the authorities also installed Human Trafficking Information System (HUTIS) and Case Monitoring System (CMS). Public awareness campaign was also launched in collaboration with NGOs/IGOs, through electronic and print media, by conducting meetings, seminars, documentary, walks, pamphlets, theater in rural and urban areas.

Proposal for establishment of Border Liaison Office (BLO) is underway through SAARC and Dubai Process at Durand line.

FIA has also launched its website www.fia.org.pk to entertain complaints etc.-Agency

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234 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Right Vision News

November 18, 2011 Friday

Pakistan: 4,334 human traffickers nabbed in last 30 months

LENGTH: 477 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 18 -- Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested 4,334 human traffickers during last two and half years and adopted numerous measures to eradicate this menace from the society.

The Agency nabbed 1755 human traffickers during 2009, 1779 in 2010 and up to June 2011, 800 human traffickers have been arrested. According to data available with Right Vision News here on Thursday, due to these measures Pakistan's position was upgraded from Tier-2 **Watch List to Tier-2** in US State Department's **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) Report-2010 and the same position was maintained in TIP Report-2011. The number of deportation has gradually decreased which is done with the international cooperation.

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complaints etc Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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DUPLICATE
The Statesman (Pakistan)

November 18, 2011 Friday

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236 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

November 10, 2011 Thursday**RUBIO INTRODUCES UNITED NATIONS REFORM BILL****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 575 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by Florida Senator Marco Rubio:

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today introduced legislation to encourage comprehensive and long-lasting reforms at the United Nations. In introducing this bill, Rubio issued the following statement:

The United Nations was created with the specific objective of maintaining the peace that followed the end of World War II. More than six decades later, we still need a U.N. with resolve, a U.N. that acts with effectiveness and purpose. Sadly, the U.N.'s persistent ethics and accountability problems are limiting its role. Until the organization addresses these important issues, the stature of the organization will continue to suffer in the eyes of the world.

Examples of this troubling situation abound, from the ongoing efforts to circumvent direct negotiations to end the Israeli-Arab conflict, to the discredited Human Rights Council led by the world's most notorious tyrants and human rights violators, to the proliferation of mandates that have clouded the organization's mission and effectiveness. It is imperative for the UN to modernize along a post-Cold War consensus based on transparency, effective promotion of human rights, free enterprise and non-proliferation.

The UN needs fundamental reform, and America is the best-suited and greatest hope to accomplish all that is needed to help the organization live up to its founding charter. I believe these measures should guide us in improving this institution.

If enacted, Rubios legislation, which is a companion bill to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's House proposal, would accomplish the following:

Allow the U.S. to fund only UN agencies and programs that advance U.S. interests and values, resulting in greater competition among UN entities for funding that would increase transparency and effectiveness.

Authorize the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate and audit the use of U.S. contributions to the UN.

Prohibit U.S. contributions to the UN from being used for any purpose other than the specific purposes for which it was made available by Congress.

Firmly establish U.S. policy on various issues relating to the UN, including transparency, reform, Security Council expansion, terrorism, anti-Semitism and the unfair treatment of Israel.

Withholds U.S. contributions from any UN agency or program that upgrades the status of the Palestinian observer mission outside a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Conditions U.S. membership on and funding of the UN Human Rights Council on the Council's adoption of reforms barring membership of countries subject to Security Council sanctions, under Security Council-mandated human rights investigations, states sponsors of terrorism, countries of particular concern for religious freedom violations, or that have been designated as **Tier 3** for **human trafficking** violations.

Makes it U.S. policy to lead a high-level diplomatic campaign to revoke and repudiate the Goldstone Report and its follow-on measures by the UN General Assembly.

Withholds U.S. funding from any part of the UNs flawed Durban process, which has been hijacked by rogue regimes and used to advance an anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, anti-Western, anti-freedom agenda.

Conditions U.S. funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) providing assistance to Palestinians refugees until UNRWA meets certain safeguards against terrorist links.

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Asian News International (ANI)

November 6, 2011 Sunday

Human trafficking needs to be stopped

BYLINE: ANI

LENGTH: 882 words

New Delhi, Nov. 6 (ANI): Sajda Khatoon was 15 years old when she went missing from her home in Jaitpura, a small village in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi District. That was four years ago. The child had left no trace.

Today, her mother Momina waits clueless, looking for reasons that may have led to her disappearance. What she is fairly certain of is that her daughter was kidnapped.

In that frantic moment, Momina reflects, the police was the only help she could think of turning to. Then, she had been optimistic. Opinions changed rapidly when she approached them for lodging the First Information Report.

Adding insult to injury, the officer in charge had asked her if Sajda had run away from home willingly. "It took us three months to convince the police that my daughter had not gone missing of her own volition," says Momina. The first 48-hour window, crucial for recovering missing persons, especially children, had been lost.

Around that time, though searching for clues in and around her village, Momina stumbled upon important evidence 1200 km. away. The police had rescued a thirteen-year-old girl, a native of a neighbouring district, from a brothel in Mumbai and brought her back home. She narrated her kidnapping, identifying a local woman as the kidnapper. The child was taken to Mumbai and forced into the flesh trade. Crucially for Momina, the girl also claimed that she had seen a drugged Sajda in her kidnapper's house.

Hoping to trace their daughter with this one clue, the family acted spontaneously and contacted their Mumbai-based relatives who walked through the so-called red light district of the city hoping against hope to spot Sajda. Where police was supposed to be at the fore, Sajda's under resourced family, with their faith already shaken up by the uniform bearers, took the charge of the investigation. Why Varanasi Police did not use the substantially resourced Mumbai Police to help in following up the lead remains a moot point.

Momina's case is not an eye opener, or even unusual. Despite its clandestine nature, trafficking has a stronghold in our country, proof of which is its shameful inclusion in the **Tier II** list of the United Nations, which includes countries unsuccessful in combating **human trafficking**. Forced labour, prostitution or domestic work become the working arena for adolescents who dreamt of studying, enjoying, living their dreams. The parents go through the same torment.

Besides abduction, there are other roads that lead to child trafficking. Often lured by promises of a better employment, children and their families fall into the trap and agree to migrate to places far from their homeland, the consequences of which are still to be realised by the government and the policy makers.

"These children cater to the demands of labour for a number of industries like agriculture, domestic work, child marriage and prostitution. Often, runaway children become victims of organised begging, pick-pocketing and drug peddling rackets," said Yogita Verma Saigal, Director, CRY (Child Rights and You).

A report released by the US Department of State in 2010 defines India as the "World Hub" in human trafficking related to prostitution and forced labour. Over 1.2 million children in India are trapped in human trafficking as child prostitutes.

But these statistics would seem to be modest compared to the figures of those involved in this horrendous business - 100 million people in India contribute to the trafficking-related activities. With 90 percent of trafficking transpiring is "intra-country", Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are the worst affected.

The cases are more severe in flood-affected states like Bihar. Studies show a spurt in human trafficking in the aftermath of a disaster as traffickers prey on defenceless children.

There are no easy solutions. The first, and easier to execute, step is prevention. As a society, we need to be more vigilant. Tracing and reporting incidences of child labour, especially in the metros that are the destination points for major child trafficking routes, go a long way. Coupled with prompt registration and investigation processes by the police bring benefits during the first 48-hour window, crucial for rescue operations to be successful. An FIR ensures the case is brought before a court bench.

Traffickers are systematic and planned; no wonder it is called an organized crime. The Government needs to be aware of what they are up against to combat trafficking. The national electronic database needs to be harnessed so that missing children can be traced across states.

The recovery from a kidnapping is a long and arduous journey for the child. Yet, the rehabilitation process leaves much to be desired, especially medical and psycho-social aid for rescued children. The family too needs to be counselled so that the child doesn't fall into the trap of the traffickers again.

The Charkha Communication Development network feels that India needs to recognize the seriousness of the issue of missing children. Collectively demands for adequate human, material and financial resources can lead to establishing a streamlined system for tracing missing children. For mothers like Momina, still waiting for her child to return home, it is the least a nation can do. By Priya Zutshi (ANI)

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JOURNAL-CODE: 239

238 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

November 2, 2011

**House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Inter-government Relations and Procurement Reform Hearing;
"Are Government Contractors Exploiting Workers Overseas?";
Testimony by Kenneth Moorefield, Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations U.S. Department of Defense**

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2264 words

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss past and ongoing efforts by the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) in the area of combating trafficking in persons (CTIP). The DoD IG previously presented testimony on oversight efforts concerning the topic of human trafficking in 2004 and again in 2006.

Completed DoD IG Efforts

DoD IG initiated its first assessment of DoD CTIP as a result of a May 31, 2002, request made by thirteen Members of Congress to the Secretary of Defense seeking a "thorough, global and extensive" investigation into the publicized allegation that U.S. military leadership in Korea had been implicitly condoning sex slavery at the hands of traffickers.

In response to those Congressional concerns, the DoD IG initiated an assessment project to assess efforts to combat human trafficking within the United States Forces-Korea. In addition, DoD criminal investigations of DoD contractors underway during this period led to an expanded assessment focus incorporating the European Command theater of operations, specifically its activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.¹ The two assessments recommended that the Secretary of Defense issue a policy statement that clearly and unambiguously set forth DoD opposition to any activities promoting, supporting, or sanctioning human trafficking, which the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness subsequently did. In addition, DoD established annual CTIP awareness training for all Service members and DoD civilians, which has been in effect since 2004. With respect to the TIP issues raised concerning Korea, the Command took multiple actions to prohibit and prevent US military, DoD civilian, and DoD contractor personnel from patronizing establishments it had declared off-limits due to reports of forced labor or commercial sex.

In 2005, the DoD IG initiated an evaluation of CTIP efforts across DoD in further response to the 2002 request from Members of Congress. The resulting report, issued in November 2006, recommended that the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Services and Combatant Commands develop CTIP policy and program guidance, and that the military commands evaluate the effectiveness of their CTIP awareness training. In response to the report, in 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," that established policy and assigned CTIP program responsibilities across the Department.

The Under Secretary also created and filled the position of DoD CTIP Program Manager within that office. Additionally, the CTIP program officer for each DoD Component reports on CTIP training metrics and effectiveness to the DoD CTIP Program Manager within the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The most recent oversight efforts conducted by the DoD IG were in response to Public Law 110-457, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008," signed on December 23, 2008. Section 232 of the Act required the Inspectors General of DoD, State and USAID to "...investigate a sample of ... contracts, or subcon-

tracts at any **tier**, under which there is a heightened risk that a contractor may engage, knowingly or unknowingly, in acts related to **trafficking in persons**...." The Act also required the respective Inspectors General to submit a report to Congress, no later than January 15, for three consecutive years beginning in 2010.

The DoD IG consulted with the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and selected for assessment four Combatant Commands with overseas responsibilities and contracting presence: U.S. Pacific, U.S. Central, and U.S. European and Africa Commands, in that order. To date, the DoD IG has issued two annual reports - covering the Pacific and Central Commands - and completed fieldwork for a third report on the European and Africa Commands, which will be issued in January 2012.ⁿ² The contract sample in each case included all construction and service contracts with a place of performance outside the United States, a period of performance in FY 2009 or later, and with a total contract value of \$5 million or greater. This provided a reasonable data set which particularly focused on labor-intensive contracts.

The U.S. Pacific Command CTIP report, issued on January 15, 2010, was based on a sample of 99 contracts which had a place of performance in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Territory of Guam. We found Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause 52.222-50, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," present in 93 percent of the contracts we reviewed. However, 42 percent of those clauses were added shortly before the site visit. Further, the team found that the Command's contract quality assurance reviews did not specifically include reviews of contractor TIP compliance and/or violations, and that contracting offices did not have access to an effective DoD process for obtaining TIP violation information from DoD criminal investigative organizations.

The DoD IG recommended that the Director, Defense Procurement, and Acquisition Policy modify widely-used contract writing software to ensure that the FAR CTIP clause was automatically included in contracts or solicitations. Also recommended was that the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations System (DFARS) guidance be updated to require CTIP oversight in contract quality assurance plans. The Director initiated the modification and had it distributed in 2010. And, in January 2011, the Director also revised the relevant DFARS guidance.

The DoD IG team also determined that contracting officers lacked the benefit of an effective process for obtaining information concerning TIP-related violations. DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)", September 15, 2010, requires the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Commanders of the Combatant Commands to "provide information on all known TIP cases to the USD (PandR), DoD Program Manager." However, providing timely communication of substantiated and publicly releasable TIP-related indictment and conviction information to DoD contracting organizations remains a systemic challenge.

The report on U.S. Central Command, issued January 15, 2011, was based on a sample of 369 contracts with place of performance in the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Bahrain. A CTIP clause was present in 79 percent of the contracts reviewed.

The team also found that the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command had published a supplement for inclusion in all service and construction contracts within the Command's area of responsibility to strengthen the FAR CTIP clause. This was in response to allegations that some DoD contractors were providing poor living conditions or withholding employee passports.

However, the DoD IG team also identified a significant number of contracts where the Command supplement had actually replaced the required pre-existing FAR clause. To correct this, the team recommended that the Commander, U.S. Central Command Contracting Command modify their guidance to clarify proper usage of both the FAR and Command supplement CTIP clauses. The Commander concurred and issued modified guidance in September 2011.

The team also identified examples of proactive action taken by two U.S. contracting commands in Kuwait, both of which had incorporated a requirement to include CTIP compliance in contract quality assurance reviews. Additionally, Army Contracting Command-Kuwait had developed and implemented a CTIP questionnaire, translated into five common employee languages, as part of quality assurance audits.

In addition, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Kuwait had included CTIP-focused questions into their Theater Quality Plan quality assurance contract audits which reviewed contractor knowledge and understanding of CTIP clause requirements. DCMA representatives also provided reports based on periodic health and sanitation inspections they had conducted of employee camps in Iraq. In 2010, the DoD IG team visited several employee camps run by subcontractors in Iraq; the employees interviewed verified that DCMA personnel checked conditions on a regular basis. The team did not observe any conditions in the camps that would constitute a CTIP violation. The DoD IG team was

unable to review conditions in Afghanistan in time to meet the January 15, 2011, publication date for the report of the assessment of U.S. Central Command. However, we are planning to conduct this evaluation in FY 2012.

In 2009, 2010, and 2011, the team requested that DoD criminal investigative organizations provide TIP-related criminal investigative summary data for each of these years. To date, these requests have resulted in reports of only two alleged TIP incidents. In both cases, the contractor had dismissed the offending employee.

Ongoing Assessments

The next DoD IG CTIP report, in compliance with Public Law 110-457, will be issued in January 2012. It will be based on a sample of approximately 250 contracts with place of performance in the U.S. European and Africa Commands. In September 2011, the team conducted CTIP field evaluations of the Commands' headquarters and military installations in Germany and Italy for this assessment.

In addition to and concurrent with the multi-year review of contracts required by PL 110-457, the DoD IG has self-initiated an assessment of DoD Component CTIP program compliance and performance. As of this date, we have reviewed CTIP policies, procedures, awareness, and implementation in over 70 DoD organizations, including responsible officials in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and headquarters and major subordinate commands of Military Services, Defense Agencies and Combatant Commands. At each location, the team interviewed:

- . commanders and staff responsible for the CTIP program;
- . law enforcement personnel and legal counsels;
- . contracting officers, specialists, and quality assurance specialists, contracting officer representatives; and
- . representatives of contracting firms, and when possible, their employees.

In addition, at each location visited, the DoD IG team interviewed contracting officials, none of whom reported that they were aware of any TIP-related offense that had been brought to the attention of a DoD contracting office.

DoD Non-Appropriated Fund Organizations

During the DoD IG CTIP assessment of the U.S. Pacific Command, in 2009, the team noted that non-appropriated fund entities were not required to include the FAR CTIP clause in their contracts. Therefore, we included an assessment of the Navy Exchange (NEX) and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) CTIP policy and procedures within the reviews of the U.S. Central Command and the U.S. European and Africa Commands.

The review of the NEX operation in the Kingdom of Bahrain determined that the Command had required all managers, associates, and vendors to take CTIP training.

Further, in December 2010, NEX Command headquarters in Virginia reported having submitted recommended changes to a proposed update of DoD Instruction 4105.71, "Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Procurement Procedure," which would require inclusion of a CTIP clause in all non-appropriated fund contracts. As of October 2011, the revision process was still ongoing.

The review of AAFES Europe identified that the Commander had issued a Manpower Associate "Bill of Rights," available in English and eight other languages, that subordinate organizations were directed to post on employee bulletin boards for easy access. The Commander also had established an employee passport possession policy to ensure that "contractors do not withhold the passports of TCNs [Third Country Nationals] working in our facilities."

In Kuwait, the DoD IG team observed AAFES passport checks and employee interviews first-hand while accompanying a contracting officer representative to several facilities. No CTIP violations were observed. The team also received a detailed briefing from the AAFES legal counsel outlining several additional TIP-related incidents and the contract remedies applied including show cause notices and cure letters.

Conclusion

The DoD IG remains committed to providing oversight support of the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance policy" against trafficking in persons. We will continue to evaluate the related DoD programs for compliance.

I thank you again for this opportunity to update you on DoD IG oversight of DoD actions to combat trafficking in persons.

n1 "Assessment of DoD Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Phase I - United States Forces Korea," July 2003, www.dodig.mil/fo/Foia/H03L88433128PhaseI.pdf, and "Assessment of DoD Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Phase II - Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo," December 2003, www.dodig.mil/fo/Foia/HT-Phase_II.pdf.

n2 IE-2010-001, "Evaluation of DoD Contracts Regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons," January 15, 2010, and SPO-2011-002, "Evaluation of DoD Contracts regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons: U.S. Central Command," January 18, 2011. For copies of the reports see <http://www.dodig.mil/Inspections/IE/Reports.htm>.

Read this original document at: http://oversight.house.gov/images/stories/Testimony/11-2-11_Moorefield_TechIP_Tesitmony.pdf

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239 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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CQ Congressional Testimony

November 2, 2011 Wednesday

**OVERSEAS WORKER EXPLOITATION;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM;
SUBCOMMITTEE: TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY, INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT REFORM**

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 2204 words

TESTIMONY-BY: KENNETH P. MOOREFIELD, DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

AFFILIATION: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Statement of Kenneth P. Moorefield Deputy Inspector General, Special Plans and Operations Department of Defense Inspector General

Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform,

November 2, 2011

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform:

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The Under Secretary also created and filled the position of DoD CTIP Program Manager within that office. Additionally, the CTIP program officer for each DoD Component reports on CTIP training metrics and effectiveness to the DoD CTIP Program Manager within the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The most recent oversight efforts conducted by the DoD IG were in response to Public Law 110-457, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008," signed on December 23, 2008. Section 232 of the Act required the Inspectors General of DoD, State and USAID to "...investigate a sample of ... contracts, or subcontracts at any **tier**, under which there is a heightened risk that a contractor may engage, knowingly or unknowingly, in acts related to **trafficking in persons**..." The Act also required the respective Inspectors General to submit a report to Congress, no later than January 15, for three consecutive years beginning in 2010.

The DoD IG consulted with the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and selected for assessment four Combatant Commands with overseas responsibilities and contracting presence: U.S. Pacific, U.S. Central, and U.S. European and Africa Commands, in that order. To date, the DoD IG has issued two annual reports - covering the Pacific and Central Commands - and completed fieldwork for a third report on the European and Africa Commands, which will be issued in January 2012. The contract sample in each case included all construction and service contracts with a place of performance outside the United States, a period of performance in FY 2009 or later, and with a total contract value of \$5 million or greater. This provided a reasonable data set which particularly focused on labor-intensive contracts.

The U.S. Pacific Command CTIP report, issued on January 15, 2010, was based on a sample of 99 contracts which had a place of performance in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Territory of Guam. We found Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause 52.222- 50, "Combating Trafficking in Persons," present in 93 percent of the contracts we reviewed. However, 42 percent of those clauses were added shortly before the site visit. Further, the team found that the Command's contract quality assurance reviews did not specifically include reviews of contractor TIP compliance and/or violations, and that contracting offices did not have access to an effective DoD process for obtaining TIP violation information from DoD criminal investigative organizations.

The DoD IG recommended that the Director, Defense Procurement, and Acquisition Policy modify widely-used contract writing software to ensure that the FAR CTIP clause was automatically included in contracts or solicitations. Also recommended was that the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations System (DFARS) guidance be updated to require CTIP oversight in contract quality assurance plans. The Director initiated the modification and had it distributed in 2010. And, in January 2011, the Director also revised the relevant DFARS guidance.

The DoD IG team also determined that contracting officers lacked the benefit of an effective process for obtaining information concerning TIP-related violations. DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)", September 15, 2010, requires the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Commanders of the Combatant Commands to "provide information on all known TIP cases to the USD (P&R), DoD Program Manager." However, providing timely communication of substantiated and publicly releasable TIP-related indictment and conviction information to DoD contracting organizations remains a systemic challenge.

The report on U.S. Central Command, issued January 15, 2011, was based on a sample of 369 contracts with place of performance in the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Bahrain. A CTIP clause was present in 79 percent of the contracts reviewed.

The team also found that the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command had published a supplement for inclusion in all service and construction contracts within the Command's area of responsibility to strengthen the FAR CTIP clause. This was in response to allegations that some DoD contractors were providing poor living conditions or withholding employee passports.

However, the DoD IG team also identified a significant number of contracts where the Command supplement had actually replaced the required pre-existing FAR clause. To correct this, the team recommended that the Commander, U.S. Central Command Contracting Command modify their guidance to clarify proper usage of both the FAR and Command supplement CTIP clauses. The Commander concurred and issued modified guidance in September 2011.

The team also identified examples of proactive action taken by two U.S. contracting commands in Kuwait, both of which had incorporated a requirement to include CTIP compliance in contract quality assurance reviews. Additionally,

Army Contracting Command- Kuwait had developed and implemented a CTIP questionnaire, translated into five common employee languages, as part of quality assurance audits.

In addition, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Kuwait had included CTIP-focused questions into their Theater Quality Plan quality assurance contract audits which reviewed contractor knowledge and understanding of CTIP clause requirements. DCMA representatives also provided reports based on periodic health and sanitation inspections they had conducted of employee camps in Iraq. In 2010, the DoD IG team visited several employee camps run by subcontractors in Iraq; the employees interviewed verified that DCMA personnel checked conditions on a regular basis. The team did not observe any conditions in the camps that would constitute a CTIP violation.

The DoD IG team was unable to review conditions in Afghanistan in time to meet the January 15, 2011, publication date for the report of the assessment of U.S. Central Command. However, we are planning to conduct this evaluation in FY 2012.

In 2009, 2010, and 2011, the team requested that DoD criminal investigative organizations provide TIP-related criminal investigative summary data for each of these years. To date, these requests have resulted in reports of only two alleged TIP incidents. In both cases, the contractor had dismissed the offending employee.

Ongoing Assessments

The next DoD IG CTIP report, in compliance with Public Law 110- 457, will be issued in January 2012. It will be based on a sample of approximately 250 contracts with place of performance in the U.S. European and Africa Commands. In September 2011, the team conducted CTIP field evaluations of the Commands' headquarters and military installations in Germany and Italy for this assessment.

In addition to and concurrent with the multi-year review of contracts required by PL 110-457, the DoD IG has self-initiated an assessment of DoD Component CTIP program compliance and performance. As of this date, we have reviewed CTIP policies, procedures, awareness, and implementation in over 70 DoD organizations, including responsible officials in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and headquarters and major subordinate commands of Military Services, Defense Agencies and Combatant Commands. At each location, the team interviewed:

commanders and staff responsible for the CTIP program;

law enforcement personnel and legal counsels;

contracting officers, specialists, and quality assurance specialists, contracting officer representatives; and

representatives of contracting firms, and when possible, their employees. In addition, at each location visited, the DoD IG team interviewed contracting officials, none of whom reported that they were aware of any TIP-related offense that had been brought to the attention of a DoD contracting office.

DoD Non-Appropriated Fund Organizations

During the DoD IG CTIP assessment of the U.S. Pacific Command, in 2009, the team noted that non-appropriated fund entities were not required to include the FAR CTIP clause in their contracts. Therefore, we included an assessment of the Navy Exchange (NEX) and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) CTIP policy and procedures within the reviews of the U.S. Central Command and the U.S. European and Africa Commands.

The review of the NEX operation in the Kingdom of Bahrain determined that the Command had required all managers, associates, and vendors to take CTIP training.

Further, in December 2010, NEX Command headquarters in Virginia reported having submitted recommended changes to a proposed update of DoD Instruction 4105.71, "Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Procurement Procedure," which would require inclusion of a CTIP clause in all non-appropriated fund contracts. As of October 2011, the revision process was still ongoing.

The review of AAFES Europe identified that the Commander had issued a Manpower Associate "Bill of Rights," available in English and eight other languages, that subordinate organizations were directed to post on employee bulletin boards for easy access. The Commander also had established an employee passport possession policy to ensure that "contractors do not withhold the passports of TCNs [Third Country Nationals] working in our facilities."

In Kuwait, the DoD IG team observed AAFES passport checks and employee interviews first-hand while accompanying a contracting officer representative to several facilities. No CTIP violations were observed. The team also received a detailed briefing from the AAFES legal counsel outlining several additional TIP-related incidents and the contract remedies applied including show cause notices and cure letters.

Conclusion

The DoD IG remains committed to providing oversight support of the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance policy" against trafficking in persons. We will continue to evaluate the related DoD programs for compliance.

I thank you again for this opportunity to update you on DoD IG oversight of DoD actions to combat trafficking in persons.

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240 of 492 DOCUMENTS



The National

November 2, 2011 Wednesday

UAE winning battle against sex trafficking

LENGTH: 622 words

But country is criticised for sometimes sending victims to jail or deporting them

DUBAI // The UAE has made "dramatic" strides against sex trafficking, but needs to do more to curb labour abuses, a top US state department official has said.

It followed a call in his department's annual report for the country to be more active in investigating and prosecuting unscrupulous recruitment agents and abusive employers.

For its part, the UAE says it is implementing a plan to combat forced labour and human trafficking, and is in the process of amending its anti-trafficking laws.

Luis CdeBaca, the ambassador-at-large from the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, praised the country's "very positive and dramatic approach to sex trafficking in the last couple of years", noting the number of prosecutions had jumped from 20 to 60 in a couple of years as "a result of political will and good structures".

"We encouraged there be increased police and prosecution attention paid to the problem of labour trafficking," he said after an official visit to the UAE where he met with the foreign, labour and interior officials.

"We think that's a journey the UAE would be good to take ... we would hate to see that all of the resources are so focused on prostitution that someone who is being abused in a different sector goes unprotected."

He said domestic and construction workers were most vulnerable to labour abuse.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report ranks 184 countries in different **tiers** based on their anti-trafficking efforts.

This year's report, issued in June, again put the UAE in the second tier, denoting that it does not fully meet America's anti-trafficking standards.

Two years ago the UAE was upgraded from the tier two watch list - denoting potential demotion to tier three - in recognition of the progress it had made.

The report noted that Dubai had set up a special court to hear human trafficking cases, and opened two new shelters for victims.

However, it criticised the government's inability to recognise people forced into labour as trafficked victims. It also found victims of trafficking may have been jailed, fined or deported from the Emirates.

The UAE needed to do more to prevent sex tourism by Emiratis, saying it was important for the country to "police its citizens" no matter where they travel, he said. The report criticised the country for failing to reduce the demand for prostitution within its borders, or to curb child sex tourism by UAE nationals.

He also called for legal reforms and an overhaul of the sponsorship system.

Government officials, however, said they were committed to dealing with all forms of exploitation, including labour trafficking.

Dr Saeed Al Ghufli, the coordinator of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, said protection and assistance for victims was improving each year, and that the UAE was making "steady progress" on the issue.

The Ministry of Labour had "approved a work plan to combat forced labour and human trafficking", he said.

An amendment to its anti-trafficking law that would "emphasise the protection and repatriation of victims, thus bringing the law more in line with the Palermo Protocol" is with the Government for consideration.

"The UAE welcomes direct discussion and collaboration with other countries and international organisations that share the vision of stemming the tide of human trafficking," he added.

The Indian mission said that even as the UAE was taking steps to protect workers, India had also, as a labour-supplying nation, tightened its laws and clamped down on recruitment agents.

As a result, said MK Lokesh, the Indian ambassador, the number of complaints from Indian workers had fallen.

pkannan@thenational.ae

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241 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Trend Daily News (Azerbaijan)

November 1, 2011 Tuesday 2:54 PM GMT +4

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan commended for progress against trafficking in persons

SECTION: KAZAKHSTAN**LENGTH:** 535 words

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan have made progress in their efforts to combat illegal **human trafficking** and both countries were upgraded by the U.S. Department of State from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2** in the annual 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, according to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake, CA-NEWS reported referring to Silk Road Newline.

In the TIP Report that currently ranks 184 countries, the U.S. Department of State places each country onto one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments' efforts to comply with the "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking". Tier 1 is the highest ranking, Tier 2 is the second highest followed by Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3.

This year, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan were placed in the same Tier 2 category as Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Greece, Israel, Turkey, Hungary, Iceland and Bahrain and other countries that are "making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance" with anti-trafficking standards. Countries like China and Russia remained in the Tier 2 Watch List category among "countries whose governments do not fully comply" with these standards.

"Tajikistan is another country that has made commendable progress against trafficking and Secretary Clinton noted that on her last trip there last weekend," Blake told U.S. lawmakers last week speaking at a congressional hearing held by the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights.

"In 2011, Tajikistan was upgraded to Tier 2 for addressing the use of forced labor in its annual cotton harvest through efforts such as accrediting and assisting NGOs to monitor the harvest. They also prosecuted and convicted the first trafficking offenders under the new anti-trafficking provision," Blake said.

"Kazakhstan also was elevated to **Tier 2** this year. The Kazakh government increased law enforcement efforts against **human trafficking**," he said. "It passed a law strengthening penalties for convicted child sex trafficking offenders, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs has drafted a law that allows trafficking victims to have a legal advocate that expands the scope of trafficking-related crimes and increases legal protections for minors subject to forced labor."

According to Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights and the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 that mandated the annual human trafficking report, the TIP Report "has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool" and "essential to the ongoing successes by the United States Government in combating modern day slavery both at home and abroad."

"However, the battle is far from over. According to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking - created by the TPVA - more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims," Rep. Smith said. "Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today we know that human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year."

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242 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 28, 2011 Friday

Taiwan hosts anti-trafficking workshop

LENGTH: 453 words

Text of unattributed article from the "Taiwan" page headlined "Human Trafficking Forum Urges Int'l Partnerships" published by Taiwan newspaper The China Post website on 27 October

The China Post--Experts from around the globe gathered and exchanged tactics and logistics on battling crimes against human rights yesterday, at the 2011 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking, in Taipei.

Taiwan held its fifth annual anti-human trafficking workshop at the Taipei Howard International House yesterday, this time aiming to strengthen international cooperation on the basis of the four Ps -- prosecution, protection, prevention, and partnership -- with the focus laid on the last P.

Human trafficking is a crime that crosses national borders and has long been of global concern. As defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such actions are exploitation-based, and always involve actions induced by force, fraud, or coercion. In the case of commercial sex acts, "sex trafficking;" for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude or slavery, "forced labor."

Cracking human trafficking rings is highly challenging without international collaboration. For one, victims often fear cooperating with authorities and in many cases would simply prefer to return to their home countries. If a victim is willing to speak up, in addition to the language and cultural barriers, the necessary asylum, psychological and health treatments all need to be taken care of. Comprehensive global partnerships are vital to mitigate such challenges.

Taiwan has also seen cases of human trafficking, Premier Wu Den-yih pointed out at the closing ceremony. Wu pointed out that "In the olden days, families would sell their daughters for prostitution in times of economic struggles."

The nation has long been striving to counter attack. Beginning from November 2006 when the "Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan" was approved by the Executive Yuan, a series of measures have been taken against the crime, and in June 2009 the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act" was finally authorized.

Institution and implementation of the act has led Taiwan to leap from the 2006 **Tier 2** ranking on the **Trafficking in Persons** Report (the TIP report), as announced by the U.S. Department of State, to **Tier 1** in 2010 and 2011.

While only 32 countries across the globe were ranked as Tier 1, Taiwan and South Korea are the only Asian countries so recognized, Wu said. The government will continue to fight human trafficking through establishing international contracts on the matter, and also through joining forces with domestic non-governmental organizations.

Source: The China Post website, Taipei, in English 1815gmt 27 Oct 11

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243 of 492 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

October 28, 2011

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and **Tier** Rankings

SECTION: PUBLIC AFFAIRS DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2406 words

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and **Tier** Rankings

Testimony

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Statement Before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

Washington, DC

October 27, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Congressman Payne, and all the members of this committee for the opportunity to testify today. As Congress continues to deliberate this year's reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, hearings such as this one are helpful opportunities to discuss the global fight against human trafficking, and in particular one of our government's most important tools in moving that fight forward, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The TIP Report assesses government action around the world against trafficking in persons-that is, all of the activities involved in reducing someone to, or holding them in, a condition of compelled service. The core of this Report is the set of Congressionally-established minimum standards set forth in the TVPA. These standards reflect the definitions and framework to combat trafficking in persons outlined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, known also as the Palermo Protocol.

Following Congress's mandate, the Department of State ranks governments around the world according to these standards and determines a tier ranking based on a government's progress in meeting those standards. The Report comprises those rankings as well as individual country narratives that further explain both the TIP situation on the ground and governmental efforts according to the criteria laid out by Congress. The methodology is sound and transparent-the facts are applied to the law. Any country, whether in Asia or elsewhere, that wants to test this methodology need only assess their efforts against these minimum standards.

Thorough and honest assessments are the benchmark of the TIP Report. Our narratives take into account information from civil society groups, foreign governments, and our own State Department reporting officers who conduct on-the-ground research throughout the year. The review process involves numerous DOS offices so that the final product represents a Department-wide consensus on how well various governments are handling this problem. Beginning last year, a United States country ranking was also included in the Report, because, as Secretary Clinton has said, we should hold ourselves to the same standards as we hold everyone else. Accurate reporting is essential to the effectiveness of the TIP Report as a diplomatic tool, and indeed governments repeatedly cite it as a factor prompting stronger action in response to modern slavery. Sometimes that happens in public-more often in private. And sometimes a government that criticizes the Report and even perhaps mobilizes others against it quietly takes steps to work with us to begin meeting these standards.

What the Report tells us is that no country is immune to this scourge, and that no government is doing a perfect job combating it. The two regions we are addressing today-East Asia and the Pacific, and South and Central Asia-are hit

particularly hard by this crime. I'm pleased to be joined today by Assistant Secretary Robert Blake, who leads the Department's South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau, and Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. We always say the fight against modern slavery takes political will, and Bob Blake and EAP Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell are showing that both individually and within their chains of command. My colleagues will discuss in greater detail the progress in these areas and what governments are doing about it, but I'd like to highlight a few of the problems in trends that were discussed in the 2011 TIP Report and continue to be areas of concern.

*Sex trafficking of women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India. Additionally, our findings continue to show that it is local populations, more than Western "sex tourists," that fuel the demand for sex trafficking, and law enforcement needs to address both sectors for prevention to be truly successful. Widening gender gaps in China and India are fueling the demand for young girls as forced brides or for commercial sexual exploitation.

*We know that around the world, forced labor is highly prevalent among migrant populations, and that Asia has the world's largest share of labor migration. Migrants from both the East Asia and Pacific and South and Central Asia regions are subjected to forced labor in recognized destination countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and the Persian Gulf. More troubling still, much of this abuse takes place under the guise of legal, contractual and temporary work.

*In recent months, concerns over forced labor on fishing fleets have garnered increased attention. Our own research suggests that this is a problem with massive geographic scope, spanning fisheries from Indonesia to New Zealand. And Asian boats are ranging from the Cape of Good Hope to Central America.

*The enslavement of domestic workers from South and East Asia is a significant problem, whether Sri Lankans abused in the Gulf or Indonesians exploited in Malaysia. The International Labor Organization's (ILO) new Convention on Domestic Workers aims at addressing the unique vulnerabilities of this group; we hope that the increased attention on this challenge will lead to governments addressing the needs for justice and services for these victims.

*Definitional confusion among governments in the EAP and SCA regions continues to lead to the conflation of people smuggling and human trafficking. This lack of clarity hinders efforts to find and help victims. When it comes to trafficking, we continue to urge destination governments to shift their focus away from the legality of a migrant. As we know, modern slavery need not involve movement or cross borders.

*Additionally, we continue to push governments to acknowledge that human trafficking is a crime that can involve sex and labor. For instance, the definition of trafficking in the 2005 South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention is not consistent with how the term is defined and addressed in many other prominent international instruments on trafficking in persons from groups such as the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, and with the primary international treaty on trafficking, the Palermo Protocol. The Convention continues to focus on the concept of trafficking as the movement of women and children for prostitution and fails to address the trafficking of adults or forced labor. We hope that as the region's leaders gather for the SAARC Summit in Male in November, they will work toward bringing the region's conceptual notion of trafficking into conformity with the UN and other regional frameworks.

*We continue to advocate for comprehensive victim care, rather than the "Detain and Deport" model that we too often see in these regions. Protection should not mean inappropriate confinement for victims preparatory to deportation. Indeed, they need to be empowered through the opportunity for economic self-sustainability as well as aftercare and alternatives to deportation.

*We encourage governments of sending and receiving states to explicitly address modern slavery in labor-related memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and to enforce those provisions in an open and transparent manner.

My staff and I, collaborating closely with regional bureaus, will continue to engage governments in these regions in order to bring these issues to their attention, and we will urge them to take positive action in advance of next year's TIP Report.

In addition to the country narratives, the TIP Report includes an introduction that provides a conceptual framework to the struggle against modern slavery. In this year's Report, we show that the first 10 years of the modern anti-trafficking movement have been a decade of development: in countries all over the world, legal structures have been enacted and protection mechanisms have been put in place. However, the number of successful prosecutions seems to have leveled off, services for survivors continue to be inadequate, and victim identification remains a challenge. That's why the 2011

TIP Report described the need for a "decade of delivery," in which governments must be held accountable for delivering on the promises made in recent years. Because structures and results are not the same thing.

The difference between the passage of a law and the effective implementation of a law is political will. We have seen political will succeed. We have seen it in the Philippines, where the Aquino Administration is prioritizing trafficking cases in the court system and pushing through the backlog, delivering on a set of processes and promises that had been moribund at best. We have seen it in other regions; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this summer invited Nigerian prosecutors to come to Singapore and share the secrets of their success, providing a unique opportunity for ASEAN members to learn from an African country.

But the reality is that there are places where that political will is weak or nonexistent, and there, victims are most at risk. As the Report shows, some governments merely go through the motions when it comes to fighting modern slavery, and some governments don't do anything at all. A key source of hope for victims and survivors is the work of civil society-non-governmental organizations, international organizations, the faith community, and advocacy groups.

These organizations are made up of people working every day to make the decade of delivery a reality despite the fact that many governments are doing little or nothing at all. These groups are running shelters on dollars a day. They are freeing victims from the most horrific abuse imaginable. They are the women and men on the front line of this fight. But as is often the case in places where poverty and corruption hinder the good intentions of committed people, a lack of resources and capacity are insurmountable roadblocks to those seeking to save victims from exploitation and bring their traffickers to justice.

In addition to our robust diplomatic efforts, this is another area where the Trafficking in Persons Office is making a difference, though our International Programs foreign assistance funds. In the last two years, my office received 998 applications for assistance from 546 organizations requesting a total of \$547 million. We know that it will never be possible to give every organization the help they want. And we know that we have a responsibility to be responsible custodians of taxpayer dollars. That's why our office has implemented a rigorous and transparent review process to ensure that every cent of our foreign assistance appropriation is spent responsibly and is put to the use where it will do the most good.

To answer the requests for \$547 million which we received through funding applications-the vast majority of which described projects of tremendous merit- our office administered a foreign assistance budget for the last two years of \$39.1 million. Based on an estimate that there are up to 27 million victims of trafficking worldwide, that funding total provides a little more than 72 cents per victim per year. This year's solicitation is out, and we hope to receive innovative and impactful proposals.

The country-specific tier rankings and diagnostic assessments included in the TIP Report help us determine where we should be allocating these funds. To maximize the impact of our efforts, we identify priority countries for programming. We generally target our foreign assistance to Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List, and, in some cases, Tier 2 countries. This linkage demonstrates that the Report isn't just an exercise in finger-pointing at countries that aren't doing a good job, but is an important tool for determining where our foreign assistance dollars can be used most effectively.

These are not places where a wealth of resources is available to fight human trafficking. If we were to suddenly pull the plug on the projects we support, there wouldn't be another organization waiting in the wings to take over the provision of victim services. There wouldn't be another source of funding to keep training prosecutors and police officers. In many countries, if the little funding we are able to give were to disappear, those programs would simply cease to exist. In those places, there would be no place for victims and survivors to go.

It was four months ago today that we released the 2011 TIP Report and that Secretary Clinton called for a decade of delivery. If the Trafficking in Persons Office is no longer able to stand with those organizations making a difference on the ground, the decade of delivery is already in danger of failing. If the antitrafficking movement loses the fight in Washington, in the halls of Congress, we could lose that fight everywhere else as well.

We cannot balance the budget on the backs of trafficking victims. If we try to do so, from some misplaced sense of proportion with across-the-board cuts to an already tiny budget, we put at risk all the progress made over the last decade. This crime continues to present a monumental challenge. But there's still much reason for hope. We want the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report to be a report about more and more success stories. We want it to tell about governments living up to their responsibilities. We want it to describe effective partnerships with robust civil society. We want this Report to show the struggle against modern slavery moving in the right direction. Because this Report is not merely a reflection of what foreign governments are doing to combat this heinous crime. It is a reflection of American leadership around the world.

Human trafficking is a threat to our security and an offense to our most important values. But more importantly, as Secretary Clinton has said, "fighting slavery is part of who we are as a nation." We have a responsibility to act against this crime. We must not-will not-shrink from that responsibility.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering any questions you have.

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244 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Daybook

October 27, 2011

House Foreign Affairs Committee

COMMITTEE: House Foreign Affairs Committee

SUB-COMMITTEE: Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee

Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee hearing on "The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and **Tier** Rankings."

TIME: 2 p.m.

LOCATION: 2200 Rayburn House Office Building

CONTACT: 202-225-5021 <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov>

PARTICIPANTS: Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large in the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; and Principal deputy Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Yun, of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, testify

LOAD-DATE: October 20, 2011

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TYPE: Hearing

245 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

October 27, 2011 Thursday 9:27 PM GMT

US lawmaker seeks more scrutiny on India trafficking

LENGTH: 379 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Oct 27 2011

A US lawmaker Thursday urged more scrutiny of India's record on human trafficking as the State Department insisted that the emerging Asian power was taking significant strides against the problem.

In its latest annual report on **human trafficking**, the State Department took India off a **watchlist** and credited the democracy's independent judiciary and civil society with spurring action to rescue women and children.

But Republican Chris Smith, author of the law that requires the trafficking report, queried the upgrade, citing sex-selective abortion and infanticide against girls in India, which has warming ties with the United States.

"The most dangerous three words in that part of the world is, 'It's a girl.' If it's a girl, she may be dead, or if she gets a little bit older, she may be exploited through trafficking," said Smith, who represents New Jersey.

Smith, chairing a hearing with senior administration officials, asked the State Department to look carefully next year at whether India is making "an all-out effort to eradicate slavery" or only trying to appease criticism.

Robert Blake, the assistant secretary of state for South Asia, defended the administration's assessment. He said India had traffickers in their crosshairs, while until recently authorities would arrest the victimized women and girls.

"I think we've come a long way," Blake said. "This year India was upgraded because they're making some pretty significant efforts."

Blake credited India for setting up 80 anti-trafficking units under the home ministry and for tackling bonded labor. "Back in 2003 and 2006, this wasn't even on their radar," he said.

Luis CdeBaca, the US ambassador-at-large on human trafficking, also supported the upgrade but said in his prepared testimony: "Sex trafficking of women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India."

The annual report frequently raises controversy among US allies when they come under criticism. The law paves the way for economic sanctions against countries if they are judged to be making no efforts against major problems.

Smith also voiced concern that the United States in the report had not given the rock-bottom ranking to China due to an array of concerns including trafficking of North Korean refugees.

LOAD-DATE: October 28, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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246 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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Hearing Examines State Dept.'s Human Trafficking Waivers and Ratings on China, India, other Countries; Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

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Washington, Oct 27 - The Obama Administration's decision to grant China a political waiver and India an upgrade in this year's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report issued by the State Department were questioned by the lawmaker who wrote the first-ever U.S. law to combat trafficking in 2000--the same law which also created the annual report and its ranking system (Public Law 106-386).

A hearing held by Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-04), author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as well as subsequent laws to make further strengthen and adapt TVPA, focused on what Smith believes were politicized rankings for India and China--despite the ongoing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls, in these countries. In the 2008 reauthorization of the TVPA, Congress decided that no country should be allowed to skirt sanctions on the Tier 2 Watch List for more than two years before being downgraded to Tier 3. This year, 2011, represents the first year that the limit was put to the test.

"It is with concern that I note the President has determined 12 countries need yet another year on the **Tier 2 Watch List**," said Smith, who chairs the House subcommittee that oversees human rights and co-chairs the Congressional **Human Trafficking** Caucus. "Some of these countries--China and Russia--have been on the Watch List for 7 and 8 years, respectively. I would like to know exactly why the Administration is convinced these countries need yet another year to get their acts together. Those who work on the front lines of human trafficking know all too well that a law is useless unless faithfully implemented." Click here <http://bcove.me/xcz9swwt> to read Smith's statement.

The hearing the committee heard testimony from top State Department officials (click on their name to read their testimony): Asst. Secretary of State Robert Blake, head of Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary of State Joseph Yun, East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Leading U.S. official tasked with combating trafficking, Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large and head of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Smith fears in the case of China, the Obama Administration has politicized human rights with the granting of a political waiver and a refusal to downgrade China from the Tier 2 Watch List. China has become a magnet for trafficking as a result of its brutal one child per couple population control policy and the resulting severe shortage of girls. Experts indicate that the region is missing about 100 million women.

Smith also expressed concern about the Administration's decision to upgrade India from the Tier 2 Watch List to a Tier 2 country.

"India was upgraded to a Tier 2 country in this report despite the fact that it has one of the largest populations of enslaved laborers in the world, and has only prosecuted and convicted a small handful of labor traffickers," he said.

Smith is the author of the landmark legislation the Trafficking Victims and Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which mandated the annual reports, as well as increased penalties for traffickers and provided assistance for victims. Smith wrote two subsequent anti-trafficking laws (PL 108-193 and PL 109-164) increasing resources for crime prevention and expanding treatment assistance for victims. Smith has legislation to reauthorize TVPA which the Foreign Affairs Committee passed earlier this month.

"The TIP Report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool," Smith said. "The Report has been a catalyst for improvement --often dramatic improvements--in the efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions. With a combination of encouragement, persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries around the world have created or amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking, and, in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide." Click here <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm> to read the 2011 TIP report.

Smith said that according to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking--created by the TPVA--more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year.

To watch a webcast of the event, click here <http://bcove.me/xcz9swwt> (Note: the broadcast begins at the 15 minute mark- advance player to that time.)

Read this original document at: <http://chrissmith.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=266668>

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House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Hearing;
"The Trafficking in Persons Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and Tier Rankings.";
Testimony by Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

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Chairman Smith, members of the committee: Thank you for inviting me, I welcome the opportunity today to speak with you regarding trafficking in South and Central Asia. I'm honored to do so in the company of my colleagues, Ambassador Louis CdeBaca and EAP PDAS Joseph Yun.

I will briefly address some of the underlying issues contributing to trafficking I have seen in the region, discuss our efforts and outline our successes and challenges.

Underlying Issues Contributing to Trafficking

The SCA region faces numerous challenges that give rise or contribute to TIP problems. Some of the countries in the region are among the poorest in the world and their people are vulnerable because of weak rule of law, underdeveloped institutional capacity, corruption, caste discrimination, and the understandable propensity of the poor to migrate in search of economic opportunities elsewhere that make them vulnerable to exploitation. Despite these challenges, Ambassador CdeBaca and I have worked together closely on TIP issues in all SCA countries and have made progress. I am committed to advancing our human rights agenda and I have engaged personally on TIP issues in all of my bilateral meetings; including all of the Annual Bilateral Consultations we hold with Central Asian countries. These conversations are not always easy, but our partners in Government and in the NGO community in SCA countries know that we are here to partner with them. We use the TIP Report as a tool to focus our efforts on areas that require improvement. I believe these efforts have contributed to an overall positive trend in the region towards legislation that is compliant with the minimum standards and an increased awareness of forced labor as part of the TIP problem that must be addressed.

In addition to these broader trends, as requested by the committee, I would like to outline the progress we have seen and the challenges that remain in SCA countries of particular note beginning with South Asia and moving on to Central Asian countries.

South Asia

India

The Department was able to upgrade India for the first time to Tier 2, from the Tier 2 WatchList, where it has stayed since 2004 when I was still the Deputy Chief of Mission in Delhi working on these matters. India is today one of our most important partners, and a large and complex democracy that is increasingly committed to stopping exploitation of vulnerable people. The Government of India and State governments have taken significant steps in their anti-TIP efforts, responding both to international attention to TIP issues and India's own robust civil society that seeks social justice and reform.

The Department upgraded India to Tier 2 in the 2011 TIP Report because of the government's greater resolve combating its trafficking problem, particularly bonded labor. The Government of India increased law enforcement efforts through the establishment of over 80 Anti-Human Trafficking Units, ratified the UN TIP Protocol, achieved landmark convic-

tions against bonded labor traffickers with punishments of significant prison sentences, and increased rescue and rehabilitation efforts of thousands of trafficking victims in many parts of India.

India's anti-TIP efforts have continued since the publication of the 2011 TIP Report. At the federal level we have seen efforts by the Ministry of Labor, which called for all state labor secretaries to appoint nodal officers to tackle forced child labor and bonded labor. The Ministry of Home affairs has also been instrumental in broadly recognizing the anti-TIP contributions of one judge of the Mumbai court (who has taken over and cleared hundreds of sex trafficking cases and issued rehabilitation orders for 1,200 rescued women and girls) and has asked Judge Swati Chauhan to share her anti-trafficking court model widely across India. Bonded labor remains a persistent and difficult challenge in India's anti-trafficking agenda in all jurisdictions but in August, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights announced a new cell to focus government efforts on the elimination of bonded labor.

At the State level, West Bengal set up missing persons bureaus in every police district and within the railway police in part to curb trafficking. In Karnataka, police collaborated across state borders with the Tamil Nadu police to rescue bonded laborers from Karnataka.

Although this progress is clear, our hard work continues. Our embassy and consulates are intensively engaged with national, regional and local counterparts to combat TIP. We look for additional opportunities to partner with the Government of India to continue progress and offer our assistance to those in need through G/TIP-funded programming. Our staff works closely with G/TIP and implementing agencies to craft programs that meet the needs of the most vulnerable and address the "three P" paradigm of Protection, Prevention and Prosecution.

Bangladesh

I also wanted to briefly discuss Bangladesh as the Secretary specifically noted in her remarks introducing the 2011 TIP Report the legislative work Bangladesh has engaged in to combat trafficking. Historically, Bangladesh has been one of our most supportive partners, and I'm happy to report the Government has drafted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that, if passed, will increase legal protections for trafficking victims, especially male laborers who have heretofore not been covered under legislation. Bangladesh has also enacted the "Vigilance Task Force" which has had some success shutting down and provisionally suspending the operations of several recruiting organizations involved in trafficking.

Difficult problems that contribute to trafficking remain, including scarce resources, corruption and economic dependence on remittances from foreign laborers. Bangladesh lacks funds to effectively protect its population from being exploited by human traffickers, but actively encourages countries to accept more Bangladeshi workers. Because of this dependence, the Government of Bangladesh is often reluctant to damage its relations with destination countries by calling for greater protections for its citizens. More recently, Bangladesh chaired a meeting on "the Colombo Process" which is an effort by labor-sending countries to improve conditions for their workers through a dialogue with labor-receiving countries. We see this as positive sign that although the Government of Bangladesh is heavily reliant on remittances; it is taking steps to ensure the conditions for Bangladeshi workers abroad. Until the draft law is passed, the lack of statutory provisions that protect male laborers from exploitative recruiting practices will remain a significant weakness in worker protections.

The Maldives

The Maldives also has serious TIP issues and is in danger of an automatic downgrade to Tier 3 in 2012. But, senior officials from President Nasheed to Foreign Minister Naseem have uniformly expressed to me and others their desire to work with us to bring TIP under Maldivian law. This is consistent with the leadership in international forums such as the UN Human Rights Council to address international human rights issues. To that end, a new anti-trafficking law has been drafted and is ready to be submitted to parliament. This will be an important step. But there will be more to do to, for example, create a referral mechanism and shelters for trafficking victims.

Nepal

Nepal has been another country that has taken serious measures to address TIP. During the past five years Nepal has gone from being a country that only recognized the trafficking of young women to brothels in India to a country that in 2007 passed a fairly comprehensive anti-trafficking law, the Human Trafficking Transportation Control Act (HTTCA), which is closely in-line with the Palermo Protocol. This law, for the first time, recognized that domestic trafficking and non-sex industry exploitation could also be defined as trafficking. The HTTCA, along with foreign employment law and children's rights laws, work together to address most forms of trafficking and have moved Nepal closer toward compliance with the minimum standards. Nepal also established, in 2009, a national coordinating body, the National Commit-

tee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT). The NCCHT includes members of civil society, government, and trafficking survivors.

Challenges remain as Nepalis themselves acknowledge. Rule of law is still weak in Nepal, due in part to corruption, limited resources, and lack of public awareness about citizens' rights. Greater protections for witnesses and victims in TIP cases would go a long way to helping see that justice is served in a timely fashion. The law enforcement community in Nepal is still learning how to implement the HTTCA.

Increased collaboration and coordination is being improved by USAID's Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project, which has provided a Senior Technical advisor to the NCCHT. Furthermore, the USAID project has helped develop national minimum standards for rehabilitation centers and the investigation and adjudication of trafficking cases, for which the lead government ministry is taking ownership.

This year G/TIP selected NCCHT member Charimaya Tamang, herself a trafficking survivor, as one of ten world-wide TIP Report Heroes for her work on the NCCHT and on protecting trafficking survivors through her organization Shakti Samuha. Secretary Clinton met Mrs. Tamang during the 2011 TIP Report rollout, a moment celebrated by the government, media, and public in Nepal.

Central Asia

Kyrgyzstan

Over the past ten years, the government of Kyrgyzstan has made significant strides in the fight against trafficking in persons, from a point of almost no cooperation with NGOs, to the present, when there is an environment of open cooperation with NGOs, as well as a legal framework that provides for investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons. The government provides the real estate for three shelters for trafficked persons. It also provides a well known three-digit hotline to report trafficking. More recently, the Kyrgyz government amended the current national law against trafficking in persons to increase the maximum punishment to five years imprisonment.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan is another historically challenging state that has made commendable progress against trafficking. In 2011, Tajikistan was upgraded to Tier 2 for addressing the use of forced labor in its annual cotton harvest. This was an important step forward. Specific efforts included accrediting and assisting NGOs to monitor the cotton harvest and meeting with local government and school officials along with the International Organization for Migration and Tajik NGO representatives to reiterate the government's prohibition against forced child labor. The new level of commitment was evidenced by the government's success in prosecuting and convicting the first trafficking offenders under the new anti-trafficking provision and instituting quarterly meetings to coordinate anti-trafficking activities with government partners. These gatherings highlighted the greater focus that this issue is receiving from senior levels of the government.

While Tajikistan has made significant progress; there is still room for improvement. Out of a population of nearly seven million, an estimated one million labor migrants voluntarily migrate, most frequently to Russia and Kazakhstan, where some are subjected to forced labor conditions. The 2011 TIP Report recommends the Government of Tajikistan develop a formal victim identification and referral mechanism as well as victim sensitivity training for border guard and law enforcement authorities to directly address the vulnerabilities of migrant laborers. As with the majority of Central Asian states, there remain instances of forced or child labor in the annual cotton harvest, but the Government of Tajikistan has begun to effectively enforce the prohibition against forced labor by monitoring schools and inspecting cotton fields during the harvest.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan is SCA's only country on Tier 3, but has made some recent efforts that I would like to share with the sub-committee. I have new reporting from our Embassy in Ashgabat that three people were prosecuted for trafficking offenses under Article 1291 in August, which is a significant development. The government registered a shelter for victims of trafficking in September and approved a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project to draft legislation protecting victims' rights, train law enforcement in the identification of TIP cases, and develop a partnership plan for the government and NGOs. UNODC's Executive Director will visit in November, at which time he will press for an action plan.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a mixed picture. The government has made good progress in combating sex trafficking, but has been slow to address the use of forced labor, particularly in the annual cotton harvest. In March of 2011, the Government of Uzbekistan created an Interagency Working Group tasked with ensuring compliance with all 13 ILO conventions to which Uzbekistan is a party. Our Embassy in Tashkent will be monitoring the Government of Uzbekistan's actions to uphold these commitments and I will continue to engage the Government to make progress on this important priority.

In summary, the South and Central Asian region as a whole is moving closer to being compliant with internationally-recognized anti-TIP standards, but there is much more work to do. This will continue to be a personal priority for me and a priority for my bureau. Thank you again for the opportunity to address this subcommittee. I look forward to your questions.

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Testimony by Joseph Yun, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

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Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Payne, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on trafficking in persons (TIP) in East Asia and the Pacific. I would also like to thank the Committee for its leadership on advancing dialogue on this important issue.

The scourge of human trafficking and modern slavery reaches into every corner of the globe, but perhaps nowhere more so than in East Asia and the Pacific. According to the International Labor Organization, the incidence of forced labor and sex trafficking is higher in the Asia-Pacific region than anywhere else in the world. And according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations around the globe. In addition to being trafficked overseas, many victims are trafficked within their own countries. In fact, the UNODC reports that most trafficking is national (not international) and is carried out by traffickers whose nationality is the same as their victims' and within national borders.

The most commonly identified form of human trafficking is sex trafficking, defined as the act of coercing, forcing, or deceiving a person into prostitution, or keeping a person in prostitution through coercion. Inducing a child into prostitution is also defined as sex trafficking under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, even when coercion, force, or deception is not involved. Sex trafficking can also be the result of debt bondage, where women and girls are forced to stay in prostitution until they are able to pay off the unlawful debts they have supposedly incurred through their transportation or recruitment. The ILO estimates that 79 percent of identified trafficking victims are women or girls. In most countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the trafficking of women and children for sex is a widely recognized problem, and the laws and regulations are targeted to these particular groups of victims. Other, less-recognized forms of trafficking, such as the trafficking of men and forced laborers, may be under-reported because current laws do not readily facilitate the identification of victims of these forms of trafficking or allow for the prosecution of their traffickers.

Countries should strive to combat all forms of trafficking using the three "P" approach: punishment, prevention, and protection. To that end, with regard to sex trafficking, there are many examples of governments in the Asia-Pacific region taking steps to combat trafficking using this approach.

In Indonesia, for example, the government has shown progress in punishing traffickers. At a two-day seminar on child sex trafficking held in Manado, Indonesia in October 2011, the head of the Police Women and Children's Unit delivered a powerful presentation outlining the work her unit had accomplished on TIP, graphically demonstrating that despite limited resources, she was able to investigate and refer for prosecution dozens of cases, rescuing more than 100 TIP victims. From 2007 to 2010, her unit had worked on more than 66 cases involving 71 adult and 80 child victims, leading to the arrest of 96 offenders and the prosecution of more than 21 trafficking cases. Each year, the number of cases under investigation and the number of victims rescued has grown. On the prevention front, Japan has made great strides. At the peak of Japan's trafficking problem in the middle of the last decade, entertainer visas provided the main means of entry for trafficking victims. The government's TIP-cognizant screening procedures have vastly diminished the enter-

tainer visa program; while about 135,000 entertainer visas were issued in 2004 alone, there were fewer than 11,000 foreigners in Japan on this type of visa in 2009.

In the area of victim protection, recent raids by Thai police have rescued sex trafficking victims from neighboring countries and Central Asia. And in Malaysia, the government recently allowed an independent assessment of its shelters for sex trafficking victims. As part of a regional program funded by the Department of State's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration to assess the needs of vulnerable migrants, the International Organization for Migration conducted a study of five government and NGO-run shelters and made recommendations to the Malaysian government. As part of this study, a local NGO also conducted a mental health assessment of trafficking victims in shelters. Although the studies found much room for improvement in caring for victims, the fact that the government allowed this independent assessment and formulation of recommendations is an important step towards confronting a crucial area of needed improvement with regards to victims' care and protection.

It is important for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to not only continue to fight the already widely-recognized problem of sex trafficking - and as I have just laid out, we have seen great progress in this fight in the region - but also to identify other forms of trafficking and ensure that there are laws in place to combat them. Countries should strive to prevent all form of trafficking, punish the traffickers, and protect the victims. The current trafficking trends we are seeing in the region - outside the realm of sex trafficking - especially involve forced labor in the fishing industry and for domestic workers.

Although countries in the East Asia-Pacific region continue to suffer from these abuses of human liberty and dignity, we must acknowledge the real progress that countries in the region have made in a relatively short amount of time to combat human trafficking. Since the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol, entered into force in 2003, the number of countries in the region to implement its provisions has more than doubled. Most anti-trafficking legislation in the region is recent, reflecting a newly understood need to adopt such legislation. According to a 2009 study from UNODC on human trafficking, 23 of the 27 Asian and Pacific countries that contributed information to the report had adopted anti-trafficking legislation, and 10 of those countries had passed new legislation or modified old provisions between 2005 and 2008, demonstrating the progress many countries in the region have made in the last few years. For example, Vietnam passed its Anti-Human Trafficking Law in March 2011 and is currently in the process of drafting decrees and circulars to direct implementation of the new law. In addition, earlier this year, Vietnam allocated \$13.5 million for the implementation of its five-year National Plan of Action for Trafficking. Allocation of funds from the state budget for anti-TIP activities demonstrates a clear willingness to accept ownership of the issue.

The UNODC report also indicated that the number of convictions against human traffickers is increasing in East Asian and Pacific countries, probably as a result of these new and updated laws. Let me give you some examples. In recent years, the Royal Government of Cambodia has given increased priority to TIP-related cases within its judicial system. The Phnom Penh Municipal Court (PPMC) reportedly tried 118 TIP cases in the first nine months of 2011, compared to 116 in all of 2010. In addition, Cambodia's first case against an official accused of TIP-related corruption, Eam Rattana, is currently underway, with the trial expected to begin by the end of November. The ongoing case against a second official accused of TIP-related corruption is still under investigation.

The Government of Laos reported that during the 2011 TIP Report assessment cycle it investigated 20 trafficking cases and convicted 33 trafficking offenders. These results represent a dramatic increase from zero convictions.

In Thailand, the Department of Special Investigations is currently expanding its Anti-Human Trafficking Unit from 10 to 70 persons and is seeking to better address local-level corruption, which continues to affect efforts to successfully arrest and convict TIP perpetrators.

In Malaysia, police continue to rescue victims from traffickers, with over a hundred rescued since January. Most recently, police broke up a trafficking ring that brought women from Uganda under the pretense of work or study opportunities and then forced them into prostitution; on October 14, 2011, police rescued 21 women from this ring and arrested the suspected traffickers.

In Indonesia, Surabaya Metro Police arrested Afif Muslichin and Endry Margarini in January 2011 and charged them with trafficking underage girls via social networking connections. In July, the Surabaya State Court sentenced Afif and Endry to 3.5 years in prison for employing underage sex workers. At the same time, NGOs provided assistance to victims, including counseling, witness protection, and other services, and also persuaded the victims to return to school.

Surabaya's government showed commitment in response to this case; the mayor regularly visited the victims and provided them financial and psychological support.

In Burma, as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Burma Tomas Ojea Quintana noted following his August 2011 visit, the government is undertaking a number of activities to combat human trafficking. In 2011, the Burmese Government extended its five year antihuman trafficking program up until 2016, increased anti-trafficking units in 22 to 26, and established a national telephone hotline.

And finally, the Government of Brunei announced plans in April 2011 to form an anti-TIP police unit and the completion of judicial proceedings in its first prosecution.

Now I would like to discuss some of the trends in human trafficking in the East Asian and Pacific region. Asian-Pacific governments across the region are working to combat these trends, and the Department of State and our embassies and consulates abroad are helping to support their efforts.

Let me begin with forced labor. Forced labor refers to work or service that is undertaken involuntarily by use or threat of force or serious harm. Such harm is generally either physical or financial, involving sexual or physical violence or restraint, but in some circumstances can also be economic such as non-payment of wages or debt bondage schemes. There can be many indicators of forced labor, including the withholding of workers' passports, implied threats of deportation, or threats of exclusion from community or future employment.

In recent years, many countries in East Asia and the Pacific that already had a strong infrastructure to fight sex trafficking have taken steps to recognize the problem of labor trafficking and to combat it. In Malaysia, for example, government officials have spoken recently in the press about the need to focus more on labor trafficking. On September 10 of this year, a senior Home Ministry official spoke to a leading daily about the fact that many cases of trafficking in Malaysia involve forced labor, not only commercial sexual exploitation, and about the need to address these cases.

The Malaysian government also recently launched a program to register migrants, one aim of which is to help the government curb worker exploitation by gathering information on how many workers are employed in which sector and by whom.

In Taiwan, the Council on Labor Affairs (CLA) continued to operate 25 Foreign Worker Service Stations and International Airport Service Counters to assist migrant workers and educate them on their rights. Authorities also distributed handbooks detailing relevant laws and regulations on foreign workers to more than 190,000 employers and aired television commercials highlighting the rights of migrant workers. Officials also funded TV, radio, and newspaper advertisements and education programs raising awareness of the perils of trafficking.

In Vietnam, the government has increased efforts to sanction labor recruiting companies that engage in illegal practices and to provide predeparture training for overseas workers to educate them about their legal rights, employment contracts, language and cultural information for the destination country, and contact information in the event a worker encounters problems.

Also in Japan, a government order regarding the Industrial Trainee and Technical Intern Program that entered into force in July 2011 banned the practices of requiring deposits from applicants to the program and imposing fines for "misbehavior" or early termination. The new rules require increased oversight of receiving companies and extend the protections of the Labor Standards Office to all participants in the program. There have not been reports, however, of the government's prosecution of forced labor offenses committed with the trainee and intern program.

Also in the realm of labor trafficking, we are seeing more and more the need to protect domestic workers from abuses at the hand of their employers. There are millions of women who have entered or departed Asian-Pacific countries to work as domestic workers overseas. Because most countries exclude domestic workers from provisions in their labor laws protecting workers, domestic workers are very vulnerable to trafficking and have few remedies against exploitative work conditions. According to Human Rights Watch, domestic workers are also at increased risk of abuse because of many countries' restrictive visa-sponsorship regulations that link their visas to their employers, giving employers control over workers' immigration status and ability to change jobs if they face abuse.

Many countries in East Asia and the Pacific are working to expand protections to domestic workers. For example, on October 15 Cambodia suspended all new recruitment due to reports of labor recruiting companies engaging in illegal practices amounting to trafficking in persons in Cambodia, and over concerns over abuse of domestic workers in Malaysia. Active investigations into recruiting agencies for illegal trafficking are underway in Cambodia several arrests

have been made, and there has been one prosecution. On September 21, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court sentenced a recruiting company employee to four years in prison for abduction and confinement of trainees. Furthermore, the Ministry of Labor has made assurances that migration for domestic work will not be reinstated until better mechanisms for control are in place. Ministry of Labor officials are currently working with international organizations and NGOs - and seeking assistance from the U.S. government - to write the regulations related to Cambodia's new sub-decree on Migrant Labor. The Ministry of Labor hopes to use this suspension of new recruitment as leverage to convince Malaysia to sign a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Cambodia.

In Indonesia, according to the Anti-Trafficking Task Force at the Attorney General's Office, the District Court of Dompu, West Nusa Tenggara is adjudicating a high-profile case of trafficking involving a domestic worker who was sent to Saudi Arabia and abused by her employer. The director and an employee of the recruitment agency were charged with document and age-falsification under Indonesia's anti-trafficking law. Prosecutors are seeking a six-year prison sentence.

East Asian and Pacific countries also face serious human trafficking problems within the fishing industries, where allegations of forced labor and abuses aboard commercial fishing vessels are frequent. In a 2009 survey from the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), more than half of the surveyed Cambodian migrants trafficked onto Thai boats said they had seen their captains killing one of their coworker.

Most trafficked fishermen are placed on boats going to foreign waters, as it is easier to traffic workers who will be out to sea for longer periods of time. There have been recent reports of Burmese and Cambodian men being trafficked onto Thai fishing vessels. During her visit to Thailand in August 2011 at the invitation of the Thai government, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Joy Ezeilo, recounted the growing evidence of increased trafficking in the fishing industry in Thailand and stated that Thailand has long been a hub for human trafficking for the sex industry and forced labor.

Thailand has taken steps to address these problems, including passing an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2008, and establishing teams in every province in the country to fight trafficking. Sirirat Ayuathana of the Thai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, which is in charge of preventing trafficking within Thailand, has publicly announced that authorities are aware of and concerned about the problem and plan to set up a commission to work on registering all fishing boats and crew members. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged that Thailand had safeguards in place, but must implement them effectively.

There were also recent allegations of abuse from crew members of two South Korean-flagged foreign commercial vessels in New Zealand waters. The workers alleged they were forced to work under slave-like conditions and their wages were withheld. In response to these allegations, the Government of New Zealand acted swiftly, and launched a Ministerial inquiry in July 2011 to investigate the allegations and is expected to make its final report at the end of February 2012.

One of the keys to fighting trafficking in persons not just in Asia, but around the world, is increased international cooperation. As the traffickers globalize their operations and learn to cooperate with each other to increase their profits and stay ahead of their would-be prosecutors, governments must also work together and with civil society to fight trafficking. The Department of State recognizes the importance of working with host governments to support their efforts to fight TIP. Our embassies and consulates abroad coordinate with host governments and non-governmental organizations in a number of ways, from organizing conferences and training programs, to inviting experts and speakers to speak publicly to audiences, to sponsoring the exchange of information through the International Visitor Leadership Program and awarding grants to fund anti-TIP programs or campaigns. I would like to mention a few examples of our coordination with governments in the region to combat TIP.

In Singapore in August of this year, in conjunction with the Singapore Police Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI) sponsored a Trafficking in Persons and Child Exploitation Workshop. Trainers for the event came from ICE HSI, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, Australian Federal Police, and Singapore's Attorney General's Chambers and included an academic consultant, Dr. Sallie Yea. There were over 50 attendees at the three-day training session, which included participants from the Singapore Police Force, the Trafficking-in-Persons Inter-Agency Taskforce, Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, the Ministry of Manpower, and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. In addition to the government training, ICE HSI provided a three hour workshop for local nongovernmental organizations that engage in anti-trafficking activities. Thirty attendees from three NGOs attended training focused on trafficking victim care and assistance.

In Thailand, a public-private partnership between USAID and MTV helped to raise awareness about human trafficking among nearly five million Thais using a June documentary titled "Enslaved"; establishing a creative youth forum, and holding a concert in Chiang Mai featuring some of Asia's most popular performers.

The ICE HSI Office of International Affairs Attache Office in Thailand works closely with police, local NGOs, and victims, to investigate and prosecute American citizens involved in trafficking, including for child sex tourism. In addition, the U.S. government funds programs implemented by NGOs and international organizations targeting trafficking prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy advocacy. The programs assist with capacity building, public awareness campaigns, protection and legal assistance for victims, creating alternative occupations for victims, operation of emergency shelters for victims, providing return and reintegration assistance, supporting the International Visitor Programs, and conducting research into labor recruitment, forced labor, and victim screening.

Our embassy in Kuala Lumpur recently co-sponsored a trafficking-in-persons reporting conference for journalists in Sabah, a critical area of Malaysia prone to trafficking. This successful training opportunity for journalists highlighted U.S. steps against trafficking and our support to Malaysian anti-TIP efforts. The embassy estimates that at least one million Malaysians viewed coverage of the conference in a variety of media outlets. The involvement of both Malaysian and U.S. officials in the training sessions also demonstrated our continuing commitment to partnering with the Malaysian government in its efforts. The conference provided information and resources to increase journalists' capacity for more accurate and ethical reporting of TIP cases, emphasizing the role of the media and raising the level of public awareness surrounding these issues. Malaysian prosecution and investigation officials also highlighted such advances in anti-TIP efforts such as increased interaction and joint training with NGOs as well as interagency guidelines for enforcement, prosecution and protection officers.

China's ratification of the "Palermo Protocol" in November 2009 was a positive sign, although China has not yet completed all of the requirements, such as amending domestic law and legal definitions, it needs to meet its obligations under the Palermo Protocol. The government has created an overarching body, the Inter-Ministerial Office Against Human Trafficking, to better coordinate government strategy. Non-government organizations working on anti-trafficking in China report that the number of training programs for front-line law enforcement and those who work with victims is increasing. According to Chinese government statistics, prosecutions for human trafficking increased in 2010, as did the number of sentences of five years or more for trafficking-related offenses. China's law enforcement agencies are also expanding cooperation with other countries on cases involving foreign nationals in China and Chinese nationals abroad. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) officials reported that the Chinese government had "fundamentally changed its considerations" by recognizing the full range of needs for children victimized by, or at increased risk of victimization from, human trafficking. Also, UNICEF officials spoke positively of the efforts by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, under its current model of victim care, to provide services to exploited children. The Chinese will publish their next five-year National Plan of Action next year that we hope will clarify their priorities and strategy for combating trafficking in persons.

Finally, at the fourth U.S.-ASEAN Senior Official's Dialogue on Transnational Crime on July 28 in Singapore, ASEAN officials reiterated their interest in collaborating on joint U.S.-ASEAN projects. I specifically mention ASEAN cooperation because I believe multilateral efforts to combat TIP are as important as bilateral efforts. We intend to continue working with ASEAN in the future to better combat this problem in the region.

In addition to ASEAN, we also see countries within Asia coordinating among themselves to fight TIP. For example, in March 2011, a delegation from the Japanese Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee on Trafficking In Persons visited Thailand and Cambodia, and established a Japan-Thailand Joint Taskforce on Countering Trafficking in Persons. A bilateral procedure on identification and repatriation of Thai TIP victims, the result of three years of discussions, was established and discussions of a mutual legal assistance treaty were furthered.

As you can see, the scourge of human trafficking is a problem affecting many countries in the East Asia-Pacific region, but steps are being taken through the region to combat all forms of trafficking in persons. We continue to work closely with our partners both in government and civil society to support efforts to eradicate this modern day form of slavery.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today. I am pleased to answer your questions.

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249 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 27, 2011

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Hearing;
"The Trafficking in Persons Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and Tier Rankings.";
Testimony by Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2370 words

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Congressman Payne, and all the members of this committee for the opportunity to testify today. As Congress continues to deliberate this year's reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, hearings such as this one are helpful opportunities to discuss the global fight against human trafficking, and in particular one of our government's most important tools in moving that fight forward, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The TIP Report assesses government action around the world against trafficking in persons--that is, all of the activities involved in reducing someone to, or holding them in, a condition of compelled service. The core of this Report is the set of Congressionally-established minimum standards set forth in the TVPA. These standards reflect the definitions and framework to combat trafficking in persons outlined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, known also as the Palermo Protocol.

Following Congress's mandate, the Department of State ranks governments around the world according to these standards and determines a tier ranking based on a government's progress in meeting those standards. The Report comprises those rankings as well as individual country narratives that further explain both the TIP situation on the ground and governmental efforts according to the criteria laid out by Congress. The methodology is sound and transparent--the facts are applied to the law. Any country, whether in Asia or elsewhere, that wants to test this methodology need only assess their efforts against these minimum standards.

Thorough and honest assessments are the benchmark of the TIP Report. Our narratives take into account information from civil society groups, foreign governments, and our own State Department reporting officers who conduct on-the-ground research throughout the year. The review process involves numerous DOS offices so that the final product represents a Department-wide consensus on how well various governments are handling this problem. Beginning last year, a United States country ranking was also included in the Report, because, as Secretary Clinton has said, we should hold ourselves to the same standards as we hold everyone else. Accurate reporting is essential to the effectiveness of the TIP Report as a diplomatic tool, and indeed governments repeatedly cite it as a factor prompting stronger action in response to modern slavery. Sometimes that happens in public--more often in private. And sometimes a government that criticizes the Report and even perhaps mobilizes others against it quietly takes steps to work with us to begin meeting these standards.

What the Report tells us is that no country is immune to this scourge, and that no government is doing a perfect job combating it. The two regions we are addressing today--East Asia and the Pacific, and South and Central Asia--are hit particularly hard by this crime. I'm pleased to be joined today by Assistant Secretary Robert Blake, who leads the Department's South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau, and Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. We always say the fight against modern slavery takes political will, and Bob Blake and EAP Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell are showing that both individually and within their chains of command. My colleagues will discuss in greater detail the progress in these areas and what governments are doing about it, but I'd like to

highlight a few of the problems in trends that were discussed in the 2011 TIP Report and continue to be areas of concern.

* Sex trafficking of women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India. Additionally, our findings continue to show that it is local populations, more than Western "sex tourists," that fuel the demand for sex trafficking, and law enforcement needs to address both sectors for prevention to be truly successful. Widening gender gaps in China and India are fueling the demand for young girls as forced brides or for commercial sexual exploitation.

* We know that around the world, forced labor is highly prevalent among migrant populations, and that Asia has the world's largest share of labor migration. Migrants from both the East Asia and Pacific and South and Central Asia regions are subjected to forced labor in recognized destination countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and the Persian Gulf. More troubling still, much of this abuse takes place under the guise of legal, contractual and temporary work.

* In recent months, concerns over forced labor on fishing fleets have garnered increased attention. Our own research suggests that this is a problem with massive geographic scope, spanning fisheries from Indonesia to New Zealand. And Asian boats are ranging from the Cape of Good Hope to Central America.

* The enslavement of domestic workers from South and East Asia is a significant problem, whether Sri Lankans abused in the Gulf or Indonesians exploited in Malaysia. The International Labor Organization's (ILO) new Convention on Domestic Workers aims at addressing the unique vulnerabilities of this group; we hope that the increased attention on this challenge will lead to governments addressing the needs for justice and services for these victims.

* Definitional confusion among governments in the EAP and SCA regions continues to lead to the conflation of people smuggling and human trafficking. This lack of clarity hinders efforts to find and help victims. When it comes to trafficking, we continue to urge destination governments to shift their focus away from the legality of a migrant. As we know, modern slavery need not involve movement or cross borders.

* Additionally, we continue to push governments to acknowledge that human trafficking is a crime that can involve sex and labor. For instance, the definition of trafficking in the 2005 South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention is not consistent with how the term is defined and addressed in many other prominent international instruments on trafficking in persons from groups such as the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, and with the primary international treaty on trafficking, the Palermo Protocol. The Convention continues to focus on the concept of trafficking as the movement of women and children for prostitution and fails to address the trafficking of adults or forced labor. We hope that as the region's leaders gather for the SAARC Summit in Male in November, they will work toward bringing the region's conceptual notion of trafficking into conformity with the UN and other regional frameworks.

* We continue to advocate for comprehensive victim care, rather than the "Detain and Deport" model that we too often see in these regions. Protection should not mean inappropriate confinement for victims preparatory to deportation. Indeed, they need to be empowered through the opportunity for economic self-sustainability as well as aftercare and alternatives to deportation.

* We encourage governments of sending and receiving states to explicitly address modern slavery in labor-related memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and to enforce those provisions in an open and transparent manner.

My staff and I, collaborating closely with regional bureaus, will continue to engage governments in these regions in order to bring these issues to their attention, and we will urge them to take positive action in advance of next year's TIP Report.

In addition to the country narratives, the TIP Report includes an introduction that provides a conceptual framework to the struggle against modern slavery. In this year's Report, we show that the first 10 years of the modern anti-trafficking movement have been a decade of development: in countries all over the world, legal structures have been enacted and protection mechanisms have been put in place. However, the number of successful prosecutions seems to have leveled off, services for survivors continue to be inadequate, and victim identification remains a challenge. That's why the 2011 TIP Report described the need for a "decade of delivery," in which governments must be held accountable for delivering on the promises made in recent years. Because structures and results are not the same thing.

The difference between the passage of a law and the effective implementation of a law is political will. We have seen political will succeed. We have seen it in the Philippines, where the Aquino Administration is prioritizing trafficking

cases in the court system and pushing through the backlog, delivering on a set of processes and promises that had been moribund at best. We have seen it in other regions; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this summer invited Nigerian prosecutors to come to Singapore and share the secrets of their success, providing a unique opportunity for ASEAN members to learn from an African country.

But the reality is that there are places where that political will is weak or nonexistent, and there, victims are most at risk. As the Report shows, some governments merely go through the motions when it comes to fighting modern slavery, and some governments don't do anything at all. A key source of hope for victims and survivors is the work of civil society--non-governmental organizations, international organizations, the faith community, and advocacy groups.

These organizations are made up of people working every day to make the decade of delivery a reality despite the fact that many governments are doing little or nothing at all. These groups are running shelters on dollars a day. They are freeing victims from the most horrific abuse imaginable. They are the women and men on the front line of this fight. But as is often the case in places where poverty and corruption hinder the good intentions of committed people, a lack of resources and capacity are insurmountable roadblocks to those seeking to save victims from exploitation and bring their traffickers to justice.

In addition to our robust diplomatic efforts, this is another area where the Trafficking in Persons Office is making a difference, through our International Programs foreign assistance funds. In the last two years, my office received 998 applications for assistance from 546 organizations requesting a total of \$547 million. We know that it will never be possible to give every organization the help they want. And we know that we have a responsibility to be responsible custodians of taxpayer dollars. That's why our office has implemented a rigorous and transparent review process to ensure that every cent of our foreign assistance appropriation is spent responsibly and is put to the use where it will do the most good.

To answer the requests for \$547 million which we received through funding applications--the vast majority of which described projects of tremendous merit-- our office administered a foreign assistance budget for the last two years of \$39.1 million. Based on an estimate that there are up to 27 million victims of trafficking worldwide, that funding total provides a little more than 72 cents per victim per year. This year's solicitation is out, and we hope to receive innovative and impactful proposals.

The country-specific tier rankings and diagnostic assessments included in the TIP Report help us determine where we should be allocating these funds. To maximize the impact of our efforts, we identify priority countries for programming. We generally target our foreign assistance to Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List, and, in some cases, Tier 2 countries. This linkage demonstrates that the Report isn't just an exercise in finger-pointing at countries that aren't doing a good job, but is an important tool for determining where our foreign assistance dollars can be used most effectively.

These are not places where a wealth of resources is available to fight human trafficking. If we were to suddenly pull the plug on the projects we support, there wouldn't be another organization waiting in the wings to take over the provision of victim services. There wouldn't be another source of funding to keep training prosecutors and police officers. In many countries, if the little funding we are able to give were to disappear, those programs would simply cease to exist. In those places, there would be no place for victims and survivors to go.

It was four months ago today that we released the 2011 TIP Report and that Secretary Clinton called for a decade of delivery. If the Trafficking in Persons Office is no longer able to stand with those organizations making a difference on the ground, the decade of delivery is already in danger of failing. If the anti-trafficking movement loses the fight in Washington, in the halls of Congress, we could lose that fight everywhere else as well.

We cannot balance the budget on the backs of trafficking victims. If we try to do so, from some misplaced sense of proportion with across-the-board cuts to an already tiny budget, we put at risk all the progress made over the last decade.

This crime continues to present a monumental challenge. But there's still much reason for hope. We want the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report to be a report about more and more success stories. We want it to tell about governments living up to their responsibilities. We want it to describe effective partnerships with robust civil society. We want this Report to show the struggle against modern slavery moving in the right direction. Because this Report is not merely a reflection of what foreign governments are doing to combat this heinous crime. It is a reflection of American leadership around the world.

Human trafficking is a threat to our security and an offense to our most important values. But more importantly, as Secretary Clinton has said, "fighting slavery is part of who we are as a nation." We have a responsibility to act against this crime. We must not--will not--shrink from that responsibility.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering any questions you have.

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REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH HOLDS A HEARING ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

October 27, 2011 Thursday

EVENT DATE: **October 27, 2011**

TYPE: COMMITTEE HEARING

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEAKER: REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, CHAIRMAN

WITNESSES:

REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, R-N.J. CHAIRMAN REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY, R-NEB. REP. TIM GRIFFIN, R-ARK. REP. TOM MARINO, R-PA. REP. ANN MARIE BUERKLE, R-N.Y. REP. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, R-FLA. EX OFFICIO

REP. DONALD M. PAYNE, D-N.J. RANKING MEMBER REP. KAREN BASS, D-CALIF. REP. RUSS CARNAHAN, D-MO. REP. HOWARD L. BERMAN, D-CALIF. EX OFFICIO

WITNESSES: LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT BLAKE, BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE JOSEPH YUN, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

TEXT:

SMITH: The subcommittee will come to order.

Good afternoon to everybody. Welcome to this hearing to examine the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Person's Report. This report to Congress was first mandated by legislation that I sponsored known as Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In 1998, and I don't see that people are very well aware of this - when I first introduced the bill, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition, although we did have some friends like the ambassador. Table vote inside of government and out flipped the issue of human trafficking was merely a solution in search of a problem. For most people at that time, the term trafficking applied almost exclusively to illegal drugs or weapons. Reports of vulnerable people especially women and children being reduced to commodities for sale are often met with surprising indifference. One major objection to the bill especially from the Clinton administration was the naming and ranking of

countries based on compliance with the establishment of common sense minimum standards, clearly articulated prevention, protection, and prosecution benchmarks enforced by sanctions and penalties against violators.

Fortunately, reality won out over ignorance. Although it took two years to overcome opponents and most of the votes were passage, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was finally signed at the law with strong bipartisan support. The support was from both sides of the aisle. It has continued through subsequent reauthorizations. It has been essential in the ongoing successes by the US government in combating modern day slavery both at home and abroad. However, the battle is far from over. According to the state department's office to monitor and combat human trafficking, created by TVPA, more than 12 million worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today, we know that human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization, human traffickers may profits in excess of 31 billion dollars a year.

We are fortunate to have with us today three distinguished state department witnesses to examine both the substance and diplomatic activity that is behind the trafficking in person's report. The report which is written by the TIP office headed by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca summarizes the ranking and performance of each country and provides detailed recommendations as to how each country can improve its efforts. But more than a source of concise knowledge about the fight against human trafficking around the world, the TIP report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool. The report has been a catalyst for improvement, often dramatic improvements, and efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions with a combination of encouragement, persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions or the threat of sanctions imposed by the US.

Countries around the world have created and amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking and in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide. Individuals within each country can use the report to assess their government's commitment and to lobby their government to take specific measures. The G-TIP office also coordinates technical assistance and aide for many of the countries wishing to improve their anti- trafficking response. The result has been a worldwide anti- trafficking surge largely depending on the credibility and accuracy and faithful implementation of the report including the tier framework.

This afternoon, we will return our attention to ensuring this report will contain these essential attributes and to assess whether or not it is fulfilling its purpose. In 2003, Congress added a special watch list to the tier rankings to allow countries an opportunity to address their shortcomings in their anti-trafficking efforts before being placed in tier 3 and subject to sanctions. When it became apparent that this tier 2 watch list was becoming a permanent parking lot for some countries, Congress added to the requirement to the 2008 reauthorization that the president either downgrade or upgrade any country that has been on tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years. Obviously, the direction which the country has moved is based on whether requisite measures were taken to meet the minimum standards. The president can waive the requirements to move a country off of the tier 2 watch list for up to two years if the country has a plan to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards and designate sufficient resources to carry it down. But this waiver should only be applied to the most extreme cases as countries have had since 2009 to undertake this effort. Consequently, it is with concern that I note that the president has determined 12 countries need yet another year on tier 2 watch list. Some of these countries, notably China and Russia, have been on the watch list for seven and eight years respectively. Uzbekistan has been on the list for four years.

I look forward to hearing discussing with our witnesses today exactly why the administration is convinced these countries need yet another year to get their acts together. I also look forward to a serious discussion about the application of sanctions. Reports show that of the 23 countries on tier 3, the full sanctions envisioned by

TVPA will be applied to only 3 countries: Eritrea, Madagascar, and North Korea. Partial sanctions will be imposed on 7 countries and 13 countries which have no trafficking sanctions imposed whatsoever. Some may argue that being on **tier 3** is punishment enough, the Congress envisioned tangible repercussion for countries on **tier 3**. Those who work on the frontline of **human trafficking** know all too well that law is useless and diminished at best - for the very least as you'd say unless faithfully implemented.

I look forward to discussing with our distinguished witnesses today the accuracy of the tier rankings and the importance of substantial follow-up action. I would like to now yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, for any opening comments he might have.

PAYNE: Thank you. Let me start by commending Congressman Smith for calling this important hearing, the 2011 Trafficking in Person's Report. I want to thank all witnesses for agreeing to testify before us today.

On June 27, the State Department issued its 11th annual report on human trafficking in person's TIP report, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Overall, the 2011 report presents a sovereign view of the state of US and international campaigns against human trafficking. It describes the most common severe forms of human trafficking and identified key emerging issues and trends. Unfortunately, global progress has been mixed. For example, in the past two years, the average number of prosecutions of human trafficking offenders has increased; however, if we look back further, we see that the total number of prosecutions has declined.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about ways the international community can help developing countries - judiciary systems to better respond to this and other criminal justice issues. The report also reveals that we are failing to adequately target each subset of TIP particularly forced labor, which is the most common crime - actually occurs much more than sex trafficking, but only represents 10 percent of all prosecutions. I am looking forward to hearing the panel's thoughts on how to better address this challenging of trafficking in the workforce. I also hope the witnesses can highlight the unique challenges facing many African and conflict- stricken countries in addressing the issue of human trafficking.

According to the report, only two nations, Nigeria and Mauritius, are fully complying with the minimum standards for combating human trafficking. Therefore, qualifying them as tier 1. Ten African countries fell within tier 3 which makes them subject to aide restrictions. In Africa, these potential aide restrictions are caused for concern. Many countries on the continent have been burdened by debilitating conflicts. Africa's conflicts have displaced citizens, traumatized local communities and often children who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. In these conflict areas where government control is often limited, they may abduct women and children for slavery - sexual slavery, and also often recruit children for their rags. Running opportunities and conflict zones also contribute to these problems. Exploitation thrives under these conditions, although burden governments, poor judicial systems, and widespread poverty prevent adequate country response to human trafficking cases in many of the countries that I am referring to. Yet, some African nations are making progress on this front, the UN Secretary General stated in his most recent global report on children and on conflict, that despite several challenges, considerable progress was made by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army or the SPLA in implementing a plan to remove child soldiers from its ranks.

According to the 2011 report, Chad reportedly ended all child conscription into its national army and continues to engage efforts to demobilize remaining child soldiers from rebel forces. Earlier this month, President Obama certified that Chad had taken necessary steps to allow for its reinstatement of barred assistance. While I agree that the United States and the international community must hold states responsible for implementing robust anti-trafficking initiatives, I am concerned about the impact that withholding aide can have on innocent civilians. It is important that in our efforts to end human trafficking and persuade nations to fully engage in the global cause, we do not inadvertently harm those who intend to protect and help.

I commend President Obama for his thoughtful understanding of this very complex issue and for granting waivers where appropriate. As we move forward with our discussion today, let us not forget the conditions that allow the horrific crimes of human trafficking to exist. We should focus on ways to ensure that our aide programs have strengthened the capacity of developing countries to adequately protect their civilians and citizens.

Thank you again to our witnesses and I look forward to hearing your testimonies. I yield back down for my time.

SMITH: Thank you very much, Ranking Member. We are joined by Mr. Turner and thank you for being here.

TURNER: Thank you.

SMITH: We will put all of the extensive resumes of our distinguished witnesses in the record and just very quickly summarize.

First, introducing Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, who is no stranger to this subcommittee, who is appointed in 2009 as a Director of the State Department's Office to combat - to monitor and combat trafficking in persons which assess global trends, provides training and technical assistance and advocates for the end of modern day slavery. Ambassador CdeBaca formerly served as chief counsel to the House Committee on judiciary whose portfolio included modern slavery issues among many other things. He also served as a federal prosecutor for the Department of Justice where convicted dozens of abusive pimps and players, and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude. A very distinguished record.

We will then hear from Ambassador Robert Blake, currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, a position he has held since May of 2009. He entered Foreign Service in 1985 and

served at the American Embassy in Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria, and Egypt. He served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Mission in New Delhi, India from 2003 to 2006. And Ambassador Blake was our ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives from 2006 to 2009. He also held a number of positions at the department of - right here in Washington.

We will then hear from Mr. Joseph Yun, who is currently Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, a position he has held since August of 2010. In his role, he is responsible for relations with Southeast Asia and ASEAN affairs. He joined the Foreign Service in 1985 and has served in numerous positions abroad including in South Korea, Thailand, France, Indonesia, and Hong Kong.

Ambassador CdeBaca, the floor is yours.

CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Payne and Congressman Turner. Thank you to the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today.

I have a more wholesome statement that I would offer for the record, but before we start, I would like to take a step back, if I may, to recognize what you and your cosponsors of the original Traffic Victims Protection Act achieved in bringing that initial skepticism perhaps that you have mentioned to consensus, 11 years ago this afternoon in fact. On a similarly rainy day in October, President Clinton reported his radio address to be broadcast on the morning of October 28, 2000, the day that he signed that groundbreaking legislation into law to fight what the president described that day as slavery, pure and simple.

As President Clinton pointed out, the TVPA was groundbreaking in providing new tools both here at home and abroad, increasing our assistance to other countries to help them detect and punish this pernicious practice. I would like to simply quote President Clinton because his words that evening are applicable now as they were then. He said, "I work hard for these provisions. They build on what we have been doing at home and abroad to address this problem. "We see in the success of this landmark legislation once again, that there is no real secret to getting things done in Washington. When we put progress over progress, we get results. When we work together, we get results. Working hard and working together, across three presidencies and various changes in Congress, together committed ending modern slavery.

As we continue to liberate this year's reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, hearing such as this one are helpful opportunities to discuss the global fight and rededicate to work together with you to get those types of results that President Clinton mentioned. This week is also the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Traffic in Person's office at the State Department. On October 22, 2001, the office opened for business and has never flagged of its results. A decade of leadership by my predecessors like John Miller and Mark Lagon - but the fight is really the result of the expertise of the G-TIP career staff, civil servants, Foreign Service, and contractors, and their partners in main state and at post. Two of those experts, Amy O'Neill Richard and Carla Minarez Berry (ph), have been in the office since the beginning and those women are globally recognized leaders in the modern struggle and I would like to note that we owe them all a debt of gratitude for their decade in service in this fight against modern slavery.

The most visible part of our work is the annual trafficking person's report. The thorough and honest assessments are the benchmarks of the TIP report. We take into account the information from civil society groups, foreign governments, and our own reporting officers at post who conduct on the ground research throughout the year. The review process involves numerous state department officers, so that the final product represents the department like consensus on how well their governments are doing to handle this problem. Accurate reporting is essential to the effectiveness of the Traffic in Person's report as a diplomatic tool and indeed governments often sight it as a factor prompting stronger action and response to modern slavery. Sometimes, those conversations happen in public, more often in private. And sometimes, a government that criticizes the report and even mobilizes others in the regions or around the world quietly nonetheless take the steps to address the standards that were set forth by Congress.

Regardless of the public's response, we are going to work hard with our counterparts to get results just as what was done in the Clinton administration and just as was done in the Bush administration. What the reports tell us is that no country including the United States is immune to this scourge, and that no government including the United States is doing a perfect job in combating it. The two regions that we address today, East Asia and the Pacific and the South and Central Asia, are hit particularly hard by this crime. We always say that the fight against modern slavery takes political will and not just on the part of government overseas. Assistant Secretary Bob Blake and Kurt Campbell are showing that political will both individually and within their chains of command. As a result, we have seen a real institutionalizing of the anti-trafficking fight in these regions and are coming together around the sense of mission. That means year round engagement, not just the preparation of the annual report. And for that, I am personally grateful to the leaderships of Assistant Secretaries Campbell and Blake.

Year round engagement, partnership, and hard work are necessary to move past this last decade of development in which laws and structures have slowly come online and to move into what Secretary Clinton calls a decade of delivery. Because the number of successful prosecutions seems to have leveled off a bit, because services for survivors continue to be inadequate and victim identification remains a challenge because structures and results are not the same thing. The difference between the passage of a law and the effective implementation of that law is political will. The reality is that there are places where that political will is weak and non-existent and in those places, victims are most at risk. As the report shows, some governments merely go through the motions when it comes to fighting modern slavery. In some governments, the tier 3 countries typically do not do anything at all. Every day, non-governmental actors around the world make up for that despite the fact that these governments are little or nothing. We support such groups through international programs and foreign assistance funds. We know it will never be possible to give every organization the help that they want, but even the current funding levels only average out to a little more than 72 cents per victim per year, given the 27 million estimated worldwide.

In many countries, if that little bit of American funding that we are able to give were to disappear, those programs would simply cease to exist. There would be no place for victims and survivors to go. It has been 149 years and 1 month since President Lincoln made the promise of emancipation. It was four months ago, that we released the TIP report and that Secretary Clinton called for a decade of delivery to make good on President Lincoln's promise around the world.

If U.S. government is not able to stand with motivated governments and the nongovernmentals that make a difference on the ground providing (inaudible) services, training prosecutors and police officers. The decade of delivery is already in danger. If the anti- trafficking movement was steamed (ph) Washington in the House of Congress, we could lose that fight everywhere else as well.

We cannot try to balance the budget on the box of trafficking victims, and if we do so or try do so with cuts to an already tiny amount of money, we put at risk all of the progress made over the last decade. Human trafficking is a threat to our country and an offense to our most important values, but more importantly as Secretary Clinton has said. "Fighting slavery is part of who we are as a nation," 449 years we have not only had a responsibility to act against this crime. We have pledged ourselves to that responsibility. We must not and will not shirk from that task.

Thank you.

SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador.

Ambassador Blake?

BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, Representative Payne and Representative Turner, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you today regarding trafficking in South and Central Asia. I'm honored to do so in the company of my colleagues Ambassador CdeBaca and Joe Yun. I have a longer statement that I'll submit for the record.

SMITH: Without objection, it will be made part of the record.

BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me say how much I appreciate your leadership, the work of the subcommittee and the focus that you bring to the issues of trafficking in persons.

I have made it a personal priority to address trafficking of persons in the SCA region in close partnership with Ambassador CdeBaca. I have done so through direct advocacy with governments but also by visiting with the many fine NGOs on the ground doing good work to combat trafficking and frequently recording short video interviews with them that my staff post on YouTube to publicize their work and the scope of the challenges that they are dealing with.

Mr. Chairman, I'm proud to say that our engagement has produced dividends and progress but significant challenges still remain. The department upgraded four SCA countries this year from tier 2 watch list to tier 2, India, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. There remain on the watch list, but were making progress in all three, Bangladesh, Maldives and Uzbekistan, and only one country is on tier 3 Turkmenistan.

I'd like to briefly touch on the situation in some of the key countries where I've been personally engaged.

First, India. Mr. Chairman, I know you share our interest in seeing continued progress in India on anti-trafficking efforts. The department upgraded India to tier 2 this year was based on the government's increased efforts to address the trafficking problem particularly bonded labor. Specifically, the government increased law enforcement efforts through the establishment over 80 anti-human trafficking units get ratified the U.N. TIP protocol. It achieved landmark

convictions against bonded labor, traffickers with punishments of significant prison sentences and increased rescue and rehabilitation efforts of thousands of trafficking victims in many parts of India. This good work continues at both the state and federal levels.

Tajikistan is another country that has made commendable progress against trafficking, and Secretary Clinton noted that on her recent trip there last weekend. In 2011, Tajikistan was upgraded to tier 2 for addressing the use of forced labor in its annual cotton harvest through efforts such as accrediting and assisting NGOs to monitor the harvest. They also prosecuted and convicted the first trafficking offenders under their new anti-trafficking provision.

Kazakhstan also was elevated to **tier 2** this year. The Kazakh government increased law enforcement efforts against **human trafficking** had passed a law strengthening penalties for convicted child-sex trafficking offenders and the Ministry of External -- of Internal Affairs -- excuse me -- has drafted a law that allows trafficking victims to have a leave -- legal advocate that expands the scope of trafficking-related crimes and increases legal protections for minors subject to forced labors.

Mr. Chairman, you asked about Uzbekistan. It presents a mixed picture. The government has made good progress in combating sex trafficking but has been slow to address the use of forced labor particularly in the annual cotton harvest. In March of 2011, the government of Uzbekistan created an interagency working group task with ensuring compliance with all 13 ILO conventions to which Uzbekistan is a party. Our embassy in Tashkent will be monitoring the government Uzbekistan's actions to uphold these commitments, and I will continue to engage the government to make progress on this important priority.

Mr. Chairman, the trafficking report has been an emphasis for this change in all of our region, but it is only of the tools that we have at our disposal to influence the anti-trafficking efforts of other countries. Reports from international NGOs have sometimes been instrumental in informing and compelling action on TIP. My bureau and Ambassador CdeBaca's team greatly value such input, and we've tried hard to foster a cooperative relationship with this institutions. We influence them, and they influence us by information and sharing to make sure that our efforts are complementary and that we make the most impact on the ground.

Governments remain extremely interested to know where they will be ranked in the report when it comes out in June. But I think that the work that we do to consistently engage and influence people at every level of society is significant. For example, the exchange programs and workshops that we sponsor to train government officials in implementation are critical to realizing the potential of the new laws being passed. The training programs of police officers or border guards to sensitize them about potential trafficking of persons, victims are also vital.

So, I want to assure that we value the resources that we are entrusted with by Congress, and we work very closely with Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff to implement the programs to make a positive and lasting impact.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the SCA region is moving closer to being compliant with internationally-recognized anti-TIP standards, but there's much more work to be done. This will continue to be a personal priority for me and a priority for my bureau.

So, again, I thank you for this opportunity to address this subcommittee, and I look forward to your questions.

SMITH: Ambassador Blake, thank you very much.

Mr. Yun?

YUN: Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Payne --Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Payne and Representative Turner, thank your for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on trafficking in persons in East Asia and the Pacific Region.

I've submitted a statement for the record. With your permission, I would like to make a few summary remarks.

First of all, I regret to convey that from Assistant Secretary Campbell, he wanted to be here, but he had to be on a travel in the last minute. So, in fact, as was speaking he's landing in Dallas.

Human trafficking in modern slavery reaches into every corner of the globe, but perhaps, no where (ph) more so than -- than in East Asia and the Pacific. According the International Labor Organization, the incidence of forced labor and sex trafficking is higher in the Asia Pacific region than anywhere else in the world, and according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, victims from Asia traffic the widest range of destinations around the globe.

In addition to the being trafficked to overseas, many victims are trafficked within their own countries. In fact, the UNODC reports that most trafficking is national not international, and this is carried by traffickers whose nationality is the same as their victims and within national borders.

While human trafficking remains widespread and serious, we do believe that TVPA or TIP report and its associated activities have been effective in fighting trafficking in persons in the East Asia and the Pacific.

There are several success stories I would like to share with you. Taiwan is one example of how information in the TIP report has led to real reform in many aspects of fighting TIP, including implementation of stronger anti-trafficking laws, better protection for victims and increased prosecutions. In 2006, Taiwan was ranked in TIP report as tier 2 watch list was upgraded to tier 2 in 2007 and in 2010 was upgraded again to tier 1 where it remained this year.

The Philippines also has potential to serve as a model in the region for its recent efforts to combat TIP. After two consecutive years as tier 2 watch list and facing an automatic downgrade, the Philippines was upgraded to tier 2 in 2011. The number of prosecutions of traffickers in the Philippines increased greatly in the last reporting cycle and the government has increased the resources it devotes to combat trafficking and has begun to identify and punish corrupt officials linked to trafficking. The government has acknowledged these efforts while linked to the threat of a downgrade to tier 3 in the TIP report.

Singapore is another example in our region that has -- that has potential moving up from tier 2 watch list to tier 2 in 2011. Singapore has shown a markedly increased awareness of TIP issues in the last year and the government has formed an interagency taskforce to address the issue. In 2011, Singapore hosted a workshop for the Asian region on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons which was attended by Ambassador CdeBaca, as well as other members of my bureau, and in April 2011, six members of Singapore 20 percent interagency taskforce on TIP travel to D.C. to meet myself, Assistant Secretary Campbell, and my colleagues in Ambassador CdeBaca's office.

I'll stressed (ph) that it is not the report alone that results in progress but also the enormous amount of hours spent in country by staff, from our embassies and consulates abroad who engage year round with the whole of government. Our advocacy in Washington with those countries, ambassadors and embassy teams has also made a difference.

Mr. Chairman, we are only too well aware the problem remains. We have worked very closely with Ambassador CdeBaca who has made number of trips over the last few months to our region, and we remained committed to working with G-TIP office, as well as other international organizations fighting human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

SMITH: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Let me first begin with the -- with the general question -- I guess Ambassador CdeBaca you'll be the one who might wanna answer this. What diplomatic efforts do the department make or undertake to ensure that countries knew that they would not on the watch list for two more years as per the trafficking reauthorization of '08? And what was the reaction, I mean, that each of those that were currently on watch contacted and fully apprise of their potential downgrading?

CDEBACA: OK, we did a number of steps both internally within the department through old Acts (ph) and -- and messages out to the field but then also with that as a task or for a type of that direct type of engagement, and we saw on the part of a number of countries a recognition that this was kind of long overdue that countries had gotten perhaps little comfortable on there.

We saw a recognition on some other countries especially those who such as (inaudible) or the Philippines or others who are MCC countries, a recognition of what the prospect of a tier 3 downgrade might mean not just reputationally, but as far as, sanctions and as far as some of the other assistance and aid and work in the international monetary for might have on those countries. It was a bit of a wake-up call for some of our partners, and we think that we've seen as a result of -- of the watch list designation some real movement.

There was a good percentage of the tier 2 watch list countries moved up to tier 2 on the merits. The waiver issue was never even something that was had to be faced because of the work that they had done, and this was not one year work. This is work that they had undertaken across those two years.

We felt that it was important to kick it in after two years because of the notion that the almost and ex post facto type of situation even though this isn't the domestic criminal law, but the notion that country should have fair warning that tier -- two years on the -- the watch list would have that result.

We also made it very clear what countries would need to do to get waivers. It wasn't the choice. It wasn't saying, "You know, you should choose the lesser of two evils." But with the recognition that not every country would necessarily be able to get up to tier 2 on the merits as you and other had recognized in putting the waiver provision in. So, there was certainly increased diplomacy that was done at the bilateral level by our ambassadors, by me at G-TIP but also specific engagement on the part of then Undersecretary for Political Affairs Burns now Deputy Burns and others who look at those 37 countries as countries that needed very specific interventions, and we saw that from the willingness of Deputy Steinberg, the willingness of Undersecretary Burns to have those conversations was very important we thought in having these countries move up and off the watch list.

SMITH: Thank you. May I ask you with regard to South Korea? You may recall we initiated an effort back in early 2002 to try to get a zero-tolerance policy and to do an investigation among our military to see whether or not there was complicity (ph) with regard to our deployments in South Korea and -- and certainly for -- in the former Yugoslavia and the IG's report from the Department of Defense was very, very damning, and it did lead to Bush's zero-tolerance policy.

I and others have raised repeatedly the issue of the -- of the "juicy bars" in South Korea. I'm just wondering if why that seems to have been left out of the narrative for this year's report. Have they disappeared? Has the issue largely been mitigated? Or are those still a problem? As you recall, many of the women who were being exploited there were Filipino women, and I know the Filipino government took some very aggressive action. I'm wondering if that has been sustained.

YUN: Yeah, I think this issue, as you know, has been an ongoing concern and USFK in South Korea has made zero-tolerance policy very effective, and my recollection is that I don't think we can say "juicy bars" have disappeared 100 percent, but the incidence of abuse that went on is -- is much way down. If you like, Mr. Chairman, we can get more background on the -- on the statistics or data we have on that.

SMITH: I appreciate that because it does seem to reemerge, you know, do you think that I know the stars and stripes (inaudible) has done some very, very fine reporting on that as of others, but as soon as you think you have it in hand all of a sudden a new spate (ph) of this kind of exploitation emergence. Did you want to touch on that?

CDEBACA: Yes, I was in South Korea couple of months ago and in fact went to USFK and -- and we went through some of these issues directly. One of the things that I was struck with personally was the adjusted (ph) position of those images that we are all familiar with from the undercover reporting that was done by some U.S. reporters of not just our servicemen in active (inaudible), active strip clubs not even the euphemism or the juicy bar but then also the shore patrol type of folks who were supposed to be there making sure that there wasn't anything untoward going on telling how - telling undercover reporters how easy it was to -- to go with prostitutes.

Those same street corners, those same neighborhoods that were in that undercover reporting are now nonsexually-related businesses partially because of the zero-tolerance policy partially because of the fact that there are more families being posted that area of Korea and not as many young men by themselves take all of it together things are picture of towns where there're used to be nothing but red light to streets, and now there are places where you can take your kids and -- and can get chicken fingers on the menu.

I think that has a big effect and -- and it's something that happens because USFK -- because our embassy in Seoul and all of us are not taking our eyes off the ball. But that notion that it could come back if we do take our eyes off the ball is well taken.

SMITH: Thank you.

As you know, according to Section 110 in the TVPA China and any other country they will remain on the watch list if it has a written plan to begin making significant effort because it brings itself with the compliance with the minimum standards and that the plan is implementing would constitute making significant efforts in the country is devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan.

I'm wondering with regards to China, what is China's plan? If you could elaborate on what it is that they said they are willing to do, are they doing it? As you know, and I've raised this before, we just had a hearing as you may know in this committee hearing room just a few weeks ago, we heard from survivors women including Chi-Ling (ph) all of

whom have suffered to the gross exploitation of a forced abortion and the direct consequence of the one-child-per-couple policy has been the missing girls and some estimates put it as high as a 100 million. Nobody knows the exact number.

It's generally accepted that by 2020, 40) and maybe as many as 50 million is the newest number we've heard. Men will not be able find wives because they have been subjected to a sex-related abortion. So, the magnet for **human trafficking** is in ascendancy in China, and I hope any plan that they have submitted or suggested that they will follow pursuant to our (ph) and not putting them on **tier 3** which is where they belong in my opinion.

You know, really has to take into -- into account the horrific consequences of the missing daughters, the missing girls in China. In the report before this one, there as more attention I thought paid to the component of -- and -- and the contributing actions of the one-child-per-couple policy to trafficking. I think we're gonna see bright selling (ph) and -- and -- and frankly kidnapping, and certainly forced fraud and coercion used in a variety of ways do bring women into China because of this huge gender disparity. Of course India has one as well which is egregious, but China is the direct result of a government policy.

So, I'm wondering if -- if that is fully understood. Is it being conveyed to the Chinese? How concerned we are about this terrible and cruel experiment called, the one-child-per-couple policy that has rendered brothers and sisters illegal but it has made sisters scarce.

CDEBACA: I think I will address Mr. Smith the waiver issue as far as the plan was concerned. What are the things that we saw from the Chinese just last year is that the of course there is the -- the written action plan that they have but perhaps more so there are a number of other instruments that came out in the ranking period which we thought were very interesting and -- and in fact we're -- we're having an impact in a way that we'd never seen before from China.

For instance, there were the guidelines that were issued by the Ministry of Public Security and the Supreme People's Court on sentencing issues. This is, again, something that we had seen in the report over the previous years where we've been criticizing the low sentences and a number of -- of guidelines going out to the court saying we need to bring up the sentencing on this.

The idea of better law enforcement, the commitments made for guidelines, for shelter staff for protocols for working on trafficking victims on relief and reintegration and perhaps most importantly, a directive to the field that women who were encountered in prostitution should not simply be seen as criminals but instead should be assumed to be victims of trafficking at the outside of the investigation. That shifting the burden away from the -- the victim assuming that there is somebody who needs help was a very positive step. It would be a positive step no matter what country it was in but in -- in -- especially in the Chinese context we thought that that was something that was worth noting.

We look forward to working with the Chinese government over coming months as they look to bring themselves into compliance with the Palermo protocol standards. As you know, we've been consistently raising the problem of their trafficking definition which is so focused on child abduction does not necessarily tracked the Palermo protocol.

In our conversations with the Chinese government, it appears that their academics and their legal technographs (ph) are doing the kind of work that's necessary to start tending up legislative changes, and also to -- to put together a new plan going forward a new five-year plan. I think Mr. Yun is gonna address some of other concerns, but I will certainly say that as far as the family issues that you raised, one of the things that I raised when I'm in China and -- and will continue to do so is this concern that the population planning policies of the Chinese government is having that contributory effect that you've mentioned, and it is twice mentioned in the report. We are not backing off on that issue.

YUN: Mr. Chairman, if I can just expand a little on Ambassador CdeBaca's remarks. The administration considers China's coercive birth limitation policies a great violation of human right and has routinely expressed opposition to those policies both publicly and privately. The White House issued a statement on August 23rd, articulating the administration's strong opposition to all aspects of China's coercive birth limitation policies including forced abortion and sterilization.

And as we, at the department, continue to monitor developments concerning this very important issue. Promoting greater respect for human rights including reproductive rights is one of our key foreign policy objectives in China, and we will continue to urge the Chinese government to treat its people in accordance with established international norms (ph).

SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Yun.

Two final questions, I yield to my colleagues, and I have a few additional if you would allow. Let me just -- Deborah Cundy you might recall Ambassador CdeBaca testified about "Best Practices." We met her -- you and I at a -- at a conference in Rome which I saw her -- her testimony when she appeared here was extraordinary that best practices that her hotel chain has undertaken, but there have been many (ph) reports that indicate that American chain hotels in China, as well as in Mexico have been the locations of sex trafficking and name (ph) that we're talking about the Hilton Hotel chains.

And I'm wondering what you are doing specifically to work with hotel chains including Hilton to ensure that they are not complicit in human trafficking or they are working with law enforcement for example to ensure trafficking laws against complicit hotels. Are we taking a harder line on those that are part of the problem?

CDEBACA: Well, there are several things that we're doing on the hospitality front. First of all, that it is in the context of the overarching business approach where we through projects such as the slaveryfootprint.org website where everyone can go and -- and after taking a 15 to 20-minute survey on what they own and what they buy, can get an at least a rough idea of how many people who are held in modern slavery are impacting their lives.

I took it, and I'm ashamed to say that even though I do this for living and have for a while that according to the economist at Berkeley (ph) and the others who did the algorithms that support that - that application that at the minimum I got 84 people held in forced labor around the world who are contributing to my lifestyle just on the basis of what I buy, what I do, et cetera. And that's as I said, you know, not only somebody who doesn't use commercial sex but also fights slavery for a living and that's my slavery footprint.

We can only think about what people who aren't asking these questions might be. Hotel has a slavery footprint as well and I think that we've seen that leadership from the Carlson Companies, certainly through their property's Radisson and Country Inn & Suites, et cetera, but also we're seeing leadership in some other ways from hotels. Marriott made the decision. Evidently, they have a policy that they don't sign on to codes of conduct, put up general, company-wide.

So when they look at it, they - they said, you know, what we think we can best do with our properties is not only think about how to have an exploitation-free hotel environment but also to harness the power of the trafficking victims and the survivors. And so, we're happy to say that the first projects in the Marriott family and I think Starwood is participating as well, to actually bring trafficking survivors into the training programs there, in Brazil, in Mexico, in Vietnam.

We think that the best victim protection is a job, a good job, a safe job and hotels can be the agents of that. Hilton in the wake of those scandals, unfortunately had often takes a scandal to wake up a country or a company as to the fact that they need to deal with this in their own supply chains. In the wake of that scandal, has been all signed unto the code of conduct for the traveling and tourism industry. And we made it very clear to Hilton that one of the reasons why we selected the Hilton in Downtown Miami for our recent western hemisphere reporting officers conference, when we had a choice of a number of properties to toss that in, was in recognition of the fact that they had done so.

We don't see this is necessarily tied to the federal acquisitions register or to our contracting in general. We don't have a rule that says that this is something that - that we always have to do but what we're certainly looking at is if there's a Radisson, if there's a Hilton, if there's somebody that's put their money where their mouth is as far as human trafficking. And we as consumers, individually, but also (inaudible) as an office, we should reward that type of behavior. So, that's the plug if you see a T.G.I. Friday's, that's Marilyn Carlson Nelson's company does that, we can't tell you where to eat but you should know that they're doing their best to fight slavery.

(CROSSTALK)

SMITH: I appreciate that. Thank you, just one question before I yield to Mr. Payne. With regards to Cuba, a Tier 3 country, which was granted waiver on September 30th for cultural and educational exchanges, my question is how does granting that waiver actually promote democracy, rule of law in respect for human rights? And I would note parenthetically that I tried, me, personally to get a visa to go to Cuba, primarily to go to the prisons and to try if possible to meet with the political prisoners there, to meet with Fidel Castro to raise directly or his brother Raul the issue of human rights and particularly the mistreatment, the torture, the degradation that is suffered by political prisoners in Cuba and there are still hundreds of them.

Some were recently let out including Dr. Oscar Biscet who I frankly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is an unbelievable man, a tremendous man. He's still under what we call house arrest but at least he's out of solitary. He is not being torture per se and I was denied. I tried to go with the cultural exchange group because if you're getting to the

Cuba, you need to be going with some group. You can't just show up on your own and I couldn't get a visa - still can't get a visa to go to Cuba and yet a waiver was granted and Frank Wolf joined me in that; we - he and I are trying still.

We -we had been in prisons in China, the Soviet Union, Romania, East-bloc countries. I met with Xanana Gusmao when - when he was in - in - in a - from East Timor who then obviously went on to become president in - in Indonesia but we can't get into Cuba's prisons. And is - is very troubling, especially since that is what is permitted or exempted in terms of sanctions. So, member of Congress, chairman of the Human Rights Committee for Congress can't get into Cuba and yet that's waived. So if you could speak for that, I appreciate it.

CDEBACA: Well, you're correct that it's waived. It is the only thing that's waived for - for Cuba. We feel that Cuba doesn't have a - a comprehensive strategy to address this. It has little if no discernible anti-trafficking law enforcement that can care trafficking prevent measures. You know, most other countries even in you know, that end up being Tier 3, at least generally admit that there might be some trafficking going on. We feel as though going to trafficking specific that just as we had been able to establish a dialogue with the government of Cuba on migration issues, that we need to be in there trying to talk to them.

Trying to talk to them can be frustrating in not getting a visa at times. We - we don't based our rankings of countries on whether members of Congress or even me or my staff can get a visa there to go talk to them. There's been other countries, other than Cuba where we haven't had a - the - the luck of getting our visa issued as we would desire. But I think at the end of the day, the calibration that this administration has on Cuba is very much that if we can get not only the formal dialogues with the government through, especially on the migration dialogue but also that notion of some people to people were getting the Cuban people to be able to see what freedom looks like to be able to see what that example does. It will achieve great change on the island.

And so within the context of this particular sanctions which are just some of many against the regime and doing business Cuba, we felt that exempting out these cultural and educational exchange programs was a way to continue those types of relationships. As you said, even during the depths of the Cold War, that notion of educational exchange programs was one of the ways that we were able to: A) keep the dialogue going but B) Raise up an entire generation of leaders who in the late '80s and early '90s finally were able to achieve change behind the iron curtain. And we want to continue to be able to do that with Cuba.

SMITH: Mr. Payne?

PAYNE: Thank you very much. I just wondered if anyone of you would take on the question and the answer. Human trafficking is a broad term that encapsulates a diverse group of crimes from debt- bondage to child sex trafficking. In your opinion, anyone of you could try to answer this, what are the main push and pull factors driving international human trafficking? What do you - how do they differ in your opinion by region and by type of trafficking and to what extent do you - that do current anti-trafficking programs address such underlying factors or vulnerabilities? Do you see a big difference as it relates around the world? Do you think there's any sort of cartel that communicates with each other in different regions of the world. I just wonder if anyone would like to take that general question.

CDEBACA: I think I might teed (ph) up but I know but I know that my colleagues have thoughts on this because we have talked about this over the last couple of years. You know, we're talking about a - two regions of the world that are both source and destination regions. I sometimes have mentioned that to Secretary Blake that I'm going to see some of his clients when I'm going to the Gulf states because there's so many people from South and Central Asia who are there, who are vulnerable and often exploited.

On the other hand, there are people within South Asia who are going from one country to another within South Asia who are enslaved in their own countries. Same I think is true in - in East Asia where we have a lot of interregional trafficking that happens. At the end of the day poverty is very much a driver of this but it's not necessarily the most abject poverty, perhaps is the one step up on the development rung. The person that actually sees an opportunity to having gone to school now, having no opportunity to get a job in their home village or their hometown, says will - that I'm gonna have to go off somewhere else.

All too often the person who can help them do that is not a - honest labor broker, it's somebody who is gonna charge a usurious recruiting fee and enforced that through force, threats of force and threats of coercion. And so one of the things that we very much look at is the idea that development could do something to stem the flow while recognizing that there's some research out there now that's showing that this is definitely a crime of opportunity. The victims want opportunity. They're willing to - to put themselves in harm's way to some degree and the traffickers see the opportunity to take advantage of them.

It manifests itself very differently in a number of these different countries though. Even in different parts of the same country, you'll have mainly sex trafficking in one part and another part mainly agricultural trafficking, which is why I think that the work that we do at the embassies is so important. We have to apply these minimum standards to the regions and to the world but we have to do it in a context of each one of these countries. The difference between a Senegal and a South Korea are very different based on where they are and what they need. And we have to be able to tell the difference as we're applying these minimum standards that you've given us.

BLAKE: Let me - let me jump it, just to add to what Ambassador CdeBaca said. You know, I think in the SCA region you see both the combination of push and pull factors as you said Mr. Payne. You know in places like India and Nepal, trafficking is often a function of poverty and poor education where particularly young women but also young children are very vulnerable to seductive pitches from traffickers who promised a better life in the city and find themselves enslaved once they get there and in debt, bondage of some sort, which they'll never get out of. So, they're very, very vulnerable to those kind of pitches.

It's also a function of weak governmental institutions and weak rule of law that is unable to deal with these kind of challenges. Frequently, you find trafficking in countries where there's a - a, you know, poor level or low level of economic growth. Places like Tajikistan where, you know, one-seventh of the country is working outside of Tajikistan in Russia and in Kazakhstan because there's no economic opportunity for them. So, those migrant workers are often very vulnerable in - in the countries in which they work. As Ambassador CdeBaca said, not just in the Gulf but in Russia and elsewhere.

Another serious problem almost throughout my region is corruption where again those weak government institutions and often are really paid. Officials are very susceptible to corruption, particularly by these organized criminal gangs and networks and so that is a very difficult problem for us to try to deal with. So, you know, our challenge is to try shine a light on these practices as I - as I think this report does but also work with the many capable NGOs on the ground who are doing terrific work. And then finally to - to engage the governments directly, not only in terms of advocacy but in terms of the many important programs that your committee helps to fund.

YUN: Mr. Chairman of course I agree with everything that's been said but an interesting aspect in my view is clearly it is tied to poverty and economy. Having said that, it is also clear that in some cases country and countries can make enormous progress in very, very short time. And in my region, I would highlight South Korea and Taiwan. So you need to ask, why is it that some countries can make enormous progress in a very short time. Obviously, strengthen of institution is one and I would say what I would loosely call freedom index is another one.

That is the media as a watchdog, civil society, and of course the willingness of law makers to look at the legislation, to look at the laws and see what they can learn from elsewhere and what will work with them. So it is entirely possible in my view that in many countries, things can improve quite rapidly, given opportunities.

PAYNE: Thank you, kind of a similar question in that vein because - I just wonder how - how does the problem in your opinion of human trafficking compare to other socioeconomic challenges facing governments that are not fully compliant with the U.S. minimum requirements. Do you find that when human trafficking is - is a problem there - there are other similar problems? And - and secondly, where those sort of state corruption come in, officials? In many instances, you have to work with - with policing and I think policing around the world, even sometimes in our country we see policing problems.

Sometimes peaceful demonstrations are disrupted and - and they become actually a police riot. I mean we - there's some question about just what happen in San Diego a night or so ago where people are relatively peaceful (inaudible) might have been thrown but the reaction of - of - of a police force here in (inaudible). I'll try to just use that as - as an example that policing is - is so important, so with the law enforcement agencies in countries where the socioeconomic issues in some instances these law enforcement people aren't even paid, not that's an excuse for them to - to therefore be corrupt but are low paid and poorly trained. How does that whole thing fit in?

CDEBACA: Again, I think I'll - I'll let my colleagues discuss the particular ways that, that manifests in - in those regions but I think on the overarching, I think we learned that lesson in the United States prior to 1947. We may have forgotten it frankly. You know, one of the things that, that was the major civil rights achievement of the Roosevelt administration, working with the NAACP litigators and others, was to break the backs (ph) of the bondage in sharecropping system in the South and that didn't happen until 1947. Allowing the space then to move on from 13th amendment (inaudible) burdens to 14th and 15th civil rights, housing, voting.

All of the things that we're familiar with from the '50s and '60s but at the end of the day it was the sheriffs and it was the local justices of peace that were enforcing debt bondage in the American South for three generations after slavery was officially illegal. That's corruption writ large and then it was systemic corruption. And we see some places where that type of corruption still exists but we then - we also see the individual corruption of a police officer or their family who actually owns the brothels. It's not just that the cops are going to these brothels as kind of the boys will be boys tolerance which we need to root out but then it's also that they're individually profiting or we see countries where the, you know, the large landed interest don't want to clean up some of the problems with deforestation or extractive industries because it's the senator's brothers or cousins, or whoever that own those plantation.

So, we have to keep unpacking this corruption problem because I think that the easy corruption problem is to say it's the fault of some low level guy that's taking a bribe. We have to not only look at that level, we have to go up that other step, not blaming the deputy. You have to go after the sheriff themselves.

PAYNE: Yes, that's excellent. Yes.

BLAKE: Mr. Payne, I - I would say to answer your first question, I think we do often see problems like cracking a person's drug trafficking and others, coexisting with each other. And again, there are function of - of the fact that these organized criminal groups are often involved in these activities and find them very, very profitable but I think corruption is also very, very, very significant problem and, you know, corruption often exists where you have as I said poorly paid officials, poorly developed institutions but also it's a function of a lack of democracy and independent democracy institutions like a free press, like free NGO such as Transparency International that can bring to life some of these things without fear of retribution.

It's a function of often lack of opposition parties in many of these countries who again have an interest in bringing these kind of things to light. So, it's a whole series of things and often we try to see these in a - in a holistic way as well and try to again not only address the - the problem itself but in my mind the most critical things we can do in many of these countries is to work on rule of law because that underlies everything else. And if you have a strong, independent judiciary, you can get to the root of many of these problems quite quickly.

PAYNE: It's great. I - I couldn't agree with you more. The - and I do - I listen to my colleague. I - I was fortunate enough to get into Cuba a number of years ago and I - I thought it was, you know, my responsibility to raise issues with Mr. Castro. Fidel Castro at that time was the leader there and I raised issues about, as a matter of fact, the inequity of - of blacks in Cuba. Much of it is - that was of course the cross of remittance is coming from the U.S. and other places. And the ones who left were not the blacks.

They were left behind and so there is a growing inequity among the races and so very little we can do about that but I also raised a question about with some investments starting in hotels, starting at their - started to become a - a prostitution question. It wasn't gigantic but it was starting to raise its ugly head and raised a question that once again the poor people are going to be the ones. The minorities would end up in the position by virtue of their lack of - of equality financially and that there needs to be attention given to this. And that this was not in the right direction and even raised the question of - of prisoners and - and - and as a matter of fact another group went down after that and instructed them to not only raise the question but as well to talk to them about the fact that there should be - you need to reconsider people who are in prison that should not be there and have not had a fair trial which was raised by some members - some people.

And - and that seemed to have had some positive impact because we have seen - people shouldn't been in prison in the first place but there has been some or at least alive and wanted to try to feel that there's need to be dialogue. I recently came back from - I went to Bahrain a couple of weeks ago and although there was only interest in me, you know, seeing the - the employment and things that were going on well, I wanted to meet the 25 medical people who are sentenced.

And government had all 25 - 25 of them, doctors and - and medical people who had been charged with the crime at a hospital which is unheard of but they had now have to - there will be another trial. It's a military trial. I think the pressure, my going with the - of other members push them to reconsider. So, these - all of the folks will be retried, so I think it's a step in a right direction. They have a committee of inquiry that we hope - that they will come out with, and they're from - not from that country but from outside the country but people still have not been put back to work.

They were fired before protesting and we said that this is wrong. People should not be turned in a - labor unions had been discriminated against but, you know, I think that when you get opportunity to go, we made it very clear that these - and met with these - these in different groups which are not on regular program. We insisted before we went. We had

to meet with them and we have to make ourselves clear that these are things that have to be turned around and that we insist that there be a - that this injustice in that kingdom ends. So, I do find some, I guess the point is that I find some value of going and having conversations with some of the people that we don't necessarily don't want to go to dinner with necessarily but to try to convince them that policies need to be changed. Thank you.

CDEBACA: Mr. Payne if - if I could, the - I think that what we've seen is that if its simply the trafficking ambassador that goes out and raises this and then you know comes back and works on their report, that those governments - the ones who are friendly and want to fight on this with us, they would have done that without a visit from me. The ones who are not interested in working on human trafficking without some cajoling, it's not just me going, it's - when they hear it from Bob Blake, when they hear it from Joe Yun and Kurt Campbell, when they hear it from you all, when you were out on the - on the road in the (inaudible), when your staff has been out, when I was in the Judiciary Committee staff, I was able to - to go to a shelter in Cambodia with Sheri Rickert from the Foreign Affairs Committee staff and some others.

And, you know, being able to see the victim practices there but also having to have the Cambodians know that Congress cared. It's a very different message than simply, you know, a guy from a small office in a State Department raising the issue of slavery in a modern era. So, we, you know, joined you in that notion that there is value and we wanted to support whether it's (inaudible) traveling with us. We'll (inaudible) I think we were out on the road but knowing that you're raising it as well makes a big difference.

SMITH: I'll just ask a couple of followup or final questions. The first I'm sure all three of you saw the New York Times article, "The Other India: Where are the Children?" on October 12th, just a couple of weeks ago - couple - a week ago and it makes a very disturbing statement that between January of 2008 and October 2010, 13,570 children were missing in Delhi alone. It says that some of the children were eventually found and spoke of being taken by force or being enticed with promises of food and clothes but they were then sold into various forms of slavery including domestic labor, beggary, agriculture labor, or commercial sex work.

And the article also notes that a provisional Indian census reported in 2010 that an estimated 1 in 10 workers in India are children and experts say that these numbers are conservative. I guess Ambassador Blake this might be to you as well as to all three of you really. The downgrading or the upgrading I should say of India off the watch list not to Tier 3 but rather Tier 2, I listen very carefully, I read it very carefully in - in the report but there's still I think some very disconcerting and unanswered questions.

You're saying in your testimony, Ambassador CdeBaca that sex trafficking in women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India. So, it would appear according to your testimony that at least as bad and possibly getting worse. About 10 years ago, I had a hearing and - I had several hearings on trafficking. And you hear it from the International Justice Mission, IJM, and the testimony was focused on India and Gary Haugen actually brought a video and showed all of these young, some of them are not even teenagers.

They were so young, little girls that were in a cellar who - when police came and the - and the traffickers were tip off by the police and they went to some - some - some charade. Afterwards, the little girls were brought out of the - the - the hiding place. Their eyes were all dark because it was all - were - were, you know they're squinted and you could see that these were tiny, little at risk little girls who were in - who are being trafficked. And one of these that Gary Haugen made very clearly was in his testimony, a point made clearly was it's the police.

And I have noticed, you know, if we're going to have a problem anywhere, it's not often the president, the prime minister, it's that point of contact at the police level which obviously is part of government and therefore subjected or subjective in minimum standards. This report, other reports that I've read on India point out that law enforcement still maybe lacks, still maybe the Achilles heel in India. I was actually in Nigeria, in Abuja in the hotel after a full day working on trafficking.

When I turn on CNN and there was a - a very, very fine report about how is International CNN in India and again the police were tipped off. They went through the charade of walking into brother and - and the kids, some of them didn't get out quick enough ran out the street. And he said by the next day, they're all back being sold and - and exploited and the police were laughing about it. And I'm wondering if that's still a problem, especially since you pointed out Ambassador CdeBaca that sex trafficking in women and children may not have abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India.

You know, are we just holding our breath with some hope here? That India will get its act together and - and I add into that the singular problem but not apparently government sponsored like China where the one-child-per-couple poli-

cy, a major push towards the elimination of the girl child but we had a press conference again, right? In this room, very recently and it was focused on India and China and the - the bias against and prejudice against the birth of and the - the lives of little girls.

And again, most of the girls are eliminated, destroyed by sex- selection abortions but many others, particularly in India are killed after they're born, their gender discovered and they are suffocated or killed in some other way. As a matter of fact, one of our - one of our people at their testimony said, the most dangerous three words in that part of the world is, it's a girl. It's a girl, she may be dead or if she gets to be a little bit older, she may be exploited through trafficking. And I'm, again, with deep respect to Ambassador Blake and to all of you, I would hope that unless there's - my hope is next time around, India, if they have not made truly significant progress, you know when you say there's 80 units of trafficking units. That's 1 out of every 14 million people.

You know, is that just something that's been put together to appease or to a local, political constituency or an international one? Or is this really an all out effort to eradicate slavery? Because as Ambassador CdeBaca said it's either abated, has not abated, it may even getting worse?

BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, that's a big question about a big country, so let me - let me try to tackle it and then I'll ask Lou to - to chime in. First of all, let me say that I personally had been working on - on this issue about Trafficking in Persons in India for the last eight years. I started out as the deputy chief of mission in 2003 and spent three years there. One of my most important task then as chief deputy of mission who work on Trafficking in Persons, I led our working group inside the embassy working on this because I felt it was such an important priority.

And you're right, I remembered going to train stations and seeing traffickers waiting for young kids to get off the trains from rural areas because they were so poor and so desperate and these - these guys were predators, waiting to - to basically bring them into slavery. And I was there with - with really dedicated NGOs who are there to stop those guys and had in fact found partners in the police to help them stop. So there were are - there were even at that time, there were some quite good efforts that we were supporting to stop those kind of practices.

At that time too Mr. Chairman, I think, you know, India often even refuse to admit these kind of things even existed, and - and certainly didn't want to acknowledge the scope and scale of problem. I - I think we've - we've come a long way since there, Mr. Chairman with due respect. You know, this year India was upgraded because they're making some pretty significant efforts. I mentioned that the 80 Anti-Human Trafficking units, what's significant about that is that now those are under the authority of the very powerful Ministry of Home Affairs which is their chief law enforcement branch that's responsible for this.

And the minister himself has taken direct responsibility for this issue which is very significant. Before it was, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and things like that but the Ministry of Home Affairs was not that directly involved. So, this I think is quite significant. Secondly, they say they had ratified the - the protocol and most importantly of all as you said Mr. Chairman is working with the police, is working with courts because that's where the real action, is gonna be to stop these guys who are engage in the trafficking itself.

In the past, India often used to arrest the victims. They go into a brothel and they arrest all the - all the girls and the people who had been trafficked, not the people who were behind it. And again, I think that's really changing now and I - I could just give you a few examples if I could. You know, we - we've been working a lot in Mumbai. Mumbai is just a - is a real center for the trafficking industry and people come from as far away as Bangladesh and Nepal and they're trafficked into Mumbai.

There's a real - there's a judge there by the name of Judge Swati Chauhan, who's really done some terrific, terrific work and she, you know, literally her court has taken over and cleared hundreds of sex trafficking cases. And, you know, issued rehabilitation orders for roughly 1200 rescued women. And what's important about this, that the Ministry of Home Affairs has not only taken note of her efforts but has said, we need - that they need to publicize those efforts and duplicate those efforts all over India. So, they're actually organizing very soon a - a seminar of all these (inaudible) units all around India to come and hear about how she has done this and how she has tackled this. And I think they're gonna - they're gonna try to resource this in appropriate way.

They're also going to expand these - these anti-human trafficking units. They've got 80 of them now but I think they have intentions over time to - to establish them in all 600 districts of India which, you know, is a big deal. You know and again I wanted to say at the state level, there's a huge disparity in India between some states are doing a lot very well and then others that aren't doing so well. And I think in - in a lot of the states now where you do see quite signifi-

cant trafficking like West Bengal, like Maharashtra which I mentioned, Karnataka, the police are actively working, not only in sex trafficking side but increasingly on the bond of labor side.

And as Lou will remember, back in 2003 to 2006, this wasn't even on their radar and now it's not only that they're dealing with it, they're dealing on law enforcement side and bringing these into court systems and prosecuting people. So, you know, does the problem settles ...

(CROSSTALK)

SMITH: Does that also include police who are complicit by the (inaudible) for prosecutor.

BLAKE: You know, I can't tell - I can't tell you for sure.

(CROSSTALK)

SMITH: If you could get that, I'll be very happy ...

(CROSSTALK)

BLAKE: Yes, I will.

(CROSSTALK)

SMITH: It will show whether or not ...

(CROSSTALK)

BLAKE: Well, that's a very good question but - but the point I wanna make is, does - do the problem still exist? Of course they do but I think what's really different now is that there's a political will on the part, not only with the federal government but the state government and most importantly the law enforcement. And what - what - to get back to Mr. Payne's question, you know, I - I talked about the rule of law. And what India does have going forward is an independent rule of law, particularly a very strong supreme court.

And you know, I think that is the backbone of a lot of what - what happens in India and for that reason you do have very strong NGOs. You have very strong opposition parties. All of them were more than happy to - to highlight these problems and - and try to get them addressed. So, you know, there's still a lot of problems to be dealt with but I do believe that India is making progress in the right direction.

SMITH: Mr. Ambassador?

CDEBACA: I second that. I think that one of the things that it was notable over the last couple of years is that we've seen from the supreme court is, that it has began to do these inquiries into the different aspects of the anti-trafficking fight. Not just on the sex trafficking or that the sex trafficking of children but looking at things as diverse as the circus performers who are being enslaved. We had a briefing from the (inaudible)Project the other about the HHS funded hotline that they run here in the United States.

And one of the trends that they saw was that they've gotten, I think, 29 or 30 calls from people who are in carnivals here in the United States who are - who are trying to get help because they'd been harmed or trapped or something. The civil rights division actually prosecuted cases of that (inaudible) in the 1970s to suddenly see that the supreme court of India was having hearing on the exploitation of these people in this - this transient (inaudible) circuses. I think it shows that there's kind of a level of sophistication that's coming in to some of these institutions in India that we frankly have not seen, six or eight years ago. Obviously, we do have a very large problem of human trafficking in India.

No one, the Indian or the American or anybody else from the looks of it would say otherwise. I think that one of the concerns that we have and we've mentioned this in the report last year, as far as the changing nature of sex trafficking in India that has as you mentioned that's in our testimony, is this notion that there are - seems to be a move from the red light districts to roadside prostitutions, small hotels and private apartments. That is problematic for a whole host of reasons in no small part because it becomes the - the law enforcement challenge as law enforcement becomes more serious about doing these cases. The law enforcement challenge goes up very steeply when you don't have access to the people here you're trying to save, the people you're trying to rescue.

So, we're looking at this, we're gonna be - continuing to be raising that with our Indian counterparts but there are definitely things happening in India that I think anyone looking at India circa 2002, 2003, it would be mind boggling to think that they're actually liberating people from (inaudible), putting bonded labor bosses in jail. We need to take that

now, work in partnership with Indians as the two largest common law, not just large democracies but common law countries and really take it to the next level. Driving it out to the states is as important as it is in India, as it is here in the United States, that's when law enforcement gets done and we wanna work with our counterparts there to make sure that, that happens.

SMITH: I appreciate that. Two final questions and thank you for that explanation. The first is with regards to Vietnam and Ambassador CdeBaca, we've talked about that many times and I've raised it as have others many times at - at hearings. The labor trafficking issue, your view as to whether or not there really is progress being made, especially since so many of the - the allegations are against companies that are really state-run companies, the (inaudible) case, still no payment as far as I know of the \$3.5 million and I know you're involved in that prosecution, the very first one, pursuant to the TPVA.

And then the second question, if you could maybe speak to a good news issue and that would be, you know, Nigeria is now Tier 1 country. I have visited there. I mentioned that a moment ago, met with their (inaudible) leaders and went to Lagos where trafficking obviously is a problem. Many of those women, young girls who trafficked right into Europe, with Italy and I would just tell a very, very quick story about a - a woman named Elizabeth that I met in Rome, who actually became pregnant as a direct result of - of being trafficked and abused sexually. And she made a statement, I'll never forget, she goes, this child, this little 3-year-old who's running around at the shelter in Rome and she had been trafficked for about five years, a terrible ordeal.

I would hope she writes a book someday because it's a testimony to faith and courage but this young Nigerian woman said, "the child saved my life," and said "if it wasn't for this child, I'll probably more (ph) than just statistic," so you know, suicide or something along those lines. And you know here, that kind of heroic love for a child, you know, all that often at least explain like that but she told how she went through the route out of Nigeria into - into - into Italy. So, the question is Nigeria, they're Tier 1, it's a good news story I think. They certainly have tried very hard and maybe you want to elaborate on that for the record as well as the Vietnam question.

CDEBACA: Well, I'll take the Vietnam and then I think that Mr. Yun can set us a scene for us on - on Vietnam. Nigeria is - is an interesting case because, of course, Nigeria has not necessarily thought of on - on many law enforcement issues as being on the cutting edge. It's not a country unlike what we'd been testifying too today as far as transparency (inaudible) or - or corruption in the (inaudible) things that always comes out on top. And yet, we've seen some very innovative anti-trafficking efforts there that, as you say, you know when we look at over the last two years the - the application of the facts and the minimum standards has come out as a Tier 1.

You know, we don't go into these with a predetermined tier ranking. We put the facts into the laws like we have a big machine, (inaudible) law go together and we turn the crank and suddenly Nigeria comes out the other side with a Tier 1 label on it, and I think surprised a lot of people frankly. And maybe even surprise the Nigerians themselves but, you know, at the end of the day what they did was very innovative. Taking police, prosecutors, and social workers and putting them in the - in the same not just chain of command but putting them in the same office., assigning them to cases simultaneously. So that they knew that they were going to be working throughout, that's very different than what most countries do.

Here in the United States, we have prosecutors assigned to cases early on and we have victim/witness coordinators in most of our law enforcement entities but, you know, there's very prosecutors that are older than me that came up in that system. And thank God as I age, most of the good prosecutors younger than me, don't even know that there was a time when there wasn't a victim/witness coordinator in that prosecutor's office, fighting for the rights of the victim. Nigeria seems to have taken that ethos and taken it to a new level.

I think that was perhaps one of the reasons why we saw at the ASEAN Prosecutors Conference in Singapore this summer that, that cutting edge prosecutors that were invited to share their best practices with their ASEAN counterparts. ASEAN looks to a couple of places that may be people wouldn't be surprised about, Sweden and the United States but then they also look to Nigeria and so to the degree that we're seeing African leadership that can be tapped into around the globe. These are very, very positive thing for this fight against human trafficking.

Now each year, we're gonna look at Nigeria - we - Tier 1 is responsibility, not a reprieved and we hope that Nigeria will continue to sharpen and to continue to improve because like India, it is a country that has a big trafficking problem, even when they were doing well or they're doing a good job of having these structures or having good results, there's still a big, big, trafficking problem with Nigerians. As we saw in some of the Tunisian refugee camps in Libya and oth-

er places, pimps who, you know, who suddenly were in the camps with the women, that they had been trying to get across into Europe.

So, this is a - it's a problem that continues to be one but seeing that ASEAN region prosecutors react to their Nigerian counterparts and seeing African leadership that way, to me showed that we really are, after this decade of development, we're on the precipice I think of some real change here.

YUN: Thank you. Vietnam is a case with expended great deal of efforts. Secretary Clinton was there twice over the past 18 months and I was with her in both occasions. And in both meetings, the items that seated very prominently were human rights and trafficking. They're of course challenged on both accounts as well as freedom of religion, though that remains an issue. Vietnam is designated as Tier 2 watch list but I do believe they are undergoing changes, both in the government and in society, where we're being - we're seeing signs.

Some - some concrete sigs that they're making some progress. No. 1 is that they now do have a law, anti-trafficking law and the question remains how is it going to be implemented. The law was only passed I think maybe about nine months ago, so we're keeping a very close eye on that and also there are - are -there has been number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of sex traffickers, so we are encouraged by that. There is still, as you mentioned, labor trafficking remains an issue and again, we are somewhat happy that they now have a pre-departure training for overseas workers.

So, it's - it's - is changing and we do hope it will change more rapidly and we have - we are expending great deal of bilateral efforts. In fact, in - in about two weeks, we're gonna hold annual human rights dialogue. On our side, it will be led by Assistant Secretary Posner and the Vietnamese will be here this year and so next year we'll go over there. So, these dialogues and high-level meetings have helped but I understand your concerns.

SMITH: I appreciate that. Just before I yield to Mr. Payne, earlier today Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton testified before the full Foreign Affairs Committee. And I was focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan and my and everyone else's questions were primarily focused on that. I did ask her if she would pick up the phone and call the foreign minister of China to inquire as to whether or not Chen Guangcheng is dead or alive or - or perhaps even dying. There had been numerous reports. We don't know if they're true.

He has been beaten savagely by the - the Chinese police, first in prison and then under house arrest and his crime, as we all know, is that he - he pushed human rights. He is the blind activist lawyer and actually raised the case of forced abortion in Linyi and - and took the winning side and for that he was singled out for excessively brutality. Again, knowing that, that issue of human rights abuse leads directly into our reason for being here this afternoon, human trafficking and exacerbates it significantly.

If you could that back, she didn't answer the question, pretty much ran out of time but didn't go back to it later but I think a phone call - I will be convening an emergency hearing of the China Commission next week and I hope Ambassador Campbell can make it as one of the members of the Executive Branch who was on that. I am chairman of that commission and there will be an emergency meeting focus on Chen and his wife. Where are they? And whether or not they are dead or alive and - and what they're doing, what the rest is doing, and what any country that cares about human rights is doing? This would be Beijing to raise his - his case because we think he may actually be dead or bleeding as released. Please take that back. Mr. Payne?

PAYNE: Just a quick question, two more at (inaudible) Nigeria and I - I just was going to - when I said I have a couple of other questions, I didn't know he was going to raise it but I wanted to know what, if anyone, with you Ambassador CdeBaca might tell us what African countries have made the most progress outside of Nigeria in confronting human trafficking and learning best practices that can replicate it and the other part of the question is that there are regional groups, as you know, in Africa, the SADC in the South and EGAD in the East and ECOWAS in the West. Had there - did you find it an advantage, the AU in general, Africa Union to work with the regional groups, sort of see if the best practices that there were some that noted, could then be introduced there.

CDEBACA: Well exempting Nigeria from the question, makes it a little tougher but - because that is such an innovative practice. You know, I think - let me say one last thing about Nigeria because there was something that was done, that the Netherlands and Nigeria cooperated on and that was bringing up some traditional healers. So, that the victims in the case in the Netherlands would be able to in effect have a counter put unto - the juju that they'd put on, then put on them before they left home which was as powerful of a form of coercion to them based on their religious and cultural practices.

As were the threats of force, then the beatings that they were undergoing at the hands of their traffickers. And that notion of - that innovation of bringing in a traditional healer in order to - to have a counter ceremony for those - those women was I think very forward thinking. And it's the kind of thing that, you only get if you have those relationships between the governments on these issues. We certainly seen on the part of Mauritius but a - meeting the minimum standards but as far as the tiers are concerned, that's really what we see in - in the Africa region. We'd like to see more on the mainland itself.

There are some, I think, hunger on the part of a number of governments to - to work on this. We've seen whether it's in Malawi or in Benin, programs that are out there working with, especially the child victims. Much of the victim re-ponds in Africa has been on child victims and we wanted to encourage that to continue but then also make sure that our African partners recognized male victims and the female victims who are adults, not just the children. Perhaps some of that is because of the good work that we've seen from UNICEF in the area. It's so dominant then that a lot of countries respond on child issues first.

A success story of sorts is the rapid movement that we've seen in Swaziland over the last two years. Swaziland Tier 3 on the report in 2009. Since then, having raised up to Tier 2, maybe because there were so late coming to the game and they came in as a Tier 3 country that denied there was trafficking, didn't want to do anything on it, et cetera. When the wake-up call happened, they, together and their ministerial working group that had NGOs on the working group. We don't even have that at the United States.

So when they meet and under the auspices of the prime minister himself, when they meet, the NGOs and that the folks from the government are together in the room, what we've seen is that it's got a level of respect for each other that has been slow coming in many other African countries. The NGOs feel like they can get fair shake from their government counterparts and the government counterparts don't just look at that NGO as potential rivals for power or someone who could be a problem for them. And that's something, again, that we - we really like to see.

Swaziland obviously has a very specific governing structure and, you know, in other countries that don't have a monarchy, that don't - that have different types of - of governments, perhaps that couldn't happen quite as quickly but we have seen that as a - as a real positive. I think that at the end of the day what we've really seen is that notion of political will. In Senegal, when the government started focusing on child begging and realizing that Qur'anic teacher were not a religious institution but were cowards hiding behind the Koran as a way to lure the children in, so that they could do their begging all of the time.

Taking advantage not only of the - the trust that the parents had of these supposed religious figures but also taking advantage of the - the admonishment that the Koran has as far as alms giving and as far as the - the support that should be have for such school. Preventing (ph) that in a way that is right out of Dickens. This begging - child begging rings have been plaguing that part of Africa for quite a while and to start to see the government in that part of Africa recognized that it's not cultural. It's not just something that's always going to happen but it's criminals who were taking advantage of children.

I think that's the best practice in of itself. The recognition and then the political will to do something about it. It would - you know, that's not just an African begging. We've seen this in the UK, just in the recent months, calibration of Eastern European children from begging rings. Obviously, we see this in - in New Delhi and - and any major city I think in the region, and we see it here in the United States. So this notion of - of the beggars is something that we all share but I think in Africa, the countries rising up against it as we are starting to see happening. That's a - that's a great thing to see.

PAYNE: That's great, just finally, we - we had a hearing with the committee and there was a young man who was blind. He was a slave I think right from South Sudan and we know that's been a problem in (inaudible) children and other children, especially during the conflicts, was encouraged by the government of the North. And I wonder if the - some of the conflicts where abduction is still happening and of course people are brought into indentured servitude, have you seen in that, start to eliminate it soon. Can you give a short statement on that?

CDEBACA: Well, sadly the conflict because it is the enemy of - of rule of laws, it creates the ultimate zone impunity of where the traffickers operate. Conflict does seem to be followed very closely by this, especially in Africa. And unfortunately, it's not only that the slavery that comes in its wake, whether it's the villages being emptied out for - to men to work as - as porters with the - the - as the army moves around, for the women to cook, clean, and - and be used as frankly sex slaves but also for the children to work in artisanal mines, whether it's gold or - or the rare metals that we used on our cell phones and other things. But also that notion of conscripting, flat out stealing frankly, combatants.

And so this notion of the child soldiers being in effect both victim and perpetrator at the same time I think is one of the - the tragedies of the region. What we have seen is that a number of countries have taken steps. With the - the good work of UNICEF and the work that we've been doing and others, we've seen a difference in Chad for instance as far demobilization of - of child soldiers. What we'd like to see more in - in countries around the world is not simply demobilization and giving some type of safety to the child soldiers who you captured from the people that are fighting against you but then also countries looking at their own troops and making sure that they're scrubbing them accordingly.

So while that the trend seems to be improving a bit, we need to keep our eye on the ball as far as the child soldier issues. And while my office is not the lead on child soldiers in the State Department, that's the Bureau of Democracy Rights and Labor. We've certainly looked at each year in the trafficking report because we know that slavery, whether it's those - the women that were held as sex slaves in - during the Balkan conflict in Europe, whether it's the - the folks who are currently held in Africa who are in other parts of the world, this follows conflict wherever it goes.

PAYNE: Thank you very much. I yield back.

SMITH: (inaudible) a followup in terms of things looking into. On July 22nd, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission on the egregious practice in Egypt of abducted, kidnapping young Catholic Christian girls, apparently by the thousand, each thousand is each year, who are then held and forced into Islam and then given at age 18 to a man and now they are Islamic. The woman who testified and several, three people testified, was Michele Clark who both Ambassador CdeBaca, you and I know very well as No. 2 for trafficking at the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe.

A very reputable, she is a professor at George Washington University and she said it's not a matter of allegations anymore. She has actually done the reporting herself and will be doing more reporting on this but it seems to be a human rights and I would say a trafficking issue, certainly something that rises to the level of. It needs to be combated very aggressively and I'm wondering, you know, if - if something that you have looked into. We gave the information to our new ambassador who before she was deployed to Cairo and the hope is that she will really raised it.

But I can't imagine what it must be like for a parent, especially for the young girl but for a parent and her entire family to have first the child abducted and then put into a situation of bondage, if you will, and then perhaps abused in numerous ways and that the appropriate age, age 18, given as some kind of gift, like chattel slavery to someone as a wife. And again, Michele Clark has, her strength, has true credentials in - in the human trafficking area and she says, we are missing it. So, if you could speak to that, No. 1.

The second Uzbekistan, again putting on my Helsinki hat, every year the cotton crop is picked by large numbers of young children who are brought out of school and - and it is child labor at its worse and yet for four years Uzbekistan has been on the Tier 2 watch list. It seems to me they should have dropped to Tier 3, your views?

CDEBACA: I think I'll - to Egypt and then maybe we can go to northeast with Assistant Secretary Blake who is fresh off the plane from Uzbekistan. Mr. Smith, we'll look into the new allegations that you mentioned. We certainly look through the earlier report that ICI did that I think that Professor Clark had been involved with but it sounds like there maybe some new information. We'd very much like to look at that. This is a - an area that we looked at. We also, of course, looked at Muslim girls being put into, sold for marriage and other things, whether it's through the temporary marriages to what basically can only be described as sex tourist.

(CROSSTALK)

SMITH: But as Michele Clark said, if I may interrupt you briefly, from certain jaundiced view on the part of some, they get two things out of it. They get a wife who then they gave out like she's some kind of property or commodity. And secondly, they Islamized the woman and - and to me that, that is, you know, if somebody decides to be Muslim, Christian, whatever their faith maybe and that's what freedom of conscience is all about. But to do it through coercion, is - is a horrific, given her rights (inaudible), sorry to interrupt.

CDEBACA: No, I was just saying that we would very much look forward to seeing, you know, the - the results of any new reporting any new evidence. It's something that we take seriously and we also continue to take seriously the promises of the new government in Egypt that has assured us that they will enforce and continue to implement the national plan of action for combating trafficking-in-persons, which was announced in December of last year which was a few weeks before the events of the Arab spring happened.

Despite the fact that there had been a lot of leadership by then First Lady Suzanne Mubarak on getting that national plan of action in placed and equally obviously that the Mubarak family is no longer in the position they were. We've heard from the current government that this is something that they want to continue because they realized that this protects Egyptians, whether Egyptian children or Egyptian adults. And so as we continue to work with them on how they're going to implement that action plan, how they're gonna bring it to life, we wanna make sure that all of these allegations about a forced marriage, whether or Muslim or - or Christians are addressed. And we'll continue to - to look at this and like I said we'd be happy to look at the - the whatever new evidence that Michele or others might have.

BLAKE: On Uzbekistan Mr. Chairman, again this another country I worked hard on and to answer your questions, you know, we - we granted a waiver and kept Uzbekistan on the watch list this year because in March of this year, they decided to create an interagency working group to - that was tasked when ensuring compliance with all 13 of the ILO Conventions to which Uzbekistan is a party. That working group in turn has created an action plan to - to again ensure compliance.

This year the government permitted UNICEF to assess child labor in all 12 regions of Uzbekistan and, you know just as importantly I think. Uzbek officials tell us now that they're making a real effort for the first time to try to end the use of children under the age of 16 in the harvest and would actually punish those who are violating the law. So, the harvest is ongoing right now, Mr. Chairman as you probably know. But from initial reports that we received from independent sources and from our own embassy, they tell us that in fact there has been a reduced incidence this year of forced child labor in Uzbekistan.

And fewer schools had been closed as a result of that but this forced adult labor continues and in fact may be will be increasing to compensate for the - the child labor part of it. So, you know, obviously, we're gonna have to withhold judgment until the end of the season and see how it goes but, you know, I think we have the government's attention. And you know, they are now committed to this where they have an action plan. They submitted something on paper and you know this year we're really gonna seek I say three things.

First, we're gonna try to seek action to end the use of forced adult and child labor, full stop. Secondly, we're gonna try to urge them to investigate and prosecute officials who are suspected of being complicity in trafficking. Again, I think there's no stronger signal than putting people like that in jail and that's gonna serve as powerful deterrent to others. And then third, we wanna focus on China, encourage them to allow forced labor experts, particularly in the ILO in there.

UNICEF is doing these assessments now but it's really not their job and they themselves is the first to say that they encourage the government to - to do this. So, we're gonna be working both with the ILO and with the government to try to bring them together and achieve not only implementation of these conventions but also ILO presence on the ground to kind of verify that so.

SMITH: I appreciate that. Thank you, is there anything and I appreciate your work and, you know, with jet lag and all.

(LAUGHTER)

Let me just - is there anything else you - any of you would like to add before conclude the hearing? Any country you'd like to highlight that perhaps, Mr. Payne, Mr. Turner, and I have not brought out? Well, I wanna thank you so much but we will have some written questions. We won't keep you any longer and I do very much appreciate your work, we all do. The subcommittee respects the hard work that you expend everyday on behalf of the victims. So thank you so very much. The hearing is adjourned.

END

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October 27, 2011 Thursday

Hearing of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subject: The **Trafficking in Persons Report 2011: Truth, Trends, and **Tier** Rankings Chaired by: Representative Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) Witnesses: Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**; Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Yun of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Location: 2200 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Time: 2:00 p.m. EDT Date: Thursday, October 27, 2011**

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REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH (R-NJ): The subcommittee will come to order. And good afternoon to everybody.

Welcome to this hearing to examine the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report. This annual report to Congress was first mandated by legislation that I sponsored, known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In 1998 -- and I know Ambassador CdeBaca is very well-aware of this -- when I first introduced the bill, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition, although we did have some friends like the ambassador. People both inside of government and out thought the issue of human trafficking was merely a solution in search of a problem.

For most people at that time, the term "trafficking" applied almost exclusively to illegal drugs or weapons. Reports of vulnerable persons, especially women and children, being reduced to commodities for sale were often met with surprising credulity or indifference.

One major objection to the bill, especially from the Clinton administration, was the naming and ranking of countries based on compliance with the establishment of common-sense, minimum standards, clearly articulated prevention, protection and prosecution benchmarks, enforced by sanctions and penalties against egregious violators.

Fortunately, reality won out over ignorance. Although it took two years to overcome opponents and muster the votes for passage, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was finally signed into law with strong bipartisan support. This support from both sides of the aisle has continued through subsequent reauthorizations and has been essential in the ongoing successes by the U.S. government in combating modern-day slavery both at home and abroad.

However, the battle is far from over. According to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking, created by the TVPA, more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million.

Today we know that human trafficking is the third-most-lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization, human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year.

We are fortunate to have with us today three distinguished State Department witnesses to examine both the substance and the diplomatic activity that is behind the Trafficking in Persons Report.

The report, which is written by the TIP Office, headed by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, summarizes the rankings and performance of each country and provides detailed recommendations as to how each country can improve its efforts.

But more than a source of comprehensive, concise knowledge about the fight against human trafficking around the world, the TIP report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool. The report has been a catalyst for improvement, often dramatic improvements, in efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions.

With a combination of encouragement, persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions or the threat of sanctions imposed by the U.S., countries around the world have created or amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking, and in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide.

Individuals within each country can use the report to assess their government's commitment and to lobby their government to take specific measures.

The GTIP Office also coordinates technical assistance and aid for many of the countries wishing to improve their anti-trafficking response.

The result has been a worldwide anti-trafficking surge, largely dependent on the credibility, the accuracy and faithful implementation of the report, including the tier framework. This afternoon, we'll turn our attention to ensuring that the report retains these essential attributes and to assess whether or not it's fulfilling its purpose.

In 2003, Congress added a special watch list to the tier rankings to allow countries an opportunity to address serious shortcomings in their anti-trafficking efforts before being placed in tier three and subject to sanctions. When it became apparent that this tier-two watch list was becoming a permanent parking lot for some countries, Congress added a requirement to the 2008 reauthorization that the president either downgrade or upgrade any country that has been on tier-two watch lists for two consecutive years.

Obviously, the direction in which the country has moved is based on whether requisite measures were taken to meet the minimum standards. The president can waive the requirements to move a country off of the tier-two watch list for up to two years if the country has a plan to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards and designates sufficient resources to carry it out.

But this waiver should only be applied in the most extreme cases, as countries have had, since 2009, to undertake this effort. Consequently, it is with concern that I note the president has determined 12 countries need yet another year on tier-two watch lists.

Some of these countries, notably China and Russia, have been on the watch lists for seven and eight years, respectively. Uzbekistan has been on the list for four years.

I look forward to discussing with our witnesses today exactly why the administration is convinced these countries need yet another year to get their acts together.

I also look forward to a serious discussion about the application of sanctions.

The report shows that, of the 23 countries on tier three, the full sanctions envisioned by the TVPA will be applied to only three countries: Eritrea, Madagascar and North Korea. Partial sanctions will be imposed on seven countries, and 13 countries will have no trafficking sanctions imposed whatsoever.

Some may argue that being on tier three is punishment enough. But Congress envisioned tangible repercussion for countries on tier three. Those who work on the front lines of human trafficking know all too well that a law is useless and diminished at the very least unless faithfully implemented.

I look forward to discussing with our distinguished witnesses today the accuracy of the tier rankings and the importance of substantial follow-up action.

I'd like to now yield to my friend and colleague Mr. Payne for any opening comments he might have.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD M. PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you.

Let me start by commending Congressman Smith for calling this important hearing on the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report.

I want to thank our witnesses for agreeing to testify before us today.

On June 27th, the State Department issued its 11th annual report on human trafficking, trafficking in persons, TIP, report, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Overall, the 2011 report presents a sobering view of the state of U.S. and international campaigns against human trafficking. It describes the most-common, severe forms of human trafficking and identifies key, emerging issues and trends.

Unfortunately, global progress has been mixed. For example, in the past two years, the average number of prosecutions of human- trafficking offenders has increased. However, if we look back further, we see that the total number of prosecutions have declined.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about ways the international community can help developing countries (sharpen ?) their judicial systems to better respond to this and other criminal justice issues.

The report also reveals that we are failing to adequately target each subset of TIP, particularly forced labor, which the most common -- it's more than a common crime, it actually occurs much more than sex trafficking, but only represents 10 percent of all prosecutions. And I'm looking forward to hearing the panel's thoughts on how to better address this challenge of trafficking in the workforce.

I also hope the witnesses can highlight the unique challenges facing many African and conflict-stricken countries in addressing the issue of human trafficking.

According to the report, only two African nations, Nigeria and Mauritius, are fully complying with the minimum standards for combating **human trafficking**, therefore qualifying them as **tier one**. Ten African countries fall within **tier three**, which makes them subject to aid restrictions. In Africa, these potential aid restrictions are cause for concern. Many countries on the continent have been burdened by debilitating conflicts and strife.

Africa's conflicts have displaced citizens, traumatized local communities and orphaned children, who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. In these conflict areas where government control is often limited, armed groups may abduct women and children for slavery, sexual slavery, and also often recruit children for their ranks.

Limited income-earning opportunities in conflict zones also contribute to these problems. Exploitation thrives under these conditions. Overburdened governments, poor judicial systems and widespread poverty prevent adequate country response to human trafficking cases in many of the countries that I'm referring to.

Yet some African nations are making progress on this front. The U.N. secretary general stated in his most recent Global Report on Children and Armed Conflict that despite several challenges, considerable progress was made by the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army, the SPLA, in implementing a plan to remove child soldiers from its ranks.

According to the 2011 report, Chad reportedly ended all child conscription into its national army and continued to engage in efforts to demobilize remaining child soldiers from rebel forces. Earlier this month, President Obama certified that Chad had taken necessary steps to allow for its reinstatement of barred assistance.

While I agree that the United States and the international community must hold states responsible for implementing robust, anti- trafficking initiatives, I am concerned about the impact that withholding aid can have on innocent civilians.

It is important that in our effort to end human trafficking and persuade nations to fully engage in the global cause, we do not inadvertently harm those we intend to protect and help.

I commend President Obama for his thoughtful understanding of this very complex issue and for granting waivers where appropriate. As we move forward with our discussion today, let us not forget the conditions that allow the horrif-

ic crimes of human trafficking to exist. We should focus on ways to ensure that our aid programs help strengthen the capacity of developing countries to adequately protect their civilians and citizens.

Thank you again, our witnesses, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.

And I yield back the balance of my time.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Ranking Member.

We're joined by Mr. Turner, and thank you for being here.

I will put all of the extensive resumes of our distinguished witnesses, in the record and just very quickly summarize.

First, introducing Ambassador Luise CdeBaca, who is no stranger to this subcommittee, who was appointed in 2009 as the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance and advocates for an end to modern-day slavery. Ambassador CdeBaca formerly served as chief counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary where his portfolio included modern slavery issues, among many other things. He also served as a federal prosecutor with the Department of Justice where he convicted dozens of abusive pimps and employers and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude. A very distinguished record.

We'll then hear from Ambassador Robert Blake, currently serves as the assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, a position he has held since May of 2009. He entered the Foreign Service in 1985 and served at the American embassies in Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria and Egypt. He served as the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. mission in New Delhi, India from '03 to 2006. And Ambassador Blake was our ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives from 2006 to 2009. He also held a number of positions at the department right here in Washington.

Then we'll hear from Mr. Joseph Yun, who is currently principal deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, a position he has held since August of 2010. In this role, he is responsible for relations with South-east Asia and ASEAN affairs. He joined the Foreign Service in 1985 and has served in numerous positions abroad, including in South Korea, Thailand, France, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Ambassador CdeBaca, the floor is yours.

LUIS CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Payne, Congressman Turner. Thank you to the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today.

I have a more fulsome statement that I'd offer for the record.

But before we start, I'd like to take a step back, if I may, to recognize what you and your cosponsors of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act achieved in bringing that initial skepticism perhaps, that you have mentioned, to consensus.

Eleven years ago this afternoon in fact, on a similarly rainy day in October, President Clinton recorded his radio address to be broadcast on the morning of October 28th, 2000, the day that he signed that groundbreaking legislation into law, to fight what the president described that day as slavery, pure and simple.

As President Clinton pointed out, the TVPA was groundbreaking in providing new tools, both here at home and abroad in increasing our assistance to other countries to help them detect and punish this pernicious practice.

I'd like to simply quote President Clinton because his words that evening are as applicable now as they were then. He said, and I quote, "I worked hard for these provisions. They build on what we've been doing at home and abroad to address this problem. We see in the success of this landmark legislation once again that there is no real secret to getting things done in Washington. When we put progress over partisanship, we get results. When we work together, we get results."

Working hard, working together, across three presidencies and various changes in Congress, together committed to ending modern slavery. As you continue to deliberate this year's reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, hearings such as this one are helpful opportunities to discuss the global fight. And we're dedicated to work together with you to get those types of results that President Clinton mentioned.

This week is also the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Trafficking in Persons Office at the State Department. On October 22nd, 2001 the office opened for business and has never lagged in its resolve. A decade of leadership by

my predecessors, Ambassadors Nancy Ely-Raphel, John Miller, Mark Lagon, but the fight is really the result of the expertise of the GTIP career staff, the civil servants, Foreign Service and contractors and their partners at main state and at post.

Two of those experts, Amy O'Neill Richard and Carla Menares Bury, have been in the office since the beginning. And those women are globally recognized leaders in the modern-abolitionist struggle. And I would like to note that we owe them all a debt of gratitude for their decade in service in this fight against modern slavery.

The most-visible part of our work is the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, and thorough and honest assessments are the benchmark of the TIP report. We take into account information from civil society groups, foreign governments and our own reporting officers at post, who conduct on-the-ground research throughout the year.

The review process involves numerous State Department offices so that the final product represents a department-wide consensus on how well various governments are doing to handle this problem. Accurate reporting is essential to the effectiveness of the Trafficking in Persons Report as a diplomatic tool. And indeed, governments often cite it as a factor prompting stronger action in response to modern slavery.

Sometimes those conversations happen in public, more often in private. And sometimes a government that criticizes the report and perhaps even mobilizes others in the regions or around the world against it, quietly nonetheless take steps to address the standards that were set forth by Congress.

Regardless of the public response, we are going to work hard with our counterparts to get results, just as what was done in the Clinton administration, just as was done in the Bush administration.

What the report tells us is that no country, including the United States, is immune to this scourge, and that no government, including the United States, is doing a perfect job in combating it. The two regions that we address today -- East Asia and the Pacific and South and Central Asia -- are hit particularly hard by this crime.

We always say that the fight against modern slavery takes political will, and not just on the part of governments overseas. Assistant Secretaries Bob Blake and Kurt Campbell are showing that political will both individually and within their chains of command. As a result, we've seen a real institutionalizing of the anti-trafficking fight in these regions and a coming together around a sense of mission. That means year-round engagement, not just the preparation of the annual report. And for that, I am personally grateful for the leadership of Assistant Secretaries Campbell and Blake.

Year-round engagement, partnership and hard work, necessary to move past this last decade of development in which laws and structures have slowly come online, and to move into what Secretary Clinton calls a decade of delivery, because the number of successful prosecutions seems to have leveled off a bit, because services for survivors continue to be inadequate, and victim identification remains a challenge, because structures and results are not the same thing.

The different between a passage of a law and the effective implementation of that law is political will. But the reality is that there are places where that political will is weak or nonexistent. And in those places, victims are most at risk.

As the report shows, some governments merely go through the motions when it comes to fighting modern slavery, and some governments, the tier-three countries typically, do not do anything at all. Every day, nongovernmental actors around the world work to make up for that, despite the fact that these governments are doing little or nothing.

We support such groups through our international programs and foreign-assistance funds. We know that it will never be possible to give every organization the help that they want, but even the current funding levels only average out to a little more than 72 cents per victim, per year, given the 27 million estimate worldwide.

And in many countries, if that little bit of American funding that we are able to give were to disappear, those programs would simply cease to exist. There would be no place for victims and survivors to go.

It has been 149 years and one month since President Lincoln made the promise of emancipation. It was four months ago that we released the TIP report and that Secretary Clinton called for a decade of delivery to make good on President Lincoln's promise, around the world.

If the U.S. government is not able to stand with motivated governments and the nongovernmentals that make a difference on the ground, providing victim services, training prosecutors and police officers, the decade of delivery is already in danger. If the anti-trafficking movement loses steam in Washington in the halls of Congress, we could lose that fight everywhere else as well.

We cannot try to balance the budget on the backs of trafficking victims. And if we do so or try to do so with cuts to an already-tiny amount of money, we put at risk all of the progress made over the last decade.

Human trafficking is a threat to our country and an offense to our most-important values. But more importantly, as Secretary Clinton has said, fighting slavery is part of who we are as a nation. For 149 years, we have not only had a responsibility to act against this crime, we have pledged ourselves to that responsibility. We must not and will not shirk from that task.

Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador.

Ambassador Blake?

ROBERT BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, Representative Payne, Representative Turner, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you today regarding trafficking in South and Central Asia. I'm honored to do so in the company of my colleagues, Ambassador CdeBaca and Joe Yun.

I have a longer statement that I'll submit for the record.

REP. SMITH: Without objection, it will be made a part of the record.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me say how much I appreciate your leadership, the work of this subcommittee and the focus that you bring to the issue of trafficking in persons. I have made it a personal priority to address trafficking in persons in the SCA region, in close partnership with Ambassador CdeBaca.

I've done so through direct advocacy with governments, but also by visiting with the many fine NGOs on the ground doing good work to combat trafficking, and frequently recording short video interviews with them that my staff posts on YouTube, to publicize their work and the scope of the challenges that they are dealing with.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to say that our engagement has produced dividends and progress, but significant challenges still remain. The department upgraded four SCA countries this year from tier two watch list to tier two: India, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Three remain on the watch list, but we're making progress in all three: Bangladesh, Maldives and Uzbekistan. And only one country is on tier three, Turkmenistan.

I'd like to briefly touch on the situation in some of the key countries where I've been personally engaged; first, India. Mr. Chairman, I know you share our interest in seeing continued progress in India on anti-trafficking efforts. The department's upgrade of India to tier two this year was based on the government's increased efforts to address its trafficking problem particularly bonded labor. Specifically, the government increased law enforcement efforts through the establishment of over 80 anti-human-trafficking units. It ratified the U.N. TIP protocol. It achieved landmark convictions against bonded-labor traffickers, with punishments of significant prison sentences, and increased rescue and rehabilitation efforts of thousands of trafficking victims in many parts of India. This good work continues at both the state and federal levels.

Tajikistan is another country that has made commendable progress against trafficking, and Secretary Clinton noted that on her recent trip there last weekend. In 2011, Tajikistan was upgraded to tier two for addressing the use of forced labor in its annual cotton harvest through efforts such as the crediting and assisting NGOs to monitor the harvest. They also prosecuted and convicted the first-trafficking offenders under their new anti-trafficking revision.

Kazakhstan also was elevated to **tier two** this year. The Kazakh government increased law enforcement efforts against **human trafficking**, it passed a law strengthening penalties for convicted child-sex-trafficking offenders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs has drafted a law that allows trafficking victims to have a legal advocate, that expands the scope of trafficking related crimes, and increases legal protections for minors subject to forced labors.

Mr. Chairman, you asked about Uzbekistan. It presents a mixed picture. The government has made good progress in combating sex trafficking, but has been slow to address the use of forced labor, particularly in the annual cotton harvest. In March of 2011, the government of Uzbekistan created an interagency working group tasked with ensuring compliance with all 13 ILO conventions to which Uzbekistan is a party. Our embassy in Tashkent will be monitoring the government of Uzbekistan's actions to uphold these commitments, and I will continue to engage the government to make progress on this important priority.

Mr. Chairman, the trafficking report has been an impetus for this change in all of our region, but is only one of the tools that we have at our disposal to influence the anti-trafficking efforts of other countries. Reports from international NGOs have sometimes been instrumental in informing and compelling action on TIP. My bureau and Ambassador CdeBaca's team greatly values such input, and we've tried hard to foster a cooperative relationship with these institutions. We influence them and they influence us by information and sharing to make sure our efforts are complimentary and that we make the most impact on the ground.

Governments remain extremely interested to know where they will be ranked in the report when it comes out in June. But I think that the work that we do to consistently engage and influence people at every level of society is equally significant. For example, the exchange programs and workshops that we sponsor to train government officials in implementation are critical to realizing the potential of the new laws being passed.

The training programs of the police officers or border guards to sensitize them about potential trafficking of persons, victims are also vital. So I want to assure you that we value the resources that we are entrusted with by Congress, and we work very closely with Ambassador CdeBaca and his staff to implement the programs to make a positive and lasting impact.

In summary Mr. Chairman, the SCA region is moving closer to being compliant with internationally recognized anti-TIP standards, but there's much more work to be done. This will continue to be a personal priority for me and a priority for my bureau. So again, I thank you for this opportunity to address this subcommittee, and I look forward to your questions.

REP. SMITH: Ambassador Blake, thank you very much.

Mr. Yun.

JOSEPH YUN: Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Payne, Representative Turner, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on trafficking in persons in East Asia and the Pacific region. I have submitted a statement for the record, with your permission I would like to make a few summary remarks.

First of all, regrets to convey from Assistant Secretary Campbell, he wanted to be here, but he had to be on a traveling the last minute. So I think in fact as we're speaking, he's landing in Dulles.

Human trafficking and modern slavery reaches into every corner of the globe, but perhaps nowhere more so than in East Asia and the Pacific. According to the International Labor Organization, the incidence of forced labor and sex trafficking is higher in the Asia-Pacific region than anywhere else in the world. And according to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes, victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations around the globe. In addition to being trafficked overseas, many victims are trafficked within their own countries. In fact the UNODC reports that most trafficking is national, not international and is carried out by traffickers whose nationality is the same as their victims and within national borders.

While human trafficking remains widespread and serious, we do believe the TVPA, our TIP report and its associated activities have been effective in fighting trafficking in portions in East Asia and the Pacific. There are several success stories I would like to share with you.

Taiwan is one example of how information in the TIP report has lead to real reform in many aspects of fighting TIP, including implementation of stronger anti-trafficking laws, better protection for victims, and increased prosecutions. In 2006, Taiwan was ranked in TIP report at tier-two watch list, was upgraded to tier two in 2007, and in 2010 was upgraded again to tier one where it remained this year.

The Philippines also has potential to serve as a model in the region for its recent efforts to combat TIP. After two consecutive years as tier-two watch list and facing an automatic downgrade, the Philippines was upgraded to tier two in 2011. The number of prosecutions of traffickers in the Philippines increased greatly in last reporting cycle, and the government has increased the resources it devotes to combat trafficking and has begun to identify and punish corrupt officials linked to trafficking. The government has acknowledged these efforts were linked to the threat of a downgrade to tier three in the TIP report.

Singapore is another example of a country in our region that has potential, moving up from tier-two watch list to tier two in 2011. Singapore has shown a markedly increased awareness of TIP issues in the last year, and the government has formed an interagency task force to address the issue. In 2011, Singapore hosted a workshop for the ASEAN region

on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons, which was attended by Ambassador CdeBaca as well as other members of my bureau.

And in April 2011, six members of Singapore's 20-person interagency task force on TIP traveled to D.C. to meet myself, Assistant Secretary Campbell, and my colleagues in Ambassador CdeBaca's office.

I'll stress that it is not the report alone that results in progress, but also the enormous amount of hours spent in country by staff from our embassies and consulates abroad who engage year round with the whole of government. Our advocacy in Washington with those countries' ambassadors and embassy teams has also made a difference.

Mr. Chairman, we're only too well aware the problem remains. We have worked very closely with Ambassador CdeBaca, who has made a number of trips over the last few months to our region, and we remain committed to working with GTIP office as well as other international organizations fighting human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Let me first begin with a general question -- I guess Ambassador CdeBaca you'd be the one that might want to answer this -- what diplomatic efforts did the department make or undertake to ensure the countries knew that they would not remain on the watch list for two more years as per the trafficking reauthorization of '08? And what was the reaction? I mean, did each of those that were currently on watch contacted and fully apprised of their potential downgrading?

MR. CDEBACA: Indeed, we did a number of steps, both internally within the department through ALLDACs and messages out to the field, but then also with that as a (tasker ?) for that direct type of engagement. And we saw, on the part of a number of countries, a recognition that this was kind of long overdue, that countries had gotten perhaps a little comfortable on there.

We saw recognition on some other countries, especially those who -- such as Senegal or the Philippines or others who are MCC countries, a recognition of what the prospect of a tier-three downgrade might mean, not just reputationally, but as far as sanctions and as far as some of the other assistance and aid and work in the international monetary fora might have on those countries.

It was a bit of a wake-up call for some of our partners, and we think that we've seen as a result of the watch-list designation some real movement. There were a good percentage of the tier-two watch list countries moved up to tier two on the merits. The waiver issue was never even something that had to be faced because of the work that they had done. And this was not one-year work. This is work that they had undertaken across those two years.

We felt that it was important to kick it in after two years because of the notion that it was almost an ex post facto type of situation, even though this isn't a domestic criminal law, but the notion that countries should have fair warning that two years on the watch list would have that result.

We also made it very clear what countries would need to do to get waivers. It wasn't a choice, it wasn't saying, you know, you should choose the lesser of two evils, but with the recognition that not every country would necessarily be able to get up to tier two on their merits, as you and others had recognized, in putting the waiver provision in.

So there was certainly increased diplomacy that was done at the bilateral level by our ambassadors, by me at GTIP, but also specific engagement on the part of then Undersecretary for Political Affairs Burns, now Deputy Burns, and others who looked at those 37 countries as countries that needed very specific interventions. And we saw that from the willingness of Deputy Steinberg, the willingness of Undersecretary Burns to have those conversations was very important, we thought, in having these countries move up and off the watch list.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Let me ask you in regards to South Korea. You might recall that we initiated an effort back in early 2002 to try to get a zero-tolerance policy to do an investigation among our military to see whether or not there was complicity with regards to our deployments in South Korea and certainly in the former Yugoslavia. And the IG's report from the Department of Defense was very, very damning, and it did lead to Bush's zero-tolerance policy.

I and others have raised repeatedly the issue of the juicy bars in South Korea. I'm just wondering why that seems to have been left out of the narrative for this year's report. Have they disappeared? Has the issue largely been mitigated? Or are those still a problem? As you recall, many of the women who were being exploited there were Filipino women, and I know the Filipino government took some very aggressive action. I wonder if that has been sustained.

MR. YUN: I think this issue, as you know, has been an ongoing concern and USFK in South Korea has made zero-tolerance policy very effective. And my recollection is that I don't think we can say juicy bars have disappeared 100 percent. But the incidence of abuse that went on is much way down. If you like, Mr. Chairman, we can get more background on the statistics or data we have on that.

REP. SMITH: I appreciate that, because it does seem to reemerge. You know, you think that -- I know the Stars and Stripes has done some very, very fine reporting on that, as have others -- but as soon as you think you have it in hand, all of a sudden a new spate of this kind of exploitation emerges. Did you want to touch on that?

MR. CDEBACA: Mr. Smith, I was in South Korea a couple of months ago, in fact went to USFK and we went through some of these issues directly. One of the things I was struck with personally was the juxtaposition of those images that we are all familiar with from the undercover reporting that was done by some U.S. reporters of not just our servicemen in active brothels, active strip clubs, not even the euphemism of the juicy bar, but that also the shore patrol type of folks who were supposed to be there making sure that there wasn't anything untoward going on telling the undercover reporters how easy it was to go with prostitutes.

Those same street corners, those same neighborhoods that were in that undercover reporting are now non-sexually-related businesses, partially because of the zero-tolerance policy, partially because of the fact there are more families being posted to that area of Korea and not as many young men by themselves. I think all of it together paints a picture of towns where there used to be nothing but red-light districts, and now there are places where you can take your kids and get chicken fingers on the menu.

I think that has a big effect, and it's something that happens because USFK, because our embassy in Seoul and all of us are not taking our eyes off the ball. But that notion that it could come back if we do take our eyes off the ball is well taken.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. As you know, according to Section 110 of the TVPA, China and any other country can only remain on the watch list if it has a written plan to begin making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards and that the plan, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts and the country is devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan.

I wonder with regards to China, what is China's plan? If you could elaborate on what it is they said they are willing to do. Are they doing it? As you know -- and I've raised this before -- we just had a hearing -- as you may know -- in this committee hearing room just a few weeks ago, we heard from survivors, women, including Chai Ling, all of whom have suffered gross exploitation of a forced abortion, and the direct consequence of one-child-per-couple policy has been the missing girls. And some estimates put it as high as 100 million. Nobody knows the exact number. It's generally accepted that by 2020, 40 (million) and maybe many as 50 million is the newest number we've heard, men will not be able to find wives because they have been subjected to a sex-selection abortion.

So the magnet for **human trafficking** is in ascendancy in China, and I hope any plan that they have submitted or suggested that they will follow pursuant to our not putting them on **tier** three, which is where they belong in my opinion, you know, really has to take into account the horrific consequences of the missing daughters, the missing girls in China.

In the report before this one, there was more attention, I thought, paid to the component of and the contributing action of the one-child-per-couple policy to trafficking. I think we're going to see bride selling and frankly kidnapping and certainly forced fraud and coercion used in a variety of ways to bring women into China because of this huge gender disparity.

Of course, India has one as well, which is egregious, but China is a direct result of a government policy.

So I'm wondering if that is fully understood. Is it being conveyed to the Chinese how concerned about how this terrible and cruel experiment called the one-child-per-couple policy that has rendered brothers and sisters illegal, but it has made sisters scarce? If you could --

MR. CDEBACA: I think I will address, Mr. Smith, the waiver issue as far as the plan was concerned. One of the things that we saw from the Chinese this last year is that the -- of course, there is the written action plan that they have, but perhaps more so, there are a number of other instruments that came out in the ranking period, which we thought were very interesting and in fact were having an impact in a way that we'd never seen before from China.

For instance, there was the guidelines that were issued by the Ministry of Public Security and the Supreme People's Court on sentencing issues. This is again something that we had seen in the report over the previous years where we'd

been criticizing the low sentences, and a number of guidelines going out to the court saying we need to bring up the sentencing on this. The idea of better law enforcement.

The commitments made for guidelines for shelter staff, for protocols for working on trafficking victims on relief and reintegration. And perhaps most importantly a directive to the field that women who were encountered in prostitution should not simply be seen as criminals, but instead should be assumed to be victims of trafficking at the outset of the investigation. That shifting the burden away from the victim and assuming that they are somebody who needs help was a very positive step. It would be a positive step no matter what country it was in, but especially in the Chinese context we thought that that was something that was worth noting.

We look forward to working with the Chinese government over the coming months as they look to bring themselves into compliance with the Palermo protocol's standards.

As you know, we've been consistently raising the problem of their trafficking definition which is so focused on child abduction, doesn't necessarily track the Palermo protocol. In our conversations with the Chinese government, it appears that their academics and their legal technocrats are doing the kind of work that's necessary to start teeing up legislative changes and also to put together a new plan going forward, a new five-year plan.

I think Mr. Yun is going to address some of the other concerns, but I will certainly say that, as far as the family issues that you raised, one of the things that I raise when I'm in China and will continue to do so is this concern that the population-planning policies of the Chinese government is having that contributory effect that you mentioned. And it is twice mentioned in the report. We are not backing off on that issue.

MR. YUN: Mr. Chairman, if I could just expand a little on Ambassador CdeBaca's remarks. The administration considers China's coercive birth-limitation policies a grave violation of human rights, and has routinely expressed opposition to those policies, both publicly and privately.

The White House issued a statement on August 23rd articulating the administration's strong opposition to all aspects of China's coercive birth-limitation policies, including forced abortion and sterilization. And we at the department continue to monitor developments concerning this very important issue.

Promoting greater respect for human rights, including reproductive rights, is one of our key foreign-policy objectives in China, and we will continue to urge the Chinese government to treat its people in accordance with established international norms. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Yun.

Two final questions. I'll yield to my colleagues, and then I have a few additional if you would allow. Let me just -- Deborah Cundy, you might recall Ambassador CdeBaca, testified about best practices. We met her, you and I at a conference in Rome, which I thought her testimony when she appeared here was extraordinary about best practices that her hotel chain has undertaken.

But there have been media reports that indicate that American- chain hotels in China as well as in Mexico have been the locations of sex trafficking, and namely we're talking about the Hilton hotel chain. And I'm wondering what you are doing specifically to work with hotel chains, including Hilton, to ensure that they're not complicit in human trafficking. Are they working with law enforcement, for example, to ensure trafficking laws against complicit hotels? I mean, are we taking a harder line on those that are part of the problem?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, there's several things that we're doing on the hospitality front. First of all, it is in the context of the overarching business approach where we, through projects such as the slaveryfootprint.org website where everyone can go and after taking a 15 to 20-minute survey on what they own and what they buy can get at least a rough idea of how many people who are held in modern slavery are impacting their lives. I took it, and I'm ashamed to say that even though I do this for a living and have for a while, that according to the economists at Berkeley and the others who did the algorithms that support that application, that at a minimum I've got 84 people held in forced labor around the world who are contributing to my lifestyle just on the basis of what I buy, what I do, et cetera.

And that's, as I said, you know, not only somebody who doesn't use commercial sex, but also fights slavery for a living. And if that's my slavery footprint, we can only think about what people who aren't asking these questions might be.

A hotel has a slavery footprint as well, and I think that we've seen that leadership from the Carlson Company certainly through their properties Radisson, Country Inn and Suites, et cetera. But also we're seeing leadership in some other

ways from hotels. Marriott made the decision -- evidently they have a policy that they don't sign on to codes of conduct, kind of general company wide. So when they looked at it, they said, you know what, we think that we can best do with our properties is not only think about how to have an exploitation-free hotel environment, but also to harness the power of the trafficking victims and the survivors. And so we're happy to say that the first projects in the Marriott family -- and I think Starwood is participating as well -- to actually bring trafficking survivors into the training programs there in Brazil, in Mexico, in Vietnam.

We think that the best victim protection is a job, a good job, a safe job. And hotels can be the agents of that. Hilton, in the wake of those scandals -- unfortunately it often takes a scandal to wake up a country or a company as to the fact that they need to deal with this in their own supply chains -- in the wake of that scandal has now signed on to the code of conduct for the travel and tourism industry.

And we made it very clear to Hilton that one of the reasons why we selected the Hilton in downtown Miami for our recent Western Hemispheric Reporting Officers Conference when we had a choice of a number of properties to host that in was in recognition of the fact that they had done so.

We don't see this as necessarily tied to the Federal Acquisitions Register or to our contracting in general. We don't have a rule that says that this is something that we always have to do. But what we're certainly looking at is, if that if there's a Radisson, if there's a Hilton, if there's somebody that's put their money where their mouth is as far as human trafficking, then we as consumers individually, but also GTIP as an office, that we should reward that type of behavior.

So, that's the plug. If you see a TGI Friday's, that's Marilyn Carlson Nelson's company does that. We can't tell you where to eat, but you should know that they're doing their best to fight slavery.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Just one question before I yield to Mr. Payne.

With regards to Cuba, a tier-three country which was granted a waiver on September the 30th for cultural and educational exchanges, my question is, how does granting that waiver actually promote democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights?

And I would note parenthetically that I've tried, me, personally to get a visa to go to Cuba, primarily to go to the prisons and to try if possible to meet with the political prisoners there, to meet with Fidel Castro to raise directly -- or his brother Raul -- the issue of human rights and particularly the mistreatment, the torture, the degradation that is suffered by political prisoners in Cuba -- and there are still hundreds of them. Some were recently let out, including Dr. Oscar Bisset, who I frankly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is an unbelievable man, a tremendous man. He's still under what we would call house arrest, but at least he's out of solitary and he's not being tortured, per se. And I was denied.

I tried to go with a cultural-exchange group, because to get into Cuba you need to be going with some group. You can't just show up on your own. And I couldn't get a visa, still can't get a visa to go to Cuba. And yet, a waiver was granted and Frank Wolf joined me in that. He and I are trying still. We have been in prisons in China, the Soviet Union, Romania, East Bloc countries. I met with Xanana Gusmao when he was in -- from East Timor, who then obviously went on to become president in Indonesia.

We can't get into Cuba's prisons. And it's very troubling, especially since that is what is permitted or exempted in terms of sanctions. So a member of Congress, chairman of the Human Rights Committee for Congress can't get into Cuba, and yet that's waived. So, if you could speak to that I'd appreciate it.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, you are correct that it's waived. It is the only thing that's waived for Cuba. We feel that Cuba doesn't have a comprehensive strategy to address this. It has little if no discernible anti-trafficking law enforcement victim-care trafficking- prevention measures. You know, most other countries even, you know, that end up being on tier three at least generally admit that there might be some trafficking going on.

We feel as though, on the trafficking specific, that just as we have been able to establish a dialogue with the government of Cuba on migration issues, that we need to be in there trying to talk to them. Trying to talk to them can be frustrating. It could mean not getting a visa at times.

We don't base our rankings of countries on whether members of Congress or even me or my staff can get a visa to go talk to them. There's been other countries other than Cuba where we haven't had the luck of getting that visa issued as we would desire. But I think at the end of the day, the calibration that this administration has on Cuba is very much that, if we can get not only the formal dialogues with the government, through especially on the migration dialogue, but

also that notion of some people-to-people work, getting the Cuban people to be able to see what freedom looks like, to be able to see what that example does, it'll achieve great change on the island.

And so, within the context of these particular sanctions, which are just some of many against the regime and doing business in Cuba, we felt that exempting out these cultural and educational-exchange programs was a way to continue those types of relationships. As you said, even during the depths of the Cold War, that notion of educational-exchange programs was one of the ways that we were able to, a, keep the dialogue going, but b, raise up an entire generation of leaders who, in the late '80s and early '90s, finally were able to achieve change behind the iron curtain. And we want to continue to be able to do that with Cuba.

REP. SMITH: OK. Mr. Payne.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much.

I just wonder if anyone of you would take on the question and answer. "Human trafficking" is a broad term that encapsulates a diverse group of crimes, from debt bondage to child-sex trafficking. In your opinion, anyone of you could try to answer this, one of the main push-and-pull factors driving into national human trafficking, what do you -- how do they differ, in your opinion, by region and by type of trafficking? And to what extent do you -- do current anti- trafficking programs address such underlying factors or vulnerabilities? Do you see a big difference as it relates around the world? Do you think there is any sort of cartel that communicates with each other in different regions of the world? I just wonder if anyone would like to take that general question.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, I think I might tee it up, but I know that my colleagues have thoughts on this because we've talked about this over the last couple of years. You know, we're talking about two regions of the world that are both source and destination regions.

I sometimes have mentioned to Secretary Blake that I'm going to see some of his clients when I'm going to the Gulf states, because there's so many people from South and Central Asia who are there, who are vulnerable and often exploited.

On the other hand, there are people within South Asia who are going from one country to another within South Asia or who are enslaved in their own countries. Same, I think, is true in East Asia where we have a lot of interregional trafficking that happens.

At the end of the day, poverty is very much a driver of this, but it's not necessarily the most abject of poverty. It perhaps is the one step up on the development rung. The person that actually sees an opportunity to having gone to school now, having no opportunity to get a job in their home village or their hometown says, well, then I'm going to have to go off somewhere else.

All too often, the person who could help them do that is not a honest labor broker. It's somebody who is going to charge a usurious recruiting fee and enforce that through force, threats of force and threats of coercion. And so one of the things that we very much look at is the idea that development could do something to stem the flow, while recognizing that there's some research out there now that's showing that this is definitely a crime of opportunity. The victims want opportunity. They're willing to put themselves in harm's way to some degree, and the traffickers see the opportunity to take advantage of them.

It manifests itself very differently in a number of these different countries, though. Even in different parts of the same country, you'll have mainly sex trafficking in one part, and in another part mainly agricultural trafficking, which is why I think that the work that we do at the embassies is so important. We have to apply these minimum standards to the regions and to the world, but we have to do it in the context of each one of these countries.

The difference between a Senegal and a South Korea are very different based on where they are and what they need, and we have to be able to tell the difference as we're applying these minimum standards that you've given us.

MR. BLAKE: Let me just jump in and just add to what Ambassador CdeBaca said. Now, in taking the SCA region you see both a combination of push-and-pull factors, as you said, Mr. Payne. You know, in places like India and Nepal, trafficking is often a function of poverty and poor education, where particularly young women, but also young children are very vulnerable to seductive pitches from traffickers who promise a better life in the city, and then find themselves enslaved once they get there and in debt bondage of some sort, which they'll never get out of. So they're very, very vulnerable to those kind of pitches.

It's also a function of weak governmental institutions and weak rule of law that is unable to deal with these kind of challenges. Frequently, you find trafficking in countries where there's a, you know, poor level or low level of economic growth, places like Tajikistan where, you know, one-seventh of the country is working outside of Tajikistan in Russia and in Kazakhstan because there's no economic opportunity for them.

So those migrant workers are often very vulnerable in the countries in which they work, as Ambassador CdeBaca said, not just in the Gulf, but in Russia and elsewhere.

Another serious problem almost throughout my region is corruption where, again, those weak government institutions and often poorly paid officials are very susceptible to corruption, particularly by these organized criminal gangs and networks, and so that is a very difficult problem for us to try to deal with.

So, you know, our challenge is to both try to shine a light on these practices, as I think this report does, but also to work with the many capable NGOs on the ground who are doing terrific work, and then finally to engage the governments directly, not only in terms of advocacy, but in terms of the many important programs that your committee helps to fund.

MR. YUN: Mr. Chairman, of course, I agree with everything that's being said, but an interesting aspect, in my view, is clearly it is tied to poverty and economy. Having said that, it is also clear that, in some cases, country and countries can make enormous progress in very, very short time. And in my region, I would highlight South Korea and Taiwan. So you need to ask, why is it that some countries can make enormous progress in very short time? Obviously, strength of institution is one, and I would say what I would loosely call freedom index is another one. That is the media as a watchdog, civil society and, of course, the willingness of lawmakers to look at their legislation, to look at their laws and see what they can learn from elsewhere and what will work for them.

So it is entirely possible, in my view, that in many countries things can improve quite rapidly given opportunities.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. It's kind of -- a similar question in vain, because I just wonder, how does the problem of, in your opinion, of human trafficking compare to other socioeconomic challenges facing governments that are not fully compliant with the U.S. minimum requirements? Do you find that when human trafficking is a problem there are other similar problems?

And secondly, where does, sort of, state corruption come in? Officials, in many instances, you have to work with policing, and I think policing around the world, even sometimes in our country, we see policing problems. Sometimes peaceful demonstrations are disrupted and they become actually a police riot. I mean, we -- you know, some questions about what just happened in San Diego a night or so ago where people were relatively peaceful, a bottle or two might have been thrown.

But the reaction of a police force here, even in our country, I just use that as an example, that policing is so important. So with the law-enforcement agencies in countries where the socioeconomic issues, in some instances, these law-enforcement people aren't even paid, not that that's an excuse for them to therefore be corrupt, but are low paid and poorly trained. How does that whole thing fit in?

MR. CDEBACA: Again, I think I'll let my colleagues discuss the particular ways that that manifests in those regions. But I think overarching, I think we learn that lesson in the United States prior to 1947. We may have forgotten it, frankly.

You know, one of the things that was the major civil rights achievement of the Roosevelt administration, working with the NAACP litigators and others, was to break the backs of the peonage and share-cropping system in the South and that didn't happen until 1947, allowing the space then to move on from 13th Amendment jurisprudence to 14th and 15th Amendment civil rights, housing, voting, all of the things that we're familiar with from the '50s and '60s.

But at the end of the day, it was the sheriffs and it was the local justices of peace that were enforcing debt bondage in the American South for three generations after slavery was officially illegal. That's corruption writ large and it was systemic corruption.

And we see some places where that type of corruption still exists, but then we also see the individual corruption of a police officer or their family who actually owns the brothels. It's not just that the cops are going to these brothels as kind of a boys-will-be-boys tolerance, which we need to root out, but then it's also that they're individually profiting.

Or we see countries where the, you know, the large (landed ?) interests don't want to cleanup some of the problems with forestation or extractive industries because it's the senators' brothers or cousins or whoever that own those plantations.

So we have to keep unpacking this corruption problem, because I think that the easy corruption problem is to say it's the fault of some low-level guy that's taking a bribe. We have to not only look at that level, we have to go up that other step, not blame the deputy, you have to go after the sheriff themselves.

REP. PAYNE: That's excellent. Yes.

MR. CDEBACA: Mr. Payne, I would say, to answer your first question, I think we do often see problems like trafficking in persons, drug trafficking and others coexisting with each other. And again, I think they're a function of the fact that these organized criminal groups are often involved in these activities, find them very, very profitable. But I think corruption is also a very, very significant problem.

And you know, corruption often exists where you have, as I said, poorly paid officials, poorly developed institutions, but also it's a function of a lack of democracy and independent democratic institutions, like a free press, like free NGOs, such as Transparency International, that can bring to light some of these things without fear of retribution. It's a function of often lack of opposition parties in many of these countries, who, again, have an interest in bringing these kind of things to light.

So there's a whole series of things, and often we try to see these in a holistic way as well and try to, again, not only address the problem itself, but in my mind, the most critical thing that we can do in many of these countries is to work on rule of law because that underlies everything else. And if you have a strong, independent judiciary, you can get to the root of many of these problems quite quickly.

REP. PAYNE: That's great, and I couldn't agree with you more. And I do -- I listened to my colleague. I was fortunate enough to get into Cuba a number of years ago, and I thought it was, you know, my responsibility to raise issues with Mr. Castro. Fidel Castro at that time was the leader there, and I raised issues about, as a matter of fact, the inequity of the blacks in Cuba. Much of it he said was, of course, because of remitting to coming from the U.S. and other places, and the ones who left were not the blacks, they were left behind, and so there was a group growing inequity among the races -- (inaudible) -- could do about that.

But I also raised the question about with some investment starting and hotels starting that there has started to become a prostitution question. It wasn't gigantic, but it was starting to raise its ugly head. And I raised the question that, once again, the poor people are going to be the ones, the minorities would end up in the position, by virtue of their lack of equality financially, and that there needs to be attention given to this, and that this was not in the right direction. And even raised the question of prisoners.

And as a matter of fact, another group went down after that, and I instructed them to not only raise the question, but sort of talk to them about the fact that there should be -- you need to reconsider the people who are in prison that should not be there, who have not a fair trial, which was raised by some members, some people. And it's seen to have had some positive impact, because we have seen that people shouldn't have been in prison in the first place, but there has been some released. So I've been one that tried to feel that there needs to be dialogue.

I recently came back from -- I went to Bahrain a couple of weeks ago and, you know, there was (all the ?) interest in me, you know, seeing the employment and things that were going well. I wanted to meet the 25 medical people who were sentenced, and the government had all 25 of them, doctors and medical people, who have been charged with a crime at a hospital, which is unheard of. But they now have to -- there will be another trial. It was a military trial. I think the pressure of my going with a couple of the members push them to reconsider, so all these folks will be retried. So I think it's a step in the right direction to have a committee of inquiry that will come out with, and they're not from that country, but from outside the country.

But people still have not been put back to work. They were fired for protesting, and we said that this is wrong. People should not be -- and labor unions have been discriminated against.

But you know, I think that when you get an opportunity to go, we made it pretty clear that these -- and met with these -- in different groups, which is not on the regular program, but we insisted before we went we had to meet with them and we had to make ourselves clear that these are things that have to be turned around, and that we insist that there be a -- that this injustice in their kingdom end.

So I do find some -- I guess my whole point is that I find some value of going and having conversations with some of the people that we don't necessarily don't want to go to dinner with necessarily, but to try to convince them that policies need to be changed. Thank you.

MR. CDEBACA: Mr. Payne, if I could, the -- I think that what we've seen is that if it's simply the trafficking ambassador that goes out and raises this and then, you know, comes back and works on the report, that those governments, the ones who are friendly and want to fight on this with us, they would have done that without a visit from me. The ones who are not interested in working on human trafficking, without some cajoling, it's not just me going, it's when they hear it from Bob Blake, when they hear it from Joe Yun and Kurt Campbell, when they hear it from you all when you were out on the road in the CODELs or when your staff has been out.

When I was on the Judiciary Committee staff, I was able to go to a shelter in Cambodia with Sheri Rickert from the Foreign Affairs Committee staff, and some others and, you know, being able to see the victim practices there, but also having to have the Cambodians know that Congress cared. It's a very different message than simply, you know, a guy from a small office in the State Department raising the issue of slavery in the modern era.

So we join you in that notion that there is value, and we want to support, whether it's CODELs, STAFFDELS traveling with us, we'll raise it, I think, when we're out on the road, but knowing that you're raising it as well makes a big difference.

REP. SMITH: Let me just ask a couple of final questions. First, I'm sure all three of you saw The New York Times article "The Other India: Where are the Children?" on October 12th, just a couple of weeks ago, a week ago. And it makes the very disturbing statement that between January of 2008 and October 2010, 13,570 children were missing in Delhi alone. It says that some of the children were eventually found, supposedly taken by force or being enticed with promises of food and clothes, but they were then sold into various forms of slavery, including domestic labor, beggary, agricultural labor or commercial sex work.

And the article also notes that a provisional Indian census reported in 2010 that an estimated one in 10 workers in India are children, and experts say that these numbers are conservative.

I guess, Ambassador Blake, this might be to you as well as to all three of you, really. The downgrading, or the upgrading I should say, of India off the watch list not to tier three, but rather to tier two, I've listened very carefully, I read it very carefully in the report, but there's still, I think, some very disconcerting and unanswered questions.

You say in your testimony, Ambassador CdeBaca, that sex trafficking women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India. So it would appear, according to your testimony, that it's at least as bad and possibly getting worse.

About 10 years ago, I had a hearing, and I had several hearings on trafficking, and we heard from the International Justice Mission, IJM, and the testimony was focused on India. And Gary Haugen actually brought a video and showed all of these young, some of them were not even teenagers they were so young, little girls that were in a cellar, who, when the police came and the traffickers were tipped off by the police and they went through some charade, afterward the little girls were brought out of the hiding place. Their eyes were all dark because it was all dark, you know, they were squinted. And you could see that these were tiny, little, at-risk little girls who were being trafficked.

And one of these Gary Haugen made very clearly was, in his testimony, a point made clearly was it's the police. And I have noticed, you know, if we're going to have a problem anywhere, it's not often the president, the prime minister. It's that point of contact at the police level, which obviously is part of government, and therefore subject to the minimum standards.

This report, other reports that I have read on India point out that law enforcement may be lax, still may be the Achilles heel in India.

I was actually in Nigeria in Abuja, in the hotel after a full day working on trafficking, when I turned on CNN and there was a very, very fine report about how -- it was International CNN -- in India, and again, the police were tipped off, they went through the charade of walking into the brothel, and the kids, some of them didn't get out quick enough, ran out in the street. And he said, by the next day they were all back being sold and exploited, and the police were laughing about it.

And I'm wondering if that's still a problem, especially since, as you pointed out, Ambassador CdeBaca, that sex trafficking of women and children may not have abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India.

You know, are we just holding our breath with some hope here that India will get its act together? And I add into that the singular problem, but not apparently government sponsored like China with the one-child-per-couple policy as a

major push to the elimination of the girl child, but we had a press conference, again, right in this room very recently, and it was focused on India and China, and the bias against and prejudice against the birth of and the lives of little girls.

And again, most of the girls are eliminated, destroyed by sex-selection abortions, but many others, particularly in India, are killed as they're born. Their gender discovered, and they are suffocated or killed in some other way.

As a matter of fact, one of our people at that testimony said the most dangerous three words in that part of the world is, "it's a girl." If it's a girl, she may be dead. Or if she gets to be a little bit older, she may be exploited through trafficking.

And again, with deep respect to Ambassador Blake and to all of you, I would hope that, unless there's -- my hope is, next time around, India, if they have not made truly significant progress, you know, when you say there's 80 units of trafficking units, that's one out of every 14 million people, you know, is that just something that's been put together to appease to a local political constituency or an international one? Or is this really an all-out effort to eradicate slavery? Because as Ambassador CdeBaca said, it's either abated -- it has not abated and may even be getting worse.

MR. CDEBACA: Mr. Chairman, that's a big question about a big country. So, let me try to tackle it and I'll ask Lu to chime in.

First of all, let me say that I personally have been working on this issue about trafficking persons in India for the last eight years. I started out as deputy chief of mission in 2003 and spent three years there.

And one of my most important tasks then as chief deputy, chief of mission was the work on trafficking persons. I led our working group inside the embassy working on this because I felt it was such an important priority. And you're right, I remember going to train stations and seeing traffickers waiting for young kids to get off the trains from rural areas, because they were so poor and so desperate and these guys who are predators waiting to basically bring them into slavery.

And I was there with really dedicated NGOs who were there to stop those guys and had in fact found partners in the police to help them stop. So there were -- even at that time, there were some quite good efforts that we were supporting to stop those kind of practices.

At that time, too, Mr. Chairman, I think, you know, India often even refused to admit these kind of things even existed and certainly didn't want to acknowledge the scope and the scale of the problem. I think we've come a long way since there, Mr. Chairman, with due respect.

You know, this year India was upgraded because they're making some pretty significant efforts. I mentioned the 80 anti-human-trafficking units.

What's significant about that is that now those are under the authority of the very powerful Ministry of Home Affairs, which is their chief of law-enforcement branch that's responsible for this, and the minister himself has taken direct responsibility for this issue, which is very significant. Before it was the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and things like that. But the Ministry of Home Affairs was not that directly involved. So this is, I think, quite significant.

Secondly, they say they have ratified the protocol. And most importantly, as you've said, Mr. Chairman, it's working with the police and it's working with the courts, because that's where the real action's going to be the stop of these guys who are engaged in the trafficking itself.

And in the past, India often used to arrest the victims. They'd go into a brothel and they'd arrest all the girls and the people who'd been trafficked, not the people who were behind it. And again, I think that's really changing now.

And I can just give you a few examples, if I could. You know, we've been working a lot in Mumbai. Mumbai is a real center for the trafficking industry. And people come from as far away as Bangladesh and Nepal and are trafficked into Mumbai.

There's a real -- there's a judge there by the name of Judge Swati Chauhan, who's really done some terrific, terrific work. She, you know -- literally, her court has taken over and cleared hundreds of sex-trafficking cases and, you know, issued rehabilitation orders for roughly 1,200 rescued women.

And what's important about this is that the Ministry of Home Affairs has not only taken note of her efforts, but has said, we need -- that they need to publicize those efforts and duplicate those efforts all over India. So they're actually organ-

izing very soon a seminar of all the nodal units all around India to come and hear about how she has done this and how she has tackled this. And I think they're going to try and resource this in an appropriate way.

They're also going to expand these anti-human-trafficking units. They've got 80 of them now, but I think they have intentions over time to establish them in all 600 districts of India, which is, you know, it's a big deal.

And again, I want to say, at the state level, you know, there's a huge disparity in India between some states that are doing a lot and very well and then others that aren't doing so well. And I think in a lot of the states now where you do see quite significant trafficking, like West Bengal, like Maharashtra, which I mentioned, Karnataka, the police are actively working, not only on the sex-trafficking side, but increasingly on the bonded-labor side.

And as Lu will remember, back in 2003 to 2006, this was not even on their radar. And now, not only are they dealing with it, they're dealing on the law-enforcement side and bringing these into the court systems and prosecuting people. So --

REP. SMITH: Does that also include police who are complicit -- (inaudible) -- where the police were prosecuted?

MR. BLAKE: You know I can't tell you for sure.

REP. SMITH: If you could check that, that would be very helpful to show whether or not --

MR. BLAKE: Yeah, I will. I will. That's a very good question.

But the point I want to make is, do the problems still exist? Of course, they do. But I think what's really different now is that there is a political will on the part, not only of the federal government, but the state government, and most importantly the law enforcement.

And what -- to get back to Mr. Payne's question, you know, I talked about the rule of law, and what India does have going for it is an independent rule of law, particularly a very strong supreme court. And you know, I think that is the backbone of a lot of what happens in India. And for that reason, you do have very strong NGOs, you have very strong opposition parties, all of whom are more than happy to highlight these problems, and try to get them addressed.

So you know, there are still a lot of problems to be dealt with. But I do believe that India is making progress in the right direction.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador?

MR. CDEBACA: I'd second that. I think that one of the things that was notable over the last couple of years that we've seen from the Supreme Court is that it's begun to do these inquiries into different aspects of the anti-trafficking fight, not just on the sex trafficking or the sex trafficking of children, but looking at things as diverse as the circus performers who are being enslaved.

We had a briefing from the Polaris Project the other day about the HHS-funded hotline that they run here in the United States. And one of the trends that they saw was that they've gotten, I think, 29 or 30 calls from people who are in carnivals here in the United States, who are trying to get help because they have been harmed or trapped or stuff. And the Civil Rights Division actually prosecuted cases of the ilk back in the 1970s.

To suddenly see the supreme court of India was having hearings on the exploitation of these people, in these transient or itinerant circuses, I think it shows that there is a kind of level of sophistication that's coming into some of these institutions in India that we frankly had not seen six or eight years ago.

Obviously, we do have a very large problem of human trafficking in India. No one, the Indians or the Americans or anybody else that looks at it would say otherwise. I think that one of the concerns that we have and we mentioned this in the report last year, as far as the changing nature of sex trafficking in India that, as you mentioned, that's in our testimony, is this notion that there seems to be a move from the red-light districts to roadside prostitution, small hotels and private apartments. That is problematic for a whole host of reasons, in no small part because it becomes the law-enforcement challenge as law enforcement becomes more serious about doing these cases.

The law-enforcement challenge goes up very steeply, when you don't have access to the people who you are trying to save, people you are trying to rescue. So we're looking at this, we're going to continue to be raising that with our Indian counterparts.

But there are definitely things happening in India, that, I think, anyone looking at India circa 2002, 2003 it would be mind-boggling to think that they're actually liberating people from brick kilns, putting bonded-labor bosses in jail. We need to take that now, work in partnership with Indians, as the two largest common law, not just large democracies, but common-law countries, and really take it to the next level.

Driving it out to the states is as important as it is in India, as it is here in the United States. That's where law enforcement gets done. And we want to work with our counterparts there to make sure that that happens.

REP. SMITH: Appreciate that. Two final questions. And thank you for that explanation.

The first is with regard to Vietnam, and, Ambassador CdeBaca we've talked about that many times. And I've raised it, as have others, many times at hearings. The labor-trafficking issue, your view as to whether or not there really is progress being made, especially since so many of the allegations are against companies that aren't really state-run companies. The Daewoosa case, still no payment as far as I know, of the \$3 million. And I know you were involved in that prosecution, the very first one, pursuant to the TVPA.

And then the second question, if you could maybe speak to a good-news issue, and that would be, you know, Nigeria is now a tier-one country. I have visited there, I mentioned a moment ago, met with their TIP leaders, and went to Lagos where trafficking obviously was a problem. Many of those women, young girls are trafficked right into Europe, into Italy.

And I would just tell a very, very quick story about a woman named Elizabeth that I met in Rome, who actually became pregnant as a direct result of being trafficked and abused sexually. And she made a statement that I'll never forget. She goes, this child, this little 3-year old was running around at the shelter, in Rome, and she had been trafficked for about five years. A terrible ordeal. I hope she writes a book some day because it's a testimony to faith and courage.

But this young Nigerian woman said, the child saved my life, and said, if it wasn't for this child, I probably would have been a statistic. You know, suicide or something along those lines. And you don't hear that kind of heroic love for a child, you know, all that often, at least explained like that. But she told how she went through the roof, out of Nigeria into Italy.

So the question is, Nigeria, they're tier one, it's a good-news story. I think they certainly have tried very hard, and maybe you want to elaborate on that for the record, as well as the Vietnam question.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, I'll take to Vietnam and then I think that Mr. Yun can set the scene for us on Vietnam. Nigeria is an interesting case because, of course, Nigeria is not necessarily thought of on many law-enforcement issues as being on the cutting edge. It's not a country, unlike what we've been testifying to today, as far as transparency indices or corruption indices or things that always come out on top.

And yet we've seen some very innovative anti-trafficking efforts there that, as you say, you know, when we've looked at, over the last two years the application of the facts and the minimum standards, has come out as a tier one.

You know, we don't go into these with a predetermined tier ranking. We put the facts into the (lots ?), like we have a big machine, the facts and the law go together, and we turn the crank, and suddenly a Nigeria comes out the other side, with a tier-one label on it, and I think surprised a lot of people, frankly. It maybe even surprised the Nigerians themselves.

But you know, at the end of the day, what they did was very innovative. Taking police, prosecutors and social workers and putting them in the same, not just chain of command, but putting them in the same office, assigning them to cases simultaneously so that they knew that they were going to be working together throughout. That's very different than what most countries do.

Here in the United States, we have prosecutors assigned to cases early on, and we have victim/witness coordinators in most of our law-enforcement entities. But you know, there's very few prosecutors that are older than me that came up in that system. And thank God, as I age, most of the prosecutors younger than me don't even know that there was a time when there wasn't a victim/witness coordinator in that prosecutor's office, fighting for the rights of the victim.

Nigeria seems to have taken that ethos and taken it to a new level. And I think that that was perhaps one of the reasons why we saw at the ASEAN prosecutors conference in Singapore this summer, that the cutting-edge prosecutors that were invited to share their best practices with their ASEAN counterparts, ASEAN looks to a couple of places that maybe people wouldn't be surprised about, Sweden and the United States.

But then they also looked to Nigeria. And so to the degree that we're seeing African leadership that can be tapped into around the globe, I think is a very, very positive thing, for this fight against human trafficking.

Now, each year we're going to look at Nigeria; and tier one responsibility, not a reprieve. And we hope that Nigeria will continue to sharpen and to continue to improve. Because like India, it is a country that has a big trafficking problem. And even when they're doing well or they're doing a good job of having these structures, they are having good results, there's still a big, big trafficking problem with Nigerians.

As we saw in some of the Tunisian refugee camps and Libya and other places, pimps who, you know, suddenly were in the camps with the women they had been trying to get across into Europe. So this is a -- it's a problem, it continues to be one. But seeing the ASEAN region prosecutors reacts to their Nigerian counterparts, and seeing African leadership that way, to me, showed that we really are, after this decade of development, we're on the precipice, I think, of some real change here.

MR YUN: Thank you. Vietnam is a case where we've expended a great deal of efforts. Secretary Clinton was there twice over the past 18 months. And I was with her on both occasions. And in both meetings, the items that featured very prominently were human rights and trafficking. They are, of course, challenged on both accounts, as well as freedom of religion, that remains an issue.

Vietnam is designated as tier-two watch list. But I do believe they are undergoing changes, both in the government and in society, where we're seeing signs, some concrete signs, that they're making some progress.

Number one is that they now do have a law, anti-trafficking law, and the question remains, how is it going to be implemented? The law was only passed, I think, maybe about nine months ago, so we're keeping a very close eye on that.

And also there are -- there have been a number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of sex traffickers, so we are encouraged by that.

There is still, as you mentioned, labor trafficking remains an issue. And again, we are somewhat happy that they now have a pre-departure training for overseas workers. So it's changing, and we do hope it will change more rapidly. And we are expending a great deal of bilateral efforts. In fact, in about two weeks we are going to hold annual human rights dialogue. On our side, it will be led by Assistant Secretary Posner, and the Vietnamese will be here this year. And so next year we'll go over there.

So these dialogues and high-level meetings have helped. But I understand your concerns.

REP. SMITH: I appreciate that.

Just before I yield to Mr. Payne -- earlier today, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified before the full Foreign Affairs Committee. And while it was focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and my and everyone else's questions were primarily focused on that, I did ask her if she would pick up the phone and call the foreign minister of China to inquire as to whether or not Chen Guangcheng is dead or alive or perhaps even dying.

There have been rumors, reports. We don't if they're true. He has been beaten savagely by the Chinese police, first in prison and then under house arrest. And his crime, as we all know, is that he pushed human rights, he's the blind activist lawyer, and actually raised the case of forced abortion in -- (inaudible) -- and took the women's side. And for that, he was singled out for excessive brutality.

Again, knowing that that issue of human-rights abuse leads directly into our reason for being here this afternoon, human trafficking, it exacerbates it significantly. If you could take that back, she didn't answer the question, pretty much ran out of time, but didn't go back to it later. But I think a phone call.

I will be convening an emergency hearing of the China Commission next week. And I hope Ambassador Kim can make it as one of the members of the executive branch who is on that. I am chairman of that commission.

And it will be an emergency meeting focused on Chen and his wife. Where are they? And whether or not they are dead or alive and what we are doing, what the West is doing, what any country that cares about human rights is doing vis-a-vis Beijing to raise his case. Because we think he may actually be dead or bleeding as we meet.

Please take that back.

Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Just a quick question or two more. The chairman raised Nigeria, and I just was going to, when I said I had a couple of other questions, I didn't know he was going to raise that, but I wanted to know, what -- if anyone, maybe you, Ambassador CdeBaca, might tell us, what African countries have made the most progress outside of Nigeria in confronting human trafficking? And are there any best practices that can be replicated?

And the other part of the question is that there are regional groups, as you know, in Africa -- the -- (inaudible) -- in the south and (IGAD ?) in the east and ECOWAS in the west. And had there -- did you find it an advantage, the AU, in general, African Union, to work with the regional groups to sort of see if the best practices, if there are some that you noted could then be introduced?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, exempting Nigeria from the question makes it a little tougher, because that is such an innovative practice. You know, I think -- let me say one last thing about Nigeria, because there was something that was done that the Netherlands and Nigeria cooperated on, and that was bringing up some traditional healers so that the victims in a case in the Netherlands would be able to, in effect, have a counter put on to the juju that had been put on them before they left home. Which was as powerful of a form of coercion to them, based on their religious and cultural practices, as were the threats of force and the beatings that they were undergoing at the hands of their traffickers.

And that notion of that innovation of bringing in a traditional healer in order to have a counter ceremony for those women was, I think, very forward thinking. And it's the kind of thing that you only get if you have those relationships between the governments on these issues.

We've certainly seen, on the part of Mauritius, but a meeting the minimum standards. But as far as the tiers are concerned, that's really what we see in the Africa region. We'd like to see more on the mainland itself.

There is some, I think, hunger on the part of a number of governments to work on this. We've seen, whether it's in Malawi or in Benin, programs that are out there working with especially the child victims. Much of the victim response in Africa has been on child victims, and we want to encourage that to continue, but then also make sure that our African partners recognize male victims and female victims who are adults, not just the children.

Perhaps some of that is because of the good work that we've seen from UNICEF in the area. It's so dominant then that a lot of countries respond on child issues first.

A success story of sorts is the rapid movement that we've seen in Swaziland over the last two years, Swaziland, tier three on the report in 2009. Since then, having raised up to tier two. Maybe because they were so late coming to the game and they came in as a tier-three country that denied there was trafficking, didn't want to do anything on it, et cetera, when the wake-up call happened, they put together an inter-ministerial working group that had NGOs on the working group. We don't even have that in the United States.

So when they meet and under the auspices of the prime minister himself, when they meet, the NGOs and the folks from the government are together in the room. From what we've seen is that it's got a level of respect for each other that has been slow coming in many other African countries. The NGOs feel like they can get a fair shake from their government counterparts, and the government counterparts don't just look at the NGOs as potential rivals for power or someone who could be a problem for them.

And that's something, again, that we'd really like to see. Swaziland obviously has a very specific governing structure. And you know, in other countries that don't have a monarchy, that have different types of governments, perhaps that couldn't happen quite as quickly. But we have seen that as a real positive.

I think that, at the end of the day, what we've really seen is it's that notion of political will. In Senegal, when the government started focusing on child begging and realizing that Koranic teachers were not a religious institution, but were cowards hiding behind the Koran as a way to lure the children in so that they could do their begging all of the time, taking advantage not only of the trust that the parents had of these supposed religious figures, but also taking advantage of the admonishment that the Koran has as far as alms giving and as far as the support that should be had for such schools, perverting that in a way that is right out of Dickens.

These child-begging rings have been plaguing that part of Africa for quite a while. And to start to see the governments in that part of Africa recognize that it's not cultural, it's not just something that's always going to happen, but it's criminals who are taking advantage of children, I think that's a best practice in and of itself, the recognition and then the political will to do something about it.

You know, it's not just in Africa today. We've seen this in the U.K. just in the recent months, the liberation of Eastern European children from begging rings. Obviously, we see this in New Delhi and any major city, I think, in the region. And we see it here in the United States. So this notion of the beggars is something that we all share.

But I think in Africa, the country's rising up against it, as we are starting to see happening, that's a great thing to see.

REP. PAYNE: That's great. Just finally, we had a hearing the other week with our committee. And there was a young man who was blind. He was a slave, I think right from South Sudan. And we know that that's been a problem with Inca children and Nuba children, especially during the conflicts, was encouraged by the government of the north.

And I wonder if some of the conflicts where abductions still are happening and, of course, people are brought into indentured servitude, have you seen that start to eliminate itself? Maybe you could put a short statement on that.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, sadly, the conflict, because it is the enemy of rule of law, it creates the ultimate zone of impunity where the traffickers operate. Conflict does seem to be followed very closely by this, especially in Africa. And unfortunately, it's not only the slavery that comes in its wake, whether it's the villages being emptied out for the men to work as porters as the army moves around, for the women to cook, clean and be used as frankly sex slaves, but also for the children to work in artisanal mines, whether it's gold or the rare minerals that we use in our cell phones and other things.

But also, that notion of conscripting, flat-out stealing frankly, combatants. And so this notion of the child soldiers being, in effect, both victim and perpetrator at the same time, I think, is one of the tragedies of the region.

What we have seen is that a number of countries have taken steps. With the good work of UNICEF and work that we've been doing and others, we've seen a difference in Chad, for instance, as far as the demobilization of child soldiers.

What we'd like to see more in countries around the world is not simply demobilization and giving some type of safety to the child soldiers who you capture from the people that are fighting against you, but then also countries looking at their own troops and making sure that they're scrubbing them accordingly.

So while the trend seems to be improving a bit, we need to keep our eye on the ball as far as the child-soldier issues.

And while my office is not the lead on child soldiers in the State Department, that's the Bureau of Democracy, Rights and Labor, we certainly look at it each year in the trafficking report because we know that slavery, whether it's the women that were held as sex slaves during the Balkan conflict in Europe, whether it's the folks who are currently held in Africa or in other parts of the world, this follows conflict wherever it goes.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much.

And I yield back.

REP. SMITH: You know, I will, in follow up, in terms of things looking into -- on July 22nd, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission on the egregious practice in Egypt of abducting, kidnapping young, Coptic, Christian girls, apparently by the thousands each year, who are then held and forced into Islam, and then given at age 18 to a man, and now they are Islamic.

The woman who testified -- we had several, three people testified -- was Michele Clark, who both, Ambassador CdeBaca, you and I know very well as number two for trafficking at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Very reputable. She is a professor at George Washington University. And she said, it's not a matter of allegations anymore. She has actually done the reporting herself and will be doing more reporting on this. But it seems to be a human rights and, I would say, a trafficking issue, certainly something that rises to the level of it needs to be combated very aggressively.

And I'm wondering, you know, if it's something you have looked into. We gave the information to our new ambassador before she was deployed to Cairo. And the hope is that she will really raise it. But I can't imagine what it must be like for a parent, especially for the young girl, but for a parent and her entire family to have, first, the child abducted, and then put into a situation of bondage, if you will, and then perhaps abused in numerous ways, and at the appropriate age, age 18, given as some kind of gift, like shadow slavery, to someone, as a wife.

And again, Michele Clark has her -- has true credentials in the human-trafficking area. And she says we are missing it. So if you could speak to that, number one.

And secondly, on Uzbekistan. Again, putting on my Helsinki hat, every year the cotton crop is picked by large numbers of young children who are brought out of school. And it is child labor at its worst. And yet for four years, Uzbekistan has been on the tier-two watch list. It seems to me they should have dropped to tier three. Your views?

MR. CDEBACA: I think I'll do Egypt, and then maybe we can go to the northeast with Assistant Secretary Blake, who is fresh off the plane from Uzbekistan.

Mr. Smith, we'll definitely look into the new allegations that you mentioned. We certainly looked through the earlier report that ICI did that I think that Professor Clark had been involved with. But it sounds like there may be some new information. And we'd very much like to look at that.

This is an area that we look at. We also, of course, look at Muslim girls being put into -- sold for marriage and other things, whether it's through the temporary marriages, to what basically can only be described as sex tourists.

REP. SMITH: But as Michele Clark said -- and I'm interrupting you briefly -- from certain jaundiced view on the part of some, they get two things out of it: They get a wife, who they then give out like she's some kind of property or commodity; and secondly, they Islamacize the (woman ?). And to me, that is -- you know, if someone decides to be Muslim, Christian, whatever their faith may be, and that's what freedom of conscience is all about, but to do it through coercion is a horrific human-rights abuse. Sorry to interrupt.

MR. CDEBACA: No. I was just saying that we would very much look forward to seeing, you know, the results of any new reporting, any new evidence. It's something that we take seriously.

We also continue to take seriously the promises of the new government in Egypt, that has assured us that they will enforce and continue to implement the national plan of action for combating trafficking in persons, which was announced in December of last year, with just a few weeks before the events of the Arab Spring happened.

Despite the fact that there had been a lot of leadership by then First Lady Suzanne Mubarak on getting that national plan of action in place, and equally, obviously, that the Mubarak family is no longer in the position that they were, we've heard from the current government that this is something that they want to continue because they realize that this protects Egyptians, whether Egyptian children or Egyptian adults.

And so as we continue to work with them on how they are going to implement that action plan, how they're going to bring it to life, we will want to make sure that all of these allegation about forced marriage, whether of Muslim or Christians, are addressed. And we'll continue to look at this.

And like I said, we'd be happy to look at whatever new evidence that Michele or others might have.

MR. BLAKE: On Uzbekistan, Mr. Chairman, again, this is another country I've worked hard on. And to answer your question, you know, we granted a waiver and kept Uzbekistan on the watch list this year, because in March of this year they decided to create an interagency working group that was tasked with ensuring compliance with all 13 of the ILO conventions, to which Uzbekistan is a party.

That working group, in turn, has created an action plan to, again, ensure compliance. This year, the government permitted UNICEF to assess child labor in all 12 regions of Uzbekistan. And you know, just as importantly, I think, Uzbek officials tell us now that they're making a real effort for the first time to try to end the use of children under the age of 16 in the harvest, and it will actually punish those who are violating the law.

So the harvest is ongoing right now, Mr. Chairman, as you probably know. But from initial reports that we've received from independent sources and from our own embassy, they tell us that in fact there has been a reduced incidence this year of forced child labor in Uzbekistan, and fewer schools have been closed as a result of that.

But the forced adult labor continues, and in fact may even be increasing to compensate for the child-labor part of it.

So you know, obviously, we're going to have to withhold judgment until the end of the season and see how it goes. But you know, I think we have the government's attention. And you know, they are now committed to this, where they have an action plan, they've submitted something on paper.

And you know, this year we're really going to seek, I'd say, three things. First, we're going to try to seek action to end the use of forced adult and child labor, full stop. Secondly, we're going to try to urge them to investigate and prosecute officials who are suspected of being complicit in trafficking. Again, I think there's no stronger signal than putting people like that in jail. And that's going to serve as a powerful deterrent to others. And then third, we want to focus on

China and encourage them to allow forced-labor experts, particularly the ILO, in there. UNICEF is doing these assessments now, but it's really not their job. And they themselves are the first to say that they encourage the government to do this.

So we're going to be working both with the ILO and with the government to try to bring them together and achieve, not only implementation of these conventions, but also ILO presence on the ground to kind of verify that.

REP. SMITH: Appreciate that. Thank you. Is there anything -- and I appreciate your work. And you don't look jet-lagged at all. (Laughter.)

Let me just -- is there anything else any of you would like to add before we conclude the hearing, any country you'd like to highlight that perhaps, Mr. Payne, Mr. Turner and I have not brought up?

Well, I want to thank you so much. We will have some written questions. We won't keep you any longer. And I do very much appreciate your work, we all do.

The subcommittee respects the hard work that you expend every day on behalf of the victims. So thank you so very much.

The hearing is adjourned.

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252 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 27, 2011 Thursday

HEARING EXAMINES STATE DEPT.'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING WAIVERS AND RATINGS ON CHINA, INDIA, OTHER COUNTRIES

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 767 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith:

The Obama Administration's decision to grant China a political waiver and India an upgrade in this year's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report issued by the State Department were questioned by the lawmaker who wrote the first-ever U.S. law to combat trafficking in 2000-the same law which also created the annual report and its ranking system (Public Law 106-386).

A hearing held by Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-04), author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as well as subsequent laws to make further strengthen and adapt TVPA, focused on what Smith believes were politicized rankings for India and China-despite the ongoing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls, in these countries. In the 2008 reauthorization of the TVPA, Congress decided that no country should be allowed to skirt sanctions on the Tier 2 Watch List for more than two years before being downgraded to Tier 3. This year, 2011, represents the first year that the limit was put to the test.

"It is with concern that I note the President has determined 12 countries need yet another year on the **Tier 2 Watch List**," said Smith, who chairs the House subcommittee that oversees human rights and co-chairs the Congressional **Human Trafficking** Caucus. Some of these countries-China and Russia-have been on the Watch List for 7 and 8 years, respectively. I would like to know exactly why the Administration is convinced these countries need yet another year to get their acts together. Those who work on the front lines of human trafficking know all too well that a law is useless unless faithfully implemented." [Click here to read Smith's statement.](#)

The hearing the committee heard testimony from top State Department officials (click on their name to read their testimony): Asst. Secretary of State Robert Blake, head of Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary of State Joseph Yun, East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Leading U.S. official tasked with combating trafficking, Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large and head of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Smith fears in the case of China, the Obama Administration has politicized human rights with the granting of a political waiver and a refusal to downgrade China from the Tier 2 Watch List. China has become a magnet for trafficking as a result of its brutal one child per couple population control policy and the resulting severe shortage of girls. Experts indicate that the region is missing about 100 million women.

Smith also expressed concern about the Administration's decision to upgrade India from the Tier 2 Watch List to a Tier 2 country.

" India was upgraded to a Tier 2 country in this report despite the fact that it has one of the largest populations of enslaved laborers in the world, and has only prosecuted and convicted a small handful of labor traffickers ," he said.

Smith is the author of the landmark legislation the Trafficking Victims and Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which mandated the annual reports, as well as increased penalties for traffickers and provided assistance for victims. Smith wrote two subsequent anti-trafficking laws (PL 108-193 and PL 109-164) increasing resources for crime prevention and

expanding treatment assistance for victims. Smith has legislation to reauthorize TVPA which the Foreign Affairs Committee passed earlier this month.

" The TIP Report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool ," Smith said. The Report has been a catalyst for improvement -often dramatic improvements-in the efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions. With a combination of encouragement, persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries around the world have created or amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking, and, in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide ." [Click here to read the 2011 TIP report.](#)

Smith said that according to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking-created by the TPVA-more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year.

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253 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 27, 2011 Thursday**STATEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 889 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Chairman Smith, members of the committee: I welcome the opportunity today to speak with you regarding trafficking in South and Central Asia. I'm honored to do so in the company of my colleagues, Ambassador CdeBaca and Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary Joseph Yun. I have a longer statement that I shall submit for the record.

Mr. Chairman, first let me say how much I appreciate your leadership, the work of this subcommittee and the focus it brings to the issue of Trafficking in Persons. I have made it a personal priority to address trafficking in persons in the SCA region in close partnership with Ambassador C. DeBaca. I have done so through direct advocacy with governments, but also by visiting NGOs doing good work to combat trafficking and recording short video interviews with them that my staff posts on You Tube to publicize their work and the scope of the challenges.

Our engagement has produced dividends and progress, but significant challenges remain. The Department upgraded four SCA countries this year from Tier 2 WL to Tier 2: India, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Three remained on the Watch List but we are making progress in all three: Bangladesh, Maldives and Uzbekistan; and only one country is on Tier 3 Turkmenistan.

I'd like to briefly review some of the situation in some of the key countries where I have been personally engaged.

India . Mr. Chairman, I know you share our interest in seeing continued progress in India on anti-TIP efforts. The Department's upgrade of India to Tier 2 was based on the government's increased efforts to address its trafficking problem, particularly bonded labor. Specifically, the GOI increased law enforcement efforts through the establishment of over 80 Anti-Human Trafficking Units, ratified the UN TIP Protocol, achieved landmark convictions against bonded labor traffickers with punishments of significant prison sentences, and increased rescue and rehabilitation efforts of thousands of trafficking victims in many parts of India. This good work continues at both the state and federal levels.

Tajikistan is another country that has made commendable progress against trafficking. In 2011, Tajikistan was upgraded to Tier 2 for addressing the use of forced labor in its annual cotton harvest through efforts such as accrediting and assisting NGOs to monitor the harvest. They also prosecuted and convicted the first trafficking offenders under the new anti-trafficking provision.

Kazakhstan too was elevated to **Tier 2** this year. The government increased law enforcement efforts against **human trafficking**, passed a law strengthening penalties for convicted child sex trafficking offenders, and increased victim identification. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has drafted a law that allows trafficking victims to have a legal advocate at all stages of criminal proceedings and expands the scope of trafficking-related crimes to include pimping and the organization and maintenance of brothels increases legal protections for minors subject to forced labor.

Uzbekistan presents a mixed picture. The government has made good progress in combating sex trafficking, but has been slow to address the use of forced labor, particularly in the annual cotton harvest. In March of 2011, the Government of Uzbekistan created an Interagency Working Group tasked with ensuring compliance with all 13 ILO conven-

tions to which Uzbekistan is a party. Our Embassy in Tashkent will be monitoring the GOU's actions to uphold these commitments and I will continue to engage the Government to make progress on this important priority.

Tools to influence change . The Trafficking Report has been an impetus for this change but it is only one of the tools we have at our disposal to influence the anti-trafficking efforts of other countries.

Reports from international NGOs have sometimes been instrumental in informing and compelling action on TIP. My bureau and Ambassador C. DeBacas team greatly value such input and have tried to foster a cooperative relationship with these institutions. We influence them and they influence us by mutual sharing of information to make sure our efforts are complimentary and we make the most impact on the ground.

Governments are extremely interested to know where they will be ranked in the Report when it comes out in June. But I think that the work we do to consistently engage to influence people at every level of society is equally significant. For example, the exchange programs or workshops we sponsor to train government officials in implementation are critical to realizing the potential of the new laws being passed. The training programs with police officers or border guards to sensitize them towards potential TIP victims are also vital.

I want to assure you that we value the resources we are entrusted with by Congress and we work very closely with Ambassador C. DeBacas and his staff to implement programs that make a positive and lasting impact.

In summary, the SCA region is moving closer to being compliant with internationally-recognized anti-TIP standards, but there is much more work to do. This will continue to be a personal priority for me and a priority for my bureau. Thank you again for the opportunity to address this subcommittee. I look forward to your questions.

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254 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 27, 2011 Thursday

THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2011: TRUTH, TRENDS, AND TIER RANKINGS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 2358 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Congressman Payne, and all the members of this committee for the opportunity to testify today. As Congress continues to deliberate this years reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, hearings such as this one are helpful opportunities to discuss the global fight against human trafficking, and in particular one of our governments most important tools in moving that fight forward, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The TIP Report assesses government action around the world against trafficking in personsthat is, all of the activities involved in reducing someone to, or holding them in, a condition of compelled service. The core of this Report is the set of Congressionally-established minimum standards set forth in the TVPA. These standards reflect the definitions and framework to combat trafficking in persons outlined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, known also as the Palermo Protocol.

Following Congress mandate, the Department of State ranks governments around the world according to these standards and determines a tier ranking based on a governments progress in meeting those standards. The Report comprises those rankings as well as individual country narratives that further explain both the TIP situation on the ground and governmental efforts according to the criteria laid out by Congress. The methodology is sound and transparentthe facts are applied to the law. Any country, whether in Asia or elsewhere, that wants to test this methodology need only assess their efforts against these minimum standards.

Thorough and honest assessments are the benchmark of the TIP Report. Our narratives take into account information from civil society groups, foreign governments, and our own State Department reporting officers who conduct on-the-ground research throughout the year. The review process involves numerous DOS offices so that the final product represents a Department-wide consensus on how well various governments are handling this problem. Beginning last year, a United States country ranking was also included in the Report, because, as Secretary Clinton has said, we should hold ourselves to the same standards as we hold everyone else. Accurate reporting is essential to the effectiveness of the TIP Report as a diplomatic tool, and indeed governments repeatedly cite it as a factor prompting stronger action in response to modern slavery. Sometimes that happens in publicmore often in private. And sometimes a government that criticizes the Report and even perhaps mobilizes others against it quietly takes steps to work with us to begin meeting these standards.

What the Report tells us is that no country is immune to this scourge, and that no government is doing a perfect job combating it. The two regions we are addressing todayEast Asia and the Pacific, and South and Central Asiaare hit particularly hard by this crime. Im pleased to be joined today by Assistant Secretary Robert Blake, who leads the Departments South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau, and Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. We always say the fight against modern slavery takes political will, and Bob Blake and EAP Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell are showing that both individually and within their chains of command. My colleagues will discuss in greater detail the progress in these areas and what governments are doing about it, but Id like to highlight a few of the problems in trends that were discussed in the 2011 TIP Report and continue to be areas of concern.

Sex trafficking of women and children has not abated and may in fact be increasing in places such as India. Additionally, our findings continue to show that it is local populations, more than Western sex tourists, that fuel the demand for sex trafficking, and law enforcement needs to address both sectors for prevention to be truly successful. Widening gender gaps in China and India are fueling the demand for young girls as forced brides or for commercial sexual exploitation.

We know that around the world, forced labor is highly prevalent among migrant populations, and that Asia has the world's largest share of labor migration. Migrants from both the East Asia and Pacific and South and Central Asia regions are subjected to forced labor in recognized destination countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and the Persian Gulf. More troubling still, much of this abuse takes place under the guise of legal, contractual and temporary work.

In recent months, concerns over forced labor on fishing fleets have garnered increased attention. Our own research suggests that this is a problem with massive geographic scope, spanning fisheries from Indonesia to New Zealand. And Asian boats are ranging from the Cape of Good Hope to Central America.

The enslavement of domestic workers from South and East Asia is a significant problem, whether Sri Lankans abused in the Gulf or Indonesians exploited in Malaysia. The International Labor Organization's (ILO) new Convention on Domestic Workers aims at addressing the unique vulnerabilities of this group; we hope that the increased attention on this challenge will lead to governments addressing the needs for justice and services for these victims.

Definitional confusion among governments in the EAP and SCA regions continues to lead to the conflation of people smuggling and human trafficking. This lack of clarity hinders efforts to find and help victims. When it comes to trafficking, we continue to urge destination governments to shift their focus away from the legality of a migrant. As we know, modern slavery need not involve movement or cross borders.

Additionally, we continue to push governments to acknowledge that human trafficking is a crime that can involve sex and labor. For instance, the definition of trafficking in the 2005 South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention is not consistent with how the term is defined and addressed in many other prominent international instruments on trafficking in persons from groups such as the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, and with the primary international treaty on trafficking, the Palermo Protocol. The Convention continues to focus on the concept of trafficking as the movement of women and children for prostitution and fails to address the trafficking of adults or forced labor. We hope that as the regions' leaders gather for the SAARC Summit in Male in November, they will work toward bringing the regions' conceptual notion of trafficking into conformity with the UN and other regional frameworks.

We continue to advocate for comprehensive victim care, rather than the Detain and Deport model that we too often see in these regions. Protection should not mean inappropriate confinement for victims preparatory to deportation. Indeed, they need to be empowered through the opportunity for economic self-sustainability as well as aftercare and alternatives to deportation.

We encourage governments of sending and receiving states to explicitly address modern slavery in labor-related memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and to enforce those provisions in an open and transparent manner.

My staff and I, collaborating closely with regional bureaus, will continue to engage governments in these regions in order to bring these issues to their attention, and we will urge them to take positive action in advance of next year's TIP Report.

In addition to the country narratives, the TIP Report includes an introduction that provides a conceptual framework to the struggle against modern slavery. In this year's Report, we show that the first 10 years of the modern anti-trafficking movement have been a decade of development: in countries all over the world, legal structures have been enacted and protection mechanisms have been put in place. However, the number of successful prosecutions seems to have leveled off, services for survivors continue to be inadequate, and victim identification remains a challenge. That's why the 2011 TIP Report described the need for a decade of delivery, in which governments must be held accountable for delivering on the promises made in recent years. Because structures and results are not the same thing.

The difference between the passage of a law and the effective implementation of a law is political will. We have seen political will succeed. We have seen it in the Philippines, where the Aquino Administration is prioritizing trafficking cases in the court system and pushing through the backlog, delivering on a set of processes and promises that had been moribund at best. We have seen it in other regions; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this summer

invited Nigerian prosecutors to come to Singapore and share the secrets of their success, providing a unique opportunity for ASEAN members to learn from an African country.

But the reality is that there are places where that political will is weak or nonexistent, and there, victims are most at risk. As the Report shows, some governments merely go through the motions when it comes to fighting modern slavery, and some governments don't do anything at all. A key source of hope for victims and survivors is the work of civil society-non-governmental organizations, international organizations, the faith community, and advocacy groups.

These organizations are made up of people working every day to make the decade of delivery a reality despite the fact that many governments are doing little or nothing at all. These groups are running shelters on dollars a day. They are freeing victims from the most horrific abuse imaginable. They are the women and men on the front line of this fight. But as is often the case in places where poverty and corruption hinder the good intentions of committed people, a lack of resources and capacity are insurmountable roadblocks to those seeking to save victims from exploitation and bring their traffickers to justice.

In addition to our robust diplomatic efforts, this is another area where the Trafficking in Persons Office is making a difference, through our International Programs foreign assistance funds. In the last two years, my office received 998 applications for assistance from 546 organizations requesting a total of \$547 million. We know that it will never be possible to give every organization the help they want. And we know that we have a responsibility to be responsible custodians of taxpayer dollars. That's why our office has implemented a rigorous and transparent review process to ensure that every cent of our foreign assistance appropriation is spent responsibly and is put to the use where it will do the most good.

To answer the requests for \$547 million which we received through funding applications—the vast majority of which described projects of tremendous merit—our office administered a foreign assistance budget for the last two years of \$39.1 million. Based on an estimate that there are up to 27 million victims of trafficking worldwide, that funding total provides a little more than 72 cents per victim per year. This year's solicitation is out, and we hope to receive innovative and impactful proposals.

The country-specific tier rankings and diagnostic assessments included in the TIP Report help us determine where we should be allocating these funds. To maximize the impact of our efforts, we identify priority countries for programming. We generally target our foreign assistance to Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List, and, in some cases, Tier 2 countries. This linkage demonstrates that the Report isn't just an exercise in finger-pointing at countries that aren't doing a good job, but is an important tool for determining where our foreign assistance dollars can be used most effectively.

These are not places where a wealth of resources is available to fight human trafficking. If we were to suddenly pull the plug on the projects we support, there wouldn't be another organization waiting in the wings to take over the provision of victim services. There wouldn't be another source of funding to keep training prosecutors and police officers. In many countries, if the little funding we are able to give were to disappear, those programs would simply cease to exist. In those places, there would be no place for victims and survivors to go.

It was four months ago today that we released the 2011 TIP Report and that Secretary Clinton called for a decade of delivery. If the Trafficking in Persons Office is no longer able to stand with those organizations making a difference on the ground, the decade of delivery is already in danger of failing. If the antitrafficking movement loses the fight in Washington, in the halls of Congress, we could lose that fight everywhere else as well.

We cannot balance the budget on the backs of trafficking victims. If we try to do so, from some misplaced sense of proportion with across-the-board cuts to an already tiny budget, we put at risk all the progress made over the last decade. This crime continues to present a monumental challenge. But there's still much reason for hope. We want the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report to be a report about more and more success stories. We want it to tell about governments living up to their responsibilities. We want it to describe effective partnerships with robust civil society. We want this Report to show the struggle against modern slavery moving in the right direction. Because this Report is not merely a reflection of what foreign governments are doing to combat this heinous crime. It is a reflection of American leadership around the world.

Human trafficking is a threat to our security and an offense to our most important values. But more importantly, as Secretary Clinton has said, fighting slavery is part of who we are as a nation. We have a responsibility to act against this crime. We must not will not shrink from that responsibility.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering any questions you have.

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255 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

October 27, 2011 Thursday 3:14 AM EST

Hearing Examines State Dept.'s Human Trafficking Waivers & Ratings on China, India, Other Countries

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 824 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following news release:

The Obama Administration's decision to grant China a political waiver and India an upgrade in this year's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report issued by the State Department were questioned by the lawmaker who wrote the first-ever U.S. law to combat trafficking in 2000--the same law which also created the annual report and its ranking system (Public Law 106-386).

A hearing held by Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-04), author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as well as subsequent laws to make further strengthen and adapt TVPA, focused on what Smith believes were politicized rankings for India and China--despite the ongoing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls, in these countries. In the 2008 reauthorization of the TVPA, Congress decided that no country should be allowed to skirt sanctions on the Tier 2 Watch List for more than two years before being downgraded to Tier 3. This year, 2011, represents the first year that the limit was put to the test.

"It is with concern that I note the President has determined 12 countries need yet another year on the **Tier 2 Watch List**," said Smith, who chairs the House subcommittee that oversees human rights and co-chairs the Congressional **Human Trafficking** Caucus. "Some of these countries--China and Russia--have been on the Watch List for 7 and 8 years, respectively. I would like to know exactly why the Administration is convinced these countries need yet another year to get their acts together. Those who work on the front lines of human trafficking know all too well that a law is useless unless faithfully implemented." Click here to read Smith's statement.http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2011_10_27_TIP_Report_Hearing_Statement.pdf

The hearing the committee heard testimony from top State Department officials (click on their name to read their testimony): Asst. Secretary of State Robert Blake, head of Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary of State Joseph Yun, East Asian & Pacific Affairs; Leading U.S. official tasked with combating trafficking, Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large and head of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Smith fears in the case of China, the Obama Administration has politicized human rights with the granting of a political waiver and a refusal to downgrade China from the Tier 2 Watch List. China has become a magnet for trafficking as a result of its brutal one child per couple population control policy and the resulting severe shortage of girls. Experts indicate that the region is missing about 100 million women.

Smith also expressed concern about the Administration's decision to upgrade India from the Tier 2 Watch List to a Tier 2 country.

"India was upgraded to a Tier 2 country in this report despite the fact that it has one of the largest populations of enslaved laborers in the world, and has only prosecuted and convicted a small handful of labor traffickers," he said.

Smith is the author of the landmark legislation the Trafficking Victims and Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which mandated the annual reports, as well as increased penalties for traffickers and provided assistance for victims. Smith

wrote two subsequent anti-trafficking laws (PL 108-193 and PL 109-164) increasing resources for crime prevention and expanding treatment assistance for victims. Smith has legislation to reauthorize TVPA which the Foreign Affairs Committee passed earlier this month.

"The TIP Report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool," Smith said. "The Report has been a catalyst for improvement --often dramatic improvements--in the efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions. With a combination of encouragement, persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries around the world have created or amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking, and, in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide." Click here to read the 2011 TIP report.<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>

Smith said that according to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking--created by the TPVA--more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year.

To watch a webcast of the event, click here. (Note: the broadcast begins at the 15 minute mark- advance player to that time.) <http://bcove.me/xcz9swwt>

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256 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

October 26, 2011 Wednesday 12:58 PM GMT

Clinton to make quick visit to Philippines

LENGTH: 216 words**DATELINE:** Manila, Oct 26 2011

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is to make a brief visit to the Philippines next month on her way to a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Indonesia, the foreign department said Wednesday.

Clinton will call on President Benigno Aquino during the November 15 trip to Manila, Filipino Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters.

"It (the Clinton-Aquino meeting) will be in terms of bilateral and multilateral issues. We are looking for a discussion on many areas of cooperation," del Rosario said.

The official said he expected human trafficking to be on the agenda but would not give further details.

The United States in June removed the Philippines from a **human trafficking watchlist** and put it on so-called **Tier 2**, for countries that do not fully meet standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

The State Department annual report on trafficking cited an "intensified effort" by the Philippines, which it said had convicted 25 trafficking offenders over the year, compared with nine in the previous 12 months.

Some of the recent cases include the country's first-ever convictions for forced labour, it added.

About a million people leave the Philippines every year in search of work, with about nine million currently living abroad, according to official estimates.

LOAD-DATE: October 27, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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257 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

October 25, 2011 Tuesday 8:24 PM TST**Singapore delegation studying Taiwan's anti-trafficking efforts****BYLINE:** Christie Chen**LENGTH:** 178 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Oct. 25

A government delegation from Singapore is making an Oct. 23-28 visit to Taiwan to learn from the country's experience in combating human trafficking, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) said Tuesday.

The seven-member delegation is studying how Taiwan has brought its public and private sectors together to clamp down on human trafficking, how it provides protection services to the victims of trafficking, how it has raised public awareness of the issue, and how it investigates and prosecutes human trafficking crimes, said the NIA.

The delegation will attend an Oct. 27 international workshop on strategies for combating human trafficking organized by the NIA.

Taiwan was listed as a "**tier** 1 country" in the U.S. State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report in both 2010 and 2011, meaning that it has made efforts to address the problem and has complied with the minimum standards of the U.S. Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, said the NIA.

Taiwan and South Korea are the only two countries in Asia to have been given the highest ranking, NIA officials said.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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258 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

October 23, 2011 Sunday

East Africa; New Form of Child Trafficking in Tanzania

BYLINE: The East African (Nairobi)**LENGTH:** 721 words

Orphans in secondary schools are now in danger of being exploited by child traffickers who lure them out of school with promises of training them in Europe, but instead exploit them for money, it has been revealed.

The government of Tanzania is conducting a rigorous screening of visa applications, especially those for children, to check the practice.

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Assistant Commissioner Jeanne Ndyetabura, they have so far halted some visa applications in order to investigate whether the submissions were genuine.

"The problem was brought to our attention by teachers who were concerned about the number of students, especially orphans, who were being taken out of school with promises of being trained outside the country," said Ms Ndyetabura.

Ms Ndyetabura said after following up on the lead, they discovered that instead, the children were being exploited through working for "charity" organisations outside the country that required them to sing on the streets for money.

Ms Ndyetabura revealed this when launching a book on children's rights and a council for children during a national children's conference organised by Save the Children in Tanzania.

"We are working round the clock to deal with this serious issue, including taking to task the perpetrators as the problem is a national concern," said Ms Ndyetabula.

According to the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report (Tanzania) by the United States Department of State, Tanzania is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

Internal

The incidence of internal trafficking is higher than that of transnational trafficking, and is usually facilitated by family members', friends', and intermediaries' offers of assistance with education or finding lucrative employment in urban areas.

It further states that the use of young girls for forced domestic service continues to be Tanzania's largest human trafficking problem. "Girls from rural areas are taken to urban centres and Zanzibar for domestic service," the report says.

In the Arusha region, unscrupulous agricultural subcontractors reportedly trafficked women and men to work on coffee plantations. Smaller numbers of Tanzanian children and adults are subjected to conditions of forced domestic service and sex trafficking in surrounding countries, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, France, and possibly other European countries.

"The government of Tanzania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report says.

Despite these significant efforts, particularly the conviction of three trafficking offenders during the reporting period, the government did not demonstrate overall increasing efforts to address **human trafficking** over the previous reporting period; therefore, Tanzania is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for a second consecutive year.

The government made limited progress towards implementation of its Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, in part due to poor inter-ministerial co-ordination and lack of understanding of what constitutes human trafficking; most government officials remain unfamiliar with the Act's provisions or their responsibility to address trafficking under it.

Moreover, the ministries involved in anti-trafficking efforts had no budgetary resources allocated to combating the crime.

The Tanzanian government made modest anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts during the reporting period, achieving its first three prosecutions and convictions under the country's anti-trafficking statute.

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008, which came into effect in February 2009, outlaws all forms of trafficking and prescribes punishments of one to 10 years' imprisonment, punishments that are sufficiently stringent, but not commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape.

The Tanzanian government's efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the reporting period were modest and suffered from a lack of resources.

The government continued to rely on NGOs to provide care for victims of trafficking; however, NGO facilities for shelter and specialised services were limited to urban areas.

Additional reporting by Joseph Mwamunyange

LOAD-DATE: October 24, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

259 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Digital Journal

October 21, 2011 Friday 2:40 AM EST

Malaysia police bust human trafficking ring

LENGTH: 285 words

On Tuesday, Malaysian police uncovered a human trafficking ring consisting of Ugandan women who had been forced into sexual slavery.

RTT News reports that a woman who had escaped the prostitution ring notified authorities of the apartment where the other women were being kept. The apartment, located just outside of Kuala Lumpur, was put under police surveillance.

Police then conducted a sting operation. One man and two women have been arrested in connection with the prostitution ring.

Different reports state that there were between 19 and 21 women who were rescued in the process. They ranged in age between 18 and 42.

BBC News reports that the women were promised lucrative jobs overseas, and were transported into Malaysia after spending time in China.

The women were forced to perform sexual services with clients and were required to work 10 hours a day nonstop for the past 3 months, according to Asia One. They faced abuse if they refused to work.

The rescued women have now been transported to a welfare home and are expected to be deported back to their homeland once the investigation has concluded.

Human trafficking and forced prostitution are common problems in Malaysia. Many of the victims are foreigners from impoverished nations who have been brought into the country and promised lucrative work opportunities, only to be forced into human trafficking rings.

The Malaysian government is improving their efforts in trying to eliminate the problem, but they have a reputation for not being fully compliant in dealing with this issue. The country has been placed on a **Tier 2 Watch List** over concerns that widespread **human trafficking** is still allowed to continue largely unenforced within its borders.

LOAD-DATE: October 21, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Blog**JOURNAL-CODE:** DIJO-0001

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260 of 492 DOCUMENTS

RTT News (United States)

October 18, 2011 Tuesday

Malaysia Busts Human Trafficking Ring, Frees 21 Ugandan Women

LENGTH: 279 words

(RTTNews) - Police in Malaysia said Tuesday they have busted a human trafficking ring and rescued some 21 Ugandan women who were forced into prostitution by ring members.

The Ugandan women, aged between 19 and 42, were rescued from an apartment block near Kuala Lumpur in a sting operation, which also led to the arrest of one male and two female members of the trafficking ring.

The apartment block was put under police surveillance after one of the Ugandan women managed to escape and sought police help. The rescued women have been transferred to a welfare home and are expected to be deported later.

Police said the women, who were promised well-paying hotel jobs in Malaysia by "recruitment agents" in their home country, were brought into Malaysia via China. But they were later forced to have sex with African men residing in Malaysia by the ring members.

The women were beaten up and locked in rooms by the ring members if they refused to have sex with the customers in exchange for money or attempt to escape. The detained ring members now face up to 15 years in prison if convicted on human trafficking charges.

Malaysia has been criticized in the past for not enforcing laws against human trafficking. The South Asian country has been on the US government's **human trafficking watch list** since last year.

Previously, Malaysia also figured in the US list of nations with worst human trafficking records for three years. The upgraded status was prompted by the Malaysian government's stepped up efforts to curb sexual exploitation of women and children in the country.

For comments and feedback: contact editorial@rttnews.com

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LOAD-DATE: October 19, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

261 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 14, 2011 Friday

USA grants waiver to continue aid to Lebanon

LENGTH: 250 words

Text of report in English by privately-owned Lebanese newspaper The Daily Star website on 12 October
["US Grants Waiver To Continue Aid To Lebanon"]

Beirut: President Barack Obama granted Lebanon a waiver earlier this month to allow the continuation of US assistance to Lebanon, the American embassy said in a statement Tuesday [12 October].

The statement added that US aid to the country was at risk of being blocked due to Lebanon's **Tier** Three ranking in the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

"The United States appreciates the seriousness with which the [Prime Minister Najib] Mikati government and Lebanese civil society has addressed issues related to combating trafficking in persons," the statement said.

On Aug. 4, Lebanon's Parliament endorsed a law that introduced penalties for human trafficking with a more stringent interpretation of trafficking when minors are involved. According the law, the exploitation of minors through recruitment and transferring, without the use of force or threats, will be considered human trafficking. Some amendments were also introduced regarding trial procedures.

"Ambassador [Maura] Connelly welcomed the initial steps taken by the government of Lebanon and pledged to continue collaboration on protecting victims of trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, and preventing the spread of trafficking," the embassy's statement said, adding that Connelly had informed Mikati of Obama's decision on Oct. 4.

Source: The Daily Star website, Beirut, in English 12 Oct 11

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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262 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Herald (Goa) (India)

October 14, 2011 Friday**Human trafficking breach of law: Adv Thakker****LENGTH:** 350 words**DATELINE:** PANJIM

PANJIM, Oct. 14 -- Human trafficking is a legal problem, not a social one, noted lawyer and anti- trafficking activist Nandini Thakker said.

Speaking during a round table discussion on trafficking in persons at the International Centre Dona Paula, Thakker stressed that human trafficking was first and foremost a serious and grave breach of law, whose reasons were however social.

" Crime in **human trafficking** are the second largest in the world and India lies at **Tier 2** on the United Nations list. She however cautioned that for seven long years India lay at the **Tier 2 watch list** categor of the United National categorisation of countries based on efforts governments take to prevent trafficking," Thakker said adding that **Tier 2 watch list** was the second worst rating the country could have got.

In her discussion, she highlighted that it was improper implementation of law, lack of fear of law besides lack of awareness that was the cause of widespread human trafficking in India.

" People do not realise that it is easy to get trafficked just as easy as it is for your house to be robbed and that precautions should be taken," Thakker said adding that it is not only the children of poor families who are liable to trafficking and child abuse and that there have even been cases where children of celebrities were kidnapped for trafficking and abused.

She hit out at those who advocate the need for more laws and stressed that the existing laws are strong enough with Immoral Trafficking prevention Act providing for a minimal 7 years imprisonment if convicted which could go up to a life term for serious cases.

She sought to bring to the notice of the public that licence of a hotel is liable to be cancelled forever if it is proved that the premises are being used for prostitution.

Crime in **human trafficking** are the second largest in the world and India lies at **Tier 2** on the United Nations list. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Herald Goa. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

263 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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The Daily Star (Lebanon)

October 12, 2011 Wednesday

U.S. grants waiver to continue aid to Lebanon

LENGTH: 235 words

President Barack Obama granted Lebanon a waiver earlier this month to allow the continuation of U.S. assistance to Lebanon, the American Embassy in Beirut said in a statement Tuesday.

BEIRUT: President Barack Obama granted Lebanon a waiver earlier this month to allow the continuation of U.S. assistance to Lebanon, the American Embassy in Beirut said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement added that U.S. aid to the country was at risk of being blocked due to Lebanon's **Tier** Three ranking in the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

"The United States appreciates the seriousness with which the [Prime Minister Najib] Mikati government and Lebanese civil society has addressed issues related to combating trafficking in persons," the statement said.

On Aug. 4, Lebanon's Parliament endorsed a law that introduced penalties for human trafficking with a more stringent interpretation of trafficking when minors are involved. According to the law, the exploitation of minors through recruitment and transferring, without the use of force or threats, will be considered human trafficking. Some amendments were also introduced regarding trial procedures.

"Ambassador [Maura] Connelly welcomed the initial steps taken by the government of Lebanon and pledged to continue collaboration on protecting victims of trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, and preventing the spread of trafficking," the embassy's statement said.

LOAD-DATE: October 17, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 23

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264 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

October 10, 2011 Monday 12:15 AM EST

President Obama Issues Waiver on TIP Sanctions for Lebanon

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 140 words

DATELINE: BEIRUT

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

President Barack Obama granted Lebanon a waiver to allow the continuation of U.S. assistance to Lebanon, which was at risk of being blocked due to Lebanon's **Tier** Three ranking in the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

Ambassador Maura Connelly informed Prime Minister Najib Mikati of President Obama's decision on October 4. The United States appreciates the seriousness with which the Mikati government and Lebanese civil society has addressed issues related to combating trafficking in persons. Ambassador Connelly welcomed the initial steps taken by the Government of Lebanon and pledged to continue collaboration on protecting victims of trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, and preventing the spread of trafficking.

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LOAD-DATE: October 13, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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265 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 8, 2011 Saturday

Philippine official says US envoy expresses "regret" over sex tourism remarks

LENGTH: 744 words

Text of report by Pia Lee-Brago headlined "US Envoy Apologizes for Sex Tourism Story" published by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star's news portal Philstar.com on 8 October

Manila, Philippines - US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. has apologized for his remarks that 40 per cent of male tourists visiting the Philippines come only for sex tourism, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

Del Rosario said he received a text message from Thomas who expressed regret over his statement at a forum last month that should not have been made without supporting data.

"I am sending you a response expressing regret for my comments. I should not have used the 40 percent statistics without the ability to back it up," Thomas said. "I regret any harm that I may have caused."

Del Rosario received the message in Hanoi while attending the 7th Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between the Philippines and Vietnam.

He said Thomas has been working closely with the Philippine government in addressing the challenge of human trafficking in the country.

Lawmakers challenged the data on sex tourism cited by Thomas and said the American envoy should back up his statement with solid proof.

Thomas' statements were challenged by various sectors that included Malacanang and the Department of Tourism.

Thomas, however, earlier said he would not apologize over his remark about prostitution in the country and stressed he was only telling the truth when he cited the statistics.

Thomas challenged critics to show what they should have done and their efforts in stopping child prostitution and human trafficking in the country.

US embassy Press Attache Bettina Malone on Sept. 28 said Thomas' statements reflected US government estimates, based on the work of US officials working with Philippine authorities to close clubs that cater to paedophiles.

Sources told The STAR that Thomas indicated the Philippine government was well aware of the estimates and report but was "turning a blind eye."

Thomas said on Sept. 22 during a roundtable discussion on human trafficking organized by the Supreme Court, the Philippine Judicial Academy in partnership with the Court of Appeals and US Department of Justice Criminal Division, that an estimated 40 percent of foreign men, including American nationals, visit the country for sexual tourism.

Thomas said the US request is for the Philippines to refine and strengthen the anti-trafficking law for more convictions and prosecute foreigners, including Americans, involved.

Thomas said he asked President Aquino and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to prosecute foreigners and Americans engaged in the illicit activity and cybersex to the fullest extent of the law.

Although the US acknowledged an increased rate to 25 convictions in human trafficking cases, Thomas said "I hope the law will be refined and strengthened."

According to Thomas, the US provided over \$6.6 million to the Philippines for training in anti-human trafficking programs.

Thomas noted corruption allows those involved in human trafficking to continue with impunity.

The Philippines welcomed the country's removal from the **Tier 2 Watchlist** in the 2011 State Department **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report released by the US government last June.

The report released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the Philippines moved to Tier Two status, indicating progress has been made by the Philippine government.

A Tier Two status removes the immediate threat of sanctions but does indicate work needs to continue on this global challenge.

The report recognized the significant efforts taken by the Philippine government to combat trafficking in persons, such as the almost 200-percent increase in convictions of traffickers, including convictions for labour trafficking.

The measures that the Philippines has implemented this year include increasing efforts to identify trafficking victims in destination countries and pursuing criminal investigation and prosecution of their traffickers, increasing victim shelter resources to be able to assist more victims of human trafficking, and continued assessment and improving methods to address domestic and international labour trafficking.

The report also cited the notable efforts by the Philippine government to address trafficking-related corruption, and the numerous measures and policies to improve institutional responses to human trafficking.

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 08 Oct 11

LOAD-DATE: October 8, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

266 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Cape Times (South Africa)

October 07, 2011 Friday
E1 Edition

Delegates shine light on sexual crimes

BYLINE: Zara Nicholson**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 7**LENGTH:** 475 words

SOUTH Africa is seen as the "best destination" for human trafficking.

At the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Women conference, held in Cape Town this week, delegates from South Africa, DRC, Liberia and the US shared best practices and ideas on how to overcome the obstacles facing African countries in terms of sexual crimes.

As a signatory to the UN Palermo Protocol, South Africa must pass domestic legislation that prevents and combats trafficking in persons.

However, according to the global organisation Vital Voices, the country is rated as a **Tier Two** country in a US **Trafficking in Persons** report, which meant it does not comply with UN standards for protecting victims.

The US trafficking report rated 184 countries between tiers one, two and three. Tier One meant a country complied fully with the UN Palermo Protocol. Tier Two meant a country was not compliant, but was making strides in fighting the crime.

Tier Three meant a country was not making any effort to combat the crime.

Tier One countries included Portugal and Poland while Tier Two countries included South Africa, Peru, Paraguay and Romania. Tier Three countries included DRC, Sudan, Zimbabwe, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Cindy Dyer, the deputy head of human rights at Vital Voices and a former US prosecutor, said: "South Africa's Tier Two ranking is largely due to the failure of the law being passed and this makes the country a passage for the crime, but there are huge strides being made to fight the crime with the task teams that tackle prostitution.

"South Africa has prosecuted (cases) and there are plenty of countries that have never prosecuted a case."

Dyer said women from Eastern Europe and Asia were being lured to South Africa because it was seen as the wealthiest and best destination in Africa.

Women were easily assured that they would be employed in South Africa as waitresses or nannies, but, when they arrived, they were trapped in the sex trade.

Dyer said the three-day conference had proved very valuable as all countries were able to exchange tips on how to improve their response to sexual violence.

"The three African |countries were chosen because all (were) developing their |ability to work on sexual |violence. South Africa has shown us the Thuthuzela Care Centres model, which I think |is not only the absolute |best model for the rest of Africa, but the world," Dyer said.

"Liberia has forensic nurses who are seen as experts for sexual violence and have made good progress with gathering evidence for prosecution."

Thoko Majokweni, head of the sexual offences and community affairs unit at the National Prosecuting Authority, who was representing South Africa, said: "One of the things that is clear coming out of the conference is that post-conflict countries have a huge job ahead of them with gender-based violence."

zara.nicholson@inl.co.za

LOAD-DATE: October 8, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: CT

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267 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 5, 2011

Royce Amendment Condemns Cambodia's Human Trafficking Record; Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 336 words

Washington, Oct 5 -

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

According to the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report, Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims. News sources describe Cambodia as a "magnet" for those who sexually prey on the young. Additionally, Human Rights Watch describes Cambodia as being "plagued not only by widespread abuses committed by officials, but impunity for perpetrators."

Countries placed in Tier 3, the worst category, "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." Tier 3 countries are subject to a U.S. aid cutoff. Cambodia is currently designated as a Tier 2 country.

"The 2011 report cites that Cambodian 'entertainment establishments' may exploit up to 200 women and children on a single night. Cambodian police have been unwilling to pursue certain trafficking investigations because they were thought to involve high-ranking officials," Royce said.

"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said.

Rep. Royce is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Read this original document at: <http://royce.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=263099>

LOAD-DATE: October 6, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Report**JOURNAL-CODE:** COSHMA

268 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 5, 2011

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SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

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Read this original document at: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=2010

LOAD-DATE: October 6, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHPA

269 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 5, 2011

Slavery, Human Trafficking, Humanitarian Crisis Topics at Hearing on U.S. Policy in Sudan; Emancipated slave, U.S. Special Envoy among witnesses; House Foreign Affairs Committee News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 602 words

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was." Click here to read Deng's testimony http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_Ex_slave_Ker_Deng.pdf

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-south civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." Click here to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are (click on name to read testimony):

Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy to Sudan

Gerard Prunier, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council

John Prendergast, Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign

Ker Aleu Deng emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratnor, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio and TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, as well as Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated.

Read this original document at: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=2009

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JOURNAL-CODE: COSHPA

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270 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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States News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday

ROYCE AMENDMENT CONDEMNS CAMBODIA'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING RECORD

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 335 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs:

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

According to the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report, Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims. News sources describe Cambodia as a "magnet" for those who sexually prey on the young. Additionally, Human Rights Watch describes Cambodia as being "plagued not only by widespread abuses committed by officials, but impunity for perpetrators."

Countries placed in Tier 3, the worst category, "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." Tier 3 countries are subject to a U.S. aid cutoff. Cambodia is currently designated as a Tier 2 country.

"The 2011 report cities that Cambodian 'entertainment establishments' may exploit up to 200 women and children on a single night. Cambodian police have been unwilling to pursue certain trafficking investigations because they were thought to involve high-ranking officials," Royce said.

"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said.

Rep. Royce is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

LOAD-DATE: October 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

271 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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States News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday

SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HUMANITARIAN CRISIS TOPICS AT HEARING ON U.S. POLICY IN SUDAN; EMANCIPATED SLAVE, U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY AMONG WITNESSES

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 567 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs:

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was." [Click here to read Deng's testimony](#)

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-South civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." [Click here to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks](#)

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are:

Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy to Sudan

Gerard Prunier, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council

John Prendergast, Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign

Ker Aleu Deng emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratnor, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio and TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, as well as Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated.

LOAD-DATE: October 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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States News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday

ROYCE AMENDMENT CONDEMNS CAMBODIA'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING RECORD

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 331 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of California Rep. Ed Royce:

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

According to the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report, Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims. News sources describe Cambodia as a "magnet" for those who sexually prey on the young. Additionally, Human Rights Watch describes Cambodia as being "plagued not only by widespread abuses committed by officials, but impunity for perpetrators."

Countries placed in Tier 3, the worst category, "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." Tier 3 countries are subject to a U.S. aid cutoff. Cambodia is currently designated as a Tier 2 country.

"The 2011 report cities that Cambodian 'entertainment establishments' may exploit up to 200 women and children on a single night. Cambodian police have been unwilling to pursue certain trafficking investigations because they were thought to involve high-ranking officials," Royce said.

"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said.

Rep. Royce is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

LOAD-DATE: October 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

273 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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Targeted News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday 11:53 PM EST

Slavery, Human Trafficking, Humanitarian Crisis Topics at Hearing on U.S. Policy in Sudan; Emancipated Slave, U.S. Special Envoy Among Witnesses

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 650 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following news release:

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with.

Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was." [Click here to read Deng's testimony](#)

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-South civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." [Click here to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks](#)http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are (click on name to read testimony):

Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy to Sudan
http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Princeton_Lyman.pdf

Gerard Prunier, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council
http://chris-smith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Gerard_Prunier.pdf

John Prendergast, Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign
http://chris-smith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_John_Prendergast.pdf

Ker Aleu Deng emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan
http://chris-smith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_Ex_slave_Ker_Deng.pdf

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratnor, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio & TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, as well as Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated.

Contact: Brad Goehner, 202/225-5021

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Targeted News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday 11:43 PM EST

Royce Amendment Condemns Cambodia's Human Trafficking Record

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 347 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following news release:

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

According to the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report, Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims. News sources describe Cambodia as a "magnet" for those who sexually prey on the young. Additionally, Human Rights Watch describes Cambodia as being "plagued not only by widespread abuses committed by officials, but impunity for perpetrators."

Countries placed in Tier 3, the worst category, "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." Tier 3 countries are subject to a U.S. aid cutoff. Cambodia is currently designated as a Tier 2 country.

"The 2011 report cites that Cambodian 'entertainment establishments' may exploit up to 200 women and children on a single night. Cambodian police have been unwilling to pursue certain trafficking investigations because they were thought to involve high-ranking officials," Royce said.

"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said.

Rep. Royce is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Contact: Brad Goehner, 202/225-5021

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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275 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

October 5, 2011 Wednesday 3:56 AM EST

Rep. Royce Amendment Condemns Cambodia's Human Trafficking Record

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 341 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif. (40th CD), issued the following news release:

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

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"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said.

Rep. Royce is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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US Fed News

October 5, 2011 Wednesday 2:50 PM EST

SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HUMANITARIAN CRISIS TOPICS AT HEARING ON US POLICY IN SUDAN; EMANCIPATED SLAVE, US SPECIAL ENVOY AMONG WITNESSES

LENGTH: 655 words

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following news release:

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was."

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-South civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." Click here (http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf) to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are (click on links to read testimony):

Ambassador Princeton Lyman (http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Princeton_Lyman.pdf), Special Envoy to Sudan

Gerard Prunier (http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Gerard_Prunier.pdf), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council

John Prendergast (http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_John_Prendergast.pdf), Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign

Ker Aleu Deng (http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_Ex_slave_Ker_Deng.pdf) emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratnor, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio & TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, as well as Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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277 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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US Fed News

October 5, 2011 Wednesday 2:44 PM EST

REP. ROYCE AMENDMENT CONDEMNS CAMBODIA'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING RECORD

LENGTH: 333 words

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following news release:

During today's House Foreign Affairs Committee markup reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), an active participant in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, successfully offered a bipartisan amendment calling for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be designated as a **Tier 3** country for its egregious **human trafficking** record.

"The government of Cambodia insufficiently addressed their human trafficking problem and rampant corruption has exacerbated this form of modern day slavery," Royce said.

According to the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report, Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims. News sources describe Cambodia as a "magnet" for those who sexually prey on the young. Additionally, Human Rights Watch describes Cambodia as being "plagued not only by widespread abuses committed by officials, but impunity for perpetrators."

Countries placed in Tier 3, the worst category, "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." Tier 3 countries are subject to a U.S. aid cutoff. Cambodia is currently designated as a Tier 2 country.

"The 2011 report cites that Cambodian 'entertainment establishments' may exploit up to 200 women and children on a single night. Cambodian police have been unwilling to pursue certain trafficking investigations because they were thought to involve high-ranking officials," Royce said.

"By cataloging these vile practices, the State Department's report allows us to spotlight human trafficking. But when we don't follow the facts to a Tier 3 designation for countries like Cambodia, we do a disservice to the victims of these gross human rights abuses," Royce said. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: October 6, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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278 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Congressional Documents and Publications

October 4, 2011

Slavery, Human Trafficking, Humanitarian Crisis Topics at Hearing on U.S. Policy in Sudan; Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 639 words

Washington, Oct 4 -

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was." Click here http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf to read Ker's testimony.

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-south civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." Click here http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks.

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are:

* Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy to Sudan

* Gerard Prunier, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council

* John Prendergast, Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign

* Ker Aleu Deng, emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratner, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio and TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, New Jersey newspaper publisher and human rights activist Diane Gooch, Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Mark Ackermann from Lighthouse International and John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International also participated. Both groups have assisted Deng.

Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated.

Read this original document at: <http://chrissmith.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=262954>

LOAD-DATE: October 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHMA

279 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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States News Service

October 4, 2011 Tuesday

SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HUMANITARIAN CRISIS TOPICS AT HEARING ON U.S. POLICY IN SUDAN EMANCIPATED SLAVE, U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY LYMAN AMONG WITNESSES TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE PANEL

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 421 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith:

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

" From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats ," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was ." [Click here to read Ker's testimony.](#)

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Ker is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

" Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue ," Smith said. We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-South civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges ."

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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Targeted News Service

October 4, 2011 Tuesday 3:44 AM EST

Slavery, Human Trafficking, Humanitarian Crisis Topics at Hearing on U.S. Policy in Sudan

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 687 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following news release:

U.S. policy dealing with the violence, new humanitarian crises and ongoing slavery in Sudan were the focus of a congressional hearing Tuesday held by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04), chairman of the House congressional panel that oversees international human rights and African issues.

Smith's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights heard testimony from the top official on U.S. government Sudan policy, Sudan experts and an emancipated slave. The hearing, entitled "A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan," examined America's strategies for addressing the recurring crises in the Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas of Sudan.

"From a time I can't remember until very recently, I slept with cattle and goats," said Ker Deng, now 18 but a slave since he was a toddler when he and his mother were captured during a raid on their village. "I ate the grain that was fed to horses. I was treated worse than the animals I slept with. Like them, I was property. I was a slave held in Northern Sudan. But the animals weren't beaten every day. I was." [Click here to read Ker's testimony.](#)

His mother remains a forced concubine by her captor. Blinded by his captor, Deng is in the U.S. to receive treatment to restore his eyesight and to testify to his own story as a slave, which remains the plight of thousands of other captives in Sudan.

"Slavery remains a pervasive and deeply disturbing reality in Sudan, and we cannot in good conscience allow this to continue," Smith said. "We have had active campaigns to end Sudanese slavery, to end genocide in Darfur, to end the north-south civil war and now to end the attacks on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Unfortunately, these campaigns have been conducted in isolation from one another. If we are to have a successful policy to stop the suffering of Sudan's people, our government must devise a comprehensive policy for addressing all of Sudan's challenges." [Click here to read Chairman Smith's opening remarks.](#) http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_statement_at_Chairman_Smith_at_Sudan_hearing.pdf

Smith, a longtime advocate in fighting **human trafficking** and author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the reauthorization of which will be considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, said the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report mandated by the TVPA lists Sudan as a **Tier 3** country. That is, Sudan is listed as a continuing source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Witnesses are (click on name to read testimony)

* Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy to Sudan:

http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Princeton_Lyman.pdf

* Gerard Prunier, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Michael Ansari Africa Center, Atlantic Council:

http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_Gerard_Prunier.pdf

* John Prendergast, Co-Founder, ENOUGH Campaign:

http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_of_John_Prendergast.pdf

* Ker Aleu Deng, emancipated slave, Republic of South Sudan:

http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Testimony_Ex_slave_Ker_Deng.pdf

At a press conference earlier in the day, Smith was joined by Ellen Ratner, a White House correspondent and nationally known radio & TV journalist for Talk Radio News Service and Fox News Channel and Sudan human rights advocate, New Jersey newspaper publisher and human rights activist Diane Gooch, Deng and Dr. Julia A. Haller, M.D. Mark Ackermann from Lighthouse International and John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International also participated. Both groups have assisted Deng.

Haller, an ophthalmologist at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, is the lead doctor and lead surgeon on the medical team caring for Deng. Deng has undergone multiple surgeries to try to restore his sight, resulting in significant improvement. Future progress is anticipated.

Contact: Jeff Sagnip, 202/225-3765

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

281 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

October 3, 2011 Monday

MEDIA NEED TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING ON PEOPLE TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 398 words**DATELINE:** KOTA KINABALU Oct 3

Malaysian journalists, especially in the mainstream media, will have to realise the pressing need for more comprehensive reporting on people trafficking as any attempts to suppress such reports might be perceived as a cover-up, Malaysian Press Institute (MPI) chief executive officer Datuk Chamil Wariya said today.

He said they had a duty to report the good and bad on the real problem of people smuggling and trafficking in the country as such unsavory incidents should not be found out through the foreign media or other external sources.

"It is very embarrassing for us to find out that Malaysia's shortcomings in dealing with human trafficking have been picked up by the independent and foreign media and we just become bystanders," he said in his welcoming remarks at the workshop on Reporting on Trafficking in Persons, organised by MPI here.

Among those present were Sabah Journalists Association president Datuk Joniston Bangkau and United States Embassy Public Affairs Officer Scott M. Rauland.

Chamil said he was happy to see that the government via the Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (MAPO) had done its level best to create awareness about the issue.

It was encouraging to know that Malaysia's standing among various human rights non-governmental organisations and the United States Department had improved to the watch list of Tier Two of the State Department's People Trafficking Chart in its 2011 report, he said.

Despite the United States government's perception that seemed to have improved from **Tier** Three last year, he said it was high time for the government to improve on its standing on the matter before it could play a serious role in fighting **human trafficking**, which was a worldwide problem.

At present Malaysia had not signed the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of refugees and the 1967 Protocol, a move that could help curb the the problem in the country, he said.

As the fourth estate, he said, journalists should try to encourage civil society which meant brushing up their knowledge of relevant immigration and refugees laws.

Meanwhile, statistics from the Attorney General's Chambers Prosecution division showed that Perlis recorded the highest cases of offenders charged under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act up to Sept this year while Sabah and Sarawak had 44 and 24 cases respectively.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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282 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Advertiser (Australia)

October 1, 2011 Saturday
1 - State Edition

ASIA-PACIFIC Child slaves rescued

BYLINE: HELEN CLARK, HANOI**SECTION:** FOREIGN; Pg. 69**LENGTH:** 391 words

TWENTY-THREE children and young adults rescued from slave labour in a garment factory by Vietnamese authorities with the help of an Australian-run children's charity have arrived in Hanoi.

Government officials and police from the victims' home region, with help from the charity Blue Dragon, raided the factory in Ho Chi Minh City. The owners have been arrested and are awaiting trial.

The victims, aged from 10 to 21, are from the Kho Mu ethnic group in Dien Bien province, in Vietnam's far northwest. Some of them had been working for up to two years as slave labour in the garment business.

Tired but happy, the children relaxed for an hour at Noi Bai airport before boarding a bus for the 12-hour journey home to their villages.

The children said they were looking forward to returning to their families.

"I felt so homesick, living in Saigon," said 12-year-old Trang.

He was taken by car from his small village of 35 households and brought to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, where he worked cutting cloth and was regularly beaten, he said. He was unable to estimate how many hours he worked as he cannot read a clock.

Ta Ngoc Van, a lawyer with Blue Dragon, travelled to the remote villages of Da Lech and Co Nghiu some weeks ago following a tip-off from a contact in the Ministry of Public Security about rumours of missing children.

He found some families had not seen their children in two years.

They had been approached by traffickers who promised their children well-paid and comfortable jobs in Ho Chi Minh City.

After receiving almost no money and no contact with the children, the families were desperate. Investigations by Blue Dragon, experienced in saving children from garment factories, and Vietnamese officials, located the children.

The Australian founder of the charity, Michael Brosowski, said local authorities were keen to combat child trafficking.

Legislation in Vietnam, however, needs to catch up. Vietnam is rated as a **tier-two watch list** nation in a worldwide report on **human trafficking** released by the US State Department this year.

Most human trafficking recognised by the government and non-government organisations related to cross-border trafficking, often for sex work. Internal trafficking, usually for labour, is harder to define and rarely prosecuted.

" I felt so homesick, living in Saigon.

- RESCUED CHILD TRANG, 12

LOAD-DATE: September 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: ADV

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283 of 492 DOCUMENTS

South Asia

September 30, 2011 Friday

Modern Day Slaves

BYLINE: Huma Iqbal

SECTION: Vol. 15 No. 9

LENGTH: 635 words

Human trafficking in the Maldives is an industry worth U.S. \$123 million and stands as the second greatest contributor of foreign currency to the economy after tourism.

The U.S. State Department's 2010 **Human Trafficking** report placed the Maldives on the Department's **watchlist** for **human trafficking**, following the country's failure to "investigate or prosecute trafficking-related offenses or take concrete actions to protect trafficking victims and prevent trafficking in the Maldives." Ironically, the announcement came less than a month after the Maldives was given a seat on the UN Human Rights Council.

One year since hence, conditions are no different. In its 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the U.S. State Department has listed the Maldives in its **Tier 2 watchlist** for **human trafficking**. **This watchlist** comprises countries that are not fully compliant with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and where **human trafficking** incidents are climbing at alarming rates or outpacing efforts to combat them.

How exactly does human trafficking take place in the Maldives? An ongoing police investigation terms the high number of illegal foreign workers as one of the major reasons behind massive human trafficking in the country.

The Maldives Department of Immigration currently puts the numbers of illegal expatriate workers at above 40,000, causing the government to lose \$130 million annually in non-paid visa fees.

But how do these foreign workers end up entering illegally in the Maldives and manage to stay back? After a string of operations last year, President Nasheed's office stated that people have been creating fraudulent companies and using job-seekers to apply for fraudulent work permit quotas. These quotas are then directed to bring in illegal workers. As a result, a would-be worker [overseas] works for a couple of years to make the payment which according to the investigations is often as much as U.S. \$2000.

The police have identified a majority of these illegal workers as coming from Bangladesh who sell their land, their property and move their families to pay the fees demanded by the bogus recruiters, only to find the job a totally different one from what they were led to expect. Nowhere to go and no home to return to, these workers then fall easy prey to forced labor.

The expansive investigation saw 18 'paper companies' raided by the police in July this year, seizing 4000 passports confiscated from trafficked workers. On part of the Maldivian government, senior officials of the Immigration Department and the Ministry of Human Resources are also said to be involved in the process.

The work permit quotas for non-existent projects were apparently obtained from the Human Resources Ministry by stealing the identities of unwitting Maldivians, or even the deceased.

On legal grounds, the government of the Maldives has made limited efforts to enforce anti-human trafficking laws in the country. For individuals found guilty of the crime, labor trafficking presently represents a violation of the Employment Act, and only carries a small fine in Maldives.

The government needs to conduct anti-trafficking and educational campaigns and take steps to create an inter-agency structure - such as a committee or plan of action - for coordination on anti-trafficking matters. A Labor Tribunal, created

as part of the 2008 Employment Act, should also be given the legal teeth to enforce its decisions in cases involving foreign workers.

Even though the accusations of human trafficking have been apparent for the last few years in the Maldives, the extent to which the situation has developed needs a holistic approach before it gets worse.

Huma Iqbal is Assistant Editor at SouthAsia Magazine. She writes on socio-political and developmental issues of the region.

LOAD-DATE: September 22, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

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284 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Huma Iqbal is Assistant Editor at SouthAsia Magazine. She writes on socio-political and developmental issues of the region.

LOAD-DATE: November 14, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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285 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

September 23, 2011 Friday

More work needed to upgrade anti-trafficking rank: US envoy

BYLINE: Rouchelle R. Dinglasan

SECTION: Pg. S1/12

LENGTH: 337 words

ANOTHER UPGRADE for the Philippines in the anti-trafficking watch list of the United States may be obtained given a sustained resolve to combat corruption, prosecute offenders and provide wider economic opportunities, but the process may take longer, the top US diplomat in the country said yesterday.

"[An upgrade] is possible if there is no corruption, there is successful prosecution, and the barriers to economic opportunity were provided," US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. said in a chance interview yesterday after his opening speech in a round-table discussion on combating human trafficking in the Philippines held in Manila.

He noted that "the courts and legislators should work on certain gaps [in the trafficking law]" so that broader economic opportunities will shield Filipinos from becoming victims of trafficking.

"Sure, it [upgrade] will take time, we all understand," Mr. Thomas said.

In his speech, Mr. Thomas noted that some officials are involved in trafficking, making them "doubly guilty in betraying public trust."

Efforts have been achieved in addressing the problem, he said, but there is still room for improvement.

For her part, Maria Filomena D. Singh, presiding judge at Branch 85 of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City noted an improving performance in anti-trafficking efforts.

She cited in her report of a lower 338 pending cases this year from 380 cases in 2010. Of the pending cases, 25 convictions were obtained this year, more than triple the eight convictions last year.

The Philippines was upgraded to **Tier 2** from **Tier 2 watch list** in the latest **Trafficking in Persons** report of the US State Department released in June, with significant achievements made in curbing the crime. Tier 1 means that the country is fully compliant of US standards.

The upgrade also allowed the Philippines to continue availing of non-humanitarian and non-trade foreign assistance of about \$700 million. In addition, the US will not oppose assistance for the Philippines from international financial institutions.

LOAD-DATE: September 22, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

286 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

September 23, 2011 Friday 7:10 AM EST**Philippine gov't strengthens fight against human trafficking****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology**LENGTH:** 168 words**DATELINE:** MANILA Sept. 23

The Philippine government has strengthened its fight against human trafficking amid the statement made by United States Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. that four out of 10 foreign male tourists visit the country for sex, a senior government official said on Friday.

"If you remember, we have strengthened our fight against trafficking of women and children," Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte.

She said that one proof was the removal this year of the Philippines on the **Tier 2 Watchlist** of the U.S. State Department **Trafficking in Persons**.

She said the U.S. acknowledged the "significant efforts" of the Aquino administration in the past year to combat human trafficking.

Valte added that if foreigners would visit the country, they should come here "for the right reasons."

"The Philippines is a beautiful county, although we would like to see the number of tourist arrivals increased, we would want our tourist friends to come here for right reasons," she said.

LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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287 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Xinhua General News Service

September 23, 2011 Friday 1:15 AM EST

Philippine gov't strengthens fight against human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

LENGTH: 168 words

DATELINE: MANILA Sept. 23

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LOAD-DATE: September 25, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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288 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

September 22, 2011 Thursday

**CHINA'S ONE-CHILD POLICY;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 1802 words

TESTIMONY-BY: REGGIE LITTLEJOHN, PRESIDENT

AFFILIATION: WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Statement of Reggie Littlejohn President Women's Rights Without Frontiers

Committee on House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights

September 22, 2011

Honorable members of the Sub-Committee, ladies and gentlemen, I am grateful for this opportunity to testify here today. During a sensitive time in engaging the People's Republic of China (PRC) on human rights issues, I am truly moved by continuing concern of those present for the suffering of the people of China. I have been asked to brief the Sub-Committee on the findings of our new report, to testify regarding the impact of the coercive enforcement of China's One Child Policy on human rights, and to comment on the case of Chen Guangcheng.

New Report on the One Child Policy

Women's Rights Without Frontiers released our new report today -- "China's One Child Policy: New Evidence of Coercion - Forced Abortion, Sterilization, Contraception, and the practice of Implication." In this report are thirteen new, documented cases of coercion: forced abortion (including one woman at eight months and another carrying twins at 8 1/2 months), forced sterilization, forced contraception, the use of abortion and sterilization quotas, Family Planning Police, Family Planning jail cells, the demolition of homes (even by relatives, for missing a pregnancy check), the use of "implication" (detention, torture and fining of relatives of "violators"). The report contains accounts of a couple brutally tortured for missing a pregnancy check by one day; a man whose head was smashed open and who is now permanently disabled because his wife had a second child; a father who was beaten to death because his son was suspected of having a second child.

We have chosen to release the names of the perpetrators of these Crimes Against Humanity, so that they can be held accountable before the world. This report contains dozens of their names, as well as details of their crimes. The "China Democracy Promotion Act of 2011," if passed, would enable the President to deny entry into the U.S. for Chinese nationals, such as these, who have "committed human rights abuses" against people in China, including anyone who "has participated in the imposition of . . . China's coercive birth limitation policy."

Human Rights Violations

In addition to forced abortion, gendercide, and female suicide, China's One Child Policy gives rise to several other serious human rights violations:

Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery. Because of abortion, abandonment, and infanticide of baby girls, there are an estimated 37 million Chinese men who will never marry because they cannot find wives. This gender imbalance is a powerful, driving force behind trafficking in women and sexual slavery from nations surrounding China. According to the 2011 **Trafficking in Person** (TIP) Report, China is on the **Tier 2 Watch List**: a source, destination and transit

country for trafficked people. "Women and children from neighboring countries including Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Mongolia, Russia, and North Korea, and from locations as far as Romania and Zimbabwe are reportedly trafficked to China for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor."ⁱ Women's Rights Without Frontiers has a petition against forced abortion and sexual slavery in China. We now have more than 9,000 signatures from 80 nations around the world - a truly international outcry.

Infanticide. Last year, crematorium workers in Guangdong Province found an infant crying in a "medical waste" receptacle on its way to being cremated, reports Xinhua, China's official news agency. The crematorium workers immediately sent the infant back to the hospital. Later that day, the hospital sent the infant back to the crematorium, dead. The hospital offered no explanation of the cause of death.ⁱⁱⁱ Xinhua reported that 21 bodies of fetuses and babies were found discarded in a river in East China. Xinhua News stated, "the bodies may have been dumped by cleaners from local hospitals after abortions and induced labor. Such dead bodies are treated as 'medical waste' by hospitals."

Forced Sterilization. As in Case One of our new report, women are literally dragged off the street, strapped down to tables and forcibly sterilized. According to the London Times, Family Planning Authorities have detained 1300 people in a campaign to sterilize nearly 10,000 people in Puning City, Guangdong Province.^v

The twenty-day campaign, launched April 7, is well along in achieving its goal of 9,559 sterilizations. "A doctor in Daba village said that his team was working flat out, beginning sterilizations every day at 8 am and working straight through until 4 am the following day." What's the hurry? Officials in Puning may fail in their bid for promotion to a second tier county "if they cannot meet all quotas," according to The London Times.

"Implication." Case Six of WRWF's new report describes the practice of "Implication," which means that if anyone breaks the family planning policy, their entire extended family is held responsible. Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews can be detained, fined and tortured. In an area of Fujian Province in 2008, the extended family of a Family Planning "violation" were seized and forced to attend a "Family Planning Learning Class," where they were tortured and then charged "tuition."

Violence Against Men. The practice of implication causes violence not only against women, but also against men. Case Seven of our report gives the account of a couple with a second child in Henan Province. Family planning police smashed the father in the head with a bottle. He is now permanently disabled. In Case Twelve, in Jiangsu Province, Family Planning Officials beat a farmer to death because his son was suspected of having an extra child. Recently, in Linyi County, Shandong Province, near where Chen Guangcheng lives, a Family Planning Official murdered a man. They had come to seize his sister for a forced sterilization. Failing to find her, they started to beat their father. When the man defended his father, one of the Officials plunged a knife in his heart, and he died.^{vi}

Most often, Family Planning Officials are not prosecuted for their crimes, but act with impunity. The spirit of the Red Guard lives on in the Family Planning Police. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary,^{vii} in January of this year, President Hu Jintao denied to Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen that China has a forced abortion policy.^{viii} Moreover, China has stated that it will continue its One Child Policy for "decades" to come.^{ix}

Chen Guangcheng

Blind activist Chen Guangcheng was arrested in 2006 for helping to expose the Chinese government's use of forced sterilization and abortions to enforce its "One Child Policy." He amassed evidence that 130,000 forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations were performed on women in Linyi County, Shandong Province in a single year. Time Magazine named him one of "2006's Top 100 People Who Shape Our World" and he was given the 2007 Magsaysay award, known as Asia's Nobel Prize.

Chen spent four years, three months in prison. His defense lawyers were detained on the eve of trial. After his September 2010 release, he continues to serve a sentence of home detention. Both in prison and under house arrest, Chen experienced mistreatment and beatings. He suffers from a chronic, debilitating intestinal illness for which he has been denied treatment.

According to a February, 2011 video testimony provided by Chen smuggled out of China, 66 security police surround his home constantly. He and his wife are not allowed sufficient food and are isolated from all outside contact. No one can enter or leave their home, except officials, who can enter at any time, without notice. After the video's release, Chen and his wife were severely beaten,^x and lawyers who organized to help him were detained, beaten, and disappeared, including prominent lawyers Jiang Tianyong and Teng Biao. Foreign journalists who tried to visit Chen have been

physically barred from entering his village. A CNN report showed unidentified security officers pushing a journalist and throwing rocks at him to prevent him from entering Chen's village.

The letter written by Chen's wife on June 15, 2011 indicates the need for urgent and immediate action to help Chen Guancheng and his wife Yuan Weijing. We have received evidence that blind activist Chen Guangcheng's health is in serious jeopardy because of repeated beatings and the malnutrition he suffers in house detention. According to a letter written by Chen's wife, and smuggled out of China, Chen faces constant physical and psychological abuse, does not get sufficient food or nourishment, and is denied proper medical treatment. Foreign journalists have been forcibly denied access to him and lawyers who tried to help Chen were beaten and detained in February 2011.

Chen and his family will be transferred to a small prison built specifically for them, according to a Radio Free Asia report.^{xii} Activist He Peirong stated that the couple will be forcibly removed from their home and transferred to a building "which basically amounts to a jail" so that authorities can "keep tighter controls on them." Their young son, living with relatives, was reportedly stripsearched leaving the family home.

Just in the past week, a couple of human rights campaigners seeking to see Chen were beaten and detained.^{xiii} Earlier this month, police detained Chen's brother, who was meeting with activists.^{xiv} Chen's six year old daughter was denied the right to an education.^{xv} Women's Rights Without Frontiers and the China Aid Association are spearheading an international effort to free Chen Guangcheng. Thus far, we have collected 5161 signatures from 28 countries.

WRWF congratulates Rep. Chris Smith on his successful sponsorship last July of an amendment to the State Department Appropriation Bill, in support of Chen Guangcheng and his family. This amendment, which passed unanimously, urges the Chinese government to stop harassing the Chen family, to release them from house arrest, and to arrange for immediate medical treatment. It further urges the Obama administration to arrange diplomatic visits to the Chen family. Beyond this, it highlights the tragedy of forced abortion and coercive family planning in China. This amendment comes just in time, as Chen's health is frail and deteriorating rapidly.

Conclusion

In China, a woman's body is not her own. It belongs to the state. A woman's womb is the most intimate part of her body - physically, emotionally and spiritually. For the Chinese Communist Party to act as "womb police" and crush the life inside her is a heinous crime against humanity.

LOAD-DATE: September 23, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Congressional Testimony

289 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

September 21, 2011 Wednesday

A heightened focus on forced labour

BYLINE: Santha Oorjitham

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 1030 words

AMENDMENTS to anti-trafficking legislation last year, and steps since then, are helping to crack down on labour trafficking, experts tell SANTHA OORJITHAM.

MUMTAZ (not her real name) was recruited in Bangladesh by an agent for a Malaysian outsourcing company.

"I paid him RM10,000 in recruitment fees, to cover his costs and my work permit for the first year," she recalls.

Another agent from the same company met her at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

"He kept my passport and will only give it to me when I go back."

And although Mumtaz wanted to return when she became ill, she was forced to complete three years or forfeit the RM10,000.

Tenaganita's Irene Fernandez classifies this as forced labour. For many outsourced workers "there are elements of threat", says the executive director of the non-government organisation promoting the rights of women, migrants and refugees.

For example, their passports may be withheld, they may be under debt bondage and they may be threatened with detention.

According to the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, "the Home Ministry reported investigating the 277 outsourcing companies that recruit foreign workers and placed 42 on a **watchlist** for engaging in suspicious activities, such as use of falsified documents or listing false employers".

The report in June claimed that "many Malaysian labour outsourcing companies recruit excess workers from Bangladesh, Vietnam and other countries, who are then often held in warehouses or other locations and handed over to unscrupulous employers, who subject them to conditions of forced labour".

The Immigration Department sent a report to the US State Department clarifying the issues.

"Actually, the issue arose due to management problems, and not an excessive workforce. So, the related agencies should tackle the problem appropriately and not put the blame solely on the Immigration Department and Home Ministry," director-general of Immigration Datuk Alias Ahmad said recently.

Since the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act was enforced in 2008, 709 foreign men were given protection orders. Most of them are believed to be victims of labour trafficking.

In November last year, the law was amended to broaden the definition of trafficking to include all actions involved in acquiring or maintaining a person's labour or services through coercion.

And labour officers from the Human Resources Ministry were included as enforcement officers for human trafficking offences.

"That is a very constructive step," says a United States embassy official.

"It provides heightened focus on forced labour as a form of human trafficking. In addition, it could encourage prosecution of forced labour cases under the act."

The Human Resources Ministry now heads the Special Committee on Labour Trafficking, while its Department of Labour has set up an Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Unit.

The unit's officers will enforce the law and prosecute offenders. Some of them will be sent for training and capacity-building.

Forced labour could account for about three-quarters of trafficking cases reckons Daniel Lo, the country manager for the Coalition to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery in Asia (which includes Tenaganita). Fernandez estimates that 80 per cent of forced labour cases come in through outsourcing.

Like Mumtaz, they may arrive already in debt.

"Sometimes, when they are picked up at the airport, their phones are confiscated," says Lo.

"Sometimes all their documents are taken from them. They can't contact anyone and don't know the language. They are brought to a location that is often isolated, and moved to different locations to keep them away from other workers."

And there may be "contract substitution". In Bangladesh, Mumtaz was told she would be working in a factory and would earn RM1,000 monthly. But her local contract provided a basic salary of RM481.

At first, she tested equipment at an electronics factory in Bangi. She worked 7am to 7pm, six days a week -- for RM700 to 800 per month.

After that, Mumtaz was unemployed and unpaid for two months. Then she was sent out as a cleaner, working 9am to 6pm for the same salary.

Her work permit expired last year and she risks being detained as an undocumented illegal immigrant. For the past 11/2 months, her salary has been withheld.

"The law is not in coherence with changes in recruitment and placement," says Fernandez.

For example, Tenaganita is handling one case where an outsourcing company moved more than 30 workers from Ampang, where it was registered, to Klang, Port Dickson and to seven other places.

"We filed a complaint in the Ampang Labour Court but they told us we had to file it in 10 different places."

In February this year, a lawyer alleged on his blog that outsourced workers at a factory had suffered unlawful salary deductions and were threatened with deportation.

As part of a court settlement, he had to take out advertisements in two newspapers recently, formally apologising and recognising that "there is no written employment contract" between the company and the workers and the company had "no contractual obligations" to them.

"It is crucial that the principal employer and outsourcing company are equally responsible for violations," says Fernandez.

"Globally there are moves towards making the whole supply chain accountable. But that was not seen in the recent case."

However, some companies are working with Tenaganita to change their recruitment policy. Sime Darby, for example, began recruiting its own plantation workers several years ago.

"Prospective workers are more willing to deal with employers directly, as it eliminates any risk of them being duped by unscrupulous parties both sides of the border," explains Franki Anthony Dass, managing director of Sime Darby Plantation Sdn Bhd.

"The security and transparency of the deal is a major plus. For example, they do not have to pay anything up front, and their only commitment is the duration of the contract."

Sime Darby is the world's largest plantation company and, as Fernandez points out, "If Sime Darby can do direct recruitment for its plantations, all others could take the same initiative."

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290 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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Hearing of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subject: "Human Rights in North Korea: Challenges and Opportunities" Chaired By: Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ) Witnesses: Suzanne Scholte, President, Defense Forum Foundation; Kim Young Soon, Vice President, Committee for the Democratization of North Korea; Kim Hye Sook, Longest-Serving Survivor of North Korean Prison Camps; Greg Scarlatoiu, Executive Director, Committee for Human Rights in North Korea Location: 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Time: 3:00 p.m. EDT Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

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REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ): (Sounds gavel.) The subcommittee will come to order and good afternoon to everybody. I want to thank you for joining us for this very important hearing to examine a country with one of the worst human rights record in the entire world.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is known to be the world's most isolated country as its citizens are prohibited from traveling either internally or internationally without express permission. Communications with the outside world are also tightly regulated and attempts by the dictatorship to filter all information accessible by the North Korean people. Therefore the testimony that would be provided today by our distinguished panel and in particular our two defector witnesses is particularly welcomed and appreciated.

Ms. Kim Young Soon and Ms. Kim Hye Sook who both have survived the extreme deprivations of the North Korean prison camps have traveled all the way from South Korea to share their experiences with our subcommittee. On behalf of the subcommittee, I want to thank them and wish -- and convey to them our sincerest gratitude.

I also want to thank Suzanne Scholte for her extraordinary work over these many years. This is -- I've chaired actually several hearings on North Korean human rights and in every one of those hearings she has played a critical part in helping us to get the witnesses to tell the true unvarnished story of what is actually happening in North Korea.

Our two witnesses will tell the story, and they will be speaking on behalf of an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners currently held in North Korean labor camps. It is our hope that their testimony will help to galvanize the international community to take action to secure the freedom of those who are needlessly suffering and dying under truly horrific conditions.

Those living in this prison camps are not only -- are not the only ones suffering in North Korea. As one of our witnesses, again Suzanne Scholte will testify in North Korea every single human right as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is violated and it is often violated with absolute impunity.

North Korea is listed by the State Department as a **tier III** country with respect to **human trafficking**. In other words they are egregious violators of modern day slavery, buying and selling women and others as a commodity. It was just -- North Korea was also just designated this month as one of eight countries of particular concern for its violations of religious freedom.

But not all the testimony during this hearing will be bleak, although much of it will be. We will hear about new -- the new potential for communication to and with North Korean people and explore possibilities for peaceful change given upcoming political events in North Korea and changes in other countries in the region. We look forward to discussing this potential to improve the lives of all people living in North Korea.

I'd like to now introduce our very distinguished panel and again thank all of you for being here today. I also want to thank C-SPAN for being here, for taking this information and conveying it to the American people. North Korea, because it is so closed, very often evades all scrutiny. So people know about it, but don't know very much. Your testimony again will help to shatter that lackadaisical sense of what Americans know and think about North Korea. So thank you again.

We'll begin with Ms. Suzanne Scholte who is the president of the Defense Forum Foundation and is a leader of several groups focused on protecting human rights in North Korea. She was recognized in 2010 with the Walter Judd Freedom Award and in 2008 with the Seoul Peace Prize.

Ms. Scholte has helped rescue hundreds of North Korean refugees and facilitated the travel of defectors to speak in the United States. She has participated in numerous congressional hearings on North Korea on a wide range of topics including political prison camps, trafficking of North Korean women, religious persecution and North Korean refugees in China.

I would note parenthetically that when we held a hearing on trafficked women, some of the, what they thought were, lucky women who got out of North Korea into China, Ms. Scholte actually brought to this committee women who -- one woman who went after her daughter who made her way into China only to be sold into slavery and then she and her daughter who went looking to rescue the trafficked women were themselves sold into sexual slavery.

We'll then hear from Ms. Kim Young Soon, Committee for the Democratization of North Korea. And she was a dancer and an actress in the North Korean Army. She was arrested in 1970 and sent to the Yodok political prison camp with members of her family. Her parents and eldest son died in the camp and her husband and youngest son later died trying to escape North Korea.

Ms. Kim eventually escaped and has dedicated her life to exposing the truth about the hideous prison camps in North Korea by sharing her story around the globe. She is an outspoken defector serving as the vice president of the committee, the Democratization of North Korea and other human rights advocacy groups.

We'll then hear from Ms. Kim Hye Sook who is a survivor of nearly three decades in Bukchang political prison camp. She and her family were imprisoned by guilt by association because of her grandfather's defection to South Korea. She was just 13 years old. Ms. Kim regularly witnessed executions and abuse and endured manual labor, constant hunger and the deaths of several family members.

Once released she fled to China, but was forced to return to North Korea by her employer where she was arrested again. When she escaped, she returned to China but was sold by human traffickers again like the other witnesses we've had before this committee. She eventually escaped to South Korea and continues to tell her story around the world. Earlier this year she published her memoirs in a book entitled "A Concentration Camp Retold in Tears."

We'll then hear from Mr. Greg Scarlatoiu, Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Mr. Scarlatoiu is the executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, which was established to focus world attention on human rights abuses in North Korea and to offer creative solutions.

Born and raised in Romania he was a Bucharest University freshman when he witnessed the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Nicolae Ceausescu's barbaric regime. He lived in South Korea for 10 years and has authored in English and Korean language articles on the applicability of the Eastern European experience to North Korea context as well as a weekly Korean language broadcast into North Korea by Radio Free Asia. We welcome his as well.

I'd like to yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, for any opening comments he might have.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for calling this very important hearing, and I'd like to certainly express my appreciation to the witnesses here who have agreed to testify. Each of your stories help us to better understand the extent and magnitude of the human rights abuses of North Korea and your guidance will help us to target our efforts in alleviating some of these terrible injustices.

The human rights violations in North Korea are among the worst in the world. Under Kim Jong-Il's regime, North Korean citizens regularly face extra judiciary killings and detentions for basic political expression, seemingly ordinary market activities or unauthorized domestic travel.

North Korea doesn't seem to even need to violate the regime's rules themselves since they can be penalized for even the actions not of themselves but actually of their families, which is certainly unfair and unjust. While many of us cannot imagine a more stifling human rights environment, according to some observers the conditions are worsening due to the preparation for Jong-Il's son Kim Jong-Un to take over.

In 2004, Congress passed a North Korean human rights act authorizing funds towards human rights efforts and improving the flow of information to North Korea. Currently, this amounts to \$2 million annually for human rights and democracy, 2 million (dollars) for freedom of information programs and 20 million (dollars) to assist North Korean refugees.

I'm interested in hearing from the panelists, if you have expertise in that area, about the abuse on how proposed cuts to our international affairs budget would impact our ability to adequately continue to fund these programs that have been successful in getting information to-date. Although it's not in the realm of your testimonies necessarily, I was very disturbed at the behavior of the North Korean leadership in November of 2010 when it attacked South Korea's island of Yeonpyeong with artillery shells killing several people.

This irresponsible behavior of government really is unwarranted and really needs to have continued watching and scrutinizing as to their behavior, also their continued adventurism into ballistic missiles and other weapons of war certainly disturb us. So I certainly look forward to your testimonies and thank you again for your willingness to share them. And I yield back the balance of my time.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much. Would either of my other colleagues -- (off mic)? I'd like to now then yield the floor for such time as she may consume to Ms. Scholte.

Hello, let me just before you start, make a point. We also invited Ambassador-at-Large King who could not be here because he's out of the country. He wanted to be here and said very clearly he would gladly come and testify at a later date. And he also wanted to provide the subcommittee with a closed briefing as well on recent events including the human rights situation in North Korea. Bob King, as my colleague knows so well, especially Mr. Payne, was the chief of staff for the Foreign Affairs Committee and a very good choice for ambassador. So we look forward to hearing from him as well.

So Ms. Scholte.

SUZANNE SCHOLTE: Well, first of all I just want to thank Congressman Smith for your many years of devotion on the North Korea human rights issues and I want to thank Congressman Payne as well. It's been a honor and pleasure to work with your staff on our shared love for the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara, another divided country that's trying to get their freedom through self-determination.

I want to give two main points at this hearing today. First of all, North Korea continues to be one of the darkest places on earth, yet we fail to focus on the main issue, which is the human rights issues because we've instead focused on the nuclear issue, and this has had tragic results.

Second, despite this ongoing tragedy, there is hope because of changes that are happening in that country. But if we fail to enact the policies that address the human rights conditions and empower those who can bring about change, then we will certainly end up just prolonging this regime.

While we witness people rising up in North Africa and the Middle East, we wonder why did North Koreans who are arguably the most persecuted people in the world not rise up. It is precisely because they are the most persecuted in the world. North Koreans are the only people in the world that do not enjoy one single human rights that's enshrined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document, ironically, that was adopted in 1948, the same year that Kim Il-sung came to power.

This declaration was in response to the atrocities committed by the Axis powers during World War II. When the Nazi death camps were liberated by the allied forces during that war, the international community vowed never again, never again, would we allow these kinds of atrocities to occur. But the political prison camps in North Korea have existed longer than the Soviet gulag, longer than the Chinese laogai, and longer than the Nazi death camps.

Your two defector witnesses today are living proof of the horrors of these camps as well as the length of their existence. One was imprisoned in Yodok in the 1970s while another was imprisoned for 28 years up to the beginning of this decade in Bukchang. We have seen millions of North Koreans starve to death despite billions of economic assistance.

And North Koreans are not the only ones who suffer from Kim Jong-Il's dictatorship, but South Korean POWs are still being held in North Korea today. Well, at 108,308 captives are being held in North Korea, including 80,000 abductees in South Korea and hundreds of others in 13 countries as recently documented by the committee for human rights in North Korea.

Former presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush made human rights a second theory issue with a hope of engaging North Korea to give up their nuclear ambitions. We see the failure of these efforts as North Korea has realized its nuclear ambitions and its proliferation activity continue. Kim Jong-Il may be an evil dictator, but he has brilliantly manipulated the good intentions of both America and South Korea.

My second point, there is hope because things are changing in North Korea. Despite Kim Jong-Il's best efforts to literally keep North Koreans in the dark, up to 60 percent of North Koreans have access to some form of information beyond the regime's propaganda. They are increasingly learning that the source of their misery is not America or South Korea as they are brainwashed from childhood to believe, but the source of their misery is in fact the Kim Jong-Il and his regime.

North Korean defectors are sending remittances to their families helping demonstrate the prosperity in South Korea. North Korea now has a cell phone system with 500,000 subscribers. And although you cannot call directly from South Korea, defectors pay brokers in China to contact their families.

We also see that defectors themselves getting information into North Korea from DVDs, VCDs, USBs and flash drives through China and other creative means such as balloon launches. North Koreans, especially the elites, are keeping up with South Korean soap operas and watching many South Korean as well as Western films. Therefore, it's more important than ever to raise the human rights concerns so that they know our concerns are for them.

For example, it was a brilliant action by the Obama administration to include special envoy for North Korea human rights ambassador Robert King and the delegations that went to North Korea to assess the food situation. This underscored the fact that the human rights conditions in North Korea that are causing the starvation.

Furthermore, North Koreans are no longer dependent on Kim Jong-Il's regime to survive as over 200 private markets are functioning and the regime has given up trying to control them. This capitalism is saving them from experiencing the same level of starvation that led to the deaths of millions during the famine.

Kim Jong-Il's unprovoked attacks on South Korea, as Congressman Payne just mentioned, have awakened South Koreans to the truth that we must not ignore the human rights of North Koreans for the false promise of this regime to end its nuclear program. To take advantage of these changes, governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals first of all should make human rights central to all negotiations with or about North Korea.

Second, we should only provide food when relief organizations can stay and monitor to the point of consumption. Otherwise, it will most assuredly be diverted to maintain the regime that is causing the starvation in the first place.

Third, we need to continue to support radio broadcasting, especially programs like Radio Free Asia and Voice of America and the independent radio broadcasters like Free North Korea Radio, a defector led station in Seoul.

Fourth, we need to empower the defector organizations that are using creative methods to get information into North Korea like Fighters for a Free North Korea and the North Korea People's Liberation Front.

Five, we must convince the Chinese to end their brutal policy of forced repatriation for North Korean refugees which is prolonging this crisis by giving Kim Jong-Il a reason to resist any reforms that would improve the situation in that country so that North Koreans do not want to risk their lives trying to flee.

Six, we should support the 12 North Korean defector churches. For example, I've been working to try to connect churches here in the United States with these defector churches that have been formed in South Korea.

Seven, we need to put the elites in the regime. I noticed that they will be held accountable for their crimes against the North Korean people. Last week, a North Korean assassin was caught. His mission was to kill Park Sang Hak, who heads Fighters for a Free North Korea. Park Sang Hak is the one who's been doing the balloon launches, sending in information. Both Park and Kim Seong Min who leads Free North Korea Radio who is here at this hearing have been regularly targeted by assassins sent by Kim Jong-Il. What this tells us is that what they are doing is the most effective work.

At the end of 2009, Free North Korea Radio started Voice from the People. These were actual interviews from inside the country that they broadcast back in. Supporting this flow of information through radio broadcasting, especially by North Korea defectors, is the most effective way to reach the people because the Internet is only available to the elite and their regime.

Recently the North Korea People's Liberation Front was formed by former North Korean military including officers, special forces, cyberwarfare experts and propaganda specialists. This is significant because the only time there was organized opposition against the regime was from the military who had studied in the Soviet Union and came back to North Korea wanting reform.

Although they were eventually discovered, they operated against the regime from 1989 until 1994. Because all North Korean males must serve for 10 years and the elite are exempt from service, this means that the North Korean military truly represents the people. We saw the army in Romania turn against Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il good friend Nicolae Ceausescu when the people of that country rose up against their dictator.

Right now the elites in power have absolutely no incentive to oppose Kim Jong-Il because their entire lives are based on the successful transfer of power to Kim Jong-Il. We must assure them that they would have a stake in the future if North Korea opens up to reform. Because North Koreans are citizens under South Korea, under the Korean Constitution, South Korea has an important role to play and that they should convene a tribunal of respected judges to begin the prosecution of those in the regime responsible for the political prison camps and these other atrocities.

There are 23,000 eye witnesses now and we should start naming the names of those who are committing these crimes. When North Korea finally opens up, I believe we will be even more horrified at the atrocities that the Kim regimes have committed against the North Korean people that today are beyond our imagination. We will face the same questions that the world faced when the allies liberated the Nazi death camps. What did you know and what did you do to help stop our tragic circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Scholte, thank you very much for your testimony and for your leadership all those years and for all these years and for that very incisive testimony. We'll now hear from Ms. Kim Young Soon.

KIM YOUNG SOON: (Through interpreter.) Hello, my name is Kim Young Soon, author of "I Was a Friend of Sung Hye Rim." I'm a North Korean defector and a survivor of North Korean political prison camp Yodok, camp number 15.

First of all, I want to thank the members of the United States Congress and related officials of the Congress for giving me a chance to speak at this important venue. I also would like to thank Ms. Suzanne Scholte of the Defense Forum Foundation for her years of friendship and for listening to my story of the North Korean political prison camp experience.

Camp number 15, Yodok, where I was incarcerated is now well known throughout the world. Yodok political prison camp was created in July of 1969 under orders of Kim Il-sung in Yodok-gun, South Hamgyong Province, in a region known for its rough and mountainous features. It is here that for 30 years people who have incurred the wrath of Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il have been sent for the crime of being a political prisoner and where they have died silent deaths.

I wrote of my time at Yodok into a book and titled it "I was a Friend of Sung Hye Rim." Sung Hye Rim was at one point in my life my friend and also the hidden mistress of Kim Jong-Il, and anyone who knew the secret in North Korea were either executed or sent to political prison camps, and I became a victim of this myself and was therefore sent to Yodok. I want to tell the world about what happened to me and also tell the world about the reality of the North Korean political prison camp system.

The Workers' Party's establishment of the One Thought principle was instituted whereby the citizens were sent to prison camps for total isolation from the general public, general society for the following crimes; the crime of defaming the

authority and prestige of Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il, the crime of knowledge about the private life of Kim Jong-Il and leaking information about it to the general public, thus defaming the prestige of the great leader. When I was sent to the prison camp I had no knowledge about these facts.

The following are the political crimes that I came to know of after I was incarcerated in the Yodok prison camp; the crime of talking about the cyst or lump on Kim Il-Sung's neck, for the crime of unwittingly damaging or soiling the statue or portrait of Kim Il-Sung, the crime of knowing about the private life of Kim Jong-Il, for example, knowing about Sung Hye Rim being the secret mistress of Kim Jong-Il and disclosing this information to an outsider. The crime of revealing the birth of Kim Jong-Nam, the first-born son of Kim Jong- Il, the crime of listening to or viewing foreign radio or TV broadcast, the crime of questioning or criticizing the policy of the Workers' Party and the crime of expressing criticism or complaints about North Korean society.

I was a close friend -- I was close friends with Sung Hye Rim having gone to the same school with her from girls' high school to college. And one day I heard directly from her that she will be going to special residence number five. At that time those in the know, knew that special residence number five meant the residence of Kim Il- Sung and Kim Jong-Il.

At the time I was taken to the political prison camp I had no idea why I was being incarcerated and it was only in the summer of 1989, after I was released, did I found out the reason why from a state security agent in Tongyeong. The security agent said the following to me. Sung Hye Rim was not the wife of Kim Jong-Il nor did she bear him a son. These are all groundless rumors. If you mention anything about this again, you will not be forgiven.

I would like to talk briefly about my interrogation before I was sent to the political prison camp. On August 1st, 1970, I was forced into a car by state security agents and taken to a secret location where I was interrogated for two months by a unit called Unit 312, three-hundred and twelve, for preliminary investigation in a state security investigation room.

Under extreme fear for two months I was told to write my entire life story and to include everything and leave out nothing. So I wrote on and on. In my writing I confessed and wrote about Sung Hye Rim coming over to my house and telling me that she would be going to special residence number five and also admitted that people around me knew this information as well.

After the investigations were over on October 1, 1970, my entire family and I, seven people in total, were sent to Yodok political prison camp. The person who committed the crime was labeled the conspirator or ring leader while those taken along for yeon-jwa-je, Korean word for guilt-by-association, were labeled non-principal criminals and this was how the criminals in the prison camp were classified.

We woke up at 3:30 in the morning to go to work by 4:30 a.m., and the labor was from sun up until sun down. Meals had to be provided by ourselves through self-sufficiency. I saw countless prisoners contract the disease pellagra and suffer from diarrhea and die.

After work was finished, there were daily fight-for-ideology meetings for all the prisoners. Those who were unfortunate enough to be caught by security agents during these ideology meetings and sent away in shackles were never seen again. The forced manual labor was beyond anyone's imagination. And in case of falling short of work goals, the whole group was punished. There were so many dead bodies that I saw there enough to fill up a field.

My three sons, one daughter, father and mother died from starvation. There were no coffins. So their bodies were rolled in a straw mat and buried. One of my sons who was nine years old at the time drowned to death in Yongjuan River (ph), which is near the prison camp. My daughter was given away from adoption after our release so that she can have a better life. To this day, I do not know about her whereabouts, whether she is alive or dead. My youngest son was publicly executed by firing squad for trying to escape North Korea after his release and attempting to go to South Korea in 1993 at the age of 23.

My husband was sent to another political prison camp, a total and complete control zone in July 4, 1970, and to this day I do not know whether he is dead or alive. So from my original family of eight people, currently only two have survived and successfully escaped from North Korea, myself and another son. The rest of my family, six people, have all died.

My older brother who was the pillar of our family was a colonel in the North Korean Army during the Korean War serving the North Korean third infantry, and while on a mission for the division commander, he was killed in battle at the age of 25. Accordingly our family received favors for my brother's heroic acts and from Kim Il- Sung and we lived

well until our family was sent to a political prison camp. And as a result of feeling betrayed, I escaped from North Korea.

Even after I was released from Yodok political prison camp, I was classified as an anti-regime reactionary and suffered under the monitoring by the state security apparatus. I escaped North Korea on February 1st, 2001, and entered South Korea in November of 2003.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that in the political prison camps in North Korea, it is a place where the prisoners will eat anything that flies, crawls or grows in the field. I wasted nine years of the prime of my life in that hell hole of a place where even animals would turn away -- turn their faces away. I lost all my family members and have lived a life of tears, of blood and extreme hardship. Please save the 23 million people in North Korea who are living a life of misery, not unlike what I have suffered.

Even though I'm now over 70 years old, I will fight for the freedom of my people, my countrymen until all my strength is expended. This is the reason why I have lived so far and I believe also my purpose. In that note, I want to deeply thank again the members of this committee for your interest in the human rights situation in North Korea, especially the political prison camps. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, thank you so much. The brutality that you yourself have suffered in the loss of your family members including your daughter who, as you said, was adopted obviously without your permission, you have no idea where she is. Your husband, you have no idea where he is, and the loss of your other family members, it just underscores the brutality of Kim Jong-Il and the fact that the West, the United States and any country that has any sense of compassion needs to speak out against this horrific abuse. And this should not be a second tier issue, the human rights abuses that are commonplace in North Korea. So we thank you for making us further aware of the extreme barbarity you have been made to endure and your family.

We will now hear from another Ms. Kim who has suffered three decades in the gulag and we look forward to hearing her testimony.

KIM HYE SOOK: (Through interpreter.) Hello, my name is Kim Hye Sook. I am a North Korean defector who was incarcerated in political prison camp number 18, Bukchang prison camp in Pukchang in South (Chungcheong ?) Province for 28 years. And in 2009, I escaped North Korea and entered South Korea via China, Laos and Thailand.

In February of 1975, for reasons that were unknown to me at that time, I was dragged with my parents to the prison camp. I was 13 years old at the time. During my incarceration at Camp number 18 I lost my grandmother, mother, brother and my husband.

I only found out after I was out of that hell on earth, Camp number 18, why I was sent to the prison camp, because my grandfather had defected to South Korea during the Korean War. But by then I had nowhere to go and complain about the situation. I would like to say that the term kwan-li-so in North Korea is a living hell for human beings, a place where people who have committed so-called crimes are sent and incarcerated as a group and forced to work in manual slave labor.

There are political prison camps where people who have been found guilty of being against Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il or those resisting the regime are sent and held, whereas in places like Camp number 18 where I was incarcerated in, besides political prisoners, those who are guilty of economic crimes are sent along with family members and are forced to work in coal mines.

In Camp number 18 in Pukchang where I was imprisoned, the whole prison camp was encircled by a 13-foot-high electrified fence and trying to escape through this over 3,000 volts of electrified fence was unimaginable. When I first entered the prison camp we were told to memorize 10 rules of the prison camp.

And I still remember it vividly because I remember them from such an early age. One of the rules was that the prisoners were not supposed to know the reason for ending up in the prison camp. And those caught violating this rule will be relentlessly executed by firing squad.

For young people like me who ended up in the prison camp at a young age, we were given very rudimentary education, basic Korean language education. And then when we turned 16 or 17 everyone without exception was sent to the coal mines to dig out coal and this goes without saying for the adults as well. We had to work 16 to 18-hour workdays without rest or holidays. And for food, our family of seven was provided only around 10 pounds of corn per month. And

this was supplemented by gruel made from grass or anything that we picked up from the field, tree bark, grass and that's what we ate, one meal a day, corn and the mixed grass gruel that we had to make for ourselves.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, if you could just suspend for one brief moment. We're joined by the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that deals with justice issues and science, but is also the author of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. And as we all know North Korea is a Tier 3 country. It's Congressman Frank Wolf who cares deeply about human rights. But he can only stay brief minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK WOLF (R-VA): Thank you, Mr. Smith. I want to thank you and Mr. Payne and the committee for having this hearing.

I met with the witnesses earlier today. It was one of the most significant and moving testimony and reports that I have - I have ever heard. And I think certainly the State Department should do everything they can, quite frankly, to bring about regime change in North Korea.

When this government falls as it will fall the same way the East German government fell with regard to the Berlin Wall, the West will feel so guilty to know that it said nothing other than the hearings that the members here have had and said nothing with regard that takes place. This administration should do everything, and lastly -- and I'll end with this.

I think the church in the West, all religious faiths in the West should come together and support these people in every way they can to see about that the fact that hundreds of thousands are in these camps. It's totally unacceptable. So anyone within the voice, can hear this, can follow this hearing ought to be advocating this.

So I want again to thank you and Mr. Payne and the other members and thank the witnesses for coming by my office. I'm on my way to a 4 o'clock, but I was just moved to come by because what I heard was just so powerful. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back. I thank you for your time.

REP. SMITH: Chairman Wolf, thank you very much.

Ms. Kim, if you could continue.

MS. HYE SOOK: And I was plagued with hunger from the day I entered the prison camp and until the day I was released. And my one wish was to just eat one bowl of white rice for one meal. And after I became an adult and during my times of working at the coal mine, walking to and from work, I would look around for anything to eat. And regardless of season it became a habit to scrape or pluck anything that was green and make soup and eat it whether it was from tree bark or from grass.

I cannot even begin to describe how many people suffered and died because of starvation in the prison camp and how many people were killed without reason for not listening to authorities or not showing enough repentance. So public execution by -- execution by firing squad through public execution by firing squad; their bodies were riddled with countless bullet holes and I saw countless bodies that ended up like this.

And there was a time when I saw the bodies of people who were killed by firing squad were rolled up in a straw mat and carried away in carts. And I said to myself even dogs will not die so pitifully.

In this place where human lives were worthless than those of flies, this was where my brother and husband died also. Their deaths were classified as due to accidents, but their deaths were intentional deaths carried out in the atmosphere of the prison camps where nothing was normal.

And as a result of working the coal mines for over 12 years, I contracted a black lung and faced death many times. But in place for my mother who passed away before me I vowed to survive and live on and look out after my siblings -- my remaining siblings. And that devotion was what allowed me to survive that hell.

And my siblings are still incarcerated at Camp number 18, my brother and sister. And in December of 1974 before our family was sent off to prison camp -- Camp number 18 my father was hauled away by the state security bureau never to be heard from again. And I do not know what happened to him to this day. And even at this moment as I speak there are over 10,000 -- 10,000 -- 20,000 people who are in Camp 18 without knowing the reason why, people who are dying from abuse and lack of rights at this very moment.

And this is not just happening in Camp number 18, but I would like to say that this is the suffering and sadness that 23 million North Korean citizens are going through and suffering -- experiencing right now. Not only that, but besides the human rights violations going on in North Korea, there's now the cruelty and misery inflicted on North Korean refugee

women who have escaped North Korea into China through the terrible situation of human trafficking happening in different places.

After nearly escaping death and coming out of North Korea and into China and then becoming victims of human and sexual trafficking, I can say with authority that the tragic situation of the North Korean women must be told again, again in the international community. I myself was sold four different times in four different cities in China. And the inhumane and indescribable suffering that these women go through in China, being sold like commodity, still keeps me awake at night.

Please end the existence of such a society and make it into a place where humans can live as people. Please let the people without any rights in North Korea live in freedom and happiness. Please get rid of the political prison camps and please tell those who do not know about freedom what freedom is about.

I sincerely hope that my earnest pleas will be delivered to the United States Congress, to the United States government and to the people of America. I also want to deeply thank the honorable members of this committee, here today who have made possible for me to speak as well as to Ms. Suzanne Scholte of the Defense Forum Foundation. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, without a doubt your message has been heard and thank you for sharing what can only be described as enormous suffering that you've experienced, being sold into sexual slavery, the loss of family members and as -- so there will be positive consequences from your testimony. We will work hard to promote human rights in North Korea, I can assure you that.

Before going to Mr. Scarlatoiu, I would just note I have a bill on the floor right this minute; it's the combating -- the reauthorization of the Combating Autism Act of 2011, so I will leave briefly, but without objection, Mr. Payne has graciously said that he will take the committee.

MR. : I would just like to point out that -- Congressman -- (inaudible) -- say this.

REP. SMITH: Thanks Don.

MR. : This is the (map ?) that she drew of the camp she was in. Just --

REP. PAYNE: We'll now hear from our final witness.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Good afternoon, Mr. Payne and Ms. Bass. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about the human rights situation in North Korea, and about the apparent increase in the amount of information getting into that country. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to discuss these issues with you today.

Mr. Payne, I would like to begin by informing you that I will be presenting a brief summary of the views included in my prepared statement.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. Without objection.

MR. SCARLATOIU: After the very emotional and comprehensive testimony by Ms. Scholte, after the heartbreaking testimony by Ms. Kim Young Soon and Ms. Kim Hye Sook, there's barely anything I can add on the human rights situation in North Korea. The human rights situation in North Korea remains abysmal.

According to experts and testimony by recent North Korean defectors, there is no evidence that the human rights situation in North Korea has improved as the Kim regime proceeds on steps towards leadership succession. On the contrary, it appears the border crackdown aimed at preventing North Koreans from defecting to China has intensified and the political prisoner camp population has been on the increase.

In May of this year, Amnesty International released satellite imagery and new testimony shedding light on the horrific conditions in North Korea's political prisoner camps. According to that organization, the prisoner population detained at such camps is up to 200,000 and a comparison of the latest satellite photos with satellite imagery from 2001 indicates a considerable increase in the scale of the camps.

Moving on to the flow of information getting into North Korea, although officially all personal radios must have a fixed dial and be registered with state security offices, programming by stations including Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and broadcasters based in South Korea may have a listenership of around 30 percent in North Korea. The number of radios smuggled from China has been on the increase.

The North Korean authorities continue to attempt to jam foreign broadcasting, but face serious limitations in their efforts as jamming is energy-intensive and North Korea is experiencing endemic energy shortages. In recent years, we have found out that there has been a significant increase in the amount of information entering North Korea. This development is the result of the marketization that has taken place in that country.

Such marketization is by no means an intended top-down reform program, but rather a function of state failure. Small informal markets provide ordinary people a coping mechanism that enables them to survive. During the informal marketization of North Korea, supply chains have developed from China to North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang and .mp3 players, CD-ROMs, DVDs and thumb drives have been entering North Korea. Statistical data including a 2010 survey of North Korean refugees and travelers by the Broadcasting Board of Governors indicate that 27 percent of respondents have listened to foreign radio, 48 percent have come in contact with foreign DVDs and other video material, while 27 percent have watched foreign TV.

Information is also being passed from one member to the next along such supply chains. It appears that the Korean wave consisting of South Korean soap opera and music, exceptionally popular elsewhere in Asia and beyond has also reached North Korea. According to Japan's Asahi Shimbun one member of a group of nine North Koreans who recently sailed for five days before being picked up off the west coast of Japan one week ago on September the 13th, this gentleman, a squid fisherman said that he was inspired to leave his home by South Korean soap operas.

In January 2008, Egyptian company Orascom Telecom Holding was awarded a license to establish a 3G mobile network in North Korea. When launched in December 2008, Koreolink had 5,300 subscribers. In its half-year earnings report for January-June 2011, published on August the 10th, Orascom stated the number of subscribers in North Korea had reached 660,000.

Separate from the expansion of the Koreolink network, citizens of North Korea have also been using Chinese cellular phones smuggled across the border into North Korea. We have indication that Koreolink intends to launch 3G Internet service via Apple iPad in Pyongyang this fall by a special SIM card.

Nevertheless, Internet access is likely to continue to be restricted to foreign residents and those close to the Kim regime. There are also those North Koreans who possess computers not connected to the web, and they're estimated to represent about 3 percent of the entire population.

Based on data collected through interviews with North Korean defectors, and the proven track record of success in winning the ideological confrontation during the Cold War, radio broadcasting will continue to be one of the few media available to grant the people of North Korea access to information from the outside world. Computers not connected to the Internet, thumb drives, DVDs, CD-ROMs and MP3 players have become increasingly available although access to such devices is still relatively limited.

Efforts to increase the flow of information into North Korea should take into account the increasing availability of such vehicles. I wish to thank the subcommittee and its staff for the opportunity to testify before you today, and I would now be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you very much.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. Let me once again thank each of the witnesses. Your testimony is certainly very compelling. We've -- of course, have heard and we try to keep up with the situation in North Korea, but it certainly brings it home when we have a hearing and to hear especially from individuals who have lived through the horrors of this regime. And of course we appreciate our experts from the Defense Forum Foundation and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.

Perhaps to either one of you who are working with organizations that deal with that, Ms. Scholte or Mr. Scarlatoiu -- hope I have that closely -- (inaudible) -- the special envoy for North Korea human rights, Ambassador Robert King, has said that the United States government would engage in an in-depth dialogue on human rights issues at the six-party talks.

The six-party talks are at an impasse and the absence of six-party talks, first of all, what do each of you feel that the six-party talks have achieved in the past, and whether there were any real gains forward, first of all, but secondly if indeed you feel that it's an impasse or there's really not a real effort on the part of North Korea, what other fora would the Obama administration consider employing for human rights dialogue with Pyongyang?

So whether talks pass and they've been going on for a bit through several administrations, and if they're scrapped, in absence of that, could there be anything else or should we continue with these? Could I ask each one of you if you'd like to comment.

MS. SCHOLTE: Well, first of all, I think that regarding the six-party talks, this is an effort by the Bush administration to rein in North Korea's nuclear ambitions. And they made the decision that they would just focus on the nuclear issue and not address any of the human rights concerns. They kicked the human rights concerns down the road.

We can tell by history that North Koreans are brilliant at manipulating the talks and using talks to gain aid and support, make promises they never intend to keep. They did the same thing to Bill Clinton during the Agreed Framework. And I think president -- former President Clinton can be excused for that because he was dealing with a new dictator when he was president.

But the Bush administration, I think, should have known better. They should have known the history of how these regime uses talks, and what we've seen during these talks, the result has been North Korea has developed nuclear weapons. It's very active in the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the -- exactly the purpose of these talks was never realized.

But at the same time, millions of North Koreans have died. And so, I think that talking with this regime is useless. They only use these talks to extract concessions and support and legitimize the regime. I think, instead, we need to take a new approach. I think that President Obama is in a unique position to do that. I think that we should make human rights the number one policy of our government.

I think that we should reach out to the North Korean people. I think that President Obama should be talking about the fact that -- I think we should say we want to give North Korea as much aid as they need so that the people are not starving, but we want to be able to see that it is consumed. I think we should be talking about the fact that we want to help the people, we want to improve conditions there.

We'd like to see the International Red Cross be able to go to the political prison camps. North Korea denies they have any camps. Well, fine, let's -- let an independent agency like the International Red Cross go to these camps. And I think that we need to be focusing on the human rights issues in our policy, but at the same time doing everything we can to support the kind of creative things that the defectors themselves are doing in radio broadcasting and these balloon launches, because the impact that Free North Korea Radio had, which went on to Internet broadcasting in 2004 and then went on to shortwave in 2006, the impact that Free North Korea Radio had was amazing.

It set the pace for all the broadcasters because it was the defectors themselves. And as you know, the South Koreans are raised to believe -- I'm sorry, North Koreans are raised to believe that South Korea and the United States caused the Korean War. I mean, they're brainwashed with stuff that we would think was completely ridiculous.

But they believe this. So when the North Koreans themselves are talking and broadcasting these views and these opinions into North Korea, North Koreans can't dismiss them. So it has had a tremendous impact. And I think we have to be doing everything we can to reach out with that message to the North Korean people and using the defectors especially.

REP. PAYNE: Yeah.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Payne, the main reason why nothing has been happening on the six-party talks front for a while now is that North Korea has refused to act as a responsible member of the international community. North Korea has continued to proceed with missile and nuclear developments. North Korea engaged in very serious provocations last year. In March, it launched a torpedo attack on the South Korean corvette, the Cheonan; 46 South Korean sailors were killed in that attack.

As it has already been mentioned, as you have already mentioned, on November the 23rd, North Korea shelled South Korean territory, the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong and this attack resulted in military and civilian casualties. We have already heard about assassins sent to kill Mr. Park Sang Hak, one of the very active North Korean defectors in South Korea a few weeks back. There were deep concerns about an alleged assassination plot targeting Mr. Kim Kwan-jin, the defense minister of South Korea.

And before that the most high-profile North Korean defector, Mr. Hwang Jang-Yop passed away last year, late last year. But only a few months before that we heard about a plot that was targeting him for assassination. That being said, North Korea has also continued to oppress its own people.

North Korea has continued to refuse to abide by the international obligations that it's supposed to abide by, given that it's a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the international convention against all forms of discrimination against women, the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, and as a UN member state it's supposed to be bound by the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

As to whether human rights should be on the agenda it is the firm belief of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea that human rights, the improvement of the human rights situation in North Korea should be at the top of our priorities, and personally, as I hope that one day we will see the complete irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program. I also hope that we will see the complete irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of North Korea's political prisoner camps as well.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. Let me ask you, Ms. Kim Young Soon, or you Ms. Kim Hye Sook there is -- and I know that your experiences in North Korea was years ago and you have very compelling testimony, I'm just curious to know in your days as a young person, as a child, as a teenager, as an adult growing up, what type of society, what type of programs does the government impose on children? You know, it's supposed to be a time of life when people are happy, they're growing, they're learning.

What -- to your best recollection could you, if you can explain what is the life of a -- like for a young child and a young teenager, young adult growing up in North Korea today, if you can sort of transpose your experiences?

MS. YOUNG SOON: Congressman, in answer to your question, after the liberation from Japan in 1945 and until the '70s, North Korea was actually a little bit better -- was actually better than South Korea in terms of the economic situation. And as for myself, when I was young, I went to school and I attended the university, the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and I majored in dance.

I learned under the teachings of a very well-known North Korean dancer, Che Si Hin (ph), and before I went to Yodok prison camp, I can say with assurance that I was very happy, that my happiness quotient so to speak was very high in terms of living in North Korean society.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you.

MS. HYE SOOK: Congressman, for -- in my case, before I was sent away to Bukchang prison camp, I had a life where I had no worries about food, about eating. I went to school. I lived a normal life. But because I was sent to prison camp at such an early age, that's all about -- that I can share about in terms of my experience in relation to your question.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. One other question that I'm just curious about is we do know that in World War II there was the question of the Braupos (ph) that were created in Korea. And I wonder whether that was in the north of Korea or was that primarily in Korea itself, if anyone recalls?

As you may know, we're still working on a real apology from the government of Japan. There's been some apologies, but this has been an issue that has plagued the world since that time. And I wonder whether it was prevalent in -- throughout Korea?

MS. YOUNG SOON: My answer to you sir, is that before liberation in 1940 -- before the liberation in 1945, even in the northern part of the peninsula, in North Korea, there were instances or places where these (comfort ?) women stations or locations were based in North Korea. And I believe that even if this issue were to be addressed with the Japanese government, we would not be getting a satisfactory answer or a clear answer from the Japanese government, regarding your question, sir.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. Thank you very much. I yield to the gentle lady from California.

REPRESENTATIVE KAREN BASS (D-CA): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I actually would like to follow up on a question that Mr. Payne said to Ms. Soon and Ms. Sook about your childhood until you went into the camp. And Ms. Soon, you were -- you said up until the '70s, and I realize that's when you went into the camps, but did things drastically change in North Korea, and when?

MS. YOUNG SOON: To answer your question, Kim Il-Sung's propaganda was set in place in the -- between deliberation, years of deliberation, and until the Korean War, those years were known as the best years in terms of the affluence and the prosperity of North Korea. And after the Korean War, there were various economic plans that were instituted to try to help the economy and to help the people live better. But in 1987 -- in the late '80s, after the Soviet Union col-

lapsed and after the help from that part of the region stopped, that's what brought on the change in terms of the economic downturn in the conditions for the people in North Korea.

REP. BASS: I see. First of all, let me also just thank you for coming and sharing your testimony. I think it's very, very important that people in this country hear and learn what's going on in North Korea because I don't think much is known here about what is happening there. And the pain and the suffering that you described, the loss of your family members, not knowing where your children are, your husband, you know, it's just -- I think it's an immeasurable amount of pain.

And I appreciate you taking the time and sharing that with us. I think it's especially important because the need for foreign aid and the need for assistance -- and I'm sorry, I don't want to mispronounce your name, Ms. Scholte, Scholte, when you talked about the need for there to be foreign assistance and food and all in times when we're talking about cutting back. So I think the message is critically important.

But Ms. Sook, you were saying that you thought that we shouldn't have discussions, negotiations with North Korea, but at the same time, we should do what we can to you know, deliver food and other things that the population would need. How do we do that? I understand the communication part, funding that, but how would we get aid to people, how would we -- to the people that need it? Ms. Soon could answer first. That'd be great. Ms. Soon or Ms. Sook.

MS. HYE SOOK: I would like to say that the role that's supporting North Korea is because they hear stories of people starving and suffering, but as a North Korean defector, I believe that the regime of North Korea should be completely isolated and that will -- that's the only way to change the regime. And unless North Korea adopts a market economy and changes drastically the way it -- the way the country's run, no -- nothing -- no change will come. And as a defector I would like to say that real help will be for Kim Jong-Il regime to be completely isolated and stop the aid that's being given to the regime.

REP. BASS: Weren't you going for something different?

MS. SCHOLTE: No, actually I agree except I was just making the point that if we're going -- I actually believe in a substantial amount of assistance, but only if we can state to the point of consumption, because if we're -- if the relief -- if we send any amount of assistance to North Korea, it will be diverted. And when you talk to defectors, they never saw any food aid. And when you talk to defectors that served in the military, they'll tell you the World Food Programme goes into town, delivers rice to these families.

Right after they leave, the army comes back and takes it all back. In fact there is Dr. Norbert Vollertsen who testified some years ago about how he'd gone to an orphanage and they handed out cookies, and the kids just there with the cookies waiting for somebody to come back and take it away. So the diversion has been absolute.

And because of that, I think that that's the kind of a message that we could send that would be a very powerful message for positive propaganda which is that we very much are concerned about the starvation and the political prisoner camps and the situation in North Korea. We want to help you. We hear about these stories, we want to help you.

But we want to be sure that we're actually helping the people and we're only going to give that aid if we know that we can stay there. Even from the very beginning when this -- when the famine first started, North Korea put such stipulations on the food aid. They actually didn't want -- I've never heard of this before, but -- I've never heard about this before, and challenge me on this, but I don't think of any situation where there was a country where there was starvation, where the country that was the intended recipient of the aid demanded that the aid deliverers couldn't speak their language.

I don't think that's ever happened any place but North Korea because usually if you're going into a country to deliver aid you're desperate for somebody who speaks the language. But that just speaks volumes about just from the very beginning of their intention to divert aid. So because of the difficulty of preventing from being diverted, that's why I said we should only provide aid if we can be there at the point of consumption.

If we're going to go into -- I can tell you all kinds of stories, but if we're going to go into an orphanage and deliver formula, we're going to make sure those babies get that formula because Action Against Hunger did that and that formula ended up in Pyongyang and the markets and those babies were given watered-down goat's milk when they showed up a month later to find out what happened to the tons of baby food they delivered to that orphanage.

Just one example, but I think that's -- and then the second point I was making is that we should be looking at creative ways to get in information, like radio broadcasting, but also the balloon launches and also to the North Koreans that are -- have defected that are sending in remittances into the country that are helping support their families.

REP. BASS: Thank you very much.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you, and the chairman has returned. I'll relinquish the chair back to him and hold any other questions I have till later time. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: I want to thank ranking member Payne for leading the committee. Again, I had to leave because a bill of mine on autism was on the floor, and it did pass thankfully.

Let me just ask a question if I could, with regards to a few years back in 2002, in May, I chaired a hearing on North Korean human rights, one of several, and we had Norbert Vollertsen, former medical doctor inside of North Korea who actually was given a huge award by the dictatorship for his medical expertise and the fact that he helped cure a whole lot of people. But he also then told the truth about the human rights situation and he said that they are using food as a weapon, talking about the dictatorship, against their own people. They are committing genocide and I think we have to care. As an international community, we have to intervene.

Ms. Scholte, would you say -- that was in 2002 that the international community, I heard in the opening comments that you had criticism that Bush did not focus on human rights, nor did Bill Clinton in North Korea. We did pass the human rights in North Korea act. I was one of the cosponsors of that. Jim Leach was the prime sponsor. It was an excellent bill. Mr. Payne, all of us strongly supported it.

Has that legislation lived up to its promise? Are we emphasizing human rights sufficiently in our dialogue or whatever it is of a dialogue with the North Koreans?

MS. SCHOLTE: I would say I've been actually very disappointed after all the hard work we did in getting the North Korean Human Rights Act passed. I've been disappointed in -- right from the very start the Bush administration said we welcome these tools that you're giving us to help on this issue, but then they never really used those tools.

It's -- the one thing it didn't help I know with radio broadcasting and expanding VOA and RFA support which was really I believe the result of that legislation was a huge -- was a huge -- one huge great thing, factor that happened with the radio broadcasting that's so important and also helping like Free North Korea Radio, some of the independent broadcasters.

The other thing though too is the special envoy position. I think it's very significant that President Obama has made it very clear that his special envoy Robert King will be part of all discussions and negotiations on North Korea. That was not the case during the Bush administration. Jay Lefkowitz was cut out. So I think that President Obama is taking greater -- (audio break).

MR. : (Audio break) -- would need the food aid the most. But it's only going to the -- at least to the military or to the security apparatus and feeding them and empowering them, only giving them more life, more power to continue the abuse that I drew in the drawings that you could see on display here.

MS. SCHOLTE: I was going to make -- I saw also the attitude in South Korea, right? You were asking also about the attitude in South Korea?

REP. SMITH: Yes, the South Korean -- just the young people. That's ---

MS. SCHOLTE: Yes. I definitely think they might want to have a comment about that.

REP. SMITH: It's almost like a sense of disbelief as to the scope --

MS. SCHOLTE: Yes.

REP. SMITH: -- and the cruelty of Kim Jong-Il.

MS. SCHOLTE: This is so important because --

REP. SMITH: And is it the media that has downplayed it? What is --

MS. SCHOLTE: This has been a -- yeah, that's a huge issue that's so important, because you would think that the country that should care the most has been the slowest to respond. The reason for that is during the years of the D.J. Kim government and the Roh government, they actually banned information to be reported about what's going on in North Korea because they had the Sunshine Policy, which is basically an engagement policy.

And the award winning documentary "Soul Train," which is still very popular today for example, that was done -- produced by some Americans about the refugee crisis in China and North Koreans escaping and the whole situation, that was banned from being shown in South Korea by the government.

So there was a suppression of the horrors that were going on. They can tell you stories about -- she wanted to speak before the South Korean assembly but she wasn't able to do it, Ms. Kim.

REP. SMITH: Really?

MS. SCHOLTE: And what's happened though is -- well, she was going to speak before the -- okay. And they could share that with you. But what happened is, with the provocations that have happened against South Korea by North Korea, unprovoked attacks, it's -- there's been an awakening in South Korea, and I'm very pleased to see a lot of young people getting drawn to this issue.

I've actually gone to a conference in 2002, an international conference on North Korean human rights in Seoul in which people like these defectors were going to speak and there were students protesting against the conference. And -- but that has changed a lot. You had -- young people are really getting drawn to the issue.

But it's been very difficult to move the hearts and soul of the Korean lawmakers. They still have not passed the North Korean Human Rights Act, which has been done by Japan and the United States bipartisan, and that's been a real source of contention and that the South Koreans --

REP. SMITH: You know, it brings to mind, after World War II it was Eisenhower who said, "Do not burn down the concentration camps because there were some Germans who were in disbelief that it was real." And it seems to me that when it's an actual policy of a government to suppress the truth, there was something inherently wrong with that because it creates a distortion, a gross caricature of what Pyongyang is actually doing. And I hope this hearing -- and it will be followed by additional hearings -- will further the information.

I mean, I was telling or in conversations conveying information about what I had read and what I had learned from hearings and from defectors that had -- and my friends who are South Koreans with whom I was meeting was met with disbelief, as if somehow I was exaggerating or engaging in some kind of hyperbole, when the truth on the ground as you have borne so ably witness to, is even worse than what we could imagine in terms of the cruelty and mistreatment. So I thank you for attending --

MS. SCHOLTE: I have something else I can assure you. In October, I was at a balloon launch and I was with Kim Sung-Min, Park Sang Hak, the North Korea Peoples Liberation Front. We were getting ready to do a balloon launch and there was a former North Korean defector who deserted the military. And he was so upset because there was these leftist South Koreans trying to stop the balloon launch, and saying -- they were pro-Kim Jong-II."

And he was so upset, I mean, he almost had tears in his eyes. And he was like, "I came from that country. How can they deny the horrible things that I've seen?" And I remember holding him and saying, "Well, we don't want to get into a confrontation with them."

And I said something like I know how you feel. And I thought, I don't know how he feels. The people -- that he could have gone through these horrible things and that -- and then have people like be denying it and trying to stop him from doing something to reach out to the people who are suffering.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim?

MS. HYE SOOK: Ms. Kim would just like add what you said, Congressman Smith, about the people in South Korea, the young people, to the politicians not fully knowing or understanding or appreciating the situation in North Korea. She wholeheartedly concurs with that statement. And because of the strong presence of the leftists and the pro-North Korean elements in South Korean society, Ms. Kim believes that the peninsula is not ready for unification.

South Korea is not ready to be unified with North Korea. And she would again like to ask for the United States to take the lead in increasing knowledge and awareness about the situation in North Korea and help lead other nations to be able to achieve this.

And there are 23,000 North Korean defectors resettled in South Korea and also there is a diaspora of North Korean defectors that are all over the world. And if there is any sort of encouragement, help, financial help, that's given to us, we will stop at nothing and we will dedicate our very lives to bring about change in the regime in North Korea. And you could trust me when I say that, Congressman Smith.

REP. SMITH: Well, Ms. Kim, I think your point about the leftist truly enabling by either suppressing or by denying that these atrocities are occurring, that makes them complicit in these crimes against humanity. And I would hope that clear-thinking people, newspapers and other media in South Korea would just tell the truth about what is going on North Korea because the truth is liberating.

And I would also add my endorsement to what you said about Kim Jong-Il and others being held to account for genocide at the International Criminal Court. They have committed barbaric crimes. And you know, with -- while there are some UN individuals who have spoke out, there's been no holding to account in any meaningful way. So I echo and endorse what you said.

Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. I just have a quick question and I'll make a little comment quickly. With the prospect of the anticipation that Kim Jong-Il leaves, his son would take over -- that's a horrible prospect -- what do you see the consequence of something like that happening?

MS. YOUNG SOON: Ms. Kim believes that Kim Jong-Nam will never be recognized or become the true leader in North Korea. But should he or if he were to become the next leader, Ms. Kim believes that there is chance that he might open up and reform the country, from her point of view and her opinion.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. I just want to comment that I think that in separated countries like we see in Korea, the fact that much -- in many instances the truth certainly is kept from the people in the south, the total truth, and it's difficult to know whose responsibility -- is it the government, is it the press', is it deliberate.

One thing that usually happens in divided countries as we saw in Eastern and Western Europe, although, you know, you can't compare Eastern Europe, totally, certainly not to North Korea. But there was the strong move for reunification. It's just the natural nationalistic move to reunite countries that were once united.

And so I could possibly understand why some of the younger people would be striving for unification, trying to of course have a change, a regime change in the north. So it's -- I think it's kind of just normal nationalism, especially a country that may have felt that it's been, you know, abused or exploited by, you know, world wars and things of that nature.

The other I thing I remember clearly as I traveled to Eastern Europe in the late '60s, and I went to Poland, Germany and Russia with some West Europeans. And saw in those -- and especially in Poland, photos of and newsreels of the films taken inside of Warsaw with the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. And these were young adults, my age at that time, who could not believe how brutal their parents were when they were leading the Nazi regime.

And you know, they were talking in their own language, but I could kind of understand what the internal discussion was going on about, is this true, almost disbelief. So you know, I think that as we move forward, we're going to have to work with educating people to overcome some of these natural things.

I also think that we should try to become even more active in the Human Rights Council. There have been some progress made, because before the U.S. joined the council, when it was the committee before and then the council, issues like what's happening in Syria, the brutality of Bashar on his people, the -- some of the other issues would never ever be raised.

And so there have been -- I think because the U.S. has raised the issues they got to deal with them. And that's why I think it's important for us to be in the room, so that there can be answers when our allies are criticized or resolutions continually come criticizing them. We can then now say, well, wait a minute, let me give you the other point of view.

So I do hope that those agencies will also be strengthened as we move. And then, of course, that's not being a part of the Rome statues. It makes us a little less significant in the ICC, where we have difficulty pushing for indictments for war criminals who should be indicted and the cases should be raised.

Final thing I'd like to say -- really commend the South Korean government. Several years ago I visited -- one of my trustee Ethiopian there is a hospital that the South Korean government built, probably the best hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa, just about -- and they did it because they were appreciative of the Ethiopian soldiers who fought in the Korean War. And actually, most stunning is that for those veterans who are still alive, who served, they have been paying pensions to these Ethiopian soldiers ever since the end or at -- I don't know exactly if it started right at the end of the war, but for decades.

And those that are still alive receive a monthly regular stipend from the government of Korea. So I think that the -- if some of the goodwill in Southern Korea could kind of work its way up to the North that would be a positive statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this very important meeting -- hearing.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

Just to conclude, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the testimony of Kim Sung-Min, director of Free North Korea Radio be made a part of the record. Without objection, so ordered. And I would ask that all members have five legislative days to revise and extend the remarks, and just make one comment with regards a related issue.

I'd like to comment on recent reports of the continued deportation of Chinese Falun Gong practitioners from South Korea to China. As is well known, the Falun Gong are brutally persecuted in China along with numerous other groups who attempt to exercise their internationally recognized human rights of freedom of thought, conscience and religion. So I join my voice with that of other members of Congress urging South Korea to recognize Falun Gong practitioners as refugees and not forcibly return them to China where they will certainly face persecution.

South Korea should also find an appropriate means within the South Korean legal system and the international conventions on torture and refugees that it is ratified to permit these Falun Gong practitioners to remain in South Korea. I would note that on Thursday the subcommittee will hear testimony on -- it will be the 30th hearing on human rights abuses in China.

It's entitled "China's One-Child Policy: The Government's Massive Crime Against Women and Unborn Babies." And I mention this especially in light of Suzanne Scholte and others who have -- there is a nexus between the one-child per couple policy, the dearth of females in the PRC. Estimates range from an excess of a hundred million missing girls in China so that when North Korean women make their way over the border, the traffickers are waiting to sell them into modern-day slavery and to sex trafficking.

And China has not only not lifted a finger to stop it, they have enabled it. And it is attributable in part, maybe a large part, to the one-child per couple policy. We will hear from two victims of forced abortion who will tell their story, Chai Ling, the great Tiananmen Square activist, who founded All Girls Allowed; Reggie Littlejohn and Valerie Johnson, who will speak about the military implications of the one-child per couple policy.

I do want to thank this very, very effective group of witnesses for shedding light on the egregious human rights abuses of Kim Jong-Il and thank you for bearing witness to the truth. We need to do much more than we've done. That goes for our subcommittee, the Congress, the executive branch and the free world.

And again, I want to thank all of our witnesses, and especially our two women who have made their way to the U.S., come a long distance, suffered, lost loved ones, for speaking truth to a very totalitarian power. I would like to give the last word, if any of our witnesses would like to say anything in conclusion, but --

MS. SCHOLTE: I was just going to -- I was going to just announce that we are having at noon, on Thursday, September 22nd a protest. We are calling on people wherever you are in the world to go to the Chinese embassy at noon to protest the repatriation of North Korean refugees, and we have petitions that people are delivering. And so far we have 25 cities and 13 countries that are participating.

REP. SMITH: Wow. Very interesting.

MS. SCHOLTE: so I wanted to mention that.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell you that in addition to one report that I have mentioned that we are working on, on the political prisoner camps in North Korea, we are also working on a report on the circulation of information inside North Korea, and we will be happy to share these reports as soon as they're published with the subcommittee.

MR. SMITH: And we will disseminate it widely among the members of Congress. So thank you.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Sir.

MR. SMITH: Thank you. The hearing's adjourned, and thank you very much.

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291 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Hearing of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subject: "Human Rights in North Korea: Challenges and Opportunities" Chaired By: Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ) Witnesses: Suzanne Scholte, President, Defense Forum Foundation; Kim Young Soon, Vice President, Committee for the Democratization of North Korea; Kim Hye Sook, Longest-Serving Survivor of North Korean Prison Camps; Greg Scarlatou, Executive Director, Committee for Human Rights in North Korea Location: 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Time: 3:00 p.m. EDT Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

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REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ): (Sounds gavel.) The subcommittee will come to order and good afternoon to everybody. I want to thank you for joining us for this very important hearing to examine a country with one of the worst human rights record in the entire world.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is known to be the world's most isolated country as its citizens are prohibited from traveling either internally or internationally without express permission. Communications with the outside world are also tightly regulated and attempts by the dictatorship to filter all information accessible by the North Korean people. Therefore the testimony that would be provided today by our distinguished panel and in particular our two defector witnesses is particularly welcomed and appreciated.

Ms. Kim Young Soon and Ms. Kim Hye Sook who both have survived the extreme deprivations of the North Korean prison camps have traveled all the way from South Korea to share their experiences with our subcommittee. On behalf of the subcommittee, I want to thank them and wish -- and convey to them our sincerest gratitude.

I also want to thank Suzanne Scholte for her extraordinary work over these many years. This is -- I've chaired actually several hearings on North Korean human rights and in every one of those hearings she has played a critical part in helping us to get the witnesses to tell the true unvarnished story of what is actually happening in North Korea.

Our two witnesses will tell the story, and they will be speaking on behalf of an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners currently held in North Korean labor camps. It is our hope that their testimony will help to galvanize the international community to take action to secure the freedom of those who are needlessly suffering and dying under truly horrific conditions.

Those living in this prison camps are not only -- are not the only ones suffering in North Korea. As one of our witnesses, again Suzanne Scholte will testify in North Korea every single human right as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is violated and it is often violated with absolute impunity.

North Korea is listed by the State Department as a **tier III** country with respect to **human trafficking**. In other words they are egregious violators of modern day slavery, buying and selling women and others as a commodity. It was just -- North Korea was also just designated this month as one of eight countries of particular concern for its violations of religious freedom.

But not all the testimony during this hearing will be bleak, although much of it will be. We will hear about new -- the new potential for communication to and with North Korean people and explore possibilities for peaceful change given upcoming political events in North Korea and changes in other countries in the region. We look forward to discussing this potential to improve the lives of all people living in North Korea.

I'd like to now introduce our very distinguished panel and again thank all of you for being here today. I also want to thank C-SPAN for being here, for taking this information and conveying it to the American people. North Korea, because it is so closed, very often evades all scrutiny. So people know about it, but don't know very much. Your testimony again will help to shatter that lackadaisical sense of what Americans know and think about North Korea. So thank you again.

We'll begin with Ms. Suzanne Scholte who is the president of the Defense Forum Foundation and is a leader of several groups focused on protecting human rights in North Korea. She was recognized in 2010 with the Walter Judd Freedom Award and in 2008 with the Seoul Peace Prize.

Ms. Scholte has helped rescue hundreds of North Korean refugees and facilitated the travel of defectors to speak in the United States. She has participated in numerous congressional hearings on North Korea on a wide range of topics including political prison camps, trafficking of North Korean women, religious persecution and North Korean refugees in China.

I would note parenthetically that when we held a hearing on trafficked women, some of the, what they thought were, lucky women who got out of North Korea into China, Ms. Scholte actually brought to this committee women who -- one woman who went after her daughter who made her way into China only to be sold into slavery and then she and her daughter who went looking to rescue the trafficked women were themselves sold into sexual slavery.

We'll then hear from Ms. Kim Young Soon, Committee for the Democratization of North Korea. And she was a dancer and an actress in the North Korean Army. She was arrested in 1970 and sent to the Yodok political prison camp with members of her family. Her parents and eldest son died in the camp and her husband and youngest son later died trying to escape North Korea.

Ms. Kim eventually escaped and has dedicated her life to exposing the truth about the hideous prison camps in North Korea by sharing her story around the globe. She is an outspoken defector serving as the vice president of the committee, the Democratization of North Korea and other human rights advocacy groups.

We'll then hear from Ms. Kim Hye Sook who is a survivor of nearly three decades in Bukchang political prison camp. She and her family were imprisoned by guilt by association because of her grandfather's defection to South Korea. She was just 13 years old. Ms. Kim regularly witnessed executions and abuse and endured manual labor, constant hunger and the deaths of several family members.

Once released she fled to China, but was forced to return to North Korea by her employer where she was arrested again. When she escaped, she returned to China but was sold by human traffickers again like the other witnesses we've had before this committee. She eventually escaped to South Korea and continues to tell her story around the world. Earlier this year she published her memoirs in a book entitled "A Concentration Camp Retold in Tears."

We'll then hear from Mr. Greg Scarlatoiu, Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Mr. Scarlatoiu is the executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, which was established to focus world attention on human rights abuses in North Korea and to offer creative solutions.

Born and raised in Romania he was a Bucharest University freshman when he witnessed the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Nicolae Ceausescu's barbaric regime. He lived in South Korea for 10 years and has authored in English and Korean language articles on the applicability of the Eastern European experience to North Korea context as well as a weekly Korean language broadcast into North Korea by Radio Free Asia. We welcome his as well.

I'd like to yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, for any opening comments he might have.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for calling this very important hearing, and I'd like to certainly express my appreciation to the witnesses here who have agreed to testify. Each of your stories help us to better understand the extent and magnitude of the human rights abuses of North Korea and your guidance will help us to target our efforts in alleviating some of these terrible injustices.

The human rights violations in North Korea are among the worst in the world. Under Kim Jong-Il's regime, North Korean citizens regularly face extra judiciary killings and detentions for basic political expression, seemingly ordinary market activities or unauthorized domestic travel.

North Korea doesn't seem to even need to violate the regime's rules themselves since they can be penalized for even the actions not of themselves but actually of their families, which is certainly unfair and unjust. While many of us cannot imagine a more stifling human rights environment, according to some observers the conditions are worsening due to the preparation for Jong-Il's son Kim Jong-Un to take over.

In 2004, Congress passed a North Korean human rights act authorizing funds towards human rights efforts and improving the flow of information to North Korea. Currently, this amounts to \$2 million annually for human rights and democracy, 2 million (dollars) for freedom of information programs and 20 million (dollars) to assist North Korean refugees.

I'm interested in hearing from the panelists, if you have expertise in that area, about the abuse on how proposed cuts to our international affairs budget would impact our ability to adequately continue to fund these programs that have been successful in getting information to-date. Although it's not in the realm of your testimonies necessarily, I was very disturbed at the behavior of the North Korean leadership in November of 2010 when it attacked South Korea's island of Yeonpyeong with artillery shells killing several people.

This irresponsible behavior of government really is unwarranted and really needs to have continued watching and scrutinizing as to their behavior, also their continued adventurism into ballistic missiles and other weapons of war certainly disturb us. So I certainly look forward to your testimonies and thank you again for your willingness to share them. And I yield back the balance of my time.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much. Would either of my other colleagues -- (off mic)? I'd like to now then yield the floor for such time as she may consume to Ms. Scholte.

Hello, let me just before you start, make a point. We also invited Ambassador-at-Large King who could not be here because he's out of the country. He wanted to be here and said very clearly he would gladly come and testify at a later date. And he also wanted to provide the subcommittee with a closed briefing as well on recent events including the human rights situation in North Korea. Bob King, as my colleague knows so well, especially Mr. Payne, was the chief of staff for the Foreign Affairs Committee and a very good choice for ambassador. So we look forward to hearing from him as well.

So Ms. Scholte.

SUZANNE SCHOLTE: Well, first of all I just want to thank Congressman Smith for your many years of devotion on the North Korea human rights issues and I want to thank Congressman Payne as well. It's been a honor and pleasure to work with your staff on our shared love for the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara, another divided country that's trying to get their freedom through self-determination.

I want to give two main points at this hearing today. First of all, North Korea continues to be one of the darkest places on earth, yet we fail to focus on the main issue, which is the human rights issues because we've instead focused on the nuclear issue, and this has had tragic results.

Second, despite this ongoing tragedy, there is hope because of changes that are happening in that country. But if we fail to enact the policies that address the human rights conditions and empower those who can bring about change, then we will certainly end up just prolonging this regime.

While we witness people rising up in North Africa and the Middle East, we wonder why did North Koreans who are arguably the most persecuted people in the world not rise up. It is precisely because they are the most persecuted in the world. North Koreans are the only people in the world that do not enjoy one single human rights that's enshrined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document, ironically, that was adopted in 1948, the same year that Kim Il-sung came to power.

This declaration was in response to the atrocities committed by the Axis powers during World War II. When the Nazi death camps were liberated by the allied forces during that war, the international community vowed never again, never again, would we allow these kinds of atrocities to occur. But the political prison camps in North Korea have existed longer than the Soviet gulag, longer than the Chinese laogai, and longer than the Nazi death camps.

Your two defector witnesses today are living proof of the horrors of these camps as well as the length of their existence. One was imprisoned in Yodok in the 1970s while another was imprisoned for 28 years up to the beginning of this decade in Bukchang. We have seen millions of North Koreans starve to death despite billions of economic assistance.

And North Koreans are not the only ones who suffer from Kim Jong-Il's dictatorship, but South Korean POWs are still being held in North Korea today. Well, at 108,308 captives are being held in North Korea, including 80,000 abductees in South Korea and hundreds of others in 13 countries as recently documented by the committee for human rights in North Korea.

Former presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush made human rights a second theory issue with a hope of engaging North Korea to give up their nuclear ambitions. We see the failure of these efforts as North Korea has realized its nuclear ambitions and its proliferation activity continue. Kim Jong-Il may be an evil dictator, but he has brilliantly manipulated the good intentions of both America and South Korea.

My second point, there is hope because things are changing in North Korea. Despite Kim Jong-Il's best efforts to literally keep North Koreans in the dark, up to 60 percent of North Koreans have access to some form of information beyond the regime's propaganda. They are increasingly learning that the source of their misery is not America or South Korea as they are brainwashed from childhood to believe, but the source of their misery is in fact the Kim Jong-Il and his regime.

North Korean defectors are sending remittances to their families helping demonstrate the prosperity in South Korea. North Korea now has a cell phone system with 500,000 subscribers. And although you cannot call directly from South Korea, defectors pay brokers in China to contact their families.

We also see that defectors themselves getting information into North Korea from DVDs, VCDs, USBs and flash drives through China and other creative means such as balloon launches. North Koreans, especially the elites, are keeping up with South Korean soap operas and watching many South Korean as well as Western films. Therefore, it's more important than ever to raise the human rights concerns so that they know our concerns are for them.

For example, it was a brilliant action by the Obama administration to include special envoy for North Korea human rights ambassador Robert King and the delegations that went to North Korea to assess the food situation. This underscored the fact that the human rights conditions in North Korea that are causing the starvation.

Furthermore, North Koreans are no longer dependent on Kim Jong-Il's regime to survive as over 200 private markets are functioning and the regime has given up trying to control them. This capitalism is saving them from experiencing the same level of starvation that led to the deaths of millions during the famine.

Kim Jong-Il's unprovoked attacks on South Korea, as Congressman Payne just mentioned, have awakened South Koreans to the truth that we must not ignore the human rights of North Koreans for the false promise of this regime to end its nuclear program. To take advantage of these changes, governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals first of all should make human rights central to all negotiations with or about North Korea.

Second, we should only provide food when relief organizations can stay and monitor to the point of consumption. Otherwise, it will most assuredly be diverted to maintain the regime that is causing the starvation in the first place.

Third, we need to continue to support radio broadcasting, especially programs like Radio Free Asia and Voice of America and the independent radio broadcasters like Free North Korea Radio, a defector led station in Seoul.

Fourth, we need to empower the defector organizations that are using creative methods to get information into North Korea like Fighters for a Free North Korea and the North Korea People's Liberation Front.

Five, we must convince the Chinese to end their brutal policy of forced repatriation for North Korean refugees which is prolonging this crisis by giving Kim Jong-Il a reason to resist any reforms that would improve the situation in that country so that North Koreans do not want to risk their lives trying to flee.

Six, we should support the 12 North Korean defector churches. For example, I've been working to try to connect churches here in the United States with these defector churches that have been formed in South Korea.

Seven, we need to put the elites in the regime. I noticed that they will be held accountable for their crimes against the North Korean people. Last week, a North Korean assassin was caught. His mission was to kill Park Sang Hak, who heads Fighters for a Free North Korea. Park Sang Hak is the one who's been doing the balloon launches, sending in information. Both Park and Kim Seong Min who leads Free North Korea Radio who is here at this hearing have been regularly targeted by assassins sent by Kim Jong-Il. What this tells us is that what they are doing is the most effective work.

At the end of 2009, Free North Korea Radio started Voice from the People. These were actual interviews from inside the country that they broadcast back in. Supporting this flow of information through radio broadcasting, especially by North Korea defectors, is the most effective way to reach the people because the Internet is only available to the elite and their regime.

Recently the North Korea People's Liberation Front was formed by former North Korean military including officers, special forces, cyberwarfare experts and propaganda specialists. This is significant because the only time there was organized opposition against the regime was from the military who had studied in the Soviet Union and came back to North Korea wanting reform.

Although they were eventually discovered, they operated against the regime from 1989 until 1994. Because all North Korean males must serve for 10 years and the elite are exempt from service, this means that the North Korean military truly represents the people. We saw the army in Romania turn against Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il good friend Nicolae Ceausescu when the people of that country rose up against their dictator.

Right now the elites in power have absolutely no incentive to oppose Kim Jong-Il because their entire lives are based on the successful transfer of power to Kim Jong-Il. We must assure them that they would have a stake in the future if North Korea opens up to reform. Because North Koreans are citizens under South Korea, under the Korean Constitution, South Korea has an important role to play and that they should convene a tribunal of respected judges to begin the prosecution of those in the regime responsible for the political prison camps and these other atrocities.

There are 23,000 eye witnesses now and we should start naming the names of those who are committing these crimes. When North Korea finally opens up, I believe we will be even more horrified at the atrocities that the Kim regimes have committed against the North Korean people that today are beyond our imagination. We will face the same questions that the world faced when the allies liberated the Nazi death camps. What did you know and what did you do to help stop our tragic circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Scholte, thank you very much for your testimony and for your leadership all those years and for all these years and for that very incisive testimony. We'll now hear from Ms. Kim Young Soon.

KIM YOUNG SOON: (Through interpreter.) Hello, my name is Kim Young Soon, author of "I Was a Friend of Sung Hye Rim." I'm a North Korean defector and a survivor of North Korean political prison camp Yodok, camp number 15.

First of all, I want to thank the members of the United States Congress and related officials of the Congress for giving me a chance to speak at this important venue. I also would like to thank Ms. Suzanne Scholte of the Defense Forum Foundation for her years of friendship and for listening to my story of the North Korean political prison camp experience.

Camp number 15, Yodok, where I was incarcerated is now well known throughout the world. Yodok political prison camp was created in July of 1969 under orders of Kim Il-sung in Yodok-gun, South Hamgyong Province, in a region known for its rough and mountainous features. It is here that for 30 years people who have incurred the wrath of Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il have been sent for the crime of being a political prisoner and where they have died silent deaths.

I wrote of my time at Yodok into a book and titled it "I was a Friend of Sung Hye Rim." Sung Hye Rim was at one point in my life my friend and also the hidden mistress of Kim Jong-Il, and anyone who knew the secret in North Korea were either executed or sent to political prison camps, and I became a victim of this myself and was therefore sent to Yodok. I want to tell the world about what happened to me and also tell the world about the reality of the North Korean political prison camp system.

The Workers' Party's establishment of the One Thought principle was instituted whereby the citizens were sent to prison camps for total isolation from the general public, general society for the following crimes; the crime of defaming the

authority and prestige of Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il, the crime of knowledge about the private life of Kim Jong-Il and leaking information about it to the general public, thus defaming the prestige of the great leader. When I was sent to the prison camp I had no knowledge about these facts.

The following are the political crimes that I came to know of after I was incarcerated in the Yodok prison camp; the crime of talking about the cyst or lump on Kim Il-Sung's neck, for the crime of unwittingly damaging or soiling the statue or portrait of Kim Il-Sung, the crime of knowing about the private life of Kim Jong-Il, for example, knowing about Sung Hye Rim being the secret mistress of Kim Jong-Il and disclosing this information to an outsider. The crime of revealing the birth of Kim Jong-Nam, the first-born son of Kim Jong- Il, the crime of listening to or viewing foreign radio or TV broadcast, the crime of questioning or criticizing the policy of the Workers' Party and the crime of expressing criticism or complaints about North Korean society.

I was a close friend -- I was close friends with Sung Hye Rim having gone to the same school with her from girls' high school to college. And one day I heard directly from her that she will be going to special residence number five. At that time those in the know, knew that special residence number five meant the residence of Kim Il- Sung and Kim Jong-Il.

At the time I was taken to the political prison camp I had no idea why I was being incarcerated and it was only in the summer of 1989, after I was released, did I found out the reason why from a state security agent in Tongyeong. The security agent said the following to me. Sung Hye Rim was not the wife of Kim Jong-Il nor did she bear him a son. These are all groundless rumors. If you mention anything about this again, you will not be forgiven.

I would like to talk briefly about my interrogation before I was sent to the political prison camp. On August 1st, 1970, I was forced into a car by state security agents and taken to a secret location where I was interrogated for two months by a unit called Unit 312, three-hundred and twelve, for preliminary investigation in a state security investigation room.

Under extreme fear for two months I was told to write my entire life story and to include everything and leave out nothing. So I wrote on and on. In my writing I confessed and wrote about Sung Hye Rim coming over to my house and telling me that she would be going to special residence number five and also admitted that people around me knew this information as well.

After the investigations were over on October 1, 1970, my entire family and I, seven people in total, were sent to Yodok political prison camp. The person who committed the crime was labeled the conspirator or ring leader while those taken along for yeon-jwa-je, Korean word for guilt-by-association, were labeled non-principal criminals and this was how the criminals in the prison camp were classified.

We woke up at 3:30 in the morning to go to work by 4:30 a.m., and the labor was from sun up until sun down. Meals had to be provided by ourselves through self-sufficiency. I saw countless prisoners contract the disease pellagra and suffer from diarrhea and die.

After work was finished, there were daily fight-for-ideology meetings for all the prisoners. Those who were unfortunate enough to be caught by security agents during these ideology meetings and sent away in shackles were never seen again. The forced manual labor was beyond anyone's imagination. And in case of falling short of work goals, the whole group was punished. There were so many dead bodies that I saw there enough to fill up a field.

My three sons, one daughter, father and mother died from starvation. There were no coffins. So their bodies were rolled in a straw mat and buried. One of my sons who was nine years old at the time drowned to death in Yongjuan River (ph), which is near the prison camp. My daughter was given away from adoption after our release so that she can have a better life. To this day, I do not know about her whereabouts, whether she is alive or dead. My youngest son was publicly executed by firing squad for trying to escape North Korea after his release and attempting to go to South Korea in 1993 at the age of 23.

My husband was sent to another political prison camp, a total and complete control zone in July 4, 1970, and to this day I do not know whether he is dead or alive. So from my original family of eight people, currently only two have survived and successfully escaped from North Korea, myself and another son. The rest of my family, six people, have all died.

My older brother who was the pillar of our family was a colonel in the North Korean Army during the Korean War serving the North Korean third infantry, and while on a mission for the division commander, he was killed in battle at the age of 25. Accordingly our family received favors for my brother's heroic acts and from Kim Il- Sung and we lived

well until our family was sent to a political prison camp. And as a result of feeling betrayed, I escaped from North Korea.

Even after I was released from Yodok political prison camp, I was classified as an anti-regime reactionary and suffered under the monitoring by the state security apparatus. I escaped North Korea on February 1st, 2001, and entered South Korea in November of 2003.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that in the political prison camps in North Korea, it is a place where the prisoners will eat anything that flies, crawls or grows in the field. I wasted nine years of the prime of my life in that hell hole of a place where even animals would turn away -- turn their faces away. I lost all my family members and have lived a life of tears, of blood and extreme hardship. Please save the 23 million people in North Korea who are living a life of misery, not unlike what I have suffered.

Even though I'm now over 70 years old, I will fight for the freedom of my people, my countrymen until all my strength is expended. This is the reason why I have lived so far and I believe also my purpose. In that note, I want to deeply thank again the members of this committee for your interest in the human rights situation in North Korea, especially the political prison camps. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, thank you so much. The brutality that you yourself have suffered in the loss of your family members including your daughter who, as you said, was adopted obviously without your permission, you have no idea where she is. Your husband, you have no idea where he is, and the loss of your other family members, it just underscores the brutality of Kim Jong-Il and the fact that the West, the United States and any country that has any sense of compassion needs to speak out against this horrific abuse. And this should not be a second tier issue, the human rights abuses that are commonplace in North Korea. So we thank you for making us further aware of the extreme barbarity you have been made to endure and your family.

We will now hear from another Ms. Kim who has suffered three decades in the gulag and we look forward to hearing her testimony.

KIM HYE SOOK: (Through interpreter.) Hello, my name is Kim Hye Sook. I am a North Korean defector who was incarcerated in political prison camp number 18, Bukchang prison camp in Pukchang in South (Chungcheong ?) Province for 28 years. And in 2009, I escaped North Korea and entered South Korea via China, Laos and Thailand.

In February of 1975, for reasons that were unknown to me at that time, I was dragged with my parents to the prison camp. I was 13 years old at the time. During my incarceration at Camp number 18 I lost my grandmother, mother, brother and my husband.

I only found out after I was out of that hell on earth, Camp number 18, why I was sent to the prison camp, because my grandfather had defected to South Korea during the Korean War. But by then I had nowhere to go and complain about the situation. I would like to say that the term kwan-li-so in North Korea is a living hell for human beings, a place where people who have committed so-called crimes are sent and incarcerated as a group and forced to work in manual slave labor.

There are political prison camps where people who have been found guilty of being against Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il or those resisting the regime are sent and held, whereas in places like Camp number 18 where I was incarcerated in, besides political prisoners, those who are guilty of economic crimes are sent along with family members and are forced to work in coal mines.

In Camp number 18 in Pukchang where I was imprisoned, the whole prison camp was encircled by a 13-foot-high electrified fence and trying to escape through this over 3,000 volts of electrified fence was unimaginable. When I first entered the prison camp we were told to memorize 10 rules of the prison camp.

And I still remember it vividly because I remember them from such an early age. One of the rules was that the prisoners were not supposed to know the reason for ending up in the prison camp. And those caught violating this rule will be relentlessly executed by firing squad.

For young people like me who ended up in the prison camp at a young age, we were given very rudimentary education, basic Korean language education. And then when we turned 16 or 17 everyone without exception was sent to the coal mines to dig out coal and this goes without saying for the adults as well. We had to work 16 to 18-hour workdays without rest or holidays. And for food, our family of seven was provided only around 10 pounds of corn per month. And

this was supplemented by gruel made from grass or anything that we picked up from the field, tree bark, grass and that's what we ate, one meal a day, corn and the mixed grass gruel that we had to make for ourselves.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, if you could just suspend for one brief moment. We're joined by the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that deals with justice issues and science, but is also the author of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. And as we all know North Korea is a Tier 3 country. It's Congressman Frank Wolf who cares deeply about human rights. But he can only stay brief minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK WOLF (R-VA): Thank you, Mr. Smith. I want to thank you and Mr. Payne and the committee for having this hearing.

I met with the witnesses earlier today. It was one of the most significant and moving testimony and reports that I have - I have ever heard. And I think certainly the State Department should do everything they can, quite frankly, to bring about regime change in North Korea.

When this government falls as it will fall the same way the East German government fell with regard to the Berlin Wall, the West will feel so guilty to know that it said nothing other than the hearings that the members here have had and said nothing with regard that takes place. This administration should do everything, and lastly -- and I'll end with this.

I think the church in the West, all religious faiths in the West should come together and support these people in every way they can to see about that the fact that hundreds of thousands are in these camps. It's totally unacceptable. So anyone within the voice, can hear this, can follow this hearing ought to be advocating this.

So I want again to thank you and Mr. Payne and the other members and thank the witnesses for coming by my office. I'm on my way to a 4 o'clock, but I was just moved to come by because what I heard was just so powerful. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back. I thank you for your time.

REP. SMITH: Chairman Wolf, thank you very much.

Ms. Kim, if you could continue.

MS. HYE SOOK: And I was plagued with hunger from the day I entered the prison camp and until the day I was released. And my one wish was to just eat one bowl of white rice for one meal. And after I became an adult and during my times of working at the coal mine, walking to and from work, I would look around for anything to eat. And regardless of season it became a habit to scrape or pluck anything that was green and make soup and eat it whether it was from tree bark or from grass.

I cannot even begin to describe how many people suffered and died because of starvation in the prison camp and how many people were killed without reason for not listening to authorities or not showing enough repentance. So public execution by -- execution by firing squad through public execution by firing squad; their bodies were riddled with countless bullet holes and I saw countless bodies that ended up like this.

And there was a time when I saw the bodies of people who were killed by firing squad were rolled up in a straw mat and carried away in carts. And I said to myself even dogs will not die so pitifully.

In this place where human lives were worthless than those of flies, this was where my brother and husband died also. Their deaths were classified as due to accidents, but their deaths were intentional deaths carried out in the atmosphere of the prison camps where nothing was normal.

And as a result of working the coal mines for over 12 years, I contracted a black lung and faced death many times. But in place for my mother who passed away before me I vowed to survive and live on and look out after my siblings -- my remaining siblings. And that devotion was what allowed me to survive that hell.

And my siblings are still incarcerated at Camp number 18, my brother and sister. And in December of 1974 before our family was sent off to prison camp -- Camp number 18 my father was hauled away by the state security bureau never to be heard from again. And I do not know what happened to him to this day. And even at this moment as I speak there are over 10,000 -- 10,000 -- 20,000 people who are in Camp 18 without knowing the reason why, people who are dying from abuse and lack of rights at this very moment.

And this is not just happening in Camp number 18, but I would like to say that this is the suffering and sadness that 23 million North Korean citizens are going through and suffering -- experiencing right now. Not only that, but besides the human rights violations going on in North Korea, there's now the cruelty and misery inflicted on North Korean refugee

women who have escaped North Korea into China through the terrible situation of human trafficking happening in different places.

After nearly escaping death and coming out of North Korea and into China and then becoming victims of human and sexual trafficking, I can say with authority that the tragic situation of the North Korean women must be told again, again in the international community. I myself was sold four different times in four different cities in China. And the inhumane and indescribable suffering that these women go through in China, being sold like commodity, still keeps me awake at night.

Please end the existence of such a society and make it into a place where humans can live as people. Please let the people without any rights in North Korea live in freedom and happiness. Please get rid of the political prison camps and please tell those who do not know about freedom what freedom is about.

I sincerely hope that my earnest pleas will be delivered to the United States Congress, to the United States government and to the people of America. I also want to deeply thank the honorable members of this committee, here today who have made possible for me to speak as well as to Ms. Suzanne Scholte of the Defense Forum Foundation. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim, without a doubt your message has been heard and thank you for sharing what can only be described as enormous suffering that you've experienced, being sold into sexual slavery, the loss of family members and as -- so there will be positive consequences from your testimony. We will work hard to promote human rights in North Korea, I can assure you that.

Before going to Mr. Scarlatoiu, I would just note I have a bill on the floor right this minute; it's the combating -- the reauthorization of the Combating Autism Act of 2011, so I will leave briefly, but without objection, Mr. Payne has graciously said that he will take the committee.

MR. : I would just like to point out that -- Congressman -- (inaudible) -- say this.

REP. SMITH: Thanks Don.

MR. : This is the (map ?) that she drew of the camp she was in. Just --

REP. PAYNE: We'll now hear from our final witness.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Good afternoon, Mr. Payne and Ms. Bass. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about the human rights situation in North Korea, and about the apparent increase in the amount of information getting into that country. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to discuss these issues with you today.

Mr. Payne, I would like to begin by informing you that I will be presenting a brief summary of the views included in my prepared statement.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. Without objection.

MR. SCARLATOIU: After the very emotional and comprehensive testimony by Ms. Scholte, after the heartbreaking testimony by Ms. Kim Young Soon and Ms. Kim Hye Sook, there's barely anything I can add on the human rights situation in North Korea. The human rights situation in North Korea remains abysmal.

According to experts and testimony by recent North Korean defectors, there is no evidence that the human rights situation in North Korea has improved as the Kim regime proceeds on steps towards leadership succession. On the contrary, it appears the border crackdown aimed at preventing North Koreans from defecting to China has intensified and the political prisoner camp population has been on the increase.

In May of this year, Amnesty International released satellite imagery and new testimony shedding light on the horrific conditions in North Korea's political prisoner camps. According to that organization, the prisoner population detained at such camps is up to 200,000 and a comparison of the latest satellite photos with satellite imagery from 2001 indicates a considerable increase in the scale of the camps.

Moving on to the flow of information getting into North Korea, although officially all personal radios must have a fixed dial and be registered with state security offices, programming by stations including Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and broadcasters based in South Korea may have a listenership of around 30 percent in North Korea. The number of radios smuggled from China has been on the increase.

The North Korean authorities continue to attempt to jam foreign broadcasting, but face serious limitations in their efforts as jamming is energy-intensive and North Korea is experiencing endemic energy shortages. In recent years, we have found out that there has been a significant increase in the amount of information entering North Korea. This development is the result of the marketization that has taken place in that country.

Such marketization is by no means an intended top-down reform program, but rather a function of state failure. Small informal markets provide ordinary people a coping mechanism that enables them to survive. During the informal marketization of North Korea, supply chains have developed from China to North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang and .mp3 players, CD-ROMs, DVDs and thumb drives have been entering North Korea. Statistical data including a 2010 survey of North Korean refugees and travelers by the Broadcasting Board of Governors indicate that 27 percent of respondents have listened to foreign radio, 48 percent have come in contact with foreign DVDs and other video material, while 27 percent have watched foreign TV.

Information is also being passed from one member to the next along such supply chains. It appears that the Korean wave consisting of South Korean soap opera and music, exceptionally popular elsewhere in Asia and beyond has also reached North Korea. According to Japan's Asahi Shimbun one member of a group of nine North Koreans who recently sailed for five days before being picked up off the west coast of Japan one week ago on September the 13th, this gentleman, a squid fisherman said that he was inspired to leave his home by South Korean soap operas.

In January 2008, Egyptian company Orascom Telecom Holding was awarded a license to establish a 3G mobile network in North Korea. When launched in December 2008, Koreolink had 5,300 subscribers. In its half-year earnings report for January-June 2011, published on August the 10th, Orascom stated the number of subscribers in North Korea had reached 660,000.

Separate from the expansion of the Koreolink network, citizens of North Korea have also been using Chinese cellular phones smuggled across the border into North Korea. We have indication that Koreolink intends to launch 3G Internet service via Apple iPad in Pyongyang this fall by a special SIM card.

Nevertheless, Internet access is likely to continue to be restricted to foreign residents and those close to the Kim regime. There are also those North Koreans who possess computers not connected to the web, and they're estimated to represent about 3 percent of the entire population.

Based on data collected through interviews with North Korean defectors, and the proven track record of success in winning the ideological confrontation during the Cold War, radio broadcasting will continue to be one of the few media available to grant the people of North Korea access to information from the outside world. Computers not connected to the Internet, thumb drives, DVDs, CD-ROMs and MP3 players have become increasingly available although access to such devices is still relatively limited.

Efforts to increase the flow of information into North Korea should take into account the increasing availability of such vehicles. I wish to thank the subcommittee and its staff for the opportunity to testify before you today, and I would now be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you very much.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. Let me once again thank each of the witnesses. Your testimony is certainly very compelling. We've -- of course, have heard and we try to keep up with the situation in North Korea, but it certainly brings it home when we have a hearing and to hear especially from individuals who have lived through the horrors of this regime. And of course we appreciate our experts from the Defense Forum Foundation and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.

Perhaps to either one of you who are working with organizations that deal with that, Ms. Scholte or Mr. Scarlatoiu -- hope I have that closely -- (inaudible) -- the special envoy for North Korea human rights, Ambassador Robert King, has said that the United States government would engage in an in-depth dialogue on human rights issues at the six-party talks.

The six-party talks are at an impasse and the absence of six-party talks, first of all, what do each of you feel that the six-party talks have achieved in the past, and whether there were any real gains forward, first of all, but secondly if indeed you feel that it's an impasse or there's really not a real effort on the part of North Korea, what other fora would the Obama administration consider employing for human rights dialogue with Pyongyang?

So whether talks pass and they've been going on for a bit through several administrations, and if they're scrapped, in absence of that, could there be anything else or should we continue with these? Could I ask each one of you if you'd like to comment.

MS. SCHOLTE: Well, first of all, I think that regarding the six-party talks, this is an effort by the Bush administration to rein in North Korea's nuclear ambitions. And they made the decision that they would just focus on the nuclear issue and not address any of the human rights concerns. They kicked the human rights concerns down the road.

We can tell by history that North Koreans are brilliant at manipulating the talks and using talks to gain aid and support, make promises they never intend to keep. They did the same thing to Bill Clinton during the Agreed Framework. And I think president -- former President Clinton can be excused for that because he was dealing with a new dictator when he was president.

But the Bush administration, I think, should have known better. They should have known the history of how these regime uses talks, and what we've seen during these talks, the result has been North Korea has developed nuclear weapons. It's very active in the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the -- exactly the purpose of these talks was never realized.

But at the same time, millions of North Koreans have died. And so, I think that talking with this regime is useless. They only use these talks to extract concessions and support and legitimize the regime. I think, instead, we need to take a new approach. I think that President Obama is in a unique position to do that. I think that we should make human rights the number one policy of our government.

I think that we should reach out to the North Korean people. I think that President Obama should be talking about the fact that -- I think we should say we want to give North Korea as much aid as they need so that the people are not starving, but we want to be able to see that it is consumed. I think we should be talking about the fact that we want to help the people, we want to improve conditions there.

We'd like to see the International Red Cross be able to go to the political prison camps. North Korea denies they have any camps. Well, fine, let's -- let an independent agency like the International Red Cross go to these camps. And I think that we need to be focusing on the human rights issues in our policy, but at the same time doing everything we can to support the kind of creative things that the defectors themselves are doing in radio broadcasting and these balloon launches, because the impact that Free North Korea Radio had, which went on to Internet broadcasting in 2004 and then went on to shortwave in 2006, the impact that Free North Korea Radio had was amazing.

It set the pace for all the broadcasters because it was the defectors themselves. And as you know, the South Koreans are raised to believe -- I'm sorry, North Koreans are raised to believe that South Korea and the United States caused the Korean War. I mean, they're brainwashed with stuff that we would think was completely ridiculous.

But they believe this. So when the North Koreans themselves are talking and broadcasting these views and these opinions into North Korea, North Koreans can't dismiss them. So it has had a tremendous impact. And I think we have to be doing everything we can to reach out with that message to the North Korean people and using the defectors especially.

REP. PAYNE: Yeah.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Payne, the main reason why nothing has been happening on the six-party talks front for a while now is that North Korea has refused to act as a responsible member of the international community. North Korea has continued to proceed with missile and nuclear developments. North Korea engaged in very serious provocations last year. In March, it launched a torpedo attack on the South Korean corvette, the Cheonan; 46 South Korean sailors were killed in that attack.

As it has already been mentioned, as you have already mentioned, on November the 23rd, North Korea shelled South Korean territory, the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong and this attack resulted in military and civilian casualties. We have already heard about assassins sent to kill Mr. Park Sang Hak, one of the very active North Korean defectors in South Korea a few weeks back. There were deep concerns about an alleged assassination plot targeting Mr. Kim Kwan-jin, the defense minister of South Korea.

And before that the most high-profile North Korean defector, Mr. Hwang Jang-Yop passed away last year, late last year. But only a few months before that we heard about a plot that was targeting him for assassination. That being said, North Korea has also continued to oppress its own people.

North Korea has continued to refuse to abide by the international obligations that it's supposed to abide by, given that it's a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the international convention against all forms of discrimination against women, the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, and as a UN member state it's supposed to be bound by the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

As to whether human rights should be on the agenda it is the firm belief of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea that human rights, the improvement of the human rights situation in North Korea should be at the top of our priorities, and personally, as I hope that one day we will see the complete irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program. I also hope that we will see the complete irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of North Korea's political prisoner camps as well.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. Let me ask you, Ms. Kim Young Soon, or you Ms. Kim Hye Sook there is -- and I know that your experiences in North Korea was years ago and you have very compelling testimony, I'm just curious to know in your days as a young person, as a child, as a teenager, as an adult growing up, what type of society, what type of programs does the government impose on children? You know, it's supposed to be a time of life when people are happy, they're growing, they're learning.

What -- to your best recollection could you, if you can explain what is the life of a -- like for a young child and a young teenager, young adult growing up in North Korea today, if you can sort of transpose your experiences?

MS. YOUNG SOON: Congressman, in answer to your question, after the liberation from Japan in 1945 and until the '70s, North Korea was actually a little bit better -- was actually better than South Korea in terms of the economic situation. And as for myself, when I was young, I went to school and I attended the university, the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and I majored in dance.

I learned under the teachings of a very well-known North Korean dancer, Che Si Hin (ph), and before I went to Yodok prison camp, I can say with assurance that I was very happy, that my happiness quotient so to speak was very high in terms of living in North Korean society.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you.

MS. HYE SOOK: Congressman, for -- in my case, before I was sent away to Bukchang prison camp, I had a life where I had no worries about food, about eating. I went to school. I lived a normal life. But because I was sent to prison camp at such an early age, that's all about -- that I can share about in terms of my experience in relation to your question.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. One other question that I'm just curious about is we do know that in World War II there was the question of the Braupos (ph) that were created in Korea. And I wonder whether that was in the north of Korea or was that primarily in Korea itself, if anyone recalls?

As you may know, we're still working on a real apology from the government of Japan. There's been some apologies, but this has been an issue that has plagued the world since that time. And I wonder whether it was prevalent in -- throughout Korea?

MS. YOUNG SOON: My answer to you sir, is that before liberation in 1940 -- before the liberation in 1945, even in the northern part of the peninsula, in North Korea, there were instances or places where these (comfort ?) women stations or locations were based in North Korea. And I believe that even if this issue were to be addressed with the Japanese government, we would not be getting a satisfactory answer or a clear answer from the Japanese government, regarding your question, sir.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. Thank you very much. I yield to the gentle lady from California.

REPRESENTATIVE KAREN BASS (D-CA): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I actually would like to follow up on a question that Mr. Payne said to Ms. Soon and Ms. Sook about your childhood until you went into the camp. And Ms. Soon, you were -- you said up until the '70s, and I realize that's when you went into the camps, but did things drastically change in North Korea, and when?

MS. YOUNG SOON: To answer your question, Kim Il-Sung's propaganda was set in place in the -- between deliberation, years of deliberation, and until the Korean War, those years were known as the best years in terms of the affluence and the prosperity of North Korea. And after the Korean War, there were various economic plans that were instituted to try to help the economy and to help the people live better. But in 1987 -- in the late '80s, after the Soviet Union col-

lapsed and after the help from that part of the region stopped, that's what brought on the change in terms of the economic downturn in the conditions for the people in North Korea.

REP. BASS: I see. First of all, let me also just thank you for coming and sharing your testimony. I think it's very, very important that people in this country hear and learn what's going on in North Korea because I don't think much is known here about what is happening there. And the pain and the suffering that you described, the loss of your family members, not knowing where your children are, your husband, you know, it's just -- I think it's an immeasurable amount of pain.

And I appreciate you taking the time and sharing that with us. I think it's especially important because the need for foreign aid and the need for assistance -- and I'm sorry, I don't want to mispronounce your name, Ms. Scholte, Scholte, when you talked about the need for there to be foreign assistance and food and all in times when we're talking about cutting back. So I think the message is critically important.

But Ms. Sook, you were saying that you thought that we shouldn't have discussions, negotiations with North Korea, but at the same time, we should do what we can to you know, deliver food and other things that the population would need. How do we do that? I understand the communication part, funding that, but how would we get aid to people, how would we -- to the people that need it? Ms. Soon could answer first. That'd be great. Ms. Soon or Ms. Sook.

MS. HYE SOOK: I would like to say that the role that's supporting North Korea is because they hear stories of people starving and suffering, but as a North Korean defector, I believe that the regime of North Korea should be completely isolated and that will -- that's the only way to change the regime. And unless North Korea adopts a market economy and changes drastically the way it -- the way the country's run, no -- nothing -- no change will come. And as a defector I would like to say that real help will be for Kim Jong-Il regime to be completely isolated and stop the aid that's being given to the regime.

REP. BASS: Weren't you going for something different?

MS. SCHOLTE: No, actually I agree except I was just making the point that if we're going -- I actually believe in a substantial amount of assistance, but only if we can state to the point of consumption, because if we're -- if the relief -- if we send any amount of assistance to North Korea, it will be diverted. And when you talk to defectors, they never saw any food aid. And when you talk to defectors that served in the military, they'll tell you the World Food Programme goes into town, delivers rice to these families.

Right after they leave, the army comes back and takes it all back. In fact there is Dr. Norbert Vollertsen who testified some years ago about how he'd gone to an orphanage and they handed out cookies, and the kids just there with the cookies waiting for somebody to come back and take it away. So the diversion has been absolute.

And because of that, I think that that's the kind of a message that we could send that would be a very powerful message for positive propaganda which is that we very much are concerned about the starvation and the political prisoner camps and the situation in North Korea. We want to help you. We hear about these stories, we want to help you.

But we want to be sure that we're actually helping the people and we're only going to give that aid if we know that we can stay there. Even from the very beginning when this -- when the famine first started, North Korea put such stipulations on the food aid. They actually didn't want -- I've never heard of this before, but -- I've never heard about this before, and challenge me on this, but I don't think of any situation where there was a country where there was starvation, where the country that was the intended recipient of the aid demanded that the aid deliverers couldn't speak their language.

I don't think that's ever happened any place but North Korea because usually if you're going into a country to deliver aid you're desperate for somebody who speaks the language. But that just speaks volumes about just from the very beginning of their intention to divert aid. So because of the difficulty of preventing from being diverted, that's why I said we should only provide aid if we can be there at the point of consumption.

If we're going to go into -- I can tell you all kinds of stories, but if we're going to go into an orphanage and deliver formula, we're going to make sure those babies get that formula because Action Against Hunger did that and that formula ended up in Pyongyang and the markets and those babies were given watered-down goat's milk when they showed up a month later to find out what happened to the tons of baby food they delivered to that orphanage.

Just one example, but I think that's -- and then the second point I was making is that we should be looking at creative ways to get in information, like radio broadcasting, but also the balloon launches and also to the North Koreans that are -- have defected that are sending in remittances into the country that are helping support their families.

REP. BASS: Thank you very much.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you, and the chairman has returned. I'll relinquish the chair back to him and hold any other questions I have till later time. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: I want to thank ranking member Payne for leading the committee. Again, I had to leave because a bill of mine on autism was on the floor, and it did pass thankfully.

Let me just ask a question if I could, with regards to a few years back in 2002, in May, I chaired a hearing on North Korean human rights, one of several, and we had Norbert Vollertsen, former medical doctor inside of North Korea who actually was given a huge award by the dictatorship for his medical expertise and the fact that he helped cure a whole lot of people. But he also then told the truth about the human rights situation and he said that they are using food as a weapon, talking about the dictatorship, against their own people. They are committing genocide and I think we have to care. As an international community, we have to intervene.

Ms. Scholte, would you say -- that was in 2002 that the international community, I heard in the opening comments that you had criticism that Bush did not focus on human rights, nor did Bill Clinton in North Korea. We did pass the human rights in North Korea act. I was one of the cosponsors of that. Jim Leach was the prime sponsor. It was an excellent bill. Mr. Payne, all of us strongly supported it.

Has that legislation lived up to its promise? Are we emphasizing human rights sufficiently in our dialogue or whatever it is of a dialogue with the North Koreans?

MS. SCHOLTE: I would say I've been actually very disappointed after all the hard work we did in getting the North Korean Human Rights Act passed. I've been disappointed in -- right from the very start the Bush administration said we welcome these tools that you're giving us to help on this issue, but then they never really used those tools.

It's -- the one thing it didn't help I know with radio broadcasting and expanding VOA and RFA support which was really I believe the result of that legislation was a huge -- was a huge -- one huge great thing, factor that happened with the radio broadcasting that's so important and also helping like Free North Korea Radio, some of the independent broadcasters.

The other thing though too is the special envoy position. I think it's very significant that President Obama has made it very clear that his special envoy Robert King will be part of all discussions and negotiations on North Korea. That was not the case during the Bush administration. Jay Lefkowitz was cut out. So I think that President Obama is taking greater advantage of that legislation to try to do more with the North Korean Rights Act just by the very nature of the way that he's elevated Ambassador King's position.

On the comment you made about North Korea using food as a weapon, that is absolutely true. It uses food as a weapon against its own people, and they have an apartheid-type system in North Korea where people are classified based on loyalty to the regime. You have the elites. Then you have what they consider the wavering class, which is the class that's not considered to be completely loyal to the regime, and then you've got the hostile class.

And if you're in the elites, you may get white rice, but if you're down on that classification system you may never see any rice your whole life. You may get cornmeal. But the thing that's happened with the food is because of the breakdown of the public distribution system, which is how the regime rewarded people through this apartheid-type system based on loyalty, that system is broken down, and that's why these markets are so significant. So you have over 200 markets.

And these are just the ones we know -- can identify by satellite. These are just the ones we know by satellite. There's probably many more markets. But that's how people are surviving. They're trading and selling and buying among themselves in these markets.

REP. SMITH: Either or both of our Kims could just comment, Ms. Kim and Ms. Kim, on one, the use of torture in the gulags. We have had testimony before this committee in the past that Christians and people of faith are even more selected out for repression, especially -- and women who are pregnant are often forcibly aborted in, you know, this -- in an absolutely crude -- they get beaten around the abdomen and then miscarry. So it's a horrible thing.

We even had testimony of boards being put on women and soldiers or gulag security guards jumping on the boards on the abdomen of the pregnant women. Did you experience torture? You mentioned how both of you saw littered bodies everywhere, that people are treated like animals.

I mean, Ms. Kim, you said that a society where the whole country is a prison, a society where those who escape the country in search of freedom are caught and imprisoned and executed and where those who have escaped become lost people and orphans in the international community; a society where chastity and virginity, which is more precious than life, is sold cheaper than the cheapest of things -- of course talking about the scourge of human trafficking.

If you could speak to the use of torture and these terrible and despicable atrocities being committed by the dictatorship -

MS. YOUNG SOON: In answer to your question, regarding my experience at Yodok, before I was sent to Yodok, during the two months of interrogation, I was stuck in a room with no calendar, no clock, really a black hole for two months. And for somebody to come out of that and not go crazy, it's a miracle and that's what I experienced. And in terms of actually being in Yodok, my experience there, I saw violence -- inmate-on-inmate violence. I was injured in my shoulder during work, and also my fingers were injured during work and in terms of torture, the violence, that's what I experienced during my prison experience at Yodok prison camp.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Ms. Kim?

MS. HYE SOOK: Regarding my experience, to your question, you could see in some of the drawings that I've displayed what I went through. But at the -- prison camp number 18, there was no paved road, and there were many times where the prison guards would force prisoners -- would stop if these prisoners walking back and forth from work within the camp, they would stop these prisoners, force them to open their mouths and these prisoners would -- these prison guards would spit the phlegm into the mouths -- open mouths of prisoners and would tell them if you swallow it, you will not be beaten, but if you throw up or resist you will be relentlessly beaten.

And she herself experienced that torture three times during her 28 years there, and in 2005 when she -- after she was released from the camp and she was caught -- she went into China, was caught and repatriated, during the detention period when she was going through that, she saw an instance where women who were also caught and repatriated were forced to -- repeated sitting and standing-up action so that anything they were hiding in their uterus would fall out, hidden money or other contraband that the prison guards were trying to find. So that's the extent of the torture that she witnessed from her time in North Korea.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Scarlatoiu, if you could -- you indicate in your testimony that there's evidence that human rights abuses in North Korea are intensifying as the regime takes steps towards leadership succession. Could you speak further on that issue and perhaps some of the evidence that you have that suggest that --

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Chairman, I should tell you that our organization has published one quite well-known report on the political prisoner camps in North Korea, called Hidden Gulag, that happened in 2003 and are in the process of putting together a second edition. And towards that goal we have collected testimony by at least about 60 former inmates of political prisoner camps.

The difference between now and then is that we have had testimony from some guards. We have better satellite imagery. Based on such testimony we seem to see intensified political repression. We seem to see a crackdown along the border with China, and all indications are that the new center nucleus of power being created around the third son of Kim Jong-il, around Kim Jong-un, is not composed of any type of reform.

We have all indication -- including violent provocations against South Korea, violent military provocations, dispatching of assassins -- intensified human rights violations in North Korea. We have all evidence that we are dealing with very hardliners.

REP. SMITH: Let me ask a question with regards to Juche. I read a book some years back about the self-reliance religion and the cult of personality, the deification of Kim Jong-il and Kim Il-sung before him. And it was a very detailed heavily footnoted book with how they brainwash the people of North Korea. And I'm wondering if all of you might speak to this and especially the two Kims -- how did they overcome this brainwashing effort.

Do people in North Korea really regard Kim Jong-il as God? There was a National Geographic piece recently, and I watched it with great interest. I watched it more than once, and a doctor went to North Korea to do some surgeries on the eye and he was having phenomenal success teaching other doctors and practitioners in North Korea to do so.

But I was astonished how the people who had been helped, especially at a -- like a group meeting were looking at a picture of Kim Jong-il and thanking him and getting on their knees and worshipping him. And the intensity of it was quite unnerving, frankly. And I'm wondering how that plays into -- I mean, they deny people information, they jam obviously outside broadcasts, but this brainwashing obviously starts from the moment a child can speak and talk and -- hear, I should say. And I'm wondering how they overcame that, the people -- was what we saw on that video true that he is regarded as a God?

MS. YOUNG SOON: I'd like to answer your question by saying that in North Korea from basically childbirth, from kindergarten on little children are brainwashed into believing that Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il are capable of superhuman accomplishments and that there are not enough words to praise, not enough words in the world to praise Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il. And they're so brainwashed that there's no room whatsoever in their minds to think otherwise in North Korea.

And the people in North Korea, the situation with their minds -- their minds have been replaced with a brainwashed mind. And there's no freedom to travel. It's a country where you need special color-coded passes to travel to a particular place; and it's a nation -- it's a society where hands and feet are tied of the people so that they cannot travel or be free in that society.

MS. HYE SOOK: To answer your question, from my experience as soon as you're born in North Korea you are taught phrases -- thank you to your leader; thank you great leader.

And one example I'd like to give you, sir, is that in 2009 when I escaped to China there was a woman with a young daughter, with a young child -- young daughter who accompanied me. And the Chinese family that was helping us gave this starving child food, and the first words out of this child's mouth when she received the food was, thank you, dear leader Kim Jong-il.

So that goes to show you the extent of the brainwashing. And in North Korea from the moment you're born till the day you die -- thank you dear leader Kim Jong-il; thank you great leader, Kim Il-sung, those words are just a brainwashing to the people's minds.

REP. SMITH: And let me just ask a few final questions and then -- did you want -- yes, Ms. Scholte.

MS. SCHOLTE: Oh, I was going to add one comment about -- that's one of the things about this whole idea. There's a woman I met who had been a defector and I -- she taught philosophy, so I casually asked her, oh, who's your favorite philosopher.

You know, just -- (laughs.) And she was like, oh, I only taught Kim Il-sungism and Marxism for the first 10 years of my career and then for the last 10 years just Kim Jong-ilism.

And I said, well, are you -- when you got free -- to South Korea, did you -- did you pursue philosophy?

And she said, no, I was afraid that my brain was too twisted to be able to understand that.

And I thought the fact that she admitted that proved that it wasn't, that she -- you know, that her brain had opened up. But she was actually studying North Korean studies to figure out a way to help her country. But I want to say the -- one of the programs that Free North Korea Radio is trying to do -- and we're actually reaching out to the Christian churches to help this, but they want to do a program explaining the concept of, you know, when we think of religious faith and self-sacrifice and helping others versus what they're brainwashed to believe, to try to help North Koreans kind of open their minds to understanding the concepts of what we -- what we value in the western world, which is serving others and helping others, which is the complete opposite of everything that they're taught, which is they're the servants of the regime.

And that's one of the things that I think is really important, because the defectors know how to articulate those kinds of things. And another thing, too -- there's a organization called the Coalition for North Korea Women Solidarity. And this is a coalition formed by North Korean women, most of whom were victims of trafficking.

But the whole concept -- when they first came to South Korea, the whole concept of human rights was completely alien to them. And we believe that -- socialist societies try to say that well, women are equal.

But in North Korea women are treated horribly. And so this is something that they're doing to help restore these women and teach them that the value they are -- as human beings the value are as a women. But it's a very important progress the defectors are taking.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Mr. Scarlatoiu --

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Chairman, I think that brutal and ruthless dictators such as the Kims in North Korea and the cult of personality built around them depend by far and large on denying their citizens knowledge of alternative economic, social and political systems. You have mentioned that Christians are subject to harsh punishment. We have also come across evidence that among those North Korean defectors forcibly repatriated from China, those who have come in contact with Christian missionaries or South Koreans face particularly harsh punishment, in some cases amounting to public executions.

Most likely, the main reason beyond that is that both Christianity and South Korea present alternative systems. One great advantage that Eastern Europeans had primarily through public broadcasting that they were receiving from the outside world was that it was clear to them that the capitalists, liberal democracies of the West were clearly the alternative. And I really think that we have an opportunity now to focus on improving the flow of information to North Korea, to persuade not only the overwhelming majority of North Koreans who are so oppressed but also why not the elites of North Korea that there is life after the Kim regime and that alternatives are available?

REP. SMITH: Let me just make a note here that we've asked -- I've asked the administration in hearings and through other meetings to put China on **Tier 3** for **human trafficking** not only because of the horrific rise in sex trafficking in the People's Republic of China, among the Chinese, but also because if a North Korean woman thinks she has gotten to relative safety and freedom by crossing the border, she invariably is sold into **human trafficking**, and the Chinese government doesn't lift a single finger to mitigate her pain and to rescue her and to crack down on the traffickers who dot the border looking for women who are leaving that country.

They also violate the refugee convention, and China is a signatory to the refugee convention because they send back men and women who are most likely to be incarcerated in the gulag, if not executed, for leaving without permission. So China bears a huge responsibility for its enabling and complicity in the crimes of Pyongyang. Let me also ask just a final question. How would you rate the international community's response, including the U.S., Europe and especially the United Nations? There is -- there's a high commissioner for Human Rights. There are -- there's a whole rapporteur system.

Obviously they have not had access in most cases to North Korea. But there's also the Human Rights Council, which was supposed to speak truth to power regardless of the consequences and hold countries to account. Now, I frequently would -- when it was a commission and now the council -- would ask the council or commission to raise human rights in North Korea.

And frankly, there have been resolutions in the past, but it has struck me that they're almost like pro forma resolutions. They have low expectations. There's no sense of shock or dismay over what the Kim -- Kim Jong-il has been doing and his fellow dictators in Pyongyang. And there's that sense that, you know, is it obligatory chastisement and no one expects anything to change, and because of those low expectations, that country in no way is held to account.

So why is the international community so incredibly passive when it comes to what is equivalent to what the Nazis did in its gulags to its own people and to Jews and to others, which is going on current day in North Korea? If you could speak to that and to our -- the two Kims -- finally, I was in South Korea recently, spoke to a number of lawmakers and others in Seoul and I was kind of surprised -- and maybe I'm wrong in my impression to glean from that experience that many people in South Korea don't have the kind of understanding that the two Kims here have brought to this committee, and that is what goes on in those gulags and the huge repression that is from womb to tomb by the dictatorship.

The young people kind of trivialize it in South Korea. Is that true, or is that a false impression that I picked up on that trip? You know, they know it's there, but it's not as bad and they just don't seem to take it at face value for the huge atrocity that it is. So any of you who would like to speak to that?

MR. SCARLATOIU: Chairman Smith, regarding your first question, at the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea we are very familiar with the work and the reporting done by the U.N. special rapporteurs on the human rights situation in North Korea. Both the current rapporteur, Professor Darusman from Indonesia and the previous rapporteur Pro-

fessor Vitit Muntarbhorn from Thailand, are very dedicated scholars and very good human beings who have worked very hard to put together --

REP. SMITH: I would note Param has testified before our committee in the past.

MR. SCARLATOIU: We're aware of that, sir. So they've done extraordinary work to shed light on the atrocities and the human rights violations happening in North Korea. I think that organizations such as ours have a duty to inform the international community to conduct research to publish on the human rights violations happening in North Korea and to engage in robust public information campaigns to inform the public here in the United States and beyond and also to inform North Koreans on the rights that they have that are being violated with such impudence.

MS. SCHOLTE: I was going to say that you mentioned China and I would say that there's a direct correlation between the ability of the U.N. to do anything and China stymieing those efforts. And what you mentioned about the refugees -- this is the most solvable human rights crisis that's going on in the world today. It could be solved overnight if China simply followed the treaties that it's signed.

The UNHDR has an office in Beijing. These refugees have a place to go. They're the only refugees I know in the world that -- again, another thing that makes North Korea unique -- that have a place to go, because they are citizens under the South Korean constitution. And of course our North Korean Human Rights Act says that we'll take them -- some here, you know, and people are willing to resettle them.

So there's no reason for China to continue this brutal policy of repatriation that's caused 80 percent of North Korean women to be trafficked in this -- basically modern-day slave markets. And I believe you have a hearing tomorrow.

One of the pressures on this is the fact that China has a shortage of women because they've been murdering unborn baby girls all these years. They've had this policy of -- one-child policy. And that's led to the shortage of women. So that's why you have North Korean women that are vulnerable that are being sold. But China is the reason why we can't get more action at the United Nations -- because they block efforts.

They actually blocked the -- when the Cheonan -- everyone realized that North Korea had caused the death of these South Korean sailors, China was the one that was suppressing that -- action on that. And so as long as you have a country like China that has tremendous influence on the U.N. that is evolved in perpetrating these crimes that are happening in North Korea, you're not going to get any real action by the United Nations. And you know, I -- just -- that's my -- and I know you want to say something, too.

MS. YOUNG SOON: I would like to add that North Korea -- currently the Kim Jong-il regime is -- the crimes against humanity committed by the Kim Jong-il regime is the worst in the world, and the United States needs to just totally isolate the regime of Kim Jong-il. The best way to go about prosecuting the crimes against humanity that Kim Jong-il has committed is to report it to the International Criminal Court. And Ms. Kim believes that the United States will be able to do a good job of leading a international movement -- work to make this -- to bring about this work of bringing Kim Jong-il to the ICC, to the International Criminal Court.

And I'd just like to say again that as long as Kim Jong-il is -- as long as he exists the people's suffering will continue. And I would just like to say once again that my earnest desire is that the United States will take the lead in helping the world -- entire world focus on the important issue of focusing on human rights issue and of isolating Kim Jong-il regime and to not provide any aid or help that will only go towards keeping the regime alive.

MS. HYE SOOK: I also would like to point out, as I'm sitting here before media and before the congressmen here, that regarding food aid, I would just like to point out that my younger sister and brother who are still in the prison camp, certainly all the food aid that has been given is not going to them. It's not being sent to them where the people that need it the most, the prisoners, starving prisoners in prison would need the food aid the most.

But it's only going to the elites, to the military or to the security apparatus and feeding them and empowering them, only giving them more life, more power to continue the abuse that I drew in the drawings that you could see on display here.

MS. SCHOLTE: I was going to make -- I saw also the attitude in South Korea, right? You were asking also about the attitude in South Korea?

REP. SMITH: Yes, the South Korean -- just the young people. That's ---

MS. SCHOLTE: Yes. I definitely think they might want to have a comment about that.

REP. SMITH: It's almost like a sense of disbelief as to the scope --

MS. SCHOLTE: Yes.

REP. SMITH: -- and the cruelty of Kim Jong-Il.

MS. SCHOLTE: This is so important because --

REP. SMITH: And is it the media that has downplayed it? What is --

MS. SCHOLTE: This has been a -- yeah, that's a huge issue that's so important, because you would think that the country that should care the most has been the slowest to respond. The reason for that is during the years of the D.J. Kim government and the Roh government, they actually banned information to be reported about what's going on in North Korea because they had the Sunshine Policy, which is basically an engagement policy.

And the award winning documentary "Soul Train," which is still very popular today for example, that was done -- produced by some Americans about the refugee crisis in China and North Koreans escaping and the whole situation, that was banned from being shown in South Korea by the government.

So there was a suppression of the horrors that were going on. They can tell you stories about -- she wanted to speak before the South Korean assembly but she wasn't able to do it, Ms. Kim.

REP. SMITH: Really?

MS. SCHOLTE: And what's happened though is -- well, she was going to speak before the -- okay. And they could share that with you. But what happened is, with the provocations that have happened against South Korea by North Korea, unprovoked attacks, it's -- there's been an awakening in South Korea, and I'm very pleased to see a lot of young people getting drawn to this issue.

I've actually gone to a conference in 2002, an international conference on North Korean human rights in Seoul in which people like these defectors were going to speak and there were students protesting against the conference. And -- but that has changed a lot. You had -- young people are really getting drawn to the issue.

But it's been very difficult to move the hearts and soul of the Korean lawmakers. They still have not passed the North Korean Human Rights Act, which has been done by Japan and the United States bipartisan, and that's been a real source of contention and that the South Koreans --

REP. SMITH: You know, it brings to mind, after World War II it was Eisenhower who said, "Do not burn down the concentration camps because there were some Germans who were in disbelief that it was real." And it seems to me that when it's an actual policy of a government to suppress the truth, there was something inherently wrong with that because it creates a distortion, a gross caricature of what Pyongyang is actually doing. And I hope this hearing -- and it will be followed by additional hearings -- will further the information.

I mean, I was telling or in conversations conveying information about what I had read and what I had learned from hearings and from defectors that had -- and my friends who are South Koreans with whom I was meeting was met with disbelief, as if somehow I was exaggerating or engaging in some kind of hyperbole, when the truth on the ground as you have borne so ably witness to, is even worse than what we could imagine in terms of the cruelty and mistreatment. So I thank you for attending --

MS. SCHOLTE: I have something else I can assure you. In October, I was at a balloon launch and I was with Kim Sung-Min, Park Sang Hak, the North Korea Peoples Liberation Front. We were getting ready to do a balloon launch and there was a former North Korean defector who deserted the military. And he was so upset because there was these leftist South Koreans trying to stop the balloon launch, and saying -- they were pro-Kim Jong-Il."

And he was so upset, I mean, he almost had tears in his eyes. And he was like, "I came from that country. How can they deny the horrible things that I've seen?" And I remember holding him and saying, "Well, we don't want to get into a confrontation with them."

And I said something like I know how you feel. And I thought, I don't know how he feels. The people -- that he could have gone through these horrible things and that -- and then have people like be denying it and trying to stop him from doing something to reach out to the people who are suffering.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Kim?

MS. HYE SOOK: Ms. Kim would just like add what you said, Congressman Smith, about the people in South Korea, the young people, to the politicians not fully knowing or understanding or appreciating the situation in North Korea. She wholeheartedly concurs with that statement. And because of the strong presence of the leftists and the pro-North Korean elements in South Korean society, Ms. Kim believes that the peninsula is not ready for unification.

South Korea is not ready to be unified with North Korea. And she would again like to ask for the United States to take the lead in increasing knowledge and awareness about the situation in North Korea and help lead other nations to be able to achieve this.

And there are 23,000 North Korean defectors resettled in South Korea and also there is a diaspora of North Korean defectors that are all over the world. And if there is any sort of encouragement, help, financial help, that's given to us, we will stop at nothing and we will dedicate our very lives to bring about change in the regime in North Korea. And you could trust me when I say that, Congressman Smith.

REP. SMITH: Well, Ms. Kim, I think your point about the leftist truly enabling by either suppressing or by denying that these atrocities are occurring, that makes them complicit in these crimes against humanity. And I would hope that clear-thinking people, newspapers and other media in South Korea would just tell the truth about what is going on North Korea because the truth is liberating.

And I would also add my endorsement to what you said about Kim Jong-Il and others being held to account for genocide at the International Criminal Court. They have committed barbaric crimes.

And you know, with -- while there are some UN individuals who have spoke out, there's been no holding to account in any meaningful way. So I echo and endorse what you said.

Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. I just have a quick question and I'll make a little comment quickly. With the prospect of the anticipation that Kim Jong-Il leaves, his son would take over -- that's a horrible prospect -- what do you see the consequence of something like that happening?

MS. YOUNG SOON: Ms. Kim believes that Kim Jong-Nam will never be recognized or become the true leader in North Korea. But should he or if he were to become the next leader, Ms. Kim believes that there is chance that he might open up and reform the country, from her point of view and her opinion.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. I just want to comment that I think that in separated countries like we see in Korea, the fact that much -- in many instances the truth certainly is kept from the people in the south, the total truth, and it's difficult to know whose responsibility -- is it the government, is it the press', is it deliberate.

One thing that usually happens in divided countries as we saw in Eastern and Western Europe, although, you know, you can't compare Eastern Europe, totally, certainly not to North Korea. But there was the strong move for reunification. It's just the natural nationalistic move to reunite countries that were once united.

And so I could possibly understand why some of the younger people would be striving for unification, trying to of course have a change, a regime change in the north. So it's -- I think it's kind of just normal nationalism, especially a country that may have felt that it's been, you know, abused or exploited by, you know, world wars and things of that nature.

The other I thing I remember clearly as I traveled to Eastern Europe in the late '60s, and I went to Poland, Germany and Russia with some West Europeans. And saw in those -- and especially in Poland, photos of and newsreels of the films taken inside of Warsaw with the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. And these were young adults, my age at that time, who could not believe how brutal their parents were when they were leading the Nazi regime.

And you know, they were talking in their own language, but I could kind of understand what the internal discussion was going on about, is this true, almost disbelief. So you know, I think that as we move forward, we're going to have to work with educating people to overcome some of these natural things.

I also think that we should try to become even more active in the Human Rights Council. There have been some progress made, because before the U.S. joined the council, when it was the committee before and then the council, issues like what's happening in Syria, the brutality of Bashar on his people, the -- some of the other issues would never ever be raised.

And so there have been -- I think because the U.S. has raised the issues they got to deal with them. And that's why I think it's important for us to be in the room, so that there can be answers when our allies are criticized or resolutions continually come criticizing them. We can then now say, well, wait a minute, let me give you the other point of view.

So I do hope that those agencies will also be strengthened as we move. And then, of course, that's not being a part of the Rome statutes. It makes us a little less significant in the ICC, where we have difficulty pushing for indictments for war criminals who should be indicted and the cases should be raised.

Final thing I'd like to say -- really commend the South Korean government. Several years ago I visited -- one of my trustee Ethiopian there is a hospital that the South Korean government built, probably the best hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa, just about -- and they did it because they were appreciative of the Ethiopian soldiers who fought in the Korean War. And actually, most stunning is that for those veterans who are still alive, who served, they have been paying pensions to these Ethiopian soldiers ever since the end or at -- I don't know exactly if it started right at the end of the war, but for decades.

And those that are still alive receive a monthly regular stipend from the government of Korea. So I think that the -- if some of the goodwill in Southern Korea could kind of work its way up to the North that would be a positive statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this very important meeting -- hearing.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

Just to conclude, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the testimony of Kim Sung-Min, director of Free North Korea Radio be made a part of the record. Without objection, so ordered. And I would ask that all members have five legislative days to revise and extend the remarks, and just make one comment with regards a related issue.

I'd like to comment on recent reports of the continued deportation of Chinese Falun Gong practitioners from South Korea to China. As is well known, the Falun Gong are brutally persecuted in China along with numerous other groups who attempt to exercise their internationally recognized human rights of freedom of thought, conscience and religion. So I join my voice with that of other members of Congress urging South Korea to recognize Falun Gong practitioners as refugees and not forcibly return them to China where they will certainly face persecution.

South Korea should also find an appropriate means within the South Korean legal system and the international conventions on torture and refugees that it is ratified to permit these Falun Gong practitioners to remain in South Korea. I would note that on Thursday the subcommittee will hear testimony on -- it will be the 30th hearing on human rights abuses in China.

It's entitled "China's One-Child Policy: The Government's Massive Crime Against Women and Unborn Babies." And I mention this especially in light of Suzanne Scholte and others who have -- there is a nexus between the one-child per couple policy, the dearth of females in the PRC. Estimates range from an excess of a hundred million missing girls in China so that when North Korean women make their way over the border, the traffickers are waiting to sell them into modern-day slavery and to sex trafficking.

And China has not only not lifted a finger to stop it, they have enabled it. And it is attributable in part, maybe a large part, to the one-child per couple policy. We will hear from two victims of forced abortion who will tell their story, Chai Ling, the great Tiananmen Square activist, who founded All Girls Allowed; Reggie Littlejohn and Valerie Johnson, who will speak about the military implications of the one-child per couple policy.

I do want to thank this very, very effective group of witnesses for shedding light on the egregious human rights abuses of Kim Jong-Il and thank you for bearing witness to the truth. We need to do much more than we've done. That goes for our subcommittee, the Congress, the executive branch and the free world.

And again, I want to thank all of our witnesses, and especially our two women who have made their way to the U.S., come a long distance, suffered, lost loved ones, for speaking truth to a very totalitarian power. I would like to give the last word, if any of our witnesses would like to say anything in conclusion, but --

MS. SCHOLTE: I was just going to -- I was going to just announce that we are having at noon, on Thursday, September 22nd a protest. We are calling on people wherever you are in the world to go to the Chinese embassy at noon to protest the repatriation of North Korean refugees, and we have petitions that people are delivering. And so far we have 25 cities and 13 countries that are participating.

REP. SMITH: Wow. Very interesting.

MS. SCHOLTE: so I wanted to mention that.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell you that in addition to one report that I have mentioned that we are working on, on the political prisoner camps in North Korea, we are also working on a report on the circulation of information inside North Korea, and we will be happy to share these reports as soon as they're published with the sub-committee.

MR. SMITH: And we will disseminate it widely among the members of Congress. So thank you.

MR. SCARLATOIU: Sir.

MR. SMITH: Thank you. The hearing's adjourned, and thank you very much.

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292 of 492 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

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The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Renewing the Commitment to Victims of Human Trafficking

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The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Renewing the Commitment to Victims of Human Trafficking
Testimony

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Statement Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC

September 14, 2011

Good morning. I'd like to thank Chairman Leahy, Senator Grassley, and all the members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am Ambassador Lou de Baca. As President Obama's Ambassador-at-Large to Combat Human Trafficking, I direct the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) and I am responsible for leading our efforts in the global fight against modern slavery.

In addition to the production of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report and a range of direct diplomatic and public engagement on human trafficking issues, one of the primary responsibilities of our office is the administration of foreign assistance funds for international anti-trafficking programs.

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Because the three Ps function as an interlocking paradigm, no single P stands alone. For example, it is not enough to prosecute traffickers if we do not also provide assistance to the survivors and work to ensure that no one else is victimized. Thus, many of G/TIP's projects are cross-cutting in their approach to combating trafficking, and we place a particular emphasis on programs that address victim protection. Ninety percent of projects we have funded last year include a protection component and 61 percent provide direct services for victims. Just over half of the projects build capacity of local law enforcement and prosecutors to apprehend and prosecute traffickers; victim protection is a critical component of these projects as well because justice for the most vulnerable begins with a robust victim-centered approach. More than 90 percent of prevention programs include victim protection activities. Fifty-nine percent of all protection programs include activities to increase prosecutions and convictions, and nearly three quarters of projects focus on both labor and sex trafficking to ensure a comprehensive response to all forms of trafficking.

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293 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

September 15, 2011 Thursday

Migrants tell of slavery at sea on Thai fishing boats

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 476 words

Kelly Macnamara

Agence France-Presse

Rayong

Thousands of men from Burma and Cambodia set sail on Thai fishing boats every day, but many are unwilling seafarers - slaves forced to work in brutal conditions under threat of death.

The day Hla Myint saw the sea for the first time was when traffickers delivered him, after a week's trek through the jungle from Burma, to a ship on Thailand's coast. He said it was the beginning of seven months of "hell", during which there were beatings "every day, every hour".

His is one of a multitude of stories of slavery in Thailand's multi-million-dollar fishing industry, which campaigners say relies on forced labour to provide seafood for restaurants and supermarkets across the world.

Hla Myint decided to escape - throwing himself into choppy waters and clinging to a life buoy for five hours before reaching land - after seeing his captain kill a crewmate.

"My heart pounded so hard when I saw that," said Hla Myint, whose name has been changed to protect his identity. Now he works with a local aid group helping others to flee.

The UN recently acknowledged Thailand's "significant progress" in efforts to tackle trafficking, but said it needed to go further.

Sirirat Ayuwathana of the Social Development and Human Security Ministry, said authorities were aware of the problem and planned to set up a commission to work on registering all fishing boats and crew members.

"We cannot know what happens when the boats leave the shore. The workers could be tortured or detained. The captains have total control of the boat, and they may mistreat these people," she said.

Life on the boats is hard. Men toil for up to 20 hours a day, seven days a week, only snatching a few moments for food and rest between hauling nets, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch, who wrote the report, said marine police in one Thai coastal area told him they found up to 10 bodies a month washed up on the shore.

In a 2009 study, more than half of the Cambodian migrants trafficked onto Thai boats surveyed by the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) said they had seen their captains killing one of their colleagues.

But Mana Sripitak, of the National Fisheries Association of Thailand, said it was "impossible" that forced labour was used, saying migrants were willing workers. The US State Department has placed Thailand on a **trafficking in persons "watchlist"** for two years running.

On a recent visit to Thailand, UN special rapporteur on people trafficking, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, said the country was not doing enough to curb the trade. "The immunity of traffickers, especially the collusion with the official law-enforcement

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DUPLICATE

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Congressional Documents and Publications

September 14, 2011

**Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing;
"The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Renewing the Com-
mitment to Victims of Human Trafficking.";
Testimony by Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and
Combat Trafficking In Persons, US Department of State, Washington, DC**

SECTION: U.S. SENATE DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2151 words

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296 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE
CQ Congressional Testimony

September 14, 2011 Wednesday

**TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION;
COMMITTEE: SENATE JUDICIARY****SECTION:** CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 2179 words**TESTIMONY-BY:** LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE**AFFILIATION:** U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Statement of Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large , Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons U.S. Department of State

Committee on Senate Judiciary

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Grant proposals that are submitted to G/TIP in response to solicitations for bilateral or regional projects are reviewed for technical requirements. Proposals that meet the minimum technical standards (English language, figures in U.S. dollars, and published page limits) are forwarded to U.S. embassies for review by the TIP country team, which may include the political officer, USAID, and other relevant offices. The country team reviews applications and provides feedback to the Department on proposals for bilateral projects that are submitted to G/TIP.

Proposals are then subjected to a competitive interagency regional review panel that provides an opportunity for input from representatives of G/TIP; the relevant Regional Bureau; other offices within the Department that fund anti-trafficking programs; the USAID regional representative; and, as appropriate, other U.S. government agencies.

G/TIP anti-trafficking projects are primarily funded as grants, cooperative agreements, or Interagency Agreements and managed by the G/TIP Grants Officer and International Programs Officers. However, some projects are awarded at State Department posts abroad if G/TIP and post determine that this would facilitate more effective management of the project.

The selection of proposals for funding is based on program priorities and requirements conveyed in the solicitation for proposals. In an ongoing effort to improve the design and effectiveness of anti-trafficking projects, in FY07, G/TIP began to explicitly require applicants to clearly articulate goals and objectives, activities to support each objective, as well as indicators to measure success. The FY07 revised solicitation format was recognized as a model for other offices within the Department.

To further improve the competitive process, in FY10, our office initiated a two-stage grant application process that streamlined the application for organizations seeking funding and reduced the U.S. government resources required to review hundreds of 30-page proposals, while preserving fairness and transparency. In the first stage applicants submit a two-page proposal or concept note and following the review described, selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal for competitive review.

The required proposal elements stated in solicitations constitute the basis for evaluating proposals. Each panel recommends to me proposals for funding. The results of the review panels are compiled for my review and consideration. I select proposals that best reflect the programming needs for the specific country as identified in the TIP Report, as well as global and regional program needs. Following review and approval of recommended projects by the Director of Foreign Assistance, all projects are sent for Congressional Notification. Abstracts of recommended proposals are distributed to the members of the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) for a final review and comment.

The review process is thorough and transparent, involving numerous partners within the State Department and across government, and of course concluding with Congressional consultation. Such diligence is necessary given the demand for our international program funding. In the last two years, the Office received 998 applications requesting a total of \$547 million.

In recent years, G/TIP has taken several steps to shorten the time from proposal submission to project award, including hiring more program officers (from five in 2009 to nine in 2011) and establishing the grants officer and budget officer positions within G/TIP. In contrast to previous years, almost all of foreign assistance funds were obligated in 2010 and we expect the same this year.

Our thorough pre-award review process is necessarily coupled with effective monitoring and evaluation of international programs. The program and grant officers within the Department have monitored anti-trafficking grant projects to provide technical assistance to grantees and to ensure that project goals and objectives are implemented; that Federal grant funds are expended consistent with the provisions of pertinent statutes, regulations, agency administrative requirements; and, that Federal funds are used responsibly. Grantees are required to submit program progress and financial reports throughout the project period and final reports within 90 days of the end of the project.

The U.S. embassy officers are partners in program monitoring. G/TIP notifies the appropriate officer at post when a new grant is awarded; the guidance from G/TIP provides key project information and recommends procedures for embassy participation in monitoring which are subject to embassy staffing and workloads. When G/TIP Program Officers conduct site visits they use a standardized format for review of administrative and programmatic aspects of the project and the TIP point of contact at the embassy accompanies the officer on the site visit, if available. This practice facilitates close collaboration between the post and G/TIP and strengthens follow-on monitoring by posts.

We take great care in ensuring that we are responsible custodians of the taxpayers' money, and I believe G/TIP has succeeded in our efforts to make the administration of our programs funding as transparent and accountable as possible. But the true success story here is the programs themselves. Whether in Cote D'Ivoire, where Prosperite is providing basic shelter and services to young girls; or in Thailand, where TRAFCORD has coordinated a series of successful rescues of labor and sex trafficking victims and serves as a model in the region; or in Mexico, where Casa Alianza is working to increase the identification of TIP victims among highly vulnerable street children; or in India where projects demonstrate best practices in raising awareness of government services for freed bonded laborers and aftercare following their release; or in Ghana where a U.S. expert provided technical assistance to local prosecutors leading to a path-breaking conviction, the first of its kind in a forced child labor case, the true success of our programs is the results we are seeing.

The sad reality is that without the modest funding G/TIP is able to provide, many of the projects we support would have to close their doors. That would mean more than just the end of a victim identification initiative or the shuttering of a shelter for survivors. In 5 many instances, it would mean the end of all such services in that country. That must not be the mark of our foreign policy.

The President and Secretary Clinton have made the effort to combat modern slavery a priority because it is in our strategic interest to combat modern slavery. Human trafficking thrives in places where vulnerable populations slip through the cracks and live without the protection of law. The places where we support anti-trafficking programs are the places where we need to show that the United States will stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

But fighting slavery is more than good foreign policy. It's part of who we are as a nation. We cannot walk away from that responsibility here at home or in our conduct around the world.

I thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. We look forward to working with you further to provide information or answer questions that would provide additional clarity or background.

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297 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee Subject: "The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Renewing the Commitment to Victims of Human Trafficking" Chaired by: Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) Witnesses: Mary Lou Leary, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Justice Department; Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, State Department; Kelly Ryan, Assistant Homeland Security Secretary for Immigration and Border Security, Department of Homeland Security Location: 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. Time: 10:00 a.m. EDT Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2011

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SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT): Good morning, everybody. I apologize for being a few minutes late. The committee will today consider the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011 and how best to continue to improve our efforts to end once and for all human trafficking at home and abroad. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. You can't call it anything else. It's a modern-day form of slavery in which victims are forced into labor for sexual exploitation.

Traffickers prey on the most valuable members of society and no country is immune. Happens here, even here in our own backyard. Earlier this summer the Justice Department secured convictions against traffickers who compelled undocumented immigrant women hired to be waitresses to engage in commercial sex acts using violence, fraud, coercion and threats of deportation. Unfortunately, we hear these kind of stories every day.

Thanks to the tools provided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, we've made progress in combating this major human rights abuse but there's more work to be done. As a country that's been a beacon of hope to so many who face human rights abuses abroad, the United States has to address this continuing injustice around the world but also here too. The original Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its three subsequent reauthorizations all have widespread bipartisan support.

The original bill was passed by a Republican-controlled Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. The most recent reauthorization, 2008, was passed by a Democratic-controlled Congress and signed into law by President Bush. And I'm pleased that the reauthorization bill we're discussing today continues that tradition. We have co-sponsors Senators Brown, Rubio and Cochran, as well as Senators Kerry, Feinstein, Klobuchar, Boxer, Cardin, Gillibrand and Schumer.

The bipartisan support for this bill in the Senate reflects the widespread focus in combating human trafficking in diverse communities across the country. Organizations from across the political and social spectrum -- faith-based groups, groups dedicated to human rights, women's rights -- have taken up the cause and worked to raise awareness. State and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have stepped up human trafficking enforcement. They've initiated local investigations, they've worked with federal agencies and regional task forces share information.

The National Association of Attorneys General has launched a major campaign to combat human trafficking in all 50 states. More than 40 state legislatures have followed the federal government's lead and enacted anti-trafficking statutes. I'm proud that my own state of Vermont recently passed a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that includes criminal penalties, prevention programs, and services to human trafficking victims, and I commend a little state like ours in Vermont for taking on this important issue.

So today's hearing of course will highlight the important anti-human-trafficking work the federal government is doing. We have witnesses from three federal agencies that play key roles in federal efforts to end human trafficking. Department of Justice, State, and Homeland Security investigate human trafficking crimes. They use diplomatic tools to stop human trafficking in other countries. They also ensure that trafficking victims receive crucial assistance and resources to assist law enforcement.

And with that I yield to my friend from Iowa, Senator Grassley.

SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IA): Before I speak, and even before you've introduced the witnesses, I wanted to make the point that one of our witnesses, Ambassador CdeBaca, is from Huxley, Iowa, attended Iowa State University, and I always like to welcome Iowans for a hearing.

SEN. LEAHY: Is that -- Huxley, Iowa, is that one of the major cities? (Laughter.) He probably would be right at home in Vermont.

SEN. GRASSLEY: The people of Huxley would say it's Ames, where Iowa State University is, is a suburb of Huxley.

SEN. LEAHY: I see. I know exactly where it is. It's a beautiful area.

SEN. GRASSLEY: I'm going to skip two or three pages of my remarks because I can say that I associate myself with what you said, feel that the bill ought to be reauthorized. But I make a point of saying that we have a terrible budget situation and it requires that we take a close look at how some of this money is spent while we're in the process of reauthorizing.

I'll start where I say, after I've said those things, now, that surely doesn't mean that we do away with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Instead, it means that as we in this committee look to reauthorize this legislation, we need to take a hard look at every single taxpayer dollar expended, determine how those dollars are being used, and determine if the stated purpose of the program is met.

For example, given this fiscal climate, there is no reason that we should reauthorize funding for the State Department to host official receptions at the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person(s), and that would have been over \$300,000 recently.

So how do we address these issues to start with? We need a legitimate, rigorous evaluation of programs funded under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to ensure that inefficient grantees or less-than-scrupulous grantees are prohibited from getting funds. That can be done by identifying and eliminating poor and underperforming grantees.

I know that Senator Coburn has done a great deal of work on this issue. He has investigated the shortcomings, mismanagement, waste in several programs funded under the program. I appreciate the hard work that Senator Coburn has done and look forward to working with him as we pursue this legislation. Additionally, there are a number of audits and reviews conducted by GAO and the Department of Justice inspector general on Trafficking Victim Protection Act. These audits reveal mismanagement, failed oversight and waste of taxpayer dollars in implementing the programs to help trafficking victims.

Example: The inspector general found in a 2008 review that there were, quote-unquote -- well, quote, "systemic weaknesses in the office of Justice program grant implementation," end of quote. The inspector general found weaknesses in areas of, quote, "established goals and accomplishments for grantees, grant reporting, fund drawdowns, local matching funds, expenditures, indirect costs, and monitoring of sub-recipients," end of quote.

Further, the inspector general found that while the Department of Justice built significant capacities to serve victims, they, quote, "have not identified and served significant numbers of victims," end of quote. Unfortunately, it was more of the same when we looked at audits conducted in the individual grant recipients awarded funding under the Traffic (sic) Victims Protection Act. In seven separate audits of individual grantees dating 2007 to 2010, the inspector general found hundreds of thousands of dollars in questioned costs, unauthorized expenditures, failed matching requirements, and many other problems.

It is really disheartening to see that every single audit that was done by the IG of grantees found problems. It begs the question, what is the Department of Justice doing with taxpayer dollars? Do they view it as Monopoly money that can be handed out with no accountability? Given the current fiscal situation, these audits are amazing.

The Department of Justice has some serious explaining to do because between these audits and the ones that I reviewed as part of the hearing held back in July on the violence against women grants, it appears that the department continuously awarded grants to entities that can't manage the money appropriately.

We have a duty in this committee to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately. From the audits on this program and many others administered by the Department of Justice, it seems that that isn't being done. Holding grant programs accountable will help to ensure that services really go to those in need, and before we reauthorize specific dollar amounts, we need strong oversight language included in the legislation to ensure that failing grantees will not be rewarded with additional taxpayers' money and to ensure that government officials will be held accountable for repeated failures to oversee grants.

We are well past the time when we can reauthorize programs without giving them the scrutiny needed to ensure that the people we are trying to help -- that means the victims of trafficking -- are in fact getting the services that they need. If we allowed grants to be mismanaged, a victim who could have been helped goes without. We must do everything in our power to help victims of trafficking, but we also must protect taxpayers' dollars.

So it's through this testimony and the debates that we're going to have on these bills that I'll bring some of these points out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SEN. LEAHY: Thank you, and I agree that you have to have effective and efficient grant management. I do understand the inspector general's most recent report praises the Office of Justice Programs for significant improvement and I'm glad to hear the Department of Justice did take the inspector general's suggestions to heart. I was pleased to see his response that there are significant improvements.

Mary Lou Leary is the principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice, a position she's held since September of 2009. Prior to rejoining the department in May of 2009, she served as executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. She's previously held a number of positions with the Department of Justice, serving U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia and acting director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and deputy associate attorney general. No stranger to this committee. Ms. Leary, we're delighted to have you here. Please go ahead.

MARY LOU LEARY: Thank you, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley and any other members of the committee who may join us. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss OJP's commitment to combating human trafficking and to serving human trafficking victims.

This is a high priority for President Obama. It's a high priority for this Department of Justice. It's also been a high priority for me in my own career. When I was at the U.S. attorney's office in D.C., the very first anti-trafficking task forces were put together, and I was very involved in establishing that task force in the District of Columbia. And it was -- one of the most satisfying things about that was that, for the first time, we actually had a formal task force that included both law enforcement and victim service providers.

Oftentimes those trafficking victims are hidden from society, and because of this kind of secrecy it's very difficult to get accurate statistics about the extent and the prevalence of the problem.

Congress provided very critical tools to combat trafficking in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and subsequent reauthorizations. So I'm very pleased that Congress and that this committee in particular is demonstrating leadership by coming together in a bipartisan way to reauthorize the act.

OJP's efforts to combat human trafficking span the entire agency. My written testimony gives you details about what each one of the bureaus and program offices is doing and how we collaborate together on the issue.

Today I just want to highlight the multidisciplinary approach and what we call wrap-around services for trafficking victims. This basically means meeting victims where they are and helping them to work through the impact of crime. It means support for victims during their interaction with law enforcement. Wrap-around also means providing both short-term and long-term assistance, culturally competent services that treat victims with dignity and with respect.

Experience demonstrates that effective law enforcement in trafficking cases and effective victims' services do and they must go hand in hand. Victims' service providers may be able to identify some victims of a particular trafficker but they often will need effective law enforcement to identify and to reach out to those other victims, and law enforcement in turn needs victims' service providers to work with them and to work with the victims to collect critical information and to give the victims that sense of safety and protection.

Victims who receive needed support will be much more able and willing to participate in the investigation and the prosecution of that trafficker, and that's been my personal experience in my many years as a prosecutor. Each of the 42 anti-trafficking task forces we fund includes local or territorial state and federal law enforcement and victims' service providers. They investigate trafficking, they support prosecutions and they raise public awareness of the issues and provide, of course, critical services to the victims.

Between January 2008 and June 2010, the task forces investigated more than 2,500 suspected incidents of human trafficking, made 144 arrests, but because one trafficker can hurt dozens or even hundreds of victims, this is a significant achievement. My written testimony includes examples of successful task force cases.

In fiscal year 2011 we competitively awarded almost \$6 million for six task forces. We selected sites that have a history of proactively investigating and prosecuting trafficking offenses and helping the victims. We also awarded additional 3.7 million (dollars) to 11 organizations specifically to provide comprehensive and specialized victims' services, and we make sure that these service providers had a strong track record in trauma-informed and culturally competent services to trafficking victims.

We also provide training and technical assistance to task forces nationwide regardless of whether they are our grantees, and we developed an e-guide, which is available to all communities.

We certainly are aware and we agree with this committee that we want to make sure the funds are being used wisely and that we are not duplicating efforts. Our commitment to this is reflected in our participation in the senior policy operating group to coordinate the work of multiple agencies, and I want to make clear to the committee that before we award a dollar in grant funding, we run it by that senior policy operating group so that we'll know that we're not duplicating our efforts.

We have strong oversight of our grantees. More details, again, are in my written testimony, and as Senator Leahy pointed out, the inspector general's office recently did determine that OJP had made significant improvements, and we are aware that that's a constant struggle and we work at it every day.

So thank you. I'm happy to take any questions.

SEN. LEAHY: Thank you very much.

We'll hear from all three witnesses and then go to questions.

Ambassador CdeBaca is ambassador-at-large in the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and I appreciate the fact that -- being from Iowa and getting my geography lesson here this morning.

Prior to the appointment he was a prosecutor at the Department of Justice. Ambassador CdeBaca was the lead trial counsel in which was then the largest slavery prosecution in U.S. history. Over 300 workers, slaves at a garment factory in America Samoa, a very, very significant case.

Please go ahead, sir.

LUIS CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Grassley, the entire membership of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

As you put it, Mr. Chairman, this is nothing less than modern slavery that we are dealing with. The term "trafficking in persons" describes all of the conduct involved in reducing a person to or maintaining them in a state of compelled service, and estimates are up to 27 million men, women and children victimized globally.

Fortunately there are hundreds of governments and NGOs who are committed to meeting this scourge, but as is often the case in places where poverty and corruption hinder the good intentions of committed people, a lack of resources and capacity are sometimes insurmountable road blocks to those who seek to save victims from exploitation and bring their traffickers to justice.

That's perhaps why in the last two years my office has received 998 applications for assistance from 546 organizations requesting a total of \$547 million. Our foreign assistance budget for the last two years was \$39.1 million, not even 10 percent of the demonstrated need, and we took a 24 percent pay cut, as it were, in the spring down to under \$17 million in program funds.

We know that it will never be possible to give every organization the help that they want, and we know that we have a responsibility to be responsible custodians of taxpayer dollars, and so we've implemented a rigorous and transparent review process to ensure that every cent of our foreign assistance appropriation is spent responsibly, is put to the use where it will do the most good and has a multiplier effect far above the \$17 million that we have to spend.

We support grantees that are working to advance the 3P Paradigm, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, that guides our effort to combat slavery here at home and around the world. These efforts are closely linked to the mandates and purposes that are laid out in the United Nations Trafficking Protocol as well as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and its subsequent reauthorizations, which, as you pointed out, Senator, enjoyed an unprecedented and much appreciated bipartisan support throughout the years.

The provisions of that authorizing legislation helped to prioritize the allocation of the anti-trafficking funds from the appropriated State Department money. Because the 3Ps function as an interlocking paradigm, no single aspect stands alone. It's not enough to prosecute traffickers if we did not also provide the assistance to the survivors and work to ensure that no one else is victimized.

So we try to have projects that are cross-cutting in their approach, placing a particular emphasis on programs that involve victim protection, because we realize that it may be that the American program in a country is the only way that a trafficking victim will be helped. So 90 percent of the projects we funded last year, even if they have a strong prosecution element, also include a protection component and 61 percent of them provide direct services to victims.

Our foreign assistance priorities and our programing priorities are strategically linked to the peer rankings and diagnostic assessments included in the annual Trafficking In Persons Report, and my prepared testimony details specifically our grant application review process as well as the steps that we take to monitor the use of funding after it's gone out the door. I ask that it be included in the record in its entirety.

To summarize it, though, applications are solicited through an open process, thoroughly reviewed by my office, other State Department offices, USAID, interagency partners and are sent to the Hill for congressional notification prior to the disbursement of funding.

Following the awards, we monitor and evaluate the programs. We have officers who work to ensure project goals and objectives are implemented and funds are used responsibly. And program progress and financial reports throughout the project period are required, including final reports within 90 days of the end of the project.

We take very seriously the responsibility attached to the use of these funds, but the real success is not the fact that we have an efficient program design and controls. The real success are the people; people like Shweyga Mullah. A few weeks ago, a CNN crew found her in the former home of one of Moammar Gadhafi's sons. She had become a trafficking victim when she left her home country of Ethiopia. She worked as a nanny for the Gadhafi grandchildren. And when she displeased the men and women for whom she worked, they poured boiling water on her head to punish her. She had no passport, no identification, no one who could help her. When the Gadhafi family fled the compound, she was left behind, three-month-old burns still open and seeping.

Though we have no direct presence in Tripoli yet, the State Department was able to coordinate the effort through one of our grantees, the International Organization for Migration, to begin the process of getting Ms. Mullah out of Libya into a safe haven where she could begin the process of recovery. We hope that she'll soon be wheels-up and under the care of both burn specialists and those who work with survivors of modern slavery.

This is simply one high-profile incident and one example of how important it is to work on these cases. But she is merely one of 27 million, and we can never forget that, because fighting slavery is more than good foreign policy, it's part of who we are as a nation.

The last decade has seen renewed American leadership against slavery here at home and in our conduct around the world. The U.S. victim care regime is a global model for both restoration and rehabilitation of victims. The leadership is shown by our programs, our domestic activities and our willingness to hold ourselves to the same standards by which we assess other countries by including the United States in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

I thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, and we look forward to working with you committee further to providing information or answer questions that would provide additional clarity or background.

SEN. LEAHY: Thank you very much.

And our last witness will be Kelly Ryan, who's the acting deputy assistant secretary of immigration and border security at the Department of Homeland Security. She's responsible for policy oversight, development in immigration and border security issues at the department. And prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security, she served as the deputy assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

Please go ahead, Ms. Ryan.

MS. RYAN: Thank you. Good morning, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley. Thank you for inviting me to discuss the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and DHS' role and progress in implementing it. This is an important hearing for me as well since I have worked on trafficking issues since prior to the passage of the landmark TVPA.

Combating human trafficking and protecting victims remains a top priority for DHS. We've educated and trained our officers, prioritized the identification of traffickers and their victims and coordinated enforcement actions. We've also played a critical role in providing victim assistance to foreign victims of trafficking in the United States through continued presence and the provision of T and U nonimmigrant status.

In July 2010, Secretary Napolitano launched the Blue Campaign to coordinate and enhance the department's anti-trafficking efforts. Seventeen DHS components are involved in this campaign, which is chaired by the senior counselor to the secretary, Alice Hill. The Blue Campaign is composed of the collaborative initiatives spanning the three Ps of the U.S. government's anti-trafficking effort -- prevention, prosecution and protection -- as well as a fourth P that we have added, partnership, which is critical to our success.

In fiscal year 2010, USCIS reached the annual cap of 10,000 principal U visas. In fiscal year 2011, USCIS expects to reach the cap for a second year in a row. In fiscal year '10, USCIS had granted T nonimmigrant status to 796 victims of human trafficking and their families, the highest number granted since the implementation of the T visa program.

Eighteen of the 26 ICE Homeland Security investigation offices have hired full-time victim specialists. ICE has a child forensic interview specialist to improve its ability to communicate with child victims. ICE has designated 39 human trafficking experts to handle human trafficking leads, address urgent victim needs appropriately and serve as designated points of contact for our field and follow leads generated through our tip line.

Under the Blue Campaign, we have worked diligently to provide informational materials about human trafficking, including international and domestic public awareness campaigns which have reached millions of people. Training is critical to our efforts. DHS is finalizing a new computer-based training course for its employees to increase awareness of human trafficking issues and provide information about the indicators. DHS has also produced training on human trafficking for law enforcement officers.

ICE provides annual training to field office juvenile coordinators and other key field office staff on the transportation, care, treatment and placement of minors. In March 2011, CBP implemented a new annual mandatory TVPRA training. To date, over 34,000 CBP officers, agents and specialists have taken this training. USCIS also provides training to law enforcement officers as well as NGOs that assist trafficking victims.

DHS has worked diligently to implement the provisions relating to UACs identified under the trafficking protection act. Our role is critical to protecting children. I'm proud to note that, while TVPRA requirements are limited to the screening of unaccompanied alien children from contiguous countries, CBP issued guidelines in March 2009 requiring its officers and agents to screen all UACs for the risk categories including severe trafficking and fear of persecution.

Absent exceptional circumstances, UACs are turned over to Health and Human Services within 72 hours after determining that the child is unaccompanied. DHS recognizes that holding UACs in our facilities for a prolonged period is not in the best interest of children.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our successes. At our L.A. office, ICE agents investigated and successfully rescued 15 victims who were forced into prostitution by a family-run trafficking organization. As a result of our agents' successful investigation, we were able to prosecute and obtain convictions for nine foreign nationals. These individuals were found guilty of sex trafficking of children and other offenses.

TVPRA permits derivative families to receive nonimmigrant status based on fear of retaliation from traffickers. In 2010, we approved a T visa for a mother of a sex-trafficking survivor based on this new exception and worked with State Department to bring the victim's mother to the U.S. The mother, who had also received death threats from the traffickers, was able to reunite with her daughter and to testify at her daughter's trial.

We've made remarkable progress since the passage of the landmark law in 2000. We believe there is work yet to be done. For example, DHS will continue to refine its guidance on continued presence and discretionary parole of trafficking victims' relatives. ICE recently issued a protocol on continued presence which allows the procedures for law enforcement agencies to request continued presence and explains their respective role.

With regard to parole for relatives of trafficking victims, ICE's continued-presence guidance specifically incorporates the TVPRA expansion.

Secretary Napolitano has led DHS efforts to combat human trafficking and has made this issue a top priority for the department. We are committed to fighting human trafficking through protection, prevention, prosecution and partnerships.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. I would be pleased to answer any of your questions.

SEN. LEAHY: It's good to know from all three of you the names of the procedures and the programs and all, but that we'll put in the record.

I'm not suggesting it's not important, but it reminds me sometimes that PowerPoint presentations where everybody's eyes may glaze over -- I suspect what people are going to remember of this hearing is what Ambassador CdeBaca said about Ms. Mullah in Tripoli and Ms. Ryan, which you spoke of the mother being brought back to testify.

It is some of these real stories -- far more than the names of what our programs are and which department and all -- that are important if we want to actually get this reauthorized, because people have to know exactly what it is.

And so with this in mind, Ambassador CdeBaca, let me -- because in your written testimony, you discuss the work being done to fight trafficking in Mexico, Cote d'Ivoire and Thailand. Tell me what is being done. Tell me some more about what's being done in those countries.

What's your funding? What is that doing with individual lives? I mean, these are there major places.

MR. CDEBACA: Mexico is perhaps the most complex of all of them, I think, because so much of what happens in the fight against trafficking in Mexico also is happening in the United States. It really requires a level of jointness in our approach.

And so, one of the things that we've seen is the heroism of folks from the Mexican nongovernmental organizations, journalists like Lydia Cacho in the state of Quintana Roo, which is where the tourist areas of Cancun are, who has investigated child sex tours, have investigated child sex trafficking, even to the highest levels of state government to the point where she had to flee to neighboring states to get protection from their state police because of corruption issues.

And one of the things that we're trying to do is to make sure that people like her are supported, supported not only with funding to the NGOs that she's working with, but also the work that we and the Department of Justice and DHS are all doing jointly with an embassy task team on trafficking with folks from each of our agencies that are supporting the work of the Mexican government to investigate and prosecute these cases.

So you've got prosecutors like Dilcy Garcia in Mexico City, who have gone from a DA's office that was basically doing zero trafficking cases three or four years ago to having dozens of cases on their docket.

They're doing that because of the training that they're receiving and the encouragement that they're receiving from the United States presence at our embassy, but also here in Washington.

One of the things that we've seen is that the Civil Rights Division now has been investigating cases with the Mexicans in both countries. So Mexican police were able to come up to Atlanta and investigate their part of the case, interviewing

the witnesses. And at the end of the day we were able to get prosecutions successfully done in both countries. Rather than being consumed by extradition paperwork, we were able to take apart the traffickers on both sides.

(Cross talk.)

SEN. LEAHY: So what you have is a case where they'll use these children -- try to bring people down to these resort areas, enslaving these children for that.

MR. CDEBACA: Exactly.

SEN. LEAHY: And it was happening with no prosecutions before.

MR. CDEBACA: That's correct.

SEN. LEAHY: And obviously -- or at least I assume from what you're saying -- with help here in the United States from individuals. Is that correct?

MR. CDEBACA: With help here in the United States from individuals from DHS, DOJ and the State Department, with some of our grantees working with their legislators --

SEN. LEAHY: No, I mean they had people who were conspiring --

MR. CDEBACA: Oh, yes.

SEN. LEAHY: -- down there here in the United States.

MR. CDEBACA: Indeed.

SEN. LEAHY: And those you were able to prosecute?

MR. CDEBACA: We've been able to prosecute both sides of the criminal organization, both here in the U.S. and in Mexico. And part of that is because of the technical assistance that we were able to provide through our grantees and directly to the Mexican congress when they were able to pass a law that's very similar to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. It solved a lot of the legal impediments that they were facing out in the field. And we had some real leadership from both the Senate and the House of Deputies.

The same types of things are happening in the other countries that you'd mentioned. I want to specifically mention Cote d'Ivoire where our grantee Prosperite was able to continue to serve victims even as their shelter came under direct fire during the unfortunate incidents earlier this year with the holdout government. They were in the middle of a war zone and they continued to take care of those children.

SEN. LEAHY: That's amazing.

And, Ms. Leary, you talked about how law enforcement was able to prosecute cases when appropriate victim services are available. You referenced a case where the Department of Justice helped a traffic victim secure a T visa for children who had been left behind in Mexico who were threatened by traffickers.

Tell us how this T visa works and how important that was, and whether, in fact, we have the ability to prosecute trafficking cases.

MS. LEARY: Senator, I can speak to how important it is for victims to feel safe, but I would defer to DHS on the specifics of how the T visa program works.

But I can tell you that for many years as an ADA and an assistant U.S. attorney, and then as the director of a national victims advocacy organization, the number one concern of any victim of any crime is safety. A victim needs to feel safe before he or she can even speak about what has happened to him or her, let alone cooperate with law enforcement.

But my experience also tells me very strongly that if a victim is going to cooperate in an investigation or in prosecution, the victim has to feel that he or she can trust the law enforcement folks who are involved in it. And you build that trust by specific mechanisms to make the victim feel safe and by providing the kinds of services -- health care, counseling, places to live to be safe, to be with their children. That's how you build the trust.

But I defer to DHS.

SEN. LEAHY: Also, we see right here in the United States a headline in the local paper here in the last few days where -- a vicious crime here in the District of Columbia, and nobody seems to know what's going on. They won't talk to the police or anything else.

I look at the District of Columbia, which has the same population as my state of Vermont. I remember a year or so ago reading in the paper they had as many murders over a weekend as we had in a year --

MS. LEARY: Right.

SEN. LEAHY: -- in Vermont. I won't go into questions of competence or anything else when that sort of thing happens.

But, Ms. Ryan, if we're going to go into -- and I apologize, Senator Grassley, if I could just continue on this. We talked about the T visa. That started in 2002, I believe, but since that time only 2,500 have been issued for trafficking -- just a few hundred a year. Why are these numbers so low? You have other types of protection-based immigration visas. Why aren't more T visas applied for or issued?

MS. RYAN: Thank you, Senator.

First, on the question that you asked my colleague, I would like to say that on the Corechero (ph) case, which I have some knowledge of, it actually -- the provision of the T visas to the dependents of the victims was absolutely critical in the successful prosecution, which led to very long sentences.

So we believe, from a DHS perspective, that the provision of a T visa to the victim and their dependents is absolutely critical to the law enforcement piece, as well as victim assistance.

In terms of the numbers, you're absolutely right. We have come nowhere near the number permitted, the statutory cap of 5,000. I think the chief reason for that -- we've alluded to it this morning -- is a difficulty in finding the victims. They are, you know, often secretive. Sometimes there are circumstances where it's been so debilitating that they prefer to return home. But the numbers are small and we carefully vet each and every case.

SEN. LEAHY: And these are also people who are not used to having --

MS. RYAN: Trust in the law enforcement --

SEN. LEAHY: I mean, Ambassador CdeBaca talked about the situation in Mexico. There are a lot of places there, the last thing in the world you want to do is go to the police. I mean, when prosecutors don't dare go to the police without the possibility of being killed --

MS. RYAN: That's right.

SEN. LEAHY: -- why would a victim?

MS. RYAN: That's right. We try to take a victim-centered approach, as does the Department of Justice, but it is a very difficult trust exercise to build the trust with the victims.

SEN. LEAHY: Thank you. Thank you very much. This is -- all three of you, I appreciate the testimony. This is a -- as a parent and a grandparent, I look at the ages of some of these people and the vulnerabilities -- some of even the adults, the fact that they are so totally vulnerable. They're treated as cattle, not as human beings. This is 2011. I mean, this is -- this is horrible.

And, Senator Grassley, again, I appreciate your forbearance, letting me go over time, but this is something I care very deeply about. Please, sir.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Yeah. Thank you very much.

I'm going to start out with Ms. Leary on this prosecution, if I could. And, obviously it's been very clear here in our discussion that one of the critical ways that we accomplish combating trafficking is bringing successful prosecutions. Victims advocates have questioned -- now, I'm following what victim advocates tell me.

They question the whole number of trafficking prosecutions brought last year by the Department of Justice. One of the hurdles that advocates have identified is a low number or lack of witnesses. Obviously, prosecutors or law enforcement officers need witnesses and cooperation from victims in order to combat trafficking.

There's a provision in the pending bill that makes it easier for victims to not cooperate with law enforcement. Now, there may be circumstances where visa applicants should be excused from cooperation. But that should be a rare exception, in my view.

So does the Department of Justice support legislation that makes it easier for visa recipients and potential witnesses to be excused from cooperating with law enforcement officials? And if the answer is yes, then I'd like to have you explain to me how this helps human trafficking investigations.

MS. LEARY: Senator Grassley, I would start by saying that the department has not yet finished its review of a formal position on the legislation. So I can't give you an official position for the department.

I would, however, say that, in general, in our work, we have -- we have two objectives which you hope work in concert. One is to serve and to protect victims of trafficking, and another is to prosecute traffickers and those who perpetrate these offenses.

And the best of all worlds, you prosecute a case and you're meeting all the needs of the victims and you're also getting everything you need for a successful prosecution. But in the real world, I have to say that, based on my own experience, requiring certain levels of cooperation from victims doesn't always work. And there are -- you know, there are victims who are so traumatized, so incapable of functioning, really, and making rational decisions, who are so fearful that you can't really rely on any -- necessarily rely on even what you have to offer them.

So we look forward, though, to providing comments on the proposed legislation, and we will do that.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Since you said your department hasn't studied the bill and you can't give us a position, would you provide us -- well, I guess I'd like to have you say that the department would provide us their views on the provision before we mark up the legislation on that question I just asked you.

MS. LEARY: We will provide those views as soon as possible, and I hope that it will be before the markup. And I will certainly get back to you, Senator, on that.

SEN. GRASSLEY: But that would be on the specific point I was making about whether it's better to make it easier for visa recipients to be excused from cooperating.

MS. LEARY: Yeah. I will certainly bring that right back to the department and let them know that you'd like --

SEN. GRASSLEY: Closely connected with this but not a long answer, do career prosecutors have the final word on whether visa applicants are excused from cooperating with law enforcement? And if the prosecutors don't, why do they not have that authority?

MS. LEARY: I don't have the answer to that question, sir, and I'll have to get that for you.

SEN. GRASSLEY: OK. In writing.

MS. LEARY: I think maybe DHS has the answer.

SEN. GRASSLEY: If she would have the answer, that's OK with me. But I assume it's under the -- isn't it within the Justice Department as opposed to Homeland Security?

MS. RYAN: Senator, the T visa requirement for the adjudication is within Department of Homeland Security, and the requirement is that they be willing to cooperate. And so our adjudicators look to make sure that they are willing to cooperate, and we can take evidence from the law enforcement officials on that -- on that issue.

SEN. GRASSLEY: OK. And so if Justice has a role in that, then I'd like to have that answer in writing from you, Ms. Leary.

MS. LEARY: Certainly.

SEN. GRASSLEY: And for you, another question, and it gets back a little bit to what the chairman brought up about T visas and U visas. Generally, in order to receive either of these visas, an applicant must comply with reasonable requests from law enforcement. However, there are exceptions to the cooperation.

So my first question is: Which unit at Homeland Security makes the decision to excuse T and U visa applicants from having to cooperate with law enforcement? And what criteria are used in deciding whether to grant an exemption?

MS. RYAN: Thank you, Senator. The Vermont service center has a specially trained group of adjudicators that decide the T and U visa applications, and they look at the willingness to cooperate. We reach out and can reach out to our colleagues in the law enforcement community to ensure that the cooperation is there.

Also, law enforcement can submit a form showing that the person is cooperating. The cooperation can't be excused, but you're right that there are certain times where it's not required, and that is in circumstances, for example, when the person is under the age of 18. We don't require minors to testify, but they must cooperate, and that cannot be excused.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Do the people at the Vermont unit making the exemption decision actually meet in person with the applicant requesting the exemption? And if they don't meet in person with them, why not?

MS. RYAN: We adjudicate the application on a paper review, but we also reach out and have information from the law enforcement people. But we do not require them to come to Vermont for the decision on the T.

SEN. GRASSLEY: OK. Are the decisions of the unit employees reviewed or tracked to see if there are any patterns of denying exemption requests or being overly generous in granting them?

MS. RYAN: Yes. All of the T and U visa applications have supervisory review. And one of the reasons we made one unit rather than have them be accepted all over the country was to make sure that there was uniformity in the decision. So that actually helps us with that particular piece.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Ms. Leary, I wanted to talk to you about grants. And I'm aware of the fact that the chairman said that the IG said that maybe there's been improvements in this area. So I kind of want to be sold on that fact if that's true.

It's kind of like we're running into the same problems with the IG or GAO review of grant applicants pretty much like we did the Violence Against Women Act when we had that hearing in July. Every time that we look at audits of individual grantees, there are serious problems, unauthorized expenditures, failure to provide matching fund, questionable costs.

These select individual audits signal to me that there's a bigger problem. The inspector -- my first question: The inspector general audit audited seven tracking grantees and found serious problems in all seven. These audits randomly select grantees and concluded that 100 percent of the grantees audited have serious problems.

One grantee was given over \$2 million for human trafficking assistance. The inspector general questioned 900,000 (dollars) in salaries and 174,000 (dollars) in fringe benefits because they didn't have supporting documents. And I hope you could shine light on those. If, in fact, you agree that those area failures, how is that helping trafficking victims? And that's the whole point of the program.

MS. LEARY: Senator Grassley -- oh, I'm sorry.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Go ahead. No, you go ahead.

MS. LEARY: I agree that those are failures, and I will say that the Office of Justice Programs has basically turned its relationship with the inspector general's office into one of collaboration and based largely on the fact that we take very seriously what we learn from these -- from these audits.

And we looked at the particular audit that you are speaking of. We looked very closely. The first thing we did was we worked with each and every one of those grantees to resolve all the issues that were pointed out in the audit. Every single one of those audits has been closed except there are two where the OIG is still -- has the request for closure pending. And we don't expect to have a problem with that.

But perhaps the most important thing is that the Office of Justice Programs looked at the individual audits, got them closed but, more importantly, developed systems to work with and to monitor all of our grantees in the trafficking realm in particular but across the board so that these kinds of things would not continue to happen.

And there are a few specifics that I could highlight for you, Senator Grassley, with respect to that particular audit. One of the failures -- it's not so much untimely reporting; it was inaccurate reporting.

And so BJA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Office of Victims of Crime both implemented -- developed and implemented reporting tools, data reporting tools, which the Bureau of Justice Statistics helped them to shape.

And then they improved those tools so that, for instance, a grantee who used to report the children of a victim as victims -- so we weren't getting accurate data -- we changed the reporting system so that you can't do that. There are separate places to report for, for instance, children of victims. So the data we're getting is more accurate.

In addition, the Office of Victims of Crime, specifically based on that audit, developed a very detailed checklist. And every application that comes in from a grantee who wants to do human trafficking work has to pass that checklist. And it's extremely detailed, geared right towards the findings of the inspector general. And there's an extremely thorough review of the budget and the program strategy as well.

It takes time to do that kind of upfront preventive work, but it's definitely worth it because it's really the best way we know to avoid these kinds of problems in the future.

SEN. GRASSLEY: I've already used more time than the chairman did.

But just let me ask you -- and shortly answer this -- have you ever -- do you ever recover any money from any of these grantees when it's been misused?

MS. LEARY: Oh, we do. We do. I don't know the specifics on these particular audits, but yes, we do. And in addition, we take that data that we -- that we get from their reporting and we take information like what we got from the inspector general. And that's considered very seriously in applications for future funding.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Right. Sum up by saying I think you're telling me that we won't see these problems in the future, then?

MS. LEARY: I hope not.

SEN. GRASSLEY: Go ahead. Thank you very much.

SEN. LEAHY: And I appreciate these answers, too.

Senator Grassley and I share concerns about these programs working right. We want them to work right. And I appreciate -- you've been working with the inspector general to improve them. And I want to place in the record letters of support from the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, from Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services, letters from two people who have been involved. And you just can't read these reports without your skin crawling with some of the things that's going on.

So we want you to be successful.

I'm going turn the gavel over to Senator Franken, and if others come, he'll turn the gavel -- (sounds gavel) -- over to them.

Senator Grassley has to go to Finance. I have to go to -- I have to go to Appropriations. So I think -- and Senator Franken, I thank you for -- and you have had a long --

SENATOR AL FRANKEN (D-MN): I know Senator Grassley has to go, and I just wanted to say something nice about the ranking member. So you can hear it as you're walking out if you like. (Laughter.) I know you've got -- I know you've got to go to Finance.

I was just going to say how he always is reading these audits and has -- you know, he's one of the members of this body who keeps an eye on that and does a marvelous job doing that. And he's a wonderful member of this body because of that.

Thank you very much --

SEN. GRASSLEY: And I agree with you. (Laughter.)

SEN. FRANKEN: OK. Now that he's gone -- (laughter).

SEN. LEAHY: Hey, you think that's bad -- (laughter) -- thanks, Al.

SEN. FRANKEN: OK. Ms. Leary and Ambassador CdeBaca, I would like to start with both of you because your departments are doing amazing work to combat a huge problem. But it would be a mistake to pretend that we aren't in the middle of a budget crisis where hard choices have to be made about what programs are worthy continued funding at the same level. And this reauthorization is actually a reduction from what we authorized in 2008. And I think it's important for people to understand how many people need trafficking assistance.

Can you tell me, for each of your programs, how large the demand is and what the -- what unmet need there is?

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you, Senator.

There is a lot of unmet need. As you may know, the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office budget for programs was cut by about 24 percent earlier this spring. So we're down to a little bit under 16 1/2 million dollars in a world in which there's about 27 million people who are enslaved. And so we're not talking even a dollar a person at that point.

What we've seen is, over the last two years, almost a thousand -- 998 applications for assistance requesting \$547 million. That's for prosecutor training, for police training, for shelters for the victims around the world. And our foreign assistance budget that we were able to get out the door for that was about 39.1 million (dollars) in total. So not even 10 percent of the demonstrated need being met from what we've been able to do -- and, again, the 24 percent reduction this spring.

And we certainly know shared sacrifice, and we're making our money go as far as we can. But that's -- it's something that certainly is starting to play out in the field in that there are some countries in the world in which, if we aren't funding the victim care, it's just not getting funded.

SEN. FRANKEN: Ms. Leary?

MS. LEARY: With respect to the Department of Justice, Senator Franken, in fiscal year 2011, we received 120 applications for human trafficking grants, but we were only able to fund 33 of those. So there's a huge unmet need. And in addition, there's a very strong need for more research and more data so that we can truly understand this problem, even the extent of the problem and characteristics of victims, characteristics of traffickers, what approaches really work, where's the evidence that they work.

And we don't really have the funding to do that kind of research, And all of our partners -- our federal partners, we're all trying to work together to close that gap.

SEN. FRANKEN: And bring that home just in terms of talking about one unfunded grant request and what -- you know, just to bring it home on a human term -- either of you, anybody can do this -- what the request was, what the situation was, what the exploitation was. Put a human face on just one of those unmet grants.

MR. CDEBACA: So with the caveat that there, obviously, are some confidentiality issues as far as the ones that we select and send up -- for our congressional notification, obviously, that's been part of the record, but the ones that we don't, not necessarily.

But there was a few of the ones that really stood out for me especially in West Africa. A Catholic organization in one of the smaller West African countries that was not only trying to put together a victims services -- a shelter, something that would help young women, young men as they come out of slavery, that kind of transition facility -- but also would work with the government in order to come up with the legislation that they so sorely need.

You know, we had a 13th Amendment from 1865 until the year 2000, and we needed -- for us to really hit our stride, we needed modern, updated statutes. And this country does as well.

And so we're trying to backfill with training and technical assistance, repositioning some of our other grants that are out there through some of the international organizations. But it doesn't give you the day-to-day work that that nongovernmental organization could have done on the ground in West Africa. And that's, I think, just repeated over and over across the applications.

SEN. FRANKEN: Ms. Leary, advocates in Minnesota have talked about a pressing need for competent services -- culturally competent services for Native American victims of human trafficking. Can you tell us about the efforts being made to offer culturally competent training for law enforcement or service providers?

MS. LEARY: It's a pressing need, not just for Native American victims but for victims from so many different cultures. And we find those victims not only around the world but, certainly, here in the United States.

And what we are doing to try to foster that culturally competent service delivery is providing training through our technical assistance providers. I think this is a problem across the board in victim services of any kind of victim. You need to understand where the victim is at in order to effectively work with him or her. It isn't just language; it's understanding the traditions, the culture the kind of personal orientation where that individual might be.

With respect to the Native American population, the Office of Victims of Crime did host a daylong meeting at the Museum of the American Indian with practitioners from around Indian Country from around the country and with victim service providers who try to get a better understanding of what was happening on reservations and Indian Country and what are the needs of those victims that are not being met.

And then we tried to shape our responses and our training and technical assistance based on what we learned from meetings like that.

SEN. FRANKEN: Thank you.

Mr. CdeBaca, I was pleased that Secretary Clinton decided to rank the U.S. in its annual trafficking and persons report. Labor and sex trafficking in other countries is a huge problem, but it would be a mistake, not to mention completely inaccurate, for the U.S. to pretend that this is a problem we've totally figured out.

Have you seen a difference in your dialogue with other countries since the U.S. was added to the report?

MR. CDEBACA: We have, Senator, and in fact, a surprising and positive difference. There was a little nervousness as the data started coming in and we started putting the minimum standards -- applying the facts and the law with the United States that first year. When it began to emerge -- and I think not really as a surprise given all the work that had been done over the previous decade through the Clinton, Bush and now Obama administrations on this issue that the United States was looking like a Tier 1 country.

Because of the -- what we thought might be the response from a number of countries saying, well, of course, you put yourself on **Tier 1** -- if you're grading yourself, you're going to give yourself an A. But the transparency of the U.S. narrative, the accuracy, the data that's underpinning it reflecting federal and, increasingly, state efforts against **human trafficking** has carried the day. And most of the countries that we talk to actually say that the fact that it doesn't pull punches but, at the same time, has best practices and then recommendations for ourselves makes it much easier to talk to these other countries. It's become a very important foreign policy tool.

Now, there are some countries that don't like what their ranking is and have pointed out that we have a **Tier 1** but have 10 million, 11 million illegal aliens in the United States, which is, perhaps, more of an evidence of their misunderstanding of what **human trafficking** is than it is reflective of them actually reading the report.

So we think that it's worked out very well. I was at a conference day before yesterday in in-service for folks from our embassies around Latin America. And a couple of the people who were in from embassies in countries that are not always the warmest towards the United States over the last few years said that this particular decision to rank the United States has made a difference in how they can talk to their foreign counterparts about trafficking.

SEN. FRANKEN: Thank you. And I want to thank you all for your testimony and for your tremendous work on this issue.

The record of this hearing will remain open for a week for additional statements and questions.

Thank you, again, for your time and testimony. This hearing stands adjourned. (Sounds gavel.) Thank you.

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The following information was released by the office of Texas Rep. Ted Poe:

Mr. Speaker, in the United States, throughout this entire land, there are 3,500 shelters--3,500 shelters--and these shelters are animal shelters. According to the Humane Society, there are at least 3,500 animal shelters in our Nation rescuing those animals, primarily dogs and cats, and making sure that they have some safety.

I have Dalmatians. In fact, one of my Dalmatians was from a shelter, Dalmatian Rescue in Dallas, Texas, is where I got it. Three thousand five hundred. Bear that number in mind, Mr. Speaker, because in the same United States of America there are five shelters--five--for minor sex trafficked victims in this country. Fifty beds in the whole Nation is what I understand that there are to take care of minors, primarily young girls who are trafficked throughout the United States for sexual pleasure.

Maybe we have gotten our priorities out of sync. You know, sex trafficking is nothing more than modern day slavery, and it is an epidemic in some parts of the world, and it even is coming to the United States. It's that crime to me that no one wants to talk about.

I spent a lot of time at the courthouse in Houston, Texas, as a prosecutor in felony court, as a criminal court judge for 22 years, and I heard a lot of cases. But this case of someone kidnapping a minor child and transporting them across the United States for sex slavery is one of those cases that is difficult to understand why it occurs in this Nation. And many people, many people in the academic areas and others don't want to admit that takes place in this Nation, but human trafficking does take place, whether it's with minors or whether it's with adults, and primarily, Mr. Speaker, it's with women.

I have traveled to the Eastern European nations as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and have discussed with people in the Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, the problem those nations have when their young women are sold to other nations in sex trafficking. Here's the way it works on the international scale. One way it works, and in many of these Eastern European countries, young women can't work, can't find jobs, and so they will learn either through the Internet or from an ad in the newspaper, if they go to a certain country they will be promised a job. So they leave their home in the Ukraine or Romania, and they go to some foreign country. They meet up with some person. It's a male, of course, and he promises that he will take care of them and they will get a job doing something. And, of course, what they end up doing is becoming a piece of property for that male so that that person can sell that young female into sex slavery.

Back home where they come from, their families many times never know what happened to their daughter or their sister. They have just disappeared off in some other country. That takes place in that form in many countries throughout Eastern Europe and other nations as well.

Unfortunately, those who keep statistics estimate that overseas the customers, the ones that use that sex trafficked victim, about 25 percent, I understand, are Americans; Americans that go overseas for the purpose of engaging in prostitution as a customer of some person that is trafficked internationally.

But let's bring it back closer to home and what's taking place in the United States. Being from Houston, Texas, the location of Houston, Texas, where it is on the map and its closeness to other nations south of the border makes it, unfortu-

nately, a hub for internationally sex trafficked victims that come into the United States, either stay in Houston or are trafficked to some other part of the United States, and it has become a hub, one of the hubs in this country for that awful, dastardly crime.

It works this way. This is one of the ways it works. Young women, either adults or minors in some foreign country, are smuggled into the United States illegally by someone who promises that when he gets them into the United States, he's got a job waiting for them. In some cases, these young women have paid this person to smuggle them into the United States. And once they're in the United States, they become the property of that sex trafficker, and he forces them into exploitation. He uses threats against them. It's as simple as if you don't cooperate, I will have my friends in your country where your family is, I'll have them kill your family. So a 14-year-old girl, what decision does she make? She doesn't speak the language. She's in the United States, and this person says, either you cooperate and work for me, or I will make sure your parents are killed, and many times they choose the only alternative they think they have--to become a sex slave and be trafficked into the United States and allow that person to use them as property in the sex trafficking business.

When they come into the United States, they're promised a better life, a good job; but that doesn't really happen to some of them.

There are many stories. I'm going to talk about just two young women. Gabriella--that's not her real name--was working to support her family in Colombia. She was told by a friend--a male friend who recently moved to the United States--that she could make a whole lot more money if she came to the United States. So she took him up on the offer to let him get her into the United States; but as soon as she arrived here, that same "friend" forced her into prostitution.

She couldn't afford to come into the United States. So, he said, Well, I got you here. Now you've got to pay your way. The way you pay me for getting you here and the cost of me getting you into the United States is you're going to have to become a prostitute, and you're going to work for me, the pimp. If you don't, I'll harm your family back home in Colombia.

So for 5 years that young girl was moved around in different brothels, houses of prostitution. She said after she was finally rescued that she had no contact with the public and she really didn't even really know what city she was in. After years of servitude, ICE raided the brothel where she was held and Gabriella was rescued. She was one of the fortunate ones because she was referred to services where she received counseling and helped to find housing and care for her own child and also find a job.

But, sadly, this type of trafficking occurs in the United States. People--women--come into the United States looking for freedom and prosperity, a job that they can send money back home to their families; but they end up being property of someone else who sells them for sexual favors.

There are all kinds of ways that this is done. They're trafficked through massage parlors that advertise themselves as legitimate businesses. In reality, they're illegal sex rings. Part of that issue, massage parlors, occurs in the city of Houston, where women, primarily adult women, are smuggled into the United States from Asian countries. They don't speak the language. They're used in massage parlors, which are nothing more than a front for illegal sex rings.

The problem that they have is this. This is a complicated problem. It's not an easy solution. They come into the United States. They're smuggled here. They don't speak the language. They come from a country where the police are corrupt, nobody trusts the government; and they find themselves in the United States, where law enforcement tries to help them, and they don't cooperate because they come from a culture where the police, law enforcement, are corrupt. They do not understand that they can get help in the United States.

That situation occurs--these massage parlors--occur in some places, and one of those is in Houston, Texas, where Constable Ron Hickman has put his special teams together to try to stop this epidemic that's occurring in parts of our State. These trafficking individuals--the traffickers--they're smooth operators, and they will do anything to get around the law and intimidate the victim to cooperate.

While victims are brought from overseas into our country, children in our own backyards are forced into a life of sexual exploitation. Let me distinguish here. I started out by talking about minor sex trafficking victims and how there are so few shelters for them, but let's distinguish the types of victims we're talking about.

We have the international victims who come into the United States, smuggled into the U.S. and they are transported around the United States for sexual favors. Then we have people that are already in the United States. Citizens or people that are here legally who are moved from city to city in the United States. So those are domestic trafficked victims.

Here's the big distinction, Mr. Speaker: generally speaking, if a person is brought into the U.S. as a trafficked sex victim and she gets involved in prostitution and she's rescued by Federal authorities, she's treated as a victim of crime and there are some places to place that rescued victim; but the rules don't seem to be the same and aren't the same in some cases for domestic trafficked victims. For example, if a victim is taken from Houston, Texas, kidnapped and taken to another State in the United States and is forced into prostitution by some pimp and law enforcement gets involved and they find her, in many cases she's treated as a criminal. She's arrested for prostitution. She's not treated as a victim.

Now, in all deference to our law enforcement folks, who do as good a job as they can, there is no place to put that trafficked victim as a victim of crime. So she's put in the criminal justice system, in many cases the juvenile system because there's no place to put her. There are no shelters. There are no safe houses. There are no beds for those types of victims. Of course, it's a problem of resources.

But it's something that we need to understand how difficult that is on a minor child who is a victim of crime to be shoved into the general population as a juvenile or in the criminal justice system to get her out of that system and treat her like a victim. Of course, she has a whole life ahead of her. It starts out she's in the criminal justice system. Once that happens, the next time she's seen or picked up by law enforcement, even with good intentions, she's put back in the criminal justice system or the juvenile system.

So we have a standard here where we need to understand that we need to treat the victim of that traffic--the young woman, the minor child in some cases--they need to be treated as victims of crime and not criminals. We'll get to the criminals and who they are in just a minute.

Traffickers use and contact very vulnerable young women. Many times they abuse and they manipulate these young women. The children--these girls, primarily--come from families, but sometimes they are homeless. They're runaways or in some cases throwaways, as some call them; and they're very susceptible for trafficking. They really have no place to go in our society and our culture. They have no place to go. And so when they're roaming the streets and somebody comes up to them and treats them nice, promises he'll take care of them, give them a place to stay and give them money, they're susceptible to that. Once they get into that environment, they become a slave. They are a slave in 2011. Our culture needs to understand that.

The pimps, in many cases, will do anything. They will beat them, they will abuse them, they will drug them, and they will manipulate them through old-fashioned brainwashing.

Take the story of Maria. Maria was an 11-year-old girl. Eleven, Mr. Speaker. That's her actual age. She was raised by her grandmother in Los Angeles. Her mother died when she was very young and her father was not involved in her life. This young girl, as most girls, in my opinion, needed a strong male figure to help her. She was looking for someone since she didn't have a father figure around. She didn't know that this male figure would end up being someone who would treat her as a sex slave.

One day, this individual approached her. He treated her nice. He was 28 at the time. He took her shopping, bought her new clothes, treated her nice, took her to his house; and as soon as he went into that house with her, she didn't realize that she would never return to her home.

He treated her well at first, but soon he had other girls who lived in the house take her to a house of prostitution, for lack of a better phrase, and show her how to be a prostitute. Because, you see, she was 11 years of age. She later learned that she was making about \$1,500 a night that she turned over to this 28-year-old pimp. Later, she said she was beaten and brainwashed and stuck in "the life" and trafficked throughout the United States.

Her pimp got all the money, making her believe that this is the way it should be and that he deserved the money while she was being raped by multiple men each and every night. He told her he owned her--and she believed it because she was 11. She was still maturing into society and what was right and what was wrong was all being taught differently to her.

Maria was arrested on multiple occasions and didn't even know her grandmother and her sister were looking for her until the first time she was arrested at the age of 14. Fortunately for Maria, there was a place for her to go to receive

specialized services, and she was able to get counseling and eventually able to get out of this life of being a slave. She finally believed that she had some self-worth, where she believed before she had no worth as a person.

Part of the problem, Mr. Speaker, is we don't have enough places for young women like Maria--50 beds, only five shelters, I understand.

So the United States, as a Nation, as a culture, as a people, the greatest place on Earth, we need to understand that we have to deal with this issue. It's only going to get worse. And ignoring the problem will not solve the problem.

Of course, all different branches of law enforcement must work together--local, State, and Federal--on this issue, and especially on the issue of the fact that international trafficking victims in the United States seem to have some places to go when they're rescued and domestic trafficking victims don't, and especially those who are minor trafficking victims.

The Victims of Trafficking and Violation Protection Act of 2000 was the first large-scale Federal law to address human trafficking in this country. The law addresses both the global and domestic trafficking problem and also establishes an annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report that analyzes the issue of global and country-to-country trafficking and places countries on a list--on a **tier** is what it's called--of the worst offenders, and I think we should know who the worst offenders are.

The worst offending nations in the whole world that are kept up with--all countries are kept up with--on human sexual trafficking and slavery, here they are: Algeria, Burma, the Central African Republic, Cuba, New Guinea, Iran--I'll repeat that one, Iran--North Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Those are the worst countries for this issue of international sex trafficking.

This legislation was reauthorized in 2008 as the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act. We have improved the law over the years, and it's time that we make trafficking--international trafficking and domestic trafficking--as an issue, a human rights issue, a children's issue. Whatever you want to call it, it's wrong, and we have to deal with it in this country. And we cannot put an end to it until we are aware of the fact that it does occur.

Just like the old days when many people used to say when I was a judge, oh, gangs aren't a problem, there are no gangs in the United States. Yeah, well, we found out that was wrong. It's the same issue when it comes to human sex slavery. It is occurring, and it will only get worse unless we do something about it.

Our laws must identify the people in the system. And I think it's important that we take the child, the trafficked person, and treat them as a victim of crime. We have to have that mindset that in many cases they are a victim of crime. We, as a culture, need to recognize that and treat them that way and rescue them from that environment. That's the primary duty that we have: Rescue that child, get them out of that environment, and help them.

Let me tell you, these are hard people to work with. These young women are hard. They are difficult. The agencies that work with them find them very difficult to work with, but that doesn't mean we should give up on them.

So we take the victim and we work with them and treat them like a victim. Then we take the customer, the person that pays for the service, pays the slave to perform some sexual activity, we take that person and we prosecute those individuals. And when they're convicted, I think their photographs ought to be on the Internet. Line them up. Let the country know who these people are that live in this Nation that buy sexual favors from children. Show who they are. But prosecute those people.

Too often in the area of prostitution--there are even some States that want to abolish it as a crime. Too often we center on the prostitute. And in some cases, the prostitute, unlike the cases I'm talking about, is committing a crime. They're doing it because they want to. They're not forced to do it. That's a different situation. But we center on the prostitute. Very seldom do we prosecute the male, the person who uses the service. Our society better start prosecuting the person who needs to be prosecuted.

Then we deal with the trafficker, the slave owner. And there is no punishment that is strong enough for the slave owner in this country. Go after them. Make them know they're not going to do business in the United States and traffic international victims or domestic victims in this country. We will not stand for it. But let's come down hard on those guys and go after the other ones, too, who use that service and treat the victim as a victim.

The people who use that service, they need to know we're going to find out who they are and we're going to publicize their names because that's the demand that's created in this country. We cannot continue to let those that pay to abuse children continue to roam our streets, and we need to treat victims as such.

I am the cochairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, along with my friend Jim Costa from California, and one of the things we're trying to do is raise awareness for victims of crime, especially those of domestic trafficking victims that are arrested and treated as criminals when, in the case, they should be treated as victims of crime. We must make sure that the international and domestic victims are both treated as victims and both receive essential services, and there must be services provided for them. We must also make sure that the victim in this case is rescued, that, as a society, that is the first thing we try to do is rescue them.

As I mentioned earlier, it's my understanding there are only about 50 beds for minor sex trafficking victims in the United States and five shelters. We need to solve that problem and help those organizations that work with victims of crime have resources to house and treat and take care of those very special people.

There are many organizations that are trying to help in the area of rescue, stopping trafficking of victims. I'd like to mention those before I finish, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, I mentioned Constable Ron Hickman of Precinct 4 in Houston that's working on the prostitution involved in massage parlors and trying to prosecute the people who are involved in that, but also to rescue those victims that are very difficult to work with because they come from a culture where they don't work with law enforcement.

Another organization is the Arrow Ministries in Texas, the YMCA International Services. Children at Risk in Houston does a great job. They do exactly what their name says. They try to take care of kids, children that are at risk.

Houston Rescue and Restore, Arrow Ministries, Redeem Ministries. On the national level, there are other organizations: Shared Hope International, The Rebecca Project for Human Rights, Polaris Project, Catholic Charities, Humanity United, World Vision, International Justice Mission, Vital Voices, the Coalition to End Slavery and Trafficking, Amnesty International, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, Free the Slaves, Not for Sale Campaign, and Break the Chain Campaign, and there is that great organization, RAINN, as well.

Mr. Speaker, we, as a culture, as a society, as a country, as a people, I think that we are judged, we are judged as a people. The United States claims to be the world leader in human rights, and I think we are the world leader in human rights, and we should continue to be. Because we've been blessed with so much, we should try to protect the dignity of humans throughout the world, but especially humans here.

But we are judged not by the way we treat the rich, the famous, the popular, the powerful. We're judged by the way we treat the elderly, the weak, the poor, the children, victims of crime. That's how we're judged, not by the way we treat these other people.

So I hope that we understand the necessity, the importance of taking care of our greatest resource, and our greatest resource is children in this country. No matter who they are or what's happened to them in their life, we need to take care of them, especially those young that, in the year 2011, become the slaves of someone else for money.

Let's take care of this issue, Mr. Speaker, and stop this crime against humanity in this country and be the world leader.

And that's just the way it is.

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299 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

September 14, 2011 Wednesday 2:29 AM EST

Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Speaks on The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Renewing the Commitment to Victims of Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 2174 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech by Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large:

Good morning. I'd like to thank Chairman Leahy, Senator Grassley, and all the members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am Ambassador Lou de Baca. As President Obama's Ambassador-at-Large to Combat Human Trafficking, I direct the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) and I am responsible for leading our efforts in the global fight against modern slavery.

In addition to the production of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report and a range of direct diplomatic and public engagement on human trafficking issues, one of the primary responsibilities of our office is the administration of foreign assistance funds for international anti-trafficking programs.

Our grantees operate in all regions of the world and are advancing all three Ps of the 3P Paradigm--prevention, prosecution, and protection--that guide our efforts to fight modern slavery here at home and around the world. That means the work of our grantees runs the gamut of anti-trafficking efforts, whether victim protection and rehabilitation, training for prosecutors and law enforcement officials, or prevention efforts, including partnerships with civil society and the private sector, that look to address this crime and curb demand before it takes place. These efforts are closely linked to the mandates and purposes laid out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and its subsequent reauthorizations. The provisions in the TVPA help to prioritize the allocation of our anti-trafficking funds.

Because the three Ps function as an interlocking paradigm, no single P stands alone. For example, it is not enough to prosecute traffickers if we do not also provide assistance to the survivors and work to ensure that no one else is victimized. Thus, many of G/TIP's projects are cross-cutting in their approach to combating trafficking, and we place a particular emphasis on programs that address victim protection. Ninety percent of projects we have funded last year include a protection component and 61 percent provide direct services for victims. Just over half of the projects build capacity of local law enforcement and prosecutors to apprehend and prosecute traffickers; victim protection is a critical component of these projects as well because justice for the most vulnerable begins with a robust victim-centered approach. More than 90 percent of prevention programs include victim protection activities. Fifty-nine percent of all protection programs include activities to increase prosecutions and convictions, and nearly three quarters of projects focus on both labor and sex trafficking to ensure a comprehensive response to all forms of trafficking.

As I hope to demonstrate today, the programs we help fund are successful, but our foreign assistance budget is modest relative to the global scale of the crime of trafficking in persons. Our final foreign assistance appropriation for this fiscal year was \$16.2 million. While we put every penny of that sum to good use, that total stands in stark contrast to a crime exploiting as many as 27 million victims worldwide.

My testimony will demonstrate that the appropriation for our international programs is money well spent, both in terms of the transparency of our grant selection process and in terms of the effectiveness of these funds in advancing U.S. foreign policy.

A good starting point is to explain how we decide to spend our foreign assistance funds. Responsible administration of foreign assistance funds is a top priority for our office. That's why we've implemented a rigorous, transparent, and competitive application process for our grants.

Our foreign assistance and programming priorities are strategically linked to the country-specific tier rankings and diagnostic assessments included in the annual TIP Report. To maximize our limited funding, we identify priority countries for funding each year. We generally target our foreign assistance to Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List, and, in some cases, Tier 2 countries, where governments have the political will to improve the response to trafficking but lack the economic resources to address the problem. In addition to targeting **Tier 3**, **Tier 2 Watch List**, and selected **Tier 2** countries, we also consider a country's financial resources and need for technical support, political will to address **trafficking in persons**, and other funding that may be already used to address trafficking in the country.

At the start of the process, our office posts information about funding priorities and the availability of funds for anti-trafficking projects on our website. We convene a half-day bidders' conference for potential applicants, which in the past has been attended by nearly 150 representatives of NGOs, universities, and international organizations, among others. For those not able to attend the conference, we publish the material presented on our website.

We solicit proposals via www.grantsolutions.gov and www.grants.gov, the portals for U.S. government grants, and through a global call for proposals through U.S. embassies abroad. Solicitations conducted via www.grantsolutions.gov and www.grants.gov involve applicants submitting their proposals through the systems managed by OMB and HHS. The global call for proposals is a partnership between U.S. embassies and G/TIP, as we ask U.S. embassies to inform organizations working on trafficking how proposals may be submitted to G/TIP.

Grant proposals that are submitted to G/TIP in response to solicitations for bilateral or regional projects are reviewed for technical requirements. Proposals that meet the minimum technical standards (English language, figures in U.S. dollars, and published page limits) are forwarded to U.S. embassies for review by the TIP country team, which may include the political officer, USAID, and other relevant offices. The country team reviews applications and provides feedback to the Department on proposals for bilateral projects that are submitted to G/TIP.

Proposals are then subjected to a competitive interagency regional review panel that provides an opportunity for input from representatives of G/TIP; the relevant Regional Bureau; other offices within the Department that fund anti-trafficking programs; the USAID regional representative; and, as appropriate, other U.S. government agencies.

G/TIP anti-trafficking projects are primarily funded as grants, cooperative agreements, or Interagency Agreements and managed by the G/TIP Grants Officer and International Programs Officers. However, some projects are awarded at State Department posts abroad if G/TIP and post determine that this would facilitate more effective management of the project.

The selection of proposals for funding is based on program priorities and requirements conveyed in the solicitation for proposals. In an ongoing effort to improve the design and effectiveness of anti-trafficking projects, in FY07, G/TIP began to explicitly require applicants to clearly articulate goals and objectives, activities to support each objective, as well as indicators to measure success. The FY07 revised solicitation format was recognized as a model for other offices within the Department.

To further improve the competitive process, in FY10, our office initiated a two-stage grant application process that streamlined the application for organizations seeking funding and reduced the U.S. government resources required to review hundreds of 30-page proposals, while preserving fairness and transparency. In the first stage applicants submit a two-page proposal or concept note and following the review described, selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal for competitive review.

The required proposal elements stated in solicitations constitute the basis for evaluating proposals. Each panel recommends to me proposals for funding. The results of the review panels are compiled for my review and consideration. I select proposals that best reflect the programming needs for the specific country as identified in the TIP Report, as well as global and regional program needs. Following review and approval of recommended projects by the Director of Foreign Assistance, all projects are sent for Congressional Notification. Abstracts of recommended proposals are distributed to the members of the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) for a final review and comment.

The review process is thorough and transparent, involving numerous partners within the State Department and across government, and of course concluding with Congressional consultation. Such diligence is necessary given the demand for our international program funding. In the last two years, the Office received 998 applications requesting a total of \$547 million.

In recent years, G/TIP has taken several steps to shorten the time from proposal submission to project award, including hiring more program officers (from five in 2009 to nine in 2011) and establishing the grants officer and budget officer positions within G/TIP. In contrast to previous years, almost all of foreign assistance funds were obligated in 2010 and we expect the same this year.

Our thorough pre-award review process is necessarily coupled with effective monitoring and evaluation of international programs. The program and grant officers within the Department have monitored anti-trafficking grant projects to provide technical assistance to grantees and to ensure that project goals and objectives are implemented; that Federal grant funds are expended consistent with the provisions of pertinent statutes, regulations, agency administrative requirements; and, that Federal funds are used responsibly.

Grantees are required to submit program progress and financial reports throughout the project period and final reports within 90 days of the end of the project.

The U.S. embassy officers are partners in program monitoring. G/TIP notifies the appropriate officer at post when a new grant is awarded; the guidance from G/TIP provides key project information and recommends procedures for embassy participation in monitoring which are subject to embassy staffing and workloads. When G/TIP Program Officers conduct site visits they use a standardized format for review of administrative and programmatic aspects of the project and the TIP point of contact at the embassy accompanies the officer on the site visit, if available. This practice facilitates close collaboration between the post and G/TIP and strengthens follow-on monitoring by posts.

We take great care in ensuring that we are responsible custodians of the taxpayers' money, and I believe G/TIP has succeeded in our efforts to make the administration of our programs funding as transparent and accountable as possible. But the true success story here is the programs themselves. Whether in Cote D'Ivoire, where Prosperite is providing basic shelter and services to young girls; or in Thailand, where TRAFCORD has coordinated a series of successful rescues of labor and sex trafficking victims and serves as a model in the region; or in Mexico, where Casa Alianza is working to increase the identification of TIP victims among highly vulnerable street children; or in India where projects demonstrate best practices in raising awareness of government services for freed bonded laborers and aftercare following their release; or in Ghana where a U.S. expert provided technical assistance to local prosecutors leading to a path-breaking conviction, the first of its kind in a forced child labor case, the true success of our programs is the results we are seeing.

The sad reality is that without the modest funding G/TIP is able to provide, many of the projects we support would have to close their doors. That would mean more than just the end of a victim identification initiative or the shuttering of a shelter for survivors. In many instances, it would mean the end of all such services in that country. That must not be the mark of our foreign policy.

The President and Secretary Clinton have made the effort to combat modern slavery a priority because it is in our strategic interest to combat modern slavery. Human trafficking thrives in places where vulnerable populations slip through the cracks and live without the protection of law. The places where we support anti-trafficking programs are the places where we need to show that the United States will stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

But fighting slavery is more than good foreign policy. It's part of who we are as a nation. We cannot walk away from that responsibility here at home or in our conduct around the world.

I thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. We look forward to working with you further to provide information or answer questions that would provide additional clarity or background.

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300 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
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September 13, 2011 Tuesday

Philippines says grateful for US recognition of counterterrorism efforts

LENGTH: 810 words

Text of report by Aurea Calica, Alexis Romero, and Pia Lee-Brago headlined "US Acknowledges Phl's 'Robust Effort' vs Terrorism" published by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star's news portal Philstar.com on 13 September

Manila, Philippines - Malacanang [presidential palace] is grateful for the United States' acknowledgment of the Philippines' anti-terror efforts.

In a press briefing at Malacanang yesterday, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte expressed appreciation for remarks made by US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. that the Philippines was doing a good job in fighting terrorism a decade after the Sept. 11 attacks by al-Qaeda terrorists in New York and Washington.

"We appreciate those remarks and certainly it is a recognition of our efforts to fight not just terrorism (but) **human trafficking** as evidenced by the removal of the Philippines from the **watchlist** and its subsequent upgrade in status," she said.

Valte said the Aquino administration was also pushing for the amendments to the Human Security Act of 2007 to make it a stronger tool against terrorism.

In an interview with GMA News [local television network] on Sunday, Thomas cited the "robust effort" by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) under the Aquino administration in fighting terrorism.

"As long as we remain vigilant, as long as you are doing everything you can to keep people safe, then you're doing a good job," Thomas said.

Thomas earlier said he had recommended to the US State Department the lifting of the travel ban to Mindanao.

Thomas made the announcement during the opening of the 20th Mindanao Business Conference in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur last week.

He also underscored the importance of working with other countries to fight terrorism.

The Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiyah and Rajah Solaiman Movement, he said, have no ideological leanings and are only interested in terror activities to raise funds.

"I don't see the Philippines as a breeder of terrorism but I see the Philippines as a partner to rid the world of terrorists," he said.

On Sept. 2, the US State Department alerted its citizens traveling to or already in Mindanao of possible terror activities by al-Qaeda or its affiliates.

In reaction to the travel alert, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the "Philippines respects the right and responsibility of the US government to protect their nationals and ensure their safety and security."

Meanwhile, the military said amendments to the anti-terrorism law would help prevent terror attacks similar to that launched 10 years ago in the US.

"That (amended anti-terror law) would help prevent similar occurrences in the Philippines. The purpose is to add muscle and teeth to agencies fighting terrorism," AFP public affairs chief Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr. said in an interview.

"These (amendments) will pre-empt any activity that would lead to successful consummation of a terrorist plot," he added.

Burgos noted that vigilance is crucial to thwarting any form of terrorism.

He said one of the amendments being pushed by Malacanang is the lifting of the P500,000 fine for each day law enforcers wrongfully detain a terror suspect eventually acquitted by the courts. Officials believe the huge penalty discourages security forces from pursuing cases against terror suspects.

Another provision that Malacanang wants amended involves requiring security forces to inform suspected terrorists that they are being investigated.

"We support calls to remove the section that informs terrorists that they are under surveillance. It defeats the purpose of covert operations," Burgos said.

Burgos said they support a proposal of the Anti-Terrorism Council to require authorities to report within 30 days to the court that permitted their surveillance the results of their probe. "The proposal would prevent abuses," Burgos said.

"This is consistent with the directive of the AFP chief to defend and protect the rights of our citizens and safeguard human rights in all our operations," he added.

Lawmakers incorporated safeguards in the Human Security Act to prevent abuses and uphold the rights of suspected terrorists.

President Aquino called for amendments to the law last month. He renewed his call for amendments to the law on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the US.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., head of the Anti-Terrorism Council, cited the need to strengthen the prosecution of terrorists while upholding their rights.

"We believe that ensuring the security of our citizens should not come at the expense of their civil liberties," Ochoa said in a statement.

A US State department report released last month showed that more than 11,500 terrorist attacks occurred in 72 countries last year, resulting in more than 13,200 deaths.

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 13 Sep 11

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301 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

September 12, 2011 Monday 9:41 PM EST

Malacanang Welcomes US Envoy's Citation of the Country's Fight Against Terror

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 270 words

DATELINE: MANILA, Philippines

The office of the President of the Philippines issued the following news release:

Malacanang welcomed on Monday the remarks of US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas, Jr. who lauded on Sunday the "good job" the Philippines was doing in its fight against terror.

"The Philippine government is doing a good job in fighting terrorism a decade after the tragic "9/11" terror attacks by Islamic extremists in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001," Thomas Jr. said in an interview.

Thomas cited in particular the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines which, under the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III, have been making significant headway in its quest to stem terrorist threats in the country.

Because of these efforts, Thomas has recommended to the US State Department the lifting of the travel ban to Mindanao.

Thomas made the announcement during the opening of the 20th Mindanao Business Conference in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur last week.

"I'm quite content. It's a robust effort... As long as we remain vigilant, as long as you are doing everything you can to keep people safe, then you're doing a good job," Thomas said.

In a press briefing in Malacanang this afternoon, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said the government welcomed Thomas' remarks.

"We appreciate those remarks and certainly it is a recognition of our efforts to fight not just terrorism (but) **human trafficking** as evidenced by the removal of the Philippines from the **watch list** and its subsequent upgrade in status," she said.

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302 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

September 2, 2011 Friday

Nigeria; NAPTIP Gets New Executive Secretary

BYLINE: Daily Trust (Abuja)

LENGTH: 288 words

The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) yesterday got a new Executive Secretary, Barr. Mrs Beatrice Jedy-Agba.

She replaced Mr Chuzi Egede who left the position of his own volition to further his personal plans, according to NAPTIP's board chairman Mr Damian Dodo.

In a courtesy visit to the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice Mr Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN), NAPTIP highlighted the legal framework of the agency as well as to source for necessary funding of the agency.

In his speech, the agency's board chairman, Mr Damian Dodo, said the federal government has taken control of the welfare of Nigerian girls trafficked to Mali and are working out the modalities to ensure their safe return through "Operation Timbuktu."

The chairman also said that the agency has exercised full powers of prosecution under the mandate of the Attorney general, leading to 135 convictions and 88 pending cases in federal high courts across the country.

The agency expressed gratitude to the federal government as the country has maintained a **tier 1** rating in the global **human trafficking** report for the past 3 years.

He said the agency has been inundated with report of the ugly and worsening conditions of Nigerian girls in slave camps in Mali.

He said that the planned operation has already received the directive of the National Security Adviser who has mandated the Agency as to its urgency so as to conduct the operation without further delay.

"The number of these unfortunate girls who are kept as sex slaves are on the increase as confirmed by fact finding mission conducted by the Agency and also Nigeria embassy in Mali and Nigeria community leaders living in Bamako".

LOAD-DATE: September 2, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

303 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Daily Trust (Abuja)

September 2, 2011 Friday

NAPTIP Gets New Executive Secretary

BYLINE: Ojoma Akor and Omono Eremionkhale

LENGTH: 288 words

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In his speech, the agency's board chairman, Mr Damian Dodo, said the federal government has taken control of the welfare of Nigerian girls trafficked to Mali and are working out the modalities to ensure their safe return through "Operation Timbuktu."

The chairman also said that the agency has exercised full powers of prosecution under the mandate of the Attorney general, leading to 135 convictions and 88 pending cases in federal high courts across the country.

The agency expressed gratitude to the federal government as the country has maintained a **tier 1** rating in the global **human trafficking** report for the past 3 years.

He said the agency has been inundated with report of the ugly and worsening conditions of Nigerian girls in slave camps in Mali.

He said that the planned operation has already received the directive of the National Security Adviser who has mandated the Agency as to its urgency so as to conduct the operation without further delay.

"The number of these unfortunate girls who are kept as sex slaves are on the increase as confirmed by fact finding mission conducted by the Agency and also Nigeria embassy in Mali and Nigeria community leaders living in Bamako".

LOAD-DATE: September 2, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

304 of 492 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

September 2011

U.S. Department of State Publishes 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Christina Theocharopoulou .

Law student at Heidelberg University, Germany since October 2008 and current intern at Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe LLP, Washington, DC.; Bruce Zagaris

SECTION: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; Pg. 892 Vol. 27 No. 9

LENGTH: 1096 words

On June 27, 2011, the U.S. Department of State published the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report (hereafter 2011 TIP Report).ⁿ² The Report ranks 184 countries' efforts to investigate, prosecute, and prevent human trafficking, as well as other topics of interest. The U.S. itself is included in this year's Report.

ⁿ² U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report (June 2011) <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton points out that the overall number of prosecutions worldwide has remained relatively static.ⁿ³ Underscoring the 2008 theme "a robust law enforcement is essential" of her predecessor Condoleezza Rice, Clinton stressed the importance of using the tools that have been created for combating human trafficking and bringing more perpetrators to justice. It is the governments' duty - even in times of tight economy - to find creative ways to combat human trafficking, to work closely with the private sector and to use supply chain monitoring techniques so that consumers can know if their goods and services come from slavery-free sources.ⁿ⁴

ⁿ³ Remarks on the Release of the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, June 27, 2011 <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/06/167156.htm>.

ⁿ⁴ *Id.*

Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca states that in the last ten years since the Palermo-Protocol the three-P paradigm - the three P's of prevention, protection and prosecution - came to fruition. Already 130 countries of the 148 parties in this protocol have enacted laws prohibiting human trafficking. That is why the report of 2011 has as a theme a decade of delivery, in contrast to the previous decade of development.

CdeBaca tried to give a definition of human trafficking and narrowed it down to describing it as "plain and simple, modern slavery." The estimates are 27 million people who are working in bondage around the world. And since it is a crime of denying someone of their most basic human rights, the right of freedom, as CdeBaca says, it is extremely important that policy tries to stop this crime with every tool possible.ⁿ⁵

ⁿ⁵ Special Briefing Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Via Teleconference, Washington, DC, June 24, 2011 <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2011/167149.htm>.

Clinton as well as CdeBaca spoke at some length on good examples and advances in several countries regarding the efforts made against human trafficking. They tried to use these stories of success to show that is worth for every country to make the effort - even for very little ones. The most important factor on fighting trafficking effectively is the political will to enforce the anti-trafficking policy. Moreover the countries need to work together evermore, since that is the reason why countries make bilateral treaties, to achieve change for the better.

The report places each country in the 2011 TIP Report into one of three tiers, as required by The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). The placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on

the size of the problem, although the latter is also an important factor. The analyses are based on the extent of governments' efforts to reach compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

Tier 1 has countries whose governments fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Tier 2 contains countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. The **Tier 2 Watch List** has countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards and a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the prior year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; or c) the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year. **Tier 3** has countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. n6

n6 2011 TIP Report, *supra*, at 13-14.

Governments can evaluate their compliance by asking three questions: (1) does the government criminalize all forms of trafficking and prescribe sentences commensurate with the gravity of the offenses? Consistent with the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, governments should prescribe maximum criminal penalties of no fewer than four years. Penalties prescribed for sex trafficking offenses should be equivalent to the penalties for rape and other serious crimes. (2) Does the government use its laws to vigorously investigate and prosecute all forms of human trafficking that exist in the country? Many countries fail to pursue prosecutions diligently or ignore certain types of human trafficking, such as the forced labor of men and boys. (3) Is the government doing what it can to protect victims and prevent trafficking?

The current report illustrates that, notwithstanding the millions of victims, only 6,017 cases of trafficking were prosecuted, compared to 6,178 in 2005 and 6,885 in 2004. The transnational nature of the crimes often makes them difficult to try in court. Law enforcement may want to consider the use of more intrusive methods, such as wire tapping, undercover sting operations, and asset forfeiture n7

n7 *Editorial, name, shame - and prosecute*, WASH. POST, June 28, 2011.

The 2011 report concludes that last year only 32 of 184 countries fully met the standards set by U.S. law. The number on the list of the worst violators rose to 23 from 13. n8

n8 *Editorial, Slavery in the Modern Age*, N.Y. TIMES, July 2, 2011, at A16, col. 1.

The annual TIP contributes to the knowledge and debate about TIP policies and stimulates discussion about the needs and successes of efforts of the 3Ps. The TIP annual report illustrates the work of one government to implement the TIP Protocol to the Palermo Convention.

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

305 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Australian Financial Review

August 30, 2011 Tuesday
First Edition

High Court loss may open door to Nauru

BYLINE: John Kerin**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 12**LENGTH:** 553 words

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen remains confident the government will defeat the High Court challenge to the controversial Malaysia refugee swap deal.

But there are some Labor MPs on both the Right and Left who won't be disappointed if the government loses, in a decision expected to be handed down on Wednesday.

That would allow Prime Minister Julia Gillard to do a U-turn and argue that, frustrated by the High Court, she has no choice but to sign a deal with the Pacific island of Nauru.

Given Parliament has already condemned the Malaysian deal, Ms Gillard could argue she has no recourse to the legislature to try and resurrect it.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott might complain about Labor embracing former prime minister John Howard's hardline "Pacific solution".

Mr Abbott has repeatedly urged Ms Gillard to pick up the phone and call Nauru president Marcus Stephen to reopen the centre rather than take a risk with Malaysia.

But the Opposition Leader may find it hard to maintain the rage if Nauru and another centre Gillard is reopening with Papua New Guinea's blessing on Manus Island, help stop the refugees' boats.

And proponents argue, where is the political downside given neither the government or Gillard's stocks could go any lower.

"We don't know if it [embracing Nauru] would stop the boats but it worked for John Howard and it appears to shape up better than the Malaysian solution," one Labor source said.

Though the asylum seeker issue has slipped down the rankings of Labor headaches, following the Thomson credit card imbroglio, Labor sources suggest the bottom line is still to "get asylum seekers off the agenda" because the issue is so potent with voters in marginal seats in Sydney and Brisbane.

Under the Malaysia deal Australia has agreed to send 800 asylum seekers arriving by boat to Malaysia in return for accepting 4000 refugees from Malaysia.

Along with a deal to reopen a Howard era asylum-seeker processing centre on PNG's Manus Island, the Malaysia deal is designed to deny the people smugglers' sales pitch of resettlement in Australia.

The High Court challenge brought by refugee lawyers centres on whether the Immigration Minister Chris Bowen acted lawfully in declaring Malaysia a suitable place to send asylum seekers given it is not a signatory to the UN refugee convention and that they are subject to mistreatment including caning.

The Australian Human Rights Commission has intervened arguing Mr Bowen is in breach of his duty of care as legal guardian to unaccompanied asylum seeker children.

Mr Bowen insists he has secured guarantees from Malaysia that the 800 people Australia sends to Malaysia will be well treated.

The concern among Labor MPs is how long that will last and what happens if even one of those people Australia sends to Malaysia is mistreated.

Malaysia remains on a US **human trafficking watch list**, with refugees from Burma particularly vulnerable to falling prey to the sex trade, forced labour and at risk of physical and sexual assault as well as caning.

The Nauru centre would be funded by Australia with the healthcare and welfare standards set by Canberra.

KEY POINTS

- The High Court will decide whether refugees can be sent to Malaysia.
- A ruling against may force Julia Gillard to process refugees on Nauru.
- Labor sources say such an outcome might benefit Labor.

LOAD-DATE: April 9, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

306 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

August 19, 2011 Friday 8:28 AM GMT

UN envoy urges Thailand to tackle trafficking

LENGTH: 340 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK, Aug 19 2011

Thailand must do more to combat widespread human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, including addressing "deeply-rooted" corruption, a UN envoy said on Friday.

"The implementation of policy and legal framework on human trafficking and the law enforcement are weak and fragmented," said the United Nations special rapporteur on people trafficking Joy Ngozi Ezeilo.

At a press conference following her 11 day mission to Thailand, Ezeilo acknowledged that progress had been made, but she underlined the need for wide-ranging improvements, in initial recommendations ahead of a 2012 report.

She said prosecutions of traffickers remain low, contributing to a culture of "impunity" for those who trade in people.

"Corruption, especially among low-cadre law enforcement officers at provincial and local levels, is deeply rooted," she said.

"The government should promote zero tolerance to corruption and complicity of public officials with traffickers, and prosecute and adequately punish offenders to dissuade such practices."

Ezeilo said the underlying causes of trafficking, especially demand for "cheap and exploitative" labour from neighbouring Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, "are not being effectively addressed".

She noted "widespread" sexual exploitation -- including child prostitution, pornography and sex tourism -- as well as new forms of trafficking for domestic labour, begging, forced marriage and surrogacy.

Forced labour is also growing in agriculture and construction and is "notoriously common" in the fishing industry.

Ezeilo called on Thailand to review its labour and migration laws, recognising the demand for cheap, low skilled labour and to provide "safe migration options" for those entering the country from abroad.

The US State Department has placed Thailand on its **human trafficking watchlist** for two years running, accusing it of not doing enough to combat trafficking.

It said conservative estimates suggest there are tens of thousands of victims sold into modern-day slavery in Thailand from neighbouring countries.

LOAD-DATE: August 20, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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307 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

August 18, 2011 Thursday 8:35 PM TST

Taiwan's anti-human trafficking work enhances image: KMT**BYLINE:** Justin Su and Elaine Hou**LENGTH:** 306 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Aug. 18

Taiwan's efforts and improvements in combating human trafficking have helped enhance the country's international image, ruling Kuomintang (KMT) legislative whip Chao Li-yun said Thursday.

Since 2010, Taiwan has been listed in the highest "Tier 1" category of the annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" by the U.S. State Department. This represents considerable progress from 2006, when Taiwan was put on the "Tier 2" watch list, Chao said.

According to the 2011 report, the Taiwanese authorities fully complied with the minimum standards laid out by the U.S. government for the elimination of trafficking, as they continued to prosecute and punish trafficking offenses, and increased their efforts to protect victims of trafficking.

Chao made the remarks at a news conference in which Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) officials discussed government efforts in this regard.

Taiwan and South Korea were the only Asian countries classified in the highest ranking in this year's report, Deputy Interior Minister Tseng Chung-ming said.

Tseng also attributed the country's progress to the Legislative Yuan enactment of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act in 2009 and ongoing joint efforts by various private groups.

A total of 300 people were convicted of human trafficking in Taiwan last year, said Lin Chin-tsun, deputy director-general of the Department of Prosecutorial Affairs under the MOJ.

Lin added that the MOJ will continue to train prosecutors in handling human trafficking cases.

As part of a government drive to protect human rights, Chao added, the legislature will continue to amend the laws to bring them into line with the U.N. international covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

308 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

August 17, 2011 Wednesday

Evils of dependence

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 16**LENGTH:** 456 words

LEGISLATION in the United States on "**trafficking in persons**" (TIP), considered a "diplomatic tool", puts countries on **watch lists** for non-compliance and not doing enough to combat the transnational crime. The upshot of that Act of Congress is the State Department's annual TIP Report. In its most recent report, Malaysia has been upgraded from Tier 3 status in 2009, where we were assessed to be guilty of non-compliance, to Tier 2 last year. It now means that there is compliance in order to meet minimum standards, but is still inadequate overall. The Immigration Department here has admitted that indeed the problem does exist. But it placed human trafficking in proper perspective as the rough edge of the country's excessive reliance on foreign workers.

According to the TIP Report, human trafficking is "modern slavery" which broadly includes "forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour, debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, child soldiers and child sex trafficking". Last year's TIP Report concludes, according to the Immigration Department, that Malaysia has too many foreign workers, which has subsequently led to forced labour. In terms of numbers, there are some four million migrant labourers in the country, all needed in sectors where local workers refuse to participate, such as construction, plantation and domestic service. Dependence, it would seem, is the root of this particular evil. But eradicating human trafficking cannot be left to the destination countries alone. Source nations and international agencies must also take part.

Whatever might be the category of offence that we fall into, the certainty is that the problem is caused by unscrupulous employers lacking in humanity, quick to exploit the hardship of others. The victims are here under forced circumstances of poverty, cheated every step of the way always with horrendous tales to tell, but yet few are deterred from trying their luck in a foreign country. This tale of grinding poverty and relative over-population at one end and the prospect of a decent living and under-population at the other makes for a troubling combination. For Malaysia, dependence on foreign labour has meant the need to accommodate such ills as higher health expenditure, increases in serious crimes, charges of human trafficking, impaired relations with neighbours and, most seriously, helping to keep the country in a middle-income trap. Further, as the case of the Immigration officers detained under the Internal Security Act for their alleged involvement in human trafficking syndicates attests, this dependence incurs enormous hidden costs, not least of them the corrosion of authorities involved in its regulation and enforcement.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: August 16, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Editorial**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

309 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

August 15, 2011 Monday

Clarifying human trafficking issues

BYLINE: Koi Kye Lee**SECTION:** Pg. 1**LENGTH:** 400 words

PUTRAJAYA: The Immigration Department has sent a report to the United States State Department that clarifies the issues raised by it in relation to alleged human trafficking in Malaysia.

In the US' **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, Malaysia was in **tier** two last year compared with **tier** three in 2009.

The TIP Report lists countries in the world based on their minimum standard of compliance in the fight against human trafficking. The evaluation is carried out by the State Department annually.

Director-general of Immigration Datuk Alias Ahmad said among the issues that were raised in the report was the excess intake of foreign workers that subsequently led to forced labour in Malaysia.

Denying this, he said that in general, the country still needed about three to four million workers, especially in the plantation and construction sectors as locals refused to fill the vacancies.

"Actually, the issue arose due to management problems, and not an excessive workforce. So, the related agencies should tackle the problem appropriately and not put the blame solely on the Immigration Department and Home Ministry," he said recently.

Alias also said the issue regarding employers holding their workers' passports no longer surfaced because the Immigration Department did not permit the employers to do so.

"Sometimes, the employees, of their own free will, hand their passports over to the employers for safekeeping."

Another issue raised by the report was that the People's Volunteer Force (Rela) was cracking down on illegal immigrants through their own operations.

Alias said Rela was no longer allowed to carry out any operations unless they were asked to help by the authorities.

It was learnt that the issue was raised after reports were received that Rela members were acting outside of their jurisdiction, aside from being harsh with the immigrants.

On the issue of human trafficking cases that were not investigated thoroughly and effectively, Alias said: "Judging from the number of arrests and cases recorded, the issue does exist in Malaysia.

"However, this is because it is hard for us to gather evidence when the victims are unwilling to become witnesses.

"When caught, they say they were forced, when actually they came willingly. But when you ask them to become witnesses, they refuse to do so. Hence, it is hard for us to obtain evidence and it is not due to ineffective investigations."

(END)

LOAD-DATE: August 14, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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310 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

August 11, 2011 Thursday

UN envoy probes situation here

BYLINE: The Nation**LENGTH:** 486 words

A representative of the UN human-rights agency visited the Immigration Bureau and Labour Ministry yesterday to discuss the situation of human trafficking in Thailand.

Thailand has been placed on the **Tier-2 Watch List** for a second consecutive year, as per the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Annual Report 2011 that was released in Washington on June 28.

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights (UNHCR), visited the immigration bureau to witness how human-trafficking victims are treated by police and if the behaviour is in line with international standards, Immigration Commissioner Pol Lt-General Wiboon Bangthamai said.

Wiboon said since there have been lots of reports of **human trafficking** in Thailand, the country has been experiencing trade blocs, adding that Japan and Laos were also on the **Tier-2 Watch List**.

While at the Labour Ministry, Ezeilo paid special attention to the smuggling of illegal aliens into Thailand, though she doubted if this could be considered human trafficking, the ministry's deputy permanent secretary Jeerasak Sukhontachart said.

He added that the ministry had demonstrated the actions it takes against human trafficking. Since Thailand does not support the smuggling of humans, it has tried to solve the problem by having illegal alien workers register with the ministry so they can enjoy the same wages and benefits as other Thai workers.

"If this group of alien workers had been trafficked, their employers would not have had them registered with us. Also, the authorities try to crackdown on illegal immigrants along the country's border and have them deported. Thailand also has measures preventing them from being abused," Jeerasak said, adding that these points had been made clear to Ezeilo.

Jeerasak said Ezeilo had also expressed concerns over the registration fees taken from alien workers, the immigrants working in the fishery business and urged the officials to inspect different work places.

The Special Rapporteur said she would look into all forms of human trafficking, including sexual and labour slavery. "We want the governments and non-governmental organisations to work together to address human trafficking. We need public-private partnerships," Ezeilo said. Her report on the subject would be presented to the United Nations next year.

Her mandate is to take action on violations committed against trafficked persons and in situations where their rights have not been protected. She visits countries to study the situation in situ and formulate recommendations to prevent and or combat trafficking and protect the rights of its victims.

Ezeilo, who is in Thailand until August 19, will be meeting relevant agencies, including victims in Tak, Chiang Mai, Samut Sakhon and Songkhla.

Her next visit will be to Australia in November.

Watch a video interview with her on www.nationmultimedia.com

LOAD-DATE: August 10, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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311 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

August 11, 2011

Thailand Registers Migrants in Bid to Crack Down on Traffickers

BYLINE: Ron Corben

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 645 words

This week is the final deadline for a migrant worker registration program in Thailand that logs foreign workers and the businesses that employ them.

The program is aimed at cracking down on human trafficking gangs that make a lucrative profit from foreign workers and employers who take advantage of them.

Nai is a 25-year-old Burmese man who came to Thailand six years ago to try to pay off debts from a failed shrimp business in southern Burma.

Like many other Burmese, he chose a criminal gang to help him find work. Such gangs traffic thousands of Burmese into jobs in factories, agriculture labor, domestic help or as sex workers.

Nai paid the agents to place him in a Thai factory. The agents loaned him about \$300 for additional up-front costs, a loan that he says had to be repaid within months at two or three times the original value.

Nai says the factory conditions were very bad. There was the issue of repaying the "transport costs" at double the rate. The front man carried guns and, if he did not like what he saw, the workers were abused.

Nai escaped and is now one of over 300,000 Burmese working in the seafood industry in Samut Sakon province on the outskirts of Bangkok. Burmese language signs in the market are testament to the Burmese in the community.

Looming deadline

The Thai government says about one million migrant workers have registered with the government program since it began in June. The main registration deadline was in July, but officials extended the deadline for workers in the fishing industry until Saturday.

After the deadline passes, employers could be fined for hiring unregistered workers. And illegal workers could also face fines or jail.

A U.S. State Department report on **trafficking in persons** released this year classified Thailand in the second **tier** category of countries linked to **human trafficking**, alongside Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Russia and Zambia.

The United Nations says some 2.5 million people from 127 countries are trafficked into more than 130 countries each year. The International Labor Organization estimates human trafficking is worth more than \$30 billion a year to criminal gangs.

More cooperation needed

Joy Ezeilo, the U.N. special reporter on human trafficking, is visiting Thailand this week to assess efforts to deal with illegal migration and trafficked persons. She says that better international cooperation is required to combat trafficking, but the controversial nature of the issue can make that difficult.

"Some of these things are becoming very unfortunately highly politicized in many countries of the world and that is also creating tension and all kinds of xenophobic approaches to issues of migrants," Ezeilo says. "We should also know that

migration contributes to development both in the receiving country and also the country where they come from, so we have to look at this in a broader perspective."

Ezeilo is meeting with government officials, non-government and migrant worker groups to discuss the migrant registration program and other issues.

Sompong Srakraew, director of the Labor Rights Promotion Network Foundation in Thailand, says although the Thai government has taken steps to reduce the hardships faced by illegal workers, it still falls short of goals set by non-government groups.

"Last two years, [the] Thai government has been concerned about child labor also and the ministry of labor has been working closely with the International Labor Organization for serving child labor," Sompong says. "But, at the same time, ministry of labor try to deny having the child labor [in factories]. But the situation and information is different [between] Thai government and NGO [non-governmental organization] like me."

Migrant labor groups are welcoming Ezeilo's visit but say the problem is regional and attention needs also to focus on the criminal gangs that oversee the regional trade.

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Journal

JOURNAL-CODE: VAV

312 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Trend Daily News (Azerbaijan)

August 5, 2011 Friday 2:29 PM GMT +4

UN rapporteur on human trafficking to visit Thailand

SECTION: OTHER COUNTRIES**LENGTH:** 272 words

United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Joy Ngozi Ezeilo will visit Thailand from Monday to August 19 to appraise the government's efforts to curb the illicit trade, DPA reported.

"During my mission, I wish to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders and trafficked persons themselves, so that their voices are heard and can be considered in the national laws, policies and measures related to trafficking in persons," Ezeilo said in a statement.

Thailand is a major hub for illegal trafficking in humans, mainly from neighbouring countries including Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

In June, the US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report blasted the government for failing to live up to its commitments in ending the illicit trade and placed Thailand on its **Tier Two watch list**, along with other countries such as Afghanistan and Zambia.

"Despite significant efforts, the government has not shown sufficient evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking over the previous year, particularly in the areas of prosecuting and convicting both sex and labour trafficking offenders," the report concluded.

Ezeilo, an independent expert mandated by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate trafficking issues, will be in Thailand at the invitation of the government.

"We are concerned about being on the Tier Two watchlist," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Thani Thongphaksi.

"We have made serious efforts to address the human trafficking problem and we feel that a lot of progress has been made," he said.

While in Thailand Ezeilo will visit Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Mae Sot, Samut Sakhon and Songkhla.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

313 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 3, 2011 Wednesday**PRESIDENT AQUINO'S SPEECH AT THE CEREMONIAL HANDOVER OF THE PETITION TO STOP CHILD TRAFFICKING, AUGUST 3, 2011****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 1342 words**DATELINE:** MANILA

The following information was released by the Office of the President of the Philippines:

Speech

of

His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III

President of the Philippines

At the ceremonial handover of the petition to stop the trafficking of children and young people

[Delivered at Heroes Hall, Malacaan Palace on August 3, 2011]

Good morning. Please sit down.

Secretary Leila de Lima; Secretary Dinky Soliman; Ms. Amihan Abueva; Dr. Michael Muoz; Ms. Joan A. Reid; Police Director General Raul Bacalzo; Congresswoman Bernadette Herrera-Dy; Mayor Arlene Arcillas; officials and staff of Body Shop and ECPAT Philippines; partner organizations of Body Shop and ECPAT Philippines children and youth representatives; fellow workers in government; honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is becoming more common these days to come across startling accounts of human trafficking. We are hearing more accounts of girls at the age where they should be preparing for their JS proms-or even younger-who are made to pose for pornographic material. There have also been news accounts of highly organized prostitution rings operating in a number of our own provinces.

This is why I am here today to take a stand with all of you who have vowed for zero tolerance against sex trafficking-and, ultimately, against human trafficking. I was presented with more than 400,000 signatures earlier from a wide range of sectors-from law enforcement to politics, from the academe to our senior citizens-all expressing their desire to have a Philippines and a world without human trafficking. I thank all of you for this commitment. And I likewise thank The Body Shop for their continued and earnest acts of corporate social responsibility, as well as the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes International for their unending crusade against the exploitation of children.

Allow me to tell you today that the Philippines stands behind your advocacies. We are, and we will continue to fulfill the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act to prevent human trafficking, and to provide protection and services to those who have already been victimized. Through our faithful implementation of the law, we have already convicted 32 human traffickers in the span of a year, and we have filed cases against many more after a number of raids and rescue operations.

The trafficking situation is getting a bit better here, and perhaps you do not even have to take my word for it. Our trusted allies, the United States, have also recognized this sea change in our efforts in addressing the problem of trafficking; they have moved us from their **Tier 2 Watchlist into their Tier 2** list in their 2011 **Trafficking-in-Persons** report.

I will be the first to admit that this kind of progress is not enough. As long as our people can still be taken against their will to do work that they did not willfully choose, we will continue our fight against human trafficking. I assure all of you that we will not cease in our efforts-and that the Philippines will put in extra hours to make certain that we comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, so that we may rise to another tier.

But make no mistake about it: We are doing this not merely because we want to reap the benefits of an international designation. We are doing this primarily because human trafficking drowns the hopes of people all over the world. Child sex trafficking endangers the future of our children-it diminishes their capacity to dream. We are doing this because it is the right thing to do; we are doing this so that we can better ensure the safety and well-being of our children and youth. And today, our confidence in doing what we are doing has grown even more with the knowledge that more than 400,000 people also strongly believe that this is the right thing to do.

Our administration is faced with seemingly endless challenges from many different sectors, and to be honest, it does get to be very difficult. But each time I see the Filipino people commit themselves to getting this country back to its rightful place in the sun; each time I see our teachers, our students, our religious leaders, and our youth standing together under the banner of solidarity-I regain my optimism and my energy, and this job becomes, if not a little, sometimes a lot easier.

Each time I see the Filipino people fulfilling their own roles in making the Philippines a better place and in reaching what we collectively aspire for, I know that what this country can achieve may well be limitless. So let me say to all of you present here, and to all of you who have signed this petition: may your commitment to your cause never waver, and may your efforts, combined with the efforts of the government, of the private sector, and of the rest of the Filipino people, see us through to an extended period of daylight.

A before I end: I was talking to Ms. Abueva [President, ECPAT Philippines] earlier, we were discussing what was the situation in the country. Let me highlight a few things. Why are children, in particular, prone to being trafficked? And one has to look at the economic realities we face. We have, roughly, about 20 percent of our population living below the poverty line. So we are addressing that: the first priority, the first part of my platform deals with job generation, and we have been making significant inroads. The economy grew by 7.6 percent as measured by the GDP last year, and we expect that to be further improving. The 1.4 million jobs already generated: most of it came from the private sector already expressing confidence. The economy is there; it's improving. We have security forces numbering 250,000. That is exactly the same number we had in EDSA 25 years ago. We had 50 million in population then. We have 95 million now. The problems that are confronting us are really daunting.

Somebody would say, "why not increase the number of your security forces?" Leila for instance has 300 NBI agents that have to undertake everything from cybercrime, to trafficking, to illegal gambling, to kidnapping, carnapping, etc., etc., divided among our 16 regions-so that's roughly about 20 per region, or two per province.

So, one will ask, "why not hire more?" The problem is there are so many entitlement laws, especially with pensions, to so much so that in a few years time, perhaps two or three years time, our pensions are indexed to increases of the salaries of those who are in the active service. So the pension systems that should have provided for those who have retired are having difficulty meeting that objective because the target keeps on moving. Every time there's a salary increase-we are now on Salary Standardization Law 3-so, basically doubles the salary of all government employees. This is the third or fourth year of implementation. That in effect has an impact also on the pensions and retirement benefits that we have to pay.

So, what am I trying to say? I'm not passing the problems to you, but really, it does help us when we are together, stretching the resources of government. With your tireless advocacies, we will achieve more significant progress, especially in the field of human trafficking.

I beg for a little indulgence if we have made tremendous strides but we are very, very far from where we would want to be. So, I just want to emphasize, we have to improve the economy; make them less vulnerable. The economy provides us the resources to hire more personnel to go after all of these people who would seek to prey on the most vulnerable sectors. There should be no question, they are a priority. But they are a priority and we have so many priorities that we want to address in the remaining four years and 11 months of my term, and hopefully beyond that. But with your efforts and with our efforts also, we think we will be able to do a lot, lot better-not just for the remainder of this year, but I would be severely disappointed if we were not able to do so even more by next year.

Thank you. Good day.

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314 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

August 3, 2011 Wednesday

More must be done to curb human trafficking; Singapore needs laws to support victims, harsh penalties for criminals

BYLINE: Radha Basu, Senior Correspondent

SECTION: PRIME NEWS

LENGTH: 1013 words

PROGRESS is being made on the issue of human trafficking in Singapore - where vulnerable people are forced or tricked into sex or servitude.

But more can be done to help Singapore police be more vigilant in investigating possible cases, and to raise penalties.

The issue is currently high on the Government's public communications radar. On at least five occasions over the past seven weeks, the Government has reiterated its seriousness in dealing with what it has termed an 'abhorrent international crime'. The latest was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on Monday.

An inter-agency task force has been set up to spearhead the battle against human trafficking. This is a global criminal problem estimated to be worth US\$30 billion (S\$36.2 billion), and which the United Nations considers one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world.

Singapore is likely to overcome a decade-long reluctance to sign a UN treaty that seeks to prevent, suppress and punish human trafficking. It will join 150 others when it does sign the treaty.

These moves led Singapore to be removed recently from a '**watchlist**' of countries that failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to tackle **human trafficking**. It was upgraded into the category of countries deemed to have made 'significant efforts' to comply with minimum standards. These classifications are developed by the United States government in its annual report card on human trafficking in 180 countries.

Singapore has criticised or rebutted some of the claims in past years' reports. This year, it acknowledged the upgrade, but also pointed out 'inaccuracies and misunderstandings' in the American Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

Singapore denied that it did not do enough to reduce the demand for commercial sex. MFA also disputed the report's claim that there were no labour trafficking convictions here last year. There had, in fact, been eight, and the data was made available to the US State Department before the report was made public, MFA said.

The US authorities will have to explain its report. But the dispute over accuracy should not distract policymakers and activists from the very real scourge of human trafficking in Singapore.

To put it plainly, human trafficking is a very serious crime, and it is a problem in Singapore. While it is by no means rampant, it is probably more prevalent than official data shows, or the average sheltered Singapore resident realises.

While researching a series of articles on the issue in May, I spoke to seven women from neighbouring countries who claimed they had been trafficked to Singapore for sex. Their stories were familiar: They were lured from poor homes with the promise of respectable jobs here, but found to their horror on arrival that the jobs involved paid sex.

They spoke tearfully of being locked up during the day, denied sufficient food and forced to hand over all their earnings to their pimps. But only one case got the authorities' attention.

The rest went home without reporting the crime. With dashed dreams and empty pockets in an alien land, all they wanted to do was go home. Some had run away from their captors; others had been deported after police raids.

Kay, a young Indonesian, was rounded up in a raid early last year. During interrogation, she was asked if she had come here voluntarily. She said yes. But she told me later she had been tricked into the sex trade. The 'towkay' (businessman) who tricked her taught her to say she had come of her own free will. He threatened to harm her family back home if she disobeyed.

As she had told the police she was here voluntarily, she was sent back to her country as is the usual practice - and what might have been a case of human trafficking went unreported.

Anti-trafficking activists want the police to be more active with their investigations to prevent trafficking cases from remaining under the radar. Waiting for the victim to pluck up the courage to report the crime is not enough.

Assuming that foreign women who have been forced into sex work may be too terrified to report trafficking, the US police have adopted a checklist of 12 signs to look out for to identify such victims.

The law enforcement authorities here have also adapted their own version of the US checklist. Rather than merely ask potential victims whether they came here voluntarily, the women are now asked if they are holding their travel documents and, if not, who has them. Other questions: Were they recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job? Do they have freedom of movement?

These are simple yet effective methods to suss out victims from among those picked up in raids.

Singapore should also expand and better publicise programmes to help victims get training and jobs if they remain here to pursue court cases. Now, many victims would rather just go home. The culprits not only go unpunished, but are free to ply their illegal trade with another group of victims.

Introducing laws that force traffickers to pay victims compensation, like in the US, is another way forward. This can deter traffickers, and persuade victims to report the crime.

Above all, it is imperative to raise penalties for this crime. Under the Women's Charter, the maximum prison term for trafficking a woman or a girl is five years. Under the Penal Code, the maximum jail sentence is 10 years for selling a minor for prostitution.

The few people convicted of sex trafficking in 2009 - the latest year for which sentencing details are available - tended to get less than two years in prison. In one case involving a teenage Thai sex trafficking victim, a Singaporean brothel owner was jailed for nine weeks and fined \$20,000.

In the US, penalties for sex trafficking of minors ranges from 10 years in jail to life imprisonment.

Singapore has taken small but positive steps to combat human trafficking in recent years. What is needed next are clear laws to support the victims and harsher penalties to deter the criminals.

radhab@sph.com.sg

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GRAPHIC: Punchlines -- **ST ILLUSTRATION:** MANNY FRANCISCO

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

315 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Singapore Government News

August 2, 2011 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST

Detailed Response from the Singapore Interagency Task Force to the 2011 US TIP Report

LENGTH: 1971 words

Singapore, Aug. 2 -- Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Singapore issued the following news release:

1. The Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on **trafficking in persons** (TIP) notes that as a result of the Singapore Government's efforts, Singapore was upgraded to **Tier 2** from the **Tier 2 Watchlist** in the recent US Department of State's TIP Report 2011.

2. As Singapore grows as a hub for travel, tourism, and economic activity, we expect to become an increasingly attractive potential destination for human trafficking syndicates. We therefore recognise the need to continually step up efforts in increasing our vigilance and responsiveness towards this threat.

Anti-trafficking measures undertaken by the Taskforce

3. The Singapore Taskforce on TIP, co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), coordinates anti-trafficking initiatives and policy alignment between government agencies in Singapore. The Taskforce includes representatives from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), the Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC). The formation of the Taskforce underscores the seriousness with which the Government views trafficking and aims to improve efforts in tackling this abhorrent international crime.

4. To fight trafficking, Singapore adopts a holistic strategy (known as the "4 'P's") against trafficking. The 4 'P's are Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership. This strategy emphasises constructing safeguards against human trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, protecting victims and cooperating with other governments and civil society to encourage reporting and information sharing.

5. Singapore takes a proactive approach towards trafficking. SPF actively gathers intelligence and develops leads on syndicates, with a view towards disrupting their activities and arresting the perpetrators. In fact, more than 40% of the trafficking cases which the SPF investigated in 2010 arose out of proactive enforcement efforts initiated by the SPF. Likewise, approximately 60% of MOM's inspections on foreign worker-related labour infringements arose from intelligence and proactive raids.

6. The Taskforce is currently drafting a National Plan of Action for Singapore to tackle both sex and labour trafficking. We are also studying the possibility of future accession to the UN TIP Protocol.

Inaccuracies and Misunderstandings in US TIP report

7. While the 2011 TIP Report has acknowledged the progress made by Singapore in this area and has highlighted some areas for improvement, the Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on TIP notes several inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the Report which we would like to clarify.

Efforts to reduce demand for commercial sex acts

8. The Report said that the Singapore Government did not make proactive efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts in Singapore's commercial sex industry. We would like to state that Singapore has criminalised various commercial sex activities and the SPF conducts proactive enforcement for the purpose of reducing demand for commercial sexual services. In 2010, SPF conducted 3,608 anti-commercial sex operations which led to the arrest of 94 commercial sex agents or "pimps". Such cases are publicised in the media to raise awareness and to deter others from engaging in such activities.

Allegation on reported delaying of publication

9. The Report suggested that authorities delayed the publication of independent research conducted on sex trafficking. The Government takes this unsubstantiated allegation very seriously. So far, the Task Force is aware of only of the report by ECPAT International on "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in Singapore". The Task Force wishes to put on record that the allegation that "authorities" delayed its publication is wholly inaccurate. During the Government's interaction with the Singapore National Committee for UN Women (formally known as UNIFEM), which was initiated by the Committee to seek our comments on the Report, the Government did not suggest a publication date nor attempt to delay the Report's release. The Committee decided the release date of the Report based on its own internal considerations and circumstances. This was not influenced by "authorities". The Government requests the State Department to substantiate its claim.

Labour trafficking prosecutions

10. The Report erroneously stated that "the government did not prosecute or convict any offenders of labor trafficking during the reporting period." On top of the five sex trafficking

convictions, there were another eight labour trafficking convictions, mainly related to shell companies and the persistent withholding of passports by employment agents. The Court fined the employment agencies between S\$1,200 and S\$2,000, depending on the facts of each case. We regret that this information, which had been made available to the State Department prior to the publication of the Report, was not reflected.

Criminal prosecutions for withholding of passports

11. While the Report claimed that in 2010 there were "no criminal prosecutions or convictions of employers or employment agencies who withheld passports of foreign workers, MOM had in fact revoked the licenses of three employment agencies, forfeited their security deposits, and prosecuted them in court for withholding workers' passports. These cases were also highlighted to the US this year. We regret that this information, which had been made available to the State Department prior to the publication of the Report, was not reflected.

Allegations of Forced Labour on board Fishing Vessels

12. The Report suggested that the fishing vessels involved in human trafficking 'originated' from Singapore and that the Government had refused to take action on reported forced labour on shipping vessels. We would like the State Department to clarify these 'reports' and to suggest how this issue could be addressed by Singapore, given the jurisdictional issues highlighted below.

13. We have not found any evidence of forced labour being committed on Singapore-flagged ships, by Singapore employers, or within Singapore waters. The information received seems to suggest allegations of forced labour committed by employers who operated outside our jurisdiction. Even though the Government did not have the jurisdiction or powers to deal with such cases, it continued to provide assistance by forwarding all the facts of the cases and details of the agents who recruited the fishermen, to the embassies of the relevant flag states and source countries for their follow-up.

In addition, the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union provided assistance in recovering the outstanding salaries of these fishermen and arranged for their return home. The Task Force will continue to engage the relevant embassies, and source country enforcement agencies, to make progress on this issue.

14. The Taskforce investigated the few Singapore-based companies involved and found that they had performed the role of administrators providing logistical and HR support for the foreign employers who had recruited the foreign fishermen in their home countries. The Singapore-based companies did not perform placement activities. The terms and conditions of employment were also discussed and agreed upon between the foreign companies and the foreign workers before they came to Singapore.

Action taken against repatriation companies

15. The Report suggested that Singapore did not pursue any criminal investigations or prosecutions for potential trafficking in cases of wrongful confinement by repatriation companies, and that no cases were referred to the SPF. This is untrue.

16. Singapore does not tolerate the wrongful confinement of workers or their forceful repatriation without settling of salaries and other legitimate claims. When such claims are brought to the attention of the Taskforce, we investigate both the repatriation companies and the employers who engage them. MOM and SPF jointly investigated two such cases in 2010.

17. Under the Employment of Foreign Manpower (Work Passes) Regulations, employers must give their foreign employees reasonable notice of their repatriation. The employer must also bear the full cost of repatriation and shall ensure that all outstanding salaries or monies due to the foreign employee have been paid before the foreign employee's repatriation. Foreign workers who complain of abuse or salary arrears to ICA officers at Singapore check-points are directed to MOM for assistance. The Government will investigate all such claims and take appropriate action against the employers responsible.

18. In 2010, an employee from a repatriation company was prosecuted and sent to jail for voluntarily causing hurt to a foreign worker. The employers who had engaged the repatriation companies were also given stern warnings for the abetment of wrongful restraint.

Medical and other services provided to trafficking victims

19. The Report suggested that there were "no known victims" of trafficking being afforded the opportunity to avail themselves of medical and other services at the shelter in 2010.

20. This statement is inaccurate. Prior to the publication of the Report, we had provided at the State Department's request detailed written information on the various services - including medical, counselling and translation - that trafficking victims had utilised last year. In 2010, 7 victims were assisted by the shelters for medical services. We regret that this information, which had been made available to the State Department prior to the publication of the Report, was not reflected.

Restriction of movement in government shelters

21. The Report indicated that "victims residing in government shelters sometimes have their movements restricted while assisting authorities with investigation and prosecution of their traffickers".

22. We wish to clarify that all victims residing in Government shelters are allowed to move freely in and out of the shelters, except where the individual concerned faces physical threats or where there are serious concerns with witness tampering. Victims are only required to sign in/out when they enter or leave the shelters, provide contact details and inform shelter staff if they intend to stay out late. These measures are not intended to prevent a victim from leaving the shelter premises but are meant to ensure the victims' safety.

Application of Sec 140 Women's Charter

23. The Report misinterprets Section 140 of the Women's Charter to suggest that it is not applicable to non-physical forms of coercion. The provision can cover a wide variety of situations where a woman is detained against her will, including where there is no threat of physical injury, depending on the facts of the case.

Conclusion

24. Singapore takes a serious view of TIP and its related crimes. We are constantly reviewing our laws, policies and enforcement practices to better address this issue. We have taken steps to ensure closer coordination between Government agencies through the setting up of this Taskforce and the development of the National Plan of Action. We are actively engaging NGOs, as well as the foreign embassies in Singapore, and are looking forward to closer partnerships to improve upstream victim identification and protection, as well as successful enforcement against syndicates.

25. As we progress in our anti-trafficking efforts, Singapore calls on the US to improve the credibility of the State Department's annual Report by ensuring greater accuracy of facts and by making the Report's methodology more objective.

Source: Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Singapore

LOAD-DATE: August 5, 2011

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

August 2, 2011 Tuesday

S'pore refutes human trafficking report

SECTION: SINGAPORE**LENGTH:** 497 words

THE Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on trafficking in persons has released a detailed response to a recent United States report on human trafficking.

The five-page response - which reiterates and points out new 'inaccuracies and misrepresentations' in the US State Department's latest annual report on human trafficking, released in June - was sent to the US yesterday.

The report claims, among other things, that forced labour on fishing vessels has been found to have originated from Singapore, and that no trafficking victims were offered medical and other services at shelters in the past year.

The report also stated that Singapore has not made proactive efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts.

The taskforce, which includes representatives from the Singapore Police Force and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority and is co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Manpower (MOM), has refuted the claims.

In its response, the taskforce said that the US report's claim that the Government did not make proactive efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts here was not true.

Pointing out that Singapore has criminalised various commercial sex activities, the taskforce said that it conducted 3,608 anti-commercial sex operations last year that led to the arrests of 94 commercial sex agents or pimps.

Also inaccurate were claims that there were 'no criminal prosecutions or convictions of employers or employment agencies which withheld passports of foreign workers' last year.

The taskforce said that MOM had revoked the licences of three employment agencies, forfeited their security deposits, and prosecuted them in court for withholding workers' passports.

Also 'unsubstantiated' was the suggestion that the authorities delayed the publication of independent research conducted on sex trafficking, said the taskforce.

It called on the US State Department, which produces the report, to substantiate the claim.

Reiterating the Republic's serious view on human trafficking, the taskforce called on the US to improve the credibility of its report.

The report is a tool that the US government uses to engage other countries in dialogue to advance anti-trafficking reforms. It also places each country into one of three tiers based on the extent of its government's efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The report put Singapore on a **human-trafficking watch list** last year, but has since moved it out of the **watch list** and up to **Tier 2**. **Tier 1** is the highest ranking and includes countries such as Australia and Finland. Countries such as Algeria and Papua New Guinea have been grouped in Tier 3.

Yesterday's response was the taskforce's second since the report was released.

Last month, it also clarified the inaccuracies with US Ambassador-at-Large for human trafficking matters, Mr Luis CdeBaca, who was in Singapore to attend a related conference.

JESSICA LIM

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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317 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Singapore Government News

August 1, 2011 Monday 6:30 AM EST

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LENGTH: 1971 words

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and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), coordinates anti-trafficking initiatives and policy alignment between government agencies in Singapore. The Taskforce includes representatives from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), the Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC). The formation of the Taskforce underscores the seriousness with which the Government views trafficking and aims to improve efforts in tackling this abhorrent international crime.

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25. As we progress in our anti-trafficking efforts, Singapore calls on the US to improve the credibility of the State Department's annual Report by ensuring greater accuracy of facts and by making the Report's methodology more objective.

Source: Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Singapore

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Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

July 25, 2011 Monday
Final Edition

Brave activists battle to free girls born into India's brothels

BYLINE: Marc And Craig Kielburger, Edmonton Journal

SECTION: IDEAS; Marc And Craig Kielburger; Pg. A15

LENGTH: 714 words

When Naina and Jyothi were born in the small community of Nat in India's Bihar province, it seemed their lives would follow the same path, the one traversed by their mothers, aunts, grandmothers and every woman they'd known. They were born in a brothel, into a system of intergenerational prostitution which, along with sex trafficking, enslaves more than one million women in India.

As a child, Naina was repeatedly sold, beaten and raped, submersed in a world of sexual abuse and drug addiction. She had little contact with anyone outside of the sex trade.

Jyothi avoided this fate.

Apne Aap, a New Delhi-based NGO that combats sex trafficking, found Jyothi when she was still a child and took her to a "safe space" - in Bihar, it's a girl's hostel, in other communities it might be a mud hut or community classroom - where women are free from bondage to heal, build relationships and receive livelihood training.

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LOAD-DATE: July 25, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Column

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

319 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

July 25, 2011 Monday
Final Edition

Modern day sex-slave trade still exists in India; A New-Delhi-based organization is offering safe havens for girls who would otherwise have nowhere to turn

BYLINE: Craig Kielburger & Marc Kielburger, Special To The Sun

SECTION: CANADA & WORLD; Craig Kielburger & Marc Kielburger; Pg. B5

LENGTH: 740 words

When Naina and Jyothi were born in the small community of Nat in India's Bihar province, it seemed their lives would follow the same path, the one traversed by their mothers, aunts, grandmothers and every woman they'd known. They were born in a brothel, into a system of intergenerational prostitution which, along with sex trafficking, enslaves more than one million women in India.

As a child, Naina was repeatedly sold, beaten and raped, submersed in a world of sexual abuse and drug addiction. She had little contact with anyone outside of the sex trade.

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Craig and Marc Kielburger co-founded Free the Children. The goal of the organization is to free children from poverty and exploitation through education.

LOAD-DATE: July 25, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

320 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 24, 2011 Sunday
Final Edition

Safe spaces can help break the sex-trade cycle in India

BYLINE: Marc And Craig Kielburger, Times Colonist

SECTION: MONITOR; Marc And Craig Kielburger; Pg. D10

LENGTH: 722 words

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321 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

July 22, 2011

UN Signs Development Accord with Algeria

BYLINE: Jamie Ingram

SECTION: In Brief

LENGTH: 303 words

A framework plan for strategic cooperation was signed on Wednesday (20 July) in the Algerian capital Algiers, between the United Nations and Algeria. The Algerian daily L'expression reported on Wednesday that the agreement covers matters "relating to governance and human rights, economic and social development, human development, sustainable development, environment and humanitarian issues". The agreement covers the period from 2012-2014 and is aimed to complement Algeria's five year economic and social development plan for the period 2010-2014. The five year plan aims to invest USD286 billion into improving infrastructure and diversifying the oil-dependent economy (see **Algeria: 25 May 2010**). Topics from the five year plan deemed to be of priority status were included in Wednesday's framework as well as those aligned with Millennium Development Goals. The addition of UN technical knowledge is intended to grant added-value to projects undertaken under the five year plan.

Significance: The co-operation framework will take over from the previous United Nations Framework Plan for Development Cooperation (UNDAF) which covered the period 2007-2011. UNDAF focused primarily on human development, environment and sustainable development, governance and gender. Wednesday's cooperation framework is likely to build upon the relations developed by UNDAF with national and local institutions, as highlighted by its emphasis upon complementing Algeria's five year plan. Despite genuine improvements in recent years, Algeria still faces criticism regarding the human rights situation in the country; the US demoted Algeria to **tier** three status in June in the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report (see **Algeria: 30 June 2011**). It is hoped that the latest framework agreement will successfully address some of these issues.

LOAD-DATE: July 22, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

322 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

July 21, 2011 Thursday

Anti-trafficking drive boosted

BYLINE: Rouchelle R. Dinglasan

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 227 words

THE GOVERNMENT will set stringent penalties on officials involved in human trafficking under a stepped-up drive against the criminal activity.

In a statement, Justice Jose Vicente B. Salazar, concurrent Inter- Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons (IACAT) head, said officials found to be involved in human trafficking will be sacked from their employment, taken to court and jailed for jeopardizing the lives of our countrymen who most oftentimes get abused on foreign shores either ending up as drug mules or prostitutes.

In a separate interview, Assistant City Prosecutor Raymond Jonathan B. Lledo, a member of the IACAT, said consultations are being conducted with the Bureau of Immigration, airport police, Bureau of Customs and Philippine Overseas Employment Agency on the campaign.

The scheme, Mr. Lledo said, will detail "special agents and prosecutors in the airports."

Renewed efforts, however, have been questioned by a worker watchdog.

In a statement yesterday, Gina S. Esguerra of Migrante International said in Filipino: "Even if there is a machinery to fight human trafficking, its impact could hardly be felt and the number of victims continue to rise."

The Philippines has been taken out of the **trafficking in persons watch list** of the US State Department, ensuring continued non-humanitarian, non- trade related assistance to the Philippines.

LOAD-DATE: July 20, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

323 of 492 DOCUMENTS

STARRED New Straits Times (Malaysia)

July 18, 2011 Monday

We must get out of watch list**BYLINE:** K.T. Maran**SECTION:** Pg. 19**LENGTH:** 253 words

I HAVE a friend who is working in Mongolia. He is a consultant to a non-governmental organisation and he also recruits Mongolians for colleges and universities in Malaysia.

He has done the student recruitment successfully for several years.

A few days ago, he came home and I met up with him. He told me that he was supposed to enrol 200 students here. However, because Malaysia was listed on the United States' **watch list** on **human trafficking**, the parents backed out.

I was shocked. I wonder how many millions in foreign exchange earnings we have lost or will lose because we have been placed on this watch list?

Though we may disagree with these ratings, the fact is that investors who bring direct foreign investment, and in this case, parents, pay serious attention to such reports and ratings.

We should, therefore, not be dismissive of such negative ratings. They reflect what is happening on the ground, even if we are loathe to admit it.

Malaysians need to be mindful of human trafficking, which is a crime. We should not allow such crimes to take place here.

It is a reflection on our law enforcement agencies, such as the police and Immigration. It suggests they have lost control over such matters.

The biometric system now in force must be connected to the police and Immigration database to check fingerprints belonging to criminals and others with bad records. They must be denied entry or from being active here.

These agencies must work to improve our standing on the list.

K.T. MARAN

Seremban, Negri Sembilan

(END)

LOAD-DATE: July 17, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Letter**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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324 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

July 17, 2011 Sunday

Handling criticism

LENGTH: 603 words

DATELINE: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, July 17 -- Q: Several human rights organisations are very critical of Sri Lanka. As ambassador, how do you handle that criticism?

A: I have told them that there cannot be two kinds of human rights. I have told them that what Sri Lanka has is practical human rights and not theories on Human Rights as the West does!! I believe that you can't have different kinds of human rights.

What has happened in Sri Lanka with the end of the conflict is the restoration of human rights to all Sri Lankans on a massive scale. First, a primary human right is to live without fear. Those in the North who lived among the LTTE remained in constant fear for years. Violence there was rampant and arbitrary. That is now gone. I have told them.

Other Sri Lankans faced fear everyday, when they sent their children to school or everytime they climbed on to a bus. All of us have a relative or friend who suffered through a terrorist attack. But the human right of freedom from fear and free movement and the freedom to pursue prosperity has been restored.

In fact, there has not been a single death due to terrorism since May 2009. I have also told them that what the Government did at the end of the conflict was establish human rights for 300,000 people who were held hostage by the LTTE.

It freed them, housed and fed them, and then helped them return home. It did this in a year's time - the average stay for a refugee in a refugee camp

worldwide is 17 years, according to the Women's Refugee Commission in New York.

Not only that, the Government also rehabilitated about 1,000 LTTE child soldiers and returned them to their families and schools, and it has given more than 11,000 hardcore LTTE terrorists amnesty, jobs, education and training. About 6,000 have been returned to civil society and more are returning each month. There has been large-scale re-development of war-torn areas, and de-mining continues with strong international support.

Q: Finally, the US State Department a few weeks ago changed Sri Lanka's status in its annual trafficking in persons report. What was that change and is it good or bad for Sri Lanka?

A: It is a very good thing - our ranking has improved. We have been working for several years to improve Sri Lanka's status in this report.

Each year the US State Department ranks more than 180 countries on their enforcement of international and domestic human trafficking laws to prevent slavery, prostitution, child labour and so forth. There are four rankings: Tier I, Tier II, Tier II Watch list and Tier III.

For several years Sri Lanka has been ranked at "**Tier II Watch list.**" That means that while the State Department believes that we are aware of **human trafficking** laws, we are not strictly enforcing them. If you stay on their **Watch List** too long they drop you to a **Tier III** ranking - the worst.

We worked hard in Washington this year to make the State Department aware of our prosecution record and other initiatives that the Government has taken to protect people, especially those who work abroad, such as establishing shelters in countries where many Sri Lankans are working.

And of course our Defence Ministry has done a lot of work on this issue, enforcing new regulations and measures to protect Sri Lankans.

So this year our status was elevated off the watch list to Tier II. I would say that the bulk of the countries in the report are Tier II, including Japan and Switzerland. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 17, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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STARRED 325 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

July 14, 2011 Thursday

ASEAN convention on human trafficking sought

BYLINE: Nathaniel R. Melican

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 577 words

THE PHILIPPINES is leading in efforts to establish a convention on human trafficking among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), an official said yesterday.

Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay said that a regional body tackling human trafficking will especially benefit Filipinos who fall prey to human trafficking syndicates by providing protection and safeguarding their rights in ASEAN.

"[A regional convention] should result in more protection for our overseas Filipino workers and tighter implementation of anti-trafficking laws in the region," Mr. Binay said on the sidelines of the Expert's Meeting to Study the Feasibility of Developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons in Makati yesterday.

He expressed hope that the meeting will result in the convening of a convention at the soonest possible time.

Mr. Binay said other ASEAN members could learn from the Philippine approach to combat human trafficking as led by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), with representatives from law enforcement agencies and the Department of Social Welfare, among others.

The focus on increasing prosecution, protection and prevention of **human trafficking**, he said, helped in the upgrade of the country from **Tier 2 watch list** of the United States State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011, preventing the loss of some \$700 million worth of non-humanitarian and non-trade related aid from the US.

"The Philippine experience of a unified multisectoral approach is something we can share with our Southeast Asian friends, as all of our nations are committed to more stronger regional solutions to this evil that haunts us," Mr. Binay said in his speech at the gathering.

Also, Mr. Binay said the Philippines continues to improve its capacity in prosecution, protection and prevention of human trafficking by increasing the number of anti-human trafficking monitoring teams in entry and exit points in the country, strengthening anti-trafficking legislation and speeding up prosecution for trafficking cases.

"With all these initiatives in play, Tier 1 classification [fully compliant with anti-trafficking standards] is more than possible. Indeed, it is only a question of time," he said.

In May, ASEAN leaders signed a joint statement in Jakarta, Indonesia wherein they vowed to strengthen regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat human trafficking, enhance capacity-building to address human trafficking, and to consider immediately the establishment of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons.

Assistant City Prosecutor Raymond Jonathan B. Lledo, chief of the IACAT, said that the two-day meeting of experts from ASEAN member states aims to convince participants of the need for a regional anti-trafficking body.

"Typical destination countries, like Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, are not very much keen on human trafficking as the problem does not originate with them," he said.

The Philippines, which is taking the lead in the ASEAN for pushing for the establishment of the body, is joined by other source countries of human trafficking such as Indonesia and Vietnam to provide more protection for victims of human trafficking.

"Hopefully when the meeting ends [today] we can convince other countries of the need for this convention," Mr. Lledo added.

ASEAN groups Brunei Darrusalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 13, 2011 Wednesday

S'pore reaffirms commitment to fight human trafficking

BYLINE: Tham Yuen-C

SECTION: SINGAPORE

LENGTH: 322 words

SINGAPORE yesterday reiterated its commitment to fight human trafficking during a meeting with a visiting official from the United States.

The Singapore Inter-agency Taskforce on trafficking in persons also took the opportunity to clarify 'factual inaccuracies' in a recent US report on human trafficking.

The taskforce met the US Ambassador-at-Large for human trafficking matters, Mr Luis CdeBaca, who was here to attend the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project conference.

The taskforce, co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Manpower, coordinates anti-trafficking initiatives between government agencies here.

Last month, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said it was dismayed that the section of the report on Singapore was 'riddled with inaccuracies'.

In a statement yesterday, the taskforce highlighted certain segments of the US report, which alleged that the Singapore 'government did not prosecute or convict any offenders of labour trafficking during the reporting period'.

In fact, Singapore had prosecuted eight labour trafficking cases, it said.

The taskforce also said that three employment agencies had been taken to task - fined between \$1,200 and \$2,000 - last year for withholding workers' passports.

This was contrary to what the report had alleged, that there were 'no criminal prosecutions or convictions of employers or employment agencies who withheld passports of foreign workers'.

Yesterday, both sides discussed further areas for collaboration, including joint training between Singapore's law enforcement agencies and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the US Department of Homeland Security next month.

Last year, the US report on **human trafficking** put Singapore on a **human-trafficking watch list**. But this year, it moved Singapore out of the **Tier 2 Watch List** and up to **Tier 2**, acknowledging the country's 'significant efforts' to combat **human trafficking**.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

STARRED 327 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Caribbean News Now, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

July 12, 2011 Tuesday

St Vincent's UN envoy condemns human trafficking listing

BYLINE: Kenton X. Chance, Caribbean News Now, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 1174 words

July 12--NEW YORK -- Vincentian ambassador to the United Nations, Camillo Gonsalves, has said that the United States' human trafficking report, which puts St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) at risk of US sanctions, "is born of a flawed and inaccurate premise, namely that all states in the world are havens of trafficking in persons".

Gonsalves this week joined his colleagues in Washington in objecting to the United States' placing SVG on a **Tier 2 human trafficking watch list** for a third consecutive year.

La Celia Prince, SVG's ambassador to the United States, said last week that Vincentian diplomats in Washington are "very disappointed" by the report -- prepared by the State Department.

Gonsalves said on Monday that, because the report is born of a flawed and inaccurate premise, "the drafters ... cannot allow for the possibility that any individual country is free from or minimally affected by human trafficking".

The flawed premise, he said, is embodied in the "findings" of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000.

The congressional findings say that trafficking is worldwide and rampant; that existing laws are insufficient to combat it; and that failures to halt trafficking are often based on governmental indifference, collusion or corruption.

Obvious flaws

"The flaws in this premise are obvious. If you start from the assumption that human trafficking exists, then an absence of prosecutions for trafficking is viewed as a failure to tackle the assumed problem, even if no such problem actually exists in SVG," Gonsalves said.

He said SVG has neither sex tourism nor a pornography industry, no brothels -- official or unofficial, strip clubs, gentlemen's clubs or any such establishments.

Gonsalves further noted that SVG is not an industrialized nation and does not have the problems associated with migrant factory workers or child labourers.

"We lack an international airport, and therefore pose difficulties as an access point or transit point for traffickers. SVG, in short, does not fit the blanket assumption of the United States Congress, which is grappling with all of those issues on their own soil."

He said it was "simply unfair and illogical" to cast SVG in a negative light because of "a flawed assumption that trafficking exists everywhere".

Gonsalves quoted this year's TIPR report on SVG, which says that the "government reported no forced labour or forced prostitution investigations, prosecutions, or convictions during the reporting period.

"They fail to allow for the possibility that no one was prosecuted for forced prostitution simply because no one was forced into prostitution in SVG," Gonsalves said.

He further said that the report "cannot point to a single instance of trafficking in SVG, or even an NGO allegation of trafficking.

"Instead, the report says that SVG is a 'likely' source, transit and destination country; and that a population of 'high risk for trafficking exists.' These conjectures, without evidence or proof, should not be sufficient to place SVG in its current tier in the Report," Gonsalves said.

Promised cash not given

Gonsalves pointed to Section 109 of the United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The section supposedly provides funding to countries like SVG for drafting of laws, investigation and prosecution of offenders, the creation and maintenance of facilities, programmes, or projects for victim protection, and the expansion of exchange programmes.

"I would be curious to know the extent to which such funding has been extended to SVG," Gonsalves said.

He noted that the TIPR gives short shrift to the tremendous efforts by the government of SVG to improve its standing in the report despite Kingstown's ongoing misgivings as to its utility and accuracy.

"The fact of the matter is that the government has done a great deal, at considerable expense, to rectify the USA's perceived concerns. It is gravely disappointing that those efforts have not been adequately acknowledged or reflected in this year's report," he said.

Gonsalves further said that a separate US document notes that Kingstown is "devoting significant resources" to implementing an action plan that "would constitute making a significant efforts to bring the country into compliance" with US standards.

In addition, the TIPR notes that SVG participated in Organisation of American States "human trafficking awareness training" and that the government "made some efforts to prevent trafficking and to increase the public's awareness of human trafficking" in SVG.

"However, these awareness efforts have not affected our tier placement," Gonsalves said.

"Indeed, the TIPR itself says that public awareness campaigns will not improve a country's ranking. This is unfortunate, since national public awareness campaigns have made demonstrable impact on a number of social issues in our small society," he added.

Adequate laws

Gonsalves said that the Vincentian government has felt that the country has an adequate body of laws to deal with illegal immigration, illegal labour practices, sexual exploitation of minors, prostitution, and other aspects of human trafficking.

He added that the effectiveness of these laws is not diminished because they are not specifically tailored to human trafficking.

"However, because of the aforementioned Congressional assumption that any pre-existing laws in any country are insufficient, SVG has embarked on the drafting of specialized laws in this area. This, of course, could be perceived as a coercive measure by another country's legislature to prioritize the drafting of laws that may not be necessary or applicable in our local context," Gonsalves said.

'Divisive political tool'

"We look forward to being moved to higher tier in the next year's report, but we continue to seek meaningful dialogue with the USA on this issue, their methodology and sources of information," he said.

"Also, we believe that the USA should re-evaluate the manner in which it issues its report. This report should be a rallying point in the global fight against Human Trafficking, instead of a divisive political tool that sparks more questions than collaborations in our collective quest for the elimination of this evil," Gonsalves added.

He further said that a number of Caribbean Community nations remain surprised and disappointed by the contents of the TIPR.

"The report should be an occasion for a collective reaffirmation of a global commitment to extinguish Trafficking in Persons in all its aspects. However, on-going questions as to the data collected, transparency, statistical validity, and political influence on the American report continue to distract and divide, rather than unite all stakeholders in this effort," Gonsalves said.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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328 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Channel NewsAsia

July 12, 2011 Tuesday 3:39 PM GMT

Singapore drafting action plan against sex & labour trafficking

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS

LENGTH: 518 words

SINGAPORE: Singapore is currently drafting a National Plan of Action for the country to tackle both sex and labour trafficking.

It is also studying the possibility of future accession to the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

These points were made by Singapore's Inter-Agency Taskforce on **Trafficking in Persons** in response to the announcement that Singapore was upgraded to "**Tier 2**" from "**Tier 2 Watchlist**" in the recent US **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011.

The taskforce said that as Singapore grows as a hub for travel, tourism and economic activity, it expects to become an increasingly attractive potential destination for human trafficking syndicates.

So the country recognises the need to continually step up efforts in increasing vigilance and responsiveness towards this threat.

The taskforce is co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

It coordinates anti-trafficking initiatives and policy alignment between government agencies in Singapore.

The taskforce includes representatives from the Singapore Police Force, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore, Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

The formation of the taskforce underscores the seriousness with which the government views trafficking and aims to improve efforts in tackling this abhorrent international crime.

To fight trafficking, Singapore adopts a 4 'P's strategy aimed at prevention, prosecution, protection and partnership.

This strategy emphasises constructing safeguards against human trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, protecting victims and cooperating with other governments and civil society to encourage reporting and information sharing.

On its Monday's meeting in Singapore with Mr Luis Cdebaca, the US Ambassador-at-Large for Trafficking in Persons Matters, the taskforce said it took the opportunity to clarify factual inaccuracies within the US TIP Report's country narrative on Singapore.

The report had stated that "the government did not prosecute or convict any offenders of labour trafficking during the reporting period".

But Singapore had previously informed the US that it had prosecuted eight labour trafficking cases as reported.

On claims that there were "no criminal prosecutions or convictions of employers or employment agencies who withheld passports of foreign workers", Singapore had informed the US that three employment agencies were prosecuted in 2010 for persistently withholding of workers' passports and fined between S\$1,200 and S\$2,000.

The Singapore government also investigates complaints of wrongful confinement of workers by repatriation companies.

In 2010, a staff member of a repatriation company was sent to jail for voluntarily causing hurt.

The employers of the foreign workers were given stern warnings for abetment to wrongful restraint.

Singapore stresses that it takes a serious view of crimes related to trafficking in persons and is constantly reviewing laws, policies and enforcement practices to better address the issue.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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329 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

July 12, 2011 Tuesday

WHEN KINDNESS OF MALAYSIANS CAN BE BANE TO GOVERNMENT**LENGTH:** 370 words**DATELINE:** SUNGAI PETANI July 12

When the kindness of Malaysians can be a bane to the Government...

The move by some Malaysians to offer shelter and protection to illegal immigrants could derail the relentless efforts of the authorities to flush them out.

According to Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons secretary Nasirrahman Saad Khiruddin, the influx of illegals into the country gave rise to a myriad of problems.

Apart from affecting national security, illegals were a reason for crime, diseases and social problems to thrive in the country, he said.

"The problem with some Malaysians is that they are too kind-hearted and provide protection to immigrants who should have, instead, been reported to the authorities.

"The large territorial waters also made it easy for the illegals to slip into the country, for instance.

"There have also been cases of aliens entering Malaysia legally but leaving the country via illegal means, to a third country.

"In the Klang Valley alone, there are about two million immigrants who entered the country through various dubious means," he told reporters after his keynote address at the North Zone 1 Malaysia Loyal Mind Seminar here today.

Nasirrahman said Malaysia had been placed on **Tier Two** of the Report on **Human Trafficking** of the United States State Department last year over its serious efforts against **human trafficking**.

He said Tier Two meant not fully applying the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of the United States but making the effort to fulfill the stipulated conditions.

Tier One involves fully applying TVPA conditions, following the minimum standards.

Nasirrahman said the change took place because Malaysia had improved on its monitoring system, enforcement, protection of human trafficking victims and briefing on the issues of human trafficking to the public and government agencies.

In 2008, he noted, Malaysia was on **Tier Three** as it did not take great strides to combat **human trafficking** and did not fully apply TVPA.

Most immigrants who used Malaysia as a transit point were from the Asean region, including Vietnam and Cambodia.

Nasirrahman said the government provided four centres for victims of human trafficking activities. Two are in Kuala Lumpur and one each in Johor and Sabah.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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330 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Mail Today

July 12, 2011 Tuesday

CBI warns of child porn aspect to trafficking

BYLINE: By Aman Sharma in New Delhi

LENGTH: 195 words

INDIA may be off the US **human trafficking watch list** after six years but the CBI has warned the Union home ministry of a disturbing child pornography angle to trafficking crimes in India.

The CBI has asked the MHA to concentrate on such cyber crime dimensions in organised crime of human trafficking to deal with pornography, government sources say. This was discussed at a recent home ministry meeting, where representatives of 34 states and Union Territories - along with senior officers from the CBI and the labour ministry - were present.

The home ministry has asked the CBI to provide it an advisory to attract the attention of the state governments to this worrying aspect. Government sources say the ministry has also approved significant steps, like asking the states to lodge FIRs in cases of all missing children and submit monthly reports to the CBI, besides the details of arrested traffickers. "The CBI will then have a complete database on trafficking gangs," the source said.

Home minister P. Chidambaram had said on June 6 that after six years, the US had taken India off the **human trafficking watch list** for making significant efforts in combating the menace.

LOAD-DATE: July 12, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

331 of 492 DOCUMENTS STARRED MAYBE

Targeted News Service

July 10, 2011 Sunday 4:37 AM EST

Tamils Know Reconciliation and Redevelopment is Real - Ambassador Wickramasuriya

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 2307 words

DATELINE: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

The government of Sri Lanka issued the following news release:

A lot of Sri Lankans in the US, especially Tamils, have gone back to Sri Lanka and they know that reconciliation and redevelopment is real. They are truly astonished and upbeat about what they find, said Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States Jaliya Wickramasuriya said.

"During the conflict, some Tamils would tell me that they can't be seen talking publicly with me or at the embassy. That's over. Our discussions are in the open, and we receive a lot of support from the Tamil community," he said in an interview with Dalily News.

Sri Lanka is open for business, it is prosperous, growing and peaceful, he stressed.

Q: Tell us about the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report. We saw reports that Sri Lanka's status had improved, but that it is still Tier II. What does that mean?

A: We have been working for several years to improve Sri Lanka's status in this report. This is what has happened this year:

Each year the US State Department ranks more than 180 countries on their enforcement of international and domestic human trafficking laws to prevent slavery, prostitution, child labour and so forth. There are four rankings: Tier I, Tier II, Tier II Watch list and Tier III.

For several years Sri Lanka has been ranked at '**Tier II Watch list.**' That means that while the State Department believes that we are aware of **human trafficking** laws, we are not strictly enforcing them. That is their view. We have held a different view.

If you stay on the Watch List too long they drop you to a Tier III ranking - the worst.

We worked hard in Washington this year to make the State Department aware of our prosecution record and other initiatives that the government has taken to protect people, especially those who work abroad, such as establishing shelters in countries where many Sri Lankans are working. And of course our Defence Ministry has done a lot of work on this issue, enforcing new regulations and measures to protect Sri Lankans.

So this year our status was elevated off the watch list to Tier II - that is a notable step up. I would say that the bulk of the countries in the report are Tier II, including countries like Japan and Switzerland.

The work of the embassy staff in Washington on this issue was instrumental to this change. We have also worked with the US Embassy in Sri Lanka on this issue; that embassy sends its own report on Sri Lanka to the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which puts together the report.

Q: What have you done in Washington regarding the Channel 4 video?

A: This issue of course was first in Geneva and London, and then it migrated to America when PBS, which is the BBC of the United States, did a story about the Channel 4 video but did not show the entire video, just a few minutes of it.

PBS interviewed me for the report but only included a minute or two of our interview. I think the flaws of the video have been made very apparent- from the negligible source of the video to the sound dubbing to the incredible lack of information on who is supposed to be in it - that I don't think I need to go into detail about that. Clearly this is propaganda; you can find all of these allegations on Tamilnet going back several years.

It is also clear that this propaganda dump is intended to throw a wrench in the progress that we are making on reconciliation and redevelopment after so many years of conflict.

In my interview, I told PBS that Sri Lanka would pursue any tangible evidence of crimes. And frankly, that is what credible journalists should be doing - working to identify who is in the scenes. That's what journalism is. Instead, Channel 4 has just taken a video that was given to them, broadcast it and wrote a script of allegations to fit.

They have not done the real work of journalism. Credible journalists would have withheld the broadcast of this video until they had done the reporting to be able to say exactly what it was showing us. They failed at that. It is an incredible failure of their journalistic duty. No one talks about this but that is really what is at fault here.

In the US the response to the video I would say has been muted. There are many other issues on Americans' minds, from the war in Afghanistan to the economy. But the Channel 4 allegations are damaging. And it does not help that organizations like PBS have drawn attention to what is really just shoddy journalism.

I am talking one-to-one with members of the administration and Congress about this. We want people in Washington to have an accurate picture of the situation in Sri Lanka, and not one dreamed up by the pro-LTTE Diaspora.

Q: What about the Darusman Report? What does the US government think of it, and what are you doing to prevent the UN from launching an international investigation?

A: The US government has voiced its concern about the Darusman Report. Those who have followed Sri Lanka know that the allegations in it are stale ones that the LTTE has made before.

The fact is that some people are spreading a negative story about Sri Lanka because they have a negative agenda. They see the successes in Sri Lanka and they know that their dream of more violence and strife is slipping away as people who suffered through years of conflict embrace peace.

We talk about this with members of the Senate and House who we have been meeting with, and with those within the administration. We want them to understand that the report is deeply flawed, and that it is also sloppy work and not representative of events at the end of the conflict.

Sri Lanka has a very, very good story to tell about the way it conducted itself in this conflict, how it saved nearly 300,000 civilians and how it has helped them rebuild their lives. There isn't another country, another society that has done this in modern times.

For that reason, we tell our American friends, the Darusman Report is misguided. The panel of experts went well beyond their mandate, and were apparently unable to apply the discipline that is required in accurate fact gathering. This report is sloppy and its lapses are easily apparent to any serious person.

Q: What are you doing to promote Sri Lanka in the US?

A: If you have a close look at the Sri Lankan embassy's activities, you will see a number of initiatives during the last three years in which we have actively promoted our country. There are a good many positive developments here, and they help all Sri Lankans.

For instance, in March, I brought 12 US companies here to consider investments and expanded operations. They included big names like Boeing, Coca Cola, Starwood Hotels and Resorts, John Deere and Caterpillar, Textron-Bell Helicopters. All of these companies are very interested in investing here, and they are moving ahead with those plans.

In fact, these businesses just wrote an extremely supportive letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and to the US Commerce Secretary and US Trade Representative. It expresses their support for Sri Lanka and their optimism in the future of Sri Lanka.

These companies obviously carry a lot of weight in their communities and in Washington. We are very fortunate to have developed alliances with them.

This trip in March was just our latest effort to generate business interest in Sri Lanka. As you know, for the last two years there have been maybe four US business delegation trips to Sri Lanka involving more than 100 companies. At least 40 companies came in October 2009 for a private-public partnership investment conference, and about 70 attended the same conference in October 2010. Many of these are Fortune 500 companies from the US and also from India.

These are companies that do their homework. They can see the value in Sri Lanka as a great place to do business. They see Sri Lanka as a country earning an eight percent GDP at a time when the world's major economies are struggling with just a few percent GDP, if that.

This interest sends a message to the world: Sri Lanka is open for business, it is prosperous and growing and peaceful. Their interest will generate even more business for Sri Lanka.

Apart from business development, I am also personally involved in promoting Sri Lanka in the US as a tourist destination. In August I will lead our second Signature Tour with the Ambassador. Last August I brought 25 American professionals from Washington, DC to see Sri Lanka. I'm doing the same this August, and probably expanding the group to 50 or so. We will see everything, from Colombo to Galle to Kandy to Anuradhapura to Jaffna. I want them to get a real taste of what we've got.

I have also hosted dinners for travel writers and have met with other groups in Washington that want to sponsor tours to Sri Lanka. Tourism has become one of our busiest sectors in the embassy.

My residence has become a popular destination for travel and food writers and editors. We do a lot to promote Sri Lankan culture - dancing, music and art - and food. People in America love Sri Lankan food. A Washington television station did a feature on Sri Lankan food, visiting my residence to see how it is prepared and to taste it. We held a cultural show at the International Monetary Fund, and a celebration of Sri Lankan food - complete with chefs from Colombo at the World Bank.

Our travel promotion efforts are bearing fruit. The New York Times last year named Sri Lanka its number one travel destination. And a number of other travel-related publications and websites, including National Geographic, Lonely Planet and the DailyCandy, have followed suit.

We have met with the Marriott and Hilton hotel companies and with the travel agents association in the US to help expand their involvement in Sri Lanka. I know that hotel companies are especially interested right now. Marriott told us that their first hotel in Asia was actually in Colombo years ago, and that they are excited about returning.

Q: What about the Sri Lankan community in the US. Are they united?

A: I have travelled throughout the US to meet with Sri Lankans living there. People are pulling together now as never before.

During the conflict, some Tamils would tell me that they can't be seen talking publicly with me or at the embassy. That's over. Our discussions are in the open, and we receive a lot of support from the Tamil community.

I travel throughout the United States to meet with local Sri Lankan communities. But I often hold additional meetings with Tamils to hear what they have to say and to speak with them about reconciliation. I want them to know that reconciliation isn't just talk, but that it is happening.

A lot of Sri Lankans in the US, especially Tamils, have gone back to Sri Lanka and they know that reconciliation and redevelopment is real. I have received numerous reports from Tamils who went back expecting the worst, based on what they had been reading. Their reports to me are extraordinary - they cannot believe the progress and changes taking place. Many have not been back since childhood. They are truly astonished and upbeat about what they find.

That is why I work so hard to encourage travel to Sri Lanka. I want people to experience firsthand what is happening there, and how peace works.

As you know, there are 350,000 to 400,000 Sri Lankans living in the United States. Out of that, a very, very small percentage is working for front organizations who are spreading the negative story of Sri Lanka. Most of the Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims are moderate people and very supportive of our efforts.

In fact, last month nearly 100 Sri Lankan-Americans travelled to Washington for a single day of meetings with members of Congress. Sri Lankan Day in Congress also featured a lunch with these Sri Lankans, who are all American citizens and voters, and members of Congress and their staffs. The embassy helped arrange Congressional meetings for these people. They wanted to share their views of Sri Lanka with the Congress. And those efforts continue. We have a very active citizens base that is meeting with government officials to share their point of view of Sri Lanka. They are countering the negative publicity, and they have received a warm reception in Congress. Politicians in the US are concerned about their voters' voice, so it's best that the story of Sri Lanka come from the voters who are Sri Lankans.

Q: What do Americans expect from Sri Lanka in the future?

A: What they have right now - a stable, peaceful democracy that is also a regional ally and a solid, fair trading partner and a great place to do business.

The conflict, of course has cast a shadow, but after more than two years of peace, the policies of President Mahinda Rajapaksa are being borne out. As you know, any President of any democratic country wants to do what the people of the country need, to be prosperous, protected and content. What President Rajapaksa has done far surpasses those goals.

With the brave work of the military and the support of the people, he has ended a long conflict and turned the country in a new direction, where everyone in Sri Lanka can benefit from the common goals of our nation. What the people wanted was peace and development and the ability to live without fear. President Rajapaksa has restored the very basic human right of freedom from fear to all 20 million Sri Lankans.

Americans who look closely at Sri Lanka, who understand Sri Lanka, also understand that important change. Anyone who goes to Sri Lanka, especially those who travelled there during the conflict, can see the difference.

More and more, Sri Lanka is earning credit in the United States for defeating terrorism and winning back democracy for all of its citizens. That, I feel, is a tremendous feat. And so we have to remain vigilant to ensure that it is sustained.

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332 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Asian Tribune

July 8, 2011 Friday

Nasheed pledges US to combat human trafficking

LENGTH: 340 words

DATELINE: Male

ale, July 8 -- President Mohamed Nasheed assured US of "very vigorous" action against **human trafficking**, as the country continues to remain on the US **'Tier 2 Watch List'** for the second consecutive year.

Nasheed said his government had uncovered "extensive rings of human exchange and dealings in unskilled labor" calling it an issue "we are concerned about."

The president's comments came at a reception hosted by US Ambassador to the Maldives Patricia Butenis to mark 235th Independence Day of the US, Nasheed's office said Tuesday.

"We want to respect human rights, we want to live in a dignified manner in the family of nations," Nasheed told the ceremony.

An unknown number of 80,000 to 110,000 foreign workers currently working in the Maldives - primarily in the construction and service sectors - face conditions indicative of forced labor: fraudulent recruitment practices, confiscation of identity and travel documents, withholding or nonpayment of wages, or debt bondage, the US State Department report said last month.

It recommended the Maldives to "enact legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of trafficking in persons and to distinguish between human trafficking and human smuggling in legislation, policies and programs."

While appreciating the Maldives' government counter-trafficking efforts it said those are "impeded by a lack of understanding of the issue; a lack of legal structure; and a lack of a legal definition of trafficking."

However Nasheed told the US Ambassador on Tuesday "I do believe that our people will back the government in finding solutions to human trafficking and other issues related to human trafficking."

The president also appreciated the US for being a "very supportive partner" of the Maldives in trying to develop systems, methods, structures, institutions to deal with these difficult issues. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Asian Tribune. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

333 of 492 DOCUMENTS STARRED MAYBE

Caribbean News Now, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

July 7, 2011 Thursday

Vincentian diplomats 'disappointed' by human trafficking report

BYLINE: Kenton X. Chance, Caribbean News Now, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 929 words

July 07--WASHINGTON -- The United States has for a third consecutive year placed St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) on a **Tier 2 human trafficking watch list**, subjecting the multi-island nation to US sanctions.

But while the State Department says SVG "is a likely source, transit, and destination country for some children and adults subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking", Kingstown's ambassador to Washington, La Celia Prince, said that Vincentian embassy officials "are very disappointed by the report".

Prince said that placing SVG on a **Tier 2 watch list** three years in a row cannot be justified, adding that the United States **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) reports two years ago "started off with 'anecdotal accounts' -- according to them and they are still unable to point to any hard cases of **trafficking in persons** in SVG".

She said the reports "lack transparency and their methodology for compiling the data is unclear.

"Indeed, it is still not known how they determine which countries to report on because there are some countries -- including some from CARICOM -- that they omit from the report each year!"

Prince further said that Kingstown has engaged with the State Department at all levels and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) "as a whole has also registered its strong denunciation of the reports since, in most cases, the claims cannot be substantiated".

She said that Vincentian diplomats in Washington have had several meetings with State Department officials and have facilitated workshops and other meetings to build awareness about TIP in SVG.

"In the case of the 2011 report on SVG, the United States acknowledges on the one hand that the government of SVG has been working on building awareness of the issue, yet we have been slapped with the disgraceful listing of a Tier 2 Watch List country," Prince said.

She said that her own sense is that the United States "does not ascribe enough significance to SVG's various domestic legislation which can treat with the issue of trafficking in persons.

"Rather, they promote a comprehensive legislation which has not been adopted in SVG," she added.

Prince acknowledged that the Department of Justice has its mandate to report to Congress on TIP but said she believes that "a multilateral evaluation process that is transparent will be more useful than this unilateral and somewhat high-handed process".

The most recent TIP report, released late June says, "Sufficient information on human trafficking in St Vincent and the Grenadines is lacking, as there are no formal government structures to identify it or NGOs to address human trafficking specifically".

However, the report says, "According to NGOs and officials, there exists a social taboo of discussing the matter openly."

CARICOM leaders at their summit meeting in St Kitts "emphasized once again their strong commitment to combating the crime of trafficking in persons, underlining that they have adopted and implemented policies of prevention, prosecution and victim protection in their respective member states," according to a communique at the end of the meeting on Monday.

Leaders also "reiterated their deep concern" that the United States continues to place several CARICOM nation on either Tier 2 or the Tier 2 Watchlist, noting that countries that are placed on the Tier 2 Watchlist for three successive years will be subject to sanctions by the USA".

Tier 2 Watch List

Tier 2 Watch List comprises nations "whose governments do not fully comply with the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA)] minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards," according to the State Department.

The State Department said that in Tier 2 Watch List nations, the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing.

It further says that in these countries, there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year.

In addition, the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the ,[#x20ac]®next year.

Other countries on the Tier 2 Watchlist include the Bahamas, Barbados, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, and China.

Force labour, sex trafficking

The State Department says "forced labour may result when unscrupulous employers exploit workers made more vulnerable by high rates of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, political conflict, or cultural acceptance of the practice".

It says that while immigrants are particularly vulnerable, individuals also may be forced into labour in their own countries and that female victims of forced labour, especially women and girls in domestic servitude, are often sexually exploited as well.

The States Department further says, "When an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution -- or maintained in prostitution through coercion -- that person is a victim of trafficking".

It says "all of those involved in recruiting, transporting, harbouring, receiving, or obtaining the person for that purpose have committed a trafficking crime".

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334 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Times of India (TOI)

July 6 2011

Three more states start collecting details for NPR

BYLINE: Dipak Kumar Dash

SECTION: INDIA

LENGTH: 420 words

NEW DELHI: Three more states - Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra - have begun collecting biometric details of residents for the National Population Register (NPR).

The scheme is already in progress in Delhi, Manipur and Nagaland and in one district each of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, Puducherry and West Bengal. The nationwide project would collectively cost the exchequer over Rs 6,649 crore.

"The capture of biometrics for NPR in the country has started in one district each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra....On June 2, the Cabinet approved the revised cost estimates of Rs 6,649.05 crore for the scheme of NPR," said home minister P Chidambaram in a written statement on the report card of his ministry for the month of June.

Though Chidambaram adhered to his promise of coming out with monthly report card of his ministry, he for the first time under the UPA-II did not brief the media in person on the activities of his ministry. Instead of holding a press conference, the home ministry this time merely circulated his statement carrying the report card.

In his statement, Chidambaram said: "The month was dominated by protests by certain sections of civil society. Through the month, a lot of my time was taken in the meetings of the Joint Drafting Committee of the Lokpal Bill. That exercise came to an end on June 21."

He said the past month also witnessed an attempt by Ramdev to convert a yoga `shivir' (camp) into a fast-unto-death programme. "Delhi Police cancelled the permission granted to hold a yoga shivir and were obliged to remove Ramdev from Delhi," he said.

On his ministry's activities in June, Chidambaram said that it sanctioned Rs 192.76 crore for construction of infrastructure for establishment of a reserve battalion of CISF at Sivaganga (his parliamentary constituency) in Tamil Nadu.

He said Rs 72.67 crore has been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) for the year 2011-12.

He also noted that the United States of America has, after a gap of six years, taken India off the **human trafficking watch list** for making significant efforts in combating the menace.

The home minister said an integrated on-line visa application system under the mission mode project on IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking) has been introduced in Wellington under the High Commission of India, New Zealand.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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335 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 5, 2011 Tuesday

Programme summary of Al-Jazeera TV's "Maghreb Harvest" 2130 gmt 04 July 11

LENGTH: 237 words

000 Headlines

1. 0049 Tunisia's former president sentenced to 15 years in prison in absentia. Video report from Tunis highlights trial, letter sent by former president, comments of defence lawyers.

Live interview with Tunisian judge who describes trial in absentia as "nominal" trial.

2. 0819 Libyan government says held talks with rebels in foreign countries; rebel council denies talks. Russia renews objection to NATO operation. Video report highlights Italian official denial of hosting talks, rebel council's denial. Studio interview with spokesman for 17 February revolution coalition in Tripoli who describes Libyan regime's claims about holding talks with rebels as "propaganda", Libyan leader has not been seen for months, is sending messages from underground. [processing interview]

3. 1605 Trailer

4. 1726 US adds Algeria to **human trafficking blacklist**; Algerian ministers to discuss US report. Phone interview with Algerian journalist who says report "unsubstantiated", it is political issue.

5. 2137 Tunisian premier says Riyadh has not responded to Tunisia's request to hand over ex president; renews support for Libyan people.

6. 2226 Tunisian Workers' Communist Party accuses police of "complicity" with group that prevented party from holding meeting and attacked party members. Video report

7. 2302 Tunisian town of Sidi Bousaid: architectural gem. Video report

Source: Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, in Arabic 2130 gmt 4 Jul 11

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

336 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 5, 2011 Tuesday

Inclusion of Algeria in US **human-trafficking blacklist "unfounded" - journalist**

LENGTH: 256 words

The US has included Algeria for the first time in a **blacklist** of countries that are not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** and could face sanctions under US law, Al-Jazeera TV reported on 4 July.

Speaking in a phone interview with Al-Jazeera, Ahmed Rouaba, an Algerian journalist, described the inclusion of Algeria in the list as "unfounded".

Algeria is a transit point for clandestine migrants and human traffickers, according to the US government report quoted by Al-Jazeera.

Many African migrants have their travel documents taken away and are victims of hard labour and forced to do domestic work, notably in the southern Tamanrasset province, according to the report.

The Algerian Minister of Justice Tayeb Belaiz is due to meet officials from the Algerian Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday [6 July] to discuss the country's response to the report, Al-Jazeera reported.

"This issue has become a political matter and the response is expected to be political. It will not be a response to the report, which is meaningless and unsubstantiated," said Rouaba.

"Illegal immigrants all over the world are employed to do illegal work. But states have nothing to do with that," he noted.

"In France, the US and other countries, illegal immigrants are often used in doing hard labour and they often don't get paid," he said.

There are more illegal immigrants doing hard labour in France than in Algeria, Rouba added.

Source: Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, in Arabic 2130 gmt 4 Jul 11

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

337 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 5, 2011 Tuesday

US ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS KURT M. CAMPBELL VISITS FSM

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 800 words

DATELINE: POHNPEI, FM

The following information was released by the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia:

On July 1, 2011 President Manny Mori received Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell and his visiting delegation at the President's Conference Room for a brief but very high level meeting. Accompanying the Assistant Secretary were Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, Commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, Nisha Desai Biswal, USAID Assistant Administrator, Brigadier General Richard L. Simcock II, Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Asia and Pacific), Ambassador Peter M. Prahar, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, and other officials and U.S. Embassy staff.

President Mori welcomed Assistant Secretary Campbell and his delegation to the FSM and thanked them for taking such an extensive trip to meet with leaders of the FSM. In his remarks, the President reaffirmed the special nature of the FSM-US longstanding profound relationship and outlined some key areas of success and challenges. The Compact of Free Association is pointed out as one product of the relationship which affords "our people the opportunity to work, go to school, and even die in the U.S.", the President explained. Compact implementation, especially in the infrastructure sector, has been difficult due to stringent requirements, but "we are making progress in building the needed infrastructure under the Compact", the President added.

The President also alluded to issues raised by members of the U.S. Congress in a letter to Secretary Clinton and Secretary Salazar and assured the delegation that a Task Force under the chairmanship of Vice President Alik has been organized to recommend ways on how the FSM can minimize impacts of migration of FSM citizens into the U.S. and its territories.

Furthermore, the President made mention of the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** report by the US Department of State which ranks the FSM on a **tier-three** status. He emphasized that his Administration will continue to work with FSM Congress to ensure that the pending Palermo Protocol is acceded to and that other legislations and policies be developed for consideration of Congress.

In his remarks, Assistant Secretary Campbell thanked the President for the warm reception. The Secretary stressed that the U.S. is thankful to the FSM for a number of reasons, most notably the "deeply appreciated" services and sacrifices made by men and women from the FSM in the U.S. military and FSM's support of US' position on issues at the United Nations and other forums.

Secretary Campbell agreed with the President's statement that "some progress are made" under Compact infrastructure sector as evidenced by various constructions for schools, road, and health care facilities. He stated that both governments may still be able to devise improved approaches in implementing the compact so that "fundamental responsibilities in both directions" are achieved.

Secretary Campbell acknowledged that the US could still improve its oversight responsibility over Compact implementation and emphasized the need for an inter-agency approach where the Department of Defense, the Department of

State, the Department of Interior and other Federal Agencies jointly provide oversight and monitoring over compact implementation to maximize progress.

Secretary Campbell explained that this trip "is the beginning of a new process we (U.S.) will undertake" more regularly in the Pacific to have a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to this region in defense, diplomacy, and economic and social development.

In response to the President's comments on issues of Human Trafficking, Secretary Campbell advised that the matter be considered a "national emergency" due to the potential impact it can have on the core values of US-FSM relations. Mr. Campbell explained that to be assessed a low rating on Human Trafficking can potentially result in certain sanctions that may challenge our bilateral relations and other aspects of the Compact, especially immigration.

USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Nisha Desai Biswal spoke of areas of interventions that can assist the FSM especially in disaster preparedness and response and integrating climate change proofing into Compact infrastructure projects.

General Simcock II expressed similar sentiments, saying that "the greatest threat to this region" is Mother Nature itself. Dealing with climate change and surveillance and monitoring of the expansive Exclusive Economic Zone are areas where the US could look to engage in to bolster "comprehensive assistance" to the FSM.

The meeting was concluded with exchange of mutual appreciation and support along with the presentations of gifts by both parties.

In attendance with the President were Vice President Alik and some members of the Cabinet.

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

338 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 4, 2011 Monday

Programme summary of Al-Jazeera TV's "Maghreb Harvest" 2130 gmt 04 July 11

LENGTH: 234 words

0000 Headlines

1. 0049 Tunisian former president sentenced to 15 years in prison in absentia. Video report from Tunis highlights trial, letter sent by ex president, comments of defence lawyers.

Live interview with Tunisian judge. He describes trial in absentia as "nominal" trial.

2. 0819 Libyan government says held talks with rebels in foreign countries; rebel council denies talks. Russia renews objection to NATO operation. Video report highlights Italian official denial of hosting talks, rebel council's denial.

Studio interview with spokesman for 17 February revolution coalition in Tripoli. He describes Libyan regime's claims about holding talks with rebels as "propaganda", Libyan president has not been seen for months, is sending messages from underground.

3. 1605 Trailer

4. 1726 US adds Algeria to **human trafficking blacklist**; Algerian ministers to discuss US report.

Phone interview with Algerian journalist. He says report "unsubstantiated", it is political issue.

5. 2137 Tunisian premier says Riyadh has not responded to Tunisia's request to hand over former president; renews support for Libyan people.

6. 2226 Tunisian Workers' Communist Party accuses police of "complicity"

with group that prevented party from holding meeting and attacked party members. Video report

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Source: Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, in Arabic 2130 gmt 4 Jul 11

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

339 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

July 3, 2011 Sunday

Sri Lanka taken off US human trafficking watch list**LENGTH:** 457 words**DATELINE:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, July 3 -- An annual US State Department Report on Trafficking in Persons that grades each country, elevated Sri Lanka's status in 2011, noting increased prosecutions of human traffickers and more aggressive efforts by the government to protect trafficking victims.

The Report was unveiled by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"The Sri Lankan government increased law enforcement efforts in addressing human trafficking cases over the reporting period.

Sri Lanka prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 Amendment to its Penal Code, which prescribes punishment of up to 20 years' imprisonment," the report said. "These penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other serious offences, such as rape."

The State Department report grades countries in four categories: Tiers 1, 2, Tier 2 "Watch List" and Tier 3. It ranks more than 180 countries including the United States.

In 2011, the State Department took Sri Lanka off the watch list and graded it at the same level as a large number of countries, including Japan, Iceland and Switzerland.

The report lists more than 75 **Tier 2** countries, which are making "significant efforts" to comply with international **trafficking in persons** standards.

"This is positive recognition of Sri Lanka's progress on our efforts to prevent human trafficking and the abuse of those who travel abroad seeking employment," said Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United States Jaliya Wickramasuriya. The report said, "The Sri Lankan government made some progress in its efforts to prevent trafficking during the past year. The government formed an inter-ministerial anti-trafficking Task Force in October 2010, led by a coordinator from the Ministry of Justice, and developed a terms of reference on how government will work together to combat trafficking."

"The government convicted three traffickers, in the first case under its anti-trafficking legislation, and rejuvenated its inter-agency task force," the Report said.

The Report called upon the Sri Lankan authorities to vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offences, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees for the purpose of subjecting them to forced labour.

It also noted that the Sri Lankan government has reported that all former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) child soldiers completed rehabilitation and were released in May 2010. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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340 of 492 DOCUMENTS
American document - skipped

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

July 1, 2011 Friday

Modern-day slavery

LENGTH: 494 words

The word "slavery," for many modern Americans, stirs up images of squalid holds on 19th-century sailing ships, of devout Uncle Toms beaten by nasty Simon Legrees and of countless other images of a repugnant institution relegated to history by heroes like Abraham Lincoln and William Wilberforce. But while this version of slavery was thankfully abolished more than a century ago, slavery has never, in practice, been erased from the globe. And its modern iterations are just as chilling as those of previous generations.

In 2008, ABC correspondent Dan Harris went undercover to see just how difficult it would be to buy a slave today. Not difficult at all, he found. Within roughly 10 hours of exiting his New York office, he had negotiated a \$150 price tag for an 11-year-old girl at a hotel in Haiti. Harris' experience is the tip of a giant iceberg. A U.S. State Department report released this week estimates there are 27 million victims of human trafficking ? modern jargon for slavery ? worldwide. The report defines specific forms of slavery, including sex trafficking, in which adults or children are forced or deceived into prostitution; forced labor among adults and children; bonded labor, in which traffickers or recruiters exploit an initial debt assumed as terms of employment; involuntary domestic servitude; and use of children as soldiers. Each of these practices is repugnant in its own way. And even as awareness of these crimes has been rising over the past decade, thanks to the U.N. and other organizations mounting steady accountability campaigns, it appears on the ground that human trafficking is only growing more pervasive. Twenty-three countries are not meeting international standards to stop **human trafficking**, according to the report, and another 41 countries are on a **watch list** with sanctions threatened if their record does not improve. For the first time, the State Department included the U.S. in its report this year. It gives the U.S. a top ranking, but also points out that the country has room for improvement. As Harris' experiment illustrates, the U.S. is a market for human trafficking, but homegrown varieties of forced labor and sex trafficking also exist. The amount of information and research on human trafficking in this report ? and across a variety of other organizations ? is impressive. If the increase in documentation and awareness spurs further action and a modern abolition movement, it will be even more impressive. The U.S. is right to keep shining a light on this global crisis, and to allow that light to fall on itself and its friends as well as its enemies. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton characterized the last 10 years as a decade of development ? development of awareness, partnerships and commitments ? and the 10 years ahead as a decade of delivery on those promises. May it also be one of deliverance from bondage for millions of our fellow humans who suffer under the yoke of modern slavery.

LOAD-DATE: July 2, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

341 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

July 1, 2011 Friday

Thailand is the regional hub for human trafficking. It is a source and transit venue because of its central location in continental Southeast Asia and because it is surrounded by neighbouring countries with a lower level of economic development. For decad

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 496 words

The worst aspects of modern human trafficking can be found in the Thai fishing fleet, where conditions can easily be described as modern slavery. Thai trawler-owners are generally inhumane and should be put on trial for the illegal practices they regularly get away with.

The US State Department recently issued a report on the state of global **human trafficking**, and it still lists Thailand in the **tier** two category along with many other countries in the region including Afghanistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and China. The category also includes Argentina, Zambia and Russia.

But this year's report also gave a fair assessment of Thailand's effort in preventing human trafficking and protecting migrant workers. The report detailed the country's legislation and the performance of governmental offices. Two of the biggest problems remain issues related to corruption and weak law enforcement. As such, it is not surprising that those behind human smuggling from Burma, Cambodia and Laos, and the transit of human cargoes to foreign destinations near and far, continue to get away with their crimes over and over again. They must be punished and jailed.

The Abhisit government has been trying hard to cope with this issue as part of its overall stated policy of respect for human rights and human dignity. But somehow the concerned authorities are not cooperating. For instance, the inhumane treatment of Burmese and Cambodian workers employed in the Thai fishing industry, as detailed by the US report, should be thoroughly investigated by Thai authorities. These are serious crimes that tarnish Thailand's image. Quite often we hear stories of how workers on fishing vessels are thrown into the sea or left to die of hunger locked inside trawlers, where nobody can find them. Thai trawler operators who engage in such heinous treatment of foreign migrant labourers must be prosecuted without leniency because they have knowingly killed many helpless workers. Some of these owners are well-known personalities.

It is time that Thailand properly registered foreign workers, especially from neighbouring countries, in order to prevent them being exploited by ruthless employers. Past registration schemes have been full of errors because of official procedures that have led to corruption and collusion among prospective employers and officials. The government has to be mindful of this malpractice because in the future the number of migrant labourers in Thailand is bound to increase dramatically, especially with the ongoing process of Asean economic integration.

Thailand must learn the lessons from the past that any inhumane treatment of migrant labourers will eventually affect Thai society as a whole. In the 1990s we mistreated thousands of refugees who, as a result have never shown any appreciation for Thailand's other more humanitarian face. The same sentiment will prevail among itinerant labourers who work here like slaves for the benefit of the wider Thai economy.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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342 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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The Nation (Thailand)

July 1, 2011 Friday

Thailand is a regional hub for human misery

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 592 words

Thailand is the regional hub for human trafficking. It is a source and transit venue because of its central location in continental Southeast Asia and because it is surrounded by neighbouring countries with a lower level of economic development. For decades, migrant workers from these countries have risked their lives to get to Thailand in search of better living conditions and wages. However, of late, the human trafficking problem in this part of the world has changed. We are now seeing forced labour being smuggled in from countries as far away as Fiji and Uzbekistan.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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343 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Sri Lankan Government News

July 1, 2011 Friday 5:04 PM EST

US STATEMENT DEPARTMENT ELEVATES SRI LANKA TO TIER 2 COUNTRIES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT**LENGTH:** 174 words

Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 1 -- Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law & Order - Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka issued the following news release:

US Statement Department has elevated Sri Lanka to **tier 2** countries on **human trafficking** enforcement. According to a press release from Sri Lanka Embassy, Washington DC, Sri Lanka has been removed from the "Watch List" and moved into the category which also includes Japan, Iceland and Switzerland.

Citing an annual report issued by the State Department , press release states that the positive recognition was due to the government's increasing efforts to protect trafficking victims and effective law enforcement against human traffickers .

The Emigration & Immigration Department of Sri Lanka and all law enforcement authorities functions under the Ministry of Defence.

Rest of the document can be viewed at: http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20110701_03 For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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344 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 1, 2011 Friday

CONGRESSMAN RIVERA CALLS ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO REINSTATE CUBA TRAVEL AND REMITTANCE RESTRICTIONS AMID HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 340 words

DATELINE: MIAMI, Fla

The following information was released by the office of Florida Rep. David Rivera:

The State Department released its 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report this week.

The report tracks the state of **human trafficking** in 184 countries, including the United States, during the preceding year, and places each country into a **tier** based on its record of compliance with the Trafficking Victims Compliance Act (TVPA).

Major forms of human trafficking include forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor and child sex trafficking.

Cuba was ranked as a Tier 3-a country whose government does not fully comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA and is not making efforts to do so.

"The 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report is just another example of the lack of change coming from Cuba in regards to human rights. The State Department itself has found that Cuba has made no known effort to prevent human trafficking on the island or to protect trafficking victims," Congressman David Rivera (FL-25) said.

Congressman Rivera, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, called for the Obama Administration to reinstate the travel and remittance restrictions it lifted earlier this year.

"As the Castro regime continues its appalling record on human rights, the Obama Administration is making unilateral concessions to the dictatorship that do nothing to solve the fundamental problems on the island, which include the exploitation of women and children and the oppression of the Cuban people. The human trafficking data shows that there are no improvements from Fidel and Raul Castro in regards to human rights, and yet the United States is rewarding them.

"In its 52 years, the Castro regime has not responded positively to unilateral concessions made by the United States. Based on its history, and in light of the State Department's report, it is time for the Obama Administration to stop rewarding the dictatorship, and reinstate the travel and remittance restrictions it lifted earlier this year."

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

345 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

July 1, 2011 Friday 2:54 AM EST

Rep. Rivera Calls on Obama Administration to Reinstate Cuba Travel & Remittance Restrictions Amid Human Trafficking Report

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 350 words

DATELINE: MIAMI

Rep. David Rivera, R-Fla. (25th CD), issued the following news release:

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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346 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 1, 2011 Friday 2:47 AM EST

U.S. Embassy Congratulates Georgian Students for Essays on Preventing Trafficking in Persons

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 168 words

DATELINE: TBILISI, Georgia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

On July 1, U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass and First Deputy Chief Prosecutor David Sakvarelidze will join students at Tbilisi State University to highlight Georgia's fifth year of successfully maintaining its **Tier 1** ranking in the latest **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report. The students have been studying the problem of trafficking in persons and will present winning essays from a recent anti-TIP essay contest. Each year the Department of State through its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons compiles a report assessing 184 nations' efforts to combat human trafficking. The 2011 report was released by Secretary Clinton on June 27, 2011.

The U.S. Embassy has worked locally with the Government of Georgia for over five years to combat trafficking in persons as part of U.S. efforts to protect and assist individuals around the world who are vulnerable to human trafficking.

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LOAD-DATE: September 20, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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347 of 492 DOCUMENTS



ABC Transcripts (Australia)

June 30, 2011 Thursday**SHOW:** AM 8:06 AM AEST ABC

Australian man charged after raids in Philippines' 'sin city'

REPORTERS: Lexi Metherell**LENGTH:** 563 words

TONY EASTLEY: An Australian man has been arrested in the Philippines and is facing the prospect of life in jail after being charged under the country's tough anti-human trafficking laws.

It's alleged Terrence James Smith managed a nightclub where women, recruited from southern towns, were misled into working as prostitutes.*

He's one of several men arrested after raids on bars in a notorious red light district in the northern city of Angeles, in which police say they rescued around 100 sex workers.

Lexi Metherell reports.

LEXI METHERELL: Angeles, just north of Manila, has earned the tag "sin city" because it's a magnet for sex tourists.

Last night police swooped on the city's red light district of Fields Avenue, raiding several nightclubs and arresting a number of foreign nationals including an Australian, Terrence James Smith.

He allegedly managed a club called the Sunshine Bar.

Superintendent Emma Libunao of the Philippines National Police led the operation.

EMMA LIBUNAO: He is in the nightclub overseeing the day-to-day operation of the club every day.

LEXI METHERELL: And do you know how long he had been there for?

EMMA LIBUNAO: For many years already I guess. He is known in the area.

LEXI METHERELL: She says the Sunshine Bar was targeted after the mother of a 25 year old woman working there complained her daughter was forced to stay there against her will.

EMMA LIBUNAO: Allegedly the girl was recruited in the southern part of the Philippines to work as a waitress serving food. But upon reaching Angeles city she was forced to dance in a skimpy outfit and render sexual services to foreign clients.

LEXI METHERELL: Prostitution is illegal in the Philippines but superintendent Libunao says sex workers aren't prosecuted. Authorities instead target traffickers and pimps.

Terrence Smith isn't accused of recruiting sex workers for the bar. But it is alleged he helped arrange sex for customers.

He's been charged with breaching the Philippines' anti-trafficking laws.*

EMMA LIBUNAO: He might be guilty of qualified trafficking in person that calls for a punishment of life imprisonment.

LEXI METHERELL: The pressure has been on the Philippines to deal with the scourge of human trafficking and illegal sex work according to Bernadette McMenamin, an expert on human trafficking and prostitution.

BERNADETTE MCMENAMIN: My first impressions is this is a very new approach for the Philippines authorities and that's good.

LEXI METHERELL: Just this week the US secretary of state Hillary Clinton praised president Benigno Aquino for effecting a "sea change" in the Philippine campaign against human trafficking.

Her remarks came after the US State Department recognised the Philippines' attempts to crack down on the trade by dropping it from a **human trafficking watch list**.

But Bernadette McMenamin says it's easy for criminals to buy their way out.

BERNADETTE MCMENAMIN: They get out on bail. So they pay the victims and the victims' families off to withdraw evidence. And then they move from the Philippines to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, wherever and just set up again.

TONY EASTLEY: Bernadette McMenamin, the chief executive of child protection organisation ChildWise ending that report by Lexi Metherell.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: 13.7.11 The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advised the ABC on 12.7.11 that Terrence Smith was released without charge two days after he was detained.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

348 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Europe - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 30, 2011 Thursday

Minister explains Estonia's low rating in US human trafficking report

LENGTH: 350 words

Text of report by leading Estonian newspaper Postimees website

[Report by Merje Pors: "Pevkur: Next Year Estonia Will Not Be on Blacklist"]

Commenting on Estonia's being at the same level as Nigeria and Afghanistan when it comes to fighting **human trafficking**, Estonian Social Affairs Minister Hanno Pevkur expressed hope that next year Estonia would be off the **blacklist**, so to speak.

"I believe that next year we will be back in the first tier (where Estonia was a year ago)," Pevkur said to [Estonian public radio station] Vikerraadio.

He explained that, on one hand, Estonia was having difficulty fighting human trafficking because of the recent economic recession, which did not enable us to organize training sessions and raise awareness of human trafficking.

On the other hand, less money had been allocated to shelters last year, although Pevkur noted that the situation had changed since then.

The principal reason why Estonia was reprimanded was the fact that our legislation lacks a separate provision relating to human trafficking. "Legislation can be amended," the minister noted.

Pevkur explained that the Ministry of Justice had prepared a relevant draft provision to be added to the Penal Code.

In Estonia, non-profit organizations instead of government agencies deal with victims of human trafficking. The minister considered such a solution justified due to the delicate nature of the matter, and added that the state and non-profit organizations worked very well together.

Pevkur emphasized that anyone deciding to seek employment abroad should do so in as safe a manner as possible, for example via the European Job Mobility Portal, or inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about where they are going and what kind of job they will do.

[Daily] Postimees wrote today that the United States had put Estonia and Belarus on the **human trafficking watchlist** for having failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor.

The daily was referring to the US State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Source: Postimees website, Tallinn, in Estonian 29 Jun 11

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

349 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 30, 2011 Thursday

Indonesian nationals rescued

BYLINE: Amilbahar S. Mawallil and AFP

SECTION: Pg. S1/12

LENGTH: 459 words

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Authorities rescued four Indonesian nationals in the island-province of Tawi-Tawi yesterday after their boat was swept by strong current brought about by bad weather to the Philippines, police said.

Senior Superintendent Rodelio Jocson, police provincial director, said the boat drifted to the island-municipality of Sibutu.

"The Indonesians are from Sulawesi in Indonesia. They left Sulawesi for Nunukan Island also in Indonesia, last June 22 via a small sailboat," Mr. Jocson said.

He identified the four as Erwin Salim Huku, 36; Hendrick Pini Sihamuddin, 24; Andi Karal Jeri, 32; and Edy Zulkifli Neliwati Anrizal, 22.

Mr. Jocson said coordination is ongoing with the Indonesian Boarder Crossing team based in Tawi-Tawi to assist the Indonesians.

Meanwhile, an Australian man could be jailed for life on human trafficking charges following raids on a notorious red-light district in which 100 women were rescued, police said yesterday.

Three bars in the northern city of Angeles in Pampanga that were known to be fronts for prostitution were raided on Tuesday night, according to a statement from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Manila.

Other foreigners were also arrested after they were found having sex with some of the women and would face less severe charges than human trafficking, the statement said.

The manager of the Sunshine Bar, Australian Terrence James Smith, was detained, while about 100 female sex workers were rescued from the three establishments, the statement said.

Police said Smith would be charged with human trafficking, which carries a maximum prison term of life. One police officer involved in the raid who asked not to be named told AFP the other foreigners who were picked up were two Americans and a Japanese.

Two Swedish men accused of running a cyber-sex den and charged with human trafficking were last month jailed for life in the southern Philippines.

Angeles has long had a reputation as a giant red-light district, initially for American soldiers when the city hosted Clark Air Base, which the United States handed back to the government in 1992.

Filipino authorities continued to turn a blind eye to prostitution in Angeles after the US forces left, with one section of the city devoted to strip bars and hotels catering to foreign men.

Tuesday's raids were linked to a US decision on Monday to remove the Philippines from a **watch list** of countries deemed not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, police criminal investigation head Chief Superintendent Samuel D. Pagdilao, Jr. said.

"Pagdilao said that the successive raids in Angeles City's red-light district last night affirms the recent pronouncement made by the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton," the police statement said.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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350 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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BusinessWorld

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SECTION: Pg. S1/12

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351 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

June 30, 2011

Algerian Official Refutes US People-Trafficking Report Conclusions

BYLINE: Jamie Ingram

SECTION: In Brief

LENGTH: 402 words

Farouk Ksentini, president of Algeria's official human rights body, the National Advisory Commission for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, has slammed the US State Department for demoting Algeria to **tier**-three status in the 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The Algerian daily *El Watan* quoted Ksentini yesterday (29 June) as saying "It's an unfounded report.

This does not correspond to Algerian Reality". Ksentini accuses the report of serving a political agenda by the United States administration, which, he says is attempting to harm Algeria's reputation as it seeks to reintegrate itself into the international community. The report, released on Monday (27 June) lambasted Algerian authorities for failing to tackle the problem of people trafficking, stating that they do "not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so". The report highlighted that Algeria has failed to implement its 2009 anti-trafficking law, to identify and protect victims of people trafficking and lacks adequate measures to prevent trafficking. In addition, it claims that police have handed arrested sex-trafficking victims back to their pimps. As a result, Algeria was demoted from tier two-watch list status, which it had occupied since 2008, down to the bottom tier-three category, reserved for those countries which do not comply with minimum standards and fail to make significant efforts to do so. The bottom tier comprises 23 countries, including nine countries from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Four other MENA countries are on the watch list, while none occupy the top tier.

Significance: The report is a damning indictment of the Algerian government's political will to prevent people trafficking; especially with regards to the non-implementation of legislation the report regards as sufficient. This highlights the frequent disparity between legislation and enforcement in the country, a disparity not limited to the issue of people trafficking. Ksentini's argument that the US is seeking to damage Algeria's reputation is weakened by the presence of US allies such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on the list. That said, such criticisms bring more pressure to bear on Algeria to listen to protesters calling for political reform (see: **Algeria: 22 June 2011:**), an outcome that would be welcomed by western governments.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

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352 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 30, 2011 Thursday

'The fight requires collective effort'**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 13**LENGTH:** 202 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Combating human trafficking is an international effort and not solely the work of one country.

Foreign Affairs Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman said yesterday the country's own efforts to rid the practice of "modern slavery" needed to be in tandem with initiatives by its neighbours.

"The sharing of information between neighbouring countries, including Australia, will put all involved countries in a better position to fight human trafficking.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry also works closely with the Home Ministry and other agencies to stop the inhumane practice," he told the New Straits Times.

Radzi was commenting on the continued placement of Malaysia in the **Tier 2 watchlist** of the United States State Department **Trafficking in Persons** annual report.

He said the country's efforts as a whole would be witnessed by the world, especially the US.

"The ministry highlights our efforts to the US State Department through our embassies there, and communicates to them that we are aware of the global issue and are doing all it takes to combat it.

"The embassies also work to dispel misunderstandings other countries might have about Malaysia over this particular matter."

(END)

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

353 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 30, 2011 Thursday

Hisham: Focus is on innocents, not ranking**BYLINE:** Azura Abas; Lydia Gomez; Koi Kye Lee; Predeep Nambiar**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 13**LENGTH:** 367 words

PUTRAJAYA: Instead of being upset, Home Minister Home Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein yesterday agreed that Malaysia should be on the **Tier 2 watchlist** of the United States State Department **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) annual report.

"This is because we are in the early stages of rolling out measures to address human trafficking."

Hishammuddin listed some of the steps taken, including looking at advanced passenger screening, getting relevant enforcement agencies on board, identifying international syndicates involved, taking action against corrupt officers and detaining heads of syndicates.

"I want them to keep watching. If after all these measures, we are still on the watchlist, then they themselves (US State Department) are not doing their job," Hishammuddin said after meeting with Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Malaysia Atiqur Rehman at his office.

Asked whether Malaysia would get out of the Tier 2 watchlist by next year, Hishammuddin said it all depended on the efforts involved and how aggressive Malaysia was in implementing them.

"I am doing it in a very pragmatic and realistic way... mere rhetoric will not work."

Asked whether it was fair for any country which remained in the Tier 2 watchlist for two consecutive years to be automatically dropped to Tier 3, Hishammuddin said he did not worry too much about ranking.

"My concern is the innocents who are being victimised and exploited. And, on humanitarian reasons alone, this matter must be addressed and not on what they tell me where we are on the list.

"The world's citizens will decide whether what Malaysia is doing is right or wrong."

Nations in Tier 3 are subjected to US sanctions, including the withdrawal of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance.

The latest TIP report took the Philippines, Singapore and Laos off the **watchlist** to **Tier 2**, which means that the countries do not fully meet standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

Indonesia and Cambodia stayed at Tier 2, but Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam remained on the watchlist.

On his meeting with Atiqur, Hishammuddin said a two-week legislation and amnesty exercise between Malaysia and Bangladesh had been agreed upon.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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354 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Indian Express

June 30, 2011 Thursday

Harrowing tales of human trafficking!

LENGTH: 393 words

DATELINE: HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD, June 30 -- Even as India was taken off the 'watch-list' for **human trafficking** by the US, a meet of survivors in the city brought forth the web of **human trafficking** that exists.

The tales of 40 survivors from different parts of the country had a common thread- the lack of sensitisation among police and need for proper rehabilitation.

The vicious cycle of poverty and exploitation made the women from socially poor background vulnerable. Lured by promise of a job in the city, they are entrapped in the trafficking racket.

"My father had abandoned us when I was child. There was no option but to look for work. I was promised the job of a housemaid in Delhi but found myself at a brothel instead as a 10-year-old," said DK Munni of Anantapur, now 41 and working at the NGO which rescued her.

T Anvesha, a 14-year-old from Meghalaya narrated her experience at the police station, where she had gone to lodge a complaint- "The officer-in-charge refused to register a complaint and tried sending me away. They did not lodge an FIR until I said I will not leave."

Most victims of trafficking are forced into prostitution. Though some are rescued by NGOs and police, the most difficult part is getting their lives back on track.

"I have been married for a year and stay at my in-laws. Though my husband knows of my past, my in-laws have been kept unaware," says Sapna Kumari, a survivor.

A major impediment in rehabilitation of women is the lack of employment opportunities.

Often they fall back on sex-work, finding it difficult to make ends meet. Aparna Bhat, a Delhi-based advocate on the common panel of Supreme Court, points out the state has a responsibility of protecting its citizens and monetary compensation should be paid to victims of human trafficking.

"Being unable to prevent human trafficking is a failure on part of the state and financial support should be provided to victims to start life afresh. Let us not call it an aid but monetary relief for survivors," said Bhat.

"It is for us to decide whether we want to be strong and carry on as survivors or whether we crumble under pressure," said Dr Sunitha Krishnan of Prajwala, a city-based NGO. Published by HT Syndication with permission from New Indian Express. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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355 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840
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Sydney MX (Australia)

June 30, 2011 Thursday
1 - SYD Edition

Oz man held after raids HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 287 words

An Australian man could be jailed for life in the Philippines on human trafficking charges following raids on a notorious red-light district in which 100 women were rescued, police say.

Three bars in the northern city of Angeles that were known to be fronts for prostitution were raided last night, according to a statement from national police headquarters in Manila.

A number of other foreigners were also arrested after they were found having sex with some of the women and will face less severe charges than human trafficking.

The manager of the Sunshine Bar, Australian Terrence James Smith, was detained, while about 100 female sex workers were rescued from the three establishments, the statement said.

Police said Smith would be charged with human trafficking, which carries a maximum prison term of life.

One police officer involved in the raid, who asked not to be named, said the other foreigners who were picked up were two Americans and a Japanese.

Two Swedish men accused of running a cyber-sex den and charged with human trafficking were last month jailed for life in the southern Philippines.

Angeles has long had a reputation as a giant red-light district, initially for American soldiers when the city hosted Clark Air Base, which the US handed back to the Philippines Government in 1992.

The Filipino authorities continued to turn a blind eye to prostitution in Angeles after the US forces left, with one section of the city devoted to strip bars and hotels catering to foreign men.

Yesterday's raids were linked to a US decision on Monday to remove the Philippines from a **watchlist** of countries deemed to be not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, police criminal investigation chief Samuel Pagdilao said.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: MXS

356 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840



ABC Premium News (Australia)

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

Australian facing life for human trafficking

BYLINE: Lexi Metherell

LENGTH: 434 words

An Australian man is facing possible life in jail in the Philippines after being arrested and charged under the country's tough human trafficking laws. Terrence Smith allegedly managed a nightclub called the Sunshine Bar, where women were misled into working as prostitutes. He is one of several men arrested after raids on bars in a notorious red light district in the city of Angeles, north of Manila, in which police say they rescued around 100 sex workers. Only this week the US praised the Philippines for cracking down on human trafficking, but non-government agencies say bribery and corruption among officials hinder efforts to put offenders behind bars. Superintendent Emma Libunao of the Philippines National Police led the operation. She says the Sunshine Bar was targeted after the mother of a 25-year-old woman working there complained her daughter was forced to stay there against her will. "Allegedly the girl was recruited in the southern part of the Philippines to work as a waitress serving food, but upon reaching Angeles city she was forced to dance in a skimpy outfit and render sexual services to foreign clients," Superintendent Libunao said. Prostitution is illegal in the Philippines, but Superintendent Libunao says sex workers are not prosecuted.

Authorities instead target traffickers and pimps. Smith is not accused of recruiting sex workers for the bar, but it is alleged he helped arrange sex for customers. He has been charged with breaching the Philippines' anti-trafficking laws. "He might be guilty of qualified **trafficking in person**, that calls for a punishment of life imprisonment," Superintendent Libunao said. The pressure has been on the Philippines to deal with the scourge of **human trafficking** and illegal sex work. This week, US secretary of state Hillary Clinton praised president Benigno Aquino for effecting a "sea change" in the Philippines campaign against **human trafficking**. Her remarks came after the US State Department recognised the Philippines' attempts to crack down on the trade, by dropping it from a **human trafficking watch list**. Bernadette McMenamin, an expert on **human trafficking** and prostitution, says this is a very new approach for the Philippines authorities. But Ms McMenamin says it is easy for criminals to buy their way out. "They get out on bail, they pay the victims and the victims' families off to withdraw evidence and then they move from the Philippines to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, wherever and just set up again," she said.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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357 of 492 DOCUMENTS 820, 771



Agence France Presse -- English

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 10:33 AM GMT

Malaysia, Bangladesh to fingerprint 500,000 workers

LENGTH: 326 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 2011

Malaysian and Bangladeshi officials will work together to fingerprint for the first time the estimated 500,000 Bangladeshis working legally and illegally in Malaysia, the home minister said Wednesday.

It is part of a wider scheme to fingerprint the about two million illegal immigrants in Malaysia, which depends on foreigners from mostly poorer regional countries to fill jobs in construction sites, plantations and other places shunned by locals.

Malaysia announced last week that it will offer amnesty to those who come forward from July 11 for two weeks. Some will be able to keep their jobs, while others will be deported without facing such penalties as caning for overstaying.

Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said Wednesday that Malaysia had struck a separate agreement with Bangladesh's High Commission to facilitate the registration of their workers, beginning immediately.

Under the deal, government officials may go to factories where Bangladeshis work to register them. The two countries will also share information to crack down on traffickers who exploit Bangladeshi workers.

"The objective is to... ensure that these people are not exploited either by human traffickers, syndicates or third parties," Hishammuddin said.

Malaysia remains on a US **human trafficking watch list**, according to the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which the State Department released this week.

The report, which ranks countries in line with their efforts to combat human trafficking, said Malaysia did not effectively investigate and prosecute labour trafficking cases.

"There remain many serious concerns regarding trafficking in Malaysia, including the detention of trafficking victims in government facilities," the report said.

Hishammuddin admitted Malaysia was still in the process of tackling the problem.

"I agree with them. I think we should still be on the watchlist because we have only just rolled out these measures" such as fingerprinting workers, he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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358 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840
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Agence France Presse -- English

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 8:37 AM GMT

Philippine police nab Australian in red-light raid

LENGTH: 331 words

DATELINE: Manila, June 29 2011

An Australian man could be jailed for life in the Philippines on human trafficking charges following raids on a notorious red-light district in which 100 women were rescued, police said Wednesday.

Three bars in the northern city of Angeles that were known to be fronts for prostitution were raided on Tuesday night, according to a statement from national police headquarters in Manila.

A number of other foreigners were also arrested after they were found having sex with some of the women and would face less severe charges than human trafficking, the statement said.

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str-cgm/kma/pst

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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359 of 492 DOCUMENTS 660

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

Lebanon in US human trafficking blacklist**LENGTH:** 173 words

Text of report in English by privately-owned Lebanese newspaper The Daily Star website on 29 June

["Lebanon Among US **Human Trafficking Blacklist**" - The Daily Star Headline]

Washington - The Obama administration is expanding the number of countries that may face US sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report released on Monday [27 June], the State Department identified 22 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims.

That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list" that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

Among the countries on the blacklist are Cuba, Iran, Myanmar and North Korea along with frequent US foes Libya, Zimbabwe and Venezuela. Others include Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Yemen.

The report also cited six nations for using child soldiers and not taking steps to end the practice.

Source: The Daily Star website, Beirut, in English 29 Jun 11

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** TranscriptCopyright 2011 British Broadcasting Corporation
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360 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

BusinessWorld

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

Philippines out of trafficking watch list

BYLINE: Nathaniel R. Melican

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 685 words

THE UNITED STATES has removed the Philippines from its **trafficking in persons watch list** given improving efforts in curbing the crime, a decision that effectively ensures continuous aid to the country.

"The Government of the Philippines does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the US State Department said of the Philippines in its Trafficking in Persons 2011 report released yesterday.

It cited the following efforts of the government against human trafficking:

- . * issuance by the Department of Justice and Supreme Court of directives to expedite the disposition of backlogged trafficking cases;
- . * conviction of 25 trafficking offenders from nine convictions in the previous year, including the Philippines' first two convictions in cases involving forced labor;
- . * filing of criminal cases against officials; and
- . * adoption of measures and policies to improve institutional responses to human trafficking.

The US expects more efforts to further stem the crime.

The report noted the resolution of remaining trafficking cases in courts; the need for vigorous efforts to pursue criminal prosecution of labor traffickers, including labor recruitment companies involved in the trafficking of migrant workers abroad; addressing rampant corruption at all levels that enables traffickers and undermines efforts to combat trafficking; and providing adequate protection for victims, particularly those assisting in the prosecution of cases.

Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima welcomed the news of the Philippine upgrade to Tier 2 from Tier 2 watch list category.

"This is a big deal because if we have not been de-listed from the watch list, we could have lost some non-humanitarian financial aid from the US," she said.

"We're now out of danger in losing \$700 million in non-humanitarian, non-trade aid from the United States," added Justice Undersecretary Jose Vicente B. Salazar, who is in charge of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.

The upgrade to Tier 2, which means that the country has yet to fully comply with benchmarks under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act "but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards," avoided possible sanctions should the Philippines slip to Tier 3, or "countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so."

The sanctions, according to the US State Department, are withholding or withdrawal of US non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance; withholding of funding for government employee participation in educational and cultural exchange programs; and US opposition to assistance (except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain develop-

ment-related assistance) from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Mr. Salazar expressed hope that with improvements in the government's anti-**human trafficking** drive, the Philippines will be upgraded to **Tier 1** next year, which means the country is compliant with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking.

"We will try to look for best practices [against trafficking that] we could implement here, strengthen partnerships with stakeholders such as nongovernment organizations, and bring more prosecution to trafficking cases," he said.

In Malacanang, Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda echoed Mr. Salazar's commitment to pursue anti-human trafficking efforts.

"We're certainly going to improve our efforts at curbing human trafficking. Whatever Tier that we are required to be taken out, we're certainly going to do that - that's been a promise of this administration," he said.

Meanwhile, the US State Department also cited Zamboanga City Assistant City Prosecutor Darlene Pajarito as one of its anti-trafficking heroes for her outstanding work in prosecuting trafficking cases.

"Her successful record has shown other prosecutors the value of police-prosecutors cooperation in the development of strong cases against traffickers," the report read.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

361 of 492 DOCUMENTS 820

Channel NewsAsia

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 10:26 AM GMT

Malaysia hits back at US over trafficking watchlist

SECTION: ASIA PACIFIC**LENGTH:** 173 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia has hit back at the United States, after its latest report on **human trafficking** continued to put the country on its **watchlist**.

The US removed neighbouring Singapore, the Philippines and Laos from the **watchlist**, and put them at **Tier 2**, which means the countries do not fully meet its standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said he is confident Malaysia will meet US standards once its anti-human trafficking measures are fully implemented.

Some of its new measures include a biometric system to fingerprint foreigners at all checkpoints.

It has also taken action against immigration officers found to be involved in human smuggling, and arrested heads of human trafficking syndicates.

And in a bid to break the business model of human smugglers, Malaysia said it fully supports Australia's proposed refugee swap deal.

It will also roll out an amnesty and legalisation programme to register hundreds of thousands of illegal migrant workers currently on its shores, starting July 11.

LOAD-DATE: July 14, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Transcript

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362 of 492 DOCUMENTS

US DOCUMENT
Congressional Documents and Publications

June 29, 2011

Ros-Lehtinen Says Venezuela's 'Tier 3' Trafficking Ranking Illustrates Chavez Regime's Ongoing Disregard of Venezuelans' Human Rights; House Foreign Affairs Committee News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 209 words

(WASHINGTON) - U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, commented today on Venezuela's "**Tier 3**" classification by the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. A **Tier 3** grade is the lowest grade possible, and denotes that a country does not meet minimum standards for combating **human trafficking**. Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

"The Venezuelan regime's ongoing lack of compliance with the most basic trafficking standards has resulted in a drop back to Tier 3 on the State Department's trafficking report.

"According to the report, 'Venezuela is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.' The report illustrates how the human rights and well-being of the Venezuelan people are not a concern for Chavez.

"Naturally, the regime in Caracas is alleging wrong-doing on the part of the United States in the compilation of this report. Instead of skirting responsibility and cynically pointing fingers, it is time for the regime to make a real effort to stop heinous crimes like sex trafficking being perpetrated against the Venezuelan people."

Read this original document at: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=1885

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHP

363 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US DOCUMENT

Congressional Documents and Publications

June 29, 2011

Citing Findings of Human Trafficking Report, Ros-Lehtinen Letter to Clinton Urges Suspension of Cuba Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs; House Foreign Affairs Committee News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 436 words

(WASHINGTON) - U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging the Administration to suspend educational and cultural exchange programs with Cuba, which are often used by the Castro regime for propaganda purposes. Ros-Lehtinen's letter comes as Cuba was again designated by the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report as a "**Tier 3**" country, which is defined as a country that does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Text of the letter is as follows, and a signed copy may be viewed [here](#).

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

Washington, DC 20521

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In light of the recent publication of the 2011 **Trafficking In Persons** Report, once again, Cuba ranks as a **Tier 3** country. Cuba has been a Tier 3 country since 2003 as the regime continues to sexually exploit women, children, and oppresses the Cuban people. Due to the fact that the Cuban regime has not shown any progress regarding trafficking of persons, I would urge the administration, within all applicable rules and guidelines, to reverse its current policy and suspend all educational and cultural exchanges with the Cuban regime pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

According to U.S. law, "countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs." Under the repressive Cuban regime, anyone who is involved in cultural and educational exchanges are direct employees of Raul and Fidel Castro. The tyrants use these exchanges as a political instrument to promote their communist agenda while maintaining absolute control over the daily lives of the Cuban people.

Last year, President Obama granted a partial waiver for Cuba to allow funding for educational and cultural exchanges. However, according to the 2011 report, the Cuban regime "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so." This report clearly illustrates the failure of the Obama administration's partial waiver, particularly last year's, to improve or enhance the lives of the Cuban people. These exchanges only serve as a propaganda tool for the authoritative Castro brothers and do not help bring freedom and democracy to Cuba.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Chairman

Read this original document at: http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=1884

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364 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Daily the Pak Banker

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

Philippines, Singapore out of US trafficking list

LENGTH: 636 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 29 -- The United States has removed the Philippines and Singapore from a **human trafficking watchlist** that had drawn concerns from the close allies, but it reported record abuses around the world. The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report has become increasingly sensitive for Southeast Asian governments, which face a cutoff of US assistance if they are found to be unresponsive in fighting trafficking.

The latest report elevated the Philippines, Singapore and Laos off the **watchlist** to so-called **Tier 2**, which means that the countries do not fully meet standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

Indonesia and Cambodia stayed at Tier 2, but Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam remained on the watchlist. The only Asian jurisdictions on Tier 1, meaning full compliance, were South Korea and Taiwan.

Releasing the report, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that as many as 27 million men, women and children suffered from trafficking around the world for sexual exploitation or forced labour.

"Unfortunately, because of the ease of transportation and the global communications that can reach deep into villages with promises and pictures of what a better life might be, we now see that more human beings are exploited than before," Hillary said.

But US allies have sometimes responded indignantly. Singapore last year lashed out at being put on the watchlist and urged the United States to examine its own record, including the treatment of its millions of illegal residents.

The United States gave itself a Tier 1 ranking but offered details about problems at home, including allegations of exploitation by federal contractors.

"I don't think it's fair for us to rank others if we don't look hard at who we are and what we're doing," Hillary said.

In the Philippines, President Benigno Aquino took the unusual step of saying in April that his country was off the watchlist, leading US officials to clarify that no decision had yet been made. In today's report, the State Department praised an "intensified effort" by the Philippines. It said the Philippines convicted 25 trafficking offenders, compared with nine the previous year, including first-ever convictions for forced labour.

Elsewhere in Asia, the State Department removed Sri Lanka and Fiji from its watchlist. It praised Sri Lanka -- often on the receiving end of criticism over human rights -- for its first convictions under an anti-trafficking law on the island, which is a major source of workers to abuse-prone Arab countries.

On the other hand, the United States downgraded the Federated States of Micronesia to Tier 3, meaning that some assistance will be suspended to the nation of more than 600 islands that is closely linked to the United States.

The report said that Micronesian traffickers have forced women into prostitution in the United States with promises of well-paying jobs.

The State Department said that Micronesian waters are believed to be rife with trafficking but that the government has not conducted any investigations into the problem.

Myanmar, North Korea and Papua New Guinea remained at Tier 3. In a change this year ordered by the US Congress, countries that stay on the watchlist for two consecutive years now automatically drop to Tier 3 -- although the administration can order an exemption. "Two years of warning is enough. The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China -- who are predominantly women. It's shameful," said Smith, a Republican from New Jer-

sey. "Our obligation is to the victims of trafficking, not the dictatorship," he said Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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365 of 492 DOCUMENTS - general

domain-b

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 12:00 PM EST

Gulf nations top US list of slave trade offenders

LENGTH: 1024 words

In a report that has drawn attention from civil rights organisations and the media across the world, the US state department has put out a report on human trafficking that puts the Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran among the worst offenders.

The department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report assesses efforts by 184 governments worldwide to fight sexual exploitation, forced labour, and modern-day slavery.

The report, released on Monday, put Estonia and Belarus on its **human trafficking watchlist**. It also maintained Russia on the list for the eighth consecutive year for the same alleged failures. These countries failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labour, it said.

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the US government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it.

Considered one of the most comprehensive analyses of worldwide **human trafficking**, the report ranks countries in three "**tiers**", depending on how much effort they are making to control the problem.

In the top tier are those that fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. In the second tier are those that do not fully comply but "are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance"; and in the bottom tier are those that "neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a significant effort to come into compliance".

The bottom tier is dominated by Arab countries, including staunch US allies like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait - not to mention Brunei. They are ranked alongside the usual suspects like Cuba and North Korea.

Iran is among the countries the report describes as "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour."

It says a large part of the problem in the wealthier Arab countries is the extensive use of foreign labour - especially those employed in domestic service, construction and sanitation.

The state department's analysis also lists several countries as "special cases," noting that conditions severely restrict government ability to address trafficking there.

Haiti was on that list for a sixth consecutive year. This year's report says massive destruction in the 2010 earthquake crippled the country's ability to fight trafficking. Ivory Coast and Somalia also were on that list.

Opprobrium for Switzerland; India evades notice

Among the 'mature democracies', it was surprising for many to see Switzerland as low as tier II. The review noted that Swiss law does not bar prostitution by 16 and 17-year-olds in all cases. Last year's report demoted the country from the top tier of its rankings for that reason.

The new report said that Switzerland had taken important legal steps to correct the problem, but needs to do more.

India does not figure in the list of worst offenders, as our planners will no doubt be thrilled to note. But it is worth remarking that in a survey by the independent Thomson Reuters Foundation released last month, India was ranked the

fourth-worst place in the world to be a woman (See: India fourth-worst place to be a woman: survey (http://www.domain-b.com/economy/general/20110615_woman.html)).

The US report also takes into account crimes against women. But according to Thomson Reuters, India ranks lower than Somalia, and just ahead of Congo, on this front.

Indian human rights association The Body Shop India, along with the international outfit ECPAT, plan to present over 300,000 petitions against human trafficking to the union government this July.

"We have never shied away from tackling controversial issues and causes that others would avoid. Indeed it was one of the dying wishes of our late founder, Dame Anita Roddick, that the 'modern-day slave trade' be brought to an end," Shriti Malhotra, chief operation officer of The Body Shop India, told IANS

Ravi Kant of Shakti Vahini said, "Every year, an estimated 1.2 million children and young people are trafficked, becoming victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Human trafficking is the third largest international crime after illegal drugs and arms trafficking.

"It exists in every continent, region and country in the world. We have called for this action to ensure that child victims of trafficking will have safe shelters and protection which will help their rehabilitation."

Big numbers

The State Department says 27 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide, and approximately 100,000 of those victims are in the United States.

In the report's preface, secretary of state Hillary Clinton describes her visit to a shelter for trafficking survivors last year.

"I was embraced by children who should have been in grade school, but were instead recovering from having been enslaved in a brothel.

"We know trafficking in persons affects every region and every country in the world, but looking into the eyes of those girls and hearing their stories firsthand brought home for me once again the very real and personal tragedy of modern slavery."

The report looks at how traffickers operate, what kinds of victims are exploited, and most importantly, what governments are and are not doing to protect vulnerable people.

While some countries are repeat offenders, the official tasked with coordinating the US response to human trafficking says the State Department has seen a "decade of progress" in developing tools for prevention, protection, and prosecution of traffickers since it released its first human trafficking report 11 years ago.

For example, 148 countries have signed on to the Palermo Protocol, the international effort headed by the United Nations to combat trafficking, and 130 countries around the world have enacted laws criminalising all forms of human trafficking, a department official said.

But while there have been advances in addressing the problem, the number of victims identified and the number of traffickers prosecuted has "flattened" around the world.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

366 of 492 DOCUMENTS 666

Jerusalem Post

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

US: Israel not doing enough to fight human trafficking. State Department report recommends steps government should take to improve situation

BYLINE: BEN HARTMAN

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 1016 words

Israel is not fully complying with the minimal standards to eliminate human trafficking, but is making considerable efforts to do so, according to the US State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report released on Monday.

While Israeli authorities have taken steps to fight human trafficking, "the government continued to take inadequate steps, however, to identify and protect labor trafficking victims and prosecute and convict labor trafficking offenders in the reporting period," the report states.

The report refers to Israel as "a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

It recommends a series of steps to improve the situation, and calls on authorities to "significantly increase prosecutions, convictions, and punishment of labor trafficking offenders (including "employers") and offenses; ensure that labor trafficking crimes are prosecuted under labor trafficking statutes; and ensure trafficking victims are not penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked."

It also calls for the government to deploy more labor inspectors and translators to work in sectors that employ a high numbers of foreign workers, and to bring an end to practices such as "binding," which restrict workers' ability to change their employers in Israel, as well as illegal brokerage fees.

The **Trafficking in Persons** report ranks Israel as a **tier-two** country on its three-**tier** system. Tier-two countries are ones "whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

First-tier countries are those that are complying with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards, while third tier countries do not comply, and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Israel has company on the second-tier with a large number of Middle East countries and third-world nations, but also European countries such as Switzerland, Greece, Hungary, and Iceland. Third-tier Middle East nations include Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

In regard to the thousands of Africans who were trafficked across the Sinai peninsula into Israel in 2010, the report calls on Israel to "strengthen victim identification of migrants arriving from Sinai, and accord those trafficking victims full protections and medical treatment."

It also calls for an immediate end to the practice of "hot return," wherein migrants are caught and immediately sent back to Egypt, where they are often killed or sent back to the countries they fled.

The report offered some praise for "strong law enforcement progress" against sex trafficking and labor trafficking, including the first prosecution of an offender charged with trafficking a migrant worker.

Israel's 2006 Anti-Trafficking Law provides for penalties of up to 16 years imprisonment for trafficking an adult and up to 20 years for trafficking a child. In addition, it allows courts to sentence offenders to up to 16 years imprisonment for slavery and seven years for forced labor.

While the report says "these penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape," it states that in 2010 seven sex traffickers were convicted under trafficking statutes and received sentences ranging from six months community service to 8.5 years in prison with damages paid to the victim. In addition, the report cites the conviction of six sex traffickers on non-trafficking statutes who received sentences ranging from 24 months to 7.5 years.

Israel has "continued to improve its protection of trafficking victims over the reporting period," even though the government "lacked effective procedures to identify victims of labor trafficking, including migrant workers and migrants who entered from the Sinai," the report states.

As a result, many unidentified victims have been prosecuted for labor violations, it states.

The government "made sustained progress in preventing trafficking in persons over the reporting period," according to the report, which mentioned the opening of several investigations and prosecutions of employees who charged illegal recruitment fees and an amendment to the Foreign Workers Law passed in November 2010 that gives inspectors the authority to enter and examine private households where migrants are employed.

In addition, the report cites the opening of "456 cases of managing a property for the purpose of engaging persons in prostitution and 27 cases of advertisement of prostitution services, in efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts."

Upon the report's release on Monday, US Secretary State Hillary Clinton said that in recent years, "governments have taken important steps, but we have to really mix the commitments with actions in order to get results. For example, the number of prosecutions worldwide has remained relatively static. And so the measure of success can no longer be whether a country has passed laws, because so many have in the last decade; now we have to make sure those laws are implemented and that countries are using the tools that have been created for that."

MK Orit Zuaretz (Kadima), head of the Knesset Subcommittee on Trafficking of Women, said the report "compels the State of Israel re-examine its methods of treatment, prevention and enforcement in light of the changes in the patterns of human trafficking. The State of Israel is still located in the second **tier** of countries due to the fact that Israel has not done enough to examine the new phenomenon of **human trafficking** taking place on the southern border of Israel and in the [smuggler-run] torture camps in Sinai.

Zuaretz accused the government of "not dealing seriously enough with the changes in the patterns of human trafficking - trafficking of migrant workers and refugees. The current report shed lights on the fact that the State of Israel is ignoring its responsibility to take the right measures to wage war on this contemptible phenomenon taking place in Israel's backyard."

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: ISRAEL IS 'a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.' (Credit: Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

367 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Jerusalem Post

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

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LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: ISRAEL IS 'a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.' (Credit: Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

Gov't plans special unit to combat human trafficking

LENGTH: 849 words

By Hani Hazaimh AMMAN - A specialised anti-human trafficking unit is expected to be established in 'a few months' to be operated by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the labour and justice ministries, a labour ministry official said on Tuesday. "The unit will be funded by the ministry and will be supplied with specialised staff from the three stakeholders, particularly a team of experts in social services. The trafficking in humans in Jordan has not evolved into a phenomenon but we are taking measures beforehand in order to address cases as they arise," Labour Minister Mahmoud Kafawin told The Jordan Times, responding to a US report issued on human trafficking on Monday. The report, issued by the US State Department, charged that the government has accomplished little to implement its national anti-trafficking action plan in 2010. It also noted that the Kingdom 'did not finalise guidelines for establishing and operating a facility to provide shelter and other forms of assistance to trafficking victims.

It failed to enforce its bylaws that provide standards for employing domestic workers and operating recruitment agencies, and did not launch an anti-trafficking public awareness campaign'. However, the report showed that Jordan has kept its classification at **Tier 2** for the third year in a row. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was quoted in the report as saying that the US defines **trafficking in persons** to include 'all of the conduct involved in forced labour as well as the trafficking of adults and children for commercial sexual exploitation'. Clinton added: 'The true test of a country's anti-trafficking efforts is not just whether a government has enacted strong laws consistent with that approach, but whether these laws are being implemented broadly and effectively.

In short, it's whether they deliver.' Regarding Jordan, the document described the country as 'a destination and transit country for adults and children subjected to forced labour and, to a lesser extent, sex trafficking..., while Jordanian children employed within the country as mechanics, agricultural labourers and beggars may be exploited in situations of forced labour'. It claimed that Jordan's sponsorship system binds foreign workers to their designated employers without adequate access to legal recourse when they face abuse and without the ability to switch employers, thereby placing a significant amount of power in the hands of employers and recruitment agencies. Responding to that, Kafawin said the ministry's directorate of health and inspection is carrying out thousands of field checks in order to ensure employers' abidance by labour regulations. 'We are in the process of establishing a new section under the directorate of health and inspection which will be specifically tasked with protecting labourers' rights and ensuring employers' compliance with relevant laws,' the minister said. The US report also touched on the recruitment conditions of the domestic helpers who come from abroad to work in the Kingdom as many of them are subjected to conditions of forced labour after arrival, citing approximately 480 Filipina, Indonesian and Sri Lankan domestic workers, most of whom had fled conditions indicative of forced labour and were sheltered at their respective embassies in Amman at the conclusion of the reporting period. Commending government efforts to combat trafficking in humans, the report said over the past 12 months progress was achieved in enforcing regulations restricting garment sector employers from withholding their workers' passports, responding to labour complaints made by factory workers, waiving migrant domestic workers' accumulated overstay fines and punishing a small number of individuals for crimes of forced labour against domestic workers. The government endorsed the Anti-Human Trafficking Law of 2008 in March 2009, which prohibits all forms of trafficking and

prescribes penalties of six months to 10 years imprisonment for forced prostitution, child trafficking, trafficking of women and girls, and trafficking crimes involving other aggravating circumstances, the report noted. However, it said that although these penalties are sufficiently stringent, they are not commensurate with those for other serious crimes, such as rape. Over the past year, the government investigated and prosecuted several cases involving forced labour and forced prostitution, said the report, adding that the PSD investigated 12 cases involving the exploitation of domestic workers and referred six cases to the courts. With respect to protection, the report said the government made inadequate efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the last year, but it did not provide any specialised services to trafficking victims. Meanwhile, the government's efforts to prevent trafficking decreased during the reporting period as it did not conduct any information or education campaigns beyond the labour inspectorate's provision of brief awareness raising workshops for workers in garment factories, said the report. 29 June 2011

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STARRED MAYBE 369 of 492 DOCUMENTS 820

Malaysia General News

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

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

LENGTH: 440 words

DATELINE: PUTRAJAYA June 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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370 of 492 DOCUMENTS 750

Political & Business Daily (India)

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

India removed from **human-trafficking 'watch-list'** by US

LENGTH: 769 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 29 -- After a gap of six years, the United States has taken India off the **human trafficking 'Watch List'** for making significant efforts in combating the menace. In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, the State Department has upgraded India to **Tier 2** countries after keeping it on a **'Watch List'** for six years.

The Watch List is for those countries where the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat it.

Tier 2 is for those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) but are making significant efforts in this regard.

"The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the State Department said in its report justifying its decision to upgrade India's position.

The report analysed conditions in 184 countries and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting the human trafficking.

It has identified 23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims. That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on the "watch list" that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve. "All countries can and must do more," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said while releasing the report. "More human beings are being exploited today than ever before." "The Ministry of Home Affairs' launched the government's 'Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening Law Enforcement Response in India', which seeks to improve India's overall law enforcement response to all forms of trafficking, including bonded labor, and established at least 87 new Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)," the State Department said.

"The government also ratified the 2000 UN TIP Protocol. The government took important law enforcement steps by convicting several bonded labor offenders with sentences between five and 14 years and improved rescue and rehabilitation efforts for bonded laborers.-PTI

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371 of 492 DOCUMENTS 780

South Asian Focus

June 29, 2011 Wednesday
Final Edition

Sri Lanka among Tier 2 countries

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 310 words

WASHINGTON - Although Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, the country is making significant efforts to do so, a report on human trafficking said.

The 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released this week by the United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton placed Sri Lanka among **Tier 2** countries, Colombo Page reported.

Tier 2 countries are the countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Sri Lanka is yet to ratify the United Nations TIP protocol of 2000, the protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The report noted that the Sri Lankan government convicted three traffickers, in the first case under its anti-trafficking legislation, and rejuvenated its inter-agency task force.

"However, serious problems remain unaddressed, such as the detention of identified trafficking victims (including those who provided evidence to support the three convictions), the failure to achieve criminal convictions for fraudulent recruitment agencies involved in trafficking in persons, and official complicity in human trafficking," the TIP report noted.

The report said Sri Lanka is primarily a source and to a much lesser extent, a destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

The report recommended among other things for the government of Sri Lanka to vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees for the purpose of subjecting them to forced labor.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Article

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

372 of 492 DOCUMENTS – general

The South Asian Times

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

US expands human trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 486 words

DATELINE: New York

New York, June 29 -- The Obama administration on Monday nearly doubled the number of countries that may face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking, calling on those and other nations to get serious and take tough steps to eradicate the lucrative illicit practice. In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department identified 23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims. That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list" that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

The report analyzed conditions in 184 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many have termed modern-day slavery. The State Department estimates that as many as 27 million men, women and children are living in such bondage around the world.

"All countries can and must do more," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in presenting the report. "More human beings are being exploited today than ever before."

"We're at critical moment in this fight," she said. "The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight. But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable. If we increase the pressure on traffickers and the networks they thrive in, we can set ourselves on a course to one day eradicate modern slavery."

Republican Rep. Chris Smith, an author of the law that established the report and offered protection to trafficking victims, said he was "deeply disappointed" that China was given a political waiver despite its continuing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls.

"This political waiver for China is totally unacceptable," Smith said. "The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China, who are predominantly women. It's shameful."

Among the countries on the blacklist are Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan along with frequent U.S. foes Eritrea, Libya and Zimbabwe. Others are U.S. allies in the Middle East like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while Papua New Guinea was cited as a repeat offender. Only one country, the Dominican Republic, was removed from the list.

The 11 new countries on the blacklist are Algeria, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen.

Separately, the report also cited six nations - Chad, Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen - for using child soldiers and not taking steps to end the practice. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The South Asian Times. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

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373 of 492 DOCUMENTS
U.S. document

States News Service

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

CITING FINDINGS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT, ROS-LEHTINEN LETTER TO CLINTON URGES SUSPENSION OF CUBA EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 436 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs:

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging the Administration to suspend educational and cultural exchange programs with Cuba, which are often used by the Castro regime for propaganda purposes. Ros-Lehtinen's letter comes as Cuba was again designated by the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report as a "**Tier 3**" country, which is defined as a country that does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Text of the letter is as follows, and a signed copy may be viewed here.

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

Washington, DC 20521

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In light of the recent publication of the 2011 **Trafficking In Persons** Report, once again, Cuba ranks as a **Tier 3** country. Cuba has been a Tier 3 country since 2003 as the regime continues to sexually exploit women, children, and oppresses the Cuban people. Due to the fact that the Cuban regime has not shown any progress regarding trafficking of persons, I would urge the administration, within all applicable rules and guidelines, to reverse its current policy and suspend all educational and cultural exchanges with the Cuban regime pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

According to U.S. law, "countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs." Under the repressive Cuban regime, anyone who is involved in cultural and educational exchanges are direct employees of Raul and Fidel Castro. The tyrants use these exchanges as a political instrument to promote their communist agenda while maintaining absolute control over the daily lives of the Cuban people.

Last year, President Obama granted a partial waiver for Cuba to allow funding for educational and cultural exchanges. However, according to the 2011 report, the Cuban regime "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so." This report clearly illustrates the failure of the Obama administration's partial waiver, particularly last year's, to improve or enhance the lives of the Cuban people. These exchanges only serve as a propaganda tool for the authoritative Castro brothers and do not help bring freedom and democracy to Cuba.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Chairman

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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374 of 492 DOCUMENTS
U.S. document

States News Service

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

ROS-LEHTINEN SAYS VENEZUELA'S 'TIER 3' TRAFFICKING RANKING ILLUSTRATES CHAVEZ REGIME'S ONGOING DISREGARD OF VENEZUELAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 209 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs:

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, commented today on Venezuela's "**Tier 3**" classification by the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. A **Tier 3** grade is the lowest grade possible, and denotes that a country does not meet minimum standards for combating **human trafficking**.
Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

"The Venezuelan regime's ongoing lack of compliance with the most basic trafficking standards has resulted in a drop back to Tier 3 on the State Department's trafficking report.

"According to the report, 'Venezuela is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.' The report illustrates how the human rights and well-being of the Venezuelan people are not a concern for Chavez.

"Naturally, the regime in Caracas is alleging wrong-doing on the part of the United States in the compilation of this report. Instead of skirting responsibility and cynically pointing fingers, it is time for the regime to make a real effort to stop heinous crimes like sex trafficking being perpetrated against the Venezuelan people."

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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STARRED MAYBE 375 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

States News Service

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

THE LABOR SECRETARY ON THE US STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, JUNE 29, 2011**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 601 words**DATELINE:** MANILA

The following information was released by the Office of the President of the Philippines:

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz:

On the U.S. State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report on the Philippines

[Released on June 29, 2011]

We are happy to note that the US State Department has removed the Philippines from **Tier 2 Special Watch list** and reassessed and upgraded it to **Tier 2** on its 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. This is, without doubt, a recognition of the concerted efforts through partnership and cooperation of the public and private sectors eliminating the scourge of human trafficking in the country.

We are also glad to note of the recognition accorded by the report on the efforts of the DOLE and its family of agencies in the prevention of human trafficking. In the past year, we have established task forces on illegal recruitment and trafficking in Cebu, Clark, and Zamboanga. These task forces have been cited for their speedy rescue of workers, in cooperation with the CIDG of the PNP, DSWD, DOJ and the Visayan Forum. For instance, the Regional Inter-Agency Coalition for Anti-Trafficking (RIACAT) in Region 9 (Zamboanga) have been expanded to include the Silliman University Alumni Association. The Task Force Against Trafficking in Cebu and Negros Oriental are already in place. Bahay Silongan is provided for victims of trafficking.

We are particularly proud of our cooperative work with Darlene Pajarito, the Zamboanga City assistant prosecutor who has secured the country's first known labor trafficking conviction in February 2011 and who has been cited as a hero in the 2011 Report. The DOLE Regional Office in Zamboanga City, through the POEA, fully supported Ms. Pajarito in her successful prosecution of the case.

We continue to forge alliances with local governments and private sector organizations in Anti-Illegal Recruitment (AIR). POEA has intensified its AIR campaign through cooperative alliances with LGUs and private organizations and has signed close to 300 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with local governments by providing them with orientation seminars and capacity building programs, including regular and timely update on licensed recruitment agencies, and establishment of help desks in local government units. Under the new Administration, the POEA works under the Regional Coordinating Council headed by the DOLE Regional Director for convergence and effective implementation.

In working towards the neutralization of Human Trafficking Activities, the DOLE is also pursuing efforts to provide legal and other appropriate assistance to victims while working to prevent the occurrence of human trafficking activities by fully implementing the country's Anti-Trafficking in Persons' Act of 2003. The DOLE, POEA, and OWWA, in coordination with our Philippine Labor Attaches, are assisting victims to bring the prosecution of the criminal cases to a successful conviction of the perpetrators.

"The Report challenges us to intensify some more our preventive programs and activities to increase our contribution to the national effort.

Under the Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016, for example, our strategy to expand social protection for Filipino migrant workers call for, among others, intensified anti-illegal recruitment and anti-trafficking in persons programs in compliance with RA 8042, as amended by RA 10022 and RA 9208 and the development, adoption, and maintenance of an accurate global tracking system to monitor the conditions of our OFWs upon their deployment and eventual return, and strengthening the PEOs, PDOs and PAOs.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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376 of 492 DOCUMENTS 830

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

US takes S'pore off its **human trafficking watch list**

BYLINE: Chua Chin Hon, US Bureau Chief

SECTION: PRIME NEWS

LENGTH: 711 words

WASHINGTON: Singapore has been removed from a United States government **watch list** for **human trafficking**, according to a new report which acknowledges 'significant efforts' on the part of the city state to meet minimum standards for tackling the problem.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, who heads US efforts to combat human trafficking, also expressed optimism that some of the recent steps taken by Singapore, such as adopting the United Nations' definitions of trafficking and the setting up of an inter-agency task force, would produce results within the year.

One initiative by Singapore which caught his eye: issuing name-card-sized checklists to help police officers identify trafficking victims, rather than waiting for the victims to identify themselves.

Holding up one such checklist at a press conference yesterday, the US diplomat said: 'These types of things change the dynamic because it's not up to the individual cop in Singapore to know all these fancy definitions (of trafficking).

'It is that kind of innovation that was lacking over the last decade in Singapore. The fact that Singapore is exhibiting the political will to show this kind of innovation over the last six months is a very positive thing for the entire Asean region.'

The Philippines and Laos were also taken off the watch list this year.

In a response to its removal from the **watch list**, the Republic said it noted the change, and called **trafficking in persons** 'an abhorrent international crime which the Singapore Government responds to robustly'.

It added: 'But we are dismayed to find the US TIP Report riddled with inaccuracies in the section on Singapore.

'Such a casual approach to the facts is troubling.'

Singapore was placed on the so-called '**Tier 2 watch list**' for the first time last year by the annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report.

Since the US State Department began publishing the report in 2001, the city state had mostly been placed on 'Tier 2', a classification for countries which do not fully meet international standards but are taking significant efforts to meet those requirements.

The 2010 report said Singapore was placed on the watch list because the Government did not show more effort in identifying and protecting the victims of forced labour and sex trafficking, or in prosecuting the perpetrators.

Singapore declared last year's report 'superficial and perfunctory at best'.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledged some of the report's shortcomings yesterday. Speaking at a ceremony to launch the 2011 edition, she said: 'The number of prosecutions worldwide has remained relatively static.

'And so the measure of success can no longer be whether a country has passed laws, because so many have in the last decade. Now we have to make sure that laws are implemented and that countries are using the tools that have been created for that.'

Modern travel has worsened the problem of trafficking, with an estimated 27 million children, women and men across 184 countries affected.

Mrs Clinton called on governments to work with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in developing 'new mechanisms' on protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators.

She pledged that US diplomats around the world would work closely with their host countries to implement the report's recommendations.

Ambassador CdeBaca said separately that he would be in Singapore and the region next week for talks with government agencies and NGOs.

This year's report urged Singapore to investigate and prosecute a greater number of labour and sex trafficking cases, and punish companies that forcefully repatriate migrant workers who complain of harsh working conditions.

It also recommended that Singapore devote more resources towards protecting and educating trafficking victims about the legal recourse available to them, as well as ratify the United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Singapore is one of the few countries yet to sign the treaty - the first legally binding document on human trafficking.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had said in the past that Singapore would sign the UN treaty when it was satisfied with 'domestic measures put in place to ensure adherence' to it.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

377 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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US Fed News

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 12:49 PM EST

CITING FINDINGS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT, CHAIRMAN ROS-LEHTINEN LETTER TO CLINTON URGES SUSPENSION OF CUBA EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

LENGTH: 458 words

WASHINGTON, June 29 -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman issued the following press release:

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging the Administration to suspend educational and cultural exchange programs with Cuba, which are often used by the Castro regime for propaganda purposes. Ros-Lehtinen's letter comes as Cuba was again designated by the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report as a "**Tier 3**" country, which is defined as a country that does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Text of the letter is as follows, and a signed copy may be viewed here.

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The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

Washington, DC 20521

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Chairman For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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US Fed News

June 29, 2011 Wednesday 12:46 PM EST

CHAIRMAN ROS-LEHTINEN SAYS VENEZUELA'S 'TIER 3' TRAFFICKING RANKING ILLUSTRATES CHAVEZ REGIME'S ONGOING DISREGARD OF VENEZUELAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

LENGTH: 231 words

WASHINGTON, June 29 -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman issued the following press release:

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, commented today on Venezuela's "**Tier 3**" classification by the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. A **Tier 3** grade is the lowest grade possible, and denotes that a country does not meet minimum standards for combating **human trafficking**.
Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

"The Venezuelan regime's ongoing lack of compliance with the most basic trafficking standards has resulted in a drop back to Tier 3 on the State Department's trafficking report.

"According to the report, 'Venezuela is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.' The report illustrates how the human rights and well-being of the Venezuelan people are not a concern for Chavez.

"Naturally, the regime in Caracas is alleging wrong-doing on the part of the United States in the compilation of this report. Instead of skirting responsibility and cynically pointing fingers, it is time for the regime to make a real effort to stop heinous crimes like sex trafficking being perpetrated against the Venezuelan people." For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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379 of 492 DOCUMENTS 475

Africa News

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Nigeria; Country Maintains Tier 1 Status in Anti-Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Daily Trust (Abuja)

LENGTH: 166 words

The US annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report released yesterday showed Nigeria has maintained its **tier** 1 status for three years running.

Countries assessed as fully complying with the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) are classified as tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards but making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those minimum standards are classified as tier 2.

Countries assessed as not complying with the minimum standards for making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance are classified as Tier 3.

Responding to the report, Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede said it is not yet uhuru when children are being stigmatized as witches and wizards in Akwa-Ibom, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Taraba states.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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380 of 492 DOCUMENTS – general/just a title



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 5:27 PM GMT

AFP Graphics Advisory

LENGTH: 390 words

DATELINE: PARIS, June 28 2011

We have moved the following graphics:

IMF FACTFILE

Key facts and data on the International Monetary Fund, which is due to nominate its new leader.

Text slug: IMF-succession

45 x 60 mm

AFRICA DROUGHT

Map of the Horn of Africa, where more than 10 million people have been hit by the worst drought in 60 years.

Text slug: UN-famine-drought-Africa

90 mm wide

HUMAN TRAFFICKING MAP

World map locating the countries on the **Tier 3** list of **human trafficking** violators.

Text slug: US-ASEAN-trafficking-women

130 x 60 mm

THAILAND VOTE FACTFILE

Factfile on the Thailand election on Sunday. For an AFP analysis.

Text slug: Thailand-vote-unrest

90 x 85 mm

ASIAN CITIES: MANILA

Map of the Philippine capital Manila. To accompany an AFP series on Asian cities.

Text slug: Lifestyle-Asia-cities-culture

90 x 57 mm

CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE PROFILES 6-10

Profiles of stages 6-10 of the cycling Tour de France

Text slug: Cycling-FRA-tour

90 x 73 mm (5 graphics)

CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE ROUTE MAPS STAGES 6-10

Route maps of stages 6-10 of the cycling Tour de France

Text slug: Cycling-FRA-tour

90 x 73 mm (5 graphics)

Moved earlier:

TEPCO SHARES 90 x 60 mm

SYRIA CONFLICT MAP 27/06 90 x 99 mm

NIGERIA ATTACK MAP 45 x 64 mm

CHINA HU JIA PROFILE 45 x 134 mm

CHINA-BRITAIN TRADE 90 x 60 mm

NEW GUINEA BIODIVERSITY 90 x 119 mm

S. CHINA SEA DISPUTED ISLANDS 90 x 92 mm

THAILAND SOUTH MAP 90 x 60 mm

Cambodia Khmer Rouge trial:

- PROFILES 90 x 90 mm

- KILLING FIELDS 130 x 132 mm

- TRIBUNAL FACTFILE 130 x 90 mm

Libya war crimes:

- KADHAFI PROFILE 45 x 145 mm

- ICC ARREST WARRANTS 90 x 85 mm

- ICC FACTFILE 90 x 93 mm

Tennis Wimbledon (June 20-July 3):

- VENUE 130 x 85 mm

- WINNERS WOMEN 2001-2010 45 x 70 mm

- WINNERS MEN 2001-2010 45 x 70 mm

Football Women's World Cup (June 26-July 17):

- FIXTURES TABLE 149 x 119 mm

- GROUP TABLES 180 x 60 mm

Cycling Tour de France (July 2-July 21):

- COURSE MAP 176 x 210 mm

- TEAM JERSEYS 265 x 79 mm

- PROFILES STAGES 1-5 90 x 73 mm

- ROUTE MAPS STAGES 1-5 90 x 85 mm

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afp

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 10:40 AM GMT

Singapore blasts US over trafficking report

LENGTH: 386 words**DATELINE:** Singapore, June 28 2011

Singapore lambasted Washington Tuesday for what it said were numerous "inaccuracies" in a damning **human trafficking** report, while tentatively welcoming the city-state's removal from a **watchlist**.

The State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, released Monday, elevated Singapore's ranking to **Tier 2**, which means that while it does not fully meet standards on **human trafficking**, it is making efforts to do so.

This effectively removed Singapore from a group of countries put on the **human trafficking watchlist**.

"We note the change to Singapore's tier ranking... but we are dismayed to find the US TIP report riddled with inaccuracies in the section on Singapore," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Such a casual approach to the facts is troubling."

The ministry took exception to the US report about forced labour on fishing vessels originating from Singapore, which it said was "untrue and unverified."

It urged the United States to "thoroughly investigate the 'reports' before faulting us for not pursuing our 'phantom' ships," the ministry said.

Singapore also took the United States to task for saying that trafficking victims were not afforded the opportunity to avail themselves of medical and other services at shelters over the past year.

"We are puzzled by this statement," the ministry said, adding it had given the US details of the assistance it extended to trafficking victims.

"While we can acknowledge that much remains to be done in our fight against trafficking, we are disappointed that the United States chose to blatantly dismiss the facts and suggest that we are not doing our share," it said.

Singapore said the US had "again unabashedly" given itself the top **Tier 1** ranking despite inadequacies in its own approach to **human trafficking**.

It cited a New York Times report which said that teenage girls coerced into prostitution in the US are treated not as trafficking victims but as "miscreants who are arrested and prosecuted, instead of protected."

"As is well known, the United States also suffers from serious problems with illegal immigrants, many of whom are trafficked by well-organised criminal gangs which seem to be able to operate with impunity," the ministry said.

"On any objective criteria, the United States has a more serious TIP problem compared with Singapore."

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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382 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 6:20 AM GMT

Philippines hails US trafficking list removal

LENGTH: 256 words**DATELINE:** MANILA, June 28 2011

The Philippine government on Tuesday hailed the removal of the country from a US **human trafficking watchlist**, while pledging to do more to combat the global problem.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino's spokesman said success in prosecuting human traffickers had led to the US action, announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday.

"We're happy that our efforts are being recognised and we hope our citizens are assured that we are doing what we can to prevent them from being victimised," spokesmen Ricky Carandang said in a statement.

"We will not rest on our laurels."

The latest report elevated the Philippines, Singapore and Laos from the **watchlist** to so-called **Tier 2**, meaning that the countries still do not fully meet standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

If they had remained on Tier 3, they faced US foreign aid being cut off.

The US government praised an "intensified effort" by the Philippines, which it said convicted 25 trafficking offenders over the past year, compared with nine in the previous 12 months.

Some of the recent cases include the country's first-ever convictions for forced labour.

About a million people leave the Philippines every year in search of work, with about nine million currently living abroad, according to official estimates.

Releasing the report, Clinton said Monday that as many as 27 million men, women and children suffered from trafficking around the world for sexual exploitation or forced labour. Asian countries figure prominently in the list.

str-cgm/kma/slb

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

383 of 492 DOCUMENTS – general/ just title



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 5:40 AM GMT

The 0530 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 767 words

DATELINE: HONG KONG, June 28 2011

Duty Editor: Huw Griffith

Tel: +852 2829 6211

BEIJING: US, rights groups balk as China hosts Sudan's Bashir

KABUL: Afghanistan's central bank governor reportedly resigns

THE HAGUE: Libya hits back at ICC over arrest warrant

CHICAGO: Ex-governor convicted of trying to sell Obama's seat

-- ASIA --

China-diplomacy-Sudan-rights,2ndlead-WRAP

BEIJING

Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir arrives in China for talks with President Hu Jintao, as the United States and rights groups criticise Beijing for hosting an alleged war criminal.

750 words 0830 GMT. Picture

Afghanistan-economy-bank-corruption-US,2ndlead-WRAP

KABUL

Afghanistan's central bank governor reportedly resigns and flees to the United States, saying his life is in danger over a corruption probe targeting figures connected to the government.

750 words 0730 GMT by Waheedullah Massoud. File picture.

Japan-accident-nuclear-disaster-company-TEPCO,2ndlead

TOKYO

Angry TEPCO shareholders and protesters call on the firm to abandon nuclear power, and slam management for their handling of the nation's worst ever atomic accident in the aftermath of the March quake-tsunami.

650 words 0700 GMT by Shingo Ito. Picture. Video. Graphic

Philippines-US-China-military-maritime,2ndlead

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines

The Philippines and the United States will launch naval exercises close to the South China Sea, the focus of a simmering regional territorial row.

600 words 0800 GMT by Mynardo Macaraig. Picture. Graphic

Germany-China-diplomacy-economy-EU

BERLIN

Germany and China are set to hold their first joint cabinet meeting and ink several lucrative business contracts, but human rights disputes are expected to cast a long shadow over the proceedings.

700 words moved by Deborah Cole. Picture. Video

Cambodia-UN-trial-genocide,lead

PHNOM PENH

A top former leader of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime on trial for genocide and other atrocities walks out of Cambodia's UN-backed court for a second straight day, to the dismay of survivors.

550 words 0600 GMT by Suy Se. Picture. Video. Graphic

US-India-economy,lead-WRAP

WASHINGTON

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner urges India to open up its financial sector, warning that future growth in the rapidly emerging economy depended on new reforms.

600 words moved by Shaun Tandon. Pictures

US-ASEAN-trafficking-women,3rdlead

WASHINGTON

The United States removes the Philippines and Singapore from a **human trafficking watchlist** that drew concerns from the close allies, but it reports persistent abuses around Asia.

650 words moved by Shaun Tandon. Graphic

Thailand-vote-unrest,ANALYSIS

BANGKOK

The divisions that plague Thai society will deepen further after Sunday's election unless arch-enemies within the political realm agree to respect the verdict of the polls, analysts say.

800 words moved by Didier Lauras. Picture. Graphic

Afghanistan-vote-politics-justice-parliament,FOCUS

KABUL

A row over alleged vote fraud has dragged Afghanistan back into a political crisis that critics blame on President Hamid Karzai, weeks before foreign troops start pulling out after 10 years of war.

700 words moved by Sardar Ahmad. File Picture

-- MIDEAST/NORTH AFRICA --

Libya-conflict,newseries-WRAP

THE HAGUE

Moamer Kadhafi's government hits back at an arrest warrant for war crimes issued by the International Criminal Court against the veteran Libyan leader, charging that the Hague-based tribunal is just a tool of European powers.

600 words 0800 GMT by Jan Hennop. Graphic. Picture. Video

Israel-Palestinians-Gaza-flotilla,newseries

JERUSALEM

Israel boasts that it has succeeded in disrupting plans for a new aid flotilla to Gaza aimed at highlighting its protracted blockade of the territory after the diplomatic fiasco of a deadly commando raid on a previous convoy.

600 words 0800 GMT.

-- AMERICAS --

US-politics-court-Obama-Blagojevich,2ndlead

CHICAGO

Ousted Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich is found guilty of trying to auction off President Barack Obama's vacated US senate seat and a host of other corruption charges.

600 words moved by Natasha Korecki. File Picture

IMF-succession,lead

WASHINGTON

France's Christine Lagarde is poised to be named head of the International Monetary Fund when the global crisis lender's board meets to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

750 words 0630 GMT by Paul Handley.

-- EUROPE --

Greece-politics-economy-strike-EU-finance,lead

ATHENS

Greek trade unions begin a 48-hour general strike against the bankruptcy-threatened government which is desperately trying to push through tough austerity cuts to unlock blocked funds from the EU and IMF.

550 words 0930 GMT. Picture. Graphic

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

384 of 492 DOCUMENTS - general



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 1:42 AM GMT

Philippines, Singapore off US trafficking watchlist

LENGTH: 635 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 27 2011

The United States on Monday removed the Philippines and Singapore from a **human trafficking watchlist** that had drawn concerns from the close allies, but it reported record abuses around the world.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report has become increasingly sensitive for Southeast Asian governments, which face a cutoff of US assistance if they are found to be unresponsive in fighting trafficking.

The latest report elevated the Philippines, Singapore and Laos off the **watchlist** to so-called **Tier 2**, which means that the countries do not fully meet standards on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

Indonesia and Cambodia stayed at Tier 2, but Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam remained on the watchlist. The only Asian jurisdictions on Tier 1, meaning full compliance, were South Korea and Taiwan.

Releasing the report, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that as many 27 million men, women and children suffered from trafficking around the world for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

"Unfortunately, because of the ease of transportation and the global communications that can reach deep into villages with promises and pictures of what a better life might be, we now see that more human beings are exploited than before," Clinton said.

But US allies have sometimes responded indignantly. Singapore last year lashed out at being put on the watchlist and urged the United States to examine its own record, including the treatment of its millions of illegal residents.

The United States gave itself a Tier 1 ranking but offered details about problems at home, including allegations of exploitation by federal contractors.

"I don't think it's fair for us to rank others if we don't look hard at who we are and what we're doing," Clinton said.

In the Philippines, President Benigno Aquino took the unusual step of saying in April that his country was off the watchlist, leading US officials to clarify that no decision had yet been made.

In Monday's report, the State Department praised an "intensified effort" by the Philippines. It said the Philippines convicted 25 trafficking offenders, compared with nine the previous year, including first-ever convictions for forced labor.

Elsewhere in Asia, the State Department removed Sri Lanka and Fiji from its watchlist. It praised Sri Lanka -- often on the receiving end of criticism over human rights -- for its first convictions under an anti-trafficking law on the island, which is a major source of workers to abuse-prone Arab countries.

On the other hand, the United States downgraded the Federated States of Micronesia to Tier 3, meaning that some assistance will be suspended to the nation of more than 600 islands that is closely linked to the United States.

The report said that Micronesian traffickers have forced women into prostitution in the United States with promises of well-paying jobs.

The State Department said that Micronesian waters are believed to be rife with trafficking but that the government has not conducted any investigations into the problem.

Myanmar, North Korea and Papua New Guinea remained at Tier 3. In a change this year ordered by the US Congress, countries that stay on the watchlist for two consecutive years now automatically drop to Tier 3 -- although the administration can order an exemption.

Representative Chris Smith, who authored the 2000 act that set up the report, criticized President Barack Obama's administration for letting China remain on the watchlist again instead of dropping automatically to Tier 3.

"Two years of warning is enough. The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China -- who are predominantly women. It's shameful," said Smith, a Republican from New Jersey.

"Our obligation is to the victims of trafficking, not the dictatorship," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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385 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 1:29 AM GMT

The 0100 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 810 words

DATELINE: HONG KONG, June 28 2011

Duty Editor: James Hossack

Tel: +852 2829 6211

BEIJING: US, rights groups balk as China hosts Sudan's Bashir

KABUL: Afghanistan's central bank governor reportedly resigns

THE HAGUE: ICC reveals war crimes warrant for Libya's Kadhafi

CHICAGO: Ex-governor convicted of trying to sell Obama's seat

-- ASIA --

China-diplomacy-Sudan-rights,lead-WRAP

BEIJING

Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir arrives in China for talks with President Hu Jintao, as rights groups criticise Beijing for hosting an alleged war criminal.

650 words 0300 GMT. Picture

Afghanistan-bank-corruption-US

KABUL

Afghanistan's central bank governor reportedly resigns and refuses to leave the United States, arguing his life is in danger over a corruption probe targeting some of the war-torn country's most influential figures.

550 words 0300 GMT

Philippines-US-China-military-maritime,lead

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines

The Philippines and the United States will launch naval exercises as the long-time allies seek to deepen defence ties amid tensions with China over a maritime dispute.

600 words 0430 GMT by Mynardo Macaraig. Picture

Japan-accident-nuclear-disaster-company-TEPCO

TOKYO

Already battered by the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years, Tokyo Electric Power Co. faces furious shareholders whose investments have evaporated after the March 11 disasters.

550 words 0200 GMT by Yuka Ito. Picture

Germany-China-diplomacy-economy-EU

BERLIN

Germany and China are set to hold their first joint cabinet meeting and ink several lucrative business contracts, but human rights disputes are expected to cast a long shadow over the proceedings.

700 words 0200 GMT by Deborah Cole. Picture. Video

Cambodia-UN-trial-genocide,lead

PHNOM PENH

A major Khmer Rouge trial at Cambodia's UN-backed war crimes court enters its second day with one of the four accused arguing that a 1996 pardon and amnesty should bar him from prosecution.

550 words 0400 GMT by Suy Se. Picture. Video.

US-India-economy,lead-WRAP

WASHINGTON

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner urges India to open up its financial sector, warning that future growth in the rapidly emerging economy depended on new reforms.

600 words 0230 GMT by Shaun Tandon. Pictures

US-ASEAN-trafficking-women,3rdlead

WASHINGTON

The United States removes the Philippines and Singapore from a **human trafficking watchlist** that drew concerns from the close allies, but it reports persistent abuses around Asia.

650 words 0200 GMT by Shaun Tandon

Thailand-vote-unrest,ANALYSIS

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800 words 0200 GMT by Didier Lauras. Picture

Afghanistan-vote-politics-justice-parliament,FOCUS

KABUL

A row over alleged vote fraud has dragged Afghanistan back into a political crisis that critics blame on President Hamid Karzai, weeks before foreign troops start pulling out after 10 years of war.

700 words 0300 GMT by Sardar Ahmad. File Picture

Pakistan-unrest-politics-Khan,INTERVIEW

ISLAMABAD

Cricket star turned self-proclaimed saviour of Pakistan, Imran Khan, is so convinced he will sweep to power at the next election on the back of a mass movement, that he is ready to take bets on it.

1,200 words 0400 GMT by Jennie Matthew. File picture

-- MIDEAST/NORTH AFRICA --

Libya-conflict,6thlead-WRAP

THE HAGUE

The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi for war crimes and crimes against humanity but Tripoli says the court has no authority and is a tool of Western powers.

800 words 0200 GMT by Jan Hennop. Graphic. Picture. Video

-- AMERICAS --

US-politics-court-Obama-Blagojevich,2ndlead

CHICAGO

Ousted Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich is found guilty of trying to auction off President Barack Obama's vacated US senate seat and a host of other corruption charges.

600 words moved by Natasha Korecki. File Picture

IMF-succession

WASHINGTON

France's Christine Lagarde is poised to be named head of the International Monetary Fund when the global crisis lender's board meets to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

750 words 0200 GMT by Paul Handley. File Picture

US-vote-2012-Republicans-Bachmann,4thlead-WRAP

WATERLOO, Iowa

Firebrand Republican Representative Michele Bachmann formally launches a bid for the White House, warning that the United States "cannot afford" to reelect President Barack Obama.

750 words 0200 GMT by Emmanuel Parisse. Picture. Video.

We have also moved: US-vote-2012-Republicans-Bachmann,FOCUS

-- EUROPE --

Greece-EU-finance-economy-eurozone-politics,2ndlead-WRAP

ATHENS

Prime Minister George Papandreou begs the Greek parliament to pass drastic austerity measures to keep the bankruptcy-threatened country "on its feet," as protesters launch a 48-hour general strike.

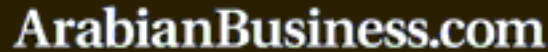
700 words moved by Isabel Malsang. Picture. Video

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire



ArabianBusiness.com

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Fight against human trafficking slips in Arab world

BYLINE: Bloomberg

LENGTH: 486 words

The fight against **human trafficking**, from abuses of migrant workers to organized prostitution networks, lost ground in the past year, the US State Department reported. The number of countries failing to comply with international standards to prevent **human trafficking** almost doubled to 23, according to US State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released today. The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement accompanying the report. But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable. As many as 27 million people are living in a state of modern slavery, she said. Eleven countries have dropped into so-called **Tier 3**, those with the poorest record of fighting trafficking, joining 12 nations previously listed in that category under guidelines set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The eleven countries are: Lebanon, Yemen, Algeria, Libya, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. They join nations such as Iran and Saudi Arabia with the poorest records on taking action to prevent **human trafficking**. **Tier 1** is comprised of countries with strong enforcement policies, such as the US, UK, France and Australia. Tier 2 designates countries, such as Mexico, which do not fully comply with standards but are making significant efforts. **Tier 2 Watch List** countries such as China, Russia and Thailand promise improvement in light of significant number of victims and a failure to show increased efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking. The 11 countries that dropped into the lowest category, **Tier 3**, are not making significant efforts to comply with international standards, including prosecution of those involved in **human trafficking**, protection of victims, and prevention of future trafficking, the report said. **Human trafficking** can include a range of abuses including forced labor and prostitution. Political unrest in Arab countries complicated the issue in countries such as Libya and Yemen, whose government did not provide data for this year's report. Macedonia, recording an increase in trafficking-related convictions, was elevated to **Tier 1** from **Tier 2**. The Slovak Republic made the same shift. The Dominican Republic was raised to **Tier 2 Watch List from Tier 3** because of improved prevention measures under its National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan, the report noted. A total of 117 nations have committed to fighting human trafficking in accordance with the UN's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and

Punish Trafficking in Persons, passed by the General Assembly Nov. 15, 2000. The State Department report was produced by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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JOURNAL-CODE: 167

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387 of 492 DOCUMENTS 780

Asian Tribune

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

United States TIP Report says Sri Lanka is making significant efforts to curb human trafficking

LENGTH: 386 words

DATELINE: Colombo

Colombo, June 28 -- **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2011 released on Sunday by the United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton says although Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** the country is making significant efforts to do so. The report has placed Sri Lanka among **Tier 2** countries.

The report noted that the Sri Lankan government convicted three traffickers, in the first case under its anti-trafficking legislation, and rejuvenated its inter-agency task force.

The report says that the Sri Lankan government increased law enforcement efforts in addressing human trafficking cases over the reporting period. The report points out that Sri Lanka prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its penal code, which prescribes punishments of up to 20 years' imprisonment.

These penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other serious offenses, such as rape. It adds that amendments passed in 2009 to the Foreign Employment Act expanded the powers of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) to prosecute recruitment agents who engage in fraudulent recruitment, prescribing a maximum penalty of four years' imprisonment and fines of \$1,000, and restricting the amount that employment agents can charge."

The report has recommended among other things for the government of Sri Lanka to vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees for the purpose of subjecting them to forced labor.

The Tier 2 countries are the countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Sri Lanka is yet to ratify the United Nations TIP protocol of 2000, the protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Asian Tribune. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

388 of 492 DOCUMENTS - general

The Associated Press

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 12:36 AM GMT

US expands human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 456 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Monday nearly doubled the number of countries that may face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking, calling on those and other nations to get serious and take tough steps to eradicate the lucrative illicit practice.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department identified 23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims. That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list" that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

The report analyzed conditions in 184 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many have termed modern-day slavery. The State Department estimates that as many as 27 million men, women and children are living in such bondage around the worlds.

"All countries can and must do more," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in presenting the report. "More human beings are being exploited today than ever before."

"We're at critical moment in this fight," she said. "The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight. But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable. If we increase the pressure on traffickers and the networks they thrive in, we can set ourselves on a course to one day eradicate modern slavery."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., one of the authors of the law that established the report and offered protection to trafficking victims, said he was "deeply disappointed" that China was given a political waiver despite its ongoing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls.

"This political waiver for China is totally unacceptable," Smith said. "The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China who are predominantly women. It's shameful."

Among the countries on the blacklist are perennial rogues Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan along with frequent U.S. foes Eritrea, Libya and Zimbabwe. Others are U.S. allies in the Middle East like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while Papua New Guinea was cited as a repeat offender. Only one country, the Dominican Republic, was removed from the list.

The 11 new countries on the blacklist are Algeria, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen.

Separately, the report also cited six nations Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen for using child soldiers and not taking steps to end the practice.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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389 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

The Associated Press

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 08:33 AM GMT**Philippines vows to intensify drive vs traffickers****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 121 words**DATELINE:** MANILA, Philippines

The Philippines has pledged to intensify its battle against human trafficking and welcomed a U.S. State Department report crediting its recent efforts to combat the problem.

The country has been upgraded to **Tier 2** in the annual U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** report, indicating it does not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking but is making progress.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Tuesday the Philippines is committed to ensuring that Filipino workers overseas are given full protection and to strengthening its efforts against human traffickers.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda also welcomed Monday's report, which noted a rise in convictions of offenders to 25 from nine the previous year.

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STARRED MAYBE 390 of 492 DOCUMENTS 366



June 28, 2011 Tuesday 12:34 PM EET

Human trafficking report critical of Estonia didn't come as surprise - minister

LENGTH: 726 words

Human trafficking report critical of Estonia didn't come as surprise - minister

TALLINN, Jun 28, BNS - The assessment offered of Estonia in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2011 did not come as a surprise, Estonian Minister of Justice Kristen Michal said.

In his remarks to BNS, Michal said the same topic was discussed by him and US Ambassador Michael Polt during a meeting this spring at which the ambassador informed him about the forthcoming report.

The main shortfall that the report finds in the case of Estonia is that the country's penal law does not single out trafficking in persons as a separate criminal statute, which makes it difficult to get a full overview of the problem, said Michal.

"The Ministry of Justice conducted an analysis back in 2009 which showed that the different statutes set out in the Penal Code do not cover absolutely all aspects of trafficking in persons. Because of that drafting of the corresponding amendment started last year and by today the bill is almost ready to be submitted to other ministers for review," said the minister.

With the amendment the Penal Code will get a trafficking-specific criminal statute, which in its current version is perhaps even more strictly worded than suggested by the United Nations' Palermo protocol, said Michal.

"At the same time it has to be taken into account that the assessment offered by the report is based on the data at the disposal of those who compiled the report, which unfortunately is not quite complete. For instance, a few criminal cases concerning trafficking in persons which actually were being handled here are left unmentioned," Michal said.

The minister agreed that Estonia could pay more attention to preventive informing and to informing and warning of potential victims of human trafficking, especially as far as the Russian speaking population is concerned.

The amended version of the Penal Code has been sent to groups and NGOs active in the fight against human trafficking and has received constructive feedback, according to the minister.

A meeting with NGOs, the roundtable of women's associations and officials from the Ministry of Social Affairs is scheduled for Thursday.

The United States on Monday put Estonia and Belarus on a **human trafficking watchlist, the Tier 2 watchlist**, alleging they failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor.

The State Department also maintained Russia on the list for the eighth consecutive year for the same alleged failures.

"Estonia is a source, transit, and destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution, and for men and women subjected to conditions of forced labor," the State Department said.

Not only are Estonian women from the countryside forced into prostitution in the capital Tallinn, they also end up in the sex trafficking trade in Finland, the Netherlands, Britain, Germany and Italy. Both men and women from Estonia are also "subjected to conditions of forced labor" in Spain, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, according to the report.

"The government of Estonia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said.

"Despite these efforts, the government did not demonstrate evidence of increasing efforts over the previous reporting period," it added to explain why Estonia was listed on the Tier 2 watchlist.

It said Estonia remains the only European Union country without a trafficking-specific law. All trafficking offenders convicted under non-trafficking statutes received suspended sentences this year. The Estonian government, however, gave some financial support to NGOs who care for trafficking victims, and it developed a national action plan with elements addressing trafficking in persons.

The report recommends Estonia to draft a trafficking-specific criminal statute that incorporates a comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons, including the transportation, harboring, obtaining, or recruitment of a trafficking victim and the use of coercion as a prohibited means, increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict, and punish trafficking offenders; increase the number of trafficking victims identified by government officials; and strengthen anti-trafficking training.

Tallinn newsroom, +372 610 8810, sise@bns.ee

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH; ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Wire

391 of 492 DOCUMENTS 368



June 28, 2011 Tuesday 8:42 AM EET

Lithuanian govt demonstrates more efforts to fight human trafficking than its neighbors - US report (corrects)

LENGTH: 424 words

Lithuanian govt demonstrates more efforts to fight human trafficking than its neighbors - US report (corrects)

(Corrected version: corrects headline)

VILNIUS , Jun 28, BNS - Lithuania's efforts to fight human trafficking have been evaluated better than those of neighboring countries in a new US report. But the country's authorities have been recommended to improve efforts to investigate trafficking offences and provide more support for non-governmental organizations helping victims.

Lithuania was added to **Tier I** states that properly fight **human trafficking**. Latvia found itself among Tier II states that do not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Meanwhile, Estonia, Belarus and Russia scored even worse as in the State Department's opinion, these countries must be additionally monitored.

"The Government of Lithuania fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The government ensured that all trafficking offenders convicted this year were sentenced to prison terms commensurate with the gravity of crime committed," the report, published on Tuesday, said.

The Department of State also positively evaluated adopted innovative new software to enhance ability to investigate human trafficking offenses. The government's funding of victim assistance

programs increased modestly over the previous year, though it remained inadequate, the department said.

According to the report, 40 percent of identified Lithuanian trafficking victims are women and girls who are sex trafficking victims exploited within Lithuania. Lithuanian women are also the victims of sex trafficking in the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, France, and the Czech Republic. A small number of women from Russia and Belarus are transported through Lithuania en route to Western Europe, where they are subsequently subjected to forced prostitution.

The Lithuanian government struggled to investigate and prosecute labor trafficking offenses, the report said. Lithuania also received calls on increasing funding or provide in-kind support to NGOs that provide victim protection services and increase public awareness efforts targeted at potential adult victims of trafficking.

Lithuanian authorities prosecuted 20 offenders in 2010, an increase from the 14 offenders prosecuted in 2009. In 2010, all convicted trafficking offenders received time in prison for their offenses, with sentences ranging from seven to 11 years in prison.

Vilnius newsroom, politika@bns.lt, +370 5 205 85 14

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

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Baltic News Service / - BNS

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June 28, 2011 Tuesday 7:55 AM EET

Lithuanian govt demonstrates for efforts to fight human trafficking than its neighbors - US report

LENGTH: 422 words

Lithuanian govt demonstrates for efforts to fight human trafficking than its neighbors - US report

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393 of 492 DOCUMENTS 366, 370



June 28, 2011 Tuesday 7:23 AM EET

US puts Estonia, Belarus on **human trafficking watchlist**

LENGTH: 595 words

US puts Estonia, Belarus on **human trafficking watchlist**

WASHINGTON, Jun 28, AFP-BNS - The United States on Monday put Estonia and Belarus on a **human trafficking watchlist, the Tier 2 watchlist**, alleging they failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor.

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

"Estonia is a source, transit, and destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution, and for men and women subjected to conditions of forced labor," the State Department said.

Not only are Estonian women from the countryside forced into prostitution in the capital Tallinn, they also end up in the sex trafficking trade in Finland, the Netherlands, Britain, Germany and Italy, it said.

Both men and women from Estonia are also "subjected to conditions of forced labor" in Spain, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, according to the report.

"The government of Estonia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said.

"Despite these efforts, the government did not demonstrate evidence of increasing efforts over the previous reporting period," it added to explain why Estonia was listed on the Tier 2 watchlist.

Belarus was put on the list for the same reason, with the report charging that the government in Minsk "demonstrated decreased law enforcement efforts" while the report was being conducted.

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

There were also continuing reports of women from poor families forced into prostitution in the capital Minsk.

The State Department also reprimanded Russia once again.

Citing the Migration Research Center, it said around one million people in Russia are exploited by business leaders who withhold their documents, fail to pay for services, physically abuse them and deny them proper living conditions.

Abuses occurred in the construction, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic services industries, it added.

"There are also reports of exploitation of children, including child prostitution in large Russian cities and forced begging," it added.

"Russian women were reported to be victims of sex trafficking in many countries, including in Northeast Asia, Europe, and throughout the Middle East," it said.

It said that because it had a written plan, Russia was not dropped to the lowest Tier 3 group, countries which are deemed not to be making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards of fighting trafficking.

"Russia is devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan," it said.

Tier 3 countries may "be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the US government may withhold or withdraw nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance," the State Department said.

The Estonian Ministry of Justice says on its website that once every year the United States publishes a global report drawn up by the Department of State for the Congress about the activity of governments in preventing human trafficking. The report ranks countries in four tiers (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watchlist, Tier 3). Estonia has in recent years belonged in Tier 2, meaning that even though the country has made efforts to prevent human trafficking, it hasn't managed to fully do away with it.

AFP - Baltic News Service

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH; ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Wire

394 of 492 DOCUMENTS 666

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Report highlights "grave failures" by Israel to address human trafficking

LENGTH: 187 words

Excerpt from report in English by privately-owned Israeli daily The Jerusalem Post website on 28 June

[Unattributed report: "US Human Trafficking Report: Israel Has Room To Improve"]

Israel has been designated a '**Tier 2**' country in US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report. This ranking is reserved for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

The non-profit organization Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-Israel) released a statement Tuesday in response to the report. The statement says that the report reinforces the grave failures of the Israeli government to fully address and defeat human trafficking. They are pleased that the issue of how migrants that arrive from Egypt are dealt with has been raised. PHR-Israel also said that they hope that Israel will provide more assistance to refugees and victims of human trafficking under this renewed pressure from its most powerful ally. [passage omitted on State Department report]

Source: The Jerusalem Post website, Jerusalem, in English 28 Jun 11

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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395 of 492 DOCUMENTS - Taiwan

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 2:21 PM TST

Taiwan's anti-human trafficking efforts earn tier one ranking

BYLINE: Zep Hu and C.J.Lin

LENGTH: 398 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 27

Taiwan maintained **tier** one ranking in the "2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report" released by the U.S. Department of State Monday.

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is defined by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the "acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them."

Forms of trafficking recognized by the State Department include forced labor, bonded labor, involuntary domestic labor, child soldiers, and sex trafficking of adults and children.

In the 2011 report's findings, Taiwan is mostly a destination country for forced labor victims brought in from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Cambodia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and India. Victims of sex trafficking in Taiwan are mostly from China and Southeast Asia.

In a few cases, women from Taiwan have also been lured to Australia, United Kingdom, U.S., and Japan and forced into prostitution. In addition, Taiwan sometimes serves as a transit point for Chinese victims being trafficked to U.S.

While Taiwan has shown considerable progress in the protection of victims, the punishment of perpetrators, prevention and education of human trafficking, there is still room for improvement, the report said.

The report recommends Taiwan extend labor protections to all categories of workers, including workers in the domestic service sector and caregivers. It also requests more training for law enforcement personnel, officials in the Council of Labor Affairs, labor inspectors, prosecutors, and judges on how to identify victims and implement anti-trafficking laws.

It suggests Taiwan increase coordination between prosecutors and NGOs to provide better support to trafficked victims, and continue public awareness campaigns to educate people about this issue.

The report also identified a need to further investigate and prosecute Taiwanese child sex tourism offenders. Authorities have not punished anyone with child sex crimes committed abroad since 2006.

The rankings of countries in the report are classified into three-**tiers** based on its government's counter-**human trafficking** measures.

To penalize tier three countries, the U.S. government can impose economic sanctions or even revoke non-humanitarian aid.

Taiwan was moved to tier one in 2004, but slipped to tier two in 2005. It was not until last year that Taiwan regained tier one status.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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396 of 492 DOCUMENTS - Taiwan

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 12:18 AM TST

Taiwan makes progress in anti-human trafficking efforts: report

BYLINE: Zep Hu and S.C. Chang**LENGTH:** 453 words**DATELINE:** Washington, June 28

Taiwan has made clear progress over the past year in anti-human trafficking law enforcement, with authorities making significant efforts to protect victims of trafficking, according to a U.S. State Department report released Tuesday.

In the "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," Taiwan was listed as "**Tier** 1," the same as last year and an improvement from 2006, when Taiwan was put on the **Tier 2 watch list**. A **Tier 3** standing could incur U.S. economic sanctions.

The report pointed out that Taiwan is a destination, and to a lesser extent, a source and a transit territory for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.

Most trafficking victims in Taiwan are migrant workers from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, mainland China, Cambodia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and India.

These migrant workers were employed through recruitment agencies and brokers to perform low-skilled work in Taiwan's manufacturing and fishing industries and as home caregivers and domestic workers.

They are reportedly charged up to \$7,700 in recruitment fees typically in their home countries. This results in substantial debt that may be used by brokers or employers as a coercive tool to subject the workers to forced labor.

As a source of trafficking, some women from Taiwan are recruited through classified ads for employment in Japan, Australia, the UK, and the United States, where they are forced into prostitution.

The report said Taiwanese authorities fully complied with the minimum standards laid out by the U.S. government for the elimination of trafficking. During the reporting period, authorities continued to prosecute and punish trafficking offenses, including both forced labor and forced prostitution.

In addition, the government sustained strong victim protection efforts, continued to train law enforcement and other government officials, and raised public awareness on trafficking offenses.

Namely, it said Taiwan authorities used formal procedures to identify and assist victims of trafficking, including publishing and distributing a standardized guide and evaluation forms to officials who might deal with victims.

The report recommends that Taiwan can do better by extending labor protections to all categories of workers, including workers in the domestic service sector and caregivers, to prevent labor trafficking.

It also suggests that Taiwan improve its efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict trafficking offenders, ensure that convicted offenders receive sufficiently stringent sentences, and continue to train law enforcement personnel, officials in the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA), labor inspectors, prosecutors, and judges on victim identification measures and the anti-trafficking law.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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397 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Daily Trust (Abuja)

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Country Maintains Tier 1 Status in Anti-Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Ojoma Akor

LENGTH: 166 words

The US annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report released yesterday showed Nigeria has maintained its **tier** 1 status for three years running.

Countries assessed as fully complying with the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) are classified as tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards but making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those minimum standards are classified as tier 2.

Countries assessed as not complying with the minimum standards for making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance are classified as Tier 3.

Responding to the report, Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede said it is not yet uhuru when children are being stigmatized as witches and wizards in Akwa-Ibom, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Taraba states.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

398 of 492 DOCUMENTS 780

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

SL, a source for sex trafficking-US

LENGTH: 3244 words

DATELINE: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, June 28 -- The 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the United States stated that Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking the country but is making significant efforts to do so.

The report said Sri Lanka is primarily a source and to a much lesser extent, a destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Removing from the its **watch list** the report placed Sri Lanka among **Tier 2** countries, which means that the countries do not fully meet standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) on **human trafficking** but are making efforts to do so.

"Sri Lanka is yet to ratify the United Nations TIP protocol of 2000, the protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The report noted that the Sri Lankan government convicted three traffickers, in the first case under its anti-trafficking legislation, and rejuvenated its inter-agency task force.

"However, serious problems remain unaddressed, such as the detention of identified trafficking victims (including those who provided evidence to support the three convictions), the failure to achieve criminal convictions for fraudulent recruitment involved in trafficking in persons, and official complicity in human trafficking," the TIP Report noted.

The TIP report recommended among other things for the government of Sri Lanka to vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees for the purpose of subjecting them to forced labor.

The Report on Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA (Tier 2)

Sri Lanka is primarily a source and, to a much lesser extent, a destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Sri Lankan men, women, and some children (between 16 and 17 years old) migrate consensually to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain, and Singapore to work as construction workers, domestic servants, or garment factory workers. Some of these workers, however, subsequently find themselves in conditions of forced labor through practices such as restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and threats of detention and deportation for immigration violations. Many of these migrants pay high recruitment fees - usually about \$1,500 - imposed by unscrupulous licensed labor recruitment and their unlicensed sub-agents and assume debt in order to satisfy these costs. This indebtedness contributes to debt bondage in destination countries. A recent Human Rights Watch report noted that over one-third of Sri Lankan domestic workers in Jordan are physically abused by their employers, 11 percent were sexually assaulted, 60 percent were not paid wages, over 60 percent had their passports confiscated, and 80 percent experienced forced confinement - these are abuses that indicate forced labor. In the past year, there were high-profile reports of Sri Lankan domestic workers who were subjected to forced labor and physical abuse in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, including having more than 20 nails hammered in their bodies, or being forced to swallow nine nails. There were also reports of cases in which some Sri Lankan recruitment committed fraud by engaging in contract-switching: promising

one type of job and conditions but then changing the job, employer, conditions or salary after arrival, which are documented risk factors for forced labor and debt bondage. Sri Lanka is reported to be a transit country for men, some of whom may be trafficking victims, traveling from Pakistan and Bangladesh to Dubai, UAE. In several cases, men were stranded in Sri Lanka by the employment agent. Some Sri Lankan women were promised jobs as domestic workers in other countries, but after arriving were instead forced to work in brothels, mainly in Singapore. A small number of Sri Lankan women are forced into prostitution in the Maldives.

Within the country, women and children are subjected to sex trafficking in brothels, especially in the Anuradhapura area, which was a major transit point for members of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces heading north. Boys are more likely than girls to be forced into prostitution - this is generally in coastal areas for domestic child sex tourism. In 2009, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) estimated that approximately 1,000 children were subjected to commercial sexual exploitation within Sri Lanka although some NGOs believed the actual number was between 10,000 and 15,000. NGOs expressed concern that the recent increase in tourism in the very poor post-conflict areas on the east coast may increase demand for child sex tourism. There are reports of children being subjected to bonded labor and forced labor in dry-zone farming areas on plantations, and in the fireworks and fish-drying industries. Some child domestic workers in Colombo, generally from the Tamil tea-estate sector of the country, are subjected to physical, sexual, and mental abuse, nonpayment of wages, and restrictions of their movement. Some women and children were promised garment industry work by agents and were instead forced into prostitution. A small number of women from Thailand, China, and countries in South Asia, Europe, and the former Soviet Union may be subjected to forced prostitution in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government convicted three traffickers, in the first case under its anti-trafficking legislation, and rejuvenated its inter-agency task force. However, serious problems remain unaddressed, such as the detention of identified trafficking victims (including those who provided evidence to support the three convictions), the failure to achieve criminal convictions for fraudulent recruitment involved in trafficking in persons, and official complicity in human trafficking.

Recommendations for Vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees for the purpose of subjecting them to forced labor; ensure that victims of trafficking found within Sri Lanka are not detained or otherwise penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their being trafficked, such as visa violations or prostitution; establish law enforcement capacity at shelters in embassies abroad; develop and implement formal victim referral procedures; train local law enforcement and judicial officials on investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes; facilitate the speedy repatriation of foreign trafficking victims by providing airfare and not obligating them to remain in the country if they choose to initiate law enforcement proceedings; provide witness protection and incentives for victims to cooperate with law enforcement to enable prosecutions; stop the practice of forcing foreign trafficking victims to remain in Sri Lanka if they are witnesses in a case; improve services, including quality of shelters, legal aid, availability of counseling, and numbers of trained staff at embassies and consular offices in destination countries; promote safe tourism campaigns to ensure that child sex tourism does not increase with expected rapid growth of tourism; and improve regulation and monitoring of recruitment and village-level brokers, with an emphasis on ensuring provision of accurate and enforceable employment contracts and working to ending the charging of illegal and excessive fees.

Prosecution

The Sri Lankan government increased law enforcement efforts in addressing human trafficking cases over the reporting period. Sri Lanka prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its penal code, which prescribes punishments of up to 20 years' imprisonment. These penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other serious offenses, such as rape. Amendments passed in 2009 to the Foreign Employment Act expanded the powers of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) to prosecute recruitment agents who engage in fraudulent recruitment, prescribing a maximum penalty of four years' imprisonment and fines of \$1,000, and restricting the amount that employment agents can charge. In March 2011, three traffickers were convicted and sentenced to nine years each for forcing women into prostitution, in one case. This is the first recorded convicted case under Sri Lanka's counter-trafficking amendment. However, the Uzbek sex trafficking victims in the case were detained in an immigration detention facility in Sri Lanka for over a year until their testimony was complete. The Attorney General's Department claimed two additional convictions in 2010 for violations of the penal code's statute on child sexual exploitation; both convictions may have involved human trafficking crimes. Both convictions resulted in suspended jail sentences. Each trafficker had to pay a fine of approximately \$900, and one had to pay compensation of \$450 to the

victim. In January 2011, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) completed an investigation and could not determine the whereabouts of the remaining boys allegedly in armed service with the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP)/Karuna Faction; some of these boys may be trafficking victims. There were no prosecutions against persons allegedly responsible for conscription of child soldiers.

During the year, there was some evidence of government officials' complicity in trafficking. There were allegations that police and other officials accepted bribes to permit brothels to operate; some of the brothels exploited trafficking victims. Many recruitment were run by politicians or were politically connected. Some sub-agents cooperated with Sri Lankan officials to procure forged or modified documents, or real documents with false data, to facilitate travel abroad. There were no reported law enforcement actions taken against officials complicit in human trafficking. The Sri Lankan Police continued to teach a counter-trafficking module to all police recruits during their basic trainings. Additionally, police officers who were previously trained in IOM training-of-trainers courses conducted 16 training workshops at local police stations on counter-trafficking in the reporting period.

Protection

The government made limited progress in protecting victims of trafficking during the year. The government placed two Uzbek women who were found in forced prostitution in late 2009 in a detention center, which they were allowed to leave during the day but were locked up at night. The government did not permit them to leave Sri Lanka for over a year until they had the opportunity to provide testimony against their alleged traffickers, instead of allowing the Uzbeks to leave the country while their cases were pending or to remain in the country with protections such as immigration relief, freedom of movement, and the right to work. They were then given permission to leave the country, and with the assistance of IOM, departed Sri Lanka in December 2010. The government forces foreign trafficking victims to remain in Sri Lanka if they are witnesses in a case until evidence has been given. The government continued to provide some counseling and day care for abused children through the operation of six resource centers, although it is not known how many trafficked children, if any, were assisted in the reporting period. The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) operated nine short-term shelters in 2010 in Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as well as an overnight shelter in Sri Lanka's international airport for returning female migrant workers who encountered abuse abroad. It is unknown how many trafficking victims were assisted in these shelters in the reporting period. While the missions provide shelter and legal aid, domestic workers seeking assistance complained of long waiting periods with little information about their cases. In addition, there were complaints that the shelters were grossly overcrowded with unhygienic conditions. In a news report of female Sri Lankan workers who fled their employers in Jordan due to lack of paid wages and abuse, one worker noted that the Sri Lankan embassy shelter was no better than a prison, as it did not permit the domestic workers to leave the premises. There have been some reports of abuse by Sri Lankan embassy officials in shelters abroad.

A Workers' Welfare Fund is maintained by the SLBFE, also funded by fees charged to workers upon migration. Through this fund, the widely reported case of the female in domestic servitude in Saudi Arabia who returned with 24 nails in her body received approximately \$4,500 to build a house, with the assistance of the National Housing Authority. Neither the government nor NGOs or international organizations provided protection facilities for men. The Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs (MOCDDWA) has a memorandum of understanding with IOM to establish a shelter which can house 10 to 15 women and child victims of trafficking and abuse. When the building is renovated and prepared - with a tentative deadline of later this year - the ministry will take over operation and management of the shelter.

Government personnel did not employ formal procedures for proactively identifying victims. The National Counter Human Trafficking Resource Center of the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration trained 10 immigration officers on the identification of trafficking victims, in partnership with IOM, in 2010; 50 officers were trained in 2009. The government pursued a partnership with the Salvation Army to transfer women and child victims of abuse to protection facilities, though it is unknown how many trafficking victims, if any, were referred in the reporting period. Foreign trafficking victims could not seek employment in Sri Lanka. The government permitted foreign trafficking victims to leave the country unless they were witnesses in a case, in which case the government forced them to remain until evidence had been given. IOM reported several cases of victims who chose to leave the country rather than file a complaint. The Commissioner General for Rehabilitation, with the assistance of the NCPA, continued to operate two rehabilitation centers specifically for children involved in armed conflict, some of whom may be trafficking victims, in partnership with UNICEF. The Commission also continued to run a vocational training center with donor support. These facilities served approximately 700 former child soldiers in the reporting period. The Sri Lankan government has reported that all former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) child soldiers completed rehabilitation and were re-

leased in May 2010. However, at least 250 children formerly associated with armed groups faced a number of security issues, and some were arrested by police.

The government did not encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases; instead, they sometimes forced victims to testify if they chose to file charges. While Sri Lankan trafficking victims in theory could file administrative cases to seek financial restitution, this did not happen in practice due to victim embarrassment and the slow pace of the Sri Lankan legal system. In addition, prosecutors were prevented under Sri Lankan law from meeting with witnesses outside of formal court proceedings. Thus, they had to rely on police to convince a witness to testify. The government penalized adult victims of trafficking through detention for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. Most commonly, these acts were violations of their visa status or prostitution. All detainees who were awaiting deportation for visa violations, including trafficking victims, remained in detention facilities until they raised enough money to pay for their plane ticket home, which in some cases has taken years. The government provided no legal alternatives for the removal of foreign victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution. The SLBFE continued to provide training on protection and assistance to its staff members who worked at embassies and consulates in foreign countries, although many of the labor attaches working in labor-receiving countries are political appointees who do not receive any training.

Prevention

The Sri Lankan government made some progress in its efforts to prevent trafficking during the last year. The government formed an inter-ministerial anti-trafficking task force in October 2010, led by a coordinator from the Ministry of Justice, and developed a terms of reference on how government will work together to combat trafficking. This task force took over the monthly meetings previously held by the MOCDWA, and met six times in the reporting period. While it does not include civil society, the coordinator of the task force recently announced it would soon open up quarterly meetings to NGOs and community organizations. The government limits the recruitment fees to \$70 for jobs paying less than \$200 per month and \$100 for jobs paying over \$200. The SLBFE requires migrant domestic workers with no experience working in the Middle East to complete a free 12-day pre-departure training course. It is not known how many migrant workers completed this course in the reporting period. The SLBFE and the Department of Labor conducted awareness programs on safe migration. In measures that could prevent transnational labor trafficking of Sri Lankans, the SLBFE reported that it filed 727 charges against recruitment in 2010 under Sections 398 (cheating) and 457 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), conducted 84 raids against employment agents, and fined recruitment found to be guilty of fraudulent practices over \$40,000. The Criminal Investigation Division of the police, in cooperation with Interpol and the Royal Malaysian Police, investigated four fraudulent recruitment agents who may have been responsible for the forced labor of Sri Lankans in Malaysia.

While most Sri Lankans have birth certificates and (after the age of 16) national identity cards, many of the 250,000 to 350,000 internally displaced people - a group very vulnerable to trafficking - did not have these documents. The Government of Sri Lanka continued to provide personnel time to conduct mobile documentation clinics for conflict-affected people with UNDP. The Government of Sri Lanka did not report any efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts during the reporting period. The Ministry of Defense provided training to all Sri Lankan peacekeepers prior to their deployments for international peacekeeping missions relating to human rights, including trafficking. Sri Lanka is not a party to the 2000 UN TIP Protocol. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

399 of 492 DOCUMENTS 651

DAILY NEWS

EGYPT

Daily News Egypt

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Egypt working towards compliance with anti-trafficking standards

LENGTH: 800 words

CAIRO: Despite not fully complying with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards, Egypt is making a significant effort towards compliance, according to a US State Department report.

The 2011 global "Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report" released June 27 by the US State Department said Egypt is a source, transit and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in her remarks on the report that "the decade of delivery is upon us"- calling on all nations to act against the atrocities of human trafficking.

According to the TIP Report, an estimated 200,000 to 1 million Egyptian children are victims of sex trafficking and forced begging. Many are forced into domestic and agricultural labor where they experience restriction on movement, non-payment of wages and physical or sexual abuse.

A persistent issue is child sex tourism. Wealthy men, mainly from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, arrange for "temporary" or "summer marriages" with Egyptian females, including girls under the age of 18. The arrangements are often facilitated by a marriage broker or the bride's parents who profit from the transaction. Children involved in these temporary marriages suffer both sexual servitude and forced labor as servants to their "husbands."

Men, as well as women, from South and Southeast Asia and Africa are subject to forced labor in Egypt. UN sources report that Egypt may have a large number of foreign workers in domestic service who have been held in coercive conditions of forced labor. The report states that these workers face severe restrictions of liberty and undergo physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Estonia and Belarus were put on the **human trafficking watchlist**, alleging they failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor, with Russia on the list for the eighth consecutive year for the same alleged failures, AFP reported.

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

While the government of Egypt has not been in full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, there is an effort being made to meet requirements.

Egypt collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to open a shelter for victims of trafficking in Cairo, and developed and published a comprehensive action plan to address all aspects of trafficking.

All forms of human trafficking are prohibited through the 2010 anti-trafficking law, which prescribes penalties from three to 15 years of imprisonment - and even a sentence of life imprisonment if aggravating circumstances are evident - along with fines ranging from \$9,000 to \$36,000. These are penalties are considered adequately stringent and correspond with penalties prescribed for other serious offenses, such as rape.

Officials reported investigating 50 cases of temporary marriages and convicting 29 imams, marriage brokers, and parents who profited from facilitating these marriages, as well as the men who attempted to purchase the young girls in marriage.

The government also established a microcredit loan system to provide alternative income to parents who might otherwise sell their children into exploitative marriages

Egypt has made significant effort to protect victims of human trafficking and has made progress in preventing certain forms of human trafficking, the report said. However, despite the positive efforts to fight the trafficking of persons, the government failed to establish a formal procedure to identify victims of trafficking or to complete a referral mechanism to facilitate treatment for victims.

Trafficking victims arrested for prostitution were often treated as criminals rather than victims - which may have led to the further mistreatment of victims through verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

The government did not report any considerable efforts to address forced labor of children in domestic servitude and other sectors, and similarly failed to report efforts to address the problem of domestic servitude and other forms of forced labor of migrant workers.

The US State Department suggests Egypt implement regulations to increase law enforcement activity against all forms of trafficking. Authorities ought to ensure that identified trafficking victims are not penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their exploitation.

The report also recommends greater efforts be made to investigate and punish government officials complicit in trafficking offenses. The government should continue to raise awareness on the definition and dangers of trafficking.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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400 of 492 DOCUMENTS



June 28, 2011 Tuesday 5:54 PM GMT

US names and shames EU countries on human trafficking

BYLINE: Andrew Rettman

LENGTH: 434 words

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS - The US has put Cyprus, Estonia and Malta on a "**watch list**" for failures to stop "severe" levels of **human trafficking**.

The report, out on Monday (28 June), said "the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing" in the three EU members, but governments are guilty of "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts" to combat the problem.

Six other EU states - Bulgaria, the Czech republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia and Romania - were also named and shamed for not meeting US norms.

The EU group-of-nine hold similar or lower ratings than many developing countries such as Guatemala or Malawi.

The majority of EU-aspirant countries in the western Balkans and Turkey, as well as countries seeking EU visa-free travel, such as Moldova, Russia and Ukraine got similarly poor marks.

Speaking in Washington about the report on Monday, secretary of state Hilary Clinton - whose husband Bill Clinton signed into life the Trafficking and Victims Prevention Act when US president, said US diplomats will take backsliders to task.

"This week, US diplomats around the world will be meeting with their host-country governments to review action plans and provide recommendations when needed," she noted. "Even in these tight economic times, we need to look for creative ways to do better."

Zooming in on Cyprus, the survey said sex clubs who use trafficked women from post-Soviet countries, Latin America and Asia and are frequented mostly by Cypriot and Greek men pose a problem.

It added that "the government did not convict or sentence any officials complicit in trafficking in Cyprus, which observers allege continued to be a significant problem."

In Estonia, rural Estonian women are trafficked to sex clubs in Tallinn as well as in Finland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy. But the government spent just a little over \$100,000 in total on victim assistance in 2010.

Looking at the flow of north African migrants to Malta, which increased drastically after the Arab revolutions in early 2011, the state department said: "African migrants currently residing in Malta may be vulnerable to human trafficking in Malta's informal labor market. There were anecdotal reports that Malta may be a transit country for African women subjected to sex trafficking in continental Europe."

In an example of Maltese shortcomings, it cited the case of a Somali woman in July 2010 who complained to police she was being press-ganged into prostitution and got a six-month suspended sentence for possession of false travel permits.

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

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401 of 492 DOCUMENTS 666

Globes [online] - Israel's Business Arena

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

US State Dept. slams Israel over human trafficking; The State Department report takes Israel to task for not complying with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

BYLINE: Ran Dagoni, Washington

LENGTH: 709 words

"The Government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," says the US Department of State in its "Trafficking in Persons Report for 2011". It adds, "Israel continued law enforcement actions against sex trafficking and continued to make strong prevention efforts. The government continued to take inadequate steps, however, to identify and protect labor trafficking victims and prosecute and convict labor trafficking offenders in the reporting period."

The State Department classifies countries with three ratings, "**tier 1**" countries that comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, mostly countries in Europe and North America; "**tier 2**" countries that not comply with the minimum standards, and have large numbers of **human trafficking**, but which make efforts to combat it; and "**tier 3**" countries that neither comply with the minimal standards and make no effort to do so. Israel is classified as a "**tier 2**" country.

Israel's "tier 2" peers include Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Rwanda, Syria, as well as India, China, Russia, and developed countries such as Iceland, Japan, Greece, and Switzerland.

The report on Israel is little different from the previous reports. It says, "Israel is a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Low-skilled workers from Thailand, China, Nepal, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, and, to a lesser extent, Romania, migrate voluntarily and legally to Israel for temporary contract labor in construction, agriculture, and home health care provision.

"Some, however, subsequently face conditions of forced labor, including through such practices as the unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, inability to change or otherwise choose one's employer, nonpayment of wages, threats, sexual assault, and physical intimidation. Many labor recruitment agencies in source countries and in Israel require workers to pay recruitment fees typically ranging from \$4,000 to \$20,000 - a practice making workers highly vulnerable to trafficking or debt bondage once working in Israel. One NGO noted that recruitment fees increased in 2010."

The report cites Ministry of Interior figures, which say that 14,000 migrants entered Israel from Sinai in 2010, up from 5,000 in 2009.

On the issue of sex trafficking, the report says, "Some women from the former Soviet Union and China are subjected to forced prostitution in Israel, although the number of women affected has declined since the passage and implementation of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Legislative. Amendments) Law (5766-2006).

The State Department says that Israel government sustained its strong law enforcement progress against sex trafficking and that it also made initial progress against labor trafficking, as seen through the first prosecution under a labor trafficking statute involving a migrant worker. The government also continued to improve its protection of trafficking victims over the reporting period, although it lacked effective procedures to identify victims of labor trafficking.

The State Department advises Israel to significantly increase prosecutions, convictions, and punishment of labor trafficking offenders (including "employers") and offenses. Israel should also ensure that labor trafficking crimes are prosecuted under labor trafficking statutes; ensure trafficking victims are not penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, such as immigration violations; and continue to investigate the incidence of Israeli nationals subjected to forced prostitution. Domestically, Israel should increase the number of labor inspectors and translators in the agriculture, construction, and homecare sectors, ensuring that they are adequately trained in identifying trafficking cases, and internationally, it should stop the practice of "hot returns" - immediately returning migrants back to Egypt.

Published by Globes [online], Israel business news - www.globes-online.com - on June 28, 2011

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402 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Globes (Tel Aviv, Israel)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

US State Dept. slams Israel over human trafficking

BYLINE: Ran Dagoni, Globes, Tel Aviv, Israel

SECTION: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL NEWS

LENGTH: 747 words

June 28--"The Government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," says the US Department of State in its "Trafficking in Persons Report for 2011". It adds, "Israel continued law enforcement actions against sex trafficking and continued to make strong prevention efforts. The government continued to take inadequate steps, however, to identify and protect labor trafficking victims and prosecute and convict labor trafficking offenders in the reporting period."

The State Department classifies countries with three ratings, "**tier 1**" countries that comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, mostly countries in Europe and North America; "**tier 2**" countries that not comply with the minimum standards, and have large numbers of **human trafficking**, but which make efforts to combat it; and "**tier 3**" countries that neither comply with the minimal standards and make no effort to do so. Israel is classified as a "**tier 2**" country.

Israel's "tier 2" peers include Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Rwanda, Syria, as well as India, China, Russia, and developed countries such as Iceland, Japan, Greece, and Switzerland.

The report on Israel is little different from the previous reports. It says, "Israel is a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Low-skilled workers from Thailand, China, Nepal, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, and, to a lesser extent, Romania, migrate voluntarily and legally to Israel for temporary contract labor in construction, agriculture, and home health care provision.

"Some, however, subsequently face conditions of forced labor, including through such practices as the unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, inability to change or otherwise choose one's employer, nonpayment of wages, threats, sexual assault, and physical intimidation. Many labor recruitment agencies in source countries and in Israel require workers to pay recruitment fees typically ranging from \$4,000 to \$20,000 -- a practice making workers highly vulnerable to trafficking or debt bondage once working in Israel. One NGO noted that recruitment fees increased in 2010."

The report cites Ministry of Interior figures, which say that 14,000 migrants entered Israel from Sinai in 2010, up from 5,000 in 2009.

On the issue of sex trafficking, the report says, "Some women from the former Soviet Union and China are subjected to forced prostitution in Israel, although the number of women affected has declined since the passage and implementation of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Legislative. Amendments) Law (5766-2006).

The State Department says that Israel government sustained its strong law enforcement progress against sex trafficking and that it also made initial progress against labor trafficking, as seen through the first prosecution under a labor trafficking statute involving a migrant worker. The government also continued to improve its protection of trafficking victims over the reporting period, although it lacked effective procedures to identify victims of labor trafficking.

The State Department advises Israel to significantly increase prosecutions, convictions, and punishment of labor trafficking offenders (including "employers") and offenses. Israel should also ensure that labor trafficking crimes are prosecuted under labor trafficking statutes; ensure trafficking victims are not penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, such as immigration violations; and continue to investigate the incidence of Israeli nationals subjected to forced prostitution. Domestically, Israel should increase the number of labor inspectors and translators in the agriculture, construction, and homecare sectors, ensuring that they are adequately trained in identifying trafficking cases, and internationally, it should stop the practice of "hot returns" -- immediately returning migrants back to Egypt.

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403 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

June 28, 2011

US Adds Venezuela to Human Trafficking Watch List, Keeps Cuba and Withdraws Dominican Republic

BYLINE: Diego Moya Ocampos**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 272 words

The United States' Department of State yesterday (27 June) released its **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011, its annual report on **human trafficking**, which included Venezuela on its **blacklist** for the first time. The report excluded the Dominican Republic from the **blacklist**, to which it had been added last year, but kept it under "special observation". Also under "special observation" are Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. Cuba was kept on the **blacklist** for the ninth year in a row. The US Department of State's annual report also includes sex trafficking, labour trafficking, and forced labour in its definition of **human trafficking**. It is the result of the assessment of more than 184 countries' performance on combating human trafficking.

Significance: The inclusion of Venezuela in the blacklist came as no surprise given that it had already been under "special observation" and in light of its deteriorating relations with the US, which has also this year imposed sanctions, albeit on different grounds, on the Venezuelan national oil company PDVSA (see **Venezuela: 25 May 2011**:). This is also the case with Cuba, which has been on the blacklist since 2003 and has even been included in the US Department of State's list of countries that sponsor terrorism. In any case, it is likely that the governments of Cuba and Venezuela will react angrily to the report. The blacklist, which mainly includes countries from Africa and Asia, could imply the suspension of non-humanitarian US aid and also opposition from the latter to countries on the list accessing funding from projects set up by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

404 of 492 DOCUMENTS 366, 370



Global Insight

June 28, 2011

Estonia and Belarus Added to US Human Trafficking Watch List

BYLINE: Matt Clements**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 355 words

The United States yesterday (27 June) added Estonia and Belarus to its **human trafficking Tier 2 watch list**. Washington said that the decision was made because, although both countries were making "significant efforts" to comply with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, they had failed to step up their efforts over the past year, particularly in respect to fighting prostitution and forced labour. The addition of Estonia and Belarus to the **Tier 2 watch list** was made in the US Department of State's annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*. In the report, Estonia was described as a "source, transit, and destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution, and for men and women subjected to conditions of forced labour." In particular Tallinn has failed to enact a comprehensive anti-trafficking law. Belarus was described in similar terms, with the report highlighting the risk to women aged 16-30 being sold into forced prostitution, and young men into forced labour in Belarus and Russia. The US 2011 *Trafficking in Persons Report* highlights the ongoing problem of trafficking in the Baltic region, although Estonia's addition to the **Tier 2 watch list** is a indictment of the country's efforts to reduce the problem. Neighbouring Latvia is also a Tier 2 country, although not on the watch list, while Lithuania is a Tier 1 country, highlighting the additional efforts the government there has undertaken.

Significance: The situation in Belarus is unlikely to improve significantly over the short term as the country faces a deep financial crisis and potential instability as a result, meaning that anti-trafficking measures are unlikely to be made a priority. Although Estonia is now likely to seek to improve its standing, both it and Belarus are at risk of being demoted to Tier 3. Should this happen the countries will be subject to certain US-imposed penalties, such as the withholding or withdrawal of non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance. They would also face US opposition to the provision of assistance from international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

STARRED MAYBE 405 of 492 DOCUMENTS Hong Kong

Hong Kong Government News

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 10:51 AM EST

Government spares no effort in combating human trafficking

LENGTH: 327 words

Hong Kong, Jun. 28 -- Hong Kong SAR Government issued the following news release:

In response to media enquiries on the "US Trafficking in Persons Report 2011", a Government spokesman said today (June 28) that the Government spares no effort in combating human trafficking.

Responding to Hong Kong being placed in **Tier 2**, the spokesman reiterated that Hong Kong is neither a destination for **human trafficking** nor a place of origin for such trafficking.

"Notwithstanding the rare occurrence of human trafficking crimes in Hong Kong, our Police cracked down in 2010 on four trafficking syndicates, with five people convicted and sentenced to imprisonment," the spokesman said.

"Our law enforcement agencies also initiated new measures last year to combat human trafficking, including enhanced training for front-line law enforcers and producing educational pamphlets in several languages to raise public awareness."

In regard to the labour rights of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong, the spokesman stressed that the Government attaches great importance to protecting their rights. "Like local employees, FDHs in Hong Kong are protected by the Employment Ordinance and are entitled to at least one rest day in every period of seven days, in addition to statutory holidays and annual leave. The Government will not tolerate any illegal acts of employers and employment agencies, and will take stringent enforcement and prosecution action against any malpractice," the spokesman said.

On the report's recommendation on amending local law, the spokesman said, "The local legislation already provides a solid framework underpinning our robust efforts to combat human trafficking activities. We do not see any imminent need to amend local laws."

"We will continue collaborating with overseas law enforcement agencies in the fight against human trafficking," the spokesman added.

Source: Hong Kong SAR Government

Website: news.gov.hk

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

406 of 492 DOCUMENTS
U.S. document

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY®

Investor's Business Daily

June 28, 2011 Tuesday
NATIONAL EDITION

NATION

SECTION: TO THE POINT; NATION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 158 words

Obama pushes mileage boost

The White House proposed increasing Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for cars and light trucks to an average 56.2 mpg by 2025. The current standard is 30.2. Obama wants standards increased to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The car industry says raising the standard that quickly will be too costly.

** Two key tax breaks can hurt the economy, said Minn. Federal Reserve Pres. Narayana Kocherlakota. Mortgage-interest tax deductions and the corporate debt tax shield encourage excessive borrowing, he said.

** 22 more nations were added to a U.S. **blacklist** for failing to combat **human trafficking**. Those nations could face sanctions. They include Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, N. Korea, Libya and Zimbabwe.

** The L.A. Dodgers filed for bankruptcy protection. Owner Frank McCourt is heavily in debt and reeling from a divorce battle. The filing may prevent Major League Baseball from seizing control and selling the team.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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407 of 492 DOCUMENTS 732

Korea Times

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Korea actually human trafficking haven

LENGTH: 399 words

The U.S. State Department revealed the hidden truth of Korean human trafficking issues, Monday.

Korea has been marked as a 'tier one nation' for the 10th consecutive year this year, meaning that it has met 'the minimum standards' laid down in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The department classifies nations into four **tiers** based on protection of victims, punishment of offenders and prevention measures in annual report on **human trafficking**.

Although it remains as '**tier** one,' Korea is hardly the model when it comes to actual **human trafficking**, according to the report by the department. The report raised coerced prostitution and labor problems as issues from the very first paragraph, describing Korea as the 'source, transit, and destination country' of human trafficking.

The department has pointed out that men and women from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Columbia, Mongolia, China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Cambodia and other nations around the world come to Korea for marriages and jobs only to end up in forced prostitution or labor.

Also it pointed to financial debt as the prime reason for trafficking of women, by saying that the women's 'owners' and 'brokers' have found ways to constantly make the debt larger to keep the women indefinitely. 'Many of these women get their passport taken away and are thereby kept from escaping overseas,' it said.

The department also said that there are also significant human trafficking of Korean women abroad being forced into prostitution in the U.S., Canada, Japan and Australia. It commented that more and more Korean teenagers are dragged into prostitution with nearly 95% of child prostitution broadcast live through the Internet.

This year's report is nearly identical as the one from last year. While noting the Korean government has maintained its efforts to eradicate human trafficking, this year's report called for reformation in the anti-trafficking legislations and implement more thorough investigation methods, harsher punishments, and preventive measures to the underprivileged.

Amidst the celebration for Korea's 10th year as a 'tier one' nation, it is more important now than ever to remember that 'tier one' classification is for nations that meet the minimum standards. In order to truly become a leader in today's world, Korea should never be satisfied with meeting the minimum requirements, the report said.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

408 of 492 DOCUMENTS North Korea

Korea Times

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

N. Korea remains on worst-human trafficking nation list

LENGTH: 494 words

WASHINGTON (Yonhap) -- Despite North Korea's reported tightening of border security to block the defection of its hunger-stricken people, the communist nation has made no efforts to prevent human trafficking by screening migrants along its porous border with China and Russia, the U.S. said Monday.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, the State Department ranked North Korea once again in **Tier 3** for countries with the poorest record of fighting **human trafficking**. A total of 23 nations, including 11 new ones, were included in the list.

"Although press reports indicated that border security increased during the reporting period, there was no evidence that the government attempted to prevent human trafficking by screening migrants along the border," it read. "Nor did the government differentiate between trafficking and illegal migration or defection."

The department, however, reiterated most of its descriptions in the previous report for the overall trafficking situation in North Korea, a veiled communist nation where media outlets are strictly controlled and information gathering by the outside world is very difficult.

North Korea is a "source country for men, women, and children who are subject to forced labor, forced marriage and sex trafficking," the report said.

"North Korean women who make their own way to China are lured, drugged, or kidnapped by traffickers upon arrival," it added. "Trafficking networks of Korean-Chinese and North Koreans (usually men) operate along the China-North Korean border, reportedly working with Chinese and North Korean border guards to recruit women for marriage or prostitution in China."

The document also pointed out a problem with North Korean workers in Russia.

"Tens of thousands of North Korean workers are estimated to be employed in logging camps in Russia's Far East, where they reportedly have only two days of rest per year and face punishments if they fail to meet production targets," it said.

Since 2003, North Korea has been on the list of the Tier 3 countries that may "be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the U.S. government may withhold or withdraw non-humanitarian, no-trade-related foreign assistance," according to the department.

Meanwhile, South Korea was left in Tier 1, among those countries complying with international standards for anti-trafficking efforts.

But the department said South Korea still needs to improve its legal and institutional system.

South Korea is a "source, transit, and destination country for men and women subjected to forced prostitution and forced labor," the new report said, as it did in 2010.

The South Korean government took adequate steps to prosecute trafficking offenses in the past year, but "its efforts were hampered by the lack of a clear law prohibiting all forms of trafficking," it said.

Its victim protection efforts were weakened by its lack of formal proactive victim identification procedures across the government, the report added.

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409 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Qatar News Agency 666

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 7:44 PM EST

US State Department Ranks Israel Second largest Human Trafficking Country

LENGTH: 218 words

Washington , June 28 (QNA) - The US State Department published Tuesday its Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report and ranked Israel in **tier** 2 with the same rank of Pakistan and Rwanda, Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reports.

The report said that Israeli Government "The Government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking." The report also describes Israel as a "destination-country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking." Israel receives low skilled labors from countries such as Thailand, China, Philippines, India and Sri Lanka.

The report also listed the number of ways in which people from those countries are oppressed. "(Some) face conditions of forced labor, including through such practices as the unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, inability to change or otherwise choose one's employer, nonpayment of wages, threats, sexual assault, and physical intimidation," it says in the report.

The report adds that "many labor recruitment agencies in source countries and in Israel require workers to pay recruitment fees typically ranging from \$4,000 to \$20,000 ? a practice making workers highly vulnerable to trafficking or debt bondage once working in Israel." (QNA)

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QNA 1720 GMT 2011/06/28

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** QNA

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STARRED MAYBE 410 of 492 DOCUMENTS 830

Singapore Government News

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST

MFA Spokesperson's Comments in response to US TIP Report

LENGTH: 592 words

Singapore, June 28 -- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore issued the following news release:

In response to media enquiries on the US Department of State's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011" released on 27 June 2011 which upgraded Singapore's ranking to **Tier** Two this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson said:

"We note the change to Singapore's Tier Ranking. Trafficking in Persons is an abhorrent international crime which the Singapore Government responds to robustly. But we are dismayed to find the US TIP Report riddled with inaccuracies in the section on Singapore. Such a casual approach to the facts is troubling. We will highlight two inaccuracies by way of illustration. There are numerous others.

The Report has a major issue with forced labour on fishing vessels that "originated in Singapore". While we have heard very troubling reports of trafficking aboard fishing vessels, flying the flags of other countries, this is the first such claim that such vessels originated in Singapore. This is untrue and unverified. The Singapore Government would not tolerate forced labour on Singapore flagged ships. The United States should thoroughly investigate the "reports" before faulting us for not pursuing our "phantom" ships.

There is also the astonishing observation that "no known victims" of trafficking were afforded the opportunity to avail themselves of medical and other services at shelters in the past year. We are deeply puzzled with this statement. We had provided the US just last month with detailed information about a variety of services that trafficking victims had utilised in the past year, including medical, counselling and translation. While we can acknowledge that much remains to be done in our fight against trafficking, we are disappointed that the United States chose to blatantly dismiss the facts and suggest that we are not doing our share.

The report also seems to assume that the domestic processes of all countries reviewed are the same as that of the United States. We note that the United States has again unabashedly awarded itself a Tier 1 Ranking. Yet, the New York Times had observed, in a 23 April 2011 report, that teenage girls coerced into prostitution in the US are treated not as trafficking victims but as miscreants who are arrested and prosecuted, instead of protected. This, for example, is directly opposite to Singapore's approach to commercial sex workers of any age in Singapore who are all prima facie considered TIP victims. As is well known, the United States also suffers from serious problems with illegal immigrants, many of whom are trafficked by well-organised criminal gangs which seem to be able to operate with impunity. On any objective criteria, the United States has a more serious TIP problem compared with Singapore.

Perhaps this incongruity could be explained by the fact that the Report does not apply a consistent, transparent, and measurable standard for all countries. As Senator James Webb said before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 24 May 2011 "there are some inconsistencies in the way that [the US is] carrying out an otherwise well-intentioned policy. The classic example of that was that we've given Nigeria a 1 in our TIP Reports and we've given Japan a 2, and Singapore a 2W [in 2010]. We need to fix the law so that we are measuring the right sorts of things as we put these policies forward because it is causing a great deal of resentment among people who are otherwise our close friends." "

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

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411 of 492 DOCUMENTS

US DOCUMENT
States News Service

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

ROS-LEHTINEN CONDEMNS CUBAN REGIME'S ONGOING PROMOTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 235 words

DATELINE: MIAMI, Fla.

The following information was released by the office of Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen:

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) commented on the State Departments 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which once again designates Cuba as the lowest ranking (**Tier 3**), which is defined as a country that does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

The State Departments 2011 Trafficking in Persons report once again classifies Cuba as one of the worst nations in the area of human and sex trafficking. This designation as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act should trigger the administration's reversal of its support for educational and cultural exchanges with Cuba.

"Any Cuba watcher knows that the Havana regime has no intention of eliminating trafficking in or from Cuba. In fact, it relies on this immoral practice to sustain its tyrannical ways. Child prostitution is a common profit-making scheme by the regime and Cuban doctors are used as mere pawns by the dictatorship to repay its debts to other countries.

"Having recognized Cuba's deplorable record on human trafficking, it is reprehensible that the administration would continue to make it a priority to advance educational and cultural exchanges with Cuba. In light of the State Departments own designation, I call on the Administration to reverse its position."

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

412 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Targeted News Service

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 3:27 AM EST

Rep. Ros-Lehtinen Condemns Cuban Regime's Ongoing Promotion of Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 245 words

DATELINE: MIAMI

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. (18th CD), issued the following news release:

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) commented on the State Department's 2011 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which once again designates Cuba as the lowest ranking (**Tier 3**), which is defined as a country that does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Statement by Ros-Lehtinen:

"The State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons report once again classifies Cuba as one of the worst nations in the area of human and sex trafficking. This designation as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act should trigger the administration's reversal of its support for educational and cultural exchanges with Cuba.

"Any Cuba watcher knows that the Havana regime has no intention of eliminating trafficking in or from Cuba. In fact, it relies on this immoral practice to sustain its tyrannical ways. Child prostitution is a common profit-making scheme by the regime and Cuban doctors are used as mere pawns by the dictatorship to repay its debts to other countries.

"Having recognized Cuba's deplorable record on human trafficking, it is reprehensible that the administration would continue to make it a priority to advance educational and cultural exchanges with Cuba. In light of the State Department's own designation, I call on the Administration to reverse its position."

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LOAD-DATE: July 3, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

413 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US DOCUMENT

The Virginian-Pilot(Norfolk, VA.)

June 28, 2011 Tuesday
The Virginian-Pilot Edition

SECTION: FRONT; Pg. A4

LENGTH: 567 words

NATION AT A GLANCE

WATERLOO, Iowa | Michele Bachmann formally kicked off her campaign for president Monday in the town of her birth, as the Minnesota congresswoman seeking to parlay her Iowa roots and socially conservative credentials into a successful run for the GOP nomination.

The announcement was a formality; she declared during a June 13 debate that she had filed paperwork for a run. The decision to announce in Iowa, where Bachmann lived until age 12, rather than the state she serves in Congress, emphasizes the importance of the Hawkeye state. A strong showing in the caucuses, the first scheduled voting in the 2012 race, is vital for Bachmann's chances.

District of Columbia

United States expands **human-trafficking blacklist**

WASHINGTON | The Obama administration on Monday nearly doubled the number of countries that may face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking, calling on those and other nations to get serious and take tough steps to eradicate the lucrative illicit practice.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department identified 23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims. That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list." The report analyzed conditions in 184 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many have termed modern-day slavery. The State Department estimates that as many as 27 million men, women and children are living in such bondage around the world.

District of Columbia

Tougher safety standards for baby cribs put into effect

WASHINGTON | Beginning today, the government is prohibiting the manufacture, sale or resale of drop-side baby cribs, which have been blamed in the deaths of dozens of children. A new federal rule bans the cribs that have a side rail that can be raised and lowered to allow parents to place or lift a baby more easily. A new generation of cribs expected to be safer will be the only cribs allowed to be sold across the country, even at yard sales.

Nevada

Truck driver who crashed into train had four speeding tickets

RENO | Workers wearing hazmat suits dug through burnt-out rail cars and twisted metal Monday at the scene of a collision between a tractor-trailer and an Amtrak train as details surfaced about the driving record of the man at the wheel of the truck. Records from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles showed truck driver Lawrence R. Valli, 43, of Winnemucca received four speeding tickets since 2008, including three for driving a school bus over the posted speed limit in California in a 10-month period. At least six people died and about 20 were injured in Friday's collision.

Florida

Woman, 95, removes diaper for security screening at airport

DESTIN | A gravely ill 95-year-old woman had to remove her wet diaper at an airport to be patted down by security screeners and nearly missed her flight, her daughter said Monday. Lena Reppert couldn't board a June 18 flight from Northwest Florida Regional Airport in Fort Walton Beach to Detroit until she was cleared by security, her daughter Jean Weber said

. TSA officials said the agency's inspectors did nothing wrong and followed proper procedure. Spokesman Nick Kimball also said the officers did not force Reppert to remove the diaper.

NATION AT A GLANCE

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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414 of 492 DOCUMENTS – general – newspaper

The Washington Times

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Human trafficking blacklist grows; U.S. tells 23 nations they aren't doing enough

BYLINE: By Chuck Neubauer THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: A, POLITICS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 513 words

The number of countries that have done little to combat human trafficking problems, including Libya, Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia, has nearly doubled from 13 to 23 in the past year, the State Department said Monday.

These countries could face U.S. sanctions, including the loss of foreign aid, if they don't improve.

The State Department issued the rankings as part of its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which analyzes the trafficking of humans, mostly women and children, in 184 countries including the United States.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in releasing the report that while progress has been made "we all have to do more." She called it "modern-day slavery" and said "more human beings are exploited than before" - as many as 27 million men, women, and children.

Department officials said estimates include 100,000 human trafficking victims in the United States.

"As we assess ourselves and governments around the world, the true test of a country's anti-trafficking efforts is not just whether a government has enacted strong laws consistent with that approach, but whether these laws are being implemented broadly and effectively," Mrs. Clinton wrote in a letter accompanying the report. "In short, it's whether they deliver.

"Last year, I visited a shelter for trafficking survivors. I was embraced by children who should have been in grade school, but were instead recovering from having been enslaved in a brothel," Mrs. Clinton wrote. "Looking into the eyes of those girls and hearing their stories firsthand brought home for me once again the very real and personal tragedy of modern slavery."

In its annual report, the State Department places countries in one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments' efforts to comply with the "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." The best ranking is Tier One, which includes countries like the United States. The lowest ranking is Tier 3.

The 2011 report reflects upgrades for 23 countries in recognition of progress made and downgrades for 22 countries.

The new countries in Tier 3, the lowest rank, are Algeria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen. They join the bottom tier that already included Burma, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Mauritania, Sudan, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Papua New Guinea.

Separately, the report also cited six nations, including Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, for using child soldiers and not taking steps to end the practice. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list," which could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

The Dominican Republic, which was in the bottom tier on the last report, improved its standards and moved up to the second tier.

The report recommendations for the U.S. included improving its data collection and its funding for victim services.

*This story is based in part on wire service reports.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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415 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Web newswire

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Hong Kong: Government spares no effort in combating human trafficking

LENGTH: 333 words

DATELINE: India

India, June 28 -- In response to media enquiries on the US **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2011, a Government spokesman said today (June 28) that the Government spares no effort in combating **human trafficking**. Responding to Hong Kong being placed in **Tier 2**, the spokesman reiterated that Hong Kong is neither a destination for **human trafficking** nor a place of origin for such trafficking. Notwithstanding the rare occurrence of human trafficking crimes in Hong Kong, our Police cracked down in 2010 on four trafficking syndicates, with five people convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, the spokesman said. Our law enforcement agencies also initiated new measures last year to combat human trafficking, including enhanced training for front-line law enforcers and producing educational pamphlets in several languages to raise public awareness. In regard to the labour rights of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong, the spokesman stressed that the Government attaches great importance to protecting their rights. Like local employees, FDHs in Hong Kong are protected by the Employment Ordinance and are entitled to at least one rest day in every period of seven days, in addition to statutory holidays and annual leave.

The Government will not tolerate any illegal acts of employers and employment agencies, and will take stringent enforcement and prosecution action against any malpractice, the spokesman said. On the reports recommendation on amending local law, the spokesman said, The local legislation already provides a solid framework underpinning our robust efforts to combat human trafficking activities. We do not see any imminent need to amend local laws. We will continue collaborating with overseas law enforcement agencies in the fight against human trafficking, the spokesman added. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Web Newswire. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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416 of 492 DOCUMENTS 780

Xinhua General News Service

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 11:25 AM EST

Singapore dismayed at unabashed U.S. human trafficking report

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 469 words**DATELINE:** SINGAPORE June 28

Singapore criticized a United States Department of State human trafficking report on Tuesday, saying that the report released by the world's only superpower does not apply a consistent, transparent and measurable standard for all countries.

"As is well known, the United States also suffers from serious problems with illegal immigrants, many of whom are trafficked by well-organized criminal gangs which seem to be able to operate with impunity. On any objective criteria, the United States has a more serious TIP (trafficking in persons report) problem compared with Singapore," Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by the U.S. Department of State upgraded Singapore's ranking to **Tier Two**, which means that it is among a group of countries making efforts to meet the U.S. standard of **human trafficking** but does not yet meet the standards.

Singapore said it noted the change to Singapore's ranking but is dismayed to find the report riddled with inaccuracies in the section on Singapore.

"Trafficking in Persons is an abhorrent international crime which the Singapore government responds to robustly," it said. "Such a casual approach to the facts is troubling. We will highlight two inaccuracies by way of illustration. There are numerous others."

Singapore said the report has a major issue with forced labor on fishing vessels that "originated in Singapore," but such a claim, a first, is "untrue and unverified."

"The Singapore government would not tolerate forced labour on Singapore flagged ships. The United States should thoroughly investigate the 'reports' before faulting us for not pursuing our 'phantom' ships," it said.

It also dismissed an observation in the report that "no known victims" of trafficking were afforded the opportunity to use medical and other services at shelters last year, saying that it had recently provided the United States with detailed information of such services utilized by trafficking victims.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the United States has again "unabashedly" awarded itself a Tier 1 ranking, but U.S. mainstream media reports also reported on teenagers coerced into prostitution in the United States are treated not as trafficking victims but as miscreants who are arrested and prosecuted.

"The report also seems to assume that the domestic processes of all countries reviewed are the same as that of the United States," it said, adding that U.S. Senator James Webb also said there are some inconsistencies in the report.

"Perhaps this incongruity could be explained by the fact that the Report does not apply a consistent, transparent, and measurable standard for all countries," the ministry said.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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417 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Xinhua General News Service

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 1:18 AM EST

Singapore dismayed at unabashed U.S. human trafficking report

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 469 words

DATELINE: SINGAPORE June 28

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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June 28, 2011 Tuesday 10:49 PM EST

Mexican judge sentences 4 in human trafficking case

BYLINE: By the CNN Wire Staff

SECTION: WORLD

LENGTH: 505 words

A federal judge in Mexico has sentenced four people to a minimum of 16 1/2 years each behind bars for human trafficking, the Mexican attorney general's office said Tuesday, marking a rare conviction in a country struggling to get a grip on the illegal trade.

The investigation began because of a tip from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, authorities said.

Agents rescued four women being forced to work as prostitutes in Miami, Florida, according to a statement from the Mexican attorney general's office. An ICE spokeswoman said U.S. agents identified two of the victims in Miami and that the other two were identified by authorities in Mexico.

Their children were being held in Tenancingo, a municipality in the southern Mexican state of Tlaxcala, and the women's contact with them was conditioned on their sending money to their handlers, the statement said.

On June 7, 2010, Mexican authorities raided the home in Tlaxcala, arresting the four suspects.

Fausto Velazquez Zompantzi, Jaime Velazquez Zompantzi and Severiana Zompantzi Rojas were sentenced to 16 1/2 years in prison each for the parts they played in the crime. Jorge Velazquez Zompantzi was sentenced to 18 1/2 years. In addition to trafficking, he was also found guilty of possessing a firearm licensed exclusively to the military.

The women's children were sent to be with their mothers in the United States, according to the attorney general's office.

The statement said the case represents the first time the attorney general's office of the Special Prosecutor for Organized Crime, also known as SIEDO, obtained a conviction and sentence for a human trafficking crime.

Mexico, like many countries, struggles to investigate, prosecute and punish trafficking offenders.

The U.S. State Department released its 2011 report on human trafficking Monday, assessing efforts by 184 governments worldwide to fight sexual exploitation, forced labor and moder-day slavery.

The annual report, considered one of the most comprehensive analyses of worldwide **human trafficking**, ranks countries in three "**tiers**." Mexico was put in the middle **tier**.

Notably, the reported cited the municipality of Tenancingo as a major source for Mexican sex trafficking victims exploited within Mexico and in the United States.

Women, children, indigenous people and undocumented migrants are especially vulnerable, the report read.

While noting some of the recent strides made by the Mexican government in countering trafficking, particularly at the federal level, the study also cited reports that some local law enforcement officials tolerate and are sometimes complicit in the illegal trade.

"Given the magnitude of Mexico's trafficking problem ... the number of human trafficking investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences remained low, and government funding for victim services remained inadequate," it read.

The State Department says 27 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide, and approximately 100,000 of those victims are in the United States.

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419 of 492 DOCUMENTS

DUPLICATE, US DOCUMENT
Associated Press Online

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 12:36 AM GMT

US expands human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 456 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Monday nearly doubled the number of countries that may face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking, calling on those and other nations to get serious and take tough steps to eradicate the lucrative illicit practice.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department identified 23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims. That's up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries were placed on a "watch list" that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

The report analyzed conditions in 184 nations, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many have termed modern-day slavery. The State Department estimates that as many as 27 million men, women and children are living in such bondage around the worlds.

"All countries can and must do more," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in presenting the report. "More human beings are being exploited today than ever before."

"We're at critical moment in this fight," she said. "The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight. But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable. If we increase the pressure on traffickers and the networks they thrive in, we can set ourselves on a course to one day eradicate modern slavery."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., one of the authors of the law that established the report and offered protection to trafficking victims, said he was "deeply disappointed" that China was given a political waiver despite its ongoing and expanding problem of human trafficking, particularly sex-trafficking of women and girls.

"This political waiver for China is totally unacceptable," Smith said. "The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China who are predominantly women. It's shameful."

Among the countries on the blacklist are perennial rogues Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan along with frequent U.S. foes Eritrea, Libya and Zimbabwe. Others are U.S. allies in the Middle East like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while Papua New Guinea was cited as a repeat offender. Only one country, the Dominican Republic, was removed from the list.

The 11 new countries on the blacklist are Algeria, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Micronesia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen.

Separately, the report also cited six nations Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen for using child soldiers and not taking steps to end the practice.

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420 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

Associated Press Online

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 8:33 AM GMT**Philippines vows to intensify drive vs traffickers****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 121 words**DATELINE:** MANILA Philippines

The Philippines has pledged to intensify its battle against human trafficking and welcomed a U.S. State Department report crediting its recent efforts to combat the problem.

The country has been upgraded to **Tier 2** in the annual U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** report, indicating it does not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking but is making progress.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Tuesday the Philippines is committed to ensuring that Filipino workers overseas are given full protection and to strengthening its efforts against human traffickers.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda also welcomed Monday's report, which noted a rise in convictions of offenders to 25 from nine the previous year.

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421 of 492 DOCUMENTS 366, 370



Agence France Presse -- English

June 27, 2011 Monday 6:33 PM GMT

Estonia, Belarus put on human trafficking watchlist

LENGTH: 548 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 27 2011

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

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

"Estonia is a source, transit, and destination country for women subjected to forced prostitution, and for men and women subjected to conditions of forced labor," the State Department said.

Not only are Estonian women from the countryside forced into prostitution in the capital Tallinn, they also end up in the sex trafficking trade in Finland, the Netherlands, Britain, Germany and Italy, it said.

Both men and women from Estonia are also "subjected to conditions of forced labor" in Spain, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, according to the 2011 Global Trafficking in Persons Report.

"The government of Estonia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said.

"Despite these efforts, the government did not demonstrate evidence of increasing efforts over the previous reporting period," it added, placing Estonia on the Tier 2 watchlist.

Belarus was put on the list for the same reason, with the report charging that the government in Minsk "demonstrated decreased law enforcement efforts" while the report was being conducted.

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

There were also continuing reports of women from poor families forced into prostitution in the capital Minsk.

"Belarussian men, women, and children are found in forced begging, as well as in forced labor in the construction industry and other sectors in Russia and Belarus," it said.

The State Department also reprimanded Russia once again.

Citing the Migration Research Center, it said around one million people in Russia are exploited by business leaders who withhold their documents, fail to pay for services, physically abuse them and deny them proper living conditions.

Abuses occurred in the construction, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic services industries, it added.

"There are reports of many men and women from North Korea subjected to conditions of forced labor in the logging industry in the Russian Far East," it said.

"There are also reports of exploitation of children, including child prostitution in large Russian cities and forced begging," it added.

"Russian women were reported to be victims of sex trafficking in many countries, including in Northeast Asia, Europe, and throughout the Middle East," it said.

It said that because it had a written plan, Russia was not dropped to the lowest Tier 3 group, countries which are deemed not to be making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards of fighting trafficking.

"Russia is devoting sufficient resources to implement that plan," it said.

Tier 3 countries may "be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the US government may withhold or withdraw nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance," the State Department said.

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422 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Agence France Presse -- English

June 27, 2011 Monday 6:03 PM GMT

Estonia, Belarus put on US human trafficking list

LENGTH: 84 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 27 2011

The United States on Monday put Estonia and Belarus on a **human trafficking watch list**, alleging they failed to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor.

It said that although both countries were "making significant efforts" to comply fully with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, they "did not demonstrate evidence of increasing efforts" in the last year.

Therefore both were placed on the **Tier 2 watchlist**, according to the State Department's annual report on **human trafficking**.

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423 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US DOCUMENT

CNN International

June 27, 2011 Monday

SHOW: CONNECT THE WORLD 4:00 PM EST

Trafficking Report Released; Syria Dissidents Gather; France to Help Greece; Knox Appeal; International Criminal Court Issues Arrest Warrant for Moammar Gadhafi

BYLINE: Becky Anderson, David McKenzie, Patrick Snell, Paula Newton, Jim Clancy, Jill Dougherty, Nkepile Mabuse, Kevin Flower, Jim Clancy, Dan Rivers, David McKenzie

GUESTS: Brian Byrnes, Sir Aidan McQuade

SECTION: NEWS; International

LENGTH: 7685 words

HIGHLIGHT: The U.S. State Department has released an annual report on the efforts of governments around the world to stop human trafficking. It says North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Iran are among the worst offenders, meaning trafficking is flourishing there and the governments are doing little to stop it. Hundreds of Syrian government opponents gathered in Damascus to call for democracy earlier. The government approved their conference so some activists stayed away saying it gave a false impression that the regime allows dissent on its continuing and deadly crackdown. French president Nicolas Sarkozy says his country's banks are ready to play a role in Greece's rescue. He says the lenders have agreed to a rollover deal to extend Greece's loans by 30 years.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, SECRETARY OF STATE: We have to really mix the commitments with actions in order to get results.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BECKY ANDERSON, HOST: With more slaves in the world today than ever before, Hillary Clinton says it's a critical moment in the fight against human trafficking.

From the streets of Washington to the shantytowns of Sudan, there are more than 27 million victims worldwide. Tonight, we shine a spotlight on the global trade in human life.

Plus, a top U.N. official says Libya's rebels have now got the upper hand.

So is the tide turning against Gadhafi?

And why it's been a bad day for the top women at Wimbledon.

These stories and more tonight, as we connect the world.

Well, the time for action is now. That's the message from the U.S. State Department today, as it publishes its annual assessment of how countries around the world are faring in the fight against human trafficking.

Well, the report shows some progress and indicates that some countries are succeeding in their efforts. But it's also laying out some hard truths. As many as 27 million people are living as slaves in the world today -- more than at any point in history.

Well, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report is a key resource for the CNN Freedom Project. It provides a comprehensive look at government action to fight human slavery, which is something we are all committed to covering all of this year. And we make no excuses about it.

Well, the report was released this afternoon at the State Department in Washington.

CNN's Jill Dougherty was there.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JILL DOUGHERTY, CNN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT: The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report says around the globe, 27 million people are held in bondage, including 100,000 in the United States, subject to sexual exploitation, forced labor and modern-day slavery.

It ranks 184 countries around the world, questioning whether their governments are doing enough to fight trafficking.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, introducing the report, said many countries have laws on the books but they are not enforced.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, SECRETARY OF STATE: The measure of success can no longer be whether a country has passed laws, because so many have in the last decade. Now, we have to make sure that laws are implemented and that countries are using the tools that have been created for that. And governments should work more closely with the private sector and use new supply chain monitoring techniques to let consumers know if their goods and services come from slavery-free, responsible sources.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOUGHERTY: As soon as this report is released, U.S. diplomats in post around the world approach the countries and talk to them about the report, presenting the results according to their individual countries and also suggesting concrete recommendations for countries to improve their fight against trafficking and to help victims more.

Jill Dougherty, CNN, the State Department.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

ANDERSON: Well, in a CNN Freedom Project exclusive, Jim Clancy spoke today with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Hear what Secretary Clinton had to say about the report's findings later this hour here on CONNECT THE WORLD.

I want to get a closer look at these findings for you.

This is a map, a color-coded map of the world and rankings here -- two, one, two, two-and-a-half and three.

Let me just take you through what you've got here.

Take a look at the blue countries here -- the U.S., Canada, Colombia, most of Europe, as you can see, Nigeria, South Korea and Australia -- these are countries that the report says fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Let's bring up here two for you here. They're in yellow. Most of Latin America, Eastern Europe and much of the Middle East and Asia, including Japan, they're countries not yet in compliance with the U.S. standards, but are making serious efforts to get there.

These are not -- these are tier two watch. Have a look at these. These are countries in orange -- right about here, yes, in orange. About a third of Africa. The big ones are China and Russia. And these are tier three.

What are we doing here?

Tier three countries red. Cuba and Venezuela and about 10 countries in Africa, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran, Turkmenistan and various others, these are not in compliance and making no significant efforts to be in compliance.

Now, we've got correspondents all over the world who are looking into these findings.

We are in Africa, in South America and, indeed, in the Middle East tonight.

First, though, let's go to Nkepile Mabuse, who is in Johannesburg -- Nkepile.

NKEPILE MABUSE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, Becky, overall, the situation on the African continent is not looking very good. Africa has the largest number of countries that have been downgraded between 2010 and today.

But let's start with a little bit of good news, Becky.

Nigeria and Mauritius are the two countries that are seen to have adequate laws. And they're using these laws to actually prosecute offenders.

South Africa, where I am, is seen as a bit of a disappointment, because despite the fact that the country drafted an anti-trafficking law in 2003, this law has still not been passed by parliament. There was a bit of argument around the fact that that law did not go far enough, Becky, to protect trafficked persons from going through the same experience over and over again.

And now, when we look at some of the seriously problematic areas on the continent, it's very clear that conflict and poverty play a very, very huge role. That's why you see countries like Libya, Ivory Coast and Somalia getting some of the lowest ratings -- Becky.

ANDERSON: All right, Nkepile.

Thank you very much, indeed, for that.

Of course, we've just been taking a look at this part of the world with Nkepile.

I want to get into the Middle East now, where we've got Kevin Flower up for you this evening.

You can see a significant, a significant part of this region really not doing particularly well at all. It's called here a three at this point.

CNN's Kevin Flower looking at the story across the Middle East tonight for us from Jerusalem -- Kevin.

KEVIN FLOWER, CNN JERUSALEM BUREAU CHIEF: Well, Becky, what's immediately striking in looking at this State Department report is that not one single country from the Middle East is ranked in that top **tier** of countries that you spoke about, **tier** one. So, really, what this means is that not a single country in the region is meeting the minimum standards in fighting the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Now, compounding this middling grade is the fact that four countries -- Libya, Lebanon, Algeria and Yemen -- have been downgraded from **tier** two to **tier** three, which joins them with -- with the illustrious company of Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait in not making -- making any significant efforts to eliminate **human trafficking**.

So you compound this with concerns from NGOs that continued political instability in the country could diminish the efforts to fight human trafficking and you're left with a -- an overall grade that's really quite disappointing -- Becky.

ANDERSON: That's right.

Kevin Flower for you out of Jerusalem, covering the region tonight.

And I'll just remind you of some of what he was talking about here. Well, then you can see it. It's the region there.

Let's get to the Americas for you now this evening, this part of the world. South American countries cover a broad spectrum, every tier represented on that continent, though most countries do fall into what's known as tier two, including Argentina, where you'll find CNN's Brian Byrnes standing by for you this evening -- the story from there, Brian?

BRIAN BYRNES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, as you said, Becky, the majority of South American nations do fall into the tier two category, with two notable exceptions -- Venezuela, previously, in the last four years, the country had been on the tier two watch list. This year, it dropped to tier three.

And its neighbor, Colombia, on the tier one category, the only nation in South America to be in the tier one category.

Well, it's notable to note here that Colombia is a staunch ally of the United States, whereas Venezuela and the U.S. have clashed repeatedly over the last decade. And, in fact, Venezuela has accused the U.S. of using the TIP Report as a political tool.

Elsewhere, here in Argentina, the country has been lauded for an increase -- a record number of prosecutions, including 15 conventions for sex traffickers. However, the report said that overall here in Argentina, prosecutions remain relatively low.

In other countries, like Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, there are efforts underway and progress is being made. Still, a lot of people in those countries are victims of trafficking, both at home and abroad -- Becky.

ANDERSON: Brian Byrnes out of Argentina for you.

CNN's Nkepile Mabuse in Johannesburg.

And Kevin Flower in Jerusalem for you.

Well, let's move on.

We've gotten the view from those areas of the world, but what about right here in Europe?

Well, Aidan McQuade is the director of Anti-Slavery International.

And he joins me now in the studio.

It's an important day for CNN. We have this Freedom Project going on all year. It's an important day out of the State Department today, with Hillary Clinton's words.

I want you to just step back for us and just give us some sense of the -- the enormity of this problem.

AIDAN MCQUADE, DIRECTOR, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL: Well, I think the TIP Report does give a good snapshot of just what the size of the problem is. But I think it's -- one must see the limit here of the sample, as well. It is a snapshot. There's things that it doesn't look at. And it looks across 185 or so countries against a number of criteria, principally around law enforcement.

But, of course, as you and as many of the viewers of CNN will well understand, the causes of slavery in the world are much broader than simply the implementation of law enforcement, though that does give a good indication of how well or how poorly some countries are doing.

ANDERSON: OK. Well, talk to us about the causes.

Talk about what's going on.

MCQUADE: Well, I think the -- the TIP Report highlights government action and people -- you see the -- the countries moving up and down based on just how good government action is. Unfortunately, it doesn't judge linkages between countries. And as you -- you well understand, trafficking in human beings is very often a transnational problem. And so therefore, causality in one country can lead to -- lead to the problem in another.

But that's not covered quite well in the TIP Report in terms of how well these things are doing.

A second issue, as well, is in terms of the issue of discrimination and prejudice, because it doesn't just happen to anybody. People who tend to be enslaved in this part -- in the world today, are the same as those who have been enslaved in -- throughout history. They're people against whom the society in which they are enslaved has a significant prejudice.

So you see inside the Asias, significant prejudice against the Dallah (ph) people, for example, who then form about 90 percent of the communities who are enslaved.

You see in Europe, great prejudice against migrant laborers, and therefore, they're the majority of people who are enslaved.

In South America, you see significant prejudice against indigenous people and therefore those who are enslaved.

ANDERSON: I know it's -- that there's no sort of catchall description of any one modern day slave today, in 2011, but if you had to describe just what people are going through who are now deemed modern-day slaves, what would it be?

MCQUADE: The -- one of the central things that you see in all of the case studies is you see people who have hoped for a better life for themselves and their families. And those hopes have not just been betrayed, but they were the causes of the vulnerability, which made them become a slave in the first place. It's people who take a loan in India in order to pay for medicine for their children. It's people who come from Eastern Europe to Western Europe in order to look for enough money in order to send home so that their younger brothers and sisters can get educated.

That tends to be a common pattern across the board.

ANDERSON: Stay with me.

I want to talk to my correspondent, Jim Clancy, standing by in Washington, where the report was released this afternoon -- and, Jim, I know you've just been talking to Hillary Clinton, an exclusive sit-down with her.

What did she say?

JIM CLANCY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: She had a lot to talk about. You know, what to do about the diplomacy of all of this. It's a difficult time for the State Department. They're confronting some friends, some rather good friends, and putting them at the bottom of the list yet again. And it's going to be a message of tough love.

But this was a day here at the State Department that I haven't seen before, where not only is -- is a grand room filled, but there are overflow crowds.

And Hillary Clinton herself, someone who's been working on human trafficking and standing up for the victims of human trafficking for the past -- well, more than a decade, when she was just the first lady, she was somebody that -- who shared with me not just a prosecutor -- the in particular of prosecutions and partnerships, the importance of protecting the victims, but the passion that she brings to all of this.

Take a listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: I have been caring about and working on this now for, you know, longer than a decade. And the passion is there because it's such a violation of human rights and human dignity to see men, women and children forced into bondage, slavery, in the 21st century, is just absolutely unforgettable and unforgivable.

So we do take seriously the -- the mission that the United States, along with many international partners, has undertaken, which is to prevent and to prosecute and to do everything we can in our efforts to stop modern-day slavery.

And that means we have to have partnerships, which is very important. And we have to protect those who are at risk and those who are put into it.

So we went from three Ps to four Ps, but passion underlies all of them.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CLANCY: Hillary Clinton there laying out, really, some of her sentiments in all of this and hoping that others will, you know, seize upon the passion.

In the meantime, she's got a lot of diplomacy to do. You know, they added another, what, dozen members -- 10 or a dozen members to that tier three list. So in some ways, one could say that the U.S. was passing out a lot of tough love when it published this report here today.

ANDERSON: Yes, all right, Jim.

Thanks for that.

And more of Jim's interview with Hillary Clinton later this hour.

I'm still with Aiman in the studio with me.

He will be back with me later this hour here on CONNECT THE WORLD.

Moving on for the beginning, we'll have the stories that we will be bringing you tonight.

Pleading her innocence, but new accusations are leveled against American murder suspect, Amanda Knox. In six minutes, we'll bring you the latest from the courtroom there in Italy.

Also, a man wanted or a wanted man -- why some believe an arrest warrant for Moammar Gadhafi will prolong the bloodshed in Libya. That story in the next quarter of an hour here on CNN.

And down they fall -- the big names tumble at Wimbledon. We'll have all the day's highlights in just over 20 minutes.

You're watching CONNECT THE WORLD.

I'm Becky Anderson in London.

Back after this.

ANDERSON: And 19 minutes past 9:00.

I'm Becky Anderson in London.

You're watching CONNECT THE WORLD here on CNN.

A look at the other stories we are following for you this hour.

And there are mixed messages about a planned media appearance by Yemen's president. Ali Abdullah Saleh has not been seen since a militant attack on his palace grounds in early June. Well, he's recovering in a hospital in Saudi Arabia, we're told. An aide said Sunday that the president would make an appearance within 48 hours.

But another official says that it not the case.

The United Nations Security Council has agreed to send more than 4,000 peacekeepers to Abyei in Sudan. The Ethiopian force will monitor the withdrawal of government troops whose occupation of the disputed region in May caused thousands to flee. Abyei sits on the border of Sudan and Southern Sudan, but both sides claim the territory.

Tensions are high ahead of Southern Sudan's independence in early July.

Well, we've entered a critical week for the Greece -- for Greece as the debt-ridden country battles to stave off a financial collapse. France is leading the rescue bid. President Nicholas Sarkozy announcing a radical plan, where French banks would extend the life of a Greek loan by 30 years.

The proposal comes as Greek lawmakers prepare to debate further spending cuts that are sparking another wave of protests in the capital. And on Wednesday on CONNECT THE WORLD, we'll be live in Athens for reaction to the crucial Greek parliament vote.

What will it mean for the future of the euro and, indeed, the entire European project?

Be part of that debate. A special edition of CONNECT THE WORLD Wednesday in Athens.

Well, a fight to prove her innocence continues for Amanda Knox, the American student convicted of killing her British roommate, Meredith Kercher, in Italy.

Now, at an appeal hearing on Monday, Knox faced a surprise accusation from another man serving time for the murder.

Dan Rivers is following the case for you.

This from him.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DAN RIVERS, CNN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: It was a day of dramatic testimony here in Perugia, Italy in the continuing appeal of Amanda Knox and her then-boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito. Rudy Guede, their co-accused, was called to give evidence. The defense team were hoping that he would be sort tripped up in cross-examination and would admit that it was he and he alone who murdered the British student, Meredith Kercher, in November 2007.

In the end, though, the exact opposite happened. For the first time, he said that he explicitly thought that Knox and Sollecito were guilty of the murder, something he had only implied in testimony previously.

There was also a dramatic moment when Amanda Knox herself made a statement to the court. During the statement, she said she was shocked by Guede's evidence. She said: "He knew that we weren't in the house on the night of the murder."

She said she didn't know what really happened and she said she was sorry that she couldn't talk to Guede direct, to question him about the events.

As well as her statement, Raffaele Sollecito also spoke to the court and said that before, Guede had only mentioned a shadow that he thought may have been Amanda Knox in the house that evening. Now he seemed to be changing his story. He said that they had been in jail for four years and that their lives have been ruined, all on the evidence, really, of this one man, Rudy Guede.

In the end, though, this defense attempt to try and get Rudy Guede to trip up in cross-examination backfired. He didn't. So now they will be relying on forensic evidence and DNA evidence that will be re-examined over the next few weeks.

Dan Rivers, CNN, Perugia.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANDERSON: Well, from Libyan leader to war crimes suspect wanted around the world, coming up, I'm going to tell you about a new arrest warrant for Moammar Gadhafi and two of his relatives.

Then, in about 15 minutes, a dramatic day at Wimbledon. Stay tuned for some shocking upsets.

ANDERSON: Judges at the Hague want the world's help in capturing Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant, accusing him of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Gadhafi's son, Saif, and the Libyan intelligence chief were also charged.

Now, the ICC says it has evidence linking them to widespread and systematic attacks on civilians in the early days of Libya's uprising.

You're with CONNECT THE WORLD.

I'm Becky Anderson.

Gadhafi's arrest warrant isn't the only development for Libyan rebels. They're also making gains on the battlefield, rebels moving in closer to Tripoli, Gadhafi's stronghold, of course. They say they are now 80 kilometers away, after a fierce battle in Bir al-Ghanam, a town southwest of the capital. A top United Nations official says the NATO air campaign is a big factor in the rebels' advance.

Lynn Pascoe says it appears the opposition now has the upper hand.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LYNN PASCOE, U.N. UNDERSECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS: While we do not have a detailed understanding of the military situation on the ground, it is clear that the initiative, although halting, is now with the opposition forces, supported, at times, by NATO air power.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANDERSON: Well, interestingly enough, some critics say the arrest warrant for Gadhafi could actually damage efforts to find a political solution to the crisis. They say it's highly unlikely he'll go into exile if he thinks he might end up at the Hague.

Well, David McKenzie is in Libya for you this evening.

He's in Tripoli following some of -- or -- if not all of these developments for you -- David, I'm assuming you're still with us?

I think we've lost him.

If we get back to him, we will bring him back up here on CONNECT THE WORLD.

Let's get you a very short break, shall we?

Lots more still to come on CONNECT THE WORLD.

The latest world news headlines straight after this short break.

Then, Wimbledon serves up a dramatic day of upsets. Who's out and who's still in, just ahead.

Also in the show, flexing their muscles -- why the country of Georgia goes mad for wrestling -- all part of our Eye On series. That about 14 minutes away.

And the battle to end modern-day slavery -- details of an unlikely front line. Our special coverage of the Trafficking in Persons Report, a part of the CNN Freedom Project in around 20 minutes time -- a full packed schedule.

Don't go anywhere.

BECKY ANDERSON, CNN ANCHOR: At just about half past nine in London. You're back with CONNECT THE WORLD. I'm Becky Anderson.

Let's get you a check of the headlines out here on CNN.

The U.S. State Department has released an annual report on the efforts of governments around the world to stop human trafficking. It says North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Iran are among the worst offenders, meaning trafficking is flourishing there and the governments are doing little to stop it.

While hundreds of Syrian government opponents gathered in Damascus to call for democracy earlier. The government approved their conference so some activists stayed away saying it gave a false impression that the regime allows dissent on its continuing and deadly crackdown.

French president Nicolas Sarkozy says his country's banks are ready to play a role in Greece's rescue. He says the lenders have agreed to a rollover deal to extend Greece's loans by 30 years.

The U.N. Security Council has approved a resolution to send more than 4,000 peacekeepers to the town of Abyei that's been the source of conflict between Sudan and southern Sudan ahead of the south July independence.

The American student found guilty in Italy of killing her British roommate is fighting her conviction. Amanda Knox (INAUDIBLE) an appeal hearing. She does not know what happened the night that Meredith Kercher was killed.

And judges at the Hague want world help in capturing Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant accusing him of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Gadhafi's son Saif and the Libyan intelligence chief were also charged.

Let's get back to David McKenzie. We lost him just a little bit early. He's been following all of these developments from Tripoli.

Joining you now on the line, a reaction there to these arrest warrants, David.

DAVID MCKENZIE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, basically, the reaction is is that the Libyan government is rubbishing the arrest warrants from the ICC. The justice minister and the deputy prime minister just had a press conference here in Tripoli. Basically, they're saying that for a number of reasons that they aren't even going to consider this, (INAUDIBLE) ignore it. They say (INAUDIBLE) the Rome statute - the statute their country signed to be beholden to the Hague courts that they have no reason to worry about the Hague arrest warrants for three of their top leaders, obviously including Moammar Gadhafi. They're also saying - playing a kind of a political card in that they're saying that all of the ICC's cases are in Africa and the justice minister stressing that in his words, "the ICC is picking on (INAUDIBLE) third world countries." So they're certainly trying to push an alignment with the African Union or any others who might (INAUDIBLE) that the ICC has been unfairly treating African states which is certainly the feeling of certain countries on the continent. So basically, they're saying this is nothing to do with them, that they aren't going to - that they're going to do a local process to a judiciary inquiry here in Kenya - I'm sorry - here in (INAUDIBLE) Libya and that the ICC is really has nothing to do with the Libyan situation.

ANDERSON: And many experts or critics certainly suggesting that it may be a reason why Moammar Gadhafi would stay and (INAUDIBLE) for the long term of this when he seems to have nowhere else to go at this point.

Meantime, David, we're certainly hearing from rebels that they are some now 80 kilometres away from Tripoli and gaining ground. What are you hearing there in the capital?

MCKENZIE: We're basically hearing that southwest of here between 80 and 100 kilometres in a strategic town, the rebels are pushing out of the margins, Becky, and they're pushing towards Zawiya or they could push towards Tripoli itself. Now, certainly, for them to actually start making inward into the capital itself would be very difficult from a military standpoint. But it's what is more likely from their perspective is if they push towards towns like Zawiya which are - if you think of it geographically - west of the capital between here and Tripoli and the Tunisian border. They could meet

up with the resistance movement that periodically has fled up in Zawiya, this major town west of here, and that could tap alternate supply lines between here and Tunisia, which is really the only major supply line for fuel and food and other goods right now for the Gadhafi regime. We're not at this point yet and certainly they haven't taken that strategic area. They are ongoing fighting but it does prove that if this campaign should move in one direction or another significantly, it's more likely to happen in this region than it is to the east of here in Misrata where basically they've been at a stand-off for some weeks. Becky?

ANDERSON: All right. That's David McKenzie out of Tripoli for you this evening. Thank you, David.

That is your wrap of the news headlines at this point in this hour.

All right. Let's take a look at what's been happening in the world of sports.

Right here in London, it's the Wimbledon championships which have (INAUDIBLE) served up the biggest stories since big names have been scratched out.

Patrick Snell joining us now with more of what has been a day of upsets.

And what a day! It was a beautiful day and they expect rain tomorrow, I think, probably, so as good a day as any as far as the weather was concerned. But Patrick, oh dear, some real upsets.

PATRICK SNELL, SPORTS CORRESPONDENT: Yes, absolutely, Becky.

Let's - first of all - recap what's been happening on the women's side of things. That's where some stellar names are already out on Monday at the start of week two. I'm talking in particular about the Williams sisters - both Serena and Venus are out of the tournament, would you believe? A pair of shock to both of them going out. This is the first time they've gone out on the same day in 15 years as well.

Serena Williams - the number nine seed from France, Marion Bartoli, beating her. She was just too strong for the American player and that was a big, big win for her. Serena's been plagued by injuries, of course, over the last 12 months. It's the earliest (INAUDIBLE) for her since 2005 and how so Venus, her older sibling - she went down six-two, six-three to Tsvetana Pironkova, the Bulgarian who by the way beat her, Becky, by the same scoreline in the quarterfinals last year. It was a huge shock when you consider the siblings had won nine out of the last eleven singles crowns of the all-England club and, as they say, it's a huge shock all around.

Now, if you thought that was bad, there's another one to come. I can tell you it's not just the Williams sisters who are feeling the pressure right now because the world number one from Denmark, Caroline Wozniacki, is out after losing to Dominika Cibulkova in three sets. Again, real problems, I think, for Ms. Wozniacki. She's still looking for that elusive first slam title. She's 20 years of age and a not so great day - on this day at least - still seeking that first slam victory she loses to the number 24 seed from Slovakia who's certainly doing her nation proud right now.

And-

ANDERSON: Fun and games, certainly in the women's game. Patrick, what about the men?

SNELL: Yeah, on the men's side of things, well, the Centre Court was getting pretty busy. In the crowd, we some royalty there for the Andy Murray show - the Scott was in action - and they certainly liked what they saw. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are on hand to see Murray beat the French player Richard Gasquet in a straight set - seven-six, six-three, six-two.

Other notables: a win for the Australian open champion - there we go, we do have the royalty there while they're arriving for the big clash with Andy Murray. And he is the perennial British hope now in the place of (INAUDIBLE). Of course, no British male has won Wimbledon since 1936 and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge certainly, I'm sure, happy to see Murray get through that.

Wins also this day for Roger Federer - the six-time champion - and Rafael Nadal of Spain. He's the defending champion. He's also through.

Okay, let's move it on. On Monday, we've day two of the FIFA Women's World Cup, Becky, in Germany where it's reported a TV audience of some 80 million tuned in to see the host win their opener against CONCACAF champs Canada. By the way, that's twice as many people who watched the European Grand Prix in Spain over the weekend.

On the field of play, Mexico meeting England - this was in Group B - in a match that ended in a 1-all draw. (INAUDIBLE) Fara Williams putting the English team ahead but (INAUDIBLE) levelling through Monica Ocampo. Mexico was certainly happy with the results. Over the last time they met England back in 2005, they were stumped five-nil.

And Monday's first match featuring Japan versus New Zealand in Group B. This one in (INAUDIBLE), Germany. Each side conceded a goal in the first 12 minutes of that one but it was Japan who would take all three points, thanks to a (INAUDIBLE) minute strike from Aya Miyama.

In our show, at the bottom of the next hour, we're talking about world sport, of course. Make sure you join us as I indulge in a spot of drifting through the streets of midtown Atlanta with Team Red Bull. Not to be missed. I survived, obviously, because I'm here right now, but it was a little bit hair-raising at times. It was certainly a new experience. We'll have a full report plus so much more from Wimbledon. Join us at the bottom of the next hour.

Becky, back to you.

ANDERSON: If that was you driving, you don't think you would be able to drive straight down the road. Was that you driving?

SNELL: I was not driving. I was a passenger on that occasion and I can tell you I was happy to be a passenger, as well.

ANDERSON: Good stuff. We'll look forward to that. Bottom of the hour, World Sport with Patrick Snell this evening.

Up next, how an age-old form of wrestling could shape one country's future Olympic hopes. Our "Eye On" series takes you to Georgia for a ringside seat. That after this short break. Do stay with us.

ANDERSON: A spectacular pan - a rugged landscape with an ancient knocking tumultuous history. This is Georgia, part of the gateway between Europe and central Asia. Well, CNN's "Eye On" series travels to a different country each month exploring business, culture, and the way of life. And we take you on a small forward-looking adventure, we hope, and explore things you may not know about the country in areas of business and culture.

So far, we've visited Ukraine, Germany, and India. Now, this month, we've got our eye on Georgia.

Located in the (INAUDIBLE) region east of the Black Sea and south of Russia, Georgia gained independence in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed, you'll remember. About 4 and a half million people live in the country, the majority Orthodox Christians. About 10 percent though are Muslims.

Georgia's main industry is agriculture. Products such as grapes, citrus fruits and hazelnuts. Outside of work, many Georgians have a lot of sports as many of us do. But there's one in particular which combines popularity, tradition, and a whole lot of muscle. Paula Newton went along to some ringside action.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PAULA NEWTON, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The grand stage has been set in the middle of a farmer's field. Folk music blares. The band plays on. The performers get into character.

This looks and sounds like a duelling dash of thespians other than a clash of titans.

Passes for a sort of Georgian tango until the competitors set in the moods are raw, visceral even.

So the idea here is that they get their opponents flat on their backs just like that. And that's the way they win the match.

The rounds are short, sharp and intense - five minutes each. And yet the competitors grace belies a brawny, even primitive, form of fighting.

NEWTON (on camera): So they claim that (INAUDIBLE) or Georgian wrestling is actually a great training for judo. And to prove it, they have a 2004 Olympic judo champion in the house.

(voice-over): Zurab Zviadauri says he got his Olympic start right here in this ring.

ZURAB ZVIADAURI, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (through translator): Ninety percent of my victory was from Georgian wrestling and I used a lot of moves that I learned here.

NEWTON: The ring is carpeted in saw dust, the atmosphere's thick with tradition and tension. This ancient form of Georgian wrestling could have a hold on the prize fight of the future. The global phenomenon of mixed martial arts is

taking notice. By borrowing unique moves in training from their Georgian fighting heritage, these competitors could move on to professional fighting careers.

For now, they battle on here.

While we're keeping an eye on the prize, it's having a battle of its own. It battles on. It battles on. And - victory. It's a few seconds before anyone notices. And he's cornered.

(on camera): So there's a little bit of a commotion there. The grand prize tried to run away but they're ready, they're back on track and they're going to reward the grand prize.

(voice-over): A winner is declared. 26-year-old (INAUDIBLE) awaits his prize as the Olympic champion drags it over. And this is the best move of the match.

He tells us not everyone can wrestle like this. He has to be in rare form.

And so he clutches his prize. One guess as to what he's going to do with it.

Paula Newton, CNN, (INAUDIBLE) Georgia.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANDERSON: Keeping our eye on Georgia for you this evening.

Well, still to come on CONNECT THE WORLD - getting tough on human trafficking. Up next, an exclusive interview with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as a new report names and shames the countries that need to do more to end modern day slavery. Up after this.

ANDERSON: Right. Returning to our main story tonight. An issue we are taking on board this year, CNN fights to end modern-day slavery. I've got Sir Aidan McQuade from Anti-Slavery International in the studio with me.

A day of truth of what is a global scourge. The Annual Trafficking in Persons report has been released in the United States and while it's revealed that some countries are making an effort to crack down on this exploitation, a startling fact remains. There are more slaves living in the world today, 2011, and at any point in history.

Well, Hillary Clinton was in Washington for the release of the report and says it is time for governments to do more and to be made accountable. Jim Clancy sat down with the U.S. Secretary of State a little earlier and asked her what action needs to be taken and taken now.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HILLARY CLINTON, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE: You know, it's both tough and it's encouraging because on the one hand, when we started, we couldn't even get this issue on agendas with other countries. I remember back in the late '90s as first lady, raising this issue in a number of countries and I was really just politely dismissed. It was not something they wanted to talk about. They weren't going to do anything about it. They viewed it as cultural not criminal.

And it only has been in the last several years that we have seen in - and I would argue in some measure because of the U.S. report - that countries take it seriously and that we have made a common cause with activists at the grassroots level in so many countries who use this report to push their own government for greater commitment.

JIM CLANCY, CNN ANCHOR: Some governments like Saudi Arabia remained right on the bottom. Kuwait, this year, went down to tier 3. When you look at the - how do you engage diplomatically to tell people that won't even recognize that they have a problem, how do you engage them to make a change - a real change - not just passing along?

CLINTON: Well, I think we have to look at the progress that we've made. Yes, there are countries that have not done by any means enough to even be taken seriously in addressing this. But there are many others who not only just passed laws but have begun to put resources behind the implementation of those laws. So what we have is an international snapshot. There are some countries that are going up because what they have done is worthy of that and there are some countries that are going down because they have backslid and maybe they've had a change in administration or they've just decided it's not a priority for them, and then there are countries that are not making progress one way or the other. We try to use this report to encourage change. I mean, the report in and of itself is a tool. It's not an end in itself. It's not some kind of giant report card and then we put it away and then dust it off and upgrade it the next year. All through the year, what we're trying to do is to work with these countries that are willing to take some action. We're trying to work with advocates so that they know they're not alone. And we're trying to shine a very bright light on people everywhere

who are still unwilling to admit that 27 million enslaved people is a rebuke to everyone everywhere. It's not just a western phenomenon. I think human rights are universal rights and therefore we have to keep working with these countries and encouraging them and, frankly, naming and shaming to some extent to get them to change.

CLANCY: Does naming and shaming - do you think it works?

CLINTON: Yes, it does work. I mean--.

CLANCY: But some countries are down on the bottom - tier 3 every year.

CLINTON: You know, we can look at the glass as half-empty or half full and that's true that some countries are on the bottom but--.

CLANCY: Are we pushing them hard enough or is this something where we - you know, they're our friends. We don't want to push too hard.

CLINTON: Well, we push pretty hard. I mean, it's pretty hard to turn your eyes away from a report that is on the internet and that everybody can access. But I also like to look at the countries that have made a lot of progress. Look at what the Philippines have done, you know, in a change of administration. The Philippines - they probably export more people of their citizenry than nearly any other country in the world. They go all over the world to work in many different settings. And until the new administration of President Aquino, we didn't really have the level of commitment we were seeking. We do now. And we see a - see change of difference. So what we are looking at is yes, those countries that are not moving, we're going to keep pushing. We're going to offer technical assistance. We're going to keep raising it. It's not going away. They can't ignore it and thereby be left alone. And then we're going to keep working with countries that are showing that they want to make a difference and do better.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANDERSON: Hillary Clinton speaking exclusively to Jim Clancy just earlier on in the back of the human trafficking report. I've got Aidan McQuade from Anti-Slavery International with me here in the studio tonight.

Jim raises the very important point there of the challenge of politics certainly with Clinton. I'm referring to the fact that India gets lifted from what was known as **tier two** sort of plus pluses it were **tier two** effectively suggesting in this report that India is improving its lot when it comes to **human trafficking**. And it's an issue that you want to raise as well, the challenge of politics - who's friends with who - at this point and whether that matters to where they stand in this report.

AIDAN MCQUADE, DIRECTOR, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL: I mean, I think it would be naive to presume that politics didn't factor in terms of who's on what tier within this. I do find it a bit peculiar that India, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates are on tier-two along with Brazil because if you look at the level of action which is going on in Brazil, compare it by the Brazilian government, compared to the level of action to those other countries, it just doesn't really compare. Brazil is a much more committed and forthright country in its struggle against slavery. So - however, I mean, I think it would be (INAUDIBLE) not to acknowledge that the report itself does provide a good snapshot of what the state (INAUDIBLE) in various countries. So it needs to become something which is also more broadly looking at the problem than rather than just a narrow focus that it currently has.

ANDERSON: To say - argue as to say they didn't see the beginning of this year the headlines here the worst offenders as far as this global report on trafficking is concerned are in North Korea, Iran, and Saudi Arabia - three countries that we have in the past heard some pretty bad stories from. We talked about those who are being trafficked and you explained there's no one sex to a certain extent, over 27 million faces around the world who are involved. Who's running the industry, Aidan?

MCQUADE: One of the problems with the industry is there is a relatively small number of people who are making a significantly large amount of money out of this. But generally speaking, in most parts of the world, this is poorer people doing it to other poorer people. In some parts of the world, rich people are doing this as well in Europe, in Latin America, rich people are heavily involved in this also. But generally speaking, its poorer people doing this to other poorer people. They're doing this because in many respects, they don't like these other poorer people - they regard them as foreigners. They regard them as lower class or they regard them as indigenous and some sort of prejudice against them. And this means that the response to slavery across the world needs to be (INAUDIBLE) as well. We need to be looking not just at prosecution and protection of individuals who've been trafficked but actually dismantling the systems of prejudice, of lack of education, and of discrimination which are facilitating these people to be enslaved in the first place.

ANDERSON: We'll have you - as we move through the year here on the show - again. This is CONNECT THE WORLD. CNN's Freedom Project of course continues for the entire year, make no excuses about that. Thank you very much indeed for joining us, sir.

Tonight, I just want to close out - just before we close out the show - with some of our viewer comments on this. You'll see that this is a map of the world. You'll see the small airplanes. They negate over. They certainly show where we see the problem across the world. Many of you have tuned in to watch our Freedom Project documentary on Nepal's stolen children on Sunday. It's hosted by Demi Moore. The documentary traces the path of Nepalese girls and women trafficked across the border into India's sex trade industry. The actress seeing firsthand the devastation caused by human slavery - women and children forced into labor. Just have a listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DEMI MOORE, DNA FOUNDATION CO-FOUNDER (Voice-over): This is the day they line up for medicine without which many of these women and children would die. They all carry the HIV virus and many have other related illnesses, in most cases, a legacy of time served under slavery in the brothel.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANDERSON: All right. We've had a huge reaction online to the documentary. (INAUDIBLE) give you some of those.

Luz says "Thank you for making us aware of the terrible situation faced by so many human beings around the world."

Another comment from Jenny: "That was very eye opening; thank you for showing it! Also, why is it rarely ever mentioned?" We're talking there obviously about human trafficking which is something we talk about a lot here on the show.

Carey: "This CNN special on Nepal human trafficking is oddly beautiful for such a brutish subject" she says.

And finally, you can have your say. Visit Facebook page - our Facebook page, facebook.com/CNNconnect, and join us for an encore presentation on Nepal's stolen children, a CNN Freedom Project documentary, Saturday night, 9:00 in London, 10:00 in Johannesburg, and midnight in Abu Dhabi.

I'm Becky Anderson. Thank you for watching. Your world is being connected this evening. The world news headlines and back story will follow this short break. Thank you.

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

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 137 words

News

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

June 27, 2011

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

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

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

compiled from agency reports

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June 27, 2011

U.S. Expands Human Trafficking Blacklist

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 836 words

News

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Last updated (GMT/UTC): 27.06.2011 19:58

Nearly two dozen countries are failing to do enough to tackle human trafficking, a world-wide scourge that claims some 27 million men, women, and children as victims, according to the U.S. State Department.

In its annual "Trafficking in Persons Report," the Obama administration nearly doubled the number of countries that may face U.S. sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking.

It identified 23 states as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge, which claims mainly women and children as victims, up from 13 in 2010.

The report analyzed conditions in 184 countries, including the United States, and ranked them in terms of their effectiveness in fighting what many have termed modern-day slavery.

"Unfortunately, because of the ease of transportation and the global communications that can reach deep into villages with promises and pictures of what a better life might be, we now see that more human beings are exploited than before -- there are as many as 27 million men, women, and children," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at the release of the report on June 27. "And governments have taken important steps, but we have to really mix the commitments with actions in order to get results."

Among the countries on the blacklist are Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, and Sudan, along with frequent U.S. foes Eritrea, Libya, and Zimbabwe.

Others are U.S. allies in the Middle East like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, while Papua New Guinea was cited as a repeat offender.

Only one country, the Dominican Republic, was removed from the list.

Turkmenistan was one of the countries added to the list this year. Ashgabat was given the worst ranking, Tier 3, among all former Soviet republics.

It was faulted for failing to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking or making significant efforts to do so, and for not making "any significant efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes or to identify and protect victims of trafficking."

The report said that "men and women [in Turkmenistan are] subjected to forced labor and forced prostitution," and noted that "women from Turkmenistan are subjected to forced prostitution in Turkey, and men and women from Turkmenistan are subjected to conditions of forced labor in Turkey, including in textile sweatshops, construction sites, and in domestic servitude."

It faulted the government of President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov for "not fulfill[ing] its commitment to allocate financial or in-kind assistance to antitrafficking organizations" or indeed "show any significant efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes or to identify and protect victims of trafficking during the last year."

The U.S. report also said it documented for the first time the presence of Turkmen trafficking victims in Russia and the United Kingdom.

Iran was also named a Tier-3 country for being a "source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor" and because Tehran "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to do so."

It also noted that "lack of access to Iran by U.S. government officials impedes the collection of information on the country's human trafficking problem and the government's efforts to curb it."

According to the report, "Iranian women are trafficked internally for forced prostitution and forced marriage. Iranian and Afghan children living in Iran are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation -- sometimes through forced marriages, in which their new 'husbands' force them into prostitution and involuntary servitude as beggars or laborers to pay debts, provide income, or support drug addiction of their families."

Also documented are "reports of women and girls being sold for marriage to men in Pakistan for the purpose of sexual servitude. Young men and Afghan boys are forced into prostitution in male brothels in southern Iran or to Afghan and Pakistani warlords. Iranian women and children -- both girls and boys -- are also subjected to sex trafficking in Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom."

The U.S. report also faulted the Iranian government for making no discernible efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the reporting period, but rather to punish them." It said Iran "continued to favor direct deportation of foreign victims of trafficking over protection [and] during the reporting period...deported very large numbers of undocumented Afghans without attempting to identify trafficking victims among them."

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428 of 492 DOCUMENTS 94

The Tico Times (San Jose, Costa Rica)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 27, 2011 Monday

Costa Rica placed on international human trafficking watchlist

BYLINE: Will Ferguson, The Tico Times, San Jose, Costa Rica

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 542 words

June 27--Costa Rica is a source and destination for human sex trafficking and forced labor, according to the U.S. Department of State's 2011 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The report states women and girls from Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and other Latin American countries have been identified in Costa Rica as victims of sex trafficking and forced servitude. Costa Rica was downgraded from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 Watchlist this year, joining 40 other countries in danger of potential economic sanctions from the United States.

This is the second time in 10 years that Costa Rica has been included on the Tier 2 Watchlist, the last being in 2008.

The State Department report places nations in one of four categories based on efforts to combat human trafficking and the degree of aid provided to victims. The best ranking is Tier 1. Tier 2 includes countries that demonstrate efforts to address the problem. The Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of digressing to Tier 3, the lowest level.

The report identified the provinces of Guanacaste, Limon, Puntarenas, and San Jose as centers of child sex tourism in Costa Rica. Child sex tourists mainly come to Costa Rica from the United States, Germany, Sweden and Italy, the report stated.

While Costa Rica officials have implemented procedures to identify and help potential trafficking victims, authorities failed to make a single conviction during the reporting period. In 2010, authorities prosecuted a U.S. citizen for alleged sexual exploitation of a child, however the suspect was not convicted. Overall, the government reported minimal efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex or forced labor during the reporting period, the TIP stated.

Out of 60 officially reported trafficking victims, not one Costa Rican was identified by the Costa Rican government, despite NGOs and law enforcement officials identifying several Costa Rican victims.

Out of a total of 184 nations, the U.S. State Department branded 23 nations as falling into the Tier 3 category, up from 13 in 2010. There are an estimated 27 million men, women and children living in forced bondage around the world, according to the State Department. In Latin America, Venezuela, for the first time, and Cuba are on the watchlist. Panama, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador join Costa Rica on the watchlist.

"All countries can and must do more," said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during a presentation of the report. "More human beings are being exploited today than ever before."

Clinton presented Leonel Dubon of Guatemala a 2011 Hero Acting to End Modern Day Slavery Award. He was one of 10 individuals awarded for devoting their lives to the fight against human trafficking, and the only recipient from Central America. Dubon created an NGO and safehouse for underage female sex trafficking victims called El Refugio de la Ninez (Children's Refuge House).

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429 of 492 DOCUMENTS - general

Voice of America News

June 27, 2011

US Expands List of Human Trafficking Violators

BYLINE: David Gollust

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 657 words

The United States on Monday sharply increased the number of countries said to be failing to meet minimum international standards in the fight against human trafficking. Lebanon, Venezuela and several African states are among the new countries given failing grades in the State Department's annual report on trafficking.

Officials here say that despite greater awareness of the problem, human trafficking around the world continues to grow - propelled, in part, by Internet communications being exploited to lure people into sexual slavery and indentured labor.

As a consequence, the State Department expanded from 13 to 23 its list of so-called Tier 3 countries - states that are not seen as making significant efforts to tackle the problem and could be subject to U.S. sanctions.

At a roll-out event for the global report, covering 184 countries and territories, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that as many as 27 million people might be living in slavery. She said that although many countries have anti-trafficking laws, enforcement is lagging.

"The number of prosecutions worldwide has remained relatively static," said Secretary Clinton. "And so the measure of success can no longer be whether a country has passed laws. So many have in the last decade. Now we have to make sure that laws are implemented and that countries are using the tools that have been created for that."

The report, the 11th issued by the State Department under an anti-trafficking law approved by Congress in 2000, lists several chronic human rights violators as Tier 3 countries - including, Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Zimbabwe.

U.S. Persian Gulf allies Kuwait and Saudi Arabia remain as Tier 3 states, joined for the first time by, among others, six African states, Lebanon, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Micronesia.

Of 13 countries listed last year, only one - the Dominican Republic - was removed from Tier 3 for 2011 because of anti-trafficking progress.

The only penalty authorized under U.S. law is the withholding of non-humanitarian aid, and that has been used sparingly.

Clinton said the point of the rating exercise is to encourage countries to respond.

"The report itself is a tool and what we're most interested in is working with countries around the world and working across our own government to get results," she said. "The decade of delivery is upon us."

At Clinton's insistence, the report for the second year in a row assessed **human trafficking** in the United States, which, like most advanced economies, is placed in **Tier 1** with effective laws and enforcement efforts.

But it says the United States remains a source, transit and destination county for men, women and children subjected to forced labor, debt bondage and sex trafficking. It says human traffickers have exploited U.S. visa programs that allow in temporary workers, ostensibly for working in landscaping, farming and tourism industries.

The State Department event honored 10 activists from around the world as heroes, among them Antigua and Barbuda women's rights advocate Sheila Roseau.

Roseau helped push an anti-trafficking law through the Caribbean country's legislature last year, which she said is only the starting point in tackling the problem.

"As we recognize the tremendous efforts taken, let us ensure that we continue to advocate for effective support for survivors," said Roseau. "We must continue to be vigilant in all efforts to combat human trafficking by securing the support of our governments to action, the legislative frameworks developed or enact the appropriate legislation if it's not already in place."

The report listed six countries as violators of a 2008 U.S. law against the use of child soldiers - Burma, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

All but Burma receive some U.S. military aid or training. The monitoring group Human Rights Watch called on the Obama administration to end that aid as provided for under the law.

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430 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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431 of 492 DOCUMENTS general



June 27, 2011 Monday 3:33 PM EST

State Department report ranks countries on human trafficking

BYLINE: From Jill Dougherty, CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent

SECTION: POLITICS

LENGTH: 926 words

DATELINE: Washington

Human trafficking is flourishing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran, with little effort by the countries' governments to combat it, the U.S. State Department said Monday.

The department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report assesses efforts by 184 governments worldwide to fight sexual exploitation, forced labor and modern-day slavery.

The annual report, considered one of the most comprehensive analyses of worldwide **human trafficking**, ranks countries in three "**tiers**."

Iran is among the countries the report describes as "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor."

The State Department's analysis also lists several countries as "special cases," noting that conditions severely restrict government ability to address trafficking there.

Haiti was on that list for a sixth consecutive year. This year's report says massive destruction in the 2010 earthquake crippled the country's ability to fight trafficking. Ivory Coast and Somalia also were on the list.

The State Department says 27 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide, and approximately 100,000 of those victims are in the United States.

In the report's preface, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton describes her visit to a shelter for trafficking survivors last year.

"I was embraced by children who should have been in grade school, but were instead recovering from having been enslaved in a brothel," she wrote.

"We know trafficking in persons affects every region and every country in the world, but looking into the eyes of those girls and hearing their stories firsthand brought home for me once again the very real and personal tragedy of modern slavery."

The report looks at how traffickers operate, what kinds of victims are exploited, and most importantly, what governments are -- and in some cases are not -- doing to protect vulnerable people.

While some countries are repeat offenders, the official tasked with coordinating the U.S. response to human trafficking says the State Department has seen a "decade of progress" in developing tools for prevention, protection, and prosecution of traffickers since it released its first human trafficking report 11 years ago.

For example, 148 countries have signed on to the Palermo Protocol, the international effort headed by the United Nations to combat trafficking, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca said, and 130 countries around the world have enacted laws criminalizing all forms of human trafficking. CdeBaca is in charge of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

But while there have been advances in addressing the problem, the number of victims identified and the number of traffickers prosecuted has "flattened" around the world, CdeBaca said. The trend, he told reporters in a briefing before the report's release, might be attributed to the global economic crisis and diminished resources for victims.

The State Department said it prepared the report using information from U.S. Embassies, government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, published reports, e-mailed tips, and research trips to every region.

"When our staff travels out to the field, we're actually meeting with victims on the ground. We're not just in capitals, we're going out to rural areas, visiting shelters, visiting rehabilitative centers, border checkpoints to see how immigration officers are working to screen victims," said the State Department's Christine Chan-Downer, who helped compile the report.

The trafficking report describes the psychological strategies that pimps use to gain control over the millions of victims exploited in the global commercial sex trade.

"They recruit vulnerable women or girls, pretend to be in love with them," the report says, "ply them with alcohol or drugs, build their dependencies for basic needs or chemical escapes, place other women in supervisory roles over them and encourage them to compete for affection and favor, use an interlocking system of reward and punishment reminiscent of a battering relationship, and threaten their recruits with the shame of their families and a punitive, rather than protective, law enforcement response."

The report also includes data on trafficking, including forced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, child labor, child soldiers and child sex trafficking.

In addition to detailing problems many countries face, the report singles out "heroes" who -- sometimes at great threat to their own safety -- fight trafficking.

Charimaya Tamang of Nepal, for example, helped start an anti-trafficking organization. She was 16 years old when she was taken to India, "spending 22 months enslaved in a brothel before the Indian government rescued her and more than 200 other Nepali women in 1996," the report says.

Returning to Nepal, Tamang "faced social stigma and was outcast from her own community," according to the report. "But she courageously filed a case against her traffickers, becoming the first person to file personally a trafficking case with the district police. In 1997, the District Court -- in a landmark decision -- convicted and sentenced eight offenders involved in her case."

But more must be done, the State Department says.

"While some of the accounts in these pages are disquieting," the report concludes, "they are but a faint echo of the daily suffering of trafficking victims. For every hero or survivor highlighted, millions more remain unacknowledged and unnamed. It is time for that to stop."

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432 of 492 DOCUMENTS 475

Africa News

June 25, 2011 Saturday

Nigeria; Human Trafficking - Country Gets High Rating

BYLINE: This Day (Lagos)

LENGTH: 145 words

Nigeria's has retained its high ranking, **Tier-1**, status on the global rating in her efforts to combat **human Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) according to the 2011 United States Department of State TIP Report.

The Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Protection of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Offences, (NAPTIP), Mr. Simon Chuzi Egede disclosed this to newsmen in Abuja Friday when he received an advanced copy of the 2011 US TIP report from the US Embassy First Political Secretary, Mr. Jeffery Slice.

The report would be embargoed until 7pm, Monday night when US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton would present the full report to the public.

Egede added that the ranking was because the country had developed proactive systems to re-engage law enforcement personnel at TIP destination countries for sharing information and achievable best practises.

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433 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 25, 2011 Saturday

US report ranks Nigeria "high" on efforts to combat human trafficking

LENGTH: 178 words

Text of report by Nigerian newspaper This Day website on 25 June

[Report by Damilola OyedeleOgunluyi: "Human Trafficking: Nigeria Gets High Rating"]

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BYLINE: Damilola Oyedele-Ogunluyi

LENGTH: 145 words

Nigeria's has retained its high ranking, **Tier-1**, status on the global rating in her efforts to combat **human Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) according to the 2011 United States Department of State TIP Report.

The Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Protection of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Offences, (NAPTIP), Mr. Simon Chuzi Egede disclosed this to newsmen in Abuja Friday when he received an advanced copy of the 2011 US TIP report from the US Embassy First Political Secretary, Mr. Jeffery Slice.

The report would be embargoed until 7pm, Monday night when US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton would present the full report to the public.

Egede added that the ranking was because the country had developed proactive systems to re-engage law enforcement personnel at TIP destination countries for sharing information and achievable best practises.

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435 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 23, 2011 Thursday 4:10 AM EST

Guide to Tier Rankings from the Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 1266 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release:

The Department places each country in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report onto one of three **tiers**, as mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on the size of the problem, although the latter is also an important factor. The analyses are based on the extent of governments' efforts to reach compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

While **Tier 1** is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no **human trafficking** problem. Rather, a **Tier 1** ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of **human trafficking**, has made efforts to address the problem, and meets the TVPA's minimum standards. Each year, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress in combating trafficking to maintain a Tier 1 ranking. Indeed, Tier 1 represents a responsibility rather than a reprieve.

Tier rankings and narratives in the TIP Report reflect the following:

- * enactment of laws prohibiting severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined by the TVPA, and provision of criminal punishments for trafficking offenses;
- * criminal penalties prescribed for human trafficking offenses with a maximum of at least four years' deprivation of liberty, or a more severe penalty;
- * implementation of human trafficking laws through vigorous prosecution of the prevalent forms of trafficking in the country;
- * proactive victim identification measures with systematic procedures to guide law enforcement and other government-supported front-line responders in the process of victim identification;
- * government funding and partnerships with NGOs to provide victims with access to primary health care, counseling, and shelter, allowing them to recount their trafficking experiences to trained social counselors and law enforcement in an environment of minimal pressure;
- * victim protection efforts that include access to services and shelter without detention and with legal alternatives to removal to countries in which the victim would face retribution or hardship;
- * the extent to which a government ensures victims are provided with legal and other assistance and that, consistent with domestic law, proceedings are not prejudicial against victims' rights, dignity, or psychological well being;
- * the extent to which a government
- * ensures the safe, humane, and to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation
- * and reintegration of victims; and governmental measures to prevent

* human trafficking, including efforts to curb practices identified as contributing factors to human trafficking including forced labor, such as employers' confiscation of foreign workers' passports and allowing labor recruiters to charge prospective migrants excessive fees.

Tier rankings and narratives are NOT affected by the following:

- * efforts, however laudable, undertaken exclusively by nongovernmental actors (EURO) in the country;
- * general public awareness events - government-sponsored or otherwise - lacking concrete ties to the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, or prevention of trafficking; and
- * broad-based development or law enforcement initiatives without a (EURO) specific human trafficking focus.

A Guide To The Tiers

Tier 1

Countries whose governments fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Tier 2

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Watch List

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards AND:

- a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
- b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; or
- c) the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.

Tier 3

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The TVPA lists additional factors through which to determine whether a country should be on Tier 2 (or Tier 2 Watch List) versus Tier 3. First, the extent to which the country is a country of origin, transit, or destination for severe forms of trafficking. Second, the extent to which the country's government does not comply with the TVPA's minimum standards and, in particular, the extent to which officials or government employees have been complicit in severe forms of trafficking. And third, reasonable measures required to bring the government into compliance with the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities to address and eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In 2008, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act included a provision that any country that has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years and that would otherwise be ranked Tier 2 Watch List for the next year will instead be ranked Tier 3 for the next year. This provision comes into effect for the first time in this year's report. The Secretary of State, through delegation, can waive the automatic downgrade based on credible evidence that a waiver is justified because the government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is devoting sufficient resources to implement the plan. Governments subject to the automatic downgrade provision are noted as such within the country narratives.

Penalties for Tier 3 Countries

Pursuant to the TVPA, governments of countries on Tier 3 may be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the U.S. government may withhold or withdraw nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance. In addition, countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs. Consistent with the TVPA, governments subject to sanctions would also face U.S. opposition to assistance (except for

humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance) from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Imposed sanctions will take effect on October 1; however, all or part of the TVPA's sanctions can be waived if the President determines that the provision of such assistance to the government would promote the purposes of the statute or is otherwise in the United States' national interest. The TVPA also provides for a waiver of sanctions if necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.

No tier ranking is permanent. Each and every country can do more, including the United States. All countries must maintain and increase efforts to combat trafficking.

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436 of 492 DOCUMENTS
ONLY ABOUT USA

Religion World (The Orlando Sentinel)

June 16, 2011 Thursday 4:00 AM EST

BLOG: Religion World: Churches and religious groups unite to fight human trafficking

BYLINE: Jeff Kunerth

LENGTH: 598 words

Jun. 16, 2011 (Religion World delivered by Newstex) --

June 16--ReligionLink reports that the U.S. State Department will release its annual report on human trafficking by the end of June, spotlighting the global trade in enforced labor and the selling or prostitution of people -- as many as 27 million, mostly women and children -- without their consent or benefit. The issue is increasingly mobilizing religious groups.

Many of those groups are based in the United States, spurred by the fact the U.S. itself has come under scrutiny for the level of human trafficking within its borders. Experts say there are forced laborers and sex workers in every U.S. state, and the sex trade alone generates an estimated \$42.5 billion annually worldwide.

The 2010 State Department report, which estimated 12.3 million people were subject to some form of bondage, for the first time listed the U.S. among countries faced with the problem. The report gave the U.S. "**tier 1**" status, ranking it among the top enforcers of **human trafficking** laws and prosecutors of those who engage in it.

Nongovernmental organizations and nonprofits are now enlisting the aid of international, national and local religious groups in the fight against **human trafficking**. Christian and Jewish groups in particular are bringing the issue and its victims into their congregations, exploring sacred texts for direction and solutions. There are now cross-denominational Freedom Sundays and Freedom Shabbats and interfaith conferences dedicated to the issue.

The cable network CNN has been sponsoring a Freedom Project [<http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/>] aimed at "ending modern-day slavery," and on June 26 it will broadcast a one-hour documentary, "Nepal's Stolen Children," [<http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/05/demi-moore-to-host-report-for-cnn-on-human-trafficking/?scp=1&sq=demi%20moore%20cnn%20trafficking&st=cse>] reported and hosted by actress Demi Moore.

To learn more, click on the resources below:

--As of April 2011, there were 172 bills pending in state legislatures [<http://www.trendtrack.com/texis/cq/viewrpt?event=49f99ef0e9>] to address the human trafficking issue, according to the Polaris Project. That is an indicator of how this issue has become a regional and local concern.

--The Conference on Religion, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery [<http://www.denverconference.net/>] was held March 31-April 2, 2011, at the University of Denver. It was a joint project of the university and the Iliff School of Theology.

--On March 3, 2011, the Appignani Bioethics Center, a project of the American Humanist Association [<http://www.americanhumanist.org/>], hosted a panel discussion [<http://humanistbioethics.org/2011/01/sex-work-versus-human-trafficking-examining-the-emerging-global-sex-trade/>], "Human Trafficking, Exploitation and Abuse of Sex

Workers: Suggested Remedies." It took place during the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

--The Freedom Summit 2011 [<http://freedom-summit.org/2011/>] was held Jan. 21-22 and organized by the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition in concert with Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, Calif. The summit focused on building community awareness and mobilization against human trafficking. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered a keynote address.

--Christian recording artists like Natalie Grant and Sara Groves [<http://www.saragroves.com/>] are increasingly using their music to highlight the issue of human trafficking [<http://www.familychristian.com/freedom/>].

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437 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Salon.com

June 15, 2011 Wednesday

Afghanistan is ranked the most dangerous country for women

BYLINE: Natasha Lennard

SECTION: FEATURE

LENGTH: 555 words

HIGHLIGHT: An expert survey ranks the most perilous countries for women, but results should be viewed critically

Afghanistan is the most dangerous country in the world for women according to a panel of gender experts assembled by Thompson Reuters Foundation. The experts, whose findings were gleaned in a survey from TrustLaw (an arm of Thompson Reuters Foundation), ranked which countries were most perilous for women through a number of different factors.

Which countries were found to be most dangerous? Afghanistan was ranked the most dangerous, followed by the Congo, then Pakistan, then India, then Somalia.

Why? In Afghanistan, "violence, poor health care and brutal poverty," notes Al-Jazeera, afflicts women, "while in Congo there are horrific levels of rape" (reportedly some 420,000 women are raped a year). Other practices and circumstances found in countries considered the most dangerous include domestic abuse, genital mutilation, acid attacks and economic discrimination.

The NATO airstrikes in Afghanistan, one women's rights advocate told Al-Jazeera, are among the dangers threatening women in the country.

How did the survey work? 213 gender experts -- aid professionals, academics, health workers, policymakers, journalists and development specialists -- from all around the world ranked the countries based on general perceptions and six specific risks: health threats, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, cultural or religious factors, lack of access to resources and trafficking.

Surprising results? Some have responded with surprise to see India so high up the list, given that women, such as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi -- are able to reach the highest levels of public office. However, it ranked highest for sex trafficking. Only 12 percent of the experts ranked it the worst country in regards to this practice, but no other single country was picked as consistently.

The Wall Street Journal's Tripti Lahiri registers some surprise at countries missing from the list: "China also practices widespread sex selection and is ranked on the State Department's **Tier 2 Watch List on human trafficking**, same as India, while South Africa has a reputation for a high level of sexual violence. Two years ago, Amnesty International declared maternal mortality a human rights emergency in Sierra Leone, but the country didn't appear among those the experts polled were most worried about on this front.

Trustworthy methodology?: TrustLaw explain the methodology of how they reached the rankings, but do not go into detail about the gender experts who provided the results, save for that they are from all five continents and a range of professions. Potential biases in how the experts might have been chosen cannot be checked. It also is problematic that TrustLaw does not elaborate on how it uses terms like "rape" and "domestic abuse," which can come in numerous and insidious forms. More worrying still, the survey frames "danger" in such a way that it was always going point to non-Western countries as the most dangerous for women. For a more nuanced look at why this is hugely problematic, see the fantastic article by Lila Abu-Lughod of Columbia University called "Do Muslim women really need saving?" In

stark contrast, the TrustLaw survey at best offers a snapshot of genuinely concerning situations across the world, but lacks any real or valuable analysis; at worst it betrays concerning cultural and racial biases.

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438 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US DOCUMENT

States News Service

June 15, 2011 Wednesday

HARKIN STATEMENT ON THE 2011 WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1406 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by Iowa Senator Tom Harkin:

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) entered the following statement into the Congressional Record on World Day Against Child Labor. Harkin has been a long-time leader in the fight to eradicate the worst forms of child labor.

Mr. President, I have come to the floor, today, to acknowledge and celebrate the World Day Against Child Labor, which was commemorated earlier this week

An estimated 215 million children across the world are still trapped in the worst forms of child labor. A report issued by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in May 2010 offered some good news in the fight against child labor. There is a decline in the number of girls trapped in child labor. There are fewer children doing hazardous work. We are closer than ever to universal ratification of ILO Convention 182, which prohibits the worst forms of child labor. One hundred and seventy three out of 192 participating nations have ratified this convention.

However, due to the economic crisis, there also have been setbacks. Child labor has been increasing among boys and in young people between the ages of 15 and 17. Progress in reducing child labor in sub-Saharan Africa has stalled. While some people may point to the global economic crisis as a cause of for these setbacks, we cannot use this as an excuse for complacency.

One can look at the country of Uzbekistan to see the dire need for more action. According to School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, over 2 million children are forcibly pulled from school by government officials to work in cotton fields. Uzbek cotton is listed as a good produced by forced labor and child labor by the Department of Labor. It is listed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** in the State Departments **Trafficking in Persons** Report. Yet despite this clear, compelling and thoroughly documented evidence of Uzbekistans abject failure to live up to its international commitments under ILO Convention 182, business goes on as usual. Uzbekistan has received no sanction and continues to receive trade benefits from the United States under the Generalized System of Preference.

The work performed by these children, stooped over to pick cotton under a hot sun, also falls under the category of hazardous work. Hazardous work is by its very nature likely to harm the health and safety of children. Hazardous work exposes children to physical, emotional, or even sexual abuse. It includes children working underground in mines, under water, at dangerous heights, or in confined spaces. Children work with dangerous machinery, equipment, and tools. They may work in unhealthy environments, exposed to hazardous substances like nicotine in tobacco fields, or to extreme temperatures, noise levels or vibrations that can damage growing bodies. Some children are even forced to work such long hours that they are up for entire nights, or are not allowed to return to their own home at the end of the day.

The ILO estimates that 115 million children perform hazardous work. Forty one million of these are girls and 74 million are boys. Sixty two million are between the ages of 15 and 17, and 53 million are 14 years old or younger.

It is vitally important to get children out of the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous work, , so they may attend school, do well in their studies, and gain the knowledge and skills necessary to build a decent life. To this end, the

United States government needs to approach the scourge of child labor in a holistic manner. We need to address the underlying poverty that forces so many children to forgo schooling in order to meet even their most basic needs.

Fortunately, through the Department of Labor, the United States has undertaken projects to do just that. In Ghana, DOL is working with the ILO and the Government of Ghana to implement a new, holistic program to reduce child labor in the cocoa sector by 70 percent by 2020. This effort has gone hand in hand with a renewed effort by the international cocoa industry, which has pledged \$7 million in new funding to this fight. I've been personally involved in this effort with my good friend and colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman Eliot Engel of New York.

In fact, this unified effort of the U.S. Government, the Ghanaian Government and the cocoa industry recently reviewed innovative programs proposed by the cocoa industry in support of its \$7 million pledge. It is my hope that this approach, governments working hand-in-hand with industry and implementing partners, can become a model to combat the worst forms of child labor worldwide.

This is just one example of many Department of Labor programs that are in progress all over the world. Another such program, in Guatemala, takes at-risk children and provides them after school activities that reinforce their education, giving them an opportunity for recreation and personal growth in stark contrast to the stunted prospects that follow from being forced to work long hours. Another program, in Lahore, Pakistan, has redesigned the looms people use to weave carpets, eliminating hazards such as back injuries and bone deformities that have plagued children. These and other Department of Labor projects form the backbone of U.S. efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.

It's not enough to do this just at the Department of Labor though. In Afghanistan, a 2006 UNICEF report estimated that one in four children between the ages of seven and 14 is subject to the worst forms of child labor. As the Department of Defense and other departments are spending huge amounts of U.S. taxpayer dollars in Afghanistan, it is vitally important to require child labor protections in our various programs and contracts in that country.

Starting this year, a Department of Defense contract to provide market access to Afghan carpet makers will work hand-in-hand with the proven GoodWeave certification system to assure that the carpets made under this taxpayer funded program are not made with the worst forms of child labor.

So while there has been much progress made, and our efforts abroad are continuing to build success, we must remain vigilant, even here at home. Regrettably, there are some states here in the U.S. that are trying to undermine the fundamental protections we have afforded to children for generations. For example, the Republican-controlled legislature of Maine decided to pass a bill stripping state-level child labor protections. Maine's Republican governor decided it would be better for his state to take a step backwards because he personally went to work at age 11, and, as he put it, It's not a big deal. Work doesn't hurt anybody.

Well, I would like to tell you how putting a job before children's education can set them back. At a time when it seems that most new jobs require high skill levels, great harm is done by denying these children a chance to acquire these skills. We need to be educating the next generation of doctors, engineers, and scientists. However, the OECD shows that the United States has slipped to the 23rd best country at science education and 31st at math.

We're not going to catch-up to other countries if our children are spending too much time working at McDonalds or Burger King. I agree that having a part-time job after school or on weekends can be beneficial. However, studies have shown that teenagers working more than 20 hours a week have a greater tendency towards academic and behavioral problems, as well as higher dropout rates. The United States should aspire to being the country that out-builds, out-educates and out-innovates. If we continue undermining our child labor laws and neglecting education, we will be the country that out-grills, out-flips and out-fries!

There are even some members of the Senate who have questioned whether child labor laws are constitutional. Apparently the protection of our most vulnerable children from exploitation isn't part of protecting the general welfare. Apparently the Supreme Court was incorrect when it unanimously upheld the Fair Labor Standards Act 70 years ago.

It is for all of these reasons that I continue the fight against the worst forms of child labor. It is also why I have come to the floor, today, to salute the World Day Against Child Labor. But one day is not enough. We should be focused on the needs of these children not only on June 12 each year, but 365 days a year.

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439 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Federal News Service

June 13, 2011 Monday

HEARING OF THE AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; SUBJECT: "BEST PRACTICES AND NEXT STEPS: A NEW DECADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING"; CHAIRED BY: REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ); WITNESSES: PANEL I: LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, STATE DEPARTMENT; PANEL II: DEBORAH CUNDY, VICE PRESIDENT, CARLSON COMPANIES; CHAI LING, FOUNDER, ALL GIRLS ALLOWED; NANCY RIVARD, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, AIRLINE AMBASSADORS INTERNATIONAL; PHILIP KOWALCYZK, PRESIDENT, THE BODY SHOP; KEVIN BALES, CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, FREE THE SLAVES; AND DAVID ABRAMOWITZ, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, HUMANITY UNITED; LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING

LENGTH: 31120 words

HEARING OF THE AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBJECT: "BEST PRACTICES AND NEXT STEPS: A NEW DECADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING" CHAIRED BY: REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ) WITNESSES: PANEL I: LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, STATE DEPARTMENT; PANEL II: DEBORAH CUNDY, VICE PRESIDENT, CARLSON COMPANIES; CHAI LING, FOUNDER, ALL GIRLS ALLOWED; NANCY RIVARD, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, AIRLINE AMBASSADORS INTERNATIONAL; PHILIP KOWALCYZK, PRESIDENT, THE BODY SHOP; KEVIN BALES, CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, FREE THE SLAVES; AND DAVID ABRAMOWITZ, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, HUMANITY UNITED LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 2:30 P.M. EDT DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011

REP. SMITH: The subcommittee will come to order, and I'd like to welcome all of you this afternoon to this important hearing on human trafficking. The focus of course is on the continuing fight to end human trafficking in all of its forms and manifestations. Significant progress has been made since I authored the landmark legislation known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, or the TVPA, to address trafficking around the world, almost a decade ago, but new forms and methods of trafficking are consistently and constantly emerging, and we have to constantly recalibrate our efforts to stay ahead of them.

At this hearing, we will be examining in -- particularly the most effective policies and tools developed by the government and the private sector to combat human trafficking. No country and few industries are untouched by this pervasive human rights abuse. Traffickers use airlines to move their victims, hotels to exploit sex trafficking victims and unsuspecting buyers to pay for goods that have been made with raw materials tainted by forced and bonded labor.

It is estimated that there are anywhere from 12 (million) to 27 million sex and labor trafficking victims in the world at any given time. We know that organized crimes, street gangs and pimps have expanded into sex trafficking at an alarming rate.

It's an extremely lucrative undertaking. A trafficker can make some \$200,000 a year off just one victim. Unlike drugs or weapons, a human being can be held captive and sold into sexual slavery over and over and over again. It turns a woman or a child or anyone into a commodity.

And we are just beginning to understand the full scope of labor trafficking. The International Labor Organization estimates that countries import and export billions of dollars worth of goods made by labor trafficking victims. Unsuspecting buyers purchase these goods,, perpetuating the profits of traffickers and the misery of the victims.

The TVPA was a landmark bill with a bold strategy that included sheltering, asylum and other protections for the victims, long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers and tough sanctions for the governments that fail to meet minimum standards prescribed by the act. It was met initially with a wall of skepticism in opposition, and I think David Abramowitz remembers so well on both sides of the aisle there were people who thought that it was a solution in search of a problem. When you talk trafficking, people thought you were talking about drug trafficking, and it was a very myopic and narrow-minded view about that.

One major problem, especially from the Clinton administration, was the naming and ranking of countries based on compliance with the establishment of common-sense minimum standards, clearly articulated prevention, protection and prosecution benchmarks enforced by sanctions and penalties against egregious violators. Fortunately, reality won out over ignorance, and a very, very fine bipartisan coalition was formed and the TVPA was signed into law by President Clinton two years later after its introduction in the year 2000.

The Trafficking in Persons Report, which is written by the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking, currently headed by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, not only summarizes the rankings and performance of each nation every year but also provides detailed recommendations as to how each country can improve its efforts. The report has become a resource and diplomatic tool of extraordinary value.

In the last 10 years, we have seen over a 130 countries change their laws to better fight human trafficking. Successful prosecutions have increased dramatically. The number of victims identified and rescued goes up significantly each year, but still much more needs to be done.

In 2009, close to 50,000 victims were rescued worldwide, more than any other recorded year, yet this is just a fraction of the 12 (million) to 27 million slavery victims suffering around the world. Parts of the TVPA were reauthorized in '03 and '05 and 2008. Of course, some of it is permanent law but those parts that needed to be reauthorized were done so, and we are now preparing to reauthorize sections of the legislation again this year.

This hearing provides an opportunity and an important opportunity to see what new and effective measures are being taken by various stakeholders and what the U.S. government can do to help encourage and facilitate those efforts. Of particular interest are the evolving roles of public-private partnerships. In the past five years, several effective initiatives that aimed to prevent trafficking and assist victims have been undertaken by the private sector.

Joining us at this hearing is a representative of Carlson Wagonlit, which has taken a lead in developing best practices for the hotel industry. The Body Shop is using their brand to raise awareness of human trafficking and a campaign for country-specific solutions. Airline ambassadors, nongovernmental organizations is identifying gaps in trafficking prevention on airlines and developing training for the worldwide industry. Other NGOs such as All Girls Allowed have exposed government policies such as China's brutal one-child-per-couple policy that fuels trafficking demand and contributes directly to the exploitation of girls and women.

I'm particularly pleased to welcome Mr. David Abramowitz as a witness before our subcommittee today.

Prior to his current position with Humanity United, Mr. Abramowitz served for many years as chief counsel with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and he has been involved in the drafting and negotiations of the TVPA since it was first introduced back in 1998. Mr. Abramowitz is well-known as a leading expert in the human trafficking field and

as a stalwart advocate of trafficking victims around the world, and it's a privilege to have him here with us today, although I'm used to seeing him right here.

David, thank you for being here.

This hearing will highlight the need to harness the insights and the expertise of government and various actors from civil society alike. Such coordinated efforts should always be an emphasis of public policy but are particularly necessary in times of severe budgetary constraints such as now facing our global economy. Such partnerships bring together a broader range of expertise, leverage resources to obtain better results and spread awareness to people who can make a difference but who may otherwise never hear about human trafficking. I look forward to hearing the testimonies of our witnesses as we look to strengthen the global fight against human trafficking.

Mr. Payne will be joining us, our ranking member, very shortly, but I would like to recognize Ms. Bass for an opening statement that she might have -- Bass.

REPRESENTATIVE KAREN BASS (D-CA): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Smith, human trafficking is a significant and complex international and national crisis that requires significant attention. Many organizations in my district in Los Angeles have demonstrated significant leadership in addressing trafficking both internationally and domestically. The leadership of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, the Thai Community Development Corporation, the Covenant House are just three organizations that I'm proud to represent, and I'd like to thank their ongoing leadership in combating trafficking.

I'd also like to recognize Chairman Smith for your diligent work and committed work to end trafficking around the world.

Chairman Smith, your work on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorization have been tremendous, and I look forward to working with you on this year's bill.

The United States Justice Department estimates that nearly 18,000 men, women and children are trafficked across our borders annually. Unfortunately, many victims do not receive the level of emotional and physical assistance that they need.

One of the most disturbing elements of trafficking is that a large percentage of the trafficking victims are minors. In fact, the average age at which girls become victims of sexual exploitation in the U.S. is 13. These young victims require special attention and care, and as a long-time advocate for children and particularly foster youth, I will be introducing legislation that will strengthen the ability of child welfare professionals to identify and support victims and will provide specialized support for trafficking victims within the foster care system.

I look forward to working alongside my colleagues on this committee as well as joining forces with our witnesses today to move this legislation forward. Last, I'd like to recognize our expert panelists today. Your leadership in combating trafficking is inspiring and has truly made a difference throughout our world. I look forward to hearing your testimony today and discussing how we can collaborate and expand the best use of -- to curb trafficking through prosecution, protection, prevention and public-private partnerships. Thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Bass, thank you very much for your statement and for your comments, and I look forward to working with you on these very important issues.

I'd like to now yield to Ms. Buerkle, the gentlelady from New York.

REPRESENTATIVE MARIE BUERKLE (R-NY): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is a sobering statistic that 12.3 million people around the world are in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution. Unfortunately, too many of us still think primarily of the Civil War when we hear the term slavery. We are disconnected from certain ugly realities of our modern world.

I agree with Chairman Smith that effectively fighting worldwide trafficking and slavery requires a collaborative approach that involves all levels of the government, NGOs, law enforcement and health care professionals as well. I would add one more list -- one more partner to that list, the American people.

Trafficking and enslavement of millions of people should be an issue of grave concern to all Americans. We should be engaged because it not only affects us as a country, our security and our commerce but it also speaks to our common

humanity. I applaud the witnesses today for their diverse efforts to address what, I believe, is the seminal global issue of our time.

Thank you to Chairman Smith for all of your efforts and all that you do to promote human rights. I look forward to hearing from all of our panelists during the next question-and-answer period as well as their testimony. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back my time.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Buerkle, thank you very much for your statement and for your leadership on human rights issues in general and on trafficking particularly. Thank you.

I'd like to now welcome to the witness table Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, who coordinates U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. Ambassador CdeBaca directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance and advocates for an end to modern-day slavery.

Ambassador CdeBaca formerly served as counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where his portfolio for Chairman John Conyers included modern-day slavery issues. He has also served as a federal prosecutor with the Department of Justice where he convicted dozens of abusive pimps and employers and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude.

I want to, on a very personal note, thank the ambassador for his exemplary commitment to ending this heinous practice. He eats, sleeps and breathes this issue. You talk to him, he's a man with an idea every day on how to combat slavery. So, again, we are well-served as a country having him at the helm over at the Department of State.

Mr. Ambassador.

LUIS CDEBACA: Thank you, Chairman Smith and members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the invitation to testify today and for your leadership in the fight against modern slavery. More than 10 years ago, a group of women who had been enslaved in the commercial sex trade by the Cadena family in Florida testified before this committee.

As a federal prosecutor, I brought over a dozen of their traffickers to justice. It was their courage that led the way to the path-breaking legislation that updated our antislavery laws and launched a new abolitionist movement.

Looking back, we've seen the effects of this decade of development, cases ranging from Upstate New York to Georgia, from New Hampshire to Saipan. The TVPA has had dramatic results at the federal level, and state and territorial governments have followed. Just in the last few months, we've seen legislatures from Washington and Hawaii to Vermont and Tennessee becoming among the most recent to pass laws that track with the TVPA, and we hope soon that we'll see universal adoption of modern antitrafficking laws in all our states and territories.

We've seen innovators, such as the witnesses that you've brought today -- together for today's hearing. We've seen results from the federal government, and I'd offer for the record a document prepared earlier this spring by the cabinet level taskforce about those activities, but even more we see a movement that is maturing and expanding.

With government leaders like Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna who next week, when he is sworn in as president of the National Association of Attorneys General, will make trafficking the flagship issue of his term; with civil society heroes like Rachel Lloyd whose innovative methods at GEMS are helping girls on their journey out of modern slavery and back into society; with successes like the National Human Trafficking Resource Center operated for HHS by the Polaris Project, which receives an ever-growing number of calls, linking victims up with NGOs and law enforcement who can help them; with coalitions of NGOs and advocates, such as the Freedom Network, the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition, U.S. PACT, Demand Abolition, ATEST and more who are working for real-world results rather than just symbolic gestures; and bloggers like Amanda Kloer and Youngbee Dale who are using new media to inform, inspire, cajole and change, because in a decade of delivery, it is results that matter. The symbolic work has largely been done -- the baseline work of definitions and concepts and laws and programs, that's been very much done, achieved consensus and stability. But around the world as well as at home, it is implementation and results that will make or break this movement in the next decade.

Having worked on the original TVPA and subsequent reauthorizations, I know all too well that while nobody favors human trafficking, good people who care deeply sometimes disagree about how best to fight this crime. Mr. Chairman, you've worked to bring together those diverse voices and to ensure that the United States remains innovative and in the lead.

Indeed the careful balance that you struck in the 2008 reauthorization ensured that the United States definition of trafficking and the application of minimum standards would continue to drive international norms. The vision of the TVPA and the carefully crafted compromises of the 2008 bill deserve the continued support of this body.

I would like to take one note of personal privilege and urge this subcommittee and the full committee to continue one of the most important things that Congress can do, and that is to get out on the road and see these people for yourselves, get out on the road and have your staff see these people.

One of the things that made the 2008 bill reflect the reality on the ground, for instance was a trip that Sheri Rickert from your staff, myself and some others were able to take to Thailand and Cambodia, to go into the shelters, to go into the red-light districts, to see human trafficking once and for all. And I think that that's something that unfortunately, again, in this time of budget constraints, in this time when there is so much pressing work to do at home, we often don't remember that it's those trips; it's those experiences as holding the trafficking victims in your arms that informs what we then come back and do here in Congress or in the administration. And so I certainly would urge that kind of continued involvement on the part of the staff and members of the committee.

The challenges facing the United States and governments around the world might not be at this point so much issues of creating new legislation as the often more difficult activities of implementation, political will and resources. So in my written testimony, I've outlined more fully a range of promising practices and forward-looking innovations that will help governments live up to the commitments that they've made and shape the next 10 years as a decade of delivery.

These are solutions that harness the power of the business community and a consumer but also challenge them, challenge them to know as much about their slavery footprint as they want to know about their carbon footprint, to advocate locally and nationally for a world without slavery and to reject the culture of boys-will-be-boys and choke off the demand for commercial sex and cheap goods that fuels this crime.

But as important as innovation and partnership with civil societies are, it remains a core governmental responsibility to fight against modern slavery. And the best tool for assessing those efforts is and continues to be the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Leaders in Africa, Latin America and around the world have credited the report as a motivating factor for their actions as governments.

As Congress considers reauthorizations, it is important that we maintain and strengthen this diagnostic and diplomatic tool. Because it's incumbent upon governments around the world to go farther than just acknowledging that problem exists in passing laws that criminalize all types of human trafficking, moving forward, our measure of success -- whether assessing foreign governments or our own -- can no longer just be whether a government has enacted a law that looks good on paper but rather, is that law implemented broadly and effectively.

All governments can and must do more. If otherwise functioning legal systems aren't responding to the needs of trafficking victims, developed countries can't just stand by and presume that they're doing well. Developing countries can't absolve themselves of responsibility by pleading lack of capacity, because crimes are usually not solved with money. They are solved with political will and standards and high expectations for police, prosecutors and judges.

Governments shouldn't just aggressively pursue traffickers. They have to couple enforcement with robust victim identification and protection efforts and proactive attempts to prevent this crime, and they must affirmatively partner with NGOs. NGOs asking the government to act is not partnering. Working together is.

We've come a long way in the last decade. Last week, an attorney for the women who testified here a decade ago joined me at a meeting of the U.S.-Russia presidential civil society working group. She continues to represent those clients, but she also has become a global leader in victim rights advocacy, sharing the lessons that she has learned from them and dozens of subsequent clients.

It struck me during those meetings last week that the lessons and examples of the Cadena case continue to inform how we fight this crime today. The strength of those women and girls and their success today 10 years later in having been reintegrated into our society of survivors must continue to serve as a call to action for us to deliver on the uniquely American promise of freedom.

We must continue to be a strong voice for those women, for other survivors and the millions of victims who remain lost in the shadows unable to break free or speak out. It is they who inspired a decade of development. It is us who owe them a decade of delivery.

Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Marino, do you have any opening statement?

REPRESENTATIVE TOM MARINO (R-PA): No.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Thank you.

Let me just begin the questioning with a couple of -- first of all, regards to the TIP Office, and I know that these kind of requests need to go through the Office of Management and Budget, but do you have sufficient staff, Mr. Ambassador, to do the extraordinarily important work that you and your staff do?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, you certainly identified the route that that question needs to go through. We certainly have seen the advantage of having more staff in the office over the last year and a half. We've grown such that we've been able to add a person or two to each of our teams. We have four teams, a public engagement, which works very much with not only here in the Congress but our public-private partnerships, a lot of our prevention activities, the program staff, the political affairs staff that does the report each year and our admin staff.

And one of the things that we've seen as we have been able to add a couple of bodies to each of those teams -- we're able to move past merely a report that accuses a country of doing something to a relationship with those countries, both a diplomatic relationship and a programmatic relationship. And so if we maintain those levels, we'll be able to continue to serve those relationships at the high level that we're doing right now. If we had more staff, we would certainly look to having even more engagement. We have certainly seen how that lower caseload, as it were, is achieving results in countries.

When I first came to the office, some of our reporting officers had 35 or even 40 countries on their docket, and now we're looking at 20 to 25 countries at most. Optimally, if we could get down to 15 or so, people really would be able to have a very strong working relationship and could achieve change in those countries.

REP. SMITH: One of our witnesses in the second panel, Deborah Cundy, vice president of Carlson, you and I both heard her speak very eloquently as to what Carlson is doing to combat trafficking in the hotels, and she points out in her testimony that in 2004 Carlson was approach by the U.S. Department of State to sign the travel industry's Code of Conduct, and she talks about how hotels are complicit in these activities but often they are unwitting facilitators. And I'm wondering how the progress has been with other companies other than Carlson. Are you finding a reluctance on the part of hotel chains and the like, and are they perhaps looking at the example of what Carlson has done and looking to emulate it?

MR. CDEBACA: One of the things that we've seen is that the Carlson companies took a very brave and, unfortunately, for many years a very lonely stand in the -- with the Code of Conduct. And it's only now in recent years that we've seen other of the big hotel chains start to respond.

We have been trying to work with hotel companies, for instance, in a project that we have in Mexico, trying to get materials out about child sex tourism and other things. But at the end of the day, I think that the fear that many of the corporations had of being associated with this crime -- even if it was that they were fighting it, the notion of having the term "slavery" associated with them was so nerve-wrecking to many of these companies than when we even talk with them they would say, we'd love to do something; of course we're against modern slavery but we don't really want anybody to know what we're doing.

So there has been a couple of the large hotel companies that we've talked to about things they can do within their own company. But at the end of the day, it seems like the response is coming after -- to use a farm analogy, after the horse is out of the barn.

We recently saw the Hilton hotels look to join the Code of Conduct. That was after a scandal broke in one of their hotel properties in Southeastern China. There is currently pressure on the Wyndham Group because of some cases in California in which -- I think it was Travelodge, which is one of their brands was implicated in a sex trafficking ring. So this is something that we see more and more energy coming to as corporations that are getting the rude wakeup call of a case happening on their property are now finding a potential place of refuge in the Conduct of Conduct. And we want to encourage them not to wait until something bad happens on their property but to join the Carlson Companies earlier rather than later.

REP. SMITH: You know, today we've invited Nancy Rivard from Airline Ambassadors and Philip Kowalczyk from the Body Shop, which are two other extraordinarily effective models for the rest of the industry. But I'm thinking in a subsequent hearing of inviting -- and maybe they will come. Maybe they won't. We did it with the Global Online Freedom Act with Google and Microsoft to invite some corporations that are not necessarily doing what they ought to be doing.

But hopefully today a gentle prod to all the rest is to sign the Code of Conduct but more importantly, after you sign it, implement it and be very faithful. Is there anything you'd want to say about those other companies or in the case of the Airline Ambassadors -- they deal with the airline industry -- or with the Body Shop?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we have seen -- and we saw this recently now with Delta Airlines signing the Code of Conduct -- is that there should not be a 10 or 15-hour respite for the trafficker once they have made it past the gauntlet of law enforcement or others in the source country and before they come to our shores where they're going to exploit their people. That time on the airplane is a time when victims could be identified. It's a time when people can be educated. It's the ultimate captive audience.

And so what we've seen, whether it's the work the Airline Ambassadors has done, was trying to harness the energies of folks in the airline industry to do charitable work outside of their working hours or what's happening within that -- the confines of the plane. It's something that I think bears great looking at.

What we've seen as far as the Body Shop is a very interesting extension of their brand. It wasn't designed, I don't think, to be one of the selling points of the Body Shop. My understanding is when it was founded it was very much trying to an ethical and responsibly sourced company, and it has then grown into one of its selling points, and it should be a selling point. A natural extension of what the Body Shop has done throughout the years, throughout the last 30 years as being a responsible corporate citizen has been the work that it's doing with ECPAT.

And so what we see especially with these petitions, the use of the Body Shop as an advocacy vehicle is a new model of corporate social responsibility. I think that one of the things that I would like to see is -- and the Body Shop is a -- I think, a pioneer in this -- is moving past the idea that corporate social responsibility is something you do when business is done or is something that you do as an adjunct to your business and instead the notion that this is actually part of a very productive business model.

REP. SMITH: Let me just ask you -- one of the hallmarks of the TVPA and one of the most difficult provisions for us to get enacted into law -- it held up the conference for a long time -- was the T visa. We're hearing from some of the NGOs that the family unification program -- you know, the -- one of the hallmarks of it was bringing family members in addition to providing asylum to the individual who has been harmed by trafficking so that the retaliatory tool that traffickers had would be mitigated and so that the trafficked person, the victim, would be able to perhaps get additional supports as she or he goes through the healing process.

How many family unifications is the State Department facilitating at this time? Has it stopped? And, if so, why?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, there is currently a backlog in the family unification program. With the lack of a budget and the various negotiations that were going on around that, everything was put into limbo. This is a program that's been traditionally administered by the bureau of population refugee management. It's a PRM program. We have -- now that the smoke is cleared and we've seen what the internal budget cuts are at the State Department, G/TIP has kicked in some money in an agreement with PRM so that we can clear that backlog. As far as going forward, though, I think that there is an open question as to whether we have the funding to see that program into FY 2011 and 2013.

REP. SMITH: Is it a matter of prioritization or is it a matter of -- I mean, there is not enough money in -- any other pocket of money that could be used?

MR. CDEBACA: I will shake whatever trees need to be shaken. I think that we'll work with the committee and others to try to identify other trees to shake if necessary. This is the first time that G/TIP has put money into this program. And obviously it was redirected away from other programs that we would have done. So we'd like to find a solution to this as well.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Anything we can do as a subcommittee I'm sure both sides of the aisle would be very happy to assist, because again that was a very difficult provision. There were those who suggested at the time that both the T visa itself and bringing family members over would be exploited. Nothing like that has happened over the last decade. If anything, it has been too slow in being implemented. So if we could be of assistance, please let us know.

Let me ask just a few final questions. First, one of our witnesses will be testifying, Chai Ling, about the issue of -- from All Girls Allowed -- the egregious issue, one of the worst issues I think ever to be -- confront humankind, and that's the issue of the missing girls in China and in India largely attributable to sex-selection abortion. It has become increasingly a magnet for human trafficking in both of those countries, especially in China where the one-child-per-couple policy has made brothers and sisters illegal.

And the question is since this is a wave, as men get into marriageable age and there is a dearth of potential brides out there, we know that the traffickers will and are already sweeping into action to buy and sell women to be exploited in China.

I know the TIP report will be released soon. You might want to tell us when today. We'd love to hear. But my hope is that your office has adequately brought that issue onboard in terms of an exacerbating problem for traffickers -- for trafficking, I should say, and for victims.

MR. CDEBACA: Indeed. Yes, Mr. Smith, this is something that we continue to report on and something I raise in my discussions with our Chinese counterparts. The Chinese have an inter-ministerial antitrafficking council now which makes it perhaps a little easier for us to plug up with them and be able to have some of these types of conversations.

I think that as we pointed out in the TIP report last year and has been in other interventions on our part, this notion of the skewed sex ratio in China that, as you say, results from these policies is having a destabilizing effect that we have noted and we'll continue to discuss with the Chinese. Especially as we see that the importation of women from other countries or the trapping of those who would try to flee the regime in North Korea, it is a problem and it's something that we need to continue to push on.

I think that one of things that we hope to be able to tell you very soon is an exact date for this year's release of the TIP report. We will definitely make the June -- June is when it's supposed to come out and June is when it will come out.

We've got a secretary of state who is having to go wheels-up a little sooner than she thought because of yet another volcano that's erupting this time in Africa. And so scheduling the next couple of weeks has been difficult over the last few days. We will be letting your office know very soon exactly when the report will be coming out.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much. Let me ask you -- Kevin Bales of Free the Slaves will be testifying shortly and will bring a tremendous amount of focus on the issue of what's going on in Eastern Congo. Frankly, I've been there and I have seen the devastation that has resulted from the minerals and wars, if you will, the exploitation of people, slavery.

He and others have signed a letter that went to the secretary of state opposing a delay or phase-in of the reporting requirements of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform bill. And a letter was sent back on March 17th that puts the administration at least on the side of saying they are not for a delay. But I'm wondering where all of that is right now in terms of that section. Is it being implemented?

MR. CDEBACA: Congressman, I'd have to check on that and circle back to you, and I'll try to get you an answer forthwith.

REP. SMITH: I appreciate it.

Finally, just two final questions -- David Abramowitz in his testimony, and we heard some similar testimony earlier at a hearing that you were at, with the Helsinki Commission from the Solidarity Foundation. But he makes a very strong appeal that there be an elimination of fees for foreign labor contractors, fees assessed on the worker -- if it's assessed on the company itself, apparently that's okay -- but on the laborer themselves, full disclosure and enforcement, and points out that the Wilberforce legislation had some very good provisions that were lost between the House and the Senate.

They passed in the House but not in the Senate. And I'm wondering if you think the elimination of broker fees, labor contractor fees is something that would help to mitigate labor trafficking and if you would support legislative initiatives in that regard.

MR. CDEBACA: I'll take those backwards if I could.

REP. SMITH: Sure.

MR. CDEBACA: Obviously I think we'll have to continue discussions with the committee and with your office as far as any particular legislation before we'd be able to give you feedback on supporting particular things. But I do think

that this is something that we have been pointing out in the last few TIP reports, it's something that concerns us greatly, the amount of fees that are charged by these brokers, even when the broker delivers and so often they do not.

So often it's the bait-and-switch in labor recruiting that lends itself towards a debt bondage or peonage type of situation. The company store doesn't necessarily happen through the deductions later on, it's already happened before the person even travels because they owe so much money. So it's something that we've been highlighting and it's something that really clicked into focus for us, I think, in the last few months in the wake of the Libya problems.

When so many of the returning Bangladeshi migrant workers who are coming back to Bangladesh are reporting to IOM that they -- while they were in Libya before the Gaddafi Regime began to target its own citizens, the workers of whom there were almost 3 million foreign guest workers routinely had had their passports taken and owed so much money to the labor recruiters that they had to stay there effectively for every day of their three-year term just to pay the debt back.

So what we've seen is people who in effect are renting themselves to the recruiters. They know that they're not going to get very much money. It's something that needs a solution, and we want to work with you and the committee to find a solution.

REP. SMITH: (Inaudible) -- I'm planning an additional hearing that would invite the Department of Defense and speak of -- and this would be in follow up to two previous hearings that I put together three years ago on the use of labor-brokers to bring people into Iraq where huge amounts of moneys were being expended for very laudable goals, but these people were given, it was a typical MO of a trafficked laborer, they took their passports, the agreement that they had made as to what their salary would be was drastically cut, they lived in subhuman housing. And we had Ambassador Miller here coupled with some DOD representatives and they kept telling us they're going to do better, and I'm wondering if they are doing better in terms of DOD --

MR. : Who, our folks?

MR. : Our folks, our folks.

REP. SMITH: It was very discouraging -- (inaudible).

MR. CDEBACA: This is of concern, it's something that was raised in the cabinet meeting earlier this year, it was something that Secretary Gates had a lot of, continues to have a lot of personal interest in and we think that we'll be meeting with secretary, soon to be secretary, Panetta, as soon as he is in place. What we've seen is, as you all recall, the Wilberforce act mandated the inspectors general from DOD, State and USAID start looking at these contracting situations.

And what we'd found is that in many cases the contracting officers did not necessarily know to include these types of provisions, these kind of safeguards into their contracts. So as far as the State Department is concerned we either should have a Procurement Information Bulletin or a PIB in this March with additional reporting requirements making sure that contractors are providing trafficking and know-your-rights types of briefings to the third-country nationals and subcontractors, making sure that they can't withhold the passports, informing them about the zero-tolerance policy on the use of commercial sex or human trafficking.

So we're seeing this idea of being able to tightened up the Federal Acquisitions Registry, but I do think that's it's something that needs some, as much light shown on it as possible. We want to make sure that we are doing the right thing, that our slavery footprint as well. If we're going to ask the consumer to look at their own slavery footprint we have to look at it as a government.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

Ms. Bass.

REP. BASS: Yes, thank you.

I'd like to ask you a couple of questions related to technology in this issue. The Center for Missing and Exploited Children, advocacy groups, private companies and universities like the one in my district, the University of Southern California have established guidelines and recommendations on how to utilize cutting-edge technology to fight trafficking and child exploitations. Examples of innovative approaches include the use of PhotoDNA, mandating ISPs to stop child porn access, et cetera. I wanted to know how in your opinion the State Department has embraced these technologies and incorporated into its toolkit to prevent trafficking.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, the child pornography issue is a very serious one that the State Department deals with, not through the TIP Office but through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. And so one of the things that we've been doing through funding resident legal advisors and intermittent legal advisors is to take the U.S. techniques, whether it's through NCMEC, whether it's through the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section at Justice, whether it's through Project Safe Childhood, the ICACs, these other ways in which we're trying to prevent online exploitation of children and making linkages. So there is linkages, for instance, with Scotland Yard and with the Irish and others. And so these are the types of things that through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement we are trying to make sure is available to other countries.

One of the biggest problems that we've seen is that there are a number of countries that don't even have laws against child pornography. And so last week in the U.S. presidential, the U.S.- Russia presidential joint dialogue for instance, the child protection subcommittee was grappling with how can we get a normalization of these laws across the countries. Because with the Internet if there is no child pornography law in a small country in Eastern Europe --

REP. BASS: Right.

MR. CDEBACA: -- well, they have an Internet portal, they will be -- all of the pedophiles will flock to that.

REP. BASS: Do you know if that's come up in the United Nations? Is there efforts there?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, there are efforts through the UNODC, the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime and others to try to work on it. And through a number of the conventions it's something that countries are supposed to be addressing. But as far as coming into compliance, it's taken a while.

So this is something that there is going to be a joint U.S.- Russian NGO summit in August in Lake Baikal to try to bring together folks from the commonwealth and the independent states, where a lot, unfortunately, a lot of the child pornography that's been seen these days is coming out of Eastern Europe. So it's something that the State Department is very much looking at and wants to be on the cutting edge of.

REP. BASS: So this conference that you're talking about is dealing with this issue specifically or about a range of issues and this is on the list?

MR. CDEBACA: A range of issues, and this is on the list, but it's going to be very much focused on this with the assistance of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

REP. BASS: Thank you.

Second question, online trafficking has become a growing problem, especially in the face of large sporting events. I don't know if you saw some of the coverage that was done around the Super Bowl that a couple of the major cable news networks talked about.

What efforts are being made to curtail this activity within the State Department? To your knowledge is the FCC engaged in cracking down on Internet Service Providers and content web pages?

I also wanted to, you know, kind of connected to that is how do you process -- prosecute traffickers without violating First Amendment rights and how can government agencies work together to crackdown on these abusers?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, this is something that the FBI and the Justice Department have more direct jurisdiction over than does the State Department since it's largely a domestic enforcement issue. But I think that you go right to the crux of the issue as far as regulating content. Now, soliciting a crime is, and I'm not a First Amendment scholar, but I was a prosecutor for a long time -- (inaudible).

REP. BASS: And you worked on the Judiciary Committee, right?

MR. CDEBACA: I did. And soliciting a crime is not typically thought of as protected speech, and so there are some ways to deal with this. I think that one of the big issues of course is not necessarily through government regulation but consumer to business activism. The old media version of this played itself out over the last year with the removal of the spa ads from the Washington Post.

REP. BASS: What?

MR. CDEBACA: Most people knew that these spa ads were fronts for prostitution. This wasn't the Elizabeth Arden or the Red Door that was advertising in the sports page, the names were much more risqué than that. But it took the advo-

cacy community, it took business owners, it took folks saying to the Washington Post company I don't want to advertise in your paper because these other advertisers that are advertising something that you couldn't just look at say that's obviously illegal, it was advertising a spa. From a law enforcement perspective you couldn't say, well, we know it's illegal so therefore we'll go after them because that's not the burden of proof for a criminal case.

So the advocacy community, the other advertisers and the people of the Washington area properly did something that the First Amendment likely would have stopped the D.C. government or the federal government from doing, which is they made it so the Washington Post felt like it should do the right thing and pull those ads out. So I think that some of the pressure on the service providers, whether it's Backpage, Craigslist, et cetera who've seen these problems. Some of that ends up needing to come from the consumer side as much as it does from the regulatory side.

REP. BASS: One final question, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I'm still stuck on your earlier comments about the foreign workers in U.S. bases. Could you talk a little bit more about that? So we have minors or we have people that U.S. companies are recruiting that get involved in sex trafficking on bases?

MR. CDEBACA: One of the things -- one of the things that this committee has dealt with now since the Kosovo wars is the problem of the follow on when we're deployed.

REP. BASS: The what?

MR. CDEBACA: The follow on, it's not just the American troops, it's the people who are providing services to them, it's the folks who are being brought in, often third-country nationals --

REP. BASS: Right.

MR. CDEBACA: -- to run the canteens, to run the commissaries. There is an entire other than U.S. military --

REP. BASS: No, I understand that.

MR. CDEBACA: And this is something that as far back as the Kosovo, Bosnia interventions we saw this problem. There it was very much sex trafficking with the Albanian mafia, setting up night clubs and bars that were frequented by the contractors, they were frequented sometimes as well by our troops.

It was not uncommon to hear about police contractors and other security contracts just flat out buying the women to have as their own as concubines for six months at a time. That has largely been regulated and policed. But what we've seen, there was an article in the New Yorker just last week, is that the recruiting of third-country nationals into the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan continues to be a concern.

It's a concern to us. We're working through the inspectors general to try to make sure that those third-country nationals if they're brought in in support of our mission that they are done so with full understanding of what they are going to be doing, how much they're going to get paid, how they're going to be used, they have freedom of movement, all of those things as opposed to being basically brought in in a debt bondage type of situation confined to quarters or used for both sex and labor trafficking.

REP. BASS: And Mr. Chairman, this is what you said; you were going to have a hearing on subsequently? Yeah, I'll be very interested in that. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much.

Mr. Marino.

REP. MARINO: Thank you, Chairman.

Good afternoon, Ambassador.

MR. CDEBACA: Good afternoon.

REP. MARINO: I had a couple of questions that I was going to delve in, but my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Bass, has sparked my interest in the child pornography side of this. I was a U.S. attorney for quite a while and that was one of my main missions, it's prosecuting those that perpetrated, created and sold child pornography.

The toughest issue we ran into was dealing with countries like Russia, other European countries as well, who just have no laws for pornography. A great deal of the pornography does come from overseas, and not to mitigate that there is child pornography taking place right here in the United States.

What have we been able to do as far as sanction-wise in getting Russia and countries like Russia to take a serious look at this? Because in my opinion and in my experience, it is not even on the back burner, it is an issue that they show no interest in, it is an issue that generates billions of dollars for their economy, it is an area whereby those involved in the organized crime aspect of things are becoming obscenely wealthy and it is all for the dollar, the money that they are making.

So, you know, we can send them letters, we can publicly make statements, but what are we specifically doing to address the issue with getting support from law enforcement, the president, the prime minister of Russia?

MR. CDEBACA: I can only speak to that which I've been involved in and we are not the lead on that obviously. So -- but we can make sure that we get a more fulsome response. But as I mentioned earlier, I am the head of the migration subcommittee for the U.S.-Russia Presidential Bilateral Commission and my counterparts on the child protection subcommittee, I was president when they were reporting out and we do overlaps.

So we've tried to make sure that the two committees lash up, especially as far as child trafficking. Child slavery in Russia is often members of the (abstaining ?) minorities, members of the migrant communities, whether it is the Uzbeks or the Tajiks or others. So the child pornography is kind of one removed for me, much as in the U.S. Attorney's offices, the trafficking and child sexual exploitation, AUSAs are often not the same person who they have to work very closely together because there is so much of an overlap.

One of the things that we've seen that is very positive over the last year with the Medvedev presidency is the appointment of a child protection advisor in the president's staff, the first time someone whose job it is to look at this. They are looking among other things, at child pornography, they are looking at making sure that orphanages don't simply become breeding grounds that the traffickers or pornographers show up on the 18th birthdays when the girls are released from the orphanages with no other options.

So we do think that this is something they are looking at. Holistically, we've talked to folks from the Duma who are working on the pornography legislation and it is something that the Obama administration really wants to support through the relationship what we call the reset with the Medvedev government.

REP. MARINO: I'm not pointing any finger at any particular administration, but the only way to deal with this in my opinion is, first of all, worldwide recognition, but equally important is economic sanctions, severe economic sanctions. And I have not seen that yet from this present administration or from past administrations as well. What is it going to take for us to seriously wholeheartedly start implementing these sanctions? Can you give us some suggestions at what perhaps we in Congress can do?

MR. CDEBACA: Again, Congressman, I'd be hesitant to do so considering that my office is not the bureau that handles child pornography. So I wouldn't want to speak out of turn, but it is something that I'll certainly pass on to Assistant Secretary Brownfield and his folks, and we can hopefully circle back and have a conversation.

REP. MARINO: Good. Thank you.

I yield my time.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much. I do have two final questions and about a dozen, but I'll submit the remainder for the record. On May 11th, the Foreign Affairs Committee at a hearing chaired by Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, we heard harrowing testimony from past Peace Corps volunteers about how they had been sexually abused as volunteers. Pleas to Peace Corps supervisors to help to address unsafe situations or for assistance following the attacks went unheeded and in many cases were met with a blame-the-victim attitude.

A major concern that I raised during that hearing with Aaron Williams, the Peace Corps director, was whether there were arrests of alleged perpetrators in foreign countries, whether or not they were followed up with meaningful prison sentences, you know, something that David will remember, we learned with the earlier tip of work that we would hear about arrest, but then we wouldn't hear about prison sentences and some countries are actually gaming the system of saying: Oh, we arrested umpteen hundreds of people, but none of them went to jail. They didn't even get a slap on the wrist.

I've suggested that Peace Corps Inspector General Kathy Buller be in contact with the GTIP office to ascertain whether or not there is a nexus between failures in prosecution and sentencing practices for sexual violence against Peace Corps volunteers in any given country and such failures in prosecuting and punishing sex trafficking. And I'm wondering if there is a correlating lack of prosecutorial capacity or perhaps political will with regards to this.

And I would hope that you would meet with Ms. Buller if you haven't already. We also believe, I believe and we'll be putting this into the reauthorization that the Peace Corps, and I would appreciate your thoughts on this, ought to be part of the interagency coordinating council because they certainly, I think, could provide some insights there.

Secondly, and this will be my final question, you mentioned that China has a ministerial antitrafficking group and you are now engaging about the trafficking problems in the People's Republic of China. What is their response to concerns that the one-child policy and the consequent number of missing girls is feeding the trafficking pandemic in China?

On June 1st, I joined Chai Ling and other human rights organizations at a very troubling press conference and they showed a video about gender side, the targeting of girls for destruction simply because they happen to be girls through sex selection abortion and in some cases, when the baby is born, through suffocation. And one woman even talked about how she applied a wet towel to her baby girls in order to destroy them simply because they were girls.

And the bottom line of the video was that the most dangerous three words nowadays in some countries are these, it's a girl. If it is a girl, she is subjected, whether an ultrasound finds it while the baby is still in utero or the baby once born is discovered to be a girl, she is killed.

How did the Chinese, your interlocutors, respond to that issue of -- you know, they are creating a demand for trafficking, do they understand that?

MR. CDEBACA: I think their actions perhaps speak louder than their words, Mr. Smith. One of the things that we have, in fact, expressed concern to the Chinese over is that there have been so many cases of forced prostitution and forced labor that are going uninvestigated and unprosecuted by the Chinese when they are spending most of their time and efforts under the network of antitrafficking on prosecuting child abduction cases by parents who want children, who can't have them, who are stealing children to be able to fill that need.

And so I think that what we've seen is the effect as far as a Chinese response that links the cause to the effect the way that we do, that's not something that we are seeing yet.

REP. SMITH: Was it raised? Did we raise it specifically that the one child per couple policy is creating a huge magnet for the traffickers?

MR. CDEBACA: I've raised it with my counterparts from Himout (ph) in the course of talking the problem of child abductions, the problem of the forced marriages from -- whether it is from the south or from the northeast, et cetera, and how this is kind of all of a part of the shortage of women, the skewing of the sex roles, et cetera. So -- not sex roles, but the skewing of the proportions.

And it's something that will continue in those discussions to raise. It's something that I think that again if we look at their actions, they are having to act in a particular way because of the outcome. But as far as a desire to engage with us on that, that's not something that I've seen.

REP. SMITH: I would hope that they realize there is this Tsunami of sex trafficking; we've only seen the beginnings of it. In China today, as you know, the average age -- marriageable age is 25. The one child per couple policy has been in existence since 1979. So systematically these girls have been eliminated. They are just not there, the missing girls of China. And it's only going to get worse. So I strongly encourage that this be a front and center issue with our Chinese colleagues.

Anyone else would like to make a final comment?

REP. : Chairman, may I -- I'd at least like to get one more question in on the record. Sir, could you please tell me first, do you have anything to do with monitoring child soldiers?

MR. CDEBACA: The child soldiers is handled in two different ways within the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. In the particular country narratives, when we're looking at how a country is doing, we look at forced conscription as one of the forms of human trafficking. So it goes into the country reports.

There's also the Child Soldier Prevention Act, which is part of the TVPA reauthorization of 2008 that mandates that a list be put together that has a particular sanctions regime associated with that list that should be published in the trafficking report each year.

That's handled by one of our sister bureaus, the Bureaus of Democracy Rights and Labor. So the answer is yes, but it's kind of a bifurcated system as we look at the child soldiers.

REP. : Okay. Perhaps I could ask my question at least to get it on the record and I could get a response sometime in the future. 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report identified six countries involved in recruiting and using child soldiers; Burma, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

President Obama waived sanctions for four of the six listed countries; Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Yemen. Given that one of the America's tools to combat trafficking in persons in foreign nations is the prohibition of U.S. assistance for military defense and training, can you -- do you have an answer or could you get an answer for me why as the president issued waivers for these countries that the State Department has found to recruit and use child soldiers?

MR. CDEBACA: We can get you something that was actually I think something that was transmitted to Congress in the last Congress, and we'll try to make sure h we get that up to you.

REP. : Thank you. I appreciate that.

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you.

REP. : Thank you, Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Let me just -- did you want to respond to the Peace Corps question?

MR. CDEBACA: Yes, we will definitely link up with our Peace Corps counterparts. I think that it is important. One of the things that we have been very much trying to do in the TIP office is to use the trafficking issue to have an impact upon both sexual violence and domestic violence and how they are treated by a number of these countries.

Here in the United States we very much have built our antitrafficking response, our modern anti-slavery response on the gains of the last 30 years from the DV and sexual violence movements. What we recognize is that there's a lot of countries where it's the reverse. There hasn't been a sexual violence or victim rights movement; there hasn't been a domestic violence victim rights movement in these countries.

But they are starting to work on trafficking. So we want to be able to go to some of these countries and say, look, these things that we've been telling you about trafficking, relationships of power, the need for serious law enforcement responses, the need for prevention and for cultural change, those things also need to happen on family violence and sexual violence.

And so we want to able the have those conversations around rape and other things. So we work with the Peace Corps. One of the things that I've noticed however is that at least historically the Peace Corps was very loathe to get involved with things that they thought of as law enforcement like because they didn't want to be seen as law enforcement training. They didn't want the possibility that they'd be kind of lumped in with the security services or with other government agencies. So that has been an issue.

But we saw, for instance, with the Peace Corps volunteer in Belize who was a federal prosecutor who took two years off to go into the Peace Corps, simply because of his background, he necessarily ended up having an impact on the people in Belize. And as a result we've seen some change on the ground. So when the Peace Corps is doing antitrafficking work, it does make a change.

REP. SMITH: This is my final question, but on an emergency fund for disaster areas, would you -- is that something that TIP would support, particularly in light of what happened in Haiti?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, Mr. Smith, we actually were able to move a lot of money around very quickly last year in order to respond to the Haiti earthquake and we've -- in fact, one of my staff members is in Haiti right now, following up. It's a problem -- whenever there's an emergent situation we often then come back to the Congress to try to get a supplemental or to get some special budgeting done.

But it's very much robbing Peter to pay Paul. And that's what we did last year. That's what we'll continue to do when necessary. But there were programs in other parts of the world, some of them in Africa and others, that had to be repositioned into Haiti. So anything that will make it so that we don't have to shutdown on existing program to respond to an emergency would certainly allow us to respond that much more quickly and that much more effectively.

REP. SMITH: But wouldn't a more permanent fund, something that we could help craft through our reauthorization -- you know, Niger had their money, and you said it, robbing Peter to pay Paul, and a country that desperately needed the funding lost it in order to go to Haiti?

MR. CDEBACA: It's certainly something that we'd love to talk to your staff about. And as you put together the reauthorization, if there's particular language that we can look at or that we can toss around, we -- it's something that we'd certainly want to continue to talk about.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. So Ambassador, thank you. I deeply appreciate -- we deeply appreciate your testimony and your leadership. And we'll move on now to our second panel, appreciate it.

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

REP. SMITH: We'll begin first with Ms. Deborah Cundy who is vice president of the Office of the Chairman at Carlson Companies, a global travel and hospitality company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which includes such brands as Radisson Hotels, Country Inn & Suites, Carlson Travel, TGI Friday's restaurants.

For the past decade Ms. Cundy has worked closely with Carlson chairman and former CEO Marilyn Carlson Nelson on projects involving gender equality, economic growth and human rights issues, particularly the protection of children from sex tourism.

Then we'll hear from Ms. Chai Ling from All Girls Allowed. She's the founder of All Girls Allowed, an organization dedicated to restoring life, value and dignity to girls and mothers and to revealing the injustice of China's One-Child Policy. Ms. Chai Ling also established Jenzabar Foundation and serves as one of its board members.

The foundation supports the most inspirational and influential humanitarian efforts of student leaders through grant opportunities. A key student leader herself in the 1989 Tiananmen Square movement, Ms. Ling was subsequently named glamour woman of the year and nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.

We'll then hear from Ms. Nancy Rivard who is airline -- president and founder of Airline Ambassadors International, which seeks to provide humanitarian aid to children in need and international development and relief to under-privileged communities around the world. Ms. Rivard has extended Airline Ambassadors International to include 6,000 members including some outside of the airline industry. She started the child trafficking initiative at Airline Ambassadors International and created a training program that teaches airline personnel best practices to identify potential trafficking victims.

We'll then hear from Mr. Philip Kowalczyk who is the president of The Body Shop, North America. He has led The Body Shop America Stop Sex Trafficking of Children & Young People campaign across the United States, Canada and Mexico since it was launched in August of 2009.

He has ensured that comprehensive training and high profile awareness programs were developed to support the mission of the campaign. Since the campaign began, Mr. Kowalczyk as leadership, the brand has won six awards for its efforts to raise awareness and drive positive change for children and young people affected by sex trafficking.

Then we'll hear from Mr. Kevin Bales, co-founder of Free the Slaves, a non-profit organization that frees slaves, helps former slaves stay free and advocates the government incorporations for policy change and carries out research. Mr. Bales is also emeritus professor at Roehampton University, London, and professor at the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull.

He has authored several books on modern day slavery including "Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves," which outlines a 25-year plan to stop slavery and human trafficking identifying what government, the U.N., business communities and individuals can do to end this egregious form of human rights abuse.

Then we'll hear from Mr. David Abramowitz, who is director of policy and government relations at Humanity United responsible for informing the organization's policy based advocacy activities, lead outreach efforts to the U.S. government, multilateral institutions and international NGOs and provide strategic counsel and advice to a broad range of grantees.

As I mentioned in my earlier statement, Mr. Abramowitz previously served as chief counsel for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs working on the TVPA of 2000 and all of its iterations, its reauthorizations as well as a wide range of other foreign policy legislation. So Mr. Abramowitz, thank you for being here.

I would like to note that Annette Lantos -- Tom Lantos, the former chairman of this committee is here with us and she's always most welcome. Thank you, Ms. Lantos, for being here today.

Ms. Cundy.

MS. CUNDY: Chairman Smith, distinguished members of the subcommittee thank you for the honor to testify on an issue that threatens the well being of every society on our planet - human trafficking.

One of the most frustrating aspects of trafficking for us all is that it's difficult to put metrics around it given its underground nature. But there is much that we do know. And increasingly, many in business feel that given what we know, we must act.

We know human trafficking is one of the largest illicit activities in the world. And we know that, for the most part, it affects the most vulnerable among us - the poor, the uneducated, the women and the children. We also know that it is projected to yield the traffickers \$32 billion in annual revenue.

And that's the dark side. But there are also rays of light. We know that in just one decade of focused efforts since the Palermo Protocol of 2000 and the historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act, we have made significant progress, particularly when it comes to awareness building among the public at large, and in recent years, we've been encouraged by the increasing number of partnerships being forged across sectors to solve this complex problem.

As background to my company's involvement in combating the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, it might be helpful for you to know that Carlson is a privately-held, 73-year-old travel and hospitality company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has a presence in 150 countries.

Our hotel brands include Radisson Hotels, Country Inn & Suites, Park Inn and Park Plaza, and most of these are franchised properties. We are also a majority owner in The Rezidor Hotel Group which operates our brands in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and is publicly traded on European stock exchanges.

There are, in total, about 1,070 hotels operating under a Carlson brand employing more than 70,000 people. Other Carlson companies include Carlson Wagonlit Travel which is the world's largest travel management company and T.G.I. Friday's restaurants. But today I'll focus on the hotel operations. As Chairman Smith referenced, in 2004, Carlson was approached by the State Department to sign what is known as the travel industry's Code of Conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation. We were shocked to learn that at any moment in time more than 2 million children are being sexually abused.

In the travel industry, this abuse is sometimes played out in hotels at tourism sites around the world and as mentioned there are hotels that are complicit in these activities, but often they are unwitting facilitators. The Code of Conduct basically asks that the signatory train its employees in what to look for and how to report it so that the employee base becomes a virtual army of eyes and ears.

The Code asks that the signatory raise awareness among its customers, that it includes language in its supplier contracts and corporate ethics policy repudiating the sexual exploitation of children and that it reports annually on its activities to the Code Secretariat.

I am proud to say that our Chairman and then CEO of Carlson, Marilyn Carlson Nelson, made the decision that Carlson would be the first global North American travel company to sign The Code. But not before we had some spirited internal debate about the pros and cons of such an action.

We live in our litigious society. Our legal department was concerned about possible liability and our public relations department was worried that the public would associate our brands with child trafficking. In the end, however we have had nothing but positive reaction to our signing by all stakeholders groups.

The brief video I'd like to share with you now is one element in Carlson's module on human trafficking that's included in what we call our Responsible Business training which every hotel employee goes through. In this, you'll see a few scenarios designed to help our employees know what kind of behavior to watch for as it pertains to a possible child trafficking situation.

(Video being played.)

While Carlson was the first global hotel company in North America to sign the Code, we would have gladly given up our leadership position to have others join us. As a matter of fact, we have offered to share our training materials with any of our hotel competitors. We have always felt that there are many ways in which we can compete against each other, but on this issue, we must join hands.

And yet for seven years, we remained the only hotel company to sign until just a few months ago when a significant milestone was reached and the world's largest airline, Delta, and the global hotel chain, Hilton, both signed the Code of Conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation. And we salute our industry colleagues for doing so.

To be fair, we know that while the majority of hotels have not signed, a few are doing some things to prevent the problem. But we feel that signing the Code provides all of us with a consistent template for implementation of these programs, a way to share best practices, a third-party monitoring tool to ensure that we are all doing our part and a very public shared commitment.

We look forward to the day when engagement by the travel industry in antitrafficking initiative is not considered just to be a corporate social responsibility activity, but rather a normal business practice. In fact, the goal should be that one day we will have normalized corporate efforts to combat human trafficking to such a degree that they are embedded in every industry.

At Carlson, we believe that business can be one of the most powerful forces for good on the planet. We see examples of that in the Body Shop, in LexisNexis, in Manpower, in Ford, in Microsoft, Delta Airlines, Chiquita and dozens of other companies that are using their resources, their problem-solving skills and their voices to engage in this issue. They are examining their own practices, training their employees and educating their customers and shareholders.

But with any complex problem, no one sector can solve it alone. Business, government, civil society and academia must partner more closely. We must understand each other's unique roles and leverage them. There are pieces of this complex problem that each of us must be accountable for in collaboration with each other to solve.

Conferences on the issue of human trafficking abound. They are enlightening and build networks to be sure. NGO Coalitions are ever-forming. Trade organizations such as the International Travel Partnership are exploring this issue and select businesses are self-organizing to mount their own efforts such as The Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking. All are useful endeavors.

Perhaps the time is right for a formalized convening of a cross sector federal advisory board over a sustained period of time that is focused specifically on Human Trafficking. The hope is that this initiative would accelerate progress through partnerships and capitalize on the increasing desire of the business community to make its contribution to this fight.

On behalf of Carlson, I thank the subcommittee for the work you are doing and for the privilege to support your efforts.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Cundy, thank you very much for your leadership and for bringing that video. Having seen it in Rome when you presented it, both I and everyone there was greatly moved by your leadership. So thank you so much.

MS. CUNDY: Thank you, Congressman.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Chai Ling.

MS. LING: Well, thank you, Chairman Smith and for your three-decade long tireless work to improve human rights around the world and on behalf of all those victims that are grateful. There have never been a more dangerous time to be a child in China.

The One-Child Policy and a cultural preference for sons has led to the elimination of millions of China's girls, which in turn created an influx of young men and an increased demand for brides. What has emerged is a black market for stolen children unlike anything the world has ever seen, leaving Chinese families fearful every day for their own children's safety.

There are 37 million more men than women in China today. Even with the child rearing cost, purchasing a child bride is the most economical way to guarantee their son will have a bride when he's ready to marry. There's simply not enough daughters for all the sons in China.

June 1st, as I mentioned earlier, we were able to create a coalition and declaration against gendercide in China and India and around the world. We're thrilled to be part of that process. However, the child trafficking and gendercides no longer is just the issue of human rights but the issue of security of nations.

According to leading expert and their presentation on June 1st, unless China do something drastically to end the gender imbalance under One-Child policy, there'd be 50 million men in 2020. What we're about to see in the video under-trafficking were not stopped but only increasing. So please play the video right now.

(Video being played.)

Thank you. Now, you've seen the devastating trafficking problem exposed in China, which is only growing a legacy for movements at our antitrafficking methods at All Girls Allowed. All Girls Allowed exists to restore life, value and dignity to girls and mothers and to reveal the injustices of the One Child Policy.

Our AGA team is inspired by our love to Jesus and our desire to follow Him, as we are commanded to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

We're grateful for our brave and courageous local volunteers in China. It is their work that keeps us going every day. We're thankful to women's right in China, Sister Janjing (ph) standing -- sitting right behind me, and she spend thousands of hours on the phone to coordinating our rescue efforts on the grounds in China. And I also am grateful to the field crew who produced this many part of this clips. On the China's stolen children, there's a 90-minutes video. You're more than welcome to all take a look at the devastating trafficking situation taking place in China today.

But we have seen some really good successes with this very small team, but dedicated believers, and we are able to make a different in China. The first and foremost important step we do is to research. We examine specific areas of China to determine the root causes and the magnitude of trafficking.

And this map is China, and you see the red dot, it's Fujian Province. It's a hotbed for trafficking. We found after months of research a city with 3 million people that could have up to 600,000 people as a result of child bride trafficking.

These are very young girls who are trafficked and sold to marry men in their city as a result of this 37 million excess men that will not be able to find wives because their wives was eliminated under China's One-Child Policy and a preference for sons.

In 2003, a young woman who was trafficked as child bride in her 20s was beaten to death and -- to make the case, and shown to the -- to stop all the rest of girls from escaping. The Putian Village was widely known as child bride village, but the government has not addressed this problem.

These women in the photo are still looking for their own families after being sold and forced to marry. A second method we use is the country-wide rescue campaign. We have names, photos and relevant information for over 2,175 children who are currently missing in China.

Parents who lost children campaign together throughout the country with banners, pamphlets and rescue hotline numbers hoping to free children and create awareness. This photo shows the banner that we use on campaigns.

For the hearing, we are on road -- one of them here, just so we can get a taste and a flavor of what it's like to try to rescue the children in China. And here is the names and the profiles of these missing children. It's massive amount of work by all volunteers, many are families oftentimes and they have the names of the children and when they were stolen or trafficked and how to contact them and what their physical characteristics that could help identify them as well.

We would love to get your help, Chairman Smith, to send this to the Chinese leaders and to the counterparts who is doing some work to reunite trafficked children and so they can help these parents who have put their lives on hold and their family on hold to looking for their lost ones.

I want to share some good news. On one of our campaigns our worker found this young baby, Little Bean. She was only three years old when she was trafficked. She was playing outside with her mother and her mother went home to get some water. The next thing she knows, came out a few minutes later, she was gone.

And seven months later, through our workers traveled 30 cities and counties, send out 60,000 flyers and receiving over 100 hotline calls she was able to be reunited with her family. And this is a happy joyful picture that she's taking down her own "Missing Child" -- missing person and in her father's arm. But still many more are searching and waiting.

Unfortunately, the act of petitioning and organizing on behalf of children is not considered a legal act in China. Rather than helping parents finding their sons and daughters, the government has been cracking down on these volunteers and detain or imprison them. This photo is the man of -- the volunteers and the parents of missing children are detained for the activity to find their children.

So today we have four specific requests for China; that China would focus on helping us finding these 2,175 children, and China would focus on regions known for trafficking problems, especially in Fujian Province and that province has

such a common trafficking problem buying child brides. So when the parents go over there, try to finding their kids and nobody thinks twice about why it's not something they should be doing. And in the three brides we were able to reunite, each of them had multiple siblings. A quarter of the siblings are a result of child trafficking.

The number three is China would spend more -- spend some money and resource in a way that is effective, while re-pective and encouraging on parents for searching for their children rather than detain them or harassing them or punishing them, that China would create a system similar to the U.S. AMBER Alert system that immediately begin searching and rescue at the moment the child disappears. The father who we saw on the clips of the video and his daughter was missing in 2005, but the case was not established until 2008. That's too late. So we thank you for the time.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Chai Ling, thank you very much.

MS. LING: Yes, you're welcome.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Rivard.

MS. RIVARD: It's an honor to address the U.S. Congress Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa Global Health and Human Rights. I was so inspired by the video from All Girls Allowed. It made me think to say that right now have a 30-second spot on the America Airlines and I would love your assistance in re-shooting that spot as a tool for public awareness around this area.

MS. LING: Praise God. Thank you.

MS. RIVARD: I founded Airline Ambassadors in 1996 for airline personnel using their travel privileges to help children. We are the only humanitarian organization of the overall airline industry and are leading the effort to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

In 2009, on a humanitarian mission in Cambodia, we rescued an abandoned little girl in the slums outside Angkor Wat. It was written up in the American Way magazine article of September 2010, which we would request be included in the record.

We also learned that there were thousands more girls like her, who were being brought out of the provinces and sold into the brothels of Bangkok and Phnom Penh. We realized that many of these children were being transported on commercial airlines. That's when I knew Airline Ambassadors had to get involved.

On our next humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic, our team reviewed the behavioral indicators of trafficking victims and their predators, and stayed alert as we boarded our flights to the United States. Astonishingly, on every airlines; USAir, Delta and JetBlue, we correctly identified a trafficking situation.

The flight attendants on each airline didn't know what to look for or how to respond, but were anxious to help after we told them what they should do. We realized how vital a role that airline personnel could play as a front line defense for international security.

Congressmen Chris Smith and Joe Pitts supported us by hosting congressional Briefings to airline partners and embassies to encourage airlines and airports to raise awareness about this issue and outreach to the travel industry. American Airlines issued a bulletin to flight attendants as a direct response of these briefing and several embassies offered to connect us to their domestic airlines and airports.

Funding is needed for a proper follow-up, for training and materials. I again would like to acknowledge Delta Airlines as the first U.S. airline to sign the Code of Conduct for Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel, and acknowledge other companies in the travel sector such as Carlson Companies, Hilton Worldwide and Global Exchange Tours. The Code is an industry driven responsible travel tourism initiative and an important way to demonstrate corporate social responsibility on this issue.

Airline Ambassadors has developed a training specific for airline, airport and hotel employees to identify the visible signs of trafficking and protocols to respond. We provided our first training just before the Super Bowl, DFW, and we had an overwhelming response. It was attended by flight crews from four airlines, TSA and airport personnel. We distributed 10,000 wallet cards with red flag indicators to participants and also on all flights leaving DFW.

It is estimated that 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders every year. Every week, we receive reports from flight attendants who are seeing cases of trafficking. Just yesterday, I learned about an observant passenger

who alerted a Swiss Air crew from Zurich to Chicago of a suspicious situation with 30 young girls, the flight returned to the gate and international security handled the problem.

The Swiss Air crew said they see those situations all the time, but they don't know what kind of action to take. We ask for your support in engaging the travel industry to implement training programs specifically addressing human trafficking. This committee is invited to review our training and help promote it as a best practice for airlines, airports and hotel staff around the world.

We'd love to partner with Carlson on the hotel aspect for sure. The airline industries already provide recurrent emergency training for crews.

So incorporating this subject would not be expensive. And again I said we could adapt the in-flight video that we now have on American Airlines.

On May 31st, 2011, just a couple of weeks ago, the flight attendant unions of APFA and AFA joined us at the signing of landmark trafficking legislation by Governor McDonnell at Dallas Airport. That represents a support of 70,000 flight attendance and 22 airlines.

We are also partnering with the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Senhora Margarita Fernandez, to launch the first human trafficking web portal during the United Nations General Assembly. I am honored to extend a personal invitation to each member of the Foreign Relations Committee to join us at this historic event.

As you are aware, Human Trafficking is a major human rights issue of our time. It's not just a cause; it's impacting lives everyday. Just last week I met a young trafficked boy in Haiti who was so severely abused, he didn't even know his own name, 12 years old. I saw three young victims thrown into a dark, mosquito infested jail, with no chairs and a filthy cement floor because there's nowhere else to put them.

The Bureau for the Protection of Minors in Haiti has identified 13,000 trafficked victims just in the last year in Haiti. We are building safe houses to protect these children and get them the care we need. Please support our efforts to raise awareness in the travel industry and protect children in the United States and the world. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Rivard, thank you very much.

Mr. Kowalczyk.

MR. KOWALCYZK: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Smith and the members of the committee and subcommittee. At The Body Shop we believe that business should be both profitable and a force for good. The principal way we do this is by using our beauty boutiques as a platform to inform customers on social and environmental issues.

In doing so, we invite them to join us and together campaign to create long term change. This approach was pioneered by our founder, Dame Anita Roddick, who created The Body Shop in the U.K. in 1976, and we've grown our brand from one boutique to over 2,600 in 65 countries today.

I would imagine for many of you in this room, the fact that the numbers are in the millions of children who are trafficked every year and sexually exploited in virtually every country across the world is something you've known for many years. The Body Shop, it was only five years ago that we became aware of the extent of this underground issue.

As a business that has spent 35 years campaigning for social and environmental change, it was then a natural next step for us to explore how we could contribute to providing a solution. We responded by creating a global partnership with ECPAT International and together we launched the Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People campaign in 2009. In the U.S. and Canada we have partnered with ECPAT, and the Somaly Mam Foundation to achieve specific and actionable goals.

In the first instance, our goal has been to raise funds to bring immediate relief to help children and young people who have been impacted by sex trafficking. But ultimately, we are working to inspire long-term change by raising awareness of this issue and by facilitating the voice of the consumer to be heard by the decision-making powers.

From the outset, our campaign strategy focused on the belief that abuse on this scale could be stopped if decision-makers take action. Fundraising is important to support immediate relief, but this is only a band-aid. The real answer to create sustainable change lay in influencing decision-makers to change legislation.

How do we do this? As an international retailer with stores in high profile locations like shopping malls and street locations across the world, we have an incredible opportunity to reach literally millions of people from all walks of life by using our boutiques to communicate and inspire action.

We have the ability to create a platform that captures and mobilizes the voice of our customers. Add to the equation another incredible asset, 50,000 dedicated staff across the world who are trained to talk about the campaign with our customers. And with that, we have the ingredients to deliver some groundbreaking change.

When we can inspire customers to lend their voice by signing a campaign petition, we can create a loud and united voice which we believe decision makers are responding to. Of course, the petition call to action must be nationally relevant and very specific to the changes that are needed across the globe. To deliver this, we and ECPAT International created specific calls of action relevant to country-specific issues.

So for example, in the United States, we are calling for all states to introduce safe harbor to protect and prevent any person under the age of 18 from being charged and prosecuted or incarcerated for prostitution. In some states this exists. In most it does not.

In Germany we are calling for the government to strengthen the protection of victims during the investigation and legal proceedings. In South Korea the call to action centers on training police and teachers to help prevent trafficking.

While we know we have a long way to go to fulfill the potential of our campaign, we have already had some successes which have created change to protect children and young people not just today, but in the future. Around the world, in less than 12 months, more than 6.2 million people have come to The Body Shop and signed our petition in 50 countries around the world. This is the biggest petition in a proud 35 year history at The Body Shop.

So far, we've presented the petitions to governments in nine countries and have already helped to create legislative change. And again a few specific examples might help. In Malta the government responded to our campaign by signing the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Child Abuse, a major international treaty which will greatly improve the protection and support for children.

In Malaysia the government responded to the petition by committing to ratify the Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention of Child Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In the Netherlands, the Minister of Security and Justice responded by accepting personal responsibility to increase police protection and support the children affected.

We've also helped to change legislation in the Switzerland and Norway, and we've received assurances by the Ministers in South Africa and Portugal that our call to action will be delivered. We believe this is just the start. With 33 petitions to be presented to governments around the world in the coming months, we are confident that we can help create further change.

We are also preparing for a presentation to both the European Union and the United Nations Human Rights Council in the hope that we can influence even greater action. We are proud of our achievements in gathering the support of more than 6 million people worldwide on the issue of child sex trafficking; of raising more than 3 million (dollars) to support relief and advocacy efforts.

We are very aware that there's a long way to go, but we're committed to this issue and confident that we can continue to work with our customers and other affiliates in order to be able to make a difference. I pay tribute to our customers and my colleagues around the world who demonstrated beyond any doubt, that as a business, if empower people to become involved, they will gladly respond, and speak out to help create change.

Chairman Smith, I'm grateful to have been invited here today to share the details of The Body Shop commitment to tackling child sex trafficking and hope that the subcommittee has -- that what the subcommittee has heard is helpful in supporting the work of your subcommittee and in inspiring the private sector to play a role in eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people. Thank you for listening.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Kowalczyk, thank you very much for your testimony and for the leadership of The Body Shop.

I'd like to now recognize Mr. Bales.

MR. BALES: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'll concentrate most of my remarks on the situation in Eastern Congo. But I also have to say it was great fun and enormously exciting to work with a Norwegian

Body Shop staff and help them with the training not long ago with our sister organization, the Norwegian Anti-Slavery Society.

Since the beginning of human history, conflict and slavery have marched together. And since the end of the Cold War we have seen this time and again in Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslavia, Burma, Uganda, Sudan and in the Congo. Civil war destroys the rule of law. Without the protection of the law, the average citizen is prey to violent men and made more vulnerable by their predations.

Without the rule of law, anything and anyone can be stolen. The natural world is decimated and nation's resources are swallowed up by criminals and the people become dispersible tools in what is simply armed robbery on a massive scale. All this is true of the Eastern Congo.

But there's an additional truth that we must face and that is our own responsibility in this crime. We are not guilty of violence or culpable for this slavery, but we are responsible for generating a market for the minerals that feed the power of the armed gangs.

We have real need for these minerals and the supply chain is complex, but we also have a duty to unravel this complexity and to confront the ongoing rape, slavery and murder of the people of Eastern Congo.

I've been with the people in Eastern Congo. I've shared their meals; I've joined them in their churches. They are reduced to bare subsistence. Before the armed thugs, they are lambs to the slaughter and the weapons that enslave and murder them are paid for with the profits from the minerals we buy.

My written testimony contains precise descriptions of the different types of slavery found in Eastern Congo and detailed suggestions for how we might all work together to end that brutality. Two of those suggestions are for provisions that can be added to the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act, which have been developed by the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, a coalition of hands-on expert anti-slavery and antitrafficking organizations of which we are a proud member.

One would require greater business supply chain transparency. The broad support by businesses for a similar new law in California makes a strong argument to extend that transparency to all American citizens. The second would close loopholes in the Smoot-Hawley rules. One of the reasons -- those loopholes are one of the reasons for a small -- for the very small number of enforcement actions.

Additionally I want to point to the need to build and enhance our existing public-private partnerships in order to deprive the armed gangs of their funds. This is necessary because the existing supply chain remediation focused on the minerals after they leave the Congo is not enough. This requires working with the people there to produce slave-free and conflict-free minerals. In this way, our concerns and desires for clean computers, for supply chain transparency has a meeting point with the desire of local people for freedom, livelihoods and security.

This is not a problem we can solve alone. These local communities are our best and true allies. Our goal should be communities that articulate their own goals for their lives and feel some sense of control over their destinies. We know this is possible.

In India, we and our partners work with whole villages who are enslaved in rock quarries. With support through liberation, training in citizenship and rights protection committees and the assignment of legal mining leases, these communities are transformed. Such methods are crucial for eastern Congo because liberation brings development.

When freed slaves work for themselves and their own family, they unleash an enormous potential, both for production and for the consumption that drives the economy. This freedom dividend causes local economies to spiral upward and helps to stabilize communities.

Also the United States needs to be closely involved in making sure that peacekeepers are adequately resourced and that peacekeeping is focused on those locations that are economically important. Without security, there can be no transparency, no slave-free and conflict-free minerals nor can there be protection for the natural world, for the pristine cloud forests and the rare mountain gorillas which are such a powerful economic engine across the border in Rwanda.

Remember that the per capita income in the Congo is \$280 per year while the average mountain gorilla generates around \$28,000 a year for their local economy. When I was in the eastern Congo, I was astounded that most of the people I met were not despairing. They were doing their best to rebuild their lives and their families. We don't have the right to despair of they don't. Instead, we should learn from them and restore our own belief in them and their home.

Eastern Congo is an amazing resource for the whole planet in both natural beauty and needed minerals. Let's join the people there in visualizing their country without destruction, without slavery where communities can support themselves sustainably and we are excited to go as tourists. Then let's work with them to achieve that vision.

Finally, it is rare that I get to speak directly to people who hold sufficient power to bring slavery to an end. So I must tell you that yours can be a legacy of freedom, not just for the Congo, but for the whole world. There are 27 million slaves in the world today, a very large number, but the smallest fraction of the global population to ever be in slavery. These slaves generate something like \$40 billion a year for their masters, but again that is the smallest proportion of the global economy ever represented by slave labor.

Slavery is illegal in every country and denounced by every faith and tradition. Slavery now lurks in the dark and hidden criminal edges of our global society. In fact, it is the standing on the edge of its own extinction. With a strong concerted push, we can end slavery.

For years, in our work of liberation and rehabilitation of slaves around the world, we have been carefully calculating the cost of freedom and of building new lives. The cost of bringing slavery to an end would be to our best estimate around \$12 billion over a period of some 25 years, a sum to be raised from all governments and all people of goodwill. The result would do to slavery what a similar concerted effort has done to small pox where once there were millions of cases each year, there are now a handful and those are quickly dealt with.

We know how to end slavery. Thousands of freed slaves around the world are proof of that. And while we still lack the resources and awareness to make that happen, perhaps our greatest need is leadership. So I finish with a question for the committee: will you be the leaders that rid not just the enslaved mine workers of the Congo of slavery, but the world of slavery? Thank you so much.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Bales, thank you very much for your leadership and your organization which is doing a pioneering work. Thank you.

Mr. Abramowitz?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Payne and other members of the committee for holding this hearing on one of the most impressive human rights challenges of our time, the widespread occurrence of modern-day slavery and human trafficking. I ask that my full written statement be made part of the record.

REP. SMITH: Without objection, your and as well as other members of the panel.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: And I'll just summarize my remarks and some oral remarks on the left of a very distinguished panel who really ploughed the ground before me. Thanks for your generous introduction, Mr. Smith. But as we all know, it is your leadership that all of us up here honor the way in which you've pursued this issue for more than 10 years through the original TVPA and before bringing this issue to light and we really want to thank you for your commitment, including the commitment of you and your staff in this Congress.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Mr. Chairman, other witnesses have described the scale and scope of modern-day slavery, the third largest and fastest growing transnational crime. Regrettably, this is not a far-away problem that affects distant lands. It remains a shock to most Americans, but thousands of adults are trafficked into forced labor or sexual slavery right here in the United States and estimates of U.S. youth trafficked into commercial sex are as high as 100,000.

Mr. Chairman, at Humanity United we believe there are solutions to this heinous abuse, but ending trafficking and slavery requires a unity of effort between civil society, the private sector and governments around the world that I was very pleased when I saw the composition of this panel bringing together the private sector as well as those of us in civil society who have been working on this matter and I commend the committee for putting that together.

For our part, Humanity United is supporting the alliance to end slavery and trafficking or ATEST that Mr. Bales just referred to, a coalition of 12 members of civil society that I described in my written testimony. ATEST has been working on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, its implementation and also on the reauthorization bill and the recommendations I will outline below are drawn from its proposal.

As I just indicated, Mr. Chairman, there is no need to remind you of the leadership role this committee has taken with respect to fighting human trafficking. One of the strong points of this legislation has been its bipartisan nature, which is

sustain the framework created by the TVPA over the last decade. I think it is of paramount importance that this strong bipartisan support, from introduction to presidential signature, remain a key part of this effort.

In my written testimony, Mr. Chairman, I've laid out a number of lessons we've learned over the past 10 years and I am happy to answer any questions you have on those. Let me focus on what we have learned about how the U.S. government can best achieve change. The annual Trafficking in Persons report can highlight forms of abuses and identify solutions. The TVPA's tier ranking system can name and shame and spur governments to action. However, we have learned the report and rankings are not enough.

The U.S. government must conduct robust diplomacy, both by the Trafficking in Persons office and the departments of state's regional bureau as well as creative action in the field where each embassy has a critical role to play in catalyzing change. The U.S. government also needs resources to leverage change. While at the end of the day this responsibility lies with a particular foreign government, U.S. assistance judiciously employed can be critical to go from willingness to actual action.

As we consider these evolving developments, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of important reforms that should be considered as you move forward in the next 10 years of combating human trafficking.

First, as was discussed on the earlier panel and as you mention, Mr. Chairman, we need to address the issue of foreign labor recruiters and brokers, one of the leading drivers of the phenomenon of slavery and trafficking today. Recent testimony you heard before the Helsinki Commission just a few weeks ago details these practices and I would ask the statement by Ms. Neha Misra on May 23, 2011 be made part of the record.

REP. SMITH: No objection, so ordered.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: In this regard, Mr. Chairman, we know recruiters deceive young girls with promises of legitimate employment only to bind them into sexual exploitation. Exploitation by labor recruiters is happening right here in the United States, in our fields, in our factories, in our own streets. In my written testimony I cite a recent case where 400 Thai workers were lured to the United States and put into modern-day slavery.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the abuses of labor recruiters and brokers can be ended and that effort can start right here in the United States and can have a huge demonstration effect for other countries around the world. As you mentioned, this house has already adopted such an approach in 2007, but that provision did not become part of the final legislation. ATEST has reviewed this House-passed provision and I have described the revised framework in my written testimony.

As you mentioned, elimination of fees that end up being abusive and lead to debt bondage, disclosure before the worker leaves his or her country, just as the government is requiring the contractors to do as Ambassador CdeBaca indicated, an enforcement through a registration system paid by the foreign labor recruiters themselves. Second Mr. Chairman, I would point to the need to maintain funding for international antitrafficking programs and to authorize contingency funding for emergency situations and unexpected opportunities.

As I discussed earlier we are only going to make further progress as smart diplomacy can be leveraged with targeted U.S. initiatives. I understand that the cuts in the FY 2011 budget has led to a 23 percent decrease in the TIP office's programs this year, a reduction that is as deplorable as it is unwise. I urge that the committee reauthorize assistance for international antitrafficking programs at no less than the amounts currently authorized in the TVPA.

The United States also needs to be able to rapidly deploy experts and staff and that was discussed when you were talking to Ambassador CdeBaca. For example, I understand that after the fall of the Ben Ali regime in Tunisia during the Arab Spring, officials in the Tunisian government communicated that they now could finally start talking about trafficking problems that the regime has refused to admit and expressed a willingness to enter into dialogue with the United States on these issues.

The United States must have the ability to move quickly in these kinds of opportunities. The upcoming independence of South Sudan may be another such opportunity to help create a new framework for a new country recognizing that the challenges that we see at this very moment as conflict is breaking out between north and south may delay that.

But there will be an opportunity to help them get this issue right which has caused so much pain to their own population, and it's something that we should be ready for. Finally, as you've mentioned efforts to combat trafficking must be part of the response to natural disasters or man-made emergencies and we -- I talk about the Haiti example as you referred to with Ambassador CdeBaca.

Third, Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Bales mentioned, and as I describe at length in my written testimony, corporations can join the fight against slavery in our time. We see examples of this at our table and there are other ways that corporations can move forward to really try to help all of us to end this abuse and I would just direct you to the testimony and the reference to the California law that Mr. Bales mentioned.

Fourth, Mr. Chairman, we need to continue the integrity and strength of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report which will be issued by the Department of State later this month. I spoke of the reports earlier and happy to answer your questions on some of the success.

I am most concerned Mr. Chairman, that there will be legislative efforts to undermine the impact of the report. Making the report a biannual process or making the report appear earlier in the calendar year would have the effect of undermining the impact that the report has today for reasons I discussed in my written testimony. And I think we should -- the first real issue should be let's do no harm, and I'd be happy to talk to your staff and to members of the committee as proposals might come up.

We must also carefully review the effects on the report of the quote "automatic downgrade" unquote provision that was added in 2008 by which countries that had been on the Tier 2 Watch List automatically face sanctions if they remain on that list for more than 2 years. The implementation of this provision has both produced change, but has also upped the pressure and debates within the State Department and we need to see how this provision is implemented in the coming report.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I have some additional suggestions regarding how U.S. law could be approved to make antitrafficking policies even more effective including enhancing the State Department's response in the field, authorizing compacts with willing countries, ensuring the Department of Labor continues the publications of its reports on goods made with forced and child labor. These are all contained in my written testimony. I hope you and your staff will have a chance to review them.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Democratic Member Payne, these are a number of measures that should be considered by Congress and reauthorized in the TVPA, and we in ATEST would be happy to meet with you and your staff to have further discussions about these matters. If this committee continues to act in a bipartisan manner in accordance with its traditional approach to this issue, you can ensure an even greater impact, save more victims and help their journey to move beyond their terrible experience and become survivors.

Mr. Chairman, I commend you for recognizing that every part of society, government, private business, civil society and as was discussed every human being who believes in the dignity of each of us has a role in eliminating this heinous abuse. We stand ready to work with you and I want to thank you for inviting me to present this testimony.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Abramowitz, thank you so much for your testimony. I did read your testimony. It's filled with very useful recommendations as usual, so I do, on behalf of the committee, thank you for that as well.

I'd like to yield to my good friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, our ranking member of the subcommittee.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD M. PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and because of a long-standing conflict I was unable to get here earlier. I will just ask to have my opening statement included in the record.

REP. SMITH: Without objection.

REP. PAYNE: And I'll yield to you for your questioning and then follow as -- yeah, okay.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Payne. Let me just ask a couple of questions and again all of your testimonies are filled, replete with very useful suggestions.

And Mr. Bales, you might have noticed in my questioning of Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, that I asked him about the letters that had been sent by you and a consortium of other -- and several other NGOs. Are you satisfied with the response that was sent in March by the department?

MR. BALES: Yes, I think so and also I should -- I think to answer the question you ask of Ambassador CdeBaca. As I understand it the regulations on DRC exports are expected to be released by the SEC in early August.

REP. SMITH: Okay.

MR. BALES: Yeah.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Ms. Cundy, you spoke about the legal department being reluctant at first. What were their -- in order to share that (false ?) concern, although legal departments are paid to keep corporations out of trouble, what were their concerns and can you share that so that we could, you know, amplify that and make sure that others, legal departments don't repeat those concerns?

MS. CUNDY: Yes, congressman, up to a point. I'm not exactly sure all of the issues that they might have been looking at, but I do know that in the end the code of conduct is not binding. Our legal department, I think, might have felt that it -- should something occur after we've signed the code, what does that mean for us? In the end they felt that since we are aware of the problem, it had been brought to our attention, that frankly for us not to sign the code might actually put us at more exposure.

REP. SMITH: So wasn't a concern about a potentially false allegation by an employee resulting in a defamation suit or some other --

MS. CUNDY: No, not that I'm aware of. I don't --

(Cross talk.)

REP. SMITH: Oh, had to do with the code itself, okay. If I could ask you as well, when an employee recognizes a potential act of human trafficking, to whom do they report and is law enforcement immediately noticed? How is that usually done?

MS. CUNDY: Yes, they are told to report to the management of the hotel.

REP. SMITH: Okay.

MS. CUNDY: The management of the hotel then contacts law enforcement immediately, and of course how law enforcement, depending on where the location is decides to follow up is something that's within their purview.

REP. SMITH: And Ms. Rivard, when a flight attendant recognizes a potential trafficking situation, you had mentioned previous, I heard you speak to the, you know, that during long flights in particular, very often a flight attendant will notice, you know, disconnect if you will, between a man and perhaps some other people who are traveling with him, mostly women or children, and that opportunities present themselves as they go to the ladies room. And to whom do they report when they have a suspicion of a trafficking in progress?

MS. RIVARD: Yes, this happened last week to my girlfriend who was going to Costa Rica, and there was 50-year-old man with a 9-year-old Dominican girl. And he -- she noticed that the man wouldn't let the little girl talk to her at all. She brought her cheese cake, wouldn't -- tried to go in the bathroom with the little girl, and when he -- she stopped him, saying it's not appropriate. He kept his foot in the door and said, "Woman, get out, it's none of your business."

She on her own told the pilots who radioed ahead to a airline dispatch and to -- have the authority that customs meet that case and sure enough it was a trafficking situation. So their procedure is basically just to tell the pilots and the pilots notify SOC, security operations command at headquarters.

REP. SMITH: I had raised -- your best practices actually handed out your brochure to OSCE participants at the last parliamentary assembly, and at least two of the representatives said that their national airline, it was the Dutch and the Swedes, were very, very interested. Has there been any fruit from your work with other airlines adopting that best practice?

MS. RIVARD: Not so far. I mean, we'd certainly be very interested. We're pursuing Delta right now. We'd love to support them in training.

REP. SMITH: Delta would bring Aeroflot in right, is that correct? Or --

MS. RIVARD: They could. I am not -- exactly who is part of their alliance, but I have not had luck so far. Many of the airlines are nervous about associating their brand with this issue, afraid maybe that the flight attendants would be too vigilant and they would get a law suit. Although we're pitching this to the airlines that this is an issue of child protection. And that like Carlson found out this is ultimately good for their brand.

I would like your support in helping to convince more airlines of this and I need your support and connections to airlines that are interested in the training, because we have developed that.

REP. SMITH: Do you think a White House summit or something along those lines would be helpful?

MS. RIVARD: That would be fantastic, yes.

REP. SMITH: I think the subcommittee could pursue that idea and it would include obviously the great work that Ms. Cundy has done --

MS. RIVARD: Exactly.

REP. SMITH: -- with her group. So --

MS. CUNDY: That would be greatly appreciated.

REP. SMITH: Well, we'll pursue that and --

MS. CUNDY: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: -- hopefully they'll be open to it. Let me ask Mr. Abramowitz if I could, you pointed out that David Arkless' research suggests that worldwide economic downturn has led to a surge in human trafficking worldwide as those desperate to sustain themselves have become more vulnerable to traffickers due to economic distress.

The correlation between economic downturns generally and this very, very severe one that we've experienced throughout the world, what are you seeing? Is it more labor trafficking, sex trafficking, both? In your testimony you also talked about the unified approach rather than this dichotomy, false as it has been over the years. If you could speak to that as well?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that you have to look at from both sides. You have populations who may be under stress because of the change in economic circumstances that they're under. There may be a factory that is closed, and therefore they're willing to take more risks to try to move in order to seek some sort of better economic opportunity. Therefore, it comes from sort of the bottom-end as well as the top end because as there is shrinking profits, there is a need for those whether they're making bricks in India or elsewhere where in terms of the multinational thing, they're looking to reduce the cost that they have.

And so they're supposed to push and pull. With respect to the issue of whether we've seen more into the sexual exploitation or labor exploitation, I don't think we really have the data to really give a conclusive answer. Obviously again a presumption would be that there would be increased vulnerability because there would be more -- women who would be more willing to take risks or others who'd be more willing to take risks and therefore would be more vulnerable to exploitation.

I think in terms of the false dichotomy issue, clearly there is no doubt that there is recruitment specifically into sexual slavery. I think that the point is that a lot of the different activities we see that are related specifically to labor recruiting, for example, on the economic side often ends up with also sexual exploitation involved.

So you bring -- a individual leaves Nepal to go to India because perhaps sexual violence or other reasons have driven them to take that risk. They think they're going into a domestic situation. Maybe they end up in a domestic situation as they thought, but then they're exploited. They're not only for their labor, but also they fall into a trap of sexual exploitation. So you see both phenomena. Thank you.

REP. SMITH: If I could, to you as the end, you talked about elimination of fees, disclosure and enforcement. You reminded us that the '07 legislation had a registration and enforcement system that penalizes recruiters and complicit employers that do not follow the requirements in the system. Could you elaborate on how you think that might help end this labor trafficking problem that is only escalating?

And if you could, I mentioned earlier about the Department of Defense, and that when we held those two hearings I was deeply disappointed in the Pentagon's responses. You know, they told us now we're going to rectify. Do you see any evidence perhaps that they've really taken to heart that we should not be complicit in Iraq or anywhere else with these labor traffickers who, you know, impose huge sums on people who think they're getting a good deal and they get a awful deal?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And with respect to the first question, I think the notion is that we need to set certain standards for foreign labor recruiters including as was discussed the elimination of fees. I will say that the administration has taken an important step by really restricting the amount of fees in certain programs involving

legal workers. There was recent regulations that the Department of Homeland Security has put forward in draft that did really try to restrict fees.

But of course that's only on one part of the program. And then the second part is as was discussed we -- the worker really needs to understand what it is that they're moving to. So often they don't understand that there will be this fee, that fee, this cost for training et cetera, where they're going to be and of course we've seen cases including in the U.S. government cases where laborers thought they were going to the Gulf, but they end up Baghdad. Clearly that is a huge problem. Once they are there, they are sort of stuck there. They may have gotten huge debts and so then it becomes a problem that exploitation occurs.

With respect to enforcement, I think that, you know, you can take a spectrum of different approaches to this. But it seems that there needs to be some mechanism so that once a labor recruiter or broker has been registered with some -- a government entity that there be some ability to pursue them if it turns out that they've misinformed the worker or brought them into a situation where there could well be exploitation. So I think there has to be some enforcement mechanism. Exactly what that looks like there was of course -- one of the -- in place for the 2007 provision that we've been discussing, there was a fraud in foreign labor contracting provision that was put in that has just now been starting to be pursued as a prosecutorial method.

In terms of the Department of Defense, Mr. Chairman, it's very hard to evaluate. I think that one of the reasons that the office of inspector general was brought into this was because it's -- you know, the contracting procedures of the government are complex enough that if you really are not pursuing and really doing the training that's necessary with respect to the contractors themselves, then they're not really -- and the employees who are working with the contractors, they are not going to know about these provisions. I think the Defense Department has its problems. The New Yorker story that you referred to indicated a wide range of different problems that obviously the Defense Department has more work to do.

I think secretary Gates did make some very important statements at the February meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force and I think that's going to be something that Secretary Panetta is going to have to follow up with. I think in the Defense Department it's all about leadership from the top. There are a lot of things that happen there that only happen because the civilian leadership is committed to it. So I think that's the avenue we need to pursue.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Bales -- I thank you -- the corporate responsibility for those particularly tech companies but others who are benefiting, and as we all are through many devices that would otherwise not be used or available -- (inaudible) -- minerals from DR Congo. Could you name some names of some of the corporations that are doing well and others that perhaps are doing very poorly, who are deriving their minerals from DR Congo?

MR. BALES: You know, I'm not sure that I can.

REP. SMITH: Okay.

MR. BALES: And the reason why is that the names that would be familiar to us are those who are so close to us on that supply chain that they are -- it's not that they are whitewashed any -- of responsibility any more than we are as consumers. But they are a very long distance away from those smelters, processors and component manufacturers, primarily in Southeast Asia which supply components which are then very difficult to link back to DR Congo. Not least because so much of the minerals are being smuggled out of the Congo, thus making Rwanda which does not have coltan for example, the largest coltan -- one of the largest coltan exporters in the world.

Until we crack that duplicity at the Congolese, Rwandan and Burundi borders, we'll never be able to be absolutely certain, and we'll never be able to make a fair comment about which companies are doing well and which aren't. Admittedly there are a number of large electronic companies which are on record as wanting to do the right thing, but at the moment I worry that they don't have the mechanisms to achieve that because those of us on both sides of this table aren't able to help them to do that.

MR. : Mr. Chairman, could I just add something?

REP. SMITH: Yeah.

MR. : You know, I think that Mr. Bales really has pointed to a very significant problem. If you look at a number of good corporate citizens across the different spectrum of industries, they will tell you that they are making efforts, but it's very, very difficult. If you're buying apparel from China, you don't know whether that apparel has been made with Uzbek cotton or not.

So knowing whether you're contributing in some way to the global supply chain is very, very challenging. I mean, you know, there are members who are -- companies that are members of various stakeholders -- multiple -- multi-stakeholder initiatives that bring together a wide range of industry groups and others who are really trying to make efforts in this area. A number of them work on both environmental and labor issues, but the -- there has been a lot of focus on environmental issues and not as much on labor issues.

Even where there's an effort to do things in partnership, there is really -- there needs to be more effort made to really try to trace these supply chains, figure out better mechanisms so that they can actually know what's going on and then also to press those multi-stakeholder initiatives who are saying that they want to look at labor issues to really focus more of their auditing on those labor issues so that they can really try to do the best they can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Mr. Bales, maybe you want to answer this. As we know, no woman or girl in the mining zones is free to refuse sex to the armed men who control the mines. If there's a problem with a miner for example, his wife or daughter could be forced to have sex with a military leader and may be taken into sexual slavery. What attempts have been made to target this specific form of slavery? What would you suggest are the most helpful approaches? And obviously probably it is the largest deployment of U.N. peacekeepers are in DR Congo. Is this sufficiently a part of their mandate to protect women against sexual violence, particularly in the mining area?

MR. BALES: This is indeed the largest deployment of UN peacekeepers in the world and it's certainly part of the training and mandate of the -- of peacekeeping forces. However, from my own experience those peacekeeping forces are for the most part sort of in Fort Apache. They're in small communities, they are boundary surrounded. It's very difficult given their defensive and protective role to carry out the kind of operations that would take them into places like the BCA mine that you just described which as far as I know has only rarely been even visited by a UN peacekeeper and when there has been they have been outmanned and outgunned by the rebel groups which control that mine.

It points to the earlier situation that we were talking about, the dichotomy between sex and labor trafficking and slavery because the fact is that the reality for any woman enslaved whether it is in a mine, a field, a factory or a brothel, there will be sexual assault. Sexual assault and rape are part of the slavery for women.

That's the way it's been for all of human history. And the situation there is one in which it operates where without any hope of redress to the rule of law and the chaos of that situation and the armed gangs which have basically carved up that part of -- (inaudible) -- like mafias, meaning that it's very difficult to reach in. The best response that we have worked to so far in our own organization is to begin to organize local communities to begin to take on that vigilance for themselves that they can never at this time rely upon from government and official sources.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Chai Ling, if you could, the act of petitioning and organizing on behalf -- this is your statement -- of missing children and that includes obviously those who have been trafficked is not considered a legal activity in China. Rather than helping parents find their sons and daughters, the government has been cracking down on these volunteers and detaining or imprisoning them. Could you expand on the Chinese government's response? Is this something that the police have been involved in, the trafficking perhaps of these children?

We know and a member of IJM frequently testified here and said that there is an Achilles heel in all of our trafficking efforts, it's often the police particularly at the local level who received large sums of money or they are able to exploit the victims themselves. And I'm wondering, you know, why if a parent is looking for his or her child who had been sold into slavery that they get penalized and they end up doing time; perhaps if you could speak to that?

MS. LING: Yes, the pictures in the PowerPoint, those are pictures of volunteers and victim families who are looking for their children. They were detained when they went to Beijing to protest and to petition the government to pay attention to this issue to looking for assistance. They were put in detention for over 20 hours, for ever in Putian City within the Fujian province.

The reason why we believe why there's such a massive amount of child bride trafficking where for over past 30 years there were no police force or action has been taking place for government to prevent this kind of massive proliferation of child bride trafficking, we believe that might be a result of corruption between government officials, family planning committee, even family planning committee members that they themselves are purchasing child bride as well and together with the local police force and the traffickers as well.

REP. SMITH: In your opinion, is there a sufficient understanding and appreciation of what the one-child per couple has done among international policymakers, national and international like the United Nations, the Human Rights Council, for example? I mean, it was 10 years ago that the U.S. Department of State's Human Rights report said that there may be as many as a 100 million missing girls in China attributable to the one-child per couple policy or largely attributable to it. And that's 10 years ago and the situation apparently has only gotten worse.

MS. LING: Yes, I personally was shocked to learn how pervasive the one-child policy has been and I used to believe that I was, you know, human rights expert for China. And so that -- that goes -- until I came to your December 2009 hearing on China's one-child policy. And I was -- my eyes was woken up and I realized, you know, this is the Tiananmen massacre taking place every single day, over 35,000 children are forcefully and coercively being eliminated. Many of them are girls.

And now we see the clear impact of the one-child policy because one-child policy led to many other -- 400 million children killed in the past 30 years and contribute over 37 single -- 37 million single man that as a result of the gendercide. And these 37 additional single men in China right now became the biggest driver of sex trafficking and crimes in China and potentially around the world.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

(Cross talk.)

MS. LING: And we do -- I do believe that this is such a urgent matter that all policymakers, leaders from, you know, President Obama and the White House and the leaders of both parties from the U.S. Congress and the leaders from the United Nations really need to rise up to take immediate, urgent action to call for the leaders of China to end the one-child policy. In January 1, President Hu Jintao visited United States, and he was challenged by Speaker Boehner and Chairwoman (Ros-Lehtinen ?) on the one-child policy.

And he has stated that there's no forced abortion in China, and most recently with China's census study, China has clearly become old before it's getting rich, this whole one-child policy is creating massive social crimes, instability within China, which will impact the world for sure. And that he -- so President Hu continued to maintain that one-child policy will not end for a very long period.

And so it is really upon us, the leaders of the world, to end this crime, both try to end the child trafficking, and trafficking in China, period, and also end the source of all evil that is one-child policy right now.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Gentleman.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. Certainly appreciate the testimony that I've reviewed and the answer to questions raised by the chairman. The whole question in certain countries primarily, I guess you, Ms. Rivard, there -- I think airlines do know of where -- I mean, the world knows where sex trafficking really goes on and of course it's difficult to just try to take up one person at a time to apprehend or arrest. I mean, it's important because every child is important.

But the problem is so big that I wonder if you feel, your opinion that these countries simply look the other way, and do you -- which we know they do, but do you see any improvement today as say opposed 20 years ago or 15, 20, 10 years ago of destinations for sex exploitation where tourists go to the destinations? People know about Indonesia, for example. I understand that you've been in some of the Canary Islands. As quietly as it's kept, it's a big sex trafficking there. As a matter of fact it was only in the last maybe 5 to 10 years that Dominican Republic started to advertise its beaches. I mean, it has as much beach beautiful beaches as any other of the Caribbean Islands but it wasn't until recently that they built hotels on beaches.

Which meant that all of the trafficking -- I mean all of the tourism by and large say to the Dominican Republic was much of it had to do with now there was gambling but also the prostitution. So I guess my question is do you see any more, in your opinion, commitment on the part of governments like in the DR or Indonesia or places where it's just known -- any more commitment on their part to try to combat it or do they accept it as a necessary evil for their national economy?

MS. RIVARD: Well, I do think that for example Ms. Fernandez in Dominican Republic cases, I laud her leadership, as a **Tier 2** country to try to take some action on **human trafficking**. I think the big critical issue here is public awareness. I used to work those flights, New York-Dominican Republic, and see those girls on those flights and noticed that they were very provocatively dressed, had no idea really about the issue of human trafficking until the last year.

Now, they're calling Atlanta the new Thailand. They're bringing in little Thai girls and putting up in hotels in Atlanta and men can go to and visit, have an exotic experience with a Thai girl and be home with their families for dinner that night. I know that I've become a lot more aware in the last year-and-a-half to two years. And I think it's necessary that we who have -- are becoming alert to the severity and the atrocity of this problem on the planet help spread public awareness. And we need to do that to the airlines, we need to do it to the countries, the airports and the general public.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you, and I really commend you for the initiative that you took in creating this organization.

The question of exploitation in minerals, you know, we passed the Conflict Minerals bill, part of the Frank Wall Street Reform Act Section 1502, which I'm proud to be a cosponsor of and it's currently in the implementation process. The SEC has proposed that public companies disclose if and how they are involved in the manufacture, mining or final end of use of conflict minerals. Do you think that this legislation will be strictly enforced?

I guess Mr. Bales or Mr. Abramowitz would, as you know when we started many years ago on the conflict diamond resolution people said, Congressman Payne, come on you -- you're not going to be able -- how are you going to identify diamonds and you know and so forth. And so many of us, Mr. Rangel, Ms. McDermott and others got involved in the conflict diamond law which has had an impact, a good impact on the monitoring of and the elimination of some of the conflict diamonds. So I wonder what you think about the conflict minerals bill and whether you think that how could we work towards making it meaningful.

MR. BALES: Well, we very much welcome that bill and we're very supportive of it and I think help to put some of those provisions -- think through some of those provisions. I think it's a first step and I'll point to two things.

First is the -- as I said in my testimony about the recent passage of the transparency law in California that covers all businesses over a certain size, requiring them to look and explain precisely how slave labor might be fitting in to their products that they sell. Now, that doesn't have any penalties to it. It simply requires that they put something on their websites and in their materials that explain how they're going to understand that and trace it, or to say at this moment that we're not doing anything about it, which of course then holds them up to real question about the fact whether they actually care about whether there is slavery in their products.

The point here is that moving large-scale retailers especially, and we've been in a series of talks with Walmart about how best to address the tracing of their supply chains and it's very much going to include conflict in slave minerals from the Congo as well.

We're -- we've recommended that along with the ATEST coalition that that considered to be brought into the TVPA reauthorization and we think that would be a great second step, one that allows the business community to act without any kind of rough stuff as it were from -- on the legal side but gets people moving in the right direction.

The second part is simply that I was just in Brazil and I was actually looking at cassiterite mines run by artisanal miners, cassiterite being one of the key conflict and slave minerals from the DRC. But in Brazil, in the Amazon, cassiterite mines run openly with cooperative well-paid miners who are very happy.

It's about both looking on the right side and on the wrong side, and helping to better identify those minerals that we're happy to use and making sure they get a premium to flow into the global supply chain. And as we begin to squeeze down and cut of those that we're very concerned about while not harming the people at the bottom of that artisanal scale even when it exists in a place like the Congo.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Mr. Payne, just very briefly I don't have very much to add to Mr. Bales said but a couple of points.

I think there is concern in the State Department about this provision in particular because of the concerns that Mr. Bales was just referring to that this could cause a number of companies to really try to figure out ways to stop purchasing from the DRC because they can't guarantee that the minerals that their purchasing are not coming from these mines.

There's a number of new ideas that are being put forward. The one that Mr. Bales just presented about the idea of identifying good mines where that you could focus business activity is one of them and in fact there is a dialogue that's going on between the NGO community that Free the Slaves is participating in to look at. And one of the issues is the mapping that was also required by the statutory to actually map what's going on because I think that there is a factual deficit that is making it more difficult.

Finally, just one last point which is I think that the many cases when you hear about reluctance by companies there are number of different reasons and one is that people never know when they're going to do enough. You know, when is it that they can say, yes, these are the measures that I've taken in place and people aren't going to be asking me or criticizing me for doing more.

And in that vein we have a number of interesting developments. The Ag bill that was passed a couple of years ago created a consultative group that listed out different voluntary practices for how you can guarantee that you are not importing slave-made food into the United States.

Department of Labor is currently reviewing a set of standards for a variety of different sectors which once it's put out -- it's been in the Department of Labor for a couple of years now -- could give guidelines to companies, say, hey, here's a touchstone for us. And I think it is incumbent on us to try to figure out what some of those realistic standards would be to help those companies really implement things that could have a real impact.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that ATEST -- I have a sheet of various different proposals from ATEST that's just on a two-page sheet. I would ask that that be included in the record if you would.

REP. SMITH: No objection.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

REP. PAYNE: Okay. Well, thank you. I do think that that's a good idea that there could attempt -- be an attempt to identify legitimate companies. I have had a number of meetings with President Kabila in the DRC. And the DRC itself does not benefit from these illegal operations and therefore and my conversation with him, he would be looking for help in order to control these companies.

Now, it's very difficult because of the vastness and the U.N.'s mandate may not cover illegal mining. And so it's a pretty difficult situation to handle, but I do think that we should perhaps have more conversation because they would know the legitimate companies as opposed to the illegitimate ones.

And even much of the -- it's alleged that some of the mining that is done by Rwandans in the DRC is not officially mandated by the government. It's these former, a matter of fact as you know the name of the group that went to Congo after the genocide and actually aligned themselves in the old days with the government of the Congo to -- in the wars that occurred that Interyhamwe and X FAR who -- when they are -- but also some ethnic Rwandese that still are in that area.

So it is a complex area to sort out, but I do think that if we do concentrate we might be able to come up with some better results, and it's going to be -- also I might ask you to comment on.

I'm not -- I don't know if you're totally familiar with the section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 which actually was passed, but it said that if there is a consumption demand by the U.S., if it's something that, you know, the businesses just got to have it that the restrictions don't apply, which is a big loophole. And I'm wondering if our Conflict Resolution Act will supersede this law or whether we need to take another look at this, I think things have changed since 1930, whether we might look at trying to amend that consumption demand section of the Tariff Act of 1930.

MR. : Well, Mr. Bales mentioned that in his testimony. Let me just say very briefly that that provision was originally designed to try to keep products out that were created with cheap labor that the U.S. couldn't compete with. So it was actually sort of an infant industries protection provision and therefore there was this exception were it said if the companies in the United States needed that particular commodity then it could be brought in without the exception. And in fact as Mr. Bales indicated that is a proposal that's in the ATEST proposals.

It actually was in a Customs Enforcement and Trade Reauthorization bill that was passed out of the finance committee last Congress that Senator Grassley and the chairman of the committee worked together on but it did not move forward at the end of the last Congress. So there is discussion actually going in on the Senate whether there should be some changes to that. And I think -- I don't know Mr. Bales, do you want to add anything else?

REP. PAYNE: Thank you. Also as we know the ILO in Geneva tend to take on these questions and try to tackle some of these issues, are they in your opinion funded enough or how could we cooperate more with the ILO or how can we make it more effective since it's an organization been in existence for as long as the U.N. has?

Is it strong enough? Does it need more beefing up? Do we participate in the ILO? You know there are many international organizations we have not actively competed and how do we stand with the ILO I mean the International Labor Organization.

MR. : We in fact participate well in the ILO and are particularly well thought of there because of the long term support of things like the IPEC program, the , which has been based on U.S. government funding for many years now since the Clinton administration.

But when you ask what could it do better or how could we help it to do better, one of the -- there's actually a fundamental problem in the organization of the ILO which arises from the fact that it was established in 1919. It was established to represent labor bodies, employer bodies and governments.

So it has a tripartite system representing people who should absolutely be there, employers, labor unions and governments, but which fails now to take on the fourth major player on the global stage which are the non-governmental civil society organizations. And it's a curious fact that a great deal of the ILO publications that come from that tripartite system are actually written for them and produced by non-governmental organizations which are not allowed to have an official role within the ILO.

I've spoken with the ILO leadership about this, but it would be interesting if our government were to say as it's major funder we'd like you to consider including everyone at the table within the ILO. The other side of that is just there is a bang for buck question. The U.N. and ILO salary levels are pretty significant compared to say those of civil society and you have to make some decisions about how those salary levels might balance up to what's being provided.

I will point to a number of places where the ILO has done brilliant work and I'm looking -- thinking especially of Brazil at the moment and the fact that on the 20th of this month there will be a new extension of the Brazil pact for businesses which is a way to remove slave labor from the product chain. That will be launched here in Washington for the North America on the 20th of this month sponsored by the ILO. That's fantastic work. But as you can see it's like for all of us it's a mixed bag.

MR. : Mr. Payne, if I can just say briefly that I think you have to look at what instruments can be used for what purposes at what time in the best way.

So for example just last week the ILO's committee that is looking at a number of different problems on the labor side concluded a convention that for the first time will regulate domestic work. As you may know, there has been a tradition that individuals in the household, people who are providing children child care services or household services are not considered workers because it's a private matter with in the household.

And this has led to a great deal of exploitation all around the world and under the auspices of the ILO they recently concluded this convention that will for the first time institute reforms that if adopted will make that a much more difficult abuse to carry out. Is this something that the United States will become a party to? It's unclear.

There's a lot of state law issues that are involved. It gets very complex when you are talking about some of these types of issues. But the United States is very involved in negotiating the convention and had a lot of expertise and created a framework which -- helped create a framework which will perhaps allow our laws to come into harmony and bring in best practices that we have as well as others.

There are also some programs that they do that only the ILO can do. There are certain countries that are concerned about various bilateral programs in various areas and so only they can bring a multilateral effort. But I think that -- I agree with Mr. Bales you have to sort of look at each individual program and figure out where it is you that you can invest and get the biggest bang for the buck. Thanks.

REP. PAYNE: This is my last question or two in regard again and I keep going to ILO. I worked on the docks of New York for four years when I was in college so that's why I guess I slip up. However -- and always have been concerned about maritime issues.

One of the other inequities of course dealing with ILO and what they try to deal with and is something that has gone on for decades and decades and that's the so-called flags of convenience. As you know, there are three or four countries that certify their ships are seaworthy.

Once again an exploitation of workers; I think the shipping industry is probably one of the biggest exploitation of workers whether it's cruise ships, whether it's companies import-export and the flags of convenience of course allow countries like Liberia, Panama, America, (Carolinas ?) are some countries that will certify that a ship is seaworthy and therefore flags -- therefore is covered under the flags of convenience. And there was a great -- I'd served on a world refugee committee in Geneva '69 to '81. And during that time the -- a ship actually broke in half because it was -- sunk because

of it was not seaworthy but it was approved under flags of convenience, approved in one of these countries that actually certifies that this ship is seaworthy and that the conditions are so forth.

And that's something no one really wants to deal with and it's something I think we should certainly still take a look at it. Interestingly enough, these countries -- companies are run by former U.S. Naval officers; it has been that way for the last 50 years. So it's really a sham which nobody deals with.

So I just raise a -- I am going to ask a -- because we are serving not a part of it but I see this too as being a part of exploitation of labor that countries are looking the other way and not dealing with the inhumane conditions of workers.

As a matter of fact, that goes way back to the Titanic, you know, when they looked at bodies to recover after the Titanic situation and crash, they would actually look at the fingernails of people to see if there was oil or grease under it or their dress when they decided which bodies to recover. Once again the workers were just left and they took the wealthy people that are passengers and so forth. So we've had for many, many decades in that industry a inequities of once again abuse, taking advantage of workers who are weak.

I just have one last question, Ms. Cundy, in regard to the -- and I really commend your company and what you do. There is no question that probably some of the most -- we know that women are abused throughout the world. Even in the U.S. they still only make I think it's up to \$0.72 on a dollar compared to men. When I came to Congress, it was only \$0.59, so we're moving up but a little too slow.

It should be equal pay for sexes but the industry certainly, as we could just see here right in New York, I mean, we don't have to go to Indonesia, you know, to see the inequities or the pressure that domestics, as we could see California, the governor there, and with the problem at the hotel in New York with the former president of the World Bank.

So it's probably not a secret in the industry that the people who work in cleaning, the maids and so forth probably are subjected to this, if it happens, you know, if it would happen though, you can imagine how it happens around the world. And is there -- do you think that there could be a increased focus on even education so that these poor, you know, vulnerable women are protected, many of them coming from the immigrant people in countries, people that fear for their jobs. They many times are accused by the management if a customer approaches and abuses them and they're afraid to now report it because in many times then they become the victim and may be terminated from employment.

Is there anything that you all are doing, maybe even starting here in the U.S. in addition to what you've been doing traditionally?

MS. CUNDY: Well, we did sign the U.N. Global Compact which of course commits us to ensuring that we have in place policies that respect human rights and that is an international document. So I would say that women are at risk around the world in any circumstance in which they find themselves vulnerable. I think that by training our hotel employees, men and women alike about this particular issue, it empowers them to a certain degree that they feel more confident that their company would not retaliate should they themselves run into an uncomfortable experience.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BALES: Mr. Payne, if I may.

REP. PAYNE: Yes.

MR. BALES: I was very pleased that you raised that issue about flags of convenience because we've been noticing a very significant increase in reports of slavery on ships, particularly on fishing vessels and particularly in the Pacific and South East Asian region, Russian ships in particular but the number of reports continue to increase. It also seems to parallel what I think we're all aware of is that increase in piracy in the world's oceans.

And its -- I agree with you, there's a kind of shocking historical parallel here that we would be talking at the beginning of the 21st century about what are the key issues of the beginning of the 19th century which was about how do we deal with ships that are carrying slaves. Now it's not slave trade anymore, but its enslaved ship workers whose treatment is horrific and we've had reports of simply the murder of workers on shipboard and of course their bodies are very easy to dispose off at sea.

It raises some very interesting questions I think especially for the United States government in that we have, from the very beginning of our republic, a series of Supreme Court rulings that made it possible for ships that seem to have been carrying slaves to be confiscated by the government based on, according to the Supreme Court ruling, circumstantial

evidence of that, not direct evidence. As well as the fact that we and particularly the British Navy took part in antislavery worker patrols looking for such ships that had slaves on board.

There's a question about whether our existing if long neglected legal mandates in that direction actually would expect us to take on again the responsibility of dealing with people who are in slavery onboard ships out at sea outside of our jurisdiction. I'd point you to the work of Tobias Wolff, a professor at the Law School at Stanford, who has published on particularly that issue and have suggested probably we should be considering what our responsibilities are in that way. Thanks.

REP. PAYNE: As you actually may know the abolition of transatlantic slavery was pushed, of course, originally by Mr. Wilberforce in Great Britain and the U.S. finally also approved the abolition although slavery continued but there was a law that said that if they were taken at high sea they can be returned and usually went to Sierra Leone. That's where they called Freetown as the capital of Sierra Leone long before Liberia became a place for ex-enslaved people.

I think that it is something -- I ironically just happened to spend several days in Connecticut a few days ago where they were commemorating Harriet Beecher Stowe's book on Uncle Tom's Cabin which exposed slavery in the United States and Lincoln actually gave her credit for actually bringing this issue. It was a bestseller, as a matter of fact, that year. And the Amistad, I think which was the case that I think John Quincy Adams came out of retirement as a former President to take the case of these Caribbean enslaved people who overtook the Amistad and won that case. I think it's the first case in American history that went towards people who had been in bondage.

So this is an area that I have had a long interest in and certainly something that we're going to try to continue. There are many, many problems in the world and we can't deal with them all, but I think this is one that's been around for a long time. And like you said, with the increase in piracy not only in the area of the Somali region, but in other parts of the world its happening, its increasingly quietly.

And the other problem with this is that in many instances the health of the workers are not checked out and diseases can be -- you've got products and persons who work in these substandard conditions certainly, you know, are having a hard time getting health care in the U.S., you know, for everyone. So you can imagine some people working in the bows of a ship from Malaysia or Singapore or somewhere in Africa on these ships working.

So there are tremendous potential for catastrophic problems that can engulf us in this nation and in the world. So it's something I think we need to pay a little bit more attention. Of course as we know resources are becoming more and more scarce for everything, so it's a difficult time to try to start a new initiative that's for sure as we're going to be trying to hold on to what we have already which is going to be diminished. So -- but these are just issues I think that will come up in the future and I appreciate all of you for what you do to assist us in public policy that give us good ideas to try to put it into legislation and move forward.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

Let me just conclude with a couple of very quick questions and note that without objection a submission for the record from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and testimony from Julia Ormond previously given here at the Helsinki Commission will also be made a part of the record with from her group ASSET.

Let me just ask first to Mr. Kowalczyk, 6.2 million signatures, 50 countries, how do you choose what it is in each respective country that you will campaign on? Does TIP Report help? And let me ask all the questions and then please, all of you answer.

Secondly to Ms. Rivard, you pointed out that 30 young girls were headed from Zurich to Chicago on Swissair. Has Swissair shown an interest now in your training? You also mentioned that TSA attended the airline ambassadors training at Dallas, Fort Worth around the Super Bowl of last year. Does TSA normally get training or is that something that needs to be institutionalized.

Let me ask perhaps Mr. Bales and Mr. Abramowitz, if you would, S.B.657, the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010 obviously covers about, according to testimony we received, about 80 percent of the corporations will that affect, the corporations that are doing business or as part of their supply chain coming out of the Congo. What

is the value added of a federal law? Is it that they report to the SEC? Do they get the other 20 percent? Is it that it is a federal law? If you could speak to that.

And finally, Mr. Abramowitz, you might want to speak of this and this is more a generic question but Nancy Ely-Raphel, John Miller, Mark Lagon, Luis CdeBaca, all ambassadors and the fourth person obviously was the director, all had an upward fight with other people in the State Department who simply did not want to recognize trafficking as a severe problem. There's always this internal warfare that goes on within state as you know. How do we get to the point where at least for the first stage the naming of the countries is done based absolutely on the record of those country's performances and whether or not part II, meting out punishments, that is to say penalties, is that might be more of a political process based on what we think we might be able to achieve.

But I know, you know, regardless of the administrations, Bush administration, Clinton, although he left before it was implemented, Obama, his administration, there is always this tension between the vested interests of people who think that state graft requires that human rights get subordinated to an asterisk on page 4. And I'm deeply concerned about that. It seems like we're always in this fight to get countries added to tier 3 that ought to be on tier 3. You are very much a part of the effort to get the parking lot of being on the watchlist two years or a year lowered. We have this problem. How do we fix it, if you have any thought along those lines?

And one last question, Ms. Cundy, the concierges often are asked -- in your video, it's very clear that somebody who's being asked a question and he immediately saw that this was the problem, what kind of training do they get because very often they're asked in a hotel where can we go for church, where can we go for entertainment, best restaurants and certainly, you know, their needs there's an understanding by the concierge where the traffickers and the exploiters are? What kind of training do they get to ensure that they're not willingly or unwillingly being complicit in trafficking?

MR. KOWALCZYK: It's a lot of questions and I'll tackle the first one which is to do with the fact that it is a worldwide issue and the needs around the world are different. The Body Shop's ambition was not to become an expert in the subject but to provide a platform to allow people around the world to have a common platform and a voice.

For expertise, we relied on our partnership with ECPAT as subject matter expert as it related to finding and helping to create action agenda items that were relevant for each country for the stage of development of where that country was. So there are two or three things that I would point to.

One of them is that while the topic is difficult no matter what country you bring it to, the response has been universally supportive from both our customer's point of view and our associates' point of view which is terrific. Secondly, ECPAT on a worldwide basis but it's not the worldwide part of it, it's the local connection points and the number of affiliates that they're interacting with that lay out the objectives by country that have made a difference.

We committed at the beginning of the campaign that we would make these objectives measurable and trackable, and so we created a scorecard -- sorry, we didn't, ECPAT did in conjunction with support from The Body Shop and the scorecard is something that allows us to be able to track to make sure that progress, in fact, is being made. And third and finally, we also committed that a global report would be created in order to be able to, first of all, raise awareness and to allow for involvement, secondly, to show that progress can happen and it doesn't happen at the same pace in every part of the world but progress is progress.

MS. RIVARD: Yes, and I wanted to point out that there is a need for coordination among law enforcement and among airlines and different sections of airlines. At our training, I didn't specifically ask the TSA employee whether they receive human trafficking training but they were very anxious to do that and to coordinate with the airport coordinator, with the SOC, Special Operations Command at American Airlines. The pilot said they didn't receive any training like this and lots of times if a flight attendant reported something, they wouldn't take it seriously.

And sometimes they said when they called in a problem that SOC didn't take it and let's say they called for a medical emergency and a wheelchair showed up. There is a need for a coordinated response. I know some meetings were started called Blue Lightning with Homeland Security, TSA, FBI, ICE, the airlines where we come up and that's what I'm asking for, congressional review of our training, where we come up with a coordinated unified response among the issues. The other thing is if there could be some kind of economic incentive for the airlines to sign ECPAT because right now, I mean, there are a lot of people being trafficked and somebody is paying for those tickets. So bottom line the airlines are making money and maybe they don't want to disrupt that or by taking a public stand make themselves a target of the cartels.

If something's legislated, perhaps this would be a protection for them and certainly creating an economic incentive for them to go in the right direction.

MR. BALES: I'm going to add a tiny bit to say that when we conducted a piece of research for the National Institute of Justice on trafficking in the United States, one of the top needs we found was training across the board. We spoke to border patrol agents who ask us where can we get training, border patrol agents and so I just strongly say TSA, border patrol, I think all Peace Corps volunteers should have antitrafficking anti-slavery training because they're going to be in places where they can recognize it.

And, you know, I'll just say that we're even in talks with the Church of Latter-day Saints to have trafficking training for all the young people that they send out as missionaries around the world. We're looking for anyone who is going door to door and talking to them about what kind of training we can see that would be affective.

Now in terms of the effectiveness of -- or the value added of a federal law patterned on that California law, I think there's two parts to it. Obviously the simple part is that it would cover those companies that are not operating in California. That goes without saying. But I think the key here is really about creating a culture, creating an atmosphere in the United States in which corporations and consumers are working together and thinking through what they might do to ensure that they're not consuming slave-made goods.

At the moment, we have something of a strange notion of a moral watershed on the supply chain. And most consumers believe that there's some kind of moral watershed that separates them from the corporations and the wholesalers and the suppliers all the way back that somehow being a consumer is a pure act but every step before it is somehow good to be tainted.

But the fact is that there is a moral watershed, but it actually exists with the slave holder and the slave master. Those criminals are guilty of enslavement. The people who come after, the suppliers, the transporters, the wholesalers, the retailers, the consumers aren't guilty but they are all responsible and it's about creating that atmosphere and culture of responsibility that we think that that kind of transparency law is a first step to build that culture of responsibility.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Mr. Chairman, just adding to that before I turn to your second question to us, I think that there is also a difference having this kind of a transparency provision at the federal level. First of all, there is a role that the SEC can play that in terms of someone who can look at this issue, not that they'll be spending a huge amount of resources, but they can have some impact on looking at the various different disclosures that are made. Second of all, I think it's different if you trying -- one of the things that I think the TVPA was just marvelous at is that they created a standard by which other countries were forced to look at and see that they needed to improve their own internal work on that particular issues that you so masterly brought through Congress.

So if we have a California state law, it's one thing. If we have a U.S. federal law, it's the demonstration effect. It's the ability to go to other countries and say you need to be regulating your companies which will force them to be looking at the supply chains within their own countries which frankly, as we've been discussing all afternoon, is really where a lot of these significant issues come about.

I think that you raised a very delicate issue in terms of the State Department and how we look at it. As I indicated in my testimony, you know, we need to improve the overall unity of effort within the State Department. The Trafficking of Persons office has done, I think, a marvelous job throughout its time and that's in part due to some of the very strong leadership that the officers had over the course of its existence.

But we need greater effort from both the regional bureaus that are responsible for the bilateral relations as well as the embassies and the ambassadors themselves. So a couple of points. First, I do think we have to think about this in historical perspective. I was not here at this time, I think you were a little bit closer to it but when the human rights and democracy bureau was first created under the Carter administration, as I understand it, it was very, very difficult. They had a long time where they were completely pushed aside and really had no strong role in the policy formulation process.

People can question how much progress they've made but I think they're very much in the mainstream of the State Department and have very important roles, whether it's in international negotiations, dealing with a variety of different issues that, you know, are difficult to work on. So I think that even though ten years is a decade, it's still -- I think the life of this office within the institution is short. We need to continue to have strong leadership, continue to sustain it, continue to provide the resources.

Second, I think that we need to help generate more data. One of the proposals that I didn't discuss, but it is in my testimony is about giving GTIP the ability to do certain targeted research in certain places. If there is data that is irrefutable, it makes it more difficult for the political lens to be put on to issues. So data which, of course, is a huge struggle in this area as several different members of the panel have referred to today is something that we need to continue to working on including in our own country.

Third, in terms of trying to look at how we can improve the State Department and looking at the whole effort, one hopes that there will be -- continue to be senior leadership at the department and that questions regarding human trafficking are raised as confirmation processes move forward. I'm in a conversation with ATEST members to try to come up with a battery of questions that we can try to provide to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as a way of making sure that they understand that for every ambassador that there is going to be some accountability with respect to the Senate and the members of the Senate.

And I think that extends here too. You know, schedules are very challenging here, but when there are assistant secretaries of state from the regional bureaus who come before the committee, I think you or others who are interested in this issue, raising this issue not only in questions for the record but actually orally raising these kinds of issues can indicate that this is an issue that's not going away, that they have to deal with this issue in order to try to succeed in their positions. Look, I think that people in the state department are generally people of goodwill. They all believe that these abuses are heinous.

It's when they try to look at these issues in this broader perspective but honestly the very wide range of issues and it becomes difficult for them to say why should we be singling this out as an issue that we should have sanctions on this as opposed to all the other complicated issues that I have to deal with everyday. But we need to change that calculus, perhaps use some other ways that I just described. Thanks.

MS. CUNDY: Mr. Chairman, if a guest asks a concierge for some kind of sexual services which are illicit, they're instructed to not provide recommendations. If a guest asks for some other kind of entertainment in a similar vein which is legal, they might be instructed to go to a certain club or discos, that type of a thing. But I don't know, I guess it was Mr. Bales who mentioned the realistic standards in the supply chain. It's just hard to know whether or not that any of these establishments the workers are there voluntarily or if they're coerced or victims of trafficking.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. One final question and that is to Chai Ling and that would be it is my experience, rightly or wrongly, that when it comes to China very often human rights are low on the totem pole, as they say.

MS. LING: Yeah.

REP. SMITH: Right before the Olympics, Frank Wolf and I traveled to China and we brought a list of 732 political prisoners, we brought issues related to trafficking. The person, the woman who was handling trafficking for the embassy was outstanding, crackerjack, knew what she was talking about. We brought up other issues of Internet problems, the censorship issue, the Dalai Lama or the religious freedom issues. We tried to meet with house-church people who denied it. They are all arrested except for one, it was their call that they wanted to meet with us. The point was we met with the U.S. ambassador, he is a very noble person, was more concerned it seemed, as to what venue he was going to be attending whether it be track and field or some other than the human rights, the whole basket of issues including human trafficking.

Fast forward to right now, we have just picked or the U.S. administration has picked a new ambassador who is very, very focused on trade, an accomplished man when it comes to commerce, having headed up commerce. Do you have concerns that our embassy is not responsive to the one-child issue in general and its impact on trafficking? Luis CdeBaca, I believe, gets it and is very concerned about that issue and sees the nexus with one-child policy and its impact, consequentially, on trafficking victims and it's only going to get worse. But are you convinced that the new ambassador being deployed gets it because the past has been regardless of administration less than stellar at least from my point of view and past is often prologue.

MS. LING: Well, thank you, Chairman Smith. I really appreciate the opportunity to just focus the spotlight on China again that in the past China's human rights abuses has been left mostly at the level of lip services. Very little action has been taken and the most recent article in Newsweek link a nation with a man without woman and really reveal the serious implication of a country with such a massive quantity of young men who are restless and potentially can lead to very aggressive military expansion policy. And history has proven from those scholars and experts that for countries like Germany and Japan when they have a male youth bulge, they tend to lead to international war.

And so that's the situation we're really facing with China. As we start making this argument connecting the current massive human right abuses under one-child policy with the threat to our future, our peace both to the United States and to also the world at large, we have seen renewed interest from both parties, Congressional leaders. And I just met with Ambassador Rivard before I came to the hearing. She's also expressed interest to form bipartisan coalition to really address this issue and she expressed that if we get together we could potentially stop this once for all. So I'm excited with the cautious optimism. That's why I'm really -- I want to thank you for your hearing and your commitment and your three decades long leadership on this issue.

You've been doing this consistently even though some time you're alone. And -- but you have never gave up, so I think you for your leadership.

Can I add one more thing with China's one child policy leading to the trafficking to the United States? If I may, we have cases which have not been resolved that Chinese women under the one-child policy to escape from that they want to come to the United States to have a chance to give birth to a son, or you know, to -- but they end up being trafficked into this country and they're currently -- their traffic route were going through Mexico and they were being -- typically they were raped repeatedly and they eventually were trafficked in through buses and then to New York and now we don't exactly know their location.

We have tried and so they are once they arrived in New York they're immediately harassed to say they had to pay up to \$90,000 for the trafficking fee and -- but they didn't have the money and so they had to commit to service, otherwise the rape picture will be sent to their home and family so they'll be shamed forever in their village. And so they're coerced into agreeing to a labor contract, but they're currently working in Chinese restaurants and for the past year they were only paid for \$10,000 when they worked 6, 7 days a week and 16 hours a day.

And so when I -- when we shared this information with FBI, local police enforcement, due to various definition what is trafficking and whether they're qualified for re-visa issue and who's -- because these women were so afraid to be deported back to China they were not able to tell us exactly where the location is and so the FBI and law enforcement could not determine whose -- authority they can go after to try to get these women, give them help.

So I urge you take -- and other congressional leaders and Congressman Payne, to maybe potentially looking into some kind of amnesty or -- to grant to these women a chance that they can be protected while they step forward to reveal what's really going on and the FBI officer would require them to come to testify in public and again these women are terrified. They don't want to step forward because they know once they do that some of their family members in China will be dead. And it happened before, and so I like to see some kind of protection to be given to these women so they can at least step forward to talk about the severity of these international trafficking ring.

Now the issue is not just the China's gangsters while they're connecting with gangsters in Mexico and to this country. So we don't know how big a problem we're dealing with right now but certain effort and tension international collaboration need to take place to provide these victims some chance to speak out of the truth.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. They can get protection under our current law but you know if you can share all of that very specific information --

MS. LING: Yeah.

REP. SMITH: -- they could also get asylum and frankly if they are of some help to law enforcement, you know, we would be appreciative but we will follow up on that with you.

MS. LING: Okay.

REP. SMITH: I would like -- is there anything further our panelists like to add or Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Just on that also in testifying they can -- I think arrangements could be made that they could testify without their identity being known. There are international cases and the -- with the genocide in Rwanda where the witness is protected from knowing who it is.

Secondly, I just have a quick question; if the government of China realizes what is happening and with the growing number of the change between male and female there can certainly be a real problem on your hands with young men who are restless, one, they turn to gambling, two, they turn to drinking. After they are drunk and they've lost their money then they turn to fighting. And so this can be a growing security problem for the PRC.

I wonder if you think that if we all know it and they all know it and if they project these -- the anomaly that will continue to grow, do you think that they would finally decide that perhaps this policy of encouraging and much of it, I guess, is inferred a person would like to have a boy. I mean, it's all around the world, believe it or not, even in the United States, you know, and our friends say it's a boy, you know. I say, well, what would you say if it was a girl? Be as enthusiastic. So we know that that is just what happens everywhere. But if it starts to become a real problem they can't put them all in the -- you can't have a military of 50 billion people. I mean, you've got to do something with these men.

So I wonder if they would start thinking about maybe amending only not because they've changed in the heart, but because it becomes a national security problem for them. What do you think? I mean, maybe too far in the future, but it has to be something that they know too and are grappling with, I'm sure.

MS. LING: Exactly. I think, Congressman Payne, I would thank you for your statement and your sense of urgency. That's what exactly the problem we're facing right now that even the federal government's family planning committee member, last October, had to show concern of this growing gender imbalance and their strategy and policy is they can go after these people who abort the baby girls very severely.

And so on one hand we applaud they're paying attention to this problem right now. So they're twofold; one is, you know, ending one-child policy as soon as possible, it's really the necessary step to basic ending the further growing gap of the gender imbalance, to end all this sex trafficking and massive potential social instability continue to grow larger. That's the first and foremost need to do or should be done.

The second front on the gender side part is combat China's or Asian's overall cultural, you know, some preferences. Yes, there's -- all culture there is some level of some preferences or male preferences, but to what extent the female side, the girl, or the woman will be sacrificed in exchange of getting that son under the one-child policy where only one child is allowed to survive is their whole practice, their whole culture being skewed into extreme led to massive killing of baby girls.

In June 1, we show another little clips of a documentary where in India there was a mother killed eight of her own baby girls and because she really wanted to have a son. So in China many of these killings are taking place in a very, you know, early stage when they detect it they're pregnant with a baby girl they abort the baby girl, or the mother after she was found she just gave birth to a baby girl she'll be immediately locked up, the baby girl will be grabbed out of her arm and to be disposed by the husband or the mother-in-laws.

And so -- and in that videotape you saw that that young couple who did not have birth permit give birth to a baby girl and when the baby girl was only 40-days-old and she's being forced to be sold. And so these are massive problems creating the issue we're dealing with right now is the crisis of what do we do with China's 37 million single men? What do we do with -- around the world it's 150 million, 140 million man excessive?

And so that is, you know, trafficking, it definitely is not going to be a problem going away overnight, but requires a level of urgency both from Congressional leaders and also from both the private sector and the NGOs. So I commended all of you to be here for your heroic, moral leadership and your amazing commitment to this effort.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much. And I think it's something that we need to deal with worldwide, the value of women. And you know, even in our country when you hear a descendent of say a former president, you know, it's usually the one that keeps the name of the male, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt they were kind of related.

When it tends to be a female, the -- many instances the name, you know, there could still be as many relatives of the former outstanding people in every country, but it seems like if you have that certainly that last name of this outstanding president or king or emperor, you know, that gets more attention like the Habsburg in Austria, you know, it's Habsburg, you know, that it's -- you see the man, but there has to be as many female Habsburgs, but you never see them highlighted. You don't even know who they are. So when somebody came and say I'm a Habsburg, you know, oh, great, but the men, you do know.

So it's a problem I guess a little bigger than the group of us here will be able to solve, but it is something that we need to, you know, hopefully to take hold in some international organizations and really raise the status of women just in general, shows how damaging -- the second class citizenship of women really has global impacts. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Yeah, very much. I'd like to thank our very distinguished panel, the extraordinary panel of experts, your insights and wise counsel will help us. You've been very, very generous with your time today and this subcommittee is

very appreciative of that and you've given us a number of actionable items for the reauthorization, which is imminent. So I do thank you especially for that and look forward to seeing you all again. Hearing is adjourned.

MS. LING: Thank you.

MS. : Thank you.

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440 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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June 12, 2011 Sunday

Singapore toughens stance on human trafficking prior to signing UN treaty

LENGTH: 894 words

Text of report by Singapore newspaper The Straits Times website on 11 June

[Report by Radha Basu from the "Prime News" section: "Singapore Toughens its Stance on Human Trafficking"]

Sex, Lies & Trafficking

In a marked departure from the past, Singapore is working towards signing a United Nations treaty to prevent human trafficking.

This could have an impact on the way in which foreigners -especially young girls and women who ply the sex trade -are dealt with by the authorities when they are caught.

Instead of being regarded as immigration offenders and deported, they could be treated as victims and allowed to remain in shelters here while their cases are investigated.

Human trafficking refers to obtaining or holding someone forcibly for sex or labour purposes.

Singapore is among a few countries yet to sign the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which has been signed or ratified by nearly 150 parties.

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) spokesman told The Straits Times that Singapore would sign the UN treaty when it was satisfied with 'domestic measures put in place to ensure adherence' to it. These could include changes in local laws.

The spokesman said that Singapore took a serious view of trafficking, and the problem could worsen.

'We are aware that as Singapore grows as a hub for travel, economic activity and tourism, the likelihood that we become an attractive destination for trafficking syndicates will increase,' she said.

To tackle the problem, the Government set up an inter-agency task force last November, co-chaired by the MHA and the Ministry of Manpower.

That came after the United States State Department, in its annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report last June, downgraded Singapore to a **watchlist** of countries which it said did not fully comply with minimum international standards to eliminate trafficking. This year's report is due soon.

As far back as 2004, the TIP report said that Singapore had a 'significant trafficking problem'.

The Singapore Government's oft-stated position has been that trafficking cases are rare here.

There have also been differences in defining what, exactly, constitutes trafficking.

Under UN and American law, any man, woman or child who is deceived or coerced into sex or labour is a victim of trafficking, regardless of whether he or she initially consented to the job.

Singapore's position earlier was that a foreigner who entered the country willingly to work illegally -as a sex worker, for example -was a party to 'human smuggling', and therefore an immigration offender.

But the UN's concern is that even those who are willingly smuggled in could end up victims of trafficking if they are exploited or forced to work against their will.

Asked if Singapore's position was different now, the MHA spokesman said that 'as long as a person claims to have been trafficked, she will be treated as a victim'.

The Straits Times understands that this means that rather than being deported -as foreign sex workers caught in raids usually are -a woman who claims she was trafficked could be housed in a shelter here, while the authorities investigate her case against her alleged traffickers.

The MHA spokesman said that even a foreigner who arrives willingly to be a sex worker could be treated as a trafficking victim rather than an offender, if she claims she was 'deceived, defrauded or held against her will' while here.

Such an approach falls within the definition of trafficking under the UN treaty and in fact has already been 'operationally adopted' by the police while classifying trafficking cases.

However, this has yet to make an impact in terms of bringing traffickers to book.

So far, only two of the 32 alleged sex trafficking cases investigated by the police in 2009 -the most recent year for which figures are available -were prosecuted. And the total number of sex trafficking investigations actually fell from 54 in 2008 to 32 in 2009.

One reason could be that trafficking continues to be under-reported, said Ms Bridget Tan, president of migrant workers group, the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (Home).

Trafficking victims are often afraid they might be treated as offenders for violating vice or immigration laws, she said.

Trafficking cases are also hard to prove, as many victims do not even know the real names of their traffickers -the men and women who act as their pimps and minders, who hold their passports and watch their every movement.

The MHA spokesman said that as trafficking is 'fundamentally clandestine and transnational in nature', the culprits might not be taken to task if victims did not come forward.

Washington-based Mr Luis CdeBaca, tasked by President Barack Obama to lead America's global fight against trafficking, told The Straits Times in a phone interview that the authorities here could be more proactive.

'Trafficking investigations should involve intelligence gathering, just like counterterrorism,' said the ambassador-at-large at the US State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking. 'Waiting for a complaint to be lodged and then reacting to it is just not enough.'

But he welcomed Singapore's recent efforts, especially its setting up of an inter-agency task force and adopting UN definitions of trafficking, as steps in the right direction.

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441 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 11, 2011 Saturday

Singapore toughens its stance on human trafficking

BYLINE: Radha Basu, Senior Correspondent

SECTION: PRIME NEWS

LENGTH: 898 words

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Asked if Singapore's position was different now, the MHA spokesman said that 'as long as a person claims to have been trafficked, she will be treated as a victim'.

The Straits Times understands that this means that rather than being deported - as foreign sex workers caught in raids usually are - a woman who claims she was trafficked could be housed in a shelter here, while the authorities investigate her case against her alleged traffickers.

The MHA spokesman said that even a foreigner who arrives willingly to be a sex worker could be treated as a trafficking victim rather than an offender, if she claims she was 'deceived, defrauded or held against her will' while here.

Such an approach falls within the definition of trafficking under the UN treaty and in fact has already been 'operationally adopted' by the police while classifying trafficking cases.

However, this has yet to make an impact in terms of bringing traffickers to book.

So far, only two of the 32 alleged sex trafficking cases investigated by the police in 2009 - the most recent year for which figures are available - were prosecuted. And the total number of sex trafficking investigations actually fell from 54 in 2008 to 32 in 2009.

One reason could be that trafficking continues to be under-reported, said Ms Bridget Tan, president of migrant workers group, the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (Home).

Trafficking victims are often afraid they might be treated as offenders for violating vice or immigration laws, she said.

Trafficking cases are also hard to prove, as many victims do not even know the real names of their traffickers - the men and women who act as their pimps and minders, who hold their passports and watch their every movement.

The MHA spokesman said that as trafficking is 'fundamentally clandestine and transnational in nature', the culprits might not be taken to task if victims did not come forward.

Washington-based Mr Luis CdeBaca, tasked by President Barack Obama to lead America's global fight against trafficking, told The Straits Times in a phone interview that the authorities here could be more proactive.

'Trafficking investigations should involve intelligence gathering, just like counterterrorism,' said the ambassador-at-large at the US State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking. 'Waiting for a complaint to be lodged and then reacting to it is just not enough.'

But he welcomed Singapore's recent efforts, especially its setting up of an inter-agency task force and adopting UN definitions of trafficking, as steps in the right direction. radhab@sph.com.sg

SEX, LIES & TRAFFICKING
Saturday Special Report

Anyone who comes across a possible trafficking victim can contact the police information hotline on 1800-255-0000

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Prostitutes working in Geylang Road (above) and Desker Road in Little India. A woman who claims to have been trafficked could now be housed in a shelter while investigations are being done, instead of being deported. --
PHOTO: THE STRAITS TIMES

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

442 of 492 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 11, 2011 Saturday

How Taipei cleaned up its act; These are some BEST PRACTICES from three other places that are tough on trafficking

SECTION: SATURDAY SPECIAL REPORT**LENGTH:** 323 words

AS RECENTLY as 2006, Taiwan was on the US State Department's '**watch list**' of economies not doing enough to combat trafficking, according to the US government's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report that monitors trafficking trends globally. But within four short years, Taiwan managed to claw its way up to 'Tier 1' status, the highest ranking in the annual report.

Within months of the TIP downgrade, the Taiwanese government adopted a 'national plan' to fight trafficking. This included initiatives to research and understand the extent of the problem, beef up law enforcement capabilities to prevent the crime and swiftly investigate alleged cases and protect victims.

o In 2009, Taiwan enacted the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act that gave a clear and comprehensive definition of human trafficking that was in line with the United Nations Trafficking Protocol. The law also focused on strengthening protection for victims of trafficking as they remained on the island as prosecution witnesses. Last year, the Taiwanese authorities identified 329 trafficking victims and provided them with work permits, allowing them to earn an income while assisting in the prosecution of their traffickers.

o Taiwan has a total of 19 shelters dedicated to looking after victims under the administration of various government agencies. The government has worked with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to manage the shelters and provide victim support services, including medical, financial and legal assistance, counselling, interpretation help, language classes and occupational training.

o The authorities allow NGOs to visit detention facilities and conduct their own victim identification, and the government has recognised three victims identified by the NGOs in this manner.

o There is also a special government budget to fund anti-trafficking projects, including those that involve protecting and rehabilitating the victims.

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

443 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US DOCUMENT

Federal News Service

May 23, 2011 Monday

**HEARING OF THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE (HELSINKI COMMISSION);
SUBJECT: "LABOR TRAFFICKING IN TROUBLED ECONOMIC TIMES: PROTECTING AMERICAN JOBS AND MIGRANT HUMAN RIGHTS";
CHAired BY: REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ);
WITNESSES: LUIS C. DEBACA; GABRIELA LEMUS; NANCY A. DONALDSON; NEHA MISRA; JULIA ORMOND;
LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: PRESS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH

LENGTH: 21155 words

HEARING OF THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE (HELSINKI COMMISSION)
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LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 2:00 P.M. EDT DATE: MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ): The commission will come to order. And I want to welcome all of you to today's hearing, part of the Helsinki Commission's ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking in all of its aspects, which go back to June of 1999 when I chaired the first commission hearing on human trafficking -- really a tradition that continued under my good friend and colleague, Commissioner Cardin, when he was chairman and now co-chair. This has been a bipartisan effort from the beginning, and it continues to this day.

Today our attention turns to labor trafficking, a modern-day form of slavery, exacerbated by the global economic downturn. As with all forms of trafficking we must never lose sight of the victim, the truly human face of people caught up unwittingly in this multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise. Having just participated in a conference entitled "Building Bridges of Freedom: Public-Private Partnerships to End Modern-Day Slavery," I am acutely aware that in order to be successful in combating the scourge of human trafficking, we must strengthen the cooperation between governments and the private sector, particularly with regards to labor trafficking.

Each year, tens of thousands of victims are trafficked into the United States from throughout the world. The United States has been at the forefront of efforts to combat human trafficking in all of its forms, including labor trafficking, following adoption of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Our government has undertaken the vast challenge of tracking slavery around the world. We have developed strategic reporting tools such as the Trafficking in Persons Report, the list of goods produced with child and forced labor, and the findings on the worst forms of child labor. And the world has taken notice.

I would note parenthetically, when I first introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 1998, a landmark bill that was signed into law two years later in 2000, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and outright opposition. People both inside of government and out thought the bold new strategy that included sheltering, asylum and other pro-

tections for the victims, long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards was merely a solution in search of a problem.

I vividly recall raising the trafficking issue at a gathering of parliamentarians meeting in St. Petersburg in Russia in 1999 and was met with a similar reaction. Matter of fact, the Russians -- several on their delegation thought that somehow we were seeking to embarrass them. And I remember the Ukrainian representative very dismissively -- and I remember -- Ben, you would remember that -- said, but they're just prostitutes, as if somehow they were less than human. It was a -- it was really a very disturbing spectacle.

But the next year at the Bucharest OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, not only did we have virtually every one of the delegations joining in on the parliamentary supplementary item, as we called it, but the Russians spoke out, and the head of the Duma actually gave a speech in favor of the parliamentary supplemental item combating human trafficking.

As the special rep for **human trafficking** in the parliamentary assembly for the OSCE, I know full well considerable progress has been made. I remain deeply concerned that of the 56 OSCE participating states, 20 will rank as **Tier 2**, with another eight placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

Our efforts could not have been possible both within the OSCE as well as here in the United States without the invaluable contribution of civil society, who have helped us write the laws and, frankly, all subsequent iterations of the TPVA and other similar bills around the world.

Last week, we heard Deb Cundy of the Carlson Companies, which manages numerous hotel chains including the Radisson and Country Inns and Suites, explain how their employees were trained to spot potential trafficking victims and how that employee should notify law enforcement. Christopher Davis of The Body Shop International detailed the extraordinary education and awareness program that they have initiated, coupled with a petition drive that has garnered approximately 6 million signatures worldwide.

As we reauthorize certain sections of the act -- obviously some of the act, some provisions, are permanent law; others need to be reauthorized, and they expire in the end of September -- civil society representatives have flooded my office and, I'm sure, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca's office, who was at Rome at that conference and did a magnificent job, with some thoughts as to what they think ought to be done to improve and make more efficacious our policy vis-à-vis trafficking.

As we all know, traffickers prey upon those in poverty and those lacking even the prospect of a job. I have visited trafficking victims' shelters in countries throughout the world, including Russia, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, Brazil, Bosnia, Italy and elsewhere. I've seen the faces -- as have so many of you who will testify and so many in the audience, and certainly members of our commission -- seen those faces of the victims -- women and children and men -- robbed of their inherent dignity.

In Moldova, Catholic Relief Services documented that high school aged girls were disappearing, literally disappearing into human trafficking in large part due to the extreme lack of job opportunities in that country. CRS created the Moldova Employment and Training Alliance, which encourage private sector companies to expand in rural villages. And certainly, that has made a huge difference in that country.

As a destination country, we must recognize that here in our own -- very own backyard, thousands of people are trafficked from all over the world to work on our farms, in our hotels, our restaurants and even to serve as domestic workers. Well, even more shocking is that many of these labor migrants enter the country legally through their own immigration system, deceived by their traffickers who sold them a dream.

Indeed, this afternoon we will focus on various aspects of labor trafficking, including abusive and illegal business practices, as well as ways to better educate potential migrants of their rights. Among other issues to be considered will be increased education and accountability, foreign labor recruiting practices and enhancing supply-chain transparency. Labor trafficking remains the most prevalent form of human trafficking in the United States.

U.S. funding for anti-trafficking efforts abroad have brought together labor inspectors, police, prosecutors, NGOs and faith-based organizations. Obviously, many challenges remain. So it falls to us and likeminded people of goodwill everywhere to meet those challenges head-on and wage an unceasing campaign to eradicate human trafficking from the face of the earth.

Today we are joined by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. He is joined by Dr. Gabriela Lemus, the Department of Labor's labor representative to the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons.

On our second panel, we will hear from the director of the Washington Office of the International Labor Organization, Ms. Nancy Donaldson; Ms. Neha Misra, special -- specialist on migration and human trafficking for the Solidarity Center; and we have a very special guest in actress and activist Julia Ormond, founder of the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking -- a very talented actress and a tireless humanitarian activist who was absolutely instrumental in getting landmark legislation passed in California on -- to combat labor trafficking and to figure out the supply systems of companies through better transparency and by working with those companies. So we will hear from that second panel after we hear from our very distinguished first panel.

I'd like to yield to a good friend and colleague, Mr. Cardin, co-chairman of this commission.

SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN (D-MD): Well, to Chairman Smith, thank you very much for arranging this hearing. I think it's an extremely important subject. I would ask that my written opening statement be made part of the record.

REP. SMITH: Without objection.

SEN. CARDIN: And I will just comment briefly. It's with great pride that the Helsinki Commission takes on dealing with the issue of trafficking, because it was this commission that first raised these issues. And in the course of that, we conducted hearings; we sponsored resolutions at the parliamentary assemblies in order to get more international focus on modern-day slavery. We took a pretty tough stand. And Chairman Smith's right. Some of the initial reactions were less than sympathetic.

But we persisted. And with the support of our delegation to Vienna, the United States had a united position to do everything we could to rid our societies of trafficking, the form of modern-day slavery. Then the permanent council started to act, and we started to get some best practices shared by other states. With the legislature and executive working in tandem, we were able to make significant progress.

I remember visiting some of the shelters, where we visited with the victims and were able to put a spotlight on the issue that those that are trafficked are not criminals but they're victims. And law enforcement needs to conduct its affairs mindful of who the real criminals are. And we made more progress and were able to get special representatives, both in the parliamentary assembly -- and, as you know, our chairman, Chairman Smith, is that special representative -- and in the permanent council of the OSCE.

So we've made progress. We have a game plan today to deal with trafficking. And the United States has shown tremendous leadership in the passage of not only our domestic laws, which are very strong, but also the reports that are now required to be filed. These reports, I can tell you, have major impact -- as I'm sure Chairman Smith would agree. When ambassadors visit our office, that's one of the first issues they'll talk to us about, because they all want to -- they don't want to be listed as a watch state.

Our primary focus has been on sexual exploitation. And I think that reason is somewhat self-obvious. It's a very serious situation around the globe, and we were able to make significant progress. Labor exploitation's a little bit more complicated, because there's an economic issue here that has some legitimacy -- at least people think there's some legitimacy because of open borders and bringing in labor to help in your country.

I want to applaud Chairman Smith for holding this hearing so that we can take a look at trafficking related to labor issues, particularly in these very difficult economic times.

I want to point out that debt bondage for migration costs can amount to involuntary servitude or slavery. And we need to take a look at how these matters are being financed, because they are being used to deny people their basic human rights. I want to congratulate the Obama administration for taking this issue of labor seriously and the way that the Obama administration has coordinated the work within the Department of State and the Department of Commerce. That's what you need to do. This is a matter that involves both of those agencies. And I know they're working closely together.

This is a very timely hearing. For Congress, shortly we'll be looking at the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. And in that act, I note that in 2008, in a matter that I helped draft, we put into that law additional tools for our consulate officers to be able to look at those who are requesting visas to come into the United States. I'll be interested in hearing from our witnesses today whether those efforts are paying off. There's training requirements that

consular officers be able to identify circumstances that look like they're trafficking. How has that in fact worked? Do we need to expand that training to other border officers and law enforcement officers? These are issues that I think we need to take a look at as we move forward to the reauthorization practices.

Our bottom line is, we want to see what other countries are doing. We can learn from best practices of other countries in dealing with these issues. And I think we need to share the success stories so that we can, in fact, at long last get rid of these labor abuses. Working together, we can continue to make progress that we've made in the past so that we can eliminate all forms of modern-day slavery. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Chairman Cardin. (I'd like ?) to yield to chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Committee, a commissioner on our Helsinki Commission for many years, Joe Pitts.

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH PITTS (R-PA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as an original co-sponsor of the Trafficking in Persons Law and with you in the OSCE, putting forth these issues, I thank you for scheduling this hearing entitled "Labor Trafficking in Troubled Economic Times: Protecting American Jobs and Migrant Human Rights." The issues involved in the exploitation of migrant workers, broad and on American soil, are of grave concern to the OSCE. In the wake of a global recession, it is important that we continue our focus on human trafficking and migrant worker populations now more than ever.

While the United States has taken a lead on confronting and combating human trafficking, we must do everything we can to end the practice. And this includes looking at ways to verify worker practices and conditions. We must find better ways at enforcing our own policies. Recent high-profile cases of violations have highlighted the need for a systemic verification process, one that is multilateral, including the help of foreign governments and organizations, and one that verifies from the bottom up, leaving no room for abuse throughout the supply chain.

So, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for holding this important hearing. I look forward to hearing the ideas from our witnesses here today and hope that we can find concrete solutions to dealing with the problem of labor exploitation here in the United States. And I yield back.

REP. SMITH: Commissioner Pitts, thank you very much. I'd like to now yield to a new member but very active member, Christopher (sic) Cohen.

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE COHEN (D-TN): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a pleasure to be here, and I'm going to look forward to listening to the testimony. Ambassador de Baca was a counsel to the Judiciary Committee, which I serve on, and has quite an honorable and distinguished record. Good to see you again in your position. And Ms. Lemus has been at some of the greatest universities in this country, including the University of Memphis. So it's good to have a Memphis denizen, even if a short tenure with us today.

This is an important issue.

Slavery (in ?) any component is something we need to fight, and it needs to be something we do in a bipartisan fashion, because freedom is the bottom line, you know. You know, there's nothing left to lose. And we had a history in our country of slavery. And sometimes we think of slavery simply as that form of the most heinous, direct, main line of slavery. But there are other forms. There are temporary forms. There are forms of -- that we have, and we need to combat them and make employers just as liable for looking the other way, maybe not knowingly, but looking the other way when they're beneficiaries of slave labor. And we know that happens in this country and that whether they are landlords who have leased to people who are involved in labor trafficking, whether they are along the chain -- I know we have products, and the California law goes along the chain to make people be aware that they will not be involved, and any producer of raw materials in the final product if they're involved in the slave trade, that they won't be allowed. They'll be -- I guess there'll be sanctions in the California law. I'd hope so. And that's what there should be. We have that for product. I know if you buy a guitar and it's got any kind of a wood product in it that's on the endangered list, you get in trouble for the final product. We should have the same thing. If wood is important, which it is in Brazil and the rainforests and all, it should be with human beings even more so.

I'm Jewish. And Passover, which is our most -- my favorite holiday, not just because of the food but because of the lesson that we were in bondage and that we should always be cognizant of any people who were in bondage. And that's just not building pyramids or doing cotton. But that's the folks we're going to talk about here today. And the Judeo-Christian ethos which we are all a product of needs to be adhered to, and we need to pass the most rigorous and strong laws that we can to protect everyone.

So with that, I thank the chairman for scheduling this committee meeting. I look forward to your testimony. I yield back the balance of my time.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Cohen, thank you very much. And quoting Janis Joplin there?

Let me just introduce our very distinguished panelists beginning with Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. In May of 2009, he was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. He serves as senior adviser to the secretary, and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons -- which, as we all know, assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance and advocates for an end to slavery. Ambassador CdeBaca formally served as counsel, as Commissioner Cohen just said, to the House Committee on the Judiciary. And at the Justice Department, he is one of the most country -- of our country's most decorated federal prosecutors, leading the investigation and prosecution of cases involving money laundering, organized crime, alien smuggling, official misconduct, hate crimes and of course human trafficking. He was responsible for the conviction of dozens of abusive pimps and employers, and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude.

Then we'll hear from Dr. Gabriela Lemus, who was appointed senior adviser and director of the Office of Public Engagement at the Department of Labor in July of 2009. She represents the DOL at the Senior Policy Operating Group in Trafficking in Persons, the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status, and various interagency working groups on immigration policy. Prior to her appointment, she was the first woman to hold the position of executive director at the Labor Counsel for Latin America's advancement, from 2007 to '09, as well as the first woman to chair the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda from 2008 to '9. She served a three year -- three year terms on the advisory boards of both the Washington Office on Latin America, or WOLA, and the U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project from 2006 to 2009.

Mr. Ambassador, please proceed as you would -- as you would like.

LUIS C. DEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for the opportunity to shed a light on the problem of labor trafficking both here in the United States and abroad. As you have mentioned, the OSCE and the Helsinki Commission in particular has led on this issue, as on many others.

In Rome last week at the conference that was dealing with some of these issues, especially issues of supply chain, the words of one of our panelists from Rabbis for Human Rights North America reminded me and suggested what you have said, Mr. Cohen, which is that we are in some ways in the 10th year of this fight since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. But as the Western world, as people of faith and as those who reflect the Judeo-Christian values, that we are in year 3,500 of this fight, and we should be measured on it in that sense. And unfortunately, 3,500 years later, estimates on the total number of trafficking victims in the world are as high as 27 million. We know that the United States is a major destination, but we don't know how many victims of labor trafficking there are specifically in this country, because it's a hidden crime. Victims are often afraid to come forward, or unable, sometimes because they fear the very officers that could help them.

But the cases that have been uncovered tell us some things. We know that labor trafficking is a problem that affects men, women and children alike. Labor trafficking victims often suffer ongoing sexual abuse, as well as threats of physical violence, and that the cases now are uncomfortably identical to cases that the United States prosecuted in sharecropping in the 1930s, the railroad gangs of the turn of the century, or the padroni child begging cases of the 1870s.

Labor trafficking victims today are lured with the same types of promises -- a good job and a better life -- only to be trapped through their specific vulnerabilities. For foreign workers, that's often lack of documents, language or familiarity with their rights here in America. For United States citizens, it's often homelessness, mental illness or addiction. Whatever the hook that the traffickers use, we must bring this cycle to an end once and for all.

As you know, the United States follows a(n) expansive definition of human trafficking that encompasses all of the actions in reducing a person or holding them in a condition of servitude, and so that means that the recruiter who feeds the victim into the system, and the end user who knowingly or recklessly profits from the abuse, are properly as guilty as the employer who enslaves the victim. Our response is based on the internationally recognized "3P" paradigm: prosecution, protection and prevention. All of these victims are entitled to rehabilitation, and to see their abusers brought to justice.

We have seen progress over the last decade. And across government, we are ever more united in this struggle. More cases are being done both federally and at the state level than ever before. And while victim identifications at time stress

and strain our victim services response, NGOs and frontline law enforcement work to ensure a safety net when these people are found.

In particular, I'd like to praise my colleagues at the Department of Labor for their work both at home and abroad. In the U.S. for instance, they've implemented a rule that strengthens protections for a particularly vulnerable group, the temporary H-2A agricultural visa holders. My colleague Dr. Lemus will be able to highlight this and other actions that Secretary Solis has taken to confront this scourge.

But to ensure that these efforts do not fizzle out as they have at other points throughout the last 150 years here in America, we need to institutionalize our capacity, maintain our resources and ensure innovation across the whole of government. And while every aspect can and must be addressed, I'd like to highlight one of the most innovative things that's happening, and that is prevention.

It's basic economics that without demand, there will be no supply. So we're looking to engage on this aspect in both forced labor and sex trafficking alike. The so-called sex industry is not a valid form of labor, and it poses its own unique challenges. But there are commonalities in these areas, most notably the need to hold everyone accountable and to make the cultural change necessary that undercuts the demand for what the traffickers are using cruelty to supply.

Forced labor is prevalent in the production of a wide range of raw materials that we all come in contact, and probably came into contact at some point today, from cotton, chocolate, coffee, steel, rubber, tin. Even reputable corporate citizens can profit from the abuse.

So, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the cutting edge of anti- trafficking work is demanding that companies focus their attentions beyond the places where their products are manufactured and, instead, look at the source of their human capital, the methods of recruitment, where the raw materials are collected, harvested or mined. Effective supply chain monitoring means going all the way down to that level. We think that such research will enhance our understanding of supply and demand factors that affect those workers whose labor contributes to the downstream profits. The aim is to find trafficking where it occurs, and that this knowledge will allow companies to join the Body Shop and Carlson Companies and others in running their business in a manner consistent with the "3P" paradigm.

Removing the taint of slavery is better for everyone. Take for instance what's been reported from the berry patches of Sweden and Finland, Asian guest workers so abused that they were reduced to surviving on a soup made of whatever grasses they could gather and whatever crows they could shoot. If a consumer knew the suffering of the hands that had picked those berries, we would hope that they would have been moved to act.

A conference last winter produced the Luxor Implementation Guidelines to the U.N.'s Athens Ethical principles, which seek to move beyond aspirational statements to the development of standard operating procedures, moving beyond principles to practice and implementation. And to date, nearly 600 companies have adopted those guidelines. That represents the future of the fight against modern slavery.

But of course, government's role will remain central. Our counterparts in Europe have increasingly recognized this problem which all too often has been confused as low-level labor abuses of migrant workers. Today, with the leadership of the OSCE and the EU anti- trafficking directive, cases are on the rise. Countries with active rapporteurs, such as Eva Biaudet, who used to be at the OSCE's anti- trafficking unit, are seeing increases in trafficking prosecutions. As in the United States, Europe has seen cases in factories, hotels, janitorial, agriculture, forestry, landscaping and domestic service.

Here in the United States, the state of California recently enacted the law that you mentioned, Mr. Chairman. And we're looking forward not only to see how that law works in the real world, but also to hear from Julia Ormond who, without this -- her activities, the legislation would never have been possible. We thank her for her vision and for her hard work in getting that law passed.

And we're trying to, and we're beginning to, apply those standards to ourselves. Governments are some of the largest consumers in the world, and the United States government may be one of the largest. We can use our leverage as consumers to curb the demand for forced labor. We've taken steps in the U.S. government procurement and contracting policies to protect against human trafficking. EEOC and the Department of Homeland Security, through this bog (ph), are co-chairing a working group on implementation of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to combat modern slavery and contributing factors like the demand for commercial sex. And we will make sure that we work closely with this committee and with each of you individually as we start getting the recommendations back on how to best address the government's purchasing to make sure that we have, as we (ask/act ?) of others, a slavery-free footprint.

We're at a moment in the modern abolitionist movement when we need to ask, what are the next steps? And over the last decade, the important tools have been put in place. We have before us now the long, hard road of implementation and institutionalization. And we believe that with the engagement of dedicated lawmakers and the commitment of the U.S. government, the next 10 years, both here at the OSCE and abroad, will be a decade of delivering on that which we promised almost 150 years ago with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. I look forward to working with you as we continue to deliver on that promise, and we appreciate your work.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for your testimony and your leadership.

I'd like to now recognize Ms. Lemus.

GABRIELA LEMUS: Thank you. Chairman Smith, Co-Chairman Cardin and distinguished members of the commission, on behalf of the Department of Labor and Secretary Solis, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss the department's efforts to combat human trafficking both domestically and internationally.

Under the secretary's leadership, the Wage and Hour Division, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs and the Employment and Training Administration work collaboratively to ensure that the department uses all available tools in the most efficient and effective manner to protect these vulnerable populations. I am pleased to report to the commission our efforts.

The Wage and Hour Division enforces some of the nation's most comprehensive federal labor laws, allowing the agency to have a daily presence in American workplaces. While Wage and Hour does not have responsibility to investigate trafficking directly, many of its investigations take place in industry marked by workers who are vulnerable to trafficking. This means that Wage and Hour division is often the first federal agency to make contact with the workers who may have been trafficked or maybe otherwise employed under abusive conditions in violation of the law.

Because of its focus on civil enforcement, criminal activity found in the workplace by Wage and Hour investigators may be referred to an appropriate authority as part of the standard Wage and Hour procedure. After a referral is made, the agency's assistance may be requested to compute back wages to ensure restitution on behalf of victims of trafficking, and to assess penalties against their employer. Additionally, in its role of investigating workplace laws, the Department of Labor may detect evidence that a worker is a victim of certain criminal activity, including trafficking, that may qualify the worker for U nonimmigrant status.

In April 2011, the department announced protocols to complete a certification that the individual petitioning for U nonimmigrant status is a victim of a qualifying crime and is, has been or is likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of that crime. The Wage and Hour Division is also a member of the Federal Enforcement Working Group, along with the Justice Department, the FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As part of the working group, Wage and Hour is participating in the development and implementation of the -- a pilot federal anti-trafficking coordination team, the ACT team program. The goal of the ACT team program is, one, to proactively identify and assist human trafficking victims; two, to develop victim-centered multidisciplinary human-trafficking investigations; and three, produce high-impact human-trafficking prosecutions resulting in the conviction of traffickers.

Finally, Wage and Hour also participates in several other outreach and partnership activities to share information and leverage community-based resources to more effectively inform workers about their rights and how they can file Wage and Hour complaints. Such information can assist vulnerable workers, including those who may have been trafficked.

Through the Department of International Labor Affairs, it also plays a critical role in bringing to light the dark stories of human trafficking. In December 2010, the department released three new reports on child labor and forced labor. Together, these reports demonstrate that from factories to farms, abuses of fundamental human rights, including human trafficking, still persist in the 21st century. These reports are, one, the list of goods produced by child or forced labor; two, the list of products produced by forced or indentured child labor; and three, the ninth annual findings on the worst forms of child labor.

Since 1995, Congress has appropriated over \$839 million to ILAB for programs to combat international child labor. This funding has supported technical assistance projects in more than 80 countries and reached approximately 1.5 million children at risk of, or engaged in, exploitative child labor. While the department's technical assistance programs include stand-alone trafficking in persons projects, many also include multi-faceted projects to address other worst forms of child labor in addition to trafficking, because many of the most vulnerable workers in the United States are temporary foreign agricultural workers -- agricultural workers, excuse me.

ETA's H-2A program is another significant locus in the department's efforts to combat trafficking.

It is paramount that both workers in the United States and temporary foreign workers are provided with appropriate and adequate worker protections. In March 2010, a final ruling addressing the temporary agricultural employment of H2A aliens in the United States became effective. The final rule includes enhanced mechanisms for protecting H2A workers, who are increasingly susceptible to the abuses of dishonest employers and their agents, such as foreign labor recruiters. The 2010 final rule requires employers to contractually forbid foreign labor contractors or recruiters engaged in international recruitment of H2A workers from seeking or receiving payments from such prospective employees. The 2010 H2A final rule enhanced enforcement provisions allow the department to investigate and sanction employers and their agents or attorneys where there is a violation of regulation provisions. These penalties demonstrate the department's commitment to strengthening the necessary enforcement of a law that protects workers who are unlikely to complain to government agencies about violations of their rights under the program.

In conclusion, in today's global economy, workers in any country are vulnerable to trafficking and labor rights abuses. The department's innovative and integrative programs help workers earn decent incomes, and prevent them from being abused and exploited. This approach is a vital part of the administration's goal of ensuring that globalization provides benefits and opportunities for workers everywhere, rather than triggering a race to the bottom.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions the commission may have on the Department of Labor's efforts to combat trafficking.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms. Lemus.

Let me just begin the questioning, if I could. Both you, Mr. Ambassador and I both referenced the important work that has been done by Julia Ormond as founder of the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking. And Senate Bill 657, which was signed into law, as you know, requires retail sellers and manufacturers doing business in California to publicly disclose their efforts to eradicate slavery -- I'm reading from an op-ed written by Ms. Ormond -- and human trafficking from their direct supply chains. She points out that by January 2012, companies impacted by the bill will have to post on their websites what policies they have in place to ensure that their supply chains are free of slavery and human trafficking.

And my question is, this is a model bill. Obviously there's another 49 states and the District of Columbia that could follow suit, and obviously the federal government ought to be thinking along these lines as well. And I was wondering what -- your thoughts about the new law's strengths and weaknesses, whether or not -- and, you know, I don't think we should wait until January of 2012 to see how well or poorly it's working. I do think it looks to bring business along for the ride, and so I would be interested in your thought on this piece of legislation.

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We are -- we are very excited about the California law. We think that this is a very good way that one of the states -- a state which, of course, if it were its own economy, certainly it would be part of the G-20, if not maybe even the G-8. A state like California taking these actions is going to have a ripple effect to countries and companies all the way around the world, because anyone who is a multinational company worthy of the name is doing business in California. One of the things that we see from our perspective -- and I think we all look forward to hearing from Ms. Ormond and others on the specifics of the law -- but what we've seen in talking to California, a real hero against the fight against traffickers in the attorney general's office there, Kamala Harris, from her time when she was a state's attorney in San Francisco, but also Jerry Brown, who's gone from overseeing the training of law enforcement in California as the attorney general, to go after trafficking in a new way over the last few years. His office has been very supportive of this. So one of the things that we think is going to happen is that all of us, as consumers, as the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, academics, et cetera, will be able to access this information and start figuring out what the companies are doing.

I think the brilliance of this is that it doesn't necessarily say -- in our understanding, it doesn't necessarily say what the particular policy that company has to have; they just have to have something. And we think that that will then put it out to the marketplace of ideas. It's an innovative way to have a regulatory structure that actually brings the market to bear, so all of us as consumers can look at these companies and make decisions, and put pressure on them accordingly.

REP. SMITH: I appreciate that, thank you. Let me just ask: A common theme in trafficking for labor exploitation is holding the victim in debt bondage through recruitment and migration fees. Although the practice is illegal, and some countries have prohibited under its -- prohibited it under international conventions, how can we do a better job in enforcing that part of this chain of degradation? If you could --

MR. CDEBACA: One of the things Congress did on its, I think, first day back after the end of the Civil War was pass a law that was called the "peonage" law -- because of the term for debt bondage in Spanish -- that made it clear that the protections of the Thirteenth Amendment didn't just apply to the newly freed African-American slaves in the South, but applied to people all over the country. So this notion of debt bondage as being one of our core anti-slavery ideals in the United States is key to our efforts.

One of the things that we've seen is that with the passage in the 2008 reauthorization of the fraud in foreign labor contracting, we've seen our first convictions of that now in, I think, a case out of Kansas City where people were being brought over for janitorial services. We think that that's going to be a powerful tool because sometimes you can show that there was a debt, but you can't show that the debt was then specifically used as a threat. So we think that that fraud in foreign labor contracting provision of Title 18 that was in the TVPRA is going to help an awful lot.

Two other areas, though, that we think that we need to look at: We're working with countries around the world to try to -- as the Department of Labor's final rule on the guest worker programs here in the U.S. does -- to try to strip the power of the labor recruiters to basically sell the chance to work in another country in exchange for the person's freedom. We see that as something that only when we are able to bridge the power differential between the source countries -- your Bangladeshes, Philippines, Malaysia, et cetera, and the wealthy countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, other countries in the Persian Gulf -- only when we are able to narrow that power differential will we be able to end this practice of debt bondage.

So for the first time just about a month-and-a-half ago, we were able to attend the Colombo Process, which is the sending and receiving countries -- a multilateral forum. They asked the United States to attend because I think they've realized that even though we were not one of the countries involved, that we had a particular voice. And we're going to use that as an avenue, as well as ASEAN and some of the other fora, to put that kind of pressure on the receiving countries.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Ms. Lemus, back in July 11th and July 15th of 1996, I held two hearings on child labor. Robert Reich testified; he made an impassioned appeal that we have to prioritize, we have to keep our focus. Then, we actually had Kathy Lee Gifford testify; she was embroiled in a problem of her line of clothing being made by sweatshops in Central America.

But we actually heard from Wage and Hour -- the administrator at U.S. Department of Labor, Maria Echaveste, who had just produced and spoked (ph) about the report "By the Sweat & Toil of Children," and she made a very strong statement that without the participation of industry -- and this was back in 1996 -- because we have too few Wage and Hour investigators, too few people at the state and federal level, you just can't enforce; you have to have buy-in fully by the industry -- that our efforts would flounder without that.

And I'm wondering -- that was back in 1996 -- what is the industry doing now to be, you know, full-fledged partners in trying to combat labor trafficking?

MS. LEMUS: Well, at the Department of Labor, part of what we've also tried to do is to increase the number of inspectors and ensure that they're not only bilingual, but that they have had training around the issue of human trafficking. As I said earlier, they are the first to come to the table and see, maybe witness where persons have been victims of trafficking.

On our end, we do about 26,000 inspections a year, yet there are approximately 7 million employers. So obviously, it's a challenge. And we do need assistance from the employers themselves to have buy-in that they wish to participate. And we would say probably a good majority of them are going to be good actors.

Internationally, when we work with child labor issues in particular, what we're noting is that those reports do have an effect -- that countries -- as you said at the beginning, the ambassadors -- as soon as their reports come out, the phone calls at our international labor affairs office, they start streaming in quite steadily. And it's really an effort to partner with not only the countries but the businesses themselves to ensure that we are changing the bar, that we're actually lowering the -- or, I guess I should say raising the bar in terms of that participation with the private sector.

REP. SMITH: Thank you. Chairman Cardin?

SEN. CARDIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And let me thank both of our witnesses. The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, TIP report, for the first time included an analysis of the United States, which I think many of us thought was a major improvement on the TIP report.

Is it the secretary's intent that the United States will be included in future reports?

MR. CDEBACA: That's correct.

SEN. CARDIN: Good. I'm going to make sure that is done because I think it is helpful. But let me talk a little bit about your testimony -- you were talking about the H-2A enforcement provisions -- and I guess my question to you: How do you enforce this? You already pointed out that many of the laborers will be reluctant to come forward to talk about the circumstances out of fear. Could you just share with us how you intend to enforce the provisions you talked about in H-2A program?

MS. LEMUS: Through the Wage and Hour division in particular, we have engaged in a variety of local campaigns -- or national campaign, I should say -- but also state and local law enforcement and community-based types of task forces. They belong -- the Wage and Hour division belongs to about 25 taskforces across the country at the local level.

We also participate in the [47:46] (federal act team ?) program, which is looking right at this point -- and my understanding is, they're pilot programs -- but they're looking to really increase the level of cooperation across federal law enforcement agencies to really improve -- we look at the three P's as prevention, protection and prosecution; we kind of start on the prevention end of things because a lot of what we have to do is that educational piece.

We're also engaged -- and this is -- it's not a new program, but it's something that we've reinvigorated: We've re-engaged with a memo of understanding with the government of Mexico, for example, whereby we have signed a memo of understanding to basically ensure that workers that come in from Mexico are aware of the --

SEN. CARDIN: But if I understand your H-2A restriction about the foreign employment agencies being prohibited from being compensated, is that what you said? Did I hear you correctly on that?

MS. LEMUS: The foreign labor contractors are not to receive any payment from an employee. And it's up to the employer to pay all fees, et cetera, and contractually state that they -- in the contract with their agents -- that they may not -- I guess it would be charge them any fees.

SEN. CARDIN: And again, how are you going to enforce that if you don't have your own inspectors out, or some way of finding out what's going on? It's wonderful to have cooperation, but I don't think you're going to have cooperation from unscrupulous foreign employment agencies or the workers who are afraid of losing their jobs.

MS. LEMUS: That is correct. So essentially, through -- there's an audit process through the employment training that actually certifies the visas. Prior to, they can -- they look at the procedures of the paperwork if for any reason there are any types of violations whatsoever. And there is a new audit process that began, I want to say, last year. So it's relatively new, but it's something that's been added. So after the fact, they are continuously checking the information from the workers.

The workers do come forward, not as often as we would like and not as well as we would like, so we've also increased our partnerships with local community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, et cetera, but also state and local law enforcement so that they can come forward as well. Sometimes, the workers do not wish to speak on their own behalves, and they have to have these third parties intervene, including, for example, the consulates.

SEN. CARDIN: Can either one of you follow up with us with how the '08 provisions about training consulars (ph) on the issuance of visas, how that -- do we have any direct information on oversight as to how that has been enforced?

MR. CDEBACA: Certainly, Senator. One of the things that our consular officers now receive during ConGen, which is the basic consular training office -- officers' course -- the trafficking victims identification, the indicators, et cetera, are now taught during the basic course. So it's not just kind of remedial training like it had been in the past. Additionally, an online training course is available for the consular officers out in the field for updates and for keeping current.

But one of the things that we've seen that is probably the best training is the repetition of the training. You're familiar with, in the TVPRA of '08, the requirement that we work with the nongovernmental organizations to come up with a brochure that would be given to many of the work-based or employment-based visa, non-immigrant categories. And that's the "know your rights" brochure that is now given out. It's actually reviewed by the consular officer with the immigrant during the interview on the visa line.

I can't say that it's always a hundred percent -- it kind of depends on what's happening at that exact moment. But one of the things that we've seen is, it's got the 24-hour hotline on it, they have received upwards of a thousand calls since this went into place a couple years ago. Some of those calls are general wage-hour type of calls, people wanting to know about housing conditions, people wanting to know about a whole host of worker rights. But some of those calls are

human trafficking calls. And it's something that we work with the Human Trafficking Resource Center and with these task forces the Department of Justice and ICE and others run to make sure that they respond when there's an allegation that's coming forth.

SEN. CARDIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, let me just point out: I think it's important that our staff really review the analysis of the United States in the TIP report. Let me just point out one nuance here that was in this report dealing with benefits. And as you know, immigrants, non-nationals, are entitled to very few benefits in this country. And if they are certified as being a foreign victim, then they are entitled to certain benefits.

And even though there was a 250-percent increase in certifications for victims in the last year, there was no increase in funding for those programs.

We already have a relatively -- well, we already have a hostile attitude in this country on benefits for non-nationals. And we're dealing here with an area where we have either potential victims or victims that it seems to me we need to conform to international standards as to how we deal with governmental services available to this class of individuals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Commissioner Cohen.

REP. COHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ambassador, do we have -- and it's hard to quantify, but could you give me the three or four worst countries that are involved in the slave trade?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, I think, Mr. Cohen, there's a couple of ways to cut that particular orange. Whether it's the raw numbers, I think that most interlocutors that look at it certainly in the report indicates that South Asia, that South Asian countries continue to have perhaps the largest numbers -- India, Nepal, Bangladesh, et cetera. East Asia and the Pacific region continue to be of great concern as far as the numbers are concerned.

But one of the things that we often are trying to balance as far as saying, what's the worst country that there would be to be a trafficking victim -- and probably our heart goes out to most of the folks in the AF region, the Africa region, because you're talking about countries that have so few functioning governmental structures, rule of law that's not really there. Even if there is an anti- trafficking law, even if they are active in the AU up in Addis, which does an anti- trafficking day for the African child -- against child trafficking -- on June 16th each year, that doesn't necessarily mean it translates out into the villages, out into the places where these kids are enslaved, whether it's in the cocoa plantations, whether it's the fishing fleet on Lake Volta or otherwise.

So without necessarily going into a particular country in Africa, we think that Africa is deserving of a lot more of attention. We can't take our eyes off the prize as far as the countries that are continually of concern in East Asia and South Asia. But we feel like the African child and the African men and women deserve to be free from slavery and involuntary servitude just as much as their partners.

REP. COHEN: What I was thinking of -- and I -- (inaudible) -- like it's going to be difficult. I was imagining that maybe Ukraine and some of the more Western countries might have had more of a involvement. But if the State Department has any sanctions against countries, and if that could happen --

MR. CDEBACA: This is something that is one of the -- one of the tools in our tool chest: We -- each year with the trafficking report, the ranking of the countries from tier one down to tier three -- following that tier three designation can come sanctioning. And we've seen great movement, for instance, just in the last year from the government of Moldova, which was very publicly concerned that sanctions might kick in and that sanctions, not just the sanctions from the TVPA -- but perhaps even more importantly, the TVPA requires the United States to vote against a country that's on tier three in the IMF, World Bank, et cetera.

And in the Millennium Challenge Corporation, we've seen a lot of movement on countries who are concerned about their MCC money. Because then you're talking about some real money. So we've seen just in the last year the government of Moldova, which doesn't necessarily have it to spare, spend almost \$900,000 on victim care.

Ukraine is still a problem, but not necessarily with its back against the wall the way it was 10 years ago because of the number of projects both at the OSCE, the United States government projects, AID, Justice Department, et cetera. But we've seen that notion of sanctions, and the threat of sanctions, as something that is moving these countries.

REP. COHEN: As a judiciary graduate, are there laws that we should be looking at in judiciary you can recommend to us to strengthen what the body of law is in our country?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that we look at each year in the minimum standards when we're putting together the rankings of the TIP report is the sufficiency of the laws in these countries. At the end of the day, what we've been very adamant on is that they have a law that's not based on old notions of people being moved across international borders -- that's kind of the 1880s' version of human trafficking -- but rather focusing upon the enslavement, focusing on the abuse of the people so they can see them not as an illegal migrant but as a victim of slavery.

So through the ABA, through the International Organization for Migration, through U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime (ph) and bilaterally, just directly as the United States, we've been working with countries to try to get these modern anti-trafficking laws passed. About 120 countries have done so since the passage of our Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which was one of the first ones and therefore the models.

But what we've seen in some countries is, they can have the best law on the books, but if they don't go out and use it then it's a failed promise. So we're having to come back in behind those laws, make sure that they mean something in the real world.

REP. COHEN: How about laws here in our country, about employers or landlords who -- tenants and/or employees that are involved either directly or secondarily in trafficking, labor trafficking?

MR. CDEBACA: One of the most positive things about the 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection reauthorization was moving from a full-on knowledge standard to a reckless-disregard standard for those who profit from human trafficking. And so what we're hoping is both the government -- but then there's also civil liability under the trafficking act, which means that a good plaintiff's lawyer out there might take this and run with it.

But that notion of going after the hotel owner who knows that the pimps are bringing the underage girls or the women into the hotel and profiting from that, if they're knowingly looking the other way, if there's a farmer -- you know, when I was at the Justice Department, I prosecuted a farm-labor contractor who was putting a work crew onto the same fields that one of my predecessors had prosecuted somebody 20 years before. And the farmer was the son of the man who had watched this other farm-labor contractor allow slavery.

But at the time, we didn't have this provision. So the hope is, now this provision with the reckless disregard, that'll be a way to hold, whether it's farmers, hotel owners, et cetera, accountable in a new way.

REP. COHEN: Is there confiscation of property involved with those laws?

MR. CDEBACA: There is, although to date, most of the asset forfeiture has been against the trafficker, the direct trafficker, rather than somebody who's knowingly or recklessly profiting from the trafficking. But I think that that's something that we've seen the civil rights division act very aggressively on. It tends to focus one's mind when the domestic servant -- say, for instance, in a case that was prosecuted out of Wisconsin -- a domestic servant who has been held captive in a house for 19 years ends up owning that house because the government comes in and takes it away from the people who enslaved her. That gets a lot of attention, and it should.

REP. COHEN: Yeah. I think it should, too. What do we have in the way of undercover operations? Do we have any of those?

MR. CDEBACA: One of the things that's been tough about undercover operations is because we're dealing with human beings, it's kind of like doing the human experiment trials in a university setting: The level of controls that one needs to have as far as a controlled purchase, or something like that, becomes very challenging.

But we have in the United States done a number of -- and innovative and proactive law enforcement approaches that I'd certainly be happy to brief you on offline; perhaps we could have some of our colleagues from DOJ and ICE as well to talk about some of those things that are being done.

REP. COHEN: I was just thinking -- now, you were in judiciary, I guess, when Stephen Colbert came, when he did the migrant worker day -- maybe we could get Geraldo and let him do that.

MR. CDEBACA: (Chuckles.) Well, it's interesting because I think there has been some very effective undercover work. I think I saw in the audience today Ben Skinner, who is a -- in his book, "A Crime So Monstrous," talks about how he basically set his stopwatch when he left his apartment one morning in New York, and within six hours he had bought a Haitian child for slavery. And I think that that says a lot not only of what world we live in as far as involuntary servitude, but the kind of investigative reporting and the kind of undercover work that needs to be done if we're ever going to break this.

REP. COHEN: Thank you, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: (Inaudible, off mic) -- Commissioner Cohen. Let me ask just two very brief questions to Ambassador C. deBaca: The J-1 visa program, as you know, brings in about 100,000 college students from around the world to work in the U.S. Some work on the Jersey Shore, and they often do work in the summer resort industry. And there have been increasing numbers of reports of abuse by third-party brokers and unsupervised businesses.

Associated Press did an exposé on this, as you know.

And my question is -- and the national human trafficking hotline -- let me just add this -- has received, as I think you know, Mr. Ambassador, 369 calls from J-1 visa holders on the work and travel program from young people who are experiencing trafficking and other forms of exploitation from last summer alone.

Strip clubs and adult entertainment companies openly solicit J-1 workers even though government regulations ban students from taking those jobs that might bring the Department of State into disrepute. And I'm wondering what could be done to stop the abuse of J-1 visas by labor recruiters and businesses, ensuring that students who come here have a safe and humane experience, and not one of exploitation.

And secondly, on China -- and I do hope when the designations of tier three are listed that the department and your office is very seriously considering the designation of tier three for China both on the labor and sex trafficking area.

But I'm wondering how -- what kind of data calls you've gotten from the -- and information from our embassy and other sources about the exploitations of a Chinese workforce. We know there's no OSHA protections whatsoever; they have in excess of 125,000 deaths directly attributable to occupational hazards. There's no labor unions. And those who argue for labor unions are summarily sent to the laogai and tortured.

There is an MOU, as you know so well, that dates back to the George Bush -- the first administration on prison labor, and it's not worth the paper it's printed on because it requires U.S. investigators to submit any complaint to the Chinese authorities, and then they investigate and report back to us. There's no on-site inspections, no independent verification. And Chinese workers, as we know, get 10 to 50 cents per hour for work, and many are in sweatshop conditions dotted throughout all of China.

So if ever there was unfair trading practice, I think it is -- and the exploitation of labor fits that bill. Doesn't that constitute labor trafficking?

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Smith. One of the things that of course, with the Summer Work and Travel Program -- and this is something that when I have been in Eastern Europe, especially Ukraine and Russia, that we've been hearing about some of these concerns.

At the end of the day, this is a program which I think, you know, millions of children, millions of students have been able to come in the United States over the last 50 years. We think that it's been not just a success story of U.S. public diplomacy, but had a lot to do with getting people behind the Iron Curtain to be able to understand who America was, who Americans were. And we want to continue that with the countries especially in Eastern Europe.

One of the things that the department has done, because we recognize that the young age and limited sophistication of some participants have contributed to a potential vulnerability for trafficking initiatives that are targeted at the participants -- and so to minimize the risk, early this year we issued an interim final rule -- it's April 25th of 2011 -- in the Federal Register which makes some changes to the program, sharpens the program as far as a pilot program for the six countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Ukraine. And these are the six countries, frankly, that our law enforcement agencies and our embassies and other had identified as those that should be of concern.

The program and the pilot is requiring a hundred-percent pre- placement in jobs -- no bringing folks over through the program, and then getting them jobs here; a full vetting of all the jobs -- job offers; and enhanced monitoring.

But one of the things that the interim final rule explicitly did, because we thought that it needs to be in there in no small part -- so then if someone brings someone over and does this, they might not just be violating the terms of the program, but depending on what promises or contracts were given, could be reached through visa fraud, fraud in foreign labor contracting, or even the trafficking statutes -- is that no Summer Work and Travel participant can be put in any position in the quote, unquote, "adult industry," and they can't be put into domestic-servant positions in private homes. Both of those are things that we certainly know make participants vulnerable to trafficking, and are basically a violation of the

promise that the United States and the program is making to these parents overseas that their children, their students are coming to the United States to learn the best of us.

So we're committed to policing this program and to not tolerating any of these types of abuses within it.

As far as China is concerned, one of the things that we've seen in the last months in China is in the wake of their joining the Palermo Protocol is a little bit more of analysis from the Chinese academics, as well as some parts of the Chinese government, the IMOAT -- I-M-O-A-T, which is the inter-ministerial anti-trafficking coordinating body -- looking at what they need to do to come into compliance with the Palermo Protocol. They have a way to go.

And we've talked to them about this; I've raised it when in Beijing. Especially, there's been a problem of labor trafficking because up until recently -- up till just this year -- men were not included in the definition of trafficking, and unofficial workgroups were not. If you were part of a work unit, then you could be considered a trafficking victim if you were a woman. But a man who is working in the underground economy would not have been covered by the trafficking laws.

So those cases that we've known about for the last five or six years -- the horrible cases of the brick workers, the men in the blacksmith shops, the miners, et cetera, case after case after case coming to light -- and having a lot of, you know -- even with the issues of being able to get the word out in China, cases that have gotten a lot of attention in China, those cases legally were not part of their definition of trafficking. So we've raised this with them, but we stand ready to continue to work with our Chinese counterparts on the law enforcement side especially as to what they need to do to address this.

One thing that we are seeing as far as some modicum of worker protection is for internal migration. The Chinese government has been working with the International Labor Organization and others, so we're seeing a little bit more as far as materials, know-your-rights type of things, kind of like what we've talked about for workers going to other countries. But it's the West-to-East pattern of internal migration in China, even to the point of having it -- you know, deck of cards with all of the horrible things that could happen to you when you're in Southeast China before anybody gets on a train.

But we certainly share many of your concerns, and we've raised many of these when I've had a chance to deal with our Chinese counterparts.

REP. SMITH: Yeah, just a follow-up: How difficult will it be for a corporation to live up to the spirit and letter of S-bill 657, the senate bill in California, when some of or many of its feeder parts are made or manufactured in China, where -- as Harry Wu has documented over and over again, the great laogai survivor who is now a great champion of human rights here in the United States -- since there's no access?

And very often, a colonel by day is also the CEO of that particular corporation, and has the full protection of the government and the People's Liberation Army so that it's very hard to penetrate that corporate veil. How --

MR. CDEBACA: We think that the California bill will have a big impact. We've seen companies in China respond when there have been other issues often, whether it's lead in the paint or other adulterated materials. But this is something that -- Mr. Cohen's point earlier about the wood in the guitar -- unfortunately, sometimes it's easier to test that wood and see that it's an endangered tree; it's easier to test the animal product and see that it's from an endangered species than it is sometimes to look at a factory and see whether or not somebody was enslaved there.

So the level of inquiry that we hope that the California transparency act will enable us to proceed with -- certainly, the hope is that we can put the freedom of a person at the same level as the pelt of some kind of exotic animal.

REP. SMITH: Do you anticipate that the administration might suggest its own language that would parallel the California bill?

MR. CDEBACA: I think that at this point, we definitely want to see how the California bill comes online. We want to be supportive of the effort. I think that we'd certainly want to work with you and others, if that was something that was under active consideration, whether for the re-authorization or otherwise. But at this point, we're very much looking to see what we hope is going to be the success of the California bill before we get into the middle of it, as it were.

REP. SMITH: I will thank our two very distinguished witnesses for your testimony and for your leadership. And thank you so much.

I'd now like to invite our second panel to the witness table, beginning with Nancy Donaldson, director of the International Labor Organization at the Washington office. Before joining ILO, Ms. Donaldson was vice president for Dutko Global Advisors, where she was an advisor to the ILO Washington office from 1997 to '05. She was vice president for

energy, education, technology, trade and international issues at the Downey McGrath Group. Prior to that, she was in the Washington office, director for Women's Action for a New Direction (ph), and a lawyer in practice -- in private practice.

We'll then hear from Neha Misra, who is a senior specialist on human trafficking and migrant worker programs for the Solidarity Center, an international worker-rights NGO based in Washington, D.C., and part of the AFL-CIO. She has worked for many years in international policy, advising on migration and human trafficking issues. She serves as a member of the board of directors for the Global Workers Justice Alliance, and as chair of the public interest committee for the North American South Asian Bar Association.

In addition to her position as senior specialist at the Solidary Center, Ms. Misra also serves as senior program officer in the Africa regional office. Her expertise on global trafficking issues was initially developed in Indonesia, where she was the deputy country director and program manager for the Solidary Center's Counter Trafficking Project. She worked in Indonesia for over five years, starting with the Solidary Center as the director of its Democracy project.

Before assignment in Indonesia, she worked in Bosnia on post-war elections and democracy, and in the U.S. as senior attorney advisor with the U.S. Department of State -- Department of Justice, I should say. While at DOJ, she also served as the president of the American Federation of Government Employees.

And finally, we'll hear from Julia Ormond, who is an internationally admired and successful actress, and has played roles in numerous motion pictures and TV shows, including "Legends of the Fall," "Sabrina," "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "First Knight," and so many others. And she was awarded an Emmy, I should say -- in 2010.

Julia Ormond has an inspirational record of advocacy on human rights issues, and has been strongly involved in the issue of human trafficking since becoming aware of it firsthand -- experience on the plight of trafficked women in Eastern Europe.

She also served in a number of roles in international NGOs, most recently as president of the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking, or ASSET, an organization she founded in 2007. ASSET is an advocacy NGO dedicated to the systematic eradication of slavery chiefly through giving the victims of slavery a voice on their own. The group was the leading sponsor of the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010, which we discussed with the earlier panel, which tackles slavery and human trafficking by requiring companies to report on the sources of their supply chains.

Previously in 1999, Ms. Ormond also co-founded FilmAid International, which aims to inform and empower refugee communities through film. In 2005, she was named as the United Nations goodwill ambassador against slavery and trafficking. She is no stranger to Capitol Hill, having previously testified in the House as well as before the California state legislature again on issues related to human trafficking.

So please, if you would begin first with Ms. Donaldson, Ms. Misra, and then -- batting cleanup will be Julia Ormond.

NANCY A. DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Cohen, and the members of the commission, for inviting me to testify today. I am representing the International Labor Organization, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Each year, millions of people leave their homes and cross national borders in search of better prospects and greater security for themselves and their families. Ninety percent of all migrants are workers and their families. Migrants bring skills and initiative to advanced economies, to host countries. They also benefit origin countries, sending money home and transfer of technology and critical skills.

Today, we are here to discuss urgent problems often faced by vulnerable migrant populations and individuals -- criminal trafficking and forced labor -- and the actions that the ILO and others are taking to eradicate these abuses.

Migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. In the extreme, irregular migration includes trafficking, smuggling, sexual exploitation and violence. As ILO's recent report highlights, forced labor today is the antithesis of decent work, and a global problem affecting almost every country in the world.

Traditional slavery is still found in some parts of Africa, while forced labor or coercive recruitment is present in many countries of Latin America, parts of the Caribbean, and elsewhere. In Europe and North America, an increasing number of women and children are victims of traffickers who sell them into forced prostitution or sweatshops.

The ILO estimates that there are at least 12.3 million persons in forced labor today. Eighty percent, or 9.8 million people, were exploited by private agents. Most victims are poverty-stricken people in Asia and Latin America of those

figures. Yet, over 360,000 women and men are in forced labor in industrialized countries -- OSCE countries -- trafficked for either labor or sexual exploitation. Some 56 percent of all persons in forced labor are women and girls, and children under 18 years of age make up about half, nearly half of forced laborers.

The ILO has taken up the issue of protecting domestic workers vigorously. Last year, the ILO International Labor Conference began consideration of a workers' -- domestic workers' convention. It will be expected to take it up for the second round -- final round in June of this year. We very much appreciate the strong support of the United States in working on the domestic worker protections, and also the OSCE.

One principal responsibility of the ILO is drawing up and overseeing international labor standards. Strong enforcement of labor standards worldwide levels the playing field for all workers, including American workers and industries. In today's globalized economy, international labor standards are also an essential component for ensuring that the growth of the global economy provides benefits to all.

The ILO has pioneered the development of international standards prohibiting forced labor and for the governance of labor migration and the protection of migrant workers since the 1930s. Two of the eight core conventions among core labor standards set out prohibitions on all forms of forced labor. There are also two conventions, 97 and 193, that govern migration for employment. Also, in 1990, the U.N. International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was established.

The ILO has two specialized programs: the International Migration Program and the Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labor, which provides technical assistance to ILO countries and partners with the challenges of labor migration and forced labor. The ILO is promoting a global alliance with partner agencies, pooling their efforts to eliminate forced labor worldwide by 2015. The OSCE is a major partner in this endeavor, and we do a lot of things together.

ILO's International Migration Program supports ILO member states in combating discrimination against migrants and helping their social and economic integration.

Currently, the program is engaged in 14 technical cooperation projects either funded by or implemented in OSCE countries, working to develop effective migration systems and policies and to strengthen government institutions and educate migrants on their rights and the services available. ILO has been at the forefront of generating and sharing data and knowledge on these subjects to raise public awareness and increase pressure for action. ILO's initial body of research was seminal, as it provided the basic facts and figures on modern forced labor, raising the global pressure for policy change.

I would like to emphasize that improving data collection on these issues is of paramount importance. Significant gaps in understanding the quantitative dimension of forced labor and human trafficking remain. I will say that the U.S. law has brought forward more data collection, which we think is extremely important.

The ILO has developed and disseminated courses, guidances, training materials on key aspects of forced labor and trafficking. And cooperation between the OSCE and the ILO on research and training has helped our economic partners to access important knowledge and expertise.

The ILO assists governments. We work hand in hand with our 183 member governments in designing and implementing projects on the ground. Through our Decent Work Country Programmes strategies, the ILO works with employers, workers and governments to set out agreed national priorities in the world of work. Experience shows with -- that with careful awareness raising, consensus can be built to include sensitive subjects such as forced labor among the core national priorities.

In Brazil, the ILO has been working with our social partners on the issue of forced labor and global supply chains. The abolition of slave labor and the worst forms of child labor are a key priority for Brazil and their national agenda for decent work. With grant support from the State Department, ILO worked with companies and continues to work with the government, companies and civil society to promote new understanding and strategies for engagement. The key objective is to strengthen the global alliance against forced labor by reducing the risks of trafficking and forced labor facing Brazilian suppliers and international buyers. And the (pact ?) that does the work on that -- we work with seven tiers of suppliers just in Brazil sometimes.

I want to leave the commission with three key points. One, good migration policies and the abolition of forced labor are challenges for every county, whether industrialized, emerging economies or less developed. We believe that true gains in the governance of migration and against forced labor must happen in a multilateral context.

Two, the ILO takes a rights-based approach to these issues. In that, we are very harmonious with this commission. We are devoted to promoting social justice and decent work in recognizing human and labor rights.

Three, the governance of migration and forced labor deserves a multi-stakeholder approach. The ILO works with governments and its strong social partners to reduce irregular migration and end forced labor and ensure protection of workers' rights. We have enjoyed fruitful partnerships with G/TIP, DRL and ILAB represented here today, and we respect and seek more ways to work with the Solidarity Center. We are dedicated to continue working together with our social partners and advocates to improve migrants' conditions and to end forced labor and human trafficking around the world. Thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, and thank you for the good work of ILO over these many decades.

I'd like to now ask Ms. Misra if she would proceed.

NEHA MISRA: Thank you, Chairman Smith and Commissioner Cohen, for this opportunity to testify today. I'd like to ask that my full written testimony be submitted to the record so that I can be very brief with you --

REP. SMITH: Sure.

MS. MISRA: -- and we can get to some questions.

REP. SMITH: Without objection, so ordered.

MS. MISRA: Okay. Just -- the Solidarity Center is an international labor-rights organization working in over 60 countries around the world, really appreciates the U.S. Helsinki Commission focus in this hearing on trafficking for labor exploitation and the focus on abusive, unethical and illegal business practices that contribute to human trafficking and forced labor. We've seen firsthand how violations of worker rights and the lack of labor standards and protections for workers increase their vulnerability to human trafficking. But we still see in the media and when you talk to the public about human trafficking, many times you'll hear people talk about it as the crime of organized syndicates, criminal gangs and underground criminals, which, of course, is the case in many instances. But we are also seeing increasingly around the world trafficking for labor exploitation happening in the context of legal structures of employment and business, with the traffickers being employment -- employers and labor recruiters, and not gang members or members of organized crime.

And so, that's what I want to focus on today in my testimony. While trafficking for labor exploitation has many facets, several major trends in our globalized world endanger workers, particularly those at most risk in the need and those in the most need of protection. In developed economies like the United States and Europe, we're seeing an increase in the cases of trafficked immigrant teachers, nurses, construction and service-sector workers, all in destination countries with valid visas, shining a light on the structural failures within our economic and employment systems that increase immigrant workers' vulnerability to severe forms of labor exploitation. Multinational corporations, employers, businesses, labor recruiters and others exploit these structural failures.

Of particular concern to us -- and Chairman Smith, you talked about (through ?) the Senate, and in the earlier testimony we heard some about this -- are temporary labor-migration schemes. Around the world we heard -- hear these referred to as guest-worker sponsorship or circular-migration programs. But these are increasingly being promoted by governments around the world to fill the demand for cheap labor. In practice, these schemes create a legalized system and structure for employers to exploit workers and increase workers' vulnerability to human trafficking and other forms of severe labor exploitation.

Such programs have been plagued by a long history of abuses, ranging from labor violations to visa fraud, debt bondage, involuntary servitude and trafficking for labor exploitation. This includes, among many others, the U.S. H2 visa guest-worker program. And we heard testimony from -- our -- the -- our colleague from the Department of Labor about the H2A, but I would like to emphasize the H2B visa program; seasonal agricultural programs in Canada, such as the Canadian-Guatemala Program; seasonal agricultural programs in Europe such as Moldovan migrant workers going to Italy; and the kafala, or sponsorship system, in the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

In my written testimony, I go into detail about some of these abuses, and -- but we already talked about that, so I'll skip over that, but just want to emphasize two common themes that we see come out of these temporary-visa programs.

One of them, we talked about a little bit earlier is the role of foreign-labor recruiters or employment agencies sometimes also call foreign-labor contractors, and taking advantage of the lack of labor rights and inherent structural failures in

these programs to exploit immigrant workers. The other theme that we see is the need to provide greater protections to workers and the opportunities for them to report abuses and advocate for their own rights.

We've already talked a lot about the issues of debt bondage as some of the problems of foreign labor recruiters. I want to get to some of the solutions. The Solidarity Center is a proud member of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, or ATEST, which is a coalition of 12 organizations including Julia's organizations and many groups that are currently in this room. And we have some suggestions for the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victim (sic) Protection Act of 2011 that would help increase regulation of foreign-labor recruiters that we think is key to ending trafficking.

In 2008, as you know, Chairman Smith, there were actually some of these provisions included in the House version of the bill. And then unfortunately it didn't pass the Senate, so it didn't end up in the final version. But we would really like to see it back into the 2011 version. And what we've seen is a number of service providers in the United States have said that greater regulation of foreign-labor recruiters and eliminating debt bondage would go a long way to preventing human trafficking in the United States.

So we're recommending, among many recommendations, first of all, strict elimination of fees, that no foreign-labor contractor agent or employee of a foreign-labor contractor should be allowed to assess any fee whatsoever, including visa fees, processing fees, transportation fees, legal expenses, placement fees and other costs to any worker. And employers, if they paid this to the foreign-labor contractor, should not be allowed to pass this on to workers.

The other key element that we're -- that we would like to see in the TVPRA of 2011 is greater disclosure, that workers are in the -- in a written contract both in English and the primary language of the worker, the written contract disclose fully the terms and conditions of work; and the details of that are in our -- in my written testimony.

Senator Cardin asked Ambassador CdeBaca earlier about some of the role of the consular officers. And I have to say that that pamphlet that was mandated in 2008, TVPRA, has made a great difference. We have a number of service providers who specifically say that workers in the H2A program and others who have been given T visas to the United States say they found out about services through that pamphlet. And so we think greater disclosure in workers' contracts itself would really go a long way in helping to prevent trafficking.

We also think that registration of foreign-labor recruiters is key. And our recommendation includes administrative procedures for the Department of Labor to register foreign-labor recruiters and that employers should be required to use a certified, registered labor recruiter or to face penalties.

The last two pieces that we'd like to recommend are enforcement -- I mentioned that there would be administrative -- that we recommend an administrative procedure within the Department of Labor, but that also workers need to be given access to civil remedies and rights to access U.S. courts to be able to enforce their rights.

And then finally, accountability; that workers must be protected from retaliation and employers must be held accountable for the actions of foreign-labor contractors that they hire. One of the big things that we are seeing as organizations that work on human trafficking for labor exploitation in the United States is that the threat of deportation is unfortunately being used against workers to stop them from reporting violations and from getting benefits of the T visa program. And we've actually seen a number of cases recently in the United States where it's taken years for workers to be identified as trafficking victims and get T visas, and that threat of deportation being used against them in keeping them suppressed.

And so we would also like to recommend a change in the 2011 TVPRA that provides temporary immigration relief to whistleblowers, to workers who are -- who raise the alarm about cases but that it might take them some time to be able to be found as victims of trafficking, so that during that time, they don't have to fear deportation, they don't have to fear threats; and instead, there can be an investigation done about the abuses that they're raising.

Just the last thing that I'll mention is -- I know Julia's going to talk a lot more about supply chains, so I'm not going to focus a lot on that -- but that when I was looking at the -- when I was asked to testify today and looking at the topic for this hearing, I thought it was important to mention another major trend in the global economy is the use of trafficking for labor (ph) and slavery victims all along supply chains; and that when employers, whether they're buyers, multinational corporations or others, demand cheap labor or unrealistic pricing structures, they should not be surprised to find severe labor abuses, including slavery in their supply chains.

Similarly, when employers contract out or hire unregulated subcontracted suppliers, they should not be surprised to find that there are trafficking victims in the production lines. And when employers refuse to enforce or claim that it is too

difficult to monitor adherence to core labor standards in their supply chains, they will find forced labor, debt bondage and other severe forms of labor exploitation. And Julia, I know, will talk about the California law. ATEST is also advocating that it be included nationally in the TVPRA. But the one thing that at Solidarity Center we'd like to point out is that we think that there needs to be -- it needs to be looked at about how the U.S. does investigations abroad of products that are made with forced labor or slavery.

And just as an example, the Solidarity Center had a report in 2007 called "The True Cost of Shrimp," which looked at the seafood- processing industry both in Thailand, in Bangladesh. And we found severe cases of forced labor, human trafficking, debt bondage, especially Burmese migrant workers in Thailand. As a result of our report, the U.S. Senate asked ICE to do an investigation about what was in our report. And so ICE did what they call a "jump investigation," and they went to both Thailand and Bangladesh to investigate.

The problem is that they have to notify, of course, the Thai government that they were coming. And our partners on the ground reported that basically the supply chains are completely cleansed. They had two weeks' notice to know that they were coming. The books were changed. A lot of the Burmese migrant workers were sent off. And we have a lot of anecdotes I could tell you about that, but that basically ICE said to us that they had to say that they did not find anything that was in our report there. And it was basically because they had to let the government know.

And so we'd like to advocate to try to find a better way to do these investigations so that we ensure that products made with forced labor, human trafficking and slavery to not enter the U.S. market.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.

REP. SMITH: (Inaudible) -- Misra, thank you very much for your testimony and your work. And now, Julia Ormond, you're recognized.

JULIA ORMOND: I learn something every time at these things. I've learned so much from the previous testimonies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the committee and staff. I initially engaged about the issue of slavery and human trafficking shocked and spurred into action by reports of sex trafficking. Nothing then seemed to me more heinous than the repeated rape and violence that its victims endured.

The wide variety of the faces of slavery that I met -- the first were California-based. Other travels around the world took me to Russia, Ghana, Thailand, Cambodia, India and Europe, and provided me with a creepy and shocking perspective of how slavery pervades my own life, how I am unwittingly connected to it and ultimately connected to its systemic violence. People often ask -- it was a question that came up -- where in the world is this worst? My answer is always in my home.

It's simply not possible to sit easily in Los Angeles and forget the enslaved children I have met, children that I have walked away and left to an uncertain fate. And what keeps me up at night, what haunts me, are all of the victims' stories. I'll never forget the girl who crawled out of an eight-floor window for fear of her life in sex slavery. But I can equally never forget the child enslaved in the fishing industry, who jumped ship into the Thai Sea to float on a barrel for two days and a night before being rescued because that was his safest option; or the child who was chained, whipped and scarred for life while maybe working on our carpets; or the child soldier forced to burn his village, kill his mother and rape his sister for someone else's war; or the enslaved garment worker making my clothing or the footage of a Mayan agricultural slave in Florida picking my tomatoes. These people are no less deserving of all of our compassion than those forced into sex slavery. All victims of trafficking and slavery deserve our attention and our commitment.

In 2007, I founded the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking, otherwise known as ASSET. ASSET's an advocacy organization dedicated to eradicating slavery and trafficking through amplifying the victim's voice and supporting systemic solutions.

I have come to define enslavement as when one person completely controls another person, uses violence or violent threat to maintain that control, exploits them economically and pays them effectively nothing. Trafficking is a process of enslaving someone.

Under the tenure of Ambassador CdeBaca, the 2010 Annual Report to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons stated that more people are trafficked into forced labor than commercial sex. Yet ask any member of the public what proportion of this issue is sex trafficking, and the usual response is about 80 percent. The International Labor Organization has recently stated that for every one person forced into the sex trade, nine people around the world are forced to work.

The forced labor of these victims taints many of the products that we purchase and rely on every day. To quote the TIP report: It is not possible "to get dressed, drive to work, talk on your phone or eat a meal without touching products tainted by" slavery.

The United Nations has repeatedly stated that trafficking has shifted from trafficking weapons to trafficking in drugs to trafficking in people, and now into children. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has cited that the profits from trafficking in people into Europe has now overtaken the profits in the trafficking of drugs into Europe. Yet, in the United States we spend more in one day still fighting the war on drugs than we spend in an entire year fighting the trafficking of people.

So we all have a role to play in supporting the solutions, and solutions, there are many. Every single place I travelled to, I specifically sought out solutions that just await the resources to scale to meet a drastic need.

In order to resource the solutions, however, it's vital to get the story straight. And media can play a crucial role. Sex will always sell, whether the story is good or bad. But we need the media to cover the issue fairly, proportionately. We need media outlets to set aside deliberate resistance of losing advertising revenue, and articulate how businesses can use their influence over supply chains to recreate the map to illuminate the worst areas of poverty in the world where slavery and trafficking can take hold.

As advocates, we need to do a better job articulating to the public the enormous challenges that today's complex supply chains present to business. We need to articulate that the CEO is most often not the criminal, that this is criminal activity tainting their supply chain most often around raw materials, but as we have heard today, on many other points of intersect along the supply chain, just as shoplifting is criminal activity occurring at the other end of the supply chain, at the point of purchase.

Only by rediscovering the supply chain and influencing each step of it by encouraging best practices can we implement real solutions, can the NGO work with the CEO. A supply chain without a policy of best practices is like a computer without virus protection: You will most likely become infected with a virus or tainted by labor violations.

We need companies to come to the table and collaborate in finding better solutions to work with governments and the NGO community who can offer victims safety and rehabilitation, and can assist vulnerable communities. We cannot accurately and efficiently access victims without the assistance of companies that influence infected supply chains.

I think one of the most crucial pieces that I've learned is that this is a verification of a process: Whether you are growing, picking, selling tomatoes out of Florida, or purchasing couture clothing, you will find slaves. The point is that the better your practices along the supply chain, the less you will find them, and the better your practices, the better your response will be at that moment.

ASSET's solution was to be primary sponsor of the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010, authored brilliantly by Senator Darrell Steinberg, who I have to thank deeply. This law comes into effect January 2011, and requires major retailers and manufacturers operating in California with over 100 million (dollars) in worldwide gross receipts to publicly disclose their efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from their supply chains.

This law will apply to just over 3,000 companies, around 4 percent of California companies who represent an umbrella of approximately 87 percent of economic activity in the state. This new law is one small step in a long journey forged by others that ASSET joined.

I hope if it's applied well that it will represent a watershed in the sharing of knowledge, and will enable active consumer, investor and other stakeholder engagement, will encourage a pooling of resources, and will get us closer to concrete, measurable results.

The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act will for the first time enable consumers to choose to support businesses that are creating best practices, using their purchasing power to encourage them to bring their expertise and knowledge of supply chains into the equation. Investors can implement corporate governance and social responsibility practices, providing incentives to companies to elevate human rights and place them right at the heart of their strategy.

In one sweep, it'll educate companies unaware of a possible problem, not just of their own potential vulnerability but also the devastating impact of using company influence to drive profit up by forcing the prices of raw materials down to a level where labor violations and criminal activity and suicide are the outcome for the raw-material workforce.

It will create an environment where those companies already doing the right thing can more robustly and publicly turn it into part of their brand identity. And for the next step in the process to occur, Congress should enact federal legislation disclosing the presence of slavery, trafficking and all forms of forced labor in the corporate supply chain.

Post-globalization, where I have heard that the public trusts brands, identifies with brands more closely than government -- the supply chain is the modern vehicle through which today we can spread liberal democracy throughout the world.

Thank you for listening.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Ormond, thank you very much for your testimony, for being here again, and above all, for your advocacy that has led to enactment of this very important landmark legislation.

Let me just ask, if I could, Ms. Donaldson, you know, the assumption of goodwill or the potential of goodwill obviously undergirds the multilateral framework. You know, you -- obviously most, if not, all U.N., ILO, any convention has always a problem on the enforcement side. That's no fault of your own; it's just the way it works. But I think you said consensus can be built. And I'm wondering if the transparency supply chain act of 2010 might not fit into a best practice that the ILO could include in its framework of best laws that needs to be shared.

I mean, one of the important aspects of when we did the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was to share and to share, invite best practices so we could improve our own law but also to give it out liberally. And I remember giving a copy that John Finerty on our commission staff translated into Russian to a member of the Russian Duma, who then got some of it enacted in the Russian Duma. We want plagiarism, in this case -- (chuckles). So I'm wondering if the ILO is looking at this as a best-practice law that needs to be shared with the world, including the 14 agreements that you -- or the work you have going within the OSCE and elsewhere.

MS. DONALDSON: We are very interested to see how this law is implemented. And you know, we tend to see California as another country, just -- (chuckles) -- another economy. And it's very hard to be a big company anywhere in the world and not have California as one of your markets. So in a way, it may not need to be passed in every state.

But yes, we want to share good practices. And I might say, I see this as a part of a trend. And it's also because the USDA guidelines that have been issued by the Agriculture Department on best practices in agricultural settings -- I see in my conversations with companies that across the board, there are different things coming up. And maybe the most intensely discussed right now is actually around the conflict minerals.

But I hear companies, big ones, saying, well, the due diligence, that framework that the OSCE has raised, maybe we should use this in the context of forced labor or child labor. So it's creating a lot of cross-fertilization. But I do have to say the California law, I think, kicked it to another level in terms of more recent legislation.

So thank you.

REP. SMITH: Would you want to respond on that?

MS. ORMOND: This was a little law that just, I feel, kind of got us out of an impasse. It was a moment that we could capitalize on as an NGO thanks to the work that had been done by the ILO. I think we actually did take some of your practices -- (chuckles) -- we took an amalgamation of best practices, but the law is designed in such a way that allows the corporation to come in with what businesses see idiosyncratically within their own supply chain. Each industry has different, idiosyncratic problems that the NGO community can't really sit from the outside and dictate to them. Plus, they'll bring a totally different mindset and innovation to finding solutions.

So the law is designed in such a way that we make suggestions as to best practices, we make suggestions in terms of talking to the ILO, but we also open it up to say, just -- well, tell us what you are doing so that we can rate it.

REP. SMITH: Commissioner Cohen does have to leave, so I'd like to yield to him for any questions.

REP. COHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a 4:00 hearing -- another ranking member -- but I want to ask Ms. Ormond, who were the main opponents to your law in California?

MS. ORMOND: (Chuckles.) Thank you for landing me in it. Well, let's put it this way: There was not a single business in California that supported it. And I think we were very lucky to have a governor who didn't veto it, and who stood up and said, it's -- you know, I'm asked if this is a job-killer, and I don't think it is. I think it's a lifesaver.

I think there are challenges. I don't want to presume that people go into it with malicious intention; I think very often, there are stumbling blocks that because we're not discussing it because there's lack of transparency, we can't get to the solution. So within different industries, individual brands and companies aren't actually sharing with each other what they're learning.

So I think as this -- the first step is to sort of move industries -- like, you have conflict minerals; you have the tech industries coming together to work on that. And in a parallel, you have people sharing best practices around cotton.

If we don't -- if we don't move it forward in terms of raising it up, then I think it really has a devastating effect. I think California Grocers Association --

REP. COHEN: They opposed the law and fought it?

MS. ORMOND: Yeah. And it took me by surprise because I thought, well, isn't this good for California? Can't they just verify immediately that their -- can't they verify more easily than somebody who's reaching out to the developing world? And I think we just haven't really gotten to the bottom of how they deal with undocumented workers. I think it made it difficult for them legislatively to answer to that, because we didn't really deal with it.

REP. COHEN: Did the chamber or any other organized groups of business, manufacturers, et cetera -- did any of them come out and work against it?

MS. ORMOND: Yeah.

REP. COHEN: They did?

MS. ORMOND: (Chuckles.)

REP. COHEN: Yeah? (Chuckles.)

MS. ORMOND: Yes. They did. I mean, we went back and forth. We had support from consumers and consumer rights -- we had a terrific support from socially responsible investment firms that represented \$42 billion. And I think what we saw emerging was, the consumer is one stakeholder; the next consumer to engage through apps and writing letters and Internet and viral is the employee. Employees work better in an environment that they're happier with; they're more productive. You can go to the investor; you can go to shareholders with the proxy votes.

And what we want the consumer to understand is that they are not -- they are disempowered as an individual to a certain extent. But you rally them as a force together, they will drive what happens down the supply chain because they will demand that supply chains be cleaned up, or they will leave that brand and go to someone who is doing a better job.

REP. COHEN: Was the vote close on your bill?

MS. ORMOND: Sometimes. I mean, different -- there were --

REP. COHEN: Stages.

MS. ORMOND: -- different stages that we had to go through. What I have always loved about this issue is that it's a bipartisan issue. It's something that I will say in terms of the coalition, a task that we work on -- it's bipartisan. And it has to be, for longevity.

What I do want to say about the bill is, I think it provides an engagement point for the consumer to actually physically take action. There's a lot of awareness that people -- from an employee standpoint people can have; one little website that we participated in setting up sent off 97 -- has now sent off 97,000 emails to CEOs asking them, what are your practices? And until -- you know, they've got until January in 2012 to say "no response."

And I also -- if I may, just a bit before you leave, I want to talk about how when a supply chain is tainted, it may be tainted by very few individuals. But there's one example -- there's a terrific documentary called "End of the Line" which looks to the decimation of the fish population. Fishing is an industry that has a lot of issues. One boat coming in with two loads of cargo -- I wrote it down somewhere; I want to get it right -- one of those boats can come up with -- I think it was the entirety of Taiwan's quota for one fishing season.

So one or two criminals can decimate and destroy a supply chain. And I think that's what we're seeing in fishing; we're talking about having 20 to 50 years left of fish. It isn't those that have been given a quota and are meeting that quota that are causing that decimation; it's illegal fishing. It is illegal deforestation that is causing huge environmental dam-

age. And if we don't look to it, I believe that that is where this issue feeds all the way through to being an international security issue.

REP. COHEN: I thank you for appearing before us, and your work, and the other panelists as well. And I wish I had more time to stay here, but I've got to -- a obligation. I've learned a lot. As you say you've learned, I learned from this committee. And there's no greater human rights champion than the chairman, and I will work with him on legislation to improve our work product.

You asked me earlier, do we have an audience? Well, you got a great audience here with Chairman Smith.

MS. ORMOND: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Cohen, thank you very much, and thank you for your leadership. Let me just ask a couple of other questions, if I could. And I think Commissioner Cohen's comment, or your comment -- one of your comments -- was very well-taken about a corporation -- what corporations don't do business in California -- (chuckles). I mean, it's just about the world.

But I do think there could come in 2012 some real issues of faithfulness on the part of the corporations.

And so the question would be, how do we ensure compliance with the mandates of the California law? Would the federal law fill some gaps that perhaps dropped off as the legislation was making its way through, and would the additional firepower, if you will, of a federal statute further prioritize and ensure that these corporations are, indeed, being very faithful?

We found even when we passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I had to hold an oversight hearing right here, nine months later, to ensure that major provisions where it said you shall set up a TIP office, you shall establish a T visa -- nothing in it said "may;" it all said "shall."

And even here, with the traditional separation of powers and the checks and balances that are obviously a very good thing, we had to have an oversight hearing -- and I chaired it -- to ensure that the major revisions were carried out. Because delay is denial, and I would be very worried that some corporations will game the system, be inadequate.

So what are the advantages of a federal law? And do other states have to pass a law, or would that be -- I mean, what corporations, again, like I said before, are not doing business in California?

MS. ORMOND: Well, one of the things that we do have to do is get the list of who the 3,200 companies are from the attorney general's office. And I think that's something, for instance, that you would want to put into federal law, that automatically the list of who is covered gets made public so the NGOs aren't scrambling to do that math.

There's a number of things. I mean, for me what the bill does is move us forward a steps so that for instance we pave the way for a commission to come in. Prior to the bill, the commission couldn't verify it, or certify anything. So it wasn't possible to do it.

But I also think that we have to kind of slightly change the mindset. I want to talk about fair trade a little bit, and how fair trade -- I should rewind a bit -- the greatest and most effective part of prevention is the alleviation of poverty, and providing people with alternative solutions. And I feel that's what fair trade goes in and elevates the process for people; they create communities who work together and keep each other on track. And they then give a premium to the farmers once they have helped them get them to the level of being an export.

And mangos out of Haiti would be a great example -- the mangos from Haiti that are sold in Whole Foods may well be something that elevates Haiti out of a really tragic circumstance. And I think we need to move towards that.

What I also like about the California bill -- people talk a lot about enforcement -- the consumer's going to enforce it. Out of 3,200 companies, say, there are 50 who comply, and the rest don't. You've got 50 brands for people to switch to. You don't have to wait for the attorney general to do anything. You've already clarified who's doing great work and who doesn't.

And I think that the federal bill will work. We've -- all the way through we had a collaborative approach to business, and that's the only way that you could get to the solutions. It can't be done any other way. And it will be fair and it will be reasonable and it will be doable for business. REP. SMITH: Yes, thank you.

MS. MISRA: So, I just -- I'm not an expert on this as Julia is, but I've heard a couple of things that I think is interesting. One, we've heard that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is not opposing a national federal bill on this, because they do

want to see kind of the playing field leveled in the sense that it would apply everywhere in the United States and not just in California, which is an interesting and surprising result from this. And I've also just been receiving a lot of emails from people about trainings that are already popping up. The University of Delaware is doing a training for sourcing managers on the bill, and so there is already, you know, companies getting ready in figuring out ways.

And then just from our perspective, we're an allied organization of the AFL-CIO, and we've already had conversations with unions in the United States about kind of taking the role that Julia's saying on consumers and holding people accountable. We know who a lot of the big players are in the sectors that we know that there's slavery, and sort of kind of start targeting them and making sure that that's happening. And, hopefully, it will -- it will trickle down.

REP. SMITH: Yes.

MS. DONALDSON: Just two observations. I think we are going to see a real mix. I've seen legal opinions online where the lawyers -- corporate lawyers say, well, the way you could interpret this is, you just say have to say what you were doing on monitoring forced labor, and you can just say you're not doing anything in particular and that's how to suffice ?) the law. And so you may see some of that.

I think that's going to be difficult because of the reports, like the reports required by the TVPA, which say, well, these are countries where we think there may be risk of problems. It's a little harder if you're sourcing from those countries to say, well, there's no problem in our (supply chains ?) that we've ever seen, and that takes care of it.

So there's no question that interaction between state and federal law is important. And I guess what I would say, we don't take a position on particular laws, but we are collecting best practices. We look forward to seeing what happens in this one. And I do think that the mix of laws and strategies going on is having a really dynamic effect.

And I will say one thing. Once companies leave denial and go into what -- "How could we do it?" and then they move to, "We have to do something" -- when enterprise and its ingenuity comes into play, amazing things happen. And I have to say, I'm getting excited about watching the companies that are at the front end of this, because they're solving problems that no one else has quite seen, and that's what we want more of. And I do think it's possible that that virtuous circle, spurred on by these different laws together, and maybe some federal laws as well, is going to create the process, is creating a process that we can partner with each other. Because no one company can solve these problems, and no one country, and that's why we say we have to really work together. And the activists have an irreplaceable role.

Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Let me just ask you with regards to your deadline or your goal by 2015 of eliminating forced labor worldwide, who on the board would make the decision whether or not to incorporate the new California law into a best law practice that needs to be looked at by other countries? It seems to me that if the U.K. and other countries were to -- you know, the House of Commons passed a similar law, the House here, obviously, and the Congress -- it would add an enormous pressure not just for reporting, but for accurate reporting, because the website would be scrutinized by not just California and the NGOs that are so concerned, like Julia Ormond's group and yours, but it would be a -- you know, it seems to be more hands pulling on the oar, the greater that ship will move and forced labor will be eradicated.

Who does that -- makes that decision?

MS. DONALDSON: Well, ultimately our body of countries (in/and ?) the international labor companies pass standards.

REP. SMITH: Right.

MS. DONALDSON: But we can do things much faster than that in terms of -- because that takes time and consideration -- to pull together best practices. And we are asked to advise countries all the time on how they might solve those issues. And so I'd be happy to come back and let you know exactly what we are doing on that, because I would -- I'll inquire.

REP. SMITH: Is it something that if we were to put together a letter from members of the House and Senate asking that the ILO look to -- both on a fast track and as -- you know, 2015 is not far away -- to look at bringing on line this very valuable -- and I would say there's nothing little about this, Ms. Ormond, as you said. This is huge. And one state the size of California could make all the difference in the entire world. But if you could, you know, we would -- we could put together a letter that would -- that would try to get you to adopt it as a best practice, if you thought that would be helpful.

MS. DONALDSON: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Let me just ask Ms. Misra with regards to regulating foreign labor recruiters.

I chaired a hearing some years back when we discovered in the 2003 act, we put provisions in, in '05, when we learned that U.S. corporations were often complicit, either indifferent or there was woeful ignorance, which is two different ways of being complicit, not wanting to know.

And in Iraq, we asked, I asked, a number of questions at two hearings that we held jointly with the department, with the Armed Services Committee, about labor recruiters, particularly in Jordan, bringing in all these people who were slaves working with U.S. taxpayer money. And we keep getting assurances that's been fixed -- it's been fixed. I'm not convinced. I'm wondering what you think, whether or not that has been fixed, if you could.

MS. MISRA: Thank you. We're still hearing stories that it has not been fixed, and not just in Iraq, but also Afghanistan, that Jordan's being used. We've heard particularly of Nepali and Bangladeshi workers. And then it's also been very interesting with the Arab --

REP. SMITH: They were the same ones who were exploited previously and that we brought (attention to ?).

MS. MISRA: Exactly.

But it's also very interesting now with the Arab Spring and the numbers of -- you know, people have been talking about the refugees that are crossing the border from Libya and other places, but there's huge numbers, as you know, of migrant workers who are in Bahrain, who are in Syria, who are in Libya and other places, and so their fate right now is very interesting. And a lot of them are being told by the labor recruiters that brought them over there, well, there's nothing that we can do now, and they're -- and they're stranded. And so it's quite interesting.

And just the global economic crisis: In the United Arab Emirates for example, there's large numbers of Indian migrant construction workers who are stuck in the UAE; the jobs dried up because of the economic crisis and labor recruiters are refusing to send them back, and so a lot of them are just living in camps.

REP. SMITH: With regards to the Transparent Supply Chain Act, I know how Julia Ormond feels. Do you feel that there needs to be a federal law?

MS. MISRA: Absolutely, yes.

REP. SMITH: I know you had some recommendations, but the biggest problem I think we might face would be a Senate 60 votes that would -- might be hard to procure.

Do you have any recommendations on where it should be? Should it be in the TVPA reauthorization? You may have mentioned that earlier.

MS. MISRA: Yes. We actually -- so the coalition that we're a part of, ATEST, is recommending that it goes into the TVPRA. We think in some ways that might be a little bit easier to have it as part of the package. But also, a stand-alone bill, we would support both. And so, you know, we've been having a number of conversations with different senators and different congress people about --

REP. SMITH: Have you found -- and I did ask Ambassador Luis CdeBaca earlier whether or not the administration would present a model piece of legislation along the same lines as California.

Do you think that might be forthcoming?

MS. MISRA: I haven't heard it coming from the administration itself. I have heard of several representatives in the House that are putting that forward, and then our coalition, as I said, is supporting it. But Julie would know that more specifically.

REP. SMITH: Well, we hope the two meet.

MS. ORMOND: I would say -- I guess what I would just add is that I -- in all honesty, I think the jury's still out as to the best place for the bill, whether or not it be something that's folded into TVPA afterwards. But currently language that is being kicked around in terms of a federal bill is placing it under the auspices of SEC.

And I think in terms of is it worth doing nationally, is it worth doing as a federal -- I think the federal bill gives it more teeth and raises awareness of it throughout the U.S., and then the U.S. takes a leadership role.

But we currently don't have the list from the attorney general. So we need to do -- we need to run the figures again. Because if you've got 3,200 companies in California and nationally you would have 3,201, it would be nice to know, is it just once more? Is -- can we just go straight to the EU? And I just want to say that I -- it isn't a perfect silver bullet. It's a starting point. And I think it does remain to be seen how the community that works on this responds to it and gets imaginative around it. But there definitely are stumbling blocks. There are stumbling blocks around conflict minerals and rare earth minerals that only come out of the Congo. There are stumbling blocks in terms of human rights in China and places we can't get in. But I think it kicks the needle forward and challenges business to come up with -- help us come up with a solution, don't leave the table until we've made it.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Yes.

MS. MISRA: May I just say one more thing also? Just jumping over to the foreign labor recruiter provisions, since you're talking about national versus stand-alone bills and folding into TVPRA, I know there's been some discussions about having a separate bill on regulating foreign labor recruiters, and I really want to urge you and the House of Representatives to consider folding it into the TVPRA, because when it is a separate bill, it gets caught up a lot in comprehensive immigration reform and questions of that. And we think, while those are important questions to address, if we address foreign labor recruiters from the perspective of it being a trafficking problem and being able to address it in the TVPRA, we may be able to get a lot further than if we had it be a stand-alone bill that kind of got caught up in the comprehensive immigration reform. So -- but thank you for letting me jump that little piece --

REP. SMITH: No, if you could answer, because you worked extensively in Indonesia and elsewhere --

MS. MISRA: Yes.

REP. SMITH: How do you recommend we pierce a place like China, where a person even doing investigations into this kind of heinous activity could land themselves into prison for 10 or 15 years and be subjected to torture? Even the corporations often do a "see no evil, hear no evil" mind-set about the sources of their materials, because they don't want to be kicked out, they don't want their industry nationalized and they don't want to face potential jail time.

MS. MISRA: Absolutely.

REP. SMITH: I'm wondering how -- I mean, will -- on the websites, might there be a big gap when it comes to China especially?

MS. MISRA: Yes, and I -- and I wonder about that too. I will say, the Solidarity Center has a China office that we call where we specifically work on worker rights issues in China, and so I'm not the expert on that.

But I will say one of the things that we are seeing is that we're increasingly seeing worker actions. You wouldn't necessarily call them the same that -- as you see in the U.S. as strikes and other things, but we are seeing workers who are having many one-day strikes, taking to the streets, demanding more rights in the factories where they're working. And that -- we really think that that -- the U.S. really needs to be supporting those efforts that we are seeing of workers trying to speak out for themselves and enforce their own rights and do more in that regard. And I know our office would love to come talk to you more about that.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Would anyone else like to add anything before the hearing concludes, Ms. Ormond or -- yes.

MS. DONALDSON: This is on an earlier subject, but I thought I could just mention one of the things that ILO's been doing recently -- I think it was maybe in December -- we had a conference in the Gulf states, and it was primarily focused on embassy staff, economic officers from various embassies. And we were -- I think we were looking in particular in the labor trafficking issues from Nepal. But it was a very interesting way to have countries -- and I wouldn't be surprised if the U.S. was involved as well, but other countries there as well -- to develop a network of representative officers to work with each other to spot illegal-labor processes. And it was very productive, so we're looking at how to do that in other places, too. And so the requirements that have happened as they were discussed, and Ambassador CdeBaca was talking about, just to let you know, that's something that can be built on, because if that's their responsibility and they're talking to counterparts, then it creates a different level of looking at it.

REP. SMITH: (Inaudible.)

MS. ORMOND: Just to say thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

I want to thank our very distinguished witness. I do believe that S.657 is an historic bill that will have overwhelmingly positive consequences. So, I thank you, Julia Ormond, for your extraordinary leadership in crafting and using your persuasive powers, which are very real and compelling, to get that legislation. And I think you gave great, I think, accolades to the Senate, sponsored the president pro tem. And I think that was a very -- you know, it does take a lawmaker, but it does take people just like you and our two other distinguished witnesses to make all of this happen. So I thank you sincerely for your extraordinary leadership.

MS. : Thank you.

REP. SMITH: The hearing is adjourned.

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444 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 22, 2011 Sunday

Philippines welcomes US offer of continued support against human trafficking

LENGTH: 639 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Daily Tribune website on 21 May

[Report by Gina P. Elorde and AFP: "Binay Welcomes US Offer of Support vs Human Trafficking"]

Vice President and presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) concerns Jejomar Binay has welcomed the offer of United States government of continued support in the fight against human trafficking and illegal recruitment.

Binay also thanked its ambassador to the country, Harry Thomas Jr., for commending the Philippine government for its gains in addressing the two issues.

Thomas made the statement during the exit call of US Embassy Second Secretary Doreen Bailey at the Office of the Vice President recently.

The Philippine government was able to secure 22 convictions of human traffickers, including two Swedes sentenced to life imprisonment for running a cybersex den in Kauswagan, Mindanao in the last 10 months.

Thomas also commended the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) where the Vice President is chairman emeritus.

Thomas said he is pleased with the government's efforts to combat human trafficking and he is willing to continue working with the administration to keep Filipinos safe from the menace.

For his part, Binay renewed his commitment to fight **human trafficking** and work on removing the Philippines from the **Tier 2 Watchlist** of the US State Department.

Earlier, the Vice President told participants of the Trafficking in Persons Summit that human trafficking remains as one of the "most pressing challenges" of the Philippines. He then called for close cooperation among law enforcers, prosecutors and judges in addressing the issue.

"We must demonstrate greater results in efficiently investigating, prosecuting, and convicting both labour and sex trafficking offenders involved in the trafficking of Filipinos in the country and abroad; increase our efforts to vigorously investigate and prosecute government officials complicit in trafficking; dedicate more resources and personnel to prosecuting trafficking cases and devote increased resources to victim and witness protection," he said.

"As presidential adviser for OFW concerns, it is also my personal advocacy to see that we increase our efforts to engage governments of destination countries, through diplomatic and law enforcement channels, in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenders," Binay added.

Meanwhile, Binay expressed optimism for the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 2625, or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010, which is currently pending in the Senate.

SB 2625 seeks to amend the Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act of 2003, to include policies to eliminate trafficking in persons especially of women and children; establish the necessary institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficked persons; and to provide penalties for violation of this law.

Relatedly, two Australians and a New Zealander have been arrested after a raid on a suspected brothel following a stepped-up campaign against trafficking of women and children for sex, police yesterday said.

Investigators said they have yet to establish whether detained Australians Barry Burston, 69, and Raymond Anderson, 57, and Michael Watt, 59, from New Zealand, owned, operated or were customers at the suspected brothel.

Police raided the night club in the northern city of Angeles late Thursday and found 42 alleged sex workers, including a 17-year-old girl that had earlier been reported missing by an aunt, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) director Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said.

"They (detained suspects) are being investigated by our women and children's protection section. We should be filing cases against them shortly," he added.

Source: The Daily Tribune website, Manila, in English 21 May 11

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445 of 492 DOCUMENTS
U.S.

Targeted News Service

May 17, 2011 Tuesday 1:38 AM EST

Bentley University Students Assist Massachusetts Governor's Council with Human Anti-Trafficking Policymaking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 887 words

DATELINE: WALTHAM, Mass.

Bentley University issued the following news release:

A team of Bentley University student researchers from the Bentley Service-Learning Center and the University Honors Program is working with the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence to combat human trafficking in Massachusetts. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. The students' findings were presented to the Council on May 4, 2011, at the State House in Boston. A final report will be published in June.

"As of May 2011, Massachusetts stands as one of only four U.S. states that currently lacks legislation specifying **human trafficking** as a crime, and we are ranked by the Polaris Project in the bottom **tier** of states in its commitment to combating trafficking," says Jeff Gulati, Bentley associate professor of political science and the study's faculty adviser.

Although there are many forms of trafficking- for labor and organs, for instance - the Bentley report focused primarily on the trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

"We estimate that between 1,500 and 1,800 people were victims of human trafficking in Massachusetts in 2010," Gulati notes. "This amounts to the equivalent figure for forcible rape cases reported and ten times the rate of murder and manslaughter in the Commonwealth. Victims of trafficking crimes are at high-risk of becoming recruiters for traffickers of new victims and have children who are at high-risk of becoming involved in the sex industry."

According to Gulati, while there has been anti-trafficking policy activity in the U.S. and initiatives aimed at increasing international cooperation to combat trafficking and raise awareness, there is little research to evaluate recent policy initiatives and programs meant to combat human trafficking and address the effect on its victims.

"This is particularly problematic as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is coming up for reauthorization in Congress this year, and legislators are looking to recent research to help identify effective efforts," he notes.

Bentley students enrolled in the Honors Group Capstone course helped fill this void by devoting their thesis to assist the Governor's Council, policymakers, law enforcement, and service providers in becoming more informed about the issue and the effectiveness of current policies and programs related to law enforcement and prosecution; victim protection programs; and prevention. Created by Governor Patrick in 2007, the Council is particularly interested in supporting a new "safe harbor" law and other policies that address the issue of domestic trafficking of minors for the sex industry.

"The key to this project is raising awareness - legislators, businesses, healthcare providers, and the public-at-large are all impacted in some way by human trafficking" says Bentley senior Katelyn Horowitz, project manager. "It is difficult to get individuals, most of whom have no idea that this happens right here in Massachusetts, to take action without a solid understanding the problem."

The presentation contributes new information to evaluate current policies, and details specific policy recommendations and alternative ways of thinking about the problem. Researchers recommended focusing initial legislation on designat-

ing human trafficking as a crime and imposing lengthy sentences for convicted traffickers rather than social services or prevention programs, since the former requires less financial support.

Other highlights include:

* Prosecution: Increase the number of those convicted for soliciting prostitutes to attend a "john school," adding a location in Boston where most trafficking- and sex-related crimes occur.

* Protection: Share information with court advocates to ensure that they are familiar with the law and victims' rights, in particular immigration law and rights for victims trafficked into the United States.

* Prevention: Establish a designee to help businesses implement policies to prevent trafficking, including: monitoring their supply chain; suspending or terminating contracts with third-party vendors and suppliers that use trafficked labor; purchasing from fair trade organizations or companies with anti-trafficking policies; and providing training for employees in the travel industry to recognize signs of trafficking victims.

"This class truly opened my eyes to the terrifyingly widespread practice of this modern-day slavery," says Horowitz, who is majoring in Accounting. "I particularly appreciated the opportunity to study its relationship to the world of business ... a relationship that not many know exists."

Among the people on hand for the May 4 presentation were the Council's Executive Director, Sheridan Haines, and representatives from agencies and organizations such as the Massachusetts State Police Missing Child Unit, Boston Police Department and its Human Trafficking Task Force; Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County; City of Boston Women's Commission; Jane Doe Inc.; Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2011

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446 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

May 13, 2011 Friday 4:29 AM GMT

Jailed Swedes in Philippine cybersex 'nightmare'

LENGTH: 772 words**DATELINE:** CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines, May 13 2011

Two Swedish computer experts jailed for life in the Philippines on cybersex charges say they are living a nightmare among hardened criminals and insist they did nothing wrong.

Emil Andreas Solemo and Bo Stefan Sederholm were this week convicted of human trafficking for running an operation in which 17 naked women in an office building performed in front of cameras for overseas Internet clients.

The government hailed the verdict as a landmark victory in the battle against human trafficking because the Swedes were the first to be handed life sentences for what has in recent years become a booming cybersex industry.

But both men claim most of the evidence against them was fabricated or obtained illegally, and appear bewildered why they should be jailed for Internet pornography when prostitution is rampant across the Philippines.

"We don't see ourselves as human traffickers at all," Solemo, 35, said in an exclusive interview with AFP on Thursday from a crowded jail in the southern city of Cagayan de Oro where they have been since their arrest in April 2009.

Sederholm, 31, bristled at their portrayal by the Philippine press as modern-day slave traders.

"The women were not forced to do it. It was nothing like that at all," said Sederholm, who like his business partner was wearing a prison-issue yellow T-shirt, long shorts and a sandals.

Solemo, a tall man with gold-rimmed glasses and a goatee, said he and Sederholm were IT consultants who had been hired to set up the computer systems at the cybersex shop where the women worked in Cagayan de Oro.

Although they refused to say who hired them, they denied police charges that they owned the business and recruited the women, saying they only arrived in the country a month before being arrested.

The Swedes also pointed out that the women working in the cybersex operation were all adults -- prosecutors never alleged that minors were involved -- and said the case against them smacked of hypocrisy.

"Some say it's (cybersex) demeaning and horrible, but you can go to any city in the Philippines and see girls who are dancing on poles in skimpy clothes. It's absurd... there are places there that openly sell girls," Solemo said.

"What we have undertaken here would not have been considered as trafficking anywhere in the West. In the United States or elsewhere it is not illegal to undress before computer cameras if you are of legal age."

Sederholm said they believed they had become scapegoats to make authorities look good to the United States, which put the Philippines on a **blacklist** of countries deemed as not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**.

"They wanted to make a trophy case of us to show to the United States that something is being done about human trafficking," Sederholm said.

But the judge who delivered the verdict against the Swedes, Jeoffre Acebido, said anyone who sexually exploited impoverished Philippine women should be punished.

"Disrespect for Filipino women and violations of our laws deserve the strongest condemnations from this court," Acebedo wrote in his ruling.

"It will not shirk from its duty to impose the most severe of penalties against anybody, be he a foreign national or a citizen of this country, who tramples upon the dignity of a woman by taking advantage of her vulnerability."

Beverly Musli, the head of a local women's rights group that helped prosecutors gather evidence in the case, also said the Swedes deserved to be in jail.

"It's still trafficking because the victims were recruited from all over the Philippines and transported to the south," said Musli, who is a lawyer.

She said focusing on cybersex when prostitution was a widespread and open problem across the country was not hypocrisy.

"We are doing our best in stopping all forms of violence against women," she said.

Both Swedes said they had not given up hope that they would win an acquittal on appeal.

"You just can't bury yourself and say you'll not move, not eat. We have to keep going and hoping. Of course we will appeal. We're not going to lie down," Solemo said.

But they indicated they were struggling physically and mentally in the crowded jail, sharing a small cell with five other people accused of crimes including murder and drug trafficking.

"In some ways it's worse than a nightmare in that you can not wake up. It's the nightmare of not knowing whether we would be spending the next 20-25 years of our life in jail," Solemo said.

Sederholm refused to discuss his personal life.

But Solemo spoke emotionally about his own plight, saying his father died a month ago, his girlfriend had left him and he had lost 17 kilogrammes (37.5 pounds) while in jail.

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

447 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 12, 2011 Thursday

US recognizes Taiwan's anti-human trafficking efforts - agency

LENGTH: 425 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website.

Taipei, 12 May: Taiwan has been one of the few countries in the world that deserves high recognition for its efforts to eliminate cross-border human trafficking, two US experts said in Taipei Thursday [12 May].

The two researchers, who are commissioned by the US Department of State, paid a visit to the National Immigration Agency (NIA), where they noted that Taiwan is listed as one of the top three countries that has combated human trafficking most effectively.

The other two countries are Columbia and Italy, according to Meredith Dank and Colleen Owens from the Urban Institute in the U.S., who spoke during a meeting with NIA Director-General Hsieh Li-kung.

In addition to the NIA, the two will also pay visits to other government agencies, including the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Labour Affairs, during their stay in Taiwan. Their goal is to better understand how the Taiwanese government and NGOs protect victims and collaborate to fight human trafficking.

For his part, Hsieh said the administration's efforts on trafficking prevention over the past several years have been productive and well recognized by the United States.

In the U.S. State Department's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIPS) Report, Taiwan was listed as a "**tier 1**" country - meaning it fully complies with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, Hsieh said.

According to the report, Taiwanese authorities took various corrective measures to fight trafficking in 2009, including banning for-profit marriage brokerage firms and implementing the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act, which took effect in June that year.

Those efforts helped Taiwan regain the top tier rating after it fell to "tier 2" in 2005 and then dropped another notch to the "tier 2 watch list" in 2006. Taiwan regained "tier 2" status in 2007 and remained there until 2010's annual review.

Hsieh said Taiwan's trafficking prevention efforts have been enhanced after the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act was passed, which laid out stiff penalties for traffickers, as well as protection and compensation for victims.

In the age of increased global mobility, said Hsieh, it is the common responsibility of government, enterprises and employers to ensure that basic human rights of foreign nationals in Taiwan - whether they are working, studying, or building a family here - are fully and effectively protected.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 0950gmt 12 May 11

LOAD-DATE: May 12, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

448 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

Central News Agency - Taiwan

May 12, 2011 Thursday 5:46 PM TST

U.S. recognizes Taiwan's anti-human trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Chen Hung-chin, Johnson Sun and Deborah Kuo

LENGTH: 399 words

DATELINE: Taipei, May 12

Taiwan has been one of the few countries in the world that deserves high recognition for its efforts to eliminate cross-border human trafficking, two U.S. experts said in Taipei Thursday.

The two researchers, who are commissioned by the U.S. Department of State, paid a visit to the National Immigration Agency (NIA), where they noted that Taiwan is listed as one of the top three countries that has combated human trafficking most effectively.

The other two countries are Columbia and Italy, according to Meredith Dank and Colleen Owens from the Urban Institute in the U.S., who spoke during a meeting with NIA Director-General Hsieh Li-kung.

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LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

449 of 492 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

May 11, 2011 Wednesday 10:18 AM GMT

Philippines jails two Swedes for life over cybersex

LENGTH: 612 words

DATELINE: MANILA, May 11 2011

Two Swedish men were jailed for life in the Philippines for human trafficking after they were found running a cybersex den in which nude women performed for Internet clients, authorities said Wednesday.

Bo Stefan Sederholm, 31, and Emil Andreas Solemo, 35, were given the unprecedented convictions on Tuesday in what the judge presiding over the case and the government said should deliver a warning to all human traffickers.

"Disrespect for Filipino women and violations of our laws deserve the strongest condemnations from this court," judge Jeffre Acebido said in his ruling, according to the clerk of the court, Nelison Salcedo.

"It will not shirk from its duty to impose the most severe of penalties against anybody, be he a foreign national or a citizen of this country, who tramples upon the dignity of a woman by taking advantage of her vulnerability."

Salcedo told AFP the two Swedes were arrested when police raided a commercial building in the tiny southern Philippine town of Kauswagan in April 2009 and found 17 naked Filipinas before computer screens.

The women were given 15,000 pesos (\$350) a month to act at the bidding of online clients who paid by credit card.

"Once the client has paid for a private show, anything goes," said Salcedo, adding the women used sex toys.

Cybersex dens have become a growing problem in the impoverished Philippines, according to law enforcers and social workers. Police have raided dozens in recent years and made many arrests.

But Salcedo said the ruling was a Philippine landmark because it was the first time a court had convicted anyone for their involvement in cybersex operations.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima hailed the ruling and said it was part of a broader campaign against human traffickers that was launched last year after the US government placed the Philippines on a watchlist.

"The conviction sends a strong warning to other violators," de Lima told AFP. "This is part of our intensified, gung-ho efforts versus **human trafficking** as we continue to aspire for delisting from (US) **Tier 2 watchlist**."

The US government says being on its **Tier 2 watchlist** means a country is not fully complying with minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**, and a further deterioration could attract sanctions.

Remmy Rikken, head of the Philippine Commission on Women that advises President Benigno Aquino on women's affairs, said Tuesday's verdict owed much to de Lima's anti-human trafficking crusade.

Rikken said de Lima last year assigned human trafficking cases to a special task force of prosecutors, doing away with the previous practice of letting provincial prosecutors handle cases.

"Before that there would be a lot of arrests but there were no convictions at all," Rikken told AFP.

The task force tracks all types of human trafficking, including women and children being forced into prostitution or as subjects for pornography.

Rikken said that, before Tuesday's verdicts, 42 people had been convicted on human trafficking charges over the past two months but that none of them were for cybersex-related activities.

Three Filipinos who were arrested in the raid alongside the Swedes were given 20-year prison terms, according to Salcedo, the court clerk.

The Swedes attracted longer jail sentences because they had set up the operation and the three Filipinos worked for them, Salcedo said.

The five convicts have 15 days to appeal the court ruling, she said.

Par Kageby, senior consular officer for the Swedish embassy in Bangkok that oversees Sweden's consulate in Manila, confirmed the court ruling against the men.

"We learned that they have been convicted and sentenced to life in prison," Kageby said.

jvg-cgm/kma/pst

LOAD-DATE: May 12, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

450 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

May 6, 2011 Friday 4:56 AM EST

Palace Lauds Creation of Zamboanga Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 661 words

DATELINE: MANILA, Philippines

The office of the President of the Philippines issued the following news release:

Office of the President Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr. News Release May 6, 2011 Palace lauds creation of Zamboanga anti-human trafficking task force.

Malacanang lauded the creation of an inter-agency task force to monitor and combat human trafficking crimes in the Zamboanga peninsula and expressed hope that such a mechanism can be replicated in other regions in the country.

Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr. said on Friday the establishment of the Zamboanga Sea-Based Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ZSBATTF) provides a major boost in the government's fight against the illegal trade of human beings and will help efforts to remove the Philippines from the United States **watch list on human trafficking**.

"The creation of inter-agency task force and establishment of anti-human trafficking units had been proven to be successful in reducing human trafficking in other countries.

We hope that it will do the same thing for us and the setting up of ZSBATTF is a good start," the Executive Secretary said.?? Ochoa issued the statement after receiving the report of Retired Police Director Felizardo M. Serapio, executive director of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC), informing the Office of the President that member-agencies of the ZSBATTF have formalized their partnership in the drive against human trafficking with the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) last March 21.

The signing of the agreement was held at the Philippine Ports Authority-Visayan Forum Halfway House, Port Area, Zamboanga City, with United States Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas as keynote speaker.

In the report, Serapio said the presence of Thomas "demonstrates the commitment of the US Government in the fight against trafficking in persons." "We have to show our commitment in getting rid of human trafficking, practically and sustainably. Human trafficking is a menace that deprives people of their rights and fundamental freedoms," the Executive Secretary said.

Last year, the US placed the Philippines in the Tier 2 watch list, precariously close to falling to the Tier 3 category which lumps countries that fail to meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the US.

The Philippines has been classified a Tier 2 watch list country since 2007, the second straight year the country has been in this category. The primary duty of ZSBATTF is to conduct intelligence, surveillance and monitoring activities of trafficking operations within the Zamboanga International Port and Zamboanga International Airport. It is tasked to undertake a unified, coordinated and synchronized interception, arrest and investigation of suspected traffickers in persons as well as rescue of trafficking victims at the two ports.

In its first major rescue operation following its creation, the ZSBATTF had prevented 82 women, believed to be victims of human trafficking, from boarding a Malaysia-bound chartered aircraft at the airport in Zamboanga, considered a transit point in the south.

ZSBATTF is composed of representatives from the PCTC, Department of Justice, Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Office of the Zamboanga

City Social Welfare and Development, Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Worker Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, Department of Labor and Employment, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Philippine Navy, National Bureau of Investigation, PNP-Women and Children Protection Desk, Criminal Investigation Detection Group, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, PNP Aviation Security Group, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Quarantine, and the non-government organization Visayan Forum Foundation Inc.

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451 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

April 28, 2011 Thursday

Taiwan donates money to help human trafficking victims in Cambodia

LENGTH: 312 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

Taipei, 28 April: The Republic of China government has donated 100,000 dollars recently to help three charity organizations establish teenaged girls shelters in Cambodia, a Taiwan diplomat said today. The donation, made on 27 April, was given to the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades (CCHC), the Fullness in Christ Fellowship (FiCF), and the Garden of Hope Foundation to help Cambodia eliminate human trafficking and protect affected teenaged girls.

Andrew Kao, head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, said at the donation ceremony that the ROC [Republic of China] government has spared no effort to uphold women's rights, protect human rights, and crack down on human trafficking.

Taiwan was listed as a "**tier 1**" country in the US State Department's latest **Trafficking in Persons** report released in June 2010, which means Taiwan fully complies with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, Kao said.

In Asia, only Taiwan and South Korea were listed among the "tier 1" countries in 2010.

He said Taiwan maintains no formal diplomatic relations with Cambodia, but is willing to help it fight against human trafficking - a problem that has constantly plagued the Southeast Asian nation.

Both Yeh Chi-ming, the CCHC founder, and Lily Chang, a New York-based executive of the Garden of Hope Foundation, offered their appreciation to the ROC government for its generosity.

Lily Lee, president of the Garden of Hope, Cambodia, said she plans to use the donation to establish a teenager girls home in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. The home, to be called the Pleroma Home for Girls, will be followed by the building of other women's homes and girls schools to help victims of human trafficking.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 0930 gmt 28 Apr 11

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

452 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Central News Agency - Taiwan

April 28, 2011 Thursday 5:21 PM TST

ROC donates money to build girls shelters in Cambodia

BYLINE: Deborah Kuo

LENGTH: 283 words

DATELINE: Taipei, April 28

The Republic of China government has donated US\$100,000 recently to help three charity organizations establish teen-aged girls shelters in Cambodia, a Taiwan diplomat said Thursday.

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LOAD-DATE: April 28, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

ELIZ HERE 453 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

April 11, 2011 Monday

Trinidad outlines tougher penalties for child traffickers

LENGTH: 543 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

PORTOF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The Trinidad and Tobago government has tabled new legislation imposing harsher penalties for persons found guilty of child trafficking. National Security Minister Brigadier John Sandy piloting the Trafficking of Persons Bill on Friday said that the near one-year-old People's Partnership coalition would not turn a blind eye to those involved in trafficking of persons. "Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where persons are lured for purposes including, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery and even the removal of organs (such as kidneys and eyes)," he said, adding that Trinidad and Tobago had been placed on a United States **watch list** of countries viewed as a transit and destination point for **human trafficking**. He said the country was also viewed as one which did not fully comply with anti-human trafficking laws. Eleven cases of human trafficking were noted in 2009. The proposed legislation notes that persons found guilty of trafficking a child will face a "minimum" fine of one million dollars (US\$166,600) and imprisonment for 20 years. It notes that trafficking an adult would attract a TT\$500,000 (US\$83,300) minimum fine and imprisonment for 15 years.

These penalties will also apply to those who incite, organize or direct another person to traffic. Sandy said that business corporations involved in trafficking would also face a penalty of five million dollars (US\$833,330) with employees also liable to face separate charges. In addition, the court would also be empowered to impose additional penalties such as forfeiture of assets and properties, revocation of licences, winding up and prohibition against performing any further activities, he added. Where a person who is convicted of trafficking in children had sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 12 years, the court can impose a term of imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life, Sandy said. The National Security Minister said that persons who knowingly receive benefits from trafficking in persons would be fined TT\$400,000 (US\$66,660) and 15 years imprisonment and for trafficking in children, TT\$500,000 and 20 years imprisonment. Those who take away the victim's travel and identification documents will be fined TT\$350,000 (US\$58,333) and imprisonment for 12 years. Sandy said under the bill the court could also order compensation to be paid to the victim by the person convicted or out of the proceeds of any property forfeited. Sandy said victims of trafficking were forced to work as prostitutes, strippers, drug mules, smugglers, child soldiers, many are used for pornography. "For example, many prey on vulnerabilities by creating ruses that involve promises of marriage, employment, educational opportunities or a better life," Sandy noted. "We know of instances where women are brought from the South American mainland to Trinidad and Tobago. They are offered jobs and when they get on board the vessel, their passports are taken away from them and they never see them again. And they are put into other areas of employment not dignified for their own qualifications," Sandy told legislators.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1420 gmt 9 Apr 11

LOAD-DATE: April 11, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

454 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US



Agence France Presse -- English

April 8, 2011 Friday 4:10 AM GMT

Senator criticizes US anti-trafficking approach

LENGTH: 656 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, April 7 2011

A US senator urged reform Thursday of an annual human trafficking report, saying Washington has alienated key allies in Asia through its spirited criticism of their efforts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Chris Smith, who authored the 2000 law that established the annual report, also rejected Webb's criticism. He said past low rankings for South Korea and Israel had pushed the US allies to crack down on sex trafficking.

"Friend or foe, if their record is complicit with slavery, enabling of slavery, or not taking significant action to combat slavery, they need to be on Tier III," the lowest level, Smith told AFP.

"To the victim, they don't care if you're left-wing, right-wing, communist or a free democracy, if you're being trafficked, you're being exploited," the New Jersey Republican added.

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

CdeBaca strongly praised Taiwan, saying it increasingly offered support to victims of human trafficking while taking aim at their victimizers.

The State Department put a number of Asian countries on the watch list last year -- Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Worldwide, 12.3 million people were victims of trafficking.

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

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

The State Department releases Friday a separate annual report on human rights, often a cause of friction with nations such as China whose records come under criticism.

Both Webb and Smith questioned why China was not at **Tier III** on **human trafficking** in light of accounts of rampant sex trafficking of North Korean women fleeing the neighboring country.

LOAD-DATE: April 9, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

455 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Agence France Presse -- English

April 8, 2011 Friday 2:52 AM GMT

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LENGTH: 663 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, April 7 2011

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LOAD-DATE: April 8, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

456 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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Congressional Documents and Publications

April 7, 2011

**Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs Hearing;
"Combating Human Trafficking in Asia.;"
Testimony by Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and
Combat Trafficking In Persons, Department of State**

SECTION: U.S. SENATE DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 2299 words

I'd like to thank Chairman Webb, the Ranking Minority Member, and the members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I welcome the opportunity to work with lawmakers and to engage in frank discussions about what is working well in our fight against modern slavery, as well as those areas where we can strengthen and improve our efforts.

One of the most important tools at our disposal is the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Last year, the 10th installment of the report was issued comprising narratives about the state of human trafficking in 177 countries, including for the first time the United States.

In the decade since the first TIP Report, the number of countries included has more than doubled. A more important statistic, however, is that since the first TIP Report in 2001, the number of countries placed on Tier 1--those countries complying with the TVPA standards for combating trafficking--has grown from 12 to 30. At the same time, the number of countries on Tier 3 has decreased from 23 to 12. Since the release of the first TIP Report, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, the number of victims identified and traffickers prosecuted has increased significantly, and recalcitrant governments have taken the first steps toward curbing this heinous crime.

Of course, when we view these successes next to the enormity of the problem of modern slavery, it is clear how much work remains and that more than a decade after the passage of the TVPA, we have only begun to address the issue of modern slavery. And we cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

The International Labor Organization tells us that the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is higher in Asia than anywhere else in the world, where nearly three in every 1,000 inhabitants have fallen victim. The International Organization for Migration and the World Bank have shown that the majority of the more than 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies recently published a report which surveyed mid-level government officials, law enforcement and military officers from the region. More than 97 percent of those surveyed viewed human trafficking as a fairly important or very important concern in Southeast Asia, compared to 73.5 percent who said the same about South Asia, 54.1 percent in Northeast Asia, and 85 percent in Oceania. This statistic not only reflects the significant scope of the problem, but also the increased awareness among government and law enforcement.

Furthermore, the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) member nations have not formulated regional strategies to combat modern slavery as the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States have done.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account by imposing sentences commensurate with the se-

verity of the crimes. Some countries focus solely on sex trafficking, but their efforts are misdirected by treating the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals rather than recognizing them as victims. Forced labor cases are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if they are addressed at all.

The unfortunate result of these ongoing problems was that the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 TIP Report was greater than the number upgraded. The specific findings in last year's TIP Report with regard to Asian countries paint an even more startling picture.

In recent years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents purposefully to restrict their employees' movement, even though without them, migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address. However, the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers - many of whom are trafficked - in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six traffickers convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry - all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done.

Farther east, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's an average of only \$111 per firm and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad. During these last months before the release of the new TIP Report, we are working with our colleagues in the country teams of U.S. missions abroad to encourage significant efforts and commitments that can be reflected in the new Report.

Indeed, a lack of avenues for redress of complaints by Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepalese men and women in many East Asian destination countries denies them justice and a chance of effective recovery. It also fails in providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

In South Korea, the government has had some success prosecuting sex traffickers and offering services to the victims. There is a known presence of women and girls in sexual servitude, including foreign women recruited to work on entertainment visas as singers and bars near U.S. military facilities. We know that women such as these often incur thousands of dollars in debts, contributing to their vulnerability to debt bondage upon arrival. The issue of child sex tourism - one that the U.S. government attempts to tackle head-on through extraterritorial application of relevant laws - is also one shared by South Korea and Japan, and the 2010 TIP Report sets forth how men from those countries fuel the demand for sex trafficking in Cambodia and other poorer countries. But unlike the United States, South Korea has never prosecuted one of its citizens for child sex tourism, and Japan's last prosecution was in 2005.

The reality is that enforcement regimes in the Pacific region are woefully inadequate. Resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of political will have created an enabling environment in which sex slavery and forced labor thrives, and exploiters rarely face meaningful penalties.

Yet clear successes are being registered, and those successes help illustrate the importance of the TIP Report as a tool for motivating government action on modern slavery.

In the past year, the Philippine Government has taken important steps to address the trafficking of its citizens within the country and abroad; the government has publicly linked these efforts to the threat of a downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2011 TIP Report. The hundreds of backlogged trafficking cases in the court system are beginning to be fast-tracked, corrupt officials are being identified and punished, the government has increased resources available to combat trafficking, and most importantly, mechanisms to improve the government's anti-trafficking responses are being institutionalized.

In Indonesia, a **Tier 3** ranking last decade led to the establishment of a **human trafficking** task force and in 2007 the passage of anti-TIP legislation. In 2009 Indonesia prosecuted the largest number of labor trafficking offenders (79) of any East Asian government.

Malaysia's Home Minister credited the TIP Report as a factor leading to the passage of that country's 2007 anti-TIP legislation. In 2009, Malaysia was given a Tier 3 ranking based in part on a report issued by this Committee implicating Malaysian government officials in a trafficking scheme. Since that ranking, the government has increased the number of investigations and prosecutions, cracked down on trafficking-related corruption in the government, conducted a public information campaign about trafficking, and enhanced collaboration efforts with the NGO community.

While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan - thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status. Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and that's making them stand out.

In a region of the world where the challenge of modern slavery is so great, change is going to be slow and difficult. But we cannot allow slow progress to be used as an excuse to roll back what we know is working. Specifically, it is critical that the TIP Report remain a central tool in our government's anti-trafficking efforts.

The honest and thorough country narratives in the TIP Report take into account the findings of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and the wide range of civil society actors who are part of the fight against modern slavery. As mentioned before, a major roadblock to effective anti-trafficking efforts in some Asia countries is the denial by governments of trafficking problems. If we hope to motivate governments to take appropriate action to curtail modern slavery, accurate reporting must be the first step. This commitment often means telling friends truths that they may not want to hear. But as Secretary Clinton has said:

"Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [...] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends - countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, 'Well, what can we do?' And we said, 'Well, we've pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you.'"

Additionally, the cases of governments citing the TIP Report itself as a specific factor in motivating anti-trafficking actions are too many to be ignored. As long as governments are moved to address the problem either in reaction to a bad ranking or concern about a potential downgrade, the value of the TIP Report in those cases is evident. Our office is mandated to monitor and combat trafficking in persons; the most effective tool we have in carrying out those two charges is the TIP Report.

Diplomatic engagement with governments in the Pacific and East, South and Central Asian regions has increased over the last two years. We regularly seek input for and responses to the TIP Report, and feed an ongoing dialogue on prospective improvements, centered on recommendations found in the TIP Report.

We have particularly ramped up engagement with governments facing a potential statutory downgrade to Tier 3, three of which are in EAP (China, Micronesia, and Philippines) and three of which are in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka). We have ensured that governments were made aware of this amendment to the TVPA and its implementation in the 2011 TIP Report starting in 2009. I have since personally discussed this issue with senior officials in four of these six countries.

During these last months before the release of the new TIP Report, we are working with our colleagues in the regional bureaus and at embassies abroad to encourage significant efforts and commitments that can be reflected in the new Report. The separate TVPA sanctions decisions-- to be issued by the President not later than 90 days after the Report's release--will likely ensure that other important US government equities are not adversely affected by restrictions on bilateral assistance or MDB lending.

Our office is mandated to monitor and combat trafficking in persons; the most effective tool we have in carrying out those two charges is the TIP Report.

Again, I thank the subcommittee for the invitation to testify today, and I'm happy to answer questions.

LOAD-DATE: April 8, 2011

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSSC

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457 of 492 DOCUMENTS - regional



Global Insight

April 7, 2011

Nine Latin American Countries Appear on US Human Trafficking Interim Assessment

BYLINE: Robert Munks

SECTION: In Brief

LENGTH: 286 words

On Tuesday (5 April), the United States' Department of State submitted to Congress an interim assessment on the progress made in combating **trafficking in persons** (TIP) for those countries on its Special **Watch List**. The TIP assessment covers the six months following the June 2010 full annual report, and includes 61 countries globally on the list. Within the Western Hemisphere, nine countries were included in the interim assessment (Barbados, Belize, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela). All of these, except St Vincent and the Grenadines, were classified as having made some, limited, or modest progress since the June 2010 assessment in areas such as enacting legislation, arresting and prosecuting traffickers, raising public awareness or providing shelters for trafficked persons. St Vincent and the Grenadines was described as having made "negligible progress".

Significance: Human trafficking remains a serious problem within the hemisphere, often existing sub-regionally between neighbouring countries with pronounced wealth disparities (such as Nicaragua into Costa Rica or Bolivia into Argentina) or out of Latin America and the Caribbean towards developed countries (most notably the US and European countries such as Spain). Notably, however, the seriousness of the problem is being belatedly addressed by most governments, as noted by the progress recorded everywhere except St Vincent and the Grenadines. With human trafficking often more profitable to organised crime groups than drug trafficking, the problem will nevertheless persist in the region until fundamental issues of social exclusion and income inequality are better addressed.

LOAD-DATE: April 30, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

458 of 492 DOCUMENTS
US CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

States News Service

April 7, 2011 Thursday**COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ASIA****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 2338 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Testimony

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Statement Before the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Id like to thank Chairman Webb, the Ranking Minority Member, and the members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I welcome the opportunity to work with lawmakers and to engage in frank discussions about what is working well in our fight against modern slavery, as well as those areas where we can strengthen and improve our efforts.

One of the most important tools at our disposal is the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Last year, the 10th installment of the report was issued comprising narratives about the state of human trafficking in 177 countries, including for the first time the United States.

In the decade since the first TIP Report, the number of countries included has more than doubled. A more important statistic, however, is that since the first TIP Report in 2001, the number of countries placed on Tier 1 those countries complying with the TVPA standards for combating trafficking has grown from 12 to 30. At the same time, the number of countries on Tier 3 has decreased from 23 to 12. Since the release of the first TIP Report, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, the number of victims identified and traffickers prosecuted has increased significantly, and recalcitrant governments have taken the first steps toward curbing this heinous crime.

Of course, when we view these successes next to the enormity of the problem of modern slavery, it is clear how much work remains and that more than a decade after the passage of the TVPA, we have only begun to address the issue of modern slavery. And we cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

The International Labor Organization tells us that the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is higher in Asia than anywhere else in the world, where nearly three in every 1,000 inhabitants have fallen victim. The International Organization for Migration and the World Bank have shown that the majority of the more than 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies recently published a report which surveyed midlevel government officials, law enforcement and military officers from the region. More than 97 percent of those surveyed viewed human trafficking as a fairly important or very important concern in Southeast Asia, compared to 73.5 percent who said the same about South Asia, 54.1 percent in Northeast Asia, and 85 percent in Oceania. This statistic not only reflects the significant scope of the problem, but also the increased awareness among government and law enforcement.

Furthermore, the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) member nations have not formulated regional strategies to combat modern slavery as the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States have done.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account by imposing sentences commensurate with the severity of the crimes. Some countries focus solely on sex trafficking, but their efforts are misdirected by treating the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals rather than recognizing them as victims. Forced labor cases are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if they are addressed at all.

The unfortunate result of these ongoing problems was that the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 TIP Report was greater than the number upgraded. The specific findings in last years TIP Report with regard to Asian countries paint an even more startling picture.

In recent years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents purposefully to restrict their employees' movement, even though without them, migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address. However, the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers many of whom are trafficked in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six traffickers convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done.

Farther east, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's an average of only \$111 per firm and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad. During these last months before the release of the new TIP Report, we are working with our colleagues in the country teams of U.S. missions abroad to encourage significant efforts and commitments that can be reflected in the new Report.

Indeed, a lack of avenues for redress of complaints by Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepalese men and women in many East Asian destination countries denies them justice and a chance of effective recovery. It also fails in providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

In South Korea, the government has had some success prosecuting sex traffickers and offering services to the victims. There is a known presence of women and girls in sexual servitude, including foreign women recruited to work on entertainment visas as singers and bars near U.S. military facilities. We know that women such as these often incur thousands of dollars in debts, contributing to their vulnerability to debt bondage upon arrival. The issue of child sex tourism one that the U.S. government attempts to tackle head-on through extraterritorial application of relevant laws is also one shared by South Korea and Japan, and the 2010 TIP Report sets forth how men from those countries fuel the demand for sex trafficking in Cambodia and other poorer countries. But unlike the United States, South Korea has never prosecuted one of its citizens for child sex tourism, and Japan's last prosecution was in 2005.

The reality is that enforcement regimes in the Pacific region are woefully inadequate. Resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of political will have created an enabling environment in which sex slavery and forced labor thrives, and exploiters rarely face meaningful penalties.

Yet clear successes are being registered, and those successes help illustrate the importance of the TIP Report as a tool for motivating government action on modern slavery.

In the past year, the Philippine Government has taken important steps to address the trafficking of its citizens within the country and abroad; the government has publicly linked these efforts to the threat of a downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2011

TIP Report. The hundreds of backlogged trafficking cases in the court system are beginning to be fast-tracked, corrupt officials are being identified and punished, the government has increased resources available to combat trafficking, and most importantly, mechanisms to improve the governments anti-trafficking responses are being institutionalized.

In Indonesia, a **Tier 3** ranking last decade led to the establishment of a **human trafficking** task force and in 2007 the passage of anti-TIP legislation. In 2009 Indonesia prosecuted the largest number of labor trafficking offenders (79) of any East Asian government.

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While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status. Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and thats making them stand out.

In a region of the world where the challenge of modern slavery is so great, change is going to be slow and difficult. But we cannot allow slow progress to be used as an excuse to roll back what we know is working. Specifically, it is critical that the TIP Report remain a central tool in our governments anti-trafficking efforts.

The honest and thorough country narratives in the TIP Report take into account the findings of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and the wide range of civil society actors who are part of the fight against modern slavery. As mentioned before, a major roadblock to effective anti-trafficking efforts in some Asia countries is the denial by governments of trafficking problems. If we hope to motivate governments to take appropriate action to curtail modern slavery, accurate reporting must be the first step. This commitment often means telling friends truths that they may not want to hear. But as Secretary Clinton has said:

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, Well, what can we do? And we said, Well, weve pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you.

Additionally, the cases of governments citing the TIP Report itself as a specific factor in motivating anti-trafficking actions are too many to be ignored. As long as governments are moved to address the problem either in reaction to a bad ranking or concern about a potential downgrade, the value of the TIP Report in those cases is evident. Our office is mandated to monitor and combat trafficking in persons; the most effective tool we have in carrying out those two charges is the TIP Report.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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459 of 492 DOCUMENTS – Philippines (840)

BusinessWorld

March 23, 2011 Wednesday

Gov't agencies sign manual against human trafficking

BYLINE: Darwin T. Wee**SECTION:** Pg. S1/10**LENGTH:** 230 words

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Twenty-one government agencies led by the Department of Justice have signed an operations manual covering a sea-based task force to combat human trafficking in the region.

"The task force was convened [in 2008] with the objective of ensuring a well-organized and well-coordinated conduct of surveillance and intelligence-gathering and arrest of traffickers as well as rescue of trafficking victims," she said.

The task force is divided into four divisions that cover intelligence, surveillance and monitoring; operations and investigation; custodial; and legal task groups.

There are currently more than 20 cases pending at the regional trial court for human trafficking.

The US State Department earlier placed the Philippines under **Tier 2** after it failed to comply with the minimum standards on elimination of **human trafficking**.

A Tier 3 ranking will mean financial sanctions for the blacklisted country.

Mindanao reportedly has the highest cases of human trafficking in the three island groups accounting for more than 50% of the total cases, said Visayan Forum Foundation, a civil society group.

Majority of the victims in documented cases were minors and more than 50% were women or children.

Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum Foundation attributed the large number of victims on the island to poverty and the unstable peace and order situation.

LOAD-DATE: March 22, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

460 of 492 DOCUMENTS - China

States News Service

March 22, 2011 Tuesday

IOM AND MACAO SOCIAL WELFARE BUREAU SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROTECT RETURNING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 317 words**DATELINE:** MACAO SAR, China

The following information was released by International Organization for Migration (IOM):

IOM and the Macao SAR China have signed an agreement to ensure that victims of trafficking can safely return home and be reintegrated into their home communities.

In a project funded by the government of Macao, IOM will verify whether a victim of trafficking wants to return to their home country in addition to assessing security concerns both in Macao and in the victim's home community. Where applicable, IOM will organize a safe return home with IOM staff providing reception assistance upon arrival.

The Organization will also develop a reintegration plan with specific measures outlined to promote a victim's successful rehabilitation.

Macao, which is home to a thriving casino and gaming industry, is one of Asia's leading tourist destinations and according to the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/Tip), has been a destination for trafficked women from mainland China, Mongolia, Russia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma and Central Asia for commercial sex work.

The Office's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report classifies Macao as "**Tier 2**", indicating that the government is making significant efforts to stamp out **human trafficking**, but has not yet achieved "**Tier 1**" status and eliminated the problem.

In 2007, Macao established a "Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee" and in 2008 adopted legislation to combat human trafficking. This criminalized traffickers and provided a legal basis for law enforcement officers to deal with the issue.

In 2009, China signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, signaling its commitment to step up efforts to stamp out human trafficking and improve victim protection nationwide.

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461 of 492 DOCUMENTS
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LOAD-DATE: March 24, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

462 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

The Washington Times

March 16, 2011 Wednesday

Embassy Row

BYLINE: By James Morrison THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** A, WORLD; Pg. 9**LENGTH:** 557 words

INDONESIA ANGRY

Secret U.S. Embassy cables that implicated the president of Indonesia in widespread corruption sparked angry demonstrations this week in the capital, Jakarta, and reports of a billion-dollar lawsuit against the embassy.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono denounced the diplomatic cables as "character assassination" and denied any involvement in the schemes the embassy outlined in reports to Washington.

"Believe me, I am accountable for what I do," he said Monday night. "I, God willing, will continue to maintain the integrity because that is my duty as leader of this country."

U.S. Ambassador Scot Marciel expressed regret that the cables were leaked but declined to comment on the contents.

The cables, released to the Age and The Sydney Morning Herald newspapers in Australia by the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, claimed Mr. Yudhoyono protected corrupt cronies from prosecution and used the Indonesian intelligence service to spy on political opponents.

The diplomatic reports also said the president's wife, Kristiani Herawati, and her relatives enriched themselves through their political connections.

A December 2004 cable described how Mr. Yudhoyono intervened to stop an investigation of Taufik Kiemas, the husband of former president Megawati Sukarnoputri. The cable referred to the "legendary corruption of his wife's tenure."

It revealed that a senior adviser to Mr. Yudhoyono served as a political informant for the embassy and told U.S. diplomats that prosecutors had "sufficient evidence ... to warrant Taufik's arrest."

A December 2006 cable said Mr. Yudhoyono's wife "is increasingly seeking to profit personally by acting as a broker or facilitator for business ventures."

In Indonesia, the Jakarta Globe reported the Federation of National United Workers filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against the Australian newspapers, although the newspaper was not clear about the grounds for the suit.

The Herald-Sun in Australia reported that the group also named the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta as a defendant.

About a dozen angry protesters picketed the embassy on Tuesday.

"The U.S. government must apologize over the leaked diplomatic cables, which have ... hurt the feelings of the Indonesian people," said organizer Ahmad Suhaimi.

WARNING THE PHILIPPINES

The U.S. ambassador in Manila is urging the Philippines to increase prosecutions in **human-trafficking** cases to prevent losing U.S. aid and falling further on a **blacklist** of nations that condone illegal child labor and sexual slavery.

"Clearly, the most important thing is how many convictions you have. So we'll see," Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. told reporters at a human-trafficking seminar Tuesday.

The State Department this year put the Philippines in a category called **Tier 2**, essentially a **watch list** of nations suspected of lax enforcement of **human-trafficking** laws.

Mr. Thomas said the Philippines risks falling to the **Tier 3**-level of nations cut off from U.S. aid because they have failed to uphold international standards against **human trafficking**.

"If Category 3 happens ... that will be the end of humanitarian assistance," he said.

The State Department cited the Philippines as a "source country" for smugglers who sell men, women and children into forced labor or prostitution in other nations.

* Call Embassy Row at 202/636-3297 or e-mail jmorrison@washingtontimes.com

LOAD-DATE: March 15, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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463 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

BusinessWorld

March 10, 2011 Thursday**David is new Bureau of Immigration chief****BYLINE:** Ana Mae G. Roa**SECTION:** Pg. S1/12**LENGTH:** 246 words

RICARDO A. David, Jr., recently retired Armed Forces chief, has been named by Malacanang as the new Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, with a term that ends in mid-2016 or coterminus with that of the administration.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in a briefing at Malacanang yesterday that Mr. David, who replaces officer-in-charge Ronaldo P. Ledesma, will start serving on Monday.

"[Mr. David] has accepted his appointment as the new Commissioner of Immigration. This comes after the President signified his intentions to retain Mr. David in the public service after his retirement as chief-of- staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Mr. Lacierda said.

"Mr. David's integrity and professionalism will be instrumental in the efforts of the Immigration authorities to cleanse its ranks and purge its services of past abuses and misuse of authority," he added.

Part of Mr. David's responsibility is to look into the alleged involvement of immigration officials in human trafficking, Mr. Lacierda said.

The Philippines is in the **watch list** of countries with high incidents of **human trafficking**, a situation when, if not addressed soon, will have an impact on development aid coming from Washington.

Mr. David was replaced by Lt. Gen. Eduardo SL. Oban, Jr. last March 8.

Mr. Ledesma, meanwhile, will likely revert to his previous post as chief of the Board of Special Inquiry which is directly supervised by the Office of the Commissioner, Mr. Lacierda said.

LOAD-DATE: March 9, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

464 of 492 DOCUMENTS
DUPLICATE

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465 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH HOLDS A HEARING ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

March 8, 2011 Tuesday

EVENT DATE: **March 8, 2011**

TYPE: COMMITTEE HEARING

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEAKER: REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, CHAIRMAN

WITNESSES:

REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, R-N.J. CHAIRMAN REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY, R-NEB. REP. TIM GRIFFIN, R-ARK. REP. TOM MARINO, R-PA. REP. ANN MARIE BUERKLE, R-N.Y. REP. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, R-FLA. EX OFFICIO

REP. DONALD M. PAYNE, D-N.J. RANKING MEMBER REP. KAREN BASS, D-CALIF. REP. RUSS CARNAHAN, D-MO. REP. HOWARD L. BERMAN, D-CALIF. EX OFFICIO

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DONALD YAMAMOTO, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RAJAKUMARI JANDHYALA, ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA, USAID

REP. DONALD M. PAYNE, D-N.J. RANKING MEMBER REP. KAREN BASS, D-CALIF. REP. RUSS CARNAHAN, D-MO. REP. HOWARD L. BERMAN, D-CALIF. EX OFFICIO

WITNESSES: BEN AFFLECK ACTOR, WRITER, DIRECTOR AND ADVOCATE

FRANCISCA VIGAUD-WALSH, SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ADVISER, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

JOHN PENDERGAST, CO-FOUNDER, THE ENOUGH PROJECT

CINDY MCCAIN, FOUNDING MEMBER, EASTERN CONGO INITIATIVE

TEXT:

SMITH: The subcommittee will come to order.

And good afternoon, everyone. I want to thank you all for joining us on this very important hearing on the Democratic Republic of Congo at this critical juncture in its history.

As one might conclude from the significant media interest evident in the room, we do have a special guest witness joining us today to spotlight attention on the Democratic Republic of Congo. I'm grateful to Ben Affleck for agreeing to be here to share his perspectives and that of the Eastern Congo Initiative that he founded. He is to be highly commended for contributing his time, finances and fame to bring the world's attention to the needs of the people who have suffered far too long and in a great deal of security.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Cindy McCain, who is also with us today. Ms. McCain is a founding member of and investor in the Eastern Congo Initiative and shares Mr. Affleck's dedication to ending the suffering in this region.

She also has dedicated her time and energy to a number of other very worthwhile projects. For example, she serves on the boards of directors of several nonprofit philanthropies, including Operation Smile, which provides reconstructive surgery to children with facial deformities, and the landmine removal group, the Halo Trust.

Mr. Affleck and his organization are making a major contribution focusing political will on resolving the crisis in the DRC and bringing constructive recommendations to the table. But just as importantly, he is setting an example for all of us as to the need to correct whatever resources and influence we may have to help those who are less fortunate and without a voice to help themselves. And his presence, perspective and example -- for that this subcommittee is most appreciative.

I'm also grateful for our distinguished witnesses who are here as well. We look forward to examine aiding the administration's current strategy for and involvement in the DRC with principal deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of African affairs, Mr. -- or Admiral -- or Ambassador Donald Yamamoto, and USAID's deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Africa, Raju Jandhyala.

We will hear about the Catholic Relief Services' experience in the DRC as well, particularly in addressing the important and widespread practice of sexual violence as a weapon of war from their sexual and gender-based violence adviser, Francisca Vigaud-Walsh.

And finally, the subcommittee again welcomes John Pendergast of the Enough Project, to learn from his extraordinary expertise in the region, particularly on the issues of conflict minerals.

Mr. Pendergast reminds us boldly in his testimony that the conflict minerals provision, section 1501, requires the administration to develop a strategy for addressing linkages between the trade in conflict minerals, armed groups and human rights abusers in Eastern Congo by January 17th. This strategy has not yet been submitted; however, I hope it's coming soon. And that will be an obvious question for Ambassador Yamamoto.

An individual from the DRC was invited to testify at this hearing, but unfortunately, arrangements could not be made in time. I can assure you the DRC will be an ongoing focus of our subcommittee, and I'm certain that we will hear from DRC citizens and indigenous activists at a future hearing.

My friends, I have had the privilege of traveling to the DRC back in 2008, and I still have vivid memories of both the suffering and the courage of the Congolese people. A highlight of my visit was meeting Dr. Joe and Lynn Lusi, founders of HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma.

SMITH: I met with several women who had been subjected to severe sexual violence, including rape, and spoke to many women who were in the process of healing and recovery. The courage, the resilience and resolve of these victims to overcome all that had affected them was truly astonishing. And the meticulous care and compassion of the hospital staff was absolutely remarkable.

I am pleased to note that USAID has supported fistula prevention and treatment in the DRC since 2005, including 1,000 repairs at the Heal Africa and Panzi Hospitals (ph) in fiscal year 2010.

2005, I would note, I sponsored legislation that included authorization of assistance to establish centers for the treatment of obstetric fistula in developing countries.

This legislation passed the House but did not get through the Senate for unrelated reasons.

However, Mr. Ken Hill (ph), then USAID assistant administrator for global health agreed to significantly bolster USAID's funding for fistula programming.

The women in the DRC, together with thousands of other women around the world, have benefited as a result.

As the prime sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, I am especially interested -- and I hope the administration witnesses will address this -- about the DRC's **tier 3** ranking as an egregious violator when it comes to **human trafficking**.

Has it improved since the Trafficking in Persons report was submitted and what has and can be done to reintegrate former child soldiers?

The Democratic Republic of Congo has an abundance, as we all know, of valuable natural resources, water, arable land and people, making the DRC a potential leader in terms of prosperity and development on the continent.

But like too many of its neighbors, it faces enormous challenges.

The people in the DRC have endured ongoing violence and bloodshed for decades and often has not been paid attention to, again, why I think Ben Affleck and the -- and the appearance today finally brings such much needed, often neglected attention to the DRC.

The country has been the scene of one of the longest and deadliest manmade humanitarian crises in the world, characterized by two major civil wars, involving seven neighboring countries, multiple cross-border conflicts, fighting by and among foreign proxies, militia groups and rebel movements.

The illicit activities including the illegal exploitation of mineral resources, an absence of governance, human rights atrocities directed against civilians by all parties, including the predatory Congolese military and unreliable U.N. peace-keeping force, which, I'm told, is getting better.

Millions of people in the DRC have died from wars and war-related malnutrition and disease since 1998. And nearly two million are displaced.

The sufferings of war have been compounded by horrific human rights abuses committed against innocent women and children.

The country, as a whole, faces enormous challenges. The DRC is one of the five poorest countries in the world, with 80 percent of its people living on just \$2 a day.

Corruption is rampant, as evidenced by the DRC's ranking 164 out of 178 countries surveyed by Transparency International's 2010 Corruption Perceptions Index.

The country is 10th among the world's 22 high-burden tuberculosis countries, and malaria accounts for 35 percent of the deaths of children under the age of five.

Life expectancy is only about 51 years. An estimated 8.2 million, or one out of every eight people in the DRC are orphans and vulnerable children.

Clearly, this country and the surrounding region are in desperate need of peace and the coordinated efforts of the world community to prevent a complete loss of its people's hope for the future.

The upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in November render this a particularly critical time to focus our attention on the U.S. strategy for addressing the many issues confronting the Congolese people and government.

And given that today is International Women's Day, this is a particularly appropriate occasion to recognize the courageous women of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition to the hardships that unduly impact women in situations of conflict and underdevelopment, the women in the DRC have had to endure years of brutal victimization of rape and other forms of sexual violence used as a weapon of war.

An estimated 200,000 women have been raped there since 1998.

Their physical and psychological suffering has been compounded by the ongoing absence of measures to prevent future attacks, the impunity of -- with which the perpetrators continue in their communities or the military and the stigma wrongly placed on the victims by Congolese society.

A recent report by the U.N. panel detailed interviews held with victims of sexual violence in the DRC.

While the plight of all the victims is heart-wrenching, the interviews with those in the Kivus who are still experiencing ongoing armed conflict are worth emphasizing.

These women are desperately in need of the most basic necessities, medical care, housing and a means of supporting themselves and their children.

But when asked what they would have liked to have done to restore their lives and regain their dignity, virtually everyone responded that peace and security is their first and most immediate need.

They pleaded with the panel to convey this message to the world, because without peace and security, anything else that they might acquire could be lost again at any time.

A primary goal of this hearing is to answer these women's plea.

I'd like to now turn to my good friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, for any opening comments he might have.

PAYNE: Thank you very much, and let me congratulate you, Mr. Smith, on assuming the chairmanship of this committee and I certainly look forward to our continued working together on these issues of mutual interest and concern that we've had over the years.

Certainly want to also welcome the new Democratic members to the committee.

He's not here right now, but Mr. Carnahan is the former chair of the subcommittee that, in the last Congress, had jurisdiction over human rights, which, as you know, our committee has expanded that.

So he will certainly bring in experience there.

And as a dedicated advocate for the rights and the needs of refugees and displaced persons, women as passionate about assisting child soldiers as well as empowering women as peace builders, Mr. Carnahan's commitment to Africa runs in his veins.

His grandfather, A.S.J. Carnahan, became the first United States ambassador to the newly independent Sierra Leone in 1961.

And so he has a very strong interest and has had a number of conversations with me about Africa.

We also are pleased to be joined by Ms. Karen Bass, is not only new to the committee but she's new to Congress.

However, this former speaker of the California Assembly, the first African-American woman to hold a speaker's gavel in the history of this nation, and so we are very pleased and honored to have her as a member of our committee.

And so she's no stranger to legislating.

I welcome the opportunity to help Ms. Bass turn her experience and interest in health, women's rights and economic empowerment into policies that can benefit the enterprising women of Africa and their children.

I am excited to have this small but powerful team with us here, our committee.

I want to also recognize Representative McDermott, author of the bipartisan Conflict Minerals Act, which is an important tool for accomplishing long-term stability and economic growth.

And he's also the author of the AGOA Act, he's -- we called him the father, but he's gotten older, so we call him the grandfather now, of the AGOA Act. So it's good to have my classmate, Mr. McDermott, here today.

It is fitting, Mr. Chairman, that we begin our subcommittee business for the 112th Congress by highlighting a foreign policy challenge that resonates in the hearts and minds of so many members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans.

The humanitarian crisis in eastern Congo has captured the attention of thousands of Americans from all walks of life.

Our commitment to solving this problem exemplifies that Americans care deeply about these issues and really want to see a resolution.

As a former teacher, I know that we must understand the problem before we begin to attack -- to tackle it.

We must understand the history of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, perhaps the richest, most fertile area on the continent.

Many here today will talk about the ravaged (ph) militias that continue to terrorize the eastern part of the country.

I want you to understand that the ravaging began in the late 1880s, when King Leopold of Belgium savagely and gruesomely sought out to strip the Congo of its vast natural resources, which continue to be a source of conflict in that country back then and continues on today.

Leopold's nightmare reign in the Congo left five to eight million Congolese dead and even more maimed. The atrocities that we witness today are the vestiges of Leopold's bloody enterprise.

For decades, this region's wealth washed ashore in ships at ports in Anthrop (sic). And Congo's loss became Leopold and Belgium's gain.

As destructive as their rape of the Congo was on the country's natural resources, the impact on its people is immeasurable, and still plays out today. Yet its impact is still misunderstood and underestimated.

As we contextualize the gruesome violence in Congo, we know that this gruesome history is no excuse for the ugly reign of terror that armed groups, such as the FDLR and the LRA have perpetrated against the people of the Congo.

There is no excuse for impunity that humanitarian crisis in eastern Congo has captured the attention of thousands of Americans across this country.

Rape and sexual violence are used as a weapon of war in numbers that are simply unimaginable. In addition to the Lord's Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony, continues to wreak havoc on parts of the DRC.

PAYNE: The DRC continues to face insurgency from armed major groups and major humanitarian crisis continues, especially in the eastern Congo, fueled by a resource grab.

The integration of many former domestic rebels from the CNDP into the Congolese army has presented serious challenges with professionalizing the security sector.

The current reconfiguration of the Congolese army units in the Kivus, in an apparent effort to eventually draw down the UN's Amani Leo Peacekeeping Operations have the potential to leave civilians in some areas of the east at the mercy of the FDLR and other non-state armed groups. All of this is compounded by the troubling political developments and turmoil in Kinshasa and the lack of overall preparedness for the upcoming elections scheduled for November.

The American people and indeed the world are not willing to watch idly by as women and children in DRC are victimized time after time, time and again, year after year. They have advocated over the last few years or we have advocated bipartisan legislation such as Conflict Minerals Bill and the LRA legislation. American's from red, blue and purple districts come together for the people of the Congo, that's a united effort.

The people of the Congo deserve to see firsthand the resounding impact that our relatively small foreign aid investment can have on the world's most venerable populations. Indeed while the human needs are enormous, the required economic commitment is miniscule when compared to the \$100 billion yearly committed in Afghanistan and trillions of dollars we've spent in Iraq during our course of time there.

And the potential impact is monumental. The United States must leverage the goodwill that the American people have for the people of eastern Congo by devastating and having a coherent and a focused policy towards the Congo. That's what I hope we can have as a conclusion of these hearings as we move forward. I must close by saying it is fitting as Mr. Smith mentioned, that this hearing is on the 100th anniversary of the International Women's Day. Ending sexual violence as a weapon remains one of the greatest challenges to the protection of women's human rights while the survivors can be as young as a girl or her grandmother.

We can do all we can to end this scourge. The White House, the State Department, Capitol Hill and the American people all understand the importance of reducing violence in eastern Congo. This means regulating the trade and conflict minerals that act as an economic fuel to the conflict, creating the political will to reform the Congolese National Army from predators or making them from predator to protector and tackling impunity for war criminals and illegal actors that continue to enable those most responsible for mass atrocities.

The United States in its role on the United - UN Security Council recently demonstrated strong leadership on the passage of UN resolution 1960, which requires a council and member stays to honor commitments to combat sexual

violence and conflict, investigate abuses and hold perpetrators to account. I encourage the United States to continue to lead on this issue by developing a strategy to tackle the root causes of sexual violence and other human rights crimes in eastern Congo.

The United States is the largest contributor to the United Nations mission in Congo or (inaudible) and the first country to pass a law monitoring publicly traded companies using minerals mined in the Congo or its neighbors in an effort to reduce the direct or indirect financing of illegal groups. The Department of Defense and State are engaged in initiatives to build capacity through military professionalization and justice training.

We must also ensure that we continue strong programs and policies that give women in the Congo back their dignity. We all want to see a day when the women of eastern Congo are able to feed their families, earn a decent living, protect and defend their communities and sit at the peace building table with the men.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I appreciate this meeting and look forward to our very distinguished panel of experts. Thank you.

SMITH: Thank you very much Mr. Payne.

The Chair recognizes the Vice Chairman of the subcommittee, Jeff Fortenberry.

FORTENBERRY: Thank you Chairman Smith for convening this very important hearing and I think it is important to note that it is especially poignant that today is National Women's Day as we hold the hearing for the more than 200 thousand women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have been heinously victimized in recent years.

Last year alone nearly 15 thousand new cases of sexual violence were reported in the country. Thousands of which involved children. And those numbers don't reflect the many women who must remain silent, but this hearing today breaks that silence. The intense human tragedy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to weigh heavily upon all of us. While numerous signs of democratic progress have been seen in recent years, civil strife has reached an unfathomable high in some areas, particularly in the eastern part of the country.

The social emergency is seen quite clearly in a recent study that revealed rape has increased 17 fold within the country. In the last Congress we made two significant strides toward mitigating two sources of the conflict by passing the Lord's Resistance Army disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 as well as the Conflict Minerals Provisions in another law.

We also directed millions of dollars in humanitarian assistance to the victims of sexual and gender-based violence but aid can hardly keep pace with the staggering numbers of new rape victims each year. Sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the worst in the world in both its pernicious scope and unrelenting brutality. The scourge of rape is especially prevalent in the Kivu Provinces where we saw last year a particularly monstrous series of systematic rapes by rebel fighters.

As we later learned these vicious attacks were committed less than 20 miles from a UN peacekeeping base, which only learned of the months long attack after a week - a week after their end. Since that inexcusable lapse, the UN with the Congolese government and other nongovernmental organizations successfully brought to trial and convicted nine FARDC soldiers including their commanding officers for crimes of mass rape last month.

I join with the United States government in commending this conviction. The rule of law did prevail. But there are many, many more perpetrators who not only elude justice, but flout the most basic notions of humanity through their brutal acts of extreme violence towards the daughters of the Congo. But our human rights concerns lie not only with the scourge of gender and sexual-based violence in the DRC, child conscription by rebel forces, but purportedly by the Congolese military itself continues.

UNICEF released a recent report this past Friday warning that despite the reintegration of as many as five thousand former child soldiers in the DRC, forcible child recruitment is an ongoing problem. As we give attention to the victimized women and girls of the DRC, we must also give special consideration to the plight of girl soldiers who are often victims of grotesque sexual slavery and violence as well.

These girls stripped of innocence and dignity face heartbreaking stigma and challenges as they seek to reintegrate into their families and their community. So today Mr. Chairman I do look forward to hearing the U.S. State Department and USAID's efforts to help bring peace to this tragedy worn country as well as the unique on the ground perspectives from the Eastern Congo Initiative, Catholic Relief Services and the ENOUGH Project.

Thank you all for coming today. Thank you for your important work and I look forward to our hearing.

SMITH: Thank you Mr. Fortenberry.

And I yield to Ms. Bass.

BASS: Thank you. Thank you Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Payne. Since this is our first subcommittee meeting, I wanted to start by expressing my sincere enthusiasm about serving on this committee on Africa Global Health and Human Rights. It's also an honor to serve with Chairman Smith. I know that you are committed to improving lives around the world and are particularly passionate about preventing sex trafficking. I look forward to learning about your legislation and working with you.

And to Ranking Member Payne, Representative Payne is well-known in my district in Los Angeles and I represent a section of my district as little Ethiopia and I have a number of African residents who live in the district and Representative Payne is well known there, as he is throughout the country for his effective leadership and ability to move policy that makes a significant difference around the world.

I'd like to thank our witnesses for your dedication to establishing peace and prosperity in the DRC. Your work truly keeps people alive and contributes to global security. The State Department and the USAID have played an important role in generating progress towards stability in the DRC, but the United States must continue to increase our strategic leadership in the Congo.

Secretary Clinton's visit in 2009 was a great start, but the severity of the violence and instability requires heightened and focused U.S. engagement. In fact U.S. leadership is needed now more than ever as we approach the November elections and we expect President Kabila to lift the ban on conflict minerals in the east as early as March 10th. I want to join my colleagues in acknowledging International Women's Day. It's been referenced several times, the consequences of the rape of women and girls, but one of those consequences is that women make up a significant majority of HIV infections in the country with little access to basic health services.

USAID has led the effort to provide healthcare and services to Congolese women and children. UNICEF coordinates effective programs for women and girls that reduce infant, child and maternal mortality rates and improve access to clean water and sanitation and increase primary school enrollment, particularly for girls who are often denied equal access. In the face of grave atrocities in the DRC, we must ensure ongoing investment in these programs.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses today to learn more about how we can best support the Congolese people in addressing these hardships and ultimately transform their potential into prosperity. Thank you very much.

SMITH: Anybody else on the subcommittee that would like to be heard?

Mr. McDermott is with us and I know it is a little bit of a breach of rules, but I would like to yield to him if he would like to make some opening comments.

MCDERMOTT: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I - in 1987, 1988 I lived in Kinshasa and was a Regional Medical Officer for the State Department and saw the beginning of the AIDS epidemic as well as the conflict that ultimately led to Mobutu Sese Seko leaving and followed by Kabila and all of what has followed. I have many friends out there, the Lucy's (ph) are people I've known. A friend of mine from Los Angeles that I went to college with has been one of the big supporters of that organization and I've been there several times and I really came to listen today.

So thank you.

SMITH: Mr. McDermott, thank you very much.

I'd like to now introduce our two distinguished witness, leaders in the field who have done much. Ambassador Yamamoto is no stranger to this committee, having been before us many times in the past. He has served since 2009 though as the principal deputy assistant secretary for the bureau for African affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

His prior assignments included serving as U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia from November of 2006 to July of 2009, and as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of African Affairs from '03 to 2006.

And we're also joined by Ms. Jandhyala, who has served as USAID's deputy assistant administrator for Africa since October of 2010. In this capacity, she oversees the offices of Sudan programs and East African affairs. And has also has a great deal of experience at the department.

And I would, without objection, include both of your full bios in the record.

Ambassador Yamamoto?

YAMAMOTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

It is indeed a great honor to appear here before the committee, and I wish to express my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment. And also to the great work that your predecessor, Congressman Payne. And also, before this, distinguished members of the committee.

President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and this administration have demonstrated a firm commitment to the challenges in this region. The violence, the human rights abuse, the suffering of the people in the Congo, exploitation of minerals and resources, are unacceptable and none of us should tolerate and we will not accept it.

The work raised by - the good work by your many witnesses, Mr. Ben Affleck, and by others, by Senator McCain, really are a testament to the power of what individuals can do in the Great Lakes area. And I also notice that my good friend, John Prendergast and other NGO groups who are here, whose work helped a great deal in moving this process along.

Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the United States continues to play a very significant role to make a difference in the lives of the people in the DRC, and wherever there is suffering and tragedy. In the tense years following 2003, we led an international effort through our tripartite peace process to address the causes of violence and to end the tragedies that promotes violence.

I was greatly honored to help the process for nearly four years, making some two dozen trips to the region. Secretary Clinton traveled to the DRC in 2009, as have other senior administrative officials in the last two years.

Our overarching goals and objectives in the DRC to resolve it lies in governance and security. You need to have a government that is accountable to the people. You need security which is reliable and dependable, and not part of the problem. The U.S. has focused first and foremost on the complex security challenges facing the DRC. The shocking incidences of mass raids and other human rights abuses continuing in these areas are symptoms of several factors that feel or enable violence, each of which requires its own responses.

One key factor is the continued presence of violent armed groups. One of the most notorious are the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, or the FDOR, and the Lords Resistance Army, or the LRA, retain a violence and committed core fully capable of carrying out brutal attacks on civilians.

The U.S. government has provided significant diplomatic and programmatic support to disarm, demobilize these groups. The fighting capacity of many of these groups have been significantly reduced in the last two years, but much more slowly than we wished it to happen.

The forces of the former National Congress for the People, or the CNDP, remain only partly integrated into the Congolese Army, serving under the effective command of known human rights abusers, and retain in their ranks significant numbers of children soldiers. The DRC security forces often compounded the threat to civilians. Developing or reforming these forces is a massive undertaking that will require years of persistent support.

Our assistance in this effort is aimed at both short term and long term progress, and includes of the training of (inaudible) vetted Congolese battalions, capacity building for the DRC's military justice institution, training to officers on the principles of leadership, civil/military relations, human rights, and command responsibility.

Those who trade in minerals and other natural resources also encourages violence. And the effective Congolese response and RICO international responses by governments and industries will be key to resolving these problems. The United States has focused on helping develop civilian regulatory capacity, helping to end the role of illegal armed groups, criminal networks within the security forces, and promoting corporate due diligence, and supporting the development of regional and national mechanisms to certify and trace the minerals trade.

We appreciate the support of the Congress that has provided these efforts, and we are consulting with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as you have directed, Mr. Chairman, as they develop regulations to promote rigorous corporate due diligence.

Underlying every element of the international communities' response to the DRC's security challenges is MONUSCO, the U.N. peacekeeping operation in the DRC. Under the leadership of the former U.S. ambassador, Roger

Meese, MONUSCO has taken welcome steps to approve its effectiveness in civilian protection. We are also encouraged by the improved relations between MONUSCO and the DRC government.

A second theme is governance. The national elections scheduled for November of this year are an essential step in determining Congo's democratic future. We are watching closely to encourage elections that are well and transparently administered, and that are conducted in an environment conducive to free political expression.

Our other preoccupation is the area of governance is human rights. The lack of adequate state capacity, the indiscipline of existing state forces, continues to fuel existing abuses against civilians. We are undertaking substantial programmatic efforts, expanding on the secretary's 2009 of \$17 million in assistance to respond to and prevent sexual-based - sexual- and gender-based violence.

We are also supportive of (inaudible) but encouraging recent developments in a few key areas, including the arrest and conviction of a handful of high profile alleged abusers, and the DSC government's proposal to develop specialized judicial chambers to prosecute those who committed atrocities. The general situation, however, remains one of impunity and many more positive developments will be required to reverse this trend.

The third theme is economic recovery, which is essential to providing alternatives to enlistment and armed groups, and laying a foundation for development. We are encouraging the DRC government to take the necessary steps to improve the investment climate, and to enhance transparency in the mining sector.

With the lifting of the ban on mining in the DRC's eastern provinces expected on March 10th, we encourage all state coders (ph) to work to ensure that minerals leaving the DRC can be traced to their origin, and that abusive armed forces are cut out of the trade.

Finally, it is worth emphasizing that the renewed cooperation among the DRC and its neighbors is the cornerstone of this region's future progress. The cooperation, while vastly improved over the last two years, will need to deepen further in the face of new developments, such as the emergence of the independent Southern Sudan.

Helping empower the Congolese people and their government to address the challenges they face will take and persistence. The U.S. government intends to remain a strong partner over the long term. The DRC has focused attention of the United States government, and the activities that are directed under the Assistant Secretary of African Affairs Johnnie Carson in coordinating it with our ambassadors in the field, interagencies, and our NGO community partners, and also the donor community.

Mr. Chairman, members of this committee, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak to you today. And I'll submit a longer version for the record.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for your testimony.

I'd like to yield to our second distinguished witness.

JANDHYALA: Good afternoon, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Payne, members of the subcommittee. Thank you for inviting me to discuss with you about the foreign assistance activities of USAID in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is particularly relevant in recognition of the International Women's Day today.

My name is Rajaumari Jandhyala. I'm the deputy assistant administrator for Africa Bureau since October of 2010. And prior to joining the government, I had an opportunity to work on the continent for 17 years, including the Congo in the months after the global accords that were signed in 2003.

My testimony adds to the themes that Ambassador Yamamoto has raised about peace and security, progress toward governance, economic development, health and well-being of the population. As part of the Presidential Policy Directive on Development, which was issued recently, and in support of our policies toward - foreign policy toward the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Administrator Shaw's efforts to look at our review and look at our approaches to our assistance on the continent, we really have taken an effort to look at Congo as a very complex challenge in terms of like Sudan and in Somalia. So we really have a strategy review that's going on to look at our complex operations on the continent.

DRC is yet another example of a place where diplomacy and development are critical to assisting Congolese find solutions to their current challenges, lay the groundwork for meeting the aspirations of its population at the end of the

day, and build a nation that contributes to regional stability. And in that effort, we work with both regional organizations, international partners and national institutions, both in the short term and in the long term.

The U.S. recognizes enormous challenges, financial resources required to improve the conditions, and in that regard the U.S. government continues to be the largest donor in DRC, providing \$306 million in bilateral assistance in fiscal year 2010, plus support to the U.N. peacekeeping operations, MONUSCO, multilateral institutions like the UNDP, and U.N. agencies.

U.S. foreign assistance is coordinated among agencies through a country assistance strategy that outlines our plans for U.S.-Congolese cooperation in addressing the immediate needs, as well as long term development needs. In addition, we're one of 19 bilateral and multilateral donors participating in the common assistance framework established in 2007 with government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This gives us the opportunity, as the international community, to really leverage our assets and how we bring pressure and establish a dialogue with the Congolese on development objectives in the Congo.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to now review the major development challenges in DRC, and current summary of USAID activities to address them. A written testimony has been submitted.

The DRC, and in particular in the east, continues to experience instability, violent conflict and widespread population displacement. A key area of concern remains the Lord's Resistance Army. USAID promotes stability through community reconciliation, infrastructure, livelihoods recovery and ex-combatant reintegration.

Our offices of foreign disaster assistance and Food for Peace have ongoing commitment to provide emergency humanitarian and food relief where LRA are active. We're currently working as the regional strategy and support of LRA issues as part of our Northern Uganda strategy as well to find the linkages in CAR, Northern Uganda and Congo.

With regards to our -- with regards to conflict minerals, our activities are in support of the 2010 Dodd-Frank legislation, which includes reporting requirements for mineral origins. In DRC the illegal mineral trade fields armed groups and undermines legitimate economic dignity.

To reduce the security and governance problems regarding conflict -- trade in conflict minerals that result in the violence, USAID seeks to improve enforcement of the DRC mining code through our regulatory support, rehabilitation of roads, and build capacity for better monitoring and transparency, including certification.

Addressing human rights abuses and sexual and gender-based violence is a high priority for USAID. USAID Act provides access to support services for rape, abuse and survivors and their families, including medical care, counseling and legal aid where women are afraid to report to local authorities and how we deal with the local justice to support their efforts.

More importantly, we also support women survivors on livelihoods. Many times they are not participating in the community recover activities that are taking place.

In addition to addressing the immediate needs of the survivors, USAID has supported drafting critical legislation and subsequent prosecution related to sexual violence. And this continues to be an ongoing challenge, given the weakness in the justice institutions and sectors, and we are trying to work with both at the national level and the community justice mechanisms at the moment.

In turn -- turning to democracy and governance, USAID focuses on capacity building among legislators, civil society organizations and media. We also work to improve the independence of the judicial sectors and bring legal services to remote populations, such as mobile courts where they are possible.

And in preparation of the DRC's presidential and legislative elections planned for this fall, USAID continues to build on our strengths in citizen outreach and mobilization. More than 8.2 million voters across the DRC's 11 provinces are expected to be reached by civic education programs, and we are attracting and leveraging other resources to enhance the participation of the population in a transparent manner.

In terms of social services, health sector is our largest priority at the moment, given the violence and in terms of preventing a lot of the health related epidemics we find in the Congo. USAID seeks to strengthen primary health care. In addition to our continued support to HIV and AIDS, we also support malaria programs.

As Chairman Smith mentioned, we support two important Fistula Hospitals, which have treated over 1,000 women, who have received repair surgeries in 2010, and we hope to expand the outreach of those services. We've also brought together 12 providers of these services to ensure there's a network that they learn and exchange ideas on -- on these issues. And we also contributed to the national Fistula strategy in the Congo.

Lastly, in alignment with the Feed the Future initiative that USAID is investing in Africa, promoting agriculture sector as a means of economic growth is a high priority for USAID. In fiscal year 2010, programs assisted nearly 40,000 households and more than 500 producers, associations in improving agricultural management practices and use of technology.

In conclusion, despite many of the complex challenges to the development, U.S. foreign assistance is making a difference with children being reunited with their families after being abducted, trafficked or abused. Low-income women are accessing judicial system for the first time, and we're encouraging the expansion of that program.

Health care workers are gaining skills necessary both for preventative as well as curative measures, and farmers are learning better ways to grow and process and distribute their crops.

Across many areas where foreign assistance is needed, we're promoting an approach in DRC that addresses short-term, immediate-term and long-term sustainable development.

Members of the subcommittee thank you for your attention to development issues in DRC. And I look forward to answering your questions and providing additional information.

SMITH: Thank you very much for your testimony. And without objection, both of your full statements will be made a part of the record.

Let me start off by Mr. Affleck in his testimony with regards to the elections, and I know Ms. Jandhyala, you made the point that there's a \$350 million gap as relates to the upcoming elections. And, you know, I would ask you if you could address whether or not you think that gap will be bridged and by whom.

And in his testimony Mr. Affleck says he requests that the U.S. government takes a hard look at its current commitment to support the elections and ask if -- if offering the assistance needed to truly support of free and fair election is actually there. He asked a number of questions, and he says the time for a decision is upon us. With national elections only eight months away, the U.S. is not focused on the Congo.

How will that gap be bridged, if you could, Mr. Ambassador? And secondly, with regards to the conflict to mineral strategy, which was due in mid-January, is that going to be forthcoming soon, or perhaps has been sent up today? Can you give us a timeline for that and maybe give us an idea of what will be included?

The issue of army reform remains a very serious issue, and I wonder if you could update us on -- on how military reform is proceeding.

On trafficking, Congo obviously is a Tier 3 country now. It has dropped. In the recommendations made in the TIP Report, one of the key recommendations is to investigate and punish military and other law enforcement personnel accused of unlawfully conscripting child soldiers, and then it goes on from there.

And I'm wondering if you could tell us, because this -- obviously, this report was issued last year in the beginning of summer, whether or not any progress has been made in the area of trafficking, both for sex and labor and for child soldiering, if you could address that.

On the Fistula repair, congratulations and -- and kudos to the -- to the USAID for the work you're doing on repair. At a thousand, do you anticipate that the numbers will go up in terms of actual repair of Fistulas and by how many? Do you have the glide slope asked to, you know, how you hope to build out the capacity of -- for Fistula?

And on the issue of faith-based, we will be hearing from the Catholic Relief Services in our second panel, and they make a very cogent argument as to why faith-based is critical in Congo, and I would argue for all of sub-Saharan Africa, if we want to mitigate HIV AIDS, if we want to combat all health issues.

The estimates are up to 70 percent, as you know, of -- of health care is provided by faith-based organizations or churches in Africa, and it would seem we would want to more faithfully utilize that -- that mechanism, and if you can't speak to whether or not that is where you think we go in the future as well as in the present.

And then on MONUSCO during my trip, part of what -- what caused me to go there was the ongoing problem. You know, it's bad enough that soldiers in the Congolese army and -- and militia groups are committing heinous crimes against women, but to our shock and dismay, we discovered that the peacekeepers in like manner, but in a very smaller number, were committing these kinds of crimes against young children.

Mr. Payne will remember that I actually have three hearings on the abuse by peacekeepers. We heard from Jane Holl Lute from the U.N., who was then heading up the office. She's now over at Homeland Security as number two. But she was emphatic that there needs to be a zero tolerance policy vis-a-vis peacekeepers and women and children. And at that time we were talking about zero compliance.

And I know that's changed, but we are told that there are some 33 allegations of sexual misconduct since January of '10 to February of this year. And one of my arguments has been you need to investigate is to make sure that if there is an allegation, it's followed up on. And there are now only two OIOS investigators in Goma, which I think enables, however unwittingly, that these crimes are committed, so if you could address that as well.

JANDHYALA: In terms of the elections that are being held in November, AID these it as part of a broader international strategy required to build a coalition on democratic transformation in -- in Congo. And we have three challenges.

One is a partner in terms of financial resources. We are contributing to a basket fund at the moment, and we're working with the European donors to see how that gap can be filled and how rapidly it can be filled in the coming months.

Second issue we're facing is the capacity of the national institutions to actually take international support and technical assistance with -- with some degree of support from our regional organizations. So in terms of funding, we have contributed 5 million to the -- the basket fund, and we're working with our other partners to see how we can fill the gap at the moment.

SMITH: Could I ask during the last elections how much we contributed? Do you recall?

JANDHYALA: I think we -- I -- I would have to get back to you. I don't want to give you a wrong...

SMITH: It was significantly higher. I know that.

JANDHYALA: No, it's -- it was well over, I think, \$80 million to it.

YAMAMOTO: Just to follow up on the elections, you know, during the 2006 elections I was an observer with the U.S. government observers. And also the ambassador was Roger Meece, who is now head of MONUSCO. And as you know, Mr. Chairman, it was a very difficult, it was a very challenging process to register and just to identify who the -- who the voters are.

And, you know, we used a variety of resources-- the Catholic Church, who registered their parishioners, faith-based groups, who are working throughout the area. And so we used a variety of resources, the Catholic Church who registered their parishioners, faith-based groups who are working throughout the area and so we use very innovative and creative ways to do it. And going into the criticisms of the electoral process, we try to make it as transparent as possible and at each successive election to be better than the last one. And we have a country with so many challenges as the DRC and more importantly is a lack of capacity and institutions.

Those are challenges that we work with, our partners and also with the DRC to overcome in order to ensure that these elections are better than the ones before and that there is a system of progress. I guess I should go to your other questions.

(UNKNOWN): I you could.

(UNKNOWN): On the conflict minerals legislation that's being completed, this should be submitted to the Congress (inaudible) have addressed the issue on security and exchange regulatory process. And just to kind of briefly oversight, on the conflict minerals we're really enhancing how to protect those areas in conflict, enhance civilian regulation of the resource trade, protect artisan miners and local communities, strengthen regional, international efforts to monitor and protect civilians and then to promote responsible trader resources. And as you know Mr. Chairman, the DRC is perhaps one of the richest country in the world.

It's extraordinarily lush. It's green. It could be the breadbasket. I want to give you one story that - you know we've been talking to other donors in other countries who are benefiting from these minerals and resources, the Chinese. One thing that the Chinese told us that we found fascinating - there is more arable land in the Congo than in all of China.

Yet China is able to meet the basic needs of a population that's 20 times greater than the DRC, why is that? What is it that we need to do more with the - our Congolese partners to ensure that we have a rich country that meets the benefits of its people. And also the region you know? And the water productivity in that area can fuel energy for half of the African continent and so these are things that are really dramatic and things that we are trying to work on and we're very excited about.

The other issues too that I want to - issue is on the Trip Report. Yes on the tip the DRC is a third tier tip (ph). We have of course removed the DRC reluctantly from AGOA Benefits but it came after two years of consistently asking the DRC to address certain human rights abuses. And we offered assistance in helping support. And we will continue to do so.

We wanted to see that to the benefit of the people - it has to be part of AGOA, but it also has to address the needs of its people and those are some of the things that I know you are very passionate about Mr. Chairman and so are we to address those issues.

The next thing that you addressed is the efforts of faith-based groups such as CRS and other groups. You're absolutely correct. You know we provide right now on the continent anywhere from \$6.4 billion to about \$6.8 billion in total assistance to the African continent. Of that 85 percent is administered through NGO groups, most of them are faith-based and what we've learned on the faith-based is we've learned it is tremendous accuracy, low overhead costs and they have very creative and innovative approaches just as a lot of the other groups we have worked with.

And we must commend a lot of the works that they have done to address some basic (inaudible) problems that are facing Africa today. And let me just highlight one thing that addresses what my colleague Raja and what we in the United States government are trying to address, is how to you address the violence against women? And one of the things that we have worked with on the faith-based groups is some innovative programs which tries to elevate the status of women without - elevating the status of women to show girls that their moms are really the heroes in the family then we're going to have problems.

And one of the creative programs that we have is we have community based development. Another is we have kids who are in - going to community schools. Then we have moms who we give you know loans and we now know that women on average will repay loans at a rate of 95 percent, much higher than men. And then for the men, looking at agricultural techniques and technologies. And then have that community strengthen and bonded and it's sustainable. And what happens, we found is that it raises the status of women, helps girl's education and expands to other communities.

And so those are things that we have learned in working with our NGO and faith-based groups to expand. The next thing is, and then I'm going to turn to Raja is on the FARDC and on Monusco problems. In our approach, our \$306 million area, we are looking at security sector reform. Without the security sector reform, you're not going to have a security force; a) which is reliable, dependable and accountable to the people. You want forces that are going to protect you, not be a problem and a source of crime and violence against the people. What we're doing right now is - on one area is to promote accountability through training and prosecution.

You need to have accountability and to hold people responsible for their actions. The other issue is advocating demilitarization's and strengthening payment systems to ensure that the security forces are going to be paid. We're looking at mobile banking services to ensure that money gets into the accounts so that, lets say the commanders are not pilfering the money of their NCOs or the other military trainees.

The other thing is to train police forces to serve as a basis to help protect civilians and protect the rights of civilians. The other issue is on Monusco. As you remember Mr. Chairman of course when Congressman Payne was also there, we looked at the abuse of MONUC and at that time the SRSR was Ambassador Swing and the ambassador was Roger Meece. We worked extremely hard to look at how we can do training and advancement programs.

So right now we're looking at our programs and projects on how we can advance and promote (inaudible) within the FARDC troops but also within Monusco now to ensure that you have the highest qualities. In that context, let me just tell you in the State Department, we have over the last decade trained 120 thousand troops, that's 36 battalions from 24 partner countries. And what they're doing now is to address African problems through African solutions.

Of those 120 thousand, 77 thousand remain in peacekeeping operations. We've monitored them. We keep track of them and of those, 33 thousand are in UN operations and we know that their quality is good and that they are tracked (ph) and maintain a high quality and that's what we want and need to do, not only in the DRC but in other parts of Africa where we see instability.

(INAUDIBLE)

(UNKNOWN): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On the issue about - on the issue regarding trafficking in persons, we're looking at - we're approaching it from a human rights issue and in that regard, we have spent approximately \$3 million in anti-trafficking projects in DRC working with UNICEF in Ehuri (ph) district to reintegrate former soldiers, help them put in systems to monitor families and communities where this is taking place. In addition we are working with the International Organization of Migration to build awareness and capacity of the government of the democratic group to stop this and to address the issues raised in the tier 3 status that they've been given.

On the issue of fistula repairs, we're finding in our assessment of our current activities that so far we've dealt with repairs as part of the violence generated by - in the war - in conflict situation. But we think there is also fistula issues regarding the domestic violence and frequency of birth and the high number - and the population increases that are happening in communities. So we're approaching it both from - as a treatment for gender-based violence as well as domestic violence and sort of population issues regarding young girls who are having children quite young - at a young age as well as the number of children they're having, which is also another reason for the fistula situation in the Congo.

On the issue regarding faith-based organizations and working with communities, we believe a fundamental issue of community reconciliation has to be done through local organizations. Promoting community reconciliation can't be done at the state organizations or at the national institutions so we have done - we're at the moment working with our colleagues in OTI and other places in the east to see what organizational network, social networks that exist currently and how do we tap into those social networks including churches and mosques and other institutions on the ground.

In terms of elections, that's another challenge we're facing. As my colleague, Ambassador Yamamoto said, we view this as a transformation. How do we set benchmarks for assessing progress in that process? In 2006, I also was in Congo with Ambassador Swing's office at that time and we see that each election is an opportunity for us not only to fund the event, the idea of an election, but all of the consequences that we would have to deal with on the parliamentary - what institutions do we have to build for the next election?

So we are managing our resources between the immediate event investments as well as what it requires for state building and capacity on the parliamentary level. We're also preparing for the state level elections that have been postponed to see how we can encourage and revive that strategy with the government a little bit more. And lastly in terms of all of these issues Mr. Chairman that we're dealing with ungoverned spaces. So development in ungoverned spaces means currently we're dealing with the consequences of ungoverned spaces.

So of the eleven provinces in Congo, seven are viewed in the eastern areas which are considered sort of ungoverned on many levels, but there are 40 million other people in the rest of the Congo that we are balancing the immediate complex interventions for complex crises, but also continuing to invest in the other parts that are stable. So those are the issues that we're managing at the moment. In terms of the budget, Administrator Shaw is coming up to the Hill next week and I would leave that to him to talk about Congo as part of the broader budget issues.

SMITH: Thank you. I thank you both. Just a note not a question, I want to thank you for including in your written submissions some of the very laudatory and outstanding accomplishments, especially in the area of mitigating maternal mortality.

As you point out, we've enabled 300 -- over 351,000 deliveries.

And as we know, the greatest way of mitigating maternal mortality is by having a skilled birth attendant available to deal with complications, especially if a cesarean section might be needed.

So that is very good news contained in your testimony.

Mr. Payne?

PAYNE: Thank you very much.

The -- as we -- it's been mentioned, Secretary Clinton visited the eastern Congo. And she really was very moved and gave a very strong report about what was going on there.

I was on that trip although I left before she visited the Congo.

But the -- in my assessment, U.S. needs to refocus all parts of our government on achieving clear results in two critical issues, which were actually mentioned on her trip.

The first priority should be to bring greater stability and to reduce civilian suffering in eastern Congo.

And the second priority would be to ensure that next year's elections will take place, will be fair and free.

So I just wonder if you could just comment very quickly on those two. And I have a series of questions.

(UNKNOWN): You're absolutely -- you're absolutely correct, Mr. Congressman. Stability and -- it is key and that's really part of our security sector reform approach, which I just explained in the testimony.

And the other issue is on the elections. It's -- if you have -- the elections are a key indicator for those progress (ph). And, yes, there's going to be problems.

Yes, there's going to be areas that we need greater improvement on. And, yes, there will be questions on it.

But as long as we can continue to make the progress and development we have since 2006, we should be in good shape as we head to the next elections as well.

(Inaudible)?

(UNKNOWN): In terms of the elections, we -- after U.S., these experience (ph) in Sudan recently and the enormous international list that it took to make those -- the referendum happen, we sort of -- we -- I think we're working toward what institutions can we lay the groundwork for now, as we set the tone for both the subnational elections that we hope will take place.

And I think it's a commitment to the democratic transformation of Congo, is our -- is an -- a critical element of our AIDS (ph) strategy at the moment.

PAYNE: And you didn't have the dollar amount that we contributed to the '06 elections and what is in the budget for the '11 elections.

(UNKNOWN): Right. The '06, I can come back to you with that. I'm sorry about them.

On the '11, it's part of the budget discussions that Administrator Shaw would like to talk with as part of the overall Democrat DG budgets we're looking for within the agency, both for Africa and for the agency.

PAYNE: Because, of course, if we -- we could almost guarantee failure if we do not supply the appropriate -- it was daunting at the last election, which I attended also.

And simply the logistics of getting ballots to remote place, you had to use helicopters and thankful (ph), as I mentioned, South Africa was able to bring in aircraft to deliver ballots and then pick them up after the election.

So Congo is so important and we could almost, like I say, guarantee a failure if we don't have the proper amount of -- which, of course, comes to the Congress.

You know, you all don't appropriate. That's something that we need to perhaps have to have a discussion with us on this side of the -- of Washington.

The -- just have a -- could you give me a definition of difference between MONUC and MONUSCO? It tends to be -- gets grazed (ph) sometimes. So anyone have a -- want to try to take a shot at that?

I don't want either one of you to jump at it, but...

(UNKNOWN): In French, or...

(CROSSTALK)

(UNKNOWN): Yes. (Inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): Yes. The issue with the progress between MONUC and MONUSCO was on the mandate, in other words, to articulate exactly what the precise mandate would be for the U.N. operation.

And one of the things that was additional or added to that was it was circumstances will these -- the forces addressed, you know, these -- the FDLR, the LRA process.

And one of the additions to the MONUSCO mandate was looking much more at the LRA problem.

But I would have to go back to you and refer to other experts who know the precise technological and legal distinctions between the two.

PAYNE: Initially they were criticized -- I guess it was -- early on about their lack of aggressiveness in their Chapter 7 mandate. There had been a reaffirmation of Chapter 7.

And is there a more aggressive stance on the part of the forces?

(UNKNOWN): The problem with the definitions is this ability to respond.

I know that Roger -- SRSR Roger Meece has requested more air assets, in other words, to address the ability to rapidly deploy his troops to areas of instability.

And he gave the example of Equateur, where you had this armed group's (ph) coming in and taking over the airport temporarily, killing some of the U.N. peacekeepers as well as civilians.

But those are some of the major challenges that are facing MONUSCO today. It's not only the budget, but also the capacity to respond quickly.

(UNKNOWN): We've also made a commitment -- we've reinforced our message with the U.N. agencies that we're -- we are committed to a peacekeeping mission.

And we wouldn't be able to do a lot of our work without the environment being created by the peacekeeping mission in the East at the moment.

And we've made that message clear to the government as it -- Democratic Republic of Congo, who have come around to establishing a better relationship and improving their relationship with the peacekeeping mission.

And about the FDLR, initially they were very involved with the government in Kinshasa.

However, there seem to be a position where the Kabila government have been working towards the infiltration of the FDLR, in other words, have the agreement between Rwanda and the DRC, is there an effort -- at one time it seemed FDLR were even a part of the Congolese forces.

Have all of that changed and is the interharmony and the xfar (ph) that still roam around the eastern Congo still a problem?

(UNKNOWN): Yes, Mr. Congressman, the FDLR, you know, remains a continued issue.

From our tripartite process to today, we continue to work with the Rwandan groups as well as the Congolese because the FDLR is a threat to both countries and to the regional stability, and also to the violence against the civilians and really is a major stumbling block and obstacle to peace and stability in the region.

And so that is -- continues to be a top priority.

PAYNE: I had a chance to speak to Mr. Meece earlier in regard to even the CNDP. Now Nkunda is under house arrest in Rwanda.

Has that, therefore, lessened the tension there in the area? Or is his forces still roaming and doing destructive work?

(UNKNOWN): You know, the -- Nkunda's, you know, detention or house arrest in Rwanda is one area. But you still have continued members of the FDLR who continue to roam.

And then you also have other high-profile individuals who are creating havoc.

And one of them, of course, is Bosco Ntaganda, who's an ICC- indicted war criminal and part of the group -- he -- as you know, he fought with Kabila forces. And he's extremely well armed. And so that remains a problem.

(UNKNOWN): And also I think one of the issues we're facing with the FDLR in terms of community development and reconciliation issues is that command and control is not clear on different parts of the East, of where they have impact and where they don't in terms of command and control.

So I think both the bilateral agreement between Rwanda and Congo gives one framework.

But I think we'll have to work as international community at many levels, both at the political level but also within communities who have reached out to -- under the DDR program and other reconciliation efforts to see how we can minimize the damage that they do to the communities.

PAYNE: OK, my time has just about expired. But I just wonder, what is the prospect of a special envoy being appointed?

We wrote a letter back several months ago, asking that a special envoy be considered once again. You know, we've had -- Mr. Swing (ph) was very effective. And what's the status now?

(UNKNOWN): We're continuing to take that under advisement.

After the departure of Howard Wolpe last year, it -- there we continued to do the work that he has started, through our ambassadors and through Johnnie Carson has made trips as well as the secretary and other senior officials.

And began -- depending on the budget and other objectives, et cetera, we continue to take that under advisement (inaudible).

PAYNE: OK. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

SMITH: (Inaudible) Ranking Member.

Mr. Fortenberry?

FORTENBERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you again for coming and thank you for your testimony. The United States is constantly called upon to clean up messes throughout the world.

And now that's a testament to the generosity of the American people as well as to the philosophical ideals that guide us, and perhaps, as well, our unique position as a exceptional world power.

But with that said, what is the relative nature of our assistance compared to European assistance, particularly France and Belgium, given the colonial legacy here.

JANDHYALA: In terms of the United States, we are still the largest donor in terms of our support in bilateral assistance, but our support to the peacekeeping agencies in terms of our support through the U.N. service agencies like UNICEF. We continue to lead on this.

It depends also on certain sectors where our European partners have taken the lead in terms of the security sector, where the EU is in the lead. But in other areas we continue to be -- in other sectors we continue to lead in -- in regards to this.

(UNKNOWN): Do you feel this is disproportionate in terms of responsibility?

JANDHYALA: I think we are working with our partners to continuously find ways, because we partner with them on a number of other countries that are a priority for the U.S. government.

So it's -- it's a balancing act between, you know, Congo, Sudan, many -- Liberia, so we're in constant discussions with our British partners, our Norwegian partners, the EU, the World Bank, both on the bilateral to see. Where we bring our relative expertise, we lead. Where they bring their relative expertise and political will -- so it's -- it's a constant negotiation between us and our partners.

(UNKNOWN): All right.

The second question -- and perhaps, Mr. Ambassador, you could answer this -- it is against the law in the United States to provide military assistance to countries who use child soldiers. Now, we have exceptions for that in terms of national security waivers, and this country has received one.

But with that said, that doesn't absolve our responsibility from continuing to push at the highest possible diplomatic levels to end this pernicious practice. What specifically is being done in this regard?

YAMAMOTO: You know, we have, you know, overall on the child soldiers it's not just in the Congo, but it throughout the continent and, of course, around the world, as we establish on our G-TIP rankings and address -- to work with these countries to address those problems and to ensure that (a) they understand those problems and, number two, that they address them and, number three, that we work together to find a solution.

And throughout Africa and other parts of Africa from Chad and to other countries, where there are reports of child soldiers, we have worked with those troops that we've helped -- that they train to not only on lay vetting, but to ensure that they observe all the precepts and legal aspects that we have under our -- our laws in distribution of funding and assistance.

In the Congo area, it remains a challenge. But we remain committed to ensuring and to working hard so that the battalions that we train and also those that we work with our meetings the legal notes established by you and the Congress on the distribution of the assistance.

(UNKNOWN): That perhaps is an -- is certainly an appropriate response for those areas that are under -- that are under our direct influence, such as military assistance, direct military assistance and training. But in terms of a robust diplomatic push at the highest levels, what are we doing?

YAMAMOTO: We try to -- right now is we're working with the -- the FARDC troops, which is a major challenge, to work on military justice and also to ensure that they develop their justice systems to bring to justice those individuals who are in violation, not only those who have violated the law in participation in rape and human rights abuse, but also those who have conscripted and trained child soldiers.

And that becomes an accountability issue under the judicial and legal systems that we're trying to develop within the DRC. And that's something our USAID colleague is working on, and -- and where our part is working with to ensure the professionalization of the military as well as the police to follow up and to work with the -- the communities and centers so that these abuses do not occur.

But again, it's going to be a long-term process, and -- but we are making those efforts.

SMITH: The time of the gentleman has -- has expired.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you.

SMITH: Mr. Carnahan?

CARNAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And congratulations again on your chairmanship and leadership of this subcommittee. It's great to be here with Ranking Member Mr. Payne. We notice a slight New Jersey tilt to the leadership here, but we do appreciate you being here and really being attention to this topic today.

I just want to say a personal welcome to Ambassador Yamamoto for this leadership and for the time we spent with him in Ethiopia and for the great work that you did there.

This really -- this topic is very timely in terms of assessing our effectiveness in the international community's efforts to address these challenges from ethnic conflict, government corruption, extreme poverty and widespread human rights abuses.

And in particular the sexual and gender-based violence against women and children here on this day, I think, is especially important, being International Women's Day.

Also, we've heard many that have talked about the high risk of relapse there when there was concerted effort around the elections in 2006. Many believed that we mistakenly scaled down our efforts in terms of democracy, governments and political engagement. And so certainly, as we lead up to this next national election, I think it's important that we have a robust international engagement there.

I've seen some statistics with regard to there being over 14,000 new cases of sexual violence report in the DRC, including thousands of child victims. And my question is how is USAID and its bilateral assistance working to specifically address the needs of children in the Eastern Congo? And how is the U.S. assisting UNICEF in their efforts to address these challenges?

And I'd like to start with Ambassador Yamamoto.

YAMAMOTO: Thank you, sir. We -- we continue to look at -- you know, when I was traveling throughout the DRC before my ambassadorship to Ethiopia and then now here, is the issues of the high rate of violence not only against women, but against civilian areas and the high rate of death.

When you're talking anywhere from 800 to 1,100 deaths from violence each and every day in the Congo, it's -- it's unacceptable and prohibitively high.

What we try to do through our budgeting and assistance, and not only us but also in coordination with our donor community and with other groups, is to look at how we can address the needs of the communities to ensure not only security sector reforms, but also to look at how we can bring strength and guidance into these communities to protect themselves against the violence.

And that encourages not only security sector reforms to address the -- the training of forces, but also on the other side of the justice system to hold people accountable and that they go through court procedures and processes.

And I want to turn to my colleague, Raju, who can kind of go into details on the programs that we have implemented.

CARNAHAN: Great. Thank you.

JANDHYALA: In terms of the sexual and gender-based violence, we work sort of on three levels. One is to survivors have access to critical care and treatment and that both women and children come through our service providers.

Second is to ask band the current -- we have 5,000 local service providers that we want to expand the number of those providers that provide services to children.

And then lastly, we deal with 250 local organizations to deal with psychological counseling and treatment.

And in terms of UNICEF, we have worked with them in Ituri in eastern Congo on protection, on medical services, on psychosocial services, and about 1,000 children have gone through all three of them. They -- they come in -- in waves, and we support UNICEF and fund them for the services throughout eastern Congo. And they then use those services to deal with community.

The issues of women and children, at least in AID portfolio, we deal with in terms of reconciliation at the community level, livelihoods. We have youth issues. A large part of it is youth. And then we also deal with them through health care and then local administration issues.

So we -- we kind of view it as a cross-cutting issue. Where we have opportunities to support women and children, it should be something that goes across all of our intervention in addition to the targeted interventions we provide for specific -- specific treatment.

CARNAHAN: Thank you.

SMITH: Thank you.

Ms. Bass?

Thank you, Russ.

BASS: You've made several -- both of you have made several references to the upcoming elections, and I just wanted to ask if you could specifically talk about what specific steps you think the United States could or should take immediately and in the upcoming months to assist in helping to prevent a fraudulent selection.

If there is hope that it could be done in a way, given the decision that was made to revise the constitution in January to reduce the number of election rounds from two to one, is there hope that it could be viewed legitimately? And then what contingency plans are the U.S. and the international community discussing, should violence occur?

I mean, I know it's not an automatic that because they made that constitutional change, that it's going to be viewed fraudulently, but...

YAMAMOTO: Very important on the violence is, obviously, the MUNESCO plays a critical role as far as on this security, but also on the electoral process, as in 2006, they were very key in getting the ballots out and bringing the ballots back.

Right now it's USAID has provided \$5 million for training, voter registration and voter education, which remains key, and also to continue to reach out through the education process to bring in as many of the people who are eligible to vote to vote, to be a participant in these election -- electoral process.

The other issue, too, is on the ballot counting as well. What we have done is to ensure that all the opposition groups do have members at the -- at the areas where the ballots are being counted. We have met very rigorously with all the opposition leaders who are potential candidates for the presidency, as well as many of the local candidates.

And -- and on the presidential level, obviously, that's Mobutu and Kameherhe, the -- the former speaker, the parliamentary speaker, as well as President Kabila himself. And to understand and not only monitoring the conflict minerals, but also tracking it, and also how it's being utilized, and denying those illegal traders from benefiting from those conflict minerals.

What I think the legislation and what it does is strengthen the support of what we've been doing over the last several years, which is to - the people and the civilians in areas where you have, you know, tungsten, titanium, tantalum and timber, have them benefit from the resources that are being mined. And I think that legislation helps us in that regard, and has strengthened those communities.

And then, the other issue too is to hold not only traders, but also smelters and endusers accountable to ensure that those monies and funds will benefit the people as well as those who are trading.

JANDHYALA: I think the impact of the legislation has been that the due diligence that the companies are taking this seriously. We see a lot of companies that we are working that we are working with the government to say how do we establish due diligence in this regard?

The second area of impact is our ability to have them look at it as part of a broader - the extractive ECI (ph) framework that we're providing technical assistance. And largely at the community level, again, is what role do they play in monitoring and tracking?

And in that regard, we've invested in infrastructure to access these remote sites, and by preventing people from traveling in between these sites, they've been able to keep this process going. So we're also investing in rural infrastructure to access to these areas where we think that there's a high instance of trafficking in conflict minerals.

MCDERMOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SMITH: Thank you, Mr. McDermott:

I'd like to thank our distinguished panel for your testimony. I would just echo the words of my good friend, the Ranking Member Mr. Payne. Both he and I strongly hope that you will consider a special envoy or a special representative.

Mr. Affleck makes a very strong and passionate appeal for this in his testimony. I hope you stick around to hear it. And Mr. Prendergast does the same. And as a matter of fact, he even says why is U.S. failing and what can be done about it? And that's one of his chief recommendations. So please name that special envoy, so we have a truly coordinated strategy.

I'd like to now welcome our next panel, panel number two, beginning with Mr. Ben Affleck, who is the founder of the Eastern Congo Initiative. In addition to a successful career as an actor, writer and director, Mr. Affleck is also a passionate advocate and philanthropist.

In March of 2010 he founded the Eastern Congo Initiative, or ECI, an advocacy and grantmaking initiative with the mission of helping the Congolese people support local, community-based approaches that create a sustainable and successful society in the long troubled region. ECI is the first U.S.-based advocacy and grantmaking initiative wholly focused on working with and for the people of the Eastern Congo.

Since 2007 Mr. Affleck has multiple trips to Africa with the focus on Eastern Congo. He has focused on understanding the causes and consequences of conflict on the continent, and learning about African solutions to the problems affecting the DRC.

We'll then hear from Ms. Francisca Vigaud-Walsh, who is with the Catholic Relief Services Sexual and Gender Based Violence Advisor, spearheading the effort to incorporate SGBVA prevention and responses to CRS programming in conflict and disaster affected communities worldwide.

Ms. Vigaud-Walsh has nearly a decade of refugee camp management and protection experience with the U.N. and various NGOs, working with displaced communities in the Balkans, Latin America, and Africa. And has spent a considerable amount of time in Eastern Congo helping CRS and its local partners design effective response to psycho-social, medical and economic needs of survivors of sexual violence.

We will also then hear from Mr. John Prendergast, who is a human rights activist and bestselling author who has worked for peace in Africa for over 25 years. He is co-founder of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity, affiliated with the Center for American Progress.

Mr. Prendergast has worked with the White House under President Clinton, the State Department, two members of Congress, National Intelligence Council, UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, the International Crisis Group, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. He has authored or co-authored 10 books and has appeared on numerous TV programs. And as I said earlier, has been here frequently before this subcommittee.

And I also would like to, if she would like to come to the witness table, Cindy McCain, who as I said earlier, has been a leader on issues dealing with health care for Africa, including the voluntary - American Voluntary Medical Team, leading several medical missions to developing and war torn nations. She is the wife of the distinguished senator from Arizona, John McCain, but she has also worked with CARE, Operation Smile, and the land removal group, the Halo Trust.

Mr. Affleck, if you proceed?

AFFLECK: Thank you very much. This is a - very excited about this and it's a great honor. So thank you all very much for including me today.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the subcommittee, my name is Ben Affleck.

I am the founder of the Eastern Congo Initiative. ECI is the only U.S.-based grantmaking and advocacy organization entirely focused on working with and for the people of Eastern Congo, an area that carries the unwanted distinction of being the deadliest and most volatile region of the country, and one of the deadliest in the world.

According to the United Nations, the crisis in Eastern Congo has displaced an estimated 1.7 million Congolese, and has led to over 1,000 rapes being committed every month. The International Rescue Committee estimates that 5.4 million people have lost their lives in the conflict since 1998. Many of these deaths were children under the age of five.

Not all were killed in combat, but rather, perished from the ravages that accompany this horrific region, malaria and pneumonia, malnutrition and diarrhea. ECI invests in Congolese efforts that help protect the most vulnerable among the population in Congo, including child soldiers, survivors of sexual violence. ECI works closely with community-based groups focused on education, economic opportunity, capacity-building, and legal reform.

I thank you for your attention to Congo and for holding this important hearing. On behalf of ECI I request to submit a complete written statement for the record.

Today's hearing occurs on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, which I also think is important to recognize. And I think it's particularly appropriate to call attention to this, to the particular suffering of women and girls in Eastern Congo, as well as the undeniable strength they exhibit in the face of ongoing atrocities.

I am also pleased to recognize Cindy McCain, who is with us here today, and who recently joined ECI as a founding member and investor. Cindy and I just returned from Eastern Congo, where we saw firsthand the tragedy and triumph of the Congolese people.

While large parts of Eastern Congo remain under the control of armed groups, there are many reasons, most of them rooted in the strength and fortitude of the people, to be hopeful about Congo's future.

I want to share with you the story of a remarkable woman named Lava (ph) Kimana (ph), who exemplifies the potential of the Congolese people to transform themselves and their society. Lava (ph) was captured by rebel soldiers at the age of 14 in South Kivu and held as a sex slave for over two years. She was raped every day virtually by her captors until she found her freedom through the thick jungle in what makes up the second largest rain forest in the world. She discovered she was pregnant, the child of one of her rapists.

The counselors of a remarkable Congolese organization called Let Africa Live found Lava (ph). They took her in. They provided her with counseling and job training. And while caring for her new daughter, she used her skills to start

a small business and earn enough income to return to school. Lava (ph) is now 22 years old. I met her. She is wonderful. She is in her third year of studying law and she advocates for the rights of women using her own story.

Since my first visit to Congo more than five years ago, I've witnessed remarkable efforts to improve governance, promote economic growth, and reduce conflict. Unfortunately, despite some positive movement, the record over these last five years is not promising.

Congo risks heading into another deeper spiral of violence that could lead to more fighting and suffering and it could risk destabilizing surrounding African countries.

In 2006, millions of Congolese voted for the first time in a free and fair Democratic election, voting in more than 50,000 polling places around the country. The Congolese people elected Joseph Kabila as president.

There was a period of great excitement and high hopes as the United States indeed, testified to by some of the other panelists, played a very important role.

Starting in 2007, the U.S., along with others in the West, drew back involvement.

Instead of continuing a high level of engagement to consolidate a new and fragile democracy, Congo was treated as if it was a well-functioning state from which the United Nations commission in Congo could be safely withdrawn.

This notion was quickly dispelled when rebels waged a new battle against the government in eastern Congo in 2007 and 2008, that brought another terrible round of death, displacement and destruction.

Our government has a long history of involvement in the Congo, from our shameful role in the murder of Patrice Lumumba and three decades' support of Mobutu to some very admirable recent efforts.

In the early 2000s, the United States government helped to bring to the table various forces then fighting in Congo.

U.S. government also provided key early funding for the 2006 elections and played a major role in helping peace and development return to the Congo. About this, there is no question.

The past few years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has also, as testified to by Ambassador Yamamoto, visited the region, and USAID has escalated its efforts in eastern Congo.

Also, USAID has provided millions of dollars in humanitarian assistance to the Congo since the mid-1990s. This commitment has indeed paid dividends in Congo.

But with conflict persisting and elections coming up, we must develop a cohesive strategy and fully engage on this issue.

Today with national elections only eight months away, on November 27th, U.S. is not focused on Congo, even with events like last week's attack on the president's residence in Kinshasa.

That, paired with Congo's recent history, should remind everybody of the fragility of Congo's project -- Congo's progress stability.

The United States government can and should play an active role in ensuring this November's elections are free and fair.

An electoral outcome that is questioned could easily perpetuate another downward spiral of violence, division and rupture. And the last time Congo collapse, armies came in from across Africa.

As said before, five million people died. Five million people have died since 1998 because of the conflict in eastern Congo. We must learn from history and do our part to see that this never happens again.

In this time of heightened concern over federal spending, some suggest that posterity demands we turn a blind eye to the crisis in Congo. I believe nothing could be more misguided.

It would simply be penny-wise and pound-foolish to allow Congo to, again, fall into a state of crisis or (inaudible) humanitarian chaos.

If Congo were to collapse again, as members of this subcommittee know full well, the United States would respond generously with humanitarian assistance. We would try to save lives. But we have to do better.

Our goal must be to avert humanitarian disaster by proactive investment and stronger diplomacy.

The path to stability in today's Congo requires sponsoring stable elections and preventing another disaster that can easily require hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance.

I humbly suggest that the U.S. government take a hard look at its current commitment and find a way to do more. Come November, we must be able to look ourselves in the eye and say that we did what our principles demanded.

We helped democracy emerge in a place where tragedy is the alternative.

In November 2010, the eastern Congo (inaudible) released a white paper -- here it is -- strengthening United States' foreign policy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We do titles differently in D.C. than we do back home. This paper commissioned and reviewed by experts encourages steps the U.S. should take to promote progress in Congo.

I requested that a summary of the -- of the paper should be included in the record (inaudible).

SMITH: Without objection, so ordered. Thank you.

AFFLECK: I've included a more detailed explanation of the steps we believe are necessary in the -- in the written testimony.

One, the U.S. government must do more to support a multidimensional strategy to protect civilians, women, girls, boys and men, in the onslaught of violence in the eastern Congo.

Two, the U.S. government must do more to support to the 2011 elections, which we've heard about already a little bit today.

In addition to providing diplomatic support, the U.S. should support robust election monitoring by Congolese civil society and by credible international organizations.

Three, to ensure that the United States steps up to the serious challenge as to stability in Africa posed by the Congo, the president or the Secretary of State should appoint a special representative to the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

The appointment should occur as soon as possible in order to coordinate the U.S. response to the challenges in the Congo.

We also believe that the treatment of conflict minerals, demobilization and security sector reform, as well as the Lord's Resistance Army, are a serious concern and deserve a comprehensive approach and cohesive strategy.

This is an ambitious agenda, but it can be accomplished. In December 2005, then Senator Obama introduced a bill called the Democratic Republic of Congo Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006.

This bill had a bipartisan list of Senate cosponsors, including then Senator Hillary Clinton. On December 6th, 2006, it was passed by the House by a voice vote. On December 22nd, 2006, President Bush signed the bill into law.

The majority of our recommendations are found in this very law. They simply need to be implemented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your very strong support of this important legislation.

We place special emphasis on full diplomatic support for the upcoming elections and the reappointment (ph) of a Great Lakes special adviser in the State department.

This special adviser would serve as a point of accountability and an important and necessary coordinating function.

Maybe most relevant in these tough economic times, this appointment would inevitably ensure efficiencies are found across multiple investments and diplomatic efforts.

We strongly believe that if we continue to place Congo on the back burner of U.S. policy, it will indeed come back to haunt us. The federal budget may be a zero-sum game.

But our morality, our sense of decency, our compassion for our fellow human beings is not.

Recognizing one tragedy need not diminish understanding and empathy for another, our basic humanity, our sense of compassion, is not a fixed number. It expands with our vision. It can grow with our purpose.

But our moral compass is fixed. Our sunrise, our east as a nation, even when we have failed, has always pointed us towards what's right.

Now, not what's easy, not what's cheap, but what we can live with and how we can sleep with ourselves at night. The values we hold true are priceless to us. They are the soul of our nation.

They are rooted in our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, our Declaration of Independence. We believe in being free from the tyranny of violence.

We believe in life and liberty and we believe that basic human rights are not just important, they're not just something to be worked toward, but a fundamental right to be demanded for all mankind.

These ideas make us who we are. They make us great. But if our foreign policy does not reflect these ideals, it completely undermines them.

I have seen first-hand the determination of the promise of the Congolese people. I hope you will consider visiting eastern Congo to learn and see what I have. Any of you are welcome to come with me.

The Congolese people simply want to live their lives in peace, earn a decent living and raise their families, just like the rest of us. They want a voice in their country's governance.

I will never give in to the naysayers who suggest Congo is hopeless or too complex. It is not. The 70 million people of Congo deserve a better tomorrow. And the Eastern Congo Initiative will do our small part to ensure that it does.

It is in the interest of all of us here to support the people of the Congo and move forward toward democracy and respect for human rights, and to move away from the multiple crises and horrors of the last 15 years.

Thank you very much. It really is an honor to be here and I'm happy to expand on any of these points and to answer your questions.

SMITH: Mr. Affleck, thank you so very much for your very eloquent and passionate statement. And I do hope that the White House and the Capitol, the Congress, is listening to your strong appeal.

Congo cannot be on the back burner of U.S. foreign policy. And I think, as Mr. Payne and I have made very clear, I think every member of our panel, we strongly want that special envoy, that special representative yesterday.

And so your appeal today, I think, would be a pivoting point for the administration to say, now, do it. Time is running out. So thank you so very much. I'd like to now introduce Ms. Vigaud-Walsh.

And thank you for your testimony.

VIGAUD-WALSH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit my written statement for the record. And I will briefly summarize.

SMITH: Without objection, so ordered.

VIGAUD-WALSH: Thank you, Chairman Smith, for calling this very important hearing today, and for giving Catholic Relief Services the opportunity to testify.

I would also like to thank the ranking member, Mr. Payne.

Mr. Smith, I know how passionate you are about advocating for the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the Congo.

And, Mr. Payne, I know that your interests in the region have led you to travel to the Congo several times, even dating back to when it was still called the Zaire.

Let me also thank Mr. McDermott for his role as one of the original offers of the Congo Conflict Minerals Provision that recently became law. This provision will help to curb sexual violence in the Congo.

This morning, in Bukavu, close to 180,000 women marched in the streets, advocating for their own rights, today being their day, International Women's Day.

They marched behind a banner that stated, "We Can Stop Violence," and they have slogans that included two key demands, the first being impunity for rapists must cease, and the second being that women must be included in all the political processes.

As the sexual and gender-based violence adviser for Catholic Relief Services, I focus a lot of my efforts on the Congo, just because of the sheer magnitude of the problem there.

And in this capacity, I've had the privilege of working for and with many of the women that marched this -- some of the women that marched this morning.

In eastern Congo today is a cry for women to no longer be used as a battleground. And here it is a call for us to even make greater efforts to help them.

CRS, which has been working in the DRC since 1961, partners with the local Catholic church to address the scourge of sexual violence.

The church has an extensive network throughout the most remote areas of the country. This network allows us to reach the most isolated rapes -- of rape survivors -- excuse me.

Also, in the absence of an effective and functioning government administration, the Catholic Church has provided most of the basic services, such as health care and education for decades. It has thus gained the trust of the population.

In Eastern Congo, I have repeatedly come across rape survivors who have walked many kilometers from their displacement camps to seek support at the nearest parish. The fear of stigmatization by their fellow camp dwellers, coupled with the trust in the church, drives them to seek assistance there.

Together we have implemented numerous activities to respond to this crisis. We've provided access to life-changing fistula repair surgeries, psychosocial training for counselors and trauma healing for thousands of survivors in four provinces, income generating and entrepreneurial skills for at least 1,500 rape survivors, community trading to mobilize military, police and transitional justice leaders, and most recently, an innovative community-based early warning and protection project in three provinces.

The funding for these projects do come from a variety of sources, but the great majority of them come from the United States government. This partnership between the United States government, CRS and the church in Congo extends the reach and magnifies the impact of US government assistance into remote areas with needy, vulnerable populations that could not be reached otherwise.

It is critically important that the US government maintain and expand the support for the essential responses I've just described, as well as preserving and strengthening its partnership with the church and other faith-based organizations.

If the DRC is to have a future, the hundreds of thousands of women who have been raped must continue to be able to access these services. And even within the context of scarce resources today, the US can and should do more to combat the conditions that foster the use of rape as a weapon of war. I'd like to make these additional recommendations.

One. The US must use its leverage as a donor and as a partner to press the Congolese government to fulfill its security mandate, uphold human rights and genuinely work to protect its civilizations. The Congolese government has requested more military support recently, such as the training of more battalions. The US G - the US government, excuse me - has to think this support to measurable changes in key areas.

Two. The US should condition its assistance on progress against impunity and survivor access to justice. As long as ranking military officers who condone and perpetuate rape roam free, or as long as civilians accused of rape can continue to pay the equivalent of five US dollars to get a jail - to get a free out of jail card, sexual violence will persist.

Three. The US government urges the Congolese - the US government should urge the Congolese government with its previous commitments to include women in the political and (inaudible) processes. They should be respected and included and prepared for election. Indeed, violence against women in the DRC is symptomatic of women's second-class status and marginalization from decision making. Women have been consistently excluded from previous peace processes and continue to be sidelined from political power.

One of the women who led in the March in Bukavu this morning is a director of the (inaudible) Office for Women's Issue, Sans (ph) (inaudible). When I telephoned her yesterday to tell her about this hearing she was ecstatic because she knows the political leverage the United States government has with the Congo. She drafted a declaration alongside her counterparts in the Muslim and Protestant communities and urged me to make these recommendations.

Ultimately, in order to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence in the DRC we need to stop the wider, more generalized conflict. The United States governments needs to more urgently engage diplomatically. The United States government can lead the process that will end the fighting and increase women's participation in the political sphere.

The magnitude of the seemingly never-ending humanitarian crisis and the potential for the fragile situation to get even worse demands a proportionate response. At this critical juncture with elections coming, the United States government must rise to the task as it did in the Sudan. And as long as violence persists the US must continue to support the life-saving partnership with faith-based institutions in the DRC. Thank you.

SMITH: Ms. Vigaud-Walsh, thank you so very much. And thank you for the absolutely encouraging news about the 180,000 women marching. That is just incredible. And hopefully in a small way this hearing and the follow up that we will do - it is all ongoing - but I think this is an important venue to say now is the time for the administration to do much more. And that goes for us as well. So thank you for that wonderful news.

Mr. Pendergast.

PENDERGAST: Thank you, Chairman Smith and ranking member Payne for your ongoing commitment to Congo and human rights throughout Africa. I'd like to ask that my testimony be submitted to the record and to People magazine, (inaudible) to Mr. Affleck. I'd also like to set aside my written testimony to say a few things this afternoon about this unique moment that Congo is facing.

While women were marching in Congo in Bukavu this morning, the 180,000, two of my colleagues from Enough are in Goma - were in Goma this morning - and talked with one of the leading women's rights advocates in the country, Justine Masika, who some - everyone probably on this panel knows and some of you know, and Secretary Clinton met when she was in Congo in 2009.

And for this hearing Justine wanted to say the following. "The link between conflict minerals and mass rape here in Congo is crystal clear. So the first and foremost priority for ending the war here in Congo is to set up a system to regulate the minerals trade. And the upcoming election," she said, "is the critical window to push the government of Congo on this issue, since it will try harder to please the population before the vote."

Now I was in Congo twice in the last six months and I would strongly concur with Justine's assessment that this is an unparalleled moment of opportunity to make real changes in Congo. The election is the primary internal factor, no question. But the US Congress's conflict minerals legislation, spearheaded by Congressman McDermott, is the primary external factor. And it has created a moment full of uncertainties and anxieties, but also of huge opportunities in the country.

Now before we get to these opportunities, I want to make one commercial time out on why we focus so much on the economics of Congo's war. Of course we believe the conflict there is about more than conflict minerals, but let's take a look at the broader agenda and how it is compromised by the mafia-like economy there.

Now everyone wants to reform, for example, the military. However, the military officer corps is the primary beneficiary of mining in the country. President Kabila stays in power by allowing these officers free reign to make as much money as they can and cratering the rule of law throughout the eastern third of the country.

Number two, everyone wants to reform the justice system of course. However, the military and civilian beneficiaries in government of this conflict minerals trade do not want a strong, efficient government. The rule of law will subvert this illegal economy and the money now going into their pockets will go to the treasury. And that's simply unacceptable to this mafia.

The third thing I want to bring up is everyone of course wants to stop the FDLR and the other militias. However, they sustain themselves through mineral profits, and everyone knows that. And they often trade increasingly with the military itself, the Congolese military.

Fourth, everyone wants clean elections. However, who in power would give up this gravy train? You lose and you're out. It's winner take all. They can't take that chance and they'll fix it. So everyone supports peace agreements, no question. However, even the peace deals in Congo can make matters worse if we don't deal with the economic fuel for war. One and a half million Congolese people have been displaced since President Kagame (ph) and Kabila signed their peace agreement a year and a half ago. That's a - that's a tragic record.

Back to the people of Congo. Ryan Gosten (ph) and I went there over Thanksgiving. We met an extraordinary Congolese woman named Marie. Marie is a rape survivor twice over and she has overcome her own trauma to found a women's organization that helps other women who have survived sexual crimes.

We asked her what she recommends. And she said the following. "Please stop this bloody business. You are fueling conflict. Families are being torn apart. Women are being raped. Communities are being destroyed so armed groups can profit from the mines. Companies should stop supporting this and do ethical business," she said.

Well, the good news is that because of the Congressional legislation, because of your legislation, every one of you who championed this, companies have to start trying now to do this ethical business. And some companies are already moving ahead even beyond what the legislation is requiring them to do. But they need help from the United States.

And the key I believe, as it has been on so many critical foreign policy issues in Africa, the key is the United States Congress. Two critical processes are coming to fruition now that this subcommittee and the wider Congress can influence.

First, the Security and Exchange Commission is going to issue very soon implementing regulations for your conflict minerals legislation. We need to ensure that these regulations have serious teeth and do not delay the implementation of the bill. We have a letter that we're releasing today from Congolese civil society organizations making this very point, that we cannot countenance a delay in the implementation of the bill.

Strong regulations will send a major signal to the actors in the supply chain that foment violence, that subvert the rule of law, that undermine good governance, that they have to clean up their act.

Second major opportunity we have now is that the conflict minerals legislation as was discussed requires the executive branch to develop a strategy for dealing with conflict minerals and ending the violence. That's a first. The executive branch hasn't been required by Congress to have a strategy to actually end this thing. We've always wanted to deal with the symptoms. This - the bill says, "How are you going to end it?"

Well that strategy was due over a month but it's still being debated inside the administration. That's a good thing. That means you can have influence over what the Obama administration comes out with. This is a huge opportunity for the United States to make a critical difference in the Congo.

We think Secretary Clinton should lead in putting together a stakeholder's meeting that involves the regional governments, particularly Congo at the center, the companies that matter, the United States and the European Union all together to launch a process that would result in an international certification system to end the conflict minerals trade in central Africa.

And we need a senior envoy to help spearhead this and all the other efforts that my fellow panelists and you of all have spoken about and written to the administration about so passionately in the country and throughout the region.

US leadership has helped do this with diamonds. We've done it with forestry. We've done it with fisheries. We've done it with a number of other products where when the United States helped lead in bringing the companies and governments in question together, standards were changed and this positively has impacted the lives of millions and millions of people.

Well, now it's Congo's turn. So if we act on the deadly minerals trade, it's not a magic wand, but it is a catalyst, and it's a domino that will help topple the edifice of greed and militarization that kills and rapes people in Congo at a higher rate than anywhere else in the world.

Thank you very much for your leadership.

SMITH: Mr. Pendergast, thank you so very much for your passion and for your insights and counsel, which you have provided to this committee and the Congress for many years. Thank you so much.

As previously discussed and agreed by my friend Mr. Payne and I, the ranking member, I would ask unanimous consent to welcome Ms. Cindy McCain to speak and participate as a witness on this panel, even though we had not prior noticed it.

MCCAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I don't intend to take long at all, but I would like to -- to thank you and the committee members for taking your time in hearing what we have to say with regard to such a critical issue that's facing our world.

I come to Congo, having my first trip down there in 1994 during the Rwandan genocide. And so my history with Congo is dicey at best. But what I've learned through these years is what is most important, and it is that organizations just like this, particularly organizations like ECI, that -- that go in and take a -- not only a strong look at what's going on, but become active in a -- in a community-based level.

These NGOs, organizations like this are most important for what we're doing, but we can't do it alone. We are here today to -- to ask all of you, and I know all of you in this room right now have been to Congo, have taken an active interest in Congo -- please come. But most importantly, we're depending on your voice to -- to spread the word.

We're going to lose a generation of women and children in Congo unless we do something now. I'm only a humanitarian relief worker. That's the only thing I've ever done. It's the only thing I know with regard to this region. But I also know what's right, and we can't leave behind to these women and children.

So we rely on you, and we talk to you today with great hope that you will lead this charge and not forget about these wonderful human beings in a rich culture that has so much to offer to this world. I leave it to the experts to tell you today what is most important, but I would hope that you would ask those people who are on the ground to not only to help you, but for you to let them know that you are behind them, and most importantly, to let the women and children know that they are not forgotten.

I particularly want to thank Ben Affleck for allowing me to be a part of this today and for allowing me to be a part of ECI. We are strange political bedfellows. We are the odd couple, perhaps, in politics. But that's the beauty of this, because this transcends political parties.

So thank you so much for what you are doing. Most importantly, thank you for listening to what they have to say. And thank you on behalf of many, many NGO aid workers that are on the ground that need your help. Thank you.

SMITH: McCain, the thank goes to you and to the three other distinguished witnesses for leading and leading so well and pouring yourself into these humanitarian efforts.

I'd like to ask Mr. Affleck. I know that you have been to and have been -- ECI actually aids HEAL Africa. Could you just provide some additional insight into the work of HEAL Africa and other like-minded NGOs and hospitals that you've supported?

AFFLECK: Sure, sure. I mean, unfortunately, not very many hospitals in that part of the country. And we were initially attracted to that, because, of course, they're Congolese-run and based, and that's the kind of organization that we want to be supporting.

Sometimes we support grassroots organizations that don't have that level of infrastructure and, you know, high-level education. But these people are -- they're a Congolese-run hospital that started out very small, primarily, of course, through fistula repair, because the need for fistulas is so urgent there. And they've grown.

They've grown because of their skill, their talent, what they're providing, and -- and who's doing the work. And it's one of the few that actually has attracted a decent amount of attention from people. And they provide desktop level -- I mean, obviously, it's emergency care.

I visited them and saw them at -- some, you know, soldiers, you know, who were recovering from gunshot wounds. One guy showed me that he had -- he had his wallet in his pocket, and yet been in the war, and he took the wallet out, and the bullet had gone into his pocket and hit the wallet and saved his life. And, you know, he had some other wounds that he was being treated for, but it was definitely they were on the front lines of the war, and they're on the front lines of building the peace.

And, you know, I don't know what people would do without this kind of hospital there. And they are receiving -- well, we're working with them, and others are as well, and, you know, they're really pretty exceptional.

The other, of course, really well known hospital is Panzi Hospital, which Dr. Mukwege works at, which is in Bukavu in South Kivu. And he also -- he is just doing exceptional work. I mean, he's a guy who was himself personally early on doing 10 fistula surgeries a day at the height of this epidemic, and it still goes on, but he doesn't have to do all the surgeries. Then they started training other doctors, and it became sustainable.

Those two organizations are spectacular. There are many others that were working with. Part of what we try to do at ECI is to re-calibrate people's perception about Africa and about who's doing what.

People go, "We're going to throw money down there. It's money down a rat hole." That's not the case at all. Really, in our experience, people who are doing it, solving these problems, and maybe it was Congressman Payne who's talking about this earlier, it's Congolese solving Congolese problems, and that's what's so -- what's so inspiring to me.

And both of those hospitals are really emblematic of that. And I have a bunch of other stories, but I'll spare you.

SMITH: You know, in your testimony, and -- and Mr. Pendergast also makes a very strong appeal for the special envoy.

And, Mr. Pendergast, you actually point out that Harold Wolpe, who used to be chairman of this subcommittee years back, actually had his capability diminished, his resources cut, and influence at a time when -- of course, he has been ill recently, but even when he had the position.

It seems to me that the message we need to send to the White House, because they need to do this, like I said, before yesterday, is to name that special envoy and properly resource that individual.

If you both, and perhaps any of you who would like to speak to that issue, it seems to me that we don't have a point person who can in a rapid way, with the ear of the president and the secretary of state, you know, a phone call away, this window of opportunity, as one of you said in your testimony, could quickly evaporate.

And if we -- you know, I was -- and Mr. Payne and I were talking about this in between testimonies, you know, \$5 million expended so far. Last time it was about 80 million. And when the administration testifies that there's a \$350 million gap, that may doom this election unless quick, corrective action is taken. And the special envoy would have that ability to say, you know, we're going to make this happen, so if you could speak to that.

AFFLECK: I'll just give a quick answer come, and then John can get into the nuance policy detail stuff.

But, you know, there's a lot going on. We've heard other people talking about what the U.S. government is doing, what other folks are doing. A big -- big part of this is about synthesizing all the stuff, taking all these strands. As many of you know who work in the private sector, you get have a lot of people doing stuff and maybe doing their jobs well, but if they're not working together and they don't know what the other hand is doing, frankly, you just have a lot of waste.

So we've got resources dedicated that are now being frittered away, because they are not working collectively, they're not working cohesively. You know, somebody's supposed to be doing elections, somebody's supposed to be doing gender-based violence, somebody's supposed to -- there are people designated to liaise with regional governments like Burundi and Rwanda and Uganda and others.

But without somebody sort of taking the lead and being able to do that kind of shuttle diplomacy, where they move across those folks, you know, it just really isn't going to be successful. In fact, we're underutilizing what we are already deploying, in effect.

And we've -- I've talked about the stakes a little bit. Now, John, take it?

PENDERGAST: Just a -- just a footnote, what Ben's saying there is when I worked at the White House in the State Department, I just found it to be endlessly frustrating, because so many issues and countries were stovepipes and kept in their categories. And what a special envoy -- and you've got, you know, in Central Africa you've got cross border issues, you've got multiple issues that bring equities in from all kinds of different departments throughout the U.S. government, so you need someone to be able to break through the stove-piping.

And -- and it can't be a deputy assistant secretary of state who just gets dual-hatted to be doing something else besides their regular job, which is 20 hours a day anyways with the beeper going off every 30 minutes in the other four hours.

You just got to have someone whose full-time job is focused, and it's someone with influence, someone that can pick up the phone and say, "Secretary Clinton, it's actually time for you to say or do something now," and someone who can actually move the system, move the needle away from the inertia that just pervades government.

You know, this is just where it is. People are well-meaning, but the system is it's systemically tilted toward the status quo. To be able to move that needle away from the status quo towards action, that's what you need a special envoy for. And we should collectively, civil society and -- and the legislative branch, press the executive branch to do this as soon as possible.

We know President Obama moved on the special envoy in -- in Sudan because of George Clooney. Maybe he'll move it in Congo because of Ben.

AFFLECK: Well, I think -- I don't think it'll have much to do with me, but from what I've heard, and we've spent a lot of time asking around this town. I know that if we had the support of Ambassador Yamamoto and Assistant Secretary Carson, we'd go a long way, so I want to urge -- Yamamoto's still here and Carson, wherever you are, help us out. It's going to be a collective effort, and I know we can get there.

SMITH: Thank you. And I couldn't agree more.

Ms. Vigaud-Walsh, in your testimony you referenced the CRS Project that aims to prevent sexual violence against women by sensitizing communities and mobilizing local leaders, and it's done through training transitional justice leaders, military and police officials, who then become community sensitization leaders. Can you tell us how successful that program has been?

And secondly -- and, Ms. McCain, you might want to speak to this as well -- the issue of micro credit financing is -- is huge in Africa. And, you know, dollar for dollar I can't think of a better way of helping to empower women, especially because most of those grants or -- or loans, I should say, go to women. And with a small amount of money, someone can not only get gainfully employed, but they end up hiring for five, six people in many cases.

For those women who have been so sexually abused and traumatized, do you find that micro credit financing and job skills help them to mend -- not only help provide for themselves and perhaps their families, but also is part of the healing process?

VIGAUD-WALSH: Thank you, Chairman.

With regards to our project where we, with the Catholic Church of Tusi (ph), we train transitional justice leaders, the program is critical and is very effective, because we have to step back for a moment and look at the context. We're talking about a country where there is no rule of law. The justice system is in shambles. So there is nothing but traditional leadership in justice.

So the fact of the matter is we're working in communities where the view of justice still is embedded in cultural ideas that are attached to the stigma; how to overcome the stigma or how to reduce stigma. And what I mean by that is, a girl that is perhaps as young as 14 years old, in order to avoid that stigma, she is forced to marry her rapist. And that is the traditional justice system.

So we've been working with hundreds and hundreds of justice leaders -- traditional justice leaders in order to work with them on making their policies, shall we say, more gender-sensitive, and more sensitive to the needs and protection of the women and girls.

That's on the first point. And with regards to the micro-credit financing, absolutely, absolutely critical. And I'm glad that you noted that it is part of the healing process in fact. Through our savings and lending schemes, we've had rape survivors that have been ostracized from their communities, and therefore lost their breadwinners once their husbands abandoned them.

And one particular case that I'm thinking of right now, she was actually able to save the equivalent of \$600 to build her own house. This is a woman who would have been living in the street, quite literally, after having been ostracized by her community.

Once -- those kinds of programs work so much on the self-esteem. And the self-esteem after rape is so critical to being able to move on and to be able to remake one's life, even in the face of having been ostracized by the community.

So these programs are critical and I strongly suggest that they continue to be supported and I do that the U.S. government for all the support that we have received for these programs thus far. Thank you.

SMITH: Ms. McCain, did you want to comment?

MCCAIN: The only thing I would add to that, you're exactly right. Micro-financing is, in my opinion, key to this. So are free and fair elections. And unless we do both, we are never going to have a society of women that will have any kind of rights at all. So that would be the only thing I would add to that.

SMITH: Thank you.

Mr. Payne.

PAYNE: Well, let me certainly thank all of you for your testimony. And I think the interest of all of you in this issue really assists us in Congress to try to highlight the problems without people like you, Ms. McCain, and Mr. Affleck, and, of course, Pendergast is the agitator behind all of this stuff, and, of course, the work that Catholic Relief Services does.

We would probably have a difficult time filling the room, probably only have a third of it covered. So I think that people don't realize the importance of people in your categories that you can bring attention to issues.

And I think it's important. Once we get the attention, we know what to do, you know, Congressman Smith and myself and the other members of Congress. But you do help us highlight the problems. And I really, once again, thank you all for your interest in these issues.

The -- it seems as -- and it's very clear that we definitely need to have a special envoy. I recall -- maybe, John, you remember when we went with President Clinton to Africa. And during our time there we just simply had a meeting of the Great Lakes region presidents. I mean, because so much is interrelated.

Uganda was arguing a little bit with Burundi. You had Rwanda looking over at what was happening in Zimbabwe. I mean, it's so interrelated that it -- a special envoy not only should deal with the problems of the Congo, but to be able to coordinate.

As a matter of fact, Uganda was a recipient of a terrorist attack because Uganda was assisting in Somalia with their troops to protect the government of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the transitional federal government. And without Ugandan troops there, the situation would be much worse.

Well, that's all connected. That at the World Cup game, Uganda suffered the loss of 20-some of their citizens by Al-Shabab planting a bomb as people were simply watching the World Cup because there were Ugandan troops helping in Somalia.

So it's so all connected that it seems that it would certainly make a lot of sense that we do have an envoy, especially to deal with the DRC, but also to have the surrounding countries that are involved in.

The fact that so many -- and the tragedy of the Congo, as I mentioned earlier with King Leopold and how the country was just devastated, and then once they decided to move forward, the conspiracy of the West to come together and have Patrice Lumumba murdered.

That was really -- and I'm glad Mr. Affleck, that we can't forget the past, we don't need to dwell on it, but if we know the past, we know why we're in positions we're in. Congo with the leadership of Lumumba and those were emerging at that time could've had a total difference on the way the Congo is today.

But by us propping up Mobutu, who raped the country for decades and decades, we find ourselves now struggling again to try to get democracy moving and trying to get this whole question of rape, which should be despised by society, but it's something that people sort of shrugged their shoulders and say, well, that happens.

So I really -- like I said, I really commend you for your efforts. I know Mrs. Walsh -- or Vigaud-Walsh, you all work with child soldiers. And I know that perhaps some of the abusers who are involved in rape now were probably child soldiers before.

So I wonder what your organization is doing as it relates to child soldiers in the DRC.

VIGAUD-WALSH: To illustrate what we are doing with child soldiers, I could speak of a program we had in North Kivu in partnership with the Caritas Goma, and Caritas Rome as well.

We were supporting centers through which demobilized children -- or children were transported to after being demobilized, providing a trauma healing therapy, working with them to prepare them for reintegration back into society.

The problem is, is that clearly these kinds of services aren't enough. The number of children that were needing DDR services in a few years ago was much, much greater than the funding -- level of funding that we had.

Thank you.

PAYNE: Thank you.

Mr. Affleck, maybe you and Mr. Pendergast might be able to deal with the question, what do you see us needing on the ground in order to make these elections work?

AFFLECK: Well, first of all, I want to go back to another of your questions that I don't think got answered, which is that the difference between MONUC and MONUSCO is two letters which stand for "stabilization and organization," the idea being that it has got an expanded mandate for, well, stabilization, among other things.

And, you know, that -- Meece, who replaced Alan Doss, seems to be doing a fine job. He's an American and people are optimistic. And there have been some appreciative changes.

Now that entity places a real role, obviously, in elections, as you know, you were there. They played an instrumental part in elections last time. What I hear from people in this environment, they say, well, the second election is always harder. It's the one fewer people want to pay attention to. It's the one that can either cement democracy or it all fall backward and become unwound.

We need to have monitors. We need to have, like you say, internationally credited monitors. We're hoping that the Carter Center will up the ante a little bit on what they're willing to do. I think IRI is going to come in. I think NDI will then follow.

But we also a fully committed effort, and, frankly, we need, you know, to maintain that peace and stability. You asked about the FDLR and CNDP, and, you know, to sort of more fully address that, where we are right now is that, yes, because of when Nkunda got taken away by the Rwandese, the CNDP folded up in the FARDC.

However, they sort of cut a deal with Bosco Ntaganda so Bosco is now kind of the de facto leader of the CNDP inside the FARDC, which creates a kind of tension. And it's one that has to be managed by MONUSCO, because you arrest him, you may create a lot of problems. You may go back to the war that you had before.

And it's tricky. When we were there recently, you know, right after we flew out the airport was the scene of a huge, you know, shooting and chase. And Bosco had brought -- his gold, they had brought in a bunch of gold that they were smuggling and this big police chase up there.

So this is a guy acting with a lot of impunity and creating a lot of instability. And, you know, the Kimana (ph), RDF, FARDC efforts to go after the FDLR, on the flip side, which I think represented, to get to your question, a further break between the FDLR and FARDC, and Kabila and those guys who really were kind of on his side during the war.

But it got stopped a bit because the FDLR were smart and they knew that enough civilian casualties -- they would leave and then come back and kill a lot of civilians. And they knew that that would tamp down enthusiasm for further military actions. The Rwandese, of course, left.

These intractable, thorny issues need to be solved as well as the other practical electoral stuff. (INAUDIBLE) elections, we have a lot of logistical stuff. They need support, they need people there saying, this is how we should do it. It needs MONUSCO flying people around. It needs MONUSCO fully dedicated.

And it also needs increased diplomatic involvement and engagement to help, to continue to, and this is a place where the U.S. has done a lot of really good work. You know, guys like Tim Shortley at the State Department, who was over there several years ago and working closely Nkunda and Goma peace accords and such.

You know that we need to continue to -- to push that towards peace, because any of these guys with boscos (ph) and so on, that -- that those situations flare up. It could easily trigger further instability in elections. That wasn't more than you wanted to hear, but.

(UNKNOWN): Oh, that was very -- you're pretty -- you're pretty up on this stuff. It's really you're very impressive.

J.P.?

PENDERGAST: The only thing that I would add there...

And that was -- that was indeed a great answer. You ought to...

AFFLECK: Well, thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

(UNKNOWN): Him I paid to say that.

PENDERGAST: But I would add and just actually highlights the diplomatic effort that you just spoke of as part and parcel of the larger thing and put a little meat on those bones and say what you need, of course, as we do in other countries that matter to the United States, is you create these unified coordination mechanisms. Call them donor coordination, call them diplomatic coordinators.

They then craft multi-lateral carrots and sticks related to electoral benchmarks. And you deploy them early enough that they could actually influence the process as it unfolds, because, of course, anyone who wants to steal an election is watching to see what the world will do.

And if the world does nothing but put out a little press release saying, "Bad," you know, slap on the wrist, of course, they're going to go ahead because of the reasons we've talked about for so long. The money, the gravy train will be lost if you lose the election.

So we need that -- that multi-lateral, unified voice of the governments that have influence to develop the carrot sticks -- carrots and sticks, create the watchdog actions that will blow whistles when there are problems, and do it early enough, create these things early enough so you're not just waiting till the day of the vote to say, "Wait a minute. There's something wrong here." But we can actually watch and see how it unfolds.

We'll know months in advance whether this is going to be a credible election, and if the answer is no, then we can deploy and say, "Wait a minute. We're not going to support this. You're going to have to change for anyone to take this seriously." And then it's up to the Congolese government to -- to develop their own calculation about whether or not they want to reform it.

So I think that's what we really -- that's one of the elements of many, as Ben said, that we need to be engaged in to try to make a difference here.

SMITH: Thank you. I guess my time has about expired.

I won't to ask you, Ms. McCain, about elections.

I would just want to say that we -- elections are so important. I just want to remind the chairman that we have the problem in Cote d'Ivoire where the president lost the election and just decided, "I'm not going to leave." I mean, this is unbelievable, with everyone saying, "Hey, you" -- ECOWAS, EKAD (ph), E.U., U.S. saying, "You lost. You should step out."

And so I think that we really have to keep the pressure on Gbagbo to step down. And if we could move that legislation forward to have the Congress on record with the rest of the world saying, "Get out," because if he stays in, it's going to be a bad example for all of these other elections.

There are about a dozen elections coming up in Africa this year, and if this is the principle where you lose and you stay and you say, "Well, I'm not leaving," then we're going to be in a world of trouble in these elections coming up, including the Congo.

So once again, thank you all for your testimony.

SMITH: Mr. Fortenberry?

FORTENBERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A question for you, Mr. Affleck and Mrs. McCain. I'm curious. How did you choose the Eastern Congo as the focus of your passion and interest? The reason I say that is those of us who sit on this committee and others, where global human rights is a concern and deep interest and essential, the -- the insults to humanity, the effrontery that comes across our desk daily in so many places throughout the world can almost just be exhausting. So I'm curious. How did you choose this particular area?

AFFLECK: Yes. I -- I came to it -- I won't go into my own personal journey, because that may be inappropriate for this -- but I think really for me it was -- it was I came -- frankly, I was reading. I was looking at some other stuff, trying to cast around, looking at advocacy, and I came across this. "Oh, well, of course, it pales in the comparison with the millions of deaths in Eastern Congo."

And I was on the one hand shocked and on the other hand really ashamed. How could I not have known this, you know? I -- I read the newspaper, and yet I had no idea. And so I thought, well, maybe this is the place where I can at least, you know, show up. I don't know what.

And I started studying. I started learning. I took a couple of years. I didn't want to be, you know, kind of a celebrity dilettante sort of person that doesn't know what they're talking about and irritates everyone, because I thought that wouldn't help any.

(LAUGHTER)

FORTENBERRY: Well, that's very impolitic of you to say, but very well received, I should say as well.

AFFLECK: So I -- I really did a lot of studying -- Whitney Williams, who's here, was instrumental in helping me do that -- and -- and met with a lot of really learned experts, John among them.

And -- and when I...

Foremost among them.

And when I ultimately got to a place where I wanted to -- I wanted to build an organization, because I kind of identified the best people I thought were doing the best work with people who have some skin in the game, who are living in the community every day, who knew people, who knew the militia, who knew who the children were.

I talked to people that were taking kids out of -- child soldiers out of the militias, and they would go to them and -- and address them, you know, kind of personally and bargain. "Look, at least you don't need him. Well, give me her." And then, you know, while that was happening, they'd already found a place for the child to live in the village rather than in an institutional home.

And I kind of thought, gosh, this is what happens when -- when something bad happens in your community and your dealing with that, because you know the people. And I -- I got struck, and I wanted to -- to help and part of those folks, because, of course, they had no money.

So we started raising money. And I also thought, you know, nothing changes without advocacy, without powerful people making up their minds, people like you, and the idea to ultimately sit here and address you is just -- it's a real -- it's a real thrill for me.

And then I -- I wanted to surround myself with kind of smart, thoughtful philanthropists and, you know, people who got it. And everybody who -- you know something about this knows how long Mrs. McCain has been involved with this, as you said, since Goma in '94 -- that's a big deal -- and since then doing a lot of work. And so I gave her a call, and hoped she wouldn't think it was a prank call.

FORTENBERRY: Well, clearly, your investment and your time and passion is very genuine, and I think it's going to give continuity to this effort, and I'm grateful.

Ms. McCain, did you have to add anything, or...

MCCAIN: Other than to say everything is always a personal journey, and my story is no different. I won't go into it, but what I will say is that is from my own personal well-being, Africa has -- has haunted me in a good way.

It has kept me coming back, because I see such but there. I see such possibilities. And I know with the help of people like Mr. Affleck and others around the world, that we can make a difference. And so it's nothing more than a personal journey for me as well, but -- but it's -- it's one that has kept me coming back. And I'm -- I love it there, and I wouldn't be -- would rather not be anyplace else.

FORTENBERRY: Thank you as well for your time and passion on it.

I did want to raise a couple of quick issues and the limited time I have left.

Mr. Pendergast, you had made a correlation between the pervasiveness of a culture of rape and the conflict regarding minerals. It's unclear to me what that direct correlation is. If you could spend 20 seconds unpacking that, please?

PENDERGAST: Actually, it says 40. Anyways...

FORTENBERRY: I have another question,

(LAUGHTER)

Well, that's -- you know, we didn't -- we didn't need a laugh line right before talking about this, because it is so crushingly serious, you know.

What -- what basically our assessment is is that these militia groups, armed groups on the ground, including the government army -- we always talk about rebels, rebels -- it's militias both from Rwanda and Congo and the government army, they've used the tactic of rape as a weapon to -- to...

FORTENBERRY: I don't think this point is very clear, and I appreciate you saying there's a correlation there, but go ahead.

PENDERGAST: ... to use rape as a tactic of war in order to intimidate local communities to go along with that kind of mafia economy that we were talking about all day today.

So, I mean, in Sierra Leone they used the amputations to terrorize civilian populations. There's no -- I mean, people use what works. And if there is no consequence, if it's impunity reigns, then why not this? And -- and there many other facts involved.

I think you're -- you're wanting to say something in there.

Can I yield some of my time?

FORTENBERRY: Yes, please.

MCCAIN: Just to clarify that also a bit more, it's a displacement mechanism. It moves people out of the areas where these resources are, so they can move in and take control of the minds. And if you look at where...

FORTENBERRY: So this is not just some act of depravity that -- that happens in uncovering spaces. It's deliberate. It's intentional for larger geopolitical purposes.

MCCAIN: It is a strategy, absolutely.

FORTENBERRY: Yes, OK.

MCCAIN: It's a strategy.

AFFLECK: It's both. It's all of those things.

FORTENBERRY: OK.

AFFLECK: You know what I mean? What happens is these tactics create an environment which -- where it seems like anything goes, you know. But I do absolutely concur that's what I've seen from these two folks is that it's about armed groups saying we're going to go after this area, and this is how we're going to attack them. And then it becomes just, you know, a kind of a horrible reality where it's acceptable.

FORTENBERRY: I called it a culture of rape. I don't know if that's the right description.

PENDERGAST: I don't think it is exactly, because the vast majority of Congolese are -- are absolutely devastated by what's happened to their country.

AFFLECK: And that's why it becomes a powerful weapon.

PENDERGAST: Yes. Yes.

FORTENBERRY: Thank you.

SMITH: Ms. Bass?

BASS: Thank you for your last comment about that.

But let me just start by thanking all of you for the work that you do.

And in particular, Mr. Affleck, for using your celebrity in this manner, because it's -- it's extremely powerful, and it is, as the chairman and -- and ranking member said, one of the reasons this issue has received so much attention.

And the same to you, Ms. McCain.

I wanted to reference some comments that Mr. Pendergast, when you described the deadly mineral trade and the mafia economy, I think you, you know, described it very well, but I wanted to know in your opinion what about the political leadership? Is it there?

I mean, there is an election that's getting ready to happen in -- in November. Is there legitimate -- we talked about the elections being legitimate, you know, maybe they will be, maybe they won't, but my question is is there legitimate political leadership to be elected?

PENDERGAST: Well, the -- the -- just in 30 seconds, you know, we have this country which for 125, 150 years has been just pillaged by the international community for -- going back to the turn of the last century, ivory and rubber to help our jewelry industry and our auto industry.

Then our -- then uranium from the Congo was critical in our atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And now cell phones, laptops and all the other things that we use every day are fueled.

And what -- what happens is you create a system, a political system that basically is designed to maximize private gain and crater the public sector, because the public sector, the rule of law, would undermine this.

So you have internal collaborators with this international system, but it's a system that benefits us. We got cheap phones. We got cheap computers. We had -- we had nuclear weapons that worked. We had down the keys and all the rest of it at the turn of the century with the ivory that was (inaudible).

So, you know, in other words this is going on for so long, it's hard to say suddenly, you know, oh. We're going to turn this around in a -- in a -- in -- with one election. It's a system that -- in which the termites have absolutely devastating the political foundation of the country. And that has -- until you address that economic foundation, I don't think -- it's just a changing chairs on the Titanic, on the deck of the Titanic with these -- with these electoral processes. Terribly important to invest in, but you've got to do both the political and the economic at the same time to make a difference.

(UNKNOWN): I wanted to ask another question, too. This is about AFRICOM. The question is the United States African Command, or AFRICOM, has been engaging in pilot training of one battalion focusing on human rights and unit cohesion conditions. And AFRICOM is controversial. So my question is: should the U.S. expand on this project to address other security needs? And then I guess, just in reference to what you were saying before, you know, I remember 20-30 years ago when there were liberation movements in the various countries. And we can talk about how all those turned out. But there were independence and liberation movements. And so I don't think you have described one in the Congo.

(UNKNOWN): You want to also say something, Don? Is the -- Jeff (ph), jump in if you want -- if you -- no, no. I'm saying if you want to say anything after I'm done (inaudible)...

(CROSSTALK)

(UNKNOWN): OK, go ahead.

(UNKNOWN): ... have something to say about this.

The military reform issue, I think, is -- I mean, I think eci, if you look at their recommendations, we look at what The Enough Project and others that have worked on this stuff, military reform, security sector reform is at the top of anyone's list of what we need to invest in. Now you go to Congo and you spend time with the Congolese leadership, and what militaries do they respect? You know, it's not a surprise. The United States military. So when the U.S. comes in and says, we're going to train a battalion in Kisangani, this makes a difference to them. People are getting -- bumping each other out of line to sign up to be part of this. So the United States has influence. It has leverage on this one.

And here's one where, if we work more aggressively to get -- and this is why you need a special envoy, because we don't have enough diplomatic firepower with the existing system to be able to do this kind of full-time work -- is to get the donors together that actually do military training like China, like South Africa, like Angola, the countries that actually have influence with the Congolese government. We work together with them about a systemic reform of the military. And then AFRICOM becomes a major player in all of that. And, specifically, I want to highlight one element of the larger security form (ph). That's military justice. Again, we have a comparative advantage there. They respect us on this front. You've got to get at this impunity issue.

Getting at the impunity issue within the military, even as much or maybe more important within -- than within the broader society, you start to see convictions for rapes and for other kinds of crimes in Congo of military officers or soldiers who are involved in this kind of stuff. Then we're going to -- that sends a signal. So these are the building blocks to a state. And I think the AFRICOM, for all the controversy on other fronts, is -- can play a major important role in the Congo in helping to build that particular block of the larger foundation.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you.

(UNKNOWN): Yes, I think the relevance of AFRICOM there has to do with, you know, look -- monusco does all of the training now, the frdc. They work together, they train guys. They are having difficulties. We are better at it than they are. I met some of our guys down there doing this work. They're -- obviously they're great guys. They're U.S. military. They really know what they're doing, men and women. They're doing a very -- just training a very few units. That's good. It needs to happen. It -- and I hate to have all these answers come with caveats, because then I don't want to feel like, well, you know, but you got to do everything. But, really, you also -- that has to be accompanied by some reform in the units that they go back to, particularly a huge, huge problem is that soldiers just don't get paid. A legacy from the Mubutu area was you kind of went and lived off the people.

Mubutu, you know, had destroyed all the infrastructure and eaten up all the money. And so he sent his army around. It was like, well, you want to get paid? Take what you can take. You got a gun. And there's a little bit of that left. People -- not a little bit, a lot, unfortunately. I've visited the frdc battalion camps, they're like tent cities. They're a little better than the refugee camps. In fact, they often go and loot and pillage from those refugee camps. Frdc soldiers are responsible for 40 percent, some say, of the rapes in the country. This is where you have a military that's deployed among the population that's feeding off of the population. It's unimaginable to us. Our militaries go elsewhere and secure our freedoms. This is a horrible inversion of that.

So I mean (inaudible) better off, I think, we just took the divisions out of there. That's not practical politically. But what is practical is to go around and just train troops on one side. I would love for us to take over a little bit more, or do some training of the munisco guys. But on the other side, you know, get people paid. If you can only make \$40 a month being a soldier, I think for rdc. But at least it's enough to buy what you need where you're not compelled to, you know, go out -- I mean, they walk. There's fish in kisingani. It's 800 miles to go somewhere. They walk that far. It's like, you know, ancient Rome.

SMITH: Mr. McDermott?

MCDERMOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like you to respond to the need for PEPFAR being -- money being included for the Congo in the treatment as particular in turn of maternal-infant transmission of AIDS and the fact that PEPFAR does not affect the Congo. That's one thing I'd like.

And the second thing is, I think you get a little more humble as you go along in this business, and you realize that passing a bill isn't everything that it's cut out to be.

You're going to have like champagne and have a good time and clap your hands and be happy. It really is writing the rules and regulation where it really happens.

And that's going on right now. And I would like you, John, to talk about what the committee can do -- because you put this up as an action item -- what the committee should be looking for in the writing of those rules and regulations as to whether they are good rules and regulations, or rather they're slippery. I've been doing this long enough to know that you can't hardly write a law that somebody can't figure out a way to get around. So what I -- what I'm really looking for is the best set of rules and regulations that we can have to make this law work, and what things we, as a committee, should be looking at, or we as a Congress should be looking at.

(UNKNOWN): Congressman McDermott, I'm sorry. I can't answer that question as I don't work in AIDS relief and I'm not familiar with that kind of programming.

(UNKNOWN): I don't know the specific answer on PEPFAR. So I -- but I think, between us, between our staffs, we can get back (inaudible)...

(CROSSTALK)

MCDERMOTT: I know it's a problem at Heal Africa, in Goma, because I know where they're getting their drugs. They're not getting...

(UNKNOWN): You're right. They are short on drugs in Heal Africa. And there's Dr. Shakelee (ph) -- what's the program? It was like a (OFF-MIKE) (inaudible)?

(UNKNOWN): (OFF-MIKE) (Inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): Right. Anyway, there are shortages.

(CROSSTALK)

(UNKNOWN): ... PEPFAR's a great program and, obviously, implementation is good and (inaudible) access to those drugs is important. We can furnish the committee with details of that, (inaudible).

MCDERMOTT: I was asking a softball so you could let the committee know. But, go ahead. The more tough question is the regulations.

(UNKNOWN): I think that the top two, I would say, for the SEC regulations -- I -- and they're, you know, they're getting bombarded right now because the industry, you know, lost that battle on The Hill. And they're mad and they're coming back with lots of lobbyists to try to push the -- press the SEC to water this thing down like you said, so keep the cork in the champagne. We're not done yet. You're absolutely right.

Number one, I think that there be stiff fines for companies that do not comply with the intent of the law, do not open up the books to demonstrate that their supply chains, indeed, are free of conflict. And if they're not, they're at least acknowledging, yes, we got it from there and, yes, we know where it came from and now, consumers, you can make your choices. But if you try to hide it, you try to circumvent it and try to subvert it, then let's see some serious fines.

Secondly, I think then is the -- is the question of when this all should come into effect. And I think one of the big things that you're seeing lobbyists push for now is a significant delay in implementation. I -- we haven't yet seen the State department make its own recommendations on the -- in this regard. But I talked to a senior member of the administration last night, who said that they were going to not advocate for a delay. I hope that his opinion is actually the -- ends up being the U.S. government's opinion. But right now the SEC is hearing from a lot of industry sources that they simply can't comply with all this, although other companies, particularly within the electronics industry, they've been working on this now for a couple years, partly as a response to the legislation but partly also because some of them want to do the right thing.

And they've shown very clearly that they can do what is required to do with respect to the law, illustratively. Apple, you know, a year and a half ago, Apple was not much of a contributor to the Electronics Industry Association and its efforts to try to clean up the supply chain. They basically -- their argument, if you'd talk to them about it, was, look, we have no idea where this stuff is coming from. How can we possibly be expected to know. It's, you know, it's a war down there and where it comes from is not really something we can control. Well, two -- a week ago now, we've had the legislation.

We've had Mr. Jobs actually get personally engaged and his wife, of course, with VCI (ph). And now, a week ago, Apple put out its whatever report that it does. And it was the most robust reporting of any company on where their -- where their materials are coming from, right down to the smelters, to the processors. And, I mean, it -- this is something, again, the lobbyists said a year ago, even that were working for Apple, said it was impossible. So, you know, basically, I think this is what the legislation is going to be able to do. It's going to urge people to actually do the right thing when they're -- they've said for quite a long time they can't. They actually can. So the question is, how fast are they going to have to do it. And instead of, you know, a delay of a year or two years or whatever some of these guys are asking for, we'd like to see the timely implementation of the -- of the -- of the regulations and to come into force very quickly after the SEC makes its rulings.

MCDERMOTT: Keep on making the publicity to keep it up above the radar. Thank you.

VIGAUD-WALSH: Thank you. Just to add one note, Catholic Relief Services and USCB did write the SEC to ask for the absolutely most -- strongest rules possible. And we hope for the timely implementation as well.

Thank you.

MCDERMOTT: Good. Thank you.

SMITH: Thank you, Mr. McDermott.

Mr. Payne, you have any final (inaudible)?

PAYNE: Just want to say that we do have to really make sure that they don't change when -- it was interesting, years ago, I was able to encourage Congressman Tancredo, who was working with me on Sudan, to get a bill passed in the

House that capital market sanctions were put in. In other words, if you were doing business in Sudan, you had to come out of Wall Street. And we passed it in the House. But that's where it ended. Boy, the lobbyists ran over to the Senate.

(UNKNOWN): ... out of Wall Street. And we passed that in the House, but that's where it ended. Boy, the lobbyists ran over to the Senate. Even had the head of every top (inaudible) Mr. Tancredo, who was great on Sudan, we - we didn't have champagne when it passed but we were very happy. And it simply died by virtue of the lobbyists saying, "You can't do that." So hopefully we will be able to push this through.

I just had a comment from the International Crisis Group that would like to add their statement for the record, Mr. Chairman.

SMITH: Objection.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you.

SMITH: Thank you. I'll just conclude by again thanking you. I would like to ask - maybe Mr. Pendergast, you might want to speak to this - the administration's LRA strategy. How well or poorly do you think it's being implemented? What is it from your perspective? Anyone else would want to touch on it as well.

PENDERGAST: Thanks for bringing that up. We should have - I should have at least in my testimony. I think it's such a crucial element of overall security and stability in central Africa. I - we've battled internally within our organizations and the groups that care about the LRA. We've (ph) putting out this report card. And I was - I was trying to give the administration Ds and Fs. And everybody's like, "Nah, nah, nah, that'll just demoralize everyone."

Because I - you know, I feel like there is one major thing that has to be done. I mean, the elephant is swinging its tail around the living room. It's that you have to create a focused military strategy to apprehend or whatever the leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army as long as Joseph Kony continues to run around. We've presented him with a very, very fair peace deal - peace proposal, which he didn't even bother to show up to not sign.

And so there's a military option that needs to be exercised. What has happened now over the last three years is a broader counterinsurgency strategy where millions and millions dollars and thousands of Ugandan troops are running around central Africa attacking LRA units. And often those are - those are formerly - or conscripted child soldiers.

I don't think that kind of a broad counterinsurgency strategy has any chance of working. We need to target the leadership, use our technical assets that are superior to anyone's in the world, ensure that they're out there. We robustly support a commando unit to be able to close and act on a hot lead and take these guys out.

Hopefully we'll apprehend them and send them to Hague and there'll be a great trial and the ICC will have a major success. If not, let's do what we have to do to bring an end to this tragedy. Because the attacks in the Congo are getting worse, not better.

We've seen almost an attack every week over the last few months in northeastern Congo. And these are remote areas no one knows. Every once in a while a report trickles in and it makes a little column in a local newspaper here in the United States. It's just not even - we're not even looking at this anymore. So we have to refocus and say, "What is the thing that's going to end it?" That's the catalyst I think that will end it.

(UNKNOWN): I think he makes a really good point. I think, you know, absolutely. I've seen people. I've seen the evidence of this stuff and people who are after it (ph). There are really good people involved and trying to pursue some of the goals that John's talking about. And you do hear every month or two, "Oh well, 400 people got killed." (inaudible) often times it will take two, three days or a week to come - to even come through.

I think it's equally important to maintain a focus on the FDLR in eastern Congo. The FDLR really are the people that - well, their leadership now - committed the genocide in Rwanda, fled to what was then Zaire, created - injected this sort of sociopath toxic poison into the - it wasn't like people weren't raping one another in Zaire. You know, that's where everyone in Rwanda was going to like party and dance when Rwanda was the uptight country in the early 90s.

And what happened was that these people who got pushed into that place who had committed these barbaric crimes then sort of allowed that to be - it got contagious and they further ruptured the social fabric. The subsequent two wars completely obliterated any infrastructure.

These guys are still there and they're still killing civilians all the time. They're a big part of whose committing the rapes and they're the ones that we - we need to stay (ph) at. We need to support (inaudible)'s effort to do that despite some - some push back.

And I think it's important to remember there's the CNEP (ph). And obviously they've committed a lot of crimes. They are now part of the army that presents - you know, Congo has very openly said, you know, peace first, justice second. And you know, they're in a tough spot with that kind of thing.

But the FDLR there's no question about because they're not getting (ph) pulled into the army. And some of them are going to fight to the death. And that part of the country will not be safe until that militia is dealt with, as well as the LRA who's very (ph) from Uganda to CAR (ph). Thank you.

SMITH (?): And one final statement or question. There's no doubt that Senator Danforth, had he not initiated the work with regards to the comprehensive peace agreement in the Congo, there probably would not have been a comprehensive peace agreement. And like (inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): Sudan.

SMITH: In Sudan. And in like manner, in Northern Ireland had it not been for Senator Mitchell it is unlikely that a peace agreement would have been hammered out there between two disparate parties that were at each other's throats for decades.

One last appeal, when Ambassador Yamamoto said he will take it under advisement with regards to the special weapons or special envoy, I didn't get a very strong sense of affirmation here. If you could - all of you if you'd like - make one final appeal to the administration, because time is running. And the fear is that if we don't have someone who can really cobble together all the disparate elements here and really push hard, this may be opportunity lost.

(UNKNOWN): Yes. I just would like to reemphasize that it's the key thing if we're going to see success in the DRC. And it's - it's vital. And finally I certainly would like to commend you, Ms. McCain, for, you know, when you said you've been involved since 1994, to continue to be way ahead of the curve. I really commend you for that and for your continued interest. Thank you.

(UNKNOWN): I - yeah, thank you very much on the (ph) special advisor. I haven't heard any good arguments against it. We've been banging on it, talking about it and going everywhere and asking about it, and no one can tell me why it's a bad idea. It's one appointment in the federal government that could save potentially, who knows, 100,000 lives, 500,000 lives? A lot. It will make a difference - a big difference if it helps prevent another outbreak of violence and destruction.

I don't know Washington. I'm not an expert. What I hear is that it's a tough place because you've got turf battles and bureaucracy. And fortunately that's your business, not mine. But I do - I'm really pleased to - to be encouraged by you and to be empowered by you to continue to advocate for this. Because I too think it's really important.

And I know that Ambassador Yamamoto, were he to give us his full- throated support and Assistant Secretary Carson would give us his support, it would really help us to go to the secretary and even on if necessary to President Obama. Thank you again.

(UNKNOWN): You know, Mr. Smith, you might ask - you've been asking probably why we should have it. Maybe you should just turn the question around and ask them, "Why not?" See if they can come up with an answer.

VIGAUD-WALSH: Chairman, you started off speaking about the elections. And I think that my final appeal would regard increasing women's political participation. As I said before, we're at a critical juncture and we're not seeing women represented. In fact, not only are they being sidelined, but they're being cast out of the process.

And to give you an example, after enduring sustained pressure by their male counterparts, three female mayors in south (inaudible), the equivalent of mayors, but actually of a grouping of cities - quite a high position in fact, administrative position - were forced out of office. The bishop of Bukavu had even gone to them and tried to encourage them to carry out their political mandate and represent women and girl's needs. And finally in November they were fired.

It's unacceptable. And if women do not represent themselves and their needs, their health, their education needs, then who will? We're not seeing others in the DRC represent their needs. So that would be my final appeal. Thank you.

(UNKNOWN): I think we need to understand that the system is like we've got this. We've got this under control. System doesn't like aberrations. They don't like these things like special envoys and other kind of exceptions to the rule. That's just the way institutions work and the State Department is no different than any other institutions.

My understanding is - and this is what I fear and this is what I think - I'm glad we got our last chance to say this because I want to impart this to you - is my fear is that they're going to give this position - they're going to create the title of it and then give it to a deputy assistant secretary of state.

They're going to (inaudible) deputy assistance secretary of state and say, "Yes, that's going to be our point person, our lead person." Again, no human being has enough time to be a deputy assistance secretary of state of any regional bureau in the US State Department and be a special envoy to one of the most complicated countries in the world, definitely the most complicated I've ever been in in 25 years of working in Africa. So that would be a tragic mistake.

And secondly I think that position needs juice. Sorry to use a Hollywood juice. You need influence. You need gravitas. You need somebody who can make the system respond to different ideas, new ideas, to doing things in a way that are actually going to get results and bring an end to something rather than manage symptoms.

And that person needs to respond - that person needs to report to the secretary of state as opposed to being just only in a regional bureau. I think these are the keys to success, and if we don't have them it's just going to be another little spoke in a wheel of failure.

SMITH: Thank you. Ms. McCain.

MCCAIN: Lastly, I would just like to thank all of you again for paying attention to this issue, for listening to us, for allowing us to tell you our thoughts and where we think the most important parts lie (ph). And most importantly in championing this issue from here. Because we'll be following you and we're going to watch. And we really encourage you to continued in such a wholehearted way. As a mother - and the only thing I can say is that as a mother doing nothing is unacceptable there. So thank you.

SMITH: Thank you. And the last word goes to Ms. McCain. Thank you so very much. Truly inspiring panel, truly inspiring individuals. The hearing's adjourned.

END

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Right Vision News

March 5, 2011 Saturday

USA: Trafficking in Persons: A 3D Approach

LENGTH: 3975 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, March 05 -- The U.S Department Of State has issued following remarks:

Hello and thank you for that kind introduction and for the invitation by PACOM today to talk about how together we can make tangible progress against modern slavery in the Pacific region. Some have asked, "Why does America care about whether someone is held in servitude in another country?" "Why is this foreign policy?" or even "How dare America issue an annual report analyzing what other countries are doing on this issue - isn't such unilateralism presumptuous?" Some of you here today may even be asking yourselves, "How does a civilian human rights issue apply to me while I am at Pacific Command?"

Here's what we know. We know human trafficking is a crime; a human rights abuse; a byproduct of conflict; an issue of national security, public health, and democracy; a labor and migration issue; and a growing global phenomenon. As we have seen in many places the world over, it must be at the forefront of our planning when we race to respond to a natural disaster or conflict.

In and around deployments that many of you may have experienced - Haiti, Iraq, the Balkans - pimps and exploiters have taken advantage of the chaos to find and abuse their victims. Sexual enslavement can take place not only in a brothel or on a street corner, but in the context of war, and has been prosecuted as a crime against humanity before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

As Secretary Clinton said recently, anywhere from 12 to 27 million people are currently held in bondage for labor or prostitution. That's equivalent to all the people who live in London, at the low end, and the combined populations of New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., at the high end.

The victims range from the men and women enslaved in fields, factories, and brothels, to the girls and boys whose childhoods have been shattered and stolen, to the parents whose children have vanished. And they feel that no one can help them, that no one is looking for them, that no one cares.

It is our responsibility to find the victims, help them, prosecute their traffickers, and find ways to prevent enslavement in the first place. You are no doubt familiar with the "3D" foreign policy approach of diplomacy, development, and defense. Not to belabor the construct, but those 3Ds can also fuel an anti-trafficking strategy of deterrence, disruption, and demand, that can help us confront an unfortunate reality in the PACOM Area of Responsibility - too often, countries follow a more unfortunate "3D" paradigm, as all too often we see victims experience the phenomenon of detention, deportation, and disempowerment. This must stop.

This is not a theoretical matter to me, or an issue for politics. I did not learn about human trafficking in an office, a cubicle, or a think tank. For me, the survivors of trafficking - in all its forms - are people I know, people whose experiences as told to me are seared into my memory. The people who trusted me to fight for them in court. The people who have shared both their tears and their strength with me as they recounted horrific abuse at the hands of pimps or bosses. The people who believed that the United States stood for something, and placed their sacred trust with me and my team at the Justice Department to vindicate their rights.

Human trafficking is a scourge on the Earth, and the United States is certainly no exception. This year, for the first time, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report evaluated and ranked the United States' efforts to combat trafficking - we held ourselves accountable to the same standards to which we hold other governments. We found that trafficking occurs for

both sex and labor. We see it in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health care, and beauty salons. We see trafficking in prostitution and strip clubs, as the traffickers dehumanize and destroy.

In including the United States, we looked at the situation in the US and the response of the government. We called for submissions from NGOs, and listened to their insight and read their data. The United States was placed on Tier One of the Report. Not a reprieve or a foregone conclusion, but a responsibility based on the evidence.

And Tier One is not an "A" grade by any means; it just means that countries meet the Minimum Standards set forth by Congress. In other words, just passing the threshold.

Even if you haven't seen this modern form of slavery up close and personal like I did for fifteen years as a federal prosecutor, you know from our own tragic American history the damage that chattel slavery left in its wake. The destructive impact it had on family, community, country. On our economy, and our security.

It is because of our own experience as a Nation that we know slavery - whether in the slave trade of the 19th century or in the modern forms of slavery we see today - to be an affront to our most basic rights as Americans and as human beings in a global community.

Creating strong communities and policies that eradicate the modern form of slavery that we see today is paramount to providing the stability needed to achieve trade, security, and economic success. And so often, the men and women called upon to guarantee that freedom have been in our Armed Forces. As representatives of the United States, military personnel at all levels have a special responsibility to combat human trafficking.

It comes back to the most fundamental crimes that we have confronted for so long as a nation - piracy and slavery. Just as Decatur went into Algiers to deal with the Barbary pirates and their protectors who were taking American and European slaves, America in 2011 again finds itself confronting the old evils of piracy and slavery around the world. Just as African-Americans during the Civil War knew that they could find freedom if they could just reach the lines of the U.S. Army, we again find ourselves providing protection and refuge.

While our history with this heinous practice may be unique, the struggle against it spans time and region. For as long as people of every community, culture, and country in the world are enslaved, our work and efforts must go on.

That's where PACOM comes in. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on your AOR. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

According to the International Labor Organization, the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is highest in Asia, with almost three in every 1,000 inhabitants falling victim. Also, the International Organization for Migration and World Bank data show that the majority of the over 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants - reflecting greater labor mobility in the region and in the world - is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

As the percentage of women migrants in that pool grows exponentially, we have to recognize the feminization of migration, and the multitude of issues that are specific to women. So we see women held in sex slavery, in labor servitude, or working in situations where they routinely face sexual harassment or even rape.

Unfortunately, the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report was greater than the number upgraded. Many Asian governments lack adequate laws, and more have failed to produce significant convictions of trafficking offenders.

None of the countries in South Asia has ratified the decade-old UN Palermo Protocol, though they have joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) anti-TIP convention. The SAARC convention, however, is problematic for numerous reasons, one of which is that it focuses on sex trafficking rather than on both sex and labor trafficking. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries have not formulated regional strategies along the lines of the Council of Europe or the Organization of American States.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account, in the form of sentencing reflective of the severity of the crimes they commit. Some countries only focus on sex trafficking - and not from a compassionate place, but by locking up the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals, rather than recognizing them as victims.

So too, it has been a steep learning curve for some governments to consider issues of labor trafficking. Forced labor cases - untold thousands of women working as maids or seamstresses and men in construction or agriculture - are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if confronted at all.

And each year, by statute, the United States has to assess these countries, make a determination as to what is being done, and rank them by the Congressionally-mandated minimum standards.

Secretary Clinton has said it best:

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [...] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends - countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, "Well, what can we do?" And we said, "Well, we've pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you."

Friends help each other - not just with convenient facts, but sometimes with inconvenient truths. And in the anti-trafficking world, that kind of friendship means honesty about the problems we see.

For instance, in the past several years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents to purposefully restrict their employees' movement, even though without them migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address - the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate, make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers - many of whom are trafficked - in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six offenders convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry - all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done. Meanwhile, it is Malaysia, pushed by a **Tier 3** ranking in 2009, that embarked on the first steps towards addressing its multi-faceted **human trafficking** problem.

Farther north, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's a start, but it is an average of only \$111 per firm - and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad.

Indeed, a lack of avenues for redress of complaints by Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepali men and women in many East Asian destination countries denies them justice and a chance of effective recovery. It also fails in providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

Equally harmful to the cause is official denial by governments which continue to refute the existence of a trafficking problem. This is often true of more developed nations. For example, in one small but developed Asian country, the denial of a problem has prevented effective victim identification or assistance efforts. It resulted in the mass arrest and deportation of over seven thousand women and girls in prostitution last year. Among this population, only one individual was officially identified by the government as a trafficking victim.

Again: one victim identified, out of seven thousand women who were identified as foreign prostitutes. Think about how likely that is.

Millions of the victims of bonded labor and domestic service are women and girls, and they are exposed to not just physical, but sexual predation at the hands of their captors. I will never forget two young Indian girls - taken from their bonded laborer parents at 11. They were forced to work as maids, waitresses, and sex slaves for their master. He didn't respect their freedom or their bodies, and he didn't respect the labels we use to describe their situation. I may have put him in prison where he belongs, but I can never regain what these young women had lost.

In South Korea, the government has had some success prosecuting sex traffickers and offering services to the victims. There is a known presence of women and girls in forced commercial sexual exploitation, including foreign women recruited to work on entertainment visas as singers and bars near U.S. military facilities. We know that women such as these often incur thousands of dollars in debts, contributing to their vulnerability to debt bondage upon arrival. The issue of child sex tourism - one that the U.S. government attempts to tackle head-on through extraterritorial application of relevant laws - is also one shared by South Korea and Japan, and the 2010 TIP Report sets forth how men from those countries fuel the demand for trafficking in Cambodia and other poorer countries. But unlike the United States, South Korea has never prosecuted one of its citizens for sex tourism, and Japan's last prosecution was in 2005.

The reality is that enforcement regimes in the Pacific region are woefully inadequate. Resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of political will have created an enabling environment in which sex slavery and forced labor thrives, and exploiters rarely face meaningful penalties.

Yet clear successes are being registered. While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan - thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status. Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and that's making them stand out.

In the past year, the Philippine Government - led by a new President and a Congressman who doesn't just score knock-outs in the ring - has heeded the call to take more seriously its responsibility to address the trafficking of its citizens within the country and abroad, and the government has publicly linked these efforts to the threat of a downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2011 TIP Report. The hundreds of backlogged trafficking cases in the court system are beginning to be fast-tracked, corrupt officials are being identified and punished, government resources have increased to combat trafficking, and most importantly, mechanisms to improve the government's anti-trafficking responses are being institutionalized.

Similarly, Indonesia has made good use of its 2007 anti-tip law, prosecuting the largest number of labor trafficking offenders (79) of any East Asian government in 2009.

We want to encourage other Asian countries to embark on similar courses. And the Defense Department can help. On February 1, Secretary Clinton and I had the privilege of convening the cabinet-level meeting on trafficking in persons. Annually, the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Interior, as well as the heads of other agencies including the Director of National Intelligence and Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission, come together to discuss this issue. This year, the meeting was on National Freedom Day, which commemorates the day in 1865 that President Lincoln sent the 13th Amendment to the states for ratification.

Secretary Gates spoke of the importance of enforcing the DOD zero-tolerance policy against forced labor and sex trafficking, of mandatory trainings for the Total Forces to identify and respond to human trafficking, and of the findings of Inspector General audits and reports of defense contractors overseas. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar spoke about the upcoming need for interagency coordination to prevent forced labor and prostitution in overseas U.S. territories.

It was inspiring to see our senior leadership engaged and committed to delivering on the promise of freedom that had been made 146 years ago. As President Obama said when declaring January to be slavery and trafficking awareness month, we need to "acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

There was another key announcement made at the meeting that is particularly relevant to you. In November 2010, nearly 60 private security companies signed the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers, crafted by industry representatives, governments, and NGOs - an effort supported by the U.S. Government. Here we have companies pledging to uphold a number of principles both in their company policies and in the conduct of their personnel, including not engaging or benefiting from human trafficking or prostitution. These are companies that very well may be DOD contractors that are recognizing that they have a role to play in eliminating forced labor and the persistent exploitation of women in prostitution.

Right now it is a code that speaks to the same principles as the government's zero tolerance policy. We need to be sure that it's not just a commitment, but that there is real action and oversight behind it, just as we are doing with our contractors. As you may know, the Departments of State and Defense, as well as USAID, are all subject to Inspector General audits as mandated by Congress. They are looking for signs of human trafficking, reporting on them, and remedying them.

Fighting trafficking is not something relegated to policy or just to the senior leadership level. You each play a role to uphold a standard of conduct - of dignity and the promise of freedom - that the U.S. Government is fighting for around the globe. It's each of you, each of us.

Because traffickers don't create the markets. Traffickers exploit their people. But it is the demand for commercial sex, for cheap goods, that they rush to meet through violence and cruelty. And so we need to end that demand. By placing certain clubs off-limits to those under your command. By including and enforcing the contracting regulations that prohibit such conduct on the part of your vendors.

By holding yourself and your staff to an appropriate and honorable standard of conduct both on and off-duty. Purchasing sex is wrong. It doesn't matter whether the woman is over 18 or how willing she may appear - because the truth is you can never know. This is one of those places where government policy truly conforms with human obligation. Through your actions, you can do a great deal to advance not only government policy but the opportunity and freedom of women and girls around the world.

This is driven by demand. No girl or woman would be a victim of sex trafficking if there were no profits to be made from their exploitation. You each play a role in reducing that demand, and living by example - by refraining personally from engaging in human trafficking or buying commercial sex, not just because of the UCMJ or National Security Presidential Directive 22, but because it is the right thing to do.

In the DC area, DHS has put up posters that say "If you see something, say something." We can live our lives by the principle of "If you see trafficking, say stop."

And so we have to have those tough conversations with friends. Whether it is the US and our allies in the annual report, or us and our buddies. Friends have to be honest enough to help each other confront inconvenient truths. To stand for the challenge that actor Ashton Kutcher has laid down: real men don't buy girls. Or women for that matter.

But it is not enough to think that personal intolerance, or abstention, is sufficient. Real men need to speak out against bad behavior. Even when it's tough. Even when it's a friend, an associate, a colleague. Especially then. Bachelor parties, R and R's, when it's your best friend or your boss or your brother-in-law and you're just not the type to cause drama. Think of the drama in the woman's life that - absent your action - would otherwise continue unabated.

Do something. Make buying sex as embarrassing as it should be.

In the wake of the Civil War, the promise of freedom was so often delivered by your predecessors. Navy and Coast Guard cutters intercepted raiders who tried to kidnap newly-freed slaves to take them to Cuba and Hispaniola. The Army enforced the involuntary servitude statutes in the occupied South. Military governors and courts freed domestic servants from peonage in the Southwest territories.

Today, whether in a broken Haitian village or a war-torn countryside, we rely on you to be equally vigilant. Third Country Nationals brought in by contractors. The local women and girls. Even things explained away as cultural practices, such as the Haitian restaveks or the Afghan bacha bazi. All of these things can be prevented by you, both in your commands and in your personal lives.

Collectively, we cannot afford to have a fragmented or partial U.S. Government approach. The Department of State stands ready to partner with you to advance the anti-trafficking efforts of the countries within your area of responsibility, for instance, by leveraging your expertise to build capacity and train foreign law enforcement.

As a nation looked to as a world leader on this issue, much is expected of us. And, as Americans we expect much from ourselves. And so let us heed the words of President Obama, "From every corner of our Nation, to every part of the globe, [let us] stand firm in defense of freedom and bear witness for those exploited by modern slavery."

Thank you.

For more information please contact info@plusmediasolutions.c Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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467 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Bank Technology News

March 2011

AML and Human Trafficking

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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468 of 492 DOCUMENTS

PR Newswire

March 1, 2011 Tuesday 5:30 PM EST

Uganda Trafficking in Persons Act Conviction

LENGTH: 359 words**DATELINE:** KAMPALA, Uganda, March 1, 2011

KAMPALA, Uganda, March 1, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- On March 1, 2011 a conviction was announced in a Trafficking in Persons case by the High Court in Masindi, Uganda. According to Bob Goff, President of Restore International, who participated in the trial earlier this month, this marks a monumental step in Uganda's fight against human trafficking. In October 2009, Uganda enacted its Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Act but had yet to see it utilized until this case was brought. The law prohibits trafficking in persons and body parts and creates a framework for prosecution and punishment of outlined offenses. The accused were the first to be charged under the new law after kidnapping a young boy, removing body parts for ritual witchcraft practices, and leaving him for dead. The young boy was found near death after having his private organs removed but has since recovered and identified his kidnappers. With this conviction, a precedent for future trafficking prosecutions has been set for the array of offenses for which the accused were found guilty.

Uganda had previously stated its commitment to combating **human trafficking** as a signatory to numerous international conventions but maintained a **Tier 2** rating in regards to the U.S. State Department **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) report in 2010 and previous years. The reasons cited in the TIP report were in part, because of Uganda's failure to implement the 2009 TIP Act by prosecuting and punishing offenders. This successful conviction has brought more about than just Uganda's first successful implementation of the anti-trafficking law; it has brought national and international attention to the successful implementation by Uganda in targeting this offence against the most vulnerable in society. This case has also provided awareness of the law's existence throughout Uganda and the legal framework to successfully bring about further convictions arising out of crimes related to the trafficking of people in the country.

Website: www.restoreinternational.org

SOURCE Restore International

CONTACT: Bob Goff, President and CEO, +1-619-523-3300, bgoff@restoreinternational.org**URL:** <http://www.prnewswire.com>**LOAD-DATE:** March 2, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

469 of 492 DOCUMENTS
may be a duplicate

States News Service

February 25, 2011 Friday

IOM AND MACAO SOCIAL WELFARE BUREAU HOST COUNTER-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 296 words

DATELINE: MACAO SAR, China

The following information was released by International Organization for Migration (IOM):

IOM and the Social Welfare Bureau of China's Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Macao will host a one-day training workshop for 35 police and customs officers on human trafficking and victim identification on Monday 28 February 2011.

The Macao government-funded training follows an earlier three-day IOM counter-trafficking workshop held in the SAR in November 2009 and will be facilitated by a counter-trafficking expert from China Women's University in Beijing and specialists from IOM's office in Hong Kong.

Macao, which is home to a thriving casino and gaming industry, is one of Asia's leading tourist destinations and according to the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, has been a destination for the trafficking of women from mainland China, Mongolia, Russia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma and Central Asia for commercial sex work.

The Office's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report classifies the SAR as "**Tier 2**", indicating that the government is making significant efforts to stamp out **human trafficking**, but has not yet achieved "**Tier 1**" status and eliminated the problem.

In 2007, Macao established a "Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee" and in 2008 adopted legislation to combat human trafficking. This criminalized traffickers and provided a legal basis for law enforcement officers to deal with the issue.

In 2009 China signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children, signaling its commitment to step up efforts to stamp out human trafficking and improve victim protection nationwide.

LOAD-DATE: February 26, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

470 of 492 DOCUMENTS 840

BusinessWorld

February 23, 2011 Wednesday

Concern vs trafficking raised

BYLINE: Nathaniel R. Melican**SECTION:** Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 114 words

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato C. Corona yesterday expressed concern that the Philippines could slip further in the US **watch list** of countries with rampant **human trafficking** cases, a situation that may risk availment of development aid from Washington.

Mr. Corona said convictions have been low.

The Philippines is in the Tier 2 Watch List, which means that the government has minimum standards against trafficking.

"With no significant developments, the Philippines runs the risk of being downgraded to Tier 3," Mr. Corona said at the first meeting of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC).

JSCC groups the Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Local Government and the high court.

LOAD-DATE: February 22, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

471 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

February 22, 2011 Tuesday

Papua New Guinea, IOM sign agreement on human-trafficking

LENGTH: 403 words

Text of report by Papua New Guinea newspaper The National website on 22 February

[By Junior Ukaha] A memorandum of understanding was signed last Friday [18 February] between the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to stop counter-trafficking activities [as published] along PNG's international borders.

Justice Secretary Dr Lawrence Kalinoe and IOM Chief of Mission to PNG Giuseppe Crocetti signed the document before department staff, IOM representatives and the media at the Sir Buri Kidu Haus in Port Moresby.

Kalinoe said this would bring into effect appropriate policies and programmes "to strengthen the capacity of the PNG government to prosecute human traffickers and protect victims of trafficking".

"The MoU will allow us to put forward a legislation to stop international trans-boundary crimes involving human smuggling," Kalinoe said. "There are gaps in the constitution regarding human trafficking, therefore, the department is trying to create a new legislation to fill this," he added.

Kalinoe cited an example, saying current provisions only allowed a person or group who were guilty of human smuggling to be charged with deprivation of a person's liberty but the new legislation would explore ways to charge the offender and deal with the rights of victims.

Crocetti commended the government, saying the agreement was timely as "human trafficking cases in PNG were relatively unknown". He said more data collection, nationwide awareness and equipping of frontline public servants were needed to address trafficking.

Crocetti said IOM, in partnership with the department, over the next two years, would identify the trend of trafficking activities and come up with policies and methods to curb it.

According to Kalinoe, the US State Department (USSD) had categorized PNG as a "weak state" incapable of effectively detecting and countering human trafficking.

USSD stated in their 2008 and 2009 "People-Smuggling and **Trafficking in Persons**" report that PNG was under the **tier**-three country, meaning that it was a "source, destination and transition point" for human traffickers.

Kalinoe said the new legislation "People-Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Bill" would be presented to the National Executive Council [cabinet] next month in preparation for parliament when it meets in May.

Source: The National website, Port Moresby, in English 22 Feb 11

LOAD-DATE: February 22, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

472 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

February 18, 2011 Friday

**PREPARED REMARKS OF LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE,
OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AT A
U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND INTERAGENCY SYMPOSIUM ON TRAFFICK-
ING IN PERSONS;
SUBJECT: "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A 3D APPROACH";
LOCATION: HONOLULU, HAWAII**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

LENGTH: 3968 words

PREPARED REMARKS OF LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AT A U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND INTERAGENCY SYMPOSIUM ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS SUBJECT: "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A 3D APPROACH" LOCATION: HONOLULU, HAWAII DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

MR. CDEBACA: Hello and thank you for that kind introduction and for the invitation by PACOM today to talk about how together we can make tangible progress against modern slavery in the Pacific region. Some have asked, "Why does America care about whether someone is held in servitude in another country?" "Why is this foreign policy?" or even "How dare America issue an annual report analyzing what other countries are doing on this issue - isn't such unilateralism presumptuous?" Some of you here today may even be asking yourselves, "How does a civilian human rights issue apply to me while I am at Pacific Command?"

Here's what we know. We know human trafficking is a crime; a human rights abuse; a byproduct of conflict; an issue of national security, public health, and democracy; a labor and migration issue; and a growing global phenomenon. As we have seen in many places the world over, it must be at the forefront of our planning when we race to respond to a natural disaster or conflict.

In and around deployments that many of you may have experienced - Haiti, Iraq, the Balkans - pimps and exploiters have taken advantage of the chaos to find and abuse their victims. Sexual enslavement can take place not only in a brothel or on a street corner, but in the context of war, and has been prosecuted as a crime against humanity before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

As Secretary Clinton said recently, anywhere from 12 to 27 million people are currently held in bondage for labor or prostitution. That's equivalent to all the people who live in London, at the low end, and the combined populations of New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., at the high end.

The victims range from the men and women enslaved in fields, factories, and brothels, to the girls and boys whose childhoods have been shattered and stolen, to the parents whose children have vanished. And they feel that no one can help them, that no one is looking for them, that no one cares.

It is our responsibility to find the victims, help them, prosecute their traffickers, and find ways to prevent enslavement in the first place. You are no doubt familiar with the "3D" foreign policy approach of diplomacy, development, and defense. Not to belabor the construct, but those 3Ds can also fuel an anti-trafficking strategy of deterrence, disruption, and demand, that can help us confront an unfortunate reality in the PACOM Area of Responsibility - too often, countries follow a more unfortunate "3D" paradigm, as all too often we see victims experience the phenomenon of detention, deportation, and disempowerment. This must stop.

This is not a theoretical matter to me, or an issue for politics. I did not learn about human trafficking in an office, a cubicle, or a think tank. For me, the survivors of trafficking - in all its forms - are people I know, people whose experiences as told to me are seared into my memory. The people who trusted me to fight for them in court. The people who have shared both their tears and their strength with me as they recounted horrific abuse at the hands of pimps or bosses. The people who believed that the United States stood for something, and placed their sacred trust with me and my team at the Justice Department to vindicate their rights.

Human trafficking is a scourge on the Earth, and the United States is certainly no exception. This year, for the first time, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report evaluated and ranked the United States' efforts to combat trafficking - we held ourselves accountable to the same standards to which we hold other governments. We found that trafficking occurs for both sex and labor. We see it in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health care, and beauty salons. We see trafficking in prostitution and strip clubs, as the traffickers dehumanize and destroy.

In including the United States, we looked at the situation in the US and the response of the government. We called for submissions from NGOs, and listened to their insight and read their data. The United States was placed on Tier One of the Report. Not a reprieve or a foregone conclusion, but a responsibility based on the evidence.

And Tier One is not an "A" grade by any means; it just means that countries meet the Minimum Standards set forth by Congress. In other words, just passing the threshold.

Even if you haven't seen this modern form of slavery up close and personal like I did for fifteen years as a federal prosecutor, you know from our own tragic American history the damage that chattel slavery left in its wake. The destructive impact it had on family, community, country. On our economy, and our security.

It is because of our own experience as a Nation that we know slavery - whether in the slave trade of the 19th century or in the modern forms of slavery we see today - to be an affront to our most basic rights as Americans and as human beings in a global community.

Creating strong communities and policies that eradicate the modern form of slavery that we see today is paramount to providing the stability needed to achieve trade, security, and economic success. And so often, the men and women called upon to guarantee that freedom have been in our Armed Forces. As representatives of the United States, military personnel at all levels have a special responsibility to combat human trafficking.

It comes back to the most fundamental crimes that we have confronted for so long as a nation - piracy and slavery. Just as Decatur went into Algiers to deal with the Barbary pirates and their protectors who were taking American and European slaves, America in 2011 again finds itself confronting the old evils of piracy and slavery around the world. Just as African-Americans during the Civil War knew that they could find freedom if they could just reach the lines of the U.S. Army, we again find ourselves providing protection and refuge.

While our history with this heinous practice may be unique, the struggle against it spans time and region. For as long as people of every community, culture, and country in the world are enslaved, our work and efforts must go on.

That's where PACOM comes in. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on your AOR. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

According to the International Labor Organization, the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is highest in Asia, with almost three in every 1,000 inhabitants falling victim. Also, the International Organization for Migration and World Bank data show that the majority of the over 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants - reflecting greater labor mobility in the region and in the world - is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

As the percentage of women migrants in that pool grows exponentially, we have to recognize the feminization of migration, and the multitude of issues that are specific to women. So we see women held in sex slavery, in labor servitude, or working in situations where they routinely face sexual harassment or even rape.

Unfortunately, the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report was greater than the number upgraded. Many Asian governments lack adequate laws, and more have failed to produce significant convictions of trafficking offenders.

None of the countries in South Asia has ratified the decade-old UN Palermo Protocol, though they have joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) anti-TIP convention. The SAARC convention, however,

is problematic for numerous reasons, one of which is that it focuses on sex trafficking rather than on both sex and labor trafficking. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries have not formulated regional strategies along the lines of the Council of Europe or the Organization of American States.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account, in the form of sentencing reflective of the severity of the crimes they commit. Some countries only focus on sex trafficking - and not from a compassionate place, but by locking up the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals, rather than recognizing them as victims.

So too, it has been a steep learning curve for some governments to consider issues of labor trafficking. Forced labor cases - untold thousands of women working as maids or seamstresses and men in construction or agriculture - are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if confronted at all.

And each year, by statute, the United States has to assess these countries, make a determination as to what is being done, and rank them by the Congressionally-mandated minimum standards.

Secretary Clinton has said it best:

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [...] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends - countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, "Well, what can we do?" And we said, "Well, we've pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you."

Friends help each other - not just with convenient facts, but sometimes with inconvenient truths. And in the anti-trafficking world, that kind of friendship means honesty about the problems we see.

For instance, in the past several years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents to purposefully restrict their employees' movement, even though without them migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address - the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate, make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers - many of whom are trafficked - in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six offenders convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry - all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done. Meanwhile, it is Malaysia, pushed by a **Tier 3** ranking in 2009, that embarked on the first steps towards addressing its multi-faceted **human trafficking** problem.

Farther north, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's a start, but it is an average of only \$111 per firm - and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad.

Indeed, a lack of avenues for redress of complaints by Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepali men and women in many East Asian destination countries denies them justice and a chance of effective recovery. It also fails in providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

Equally harmful to the cause is official denial by governments which continue to refute the existence of a trafficking problem. This is often true of more developed nations. For example, in one small but developed Asian country, the denial of a problem has prevented effective victim identification or assistance efforts. It resulted in the mass arrest and deportation of over seven thousand women and girls in prostitution last year. Among this population, only one individual was officially identified by the government as a trafficking victim.

Again: one victim identified, out of seven thousand women who were identified as foreign prostitutes. Think about how likely that is...

Millions of the victims of bonded labor and domestic service are women and girls, and they are exposed to not just physical, but sexual predation at the hands of their captors. I will never forget two young Indian girls - taken from their bonded laborer parents at 11. They were forced to work as maids, waitresses, and sex slaves for their master. He didn't respect their freedom or their bodies, and he didn't respect the labels we use to describe their situation. I may have put him in prison where he belongs, but I can never regain what these young women had lost.

In South Korea, the government has had some success prosecuting sex traffickers and offering services to the victims. There is a known presence of women and girls in forced commercial sexual exploitation, including foreign women recruited to work on entertainment visas as singers and bars near U.S. military facilities. We know that women such as these often incur thousands of dollars in debts, contributing to their vulnerability to debt bondage upon arrival. The issue of child sex tourism - one that the U.S. government attempts to tackle head-on through extraterritorial application of relevant laws - is also one shared by South Korea and Japan, and the 2010 TIP Report sets forth how men from those countries fuel the demand for trafficking in Cambodia and other poorer countries. But unlike the United States, South Korea has never prosecuted one of its citizens for sex tourism, and Japan's last prosecution was in 2005.

The reality is that enforcement regimes in the Pacific region are woefully inadequate. Resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of political will have created an enabling environment in which sex slavery and forced labor thrives, and exploiters rarely face meaningful penalties.

Yet clear successes are being registered. While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan - thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status.

Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and that's making them stand out.

In the past year, the Philippine Government - led by a new President and a Congressman who doesn't just score knock-outs in the ring - has heeded the call to take more seriously its responsibility to address the trafficking of its citizens within the country and abroad, and the government has publicly linked these efforts to the threat of a downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2011 TIP Report. The hundreds of backlogged trafficking cases in the court system are beginning to be fast-tracked, corrupt officials are being identified and punished, government resources have increased to combat trafficking, and most importantly, mechanisms to improve the government's anti-trafficking responses are being institutionalized.

Similarly, Indonesia has made good use of its 2007 anti-tip law, prosecuting the largest number of labor trafficking offenders (79) of any East Asian government in 2009.

We want to encourage other Asian countries to embark on similar courses. And the Defense Department can help. On February 1, Secretary Clinton and I had the privilege of convening the cabinet-level meeting on trafficking in persons. Annually, the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Interior, as well as the heads of other agencies including the Director of National Intelligence and Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission, come together to discuss this issue. This year, the meeting was on National Freedom Day, which commemorates the day in 1865 that President Lincoln sent the 13th Amendment to the states for ratification.

Secretary Gates spoke of the importance of enforcing the DOD zero-tolerance policy against forced labor and sex trafficking, of mandatory trainings for the Total Forces to identify and respond to human trafficking, and of the findings of Inspector General audits and reports of defense contractors overseas. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar spoke about the upcoming need for interagency coordination to prevent forced labor and prostitution in overseas U.S. territories.

It was inspiring to see our senior leadership engaged and committed to delivering on the promise of freedom that had been made 146 years ago. As President Obama said when declaring January to be slavery and trafficking awareness

month, we need to "acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

There was another key announcement made at the meeting that is particularly relevant to you. In November 2010, nearly 60 private security companies signed the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers, crafted by industry representatives, governments, and NGOs - an effort supported by the U.S. Government. Here we have companies pledging to uphold a number of principles both in their company policies and in the conduct of their personnel, including not engaging or benefiting from human trafficking or prostitution. These are companies that very well may be DOD contractors that are recognizing that they have a role to play in eliminating forced labor and the persistent exploitation of women in prostitution.

Right now it is a code that speaks to the same principles as the government's zero tolerance policy. We need to be sure that it's not just a commitment, but that there is real action and oversight behind it, just as we are doing with our contractors. As you may know, the Departments of State and Defense, as well as USAID, are all subject to Inspector General audits as mandated by Congress. They are looking for signs of human trafficking, reporting on them, and remedying them.

Fighting trafficking is not something relegated to policy or just to the senior leadership level. You each play a role to uphold a standard of conduct - of dignity and the promise of freedom - that the U.S. Government is fighting for around the globe. It's each of you, each of us.

Because traffickers don't create the markets. Traffickers exploit their people. But it is the demand for commercial sex, for cheap goods, that they rush to meet through violence and cruelty. And so we need to end that demand. By placing certain clubs off-limits to those under your command. By including and enforcing the contracting regulations that prohibit such conduct on the part of your vendors.

By holding yourself and your staff to an appropriate and honorable standard of conduct both on and off-duty. Purchasing sex is wrong. It doesn't matter whether the woman is over 18 or how willing she may appear - because the truth is you can never know. This is one of those places where government policy truly conforms with human obligation. Through your actions, you can do a great deal to advance not only government policy but the opportunity and freedom of women and girls around the world.

This is driven by demand. No girl or woman would be a victim of sex trafficking if there were no profits to be made from their exploitation. You each play a role in reducing that demand, and living by example - by refraining personally from engaging in human trafficking or buying commercial sex, not just because of the UCMJ or National Security Presidential Directive 22, but because it is the right thing to do.

In the DC area, DHS has put up posters that say "If you see something, say something." We can live our lives by the principle of "If you see trafficking, say stop."

And so we have to have those tough conversations with friends. Whether it is the US and our allies in the annual report, or us and our buddies. Friends have to be honest enough to help each other confront inconvenient truths. To stand for the challenge that actor Ashton Kutcher has laid down: real men don't buy girls. Or women for that matter.

But it is not enough to think that personal intolerance, or abstention, is sufficient. Real men need to speak out against bad behavior. Even when it's tough. Even when it's a friend, an associate, a colleague. Especially then. Bachelor parties, R and R's, when it's your best friend or your boss or your brother-in-law and you're just not the type to cause drama. Think of the drama in the woman's life that - absent your action - would otherwise continue unabated.

Do something. Make buying sex as embarrassing as it should be.

In the wake of the Civil War, the promise of freedom was so often delivered by your predecessors. Navy and Coast Guard cutters intercepted raiders who tried to kidnap newly-freed slaves to take them to Cuba and Hispaniola. The Army enforced the involuntary servitude statutes in the occupied South. Military governors and courts freed domestic servants from peonage in the Southwest territories.

Today, whether in a broken Haitian village or a war-torn countryside, we rely on you to be equally vigilant. Third Country Nationals brought in by contractors. The local women and girls. Even things explained away as cultural practices, such as the Haitian restaveks or the Afghan bacha bazi. All of these things can be prevented by you, both in your commands and in your personal lives.

Collectively, we cannot afford to have a fragmented or partial U.S. Government approach. The Department of State stands ready to partner with you to advance the anti-trafficking efforts of the countries within your area of responsibility, for instance, by leveraging your expertise to build capacity and train foreign law enforcement.

As a nation looked to as a world leader on this issue, much is expected of us. And, as Americans we expect much from ourselves. And so let us heed the words of President Obama, "From every corner of our Nation, to every part of the globe, [let us] stand firm in defense of freedom and bear witness for those exploited by modern slavery."

Thank you.

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473 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 18, 2011 Friday**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A 3D APPROACH****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 3945 words**DATELINE:** HONOLULU, Hawaii

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Remarks

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

U.S. Pacific Command Interagency Symposium on Trafficking in Persons

Honolulu, HI

February 18, 2011

As Prepared for Delivery

Hello and thank you for that kind introduction and for the invitation by PACOM today to talk about how together we can make tangible progress against modern slavery in the Pacific region. Some have asked, Why does America care about whether someone is held in servitude in another country? Why is this foreign policy? or even How dare America issue an annual report analyzing what other countries are doing on this issue isnt such unilateralism presumptuous? Some of you here today may even be asking yourselves, How does a civilian human rights issue apply to me while I am at Pacific Command?

Heres what we know. We know human trafficking is a crime; a human rights abuse; a byproduct of conflict; an issue of national security, public health, and democracy; a labor and migration issue; and a growing global phenomenon. As we have seen in many places the world over, it must be at the forefront of our planning when we race to respond to a natural disaster or conflict.

In and around deployments that many of you may have experienced Haiti, Iraq, the Balkans pimps and exploiters have taken advantage of the chaos to find and abuse their victims. Sexual enslavement can take place not only in a brothel or on a street corner, but in the context of war, and has been prosecuted as a crime against humanity before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

As Secretary Clinton said recently, anywhere from 12 to 27 million people are currently held in bondage for labor or prostitution. Thats equivalent to all the people who live in London, at the low end, and the combined populations of New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., at the high end.

The victims range from the men and women enslaved in fields, factories, and brothels, to the girls and boys whose childhoods have been shattered and stolen, to the parents whose children have vanished. And they feel that no one can help them, that no one is looking for them, that no one cares.

It is our responsibility to find the victims, help them, prosecute their traffickers, and find ways to prevent enslavement in the first place. You are no doubt familiar with the 3D foreign policy approach of diplomacy, development, and defense. Not to belabor the construct, but those 3Ds can also fuel an anti-trafficking strategy of deterrence, disruption, and demand, that can help us confront an unfortunate reality in the PACOM Area of Responsibility too often, countries fol-

low a more unfortunate 3D paradigm, as all too often we see victims experience the phenomenon of detention, deportation, and disempowerment. This must stop.

This is not a theoretical matter to me, or an issue for politics. I did not learn about human trafficking in an office, a cubicle, or a think tank. For me, the survivors of trafficking in all its forms are people I know, people whose experiences as told to me are seared into my memory. The people who trusted me to fight for them in court. The people who have shared both their tears and their strength with me as they recounted horrific abuse at the hands of pimps or bosses. The people who believed that the United States stood for something, and placed their sacred trust with me and my team at the Justice Department to vindicate their rights.

Human trafficking is a scourge on the Earth, and the United States is certainly no exception. This year, for the first time, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report evaluated and ranked the United States efforts to combat trafficking we held ourselves accountable to the same standards to which we hold other governments. We found that trafficking occurs for both sex and labor. We see it in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health care, and beauty salons. We see trafficking in prostitution and strip clubs, as the traffickers dehumanize and destroy.

In including the United States, we looked at the situation in the US and the response of the government. We called for submissions from NGOs, and listened to their insight and read their data. The United States was placed on Tier One of the Report. Not a reprieve or a foregone conclusion, but a responsibility based on the evidence.

And Tier One is not an A grade by any means; it just means that countries meet the Minimum Standards set forth by Congress. In other words, just passing the threshold.

Even if you haven't seen this modern form of slavery up close and personal like I did for fifteen years as a federal prosecutor, you know from our own tragic American history the damage that chattel slavery left in its wake. The destructive impact it had on family, community, country. On our economy, and our security.

It is because of our own experience as a Nation that we know slavery whether in the slave trade of the 19th century or in the modern forms of slavery we see today to be an affront to our most basic rights as Americans and as human beings in a global community.

Creating strong communities and policies that eradicate the modern form of slavery that we see today is paramount to providing the stability needed to achieve trade, security, and economic success. And so often, the men and women called upon to guarantee that freedom have been in our Armed Forces. As representatives of the United States, military personnel at all levels have a special responsibility to combat human trafficking.

It comes back to the most fundamental crimes that we have confronted for so long as a nation piracy and slavery. Just as Decatur went into Algiers to deal with the Barbary pirates and their protectors who were taking American and European slaves, America in 2011 again finds itself confronting the old evils of piracy and slavery around the world. Just as African-Americans during the Civil War knew that they could find freedom if they could just reach the lines of the U.S. Army, we again find ourselves providing protection and refuge.

While our history with this heinous practice may be unique, the struggle against it spans time and region. For as long as people of every community, culture, and country in the world are enslaved, our work and efforts must go on.

That's where PACOM comes in. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on your AOR. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

According to the International Labor Organization, the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is highest in Asia, with almost three in every 1,000 inhabitants falling victim. Also, the International Organization for Migration and World Bank data show that the majority of the over 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants reflecting greater labor mobility in the region and in the world is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

As the percentage of women migrants in that pool grows exponentially, we have to recognize the feminization of migration, and the multitude of issues that are specific to women. So we see women held in sex slavery, in labor servitude, or working in situations where they routinely face sexual harassment or even rape.

Unfortunately, the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report was greater than the number upgraded. Many Asian governments lack adequate laws, and more have failed to produce significant convictions of trafficking offenders.

None of the countries in South Asia has ratified the decade-old UN Palermo Protocol, though they have joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) anti-TIP convention. The SAARC convention, however, is problematic for numerous reasons, one of which is that it focuses on sex trafficking rather than on both sex and labor trafficking. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries have not formulated regional strategies along the lines of the Council of Europe or the Organization of American States.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account, in the form of sentencing reflective of the severity of the crimes they commit. Some countries only focus on sex trafficking and not from a compassionate place, but by locking up the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals, rather than recognizing them as victims.

So too, it has been a steep learning curve for some governments to consider issues of labor trafficking. Forced labor cases untold thousands of women working as maids or seamstresses and men in construction or agriculture are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if confronted at all.

And each year, by statute, the United States has to assess these countries, make a determination as to what is being done, and rank them by the Congressionally-mandated minimum standards.

Secretary Clinton has said it best:

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, "Well, what can we do?" And we said, "Well, we've pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you."

Friends help each other not just with convenient facts, but sometimes with inconvenient truths. And in the anti-trafficking world, that kind of friendship means honesty about the problems we see.

For instance, in the past several years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents to purposefully restrict their employees' movement, even though without them migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate, make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers many of whom are trafficked in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six offenders convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done. Meanwhile, it is Malaysia, pushed by a **Tier 3** ranking in 2009, that embarked on the first steps towards addressing its multi-faceted **human trafficking** problem.

Farther north, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's a start, but it is an average of only \$111 per firm and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad.

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providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

Equally harmful to the cause is official denial by governments which continue to refute the existence of a trafficking problem. This is often true of more developed nations. For example, in one small but developed Asian country, the denial of a problem has prevented effective victim identification or assistance efforts. It resulted in the mass arrest and deportation of over seven thousand women and girls in prostitution last year. Among this population, only one individual was officially identified by the government as a trafficking victim.

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Yet clear successes are being registered. While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status. Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and that's making them stand out.

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It was inspiring to see our senior leadership engaged and committed to delivering on the promise of freedom that had been made 146 years ago. As President Obama said when declaring January to be slavery and trafficking awareness month, we need to acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade.

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In the DC area, DHS has put up posters that say If you see something, say something. We can live our lives by the principle of If you see trafficking, say stop.

And so we have to have those tough conversations with friends. Whether it is the US and our allies in the annual report, or us and our buddies. Friends have to be honest enough to help each other confront inconvenient truths. To stand for the challenge that actor Ashton Kutcher has laid down: real men dont buy girls. Or women for that matter.

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such as the Haitian restaveks or the Afghan bacha bazi. All of these things can be prevented by you, both in your commands and in your personal lives.

Collectively, we cannot afford to have a fragmented or partial U.S. Government approach. The Department of State stands ready to partner with you to advance the anti-trafficking efforts of the countries within your area of responsibility, for instance, by leveraging your expertise to build capacity and train foreign law enforcement.

As a nation looked to as a world leader on this issue, much is expected of us. And, as Americans we expect much from ourselves. And so let us heed the words of President Obama, From every corner of our Nation, to every part of the globe, [let us] stand firm in defense of freedom and bear witness for those exploited by modern slavery.

Thank you.

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474 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

February 18, 2011 Friday 2:32 AM EST

Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Speaks on Trafficking in Persons: A 3D Approach

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 3950 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Hello and thank you for that kind introduction and for the invitation by PACOM today to talk about how together we can make tangible progress against modern slavery in the Pacific region. Some have asked, "Why does America care about whether someone is held in servitude in another country?" "Why is this foreign policy?" or even "How dare America issue an annual report analyzing what other countries are doing on this issue - isn't such unilateralism presumptuous?" Some of you here today may even be asking yourselves, "How does a civilian human rights issue apply to me while I am at Pacific Command?"

Here's what we know. We know human trafficking is a crime; a human rights abuse; a byproduct of conflict; an issue of national security, public health, and democracy; a labor and migration issue; and a growing global phenomenon. As we have seen in many places the world over, it must be at the forefront of our planning when we race to respond to a natural disaster or conflict.

In and around deployments that many of you may have experienced - Haiti, Iraq, the Balkans - pimps and exploiters have taken advantage of the chaos to find and abuse their victims. Sexual enslavement can take place not only in a brothel or on a street corner, but in the context of war, and has been prosecuted as a crime against humanity before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

As Secretary Clinton said recently, anywhere from 12 to 27 million people are currently held in bondage for labor or prostitution. That's equivalent to all the people who live in London, at the low end, and the combined populations of New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., at the high end.

The victims range from the men and women enslaved in fields, factories, and brothels, to the girls and boys whose childhoods have been shattered and stolen, to the parents whose children have vanished. And they feel that no one can help them, that no one is looking for them, that no one cares.

It is our responsibility to find the victims, help them, prosecute their traffickers, and find ways to prevent enslavement in the first place. You are no doubt familiar with the "3D" foreign policy approach of diplomacy, development, and defense. Not to belabor the construct, but those 3Ds can also fuel an anti-trafficking strategy of deterrence, disruption, and demand, that can help us confront an unfortunate reality in the PACOM Area of Responsibility - too often, countries follow a more unfortunate "3D" paradigm, as all too often we see victims experience the phenomenon of detention, deportation, and disempowerment. This must stop.

This is not a theoretical matter to me, or an issue for politics. I did not learn about human trafficking in an office, a cubicle, or a think tank. For me, the survivors of trafficking - in all its forms - are people I know, people whose experiences as told to me are seared into my memory. The people who trusted me to fight for them in court. The people who have shared both their tears and their strength with me as they recounted horrific abuse at the hands of pimps or bosses. The

people who believed that the United States stood for something, and placed their sacred trust with me and my team at the Justice Department to vindicate their rights.

Human trafficking is a scourge on the Earth, and the United States is certainly no exception. This year, for the first time, the annual Trafficking in Persons Report evaluated and ranked the United States' efforts to combat trafficking - we held ourselves accountable to the same standards to which we hold other governments. We found that trafficking occurs for both sex and labor. We see it in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health care, and beauty salons. We see trafficking in prostitution and strip clubs, as the traffickers dehumanize and destroy.

In including the United States, we looked at the situation in the US and the response of the government. We called for submissions from NGOs, and listened to their insight and read their data. The United States was placed on Tier One of the Report. Not a reprieve or a foregone conclusion, but a responsibility based on the evidence.

And Tier One is not an "A" grade by any means; it just means that countries meet the Minimum Standards set forth by Congress. In other words, just passing the threshold.

Even if you haven't seen this modern form of slavery up close and personal like I did for fifteen years as a federal prosecutor, you know from our own tragic American history the damage that chattel slavery left in its wake. The destructive impact it had on family, community, country. On our economy, and our security.

It is because of our own experience as a Nation that we know slavery - whether in the slave trade of the 19th century or in the modern forms of slavery we see today - to be an affront to our most basic rights as Americans and as human beings in a global community.

Creating strong communities and policies that eradicate the modern form of slavery that we see today is paramount to providing the stability needed to achieve trade, security, and economic success. And so often, the men and women called upon to guarantee that freedom have been in our Armed Forces. As representatives of the United States, military personnel at all levels have a special responsibility to combat human trafficking.

It comes back to the most fundamental crimes that we have confronted for so long as a nation - piracy and slavery. Just as Decatur went into Algiers to deal with the Barbary pirates and their protectors who were taking American and European slaves, America in 2011 again finds itself confronting the old evils of piracy and slavery around the world. Just as African-Americans during the Civil War knew that they could find freedom if they could just reach the lines of the U.S. Army, we again find ourselves providing protection and refuge.

While our history with this heinous practice may be unique, the struggle against it spans time and region. For as long as people of every community, culture, and country in the world are enslaved, our work and efforts must go on.

That's where PACOM comes in. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on your AOR. We cannot meaningfully address this issue without focusing on Asia.

According to the International Labor Organization, the prevalence of forced labor and sexual servitude is highest in Asia, with almost three in every 1,000 inhabitants falling victim. Also, the International Organization for Migration and World Bank data show that the majority of the over 200 million transnational migrants in the world are from Asia. Within the growing pool of Asian migrants - reflecting greater labor mobility in the region and in the world - is a huge population of people who are victims of sex and labor trafficking.

As the percentage of women migrants in that pool grows exponentially, we have to recognize the feminization of migration, and the multitude of issues that are specific to women. So we see women held in sex slavery, in labor servitude, or working in situations where they routinely face sexual harassment or even rape.

Unfortunately, the number of countries in Asia downgraded in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report was greater than the number upgraded. Many Asian governments lack adequate laws, and more have failed to produce significant convictions of trafficking offenders.

None of the countries in South Asia has ratified the decade-old UN Palermo Protocol, though they have joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) anti-TIP convention. The SAARC convention, however, is problematic for numerous reasons, one of which is that it focuses on sex trafficking rather than on both sex and labor trafficking. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries have not formulated regional strategies along the lines of the Council of Europe or the Organization of American States.

While some countries in Asia have passed legislation to prohibit trafficking, governments as a whole have not yet shown the political will to hold the traffickers to the fullest account, in the form of sentencing reflective of the severity of the crimes they commit. Some countries only focus on sex trafficking - and not from a compassionate place, but by locking up the women as illegal immigrant prostitutes or criminals, rather than recognizing them as victims.

So too, it has been a steep learning curve for some governments to consider issues of labor trafficking. Forced labor cases - untold thousands of women working as maids or seamstresses and men in construction or agriculture - are sometimes treated as administrative violations, if confronted at all.

And each year, by statute, the United States has to assess these countries, make a determination as to what is being done, and rank them by the Congressionally-mandated minimum standards.

Secretary Clinton has said it best:

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them [...] the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not.

Now this is a process that is fraught with all kinds of feelings and I recognize that, but the easiest way to get out of the tier three and get off the watch list is to really act. And we had some real friends, friends - countries that are friends on so many important issues, and they were very upset when we told them that they were not going to progress and, in fact, were in danger of regressing. And then they said, "Well, what can we do?" And we said, "Well, we've pointed this out, we point it out again, and we will stand ready to help you."

Friends help each other - not just with convenient facts, but sometimes with inconvenient truths. And in the anti-trafficking world, that kind of friendship means honesty about the problems we see.

For instance, in the past several years, we have learned a lot about the forced labor of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industries. In a 2006 study, the ILO found that 43 percent of Burmese in the Thai fishing sector who have given over possession of their identity documents to their employers cannot access these documents when they want to. In many cases, the employers hold onto these documents to purposefully restrict their employees' movement, even though without them migrants are vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

A UN survey of men and boys who were victims of forced labor on Thai fishing boats (which travel throughout the Pacific region) found that 29 of 49 (59 percent) reported seeing a murder by the boat captain. The problem of forced labor on fishing vessels in the Pacific region is one on which we are attempting to gain greater information and encourage governments to address - the inherently isolated nature of work on these vessels, and the legal jurisdictions of the waters in which these boats operate, make this a particularly difficult challenge.

We know that there are tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of foreign migrant workers - many of whom are trafficked - in the Southeast Asian fishery industries. While this problem is widespread, in Thailand, we are aware of only six offenders convicted by the Royal Thai Government for the forced labor of foreign workers in the industry - all but one of whom were freed on bail after conviction, pending their appeals. While the convictions represented successes in Thailand's efforts to combat trafficking, their limited number speaks to the work that still needs to be done. Meanwhile, it is Malaysia, pushed by a **Tier 3** ranking in 2009, that embarked on the first steps towards addressing its multi-faceted **human trafficking** problem.

Farther north, Vietnam reported to us that last year, they did not criminally prosecute any labor trafficking offenders, but they fined 98 recruitment companies a total of \$10,900 and revoked the licenses of two firms. That's a start, but it is an average of only \$111 per firm - and a total of less than what one worker pays to be recruited for a job abroad.

Indeed, a lack of avenues for redress of complaints by Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepali men and women in many East Asian destination countries denies them justice and a chance of effective recovery. It also fails in providing a deterrent through tough criminal sanctions to traffickers. Clearly, we have to elevate the ramifications for this type of exploitation above the cost of doing business.

Equally harmful to the cause is official denial by governments which continue to refute the existence of a trafficking problem. This is often true of more developed nations. For example, in one small but developed Asian country, the denial of a problem has prevented effective victim identification or assistance efforts. It resulted in the mass arrest and

deportation of over seven thousand women and girls in prostitution last year. Among this population, only one individual was officially identified by the government as a trafficking victim.

Again: one victim identified, out of seven thousand women who were identified as foreign prostitutes. Think about how likely that is...

Millions of the victims of bonded labor and domestic service are women and girls, and they are exposed to not just physical, but sexual predation at the hands of their captors. I will never forget two young Indian girls - taken from their bonded laborer parents at 11. They were forced to work as maids, waitresses, and sex slaves for their master. He didn't respect their freedom or their bodies, and he didn't respect the labels we use to describe their situation. I may have put him in prison where he belongs, but I can never regain what these young women had lost.

In South Korea, the government has had some success prosecuting sex traffickers and offering services to the victims. There is a known presence of women and girls in forced commercial sexual exploitation, including foreign women recruited to work on entertainment visas as singers and bars near U.S. military facilities. We know that women such as these often incur thousands of dollars in debts, contributing to their vulnerability to debt bondage upon arrival. The issue of child sex tourism - one that the U.S. government attempts to tackle head-on through extraterritorial application of relevant laws - is also one shared by South Korea and Japan, and the 2010 TIP Report sets forth how men from those countries fuel the demand for trafficking in Cambodia and other poorer countries. But unlike the United States, South Korea has never prosecuted one of its citizens for sex tourism, and Japan's last prosecution was in 2005.

The reality is that enforcement regimes in the Pacific region are woefully inadequate. Resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of political will have created an enabling environment in which sex slavery and forced labor thrives, and exploiters rarely face meaningful penalties.

Yet clear successes are being registered. While ranked Tier 2 Watch List just a few years ago, perhaps the strongest Tier 1 jurisdiction in the Pacific region is Taiwan - thanks to its political commitment to carrying out a series of tough anti-trafficking reforms. Now, foreign victims of trafficking in Taiwan stand a much greater chance of being identified, subsequently given assistance to get back on their feet, and gain legitimate employment with legal immigration status. Taiwan authorities have made a commitment not just to enforcement, but to victim care, and that's making them stand out.

In the past year, the Philippine Government - led by a new President and a Congressman who doesn't just score knock-outs in the ring - has heeded the call to take more seriously its responsibility to address the trafficking of its citizens within the country and abroad, and the government has publicly linked these efforts to the threat of a downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2011 TIP Report. The hundreds of backlogged trafficking cases in the court system are beginning to be fast-tracked, corrupt officials are being identified and punished, government resources have increased to combat trafficking, and most importantly, mechanisms to improve the government's anti-trafficking responses are being institutionalized.

Similarly, Indonesia has made good use of its 2007 anti-tip law, prosecuting the largest number of labor trafficking offenders (79) of any East Asian government in 2009.

We want to encourage other Asian countries to embark on similar courses. And the Defense Department can help. On February 1, Secretary Clinton and I had the privilege of convening the cabinet-level meeting on trafficking in persons. Annually, the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Interior, as well as the heads of other agencies including the Director of National Intelligence and Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission, come together to discuss this issue. This year, the meeting was on National Freedom Day, which commemorates the day in 1865 that President Lincoln sent the 13th Amendment to the states for ratification.

Secretary Gates spoke of the importance of enforcing the DOD zero-tolerance policy against forced labor and sex trafficking, of mandatory trainings for the Total Forces to identify and respond to human trafficking, and of the findings of Inspector General audits and reports of defense contractors overseas. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar spoke about the upcoming need for interagency coordination to prevent forced labor and prostitution in overseas U.S. territories.

It was inspiring to see our senior leadership engaged and committed to delivering on the promise of freedom that had been made 146 years ago. As President Obama said when declaring January to be slavery and trafficking awareness month, we need to "acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

There was another key announcement made at the meeting that is particularly relevant to you. In November 2010, nearly 60 private security companies signed the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers, craft-

ed by industry representatives, governments, and NGOs - an effort supported by the U.S. Government. Here we have companies pledging to uphold a number of principles both in their company policies and in the conduct of their personnel, including not engaging or benefiting from human trafficking or prostitution. These are companies that very well may be DOD contractors that are recognizing that they have a role to play in eliminating forced labor and the persistent exploitation of women in prostitution.

Right now it is a code that speaks to the same principles as the government's zero tolerance policy. We need to be sure that it's not just a commitment, but that there is real action and oversight behind it, just as we are doing with our contractors. As you may know, the Departments of State and Defense, as well as USAID, are all subject to Inspector General audits as mandated by Congress. They are looking for signs of human trafficking, reporting on them, and remedying them.

Fighting trafficking is not something relegated to policy or just to the senior leadership level. You each play a role to uphold a standard of conduct - of dignity and the promise of freedom - that the U.S. Government is fighting for around the globe. Its each of you, each of us.

Because traffickers don't create the markets. Traffickers exploit their people. But it is the demand for commercial sex, for cheap goods, that they rush to meet through violence and cruelty. And so we need to end that demand. By placing certain clubs off-limits to those under your command. By including and enforcing the contracting regulations that prohibit such conduct on the part of your vendors.

By holding yourself and your staff to an appropriate and honorable standard of conduct both on and off-duty. Purchasing sex is wrong. It doesn't matter whether the woman is over 18 or how willing she may appear - because the truth is you can never know. This is one of those places where government policy truly conforms with human obligation. Through your actions, you can do a great deal to advance not only government policy but the opportunity and freedom of women and girls around the world.

This is driven by demand. No girl or woman would be a victim of sex trafficking if there were no profits to be made from their exploitation. You each play a role in reducing that demand, and living by example - by refraining personally from engaging in human trafficking or buying commercial sex, not just because of the UCMJ or National Security Presidential Directive 22, but because it is the right thing to do.

In the DC area, DHS has put up posters that say "If you see something, say something." We can live our lives by the principle of "If you see trafficking, say stop."

And so we have to have those tough conversations with friends. Whether it is the US and our allies in the annual report, or us and our buddies. Friends have to be honest enough to help each other confront inconvenient truths. To stand for the challenge that actor Ashton Kutcher has laid down: real men don't buy girls. Or women for that matter.

But it is not enough to think that personal intolerance, or abstention, is sufficient. Real men need to speak out against bad behavior. Even when it's tough. Even when it's a friend, an associate, a colleague. Especially then. Bachelor parties, R and R's, when it's your best friend or your boss or your brother-in-law and you're just not the type to cause drama. Think of the drama in the woman's life that - absent your action - would otherwise continue unabated.

Do something. Make buying sex as embarrassing as it should be.

In the wake of the Civil War, the promise of freedom was so often delivered by your predecessors. Navy and Coast Guard cutters intercepted raiders who tried to kidnap newly-freed slaves to take them to Cuba and Hispaniola. The Army enforced the involuntary servitude statutes in the occupied South. Military governors and courts freed domestic servants from peonage in the Southwest territories.

Today, whether in a broken Haitian village or a war-torn countryside, we rely on you to be equally vigilant. Third Country Nationals brought in by contractors. The local women and girls. Even things explained away as cultural practices, such as the Haitian restaveks or the Afghan bacha bazi. All of these things can be prevented by you, both in your commands and in your personal lives.

Collectively, we cannot afford to have a fragmented or partial U.S. Government approach. The Department of State stands ready to partner with you to advance the anti-trafficking efforts of the countries within your area of responsibility, for instance, by leveraging your expertise to build capacity and train foreign law enforcement.

As a nation looked to as a world leader on this issue, much is expected of us. And, as Americans we expect much from ourselves. And so let us heed the words of President Obama, "From every corner of our Nation, to every part of the globe, [let us] stand firm in defense of freedom and bear witness for those exploited by modern slavery."

Thank you.

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475 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

February 15, 2011

US, Ukraine Pledge To Combat Human Trafficking

BYLINE: JulieAnn McKellogg

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 438 words

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her Ukrainian counterpart have pledged increased efforts to combat human trafficking in Ukraine. In a recent report, the U.S. said Ukraine is increasingly becoming a destination country for victims of trafficking.

Secretary of State Clinton and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko met at the State Department Monday to sign a cooperation plan on combating human trafficking. Clinton said the two countries are making progress on the issue.

"The recent repatriation from Ukraine to the United States of a trafficker accused of taking more than \$1 million in profits from the women he exploited is just one way we are working to end this tragic worldwide blight," said Secretary Clinton.

The U.S. ranked Ukraine as a second-tier country in its 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. That ranking means the government in Kyiv does not fully comply with the minimum standards of U.S. law for eliminating trafficking, but does make significant efforts to do so.

The report describes Ukraine as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children who are victims, specifically those of forced labor and forced prostitution.

A top United Nations official on human trafficking, Martin Fowke, told VOA this kind of partnership between the U.S. and Ukraine is one of the most important aspects of combating human trafficking.

"This is a transnational crime, something of which impacts on most countries in the world, and the more we can find solutions that cross borders, like the crime networks that perpetrate human trafficking, the more likely we are to have a serious impact on it," said Fowke.

Fowke, who is the officer-in-charge for the U.N. Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Unit in Geneva, says calculating the number of trafficking victims is very difficult. But he says the International Labor Organization estimates that at any one time close to 2.4 million people have been victims of forced labor.

Human trafficking includes victims of the sex trade, forced or bonded labor, domestic servitude, forced marriage, organ removal and child soldiers.

In its recent report, the U.S. made recommendations for all evaluated countries on how to crack down on trafficking. Recommendations for Ukraine include harsher sentences for convicted traffickers, creating formal ways of identifying victims, and providing more funding and specialized services for victims.

Clinton and the visiting Ukrainian foreign minister discussed a variety of other bilateral issues, with Clinton underscoring Ukraine's commitment to progress on a variety of energy, economic and social issues.

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476 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
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February 13, 2011 Sunday

Fiji unveils national strategy against people-trafficking

LENGTH: 358 words

Text of report by independent daily newspaper Fiji Times website on 12 February

[By Avinesh Gopal] Saturday, 12 February: The government is committed to the global fight against the trafficking of people, including children. Acting Minister for Defence, National Security and Immigration Jocketani Cokanasiga said trafficking in persons was a crime against humanity.

"It is a threat against the core value of individual freedom and human dignity," he said. "Vulnerable groups within our society need to be protected from all forms of exploitation and human bondage. This calls for defences that are strong, responsive and pre-emptive against the imminent threat of trafficking."

Mr Cokanasiga made the comments while launching the national action plan to eradicate trafficking in persons and child trafficking in Suva yesterday afternoon. He said the national plan of action solidified the common goal for the eradication of **trafficking in persons** and set the foundation for future collaborative efforts geared towards attainment of that goal. He said Fiji was in **Tier 3** of the United States Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** report in June last year but has since been elevated to **Tier 2** of the **watch list**.

"The Fijian government is committed to the global fight against this crime against humanity," he said.

Mr Cokanasiga said Fiji's national initiatives on the law against trafficking in persons were embedded in the Crimes Decree 2009 and the Immigration Act 2003. He said the implementation of the plan would be fraught with challenges and collaboration between the government, various non government organisations and foreign governments was crucial.

"The core hallmarks of the national plan of action revolves around prevention, protection and prosecution. To eradicate trafficking in persons, there must be a change in hearts and minds, in cultures and attitudes. By working together, I am sure that we can identify the occurrence and facilitation of trafficking in persons in our national jurisdiction and impede the growth of this despicable form of human slavery," said Mr Cokanasiga.

Source: Fiji Times website, Suva, in English 12 Feb 11

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

477 of 492 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

February 11, 2011 Friday

3 more held over people smuggling

BYLINE: Suganthi Suparmaniam

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 579 words

PUTRAJAYA: The fight against trans-border crimes gained momentum when three others were detained under the Internal Security Act, bringing to 14 the number of suspects held under the act since October.

The latest suspects were two locals and an Indonesian who were picked up in the city on Wednesday. One of them was a woman.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein described the three, aged between 33 and 48, as a violent lot who masterminded human and drug trafficking rings.

"These things cannot be taken lightly. If not stopped, it can lead to violence later," he told reporters after a meeting with Ward Elcock, who is the special adviser on human smuggling and illegal migration to the Canadian prime minister.

At the press conference, Hishammuddin also said the authorities recently arrested a Sri Lankan, believed to be a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Several other LTTE members are on our watch list."

On the three suspects, Hishammuddin said they were linked to an earlier syndicate involving nine Immigration officers and two foreigners who were nabbed in an operation in October.

In that operation, Immigration officers in Pulau Ketam and Port Dickson and the two foreigners were nabbed for human trafficking activities along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

It was reported that senior Immigration Department officers at several border entry points had allowed foreigners without proper travel documents to enter and exit the country.

The officers had allegedly allowed those who had overstayed to leave the country without any hassle, while the two foreigners were said to be the ringleaders who paid off the Immigration officers.

Hishammuddin warned that enforcement officers caught abusing their power or involved in illegal activities would be punished.

"There is no compromise. The Immigration officers currently in custody will either be released conditionally or charged in court soon."

In 2009, Malaysia was placed in **Tier 3** by the United States Department of **Trafficking in Persons** Report for not fully complying with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and not making significant efforts to do so.

Last year, Malaysia's ranking improved to the Tier 2 Watch List.

"Our fight does not end here," Hishammuddin said.

He said a new body, the Cross Border Crime Prevention Academy, would be established at the site of the Langkawi International Field Target shooting range soon.

The main committee of the academy will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The committee will comprise a number of agencies, including the Customs Department, the Inland Revenue Board and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

"Other than the setting up of the academy, we will continue to work with countries such as Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom to combat trans-border crimes," he said.

On another matter, Hishammuddin rejected Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's request to set up the state's own auxiliary police force.

"This will be against the Federal Constitution which states that policing comes under the Federal Government's purview.

"It is not possible to set up auxiliary police teams using taxpayers' money. Individuals who requested for auxiliary police in the past had paid for them."

Hishammuddin added that there was no basis for Selangor to form its own auxiliary police force as statistics showed that the crime index had decreased.

(END)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

478 of 492 DOCUMENTS

WeekendPost

WeekendPost (South Africa)

February 5, 2011

Nigerians face sex, drugs and trafficking trial

BYLINE: Shaun Gillham**SECTION:** CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE**LENGTH:** 530 words

WEEKEND POST REPORTER

gillhams@avusa.co.za

SIX Nigerian nationals accused of a range of human trafficking and drug-related crimes involving under-aged girls will appear in court in PE on April 29.

The six were denied bail by presiding Magistrate Gavin Juicy last month. He postponed what could be a landmark trial to April.

It is thought likely that they are being held at St Albans Prison, but efforts to confirm this with state prosecutor Zelda Swanepoel were unsuccessful.

Christian Ndukauba (also known by his street name Coco), Ejike Alex Nwogu (known as Big Fish), Austin Okeke, Batholome Chiyeaka Ileboh (known as Gostime), Chukwuma Magnus Nwaike (nicknamed Casey or KC) and Chibueze Meemikwu each face facing a raft of shocking charges.

These include the rape of under-aged girls who at the time were 11, 12 and 13 years old, human trafficking, racketeering, living off the proceeds of prostitution generated by minor girls working under duress, the assault of minor girls and dealing in dangerous dependence-producing drugs.

All the charges relate to offences allegedly committed between 2005 and 2008.

John Preller, seasoned campaigner against drug crimes and human trafficking, told me that expectations were high the case would set precedents as South Africa did not currently have legislation dealing specifically with human trafficking as a crime. He has attended all court hearings to date involving the six accused.

Preller, who is chairman of the Humewood Community Police Forum, said the alleged victims were "trafficked" between PE, Bloemfontein and Cape Town.

It was possible the case would end up in the High Court, he said.

"This case involves a complicated process as there is no law (in South Africa) in respect of specific human trafficking legislation. Numerous acts of criminal law and sections of the sexual offences act, contravention of sections of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act and various other acts were and will be applied.

"Ultimately we are working towards getting legislation that specifically addresses **human trafficking**," he said, adding that the judiciary was compelled to address the "crime" as South Africa was a signatory of the United Nations' Palermo Protocol.

South Africa ratified this protocol - the primary international instrument for the prevention, suppression and punishment of **human trafficking** - in 2004.

Preller said South Africa was therefore obligated to address trafficking as a crime and make it punishable by law.

"In spite of these good intentions South Africa has been put on a Tier2 **watch list** (by the US State Department) for a fourth consecutive year due to an inability to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

"But despite these observations, the government departments involved in this specific case have made monumental strides in terms of securing witness protection for the victims in the case," he added.

"The police have presented faultless evidence and procedural proof and the prosecutors have put together a compelling argument opposing bail."

Preller said a multi-faceted campaign would soon be launched to relentlessly target crime hotspots in PE.

JOHN PRELLER

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JOURNAL-CODE: Weekend

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479 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

February 4, 2011 Friday

USA: New Interagency Initiatives To Combat Trafficking in Persons

LENGTH: 1478 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, Feb. 04 -- The U.S Department Of State has issued Following Remarks:

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. Well, as dramatic events unfold half a world away in Egypt - and we understand that many of you are focused on those events - but we had a pretty important event that just took place upstairs, which was the President's Annual Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons meeting. And here to talk with us a little bit about that meeting and about the agenda is Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Ambassador Luis CdeBaca.

Ambassador.

QUESTION: Mark, just one more thing: Are you or P.J. going to brief us in a regular briefing after the Ambassador's briefing?

MR. TONER: Probably not.

QUESTION: There's no way we can get any - I mean, we would love to talk to you.

MR. TONER: We will try. All right. Go ahead, Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Hello, everyone. We just got done with the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. I want to apologize for the late changes to the schedule, but with that many Cabinet members in one place, it became obvious to us that we weren't going to be able to have some of them step down as we had hoped.

Today, the Secretary convened this annual meeting. This is an important opportunity to discuss efforts across the Federal Government to fight the problem of modern slavery, and it's mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in October of this last year.

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Secretary Clinton announced at the start of the meeting the Interagency Task Force throughout the next year will conduct a government-wide review of victims service programs and devise an overarching strategy to improve upon what we're doing here in the United States to protect victims of human trafficking. This is an area where we've made excellent progress, but we recognize that we need to do even more to break down the barriers that prevent trafficking victims, whether citizens or non-citizens alike, from accessing the support and resources they need here in the United States. We will seek to ensure that those who work in our juvenile justice, child welfare, and immigration systems have the knowledge and training necessary to identify and help victims, and become a true model for the rest of the world, as far as victim care is concerned. We'll find ways to safeguard the victims of trafficking by working across the network of government agencies, civil society actors, and the corporate sector.

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With these and other new initiatives, today's task force meeting reaffirmed the Administration's commitment in the fight against modern slavery both here and around the world. I'm happy to take questions if there are any.

QUESTION: I don't know if you're aware of it, but National Review Magazine online today released or at least linked to a video, and I'm not sure how authentic it is - it appears to be very authentic - of a sting operation, an undercover sting operation at Planned Parenthood in New Jersey - Perth Amboy, New Jersey - in which a guy who is posing as a pimp accompanied by an alleged 14-year-old girl solicits advice on sexually transmitted disease testing and getting an abortion for an underage 14-year-old. The person at Planned Parenthood seems to be very cooperative and says - encourages them to lie about it. It's an example, at least on its face, of how complex and nuanced this situation is. Were you aware of that video and --

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Like I said, the first that we heard about this was that Planned Parenthood employees had actually contacted the FBI. And so whether there is a second video or not is not something that I am aware of.

MR. TONER: Any more questions? (No response.)

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: If no further questions, thank you very much.

QUESTION: Thank you.

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480 of 492 DOCUMENTS

RTT News (United States)

February 2, 2011 Wednesday

US Launches New Initiatives To Combat Human Trafficking

LENGTH: 778 words

(RTTNews) - The annual meeting of the US President's Inter-agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has decided to launch a set of new initiatives, reaffirming the Obama Administration's commitment in the fight against modern slavery in the United States and around the world.

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton announced at the start of a meeting that she convened on Tuesday that the Inter-agency Task Force throughout the next year will conduct a government-wide review of victims service programs and devise an overarching strategy to improve upon what is being done in the United States to protect victims of human trafficking.

She said the State Department will publish the next edition of the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report this year, "notably with some of our key strategic allies at risk of automatic downgrades from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3** due to potential failure to address **trafficking in persons** adequately."

She warned that countries that have been on Tier 2 Watch List, which is the next-to-last step of the report, for two consecutive years will have to either improve on the merits or be downgraded to Tier 3.

Clinton announced that she was establishing an anti-trafficking unit at Diplomatic Security headquarters to support the field offices which already participate in 39 anti-trafficking task forces nationwide that are funded by the Department of Justice.

The process of establishing an annual briefing for domestic workers of foreign diplomats who hold A-3 visas in the United States together with their diplomat employers will begin this year as part of an ongoing effort to increase the protections of domestic workers in the D.C. suburbs, New York, wherever they are.

She insisted that a diplomat who brings a servant into the United States needs to be held to the highest accountability, and that "we will make sure that the victims have a voice."

Clinton said the United States is "committed to do more to diminish involuntary servitude and slavery in our own country."

She stressed the need to "do more to identify the true victims of human trafficking and help restore them to participation in our society."

She regretted that modern slavery, often hidden and unrecognized, persists today on every continent, including in the United States, despite being prohibited by both domestic legislation and international law.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. announced the launch of a human trafficking enhanced enforcement initiative, which will streamline federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking.

Specialized anti-trafficking coordination teams, known as ACT teams, will be convened in a number of pilot districts nationwide. Under the leadership of the highest-ranking federal law enforcement officials in the district, these teams will bring together federal agents and prosecutors across agency lines to combat human trafficking threats, dismantle human trafficking networks, and bring traffickers to justice.

Department of Defense is going to be including information on modern slavery as part of training for all DOD employees. Department of Education will be working to increase awareness of this issue in schools, both at K-12 and in higher education.

Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis announced that the Department of Labor will begin exercising its authority to certify applications for new visas. This will provide an avenue for immigrant victims desperate to escape an abusive situation and willing to cooperate with law enforcement.

The Interior Department will ensure that the domestic anti-trafficking efforts in the United States include its insular areas - Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

It is estimated that between 12 to 27 million people around the world are currently held in forced labor, bonded labor, or forced prostitution.

The President's Inter-agency Task Force (PITF), a cabinet-level task force to coordinate federal efforts to combat human trafficking, was established under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

The PITF is chaired by the Secretary of State and meets at least once a year.

The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons coordinates the United States' fight against contemporary forms of slavery. Ambassador-at-Large CdeBaca directs the Department of State's anti-trafficking efforts in the Office of Democracy and Global Affairs, under the leadership of Under Secretary María Otero.

For comments and feedback: contact editorial@rttnews.com

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481 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON HOLDS A NEWS BRIEFING ON NEW INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

February 1, 2011 Tuesday

EVENT DATE: February 1, 2011

TYPE: NEWS BRIEFING

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER: SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WITNESSES:

MARK TONER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PRESS RELATIONS, STATE DEPARTMENT
LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, STATE DEPARTMENT

TEXT:

TONER: Good afternoon, and welcome to the State Department.

Well, as dramatic events unfold half a world away in Egypt, and we understand that many of you are focused on those events, but we had a pretty important event that just took place upstairs, which was the -- the president's annual Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons meeting.

And here to talk with us a little bit about that meeting and about the agenda is ambassador-at-large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca.

Ambassador?

QUESTION: Mark, (inaudible) one thing? Are you or P.J. going to brief us on a regular briefing after the ambassador's briefing?

TONER: Probably not. There's no way we can get any -- I mean, we would love to talk to you. We will try.

CDEBACA: Hello, everyone.

We just got done with the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and apologize for the late changes to the schedule. But with that many Cabinet members in one place, it became obvious to us that we weren't going to be able to have some of them step down, as we had hoped.

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Were you aware of that video? And...

CDEBACA: I am aware of that video. And, in fact, it first came to the government's attention -- perhaps not that particular video, but the fact of these videos, came to the government's attention when Planned Parenthood employees contacted the FBI to tell them that there had been that type of activity.

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If there are no further questions, thank you very much.

END

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2011

482 of 492 DOCUMENTS

CQ Federal Department and Agency Documents
REGULATORY INTELLIGENCE DATA

February 1, 2011 Tuesday

NEW INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**LENGTH:** 1446 words

CONTACT: 202-647-4000

Special Briefing

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Washington, DC

February 1, 2011

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. Well, as dramatic events unfold half a world away in Egypt - and we understand that many of you are focused on those events - but we had a pretty important event that just took place upstairs, which was the President's Annual Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons meeting. And here to talk with us a little bit about that meeting and about the agenda is Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Ambassador Luis CdeBaca.

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QUESTION: Mark, just one more thing: Are you or P.J. going to brief us in a regular briefing after the Ambassador's briefing?

MR. TONER: Probably not.

QUESTION: There's no way we can get any - I mean, we would love to talk to you.

MR. TONER: We will try. All right. Go ahead, Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Hello, everyone. We just got done with the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. I want to apologize for the late changes to the schedule, but with that many Cabinet members in one place, it became obvious to us that we weren't going to be able to have some of them step down as we had hoped.

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MR. TONER: Any more questions? (No response.)

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: If no further questions, thank you very much.

QUESTION: Thank you.

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483 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

February 1, 2011 Tuesday

**STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL BRIEFING;
BRIEFERS: AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO
MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. STATE DE-
PARTMENT; AND MARK TONER, ACTING DEPUTY SPOKESMAN, DE-
PARTMENT OF STATE;
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONI-
TOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS--NEW INITIATIVES TO
COMBAT TRAFFICKING;
LOCATION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING ROOM, STATE DEPART-
MENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

LENGTH: 1496 words

STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL BRIEFING BRIEFERS: AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA, DIRECTOR, OF-
FICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT; AND MARK
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COMBAT TRAFFICKING LOCATION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 3:17 P.M. EST DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011

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MR. TONER: Next question?

MR. CDEBACA: If no further questions, thank you very much.

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484 of 492 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 1, 2011 Tuesday

NEW INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1448 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Special Briefing

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Washington, DC

February 1, 2011

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QUESTION: Theres no way we can get any I mean, we would love to talk to you.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

485 of 492 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

February 1, 2011

Press Releases: New Interagency Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 1495 words

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Tue, 01 Feb 2011 16:32:50 -0600

New Interagency Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Special Briefing Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Washington, DC

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PRN: 2011/140

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486 of 492 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

February 1, 2011

Amb. Luis CdeBaca on Initiatives to Fight Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1484 words

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesman, For Immediate Release, February 1, 2011

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca, On New Interagency Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons

February 1, 2011, Washington, D.C.

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(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)

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487 of 492 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

February 1, 2011 Tuesday 9:59 AM EST

NEW INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

LENGTH: 1458 words

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Additionally, the innovations offered at today's meeting show that leaders across the Obama Administration are making anti-trafficking efforts an important priority. For instance, Department of Defense is going to be including information on modern slavery as part of training for all DOD employees. Department of Education will be working to increase awareness of this issue in schools, both at K-12 and in higher education. The newest member of our task force, the Interior Department, will ensure that our domestic anti-trafficking efforts here in the United States include our insular areas - Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Here at the Department of State, Secretary Clinton announced several initiatives. First and foremost, the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report will be published again this year, notably with some of our key strategic allies at risk of automatic downgrades from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3** due to potential failure to address **trafficking in persons** adequately. This year is the first year that the automatic downgrade provision, which is a feature of the 2008 Trafficking Victim Protections Act, is in place. Countries that have been on Tier 2 Watch List, which is the next-to-last step of the report, for two consecutive years will have to either improve on the merits or be downgraded to Tier 3.

As the Secretary suggested in the meeting, ranking another country is never an easy task, but turning away from an action in the face of modern slavery is intolerable. We'll continue to produce a fair and accurate assessment of the situation on the ground. And as uncomfortable as it may sometimes be, telling the truth about the global response to human trafficking is a priority for the State Department.

Looking to our own activities on this, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security will take a more focused approach to human trafficking. The Secretary announced today that she was establishing an anti-trafficking unit at Diplomatic Security headquarters to support the field offices which already participate in 39 anti-trafficking task forces nationwide that are funded by the Department of Justice. Diplomatic Security plays an integral part with our interagency partners in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes. And the new initiative, we hope, will augment Diplomatic Security efforts at both levels - increasing participation in task forces, centralizing case referrals and command at headquarters, and offering training to agents, particularly on how to work with victims.

We also will begin the process this year of establishing an annual briefing for domestic workers of foreign diplomats who hold A-3 visas here in the United States together with their diplomat employers as part of an ongoing effort to increase the protections of domestic workers here in the D.C. suburbs, New York, wherever they are. A diplomat who brings a servant into the United States needs to be held to the highest accountability, and we will make sure that the victims have a voice.

With these and other new initiatives, today's task force meeting reaffirmed the Administration's commitment in the fight against modern slavery both here and around the world. I'm happy to take questions if there are any.

QUESTION: I don't know if you're aware of it, but National Review Magazine online today released or at least linked to a video, and I'm not sure how authentic it is - it appears to be very authentic - of a sting operation, an undercover sting operation at Planned Parenthood in New Jersey - Perth Amboy, New Jersey - in which a guy who is posing as a pimp accompanied by an alleged 14-year-old girl solicits advice on sexually transmitted disease testing and getting an abortion for an underage 14-year-old. The person at Planned Parenthood seems to be very cooperative and says - encourages them to lie about it. It's an example, at least on its face, of how complex and nuanced this situation is. Were you aware of that video and -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I am aware of that video, and in fact, it first came to the government's attention - perhaps not that particular video, but the fact of these videos came to the government's attention when Planned Parenthood employees contacted the FBI to tell them that there had been that type of activity. And I think that as we understand it, from the traffic on that, that this was an attempt by some folks to go in - much as you saw a couple years ago with ACORN - to try to capture someone not focusing on the problems of human trafficking.

Like I said, the first that we heard about this was that Planned Parenthood employees had actually contacted the FBI. And so whether there is a second video or not is not something that I am aware of.

MR. TONER: Any more questions? (No response.)

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: If no further questions, thank you very much.

QUESTION: Thank you. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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488 of 492 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
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January 31, 2011 Monday

Malaysian firm threatens legal suit over Maldives border security contract

LENGTH: 560 words

Excerpt from report by independent Maldivian Minivan News website on 31 January

[By JJ Robinson and Neil Merrett] 30 January: Mobile security solutions vendor Nexbis has announced it will be taking legal action against parties in the Maldives, claiming that speculation over corruption was "politically motivated" in nature and had "wrought irreparable damage to Nexbis's reputation and brand name".

"Although we understand that the recent media frenzy and speculation of corruption are politically motivated in nature and not directly related to Nexbis, it has had an indirect impact on our reputation and brand name," the company said in a statement provided to Minivan News.

"Nexbis shareholders own and manage multi-trillion dollar assets globally and will not jeopardize their reputation for an investment return," the company stated.

The Malaysian-based technology firm signed a concessionaire contract with the Department of Immigration in October 2010 to install an advanced border control system that it had said would collect and store biometric data on expatriate workers and eliminate abuse of (easily forged) paper documentation.

The government has struggled to tackle the problem of foreign worker exploitation. There are believed to be 100,000 foreign workers in the country - almost a third of the country's total population - but no data is available on how many are illegal.

International agencies have taken a dim view of the problem, most notably the US State Department which last year placed the Maldives on its **tier two watch-list** for **human trafficking**. Minivan News reported in August 2010 that the exploitation of Bangladeshi workers alone was an industry worth at least 43.8m dollars a year, rivalling fishing as a source of foreign exchange.

Following the signing ceremony with Nexbis, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) announced it had received "a serious complaint" regarding "technical details" of the bid, and issued an injunction pending an investigation into the agreement. [passage omitted]

Nexbis shares immediately dropped 6.3 per cent on the back of the ACC's announcement.

Last week, facing political pressure ahead of the local council elections, President Mohamed Nasheed upheld the ACC's request that the roll-out of the technology be postponed.

The "stop-work" order amounts to an indefinite hold on the project, with little optimism for a quick outcome. The ACC has not completed an investigation since 2008.

In its statement, Nexbis noted that the system and related technologies to be installed in the Maldives "have been implemented in over 100 locations worldwide including the Americas, Europe and Asia and comply with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and other international standards. Nexbis is an international company with strict internal policies that conform to international anti-corruption laws and strictly enforce the policy. All Nexbis staff have strict government security clearance to carry out national security projects." [passage omitted]

"Nexbis's international lawyers have been building a libel and defamation case since the media frenzy to enable legal proceedings against certain individuals and institutions that have wrought irreparable damage to Nexbis's reputation and brand name," the company stated. [passage omitted]

Source: Minivan News website, Male, in English 31 Jan 11

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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489 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

January 27, 2011 Thursday 3:10 AM EST**'An Assessment of Trafficking in Persons in Mauritius'****BYLINE:** Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 525 words**DATELINE:** PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

An event under the theme of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) took place at the Municipality of Port Louis, on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. The event, entitled: "An Assessment of Trafficking in Persons in Mauritius" was organized by the U.S. Embassy in the context of the proclamation by President Barack Obama this year of January as U.S. National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

The four panelists who gave presentations on the issue were Johan Moutou-Leckning, Principal State Counsel of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Inspector Maneeraj Bundree, Officer in Charge of the Police Brigade for the Protection of Minors, Mrs. Karoona Chooramun, Head of the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and Mrs. Rita Venkatasawmy, Director of the Centre d'Education et de Developpement pour les Enfants Mauriciens (CEDEM).

In his opening remarks, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Troy Fitrell emphasized that the transportation in TIP per se was a secondary part of the issue; the core problem is the use of force or vulnerability to exploit human beings. He underlined that "Around the world, an estimated 12.3 million adults and children are engaged in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution. Over 49,000 victims have been identified, according to the same report. On a positive note, there were over 4,000 successful prosecutions in 2009, with 335 related to forced labor. However, there are still currently 104 countries without laws, policies, or regulations to prevent victims' deportation. In addition, 62 countries have yet to convict a trafficker under laws in compliance with the UN's Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in persons from the year 2000."

DCM Fitrell added that Mauritius, as per the U.S. Department of State TIP Report 2010, remained in the **Tier** 1, "a status which commends the Government of Mauritius for complying fully with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**. According to the report, Mauritius sustained its strong efforts to identify, investigate, and prosecute incidences of trafficking during the reporting period." It is worth noting that Mauritius moved up from the Tier 2 to Tier 1 in 2009.

Panelists for their part explained the nature of their work to prevent TIP in Mauritius, which locally occurs in the forms of child prostitution, sex with a minor, sex abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexual harassment and rape, while in other countries, forms such as child labor, bonded labor or involuntary domestic servitude exist. The panelists also shared ideas for additional efforts to prevent trafficking in Mauritius or to address problems caused by it. Each of the panelists had either attended U.S. Department of State training programs on human trafficking or represented organizations that had received U.S. Government funding for anti-Trafficking in Persons programs. A short but lively discussion period was continued informally outside the hall at the end of the program.

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490 of 492 DOCUMENTS

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491 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

January 17, 2011 Monday**BI halts flight of 21,000 OFWs in 2010****BYLINE:** BY JOMAR CANLAS**LENGTH:** 317 words

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) was able to stop more than 21,000 prospective overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from leaving the country through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from August to December 2010 as a result of its anti-human smuggling campaign.

According to Immigration Officer in Charge (OIC) Ronaldo Ledesma, the numbers show that the government is sincere in its campaign against human trafficking.

Ledesma said the 21,709 persons who were offloaded from their flights all have tourist visas but intended to work upon reaching their destinations, putting them at risk to abuses and exploitation, as well as incarceration.

He pointed out that the Immigration bureau started its drive against the so-called tourist workers in August after Ledesma was appointed OIC.

The campaign, which was launched following orders of President Benigno Aquino 3rd and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, aims to protect undocumented OFWs who are mostly victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking syndicates.

Suspected tourist workers were barred from boarding their flights once they fail to show the necessary clearance and employment permits from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Lawyer Maria Antonette Bucasas, Immigration airport operations division chief, said most of the offloaded passengers were bound for traditional OFW destinations such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Middle East.

She reported that of the total offloaded passengers, 11,990 were stopped at the NAIA 1 terminal while 6,397 and 3,322 were intercepted at the NAIA 3 and NAIA 2, respectively.

Ledesma said some offloading cases are being investigated by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking .

The government's anti-trafficking drive was prompted by a United States State Department report released last year listing the Philippines in **Tier 2** of its **human trafficking watch list**.

LOAD-DATE: January 17, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

492 of 492 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

January 3, 2011 Monday

Lawmakers eye intensified campaign on illegal recruiters

BYLINE: BY RUBEN D. MANAHAN 4th**LENGTH:** 512 words

LEGISLATORS are seeking a more intensified government campaign against human trafficking and for law enforcement agencies to run after syndicates engaged in illegal recruitment.

Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada 3rd made the call as he moved to review the performance of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) on illegal recruiters victimizing Filipinos who are eyeing green pastures abroad.

"We should review the track record of POEA insofar as the prosecution of illegal recruiters is concerned," Tañada said while noting that the government is lagging behind the fight against human trafficking.

"Our existing anti-human trafficking laws have too little bite," he added.

Tañada explained that laws that deal with human trafficking include the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (Republic Act [RA] 9208), Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act (RA 8042), and international statutes prescribed by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes.

But he said that the Philippines is on the **Tier 2 Watch List** of the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** report for not being able to fully comply with the minimum standards in their Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"Sliding down has a consequence of non-accessibility of aid from the US. It can be prevented by a concrete and sincere desire in cooperation with the US government," Tañada added.

Rep. Mel Senen Sarmiento of Western Samar said that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Labor must play a tougher role in foreign labor disputes.

"Filing of charges against abusive employers must be ensured, special courts on human trafficking set up and LGUs [local government units] tapped in order to set up a network at the barangay level to reduce such cases," he said.

Rep. Walden Bello of Akbayan party-list said that the Foreign Affairs department should closely monitor the performance of many labor attaches abroad in the face of reports that they are not attending to the needs of the Filipinos in distress abroad.

He specifically cited that case of 11 migrant Filipinos were duped into accepting dubious employment through the Manila-based Adman Human Resource Placement and Promotions. Bello said that the 11 workers were told they would be employed in the US through Aramark, supposedly a Fortune 500 company, with a guaranteed wage of \$7.25 to \$8 an hour.

According to him, the 11 Filipinos were instead made to work in Biloxi, Mississippi under Royal Hospitality Services Inc. and paid a lower rate-\$4.75 a room. They were made to clean at least 14 rooms, when the most they could physically accomplish was 10 rooms.

Bello said the workers escaped in September and sought help from the OWWA office in Los Angeles.

However, it was reported that Luzviminda Padilla, the labor attaché in Washington, D.C., refused to help them when OWWA welfare officer Alberto Duero requested aid for the victims.

Padilla was quoted as saying: "They [Filipinos] must be send back home as there might be a better way to spend government funds."

LOAD-DATE: January 4, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

Trafficking in Persons, Migrants Smuggling, Illegal Migration and Problems of Deportees in Pakistan

BYLINE: Imran Ahmad Sajid

SECTION: Vol. 2 No. 4

LENGTH: 20811 words

Abstract

The dazzling lights and progressive economy of Europe, Middle East and other developed parts of the world definitely attract poor pockets from all over the world. Some try the legal way to reach and stay there. Others may try, or are forced to try, the most dangerous, threatening and illegal way to reach to the riches of the developed world. The trafficked, smuggled or illegally immigrated are deported upon the encounter of the host nation's authorities. This illegal way of immigration is not without hardships for many. This paper brings forward the problems being faced by the deportees. The paper is based on two case studies. Non-structured interviews were conducted with the immigration officials. The reason for going abroad remained poor economic conditions in the country of origin.

Keywords

Trafficking in Person (TIP), Migrants Smuggling, Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO), Passport, Deportees, Deportees on Forged Documents (DFDs), Off-Loadees on Forged Documents (OFDs), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Immigration, ITGOS (Iran, Turkey, Greece, Oman, Spain)

Introduction

In Pakistan, all the matters of immigration, deportees, human trafficking, migrants smuggling etc, are handled and regulated by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA); not only immigration but all the organized crimes as well. FIA has been divided into different wings for encountering organized crime: Crime and Banking Wing, Immigration Wing, Anti-Human Trafficking Cell (AHTC), Cyber Crime Wing, and Special Investigation Group (SIG). Deportees are dealt by the Immigration Wing and AHTC, commonly known as the Passport Cell also. Deportees may include those who move, or are moved, legally or illegally across borders by the well organized trafficking and smuggling groups, or by themselves. It can be one of the severals; a victim of trafficking, migrant smuggling, illegal entrant or resident into the State to which he does not belong, or a legal entrant but may have overstayed or violated any law of the host nation.

Many Pakistani women and men migrate voluntarily for low-skilled employments (TIP, 2010), who find the visa to be too short and the renewal of visa to be too expensive. It too is a reason for violation of immigration laws in the host nation.

Confusion exists about the exact definition of the deportees. As the deportees include the trafficked, the smuggled, and the violators of immigration law, the public, the media and the authorities in Pakistan are unsure whether the deportees be seen as victims of trafficking, objects of smuggling, or criminals (convict of violating immigration laws). This confusion regarding human trafficking and migration has also been mentioned in Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP), 2010.

Although both involve illegal transportation of people from one place to another, migrant smuggling and trafficking in person are not the same things. Smuggling of migrants is defined in the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air as "the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident" (Article 3).

On the other hand, Trafficking in Person is defined as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means (emphasis mine) of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation..." (Article 3[a], Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, UN 2000).

The definitions of migrant smuggling and trafficking in person include three factors; the act, the means, and the purpose. The difference between migration and smuggling is that of the purpose. In migrants smuggling or illegal entry, the purpose is only the entry into another State while in trafficking in person the purpose of exploitation-forced labour, prostitution etc-is vividly visible.

As far as the criminality of human trafficking or migrant smuggling is concerned, it is not only a transnational organized crime but also a serious violation of human rights. The scholars recognize it as modern day slavery (UNODC, 2010). It knows no boundaries of culture or religion. Its victims include people of all ages and gender; children, boys, girls, men, women, and old. Women, children and the young are the most likely victims. Along with firearms and drugs, it is the second largest illegal international trade generating thirty two (32) billions \$ annually (ILO,2007). Each year, only from Pakistan, thousands of men, women and children are moved illegally by highly organized international smuggling and trafficking groups. In the first half of 2010 more than twenty thousand persons were deported from the rest of the world to Pakistan. This does not show the entire picture but provides a glimpse of the situation.

Along with Nepal, Pakistan is the only South Asian country, which has been placed in Tier 2 by the TIP 2010 report. Previously Pakistan remained in Tier 2 from 2005-08 but was dropped to Tier 2 Watch List in 2009. Because of the honest and concerted efforts of the State through the FIA to check the menace of **human trafficking** Pakistan improved to **Tier 2** this year (TIP, 2010).

Theoretical Debate on Victimization

Despite the serious and far-reaching number of problems faced by illegal immigrants and the Governments' commitment to address these problems, the issue of deportees keeps on increasing-both voluntary and involuntary. Why and how person becomes mentally prepared to face all these problems? This question has generated heated debate in the FIA Immigration and Anti-Human Trafficking circles.

There are two major theories. First see them as criminals who violate the law. In the second theory they are seen as human beings with rights. These two theories explain how the deportees should be seen-criminals or individuals with rights. Even criminals unless convicted have certain rights. All detainees or imprisoned persons also have rights. However, the real problem to one's mind is why some people willingly take practical steps to move and stay across borders, illegally.

It is not only a matter of deception, compulsion (as in human trafficking) or consent (as in migrant smuggling) but also a matter of serious research and analysis as why some persons of a specific population or country become a victim to a crime so grave in nature.

The Adler's theory of human behaviour says that the primary human motivation is 'striving for superiority'. It is the 'striving for superiority' which shapes our behaviour and the entire personality. Adler confined his concept of 'striving for superiority' only to overcoming the inferiority but in its sociological analysis the borders of 'striving for superiority' may be extended. It may mean moving towards a better life in the society, and a better future. Better life may mean a better financial position: be able to pay off bills on time, build a better house, etc, a better social status, say in community or politics, greater decision making power in family affairs, etc. This striving nature of man compels him/her to look for the ways to overcome his inferiority feelings and to move upward in the society. Some try the traditional means of moving upward in the society. Others may try to find the easiest and fastest ways to move upward.

One of the desires of all individuals is to strengthen his/her economic position. Apart from the kidnapped immigrants, case studies revealed that the deportees immigrated in order to improve their financial/economic position.

The push and pull factors play their part on one hand but they alone can not create the phenomena of trafficking/smuggling or illegal immigration. The most important factor, which constitutes criminal side, is the availability of agents who handle the trafficking/smuggling and illegal immigration internationally. This blend of human nature and availability of the agents mutually creates human trafficking/smuggling and illegal immigration. The solution to this problem is cutting the threads of agents (UNODC Annual Report, 2010).

Diagram I shows the logical flow of the hypothesis. When striving nature of man collides with the availability of traffickers/smugglers it results in victimization. In an ideal situation where there is no cross boarder kidnapping, when the solution to the problem is applied and the threads of trafficking/smuggling are cut it results in no or reduced illegal cross boarder migration. This hypothesis, although seem quite logical, needs verification through more empirical researches, as the word opportunities is a vast term and one has to locate the exact root causes and the facilitating factors separately.

Some Relevant Immigration Terminologies in Pakistan

'Deportation' means arrival of any passenger who has been refused entry or made to leave the country on account of violation of any law of the host country on fake/forged travel documents or suspecting the same to be fake/forges (FIA Standing Order 29/2005). 'Deportee' is a person who has been deported from a state. Passengers deported on account of fake/forged documents are termed as 'DFDs'

(Deportee on Forged Documents). DFDs are further classified into categories "A" and "B". As mentioned in the FIA Immigration Handbook (2007 Edition),

1. A person shall be classified as Category "A" deportee if he has traveled on:

- i. Fake, counterfeited, tampered, forged visa, Passport or Resident Card etc;
- ii. Mis-declaring facts about travel documents; or
- iii. Impersonation

2. A person shall be classified as Category "B" deportee if he has traveled on genuine travel documents from port of embarkation but has subsequently presented a different or illegal travel documents at transit station (FIA Immigration Handbook,2007) .

On the other hand, 'inadmissibility' means declaration of host country of any person as invalid on account of violation of any law of the host country on fake/forged travel documents or suspecting the same to be fake/forged or without travel documents irrespective of fact whether deported back or otherwise (FIA Standing Order No. 29/2005). Inadmissible passengers are termed INADS passengers.

As mentioned before, the reasons for deportation are manifold. A person may have valid documents yet he can be deported if he had overstayed in his last visit to that country, or is black listed or if he/she fails to satisfy the Immigration Officer. In another scene the deportee may have invalid documents, viz; expired visa/passport or improper documents etc. Besides this, majority of the deportees are those who have fake/forged documents or who are traveling by impersonating someone else. The documents may be genuine but the person traveling on the documents may not be the same person as mentioned in the travel documents (FIA Immigration Handbook, 2007).

Data on Deportees in Pakistan

Pakistan has a commendable data management system regarding deportees. Upon the arrival of a deportee to Pakistan, his/her entire data is entered into a programme named 'Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System' (PISCES). PISCES Project not only provides data on deportees but also provides Immigration officials and law enforcement agencies with a tracking system to capture vital information of travelers and allows them to identify and, if necessary detain individuals of interest (FIA, 2010). Further, FIA publishes its performance report annually, sometimes half yearly. It is only the FIA performance reports which contain the data on deportees. The data for this study was also taken from numerous reports published by the FIA.

| Country | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | To- tal |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Africa | 430 (0.70%) | 545 (1.05%) | 497 (1.11%) | 1472 (1%) |
| Americas | 318 (0.52%) | 268 (0.52%) | 282 (0.63%) | 868 (0.55%) |
| Australia | 3 (0.005%) | 9 (0.02%) | 4 (0.01%) | 16 (0.01%) |
| Central Asia and Russia | 50 (0.08%) | 111 (0.21%) | 77 (0.17%) | 238 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| | | | | | (0.15%) |
| Europe | 1056 (1.72%) | 967 (1.86%) | 1279 (2.85%) | | |
| | | | | 3302 (2.09%) | |
| Far East Asia | 1536 (2.50%) | 1040 (2%) | 1132 (2.52%) | | |
| | | | | 3708 (2.34%) | |
| Middle East | 46603 (76%) | 32308 (62.12%) | 33087 (73.71%) | 111998 | |
| | | | | (70.78%) | |
| East and Sout East Asia | 197 (0.32%) | 235 (0.45%) | 167 (0.37%) | 599 | |
| | | | | (0.38%) | |
| Turkey | 2825 (4.61%) | 6220 (12%) | 1785 (4%) | | |
| | | | | 10830 (6.84%) | |
| U.K | 2253 (3.67%) | 2460 (4.73%) | 1886 (4.20%) | 6599 | |
| | | | | (4.17%) | |
| Iran | 6071 (9.90%) | 7836 (15%) | 4690 (10.45%) | | |
| | | | | 18597 (11.75%) | |
| Others | | 6 (0.01%) | | 6 | |
| | | | | (0%) | |
| Grand Total | 61342 (100%) | 52005 (100%) | 44886 (100%) | 158233 | |
| | | | | (100%) | |

Source: Federal Investigation Agency, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad, Pakistan

Table I shows country-wise deportees for three years of 2007, 08 and 09. Table I and Figure I show that the highest number of deportees is from the Middle East, 70.78%. During 2007, out of 61,342 deportees from all-over the world, a total of 46,603 (76%) persons were deported from the Middle East. The number of deportees decreased for the next year and came down to 32,308 (65.12%) out of 52,005 deportees. For the last year, 2009, there was no significant variation in the strength of deported persons, i.e. 33,087 (73.71%).

The second largest number of deportees came from Iran, which constitute 11.75% of the total deportees during past three years. For 2007, total number of deportees from Iran was 6071 (9.90%). It rose to 7,836 in next year and for 2009, a total of 4,690 persons were deported from Iran.

Similarly, deportees from Turkey and the UK constitute 6.84% and 4.17% respectively. Furthermore, deportees from Europe and Far East Asia have similar percentage share. It is worth noting that the strength of deportees from various countries does not change significantly for all these past three years. It indicates that the behaviour of people who wants to immigrate across borders remained at the same level.

Overall deportees kept on decreasing for these years. It was more than sixty thousands in 2007, decreased slightly above the fifty thousands, i.e. 15% decrease in one year. It further decreased by 14% coming down to almost forty-five thousands in 2009. There has been 27% decrease in number of deportees in past three years showing an improving law-enforcement mechanism in Pakistan.

Table II: Details of Deportees from Selected Countries from 2007 to 2009

| Country | Total | 2007 | 2008 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2009 | | | |
| Middle East | | | |
| Oman | | 2,028 (4.35%) [a] | 3,692 (11.43%) |
| 7,017 (21.21%) | 12,737 (11.37%) | | |
| | Saudi Arabia | 20,322 (43.61%) | 16,470 (51%) |
| 14,224 (43%) | 51,016 (45.55%) | | |
| | UAE | 23,276 (50%) | 11,672 (36%) |
| 11,429 (34.54%) | 46,377 (41.40%) | | |
| | | 47633 (98%) [b] | 33842 98.5% |
| 34679 (98.74%) | 110130 98.33% | | |
| Europe | | | |
| Greece | | 81 (7.67%) | 135 (14%) |
| | | 576 (45%) | 792 (24%) |
| | Italy | 111 (10.51%) | 142 (14.68%) |

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | 137 (10.71%) | 390 (11.81%) |
| | Spain | 336 (31.82%) | 189 (19.54%) |
| | | 81 (6.33%) | 606 (18.35%) |
| | Ukraine | 68 (6.44%) | 127 (13.13%) |
| | | 152 (11.88%) | 347 (10.50%) |
| | | 596 (56.44%) | 593 (61.32%) |
| | | 946 (74%) | 2135 (64.66%) |
| Americas | USA | 207 (65%) | 200 (74.63%) |
| | | 145 (51.42%) | 552 (63.6%) |
| | Canada | 111 (34.91%) | 67 (25%) |
| | | 133 (47.16%) | 311 (38.83%) |
| | | 318 (100%) | 267 (99%) |
| | | 278 (98%) | 863 (99.42%) |
| Far East | Malaysia | 1070 (69.66%) | 798 (76.73%) |
| | | 869 (76.77%) | 2,737 (73.81%) |
| | | | Asia |
| Africa | South Africa | 319 (74%) | 404 (74%) |
| | | 397 (80%) | 1,120 (76%) |
| | Total | 47929 (72%) | 33896 (65%) |
| | | 35160 (78%) | 116985 (74%) |

[x] % age of total deportees from all the Middle East for 2007; same goes for other columns as well.

[x] % age of the total deportees from the Entire Middle East; same goes for other respective cells

Source: Federal Investigation Agency, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad, Pakistan

Table II shows a more detailed picture of deportees from various regions of the world. Almost 70% of all the persons are deported to Pakistan from the Middle East. Out of the total 1,11,998 deportees during past three years 98% of all were deported only from three countries, viz, Oman, 12,737 (11.37%), Saudi Arabia, 51,016 (45.55%) and the UAE, 46,377 (41.40%). Similarly, excluding the UK, 64.66% of deportees from Europe come from only four countries, viz, Greece 24%, Italy 11.8%, Spain 18.35%, and Ukraine 10.5%. Moving to the South of Europe, majority of the deportees from Africa came from South Africa, i.e. 76%. Further, across the Atlantic Ocean, almost all the deportees came from two countries, the USA and Canada. In the Far East, majority of the persons get deported from Malaysia, i.e. 73.81%.

Overall, 97% of total deportees from 2007 to 2009 came from only fifteen countries, Iran 11%, Turkey 7%, Oman 8%, Saudi Arabia 32%, UAE 29%, Greece 0.5%, Italy 0.25%, Spain 0.33%, Ukraine 0.2%, USA 0.35%, Canada 0.2%, UK 4%, Malaysia 1.7%, and South Africa 0.7%.

In addition to deportees, victims of trafficking in person and human smuggling, 421 human smugglers were arrested in the first half of 2009 and 664 in the first half of 2010.

Analysis of Data

The figures in the above tables need more interpretation. Majority of the deportees from Iran, Turkey, and Europe are those who wish to move to and stay in Europe as their destination point. They use the land course for migration. The usual route is Quetta, Tufan (Iran), Turkey, and Greece. In the five stories narrated in the report of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Human Trafficking through Quetta (2009), all the deportees (victims) confirmed that they had no problem crossing Pak-Iran border at night. This is an indicator of weak supervision and control at borders in night shifts.

On the other hand, Middle East is one of the richest regions in the world. The source of its wealth is oil. Further, this region has a spiritual and mystical attraction to the Muslims of Pakistan and of the entire world. Its culture significantly resembles our own culture. Further, this region also has a soft corner for the Muslims of the world, including Pakistan, at least at the government level. Therefore, a substantial number of persons from Pakistan move there in search of better employment and to experience a lower level of alienation as well. Out of all the deportees from the Middle East, a great majority is arrested and deported from Oman and the UAE, the gate to Middle East from Pakistan via Gawadar Port, Balochistan. The distance between Gawadar and Masqat (capital of Oman) is less than three hundred miles. Almost

70% of total deportation from the Middle East indicates that this region attracts people of Pakistan more than other regions.

Owing to this phenomenon, Pakistan has opened a Link Office of FIA at Oman that cares for the victims of human trafficking and smuggling. This office at Oman covers the entire Middle East.

In the Far East, Malaysia attracts a majority of immigrants from Pakistan, who immigrate perusing the desire for a better future. It is one of the newly industrialized countries. By 2009, Malaysia was 29th largest economy of the world while 3rd largest in the Far East Asia. As compared to Pakistan, where GDP per capita is slightly more than a thousand US dollars, Malaysian GDP per capita was \$ 14900 US dollars in 2009-almost fifteen times higher than Pakistan. Further, Malaysian economy is an open economy with a majority of population being Muslims. It accepts even the illegal immigrants-of course with some terms and conditions (one of the case studies given in this paper also belongs to Malaysia, See in Case Studies section).

Besides deteriorating Pakistan's image in the world community, handling deportees cost a huge amount to the country during detention and investigation. "It costs us minimum Rs. 250/- for a single night stay of a deportee", mentioned one of the FIA officials during an interview. Calculating by this way average cost of deportees' single night stay in lock ups happens to be more than Rs. 131.86 million annually. This does not include the traveling and other costs of the deportees. Moreover, there is no proper allocation for the cost of investigation, and unfortunately, there is no single victim-support centre in any of the zonal offices of the FIA.

Methodology of the Study

Initially, responsive evaluation methodology was decided upon for this study. Later on, the pretesting and field difficulties hampered the course for evaluative research. Therefore, the methodology was converted into case-study method. Three separate forms of cases are presented in this paper. The subjects were interviewed extensively, using a non-structured interview and probing method. At the end of each interview the subjects were given a standard questionnaire to fill-in. Riaz fulfilled all the legal requirements and succeeded in getting a three months visit visa to Malaysia in February, 2006. After reaching to Malaysia and expiry of his visa he vanished and stayed there illegally. After five long years (October,2010), Riaz presented himself to the Pakistani embassy at Malaysia pretending that he lost his passport. He was immediately given an emergency passport and sent back to Pakistan.

Case Studies

1. Riaz -- Deportee from Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Riaz (not actual name), thirty six (36) years old, married, male and having two children, was deported from Malaysia on 24th October, 2010 due to expiry of visa. He is a literate person with a Secondary School Certificate (equivalent to 'O' level). Unfortunately, he couldn't make it to college after completing his secondary level education. His family owned a small piece of land in Takht Bhai, which was the source of their family income. After secondary education he also joined his family in agriculture. Remaining unemployed for almost fifteen years Riaz decided to go to Malaysia in order to try his luck. As mentioned by Riaz, many of the people from his community already immigrated to Malaysia, majority through legal means. It was a tradition of his community to go to Malaysia for better future. Hence, Riaz also contacted Mr. Shahid (not actual name) who had the reputation of taking people from his village to Malaysia. In other words, the agent.

Problems in Malaysia

Before moving further on Riaz's case it shall be noted that in Malaysia, if an alien stays there after the expiry of his/her visit visa, he/she can legalise his/her stay by obtaining a 'work permit' from the immigration authorities of Malaysia. The alien has to pay almost 2,000/- Ringgits as a permit fee.

Riaz describes his problems in his own words as follows:

"I used to work in Malaysia on daily wages. A Malaysian worker is given 45/- Ringgits daily. But my daily wage was only 30/- Ringgits. My other fellows too were earning the same wages. Keeping in view my daily wages, which were also not regular, it was very difficult for me to pay the Permit Fee, i.e. 2,000/- Ringgit, almost two and a half month regular work wages. Therefore, I didn't pay the fee and hid myself from the immigration authorities so that I can save and send more money to my family in Pakistan. "It is surprising to know that the police or other government authorities do not create any undesirable problem for daily wagers in Malaysia- neither teases nor terrorizes the daily wagers without work permit" he added.

While conducting the interview, it was observed that Riaz was very nervous. "I used to say all the prayers on time and recite the Holly Book daily. Then, why I have been caught in this problem" he agitated. Further, his family was very upset upon his arrest at the airport by the immigration authorities of Pakistan. The apprehension of his family further intensified his nervousness. He was continuously consoling his mother and wife on cell phone.

The key problem of Riaz remained income, here in Pakistan and there in Malaysia too. "I have a sister at my home that still has to be married. All her expenses are to be met, which are out of the reach of our family's income. Upon my return, I have to face the courts and at the same time make an earning for my children and family," he narrated with severe anxiety and dejection.

The case of Riaz leads us to the conclusion that it is the poor economic conditions of the person at home and the availability of agents or exposure to the experienced immigrated people, which motivate a person to go or stay in the alien country illegally. Further, it is very common to visit a country on visit visa and vanish there for years in order to earn money. The typical way of returning back by such people is to present their self to Pakistani embassy and by complaining that his/her passport has been lost. In this way, they face lesser expenditure on return and lesser problems from the immigration authorities.

2. Iftikhar Deportee from London, the UK

Iftikhar (not actual name), a twenty-two years old student, was deported from the United Kingdom on Thursday 21 October, 2010. He went to the UK on student's visa but was deported from the Heathrow airport. The reason for his deportation was neither his documents nor any other legal lacunae. It was something very astonishing. Iftikhar narrated his story in the following words:

"I was allotted a students' visa by the UK High Commission. But, when I arrived at the airport in London the immigration authorities enquired about the university and told me that the university was closed for vacations. I was deported but as I was having a students' visa, therefore, I didn't have any return ticket."

Iftikhar's case is very much non-traditional. His reason for deportation was not any legal lacunae from his side but he suffered due to the lack of information on the part of British High Commission in Pakistan and other authorities. When the Pakistani Immigration authorities were asked about this mishap due to lack of information, it was told that the Immigration authorities only check whether the visa, passport and other travelling documents are genuine and legal or not. The authorities have nothing to do with the opening or closure of the universities abroad. It clearly seems that Mr. Iftikhar suffered because of the incompetence or lack of knowledge of the staff of the High Commission whereas they too may not know the opening and closure of a university. It also seems a communication gap between Iftikhar and his university. Neither the High Commission nor the Immigration authorities verified before allotting the visa.

Looking at the ground for deportation of Iftikhar, it seems very unreasonable. Iftikhar could have been accommodated, at least until his university was to open, so that he would not have to take pain of returning to the country. His deportation also shows the monopolistic, dictatorial and veto powers of the Immigration Officer. There are complaints about the too much concentrated power in the Immigration officer. He/she can deport anyone who is granted a legal visa by his/her country's embassy even without any ground.

As far as Iftikhar's victimization is concerned, there is no legal mechanism to support the victims like him and others. He has to pay the return ticket to the air company and also bear other expenses himself.

Problems of Immigration Authorities

Apart from the deportees, Immigration authorities in Pakistan face numerous problems as well. While conducting interviews with FIA officials the following key problems were identified:

- . Veto power of the Immigration Officer;
- . Changing immigration laws and rules of the host countries combined with delay or no communication of those laws and rules.
- . Non-linkage with certain considerable countries.
- . No Victim Support Mechanism and lack of infrastructure.
- . Limited role of FIA in immigration FIA only verifies the visa and passport.

Conclusion

Europe, Middle East, Malaysia, and South Africa are the most attractive places for Pakistani immigrants. The poor economic conditions, absolute poverty, increase in prices, lack of opportunities, acute unemployment, increase acts of terrorism, are the factors which push the ambitious population to emigrate from Pakistan. The riches of Europe, Middle East, Malaysia, and other developed parts of the world pull them towards themselves. Majority of Pakistani illegal workers in the host countries are engaged in low-skilled jobs and are less productive. Promoting technical education in Pakistan will not only increase the skills of our workers but also their demand in other parts of the world. Similarly, more equipments and trained staff in the FIA with major resource allocation should be in the minds of all stakeholders who wish and are committed to address the problem of illegal immigration.

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Money Laundering A Global Threat and Pakistan's Recent Initiatives

By: Amjad Naseer

_ : Abstract

Money laundering is a global challenge of the present era which has roots deep into the major industrial economies of the world. United Nations, through Vienna Convention, Palermo Convention and Marida Convention, has asked the signatories to counter money laundering. The major industrial economies of G7 have joined hands against money laundering and have established Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF has given forty (40) recommendations to counter money laundering. Asia / Pacific Group (APG), a regional body on money laundering, was formed by forty (40) member states in 1997. Pakistan is also member of APG. In order to counter the money laundering, Pakistan has enacted Anti Money Laundering Act 2010 and has established Financial Monitoring Unit to receive, analyze and disseminate suspicious transactions to the investigation agencies. This article describes the legal situation of money laundering in Pakistan.

Keywords

Money Laundering, Proceed of Crime, Financial Act Task Force (FATF), Asia / Pacific Group (APG), Egmont Group, Vienna Convention, Palermo Convention, Marida Convention, Anti Money Laundering Act.

History of Money Laundering

Money laundering is fairly a recent term which was reported in the newspaper in 1973 in Watergate scandal, however the history of money laundering is interwoven with the development of trade and banking. Traders used money laundering techniques to hide their assets from the pirates and the raiders along the Red Sea route and the Silk Road. The history of money laundering will be an addition to the criminological literature and will surely be of immense interest to the students of criminology and policing.

How Big the Challenge of Money Laundering is?

In 1998, the IMF's estimated the size of money-laundering transactions globally as being "almost beyond imagination" at 2 to 5 percent of global GDP, which suggested a figure of \$640 billion to \$1.6 trillion (This was based on a figure of \$32 trillion for global GDP at the time) (Michel Camdessus, 1998). Other estimates of global money laundering are given in the Table I:

| | Year | Estimates Global Money Laundering |
|------|------------------------|---|
| | 1998 | US\$ 2.85 trillion (John Walker, 1998) |
| | 2004 | US\$ 45-280 billion (Reuter and Truman, 2004) |
| | 2005 | US\$ 1 trillion (Baker, 2005) |
| | 2008 | US\$ 1.425 trillion (AUSTRAC, 2008) |
| 2009 | 2-5% of the global GDP | US\$ 800 billion to US\$ 2 trillion (UNODC, 2009) |

Consequences of Money Laundering

The money laundering has severe negative economic and social consequences such as it undermines financial system, expands and promotes crime, diminishes government's tax revenue and weakens government's control over the economy. Studies have shown a nexus of mafias of organized crimes and terrorists who join hands for mutually rewarding benefits, which ultimately threatens the very fabric of the society.

United Nations Conventions Concerning Money Laundering

Vienna Convention

In 1988, the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, commonly known as Vienna Convention, urged signatories to establish money laundering as a criminal offence, enact legislation to identify, trace, seize and forfeit proceeds of drug trafficking, implement measures designed to combat money laundering and make money laundering an extraditable offence.

Palermo Convention

In 2000, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, commonly known as Palermo Convention, required signatories to adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences actions that have the effect of laundering the proceeds of crime.

Merida Convention

In 2005, UN Convention against Corruption, the Merida Convention, criminalized the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and addressed the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of corruption.

What the Money Laundering is?

Money Laundering is the process of converting the money or assets derived from some illegitimate activity or crime to the money or assets that give the appearance of having been obtained from some legitimate source. The clip-arts given in Fig-I are generally used in various trainings.

In other words, "money laundering" is the process by which the 'proceed of crime' is given the appearance of lawfully obtained money by using a number of money laundering methods. Drug trafficking, human and weapon smuggling, corruption, fraud, sexual servitude, terrorism, theft, kidnapping for ransom, smuggling goods are the major crimes which generate money. This illegally earned money is known as the 'proceed of crime'. Proceed of crime is mostly in the form of cash but it may be in the form of prize bonds, saving certificates, gold, precious stones, diamonds, cars, houses, plots, land etc. The 'proceed of crime' is the "dirty money" or the "black money" which has not been earned from legitimate source.

Thus, criminals need this dirty or black money to be converted into the "clean money" or the "white money" so that the same could be used for purchase of assets, luxury, for investment in legitimate and reinvestment in their illegitimate businesses. The laundered proceeds apparently appear as the money earned from some legitimate source. It is very difficult, especially for a common man, to connect the laundered money with 'proceed of crime' or to distinguish it from the legitimate source of a criminal. A common man presumes that the money has been earned legally from some legitimate source.

Why and How Criminals Launder Money?

Criminals launder money because the money laundering provides their illegitimately earned money a legitimate cover which helps them to avoid prosecution, conviction and confiscation of the 'proceed of crime'. They launder money by disguising its actual source, changing its form or by moving it to the place where it is less likely to attract attention. The money laundering is the three stage process, as shown in the graphic below which the writer obtained from a training programme of capacity building on money laundering investigations:

Source: Presentation on Introduction to Money Laundering at MLIP, Abu Dhabi by Mr. Cris Douglas, AFP

Money Laundering Process

Most of the crimes such as drugs trafficking, corruption, tax evasion, human trafficking, terrorism, theft, kidnapping for ransom, smuggling etc usually generate money in the form of cash. Criminals enter this cash in the financial system by some means at the initial stage of money laundering process. They do this to move the money within the financial system and to convert it into a form that appears as legitimate and distinct from the original illegitimate source. They use a number of methods for doing this which are becoming sophisticated day by day and range from purchase of moveable and immovable properties apparently at low prices and their resale apparently at inflated prices to pass the money through a complex international web of legitimate businesses and 'shell' companies.

Typically, money laundering process involves three steps. First, the illegitimate money is introduced into the legitimate financial system. Then, it is moved around to create confusion, sometimes by wire transfer or transferring through numerous accounts. Finally, it is integrated into the financial system through additional transactions until the "dirty money" appears "clean". These three stages of the money laundering process are known as placement, layering and integration respectively and are briefly discussed below:

1. Placement

Criminals enter their illegitimately earned money into the financial system at the initial stage of money laundering process. This is the stage where the black money is placed in the system thus called 'placement' stage. Criminals use a variety of techniques to place their illegal money in the financial system including depositing cash into the bank accounts, purchasing moveable and immovable assets at apparent low prices etc. They may place money by using the following methods too:

- . By breaking the cash into smaller and less conspicuous amounts and placing it into different accounts in order to avoid any suspicion and reporting by the financial institution.
- . By using illegal "Hundi" or "Hawala" system for movement of their money from one hand to another. Criminals use this illegal system as this involves person to person contact for transfer of money and it hardly leaves any trail.
- . A number of businesses in Pakistan handle large amounts of legitimate cash. The criminals mingle their illegitimate cash with their legitimate cash and place it in the financial system.
- . Electronic transfers are now-a-days very common that do not require a named bank account for sending or receiving money to or from someone. Criminals use this method to place their illegal money into the financial system because it involves less time and is difficult to investigate and to trace the origin.
- . Some criminals buy insurance policies or similar instruments using 'proceed of crime' and then en-cash them.
- . Some criminals buy stocks with the help of brokers to place their illegitimate money into financial system.
- . Criminals use benamidars (nominees) such as professionals who handle large amounts of cash to structure their money and place it in the financial system to disguise it from its source.
- . Government issues prize bonds to generate money and offer handsome prizes on them. Prize bonds are bearer instruments and can easily be sold / purchased through the banks or from the open market. Bearer claims the prize money. Criminals buy the prize bonds from the lucky winner and claim the prizes in their own name to launder their illegitimate money.

2. Layering

Layering is the most complex stage of the money laundering process. Once the money has been entered into the financial system, the criminals move it away from the original source by conducting multiple transactions with the placed money and by moving it between different accounts, different entities or locations in the financial system, and disperse it and disguise it in the system in order to conceal its origin. This process of distancing the placed money from their origins is known as 'layering'. The criminals use a number of techniques for layering such as using multiple bank accounts and professionals, corporations and trusts etc as intermediaries. The purpose of layering is to break the connection and audit trail between placement and integration stages of money laundering process. Commonly used layering techniques are given as below:

- .By transferring the money placed in the financial system to the number of bank accounts in domestic banks as well as in foreign banks which may be in different names, in fictitious names or shell companies.
- .By moving money to the offshore banks that accept deposits from non-resident individuals and corporations. This technique is used by criminals because this is inexpensive, leaves minimal audit trail and it is hard to distinguish between clean and dirty money.
- .By preparing false documents to disguise the true source, ownership, location and purpose of the money so that the investigators could be misled. An example of this type of layering is under and over invoicing for creating false paper trails.
- .By purchasing traveler's cheques, bonds, stocks etc
- .By opening letters of credit for imports.
- .By using professionals such as lawyers, chartered accountants etc as their intermediaries and middlemen to anonymously engage in fake / fictitious transactions on their behalf.
- .By using trusts for creation of false paper trails and for transactions with anonymity.

3. Integration

At this stage in the money laundering process, the illegitimate money is returned in the hands of criminals as 'white' money and apparently appears as legitimate which can be utilized by criminals to purchase moveable and immoveable assets such as plots, agriculture land, houses, vehicles, gold etc or to invest in some business. The criminals also use this laundered money for expanding their criminal network. The above-mentioned three steps of money laundering process may occur as separate and distinct phases or may overlap. The criminals use the methods and techniques to launder their money that suit them and are easily available to them.

Money Laundering Techniques used in Pakistan

Criminals in Pakistan mostly generate money from narcotics trafficking, human and weapon smuggling, corruption, tax evasion, kidnapping, theft, robbery, frauds etc. The various reports on criminal cases reveal that they generally use one or the other techniques to launder their illegally earned money. Some of the commonly used tactics are:

- . By smuggling currency across borders through cash couriers;
- . By using shell corporations which serves as a vehicle for business transactions without itself having any significant assets or operations. Shell corporations are not in themselves illegal and they may have legitimate business purposes. However, they are a main component of the underground economy, especially those based in tax havens. They may also be known as international business corporations (IBCs), personal investment companies (PICs), front companies, or "mailbox" companies. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shell_corporation);
- . By purchasing bearer instruments. A bearer instrument is a negotiable instrument which is payable on demand to the holder, regardless of whom it was originally issued to (http://www.investorwords.com/440/bearer_instrument.html);
- By using wire transfers;
- . By purchasing luxury items;
- . By purchasing agricultural land, residential plots, houses and investment in real estate;
- . By false invoicing;
- . By structuring. Structuring is the practice of executing financial transactions, such as the making of bank deposits, in a specific pattern calculated to avoid the creation of certain records and reports required by law (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structuring>);
- . By use of false identity to purchase assets or to open accounts to obscure true beneficial ownership of financial assets;
- . By using third parties or nominees to open accounts;
- . By using alternative informal remittance systems i.e Hawala;
- . By using modern communication techniques;
- . By using accounts in foreign banks;
- . By using prepaid / debit card;

One of the main reasons of increased money laundering in Pakistan is the informal and cash economy and its porous borders. Afghanistan is the major poppy producing country and is the world's main source of illicit opiates. Pakistan is adjacent to Afghanistan and is a significant drug transit country. Transactional criminal networks active in Pakistan play a central role in the transshipment of narcotics from Afghanistan to international markets. The illegal proceeds are then laundered through various means, mainly through the informal money transfer method i.e Hawala. Though the hawala is unlawful in Pakistan but it is a traditional and a common method to transfer money not only in Pakistan but in the region. Unfortunately, there is no attempt on part of academics and practitioners alike to explore this area by their empirical research and studies. Much work is to be done to testify these perceptions on the touchstone of empirical research, though these are very valid perceptions.

World's Anti Money Laundering Regime

Till mid 1980s, there was no legislation in place in any country to control money laundering. United States enacted Money Laundering Control Act in 1986. In 1989, G7 countries formed FATF (Financial Action Task Force) to combat money laundering.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The Task Force is therefore a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas. The FATF monitors members' progress in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures, and promotes the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures globally.

In performing these activities, the FATF collaborates with other international bodies involved in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The FATF does not have a tightly defined constitution or an unlimited life span. The Task Force reviews its mission every five years. The FATF has been in existence since 1989. FATF has 36 members including two regional organisations (the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission). The FATF Forty drawn up forty Recommendations in 1990 as an initiative to combat the misuse of financial systems by persons laundering drug money. In 1996 the Recommendations were revised for the first time to reflect evolving money laundering typologies.

The 1996 Forty Recommendations have been endorsed by more than 130 countries and are the international anti-money laundering standard (www.fatf-gafi.org).

These recommendations cover the following:

- . Legal

Legislating to ensure that money laundering is an offence with money and assets subject to confiscation

- . Financial and Regulatory

Implementing procedures to ensure financial institutions identify and report suspicious transactions

- . Law Enforcement

Providing assistance to member countries in regard to investigations, prosecution and extradition matters

Significant Recommendations of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Although all the recommendations of FATF on money laundering are very important but at the initial stage, if the countries adopt the following three, they may consider that they have stepped into the global effort to counter money laundering:

Recommendation No. 27

Countries should ensure that designated law enforcement authorities have responsibility for money laundering and terrorist financing investigations. Countries are encouraged to support and develop, as far as possible, special investigative techniques suitable for the investigation of money laundering, such as controlled delivery, undercover operations and other relevant techniques. Countries are also encouraged to use other effective mechanisms such as the use of permanent or temporary groups specialized in asset investigation, and co-operative investigations with appropriate competent authorities in other countries.

Recommendation No. 28

When conducting investigations of money laundering and underlying predicate offences, competent authorities should be able to obtain documents and information for use in those investigations, and in prosecutions and related actions. This should include powers to use compulsory measures for the production of records held by financial institutions and other persons, for the search of persons and premises, and for the seizure and obtaining of evidence.

Recommendation No. 30

Countries should provide their competent authorities involved in combating money laundering and terrorist financing with adequate financial, human and technical resources. Countries should have in place processes to ensure that the staff of those authorities is of high integrity.

Asia / Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

The Asia / Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) was established in 1997 and is an international organization (regionally focused) consisting of 40 members and a number of international and regional observers including the United Nations, IMF, FATF, Asian Development Bank and World Bank. The APG is closely affiliated with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). All APG members commit to effectively implement the FATF's international standards for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism referred to as the 40+9

Recommendations(www.apgml.org). The APG has a number of functions including:

- . Assess APG members' compliance with the global AML/CFT standards through mutual evaluations
- . Coordinate technical assistance and training with donor agencies and APG members/observers to improve compliance with the AML/CFT standards
- . Co-operate with the international AML/CFT network
- . Conduct research into money laundering and terrorist financing methods, trends, risks and vulnerabilities
- . Contribute to the global AML/CFT policy development by active Associate Membership of FATF

Pakistan's Anti Money Laundering Initiatives

Pakistan joined APG (Asia / Pacific Group on Money Laundering) in May 2000 (www.apgml.org). Being member of APG and UN, Pakistan is obliged to comply with FATF recommendations. Therefore, the President of Pakistan issued "Anti Money Laundering Ordinance 2007" which was followed by "Anti Money Laundering Ordinance 2009". A permanent legislation was required in order to comply with the FATF recommendations. Therefore, the parliament has now passed an Anti Money Laundering Bill 2010 which received assent of the President on 26th of March 2010 enacting "Anti Money Laundering Act 2010". This is the major initiative of Pakistan in global anti-money laundering efforts through which Pakistan has entered in the list of countries which are recognizing money laundering as a serious problem.

Definition of Money Laundering under Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010

The Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010 defines money laundering as:

"A person shall be guilty of offence of money laundering, if the person:

- a. acquires, converts, possesses, uses or transfers property, knowing or having reason to believe that such property is proceeds of crime; or
- b. conceals or disguises the true nature, origin, location, disposition, movement or ownership of property, knowing or having reason to believe that such property is proceeds of crime; or
- c. holds or possesses on behalf of any other person any property knowing or having reason to believe that such property is proceeds of crime; or
- d. participates in, associates, conspires to commit, attempts to commit, aids, abets, facilitates, or counsels the commission of the acts specified in clauses (a), (b) and (c).

Punishment of Money Laundering

Punishment of money laundering as mentioned in section 4 of Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010 is given below:

"Whoever commits the offence of money laundering shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to one million rupees and shall also be liable to forfeiture of property involved in the money laundering."

Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU)

The Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) was established under Anti Money Laundering Ordinance 2007. The FMU is the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Pakistan and is responsible for implementing AML laws in Pakistan. FMU takes appropriate measures to deter and to detect financial and serious crimes. Financial Punishment of Money Laundering

Punishment of money laundering as mentioned in section 4 of Anti-Money

Laundering Act 2010 is given below:

"Whoever commits the offence of money laundering shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to one million rupees and shall also be liable to forfeiture of property involved in the money laundering."

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Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units

In 1995, a group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) met at the Egmont Arenberg Palace in Brussels and decided to establish an informal group whose goal would be to facilitate international cooperation. Now known as the Egmont Group, these FIUs meet regularly to find ways to cooperate, especially in the areas of information exchange, training and the sharing of expertise (www.egmontgroup.org).

Implementation of Anti Money Laundering Act 2010

The Anti Money Laundering Act 2010 falls in the jurisdiction of the Federal Investigation Agency (www.fia.gov.pk), National Accountability Bureau (www.nab.gov.pk) and Anti Narcotics Force. The FIA through its Economic Crime Wing at FIA Headquarters Islamabad and through its five zonal offices has initiated a number of enquiries against money laundering on the basis of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) received from FMU. On receiving credible information, the FIA also initiates enquiries at its own. Despite facing hardships in implementing the said Act including lack of training, lack of resources and cumbersome procedures, the FIA is pursuing implementation of the Anti Money Laundering Act 2010 very seriously.

However, it is too early to estimate the validity and effectiveness of the said Act. In 2009, FIA received 74 STRs whereas so far in 2010, 99 STRs have been received by the FIA. As the law is new and as the problem of money laundering has abruptly grasped, the attention of many, including the FIA, the investigation staff of the LEAs is still not fully equipped, trained and resourceful to address the complexity of this transnational organized crime. However, with improved infrastructure and skills, the FIA will surely make commendable progress in combating the menace of money laundering.

Recommendations

For effective implementation of Anti Money Laundering Act 2010 and for maintenance of proper verifiable data collection, following steps are recommended to be taken which are inline with the FATF recommendations:

- .Anti Money Laundering Circles shall be established at each of the five provincial / zonal offices of FIA.
- .Anti Money Laundering Circle shall be encouraged to support and develop special investigative techniques suitable for the investigation of money laundering, such as controlled delivery, undercover operations and other relevant techniques.
- .Mechanism be devised for information sharing and joint working with other agencies of the countries.
- .Investigation officers involved in combating money laundering shall be well training, well groomed, and of high integrity.
- .Investigation officers shall have powers to obtain record from financial institutions without going to the courts for permission, to search of persons and premises, and to seize and to obtain evidence.
- .Investigation officers involved in combating money laundering shall be provided with adequate financial, human and technical resources.

Conclusion

Money laundering is a global threat. Pakistan has taken serious initiatives to combat money laundering that include enactment of Anti Money Laundering Law in 2010. Money Laundering may have nexus with the terrorist financing. We need to learn from the experiences of others countries and to make efforts to break the nexus of money launderers with terrorists. As Federal Investigation Agency is responsible to investigate cases of money laundering and terrorist financing, therefore, it is required to be strengthened by providing appropriate resources inline with the recommendations of FATF enabling it combat money laundering effectively.

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The Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM) and Some Recent Initiatives by Police and Local Government Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

By: Fasihuddin

_: Abstract

With the rising desire of managing crimes and delinquencies through community efforts, a number of programmes and initiatives are launched by the police throughout the world. Reasons for this desire and change are many. This desire looks like a paradigm shift in the current literature on policing and criminology. In places where the police are understaffed, ill-equipped, poorly-paid and poorly trained, and are faced with serious organized crimes like terrorism, the desire to get more and more public support and share the workload and responsibility with others increases manifold. Pakistani police is being faced with such situation, especially in the settled districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). The KPK police and Local Government initiated two different programmes of mediation, conciliation and local consultative bodies for solving petty problems of the local community, while the police of KPK and Local Government officials in the leading role.

This paper examines the concept of this desire and the outcome of these various initiatives. Despite innovations and a Western outlook, the initiatives found a soft field in the socio-religious context of KPK.

Keywords

Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM), Conciliatory Committee, Musalihat Anjuman, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), UNDP, Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, (KP), Local Government.

A. Underlying Social And Religious Context Of Mediation and Conciliation In Pakistan

It seems from the modern day literature on mediation/arbitration, VOM and ADR that as if all these concepts and practices are completely western in nature and origin. The Asian context was somewhat blurred, ignored or not properly explored until recently. Asia is rich in cultural experiences, diversities, languages and traditions, of course, of dispute resolutions through various techniques, including the practices of mediation and conciliation. Commentators agree that

mediation is part of the Asian culture and tradition, however any specific model or particular approach is yet to be ascertained that is "Asian" or that is uniquely suitable for the Asian context. (Lee and Hwee, 2009). Lee and Hwee have traced the presence of mediation in Asia and have identified that the concept and practice of mediation are not unfamiliar in different parts of Asia, particularly in places like China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Surprisingly, the writers have not mentioned any such concept or practice in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh or some other Muslim world. The social and cultural practices in any of these Asian societies are not very much in contrast with the traditional, intrinsic and socially sensitive practices of Panchayat (meaning the jury of five and mostly in the Punjab province), salisi (third party mediation), and Jirga (mostly in the KPK and Baluchistan provinces and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, collectively called FATA) are being practiced in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will briefly explain Jirga which provides a conceptual framework for the recent initiatives of the police and local government, though, at times, not commensurate with the spirit of Jirga.

There is much literature on the concept and practices of Jirga. It is a social institution, an informal justice system, a low-cost, speedy adjudication, a democratic and participatory decision-making process for dispute resolutions in a Pushtoon or Pukhtoon (those who speak Pushto or Pukhtoo) and Afghan society. The most usual form of Jirga is that the rival parties bring their claims before the tribal or community's elders or people of honour and authority whom they trust and respect as the most wise, respectable and influential in the given communities. They listen to the parties (parties don't speak directly to each other), inquire the matter and then decide in accordance with the local traditions, cultural sensitivities, historical precedents, parties' national and social characteristics and also that nothing is decided in violation of Shariah, the Islamic code of conduct or Islamic jurisprudence.

The decision so announced often comes in terms of rapprochement or mutual agreement on some quid pro quo or compensation by the aggressor or asking for forgiveness or fine or a combination of all or pardon in the name of God with no considerations. The procedure and concept of Jirga seems to be a replica of the democratic institution of Greek city-state, however, its indigenous form is shaped by local and religious influences whereby the Islamic concept of Sulha (Peace) is a catalyst for these local peace-building, and restorative justice practices. Such practices are seen in many Asian Muslim countries where the concept of peace (Sulha) is being incorporated or adjusted to the local customary standards and criteria. Gellman and Vuinovich (2008) have excellently described Sulh or Salha in detail, which has its historical underpinnings rooted in the religious writings of the now dominant faiths in the Palestine/Israel region.

Sulha is a ritualistic reconciliation (conflict resolution) practice which helps groups acknowledge, repair, forgive and transcend conflict on the psychological and political level and which creates a space for regaining dignity and honor where it has been lost. The main elements of Sulha seem a glaring replica of what is known as Jirga in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Gellman and Vuinovich (2008) describe three basic elements of Sulha:

First, forming the mediating body, called Jaha. The mediators ---- often Muslim, Christian, or Druzue notables ---- are chosen for their honesty, decency, experience, status, leadership and age. These are the same characteristics of a Jirga composition. The working, hearing and considerations of norms and values by Jaha are also similar to those observed in Jirga. The second feature is that of the truce, call Hodna. It is an agreement where in the Jaha specifies a certain amount of time during which the aggrieved family will not retaliate; like wise, the offender's family will avoid any further confrontations within the victim's family. Hodna is exactly what Teega means in the process of Jirga. When parties agree on mediation through Jirga, Teega, symbolized by a stone, is placed for avoidance of any further bloodshed, hurt or aggression by either parties till the Jirga is convened for final meeting and decision.

Teega is a self-imposed restriction on the parties and sanctified by the institution of the Jirga, with some penalty for violation during the stipulated period. Hodna and Teega are acts and signs of humility, demonstrating willingness to reconstruct the severed relationship without any fear of aggression during the process of Sulha or Jirga. The third element of Sulha is the basic objectives of restoration of honors and granting of forgiveness which are achieved through a closing ceremony, shaking hands and sharing a meal. Such practices and good-well gestures of meeting each other, shaking hands, embracing each other, dinning together and even putting floral garlands into each others' necks are usually seen on the eve of final decision with smiles and congratulations for everyone, including for members of the Jirga on their noble job and successful completion of turning 'enmity into friendship' as they say.

The above discussion clearly indicates that the basic mechanism and practices of Sulha, or Jirga (please note the phonetic resemblance amongst the words of Jirga, Jaha and Jury) are deeply rooted in the religious precincts, historical precedents and social norms and traditions of most of the Arab, Afghan and Pukhtoon societies. There is a need for a comprehensive comparative study of all these practices in the Asian and Muslim societies with the western models and prac-

tices of restorative justice, mediation, arbitration and conflict resolution. The acceptance, both at government and societal level, of the various police initiatives and the ADR projects as described in this paper, is basically due to the conducive cultural environment and religious justification behind them. If some legal discrepancies and implementing difficulties in the given ADR projects are removed, these can result in more promising results with proper legal sanctions in support.

It was basically ignorance of these legal considerations and lack of transparency that these initiatives were challenged in the District and Session Court by a local advocate. This litigation undoubtedly damaged the repute of many and put questions on their professional competence.

B. The Need for Conciliation and Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM) in Pakistan:

Victim-offender mediation (VOM) is one of the most well-known and commonly used contemporary programmes. VOM can appear in various shapes and forms depending on the structure of the criminal justice system in which it is introduced, as well as the level of tolerance coming from the public, the politicians and the cultural and historical background of the country. Whether 'independent', 'relatively dependent' or 'dependent', all kinds of VOM can take place at any time during the criminal process, or outside the system altogether (Gavrielides, 2006). Pakistan, with more than 170 million population, got its criminal justice system from the British Rule in India since 1947. The Pakistan Penal Code dates back to 1860 and the Criminal Procedure Code to 1898, whereas the Police Act of 1861 was recently replaced by a new law, the Police Order 2002, the proper implementation of which is still suffering from various legal, administrative, political and financial constraints.

The crime rate of Pakistan has never been an encouraging figure (354 per 100,000 in 2008, See Table and Figure I). The new police reforms were introduced in a time when the officially recorded crime was on the decline. The new police reforms were basically a concomitant part of the broader reforms agenda of the then President General Pervez Musharraf. However, despite the reforms, the public dissatisfaction never relieved, the police media image remained as bad as ever; and the critical remarks of the higher judiciary never subsided (Fasihuddin, 2008). The officially recorded crimes remained on a steady increase. (See Table I and Figure I)

| Year | Population in Millions[1] | Recorded Crimes[2] | Crime Rate |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1991 | 112.61 | 287,746 | 255.52 |
| 1992 | 115.54 | 286,528 | 247.99 |
| 1993 | 118.5 | 290,000 | 244.73 |
| 1994 | 121.48 | 323,351 | 266.18 |
| 1995 | 124.49 | 339,228 | 272.49 |
| 1996 | 127.51 | 329,305 | 258.26 |
| 1997 | 130.56 | 369,161 | 282.75 |
| 1998 | 133.32 | 428,549 | 321.44 |
| 1999 | 136.41 | 409,167 | 299.95 |
| 2000 | 139.41 | 388,414 | 278.61 |
| 2001 | 142.35 | 380,659 | 267.41 |
| 2002 | 145.28 | 399,006 | 274.65 |
| 2003 | 148.21 | 400,680 | 270.35 |
| 2004 | 151.09 | 441,907 | 292.48 |
| 2005 | 153.96 | 447,756 | 290.83 |
| 2006 | 156.77 | 537,866 | 343.09 |
| 2007 | 159.06 | 538,048 | 338.27 |
| 2008 | 162.37 | 576,185 | 354.86 |

(1) Economic Survey of Pakistan 2008-09. Table No. 12.1. p. 194

(2) National Police Bureau, Islamabad, Pakistan

Source: Crimes Recorded by National Police Bureau of Pakistan, Islamabad and presented in the graphic shape by the writer

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This situation compelled some of the senior police leadership to locate for the root causes of crimes, (a desire never subsided with the world criminologists) and the reasons for such rising crime spike in Pakistan, and explore for some other possible options to reduce crime and deviance, besides traditional policing. After serious deliberations in the Police Department of the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa (KP) (total area 74521 sq. km and total population 21.56 million with a total police force of 52649, and a police population ratio of 1: 410), it was decided to introduce the concept and processes of mediation and reconciliation through Conciliatory Committees in all the 23 districts of the province at the level of police-station (238 police stations in the KPK).

The Inspector General of Police, KPK issued certain instructions to all regional and district police officers on 04.04.2007(Annex. A), thus a complete organizational structure was envisioned to make this initiative a success through an institutional framework (Annex. B).

C. Salient Features of Conciliatory Programme:

Some of the basic characteristics of this new initiative as given in detail in the above mentioned annexure are summarized as:

- a. The concept of conciliatory committees is launched due to work overload on the local police and as a demand for community participation in the police work which was also required under the new police law.
- b. Amicable settlement of disputes amongst the people through conciliation and mediation of both civil and criminal cases is deemed imperative in the present situation.
- c. The settlement may be prior to or after the registration of cases in the police station, irrespective of the fact whether the proceedings have been instituted in the competent court or not.
- d. The conciliatory committee called Public Conciliatory Committee (PCC) shall comprise of eight residents of Police Station area; selected by the District Police Officer (DPO) for a period of three years; members shall have good moral character, enjoying respect and are known for their honesty and impartiality. The minimum number of members of a committee shall be three.
- e. The PCC record will be maintained by a coordinator, who will be amongst the members and supported by a lower-staff of the police.
- f. The PCC will take cases for settlement suo moto or by reference of the parties.
- g. In cases registered with the police i.e; criminal offences, compromise will be submitted to the court. In civil cases pending before the court, the compromise will also be submitted to the competent court.
- h. The PCC will be provided a place in the police station, and no government officer will act as a member of the committee. However, in case of dispute or appeal, the matter may be referred to the concerned Incharge of Police Station, called SHO, or Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO).
- i. The SDPO will conduct a monthly meeting of the PCC to review its performance and progress made on the pending application.

D. Evaluation and Discussion

This was a low-grade workable and relatively modest initiative, whereby the local police tried to contain the escalation of petty crimes at an early stage and prevent its burgeoning into complicated forms at a later stage. The striking feature of this initiative was that it was started by the provincial police and the committees were formulated at the grass root level of police stations. The initiative was widely publicized and welcomed by all stakeholders and general public like any media news for all new ideas by a department like police. The show was overwhelmed by the a police due mainly to the non-availability of any other senior executive officer at the district level after the promulgation of Local Government Ordinance 2000, which abolished the office of the District Magistrate, called the Deputy Commissioner.

This was an indigenous system and was so flexibly designed as to include all forms of VOM. Basically, legal and procedural formalities were adjusted to social and cultural considerations at a local level. Police were kept inside and outside of this arrangement, both as an observer and as an active participant, giving rise to the chronic debate of impartiality and active role-play. This native design for VOM can best be described in Diagram No. I.

Despite some positive points, there happened to be a few inherent constraints in the system, like:

- a. It was purely a police initiative and the provincial or local governments and other NGOs or international bodies were not involved.
- b. The orders and instructions were only departmental and the system was not institutionalized.
- c. Selection of the members of the PCC was made by the District Police Officer (DPO) which seemed to be an executive selection.
- d. The monthly meeting of the PCC was held by Subdivisional Police Officer (SDPO) which again gave an impression of authoritative control over the committee.
- e. No extra financial or logistic support or funds were allocated to the PCC.
- f. The meeting place i.e; the mediation center was established in a police station, which was against the spirit of mediation.
- g. Capacity-building training of the local mediators of the PCC was not given due importance.
- h. A proper public oversight or central supervision mechanism at the provincial police headquarters was not adopted.
- i. There are some discrepancies and contradictions in the instructions issued by the Inspector General of Police (now renamed as Provincial Police Officer) and the actual subsequent organization of the committee e.g; about the suo moto action of the committee.
- j. The cases which could be taken up by the PCC for settlement were related mainly to land disputes, possession problems, marriage issues, civil suits, contract violations, debts and loans, easement rights, business matters, etc. These are mostly of civil nature and which in a society like Pakistan's, can trigger into serious crimes if not resolved at the initial stages. Police have no original jurisdiction in most of such cases. The list didn't include those criminal offences which are otherwise compoundable and could be categorically mentioned in the list of criminal offences. Some districts included violence against women, human rights violations and police excesses in the list, but these are generally of petty nature, low intensity disputes or violations as, legally speaking, police can not broker a deal or mediation, and if it happens, it may invoke indignation of the court.

The modern exponents of the restorative justice like Howard Zehr and others have strong reservations about the 'dominance' or 'sponsorship' of state functionaries in the process of restorative justice practice. Dzur (2003) explains this aspect as:

"Zehr also argues that for a real experience in justice, communication between victim and offender cannot be dominated by the state or by criminal justice professionals. State officials are not the best candidates for hearing and validating the victim's truth and the offender's remorse. Indeed, Zehr sees the predominance of officials and professionals in the criminal justice system as hindering the satisfaction of victim's needs' (Dzur, 2003).

Zehr's arguments may be true to some extent and in some cases, but in case of Pakistan, the local police took advantage of the ingrained socio-cultural traits of the semi-tribal and semi-democratic population, who attach greater value to their local norms and values. The literature on VOM and Restorative Justice (RJ) has ample reference that even in North America restorative justice is the product of informal justice experiments in the 1970s, such as victim-offender reconciliation and neighborhood justice programmes (Dzur, 2003). Mestitz and Ghetti (2005) state that, "though, a very ancient strategy adopted in tribal or village societies to solve conflicts, repair damages and re-establish social peace, the VOM has become a unique, innovative, the stronger than ever and the best actual practice throughout Europe these days". This clearly indicate that local initiatives should not be ignored in preference to some universal standard programme. Braithwaite (2002) has rightly observed,

"we should also worry about standards that are so prescriptive that they inhibit restorative justice innovation. We are still learning how to do restorative justice well... [it is a threat because] evaluation research on restorative justice is at such a rudimentary stage that our claims about what is good practice and what is bad practice can rarely be evidence-based".

John Braithwaite is one of the leading scholars and an authority on RJ literature and his viewpoint has plenty of support for local and indigenous practices with locally acceptable standards. This bottom-up approach has enormous potential for further refinement of whatever local initiative is introduced, no matter with the facilitation of a few learned, vision-

ary and committed police officers, who are the ultimate beneficiary in terms of reduced workload and reduced crimes in the area. No doubt, this arrangement is subject to a variety of constraints, criticism and evaluation, but at least a step is taken in a direction which leads to some sort of practical programme for further deliberations and correction.

Braithwaite (2002) advises as, "At the end of the day it is better that restorative justice learn from making mistakes than that it make the mistake of refusing to learn.

Recent experience is ground for optimism that if we regulate flexibly, being mindful of all the local ideas for innovation, richer models of restorative justice can blossom". The initiative taken by the local police of the KPK is not without ifs and buts and needs proper evaluation, supervision and monitoring in terms of legal authority, approaches, methodologies and implementing strategies, with verifiable outcomes, standard reporting, and of course, impartial assessment. This requires conceptual understanding of the overall criminal justice system, the police and policing by the proficient knowledge workers, both from within the police department and outside the civil society. The academic discussion on the role of criminal justice professionals, with conflicting claims and findings is no less in the current criminological literature. Restorative justice theory leaves virtually no role for professionals, but in practice, like the KPK Police, they are deeply involved in restorative justice programmes.

However, Oslon and Dzur (2004) conclude that restorative justice needs the involvement of criminal justice professionals for several different reasons, including that restorative justice is unlikely to happen without them. A number of steps are proposed to reduce the dominance of these professionals and provide greater legitimacy to the process. One of the steps is that if criminal justice professionals interested in restorative justice are to become democratic professionals, new forms of training and standards of accountability are needed. Training in the facilitation of community participation needs to become as common as mediation training now. Accountability has to focus on citizen satisfaction with crime reduction and other improvement in community. In the process, the relative "competencies, knowledge and privileges" of professionals and community members are being gradually negotiated and defined through practice (Oslon and Dzur, 2004).

This is how the existing frictions in the initiative of the KPK Police will be iron out with the passage of time where the professionals have assumed to themselves the role of working with community members in crime control and reduction. Seen as an evidence-based innovation for reducing harm, restorative justice will always remain a work in progress, open to its own improvement through better knowledge of its consequence (Sherman, et al, 2005).

E. Results and Achievements of the PCC

The results of the PCC throughout the province remained at a low in 2007 and most part of 2008. No vigorous and tangible efforts were seen in most of the districts. There was no financial support or other incentives for the local staff. In addition to the above constraints, there was severe turbulence in most parts of the province due to extreme militancy and insurgency by Taliban and other militants. The military operations and serious law and order situation entangled the local police to a nerves- breaking level.

Therefore, as compared to the cases received for solution or registration of a report in a police station, little results were achieved in matters of mediation by the PCC. However, it sparked a new dimension for police actions and soon a relatively bigger initiative was taken by the local police, this time in collaboration with the civil society and financial support of The Asia Foundation. A local NGO, Just Peace International, was engaged also. The Asia Foundation got funding from the Australian Government.

F. Alternative Dispute Resolution Project Supported by the Asia Foundation

In order to overcome the anomalies of the earlier PCC initiative by the KPK Police and to involve major stakeholders and to better organize their efforts in the light of the concept of mediation and restorative justice, the Asia Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a local NGO, the Just Peace International and the Inspector General of Police, KPK on August 20, 2008, with the following objectives:

a. The KPK Police will ensure when and if first time criminal or family cases of a petty nature are reported at the police stations in the target districts and shall be brought forward for reconciliation before the reconciliation committees facilitated by Just Peace International.

b. The NGO will facilitate the process of mediation by imparting training to the members of the committees on legal issues, reconciliation techniques and counseling, etc.

| | Application Received | Application Discussed | Pending Discussed | Referred to PCC | Decided Desisions | Pending Station | Police |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------|
| July | 409 | 391 | 18 | 391 | 275 | 116 | 10666 |
| Aug | 186 | 153 | 33 | 153 | 93 | 60 | 9500 |
| Sep | 543 | 486 | 57 | 486 | 312 | 174 | 10385 |
| Oct. | 858 | 572 | 286 | 572 | 362 | 210 | 9242 |
| Nov. | 476 | 274 | 2 | 274 | 99 | 175 | 9484 |
| Dec. | 369 | 321 | 48 | 321 | 167 | 154 | 8477 |
| Total | 2841 | 2197 | 444 | 2197 | 1308 | 899 | 57754 |

Source: Office of the Additional Inspector General (Investigation) of Police, NWFP, and SP, Research Central Police Office, Peshawar

H. Gender Justice Through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMA) by UNDP and Government of Pakistan:

In addition to these purely police-sponsored initiatives, we would like to introduce another initiative of ADR, in which the writer was nominated as a focal person from the KPK Police department. This 5-year multi-million US dollars project is intended "to assist women and other vulnerable sections of the society in improving their condition through safeguarding and promoting their rights and lawful entitlements". The Local Government Ordinance, 2001 provides for Musalihat Jarga in chapter XI, Section 102 where, in each union council, a Musalihat Jarga is to be constituted, consisting of a panel of three Musleheen (conciliators) one of whom shall be its Convener, from amongst the residents of the Union who are publicly known to be persons of integrity, good judgment and command respect. The selection is done by the Insaf Committee of the union council.

Section 103 describes the functions of the Musalihat Jarga to achieve the amicable settlement of disputes amongst the people in the Union through mediation, conciliation and arbitration, whether or not any proceedings have been instituted in a court of law in respect of such disputes. The courts of competent jurisdiction may also refer cases to Musalihat Jarga (S.104). On request of the parties there can be an individual Musleh (Conciliator), for individual cases (S.105). The Convener convenes the meetings of the Musalihat Jarga and conducts the proceedings in an informal manner where no legal practitioners are permitted to take part in the proceedings on behalf of any party. The report of the Musleheen (Conciliators) shall be recorded in writing, copies provided to the parties, attested by the Secretary of the Union and the original submitted to the Court (S.106).

In view of these provisions, the Government of the North-West Frontier Province-NWFP (now KPK) Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department issued Musalihat Jarga (Constitution and Functions) Rules, 2006 vide a Notification on 30th January 2006. Unlike the ADR-project by the Asia Foundation, the Rules of the Local Government Department are more comprehensive and methodical for conciliatory processes and record maintenance at various tiers of the local government i.e, at the union and district level. However, there are some legal issues which need further clarification by the concerned Law Department as the Rules so framed have given rise to considerable legal questions in the minds of legal fraternity.

a. A 'dispute' is explained as a quarrel or disagreement, whether of civil or criminal nature including those specified in Form 1 of the Schedule. A Musalihat Jarga shall conclude its proceedings within seven days in criminal matters (where no First Information Report-FIR, has been logged with the Police) and within three weeks in civil matters, from the date of commencement of the proceedings. The nature of disputes described in Form 1 of the Schedule is of extreme importance as it includes certain heinous crimes which, at times, are non-compoundable and non-bailable and have the highest degree of punishment. Some offences like the organized crime of human trafficking are dealt by the specialized agency of Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) with a separate special law for this purpose.

Some crimes like child sexual abuse, bonded labour, forced marriage, sexual harassment, public insult and degrading female and compelling children, women and disabled to beg are so serious crimes that the demand for a tougher legislation and severe punishments for the perpetrators become stronger and stronger by the civil society, NGOs, media and the legal professionals. At times, the higher judiciary picks up media reported cases for suo moto actions. To some analysts, the Local Government has stepped beyond its legal authority to the extent of infringement on the domain of legislative and judiciary. The writer of this paper has attempted in Table: II to show the Form 1 in Schedule with reference to the relevant section(s) of laws(s) and the nature of the offences so prescribed.

A face-saving Rule is given at No. 5 which says, "In case the parties to the dispute do not agree to have the matter resolved through Musalihat Jarga, or it appears to the Musalihat Jarga that the case is fit for registration of an FIR, or

filing before a court of competent jurisdiction, the Musalihati Jarga shall, without compromising impartiality, facilitate registration of an FIR and/or assist the aggrieved party to file the case before a court of competent jurisdiction". This provision is in contrast with the Rule 3 (2) which stipulates that the "Musalihati Jarga shall conclude its proceedings within seven days in criminal matters (where no FIR has been lodged)". Moreover, the registration of cases in the police as an intimidating technique makes the process of mediation directive, authoritative and not impartial and value-free which is the spirit and essence of mediation. The procedure adopted also seems of a formal arbitration than dialogue, mediation and facilitation.

In Rule 13 it is more pronounced as, "In case any party fails to implement the settlement within the stipulated time, the Musalihati Jarga shall send the settlement to police for further action or to the court of competent jurisdiction (as the case may be), who may declare it as rule of the court after notice to and summary hearing of the parties". This is some-time not approved by the scholars of restorative justice and mediation where the failure of mediation is shifted to law-enforcement and judiciary for further legal action. This anomaly makes the process of mediation and ADR as a stick and carrot policy and gives rise to the impression and doubts of highhandedness by both, the police or the Local Government officials as the case may be.

| S.No. | Disputes Details as Given in Schedule Form 1 Cognizance by Police | Law(s) / Sections of Law(s) Compoundable / Dealing with the Offences Bailable/Non-Bailable Non-Compoundable (disputes) |
|-------|--|---|
| 1. | Domestic Violence to Cognizeable Excepts | 337 A(1) to 337 A(5)-337 F(1) Non Bailable Except 337 A(1) Compoundable F(5)-337J PPC (Hurt Cases) and 337F(1) |
| 2. | Matrimonial Disputes ture Non Cognizable Cognizable in NWFP | Family Court Cases- Civil Na- Bailble 497/498 PPC (Adultery) Non-Bailable in NWFP / Bailable Compoundable |
| 3. | Property Disputes Cognizable Non Cognizable | 447-448 PPC Bailable Compoundable 5 Illegal Dispossession Act Bailable/NotBailable Compoundable |
| 4. | Child abuse, Vagrancy and d Sec 12 Cognizable Compelling Children, Females an Cognizable Disabled Persons to Beg Non Cognizable | Vagrancy Act 1950. Sec 7 to Bailable Compoundable Child Sexual Abuse, 337 PPC Non-Bailable Non Compoundable 491 PPC Bailable Non Compoundable |
| 5. | Exclusion of females from inheritance Cases) Non Cognizable | Civil Nature (Civil courts Bailable Compoundable |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | 420 PPC Cheating |
| | Cognizable | | Bailable |
| | | | Compoundable when Permission |
| | | | 5(2) Prevention of Corruption |
| | Cognizable | | Non Bailable |
| | | | Given by Court Non Compoundable |
| | | | Act, 1947 |
| | | 6. | Marriage to Quran, Watta Satta |
| | (exchange marriage), Walwar, | | 310 A PPC |
| | Cognizable | | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| | | | Swara, Wani (giving women in |
| | | | marriage to settle disputes) |
| | | 7. | Zhagh (asserting ownership over women |
| | | | - |
| | | | - |
| | | | - |
| | | | of the enemy tribe) |
| 8. | Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking | | 365 B PPC (Kidnaping and Ab- |
| | duction) | Cognizable | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| | man | Cognizable | Prevention and Control of Hu- |
| | | | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| | | | Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 |
| 9. | Forced labour | | Prevention and Control of Hu- |
| | man | Cognizable | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| | | | Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 |
| | | 10. | Public Insult, Assault and |
| | | | Cognizable |
| | | | 354, 354-A PPC |
| | | | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| | Degradation of Females | | 355 (assult or criminal force |
| | Nov Cognizable | | (35 4-A, Bailable (354) |
| | | | Compoundable |
| | | | to dishonour) |
| | | | Bailable |
| | | 11. | Sexual Harassment |
| | | | Cognizable |
| | | | 376,377 PPC |
| | | | Non-Bailable |
| | | | Non Compoundable |
| 12. | Related Matters | | 341 (Wrongful Restraint) |
| | | Cognizable | Bailable |
| | | | Compoundable |

b. Rule 20 deals with record whereby a monthly report on the matters referred to or brought before the Musalihati Jarga with other information details are sent to the offices of District and Session Judge, District Police Officer as well as District Nazim. As far as the police are concerned, the writer couldn't found reports of such nature in most of the District Police Offices. However, during a representation by the responsible officers of the ADR-Project before the Inspector General of Police, KPK, the performance of the Musalihah Anjumans (The word Jarga is replaced here by Anjuman which means an association) was shown in Table IV, which by no means can be described as a good show for a multi-

million dollar project. These are the official statistics by the concerned department which need verification and evaluation by an impartial observer. The figures are given for two districts only, namely, Abbottabad and D.I.Khan.

The Musalihat Anjumans (2006-09) decided a total of 647 cases out of 690 whereas the Police Conciliatory Committees settled 2197 applications out of 2841 in a six month period the latter with no support or finances from anyone (Cf. Table II) The officers of this UNDP-GOP project have complained of the confusion created by the Police Conciliatory Committees and criticized the same for having no legal authority. Later on, the constant requests by the officers of the UNDP-GOP project to the Provincial Police Officer for allowing them to conduct training workshops on ADR for local police in Abbottabad were granted.

This might be a requirement for the donor's reports but it was just a duplication of the activities already carried out in the project funded by the Asia Foundation. Frankly, the financial considerations and race for credit-taking amongst the local departments, NGOs and even international donors give rise to such wastage of resources, duplication, repetition and ultimately, the failure of projects which are dumped in the huge and heavy files and reports after the financial year is over! the higher police offices. Relevant literature and guidelines and the results of trainings, according to the report of the said NGO were sent to other district police offices for reference and guidance. It says, "the print and electronic media was involved for publicity of training and the actual mediation processes as an observer". The media carried stories of the somewhat success of mediation in some places.

Some local journals published exclusive items on restorative justice within the existing legal system. All this publicity campaign was more about a police practice than a new idea of policing.

Table IV: Analysis Report of Disputes/Cases Received by Musalihat Anjumans (MAs): Consolidated Data for Abbottabad and DIKhan, KPK (2006 -June 2009).

| S. No. | Nature of Disputes / Cases | Disputes / Cases | | | Percent-Dis-Settled |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| | | Received | Settled | Pending | |
| 1. | Domestic violence | 14 | 14 | 100% | 2% |
| 2. | Matrimonial disputes | 144 | 135 | 94% | 21% |
| 3. | Property disputes | 154 | 140 | 91% | 14% |
| 4. | Child abuse | 1 | 1 | 100% | 0% |
| 5. | Exclusion of females from inheritance | - | - | 0 | 0% |
| 6. | Marriage to Quran | - | - | 0 | 0% |
| 7. | Watta Satta | 16 | 16 | 100% | 0% |
| 8. | Zhagh | - | - | 0 | 0% |
| 9. | Forced marriage | 3 | 3 | 100% | 0% |
| 10. | Human Trafficking | - | - | 0 | 0% |
| 11. | Forced labour | - | - | 0 | 0% |
| 12. | Public insult, assault | 9 | 9 | 100% | 1% |
| 13. | Sexual harassment | 5 | 5 | | 10 |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|------|------|
| | | | 100% | 1% |
| 14. | Financial disputes | 91 | 89% | 81 |
| | | | | 13% |
| | 15. Minor quarrels and disagreements | 70 | 96% | 3 |
| | | | | 10% |
| | 16. Water related disputes (irrigation, water courses, etc.) | 21 | 90% | 2 |
| | | | | 3% |
| 17. | Miscellaneous disputes | 162 | 97% | 5 |
| | | | | 23% |
| | | 690 | 94% | 43 |
| | | | | 100% |

Source: Manager, GJTMA, Local Government and Rural Development, Peshawar.

I. Legal Basis of Court-Initiated ADR

In contrast to the Asia Foundation funded (police-facilitated) and the UNDP funded (Local Government-facilitated) ADR projects, there is another initiative for ADR which is court-facilitated but under the provisions of the Small Claims and Minor Offences Court Ordinance, 2002. The recently announced National Judicial Policy (www.ljcp.gov.pk) requires the respective High Courts to designate civil judges cum magistrates to try exclusively cases under the said law. The ordinance is regarded as an 'exclusive forum for facilitating the resolution of small disputes and ADR mechanisms outside the court mechanism' and 'an excellent forum for addressing backlog of cases'.

The ordinance is an excellent and well-thought law and it mostly deals with cases of civil nature (Part I of Schedule, section 5), the suits and claims the subject-matter of which does not exceed one hundred thousand rupees, and with all offences (criminal) in the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, punishable with imprisonment not exceeding three years or with fine or with both.

The 'amicable settlement' described in section 14 says that, "where at any stage of the proceedings, it appears to the Court either on application of any party or otherwise, that there exists a possibility of amicable settlement between the parties, the Court may, subject to consent of parties, through salis or any other person, conciliate, arbitrate, mediate or resolve through any other means, the claim or offence as the case may be provided that the Court shall not proceed for amicable settlement of offences which are non-compoundable or, for reasons to be recorded in writing, where it considers such settlement to be either against the public policy or interest of the State". A salis means the person acting as conciliator, mediator or arbitrator (section 2(8)), who is nominated by the parties from a list of retired judges and lawyers prepared by the Chief Justice of High Court, or any other person mutually agreed upon (section 15).

The salis can be changed if there is an impression of bias on his part, and whose aim is to find a mutually acceptable solution and assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If a settlement of a suit or complaint is reached between the parties, the salis shall prepare a deed of settlement containing terms of such settlement, signed by the parties and submit it to the Court on the day fixed by the Court together with a certificate that the settlement between the parties was voluntary (section 18). The Court shall before passing a decree based on award, call objections of the parties to it within fifteen days of the receipt of award and settle such objections within fifteen days thereof (section 19). However, if the dispute or claim is not referred for settlement or no settlement is reached under sub-section (1) of section 14 within forty five days of the reference or such extended time as may be granted by the Court, on showing good cause, the Court shall proceed to record evidence (section 26).

The above provisions signify that the said Ordinance is very comprehensive in nature, requires the mutual consent of the parties for a mediator or arbitrator, the settlement is voluntary, time-bound and the mediator/arbitrator is paid for his job as decided by the Court. The striking feature of the Ordinance is that it does not deal with serious human rights violations and organized crimes, or offences which are non-compoundable as in the case of the UNDP-funded ADR project. Similarly, the Court simply adjourns the proceedings and leaves settlement to the mutual agreement of the parties and provides opportunity to them for any objections, unlike the police-facilitated or Local Government-facilitated ADR mechanisms where a tacit threat for police action is always there in case of objection to the settlement so reached. Moreover, as envisioned by the National Judicial Policy, the judicial officers will be imparted training in ADR for this purpose.

A committee of judges of the High Courts headed by a judge of the Supreme Court would arrange training in ADR for master trainers who would later on train the remaining judges in the provinces. Such institutional arrangements are not available in any other project. However, we have to wait for the performance and results of the said Policy as it has recently been announced (May 30th, 2009) and is to be implemented from June 1st, 2009.

J. Conclusion

Though a modest start and with initiation from the police department, the ADR project and the concept of PCC have enormous potential to be welcomed as an innovative and beneficial technique for resolving some of the offences, which may give rise to serious crimes in a society which badly suffers from low socio-economic indicators and the effects and implications of ongoing war on terror. The local police which don't enjoy a good public image, can capitalize on the initiative as spearheaded by some senior officers for enhanced community participation and early resolution of many a problem, which unnecessarily consume the resources of the local police. The only worry is that the initiative needs to be handled by more competent people and supported with a national legal framework and assistance by international community.

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Instructions For Conciliatory Committees (ANNEX: A)

(By The Inspector General of Police, NWFP)

The functions and duties of the Police have considerably increased due to the consciousness of the public about their rights which has multiplied the criminal and civil cases. The democratic aspiration of the people under the Police Order also demands the participation of the community in the daily performance of the Police.

As such the constitution of Conciliatory Committees at Police Station level is imperative for achieving amicable settlement of disputes amongst the people through conciliation and mediation of the civil or criminal cases prior or after the registration irrespective of the fact whether the proceedings have been instituted in a court or not.

The Conciliatory Committee shall comprise of 8 residents of the Police Station who are respectable and known for honesty and impartiality. One of whom shall be selected by the members as Chairman of the Committee.

The members of the Committee shall be selected by the District Police Officer for a period of three years. Neither any govt: servants nor public representative shall be selected as members of the Committee.

The Committee shall take up the cases for settlement either Suo Moto or by reference of the parties or the Police but settlement shall only be carried out in such cases where all the parties agree thereto.

In case of settlement before the registration of the case the parties shall enter into compromise and no further action shall be required. However when the cases are registered or pending in courts and the offence is compoundable the parties shall submit a compromise in the court. In civil cases too compromises be submitted in the court in case of reconciliation.

The Committee may be provided place in the police station and provided assistance by police in summoning parties and production of documents etc. The 4.9 A summary report of all activities of the Committee will be prepared by providing incentives to them like verification for Domicile Licenses and Identity Cards etc. Such Committees will promote amity between the public and Police and will resolve the disputes at initial stage thereby resulting in reduction of work-load of police and having good bearing on law and order.

(MUHAMMAD SHARIF VIRK) Provincial Police Officer NWFP, Peshawar.04.04.2007

Public Conciliatory Committees for the Police Stations (ANNEX B)

1. Organization of the Committee

1.1 There shall be a separate Public Conciliatory Committee (PCC) for each Police Station;

1.2 The Committee shall consist of members representing cross section of the community belonging to the area jurisdiction of the concerned Police Station;

1.3 The over all working of the Committee will be organized and planned by a Coordinator elected from among the members as per the procedure laid down -hereafter;

1.4 Each Committee will be divided in different panels and each consisting of at least three members;

1.5 A lower subordinate of the concerned Police Station will be appointed as a support staff for maintaining record of the working of the Committee.

1.6 These Committees will function in close liaison with the concerned Station House Officer (SHO) and Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) and under over supervision of the District Police Officer (DPO).

2. Qualification of Members of the Conciliatory Committee

2.1 A member of the Public Conciliatory Committee should be at least 35 years of age;

2.2 He/She should not have any criminal record;

2.3 He/She should be well educated;148

2.4 He/She should be well reputed and enjoy respect in the community;

2.5 He/She should be known for his impartiality in decision making;

2.6 He might be from a non-controversial NGO, retired Government officer retired Army officer, well known social worker etc;

2.7 Should not have any political affiliation.

3. Selection of Coordinator

3.1 A coordinator will hold his office for a period of three months;

3.2 No member will offer himself for the post of coordinator;

3.3 No member will canvass his candidature for the post of coordinator;

3.4 Coordinator will be selected through a secret ballot;

3.5 Every member will propose a choice of two names and the persons have maximum number of votes will be elected as Coordinator;

3.6 The election will be held under the supervision of concerned SDPO and SHO.

4. Role and Responsibilities of the Coordinator

4.1 He shall be responsible for overall coordination of various activities of the PCC;

4.2 He will be responsible for forming different panels of the members and equal distribution of cases to these panels;

4.3 He will receive the application marked to the PCC and refer it to the panel of members,

4.4 He will prepare a time table and schedule for hearing of cases by different panels of the PCC;

4.5 He will maintain a consolidated Register containing complete record of each application processed by the PCC;

4.6 The Coordinator may change a member of the panel if any of the party in a case has any reservation against such member;

4.7 He should ensure that each panel of members should consist of people from different walks of life;

4.8 He will be responsible for arranging a monthly meeting of the PCC for discussing progress and other issues concerning the working of the Committee;

4.9 A summary report of all activities of the Committee will be prepared by the Coordinator and sent to the DPO office by 7th of every month;

4.10 He will be responsible for maintaining complete case file of each case;

4.11 The Coordinator will ensure that copies of any case papers is not given to any of the party unless the SDPO deems it necessary.

5. Code of Conduct for Members of the Public Conciliatory Committee

5.1 The committee will take up only those application which are referred to it through the concerned Police Station, SDPO, DPO,

5.2 The Committee will not take up any case on its own.

5.3 Every application will be disposed off within shortest possible time which should not be more than 15 days in case.

5.4 Every application will be taken up by the a complete panel and not any individual member of the Committee.

5.5 An application referred to a panel will be finalized by the same panel except under special circumstance.

5.6 If any member of a panel is approached/influenced by any party he will immediately withdraw himself from the panel and the coordinator will replace such member by another impartial member.

5.7 If any party has a reservation on the decision of the PCC it may apply to the SDPO/SHO for review of such a decision.

5.8 A review committee consisting of 5 members will review such contested decision and give its findings. This decision shall be considered as final.

5.9 A police liaison officer will be appointed by the concerned SDPO/SHO for helping the coordinator in record keeping and other issues of the Committee.

5.10 The SDPO will conduct a monthly meeting of the PCC to review the performance of the committee and discuss progress of the application referred to the committee.

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The Menace of Human Trafficking - Pakistan's Response to the Problem?

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Abstract

Human Trafficking, whilst not a new phenomenon, remains a heinous activity as women and children are the most vulnerable members of society, yet it is exactly this vulnerability that makes trafficking possible in the first instance. Trafficking in human beings is a covert, multi-faceted and organised criminal activity making it extremely difficult to detect and prevent, particularly in light of its cross-border nature, whilst victims are themselves often difficult to be recognised. This makes trafficking in human beings such a complex activity to approach. There are legislative provisions and international conventions in place to protect trafficked persons but many responses are perhaps too little, too late. This paper, therefore, considers measures that have been put in place by the Pakistan Government to protect trafficked persons.

Keywords

Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling, Slavery, Palermo Protocol, Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO), Domestic Servitude, Sexual Exploitation, Debt Bondage and Forced Labour.

Introduction

Trafficking in human beings is a very sensitive issue as it is at the very intersection of contemporary anxieties concerning the global political economy, population growth, gender and ethnic stratification, transnational organised crime and human rights abuses and the inability of states, groups of states and international agencies to control any of these effectively. Human trafficking is the modern form of slavery. It happens when people are recruited, transported, or received through deception, threat or force. Once trapped, they are exploited using threats, physical force, emotional abuse, or told they must pay off a large debt to their captors. They may be enslaved for years, or their entire lives.

The problem is of global proportion. Almost every country, including Pakistan, is implicated in this shocking trade in human lives either as a place of recruitment, transit through to other countries, or the final destination for trafficked people.

The numbers are vast but unknown, as there are difficulties in identifying victims. In most cases the crime is kept hidden, and the definitions are not standard across cultures or law enforcement agencies. According to the United Nation's Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), the estimated number is thought to exceed 27 million. However, this is a conservative figure, with the forced labour. The number seems overwhelming, but we agree with World Vision¹ that even one person being captured and sold is one person too many.

Magnitude of the problem can be gauged from the fact that around 161 countries are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit and/or destination country. Human trafficking affects every continent and every type of economy.² The majority of trafficking victims³ are between 18 and 24 years of age.⁴ An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.⁵ 95% of victims experience physical or sexual violence during trafficking.⁶ 2.45 million people are estimated to be in conditions of forced labour as a result of trafficking.⁷ 43% of victims are used for forced commercial sexual exploitation, of which 98% are women and girls.⁸ 32% of victims are used for forced economic exploitation, of which 56% are women and girls.⁹

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that human trafficking generates \$7 billion every year, and is the third largest criminal activity in the world after the arms and drug trades. According to the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, about 900,000 people are being trafficked across national borders annually. Around 225,000 people are trafficked annually from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan alone. Human trafficking exists because it is based on supply and demand. Using slaves means no labour costs, so manufacturers can undersell their competition. It also means the complete disregard and lack of respect for individual human beings. Research shows that victims are often recruited by a relative, a 'supposed' friend, or someone they trusted. Traffickers¹⁰ and victims often share the same nationality, and female traffickers are often used to recruit women.

Homelessness, economic downturn and social instability as a result of national disaster or war are also factors, with women and children always being the most desperate and vulnerable. Poverty, lack of access to education and employment, and domestic violence create a supply of 'surplus' children and vulnerable adults who can be easily manipulated and tricked by traffickers. Van Liempt reported that 'increased demands for cheap labour and sex, coupled with restrictions on legal migration possibilities, have clearly opened a niche for traffickers.'¹¹ The phenomenon of trafficking could not have grown to its current extent if market forces did not support such an industry.

Traffickers use a variety of methods to recruit their victims. They commonly target vulnerable individuals by placing advertisements for comparatively well-paid employment positions in destination countries. Once the individuals arrive, they find that they have been deceived about the nature or conditions of the work they have to do. Trafficking in human beings and their subsequent exploitation in varied forms by traffickers in human beings is one of the most despicable forms of violation of human rights. Trafficking in its widest sense includes not just exploitation of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, it also includes forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or trade in human beings for removal of organs. Trafficking clearly violates the fundamental right to a life with dignity. It also violates right to health and health care, right to liberty and security of person, right to freedom from torture, violence, cruelty or degrading treatment.

It violates for children who have been trafficked, or victims of child marriages their right to education, it violates the right to employment and the right of self determination.

Traffickers also have a number of ways of preventing their victims from escaping, among them debt bondage, threats and violence, detention, and withholding of personal legal documents such as passports and visas. They often threaten to hurt or kill a victim's children or family in their home country. Further, uncertainty about their migration status and fear of being detained or deported makes victims afraid to seek help.

According to the US State Department Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP)¹² in 2009, Pakistan is reflected as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation. Pakistan's largest human trafficking problem is that of bonded labour which is concentrated in Sindh and Punjab provinces, particularly in brick kilns, carpet making, agriculture, fishing, mining, leather tanning and production of glass bangles, estimates of Pakistan victims of bonded labour, including men, women and children, vary widely but are likely over one million. Parents sell their daughters into domestic servitude, prostitution, or forced marriages, and women are traded between tribal groups to settle disputes or as payment for debts. Pakistani women and men migrate voluntarily to Gulf states,

Iran and Greece for low skilled work as domestic servants or in the construction industry as a result of fraudulent job offers made and high fees charged during recruitment, however, some find themselves in conditions of involuntary servitude or debt bondage once abroad, including restrictions on movement, non payment of wages, threats of physical or sexual abuse.

Last year, one of the shocking news about human trafficking came from Hazar Ganji, Quetta, Balochistan. A driver of a container, upon encounter with law-enforcing agencies, escaped leaving behind his vehicle that contained more than 100 people (trafficked people). Sixty dead bodies were recovered from the container and many were found faint. The container was reportedly being transported from Afghanistan to Iran via Pakistan. Eyewitnesses say, most of the deceased apparently belonged to Afghanistan. They said the driver of the container when opened the container's door found the people dead inside and some unconscious due to suffocation. The incident is a reflection of the problem.

Conceptualisation and Definitions

In its dictionary meaning, the concept of trafficking denotes a trade in something that should not be traded in. Thus, we have terms like drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. It is appropriate to clarify the terms 'slavery' and 'human trafficking' at the first instance, because there is an inescapable overlap between the terms "slavery" and

"human trafficking,"¹³ although the technical definitions are a bit different. For purpose of this article the terms will be used interchangeably, because all trafficked people live in slavery-like conditions. The international Slavery Convention of 1927 signed by the League of Nations and carried on by the United Nations, defines that "Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised".

The concept of trafficking in people refers to the criminal practice of exploitation of human beings where they are treated as commodities for profit and after being trafficked, are subjected to long term exploitation.

For the purpose of this paper, the working definition of trafficking which as stated in the U.N. Protocol (2003)¹⁴ to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2000,¹⁵ to which Pakistan is a signatory is adopted. It defines trafficking in (article 3 (a)) as:

"..the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or service, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

The definition of trafficking consists of three core elements, the action of trafficking, the means and the purpose. If all the elements of human trafficking are present, the fact that an adult initially consented is irrelevant. It is also considered trafficking if the victim had no real or acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse. If the victim is a child, it is considered trafficking even if there is no threat or use of force. Trafficking need not be across borders; it can occur within the borders of a single country.

In the light of the definition of these exploitative situations vulnerability refers to that section of a population, in a socio-economic context of severe deprivation, which is at risk because of its inability to cope with the pressure of life and living. It acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved."¹⁶ The term "forced or compulsory labour shall mean all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily."¹⁷

Besides this, it is also imperative to churn out key differences between the crimes of 'human trafficking' and 'human smuggling'. The Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants¹⁸ also helps to draw a distinction between trafficking and smuggling, although commentators have pointed out the continued difficulty of measuring trafficking given the range of actions and outcomes covered by the term. But usually smuggling occurs when someone is paid to assist another in the illegal crossing of borders. This relationship typically ends after the border has been crossed and the individual has paid the smuggler a fee for assistance. If the smuggler sells or 'brokers' the smuggled individual into a condition of servitude or if the smuggled individual cannot pay the smuggler and is then forced to work that debt off, the crime has now turned from smuggling into human trafficking. The key distinction between trafficking and smuggling lies in the individual's freedom of choice.

A person may choose and arrange to be smuggled into a country, but when a person is forced into a situation of exploitation they are then victims of human trafficking. Central to the distinction is the denial of the victim's liberty. Smuggling in the migration context is defined as "the facilitation of illegal border crossing, often (but not necessarily) for financial gain." Smuggling, in contrast with trafficking, "does not require an element of exploitation or violation of human rights."¹⁹ Both are however deemed illegal and connected with organised crime or other types of crime as well.

Trafficking and Smuggling: Similarities and Differences

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Trafficking | | Smuggling |
| Legal, Illegal or no Border | | Illegal Border Crossing |
| Crossing | | Illegal (false or stolen) Documents |
| Legal or Illegal Documents | | Voluntary |
| Documents Taken | Profitable Business | Commodity: |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Coercion and Repeated | Involving Human | a Service |
| Exploitation | Beings Criminal | Movement |
| | Restricted Movement, | Crime |
| | | Against the State |
| | | Networks |
| | | Control |
| | | Commodity and Individual |

Source: International Organization of Migration (IOM)

It is also important to establish what a human rights issue is and which a migration one is. Migration and human trafficking, though separate and distinct processes, are connected. It is also important to note that though the boundaries between volunteer/non-volunteer migrations are becoming blurred, migration per se is not a crime. The pressing need for work and life opportunities has turned migration into a common livelihood strategy, creating a fertile field for traffickers and unscrupulous 'employment agents'.

Criminalization of Trafficking in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, the constitution, a Supreme Court decision, and an act of Parliament all serve to outlaw bonded labor. The Constitution of 1973 lists a number of fundamental rights ostensibly guaranteed to all Pakistani citizens. The constitution states that all laws which are inconsistent with, or in derogation of, these fundamental rights are void. Slavery and forced labor are addressed in article 11 of the constitution:

- "(1) Slavery is nonexistent and forbidden and no law shall permit or facilitate its introduction into Pakistan in any form.
 (2) All forms of forced labour and traffic in human beings are prohibited."

One of the country's major problems is the smuggling of Pakistani children to Gulf countries for camel racing. Law enforcement agencies and the immigration department feel that increasingly high profits and lessening fear of harsh punishment have bolstered syndicates of human traffickers across Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The Zina Hudood Ordinance (1979) criminalises Zina (extra-marital sex, including adultery or fornication), Zina-bil-jabr (rape outside of a valid marriage), and selling, hiring, buying or disposal of any person for the purpose of prostitution (Section 13, 14). The punishment for these acts is life imprisonment. The Foreigners Act of 1949 and Foreigners Order of 1951 does not permit foreigners to enter Pakistan except from designated areas and in a specified manner. New laws relating to illegal immigrants (1996) lay down a jail term of up to 10 years for unauthorized entry into the country.

The Employment of Children Act lowered the minimum age for employment from 15 to 14 in mining, factories, shops and other commercial and industrial establishments. The Child Labour Act, 1991 allows children to be employed in 'hazardous' occupations if they are carried out with the help of family members or in a government-recognised formal school. The Prevention and control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 (hereinafter PACHTO) has been promulgated to deal with all types of human trafficking. It is a comprehensive legislation and the first of its kind in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region. The PACHTO defines human trafficking to services, etc. This ordinance takes into consideration even mental injury of a person as an act of exploitation and provides for harsher sentences for serious violations. It also takes into consideration the organised nature of the crime and casts a vicarious liability on each member of the group by providing stringent punishment.

The ordinance also includes provisions for compensation to the victims. Under Pakistani law, the level of proof for 'Zina' (extra-marital sex) and 'Zina-bil-jabr' (rape outside of a valid marriage), which is liable to 'hadd', requires either a confession or at least four Muslim male witnesses. If this high evidentiary requirement cannot be satisfied, then the crime of Zina or Zina-jal-jabr is liable to tazir, which does not require four Muslim male witnesses. If unable to prove rape, the court takes the rape victim's statement as a confession of adultery, which results in the punishment of the rape victim. Under the Child Labour Act, 1991, children may be employed in hazardous places if the work is carried out with the help of female family members or any schools recognised by the government. This leaves ample scope for violations of the human rights of such children (Hadd and tazir are Islamic punishments).

Analysis of PACHTO

Pakistan's principled legislative response to trafficking in persons is PACHTO, which is a comprehensive legislation the first of its kind in the SAARC region, which mostly covers all possible forms of Human Trafficking into or out of Pakistan, especially women and children, with respect to the modes and objectives. One of the country's major problems is the smuggling of Pakistani children to Gulf countries for camel racing. Law enforcement agencies and the immigration

department feel that increasingly high profits and lessening fear of harsh punishment have bolstered syndicates of human traffickers across Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Under the PACHTO, trafficking is defined as kidnapping, abducting, using coercion, or giving or receiving any payment or benefit for a person's transport into or out of Pakistan, to buy, sell, recruit, detain, harbour, obtain, secure, or receive a person, with or without their consent. The law punishes planning or executing a plan of trafficking to attain any benefit for purposes of exploitative entertainment, among other things. Exploitative entertainment includes sexual practices or sex. Planning to commit a trafficking offence, but not doing so, is punishable with up to five years in prison and a fine; planning or executing a plan of trafficking into or out of Pakistan may be punished by up to seven years in prison and a fine; and if the trafficking offence includes kidnapping, abduction or attempting to kidnap or abduct, punishment may be up to 10 years in prison and a fine.

The PACHTO also prohibits buying, selling, harbouring, transporting, providing, detaining, or obtaining a child or woman by coercion, kidnapping, abduction or by giving or receiving any benefit for trafficking the child or woman into or out of Pakistan, for purposes of exploitative entertainment. Punishment may be up to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine or up to 14 years' imprisonment and a fine if kidnapping or abduction took place. The law further punishes: altering documents to facilitate an offence; preventing or restricting a person's liberty to move or travel; organized criminal activity in connection with trafficking, and repeated violations. This statute also provides some assistance to child victims, such as medical care and shelter.

However, the legislation suffers from certain limitations. There is no specific attention to child trafficking as distinct from others. The role of NGOs has neither been identified nor assigned. Legislation is focused on trans-border trafficking and not on domestic/internal trafficking. Its jurisdiction is only extended to Federal Investigating Agency (FIA).

The Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) criminalizes kidnapping, abduction, or inducing a woman to compel her to marriage; to procure a minor girl under 18 (Sec 359-366); or to import a girl under the age of 21 from abroad with the intent that she may be or knowing that it be likely that she will be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person (Section 366) with a punishment of up to 10 years imprisonment. But this law doesn't cover boys, thus leaving them unprotected.

Kidnapping a child under 10 years is punishable with death under the Penal Code. Section 370

criminalizes buying or disposing of any person as slaves or dealing in slaves, selling minor for purposes of prostitution, etc. (Sec. 372), buying minor for purposes of prostitution, etc. (Sec. 373), unlawful compulsory labour (Sec. 374). What is unfortunate is that the legal framework is in place, but it is not implemented in letter and spirit.

The Constitution of Pakistan provides for security, safeguards to arrest and detention, and prohibits slavery and forced labour as fundamental rights. Despite these legal provisions, most trafficking cases are tried under the Passport Act, which imposes very low fines. There is lack of harmony between the PACHTO and PPC provisions. For instance, the offences of PACHTO does not establish any correlation with the relevant provisions of the PPC, but authorizes the First Class Magistrate to pass sentences only up to three years, PACHTO empowers them to pass higher sentences. So whilst trying these cases the First Class Magistrate will never pass a sentence that is more than three years.²¹

Pakistan's Response to the Problem

Pakistan has responded to the challenge of human trafficking by envisaging a strategy of prosecution, protection and prevention. The government formed a National Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Trafficking headed by the Minister for Interior, for policy making. It has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Illegal Immigration headed by Secretary Interior to oversee implementation of the PACHTO. In 2005 a National Plan of Action (NPA) to combat human trafficking was drawn up by the government of Pakistan. Besides combating trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking are also given priority under NPA. Under the NPA, legal and law-enforcement systems are activated to strengthen the implementation of the PACHTO. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is designated as the lead organization in combating the human trafficking problem in Pakistan.

It has setup an Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) within the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for country wide operations. Besides this an Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) consisting of all the Law Enforcement Agencies has been operationalized which includes FIA, Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan, Balochistan Levies, Coast Guards, Maritime Security Agency, and Police, with the task to intercept people being trafficked and to apprehend human traffickers at points of origin. Anti trafficking units have also been established in the provincial police departments. The government launched the National Plan of Action in 2005.

It established the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for helping authorities in detecting document frauds, established the National Alien Registration Authority (NARA), introduced Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCES) put in place at nine ports to prevent document forgeries and frauds, introduced computerized National Identity Card (NIC) and Machine Readable Passports (MRP) and created a database of people coming in and out of the country. The above mentioned steps brought the following results (Table I):

| Inter-Agency Task Force (Iatf) Interceptions | | | |
|--|------|-------|------|
| Interceptions by | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| FIA | 717 | 4534 | 5041 |
| Frontier Corps | 1896 | 4533 | 936 |
| Coast Guards | 974 | 1560 | 1665 |
| Balochistan Levies/Police | 38 | 21 | 53 |
| Security Agency | 10 | 55 | 14 |
| Total | 3635 | 10703 | 7709 |

Source: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ministry of Interior, Islamabad, Pakistan

Table I shows that interceptions by the inter agency task force marked an improvement from 56 interceptions in 2005 to 10,703 in 2007, to 7,709 in 2008, and to 5,742 till November 2009 (majority Afghan nationals). The arrests of human traffickers rose from 300 in 2005 to 1526 in 2008 and 1560 till Nov 2009. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Interior informed the Senate that "a total of 313,153 Pakistani nationals were deported by various countries from January 1999 to October 2008 (BBC 2009). This comes to an average of 31,846 deportees per annum or 2,654 deportees per month. The overwhelming majority of these deportees were said to be illegal migrants entering another country illegally or staying there without due authorisation."²² Out of these deportees' 57% belonged to the Punjab and 31% to Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa (KPK).

Conclusion

'The Government of Pakistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these significant overall efforts, including the prosecution of some trafficking offences and the launch of public awareness programming, the government did not show evidence of progress in addressing the serious issues of bonded labour, forced child labour, and the trafficking of migrant workers by fraudulent labour recruiters; therefore, Pakistan is placed on Tier 2 Watch List. Convictions of trafficking offenders decreased during the reporting period. The government continued to punish victims of sex trafficking and did not provide protection services for victims of forced labour, including bonded labour.

'²³ Pakistan was previously placed at Tier 2, a rating which means Pakistan is doing **enough** to combat the human trafficking problem, but its relegation to Tier 2 **Watch list** is attributable for not **doing** enough or **not complying** with the minimum benchmarks.

The essential attributes of trafficking, which presuppose the very existence of vulnerable situations of inequality and injustice, coupled with the exploitation of these vulnerable circumstances by the traffickers and others, causing untold harm to the trafficked victim with a multiplicity of rights violations, provide a status of uniqueness to trafficking. Therefore, policies, programmes and strategies that address prevention of trafficking have to be unique, with focus and orientation to all these issues. Accordingly, prevention of trafficking needs to be addressed not only in relation to the source areas, but also the demand areas, the transit points and the trafficking routes. The best method of preventing trafficking is by integrating it with prosecution and protection.

Prosecution includes several tasks like the identification of the traffickers, bringing them to book, confiscating the illegal assets created out of trafficking, making the traffickers compensate for the damages and ensuring that they do not cause any further harm. Protection to the trafficked victim includes all steps in the redressal of the grievances and violations, which may be tangible or intangible, that would help the victim to survive, rehabilitate and establish herself/himself. Thus, prosecution and protection contribute to prevention. However, considering the fact that prosecution and protection are the issues that come up only after trafficking has taken place, prevention of trafficking remains the bottom line. Prevention strategies for the source areas can be identified only after understanding the vulnerability situations.

Recommendations

In order to address the issue of human trafficking in all its aspects, we recommend that:

- . Ambiguities regarding different laws like PPC, PACHTO etc addressing the issue shall be clarified;
- . FIA alone can not prevent this crime so police should also be nominated in Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002;
- . Strengthening and enhancing the capacity of the police officials on the issue to properly investigate and book cases under Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) relevant sections;
- . In the Emigration Ordinance, 1979 there is a provision of Special Court for the trial of the offences thereunder. It would be in the fitness of things if the offences under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002 are also made triable by these courts;
- . Strict implementation of present set of laws dealing with illegal migration and a,emd,emt to PACHTO to address internal trafficking;
- . Awareness raising and community involvement at the grass roots level;
- . Establishment of rehabilitation centres for victims of trafficking;
- . Effective measures to curb bonded labour to improve Pakistan's ranking in TIPreport;
- . Proper and transparent nikah (marriage) and birth registration;

Pakistan has ratified most of the core international human rights instruments which impose international obligations of state responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil. Human rights law and its enforcement mechanisms are critically important when it comes to ensuring that national responses to trafficking do not violate established rights or circumvent the obligations that states owe to all persons. Ultimately, however, trafficking and its associated harms are multi-dimensional problems that do not, in the end, belong to one discipline or one branch of law. Combating contemporary exploitation may not be possible but any serious attempt will require a full arsenal of modern, smart weapons, not just one precious but blunted sword.

End Notes

1. World Vision is an international NGO combating human trafficking.
2. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)
3. Estimates of victims vary widely according to the definitions used by the institutions carrying out the research and also due to the clandestine nature of the phenomenon.
 - . 12.3 million victims of forced labour are estimated in the world today, of whom some 2.45 million are trafficked according to ILO. Of these, most are trafficked into forced labour for commercial sexual exploitation, while one third are trafficked for other economic exploitation. Over half of the persons subject to forced economic exploitation, and almost all those subject to forced commercial sexual exploitation, are women.
 - . 700,000 to two million are trafficked across international borders annually, an estimate advanced by the United Nations Population Fund.
 - . The US Department of State has estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls.
 - . UNICEF reports that across the world, there are over one million children entering the sex trade every year and that approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years.
4. International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)
5. UNICEF, *UK Child Trafficking Information Sheet* (January 2003).
6. Based on data from selected European countries. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, *Stolen smiles: a summary report on the physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe* (London, 2006), (based on data from selected European countries).
7. Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

8. International Labour Organization, Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet (2007)

9. Ibid

10. The term "traffickers", where it appears, is used to refer to: recruiters; transporters; those who exercise control over trafficked persons; those who transfer and/or maintain trafficked persons in exploitative situations; those involved in related crimes; and those who profit either directly or indirectly from trafficking, its component acts and related offences.

11. Van Liempt, I. (2006). Trafficking in Human Beings: Conceptual Dilemmas. in C. van den Anker and J. Doornik (eds.) Trafficking and Women's Rights, London: Palgrave Macmillan: pp.27-42

12. U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Report, (TIP) REPORT, 2008.

13. International Organization for Migration (IOM) defined trafficking as "the illicit engagement (through recruitment, kidnapping, or other means) and movement of a person within or across international borders, during which process the trafficker(s) obtains economic or other profit by means of deception, coercion and/or other forms of exploitation under conditions that violate fundamental human rights."

14. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Nov. 15, 2000, S. TREATY DOC. NO. 108-16 (2004), 2237 U.N.T.S. 319 [hereinafter Palermo Protocol].

15. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, United Nations A/RES/55/25, General Assembly, 8 January 2000, entered into force 25 December 2003.

16. Jordan, Ann D. 2002. 'Human rights or wrong? The struggle for a rights-based response to trafficking in human beings', Gender and Development, Volume 10 Number 1: 28-37.

17. Ibid page .9

18. UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime, 2001.

19. Also: Smuggling is the service provided by intermediaries who organise illegal crossing of international borders. See Glossary in van Krieken, P. J. (ed.), 2001.

20. The Hudood Ordinances, implemented in 1980 during the regime of Zia ul-Haq, prescribe punishments for adultery and rape. Most importantly, the ordinances implemented evidentiary requirements that make it difficult for perpetrators to be convicted for rape. In order to convict a man of rape, four male Muslim witnesses must testify against the defendant. Judges also require physical evidence of rape, such as torn clothes, bruises, and cuts, in order to prove that the woman resisted advances. If the woman is thought to have accepted the forced intercourse passively, she can be charged and convicted for adultery. In numerous such cases women are convicted of consenting to an act of adultery due to their "loose" character or for offering no resistance. These laws account for much of the increase in the women's prison population since the early 1980s and are one of the major reasons women are jailed or detained and their complaints of police misconduct go unanswered.

21. Azam, Farooq, (2009), Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling and Illegal Migration to and from Pakistan. P.31.

22. Ibid p.14.

23. U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Report, (TIP) REPORT, 2009.

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3 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Contra Costa Times (California)

December 22, 2010 Wednesday

Oakland sues to close three hotels, claiming prostitution occurs on their property

BYLINE: By Sean Maher Oakland Tribune

SECTION: BREAKING; My Town; Alameda; News; Local

LENGTH: 793 words

OAKLAND -- A significant problem with human trafficking has led the city to sue three hotels police say are hot spots for prostitution, City Attorney John Russo said Wednesday.

The public nuisance suits, filed Tuesday, will ask the court to close each hotel for a year and fine each one \$25,000, though Russo said he'd prefer to have the hotel operators solve the problem by doing a better job keeping prostitution off the premises.

Of the three, according to the lawsuits, the human trafficking issue is worst at the Economy Inn at 122 E. 12th St., near the southern shore of Lake Merritt. The suit Russo filed cites numerous recent arrests there for rape and kidnapping, often with underage girls as the victims and often related to prostitution, according to police.

Several men working at the hotel Wednesday declined to give their names or comment. Refusing to give his name, one man said, "We have no knowledge of what's going on."

The other hotels -- the Sage Motel at 4844 MacArthur Blvd., near Mills College, and the National Lodge at 1711 International Blvd. at the corner of 17th Avenue -- have not had the same problem with violence or kidnapping, according to the court documents, but have seen multiple recent arrests for prostitution, including incidents with underage girls, the lawsuits claim.

"These hotels operate as houses of prostitution more or less openly," Russo said. "Not even the most basic steps are taken to prevent it, and if you look at each one, it's almost as if they've been designed to be no-tell motels."

The hotel operators have not necessarily committed a crime, Russo said, but are culpable for facilitating the crimes that occur on their property. Neither Russo, police spokesperson Officer Holly Joshi nor Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, who collaborated in the suits, said they could remember the owners encountering serious legal trouble before now.

"Oakland has unfortunately gotten a lot of attention as a place where trafficking is a big problem," O'Malley said, calling on local businesses to either join the struggle against trafficking or face the scrutiny of the law if they facilitate the problem.

A relief manager at the Sage Motel declined to comment, but a manager at the National Lodge said he's struggled to combat the misuse of his hotel without much success, and his requests for help haven't gone anywhere.

"I say no to 10 to 15 people every day because I'm scared they're using the room for that," said John Patel, who said his father owns the National Lodge. The hotel is equipped with multiple security cameras and several signs warning away solicitors, and Patel said he scans the ID or drivers license of everyone who rents a room, to little avail.

"A lot of prostitutes are not the ones who rent the room," Patel said. "A man rents the room and in the morning the girl drops off the key. I say, 'I didn't rent that room to you,' and she says, 'I stayed with the man.'"

Further, Patel said, when he calls 911, "they say it's not a big problem," and police either don't respond at all or are slow to arrive.

Joshi, who worked for years in the department's **human trafficking** task force, said calls reporting prostitution are second-tier priority, coming after more urgent crimes like robbery, assault, or a break-in in which the victim is at home.

However, if a caller reports that a minor may be involved in the prostitution, that bumps the priority of the call to the upper tier, Joshi added.

The problem certainly isn't limited to the three named hotels, officials agreed, as prostitution is a huge problem all along "The Track," which runs along International Boulevard from 1st Avenue to the San Leandro border. The stretches with the worst child prostitution problem run roughly from 1st to 18th avenues and from High Street to about 54th Avenue.

Russo said the three hotels have been targeted specifically simply because they are the ones where the evidence is strong enough for a win in court.

Patel said he's exasperated by the problem and feels unfairly targeted by police. He also said he doesn't know what else to do.

Joshi and Russo both said the hotel operators can do a number of simple things to tackle the problem, including requiring official ID from guests and installing gates to close off the hotel parking lots to the public. All three hotels already require ID, and parking lots in all three are open and accessible from the street. However, Russo said, "There's not a check list of items that will get these guys off the hook. We're interested in results, not input."

No court date has been scheduled in any of the suits, but Russo will be considering asking for temporary restraining orders to be issued quickly, a spokesman said.

Contact Sean Maher at 510-208-6430.Infobox 1

LOAD-DATE: December 24, 2010

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GRAPHIC: An Oakland Police patrol vehicle drives past National Lodge at the intersection of International Boulevard and 17th Avenue in Oakland Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010. Oakland City Attorney John Russo announced lawsuits against the owners of National Lodge, Economy Inn and Sage Motel because they have allowed its use as centers for prostitution. (Ray Chavez/Staff)

View of Economy Inn at 122 East 12th Street in Oakland Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010. Oakland City Attorney John Russo announced lawsuits against the owners of National Lodge, Economy Inn and Sage Motel who city officials say have allowed their use as centers for prostitution. (Ray Chavez/Staff)

The Economy Inn at 122 East 12th Street in Oakland Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010. Oakland City Attorney John Russo announced lawsuits against the owners of National Lodge, Economy Inn and Sage Motel because city officials say they have allowed their use as centers for prostitution. (Ray Chavez/Staff)

An Oakland Police patrol vehicle drives past National Lodge at the intersection of International Boulevard and 17th Avenue in Oakland Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010. Oakland City Attorney John Russo announced lawsuits against the owners of National Lodge, Economy Inn and Sage Motel because who city officials say have allowed their use as centers for prostitution. (Ray Chavez/Staff)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

4 of 404 DOCUMENTS

San Jose Mercury News (California)

December 22, 2010 Wednesday

Oakland sues to close three hotels, claiming prostitution occurs on their property

BYLINE: By Sean Maher Oakland Tribune**SECTION:** BREAKING; News**LENGTH:** 793 words

OAKLAND -- A significant problem with human trafficking has led the city to sue three hotels police say are hot spots for prostitution, City Attorney John Russo said Wednesday.

The public nuisance suits, filed Tuesday, will ask the court to close each hotel for a year and fine each one \$25,000, though Russo said he'd prefer to have the hotel operators solve the problem by doing a better job keeping prostitution off the premises.

Of the three, according to the lawsuits, the human trafficking issue is worst at the Economy Inn at 122 E. 12th St., near the southern shore of Lake Merritt. The suit Russo filed cites numerous recent arrests there for rape and kidnapping, often with underage girls as the victims and often related to prostitution, according to police.

Several men working at the hotel Wednesday declined to give their names or comment. Refusing to give his name, one man said, "We have no knowledge of what's going on."

The other hotels -- the Sage Motel at 4844 MacArthur Blvd., near Mills College, and the National Lodge at 1711 International Blvd. at the corner of 17th Avenue -- have not had the same problem with violence or kidnapping, according to the court documents, but have seen multiple recent arrests for prostitution, including incidents with underage girls, the lawsuits claim.

"These hotels operate as houses of prostitution more or less openly," Russo said. "Not even the most basic steps are taken to prevent it, and if you look at each one, it's almost as if they've been designed to be no-tell motels."

The hotel operators have not necessarily committed a crime, Russo said, but are culpable for facilitating the crimes that occur on their property. Neither Russo, police spokesperson Officer Holly Joshi nor Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, who collaborated in the suits, said they could remember the owners encountering serious legal trouble before now.

"Oakland has unfortunately gotten a lot of attention as a place where trafficking is a big problem," O'Malley said, calling on local businesses to either join the struggle against trafficking or face the scrutiny of the law if they facilitate the problem.

A relief manager at the Sage Motel declined to comment, but a manager at the National Lodge said he's struggled to combat the misuse of his hotel without much success, and his requests for help haven't gone anywhere.

"I say no to 10 to 15 people every day because I'm scared they're using the room for that," said John Patel, who said his father owns the National Lodge. The hotel is equipped with multiple security cameras and several signs warning away solicitors, and Patel said he scans the ID or drivers license of everyone who rents a room, to little avail.

"A lot of prostitutes are not the ones who rent the room," Patel said. "A man rents the room and in the morning the girl drops off the key. I say, 'I didn't rent that room to you,' and she says, 'I stayed with the man.'"

Further, Patel said, when he calls 911, "they say it's not a big problem," and police either don't respond at all or are slow to arrive.

Joshi, who worked for years in the department's **human trafficking** task force, said calls reporting prostitution are second-**tier** priority, coming after more urgent crimes like robbery, assault, or a break-in in which the victim is at home.

However, if a caller reports that a minor may be involved in the prostitution, that bumps the priority of the call to the upper tier, Joshi added.

The problem certainly isn't limited to the three named hotels, officials agreed, as prostitution is a huge problem all along "The Track," which runs along International Boulevard from 1st Avenue to the San Leandro border. The stretches with the worst child prostitution problem run roughly from 1st to 18th avenues and from High Street to about 54th Avenue.

Russo said the three hotels have been targeted specifically simply because they are the ones where the evidence is strong enough for a win in court.

Patel said he's exasperated by the problem and feels unfairly targeted by police. He also said he doesn't know what else to do.

Joshi and Russo both said the hotel operators can do a number of simple things to tackle the problem, including requiring official ID from guests and installing gates to close off the hotel parking lots to the public. All three hotels already require ID, and parking lots in all three are open and accessible from the street. However, Russo said, "There's not a check list of items that will get these guys off the hook. We're interested in results, not input."

No court date has been scheduled in any of the suits, but Russo will be considering asking for temporary restraining orders to be issued quickly, a spokesman said.

Contact Sean Maher at 510-208-6430.

Infobox1

LOAD-DATE: December 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC:

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

5 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

December 10, 2010 Friday

Nigeria; Child Witchcraft - Stakeholders Forum Convened

BYLINE: Vanguard (Lagos)**LENGTH:** 824 words

Following widespread reports of child abuse over allegations of witchcraft across the country, stakeholders yesterday converged on Abuja to fashion out ways of stemming the negative trend.

National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other related Matters, NAPTIP, which convened the forum, said it was not only determined to put an end to the uncanny phenomenon but also to provide succor to the victims.

Only two weeks ago, Vanguard reported the acid bath of Comfort Sunday, a JSS 2 student of Government Secondary School, Akwanga, Nasarawa State, by her own father for allegedly causing socio-economic backwardness in the family through witchcraft.

NAPTIP, which yesterday expressed worry over the growing incidence of stigmatization of children tagged witches in Nasarawa, Kaduna and Akwa Ibom states, warned that it would not hesitate to prosecute any parent found to have in any way abused or victimized his child over such unfounded allegation.

According to the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Simon C. Egede, "the agency has been greatly worried about this growing incidence of stigmatization of children as witches, especially in Nasarawa, Kaduna and Akwa Ibom states. When we visited the three states, we saw some of these children, some have been brutalized, some of them have been disowned by their parents, some of them are sleeping on the streets, exposed to all kinds of environmental hazards and different street dangers.

The Child Rights Act

"The Child Rights Act prohibits this kind of treatment to children. As for the father who poured acid on the daughter and totally incapacitated her face, the police are on the case and we will ensure that he is prosecuted accordingly.

"Even though we are championing the criminal aspect of putting an end to the trend, we are, however, more concerned about prevention of more of such acts. This is what informed our decision to go to these three badly affected states to hold series of meetings, consultations and enlightenment campaigns with all the relevant stakeholders.

Tasks traditional rulers and religious leaders

"We specifically tasked both traditional rulers and religious leaders to help in sensitizing their members on the need to desist from such inhuman acts of barbarism against innocent children who are nothing but sweet gifts from God. If they are leaders of tomorrow, victimizing them in such manner is tantamount to jeopardizing the future of this nation.

"We are having serious discussions with the government officials in these states on the need to cur this child witchcraft stigmatization."

With the support of UNODC, governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, we are going to put an end to it."

On the issue of human trafficking in Nigeria, the NAPTIP boss further maintained that, "There is no doubt that many Nigerian girls have been illegally smuggled out of this country to abroad for prostitution, we have intensified our efforts in this area especially as it concerns Italy, we are using this medium to urge the National Assembly to make haste and

pass the NAPTIP bill into law as this will further strengthen our efforts towards abating this situation which has continued to bring disrepute to the good image of this great country.

"We are in discussions with the German police, with the Netherlands police and with the Swedish police in furtherance of our efforts to work together to share experiences, intelligence and to cooperate in the area of investigation of not just the issue of human trafficking but on other organized crimes associated with it.

"In view of this, we have entered an MOU with the Italian mafia police intelligentsia, as well as partnering with SMEDAN to sensitize mothers against giving out their children in ways that could best be described as modern day slavery.

"As an agency, I want to state that NAPTIP will never be tired of identifying measures, developing programmes, initiating actions and executing them to combat TIP.

We are resilient and determined to collectively constitute a strong barricade to human trafficking in Nigeria and beyond

"As part of the Agency's efforts to build capacity of officers for optimal performance, NAPTIP, with the support from the UNODC under the project NGA/S84: capacity building for implementation of the national action plan against human trafficking, carried out the training of 40 NAPTIP officers on 'modern techniques in public information dissemination. In the same vein, another batch of 50 officers were trained on 'stress and trauma management for victims of human trafficking.

"It is not surprising therefore that the US department of state, in its 2010 Annual TIP report, decided to sustain Nigeria in the **Tier 1** status in global rating on TIP which translates to full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

"We must however remember that it is not yet uhuru until the battle is finally and decisively won", he added.

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

6 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

December 10, 2010 Friday

S'pore, Viet police in contact over vice case; Only two confirmed trafficking cases last year, says MHA

BYLINE: Teh Joo Lin**LENGTH:** 514 words

THE police have contacted their Vietnamese counterparts about the case involving four members of a trafficking ring who were jailed in Vietnam this week for selling 10 women to a brothel here.

A Home Affairs Ministry (MHA) spokesman told The Straits Times that the police have always been working closely with their counterparts in the region to combat transnational crime, including suspected cases of human trafficking.

Of the 32 cases of human trafficking reported last year, only two were confirmed as trafficking cases and prosecuted, the spokesman pointed out.

In the other cases, prosecution did not take place as the women 'knew they were coming to Singapore for the purposes of prostitution and were not coerced or forced'.

In some instances, the police could not pursue the case due to a lack of substantiating evidence, for example, when the alleged victims could not be located.

In the latest case, a court in southern Vietnam's Tay Ninh province heard that a pair of 19-year-old Vietnamese twin sisters tricked into becoming prostitutes in Singapore started luring others into vice.

The women were tricked with promises of jobs in restaurants, only to be sold for US \$50 (S \$66) each.

The Vietnamese court sentenced the sisters and two others, including the 46-year-old ringleader, to jail terms ranging from three to eight years.

The MHA spokesman said that when sex trafficking cases are reported or prostitutes arrested, police will interview the women to see if they were brought here against their will or tricked into coming.

'The police are mindful that a woman in the vice trade may have been trafficked...any allegations of trafficking in persons made during such interviews will be investigated,' said the spokesman.

In cases with 'clear evidence' of trafficking, the women will not be prosecuted, but will serve as prosecution witnesses. They will also be protected from further harm and given safe passage home when the case is concluded.

Last year, police received 32 reported cases involving 40 possible victims, but only two were confirmed as trafficking cases. They involved seven victims, including a girl below 18. The perpetrators were successfully prosecuted in court.

Last year, the police conducted more than 2,600 vice raids and made 7,614 arrests of foreign women suspected of involvement in vice-related activities - up from 5,047 arrests in 2008.

Sixty-three people were arrested last year on suspicion of pimping or abetting prostitution, said the MHA spokesman.

Earlier this year, the United States State Department, in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report, accused Singapore of not doing enough to curb sex and labour trafficking. It also placed the Republic on a **human trafficking watchlist** for the first time, alongside countries such as Bangladesh, China and India.

But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a stern rebuttal, calling the report 'puzzling' because the US had not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions. It also stressed that the Singapore Government is committed to tackling the trafficking issue.

joolin@sph.com.sg

LOAD-DATE: December 9, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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7 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Vanguard (Lagos)

December 10, 2010 Friday

Child Witchcraft - Stakeholders Forum Convened

BYLINE: Ikechukwu Nnochiri**LENGTH:** 820 words**DATELINE:** Abuja

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NAPTIP, which yesterday expressed worry over the growing incidence of stigmatization of children tagged witches in Nasarawa, Kaduna and Akwa Ibom states, warned that it would not hesitate to prosecute any parent found to have in any way abused or victimized his child over such unfounded allegation.

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"The Child Rights Act prohibits this kind of treatment to children. As for the father who poured acid on the daughter and totally incapacitated her face, the police are on the case and we will ensure that he is prosecuted accordingly.

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8 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

December 9, 2010 Thursday 3:10 AM EST

Cambodia marks anti-human trafficking day

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology**LENGTH:** 269 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH Dec. 9

Cambodia marked the national anti-human trafficking day on Thursday, calling for more serious punishment on perpetrators of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

"Rapists and human traffickers should not be punished for only five to ten years in prison," said Bun Rany Hun Sen, president of Cambodian Red Cross and honorary president of the National Committee for the Uplifting of Women's Value of Social Morals and Happiness in the Family, during the celebration on Thursday.

"They should be punished more serious than this jailed term because it is an extremely hatred act," she said.

She said that the U.S.'s 2010 **trafficking in persons** report ranked Cambodia move to better rank in the Second **Tier** of the Three **Tier**.

"It showed our strong efforts and commitment to combat against human trafficking and sexual exploitation," said Bun Rany Hun Sen. "Cambodia is committed to obtain the First Tier of the U.S. report by 2015."

Ing Kanthaphavi, minister of women's affairs, said Thursday offenders in human trafficking and sexual exploitation should be severely punished and victims shall be well protected.

She added that in the first half of 2010, under the anti-human trafficking and sexual exploitation law, 61 cases with 252 suspects have been sent to courts for punishment.

Some 259 victims and vulnerable people, of whom 117 were children, have been repatriated to Cambodia, she added.

The event was attended by 6,000 participants who are government officials, ambassadors, local and international non-governmental organizations, and the public.

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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9 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

December 9, 2010 Thursday 1:17 AM EST

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LOAD-DATE: December 11, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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10 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

December 6, 2010 Monday**TRAFFICKING FIGHT LACKS POLITICAL WILL****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 794 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, DC

The following information was released by Radio Free Asia:

Vietnam cracks down on human trafficking but critics say the government's efforts are insufficient.

RFA

Vietnam has stepped up a campaign against human trafficking, with nearly 5,000 mostly women victims identified over the last six years, but experts say political will is still lacking in the fight against the illicit trade.

Authorities said nearly 1,200 people were discovered to have been smuggled from the Southeast Asian state in "recent" months, mostly to China.

The problem remain serious despite agreements signed between Vietnam and China and other countries to combat it, according to non-governmental groups.

Christina Arnold, founder of Prevent Human Trafficking, a US non-governmental organization, said the Vietnamese government had not made enough efforts to complement actions by local social groups tackling the crisis.

"I think, in some cases, there is a lack of political motivation from the government, but the Vietnam Women's Union, indeed, has worked very well. They build shelters and develop impressive training programs," she said.

The Vietnam Women's Union is actively involved in highlighting problems of girls being trafficked from Vietnam's southern delta and highland provinces into China for prostitution, domestic work, or marriage.

Arnold felt the Vietnamese authorities should adopt a "systematic way" of implementing anti-trafficking policies.

"As far as I know, the Vietnamese people do a very good job while the government doesn't do much."

Major General Do Kim Tuyen, who is deputy head of the Department for Crime Prevention, stressed on the government steps that had been taken so far, saying the results had been encouraging.

"Implementation of our methods for fighting and preventing human trafficking has obtained positive results," he was quoted saying by the An Ninh Thu Do newspaper recently.

Action Plan

According to the government's Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Women, some 4,793 trafficking victims were identified from 2004 to 2010.

During the period, only 12 of Vietnam's 63 provinces had strategies linked to the national action plan, evidence that action against trafficking had not been given adequate attention by provincial leaders.

From 1998 to 2007, some 6,680 trafficking victims were reported.

Vietnam is primarily a source country for human trafficking, for both sexual and labor exploitation, in countries including China, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic.

According to local reports, 60 percent of the smuggled victims end up in neighboring China, with Cambodia accounting for 10 percent and Laos about six percent.

Watch List

In the U.S. State Department's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** report, which ranks countries worldwide, Vietnam was listed as a **Tier 2 Watch List** Country, a rank worse than its **Tier 2 (non-Watch List)** status in 2009.

A key reason for the downgrade is lack of efforts to fight labor exploitation.

"While trying to focus on prevention of the trading of women and children to become prostitutes, Vietnam has relatively ignored the fact that there are many men and women workers sent to work abroad who have been solicited for their labor," Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-large in the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons said.

The Vietnamese government criticized the report, saying it was not objective.

Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokeswoman said, "Vietnam considers human trafficking a crime, especially the trafficking of women and children, which are dangerous crimes.

"The crimes seriously damage their human rights and adversely affect the development of society. Therefore, Vietnam strongly acknowledges the special importance of prevention of human trafficking, and is determined to fight and seriously (address) these types of crimes. We also have policies and measures to repel and eliminate human trafficking."

NGO work

NGO's in Vietnam have led the way in combating human trafficking.

They sponsor educational campaigns on HIV/AIDS prevention, help improve activists' skills in helping victims and establish cooperation networks with each other and the government. However, they do not receive much support from local governments.

On Prevent Human Trafficking's experience in Vietnam, Arnold said, "We have never received any subsidies from the government. They are not open to working with us."

Vietnam is considering tightening human trafficking laws but critics say the effort lacks clarity and does not protect or support victims.

The National Assembly of Vietnam recently held a debate on a draft law to prevent and fight trafficking.

Reported by Khanh An for RFA's Vietnamese Service. Written in English by Rachel Vandenbrink.

LOAD-DATE: December 7, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

11 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

November 25, 2010 Thursday

Battling sea-mediated human trafficking

LENGTH: 1090 words

In Malaysia, open borders were the norm during late 19th and early 20th century leading to an influx of ethnic Indians and Chinese, but that has changed significantly in post-colonial Malaysia. The government's choice however, cannot be between closing the doors to a foreign labor force and completely doing away with border controls.

The first option will deprive the labor-intensive and labor-dependent economic sectors of workers and given the reality of non-traditional security threats the second option of opening up the borders will be tantamount to inviting transnational criminals to operate with impunity.

Border control is an element of national sovereignty and when we lose control of significant parts of this through ineffective controls, transnational human trafficking syndicates will exploit the situation to engage in the lucrative illicit trade in human flesh.

Trafficking in persons is estimated to generate \$32 billion yearly, perpetuated mainly by the fact the risk to reward ratio is almost nil aided by natural forces of migration as well as poor socio-political and economic conditions in the country of origin and the relatively prosperous neighboring countries. Corrupt law enforcement officials worsen the situation.

The seas, as an inexpensive mode of transport, have always been a popular medium for transnational movement of people since pre-colonial times especially through the Straits of Malacca, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and the South China Sea. However, the long, porous and less monitored coastlines of Malaysia has led to easy and inconspicuous access for a thriving trade in modern day slavery by human trafficking groups.

Malaysia is a littoral state with 4,675km-long coastline and the growing illegal cross-border trafficking of humans in recent years has made the government anxious especially in view of rapid economic globalization, worldwide economic crisis and increasing maritime trade and the nation's dependency on it.

There are fears that extremists could use trans-border criminals to seep through the borders as evidence have emerged that extremists groups also engage in trafficking to fund their activities.

Analyzing the trafficking problem is complicated by the difficulty of differentiating it with human smuggling. The latter relates to voluntary movements of people through illegal channels by engaging the services of smuggling syndicates; trafficking is involuntary involving significant deception, coercion and control of movement of victims.

The issue becomes even more complex when smuggled migrants are forced to work in debt bondage to pay off the smugglers which effectively defines them as trafficked individuals.

The Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Act (ATIP) was enacted in 2007 prompted by Malaysia's blacklisting in **Tier 3** in the 2007 and 2009 Annual U.S. State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report. To date 168 have been prosecuted and only 16 convicted; 1,200 victims have been rescued since 2008.

However, the government's recent amendment to the ATIP to include smuggling of people will only hamper efforts at tackling trafficking effectively. Front-line law enforcement officials may treat trafficking victims as undocumented migrants aggravated by the illicit nature and quality of the crime.

Selective restrictions in border control have led to the expansion of the fake document industry abetted by corrupt border officials. The trafficking prone areas or hotspots include the Straits of Malacca, the Sabah-Kalimantan-Philippines borders as well as the Singapore-Johor boundary and increasingly the South China Sea. Victims are mostly Indonesians, Filipinos, Cambodians, and Vietnamese with an increasing exodus from post-conflict states such as Iraq, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

Tackling the trafficking threat in Malaysia is not easy. Though coordination and collaboration of national, regional and international bodies are essential in practice, it is a complex task. Vast ocean spaces and long stretches of less governed coastlines in the Southeast Asian archipelago produce porous borders complicating monitoring and security surveillance.

As for law enforcement agencies, poor communication, duplication of efforts and conflicting mandates should not get in the way of effectual and immediate responses. Existence of deep-seated rivalries between competing government agencies, particularly when budgets and funding are at stake, should be minimized by having clear-cut boundaries related to jurisdiction. In addition, there have been allegations that law enforcement officials have been involved in facilitating trafficking by accepting bribes from traffickers.

However, all is not lost. A multi-sector approach is the key toward an effective resolution. Outmaneuvering trafficking syndicates must involve strengthening border controls through greater law enforcement policy involving aggressive maritime security surveillance and augmented patrols.

This must be accompanied by effectual anti-trafficking strategies such as victim identification and protection. Bringing ATIP back in line with U.N. definition of human trafficking is crucial. The victims should also be given temporary work permits to enlist their cooperation for the prosecution of offenders.

Effective transnational and regional collaboration should not be hampered by cultural and linguistic differences and different laws, understandings and policies related to trafficking. These issues must be addressed at the ASEAN level as well as through transnational collaboration such as the Bali Process and the Five Power Defense Arrangements.

Reforming our immigration policy is crucial to curb this undocumented migration in addition to greater Malaysia economic investment to generate employment in source countries. Traffickers target those who are already planning to migrate but due to strict immigration laws they fall victim to trafficking groups to facilitate their entry.

Thus, a regularization policy will make it easier for legal entry of unskilled labor into Malaysia to meet their economic needs. This will also satisfy demand for cheap labor in economic sectors which locals do not find lucrative. The government is losing out millions to trafficking syndicates and a better migration management will ensure revenue from the foreign workers who will cease to find the need to engage trafficking intermediaries.

Human trafficking phenomenon is governable when measures related to border security, migration and socio-economic and political factors are treated with utmost urgency and swift action.

LOAD-DATE: November 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

12 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 23, 2010 Tuesday

US envoy praises Taiwan's efforts to combat human-trafficking

LENGTH: 536 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Chris Wang]

Taipei, Nov. 22 (CNA) - A visiting anti-trafficking envoy of the United States on Monday lauded Taiwan's efforts in combating modern slavery and called for intensified prosecutions of traffickers in the future.

Taiwan's achievement could be seen in its being the only Asian country to move into Tier 1 - the highest rank - in the US

Department of State's 2010 Trafficking in Persons report, said Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, at a press roundtable.

The ambassador, in Taiwan for a five-day visit, met Premier Wu Den-yih Monday morning before attending the press briefing organized by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the US representative office in Taiwan in the absence of official diplomatic ties.

He said the authorities of Taiwan, a destination, source and transit territory for men, women and children subjected to forced prostitution and forced labour, have fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The most unique part in Taiwan's efforts is its victim protection approach over the past few years, most notably providing victims with work permits and allowing them to earn income while waiting to testify in cases against their traffickers or to be deported, CdeBaca said.

In some Asian countries, most victims were "locked up" in shelters or detention centres.

"That makes Taiwan stand very tall in the region as far as its compassion and pragmatic treatment (of trafficking victims), " he said.

He also praised Taiwan for training law enforcement and labour officials on victim identification and protection and working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

He called on Taiwanese officials, however, to "continue to intensify their prosecution efforts" and to extend labour protection to all categories of workers. He also cited victim identification as a challenge in Taiwan.

Asked if Taiwan's lack of official diplomatic ties with source countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines, could hamper its efforts, CdeBaca said that in bilateral agreements between those countries and destination countries, some labour protection provisions were built in to ensure foreign workers' rights, such as guaranteeing a minimum wage and a day off per week.

The ambassador did not believe, however, that the lack of diplomatic ties made Taiwan a favoured country for traffickers, citing instead Taiwan's "vibrant economy and vibrant opportunities." With regards to the possible impact of decriminalizing prostitution on human trafficking, he said the legalization of indoor prostitution in the US did "create a zone of impunity in which traffickers can operate and law enforcement cannot go, " and some of the concerns could also apply in Taiwan.

After being ranked as a **Tier 2** country from 2007-2009 in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, Taiwan regained **Tier 1** status this year, which it enjoyed from 2001-2004.

Taiwan was rated Tier 2 in 2005 and was put on the Tier 2-Watch List in 2006, its lowest rank in the past decade.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1511 gmt 22 Nov 10

LOAD-DATE: November 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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13 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

November 23, 2010

Rep. Loretta Sanchez, Colleagues in House and Senate Introduce Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act; Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 498 words

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, today joined Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao (R-LA), Rep. Iliana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) in introducing H.R. 6433, the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act. The same bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).

The Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act would impose sanctions on individuals who perpetrate or are complicit in human rights abuses committed against nationals of Vietnam or their family members. Individuals who warrant sanctions would be disqualified from applying for a U.S. visa or taking part in financial or property transactions in the U.S., among other penalties.

"For years, Congress has expressed concern regarding Vietnam's ongoing disregard for the basic civil and political liberties of its people," said Rep. Sanchez. "These statements have undoubtedly raised public awareness of Vietnam's egregious human rights abuses. But more must be done if we expect Vietnam to take concrete action on this issue. By making improvements in human rights a condition of continued diplomatic relations with Vietnam, I believe the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act will create positive change for the people of Vietnam."

In a prepared statement, the co-sponsors said: "It is important that the United States government publicly condemn the arrests, detentions, and acts of violence that contradict Vietnam's own commitment to internationally accepted standards of human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, Vietnam's oppression of its citizens, particularly over the last year, continues to demonstrate that public statements of concern are simply not enough and more targeted action is needed. This legislation seeks to remedy this atrocious situation. The Vietnamese government must understand that Vietnamese-American relations will not normalize until Vietnam reverses its course on its human rights record. We will continue to signal to the U.S. Administration and the government of Vietnam that we will not waiver in this pursuit."

The Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act was brought about in response to Vietnam's ongoing suppression of basic human rights. Individuals who express criticism of the Vietnamese government are subject to harassment and, potentially, detention or arrest. Lawyers, journalists, bloggers, democracy and human rights activists, independent trade union leaders, non-state-sanctioned publishers, and members of ethnic and religious minorities are frequent recipients of intimidation and abuse. Vietnam is also a significant source country for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. In 2010, the State Department downgraded Vietnam from "**Tier 2**" to "**Tier 2 Watch List**" in its 10th annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report because the country had not been effective in identifying or prosecuting human traffickers and protecting trafficking victims.

LOAD-DATE: November 24, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHMB

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14 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

November 22, 2010 Monday 11:04 PM TST

U.S. envoy lauds Taiwan's anti-trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Chris Wang**LENGTH:** 507 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Nov. 22

A visiting anti-trafficking envoy of the United States on Monday lauded Taiwan's efforts in combating modern slavery and called for intensified prosecutions of traffickers in the future.

Taiwan's achievement could be seen in its being the only Asian country to move into **Tier 1** -- the highest rank -- in the U.S. Department of State's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** report, said Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large of the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, at a press roundtable.

The ambassador, in Taiwan for a five-day visit, met Premier Wu Den-yih Monday morning before attending the press briefing organized by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the U.S. representative office in Taiwan in the absence of official diplomatic ties.

He said the authorities of Taiwan, a destination, source and transit territory for men, women and children subjected to forced prostitution and forced labor, have fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The most unique part in Taiwan's efforts is its victim protection approach over the past few years, most notably providing victims with work permits and allowing them to earn income while waiting to testify in cases against their traffickers or to be deported, CdeBaca said.

In some Asian countries, most victims were "locked up" in shelters or detention centers.

"That makes Taiwan stand very tall in the region as far as its compassion and pragmatic treatment (of trafficking victims), " he said.

He also praised Taiwan for training law enforcement and labor officials on victim identification and protection and working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

He called on Taiwanese officials, however, to "continue to intensify their prosecution efforts" and to extend labor protection to all categories of workers. He also cited victim identification as a challenge in Taiwan.

Asked if Taiwan's lack of official diplomatic ties with source countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines, could hamper its efforts, CdeBaca said that in bilateral agreements between those countries and destination countries, some labor protection provisions were built in to ensure foreign workers' rights, such as guaranteeing a minimum wage and a day off per week.

The ambassador did not believe, however, that the lack of diplomatic ties made Taiwan a favored country for traffickers, citing instead Taiwan's "vibrant economy and vibrant opportunities."

With regards to the possible impact of decriminalizing prostitution on human trafficking, he said the legalization of indoor prostitution in the U.S. did "create a zone of impunity in which traffickers can operate and law enforcement cannot go, " and some of the concerns could also apply in Taiwan.

After being ranked as a **Tier 2** country from 2007-2009 in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, Taiwan regained **Tier 1** status this year, which it enjoyed from 2001-2004.

Taiwan was rated Tier 2 in 2005 and was put on the Tier 2-Watch List in 2006, its lowest rank in the past decade.

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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15 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 21, 2010 Sunday

US anti-trafficking envoy arrives in Taiwan

LENGTH: 249 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Pien Chin-feng and Sofia Wu]

Taipei, Nov. 20 (CNA) - Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large with the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, arrived in Taiwan Saturday for a four-day visit.

He was greeted by Hsieh Li-kung, director-general of Taiwan's National Immigration Agency, upon his arrival at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport.

Hsieh said the US envoy will attend an exhibition highlighting the achievements of Taiwan's anti-human trafficking campaign over the years, to be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Sunday.

During his stay, CdeBaca will also meet with Taiwanese government officials and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to exchange views on working together to end trafficking in persons, Hsieh said.

"His visit is expected to help reinforce the Taiwan-US partnership in the fight against human trafficking," Hsieh added.

Taiwan was listed in "**Tier 1**" - the most favourable level - in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which was published by the US Department of State in June, because of Taiwan's full compliance with the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking.

CdeBaca was appointed by US President Barack Obama in May 2009 to direct the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to coordinate US government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1610 gmt 20 Nov 10

LOAD-DATE: November 21, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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16 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

November 20, 2010 Saturday 11:57 PM TST**U.S. anti-trafficking envoy arrives for visit****BYLINE:** Pien Chin-feng and Sofia Wu**LENGTH:** 218 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Nov. 20

Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large with the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, arrived in Taiwan Saturday for a four-day visit.

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LOAD-DATE: November 20, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

17 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

November 18, 2010 Thursday 1:18 PM TST**U.S. anti-trafficking envoy to visit Taiwan: AIT****BYLINE:** Chris Wang**LENGTH:** 154 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Nov. 18

Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large of the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, is scheduled to visit Taiwan Nov. 20-23, the U.S. representative office in Taiwan said in a press release Thursday.

The ambassador will meet with Taiwan government officials and local non-government organizations (NGOs) to exchange views on working together to end trafficking in persons, said the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).

Taiwan was listed in "**Tier 1**" -- the highest level -- in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which was published by the U.S. Department of State in June, because of Taiwan's full compliance with the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking.

CdeBaca was appointed by U.S. President Barack Obama in May 2009 to direct the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery.

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

18 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

November 18, 2010 Thursday 9:02 PM EST

U.S. Ambassador on Human Trafficking Issues to Visit Taiwan November 20-23

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 177 words

DATELINE: TAIPEI, Taiwan

The American Institute in Taiwan issued the following news release:

Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, is scheduled to visit Taiwan November 20-23, 2010.

During his stay in Taiwan, Ambassador CdeBaca will meet with Taiwan government officials and local non-government organizations (NGOs) to exchange views on working together to end trafficking in persons.

Ambassador CdeBaca was appointed by President Obama to direct the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State. The Office develops and implements the State Department's policy for the protection of trafficking victims, prosecution of traffickers, and prevention of trafficking.

In the 2010 **Trafficking in Person** Report, the U.S. Department of State noted that Taiwan achieved the highest ranking of "**Tier 1**" for the year because of the Taiwan authorities' full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

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LOAD-DATE: November 18, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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19 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 12, 2010 Friday

Philippines: Police says cases of human trafficking decreasing

LENGTH: 379 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star website on 12 November

[Report by Mike Frialde: "Human Trafficking Cases Decreasing -PNP"]

MANILA, Philippines -The number of human trafficking cases has significantly decreased, police said yesterday.

Data from the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Centre (WCPC) showed a 65.11 per cent decrease in the trafficking of women and an 18.92 per cent reduction in cases involving trafficked children.

The WCPC said from January to September this year, 43 cases of trafficking in women were reported, as compared to 71 cases during the same period last year.

Between January and September this year, the WCPC also handled 74 cases of trafficking in children, as compared to 88 cases for the same period last year, the WCPC added.

The WCPC attributed the decrease to inter-agency cooperation among the various law enforcement agencies and the massive information campaign to make the public aware of human trafficking.

Rosenda Ayson of the WCPC said a majority of rescued trafficked women were lured into brothels and forced to work as prostitutes.

A bulk of the cases filed against traffickers did not prosper as the victims did not want to file complaints after they were rescued, she added.

Of the cases handled by the WCPC from January to September this year, 85 per cent were filed in court, two per cent were referred to another law enforcement agency, five per cent were settled, while eight per cent remains under investigation.

Earlier, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and his brother Maximo, who represents Abante [Forward] Mindanao, warned that the country would lose up to \$250 million in aid from the United States unless it makes a serious effort to curb human trafficking.

"(The US [United States]) has an anti-**human trafficking** law that directs the State Department to monitor efforts of every country against trafficking, and from 2009 until now, we have been on the **Tier 2 watch list**," they said.

"Under that same law, if a country has been on the Tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years, they are automatically downgraded to Tier 3 in the third year unless there are significant efforts to curb human smuggling."

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 12 Nov 10

LOAD-DATE: November 12, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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20 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 11, 2010 Thursday

Philippines to lose 250m dollars in US aid due to human trafficking

LENGTH: 451 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star website on 11 November

[Report by Jess Diaz: "Phl May Lose \$250-Million Aid Over Human Trafficking"]

Manila, Philippines -Two Mindanao lawmakers warned their colleagues yesterday that the country would lose up to \$250 million in aid from the United States [US] unless it makes a serious effort to curb human trafficking.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and his brother Maximo, who represents the party-list group Abante [Forward] Mindanao, made the warning in Resolution 560, in which they asked the House to look into cases of human trafficking.

The two said the US "has an anti-**human trafficking** law that directs the State Department to monitor efforts of every country against trafficking, and from 2009 until now, we have been on the **Tier 2 watch list.**"

"Under that same law, if a country has been on the Tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years, they are automatically downgraded to Tier 3 in the third year unless there are significant efforts to curb human smuggling," they said.

They said the US can defer or withhold assistance to any country in the Tier 3 list.

They pointed out that "there are many cases of overseas Filipino workers all over the globe who are victims of human trafficking and illegal recruitment."

"The US government is concerned that the Philippines has a high number of human trafficking cases, and yet, they have not heard of a case or cases filed and won against those who had abused the victims," the Rodriguez brothers said.

They said among the funds that the US could withhold are "those meant for Mindanao."

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said human smuggling syndicates continue to victimize Filipino workers even after America had expressed its concern over human trafficking.

Just a few days ago, immigration officers stopped three Filipina tourists from boarding their plane for Singapore when they discovered that their real destination was Lebanon, where the deployment of workers is banned, he said.

He added that when brought to the airport immigration office, the alleged tourists admitted that a recruiter deployed them to work in Lebanon.

Rodriguez said shortly after President Aquino appointed Leila de Lima as his justice secretary, she ordered the relief and investigation of several immigration officers at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Angeles City for their alleged involvement in human smuggling.

He said a female officer, who was herself being linked to trafficking, spilled the beans on her colleagues.

He urged De Lima to now reveal the results of the investigation of the immigration personnel posted in Clark.

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 11 Nov 10

LOAD-DATE: November 11, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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21 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

November 10, 2010 Wednesday

SC asks for trafficking status reports

BYLINE: BY ROMMEL C. LONTAYAO REPORTER**LENGTH:** 216 words

The Supreme Court (SC) has ordered judges of lower courts handling human-trafficking cases to submit before this month ends a report on the status of such cases.

Judges are required to submit to the Office of the Court Administrator's Statistical Reports Division a list of cases involving violation of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 and the current status of the cases.

Court Administrator and spokesman Jose Midas Marquez on Tuesday said that the order aims to ensure speedy disposition of human-trafficking cases in the trial courts.

"Where practicable and unless special circumstances require otherwise, cases involving violation of [Republic Act] 9208 shall be heard continuously, with hearing dates spaced no more than two weeks apart," Mar-quez stated in a circular.

Human trafficking is still one of the country's worst problems, as evidenced by its inclusion in the United States' **trafficking in persons watch list**.

Recently, USAmbassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. challenged the administration of President Benigno Aquino 3rd to step up its drive against human trafficking.

Also, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said that he believes that there is a need to strictly monitor and implement the laws against human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Global News Bites

22 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

November 8, 2010 Monday

Immigration officer has RM9m in bank

BYLINE: Lee Shi-Ian**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 11**LENGTH:** 502 words

KUALA LUMPUR: One of the seven Immigration officers arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) last month has RM9 million in a foreign bank account, believed to be proceeds from human trafficking activities.

The officer, who holds the rank of deputy assistant director, was found to have kept the money in a bank account in his wife's name in Thailand. Police are now corresponding with their counterparts there to freeze the account.

A source familiar with the case revealed that the officer, in his 40s, had amassed the fortune when he was posted at the Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) in Sepang.

The officer and six of his men were arrested by police last month under the ISA for acts deemed to be a threat to national security.

The deputy assistant director was found to be living a lavish lifestyle, owning several valuable properties and luxury cars. But the big find came when police discovered the bank account.

It is learnt that the officer's wife is a Thai national and police are now trying to ascertain if her husband had bought any other properties or cars in her name. Investigations revealed that the officer was linked to human trafficking syndicates when he was based at LCCT.

He would then instruct certain Immigration officers at both LCCT and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, who were in his pay, to allow these illegal immigrants, including ones with questionable documents and stamps to either enter or exit Malaysia freely, putting the country's security at risk.

Six of his men, also detained under the ISA, had between RM400,000 and RM600,000 in their bank accounts.

Investigations also revealed that the six owned properties in prime areas of the Klang Valley and luxury cars.

Police have invoked the Anti-Money Laundering Act to freeze their assets and bank accounts.

Last month, police arrested the seven Immigration officers at the LCCT and KLIA. Two foreigners, an Indian and a Pakistani, were also detained. Later, they were found to be the masterminds who arranged the movements of illegals in and out of the country through these two checkpoints.

The New Straits Times learnt that police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission have identified several other Immigration officers and civilians involved in the smuggling of foreigners into the country.

"Shortly after the first operation, police began focusing on the syndicates and it was then we discovered more civil servants were also involved," said a source close to the investigations.

Following that operation, it was also revealed that MACC undercover officers have been stationed at several entry and exit points to curb human trafficking and other smuggling activities.

Malaysia is currently on the **Tier 2 watchlist** of the **Trafficking in Persons** Report which is released annually by the US State Department. This was an improvement from last year when Malaysia was on Tier 3.

The Tier 2 watchlist is when the country made significant efforts with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: November 7, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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23 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 28, 2010 Thursday

USCCB COMMEMORATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW, ISSUES REPORT ON NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICES TO TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 623 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, Utah, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's (USCCB) Committee on Migration, today commemorated the tenth anniversary of enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), signed into law on October 28, 2000. The TVPA is the landmark federal legislation used to fight human trafficking operations and to rescue and assist victims of human trafficking in the United States.

Congress has re-authorized the TVPA three times since its original enactment, in 2003, 2005 and 2008. The TVPA again will be considered for re-authorization in 2011.

"The enactment of the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act ten years ago marked a historic moment in the battle against the modern forms of human trafficking, which claims thousands of both foreign-born and domestic trafficking victims each year," said Bishop Wester. "Despite this landmark achievement, much remains to be done, both domestically and internationally, to end this modern-day form of slavery."

In conjunction with Bishop Wester's comments, Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) of USCCB issued a report entitled, "Reflections: Health and Human Service's Service Mechanism for Foreign National Survivors," which provides recommendations for improvements in providing life-saving services to victims of trafficking, particularly child trafficking victims.

Bishop Wester also commented on the international impact of the TVPA and how it has raised awareness of the issue of human trafficking worldwide.

"The enactment of the TVPA in 2000 brought worldwide attention to the issue of human trafficking. Nations around the world have taken note of U.S. leadership on this issue and have taken steps to address the problem in their own countries," Bishop Wester said.

Bishop Wester added that more should be done to compel source countries for **human trafficking** (designated as "**Tier 3**" countries by the U.S. State Department) to fight and eliminate **human trafficking** syndicates in their nations. Each year, the U.S. State Department issues a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report that ranks how foreign governments are progressing in their battle against human trafficking.

"Coordinating an integrated U.S. government response to trafficking in foreign countries that leverages resources and imposes penalties has been difficult," he said. "The standards that form the basis for the ranking of countries needs more clarity and the penalties directed at governments that do not attempt to combat human trafficking operations must likewise be more defined and evenly applied."

Looking ahead to the re-authorization of the TVPA in 2011, Bishop Wester emphasized that federal legislators should consider including the MRS report recommendations in any re-authorization bill taken up by Congress next year.

"The TVPA and its subsequent re-authorizations have marked a significant, bipartisan achievement of which our nation should be proud," Bishop Wester said. "While these laws have helped in providing the needed tools to combat human trafficking, they should be enhanced and used more aggressively in the years ahead."

"The U.S. bishops remain committed to working with the U.S. government and the international community to battle human trafficking in all its forms, until one day it is eradicated from the globe," concluded Bishop Wester.

For a copy of MRS' report, "Reflections: Health and Human Service's Service Mechanism for Foreign National Survivors", go to: <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/reflections-letter-20101024-KP.pdf>.

Keywords: Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking, Migration and Refugee Services, Bishop John C. Wester

LOAD-DATE: October 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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24 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

October 28, 2010 Thursday 6:38 AM EST

USCCB Commemorates 10th Anniversary of Federal Anti-Trafficking Law, Issues Report on Needed Improvements in Services to Trafficking Victims

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 611 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the following news release:

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LOAD-DATE: October 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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25 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 21, 2010 Thursday

Philippine vice president: UAE to assist in fight against human trafficking

LENGTH: 567 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Manila Times website on 21 October

[Report by Bernice Camille V. Bauzon: "UAE to assist Philippines fight rampant human trafficking - Binay"]

Vice-President Jejomar Binay on Wednesday said that the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expressed his willingness to help the Philippines in combating the burgeoning problem of human trafficking.

Minutes after the courtesy call made by United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister, His Highness Shaykh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Binay said that the UAE official expressed his concern on the rising number of human trafficking cases.

"His government is willing to help in trying to solve the problem of human trafficking. That's good especially [for me]," Binay, who was recently named presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers concerns, said.

"It seems the whole world has been alerted on human trafficking activities," the Vice President mused.

Earlier, the US State Department - citing from the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report - put the Philippine in the **Tier 2 watchlist** when it comes to **human trafficking** cases.

A Tier 1 level refers to a country's full compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) while countries under the Tier 2 level are those who have made significant efforts to comply with the act. On the other hand, Tier 3 level countries are those who did not make any effort at all to comply with the TVPA.

The Philippines, in the US State Department report, placed at Tier 2 and Tier 2 watchlist for the past 2008 and 2009, respectively, making it allowable for the US report to automatically downgrade them to Tier 3 next year unless minimum compliance standards are met by the Aquino administration.

If downgraded to Tier 3, the Philippines will be subjected to various sanctions including the withholding of all non-humanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance and elimination of educational and cultural exchange programmes for government officials.

There is also a risk of losing \$250-million worth of foreign assistance, which is mainly for defence and security funding in Mindanao.

Of the 900 reported cases of human trafficking, only 380 cases were filed in court, and there were only 18 convictions since the law, Republic Act 9209, or "The Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003," was passed in 2003.

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Binay also said that the UAE foreign minister expressed his country's interest in investing more in the Philippines' agricultural sector.

Since Gulf countries are centred in their exportation of oil, Binay said that most nations in the Middle East lack supplies of food.

"So, they import a lot of food," he said.

Shaykh Abdullah is currently in the country for a one-day visit as part of his five-nation working tour of Asia, which includes China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

The visit marks the 30th year of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Manila and Abu Dhabi.

He was accompanied by a delegation of UAE government and business leaders, including officials of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Investment Corp., among others.

Source: The Manila Times website, Manila, in English 21 Oct 10

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26 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

October 21, 2010 Thursday

UAE to assist Philippines fight rampant human trafficking - Binay

BYLINE: BY BERNICE CAMILLE V. BAUZON**LENGTH:** 527 words

VICE President Jejomar Binay on Wednesday said that the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expressed his willingness to help the Philippines in combating the burgeoning problem of human trafficking.

Minutes after the courtesy call made by United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Binay said that the UAE official expressed his concern on the rising number of human trafficking cases.

"His government is willing to help in trying to solve the problem of human trafficking. That's good especially [for me]," Binay, who was recently named presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers concerns, said.

"It seems the whole world has been alerted on human trafficking activities," the Vice President mused.

Earlier, the US State Department-citing from the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report-put the Philippine in the **Tier 2 watchlist** when it comes to **human trafficking** cases.

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27 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 20, 2010 Wednesday

Malaysian firm to supply border control IT to Maldives

LENGTH: 729 words

Excerpt from report by independent Maldivian Minivan News website on 19 October

[By JJ Robinson] 18 October: The Maldives has signed an agreement with Malaysian-based mobile security solutions vendor Nexbis to supply an advanced border control system for the Immigration Department.

The Maldives was this year placed on the US State Department **watch list** for **human trafficking**, which may narrowly eclipse the fishing industry as the second-largest contributor to the Maldivian economy after tourism.

The new system will allow the Immigration Department to store and retrieve the biometric data of expatriates working in the country, using fingerprint and facial recognition technology, effectively circumventing the abuse of paper documentation.

"We currently have a large number of illegal expatriates running around the country," a source at the Immigration Department told Minivan News. "Right now estimate that there are 100,000 foreign workers in the country, but there are no official figures on how many may be illegal."

Workers were arriving in the country legally, "but once in the country they discard the documents and flee to islands, and seek better payment".

Many companies in the Maldives were benefiting "and facilitating" the problem, the source said, which was impacting those companies "who do operate legally and pay visa fees to the government."

Ensuring that workers could be accurately identified, even without documentation, is a key benefit of the new system, the source explained.

"Since people discard documents and flee when police get hold of them, it can be hard to identify who someone is unless he says so himself. Likewise we deport a lot of people, sometimes for serious crimes, who come back in the next day on a new passport. It's a loophole."

"Right now we are also seeing a lot of underage domestic workers coming from countries like Nepal, who have passports definitely stating they are over 18. Under 18s are considered minors and can't work under Maldivian law, but still the trend continues. In many cases these workers are abducted and trafficked, and this new system will help us address that. We're also trying to get a visa officer stationed in Bangladesh."

The new technology will allow police and island officials across the Maldives to determine a worker's identity and visa status using facial recognition software and an authorized mobile phone connected to an immigration server.

"It does not require special gadgets, and will allow people like the island or atoll councillor to get data on a runaway, and see if their visa has expired or is pending," the source said.

The 20-year contract with Nexbis will not require upfront investment from the government; instead, Minivan News understands that the government will pay Nexbis a 15 US dollar fee for every work permit issued under the new system.

Nexbis did not disclose terms for national security and confidentiality reasons, however the firm said it expects to begin generating revenue from the project this financial year.

The Immigration Department will retain full control of the system, with technical assistance provided by Nexbis during the first stages of the project. [passage omitted]

[Minister of State and Controller of Immigration and Emigration Ilyas Hussein Ibrahim said the company will build, operate and transfer the system and the government is not required to spend any money on it, the Haveeru website reported.

The government "should repay the undisclosed development cost within 20 years".

"The system would be upgraded and machines would be changed once in every five years... We will be able to use most of the software of the system within the next six months. By the grace of God, the whole state immigration would be improved," he was quoted as saying.

"According to the bidding invitation announcement issued earlier this year, the electronic border gate system should be equipped with automated facial recognition technology and fingerprint technology to identify the immigrants and an integrated system should provide instant access to travel document records, passport, and visa and fingerprint database.

"Haveeru, however, understands that Nexbis's system does not include key features including e-gate, automated facial recognition technology and passport production."]

Sources: Minivan News website, Haveeru Daily website; both Male in English 18 Oct 10

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28 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

October 19, 2010 Tuesday

MALAYSIA MAKES IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO AFGHANISTAN, SAYS US AMBASSADOR

LENGTH: 699 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR Oct 19

The United States new ambassador to Malaysia Paul W. Jones today described Malaysia's contribution in deploying a medical team to Afghanistan as a very important contribution in assisting the strife-ridden country.

Jones hoped that other countries would follow Malaysia's effort in helping Afghanistan, adding that while the US was making a huge commitment, Washington believed that other countries could assist US efforts there.

Jones, who had served as deputy secretary of state for Afghanistan and Pakistan prior to his posting here, said it would take the support of many countries to help Afghanistan stabilise and prosper.

"I think when you look at the context of what Malaysia has done, it is a very important contribution...sending a military medical mission, because it (Bamyan province) is not a very safe area...(and sending) a significant number of female doctors which is what Afghanistan needs. That's what I heard from travelling around, that they really need medical support.

"So, I think Malaysia is sort of paving the way (for others)...I hope other countries will follow Malaysia's step in assisting Afghanistan," he told Bernama in an interview here when asked about Malaysia's participation in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Jones called on Bernama general manager Datuk Hasnul Hassan at the latter's office in Wisma Bernama. Also present was the Malaysian National News Agency's editor-in-chief Datuk Yong Soo Heong.

Jones, 50, presented his credentials to Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan

In July this year, a 10-member Malaysian Armed Forces contingent was deployed to Afghanistan to serve with the International Security Assistance Force (Malcon ISAF) to help rebuild the health infrastructure and provide medical aid in the Bamyan province.

Tonight, another 30-member contingent, including seven women (two doctors and five paramedics) will be leaving for Afghanistan to serve with Malcon ISAF.

US President Barack Obama had sought Malaysia's help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak then gave an undertaking to help in the medical and development programme in that country but not in combative operations.

To a question on Malaysia's commitment to fighting human trafficking, Jones said Kuala Lumpur had taken some very significant steps, both on the enforcement side, charging and prosecuting individuals involved or those facilitating trafficking, and the protection side.

"It is so important that we treat victims of trafficking as victims that they are and offer them counselling and the opportunity to testify against those who put them in that situation.

"I think Malaysia has taken this issue very seriously. We are encouraged by the progress (made by Malaysia on this issue)...and this is something we will continue to meet and work on together," he said.

In June this year, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein told the Dewan Rakyat that Malaysia had risen to **Tier 2** of the **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the US, saying this was in recognition of the Anti-

Human Trafficking Act 2007, creation of the Anti-**Human Trafficking** Council and the government's action to address the issue.

Malaysia dropped from **Tier 2** to **Tier 3** in the TIP Report 2009 issued on June 16 last year. The TIP Report ranks countries based on their level of compliance on established minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Tier 1 countries are for governments that fully comply with minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA), Tier 2 countries for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply, while Tier 3 countries are for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

On Malaysia's commitment to fighting terrorism, Jones said Malaysia had long been a very strong partner of Washington and many other countries in fighting the global problem.

"Malaysia, I think, is known throughout the world...is a place where terrorists will be dealt with severely. For the security of our people wherever they are, it is critical that we continue to do that," said Jones.

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29 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

October 19, 2010 Tuesday

On the Family: Human trafficking exists disturbingly close to home

BYLINE: By Cheryl Wetzstein THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: B, CULTURE ETC.; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 704 words

This weekend, dozens of organizations are hosting a rally and walk to highlight the issue of human trafficking. The Oct. 23 event is called the DC Stop Modern Slavery Walk on the Mall.

How is human trafficking a family issue? And what does this nation have to do with such a heinous activity? (In other words - isn't this some tragic Asian or East European problem?)

First a definition: Human trafficking refers to the forced economic exploitation of children, young people and adults. Many of these "modern-day slaves" end up in commercial sex activities such as prostitution and "escort" and "massage" services, servicing clients in hotels, homes, truck stops, strip clubs and so-called gentlemen's clubs.

Human trafficking officially became an American problem in June, when the performance of the United States was included in the State Department's annual Trafficking in People Report for the first time. The U.S. was ranked as a **Tier 1** country, meaning it fully complies with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, but it also was clearly identified as a "source, transit and destination country" for trafficking.

I think it's heart-stopping that an estimated 100,000 of America's own children are snagged into sex-trafficking webs each year. In testimony before Congress in September, the cities of Oakland, Brooklyn, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Miami - and the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore corridor - were mentioned as prime trafficking sites.

Many of the children and teens lured into sex slavery are runaways, abandoned young people or those vulnerable to sweet-talking predators. The average age of "induction" is very young, as "Tonya" - a pseudonym - explains below.

"When I was 12 years old, a guy I thought was just a 'dope [cool] boy' kept following me in his car when I walked to school," Tonya recalled, according to Linda Smith, founder of Shared Hope International, in testimony to the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, terrorism and homeland security.

"He was older ... and he said I was really cute. He paid a lot of attention to me, and eventually I got in the car with him. For a while, we were boyfriend and girlfriend; we would go everywhere together. When I think about how it must have looked to people - a baby-looking girl like me with an older 'boyfriend' - it makes me wonder why nobody was ever there to stop it, or even ask any questions at all.

"It didn't take long before I experienced the real treatment - being beaten, stomped on, manipulated and sold all day, every day," Tonya said, according to Ms. Smith.

"People have asked me how I could have done what I did - sell my body on the street, in cars, in trucks, anywhere and everywhere, and then deliver every last dollar to my pimp. ... I'm amazed myself that I was so under the control of that man. He was the only person in my life that I felt connected to, and I even felt like he was my only protection; therefore, I would have done anything to stay with him."

Ms. Smith and other anti-trafficking activists are determined to keep the trafficking issue in front of Americans. They are lobbying for more prevention; prosecution of traffickers and customers; and protection, services and shelters for victims.

As for those who wonder whether trafficking is a family issue, Laura Lederer, an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law Center and president of Global Centurion, an anti-trafficking organization, has a ready answer.

"You cannot have a healthy family if the man in the family or the young men and boys in the family are exploiting others," said Ms. Lederer, who worked on trafficking issues at the State Department for eight years.

Groups on "parallel paths" need to collaborate, she added. Those who want to build healthy families and healthy marriages, and those like hers "who are working on the dysfunctional side - with the men and boys who think it's OK to go out, exploit someone and then go home to the family" - need to join forces.

Many Americans may find human sex slavery too baffling and disturbing a subject to follow. But for those who feel called to become modern-day abolitionists, this Saturday's event on the Mall could be a galvanizing experience.

* Cheryl Wetzstein can be reached at cwetzstein@washingtontimes.com

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30 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 7, 2010 Thursday

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME EXTENDING REACH INTO NEW AREAS - CYBER CRIME, 'HIGH SEAS POACHING' - WHICH NEEDS COORDINATED RESPONSE, THIRD COMMITTEE TOLD

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 6596 words**DATELINE:** NEW YORK

The following information was released by the United Nations:

From cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property to poaching on the high seas, speakers in the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today drew attention to new forms of transnational crimes that warrant an international response.

Twenty-one delegations, as well as one organization, took the floor, as the Committee concluded its general discussion on crime prevention and criminal justice and international drug control.

"Indonesia is of the view that it is important to identify emerging issues," its representative said. "Cybercrime and illicit trafficking of cultural properties, often referred to as emerging crimes, are criminal activities that are undeniably linked to transnational organized crimes."

He went on to refer to "criminal activities impacting on the environment", citing as examples illegal fishing - an issue of concern shared by his colleague from Sierra Leone, who lamented "high seas poaching" - and illicit international trafficking in forest products.

The representative of Peru told how drug production could trigger soil depletion and deforestation, while Venezuela told how transnational drug traffickers have turned to using semi-submersible boats capable of carrying 10 tons of cocaine, while avoiding radar. Nigeria told how cannabis had become a preferred crop for some of its farmers, "with obvious consequences for food security".

A number of African countries, such as Ethiopia, told how vulnerable they had become as transnational drug traffickers exploited their territories as transit points to move narcotics between continents. Several delegations alluded to the ongoing problem of trafficking in persons, while India underlined the ongoing threat of terrorism. India has been a victim of terrorism for decades," its representative said, as he appealed for the international community to show political will and conclude the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Also speaking today were the representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, El Salvador, Maldives, Qatar, Yemen, South Africa, Serbia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Morocco, and Colombia.

The observer from the International Organization for Migration also spoke.

The Committee will meet again at 10 a.m. on Monday, 11 October, in Conference Room 1, to begin the consideration of the advancement of women, with the Under-Secretary-General of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, scheduled to address the Committee and entertain questions.

Background

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) met today to continue its general debate on crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control. (For more information, please see Press Release GA/SHC/3975.)

Statements

K.C. VENUGOPAL (India) said that a steady reduction in the cultivation of crops for illicit drugs since 2007 was a significant finding in this year's World Drug Report. The international community had to build on that success and India was resolved to fight the menace of illicit drugs. Supply reduction strategies, incorporating sustained alternative development programmes for cultivators, were the keystone in the fight against illicit drugs. On the demand side, social awareness about the adverse consequences of drug addiction had to be raised, particularly among young people. "Societies should strive to inculcate the highest moral values in our youth," he said. India was the world's largest producer of licit opium, and it appreciated the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for monitoring the balance between supply and demand for opium required for legitimate medicinal and scientific purposes.

India has been a victim of terrorism for decades, with innocent lives lost in heinous terrorist attacks, he said. "Our resolve against the perpetrators of such attacks should be strong and resolute." India was party to all United Nations conventions relating to terrorism and it agreed with the Secretary-General that implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would not be complete without the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. It was time for the international community to show its resolve and solidarity for collective action against international terrorism and to send a clear message that terrorism, in any form, for whatever cause, would not be tolerated.

KANIKA PHOMMACHANH (Lao People's Democratic Republic), affirming the seriousness of the threats described by the Secretary-General's report, stressed the importance of a concerted global effort to wipe out the roots of illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activities. Welcoming the outcome of the fifty-third Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, he said that the international approach should continue to be based on the principles of common and shared responsibility. Supply and demand strategies should be mutually reinforcing elements of comprehensive strategies and actions.

In his country, where he said opium production, addiction and poverty were closely interrelated, there had been a recent worrisome resurgence of poppy cultivation. As the retail price of opium escalated to nearly \$1,300 per kilogram, resuming cultivation appeared to be a very tempting source of income for poppy farmers. Parallel to that, transit trafficking of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants had soared alarmingly. All opium producing areas were the poorest regions of the country and a reduction of cultivation was dependent on the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Further, an increase in drug arrests and seizures indicated that transnational organized criminal groups still considered the country a major transit route. To tackle emerging challenges and the poverty of the former opium growers, the Government approved a comprehensive drug control plan for 2009 to 2011 focusing on all elements from data analysis and demand reduction to chemical precursor control and law enforcement. He stressed that the continuing support of other Governments and international organizations was crucial to ensure that successes achieved in the effort were not reversed. He reaffirmed his country's unwavering commitment to continue working at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels through effective coordination mechanisms to combat the scourge.

CARLOS ENRIQUE GARCA GONZLEZ (El Salvador) focused on the issue of crime prevention and criminal justice as they related to the illicit activities and violence of the drug cartels, noting that 14 individuals in the recent massacre of 72 migrants in Mexico by drug traffickers had been identified as Salvadorans. He noted that an angle not previously considered by the international community when studying strategies of organized crime was the dangerous link between criminal activities and international migration. He called upon the international community to redouble its coordination efforts at all levels to respond to that scourge, while considering that the most vulnerable groups of society were being stereotyped and were in extreme poverty. He also called on the United Nations system and its programmes to promote a broad, integrated focus in the coordinated fight against international criminal activity of the drug cartels and gangs. Although Central America was at the epicentre of the problem, it affected the entire world. If it did not receive the needed attention, it could become unmanageable, he said.

His Government was aware of the root causes that deepened the grip of international crime, drug cartels and gangs, especially the lack of opportunities, social exclusion and impunity. His country's President, Mauricio Funes, had said in the General Assembly that the map of poverty traced that of trafficking in people and arms, money-laundering and all kinds of large-scale crime. He believed that the international community should increase the political level at which it dealt with those issues that affected the development of countries. Further, the convention against organized crime was an international framework for cooperation that could be improved, as it should not exhaust the scarce resources of de-

veloping countries. Firm political actions to strengthen international coordination, including non-governmental actors, in the enforcement of those issues, and the support of the United Nations systems through the preparation and implementation of a global strategy against organized crime, drug cartels and gangs was needed. He reiterated his gratitude to donor countries and United Nations agencies that were supporting the country in the fight against drugs, and reiterated its political will to redouble efforts and cooperate on all levels in battling transnational crime, drug cartels and gangs.

ABDUL GHAFOOR MOHAMED (Maldives) said his country had started its transition to democracy two years ago, undertaking a reform of institutions to reflect the doctrines of accountability, transparency and the rule of law. But, "corruption currently cripples our efforts to remedy the wrongs of the past" and threatened to undermine the convictions of those who spoke at ballot boxes. Maldives had joined the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007, believing that its measures to thwart corruption through criminal law, international cooperation and technical assistance were integral to addressing the nefarious activities that had eroded success in the country and the region. He believed rooting out corruption and protecting human rights required vigorous civil societies, and welcomed cooperation with the international community to develop such a society. On another issue, the Maldives regretted its placement on the **Tier-2 watch list** in the United States 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report and had taken steps to address the situation, increasing police and immigration department training. But the Government lacked resources and welcomed international cooperation to aid its capacity to investigate human trafficking and holistically treat its victims.

Located near the opiate producing Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent, the Maldives had seen an increase in drug trafficking and drug-related issues from increased poppy growing in those regions. The Government had undertaken efforts to identify and treat drug addiction and sought help from UNODC, which conducted a detailed assessment of the country, which aided the creation of a Drug Control Master Plan. He also supported last year's General Assembly resolution on the problem, believing its promotion of international cooperation based on shared responsibility to respond to increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime was a healthy first step towards addressing social ills.

GRUM ABAY (Ethiopia) said that drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking were among the greatest challenges facing the world. The world drug problem undermined sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions; Member States were obliged to keep investing in drug control measures and take further stringent steps. Ethiopia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa, and the fact that its capital city, Addis Ababa, was a multidirectional air transit hub, made it very vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking. Its Government had put in place a National Drug Policy to deter the illegal manufacture, distribution and consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances, and a Criminal Code was in place that stipulated severe penalties for drug traffickers and abusers.

Ethiopia appreciated technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), but drug control and abuse prevention were not the responsibility of a few institutions, he said. Closer collaboration and the firm commitment of Governments, international organizations, civil societies and the people at large were needed. In Ethiopia, development partners and civil society organizations were among those present for the inauguration in May 2010 of an inter-ministerial committee to implement a national drug control master plan. More resources are needed to minimize the potential risks of drug abuse and illicit trafficking; the gravity of the problem called for strengthened coordination and collaboration.

GONZALO GUTIRREZ (Peru) stressed how drug trafficking was "unavoidably" associated with violence and organized crime; in some countries, it was linked to terrorist activities as well. In addition, it had a negative impact on the environment; the growing of drug-related crops led to deforestation and soil depletion, which combined with the effects of the disposal of chemicals used to make illicit drugs, posed a real threat to biodiversity. Synchronized procedures and tailored legislative measures were needed to address the problem, as well as alternative development programmes focusing on agriculture.

He recalled the efforts and achievements that Peru has been making vis--vis illicit drugs. Under a national strategy on drugs, some 10,025 hectares of coca were eradicated in 2009, and 7,276 people were arrested for possession or unlawful use of drugs. Alternative development programmes have also been implemented. At the international level, Peru stood ready to participate in joint efforts on exchanging intelligence-based information, experiences and best practices. It was also important that developed countries, especially those in which illicit drugs were consumed, made cooperation against drug trafficking a pivotal issue on their agendas.

ALYA AHMED S. AL-THANI (Qatar) highlighted the seriousness of human trafficking and the need to address the problem with resolve, as it was among the most difficult challenges that humanity faced today. Qatar had taken steps to adjust its legislative and institutional structures concerning the phenomenon, with the support of the Crown Prince and

in compliance with international commitments. Stating that it had exceeded its responsibilities with regard to the protocol concerning trafficking in persons, he noted that, on the executive level, it had issued Decree No. 8 in 2005, establishing a bureau on human trafficking that could transition into a national institution. At the international level, Qatar had helped launch the Arab initiative to build national capacities in the field of human trafficking, with the support of the Crown Princess. It called for joint cooperation in building national capacities and taking measures to end the problem of trafficking and to promote the results of the Doha Forum.

In addition, he said that his country's efforts concerning drugs included the promotion of a national strategy for combating drugs and preventing their entry into its territories through the comprehensive, integrated activities of State institutions. The Ministry of the Interior had also participated in community programmes to develop community police, such as workshops that established police strategies and mechanisms to cope with contemporary security challenges.

JORGE VALERO (Venezuela) said drug trafficking, while generating millions of dollars for drug cartels, had physically and morally destroyed millions of people. Venezuela had become a country of reference on an international level in the fight against drug trafficking, thanks to policies and strategies that were as successful as they were sovereign. With the challenges posed by its 2,219-kilometre border with Colombia, Venezuela had taken daring steps to prevent its territory from being used by powerful drug cartels supplying markets in the United States and Europe, where demand for illicit drugs was greatest. A new challenge was semi-submersible boats that could each carry 10 tons of cocaine while avoiding radar detection; more than 50 such vessels had been seized.

Venezuela ranked fourth in the world in terms of drug seizures, a fact that had been recognized by competent authorities of the United Nations, he said. So far this year, the security services had seized 46.39 metric tons of illicit drugs, bringing to 559.83 metric tons the amount seized since the start of the Bolivarian revolution 11 years ago. That was a historic record. Up to September this year, 16 big drug chiefs had been arrested and immediately extradited to their respective countries, mainly the United States, Colombia and Europe. The United States, through its Department of State, has published an annual report about the fight against drugs that was unilateral, immoral and illegitimate. Venezuela had demonstrated that it did not need foreign Powers or foreign troops to confront drug trafficking; its own institutions and security forces had the expertise and competence to do the job.

WAHEED ABDULWAHAB AHMED AL-SHAMI (Yemen) said that corruption was a dangerous scourge that threatened society and development, which was why Yemen had been a pioneer in signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The country also promulgated a national law in 2006 and set up a national agency in order to combat corruption, as well as passed legislation concerning official tenders on public property and on money-laundering. To reinforce these legislative measures, Yemen developed a national strategy in 2010 to foster awareness of the serious consequences of corruption and hosted events, such as a regional conference of the Arab network last July, to bolster integrity. Given that globalization and information technology had focused the world's attention on global crimes, Yemen had also signed the United Nations convention on organized crime to respond to this problem.

Concerning drug trafficking, he outlined that Yemen had arrested and prosecuted many criminals, was endeavouring to raise awareness of the issue, had established a special governmental department, and had engaged an aviation unit in the fight. Believing that human trafficking was an odious crime and a flagrant violation of human rights, Yemen also had ratified several relevant conventions and protocols to criminalize all human trafficking, conducted awareness-raising campaigns at the regional level, and established cooperation systems. He believed that the best way of combating the scourge of trafficking was to deal with root causes, such as poverty and unemployment, and strengthen cooperation at the international level. He welcomed the global plan of action to combat human trafficking, and stated that a voluntary fund should be established as soon as possible. Additionally, Yemen was a partner in attempting to counteract terrorism. To bolster security efforts, however, capacity-building and cooperation, in particular in the sphere of information exchange, were required. Financial and technical assistance would contribute to combating the crimes that threatened humanity.

AGUS SARDJANA (Indonesia) said cybercrime and illicit trafficking of cultural properties were undeniably linked to transnational organized crime. Other forms of emerging crimes that needed serious consideration and international cooperation related to the environment, such as illegal fishing and illicit international trafficking in forest products and other biological resources. In the fight against corruption, one of his Government's highest priorities, significant progress had been achieved. Indonesia would voluntarily take part in the current year's United Nations Convention against Corruption review. It was also engaged in the pilot review of the implementation programme of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In that regard, increased international cooperation was needed, including technical assistance and sharing of best practices.

He said that Indonesia' commitment to fight against trafficking in persons was unwavering, including through strengthening the Bali Regional Ministerial Conference (Bali Process) on the issue. Further, as a nation that had suffered immensely from terrorist activities, Indonesia believed that counter-terrorism should be conducted with full respect for human rights and the rule of law and that terrorism's root causes should be eliminated. Enhanced regional cooperation was crucial in that regard. Regional and interregional cooperation should also be intensified regarding transboundary drug trafficking. Recognizing the significance of alternative development for effective drug control, his country was expanding its alternative development measures with an initiative to provide sustained livelihood for former and potential drug couriers.

AHMADU GIADE, Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of Nigeria, said that, as a top priority of his Government, the drug-control efforts of his agency, along with those of the agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, had led to the de-listing of Nigeria from the Drug Majors Watch List by several countries, including the United States, and testified to the national resolve to have a society free of illicit drugs, to prevent trafficking through the country and to address related problems such as money-laundering, violence and addiction. In 2009 alone, 7,042 drug suspects were arrested by the NDLEA and nearly 115,000 kilograms of cannabis was seized, constituting 99 per cent of illicit drug seizures.

Though a small percentage of seizures, heroin and cocaine were also a major challenge due to the involvement of international drug syndicates that use Nigeria as a transit point, he said, noting recent seizures and prosecutions. He also noted public awareness campaigns to reduce the demand for drugs and the activities to manage controlled drugs by the Food and Drug agency. He affirmed, in addition, that international cooperation was necessary and in that effort Nigeria had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom and strengthened cooperation with South Africa, Germany and China, including intelligence sharing, joint training and occasional joint operations. Regional cooperation through all relevant West African organizations would be intensified. He reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to the various regional and international instruments of which it was a party.

XOLISA MABHONGO (South Africa) stated that South Africa considered the fight against crime and corruption a priority. To that end, his Government had implemented an array of domestic measures, including improved policing, to ensure "conditions of peace, security and stability" for its citizens. These initiatives, he stressed, were being engaged with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Noting both the transnational and the cross-border nature of crime and corruption, he spoke of his country's participation in joint subregional programmes, including the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation, as well as its participation in international conferences, such as the recent Twelfth United Nations Crime Congress in Brazil which addressed, among others, new and emerging crimes such as cybercrime, and guidelines for the treatment of women prisoners. He looked forward to the upcoming Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which he hoped would encourage a stronger political commitment to the Convention.

"No country acting alone can successfully address the world drugs problem," he stated and he urged Member States to fully address their role, either as producers, locations of transit hubs or as countries of destination. In his country, cannabis and cocaine were of concern due to local consumption and smuggling across borders. One response taken was the scheduling of some chemicals, which then decreased the number of illegal imports of precursors. Special programmes aimed at South African youth also tackled the issues of drug use and the benefits of a drug free society. Also, he appreciated the wide scope of the work of UNODC, and said it needed to be given more resources and support, financial and otherwise.

MARINA IVANOVIĆ (Serbia) spoke of South-Eastern Europe's significant success in the fight against organized crime, a result of "vibrant cooperation" between the region's countries. Continuing, she noted the Ministerial Conference, hosted this month in Belgrade by the Serbian Ministries of Justice and the Interior. The conference, "Boosting regional and transnational cooperation as a precondition for successful fight against organized crime in south-eastern Europe" was a platform to share national experiences in combating organized crime, human trafficking and illegal migrations. Also discussed at the conference was the idea of a common regional arrest warrant. At the conference's conclusion, nine countries signed the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, which would facilitate the sharing of information, the establishment of joint investigation teams and the harmonization of legislations in the region's countries.

Continuing, she pointed out that other regional initiatives promoting cooperation between regional States, among others, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and Regional Cooperation Council, had also brought about concrete results against illegal migration and drug smuggling. Military intelligence institutions had just recently signed a statement

on cooperation and intelligence-sharing at the regional level to deal with security threats. Welcoming the adoption this year of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, she stated that, on a national level, Serbia had taken several actions, including the adoption of the Strategy against Illegal Migrations and the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, as well as the establishment of the Migration Monitoring and Management Coordinating Body. All these efforts, she said in conclusion, would support an effective fight against human trafficking, as well as provide for victims of human trafficking protection of their human rights and access to rehabilitation.

Mr. MOHAMMED (United Arab Emirates) told how his country had helped to coordinate international efforts to combat human trafficking leading up to the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons that was adopted by the General Assembly in August 2010. His country had adopted an integrated strategy that incorporated support for the victims of human trafficking, with psychological care being extended to them. Public awareness was being raised as well, and it was important to pursue international partnerships in order to eradicate the root causes of human trafficking.

The United Arab Emirates had been among the first States to cooperate at the international level against money-laundering, he said. For several years it had been undertaking the necessary steps to confront the problem, especially when the problem contributed to terrorism. The United Arab Emirates has been active in regional and international groups in addressing money-laundering and other financial crimes; its success could be used as a model to apply elsewhere.

SULJUK MUSTANSAR TARAR (Pakistan) said the ills of narco-trade, corruption, money-laundering, trafficking in persons, cybercrime and terrorism were challenges for us all. International organized crime had a two-way relation with the developing and developed world. In developing countries, it had its roots in the poorer, less privileged socio-economic surroundings. Conditions of poverty, underemployment and a weak socio-economic context were a catalyst for such crime. At the same time, their partners in developed countries exploited access to advanced technology. A direct supply and demand dimension existed, especially for drug trafficking, human trafficking and money-laundering. Increased demand for drugs, cheap labour and the illegal transfer of money in the developed world resulted in increased supply from the developing world. Further, Pakistan was a State party to both the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and believed that the world drug problem required and enhanced international cooperation.

His country had undertaken several national initiatives to tackle the issue. Moreover, it had actively contributed to regional and international efforts to stop the outflow of drugs, as well as the inflow of precursor chemicals from neighbouring countries. In efforts to successfully counter human trafficking, Pakistan had promulgated an ordinance which incorporated a role for civil society to work with law enforcement agencies for rehabilitation of victims. His country had also taken measures to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing, and had worked collaboratively to reform its criminal justice system and to secure its border to deter against international crime. In closing, he stressed that the solution to the problem of organized crime lay in an integrated, comprehensive approach with firm long-term political and financial commitments. Such commitments could be realized through capacity-building, technical assistance, financial assistance and the provision of appropriate equipment.

IQBAL AHMED (Bangladesh) said his Government was taking all necessary measures, within its limited resources and capabilities, to control illicit drugs that entered the country through its long, porous borders which were difficult to guard. His country had strict penalties, even the death sentence, for drug trafficking, considering the damage they did in particular to one of its most vulnerable segments - the youth. While sharing the view in the Secretary-General's report that "drug abusers should be sent to treatment, not to jail", he had reservations about the argument in the same report that "people should not be sentenced to death for drug-related offences".

Addressing money-laundering, he drew attention to the fact that his Government had been trying to recuperate money siphoned abroad illegally. The issue of asset recovery was a complicated one, he said. Tracking the money took a long time. Freezing it and bringing it back home involved multiple jurisdictions. He hoped States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption could help in that endeavour. After describing his country's resolute efforts against terrorism, he concluded, saying that transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, trafficking of persons and money-laundering were interrelated and could not be prevented without all-out cooperation from all sides. That was a daunting challenge for every country, but developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, were especially vulnerable to the rapid proliferation of emerging crimes. Resources and capacity-building were needed.

Mr. AL-HARTHY (Saudi Arabia) outlined the country's developments in criminal justice with regard to the problem of drugs, stating that legislation had increased penalties for drug-related crimes and that the prosecutor's office was cooperating with the Ministry of the Interior to fight drug use. The Government was also trying to increase awareness about

the dangers of illicit drug use, and to increase treatment for drug addicts. Publications and books had been issued, seminars had been organized in schools, and out-patient facilities had been increased. A coordinated strategy had been adopted by the Arab ministers of justice, and cooperation was taking place with friendly countries to fight drug trafficking. Saudi Arabia had established programmes for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and their re-entry into the school system, as well as leisure facilities, such as sports and youth clubs.

He noted that his country was making efforts with regard to these programmes, security and prevention in order to put an end to the drug scourge, because of the large amounts of contraband and illicit drug trafficking that had affected the country in previous years. Saudi Arabia expressed determination to support the efforts of the international community to fight the drug phenomenon, and said that it was not possible to put an end to the problem without cooperation or sharing information.

SOE LYNN HAN (Myanmar) said his delegation was happy to note that, on a worldwide basis, opium poppy cultivation, opium production and potential heroin production had all fallen. His country was tackling the drug problem through a comprehensive framework that included all three international drug control conventions, as well as national legislation, a national plan of action, high-level commitment, and bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

Poverty was among the main causes of the drug problem for poppy-cultivating farmers along the border areas of Myanmar, he said. Eliminating narcotic drugs and upgrading the living standards of the national races, especially in the border areas, were the two strategies being pursued by the Government. Supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement were the tactics being applied. Poppy cultivation and production in Myanmar has consequently decreased from 81,400 hectares and 813 tons in 2002 to 31,700 hectares and 330 tons in 2009. Myanmar had been combating the drug problem with its own resources; support and assistance from the international community would speed up its efforts and make them more effective.

HASSAN EL MKHANTAR (Morocco) recounted the steps undertaken by his country to address the problem of illicit drugs, which together with trafficking in weapons and persons was an issue that no one country could tackle alone. It was essential that the principle of shared responsibility be applied at the regional and international levels. Morocco had collaborated with UNODC in producing three studies into cannabis, and hosted a delegation from INCB in December 2009, demonstrating its irreversible commitment to combat cannabis cultivation and trafficking.

Morocco was concerned by new trends in the consumption of hard drugs and the emergence of new trafficking routes, particularly through Africa, he said. It was equally concerned by the link between drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in persons, with the sub-Saharan region affording opportunities for criminal networks to step up their illicit activities. Morocco has undertaken a multidimensional approach to confront illicit drug production and demand, while at the same time, promoting economic and social alternatives. A higher level of development in the north of the Kingdom would eventually lead to the total eradication of cannabis cultivation.

CLAUDIA BLUM (Colombia) reminded the Committee that, in order to combat the global drug problem, the violence and corruption produced by trafficking and organized crime also needed to be addressed. On a national level, Colombia was engaging a comprehensive strategy based on both reducing supply and demand, as well as combating all drug-related crimes, which resulted in 2009 having the lowest production of cocaine since 1999. "As a result, my country is no longer the largest producer of cocaine in the world," she stated. She also pointed out that, in 2009, 165,000 hectares of coca cultivation had been eradicated, decreasing the acreage by 16 per cent and cocaine production by 9 per cent, as compared to 2008. That amounted to an accumulated decrease of 59.7 per cent between 2001 and 2009. The 5 per cent decrease in the global area of coca cultivation was, thus, mainly due to a significant decrease in Colombia.

Alternative development was an essential part of her country's policy, she said. To that end, the Forest Wander Families Program, which engaged rural communities, indigenous and African descent persons located in environmentally strategic ecosystems, had, since 2003, benefited 70,000 families in 21 departments and 96 municipalities. However, creating sustainable environments and generating social and economic development for people who had given up illicit crops required national investment and international support, and she called for a greater commitment by donor countries to support these alternative development projects. She stressed that effective efforts which addressed the illicit drug industry on a national level was "reduced by the lack of commitment and cooperation of all States". Shared responsibility and international cooperation was crucial and, because of her country's many decades experience with the world drug problem, Colombia was now able to respond to requests for training and technical assistance from many regions of the world.

VICTORIA M. SULIMANI (Sierra Leone) said that cross-border and transnational organized crimes, including terrorism, trafficking in persons and narcotics, piracy and high-sea poaching, exhibited a high level of sophistication. More innovative efforts were, therefore, needed to tackle them. Sierra Leone had upgraded the Joint Drug Interdiction Task-force outfit to a Transnational Organized Crime Unit, which would not only strengthen law enforcement capabilities in the subregion, but would also help to bolster up capacities to implement the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) "Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2008-2011)".

She said that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons was a major concern. Her country had established a national commission in that regard to strengthen the national response to the threat. Such a mechanism could be crucial to the entire West African subregion, which had been "bedevilled" by wars and military coups fuelled by the proliferation of those weapons. It would also enhance sustainable peace in the Mano River Union. The commission would also help to fast track the domestication of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms. There was also an urgent need to increase effective surveillance of the coastal and maritime borders in order to combat illegal maritime drug trafficking, piracy and human trafficking. Such surveillance could strengthen wider regional integration and would benefit the security in West Africa and other countries bordering the Atlantic.

MICHELE KLEIN-SOLOMON, Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said the Global Plan of Action against trafficking in persons was encouraging, since there was a need to raise awareness about the phenomenon around the world and draw attention to the human component involved. Approaches to addressing the tragedy of trafficking must first take into account the well-being of victims.

On terrorism, she said migration had come to be seen as a security issue since the terrorist attacks on New York on 11 September 2001 and measures aimed at preventing terrorism were now often explicitly linked to immigration policies. Her organization's updated publication on the relationship between international terrorism and migration carried a warning against linking migration too closely with security issues, even though migration measures intersected with security issues in areas such as border control, identification systems, information exchange and domestic integration policies. And since migration was destined to increase, it was crucial to strengthen international cooperation to close the door to terrorists wanting to exploit migration channels while facilitating the positive aspirations of legitimate migrants and the societies to which they contributed.

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For information media not an official record

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31 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 3, 2010 Sunday

Philippines implements new system to fight human trafficking

LENGTH: 264 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star website on 1 October

[Report by Rudy Santos and Evelyn Macairan: "Bureau of Immigration Adopts New Queue System To Foil Human Traffickers"]

Manila, Philippines -The Bureau of Immigration [BI] yesterday started implementing a new queuing system, which it called the "snake-line" or "s-line," for arriving and departing passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in bid to prevent connivance between human smuggling syndicates and unscrupulous BI personnel.

BI officer-in-charge Ronaldo Ledesma said by changing the line formation, they hope to stop the Filipinos "tourist workers" from ending up as illegal workers in other countries.

In the previous straight line scheme, the passengers are able to choose which immigration counter to queue. Human smugglers usually instruct victims to line up in front of the counter manned by corrupt BI personnel.

But by adopting the s-line, the passengers would be distributed in the different counters.

"The initial results are very encouraging," Ledesma said. "Our Immigration officers have been very cooperative in the implementation of the new system, and we hope to adopt it in all our arrival and departure counters at the soonest possible time."

The Philippines has been placed by the US [United States] State Department in its **Tier 2 human trafficking watch list**. Should the country slide down to **Tier 3**, the US threatened to withhold non-humanitarian aid of up to \$750 million for the Philippines.

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 1 Oct 10

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

32 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

October 1, 2010 Friday

Groups trafficking Pinoys to US busted

BYLINE: BY JOMAR CANLAS REPORTER

LENGTH: 816 words

THE Department Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Thursday announced that the government would support filing of criminal charges against traffickers of Filipinos to the United States whose latest attempt to ship local workers had been foiled by Manila and Washington authorities.

The Filipinos, Labor department said, had complained to the US Department of Homeland Security, which accorded them assistance as victims of "forced labor trafficking."

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz made the announcement after the arrival in the Philippines of US lawyer Ellaine Carr, who is affiliated with Catholic charities and who assisted the 18 Filipino victims in the US pro bono.

Baldoz said that Carr had worked on the case with lawyer Luzviminda Padilla of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington, D.C., and their swift action resulted in preventive suspension of Philippine recruitment agencies engaged in human trafficking.

She added that DOLE and the Department of Justice are coordinating on the filing of the criminal charges.

Baldoz identified the alleged human trafficker as "ZDrive Inc.," a Laguna-based private employment agency, and US Opportunities, allegedly an employment services company owned by a certain Mike Lombardi.

The 18 victims were named as Rodolfo Andrade, Ferdinand Antigo, Dennis Belda, Peter Cabusao, Jhoanne Davocol, Eduardo Deytiquez, Lheniehl Florida, Jimmy Hinayo, Theodore Jastillana 3rd, Orlando Lavarnez, Enrico Edmundo Lising, Michael Angelo Maghirang, Jason Magundayao, Wilfredo Mislant, Imie Ramos, Henry Sejera, Regie Tesoro and Roberto Verzo Jr.

"According to our investigation, the victims were illegally trafficked to the United States and were forced to endure sub-human and sub-standard conditions of work," Baldoz said.

She instructed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to work jointly with Ellaine Carr Law Offices, help the victims and prosecute the case.

Baldoz said that OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon would render humanitarian assistance to the Filipino victims and their families.

Subsequent conviction of the human traffickers, according to the Labor chief, would result in a higher regard for the Philippines' crackdown on **human trafficking** and in eventual removal of the country from **Tier 2 watch list** in the US State Department's **Human Trafficking** Report.

Baldoz said that President Benigno Aquino 3rd has called on Labor department to help intensify protection of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and pursue and prosecute those engaging in illegal and predatory activities, especially human traffickers, while fully implementing the country's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

She expressed appreciation of the US Department of Homeland Security placing the 18 victims under its protective umbrella and according them the status of "victims of visa fraud and forced labor trafficking."

Baldoz also voiced the country's gratitude to Ellaine Carr Law Offices for assisting the victims, notably on the immigration aspect.

Earlier, Carr and officials of DOLE and OWWA met with the victims' families who told them about the situation of their loved ones.

The workers, after their illegal recruitment and trafficking by ZDrive in 2009, arrived in the US in the winter and in the unfamiliar environment were compelled to work in a forest farm under sub-human conditions and forced to sleep in trailers without water and electricity.

They allegedly were subjected to threats and intimidation, made to work raking and baling pine leaves in the dead of winter and forced to plant 1,800 pine tree seedlings a day on measly, sub-human wages equivalent to \$40.00 a week.

According to the US Department of Labor, the federal minimum wage for covered non-exempt employees is \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009, consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act, and many states also enforce their minimum wage laws.

Eventually, the 18 Filipinos found the courage to escape but, in good faith, got in touch with ZDrive.

Instead of helping them, however, the recruitment company instructed them to work in various hotels and entertainment facilities where they were paid below the minimum wage and their wages subjected to illegal deductions.

ZDrive had recruited the unsuspecting victims, who were unwittingly made to pay large fees in exchange for the promise of lucrative employment as food and beverage servers in the United States.

During the processing of their applications, however, the recruits were compelled to pay for medical, visa-application fees and placement fees.

When their passports, with the approved visas, were delivered to ZDrive, allegedly through a certain Julius Bana and a certain Robert Refugio, the agency explained that the total costs they would be shouldering amounted to P250,000, which was way beyond normal legal requirements for OFWs.

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33 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

October 1, 2010 Friday

Immigration tests new queuing system

BYLINE: BY JOMAR CANLAS**LENGTH:** 428 words

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) on Wednesday night began dry run of its new "snake line or S-Line" queuing system at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in order to stop collusion among Immigration personnel and human-smuggling syndicates.

According to Immigration Officer in Charge Ronaldo Ledesma, the S-Line queuing system meant that arriving and departing passengers would not be able to select which immigration counter they would line up before because they would be distributed to different counters from a single, snaking line.

The Immigration bureau intensified its campaign against human trafficking on orders of President Benigno Aquino 3rd who, even during his recent trip to the United States, reiterated the Philippines' commitment to the campaign against human trafficking.

The old queuing system at NAIA allowed multiple straight lines in the airport Immigration areas corresponding to the number of Immigration counters, allowing passengers to select the counters where to queue.

"The initial results are very encouraging," Ledesma said. "Our immigration officers have been very cooperative in the implementation of the new system, and we hope to adopt it in all our arrival and departure counters at the soonest possible time."

"I congratulate our Immigration officers for their successful implementation of the S-Line. They are in the forefront of change, and they are ably performing their roles," he added.

The test run of the S-Line was conducted at the NAIA Terminal I departure area on Wednesday night, and further tests were made on Thursday, Ledesma said.

Earlier, he ordered the relief and reassignment of some Immigration officers on suspicions of collusion with human-trafficking syndicates.

The syndicates operate by instructing victims on which immigration counter they should line up before when going out of the country, and the Immigration officers in cahoots allow the passengers to depart despite suspicious travel papers.

The Immigration bureau offloaded thousands of passengers from airlines on suspicions of being "tourist workers" and therefore victims of human trafficking in the past two months.

Tourist workers are Filipino travelers with tourist visas but who intend to work once they reach their destinations, making them vulnerable to abuse because of their illegitimate work status.

The Philippines has been placed by the US State Department on its **Tier 2 human trafficking watch list**.

Should the country slide down to Tier 3, the US might withhold non-humanitarian aid of up to \$750 million for the Philippines.

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34 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

September 30, 2010 Thursday 7:39 PM GMT

US lawmaker presses China, India over human trafficking

LENGTH: 464 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Sept 30 2010

A leading US lawmaker on Thursday urged President Barack Obama's administration to ratchet up pressure on China and India over sex-trafficking and modern day slavery that flourishes in both countries.

Congressman Christopher Smith, who led the charge for the landmark 2000 law Trafficking Victims Protection Act, said the two Asian giants were among the world's worst offenders in their disregard for forced bondage and sexual exploitation.

At a hearing of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Smith urged the State Department's office dedicated to combating human trafficking to undertake a "comprehensive reassessment" of China and India.

He cited in particular Beijing's failure to prevent rampant trafficking of North Korean refugees.

The countries risk being downgraded in the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" **blacklist**, and could face sanctions including withholding non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid, he said.

Smith said the problem with trafficking in China has become particularly acute because of the country's "one child" law that has led to a shortage of marriageable women and created "a colossal market for bride selling."

Chinese demographers forecast that by 2020 some 40 million Chinese men will not be able to find women to marry, Smith said, calling the one child policy "barbaric."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has made women's and children's rights a signature issue, in June called human trafficking a "terrible crime" as she unveiled a US report on the subject.

China and India were listed on the report's "tier two watch list," for countries making "significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards" on trafficking.

Lawmakers said however that they risk being regulated to the report's bottom rung, alongside long-time violators North Korea and Burma.

As Congress prepares to take up a reauthorization bill to update the 2000 law for the next decade, the committee's chair Howard Berman said huge challenges remain to combat the 32-billion-dollar-a-year industry that sees humans "reduced to machines for production or pleasure."

Of the world's estimated 27 million modern day slaves, two thirds are in India chiefly in bonded labor, the committee heard in testimony. Smith slammed New Delhi's action on the issue as "not even remotely commensurate with the size of its current problem."

The number of prosecutions for sex industry traffickers have risen nominally in some Indian states, said advocate Beryl Ann D'Souza, who heads anti-human trafficking efforts in India for the Dalit Freedom Network.

Even with laws on the books, D'Souza said the sub-continent's approach needs comprehensive overhaul, as only seven percent of India's police force have received any type of anti-trafficking training.

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35 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

September 30, 2010

**House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing;
Out of the Shadows: The Global Fight Against Human Trafficking;
Testimony by Mark Lagon, Chair for International Relations and Security, and
Visiting Professor, Georgetown University Master of Science in Foreign Service
(MSFS) Program, and Adjunct Senior Fellow on Human Rights, Council on
Foreign Relations**

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 3146 words

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, for inviting me to testify on an important subject: the slavery of today. This Committee has for years been committed to addressing imperatives of human rights which cross partisan lines, and were it not for Members of this Committee, including the indefatigable Mr. Smith, there would be no Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) or TIP Office. Thank you. I would ask that my full written statement be put into the Record, and I'll summarize my main points now.

On page 7, the latest TIP Report estimates there are 1.8 trafficking victims for every 1000 people in the world. And that is based on a very conservative International Labor Organization (ILO) estimate of 12.3 million victims globally - less than half of what scholar Kevin Bales estimates. So think about it: at least 1 out of every 555 people in today's world is a human trafficking victim.

Based in part upon my experience as the TIP Office Director, I would like to comment on two key priorities in the global context today ten years after the TVPA, the creation of the TIP Office, and the Palermo Protocol to the UN Crime Convention. Then I would like to offer recommendations on four key areas of action.

Two Global Trends and Priorities

The Need for Rule of Law in Practice. Human traffickers treat vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, minorities, and disadvantaged castes as if they are not human beings in full. They get away with it when --through neglect, prejudice, and complicity --societies, businesses, and government personnel permit them to, leaving those vulnerable groups without equal access to justice.

The main tangible impact of the TVPA, TIP Office's diplomacy, and Palermo Protocol has been the passage of new laws addressing human trafficking in well over half the countries of the world. This is a major achievement for rule of law, and demanding equal access to justice for TIP victims.

Yet rule of law consists of so much more than laws on the books - whether in the U.S. or the least developed of nations. There has been a lot of progress training law enforcement officials and empowering NGOs as their partners to help find victims and get them access to justice. But transformative change has not yet taken place. Of the TVPA's and Palermo Protocols 3 Ps--prosecution, protection, prevention--prosecution has been the emphasis to date. The TIP Report documents 7,992 prosecutions in the whole world in 2003, and down to 5,506 in 2009. Of the 5,506, only 432 were for labor trafficking. Prosecutions are limited, down from a few years ago, and minimal for non-sexual exploitation. Lots of effort is apparently not "moving the needle" of change a great deal. We need implementation of rule of law.

The Need to Address All Vulnerable Populations. I am often asked where are the more significant places for **human trafficking** globally --beyond answering simply, "The **Tier 3** countries." India is one, because of the 27 million TIP victims in the world Dr. Bales estimates, two-thirds are there, chiefly in bonded labor. China is another, because of the

underrecognized extent of the problem in so many forms, due to migrating workers without a safety net, a Wild West sex trade, official discrimination against Uighurs and Tibetans, and failure to treat North Koreans fleeing atrocious political and economic conditions as refugees. East Asia is of particular concern, given the prevalence of human trafficking for both major forms: for labor and for commercial sex. And the Gulf is a major flashpoint, where despite some strides prompted by U.S. diplomacy and self-interest, to be a woman or foreign guest worker - or worst of all both - you are likely to be treated as a lesser human.

Despite global trafficking foci and flashpoints, there are no "lesser" victims of trafficking. Since TIP's essence is groups denied equal dignity, let us not in our anti-TIP policy privilege some victims over others. They are all of equal value in humankind.

One reason the ten year old effort is not moving the needle more is the fissuring of efforts and siloed focus on particular vulnerable groups. It is more than a mere division of labor.

For instance, victims of forced labor are no less important than victims of sex trafficking--and vice versa. That was a signature feature of my tenure directing the TIP Office.

Sex trafficking is not the only source of exploitation and violence against women. Take three examples: As Ambassador, I met a Burmese woman who had been beaten and had her head shaved in a forced labor camp in Thailand. As Executive Director of the NGO Polaris Project, I met two Chinese women in Japan who were victimized in a foreign labor trainee program exempt from Japanese labor law. Chinese victimized in Japan. I also met a woman from an African nation Polaris served as a client right here in Washington. She spoke of the attention America paid to treating animals humanely in the U.S.--since some people like her are treated like animals here. All females victimized for labor.

Some think sex trafficking has been overemphasized due to alleged moralism, but to focus solely on labor would be equally wrongheaded. As the TIP Office Director who established parity of emphasis for labor slavery, I hope the pendulum is not swinging toward focus on labor to the near exclusion of adult sex trafficking. On page 8 of the 2010 Report the highlighted "box" on "What Is Not Human Trafficking?" emphasizing that prostitution is not trafficking is counterproductive. I do not think prostitution is one and the same as slavery. Few contemporary abolitionists do. But prostitution is the enabling environment for sex trafficking

- whether in brothels, or seedy streets or, until recently, on craigslist in the United States. Sex trafficking and its basic enabling environment of men fueling demand for purchasing (chiefly) females globally ought not to lose attention.

One sees fissuring elsewhere. Some devoted to combating sex trafficking focus only on children. (I myself serve on the Advisory Committee of ECPAT-USA, the leading NGO fighting commercial sexual exploitation of children.) This is easier territory given global consensus that there is no meaningful consent by minors to be prostituted. But sex trafficking is not confined to minors. First of all, if lured into the sex trade as a minor, does it suddenly become a choice the day someone turns 18? Moreover, we know that numerous adult females in the global sex trade are subject to force, fraud, or coercion - including subtle psychological terror and trickery - making them trafficking victims even under the strict standards of the Palermo Protocol.

There is one other serious area of fissuring: "Trafficking" may sound like it refers to crossing borders, but it actually refers to turning people into commodities robbed of autonomy. Despite what some at the Department of Labor, the ILO, and some businesses think, crossing borders is not a necessary element of trafficking. The families freed from bonded labor I met in Tamil Nadu, India or the Mexican girl prostituted as a minor I met in Chiapas, Mexico are just as much TIP victims as those who moved across borders.

So we need rule of law and equal dignity, both rightly understood. Rule of law depends on implementation, beyond passage of laws. And the global fight for the dignity of human trafficking victims requires equal value and energy accorded to all the victims. These two tests will be the basic signs to show whether we are successfully on the road to abolishing modern-day slavery.

A Four-Pronged Mission

Let me note four important areas of activity most important to meeting these two tests of success, and to stamping out human trafficking.

An Exemplar. First, the U.S. must be an exemplar. The clear continuity from Amb. John Miller's tenure to mine to Amb. CdeBaca's has been the steadily increasing emphasis on the

U.S. being a good example, using the chairmanship of the inter-agency Senior Policy Operating Group codified by Congress. As TIP Office Director, a central premise was that the U.S. needed to be an exemplar to be an effective promoter of the anti-trafficking agenda globally. Let me say, I had very much in mind by analogy how U.S. detainee policy undercut U.S. promotion of freedom, good governance, and credible anti-terrorism policy internationally.

For example, it was pertinent to the country I focused on most: Mexico. I visited Mexico and its Attorney General in his office twice. I met with the Mexican Senate Majority Leader, head of the opposition to the Mexican President. I convened a trilateral meeting with Mexico, the U.S., and Canada, and included executive and legislative branch officials from each. Throughout this effort, we emphasized what the U.S. was doing - and not doing so well - at home. It surprised the Mexicans, who hate assessments, which they associated with the U.S. narcotics certifications. Mexico enacted a comprehensive TIP law and moved up to Tier 2 in 2008.

Under the last Administration we put a profile of the U.S. in the TIP Report, disseminated in hardcopy and CD-ROM the Department of Justice annual report on the U.S. record on TIP, and got DOJ to produce it same month as the TIP Report (assessing ourselves just as we assessed others). I think it is tremendous that Secretary Clinton has gone farther, including a profile with a ranking and more lengthy recommendations about areas of weakness.

ECPAT submitted a comment on that U.S. profile in the report, noting it did not say that according to U.S. Government's statistics from 2008 and 2009, almost three times as many prostituted children were arrested as were offered protection and assistance. To be transparent about this matter, as TIP Office Director I volunteered to co-lead the U.S. delegation to report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on how we were implementing two Optional Protocols which the United States has ratified (on sale and prostitution of children, and on child soldiers). I knew we would face criticism for not having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child --the Protocols' mother treaty, pardon the pun. Admitting failings is helpful in pressuring other governments to do more. I saw the South Korean head of that UN Committee at Georgetown University recently, and she noted that benefit of our candor.

A Helping Hand. Persuading other governments to do more also benefits from offering a helping hand. It is not fully appreciated, but the assistance given to NGOs and more efficacious international organizations - like the International Organization of Migration (IOM) - is as important a part of the U.S. policy as any. If this fight against human trafficking is about rule of law and access to justice, civil society organizations are crucial partners to law enforcement to identify victims, make them feel safe, and help them. Victims become more stable, helpful witnesses to punish their exploiters in the process.

A helping hand can be offered directly to some governments too. Training for law enforcement helps turn law on paper into reality. Law enforcement, immigration officials and judges in other countries (just like our own) need a helping hand to learn to see a victim as a victim, not as a dirty or willful criminal. Governments with a will to change (on Tier 2 and Tier 2 Watch List), but with limited resources deserve help. I commend the attention being paid to Africa now, where Amb. CdeBaca went on his first trip. Less developed African nations need not so much "grading on a curve" in the TIP Report as they need tangible assistance.

Tough Love. Being an exemplar and offering a helping hand are important complements to pressuring other governments. Yet make no mistake: pressure governments we must. After ten years, we still need the "tough love" embodied by the TIP Office and its unique report - one that gives grades. The TVPA has manifestly worked - as the rankings and global awareness raised by the report has put pressure on governments. Sure, there are intransigent governments, both undemocratic and democratic. Yet in case after case, we have seen how the report and rankings have worked, even among allies unused to prodding from the U.S.: Turkey, Israel, the Philippines, the UAE, even Ireland, which recently appointed an anti-trafficking "czar."

When some say this "tough love" has not worked, it is flatly untrue. The TIP Office and the Report focus the mind of other governments on the problem; and they focus the mind of U.S. diplomats who would otherwise wish this issue not get in the way of other priorities.

I had the privilege to observe President Bush sign in the Oval Office the Wilberforce TVPRA Reauthorization this Committee launched. One of its most important and welcome provisions was a time limit on Tier 2 Watch List status. Please conduct oversight to ensure this device is used and the fair-minded flexibility you have given to the Executive Branch to defer or avert an automatic Tier 3 ranking is not misused in the name of alleged national interests. Some countries objectively deserve a ranking between Tier 2 and 3, but a so-called "Watch List" is only meaningful if there is a significant prospect of a downgrade to Tier 3.

There is one other area for tougher love. One of the places where trafficking for labor and victimization of women converge takes place right here on U.S. soil. Thanks to the ACLU, I met with a woman from Goa who was the human trafficking victim of a Kuwaiti official stationed in the U.S. She said the family treated her far worse as a domestic servant in the U.S. than in Kuwait because there was even less reason to think they would face consequences in the U.S. than in a Gulf country. That should make us pause in horror. It was worse in our country because of the impunity delivered by diplomatic immunity. I commend the TIP Office and now others at the Department for working hard to reduce the vulnerability of domestic servants to abuses qualifying as TIP by diplomats in the United States. Congress was crystal clear in the TVPA, thrice reauthorized, that attention should be paid to government officials found complicit in human trafficking. Official complicity is precisely the issue here. It is inevitable governments may exercise the option to withdraw accused diplomats rather than agree to lift diplomatic immunity to allow prosecution. Still, to meet the intent of the TVPA, these cases should be cited in the report (without using individual names as the Report never does) - as the TIP Office was overruled on in my tenure.

The Role of Business. So both carrots and sticks, both honey and vinegar, in U.S. diplomacy are essential. Secretary of State Clinton is carrying forward an approach of the Clinton and Bush Administrations to mobilize partnerships with NGOs, philanthropies, and businesses in our foreign policy. She calls "partnerships" a fourth "P" along with prosecution, protection, and prevention--more labeling a continuing, sound, non-partisan policy than introducing an initiative.

Chief among these partners is the business community. But it is high time businesses become more actively and tangibly involved in the global fight against human trafficking. For ten years, governments, NGOs, and international organizations have dedicated sizeable efforts to fight trafficking. More definitive results - more "movement of the needle" to squeeze trafficking and make it less profitable --will come if businesses work together to help. A business coalition would seize the opportunity to leverage varied and unique resources to take a quantum leap in the fight, with the goal to abolish trafficking. Let me be transparent here. I have been a paid consultant of a business engaged in a corporate responsibility campaign related to combating human trafficking: LexisNexis, Inc. It is working with others to explore such a coalition. In a week and a half, major businesses from sectors as diverse as information technology, soft drinks, cosmetics, labor placement, energy, the auto industry, the airline industry, travel and hospitality, entertainment, legal publishing and information solutions, and entertainment are meeting to explore such a business coalition.

Businesses should go farther than they have to date: dialogue with government and the UN; public awareness efforts not involving accountability of their own business operations; and single-sector accountability efforts like apparel, electronics, chocolate, or hotels. How can we end human trafficking if businesses are not fully engaged in reducing enabling environments, and working across siloed sectors. If they did so, we would have a much more significant chance to abolish this contemporary form of slavery.

We must recognize that market demand is a powerful force. Demand for cheap products and commercial sex are drivers of human trafficking. The Department of Labor finally fulfilling the mandate of the 2005 TVPA Reauthorization to produce a list of goods tainted by forced and child labor empowers consumers. If consumers knew some businesses were committed to reducing human trafficking, then demand would become an enormous force for good - creating an incentive for businesses to get ahead of the curve and join the fight. Globalization need not inexorably lead to slavery - but it will take the proactive efforts of businesses to prevent it. It is not too much to ask: take preventive action against the most extreme and autonomy-denying forms of exploitation, which are manifestly illegal under domestic and international law.

Out of the Shadows

Human trafficking victims are indeed in the shadows --vulnerable, women, men, children, migrants, and minorities marginalized socially and economically. Let us move from trafficking victimizing the marginalized, to actually marginalizing trafficking - through diplomatic pressure strengthened by being a good example and a helping hand to partners, and through the business community stepping up to the plate too. Only this way can we make sure that rule of law is fully realized and that all types victims are offered a chance to reclaim their inherent dignity.

The TIP Office and Report have done a lot to take the issue of human trafficking out of the shadows. It is worth thinking how much the TIP Office which Congress created ten years ago has found a formula for doing something in the last decade which has so flummoxed the State Department and Executive Branch - public diplomacy. Creative, feisty, un-bureaucratic, the TIP Office has told the story of universal values and the partnership we offer to extend them. That role has been even more important than its traditional diplomacy, and has indeed strengthened that traditional diplomacy.

Thanks for your effort to take this crucial issue out of the shadows with a Full Committee hearing on it, and the chance for me to participate.

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36 of 404 DOCUMENTS

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REP. HOWARD L. BERMAN HOLDS A HEARING ON COMBATING HUMAN
 TRAFFICKING

September 30, 2010 Thursday

EVENT DATE: September 30, 2010

TYPE: COMMITTEE HEARING

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SPEAKER: REP. HOWARD L. BERMAN, CHAIRMAN

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TEXT:

BERMAN: The committee will come to order. In a moment, I'll recognize myself and the ranking member for up to seven minutes each. The ranking member for this hearing will be the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Smith. So a certain appropriateness to that in this particular hearing. And also Mr. Royce for a three-minute opening statement.

Any other members who come could have one-minute opening statements. And, without objections, members may also place written statements in the record.

Human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is an affront to human dignity that links communities across the world in a web of money, exploitation and victimization.

Trafficking encompasses many types of exploitative activities, including sex trafficking, slavery, forced labor, peonage, debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude and making children into soldiers.

The International Labor Organization estimates that 12.3 million children and adults are currently suffering from forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution worldwide. Of that number, approximately 2.4 million are trafficked either internally or across -- across national borders.

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion global criminal enterprise, second only to illegal drugs in the profits it generates for its perpetrators, which range from sophisticated criminal syndicates to independently owned businesses with labor recruiters to family operations.

Trafficking is a problem that can be effectively confronted only through cross-border cooperation, but it has been -- it has been proven very difficult to combat.

Next month marks the tenth anniversary of enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, authored by our colleague Chris Smith. That law provided protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, authorized public awareness prevention campaigns, and strengthened the prosecution and punishment of traffickers.

We have reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act several times, and in the process made the act much more effective in protecting the most vulnerable and punishing the guilty.

One hundred and fifteen other nations now have laws on the books banning all forms of trafficking. And the number of victims identified and traffickers prosecuted has grown over the years. But trafficking remains a persistent problem, and many challenges remain -- both at home and abroad -- as we look to the next decade of anti- trafficking efforts.

Earlier this month, the Department of Justice and the FBI dismantled the nation's largest human trafficking ring and indicted six recruiters for bringing 400 Thai laborers to the United States.

These laborers were lured to the United States with false promises of high-paying jobs. Some of the victims were duped into paying up to \$21,000 in recruiting fees.

Once in this country, their passports were confiscated, and they were forced to work under slave-like conditions. If the victims complained, they were threatened with deportation.

They lived without electricity, sanitation and running water. They were cheated out of their wages for back-breaking work picking fruits and vegetables. Because their food rations were insufficient, many had to resort to eating leaves or fishing in rivers.

This example of forced labor trafficking involved labor brokers who convinced their victims that they were not free until they first paid off their recruitment fee debt. With a high debt, workers entered into a debt bondage situation and became vulnerable to exploitation.

We need to pay particular attention to this form of forced labor trafficking and examine the role of labor brokers and how their presence increases the chances of exploitation of workers.

According to Anti-Slavery International, debt bondage is "probably the least known form of slavery today, and yet it is the most widely used method of enslaving people."

The State Department's annual trafficking in persons report contains a wealth of information about debt bondage, forced labor and other forms of trafficking worldwide. The report also provides a country-by-country analysis and ranking, based on what progress countries have made throughout the year in their efforts to prosecute, protect and prevent trafficking in persons.

We are honored to welcome Ambassador at Large Lou CdeBaca, who oversaw the compilation of this year's TIP report.

We are particularly interested in hearing from him about the major trends and challenges in trafficking, whether sanctions are a useful tool in persuading other nations to increase cooperation with the United States in anti-trafficking efforts, and the U.S. ranking in the report.

The fight against human trafficking is the modern-day continuation of the fight against slavery. It is the fight to give all people the dignity they deserve and to prevent human beings from being reduced to machines for production or pleasure.

A number of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been leaders in the fight against human trafficking. And in the months ahead we'll continue our efforts to make the Trafficking Victims Protection Act as effective as possible.

In addition to Ambassador CdeBaca, we have an extraordinary and distinguished panel of experts with us today that will address some of the key issues associated with human trafficking.

I should let the audience and others who might be following this hearing know that when we set this hearing, we expected Congress to be in session through next week. When we -- when it got into the early and middle of September, we expected Congress to be in session through Friday, and it turns out Congress recessed for the election last night.

This accounts -- the one thing I can assure people is members of Congress and members of this committee have a very high interest in this subject, even though, because of that schedule, a number of members aren't going to be at the hearing this morning. But we will be circulating the testimony and their information passed around.

And now I'm very pleased to turn to the ranking member for this hearing, the ranking member of the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee, the author of the original legislation, Chris Smith, for any comments he may wish to make.

SMITH: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and especially thank you for convening this very important hearing on human trafficking.

You know, Mr. Chairman, we've come a long way since a September 1999 hearing that I chaired on human trafficking in this very room. It was part of a series, almost eleven years to the day today.

At that particular hearing, then Assistant Secretary Harold Koh called human trafficking a global plague and said that while the Clinton administration supported the objective of the bill to combat trafficking, he testified that the existing legislative framework was sufficient and that new legislation should not focus on developing new institutions or establishing onerous new requirements.

Beefed-up reporting in the annual country reports on human rights practices, he said, would suffice.

Secretary Koh further testified that the administration sharply objected to singling out and sanctioning countries with poor records and government complicity in trafficking, but did agree on the need for alien asylum protection and enhanced criminal penalties for traffickers.

That said, we pushed hard and ahead in a totally bipartisan fashion and crafted comprehensive landmark legislation known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

So many remarkable people did so much, too many to name today, to help shape that bill. Top staffers on my committee, Joseph Rees, who's our general counsel, and David Abramowitz, who will be speaking momentarily in the second panel on the Democrat side, were extraordinary in helping to craft that bill. And I thank them, because this is an enduring legacy for the most vulnerable and the weakest among us.

On the Senate side, people like Mark Lagon and other staffers also played a vital role. And again, it was totally bipartisan over there as well.

As a direct consequence of the TPVA (sic) and faithful implementation of it since it was enacted, for the past decade the United States has led the world in combating modern-day slavery. Much has been done. Much more remains to be done.

Three presidential administrations, one Republican and two Democrat, have vigorously sought to protect and rescue victims from being turned into commodities for sale. Three administrations have sought to punish traffickers with rigorous prosecutions and jail sentences, both here and promoting that abroad, commensurate with these heinous crimes.

And in the last few years, especially, nations have been strongly admonished to being compliant with the law's minimum standards or face significant sanctions.

Ambassador Mark Lagon did an amazing job at the TIP office under the Bush administration, as did Assistant Secretary Luis CdeBaca today under President Obama.

The United States is indeed fortunate to have had and have individuals of their caliber, their competence and their commitment leading the fight against trafficking. Pardon me.

In 2010, the good news is that convictions are significantly up worldwide, as is the identification and response to the victims, shelters providing safe haven -- and we are trying in this country to expand the shelters that are available and the beds as well.

As special representative for trafficking for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I can also attest to the fact that significant progress has been made in many member states, including Bosnia, which I have visited on several occasions. I've been to shelters in Sarajevo.

And it was the focus of hearings we held because unfortunately, many of the peacekeepers and the police deployed there under the U.N. auspices were actually complicit in trafficking.

Today I would strongly urge Ambassador CdeBaca to undertake a comprehensive reassessment of at least two watch list nations, China and India, for failing to meet the minimum standards prescribed in the TPVA (sic) and for not taking significant action to comply.

I would respectfully ask that you undertake a serious analysis of the nexus between the PRC's barbaric one-child-per-couple policy and its consequences on sex trafficking. I know Ambassador Mark Lagon began to speak about that during his tenure in office, and I think the evidence is absolutely compelling and grows worse by the day.

This past Saturday marked the grim thirtieth anniversary of that anti-child, anti-woman policy. I would note parenthetically that more babies have been murdered by the one-child-per-couple policy, especially baby girls, than all the people slaughtered by Mao Tse-tung.

China's one-child-per-couple policy has resulted in the worst genocide in history. Today, the missing girls of China, a massive crime against young women, means that an increasing number of men simply cannot find wives to marry.

Some Chinese demographers have stated by the year 2020, 40 million Chinese men won't be able to find wives, having been killed by sex-selective abortions, creating a colossal market for bride-selling and sex trafficking.

Earlier this week we heard -- here in this room at a Tom Lantos Human Rights Hearing chaired by Ed Royce -- we heard from three North Korean women who made it across the border into China, thinking they were finding some kind of refuge and some kind of hope going there, only to be trafficked.

And one of the women told us that they are called "pigs" by the Chinese men who enslave them. And because one of the particular women was beautiful -- she is a model -- she said, "They called me the best pig." So dehumanizing to that woman and to all women.

Years ago, I held a hearing, also with North Korean refugees, and one of the women told us how she had made it across the border, first following her daughter. She was trafficked. When she and her other daughter -- because news does not get back to the families, they were looking for her -- they too were then trafficked.

So this magnet that has been created by the one-child-per-couple policy will only mean, going forward, that there will be more missing girls and a greater push by traffickers to bring women in.

In India, it is very similar, although it is not a coercive population control program. But, unfortunately, women are not treated with the same equality to which they are entitled, and sex-selection abortion is rampant there.

Some years ago the U.N. Population Fund actually did a study and suggested that in India, there are missing at least 60 million girls due to sex-selection abortion. Again, a huge magnet in India as well.

And I would hope, Ambassador CdeBaca, that you would take a good hard look at this nexus between this terrible crime of forced abortion and sex-selection abortion and human trafficking, because it is only going to get worse.

I yield back, and I thank the chairman for convening this hearing.

BERMAN: Thank you very much.

I'm pleased to yield three minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. Royce, the ranking member of the Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade Subcommittee.

ROYCE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for calling this hearing.

I think the issue that really strikes us is the -- is the explosion of human trafficking that we've seen over the last few years. It's the magnitude of this explosion, and I think the thing we all ask is why isn't this getting the attention it deserves, why isn't more being done to leverage against this? And I want to thank the chairman for holding this hearing to do exactly that.

I also want to thank Chris Smith for the legislation that he's offered up, that he's worked so hard to pass over the years in order to try to address this real travesty.

And I -- my hope coming out of this hearing is that what it will do is focus attention beyond the NGO community, you know, to the wider international community about the fact that something has to be done to address and stop these practices.

And I think the State Department's report that it released, its annual Trafficking in Persons Report, in some ways is a tool that we can use. It catalogs those human rights abuses around the world. It was the first -- the first report to include the United States.

And we are certainly not immune from this crime. And I think that's evidenced by the arrest and conviction, for example, of a New Jersey woman who smuggled girls from West Africa to the U.S., forced them to work every day, 14 hours a day, in her hair salon, without ever paying them -- without ever paying them. But thankfully this trafficker now faces 27 years in prison.

There are too many cases like that at home, but that conviction and that 27 years sends a message to other traffickers that here in the United States, we're serious about this and there will be serious consequences to trafficking.

What we want to do is make certain that other nations also send that message that there are serious consequences.

And with that respect, I'm going to take a minute here to criticize a portion of this -- of this TIP report that I think falls short. I was disappointed to see that Cambodia was bumped up a level.

It's no longer identified among the world's worst violators of human -- of human trafficking, and I think in some ways the administration's released the pressure here on Cambodia at a time when the situation is really out of control in Cambodia.

Put very bluntly, I think this is a slap in the face to the thousands of victims in Cambodia of this practice, because so many girls there are continuing to be forced into sexual slavery.

And you just saw what "Dateline," the news report from "Dateline" -- many here who were involved in this issue or concerned and following this issue saw that report, where they say Cambodia continues to be such a magnet for people who prey on the young.

There, children as young as three or four are sold to sex tourists. My own chief of staff traveled to Cambodia to work with some of these children, some of the children just recently released from brothels. And the stories that she relays to me was absolutely horrifying.

Sadly, NGOs and eye witnesses report that Cambodia's government continues to hamper trafficking investigations and frequently covers up the problem. As a matter of fact, the government goes after people who bring up the problem in Cambodia.

And it -- corruptions in -- if I could ask for a few more minutes, Mr. Chairman. I just want to...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: ... to the gentleman, an additional minute?

ROYCE: I really appreciate it, if you could, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

The corruption there is endemic. Local police and government officials are often directly involved in the -- in the trafficking. They're pocketing profits as a result. And we should not be -- we should not be elevating Cambodia on that report.

And today we'll also hear from one of our witnesses about trafficking in India, where caste-based discrimination against its Dalits result in millions of women and children being victims of human trafficking.

Of the 3 million sex workers in India, nearly 40 percent are children, most are Dalits. The Indian government has made recent efforts to protect Dalits, but clearly much more needs to be done to eliminate a very long-standing and entrenched practice.

As I said, no country is immune from the problem of human trafficking. Only with increased accountability and honesty can we help some of the world's most marginalized people.

And I'd like to thank the chairman once again for holding this important hearing.

BERMAN: Thank you. The time for this gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Poe, is recognized for one minute.

POE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you holding this hearing.

This issue thrives in darkness, and it's going to be the -- I hope the goal of the United States to shed light on this human trafficking nightmare, not only on the rest of the world, but what takes place in the United States as well.

In my other life, I was a judge in Texas forever and saw the results of some of these issues. And I think being from Texas, I've got to keep it simple.

There are three people involved in human trafficking, at least. First and foremost is the victim. And the young girl that is kidnapped and forced into slavery is not a criminal. She is a victim of crime. Then you have the customer who pays for this slavery. And then you have the trafficker. You've got three entities.

And first and foremost, we need to regard the young woman, generally, as a victim and treat her as such. It's interesting. We have a child brought into the United States that's trafficked here, and she is rescued by the system. She's treated as a victim.

We have a child in Houston, Texas, that is trafficked to Los Angeles. That child is treated as a criminal. She's not rescued and put in some safe haven, she's put in the criminal justice system.

I thought I had three minutes. you just said a minute?

BERMAN: I did just say a minute. You don't like that, you want to compromise it at two?

POE: I would ask permission...

BERMAN: An additional minute?

POE: Yes, sir. I'll try to sum it up.

BERMAN: OK.

POE: So that's the first issue. We've got to treat her -- treat the person as a victim.

The second guy, they need to be exposed, and we need to let the world know who they are. And if we capture them and they're prosecuted, let's put their photographs on the Internet so everybody knows who these people are.

And then the last person, the trafficker, they need to be punished to the fullest extent. Even one case, I had a Texas Ranger tell me that, "Judge, when you get one of those in court, just get a rope."

I'm not so sure that that's really the answer, but we need to make sure that they are punished, and that we also then control the visa system in this country: Where a person's an ex-con for child molesting and they leave our country, and the reason they're leaving is to go overseas and continue their evil ways, we need to make sure that you know in the State Department who these people are. And so that's a piece of legislation that's pending.

But the United States is the leader in human rights, and we need to make sure that we continue to be the leader in human rights throughout the world. And we need to protect our young resources, young women, here and abroad.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

BERMAN: Thank you. The time of the gentleman has expired.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our first panel, a panel of one.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against human trafficking. He serves as senior adviser to Secretary Clinton and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Previously, Ambassador CdeBaca served as counsel to a committee that I am privileged to serve on, the House Judiciary Committee, and as a federal prosecutor for the Department of Justice, leading investigations and prosecution of cases involving money laundering, organized crime, alien smuggling, official misconduct, hate crimes and human trafficking.

Ambassador, it's very good to have you with us. Your entire statement will be placed on the record. Feel free to summarize, and then we'll go through a round of questions.

CDEBACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank you, Ranking Member Smith and the other members of the committee, for convening this critical hearing on human trafficking and also for your support on this issue over the last decade and before, but, on a personal note, your support and leadership when I was a Judiciary Committee staffer working on this, intelligence and other critical issues.

Almost 150 years have now passed since the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, and slavery persists in many forms. In the 1910s, the focus in Congress and the Justice Department was against European women brought here for sex slavery.

In the 1930s, it was called peonage. It was U.S. citizens held in bonded labor in agricultural situations. The attention of the 1990s, again, European women in sex trafficking.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 hopefully breaks the pendulum of attention and then inattention to this problem that we have so often seen in those 150 years.

No matter the euphemism or the technical term or the technical label that we use, we are seeing things now that show how human trafficking cuts across these lines.

We see victims held in servitude in factories, farms and homes, bought and sold in prostitution, and captured as child soldiers

We've come to understand that men comprise a significant number of victims, but also see the feminization of modern slavery clearly demonstrated, with women making up a majority of those trapped in commercial sex, as well as in forced labor situations.

Traffickers now are changing their methods of control -- more female recruiters, more subtle means of exploitation, greater psychological abuse. This crime impairs human rights, degrades public health, corrupts government officials and weakens the rule of law.

Not limited to one gender, faith or geographic area, the universality of this crime is reflected in the bipartisan consensus around this issue.

The U.S. government's sustained application of the three-P approach of protection, prevention and prosecution through three administrations now, is evidence of this consensus and commitment. And so I'm glad to not only have succeeded Ambassador Mark Lagon at the trafficking office, but that we are both able to come before you today in the spirit of that shared commitment.

So what is the Obama administration doing to fight modern slavery? Well, I'll certainly refer you to the much more fulsome version of this testimony that we're putting into the record, but there are a few things that I'd like to highlight in my oral presentation.

The annual trafficking report remains the United State's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on the issue of modern slavery. And we feel that it is the world's most comprehensive resource on anti-trafficking efforts by governments.

It's prompted legislation, national action plans, and the implementation of policies and programs. We are committed to using the tools of the TVPA.

And, indeed, Harold Koh, now the legal adviser at the Department of State, has in the Obama administration been a very supportive and strong voice for application of the minimum standards, rankings and sanctions analysis. What a difference 10 years makes from the testimony that he was sent to give, that Mr. Smith references.

And so what have we seen? While there is much to do, there are also many things that have changed for the better: A steady increase in sex trafficking prosecutions and shelters for victims in Gulf states; greater efforts to address the forced begging of Koranic students in West Africa; passage of a law and formation of a national task force in Swaziland; cross-border cooperation and joint law enforcement efforts with Mexico; a significant uptick of victim identification in Albania and Montenegro; the naming of the first TIP "czar" on the island of Malta; and greater anti-trafficking collaboration by the Malaysian government with the U.S. government and NGOs, which have led to new trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

This litany would be impressive if it were the last decade's accomplishments. This is the last year.

Bosnia, as Mr. Smith points out, we feel is a particular success story, on Tier 3 for many years, ravaged and plagued by sex traffickers and organized crime. But the government changed course and aggressively tackled the crime because of the leadership, not just of the United States, the TIP report and programs, but also the Helsinki Commission, the OSCE, and other structures that the U.S. Congress supports.

After a decade of hard work, Bosnia is now a Tier 1 country and a model for other countries that can make that journey.

We feel as well that the inclusion of the United States in this year's TIP report, a testament to Secretary Clinton's insistence on partnership, provides such a model as well, as we try to hold ourselves accountable to the same standards that we would expect of our foreign counterparts.

The TVPA recognized that this was not just a foreign policy imperative but also a domestic law enforcement priority, as Mr. Poe points out, requiring attention at the local and state level, and coordination and expertise across agency lines.

And so, the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking at the Cabinet level, and its working group, which I chair, the Senior Policy Operating Group, were created to coordinate those interagency policies, programs and planning issues.

In the submitted testimony, we have a recitation of many of the things that have been done to coordinate, to implement the laws, the TVPA, and its reauthorizations, and we would certainly call people's attention to that.

One thing that I would like to bring up specifically though, is one of the mandates of the Wilberforce Act, the 2008 reauthorization.

Responding to congressional concerns about guest worker abuse, the State Department, with the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and Labor, consulting with nongovernmental organizations, developed an information pamphlet on the legal rights and resources available to aliens who are applying for nonimmigrant visas.

The pamphlet is given to visa applicants in the (inaudible) -- overseas -- and they hopefully travel with them. It's in multiple languages. It's resulted in 148 calls to the national hotline this year.

And earlier this week I heard from legal service providers who recounted that seasonal workers, who had suffered in silence in previous years with the same employers, not knowing that they had rights in the United States, this year, when they traveled, had that pamphlet with them, and a number of calls to the hotline have resulted -- workers who had not known of their rights or that there was somebody in the United States who would be willing to help them.

That pamphlet was a direct result of the work of the members of this committee and the staff of this committee in that authorization, and is much appreciated by those of us who are on the front lines.

Going forward and continuing the work of our predecessors in the Bush administration and the Clinton administration, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons will continue to work with our interagency partners, state

and local governments, and foreign governments to develop comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, to strengthen existing laws, and train criminal justice officials to see victims as victims rather than merely illegal immigrants or criminals.

We hope that this will lead to an increased number of convictions for traffickers and complicit government officials, including military personnel and corrupt border officials.

We hope to strengthen victim protection and assistance by encouraging cooperation between governments and NGOs, and enhancing the capacity of civil society to provide comprehensive services that fully address the needs of the victims. And we will wisely stretch every appropriation that you give us to do that.

We will support evidence-based research to evaluate the impact of our programs and to fill core data gaps, so that we know that the money we're spending on programs is well spent. And we will leverage those resources even more by working with the private sector to have innovative public-private partnerships to solve this problem.

Mindful of those who suffered and died in bondage throughout the history of this country and heeding President Obama's call in January for a recommitment to this ongoing struggle, we'll continue to promote a global movement to abolish modern slavery.

I thank you for your important support of this issue, and I look forward to your questions.

BERMAN: Thank you very much, Ambassador. And we'll begin the questioning.

It's the chair's intent, because we have two panels and we do have the Pakistani foreign minister coming to the committee at 12:30, to limit the questioning to under -- to the five minutes and one round for each panel. I'll yield myself five minutes to start.

Your testimony does an excellent job of giving us an overview of accomplishments in the fight against trafficking in the last 10 years. I'd be interested -- you talked a little bit about looking forward, what we're going to do, but I'd be interested, sort of, in your general thoughts about the next decade in terms of the fight against trafficking.

What is that going to look like? What should it look like? What are your key priorities? What particular countries do we need to put special emphasis on?

CDEBACA: I think that the thing that we'll hopefully see in the next 10 years, and that we're working towards, is to remove this from being a boutique issue. In many ways, human trafficking has been the thing that is kind of done after everything else with the law enforcement community.

It's -- you know, working on trainings, working on rule of law, whether we're doing development work or whether we're talking to our foreign counterparts, trafficking often is then a separate conversation. And I think that one of the things that we're going to be -- that we're working on that's very important to Secretary Clinton, as well as to myself, is to incorporate the trafficking office into the work of other parts of the department, such as the INL and others, who have such an impact when they're doing law enforcement training, when they're getting that kind of mentoring and money out there.

We've seen this now with the inclusion of trafficking in the Merida process with Mexico, standing up and supporting trafficking units with the Mexican government.

I think that that type of joint law enforcement is going to be very important. And we would like to support not just joint law enforcement, where perpetrators are arrested both here and in the source country, doing that together, the way that we've done now with Mexico and Cambodia, but in fact have that become the international norm, especially countries that don't have extradition treaties with us, so that we know the traffickers are being brought to justice.

So on the law enforcement side, that's -- I think our priority is that kind of collaboration and cooperation.

As far as victim protection, we're working, whether it's through international fora or otherwise, to make sure that victim protection comes to the forefront, rather than being solely an adjunct to law enforcement, but rather that the best interests of the victim, the best interests of the child, be the way that the governments look at this.

We think that moving out of a detention-based approach to trafficking victim care -- a cleaner, nicer jail for trafficking victims is better than a dirty and bad jail for trafficking victims, but it's the position of the United States that there should be no jail for trafficking victims. And I think that that's something that we'll see continue in the next decade.

BERMAN: Thank you. Just to follow up, is there a thought about what to do with our missions abroad in terms of prioritizing and training and educating them on things they can be doing in terms of their agendas that raise this issue?

CDEBACA: I think the leadership principle certainly comes into play. And one of the things that we've seen is that -- and it doesn't mean that a good report comes from good activity, because it's up to the local government -- but we have seen that where a chief of mission is very engaged throughout the year, that the governments respond.

We've seen with Harry Thomas for instance, in Manila, the level of engagement that he's brought with him as he's gotten his team in place is now being reflected back by the Philippine government, and not just in words but in actions.

And so that's something that we're encouraging with the outgoing chiefs of mission, we're working with them in the -- at the Foreign Service Institute and otherwise, so that they land with a bang.

I think that we also then see training both for the reporting officers and for diplomatic security agents as being critical.

BERMAN: My time is about to expire.

So I'm going to yield five minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Smith.

SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Ambassador, again thank you for your leadership and testimony.

Let me just ask a couple of very quick questions. In my opening, I talked about India and China. Could you speak to those issues? Our hope is that they're on Tier 3, Vietnam will have to be added as well, and you and I have a whole fact sheet on why Vietnam, particularly on labor trafficking, ought to be there.

You know, last year Fiji was -- Fiji Islands -- was Tier 3. When you look at the enormity, the scope, the government complicity in a place like China, or total indifference in some places, India, as well -- I mean, Mumbai has made some efforts, but it's far from effective -- these countries need to be on Tier 3.

What we do with the penalty phase, and I know there's a great deal of push back within the building and from the missions abroad, from our ambassadors very often -- don't complicate statecraft by injecting a human rights issue of this caliber and weight. But, you know, we need to speak truth to power, not some of the time but all of the time. So, please.

And the nexus with the one-child-per-couple policy and sex-selection abortions, because it's only going to get worse -- if you could speak to that and whether or not you would do a comprehensive study on that.

CDEBACA: Well, as Secretary Clinton has pointed out when talking about 21st century statecraft, statecraft and diplomacy exist not to sustain itself, but to convey our national interests and our national values.

And so I think that's why we see the human trafficking issue being something that we are raising at the highest levels of government, and not shying away from those often uncomfortable discussions with our friends and allies.

I'll start with China. I too met with some of the North Korean refugees who were in town last week, and it confirmed what our reporting and other sources of information that are reflected in last year's report had indicated, which the vast majority of the women in northeastern China from North Korea appear to be trafficking victims.

They're not recognized by the Chinese government. To a degree, they are -- they are either seen as a source of low-level corruption, pay-offs, or they're deported.

One of the things that was troubling to me to hear from some of the women was that one of the only ways of escape was whether or not the clients, the men, South Korean men who used them for web chat, sex chat videos, if they could get one of the clients to understand what had happened to them and have that man help them out.

If the only way to escape from sex trafficking is to depend on the kindness of a customer, then we have a problem there. But we also see the reports in other parts of the country, Burmese, Vietnamese and other women trafficked across the borders for prostitution and brides for the specific reason that you mentioned as far as the population imbalance in China. And we're very worried about that as well as the massive labor trafficking that occurs within the borders.

We are heartened by the fact that China recently ratified the Palermo protocol, and -- but we think that at that point now, they need to look at their domestic law to bring it into compliance with Palermo. Their definition of trafficking

seems to be different than many. And you see these numbers about child selling and false adoptions as what they seem to be wanting to work on.

I will be going to China as a result in the coming months and beginning to have that conversation with them directly, because it is something that we feel we need to raise with them.

As far as India is concerned, I've -- I have certainly raised this not only with Ambassador Shankar but also with the foreign minister, as has Undersecretary Otero, Secretary Clinton, Bob Blake.

Assistant Secretary Blake cares very much about this. I think he saw it in his iterations in the embassies in the region, recognizes that the south and central Asia region is a kind of a hot spot for a lot of this activity.

We are heartened to see that India finally has characterized bonded labor as part of their trafficking fight in a communique to the field of last September. But bridging the federal and state gap in India will be critical.

You can't divulge power on such an important human rights issue fully to the state and locals, lest you do have simply those bright spots that we've identified, whether in Andhra Pradesh or in Mumbai.

So we're working with the Indians to use our experience with federalism, use our fight as far as how we manage the interplay between local law enforcement and the federal anti-trafficking as an example of how they can deal with that problem.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green, is recognized for five minutes.

GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask unanimous consent to place my statement into the record.

BERMAN: Without objection, it will be included.

GREEN: Thank you for being here, Mr. Ambassador.

One of the concerns -- I mean, there's so many issues with trafficking in persons, one of the ones I'm concerned about is forced labor in government contracts in the -- in conflict regions.

State Department's 2010 TIP report includes a special section on government procurement of forced labor. It states that too often it's reported that workers, particularly in combat zones, have been misinformed about their contracts, poorly housed, had their passports confiscated, are required to pay back large recruitment fees.

On January 15th of 2010, the Offices of the Inspector General for the DOD, State Department, USAID, each submitted the first of a series of congressionally mandated reports that evaluate the incidence of human trafficking violations among U.S. contractors abroad.

In your opinion, how serious is the problem of intentional or inadvertent government procurement of forced labor through contractors, and is the U.S. government doing enough to address the problem?

And second, is what has DOD, State Department, USAID done since the issuance of the January 2010 OIG Report to address reported trafficking vulnerabilities among contractors?

CDEBACA: I think that's an excellent question, Mr. Green.

The thing that we've started to realize is that government procurement strategies, whether it's for service contracts in any of these war zones or whether it's the things we buy, that we end up having a footprint that dwarfs that of the private industry that we go to to encourage to look at their own supply chains.

And so, not only have we been responding to the concerns about -- that were initially raised with peacekeepers coming out of Eastern Europe and have flowed through that, but also are starting to look at procurement on the federal acquisitions side.

But as far as the overseas contractor issue, we are working with the inspectors general, convening meetings with the I.G.s from State, AID and Department of Defense.

They're going out into the regions, doing the samples of what they consider high-risk offices. And, as you know from the report that was submitted in January, some areas of improvement were noted in -- especially with people not knowing what the rules were, not knowing what constituted trafficking and forced labor.

We've taken one beginning step on that, as far as U.S. employees who are under chief of mission authority now, under the Foreign Affairs manual, have heightened responsibilities for not mistreating their staff. And not only are reminded that they could be prosecuted back here in the United States, but also will have administrative punishments if they are caught doing that.

We now need to take that out to the contractor level. And I think that one of the things that is heartening for us in the interagency is that the senior policy operating group has now put together a working group on this contracting issue and the acquisitions manual, led by PHS, which also has a large footprint, DOD and the EEOC, and their convening started after the last meeting of the interagency quarterly working group.

We're going to be working with the acquisitions contractor training corps to make sure that the training officers get this out there.

One of the things that the I.G.s found that was shocking to everybody is that a lot of the contracting officers just aren't even putting this into the contracts.

It's required -- it's required because it's the right thing to do, but it's also required because Congress mandated it. And yet, there's too many contracts where this just doesn't even show up.

GREEN: That effort -- because that's something -- obviously, since we're paying the bill, we ought to be able to deal with it. And that's something our government can do directly.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CDEBACA: I would also note, if I may -- and this is the intersection of policy and art that we often see and hear in this area -- the big hot film at the Toronto Film Festival in the last two weeks was about a whistle-blower, a woman who had called attention to these exact problems during the Kosovo intervention.

I think that the more that we see the public look at this as a problem, the more we'll be able to do to drill that out into the agencies.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from California, Mr. Royce, is recognized for five minutes.

ROYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record the statement of our ranking member, Ileana Ros- Lehtinen, that...

BERMAN: Without objection, that statement will be included in the record.

ROYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I think by way of further information, that this is a trafficking symposium that she and Ambassador CdeBaca held, what was that at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, two weeks ago. So I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now I wanted just to ask a little bit about the justification of Cambodia's promotion to Tier 2 status. And I think as you go through the TIP report, the point is, you've got 36 traffickers who were convicted in comparison to 11 last year, and that's the argument.

But you read the report, and the report says that local police and government officials extort money or accept bribes from brothel owners, sometimes on a daily basis -- a daily basis -- in order to allow brothels to continue operating.

In terms of the appeal court judge there -- the appeal court president -- he accepted \$30,000 in bribes for the release of brothel owners. I mean, the corruption is absolutely endemic.

So the point I would make is that the conviction of 25 extra traffickers hardly -- hardly -- justifies moving in the wrong direction, when Transparency International now rates Cambodia 158 out of 180 in its corruption index.

The point I'm making is that the corruption is so endemic there, and the Cambodians that we talked to and the NGO groups are so -- are so traumatized by the fact that things are imploding so quickly in terms of the absence of any rule of law and the fact that police are in on the corruption and these girls at the age of what, three, four, are being recruited in larger and larger numbers.

The point they make is that, you know, maybe this was a mistake to tick this down the other direction. And I just would ask you for your observation on that.

CDEBACA: It's tough. And I think especially in a country like Cambodia where there are these problems, one of the things that we look at when we're -- when we are looking at the ranking is what kind of effort the country has made and is making. This is one of the minimum standards that is mandated.

And we had seen a shift in the willingness of the government to work on this, an uptick in prosecutions, a use of the anti-trafficking unit in a different way -- not just simply going out and doing blind sweeps of the red light district and then calling that a trafficking case, but, instead, more long-term investigations, working with some of the NGOs, like APLE -- A-P-L-E, that does a lot of the child sex- tourism investigations and child protection.

So, too, we've also seen a little bit more law enforcement cooperation with the United States, as far as not simply helping arrest our pedophiles and -- so that we can then bring them back to the United States, or the Swiss or the German pedophile, so that they can be prosecuted in the home country, but then also stepping up and prosecuting the Cambodians who sold those children.

That was something that Cambodia had always refused to do in the past, largely casting this as a problem of Westerners coming to abuse their children.

So I think for me that that is one of the things that we see that's a bright spot is their recasting and looking at trafficking in a new way.

The proof is in the pudding though, and I think that, unfortunately, Cambodia is a country where we've seen -- and in the report we always have the chart about what a country has done over the years. It's gone up and down and up and down.

We'd like to see Cambodia get on a glide path of success, but given the endemic corruption, given the poverty, given the breakdowns in rule of law, it's very...

(CROSSTALK)

ROYCE: Well, we've seen other countries take similar measures and they've still been downgraded. Why Cambodia here?

Yemen would be a case in point. I mean, they're taking these measures, but the argument is look, it's so endemic in Yemen that we're not going to adjust that.

The point I'm making is that if there -- if they don't face sanctions, if there isn't these consequences, then when you have a police department that's in on a racket, when you have appeals court judges that are part of the problem, and when you have a political class which themselves are involved in this, then the situation's only going to get worse.

And as "Nightline" says, it is now the magnet, you know, for pedophiles. And it needs to be addressed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Connolly, is recognized for five minutes.

CONNOLLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you so much for having this hearing on such an important topic.

I also would ask unanimous consent to enter my statements into the record.

BERMAN: Without objection.

CONNOLLY: I thank the chair.

Let me just say, Mr. Ambassador, thank you for being here.

I cannot imagine a more heinous crime than the denial of human autonomy, because to do that is to say a human being is a thing, an object.

And in making sure that this is a priority for U.S. foreign policy, we need go -- we need go no further than our own American history. We fought a civil war over the issue of human autonomy. Now, there are some revisionists that want to pretend it wasn't about slavery. From first to last, it was about human trafficking.

Because there was a whole philosophy that said someone of color was a thing, an object, we fought a civil war to settle that question. And after that civil war, we no longer spoke of these United States in the plural, we spoke in the singular case: The United States is.

There can be no -- no more fundamental American value than the assertion of human autonomy. In our own Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Among these inalienable rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of human happiness," strangely.

And therefore it seems to me, from the wellsprings of our own founding, human trafficking, putting an end to human trafficking, insisting with other governments that they move this way up on the priority list, and making sure our ambassadors and our representatives do the same, it's fundamental to who we are and to American character.

And so my question to you is, candidly, how do you think we're doing?

I mean, I've traveled widely. Ambassadors have full plates. There are lots of competing priorities. I mean there are military, political -- I understand. Not everything can be a priority, because if everything is, nothing is.

But I am concerned that it's possible that unless we ratchet up the importance of this subject, a busy ambassador may -- it may be further down the list of priorities, but not his or her top five or three.

I'd like your assessment of how well we're doing and what kind of mechanism do we have to make sure that the prioritization of this issue that is very fundamental to who we are is impressed on new and reassigned ambassadors?

CDEBACA: I'm -- I'll be going this afternoon to an event at the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and the Mount Vernon Black Women's Association will be jointly hosting, that draws the exact parallel that...

CONNOLLY: In the 11th district of Virginia.

CDEBACA: That's why -- I try to stay in the area.

And I think that one of the things that's being talked about at this conference is how we have to capture that exact promise: The promises made to the people who were in chattel slavery but also the promise that was made to those who were being held in indentured servitude, debt peonage.

The first law that Congress passed when it came back in 1866 was to extend those protections to the Hispanic residents of the former Mexican territories. It made it very clear that the promise of the 13th Amendment applied to anyone in the United States, whether it was the newly freed African-American population or the newest arrival. And that is as true today as it was almost 150 years ago.

I actually think that the 150th anniversary of emancipation gives us an opportunity, an opportunity to tell our story to the world...

CONNOLLY: I've got to interrupt you, we've got 43 seconds. How are we doing?

CDEBACA: How we're doing is, I think that we're seeing in many ways the anti-slavery and anti-trafficking fight through the lens of the TIP report and the lens of the TIP reporting, rather than necessarily seeing it through the lens of the overarching American value system.

And I think that that's something that we need to work on internally, so it's not merely a "we've got to do the TIP report this year," and everything flows from that, rather it's the "here's this value that our country was born upon."

The last 10 years have been a critical time in this fight, but they're a critical time because they're modernizing that promise that we made so long ago.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Texas, five full minutes.

POE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The four of the worst abusers are Burma, Cuba, Iran and Zimbabwe, according to our own government. But yet, we -- they still have the ability to receive aid from the United States -- we call it humanitarian or whatever.

But how do we know that that aid is going to the right people in those countries? The only leverage we have to get people's attention is the almighty dollar. And we quit giving them money, maybe they will get their country in order and quit promoting human trafficking or allowing it to exist.

And this has to be an issue the United States leads in. We can't stick around and wait for the United Nations to do anything, because so many people in the United Nations are abusers of this whole process.

So I don't think we ought to be giving aid to any country if -- that promotes human trafficking, especially when we say they are the world's worst abusers. It doesn't make any sense to me. I'd like you to clarify that.

But, first, I've introduced legislation along with my friend Jim Costa, who -- we're both co-chairs of the Victims' Rights Caucus -- to require people who have gone through our own penitentiaries for sexual assault, primarily of minors, if they want to travel abroad, they have to register with the State Department. And then the State Department has the authority -- discretion -- not to allow them to travel overseas.

Now, Ambassador, it's my understanding, and I would like an answer to this, that throughout the world, these middle guys, the customers, you know, the people that pay for the slavery, 25 percent of them are from the United States. And they leave the United States to go abroad to seek out young children to have their way with them, and that's a blight on our country.

So what do you think about the issue of making sure that we know who these folks are when they come to see you and they want to travel abroad, not necessarily to do business, but do monkey business? What do you think about that?

CDEBACA: A lot of the equities in that bill, and I know that there are other similar bills as well, are actually things that are in some other parts of the State Department, and I don't really want to speak for them.

For -- as far as the trafficking office is concerned, I think one of the things that we find is critical, and it's one of the things that we judge a country on, is what are they doing to reduce the demand for child sex tourism, and -- in many ways. That can be everything from the posters that one would see, or training for hoteliers to make sure that the concierges and the front desk aren't collusive in bringing in these kids.

But what we see as reducing demand the most effectively is prosecuting these pedophiles, prosecuting the people who would sell a child to them.

As far as the various restrictions on travel, again I know that there's several different pieces of legislation out there. One thing though, that we've noticed is as we've tried to look at this, especially in demand reduction for commercial sex with children, is that that oft-repeated 25 percent figure comes into question a bit when one looks at the high percentage of Asian clients that are giving children all over Asia.

POE: What is your opinion? Is it 25 percent? Is it less? I mean...

CDEBACA: I don't think we really know the actual number. But if you talk to police -- again, to the Cambodian example that Mr. Royce was concerned about, if you talk to the police and to activists in Cambodia, the unnoticed plague seems to be coming from Japan, Korea, China, et cetera.

And so I think that we need to make sure that we're focusing not simply on the Westerners in these countries, but other sex tourists as well, and harness those countries so that they start doing what we do, which is prosecute their people back home.

We have a number of countries that don't expand extraterritorial jurisdiction over their traveling pedophiles. And I think that's absolutely a U.S. practice that we need to export to the rest of the world.

POE: Last question. It just seems to me, and correct me if it's wrong -- if I'm wrong, that countries are just kind of resistant to do anything about this issue. That's the sense I have, based on your testimony and the -- what I've heard from other people. They're just, you know, that's really not something they want to get involved in. for whatever reason. Is that correct or not?

CDEBACA: It's correct to some degree. I think that there are a number of countries, that when they start to be frankly embarrassed in the international community, they don't want to be the country that is behind their neighbors, and they don't want to lose aid.

So we've seen, for instance, in the New York Times (inaudible) three weeks ago, the president saying it was the U.S. coming to them that made them act.

POE: Thank you.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentlelady from California...

(CROSSTALK)

(UNKNOWN): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and permission to submit my statement for the record.

BERMAN: It will, without objection, be included.

(UNKNOWN): Ambassador, there are differences in the definition of trafficking in persons between the U.S. and the international community. For example, the U.S. definition omits the removal of organs and makes a distinction between prostitution and sex trafficking.

Can you explain these differences? And can you outline their implications? And how do these differences inhibit the effective coordination between nations?

CDEBACA: The -- I'll start with the second one and then move backwards.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you.

CDEBACA: The U.S. definition, which has severe forms of trafficking being the parts of the trafficking fight that's based on the 13th Amendment's prohibition against involuntary servitude and slavery, is focused upon the involuntary servitude nature of what's being done.

So whether that's -- that the person's being held in compelled service for sex or for labor, they're considered to be a trafficking victim under the 13th Amendment analysis.

The Vienna negotiations for the U.N. Protocol, the exploitation of the prostitution of others, which is the way that the Palermo protocol deals with prostitution, the countries that have used that verbatim in their laws tell us over and over again that they see exploitation of the prostitution of others the way that we use the words "severe forms of trafficking." So it's not that they're saying that it's having a prostitute, it's exploiting the prostitute.

So on that issue, even though the words are dissimilar, the concept of the person who's being held in compelled service ends up being the same.

Where there is that difference is when it comes to the organ trafficking. The United States has interpreted the organ trafficking portion of the Palermo protocol to criminalize those who would traffic a person in order to harvest their organ. Some countries are looking at it more expansively and looking at the trafficking in the organ itself.

And so if we had somebody who, you know -- cases where somebody was being held in servitude to have parts harvested, that would be a slavery situation, that would be a trafficking case.

We've tried to explain to other countries, when they proffer their organ trafficking policy as something that meets our minimum standards from the TVPA or the Palermo protocol, the difference between that thing -- the liver or the kidney or what have you -- and the person whose freedom is being denied them for the harvesting, that that's at the heart of the distinction that we make.

It's the difference between slavery and illicit transport of a piece of contraband.

(UNKNOWN): Since you mentioned the purpose of trafficking in terms of organs and so on, do the countries see this kind of thing as a felony offense, because certainly harvesting these different organs certainly affects the health of the human being and can lead to a fatality.

How is that -- how do they make the difference?

CDEBACA: Unfortunately, one of the -- one of the things that we've seen is that there's been more action kind of at the U.N. conference-going level than there has been at the law enforcement level.

And I think that this is one of the things that we've heard a lot about, the trafficking of organs, but we haven't necessarily seen much law enforcement activity against it.

One big exception being the case here in the United States, in New Jersey, with the folks who were doing some illicit organ trafficking. It's one of the few actual criminal cases that have been done out there. And that was a felony charge that was in that case.

(UNKNOWN): Since my time is almost up, do the other countries, the countries most involved in sex trafficking, organ trafficking and so on, do they make a distinction, and do they penalize people according to whatever the definitions are?

CDEBACA: It's a little up in the air. Most -- many of the countries have a criminal law that simply tries to mimic the Palermo protocol.

Many of them are now changing that to something that's more closely related to U.S. law, because the Palermo protocol itself doesn't necessarily work in a courtroom.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you.

BERMAN: The gentlelady is expired.

The gentleman from New Jersey, chairman of the African Global Health Subcommittee, Mr. Payne, is recognized for five minutes.

PAYNE: Thank you very much.

And the case you talk about in New Jersey with the trafficking of organs, as you know, is still ongoing. It kind of was very shocking, the complexity of the case, of immigrants coming over, predetermined that, you know, their organs would be sold as a part of their coming into the country. So we hope that the prosecution will really convict these people of this heinous crime.

The fact that it's very difficult, according to the 2007 GAO "Report on Human Trafficking" concluded that U.S. federal law enforcement agencies would benefit from improved interagency cooperation on investigations and prosecutions for trafficking crimes, including cooperation between federal, state and local enforcement elements.

And I'm sure that in law enforcement in general this is not a new problem. It permeates the system.

But if, as the 2007 GAO report indicated, the U.S. government is having trouble with law enforcement coordination on human trafficking crimes, what can we reasonably expect from other countries which have fewer resources, fewer support and capabilities than what the U.S. has in combating?

Have we -- have we tried to work with them, or is it possible for them to have the interagency cooperation?

CDEBACA: The GAO report was certainly correct. I think you were dead on as far as seeing that as a problem in many of our law enforcement areas.

One of the things that we've seen and that we're trying to mirror in this important civil rights crime is the experience that we had during the expansion of the hate crime laws in the 1990s, where we realized that federal hate crimes enforcement would never be able to capture the scope of hate crimes in the United States. And so states started passing hate crime statutes enlisting state and local law enforcement.

And, culturally, state and local law enforcement were finally ready for that. You started seeing state and locals in places where the feds had to be the only game in town, because the local sheriff may have been part of the Klan that was being investigated a generation ago.

We see the same thing happening in the human trafficking field, with all but four of the 56 states and territories having passed anti- trafficking legislation. That training is now getting out into the field, and we're starting to see more and more state cases. So we're glad that we don't have all of our eggs in that federal basket.

Taking that then, and looking at the rest of the world, many of the countries that we're dealing with don't have that federal system.

There was a bilateral agreement that the Clinton administration entered into with Italy back in -- I want to say 1998, where the folks from the State Department came back from that meeting, having agreed with the Italians that certain questions would be asked of victims when they would be encountered.

The Italians, because everybody in their system reports to the Justice Minister and the Interior Minister, within a week or two they had all of that information out into the police forces around Italy. More than 300 cases result.

Our State Department folks came back, came over to the Justice Department, and said, "OK, now order everybody to do this." And there are 17,000 independent police forces around the country that does not take orders from the attorney general, as I think Eric Holder can attest to.

So it ends up being much more of the cultural shift that we have to have here in the United States, through the long-term, hard core police training, policemen and prosecutors who do these cases getting promoted. Hopefully that ends up reflecting society's wishes more than something that comes down from on high.

So the types of police training, the types of structures, the task forces, et cetera, that we've put in place to try to increase that coordination, we're now taking and replicating those in other countries. And the countries that have stood up their own anti- trafficking units and had that kind of coordination are starting to see an impact.

PAYNE: Well I think my time is about expired, so thank you very much.

BERMAN: The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ambassador, it's been wonderful to have you here. Thank you very much for your -- not only your testimony here, but what you're doing in your position. And we're -- we want to support you.

I'm now pleased to have a second panel, if they could come up and take their seats. We do have a slight logistical problem. We really have to adjourn this hearing no later than 12:20 or so.

So I will begin the introductions: David Abramowitz, he's the director of policy and government relations at Humanity United, where he leads outreach efforts to the U.S. government, multilateral institutions and international NGOs, and provides strategic counsel and advice to a broad range of grantees.

Previously, Mr. Abramowitz served as chief counsel for this committee, where he worked on the Traffic Victims Protection Act (sic) among many other issues. He also worked at the Office of the Legal Adviser in the State Department.

And I just have to add on a personal note, that as we have recessed our session until after the election, we come to a lame duck session, and people talk about what's the agenda in the lame duck? I watched Mr. Abramowitz take the Wilberforce Act, the reauthorization of the Trafficking Protection Victims Act (sic), and knock himself out to pull off, you know, working with friends and collaborators in the other body to produce a piece of legislation when no one thought he had a chance of doing it -- a tribute to his commitment to this.

And we're really pleased to have him back here testifying on a subject he has demonstrated over and over again he cares greatly about.

Ambassador Lagon, Mark Lagon, is chair of the International -- for the International Relations and Security Concentration, and visiting professor in the Master of Science and Foreign Service program at Georgetown University. He is also adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ambassador Lagon served as director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State from 2007 to 2009, as Mr. Smith had mentioned earlier.

He also served as deputy assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs and on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he was involved in these issues.

Dr. Aruna Uprety is the founder of the Rural Health Services Education Services Trust (sic) in Nepal. In 1995, Dr. Uprety began working with the American Himalayan Foundation on the problem of young girls in rural Nepal being trafficked to India.

In addition to her work with the Rural Health Education Services Trust, Dr. Uprety also serves as a consultant to the United Nations.

And you came a long way, and we're very honored that you would be with us today.

Also coming a long -- well, Neha Misra is the senior specialist for migration and human trafficking at the Solidarity Center, AFL-CIO, an international workers' rights NGO based in Washington, D.C.

Previously, Ms. Misra was the deputy county -- country director and program manager for the Solidarity Center's Countertrafficking in Persons Project in Indonesia.

Before her assignment in Indonesia, she worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina on post-war elections and democracy, and as a senior attorney adviser with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Beryl D'Souza heads the health care initiative of the Dalit Freedom Network, an Operation Mercy India foundation. Concerned with the issue of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in India, Dr. D'Souza works with Dalit activists and international medical professionals to improve the health and well-being of the Dalit people. Also came a long way.

So thank all our witness.

And, Mr. Abramowitz, why don't you begin the testimony?

Your entire statements will be included in the record. And it would be great if you can summarize them and then we'll have questioning.

ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Royce and other distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for holding this very important hearing on the global fight against trafficking.

My ears were burning with both Mr. Smith and yourself, Mr. Chairman, were talking about the work that I did. I know that Doug Anderson, who's also sitting in the room, was there from the beginning on the TVPA, working with Joseph Rees and myself, and I think that should be noted.

But at the end of the day, I remember any number of conversations that I had with Mr. Smith when he was the lead on some of the Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act, as well as the act itself and with you, Mr. Chairman.

And I have to say that, despite the hard work that we all did at the (inaudible) staff level, at the end of the day, I think, indeed, these things wouldn't have happened without you.

And I think you should be very proud of the work that you've done and the accomplishments that came from it, as Ambassador CdeBaca was discussing.

It's a privilege for me to return to the committee in my new role as director of policy and government relations at Humanity United, a philanthropic organization that works to advance human freedom by combating modern-day slavery, and to build peace and prevent conflict.

Mr. Chairman, it's described in my written testimony, and as you recognized in your opening statement, trafficking continues to inflict suffering on tens of millions of people around the globe, including here in the United States, and may even have undergone a surge during the current global economic downturn, as I think Mr. Royce was suggesting in his opening statement.

Every victim of human trafficking, whether laboring in the fields where our food is grown or in the streets where U.S. youth is sexually exploited, deserve the freedom to be a survivor.

Mr. Chairman, at Humanity United, we believe that there are solutions to these heinous abuses, but that they require a unity of effort between civil society, which can work directly with survivors, the private sector, which can ensure supply chains are slave-free, and governments, which can implement policies to help end this scourge.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, or TVPA, and its various reauthorization acts establish a powerful framework for the United States, which, as Mr. Smith noted, has been implemented vigorously by three administrations under presidents from both political parties.

In particular, the Trafficking in Persons, or TIP, report, mandated by the TVPA, has a tremendous -- been a tremendous tool for catalyzing changes, as, again, Mr. Royce noted that it's been an important element of our diplomacy.

I ask that a document that -- demonstrating how the TVPA has fostered real change, which was compiled by the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, or ATEST, be entered into the record.

BERMAN: It will be included, unanimously.

ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as reflected in my written testimony, this year's TIP report continues to show a dynamic analysis of trends in human trafficking.

Continue -- countries continue to be downgraded as well as upgraded, and several key countries remain on Tier 3 and therefore subject to sanctions.

The overall assessment of U.S. performance on the international front, however, remains an unfinished story. My written testimony raises a number of concerns, including the following: First, we need to continue to ensure that the TIP report focuses on trafficking into both sexual and labor exploitation.

This year's report continues the long-standing trend toward focusing a bit more on trafficking into labor exploitation. Yet, I believe the report needs to capture more fully, for example, the risk facing women and children who migrate for legitimate labor purposes, but end up being exploited sexually as well.

During my trip to Nepal last week, activists suggested that as many as 90 percent of women and girls who have migrated from that country face such dual exploitation.

I was encouraged that Ambassador CdeBaca alluded to these phenomena in his testimony today.

Second, the administration needs to ensure continued high-level support for U.S. diplomacy on trafficking issues. Making a difference in perennially difficult cases laid out in the TIP report will require high-level diplomatic intervention. For example, will human trafficking be raised at or around the president's summit with Prime Minister Singh of India later this year?

Mr. Chairman, I cannot emphasize too much the importance of combining the TIP report with robust diplomacy.

Earlier this month, as Ambassador CdeBaca alluded to, Senegal successfully completed a first-ever prosecution of those who were benefiting from child begging. And Senegalese officials specifically stated that this prosecution occurred as a result of the TVPA.

I believe the testimony from all members of this panel suggest that U.S. diplomacy needs to move toward encouraging better implementation of local statutes and rule of law in order to make a real dent in human trafficking, a view I strongly endorse.

This committee also has an important role in this effort. Every subcommittee should ensure that human trafficking is raised -- was raised when assistant secretaries from regional bureaus of State come to testify before them, so that those responsible for day-to-day relations in the department are sensitized to the importance of this issue.

Third, you should keep an eye on diverging approaches to trafficking within the U.S. government.

One of the reasons that it may appear that there is more focus on trafficking in the labor exploitation is continuing differences within the executive branch on how to approach this issue, and I go into that more in my written testimony.

Mr. Chairman, this debate is distracting government from its real work and should be resolved.

Fourth, Mr. Chairman, as I lay out in my written testimony, you should ensure that the TIP report is not merged with other human rights reports, and I'm happy to discuss that with you during the question-and-answer period.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my written testimony has a number of additional suggestions regarding how U.S. law could be improved in the reauthorization bill the committee will consider next year.

Let me just highlight one at this point: The U.S. should enhance civilian protection in humanitarian crises to prevent trafficking when the vulnerable population often increases.

I think this really goes to the point that Ambassador CdeBaca raised about taking trafficking out of being a boutique issue and bringing it into some of the mainstream.

In particular, Mr. Chairman, I believe the committee should support creating an emergency response fund for the TIP office that (inaudible) can be programmed as needed. This was demonstrated most tellingly this year after the Haiti earthquake.

Rather than robbing Peter to pay Paul to address such urgent needs, an emergency fund should be established to deal with unanticipated humanitarian crises.

The Senate Appropriations Committee actually took a good first step this year by including language on this matter at the request of Senator Kerry. Institutionalizing such a fund on the TVPA could be an important contribution to saving lives.

Mr. Chairman, the voices of the victims and survivors of human trafficking are indeed heard all too often from the shadows. We in civil society will work with you and this committee to ensure that we stay on the path to eradicating modern-day slavery, advancing the cause of human freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I stand ready to answer your questions.

BERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Abramowitz.

Ambassador Lagon?

LAGON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Royce, members of the committee, for inviting me to testify on a very important subject, the slavery of today.

I want to note that the committee has for years been committed to addressing the highest imperatives in -- of human rights that transcend partisan lines. And if it weren't for -- if it weren't for members of this committee, noticeably the indefatigable Mr. Smith, there wouldn't be a Trafficking Victims Protection Act or a TIP office, so thank you.

On its page seven, the latest TIP report estimates that there are 1.8 trafficking victims for every 1,000 people in the world. And that's based on a very conservative ILO estimate of 12.3 million victims globally, less than half of the estimate of scholar Kevin Bales.

So think about it: At least 1 out of every 555 people in the world today is a human trafficking victim.

I'd like to comment on a couple of patterns today in the world, 10 years after the TVPA, the creation of the TIP office, and the Palermo protocol, and then I'd like to offer recommendations in four key areas of action.

The first trend that I want to highlight relates to rule of law. The main tangible impact of the TVPA, the TIP's office diplomacy and the Palermo protocol have been passage of new laws addressing human trafficking in well over half the countries of the world.

And yet, rule of law consists in so much more than law on the books, whether in the United States or in the least developed countries. The TIP report documents 7,992 prosecutions in the whole world in 2003 and then down to 5,506 prosecutions in 2009.

And of those 5,506, only 432 were for labor-related trafficking. Prosecutions are limited. They're down from a few years ago. And they're minimal for nonsexual exploitation.

If we're to be plain, lots of effort is apparently not moving the needle of change a great deal. We need implementation of rule of law.

Secondly, I'm often asked where are the more significant places in the world for the human trafficking problem? One answer is India. Because of the -- of those 27 million people Kevin Bales estimates are trafficking victims in the world, some two-thirds are there, chiefly in bonded labor.

China is another answer, due to migrating workers without a safety net, a female deficit as Congressman Smith referred to, a Wild West kind of sex trade, official discrimination against Uighurs and Tibetans, and the failure to treat North Koreans fleeing atrocious political and economic conditions as refugees.

East Asia is of particular concern, because it's a focus of both labor- and sex-related trafficking.

And finally, the Gulf is a major flashpoint, because if you're a woman or if you're a foreign guest worker or, worst of all, if you're both, you are likely to be treated as a lesser human in the Gulf.

But despite all of these flashpoints and foci of trafficking, there are no lesser victims of trafficking. So I see another pattern 10 years after the TVPA which contributes to the needle not moving as much to abolish slavery. It's the fissuring of efforts, the siloing of focus on particular groups.

For instance, victims of forced labor are no less important than victims of sex trafficking -- and vice versa. Sex trafficking is not the only source of exploitation and violence against women.

A couple of examples: when I was executive director of the NGO Polaris Project, I met two Chinese women in Japan who were victimized for forced labor under a labor training program exempt from Japanese labor law.

Also with Polaris, I met with an African woman who was a human trafficking victim, served as a client by Polaris here in our country, right here in Washington. And she noted she thought it was charming how Americans talk so much about cruelty to animals, but some humans -- like her -- are treated worse than animals.

As the TIP office director, who I would say established the parity of emphasis on labor slavery, I hope the pendulum isn't swinging toward focus on labor to the exclusion of adult sex trafficking.

On page eight of the 2010 TIP report, it emphasizes that prostitution is not trafficking. That may be counterproductive. I don't think prostitution is one and the same as slavery. But prostitution is the enabling environment of sex trafficking, whether in brothels or seedy streets or, until recently, on Craigslist in the United States.

Sex trafficking is the basic enabling environment of men, fueling demand for purchasing, chiefly, females. And that problem of sex trafficking and the demand shouldn't lose attention.

There's another serious area of fissuring. Despite what some at the Department of Labor or the ILO or some businesses think, crossing borders is not a necessary element of trafficking.

Whether the families freed from bonded labor that I met in Tamil Nadu, India, or the Mexican girl I met who was prostituted as a minor in Chiapas, those are every bit as much TIP victims as those who crossed borders. The global fight for the dignity of human trafficking victims requires equal value and energy accorded to all of these victims.

Let me talk briefly about four things I think we need to do.

First, we need to be an exemplar. When I was the TIP office director, a central premise was that the United States needed to be an exemplar in order to be an effective promoter of the anti-trafficking agenda internationally.

I very much had in mind the problem of U.S. detainee policy undercutting U.S. promotion of freedom and credible anti-terrorism policy. And that's a continuity between the different directors of GTIP in multiple administrations.

Under the last administration, we put a profile of the United States into the TIP report. We disseminated the Department of Justice's annual report on the U.S. record widely -- globally -- and we got the Department of Justice to produce it in the same month as the TIP report.

I'd really like to commend Secretary Clinton for going farther, for including a profile with a ranking, with a grade, and more lengthy recommendations about areas of weakness.

Let's think about the problem at home: ECPAT, the NGO, commented recently in reading the profile of the United States in the TIP report, that, according to U.S. government's statistics from 2008 and 2009, almost three times as many prostituted children were arrested as offered protection and assistance in the United States. We've got to be an exemplar.

Secondly, persuading other governments to do more benefits from offering a helping hand. It's not fully appreciated, but the assistance to NGOs and the most efficacious international organizations, like the IOM, is as important part of the U.S. policy as any.

And that assistance should go directly to some governments too, those on Tier 2 and the Tier 2 Watch Lists that have a will to change, but deserve help.

I commend Ambassador CdeBaca for going to Africa on his first trip. And it's a good signal, because less developed African nations need not so much a "grading on a curve" in the TIP report as tangible assistance

Being an exemplar and offering a helping hand are important complements to pressuring governments. But make no mistake: pressuring governments we must.

The TVPA has manifestly worked. In case after case, we've seen how reports and the rankings have worked, even among allies unused to prodding from the United States -- Turkey, Israel, the Philippines, the UAE, even Ireland, as we see it recently appointing an anti- trafficking czar.

The Wilberforce TVPA Reauthorization had a tremendously important and welcome provision in the time limit on Tier 2 Watch List status. Please -- please conduct...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: ... on the time limit.

LAGON: OK. I'll wrap up.

BERMAN: No, no. Just repeat what -- on the time limit.

LAGON: Yes. I said that -- that the time limit on Tier 2 Watch List countries...

BERMAN: Got it.

LAGON: ... was probably the most valuable thing that you and your colleagues included in the TVPA reauthorization.

I urge you to conduct oversight in how the Department of State and the executive branch deal with that time limit, because, in fair-mindedness, you gave flexibility to the secretary of state and the executive branch to defer or avert an automatic Tier 3 ranking if the national interest was involved.

Play your vigorous role as ever, please, in looking at how that's dealt with.

And there's one other area for tougher love, which I know my friend David Abramowitz agrees on. One of the places where trafficking for labor and victimization of women converge is right here on U.S. soil -- diplomats mistreating domestic servants.

I met with a woman from Goa, in India, who was a human trafficking victim of a Kuwaiti official stationed here in the United States. She said to me, across a table, that the family treated her far worse as a domestic servant here in the United States than in Kuwait, because they felt even less reason to think that they would face consequences in the United States than in a Gulf country.

That should make us pause in horror: It was worse in our country because of the impunity delivered by diplomatic immunity.

Congress has made crystal clear in the TVPA, three times reauthorized, that attention should be paid to government officials found complicit in human trafficking. That's what we're talking about here. And those cases should be cited specifically in the text of the TIP report.

One final recommendation: For 10 years, governments, NGOs and international organizations have been dedicating sizable efforts to fighting trafficking. More definitive efforts -- more definitive results, more movement of the needle to squeeze trafficking and make it less profitable -- will come about if businesses work together to help.

Let me be totally transparent here. I've been a paid consultant for a business engaged in corporate responsibility work in this area, LexisNexis, Inc.

In a week and a half, major businesses, including LexisNexis, from sectors as diverse as information technology, soft drinks, cosmetics, labor placement, energy, the auto industry, the airline industry, travel, entertainment and legal publishing will meet to talk about the feasibility of forming a business coalition against human trafficking.

Businesses need to go farther than they have to date, not just dialogue with the government and the U.N., not just public awareness campaigns that don't involve any accountability for their own business operations, and not just single-sector accountability efforts in apparel, electronics, chocolate or hotels.

We can end human trafficking if businesses are fully engaged. But if they're not or they're working in siloed sectors, we can't have that impact.

Consumers will be -- are empowered by the Department of Labor report that indicates those goods tainted by forced and child labor. If those consumers knew that some businesses were actually trying to fight human trafficking, rather than being enablers, those business would benefit.

The TIP report and the TIP office have done a lot to take the issue of human trafficking out of the shadows. You might want to think, here at the committee, about how that office has done something that the State Department has had terrible trouble with for 10 years -- public diplomacy -- raising up our universal values, offering the United States as a partner, engaging publics abroad.

That's a model for other policies.

Thank you for holding this hearing, for taking this critical issue out of the shadows all the more.

BERMAN: Very good.

Dr. Uprety?

UPRETY: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and other members of the committee for inviting me to testify today.

Yet -- and I really feel that I am representing not only my organization, Rural Health Education Service Trust (RHEST) and American Himalayan Foundation, but I'm also representing my brothers and sisters from Nepal who are trying their best to combat this problem of human trafficking.

And I would like to start with the story why I started this small organization: In 1992 when I was in Mumbai to take part in an international seminar on HIV/AIDS, we went to (inaudible) areas, and found out that there were many Nepalese girls who were minors, and we talked to them if they would like to come back to Nepal.

And one of the girls looked at -- to us and said, "Now it is too late for you to ask this question. If you had asked this question when we were still in our village, we had not lured by the beautiful dream, and if we had an education, maybe we didn't come here, and then we would have been safe with our parents."

That statement, told to us with a very sad voice, made us feel that we had to do something in the villages, where girls are treated very badly, they are not given the education, and all the time they have to do household work because of gender discrimination.

These girls are very much -- very easily lured to see when they are asked to come to Bombay or any other beautiful city. And that was the seed for my organization to be established.

And after establishing this organization, which was started with 54 girls, we have now grown up, up to 7,500 girls. And they are getting education in different places, in (inaudible) schools and the government.

And at the same time, we are trying to raise the issue of girls' trafficking in many places -- with the girls, with the teachers, with the communities, with the parents -- and we have found that it is has been -- really worked really well.

And when we talk about girls' trafficking, we used to think that it is only in India or in some Indian cities.

Now we have seen that it doesn't mean girls' trafficking not only to India, but even in other Middle East countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, where girls again are lured by beautiful dreams that you are going to be house maids, you will have a lot of money, you'll have a very easy job.

And when once they land there, they find that they are victims of sexual abuse. They are not paid, and they have to be repeatedly abused by the owners.

And about only two months ago, we had very sad incident from Lebanon, where 15 Nepalese women had committed suicide because they were sexually exploited by their owners. And they went there with the hope and the dream that they will earn at least \$300 per month. But instead of that, they -- their dead body came back to Nepal.

And it was only because they were (inaudible), they did not know where they were going, and they were very much -- very easily cheated by the companies who took them.

That's why we are trying to put so much emphasis on our (inaudible) and education of the girls. And we have found that if the girls can be stayed in schools and if she will know that -- if she will go somewhere, other places, without knowing what she is going to do, without knowing with whom she is going, she can be the victim of sexual abuse, forced labor and be the victim of HIV/AIDS.

That's why we are -- we and many of my friends are trying to raise the issue on the national level as well as in the South -- in the South Asian countries.

And with a strong lobby of our nongovernmental organization and the media, the Nepalese government has started bringing some good teeth. And one of that is to raise the issue in the national level, they have made special rapporteur (ph) of human trafficking in human rights organization, and they have -- they now publish every year what are the problems and how it can be handled.

And they have also started working -- we have also started working together with the police force in the border area. If they find that there are some women and girls who look innocent and who don't know where they are going, they stop them and find out where -- what they are doing, where they are going, and if they are not satisfied with the questions and answers, they bring them back to their parents.

And this issue has really made some progress, and we are proud to say that it has really helped us in some ways. But still we have a long way to go, because when we talk about forced labor and sexual trafficking, there is a big Mafia with international organizations, as well as a lack of political commitment from our government has really made this problem in some ways weak.

We are -- though we are trying our hard -- we are trying our best, but not all the time political people and members of parliament listen to us, and getting (ph) that it is (inaudible) a big problem.

But we think that in 21 century, it is slavery, and if a woman, if a girl (inaudible) is a victim of sex slavery and if she is trafficked, it is shameful for our country, it is shameful for our nation, and that's why we are trying our best to do that.

And we have found that among those people -- girls who are trafficked -- they mostly are -- they are from indigenous groups, and from the Dalit communities. And from the latest research, it has been found that Dalit communities are where the girls and women have literacy rates as low as 3 percent only.

It means that they are very easily lured by the beautiful dream, and that's what we are trying to with our -- with the help of American Humanity (ph) Coalition to give education to the girls so that they would be in schools and they would learn about the problems, they would learn about skills, about their life, and we have found that we have been successful in some cases.

Though, as they say, a thousand lives -- a thousand -- a long journey has to start with a single step. We are trying our best to start this long journey, and we feel that international organizations and American government really can do a lot to prevent this.

And one of that is to make the Stop Girl Trafficking Program very effective. It has to go to -- to the community and not only in the (inaudible), but in the villages, in the (inaudible) where it is for the people -- especially for the trafficker who can go very easily.

But for the people, it is difficult to go there, because sometimes we have to walk about two to three days to reach those places, but traffickers are so smart that they can go very easily.

But we have to make sure, we have to make plans and programs that we also can (inaudible) and make aware people about this issue of 21 century, the heart of the problem, the challenges which they have to face if they will be lured by the beautiful dream.

So, dear Chairman, I am very happy to be here to give testimony, and I sincerely hope that with help of U.S. government and other international organizations, we are able to combat this problem. Thank you.

BERMAN: Well, thank you very much.

Ms. Misra?

MISRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to present to you the Solidarity Center's view of human trafficking from a labor perspective. My very proud immigrant mother also thanks you.

The Solidarity Center is an international NGO that promotes and protects worker rights around the world, working in over 60 countries last year. As a worker rights organization, the Solidarity Center has seen first-hand how violations of worker rights and lack of labor standards and protections for workers make them vulnerable to human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a labor issue because it is often linked to the various forms of labor exploitation, and it is one of the worst forms of worker abuse. In 2010, a slave is not necessarily a person in chains or shackles. Slavery is not simply ownership of one person over another. Modern-day slavery can be much more subtle.

Trafficking victims toil in factories that produce products that are exported to the United States. They harvest vegetables and process food that ends up on our dining room tables. They pick crops or mine minerals that are raw materials in the products we buy. They make the clothes and shoes that we wear. They clean people's homes and take care of the young, elderly and sick. They are enslaved not only through physical restraint, but also through coercion, fear, and intimidation.

In today's global economy, workers can be enslaved by threats of deportation, lack of viable alternatives, and especially debt. There are many facets that make labor trafficking thrive around the world, and I just want to mention a few of these.

One of them is the particular vulnerability of immigrant or migrant workers to human trafficking. Unsafe migration processes and the lack of labor or legal protections for immigrant workers make them easy targets for traffickers in the form of unscrupulous labor recruiters and employers.

Migrant workers are specifically excluded from the protection of labor laws in many countries, simply because of their foreign status, or because of the sector that they work in, including in the United States, such as domestic work or agriculture.

Traffickers take advantage of this exclusion, and the failure to monitor and enforce laws in sectors where migrant workers or immigrant workers work, and this increases the vulnerability of these workers to human trafficking.

And it's not just undocumented immigrant workers that are vulnerable, but we are increasingly seeing in the United States and around the world legal immigrant workers being trafficked under what are called either temporary or guest worker programs.

There are inherent structural flaws in temporary or guest worker programs around the world that increases the vulnerability of foreign or immigrant workers to trafficking, such as being tied to a particular employer that doesn't allow you, if the employer is abusing you, to leave. If you try to leave, you face deportation.

A common theme about -- for both undocumented and documented migrant workers, Mr. Chairman, is what you mentioned in your opening remarks, which I'd like to highlight, which is the role of labor recruiters in debt bondage.

It really is increasingly around the world, we're really seeing the use of -- by employers and by workers who are seeking to find work outside of their home, they're using labor recruiters. And these labor recruiters are charging thousands of dollars to workers for the privilege of laboring for somebody else. And it's really this -- these fees and these charges that are being placed on workers that is creating the situation of debt bondage.

The other area that I'd like to emphasize where labor trafficking is thriving is within supply chains. It's difficult to quantify the exact number of trafficking victims that work in global supply chains, but as supply chains reach down to smaller and smaller suppliers, the chances increase that trafficking victims are part of the labor force.

The Solidarity Center believes the most effective way to eliminate forced labor, debt bondage and other forms of slavery in supply chains is by empowering workers to have a voice in their workplace, and supporting their right to organize and join unions.

The existence of codes of conduct in multinational corporations' policies have failed to curtail trafficking practices in a number of sectors, including garment-textile, agriculture, and seafood processing.

There is no easy solution to this problem, but we know that a key deterrent is the ability of unions and labor rights organizations to shine a light on these practices -- on these practices through on-the-ground investigations

We believe that it's important for Congress and the administration to support such monitoring efforts, and the efforts of workers to monitor their own workplaces. In order to get rid of trafficking in supply chains, we have to focus on corporate accountability and not just corporate social responsibility.

Governments must also play a major role in eliminating slavery in supply chains. There are examples around the world of governments' reluctance to hold employers accountable for trafficking in their workplaces. When they do address trafficking for labor exploitation in a supply chain, they often blame the labor recruiter and don't hold the end user, the employer who's exploiting the worker, liable for that trafficking.

When cases are prosecuted, they often result in just small fines and no jail time for the perpetrators, which is barely a deterrent for exploitative employers.

I'd also like to emphasize the importance of the Trafficking in Persons Report in highlighting labor trafficking. I've dealt with a lot of governments around the world who complain to me about the Trafficking in Persons Report, but I have to tell you that it's been extremely important in Solidarity Center's work in being able to leverage and push governments to address issues of labor trafficking.

Without this report, without being able to point to it and having cases of -- such as in the Gulf where legal migrant workers are trafficked for forced labor -- it would be very difficult to get these governments to move.

So just in closing, in the interest of time, I'd just like to highlight a few key initiatives that I think we need to focus on to address labor trafficking. These include reforming labor and other laws to include and protect immigrants and

domestic workers. Also, we have to pay equal attention to not just passing better laws, but also implementing, monitoring, and enforcing these laws. This includes a greater role for labor inspectors.

Labor inspectors must be engaged in and be an integral part of law enforcement initiatives to combat human trafficking. I think of the countries where literally there have been five to 10 labor inspectors for an entire country to monitor the situation for migrant workers, and that's just not going to help us solve this problem.

In addition, labor inspectors have to be given special training to know how, when they go into workplaces, what are the questions they need to ask that go beyond just the initial questions to find trafficking in the workplace.

We have to ensure that victims of labor trafficking not only participate in criminal prosecutions, but are also given access to civil suits where they can get withheld or back wages.

As I said earlier, we have to ensure that employers are held accountable for their role in labor trafficking, and that they're held accountable not just for what they do, but also for what the labor recruiters that they hire, and the subcontractors that they hire, the abuses that they commit in their supply chains.

We have to place greater emphasis on safer migration processes for workers, and we have to have increased scrutiny of imports and exports to ensure that goods made from slave labor are not allowed into the marketplace.

This also includes reviewing and reworking the role of ICE in overseas inspections. We have to have strict regulation of labor recruiters and employment agencies, and we must have a strict policy of no fees being charged to workers, period.

We have to extend meaningful whistleblower protections to trafficked workers, which allow workers and their representatives to sue to enforce all state, federal, local, and employment laws, as well as the conditions in workers' contract, without having to face deportation or removal.

And finally, we need to put increased pressure and monitoring on states to include trafficking for labor exploitation into antitrafficking laws and regulations, and to increase prosecutions of labor traffickers, including employers as perpetrators of human trafficking.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

BERMAN: Well, thank you very much. You're talking about a lot of issues that I've been interested in for a long time.

Dr. D'Souza?

D'SOUZA: Thank you, Congressman Berman, for organizing this most significant hearing and inviting me to appear today with this prestigious panel.

I would like to speak about India's progress in combating human trafficking, the challenges looming ahead, and four approaches to the crisis that are seeing success.

Of the 28 million people around the world that the U.N. considers human slaves, the U.N. recognizes that most live in India, and most are Dalits. Today, Dalits are the largest number of people categorized as modern-day slaves. So we really cannot have a discussion about human trafficking and not look at India and regard the problem of the Dalits.

Because of their poverty and the resulting desperation and lack of options, trafficking is not simply a problem the Dalits face. It is an atrocity that has swept Dalit culture in all parts of the nation.

Debt bondage is a Dalit destiny most feared. It is inherent in every Dalit village and in the life of every Dalit person. The lack of access to education, healthcare, and a living wage leaves most Dalits resigned to a hopelessness that, without an intervention, will not change.

The 2010 TIP report placed India on the tier two watch list for the seventh year, and defined it as a nation in which the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or significantly increasing.

I am the daughter of a Dalit woman. I have dedicated my life to joining others in my country to end Dalit trafficking. Despite the bleakness of the situation, especially for India's 250 million Dalits, India is making progress in combating human trafficking.

First and most notably, the country's top leaders have spoken into the public record that human trafficking is India's number one social problem, with estimates of 100 million people involved.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Who said that?

D'SOUZA: This has been...

BERMAN: The government, you say?

D'SOUZA: Yes, our home minister.

BERMAN: Thank you.

D'SOUZA: Yes. A crisis that should be dealt with by all stakeholders with a stern and iron hand.

Second, there are committed individuals using their position to end this crisis. The 2010 TIP report recognized Mr. Sattaru Umapathi as one of the nine global heroes. An anti-human trafficking officer, he led rescue operations, contributed to multiple convictions, forged partnerships with NGOs, and educated the state law enforcement community about victim rights. He is a true champion for victims everywhere.

Through our dedicated NGO, we are combating trafficking to rescue and restore, as well as preventive and preemptive programs. The NGO with which I am affiliated, the Dalit Freedom Network, and all its India partners, are driving into the problems from both (inaudible) and seeing results.

But there are still major challenges looming ahead for India. As we anticipate the publication of the 2011 TIP report, we recognize that India is at serious risk for demotion to tier three if significant efforts at improvement are not initiated and registered in the next six months.

Only 7 percent of India's police personnel have received anti- trafficking training. The government's anti-human trafficking units lack sufficient personnel and funding. The existing laws, while substantive, do not focus on the rights and needs of victims. There are low numbers of prosecutions and convictions of known traffickers.

Due to lack of time, I will conclude with four approaches that are gaining traction and can serve as a template for other nations.

First, we are seeing that the end of trafficking begins with education. Education changes a nation. The education of India's most vulnerable children becomes the most significant means of preventing the selling and exploitation of these children in the workforce and the sex trade.

We educate Dalit children so they are worth more than the meager income they can make in the factories employing them. To date, there are 100 of these schools and nearly 25,000 children enrolled. Approximately 30 percent of the children are children of bonded laborers. They are studying hard, learning English, and preparing for a higher education and a future that does not know desperate poverty. Education is preemptive strike in any nation in which its most vulnerable children are at risk of being trafficked.

Second, the end of trafficking draws near when we economically empower marginalized populations. No longer are prostitution and debt bondage the only options for the poor. Dalits are being trained in marketable skills, finance management, and being offered micro-loans to establish their own businesses and earn enough income so that they do not fall prey to fraudulent money lenders who demand exorbitant interests, so that even a small loan can never be repaid. We cannot underestimate the horrors that follow the poor parents who are forced to sell their own children in an attempt to pay down their debt.

Third, human trafficking is deterred when societies pursue healthcare for all its citizens. Preventative healthcare, health, hygiene, HIV and AIDS education, safe labor practices all promote healthy communities and produce healthy economic factors. Most Dalits are forced into debt bondage because of a medical crisis that could have been avoided with proper healthcare.

Finally, we find that advocacy efforts in India and abroad are yielding positive results and should continue to be specific and targeted, beginning with internal advocacy before the Indian government, and extending to our international allies who seek to stand with us before their own government in our united efforts to end Dalit trafficking.

Thank you again, Congressman Berman, and this committee.

BERMAN: Well, thank you all very much -- fascinating and important. I'm going to yield five minutes to my colleague, Mr. Royce, for question -- to begin the questioning.

ROYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much, and I'll ask Dr. D'Souza a question.

Now, your written testimony -- in your written testimony, you mention that Prime Minister Singh's statement -- his statement was, "Even after 60 years of constitutional and legal protection and support, there is still social discrimination against Dalits in many parts of our country. Dalits have faced a unique discrimination in our society that is fundamentally different from the problems of minority groups in general."

That was his quote. I was going to ask you: How important was his statement and how has it affected the treatment of Dalits as a consequence of that statement?

D'SOUZA: Yes. I think Prime Minister Singh has developed an accolade for his bold statement, and being bold enough to address the issue of human trafficking and the relationship to the Dalit atrocities, and the Dalit situation in India.

I think the entire issue of Dalits has been a political issue in Indian government ever since we've had our independence, and by boldly declaring that as an issue, it has led to more preemptive measures, both from within the government as well as in the nongovernmental organizations, to deal with this significant problem.

ROYCE: Do you think it has changed, in any significant way, the perception and maybe led to a situation where Dalits are less susceptible to human trafficking? Do you think it has an impact among Dalits and among society in general that has assisted?

D'SOUZA: Absolutely. I think that by Prime Minister Singh addressing and accepting the issue of Dalits from the Indian government stance, has been seen very welcoming -- very welcome by the Dalit community. The fact that they are being quantified, the fact that they are being addressed and their rights are being discussed has been very significant.

ROYCE: The question I was going to ask you, too -- the TIP report -- they find certain heroes. And one that they elevate, you mentioned, a Sattaru -- do I say -- Umapathi?

D'SOUZA: That's right.

ROYCE: OK. And he's the anti -- anti-human trafficking officer in Andhra Pradesh. And his work, of course has led to multiple convictions of human traffickers. And a lot of NGOs now across India sort of formed a partnership as a result of his activity, I think, and in Tamil Nadu as well.

But -- but you know, aside from highlighting his good work, how can we export some of the lessons? You know, how do we -- how do we expand on what's being done in those states and get other states involved? What are some of the ideas that might suffice to build the momentum on this?

D'SOUZA: Well again I would like to (inaudible) what has been discussed by Ambassador (inaudible), and the initial part was about how trafficking should not be seen as a boutique (ph) issue, but more a basic primary human right issue. And how by accolading (ph) Umapathi (inaudible) and creating various law enforcement agencies within our country, different states across the country, to look at it as the significant issue it is. And to encourage such behavior, to exchange information, to exchange resources, to exchange best practices, that's the way to go ahead.

ROYCE: And -- but we find that some of the answers here in the United States, too, is training of law enforcement. What was the percentage you gave on training today in trafficking?

D'SOUZA: It's about 7 percent of our police personnel.

ROYCE: Yes.

D'SOUZA: It's only 7 percent of our police personnel that have had adequate training in regards to dealing with victims of human trafficking.

ROYCE: And -- and your point is, of course, if that became a focus along with, primarily education, the education of young women and young people, and their equal opportunities...

(CROSSTALK)

D'SOUZA: That's right.

ROYCE: ... for education, that that more than anything else would -- how would you -- what are some of the ways that we might be able to promote the advocacy for education for everybody in society, including Dalits?

D'SOUZA: Again, access, advocates -- advocating for education, and making sure it is accessible to everybody in a country when other kinds of -- other different countries where you have so many social injustices all connected and so intertwined that it seems impossible to actually do any progress.

You have to work together in a concerted manner to ensure equal opportunity, whether it is access to education or it's access to universal healthcare, because these are the very critical roots that will actually ensure development happening.

ROYCE: Thank you very much, Dr. D'Souza, and thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

BERMAN: Well, thank you, and I yield myself time. The -- we are approaching this moment where I have to leave.

I would love to -- the great thing about being the last person to question and the chairman is if I had the time I would -- there are threads here I'd like to pursue for the next half-hour with you and I'm not going to be able to.

But there was an interesting connection between much of the testimony that all of you gave in a certain way, even though different things were focused on.

So Ambassador Lagon talks about the focus on the prosecution side of it, and raises the implication of are we doing enough in the area of protection and prevention. And then Dr. Uprety describes a very specific situation of young Nepalese women and girls lured by their dreams, and there's nothing in the -- in their education at home or in school that points out the dangers of -- of what could befall you.

And how many people -- how many people could avoid being victims of human trafficking by just focusing on that aspect of making people aware of the pitfalls of doing some of those things that they are enticed to do at a point where you -- they still are not in harm's way?

And then Dr. D'Souza adds the notion that maybe we also need a component of other alternatives, not just the warnings of what could befall you, but the notion there is a -- there are other opportunities, other avenues.

And then Ms. Misra talks -- I mean, I've been very interested in the issues of migrant labor and how to deal with the exploitation that comes from it, but the point that all of you, and particularly Ms. Misra have driven home, is that exploitation turns into slavery trafficking kind of -- it's a fairly thin line between getting shorted on your paycheck, and in the end being held, in a sense, in bondage.

And we've talked about how do you get through some of this if you're going to have guest worker programs to deal with labor shortages in certain areas like farms.

To what extent could the United States and Mexico -- could Mexico as a government be the source of selection, protection of the workers who would be coming over, rather than private recruiters working on behalf of grower interests here, but charging the person more than an effective recruiting -- the grower for bringing them -- if you could turn it into a bit of a government-to-government thing, you could avoid many of those issues.

And the notion that you are stuck in that situation with one employer, and that your alternatives are staying there under what could be horrid conditions, or going back to your home country, rather than that person knowing that he could lose the worker to another grower or employer who isn't engaging in those kinds of practices, could be a great deterrent.

So these are very interesting things.

I want to ask Mr. Abramowitz one question, though. You talked in your testimony urging us, focusing on the importance of the administration's implementation of the new features of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, relating to moving countries from two-tier watch lists to tier three where the sanctions would apply, and the question of presidential waivers. Spell that out a little bit.

ABRAMOWITZ: Well, Mr. Chairman...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: What should we be concerned about here?

ABRAMOWITZ: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think this came up in several of the other testimonies, including Ambassador Lagon, as well as Dr. D'Souza.

As is referenced under the TVPRA 2008, it amended the Trafficking Victims Protection Act so that rather than countries being able to stay on the tier two watch list forever, which has been the situation with a number of countries including India, China, Russia. After two years, they're going to have to go down to tier three if they haven't been able to move up.

And I think that this is going to cause a lot of hydraulic pressure on the **Trafficking in Persons** Office to try to find ways to, for example, as Mr. Royce suggests might happen to Cambodia, that to move them up from the **tier two Watch List**, up to **tier two**, so that they can avoid that, because this is the second year for a number of those countries.

The alternative to that, though, is if it is determined that there's no real progress being made, let's say with India, because it goes from 7 percent to 7.1 percent on the number of police officers trained, then those countries are going to fall down to tier three and therefore be subject to sanctions.

I'd rather have an honest assessment, have the countries fall down, and then the president make a determination as to whether assistance needs to be cut off or not.

However, I do think that there are some risks, that if a number of countries do go down to tier three and there's a wide range of waivers that the president then implements, because in India we need to do cooperation with, or in Russia we need to continue democracy assistance, whatever the national interest is, then I think there's a possibility that people will say, "Oh," -- the officials in foreign countries will say -- "Oh, this is not a big problem because we'll just -- the president will just waive for us."

I do think that the name-and-shame issue remains something that is a very, very powerful motivator. It's not just because of the threat of sanctions but -- Ambassador CdeBaca said today that the threat of sanctions is a component of that.

So my own view is that we need to try to see if the administration will not only continue honest assessment, but also will look at maybe perhaps targeted waivers of assistance that really go to pushing forward, rather than just wholesale waivers in the national interest.

BERMAN: My time is more than expired. I didn't realize the gentlelady was here. Could I invite the gentlelady to take over the questioning and the chair, because I have to go to someplace you may be joining me at very soon.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Alright, the gentlelady is recognized for three minutes.

JACKSON LEE: OK. I did not want to miss this hearing, Mr. Chairman, because I think the issues before us are so very vital. And I had an overlapping immigration hearing that likewise is facing a number of concerns.

So let me -- let me say that human trafficking is the most dastardly attack on human dignity and the values that one holds for the respect we have for humanity. We cannot describe it any way other than that it cuts off and extinguishes the life of someone without killing them.

And particularly women, who are vulnerable, and with great -- women and children in particular. And we were holding a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on human trafficking in the United States. So we are -- none of us are immune from this.

And I want to thank the chairman for this hearing. Coming out of the shadows is very important.

Let me ask two questions, and I'm just selectively -- David, because we've worked together -- to highlight the vile-ness of it, but what should our first aim be if we want to take the high goal of extinguishing human trafficking around the world?

And then if I could ask Aruna, if you would likewise tell us the lowest ebb that victims fall into and what we should do for those victims?

David?

ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Ms. Jackson Lee. It's very hard because there are so many different interventions that we need to consider.

I think what Dr. Uprety has been doing in terms of trying to educate women and girls in particular and also offering, as was said, some hope for the future through talking about additional educational opportunities and so on, is an important part of the prevention piece.

I think that in terms of trying to ensure that we use our diplomacy to try to make sure that discriminated populations, like Dr. D'Souza said, are really highlighted, I think that -- Mr. Royce, one of the things that we should think about is trying to see if the president can raise the issue of the Dalits in some way.

I think if, you know, the first lady were to meet with Dalits while she was in India, that would have an amazing...

(CROSSTALK)

JACKSON LEE: Raise the issue? I'm sorry.

ABRAMOWITZ: ... of Dalits. That is, the discriminated population in India that have historical social discrimination against them. If she were to meet with a Dalit population to talk about the importance of education, those kinds of steps can have an important impact on raising issues in ways that are difficult to quantify, but I think can have a real impact. I'll just leave it to that.

JACKSON LEE: Thank you.

ABRAMOWITZ: I'll turn it over to Dr. Uprety.

JACKSON LEE: Thank you very much.

Doctor?

UPRETY: From my discussion with police officers before I came here, we have found that girls below 12 will have also been trafficked.

And from my personal experience, when I had been in some places where children are trafficked for (inaudible) a nine-year-old girl had been trafficked to -- from a district of Nepal to India. And later on, after two or three -- after a lot of (inaudible), she came back and now she is one of our students.

So if you would look at children below 10 can also be trafficked, and 12, 13 can also be trafficked. That is -- and that is the saddest part of the human trafficking.

JACKSON LEE: So we need to, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, take this to the highest level of our psychic (ph); be as hostile against it as possible, and let people know that when you're trafficked, you're also sexually violated and abused.

And I join you -- I know the first lady has many issues. She's an eloquent spokesperson, and so I would like to join in that effort and join also as raising my voice against this dastardly deed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Thank you. And while I would really love to pursue some of these things more, we can't since I'm not going to be able to come there. We're going to rush off to something else. I think all three of us have to do that.

We are very grateful you came. We're going to follow up on your testimony and your suggestions and take it very seriously, and maybe even raise this issue at our next meeting. Thank you very much.

END

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2010

37 of 404 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

September 30, 2010 Thursday**HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION;
COMMITTEE: HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS****SECTION:** CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 3202 words**TESTIMONY-BY:** AMB. MARK P. LAGON, PH.D., CHAIRMAN**AFFILIATION:** GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Statement of Amb. Mark P. Lagon, Ph.D. Chairman for International Relations and Security, Concentration, and Visiting Professor, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service Georgetown University

Committee on House Foreign Affairs

September 30, 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, for inviting me to testify on an important subject: the slavery of today. This Committee has for years been committed to addressing imperatives of human rights which cross partisan lines, and were it not for Members of this Committee, including the indefatigable Mr. Smith, there would be no Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) or TIP Office. Thank you. I would ask that my full written statement be put into the Record, and I'll summarize my main points now.

On page 7, the latest TIP Report estimates there are 1.8 trafficking victims for every 1000 people in the world. And that is based on a very conservative International Labor Organization (ILO) estimate of 12.3 million victims globally - less than half of what scholar Kevin Bales estimates. So think about it: at least 1 out of every 555 people in today's world is a human trafficking victim. Based in part upon my experience as the TIP Office Director, I would like to comment on two key priorities in the global context today ten years after the TVPA, the creation of the TIP Office, and the Palermo Protocol to the UN Crime Convention. Then I would like to offer recommendations on four key areas of action.

Two Global Trends and Priorities

The Need for Rule of Law in Practice. Human traffickers treat vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, minorities, and disadvantaged castes as if they are not human beings in full. They get away with it when -- through neglect, prejudice, and complicity -- societies, businesses, and government personnel permit them to, leaving those vulnerable groups without equal access to justice.

The main tangible impact of the TVPA, TIP Office's diplomacy, and Palermo Protocol has been the passage of new laws addressing human trafficking in well over half the countries of the world. This is a major achievement for rule of law, and demanding equal access to justice for TIP victims. Yet rule of law consists of so much more than laws on the books - whether in the U.S. or the least developed of nations. There has been a lot of progress training law enforcement officials and empowering NGOs as their partners to help find victims and get them access to justice.

But transformative change has not yet taken place. Of the TVPA's and Palermo Protocols 3 Ps prosecution, protection, prevention prosecution has been the emphasis to date. The TIP Report documents 7,992 prosecutions in the whole world in 2003, and down to 5,506 in 2009. Of the 5,506, only 432 were for labor trafficking. Prosecutions are limited, down from a few years ago, and minimal for non-sexual exploitation. Lots of effort is apparently not "moving the needle" of change a great deal. We need implementation of rule of law.

The Need to Address All Vulnerable Populations. I am often asked where are the more significant places for **human trafficking** globally -- beyond answering simply, "The **Tier 3** countries." India is one, because of the 27 million TIP victims in the world Dr. Bales estimates, two-thirds are there, chiefly in bonded labor. China is another, because of the underrecognized extent of the problem in so many forms, due to migrating workers without a safety net, a Wild West sex trade, official discrimination against Uighurs and Tibetans, and failure to treat North Koreans fleeing atrocious political and economic conditions as refugees. East Asia is of particular concern, given the prevalence of human trafficking for both major forms: for labor and for commercial sex. And the Gulf is a major flashpoint, where despite some strides prompted by U.S. diplomacy and self-interest, to be a woman or foreign guest worker - or worst of all both - you are likely to be treated as a lesser human.

Despite global trafficking foci and flashpoints, there are no "lesser" victims of trafficking. Since TIP's essence is groups denied equal dignity, let us not in our anti-TIP policy privilege some victims over others. They are all of equal value in humankind. One reason the ten year old effort is not moving the needle more is the fissuring of efforts and siloed focus on particular vulnerable groups. It is more than a mere division of labor. For instance, victims of forced labor are no less important than victims of sex trafficking and vice versa. That was a signature feature of my tenure directing the TIP Office.

Sex trafficking is not the only source of exploitation and violence against women. Take three examples: As Ambassador, I met a Burmese woman who had been beaten and had her head shaved in a forced labor camp in Thailand. As Executive Director of the NGO Polaris Project, I met two Chinese women in Japan who were victimized in a foreign labor trainee program exempt from Japanese labor law. Chinese victimized in Japan. I also met a woman from an African nation Polaris served as a client right here in Washington. She spoke of the attention America paid to treating animals humanely in the U.S. since some people like her are treated like animals here. All females victimized for labor.

Some think sex trafficking has been overemphasized due to alleged moralism, but to focus solely on labor would be equally wrongheaded. As the TIP Office Director who established parity of emphasis for labor slavery, I hope the pendulum is not swinging toward focus on labor to the near exclusion of adult sex trafficking. On page 8 of the 2010 Report the highlighted "box" on "What Is Not Human Trafficking?" emphasizing that prostitution is not trafficking is counterproductive. I do not think prostitution is one and the same as slavery. Few contemporary abolitionists do. But prostitution is the enabling environment for sex trafficking - whether in brothels, or seedy streets or, until recently, on craigslist in the United States. Sex trafficking and its basic enabling environment of men fueling demand for purchasing (chiefly) females globally ought not to lose attention.

One sees fissuring elsewhere. Some devoted to combating sex trafficking focus only on children. (I myself serve on the Advisory Committee of ECPAT-USA, the leading NGO fighting commercial sexual exploitation of children.) This is easier territory given global consensus that there is no meaningful consent by minors to be prostituted. But sex trafficking is not confined to minors. First of all, if lured into the sex trade as a minor, does it suddenly become a choice the day someone turns 18? Moreover, we know that numerous adult females in the global sex trade are subject to force, fraud, or coercion - including subtle psychological terror and trickery - making them trafficking victims even under the strict standards of the Palermo Protocol.

There is one other serious area of fissuring: "Trafficking" may sound like it refers to crossing borders, but it actually refers to turning people into commodities robbed of autonomy. Despite what some at the Department of Labor, the ILO, and some businesses think, crossing borders is not a necessary element of trafficking. The families freed from bonded labor I met in Tamil Nadu, India or the Mexican girl prostituted as a minor I met in Chiapas, Mexico are just as much TIP victims as those who moved across borders.

So we need rule of law and equal dignity, both rightly understood. Rule of law depends on implementation, beyond passage of laws. And the global fight for the dignity of human trafficking victims requires equal value and energy accorded to all the victims. These two tests will be the basic signs to show whether we are successfully on the road to abolishing modern-day slavery. A Four-Pronged Mission Let me note four important areas of activity most important to meeting these two tests of success, and to stamping out human trafficking.

An Exemplar. First, the U.S. must be an exemplar. The clear continuity from Amb. John Miller's tenure to mine to Amb. CdeBaca's has been the steadily increasing emphasis on the U.S. being a good example, using the chairmanship of the inter-agency Senior Policy Operating Group codified by Congress. As TIP Office Director, a central premise was that the U.S. needed to be an exemplar to be an effective promoter of the anti-trafficking agenda globally. Let me say, I had very much in mind by analogy how U.S. detainee policy undercut U.S. promotion of freedom, good governance, and credible anti-terrorism policy internationally.

For example, it was pertinent to the country I focused on most: Mexico. I visited Mexico and its Attorney General in his office twice. I met with the Mexican Senate Majority Leader, head of the opposition to the Mexican President. I convened a trilateral meeting with Mexico, the U.S., and Canada, and included executive and legislative branch officials from each. Throughout this effort, we emphasized what the U.S. was doing - and not doing so well - at home. It surprised the Mexicans, who hate assessments, which they associated with the U.S. narcotics certifications. Mexico enacted a comprehensive TIP law and moved up to Tier 2 in 2008.

Under the last Administration we put a profile of the U.S. in the TIP Report, disseminated in hardcopy and CD-ROM the Department of Justice annual report on the U.S. record on TIP, and got DOJ to produce it same month as the TIP Report (assessing ourselves just as we assessed others). I think it is tremendous that Secretary Clinton has gone farther, including a profile with a ranking and more lengthy recommendations about areas of weakness.

ECPAT submitted a comment on that U.S. profile in the report, noting it did not say that according to U.S. Government's statistics from 2008 and 2009, almost three times as many prostituted children were arrested as were offered protection and assistance. To be transparent about this matter, as TIP Office Director I volunteered to co-lead the U.S. delegation to report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on how we were implementing two Optional Protocols which the United States has ratified (on sale and prostitution of children, and on child soldiers). I knew we would face criticism for not having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child -- the Protocols' mother treaty, pardon the pun. Admitting failings is helpful in pressuring other governments to do more. I saw the South Korean head of that UN Committee at Georgetown University recently, and she noted that benefit of our candor.

A Helping Hand. Persuading other governments to do more also benefits from offering a helping hand. It is not fully appreciated, but the assistance given to NGOs and more efficacious international organizations - like the International Organization of Migration (IOM) - is as important a part of the U.S. policy as any. If this fight against human trafficking is about rule of law and access to justice, civil society organizations are crucial partners to law enforcement to identify victims, make them feel safe, and help them. Victims become more stable, helpful witnesses to punish their exploiters in the process.

A helping hand can be offered directly to some governments too. Training for law enforcement helps turn law on paper into reality. Law enforcement, immigration officials and judges in other countries (just like our own) need a helping hand to learn to see a victim as a victim, not as a dirty or willful criminal. Governments with a will to change (on Tier 2 and Tier 2 Watch List), but with limited resources deserve help. I commend the attention being paid to Africa now, where Amb. CdeBaca went on his first trip. Less developed African nations need not so much "grading on a curve" in the TIP Report as they need tangible assistance.

Tough Love. Being an exemplar and offering a helping hand are important complements to pressuring other governments. Yet make no mistake: pressure governments we must. After ten years, we still need the "tough love" embodied by the TIP Office and its unique report - one that gives grades. The TVPA has manifestly worked - as the rankings and global awareness raised by the report has put pressure on governments. Sure, there are intransigent governments, both undemocratic and democratic. Yet in case after case, we have seen how the report and rankings have worked, even among allies unused to prodding from the U.S.: Turkey, Israel, the Philippines, the UAE, even Ireland, which recently appointed an anti-trafficking "czar."

When some say this "tough love" has not worked, it is flatly untrue. The TIP Office and the Report focus the mind of other governments on the problem; and they focus the mind of U.S. diplomats who would otherwise wish this issue not get in the way of other priorities.

I had the privilege to observe President Bush sign in the Oval Office the Wilberforce TVPRA Reauthorization this Committee launched. One of its most important and welcome provisions was a time limit on Tier 2 Watch List status. Please conduct oversight to ensure this device is used and the fair-minded flexibility you have given to the Executive Branch to defer or avert an automatic Tier 3 ranking is not misused in the name of alleged national interests. Some countries objectively deserve a ranking between Tier 2 and 3, but a so-called "Watch List" is only meaningful if there is a significant prospect of a downgrade to Tier 3.

There is one other area for tougher love. One of the places where trafficking for labor and victimization of women converge takes place right here on U.S. soil. Thanks to the ACLU, I met with a woman from Goa who was the human trafficking victim of a Kuwaiti official stationed in the U.S. She said the family treated her far worse as a domestic servant in the U.S. than in Kuwait because there was even less reason to think they would face consequences in the U.S. than in

a Gulf country. That should make us pause in horror. It was worse in our country because of the impunity delivered by diplomatic immunity.

I commend the TIP Office and now others at the Department for working hard to reduce the vulnerability of domestic servants to abuses qualifying as TIP by diplomats in the United States. Congress was crystal clear in the TVPA, thrice reauthorized, that attention should be paid to government officials found complicit in human trafficking. Official complicity is precisely the issue here. It is inevitable governments may exercise the option to withdraw accused diplomats rather than agree to lift diplomatic immunity to allow prosecution. Still, to meet the intent of the TVPA, these cases should be cited in the report (without using individual names as the Report never does) - as the TIP Office was overruled on in my tenure.

The Role of Business. So both carrots and sticks, both honey and vinegar, in U.S. diplomacy are essential. Secretary of State Clinton is carrying forward an approach of the Clinton and Bush Administrations to mobilize partnerships with NGOs, philanthropies, and businesses in our foreign policy. She calls "partnerships" a fourth "P" along with prosecution, protection, and prevention--more labeling a continuing, sound, non-partisan policy than introducing an initiative.

Chief among these partners is the business community. But it is high time businesses become more actively and tangibly involved in the global fight against human trafficking. For ten years, governments, NGOs, and international organizations have dedicated sizeable efforts to fight trafficking. More definitive results - more "movement of the needle" to squeeze trafficking and make it less profitable --will come if businesses work together to help.

A business coalition would seize the opportunity to leverage varied and unique resources to take a quantum leap in the fight, with the goal to abolish trafficking. Let me be transparent here. I have been a paid consultant of a business engaged in a corporate responsibility campaign related to combating human trafficking: LexisNexis, Inc. It is working with others to explore such a coalition. In a week and a half, major businesses from sectors as diverse as information technology, soft drinks, cosmetics, labor placement, energy, the auto industry, the airline industry, travel and hospitality, entertainment, legal publishing and information solutions, and entertainment are meeting to explore such a business coalition.

Businesses should go farther than they have to date: dialogue with government and the UN; public awareness efforts not involving accountability of their own business operations; and single-sector accountability efforts like apparel, electronics, chocolate, or hotels. How can we end human trafficking if businesses are not fully engaged in reducing enabling environments, and working across siloed sectors. If they did so, we would have a much more significant chance to abolish this contemporary form of slavery.

We must recognize that market demand is a powerful force. Demand for cheap products and commercial sex are drivers of human trafficking. The Department of Labor finally fulfilling the mandate of the 2005 TVPA Reauthorization to produce a list of goods tainted by forced and child labor empowers consumers. If consumers knew some businesses were committed to reducing human trafficking, then demand would become an enormous force for good - creating an incentive for businesses to get ahead of the curve and join the fight.

Globalization need not inexorably lead to slavery - but it will take the proactive efforts of businesses to prevent it. It is not too much to ask: take preventive action against the most extreme and autonomy-denying forms of exploitation, which are manifestly illegal under domestic and international law.

Out of the Shadows

Human trafficking victims are indeed in the shadows -- vulnerable, women, men, children, migrants, and minorities marginalized socially and economically. Let us move from trafficking victimizing the marginalized, to actually marginalizing trafficking - through diplomatic pressure strengthened by being a good example and a helping hand to partners, and through the business community stepping up to the plate too. Only this way can we make sure that rule of law is fully realized and that all types victims are offered a chance to reclaim their inherent dignity.

The TIP Office and Report have done a lot to take the issue of human trafficking out of the shadows. It is worth thinking how much the TIP Office which Congress created ten years ago has found a formula for doing something in the last decade which has so flummoxed the State Department and Executive Branch - public diplomacy. Creative, feisty, un-bureaucratic, the TIP Office has told the story of universal values and the partnership we offer to extend them. That role has been even more important than its traditional diplomacy, and has indeed strengthened that traditional diplomacy.

Thanks for your effort to take this crucial issue out of the shadows with a Full Committee hearing on it, and the chance for me to participate.

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38 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

September 30, 2010 Thursday**PANEL II OF A HEARING OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE;****SUBJECT: OUT OF THE SHADOWS: THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING;****CHAIR BY: REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA);****WITNESSES: DAVID ABRAMOWITZ, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, HUMANITY UNITED; MARK LAGON, CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY CONCENTRATION AND VISITING PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S EDMUND A. WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE; ARUNA UPRETY, FOUNDER, THE RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES AND TRUST, AND PARTNER WITH THE AMERICAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION'S STOP GIRL TRAFFICKING PROGRAM; NEHA MISRA, SENIOR SPECIALIST ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY CENTER; BERYL D'SOUZA, MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING DIRECTOR IN INDIA, DALIT FREEDOM NETWORK;****LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING

LENGTH: 10046 words

ANEL II OF A HEARING OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBJECT: OUT OF THE SHADOWS: THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHAIRED BY: REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA) WITNESSES: DAVID ABRAMOWITZ, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, HUMANITY UNITED; MARK LAGON, CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY CONCENTRATION AND VISITING PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S EDMUND A. WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE; ARUNA UPRETY, FOUNDER, THE RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES AND TRUST, AND PARTNER WITH THE AMERICAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION'S STOP GIRL TRAFFICKING PROGRAM; NEHA MISRA, SENIOR SPECIALIST ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY CENTER; BERYL D'SOUZA, MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING DIRECTOR IN INDIA, DALIT FREEDOM NETWORK LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 11:25 A.M. EDT DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

REP. BERMAN: We're now pleased to have a second panel, if they could come up and take their seats. We do have a slight logistical problem. We really have to adjourn this hearing no later than 12:20 or so. So I will begin the introductions.

David Abramowitz, he's the director of policy and government relations at Humanity United, where he leads outreach efforts to the U.S. government, multilateral institutions and international NGOs, and provides strategic counsel and advice to a broad range of grantees. Previously Mr. Abramowitz served as chief counsel for this committee, where he worked on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, among many other issues. He also worked at the office of the legal advisor in the State Department.

And I just have to add on a personal note that as we have recessed our session until after the election, we come to a lame duck session and people talk about what's the agenda in a lame duck. I watched Mr. Abramowitz take the Wilberforce Act, the reauthorization of the Trafficking Protection Victims Act, and knock himself out to pull off, you know, working with friends and collaborators in the other body to produce a piece of legislation when no one thought he had a chance of doing it. A tribute to his commitment to this, and we're really pleased to have him back here testifying on a subject he has demonstrated over and over again he cares greatly about.

Ambassador Mark Lagon is chair for the international relations and security concentration and visiting professor and master of science in foreign service program at Georgetown University. He is also adjunct senior fellow on the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ambassador Lagon served as director of the office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons at the U.S. Department of State from 2007-2009, as Mr. Smith mentioned earlier. He also served as deputy assistant secretary of State for international organization affairs, and on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he was involved in these issues.

Dr. Aruna Uprety is the founder of the Rural Health Education Services Trust in Nepal. In 1995 Dr. Uprety began working with the American Himalayan Foundation on the problem of young girls in rural Nepal being trafficked to India. In addition to her work with the Rural Health Education Services Trust, Dr. Uprety also serves as a consultant to the United Nations. You came a long way and we're very honored that you would be with us today.

Also coming a long -- well, Neha Misra is the senior specialist for migration and human trafficking at the Solidarity Center, AFL-CIO, an international workers' rights NGO based in Washington, D.C. Previously Ms. Misra was the deputy country director and program manager for the Solidarity Center's counter-trafficking in persons project in Indonesia. Before her assignment in Indonesia she worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina on post-war elections and democracy, and as a senior attorney advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Beryl D'souza heads the health care initiative of the Dalit Freedom Network, an Operation Mercy India foundation. Concerned with the issue of human trafficking and HIV-AIDS in India, Dr. D'souza works with Dalit activists and international medical professionals to improve the health and well-being of the Dalit people. Also come a long way.

So thank all our witnesses, and Mr. Abramowitz, why don't you begin the testimony. Your entire statements will be included in the record and great if you can summarize them and then we'll have questioning.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Royce, and other distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for holding this very important hearing on the global fight against trafficking. My ears were burning with both Mr. Smith and yourself, Mr. Chairman, were talking about the work that I did. I have to note that Doug Anderson (sp), who's also sitting in the room, was there from the beginning on the TVPA, working with Joseph Reese (sp) and myself.

I think that should be noted, but at the end of the day I remember any number of conversations that I had with Mr. Smith when he was the lead on some of the Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act, as well as the act itself, and with you, Mr. Chairman. And I have to say that despite the hard work that we all did at the staff level, at the end of the day I think these things wouldn't have happened without you, and I think you should be very proud of the work that you've done and the accomplishment that came from it, as Ambassador CdeBaca was discussing.

It's a privilege for me to return to the committee in my new role as director of policy and government relations at Humanity United, a philanthropic organization that works to advance human freedom by combating modern-day slavery and to build peace and prevent conflict.

Mr. Chairman, as described in my written testimony and as you recognized in your opening statement, trafficking continues to inflict suffering on tens of millions of people around the globe including here in the United States and may even have undergone a surge during the current global economic downturn, as I think Mr. Royce was suggesting in his

opening statement. Every victim of human trafficking, whether laboring in the fields where our food is grown or in the streets where U.S. youth is sexually exploited, deserve the freedom to be a survivor.

Mr. Chairman, at Humanity United we believe that there are solutions to these heinous abuses but that they require a unity of effort between civil society, which can work directly with survivors; the private sector, which can ensure supply chains are slave free; and governments, which can implement policies to help end this scourge. In that regard, Mr. Chairman, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, or TVPA, and (its various ?) Reauthorization Act establish a powerful framework for the United States which, as Mr. Smith noted, has been implemented vigorously by three administrations under presidents from both political parties. In particular, the Trafficking in Persons, or TIP, report mandated by the TVPA has a tremendous tool for catalyzing changes as, again, Mr. Royce noted that it's been an important element of our diplomacy. I ask that a document that -- demonstrating how the TVPA has fostered real change, which was compiled by the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking -- (inaudible) -- be entered into the record.

REP. BERMAN: It will be included -- (off mike).

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as reflected in my written testimony, this year's TIP report continues to show a dynamic analysis of trends in human trafficking. Continued -- countries continue to be downgraded as well as upgraded and several key countries remain on Tier 3 and therefore subject to sanctions. The overall assessment of U.S. performance on the international front, however, remains an unfinished story. My written testimony raises a number of concerns including the following.

First, we need to continue to ensure that the TIP report focuses on trafficking into both sexual and labor exploitation. This year's report continues the longstanding trend towards focusing a bit more on trafficking into labor exploitation. Yet, I believe the report needs to capture more fully, for example, the risk facing women and children who migrate for legitimate labor purposes but end up being exploited sexually as well. During my trip to Nepal last week, activists suggested that as many as 90 percent of women and girls who have migrated from that country face such dual exploitation. I was encouraged that Ambassador CdeBaca alluded to these phenomena in his testimony today.

Second, the administration needs to ensure continued high-level support for U.S. diplomacy on trafficking issues. Making a difference in perennially difficult cases laid out in the TIP report will require high-level diplomatic intervention. For example, will human trafficking be raised at or around the president's summit with Prime Minister Singh of India later this year?

Mr. Chairman, I cannot emphasize too much the importance of combining the TIP report with robust diplomacy. Earlier this month, as Ambassador CdeBaca alluded to, Senegal successfully completed a first ever prosecution of those who are benefiting from child begging and Senegalese officials specifically stated that this prosecution occurred as a result of the TVPA.

I believe the testimony from all members of this panel suggest that U.S. diplomacy needs to move towards encouraging better implementation of local statutes and rule of law in order to make a real dent in human trafficking, a view I strongly endorse. This committee also has an important role in this effort. Every subcommittee should ensure that human trafficking is raised -- was raised when assistant secretaries from regional bureaus of State come to testify before them so that those responsible for day-to-day relations in the department are sensitized to the importance of this issue.

Third, you should keep an eye on diverging approaches to trafficking within the U.S. government. One of the reasons that it may appear that there's more focus on trafficking in labor exploitation is continuing differences within the executive branch on how to approach this issue, and I go into that more in my written testimony. Mr. Chairman, this debate is distracting government from its real work and should be resolved. Fourth, Mr. Chairman, as I lay out in my written testimony, you should ensure that the TIP report is not merged with other human rights reports and I'm happy to discuss that with you during the question and answer period.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my written testimony has a number of additional suggestions regarding how U.S. law could be improved in the reauthorization bill the committee will consider next year. Let me just highlight one at this point. The U.S. should enhance civilian protection in humanitarian crises to prevent trafficking when the vulnerable population often increases.

Now, I think this really goes to the point that Ambassador CdeBaca raised about taking trafficking out of being a boutique issue and bringing it into some of the mainstream. In particular, Mr. Chairman, I believe the committee should support creating an emergency response fund for the TIP office that can be programmed as needed. This was demon-

strated most tellingly this year after the Haiti earthquake. Rather than robbing Peter to pay Paul to address such urgent needs, an emergency fund should be established to deal with unanticipated humanitarian crises.

The Senate Appropriations Committee actually took a good first step this year by including language on this matter at the request of Senator Kerry. Institutionalizing such a fund in the TVPA could be an important contribution to saving lives. Mr. Chairman, the voices of the victims and survivors of human trafficking are indeed heard all too often from the shadows. We in civil society will work with you and this committee to ensure that we stay on the path to eradicating modern-day slavery, advancing the cause of human freedom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I stand ready to answer your questions.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Abramowitz. Ambassador Lagon.

MR. LAGON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Royce, members of the committee, for inviting me to testify on a very important subject -- the slavery of today. I want to note that the committee has for years been committed to addressing the highest imperatives of human rights that transcend partisan lines and it weren't for -- if it weren't for members of this committee, noticeably, the indefatigable Mr. Smith there wouldn't be a Trafficking Victims Protection Act or a TIP office. So thank you.

On Page 7, the latest TIP report estimates that there are 1.8 trafficking victims for every 1,000 people in the world and that's based on a very conservative ILO estimate of 12.3 million victims globally, less than half of the estimate of scholar Kevin Bales. So think about it. At least one out of every 555 people in the world today is a human trafficking victim.

I'd like to comment on a couple of patterns today in the world, 10 years after the TVPA's creation of the TIP office and the Palermo Protocol, and then I'd like to offer recommendations in four key areas of action. First trend that I want to highlight relates to rule of law. The main tangible impact of the TVPA, the TIP's office diplomacy, and the Palermo Protocol have been passage of new laws addressing human trafficking in well over half the countries in the world and yet rule of law consists in so much more than law on the books whether in the United States or in the least developed countries.

The TIP report documents 7,992 prosecutions in the whole world in 2003 and then down to 5,506 prosecutions in 2009. And of those 5,506, only 432 were for labor-related trafficking. Prosecutions are limited. They're down from a few years ago and they're minimal for nonsexual exploitation. If we're to be plain, loss of effort is apparently not moving the needle of change a great deal. We need implementation of rule of law.

Secondly, I'm often asked where are the most significant places in the world for the human trafficking problem. One answer is India because of the -- of those 27 million people Kevin Bales estimates are trafficking victims in the world. Some two-thirds are there, chiefly in bonded labor. China is another answer due to migrating workers without a safety net, a female deficit -- as Congressman Smith referred to a Wild West kind of sex trade -- official discrimination against Uighurs and Tibetans, and the failure to treat North Koreans fleeing atrocious political and economic conditions as refugees.

East Asia is a particular concern because it's a focus of both labor and sex-related trafficking. And finally, the Gulf is a major flashpoint because if you're a woman or if you're a foreign guest worker or, worst of all, if you're both, you're likely to be treated as a lesser human in the Gulf. But despite all of these flashpoints and foci of trafficking, there are no lesser victims of trafficking. So I see another pattern 10 years after the TVPA which contributes to the needle -- the needle not moving as much to abolish slavery. It's the fissuring of efforts -- the siloing of focus on particular groups.

For instance, victims of forced labor are no less important than victims of sex trafficking, and vice versa. Sex trafficking is not the only source of exploitation and violence against women. Couple of examples. When I was executive director of the NGO Polaris Project, I met two Chinese women in Japan who were victimized for forced labor under a labor training program exempt from Japanese labor law.

Also with Polaris I met with an African woman who was a human trafficking victim served as a client by Polaris here in our country, right here in Washington. And she noted -- she thought it was charming how Americans talk so much about cruelty to animals, but some humans, like her, are treated worse than animals.

As the TIP officer director who I would say established the parity of emphasis on labor slavery, I hope the pendulum isn't swinging towards focus on labor to the exclusion of adult sex trafficking. On page eight of the 2010 TIP Report it emphasizes that prostitution is not trafficking. That may be counterproductive. I don't think prostitution is one and the

same as slavery. But prostitution is the enabling environment of sex trafficking whether in brothels or seedy streets or until recently on Craigslist in the United States. Sex trafficking is the basic, enabling environment of men fueling demand for purchasing chiefly females. And that problem affects trafficking and the demand shouldn't lose attention.

There's another serious area of fishing. Despite what some at the Department of Labor or the ILO or some businesses think, crossing borders is not a necessary element of trafficking. Whether the family is freed from bond of labor that I met in Tamil Nadu, India or the Mexican girl I met who was prostituted as a minor in Chiapas, those are every -- that as much TIP victims as those who cross borders. The global fight for the dignity of human trafficking victims requires equal value and energy accordant to all of these victims.

Let me talk briefly about four things I think we need to do. First, we need to be an exemplar. When I was the TIP office director, essential premise was that the United States needed to be an exemplar in order to be an effective promoter of the anti-trafficking agenda internationally. I have very much had in mind the problem of U.S. detainee policy undercutting U.S. promotion of freedom and credible anti-terrorism policy. And that's a continuity between the different directors of GTIP and multiple administrations. Under last administration we put a profile of the United States into the TIP report. We disseminated the Department of Justice's annual report on the U.S. record widely, globally. And we got the Department of Justice to produce it in the same month as the TIP report. I'd really like to commend Secretary Clinton for going farther, for including a profile with a ranking, with a grade, and more lengthy recommendations about areas of weakness. Let's think about the problem at home.

ECPAT, the NGO commented recently in reading the profile of the United States in the TIP report that according to U.S. government statistics 2008 and 2009 almost three times as many prostituted children were arrested as offered protection and assistance in the United States. We've got to be an exemplar.

Secondly, persuading other governments to do more benefits from offering a helping hand. It's not fully appreciated, but the assistance to NGOs and the most efficacious international organizations like the IOM is as important part of U.S. policy as any. And that assistance should go directly to some governments too; those on tier two and two-tier watch list that have a will to change, but deserve help. I commend Ambassador CdeBaca for going to Africa on his first trip. It's a good signal because less developed African nations need not so much a grading on a curve in the TIP report as tangible assistance.

Being an exemplar and offering a helping hand are important complements to pressuring governments. But make no mistake pressuring governments we must. The TVPA has manifestly worked. In case after case we've seen how the report on the rankings have worked. Even among allies, unused to prodding from the United States, Turkey, Israel, the Philippines, the UAE, even Ireland as we see had recently appointing an anti-trafficking czar.

The Wilberforce TVPA reauthorization had a tremendously important and welcome provision and the time limit on Tier II watch list status. Please, please conduct --

REP. BERMAN: Sir, on the time limit.

MR. LAGON: Okay. I'll wrap up.

REP. BERMAN: No, no. Just for people -- on the time limit.

MR. LAGON: Yeah. I said that that was -- the time limit on Tier II watchlist countries was probably the most valuable thing that you and your colleagues including in the TVPA reauthorization.

I urge you to conduct oversight and how the department of state and the executive branch deal with that time limit because in fair mindedness you gave flexibility to the secretary of State and the executive branch to defer or overt an automatic tier-three ranking if the national interest was involved. Play your vigorous role as ever please in looking how that's --

And there's one other area for tougher love which I know my friend David Abramowitz agrees on. One of the places where trafficking for labor and victimization of women converge is right here on U.S. soil; diplomats mistreating domestic servants.

I met with a woman from Goa in India who was a human trafficking victim of a Kuwaiti official stationed here in the United States. She said to me across a table that the family treated her far worse as a domestic servant here in the United States than in Kuwait because they felt even less reason to think that they would face consequences in the United States than in a Gulf country. That should make us pause in horror. It was worse in our country because of the impuni-

ty delivered by diplomatic immunity. Congress has made crystal clear in the TVPA three times reauthorized that attention should be paid to government officials found complicit in human trafficking. That's what we're talking about here. And those cases should be cited specifically in the text of the TIP report.

One final recommendation. For 10 years governments, NGOs, and international organizations have been dedicating sizable efforts to fighting trafficking. More definite efforts, more definite results, more movement of the needle to squeeze trafficking and make it less profitable will come about if businesses work together to help.

Let me be totally transparent here. I've been a paid consultant for a business engaged in corporate responsibility work in this area, LexisNexis Inc. In a week and a half major businesses including LexisNexis from sectors as diverse as information technology, soft drinks, cosmetics, labor placement, energy, the auto industry, the airline industry, travel, entertainment, and legal publishing will meet to talk about the feasibility of forming a business coalition against human trafficking.

Businesses need to go farther than they have to date, not just dialogue with the government and the U.N., not just public awareness campaigns that don't involve any accountability for their own business operations, and not just single sector accountability efforts in apparel, electronics, chocolate, or hotels. We can end human trafficking if businesses are fully engaged. But if they're not or they're working in siloed sectors, we can't have that impact. Consumers will be -- are empowered by the Department of Labor report that indicates those goods tainted by forced and child labor. If consumers knew that some businesses were actually trying to fight human trafficking rather than being enablers, those businesses would benefit.

The TIP report and the TIP office have done a lot to take the issue of human trafficking out of the shadows. You might want to think here at the committee about how that office has done something that the state department has had terrible trouble with for 10 years: public diplomacy, raising up our universal values, offering the United States as a partner, engaging publics abroad. That's a model for other pol(sp). Thank you for holding this hearing for taking this critical issue out of the shadows all the more.

REP. BERMAN: Very good.

Dr. Uprety.

MS. UPRETY: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and other members of the committee for inviting me to testify today. Yes. And I really feel that I am representing not only my organization, Rural Health Education Service Trust and American Himalayan Foundation, but I'm also representing my brothers and sisters from Nepal who are trying their best to combat this problem of human trafficking.

And I would like to start with a story why I started this small organization. In 1992, when I was in Mumbai to take part in a international seminar on HIV/AIDS, we went to red light areas and found out that there were many Nepalese girls who were minors, and we talked with them if they would like to come back to Nepal. And one of the girls looked to us and said now it is too late for you to ask this question. If you had asked this question when we were still in our village, we had not (ph) by the beautiful dreams and if we had had education, maybe we didn't come here and then we would have been safe with our parents.

That statement, told to us with a very sad voice, made us feel that we had to do something in the villages where girls are treated very badly. They are not given the education. And all the time they have to do household work because of gender discrimination.

These girls are very much easily lured (to see ?) when they are asked to come to Bombay or any other beautiful cities. And that was the (seed ?) for my organization to be established. And after establishing this organization, which started with 54 girls, we have now grown up to 7,500 girls, and they are getting education in different places, in 400 schools of the government.

And at the same time, we are trying to raise the issue of girls' trafficking in many places with those girls, with the teachers, with the communities, with the parents. And we have found that it has been -- really worked very well. And when we talk about girls' trafficking, we used to think that it is only in India or in some Indian cities.

Now we have (felt ?) that it doesn't mean girls' trafficking not only to India, but even in other Middle East countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, where girls, again, are lured by beautiful dreams that you are going to be house maid. You will have a lot of money. You will have a very easy job.

And once they land there, they find that they are victim of sexual abuse. They are not paid. And they have to be repeatedly abused by the owners. And about only two months ago we had very sad incident from Lebanon, where 15 Nepalese women had committed suicide because they were sexually exploited by their owners. And they went there with the hope and dreams that they will earn at least \$300 per month. But instead of that, their dead bodies came back to Nepal. And it was only because they were illiterate. They did not know where they were going, and they were very much -- very easily cheated by the companies who took them.

That's why we are trying to put so much emphasis on awareness and education of the girls. And we have found that if the girls can be stayed in school, and if she will know that -- if she will go somewhere, other places, without knowing what she's going to do, without knowing with whom she is going, she can be the victim of sexual abuse, forced labor, and be the victim of HIV-AIDS.

That's why we and many of my friends are trying to raise the issue at the national level as well as in the southeastern countries. And with a strong lobby of our nongovernmental organizations and the media, the Nepalese government has started to bring some good things. And one of that is, to raise the issue in the national level, they have made a special rapporteur of human trafficking in human-rights organizations. And they now publish every year what are the problems and how it can be handled.

And they have also started working -- we have also started working together with the police force in the border area. If they find that there are some women and girls who look innocent and who don't know where they are going, they stop them and find out what they are doing, where they are going. And if they are not satisfied with the -- (inaudible) -- and answers, they bring them back to their parents.

And this issue has really made some progress. And we are proud to say that it has really helped us in some way. But still we have a long way to go, because when we talk about forced labor and sexual trafficking, there is a big mafia with international organization, as well as lack of political commitment from our government, has really made this program in some ways weak, though we are trying our hard -- we are trying our best. But not all the time political people and members of Parliament listen to us, and they think that it is not that big a problem.

But we think that in 21 century, it is slavery. And if a woman -- if a girl -- (inaudible) -- a victim of sex labor and if she's trafficked, it is shameful for our country. It is shameful for our nation. And that's why we are trying our best to do that.

And we have found that among those people, girls who are trafficked, they mostly are there from indigenous groups and from the Dalit communities. And from the (literacy research ?), it has been found that Dalit communities are where the girls and women have literacy rates as low as 3 percent only. It means that they are very easily lured by the beautiful things.

And that's what we are trying to, with help of American Himalayan Foundation, to give education to those girls so that they will be in the schools and they would learn about the problems. They would learn about (skills ?), about their life.

And we have found that we have been successful in some cases, though, as they say, a thousand -- a long journey has to start with a single step. We are trying our best to start this long journey, and we feel that international organizations and American government really can do a lot to prevent this.

And one of that is to make the Stop Girl Trafficking Program very effective. It has to go through the community, and not only in the (policy level ?), but in the villages, in the suburbs, where it is for the people, especially for the traffickers, who can go very easily. But for the people, it is difficult to go there, because sometimes we have to walk about two to three days to reach those places. But traffickers are so smart that they can go very easily.

But we have to make sure -- we have to make plans and programs that we also can -- (inaudible) -- and make (always ?) people about this issue of 21 century -- the problems, the challenges which they have to face if they will be lured by those beautiful dreams.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be here to give testimony. And I sincerely hope that with help of U.S. government and other international organizations, we will be able to combat these problems.

Thank you.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you very much.

Ms. Misra.

MS. MISRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for this opportunity to present to you the Solidarity Center's view of human trafficking from a labor perspective. My very proud immigrant mother also thanks you.

The Solidarity Center is an international NGO that promotes and protects worker rights around the world, working in over 60 countries last year. As a worker-rights organization, the Solidarity Center has seen first-hand how violations of worker rights and lack of labor standards and protections for workers make them vulnerable to human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a labor issue, because it is often linked to various forms of labor exploitation, and it is one of the worst forms of worker abuse.

In 2010, a slave is not necessarily a person in chains or shackles. Slavery is not simply ownership of one person over another. Modern-day slavery can be much more subtle. Trafficking victims toil in factories that produce products that are exported to the United States. They harvest vegetables and process food that ends up on our dining-room tables. They pick crops or mine minerals that are raw materials in the products we buy. They make the clothes and the shoes that we wear. They clean people's homes and take care of the young, elderly and sick. They are enslaved not only through physical restraints, but also through coercion, fear and intimidation. In today's global economy, workers can be enslaved by threats of deportation, lack of viable alternatives, and especially debt.

There are many facets that make labor trafficking thrive around the world, and I just want to mention a few of these. One of them is the particular vulnerability of immigrants or migrant workers to human trafficking. Unsafe migration processes and the lack of labor or legal protections from immigrant workers make them easy targets for traffickers in the form of unscrupulous labor recruiters and employers.

Migrant workers are specifically excluded from the protection of labor laws in many countries simply because of their foreign status or because of the sector that they work in, including in the United States, such as domestic work or agriculture.

Traffickers take advantage of this exclusion and the failure to monitor and enforce laws in sectors where migrant workers or immigrant workers work, and this increases the vulnerability of these workers to human trafficking.

And it's not just undocumented immigrant workers that are vulnerable, but we are increasingly seeing in the United States and around the world legal immigrant workers being trafficked under what are called either temporary or guest worker programs.

There are inherent structural flaws in temporary or guest worker programs around the world that increases the vulnerability of foreign immigrant workers to trafficking, such as being tied to a particular employer that doesn't allow you, if your employer is abusing you, to leave. If you do try to leave, you face deportation.

A common theme for both undocumented and documented migrant workers, Mr. Chairman, is what you mentioned in your opening remarks, which I'd like to highlight, which is the role of labor recruiters and debt bondage. It really is increasingly around the world where we are seeing the use by employers and by workers who are seeking to find work outside of their homes, they're using labor recruiters, and these labor recruiters are charging thousands of dollars to workers for the privilege of laboring for somebody else. And it's really these fees and these charges that are being placed on workers that is creating the situation of debt bondage.

Another area that I'd like to emphasize where labor trafficking is thriving is within supply chains. It's difficult to quantify the exact number of trafficking victims that work in global supply chains, but as supply chains reach down to smaller and smaller suppliers, the chances increase that trafficking victims are part of the labor force. Solidarity Center believes the most effective way to eliminate forced labor, debt bondage and other forms of slavery in supply chains is by empowering workers to have a voice in the workplace and supporting the right to organize and join unions.

The existence of codes of conduct in multinational corporations' policies has failed to curtail trafficking practice in a number of sectors, including garment, textiles, agriculture and seafood processing. There's no easy solution to this problem, but we know that a key deterrence is the ability of unions and labor rights organizations to shine a light on these practices through on-the-ground investigations.

We believe that it's important for Congress and the administration to support such monitoring efforts and the efforts of workers to monitor their own workplaces. In order to get rid of trafficking in supply chains, we have to focus on corporate accountability and not just corporate social responsibility.

Governments also must play a major role in eliminating slavery in supply chains. There are examples around the world of government reluctance to hold employers accountable for trafficking in the workplace. When they do address trafficking for labor exploitation in a supply chain, they often blame the labor recruiter and don't hold the end user, the employer who's exploiting the worker, liable for that trafficking. When cases are prosecuted, they often result in just small fines and no jail time for the perpetrators, which is barely a deterrent for exploitative employers.

I'd also like to emphasize the importance of the Trafficking in Persons report in highlighting labor trafficking. I've dealt with a lot of governments around the world who complain to me about the Trafficking in Persons report, but I have to tell you that it's been extremely important in Solidarity Center's work in being able to leverage and push governments to address issues of labor trafficking. Without this report, without being able to point to it, and having cases such as in the Gulf, where legal migrant workers are trafficked for forced labor, it would be very difficult to get these governments to move.

Just in closing in the interest of time, I'd just like to highlight a few key initiatives that I think we need to focus on to address labor trafficking. These include forming labor and other laws to include and protect immigrants and domestic workers. Also, we have to pay equal attention not just to passing better laws but also implementing, monitoring and enforcing these laws. This includes a greater role for labor inspectors.

Labor inspectors must be engaged in and be an integral part of law enforcement initiatives to combat human trafficking. I think the countries where literally there have been five to 10 labor inspectors for an entire country to monitor the situation for migrant workers, and that's just not going to help us solve this problem. In addition, labor inspectors have to be given special training to know how, when they go into workplaces, what are the questions they need to ask that go beyond just the initial questions to find trafficking in the workplace.

We need to ensure that victims of labor trafficking not only participate in criminal prosecutions but are also given access to civil suits where they can get withheld or back wages. As I said earlier, we have to ensure that employers are held accountable for their role in labor trafficking, and that they are held accountable not just for what they do but also for what the labor recruiters that they hire and the subcontractors that they hire, the abuses that they commit in their supply chain.

We have to place greater emphasis on safer migration processes for workers, and we have to have increased scrutiny of imports and exports to ensure that goods made from slave labor are not allowed into the marketplace. This also includes reviewing and reworking the role of ICE in overseas inspections.

We have to have strict regulation of labor recruiters and employment agencies, and we must have a strict policy of no fees being charged to workers, period. We have to extend meaningful whistleblower protections to trafficked workers, which allow workers and their representatives to enforce all state, federal, local and employment laws, as well as the conditions in workers' contracts, without having to face deportation or removal.

And finally, we need to put increased pressure and monitoring on states to include trafficking for labor exploitation into anti-trafficking laws and regulations, and to increase prosecutions of labor traffickers, including employers, as perpetrators of human trafficking. Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you very much. You're talking about lot of issues that I've been interested in for a long time. Dr. D'souza.

MS. D'SOUZA: Thank you, Congressman Berman, for organizing this most significant hearing and inviting me to be here today with this distinguished panel. I would like to speak about India's progress in combating human trafficking, the challenges looming ahead, and four approaches to the crisis that are seeing success.

Of the 28 million people around the world that the U.N. considers human slaves, the U.N. recognizes that most live in India and most are Dalit. Today, Dalits are the largest number of people categorized as modern-day slaves, so we really cannot have a discussion about human trafficking and not look at India and regard the problem of the Dalits.

Because of their poverty and the resulting desperation and lack of options, trafficking is not simply a problem the Dalits face. It is an atrocity that has swept Dalit culture in all parts of the nation. Debt bondage is the Dalit destiny most feared and is inherent in every Dalit village and in the life of every Dalit person. Their lack of access to education, health care and a living wage leaves most Dalits resigned to a hopelessness that, without an intervention, will not change.

The 2010 TIP report placed India on the Tier II watchlist for the seventh year, and defined it as a nation in which the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant, or is significantly increasing.

I am the daughter of a Dalit woman. I have dedicated my life to joining others in my country to end Dalit trafficking. Despite the bleakness of the situation, especially for India's 250 million Dalits, India is making progress in combating human trafficking. First and most notably, the country's top leaders have spoken into the public record that human trafficking is India's number-one social problem, with estimates of 100 million people involved.

REP. BERMAN: Who has said that?

DR. D'SOUZA: This has been --

REP. BERMAN: Government, you say?

DR. D'SOUZA: Yes, our rural minister.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you.

DR. D'SOUZA: A crisis that should be dealt with by all stakeholders with a stern and iron hand. Second, there are committed individuals using their position to end this crisis. The 2010 TIP report recognized Mr. Sattaru Umaphathi as one of the nine global heroes. An anti-human trafficking officer, he led rescue operations, contributed to multiple convictions, forged partnerships with NGOs and educated his state law enforcement community about victim rights. He is a true champion for victims everywhere.

Third, dedicated NGOs are combating trafficking through rescue and restore, as well as preventive and preemptive programs. The NGO with which I am affiliated, the Dalit Freedom Network, and all its India partners are driving into the problem some -- (inaudible) -- and seeing results. But there are still major challenges looming ahead for India. As we anticipate the publication of the 2011 TIP report, we recognize that India is at serious risk for demotion to Tier III if significant efforts at improvement are not initiated and registered in the next six months.

Only 7 percent of India's police personnel have received anti-trafficking training. The government's anti-human-trafficking units lack sufficient personnel and funding. The existing laws, while substantive, do not focus on the rights or needs of victims. There are a low number of prosecutions and convictions of known traffickers.

Due to lack of time I will conclude with four approaches that are gaining traction and can serve as a template for other nations. First, we are seeing that the end of trafficking begins with education. Education changes a nation. The education of India's most vulnerable children becomes the most significant means of preventing the selling and exploitation of these children into the workforce and the sex trade. Re-educate Dalit children so that they are worth more than the meagre income they can make in the factories employing them.

To date there are 100 of these schools and nearly 25,000 children enrolled.

Approximately 30 percent of the children are children of bonded laborers. They are studying hard, learning English and preparing for a higher education and a future that does not know desperate poverty. Education is a pre-emptive strike in any nation in which its most vulnerable children are at risk for being trafficked.

Second, the end of trafficking draws near when we economically empower marginalized populations. No longer are prostitution and debt bondage the only options for the poor. Dalits are being trained in marketable skills, finance management, and being offered micro loans to establish their own businesses and earn enough income so that they do not fall prey to fraudulent money lenders that demand exorbitant interest so that even a small loan can never be repaid. We cannot underestimate the horrors that follow when poor parents are forced to sell their own children in an attempt to pay down their debts.

Third, human trafficking is deterred when societies pursue health care for all its citizens. Preventative healthcare, health hygiene, HIV and AIDS education, safe labor practices all promote healthy communities and produce (healthy ?) economic factors. Most Dalits are forced into debt bondage because of a medical crisis that could have been avoided through proper health care.

Finally, we find that advocacy efforts in India and abroad are yielding positive results and should continue to be specific and targeted, beginning with internal advocacy before the Indian government and extending to our international allies who seek to stand with us before their own government in our united efforts to end human Dalit trafficking.

Thank you again, Congressman Berman and this committee.

REP. BERMAN: Well, thank you all very much. It's fascinating and important.

I'm going to yield five minutes to my colleague Mr. Royce for question -- to begin the questioning.

REP. EDWARD R. ROYCE (R-CA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much.

And I'll ask Dr. D'souza a question now. Your written testimony, in your written testimony you mentioned that Prime Minister Singh's statement, his statement was: Even after 60 years of constitutional and legal protection and support, there is still social discrimination against Dalits in many parts of our country. Dalits have faced a unique discrimination in our society that is fundamentally different from the problems of minority groups in general.

That was his quote. I was going to ask you, how important was his statement and how has it affected the treatment of Dalits as a consequence of that statement.

MS. D'SOUZA: Yes. I think Prime Minister Singh has deserved an accolade for his bold statement and being bold enough to address the issue of human trafficking and the relationship to the Dalit atrocities and the Dalit situation in India.

I think the entire issue of Dalits has been a political issue in the Indian government ever since we've had our independence, and by boldly declaring that as an issue, it has led to more pre-emptive measures both from within the government as well as with the non-governmental organizations to deal with this significant problem.

REP. ROYCE: Do you think it has changed in any significant way the perception and that maybe led to a situation where Dalits are less susceptible to human trafficking? Do you think it has an impact among Dalits and among society in general that it's assisted?

MS. D'SOUZA: Absolutely. I think by Prime Minister Singh addressing and accepting the issue (of Dalits ?) from the Indian government stance has been seen very welcoming -- very welcome by the Dalit community, the fact that they're being quantified. The fact that they're being addressed and their rights are being discussed has been very significant.

REP. ROYCE: The question I was going to ask you too, the TIP report, they find certain heroes. and one that they elevate that you mentioned, Saturu -- do I say Humapati (sp)?

MS. D'SOUZA: That's right.

REP. ROYCE: Okay. And he's the anti-human trafficking officer in Andhra Pradesh. And his work, of course, has led to multiple convictions of human traffickers. And a lot of NGOs now across India, you know, sort of formed a partnership as a result of his activity, I think, and in Tamil Nadu, as well. But, you know, aside from highlighting his good work, how can we export some of the lessons; you know, how do we -- how do we expand on what's being done in those states and get other states involved? What are some of the ideas that might suffice to build the momentum on this?

MS. D'SOUZA: Well, again, I would like to appreciate what has been discussed by Ambassador Deehun (ph), and the the initial thought was about how trafficking should not be seen as a (boutique ?) issue but more a basic primary human right issue; and how, by accolading Humapati, we (are creating ?) various law enforcement agencies within our country, different states across the country to look at it as a significant issue and to increase its behavior to exchange information, to exchange resources, to exchange best practices. That's the way to go ahead.

REP. ROYCE: But we find that some of the answers here in the United States too is training of law enforcement. What was the percentage you gave on training today in trafficking?

MS. D'SOUZA: It's about 7 percent of our police personnel.

REP. ROYCE: Yeah.

MS. D'SOUZA: It's only 7 percent of our police personnel that have had adequate training in regard to dealing with victims of human trafficking.

REP. ROYCE: And your point is, of course, if that became a focus along with primarily education, the education of young women and the young people and their equal opportunities for education --

MS. D'SOUZA: That's right.

REP. ROYCE: -- that that, more than anything else, would -- how would you -- what are some of the ways that we might be able to promote the advocacy for education for everybody in society, including Dalits?

MS. D'SOUZA: Again, access, advocating for education and making sure it is accessible to everybody. In our country or in other kinds of -- other different countries where you have so many social injustices all connected and so intertwined that it seems impossible to actually do any progress, you have to work together in a concerted manner to ensure equal opportunity, whether it is access to education or that it's access to universal healthcare, because these are the really critical roots that will actually ensure development happening.

REP. ROYCE: Thank you very much, Dr. D'souza. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you. And I yield myself time.

The -- we are approaching this moment where I have to leave. I would love to -- great thing about being the last person and the chairman is if I have the time, there is material I'd like to pursue for the next half hour with you, and I'm not going to be able to. But there was an interesting connection between much of the testimony that all of you gave, in a certain way, even though different things were focused on.

So Ambassador Lagon talks about the focus on the prosecution side of it, and raises the implication of are we doing enough in the -- in the area of both protection and prevention. And then Dr. Uprety describes a very specific situation of young Nepalese women and girls lured by their dreams and there is nothing in the -- in their education at home or in school that points out the dangers of what could befall you; and how many people -- how many people could avoid being victims of human trafficking by just focusing on that aspect of making people aware of the pitfalls of doing some of those things that they are enticed to do at a point where you -- they still are not in harm's way.

And then Dr. D'souza adds the notion that maybe you also need a component of other alternatives, not just the warnings of what could befall you, but the notion there is a -- there are other opportunities and other avenues. And then Ms. Misra -- I mean, I've been very interested in the issues of migrant labor and how to deal with the exploitation that comes from it, but the point that all of you, and particularly Ms. Misra have driven home is that exploitation turns into a slavery trafficking kind of -- it's a fairly thin line between getting shorted on your paycheck and in the end being held in the sense in bondage.

And we've talked about how do you get through some of this. If you're going to have guest worker programs to deal with labor shortages in certain areas, like (farms ?), to what extent could the United States and Mexico -- could Mexico as a government be the source of selection -- protection of the workers who would be coming over, rather than private recruiters working on behalf of grower interests here but charging the person more than, in effect, the grower for bringing them in?

If you could turn it into a bit of a government-to-government thing, you could avoid many of those issues, and the notion that you are stuck in that situation with one employer and that your alternatives are staying there under what could be horrid conditions or going back to your home country rather than that person knowing that he could lose the worker to another grower or employer who isn't engaging in those kinds of practices could be a great deterrent.

So these are very interesting themes.

I want to ask Mr. Abramowitz one question. You talked in your testimony urging us focusing on the importance of the administration's implementation of the new features of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 relating to moving countries from Two Tier watch list to Tier Three, where the sanctions would apply, and the question of presidential waivers. Spell that out a little bit.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Well, Mr. Chairman --

REP. BERMAN: What -- what are -- what should we be concerned about here?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think this came up in several of the other testimonies, including Ambassador Lagon as well as Dr. D'souza. As was referenced under the TVPRA of 2008, it amended the Trafficking Victims Protection Act so that rather than countries being able to stay on the Tier Two watch list forever, which has been the situation with a number of countries, including India, China, Russia, after two years they're going to have to go down to Tier Three if they haven't been able to (move up ?).

And I think that this is going to cause a lot of hydraulic pressure on the **Trafficking in Persons** office to try to find ways to, for example, as Mr. Royce suggested might have happened to Cambodia, that to move them up from the **Tier**

Two **watch list** up to **Tier Two** so that they can avoid that because this is the second year for a number of those countries.

The alternative to that, though, is, is if it's determined that there's no real progress being made, let's say, within India because it goes from 7 percent to 7.1 percent, the number of police officers trained, then those countries are going to fall down to Tier Three and therefore be subject to sanctions.

I'd rather have an honest assessment -- have the countries fall down, and then the president make a determination as to whether assistance needs to be cut off or not. However, I do think that there's some risk that if a number of countries do go down to this -- to Tier Three and there's a wide range of waivers that the president then implements because in India they need -- we need to do cooperation with or Russia we need to continue democracies -- (inaudible) -- whatever the national interest is, then I think there's a possibility that people will say, oh -- officials in foreign countries will say, oh, this is not a big problem, because we'll just -- the president will just waive for us.

I do think that the name and shame issue remains something that is a very, very powerful motivator. It's not just because of the threat of sanctions but Ambassador CdeBaca said today that the threat of sanctions is a component of that. So my own view is is that we need to try to see if the administration will not only continue honest assessment but also will look at maybe perhaps targeted waivers of assistance that really go to pushing forward rather than just wholesale waivers in the national interest.

REP. BERMAN: My time has more than expired. I didn't realize the gentlelady was here. Could I invite the gentlelady to take over the questioning and the chair because I have to go to someplace you may be joining me at very soon.

REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TX): (Off mike.)

REP. BERMAN: All right. The gentlelady is recognized for three minutes.

REP. JACKSON LEE: Okay. I did not want to miss this hearing, Mr. Chairman, because I think the issues before us are so very vital, and I had an overlapping immigration hearing that likewise is facing a number of concerns. So let me -- let me say that human trafficking is the most dastardly attack on human dignity and the values that one holds for the respect we have for humanity. We cannot describe it any way other than that it cuts off and extinguishes the life of someone without killing them and particularly women who are vulnerable and with great -- women and children in particular. And we were holding a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on human trafficking in the United States so we're none -- none of us are immune from this.

And I want to thank the chairman for this hearing. Coming out of the shadows is very important. Let me ask two questions, and -- I'm just selectively, David, because we have worked together -- to highlight the vileness of it. But what should our first aim be if we want to take the high goal of extinguishing human trafficking around the world? And then if I could ask Aruna, if you would likewise tell us the lowest ebb that victims fall into and what we should do for those victims. David?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Ms. Jackson Lee. It's very hard because there are so many different interventions that we need to consider. I think what Dr. Uprety is doing in terms of trying to educate women and girls in particular and also offering, as was said, some hope for the future through talking about additional educational opportunities and so on -- an important part of the prevention piece.

I think that in terms of trying to ensure that we use our diplomacy to try to make sure that discriminated populations, like Dr. D'souza said, are really highlighted I think that, you know, Mr. Royce, one of the things that we should think about is trying to see if the president can raise the issue of the Dalits in some way. I think if, you know, the First Lady were to meet with Dalits while she was in India that would have an amazing --

REP. JACKSON LEE: Raise the issue -- I'm sorry.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Of Dalits. That is the discriminated populations in India that have historical social discrimination against them. If she were to meet with a Dalit population to talk about the importance of education those kinds of steps can have an important impact on raising issues in ways that are difficult to quantify but I think can have a real impact. I'll just leave it.

REP. JACKSON LEE: Thank you.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Turn it over to Dr. Uprety.

REP. JACKSON LEE: Thank you very much. Doctor?

MS. UPRETY: From my discussion with police officers before I came here we have found that girls below 12 were -- had also been trafficked, and from my personal experience when I had been in some places where children are trafficked for the circus, a nine-year-old girl had been trafficked to -- from a district of Nepal to India, and later when -- and after two or three years after a lot of -- (inaudible) -- she came back and now she is one of our students. So if we looked at -- children below 10 can also be trafficked and 12, 13, also can be trafficked and that is -- and that is the saddest part of this human trafficking.

REP. JACKSON LEE: So we need to, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, take this to the highest level of our psychic, be as hostile against it as possible, and let people know that when you're trafficked you're also sexually violated and abused. And I join you. I know the First Lady has many issues. She's an eloquent spokesperson, and so I would like to join in that effort and join also as raising my voice against this dastardly deed. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for this hearing.

REP. BERMAN: Thank you. Thank you. And while I would really love to pursue some of these things more, we can't. Since I'm not going to be able to (come there ?) we're going to rush off to a -- something else. I think all three of us have to do that. We are very grateful you came. We're going to follow up on your testimony and your suggestions and take it very seriously and maybe even raise this issue in our next meeting. Thank you very much.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

39 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 29, 2010 Wednesday

President says Philippines to step up fight against human trafficking

LENGTH: 496 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star website on 29 September

[Report by Aurea Calica: "Aquino Vows To Step Up Fight vs Human Trafficking"]

Manila, Philippines -President Aquino said the government would vigorously go after human traffickers and that some of those engaged in the illegal activity would be immediately arrested.

The President said in San Francisco, California that the Department of Labour and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Justice were all working to curb human trafficking.

"There are ongoing efforts to run after those engaged in human trafficking," Aquino said.

The President disclosed that he has been looking into the issue for a while now because he received reports last year that only four complaints were filed against a human trafficker who allegedly victimized hundreds.

He did not give details but said: "I'm waiting for an arrest soon."

The President said the law against human trafficking was tough and must be implemented to protect Filipinos from getting victimized.

The Philippines remains on the US [United States] government's **human trafficking watch list** due to the country's inefficient judicial system and corruption in government.

In its 2010 **human trafficking** report released last June, the US State Department retained the Philippines in the "**Tier 2 watch list**" that indicates that the country does not fully comply with, but is making significant efforts to meet, the agency's standards.

"The Philippines is a source country, and to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution and forced labour," the report said.

The report cited an inefficient judicial system and corruption in government, especially in agencies tasked to solve the human trafficking problem, as the reasons for the Philippines' ranking.

"Widespread corruption and an inefficient judicial system continue to severely limit the prosecution of trafficking cases. The vast majority of initiated trafficking prosecutions are usually unsuccessful, largely due to lack of evidence after victims disappear or withdraw cooperation," the report said.

The Philippines, which has been in the US's **human trafficking watch list** since 2001, lacks a method to fast-track trafficking cases in its courts, the report said.

It noted that Philippine courts currently have over 380 pending or ongoing human trafficking cases, and that despite legal provisions designed to ensure a timely judicial process, "trafficking cases in the Philippines take an average of three to four years to conclude."

The US State Department recommended to Philippine authorities to demonstrate greater progress on investigating, prosecuting, and convicting both labour and sex trafficking offenders.

It said the government should provide more resources to curb the problem.

Source: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 29 Sep 10

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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40 of 404 DOCUMENTS

PrairiePundit

September 24, 2010 Friday 10:51 AM EST

China complicit in North brutality

BYLINE: Merv

LENGTH: 399 words

Sep. 24, 2010 (Prairie Pundit delivered by Newstex) --
Washington Times:

China is partially to blame for North Korea's human rights violations because of its policy of sending North Korean refugees back to the isolated communist dictatorship, members of a congressional panel said Thursday.

"What China is doing ... is brutal," said Rep. Frank R. Wolf, Virginia Republican and co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, at Thursday's hearing at the Rayburn House Office Building. "This administration has lost its voice. It's silent on these issues."

While Beijing has long been North Korea's sole source of outside diplomatic support, the repatriation policy makes China's complicity deeper, said Rep. Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey Republican.

Mr. Smith recommended that China be placed on the State Department's list of "**Tier 3 Countries**" on matters of **human trafficking**. A nation in that category "does not fully comply with the minimum standards [to fight trafficking] and is not making significant efforts to do so," which would enable the U.S. to place economic sanctions on China, which is currently on the "Tier 2" watch list.

Because, among other reasons, the Chinese government offers bounties of up to \$1,400 to families who report North Korean defectors, about 90 percent are caught, Mr. Smith said.

Nongovernmental organizations want to bring North Korea to trial for crimes against humanity in the International Criminal Court, said Rep. Jim McGovern, Massachusetts Democrat and the commission's other co-chairman.

Graphic pictures drawn by an unnamed North Korean defector were used to demonstrate the atrocities North Korea performs against its citizens who have been deported by the Chinese government.

Among other things, the pictures showed a prisoner being forced to pick through a cow's manure to find kernels of corn, a prisoner being hung upside down and kicked in the stomach by a guard, and a pregnant woman having a wooden board placed across her body while two other prisoners jumped on either side of the board to force an abortion.

...China probably fears that a failure to return the defectors will result in even more defectors. That maybe true, but it is hardly an excuse for being an accessory to wanton brutality. It is hard to imagine a worse fate than being a North Korean returned to the terror state after escaping.

Newstex ID: PRAI-0001-49036766

LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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41 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

September 24, 2010 Friday

Repatriation policy links China to rights violations; Beijing shares blame with N. Korea, lawmakers say

BYLINE: By Andrew Entzminger THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: A, NATION; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 521 words

China is partially to blame for North Korea's human rights violations because of its policy of sending North Korean refugees back to the isolated communist dictatorship, members of a congressional panel said Thursday.

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Among other things, the pictures showed a prisoner being forced to pick through a cow's manure to find kernels of corn, a prisoner being hung upside down and kicked in the stomach by a guard, and a pregnant woman having a wooden board placed across her body while two other prisoners jumped on either side of the board to force an abortion.

Defector Bahng Mi-sun told the panel through a translator that while North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il is to blame for the atrocities, "isn't it also the fault of [Chinese President] Hu Jintao whose government arrests North Korean defector women and forcibly repatriates them?"

Because of the treatment of North Koreans in China, I "wanted to actually find ways to stop women from having to go to China," Ms. Bahng said. "I had not even known that I had human rights before I came to South Korea."

Jo Jin-hae, another North Korean defector who testified through a translator, said she was "not sharing my testimony here at this place to solicit your pity, or for you to feel sorry for me."

Instead, she said, "my reason for being here today is to ask the people in the world and all of you here, to come together and concentrate your efforts to help with this situation, so that there will be no more children who suffered like I did."

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission is a bipartisan special House panel named for the late Rep. Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress and a longtime human rights crusader.

LOAD-DATE: September 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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42 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

September 17, 2010 Friday**Victims saved****SECTION:** Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 118 words

OVER 200 female victims of trafficking were rescued in a raid Wednesday in Angeles City, Pampanga. In a press conference, Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima yesterday said a total of 268 victims, including at least 15 minors, were found in a series of raids in 10 night clubs. Officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and the Interagency Council Against Trafficking, headed by the Department of Justice, took part in the raid. She said the raids are part of the intensified anti- trafficking campaign in response to the US State Department's "**Tier 2 watch list**" rank for the Philippines in its 2010 report on **human trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: September 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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43 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 14, 2010 Tuesday

USA to withhold funding to North Korea over human trafficking

LENGTH: 577 words

Text of report in English by South Korean news agency Yonhap

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 (Yonhap) - President Barack Obama said Monday the US will withhold funding for North Korea and several other countries for their poor human rights records involving human trafficking.

In a memorandum, Obama said, under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, he made "the determination, with respect to Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK), Eritrea and Iran, not to provide certain assistance for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2011, until such governments comply with the minimum standards or make significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance."

Also affected are Burma, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, the memorandum said.

The countries were categorized in June by the State Department's "2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report" as "**Tier 3** countries" that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so" under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The US government has imposed financial sanctions and a ban on humanitarian aid on Tier 3 countries for two straight years. North Korea has been on the list since 2003.

South Korea was listed among **Tier 1** countries, which fully comply with the minimum standards on **human trafficking**.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a source country for men, women and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and forced prostitution," the human trafficking report said. "The most common form of trafficking involves North Korean women and girls forced into marriage or prostitution in China. Women and girls from North Korea migrate to China, often with the help of a facilitator, seeking food, work, freedom and better life prospects."

China has been under criticism for repatriating North Korean refugees under a secret agreement with North Korea, categorizing defectors as economic immigrants rather than refugees, despite the danger of them being persecuted back home.

"If found by Chinese authorities, victims are deported back to North Korea, where they may face harsh punishment, and may be subject to forced labour in DPRK labour camps," the report said. "NGOs and researchers estimate that tens of thousands of undocumented North Koreans currently live in northeast China, and as many as 70 per cent of them are women. Their status in China as economic migrants who may be deported to North Korea makes them particularly vulnerable to trafficking."

NGO stands for nongovernmental organization.

Most North Korean refugees, fleeing poverty, head to South Korea via neighbouring China.

South Korea has received about 20,000 North Korean defectors since the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The US has taken in nearly 100 North Korean refugees since the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

The US raised the refugee issue during the first human rights dialogue with China under the Obama administration held in May.

"I think again this is an area - maybe another area where a more regular discussion about refugee protection issues could be a very useful thing," Michael Posner, assistant secretary for democracy, human rights and labour, said at the time. "And we're certainly following those cases and we'll continue to raise them."

Source: Yonhap news agency, Seoul, in English 2245 gmt 13 Sep 10

LOAD-DATE: September 14, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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44 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 14, 2010 Tuesday

US agency warns Nepal to curb people-trafficking or lose aid

LENGTH: 552 words

Text of report by privately-owned Nepalese newspaper The Himalayan Times website on 14 September

Kathmandu: USAID-Nepal has launched a new anti-trafficking programme from Tuesday [14 September]. The five-year, 6.8m dollar Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) programme will be implemented by the Asia Foundation (TAF) and its 11 partners, who will contribute additional funds for a total of 7.4m dollars for the efforts.

Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare Sarva Dev Ojha, US Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Patricia Mahoney, USAID Deputy Mission Director Jed Meline, TAF Country Representative George Varughese, Chief Secretary Madhav Ghimire and several other government officials and representatives of civil society organizations attended a ceremony in Nepalgunj to announce the launch of the CTIP programme.

According to USAID, CTIP is designed to increase the three P's - prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers - in six high-risk trafficking districts of Banke, Rupandehi, Makwanpur, Kathmandu, Kavre and Sindhupalchowk districts.

This comprehensive and integrated counter trafficking initiative will strengthen coordination, collaboration, and technical skills across a diverse group of government and civil society stakeholders. The programme will work at the national and local levels simultaneously on national policy, institutional capacity building, and community-based service delivery to close critical gaps between legal and policy frameworks and effective implementation, victims and critical services, and traffickers and justice.

At the launch ceremony, DCM Mahoney voiced the US government's strong commitment to end modern-day slavery in Nepal.

"The programme will increase action to combat to human trafficking, a form of slavery that is as big a problem today as perhaps anytime in history and comes at a time of great need in Nepal. We remain deeply concerned about Nepal's ability to maintain a **'Tier 2 ranking'** on the Department of State's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report. Without successful action by the government to fight trafficking, some of the US government's larger foreign assistance in Nepal may be automatically cut."

She noted that the government of Nepal needs to show significant progress on strengthening enforcement against all types of trafficking; to improve protection of survivors; and to strengthen the national human trafficking working committee.

"Every year thousands of Nepali women are trafficked into Indian brothels, every month hundreds of young girls are trafficked into the growing domestic sex trade, and every day too many Nepalis leave to work abroad and end up in horrific conditions for little or no pay. Human trafficking affects particularly the poor and vulnerable. We need to fight this crime against human dignity together," appealed Minister Ojha.

Non-governmental organizations in Nepal estimate that as many as 15,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked to India annually, while 7,500 are trafficked domestically for commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Nepali women become involuntary domestic workers each year within Nepal, according to the US Department of State's 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Source: The Himalayan Times website, Kathmandu, in English 14 Sep 10

LOAD-DATE: September 14, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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45 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Himalayan Times

September 14, 2010 Tuesday

Multimillion dollar anti-trafficking programme kicks off

BYLINE: THT ONLINE

LENGTH: 525 words

KATHMANDU: USAID/Nepal has launched a new anti-trafficking programme from Tuesday. The five-year USD 6.8 million Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) programme will be implemented by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and its eleven partners, who will contribute additional funds for a total of USD 7.4 million for the efforts.

Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare Sarva Dev Ojha, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Patricia Mahoney, USAID Deputy Mission Director Jed Meline, TAF Country Representative George Varughese, Chief Secretary Madhav Ghimire and several other government officials and representatives of Civil Society organisations attended a ceremony in Nepalgunj to announce the launch of the CTIP programme.

According to USAID, CTIP is designed to increase the three P's --Prevent trafficking, Protect victims, and Prosecute traffickers in six high-risk trafficking districts of Banke, Rupandehi, Makwanpur, Kathmandu, Kavre and Sindhupalchok districts.

This comprehensive and integrated counter trafficking initiative will strengthen coordination, collaboration, and technical skills across a diverse group of government and civil society stakeholders. The programme will work at the national and local levels simultaneously on national policy, institutional capacity building, and community-based service delivery to close critical gaps between legal and policy frameworks and effective implementation, victims and critical services, and traffickers and justice.

At the launch ceremony, DCM Mahoney voiced the U.S government's strong commitment to end modern day slavery in Nepal. "The programme will increase action to combat to human trafficking, a form of slavery that is as big a problem today as perhaps anytime in history and comes at a time of great need in Nepal. We remain deeply concerned about Nepal's ability to maintain a 'Tier 2 ranking' on the Department of State's Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report. Without successful action by the Government to fight trafficking, some of the U.S. Government's larger foreign assistance in Nepal may be automatically cut."

She noted that the government of Nepal needs to show significant progress on strengthening enforcement against all types of trafficking; to improve protection of survivors; and to strengthen the national human trafficking working committee.

"Every year thousands of Nepali women are trafficked into Indian brothels, every month hundreds of young girls are trafficked into the growing domestic sex trade, and every day too many Nepalis leave to work abroad and end up in horrific conditions for little or no pay. Human trafficking affects particularly the poor and vulnerable. We need to fight this crime against human dignity together," appealed Minister Ojha.

Non-governmental organisations in Nepal estimate that as many as 15,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked to India annually, while 7,500 are trafficked domestically for commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Nepali women become involuntary domestic workers each year within Nepal, according to the U.S. Department of State's 2009 "Trafficking in Persons Report.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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46 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

September 7, 2010 Tuesday 12:45 AM EST

Asia Foundation and CCHR Report 'Human Trafficking Trials in Cambodia' Finds Victims' Rights Need Increased Attention

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 339 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

The Asia Foundation issued the following news release:

Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. The country was placed in the **Tier 2 Watch List** in the 2009 U.S. Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** Report. In efforts to combat this serious problem, The Asia Foundation today announced the availability of a report, "Human Trafficking Trials in Cambodia (<http://www.asiafoundation.org/publications/pdf/756>)." The Report is an output of the Cambodian Trial Monitoring Project, implemented by the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) and supported by The Asia Foundation.

The purpose of the project is to monitor human trafficking trials in Cambodia in order to assess their fairness, for both the victims and the accused, against fair trial standards; and to assess the impact of recent legal developments aimed at combating human trafficking, including the Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation 2008 (the "LHTSE").

The Report contains data from 15 trials in which the accused were charged under the LHTSE, monitored in courts throughout Cambodia between 10th August and 31st December 2009. Reference is also made to non-LHTSE trials monitored at Phnom Penh Capital Court and Kandal Provincial Court during the same period.

For more than a decade, The Asia Foundation has been a leader in the fight against human trafficking in Asia by implementing country-specific programs and supporting regional workshops to share lessons on key trafficking issues.

In Cambodia, The Asia Foundation has implemented a Counter-Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program to strengthen the joint efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia and civil society to combat trafficking. The Asia Foundation also supports a scholarship program for children vulnerable to trafficking in northwestern Cambodia.

Read the full report: "Human Trafficking Trials in Cambodia." (<http://www.asiafoundation.org/publications/pdf/756>)

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LOAD-DATE: September 19, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

47 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

September 6, 2010 Monday

Bureau foils trafficking of 18 Pinoys

BYLINE: BY JOMAR CANLAS REPORTER**LENGTH:** 343 words

Bureau of Immigration (BI) officials assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) announced over the weekend that they had barred 18 Saudi-bound Filipinos from leaving the country because of suspicions that illegal recruiters and human trafficking syndicates were victimizing the group.

According to Immigration bureau officer in charge Ronaldo Ledesma, the 18 passengers were intercepted on August 21 as they were about to board a Philippine Airlines flight to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The BI chief reported that the passengers presented questionable documents and gave conflicting and inconsistent statements when interviewed, prompting the immigration officers to disallow their departure.

Lawyer Arvin Santos, BI airport operations division chief, said the passengers presented clearances supposedly issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, which showed that they were hired to work as salesmen.

However, Santos said further examination of the passengers' passports revealed that the visas issued to them were for hired carpenters and not for salesmen.

"It was very evident that their job description and visa do not match, thus we had no choice but to disallow their departure," Santos said.

Ledesma, meanwhile, cited that the Department of Justice is set to conduct further investigations for the prosecution of those responsible for recruiting and facilitating the trip of the group.

The BI has been off-loading suspected "tourist workers" by the hundreds since August as an offshoot of a directive from Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for the bureau to intensify the campaign against human trafficking.

Earlier reports indicated that the Immigration bureau off-loaded in August a total of 3,390 passengers about to board planes at the NAIA and at the Clark and Mactan airports.

The Justice chief's order stemmed from a recent report of the US State Department stating that the Philippines continues to be closely monitored for **human trafficking** activities since it is included in Washington's **human trafficking watchlist**.

LOAD-DATE: September 10, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

48 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 3, 2010 Friday

Taiwan president signs declaration on 'determination to eliminate crime'

LENGTH: 573 words

Text of report in English by Taiwan News website on 3 September

[Article by Joseph Yeh from the "Politics" page: "Ma Signs Anti-Human Trafficking Declaration "]

President Ma Ying-jeou signed an anti-human trafficking joint declaration yesterday which is designed to show his government's determination to eliminate the crime in Taiwan. The signing came three months after Taiwan regained its status as a country in fighting trafficking when the US State Department recognized Taiwan as a "**Tier 1**" country in its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report released this June.

"The regaining of the top tier rating in the report is an acknowledgement of how actively Taiwan has been engaged in eliminating the crime for the past few years," said Ma during the signing ceremony.

He added that only 30 countries around the world are listed in the tier one which can show that Taiwan has connected to the world on human rights protection.

The signing of the declaration is also meant to demonstrate Taiwan's determination to become a beacon to Asian democracy and on human rights protection, Ma added.

Also present for the declaration signing ceremony were Premier Wu Den-yih, foreign representatives in Taiwan, and officials of both local and international non-government organizations on combating human trafficking yesterday evening at the end of an international workshop regarding the topic.

Earlier yesterday, during the opening ceremony for the workshop on combating **human trafficking**, Hsieh Li-kung, Director-General of the National Immigration Agency, which organized the event, said that Taiwan's efforts in fighting the crime were noted in the US report, which listed Taiwan as a "**Tier 1**" country for the first time since 2004.

"Human trafficking is a crime that seriously violates human rights, and through fighting the crime, Taiwan can further elevate its human rights status," Hsieh said.

American Institute in Taiwan Director William Stanton, who was also on hand for yesterday's opening, congratulated Taiwan for regaining its status after being downgraded for the previous five years.

"Taiwan is the only nation in Asia that moves to Tier 1 this year, and it is also one of the three Asian countries to be listed on the top tier in the report," he noted.

The AIT head also pledged that the US will continue to work with Taiwan on the issue as there are still many victims of trafficking today, more than half of them in Asia.

Yesterday's workshop was attended by local prosecutors and judges specializing in the human trafficking trail in Taiwan as well as international experts, who exchanged their experience and opinions on the subject.

Among the foreign guests were Nina Vallins, executive director of Project Respect in Melbourne, Australia, and Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator of the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Vallins said that Australia is a destination country for victims of trafficking and most of them were sent into the sex industry.

It is estimated that in 2004 that approximately 1000 women were trafficked to Australia for prostitution each year, a serious problem that her government is also taking action to solve.

Pattanaik said that anti-trafficking measures can be completely ineffective unless issues of labour/work/employment, migration and rights protection of all people are addressed seriously by all governments.

Source: Taiwan News website, Taipei, in English 3 Sep 10

LOAD-DATE: September 3, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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49 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

September 1, 2010 Wednesday 2:02 AM EST

President Ma Attends Closing Ceremony of 2010 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 776 words

DATELINE: TAIPEI, Taiwan

The office of the President of Taiwan issued the following news release:

President Ma Ying-jeou on the afternoon of September 1 attended the closing ceremony of the 2010 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking and reiterated previous assurances that the ROC will continue to resolutely support the United Nations' 2003 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. He added that the ROC is determined to work together with all other civilized countries to combat the transnational human trafficking. The president also signed a declaration against human trafficking, with the proceedings being witnessed by Premier Wu Den-yih, Minister of Interior Jiang Yi-huah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Timothy Chin-tien Yang, and Minister of Justice Tseng Yung-fu. The declaration demonstrates the high level of importance that the government places on the prevention of human trafficking, he said.

President Ma stated that according to United Nations (UN) statistics, human trafficking has become the world's third largest illegal industry, trailing only the illicit trade in arms and narcotics. Profits from the trafficking of humans have reached US\$320 billion and over 27 million people have been victimized, 80% of them being women and children. The president said that human trafficking is an age-old practice. In the late 1940s, the term "white slave" became prominent in the international community, with this practice seriously infringing on the freedom of humans, he said. As a result, the UN in 2000 specially ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the protocol formally took effect in 2003, marking a major step forward in combating the trafficking of humans, he commented.

President Ma stated that while the ROC is not a member of the UN, it supports UN's laws and treaties aimed at protecting human rights and maintaining public welfare. Consequently, the government has incorporated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into domestic law. He said that he also asked the Ministry of Justice to carry out a comprehensive examination of the ROC's laws and regulations to determine whether any contravened these two covenants, and if so to make appropriate amendments to the laws. This initiative will ensure that Taiwan's human rights-related laws are in sync with international practice, he said. The president admitted that this is an ambitious project, but declared that it will help to boost Taiwan's protection of human rights.

The president furthermore stated that the US State Department in June of this year announced its **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2010, and noted that Taiwan is now listed as a **Tier 1** country, putting it in a small group of countries that has most effectively combated **human trafficking**. This marks an improvement from 2006 when Taiwan was on the Tier 2 Watch List, and from 2007 to 2009 when Taiwan was on the Tier 2 list. President Ma said that the improvement this year is a reflection of the international community recognizing the efforts made by the government here in recent years in this regard. Of all 177 countries covered by the survey, only 30 nations were listed as Tier 1, and the ROC and South Korea were the only East Asian nations on the Tier 1 list.

President Ma stressed that prevention of human trafficking requires strict implementation of laws along with a comprehensive package of supplementary measures. For instance, he said that the government over the past two years has made

considerable improvements in protecting the human rights of new immigrants. Via strict procedures and legal amendments, the status of 2,200 people residing illegally in Taiwan has been resolved, including 87 ethnic Tibetans and 2,113 students [, who are descendents of former KMT troops,] from Thailand and Myanmar.

The president reiterated that the ROC will continue to resolutely support the content of the UN's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and will fight side by side with the international community to combat human trafficking groups in an effort to gradually reduce this shocking and shameful behavior. He also expressed his hopes that everyone will take advantage of the International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking to exchange opinions, reach points of consensus, and vigorously promote preventive measures.

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50 of 404 DOCUMENTS



ABC Transcripts (Australia)

August 31, 2010 Tuesday**SHOW:** Lateline 11:47 PM AEST ABC

Tokyo Vice author joins Lateline

REPORTERS: Leigh Sales**LENGTH:** 2288 words

LEIGH SALES, PRESENTER: For 12 years American Jake Adelstein worked the the crime beat for one of Japan's most prestigious newspapers, the Yomiuri Shimbun.

A fluent speaker and writer of Japanese, the job basically took over his life, exposing him to Japan's disturbing under-world, its violent organised crime networks, the abuse of women in the sex districts, even human trafficking.

The Yakuza threatened his life when he broke a story that a notorious Japanese gangster had turned informant to the FBI in exchange for a liver transplant in an American hospital.

Jake Adelstein has written about his experiences in a book called Tokyo Vice and he's in Australia for the Melbourne and Brisbane writers' festivals. He joined me from Brisbane a short time ago.

Jake Adelstein, thank you for joining us.

JAKE ADELSTEIN, AUTHOR, TOKYO VICE: Thank you for having me.

LEIGH SALES: How did you come to find yourself a reporter in Japan working on one of the most prestigious Japanese language newspapers?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Ah! Well, I went to the University of - Sophia University in Tokyo as an exchange student - I transferred there. And then I passed the examination to become a newspaper reporter at the newspaper. That's how they hire.

I don't know how ABC hires reporters, but in Japan, everybody takes a test. If you do well in the test, you go to the interview. If you pass the interviews, you get a job as a reporter and they immediately put you on the police beat, which is where I started.

LEIGH SALES: And why do they start you on the police beat?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Because I think that the Japanese believe that that's the basics of reporting. It's who did what to whom, when, where, and then finally if you have time, why? The why is the non-essential part of the story as far as Japanese are concerned. That's the last thing. It's the first thing that's going to be cut if there's not enough space in the newspaper.

LEIGH SALES: One of the interesting things that leapt out at me was the fact that in Japan reporters would show up at their contacts' houses in the evening bearing gifts in the hopes that you might be able to get some information?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Oh, yeah, yeah. We would become friendly with the cops. And that is part of the - youmari (phonetic spelling), the evening rounds, is when you go to the officers' homes, you wait for them to come back and if they like you, you go into the house and you have a couple of drinks with them and while you're pretending to be drunk, then they might leak a morsel of information to you.

But the pretext is we were both drunk and if I said anything to you about a case that we're working on, I don't remember it. And of course, you can't take notes when you're talking to the cops. That would be breaking the unwritten rule that you're not really actually sharing information.

LEIGH SALES: You also had a lot to do with the criminals. Explain for people who exactly are the Yakuza and how pervasive are they in everyday Japanese life?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: OK. One thing I should explain about the Yakuza is that they are not a hidden society in Japan; they're very open.

There are 80,000 Yakuza members in all of Japan in a total. The Japanese Government recognises them as groups and designates them - and designated 22 of them as special organised crime groups and keeps tabs on them and regulates them, but they don't ban them.

So for example, this is a Yakuza fan magazine. It comes out every month. There are about five different ones of them and on the cover is the head of Japan's largest organised crime group.

If you open the magazine up, you can see pictures of succession ceremonies and other Yakuza bosses. These are the top Mafia bosses in Japan of the Yamaguchi-gumi.

They're ruling over 400,000 people. It's not very secretive. Of course, people also send in their own photos of their tattoos, other Yakuza members.

And they always have a section too about foreign crime, because one of the things the Yakuza do to justify their existence is they're always claiming that, you know, if it wasn't us that Japan would be taken over by evil foreigners like myself. And therefore, they're serving a valuable function.

LEIGH SALES: So, you broke a very big story about a Japanese crime lord who travelled to the US for a liver transplant. Tell us about that.

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Um, Godo Panamasa (phonetic spelling), who is - who was kicked out of the Yakuza in 2009 - or actually was it 2008? Time goes by so quickly.

He was one of the most powerful mob bosses in Japan and he made a deal with the FBI in which he gave up the names of members of his organisation and the financial institutions they were using in the United States to launder money in exchange for a visa to get entrance into UCLA where he got a liver transplant, as did three other Yakuza under very mysterious circumstances because they were all at the bottom of the list, and suddenly after a few huge cash donations to University of California, Los Angeles, they suddenly got themselves new livers.

LEIGH SALES: How did the Yakuza react to you digging around on that matter?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: This one boss put a contract out on me. And, actually we still really hate each other.

Even though he's become a Buddhist priest, he published his memoirs this year in which, if you understand the Yakuza, he has two lines, which were basically along the lines of, you know, 'If you see this reporter and you want to take him out, I would be very happy.'

So, it's not a very cordial relationship. In the long run, if you read the book, it goes into greater detail, it sort of became a question is: who could I play off in his organisation that would rather see him out and exposed than me dead? So, you know, there's a certain amount of Yakuza politics involved there.

LEIGH SALES: And do you feel comfortable - oh, sorry, go on.

JAKE ADELSTEIN: One thing that's interesting about this that relates to Australia is that Godo made this deal with the FBI and he promised to give them all the names of the Yakuza members, which the FBI wanted because Japan's police agencies will not share that information with the United States or Australia because of concerns about privacy for Japan's indigenous mafia members.

The head of the Inagowaki (phonetic spelling), which is the third largest organised crime group in Japan, tried to get into United States to get a liver transplant at UCLA, but because Godo had betrayed the FBI, they wouldn't let him in, so he came to Australia in 2002 and got his liver transplant here.

Australia used to be one of the top spots for Yakuza bosses to get their liver transplants. I don't know if they're doing it here anymore.

LEIGH SALES: Are there many links that you know of between Japanese organised crime and Australia?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Just in property and real estate. I mean, they like the Gold Coast, they like to buy property here.

Australia's one of the countries where Yakuza seem to have an easy time getting in and out of. And in that sense, you know, it's kind of a vacation paradise for them.

LEIGH SALES: And you mentioned - let me ask you - and you do explain it in the book - why is there such a preponderance of liver transplants?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Yakuza tend to be, especially in the younger days, drug users, especially methamphetamines, and in the old days after the Second World War, a lot of them were using dirty needles and got hepatitis C.

Also the tattoos. Like, you can see on the cover of this book and the back of this book - see, one of the things they tend to do is get these full-body tattoos which mark them as members of the Yakuza. And the tattoos themselves are carcinogenic and they prevent your skin from sweating.

So it puts another layer of stress on the liver. It's the number one cause of death for Yakuza members is liver problems and after that is being shot or stabbed to death.

LEIGH SALES: There was another link to Australia in your book, which was that you received a tip-off from actually an Australian woman who was working in Tokyo. You'd spent quite a bit of time nosing around in sex clubs for various investigations and this woman gave you a tip-off that there was a lot of human trafficking going on.

Tell us a little bit about what you learnt there?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: I met this woman named Helena when I was working on the Lucy Blackman story. Lucy Blackman was a British stewardess who had disappeared in Tokyo and was probably killed by a Japanese man, though it's never been really proved in court.

And she called me and told me that she was working in a sex club, because Japan does have a very legal sex industry and that a lot of the girls who were coming into the clubs were working under duress, that they had been brought into the country and their passports taken away and that they were essentially slaves.

And at first I actually didn't take her very seriously, because, you know, all I knew about Japan was that there were lots of Japanese women working in the sex industry legally because it's good money with good benefits.

Whether you approve of the sex industry or not, that's how it is in Japan. I was kind of shocked to realise that there was such a huge human trafficking industry in Japan at the time, and she was very helpful in giving me information and names and numbers to write stories about it in the paper.

And the Yomiuri actually launched kind of a campaign. And the results of our campaign was that Japan was put on the United States **watch list** of countries that weren't really dealing with **human trafficking** problems.

And that embarrassed the Japanese enough that they actually put laws on the books which greatly reduced the number of foreign women trafficked into Japan.

LEIGH SALES: You've done some work since finishing up your reporting career around human trafficking. Is that right?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Yeah. I left Japan in 2005 and then the US State Department sponsored a huge study of human trafficking in Japan, and the study that they wanted done was not about the victims, but how does the process work? Who runs the organisations? What politicians are paid off? Where are the girls brought in?

It was a very intensive project; it took over a year to do. And after finishing up that project and turning in my data, I went to work for the Polaris Project of Japan which is a group that helps trafficking victims and we also work with the police when we get legitimate tips.

This year we got a very good tip about a group of paedophiles who were making child pornography and distributing it and selling it and we took it to the police and worked with them so that the police could actually make an arrest.

Japan, unfortunately, is one of the few countries in the world where it's legal to possess child pornography. You can't sell it or make it, but it's OK to own it, which makes it very hard for the police to actually investigate cases involving child pornography because they can't get a warrant to seize evidence if the person is just using it for their own personal viewing pleasure, if you could say such a thing.

LEIGH SALES: Is that something that the group you've been involved with has been lobbying to change and are authorities receptive to changing those sorts of laws?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: The authorities aren't receptive to changing it. It's a huge money. There's huge money to be made in sort of neo-child pornography.

We lobbied successfully for Amazon Japan to stop putting on their website child pornography for sale. That was successful. The current Japanese government has tabled all laws that would ban possession of child pornography as contraband. And I suppose if there's another political shift that maybe the laws will come back up again.

LEIGH SALES: You realised after you did this human trafficking investigation as a reporter that you were starting to burn out after 12 years on the crime beat. What was it that led you to that realisation?

JAKE ADELSTEIN: (Sighs). You know, I couldn't sleep at night and then I couldn't forget the stories of the people that I'd met or the victims that I'd interviewed.

And, you know, at the time, the human trafficking victims themselves were in a very precarious position because if they went to the police, they would be deported as criminals and the people that had brought them into the country wouldn't be punished because you can't punish someone for a crime if you don't have the witness there because they've already been deported.

And sometimes, you know, the only solution I could see was giving - getting enough money to get them a ticket to get out of the country. And then going to the police and, you know, saying, "Would you raid this club? Would you close this place down?"

I had a very bizarre, surreal conversation with the head of the Azabu Police Station once. I had a tip about a place where women were being - where the women were sex slaves, and he said, 'I can't bust this place unless I have testimony from someone that they're engaging in prostitution, because that is illegal. Then we could arrest the owners for pimping out the women.'

Japan has very bizarre prostitution laws. It's a crime to be a prostitute or to do prostitution, but the prostitute or the customer can't be arrested. The only person who can be arrested is the pimp or the brothel owner.

So, what the chief of police said to me is, 'Why don't you go to this place and have sex with one of the women and then sign a statement and then we can raid the place?' That didn't seem like an acceptable solution to me.

LEIGH SALES: Jake Adelstein, there's many more questions I have for you and lots more I'd like to talk about, but unfortunately we're out of time on this occasion.

Thank you very much for making the time to come and speak to us.

JAKE ADELSTEIN: Thank you for having me on.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

51 of 404 DOCUMENTS

South Asia

August 31, 2010 Tuesday

Say no to human trafficking!

BYLINE: Irsa Khan - Email: irsa-khan@hotmail.com

SECTION: Vol. 14 No. 8

LENGTH: 617 words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: November 23, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

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52 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

August 27, 2010 Friday

Lawyers ask Immigration bureau to deport 7 Chinese executives

BYLINE: BY JOMAR CANLAS REPORTER**LENGTH:** 322 words

A GROUP of pro-environment lawyers asked the Bureau of Immigration to deport and **blacklist** seven Chinese mining executives in Zambales province for **human trafficking** and illegal exploitation of natural resources.

In a three-page Complaint for Deportation dated August 10, the Green Lawyers of the Philippines Inc., through its President Dante Carandang, lodged a complaint with the immigration bureau against the Chinese executives allegedly operating the Coto Mines in Masinloc, Zambales.

Officially charged before the bureau were: Ye Zhou, Shen Bing Hua, Shi Jian Chu, Dong Guilin, Shen Hui, Shi Zhen Yu and Shen Zhen Huan.

The document alleged that the accused engaged in human trafficking by facilitating the entry of around 80 Chinese recruited supposedly to work in the mines.

The complaint also stated that these workers did not have valid work permits and visas, as well as not passing immigration inspection formalities when they entered the country.

"Respondents are undesirable aliens [who violated constitutional], immigration, and other laws of the Philippines," the document added. "Accordingly, they must be ordered deported after due proceedings."

It was suspected that the foreigners acquired the right to operate the mine when they entered into a P250-million agreement with Compania Minera Tubajon Inc.

The executives allegedly established a new management team and infused funds for the maintenance and development of the Masinloc chromite project.

Carandang also said that the mining operation is not covered by any financial and technical assistance agreement with the government, adding that Consolidated Mines, the tenement owner, did not sanction it.

"Wherefore, complainant prays that this honorable commission give due course to this Complaint for Deportation; and after due hearing, order their [the executives] immediate deportation . . . and bar their re-entry into the Philippines," the complaint says.

LOAD-DATE: September 2, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

53 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Cape Argus (South Africa)

August 23, 2010 Monday
E1 Edition

Public hearings on human trafficking in Parliament 'vital for SA'

BYLINE: Steve Swart

SECTION: Pg. 11

LENGTH: 717 words

Public hearings will be held tomorrow and Wednesday on the draft Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill by Parliament's justice and constitutional development portfolio committee.

Why are these public hearings so important?

South Africa is a signatory to the Palermo Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which supplements the UN convention against transnational organised crime.

Compliance includes developing comprehensive legislation under-pinned by a victim-centred empowerment approach. In the run-up to the World Cup, public awareness was raised concerning human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The expected increase in human trafficking did not materialise, or it was not detected. This does not mean human trafficking is not taking place in South Africa.

It is therefore important that the public engage in these public hearings to ascertain the extent and seriousness of this modern form of slavery as there has been very little research in South Africa on the issue.

The first comprehensive assessment was conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) earlier this year on behalf of the programme of assistance to the South African government to prevent, react to human trafficking and provide support to victims of crime, which is being implemented by the National Prosecuting Authority and is co-funded by South Africa and the EU.

What is disconcerting is that according to the annual US Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Reports, South Africa was placed on a **tier two watch list** for four consecutive years for its failure to show increasing efforts to address trafficking. However last year South Africa was removed from the **watch list**, presumably in anticipation of the Prevention and Combating of **Trafficking in Persons** Bill.

There is very little empirical research on trafficking in South Africa, southern Africa and Africa.

South Africa is not even collecting basic-level data which would help ascertain the extent of the problem facing the country. It is far more widespread than we are led to believe with the HSRC report stating that "the limited number of studies that have been conducted suggest that South Africa is a key destination and, to a lesser extent, a country of origin and transit for people trafficked to and from Africa and globally".

There can be no room for complacency with a key finding of the HSRC report indicating that "both anecdotal data and limited quantitative data obtained, reveal a portrait of trafficking that warrants intervention on all fronts".

South Africa is a destination country for women trafficked from Thailand, Pakistan, Philippines, India, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine, mainly for sexual exploitation.

Major African countries of origin are those immediately adjacent to South Africa, mainly Mozambique and Zimbabwe, but also Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Long-distance trafficking occurs, according to the report, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria and Somalia.

Trafficking within South Africa is mainly from rural areas to cities, with women, girls and boys (and, according to the report, to a lesser extent, men) being the targets of traffickers for prostitution, domestic servitude, forced labour (including illegal mining in the Free State), begging, drug trafficking and crime.

The report also reveals trafficking of body parts for muti and religious rituals, including the body parts of albinos as well as the trafficking of people, often children, for ritual sacrifice by satanic cults.

There is no doubt a limited understanding of trafficking in South Africa, as well as a denial that human trafficking even exists.

The public hearings that will be held next week will, I trust, bring public scrutiny to bear on the true extent of human trafficking in South Africa. It is by all accounts much more extensive and pervasive than initially thought.

The end aim must be to provide legislation that addresses trafficking in all its forms comprehensively and effectively.

I Steve Swart is a member of Parliament representing the African Christian Democratic Party on the justice and constitutional development portfolio committee.

LOAD-DATE: August 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: CA

54 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily News (South Africa)

August 23, 2010 Monday
E1 Edition

We need to protect the vulnerable; Public hearings on a draft bill to fight modern-day slavery are vital for all South Africans, writes Steve Swart

SECTION: Pg. 7

LENGTH: 932 words

TOMORROW and on Wednesday, public hearings will be held on the draft Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill in the Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee in Parliament. Why are these public hearings so important?

South Africa is a signatory to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the "Palermo Protocol"), which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. Compliance includes developing comprehensive legislation underpinned by a victim-centred empowerment approach.

In the run-up to the World Cup, public awareness was raised about human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The expected increase in human trafficking did not materialise, or it was just not detected. This does not mean that human trafficking is not taking place in South Africa.

It is therefore important that the public engages in these hearings to ascertain the extent and seriousness of this modern-day form of slavery because there has been very little research in South Africa on the issue.

Disconcerting

The first comprehensive assessment was conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) earlier this year on behalf of the "Programme of Assistance to the South African Government to Prevent, React to Human Trafficking and Provide Support to Victims of Crime" which is being implemented by the National Prosecuting Authority. It is co-funded by the South African government and the European Union.

What is disconcerting is that, according to the annual US Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Reports, South Africa was placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for four consecutive years for its failure to show increasing efforts to address trafficking.

However, last year, South Africa was removed from the **Watch List**, presumably in anticipation of the Prevention and Combating of **Trafficking in Persons** Bill.

There is little empirical research on trafficking in South Africa, southern Africa and Africa in general. South Africa is not even collecting basic-level data that would help ascertain the extent of the problem facing the country.

It is far more widespread than we are led to believe, with the HSRC report stating that "the limited number of studies that have been conducted suggest that South Africa is a key destination and, to a lesser extent, a country of origin and transit for people trafficked to and from Africa and globally".

There can be no room for complacency with a key finding of the HSRC report indicating that "both anecdotal data and limited quantitative data obtained... reveal a portrait of trafficking that warrants intervention on all fronts".

South Africa is a destination for women trafficked from Thailand, Pakistan, Philippines, India, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine, mainly for sexual exploitation.

Major African countries of origin are those immediately adjacent to South Africa, mainly Mozambique and Zimbabwe, but also Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Longer-distance trafficking occurs, according to the report, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria and Somalia.

Trafficking within South Africa is mainly from rural areas to cities, with women, girls and boys (and, according to the report, to a lesser extent, men) being the targets of traffickers for prostitution, domestic servitude, forced labour (including illegal mining in the Free State), begging, drug trafficking and criminal activity.

The report also reveals trafficking of body parts for the harvesting of muti and religious rituals, including the body parts of albinos as well as the trafficking of people, often children, for ritual sacrifice by satanic cults.

What is particularly disturbing is that parents have also been identified as being involved in trafficking or colluding with traffickers, such as where debts incurred by households borrowing money from gangs are settled through pimping of debtors' children for prostitution and drug trafficking.

There is a limited understanding of trafficking in South Africa, as well as a denial that it even exists.

In this regard, the report found that certain embassies denied their nationals were being subjected to human trafficking and refused to grant interviews to researchers. Additionally, researchers experienced "serious difficulties and delays in accessing key informants in government departments".

The public hearings, I trust, will bring public scrutiny to bear on the true extent of human trafficking.

Pervasive

It is by all accounts much more extensive and pervasive than initially thought.

The end aim must be to provide stand-alone legislation that addresses trafficking in all its forms comprehensively and effectively.

We need to ensure that victims of trafficking are cared for in a humane and compassionate manner, and are protected in our witness protection programme should they be required to give evidence.

We must ensure that the offence of trafficking, whether for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, servitude or removal of body parts, is severely dealt with.

The draft legislation provides, in certain cases, for life imprisonment for human traffickers.

In view of the untold misery and suffering that such traffickers inflict upon innocent women, children and men, we parliamentarians should require nothing less.

I Swart is a member of Parliament representing the African Christian Democratic Party on the Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee.

LOAD-DATE: August 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: ND

55 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

August 18, 2010

Cao Hears Testimony on Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam; Rep. Joseph Cao (R-LA) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 466 words

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Less than four weeks after U.S. Secretary of State Hilliary Clinton pledged stronger U.S. ties with Hanoi, a Congressional human rights commission today heard testimony from Vietnamese-Americans on how relatives in their native country have been tortured and killed at the hands of the Vietnamese government.

Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02), the nation's first and only Vietnamese-American Congressman, called the hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to investigate reports of police attacks earlier this year on Catholic men and women in C?n D?u, a village located in east central Vietnam, after they resisted a plan by local authorities to uproot their 135-year-old parish, as well as its cemetery, to build a tourist resort.

In his opening statement, Cao explained that in May, violence broke out at a funeral procession for a member of the parish. "The police seized the casket," he said, "and cremated the body of the deceased against her last wish."

Cao said that "many members of the funeral procession were beaten and arrested, and now some are facing trial. Others have fled the country and are seeking asylum." He said that Nguy?n Nam, a member of the funeral procession, "was interrogated numerous times and died after a severe beating."

Nguy?n Nam's brother, Nguy?n Tai of Houston, Texas, described his brother's death in riveting detail while holding up a photo of the mauled body for the three Commission members in attendance: Cao, Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-04) and Congressman Frank Wolf (VA-10). Wolf is Co-Chairman of the Commission. Both Cao and Smith sit on the Executive Committee.

Wolf ordered the body photo and other documents sent to Secretary of State Clinton for her review. During a July visit to Hanoi to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the reestablishment of U.S.-Vietnamese diplomatic relations, Clinton said the Administration is ready to take ties between the two countries to the "next level."

Cao is among Congressmen now calling for a U.N. investigation of the alleged abuses in C?n D?u. He is also calling for Vietnam to be placed on the U.S. State Department's "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) list of nations known for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom; its "**Tier 3**" list of countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards for combatting **trafficking in persons** for purposes of prostitution and labor; and that Congress pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009, which would prohibit U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese government unless the President certifies to Congress that Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media and religious freedoms, minority rights access to U.S. refugee programs and actions to end **trafficking in persons**.

LOAD-DATE: August 19, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHM

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56 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 18, 2010 Wednesday

CAO HEARS TESTIMONY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN VIETNAM**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 477 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of Louisiana Rep. Joseph Cao:

Less than four weeks after U.S. Secretary of State Hilliary Clinton pledged stronger U.S. ties with Hanoi, a Congressional human rights commission today heard testimony from Vietnamese-Americans on how relatives in their native country have been tortured and killed at the hands of the Vietnamese government.

Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02), the nation's first and only Vietnamese-American Congressman, called the hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to investigate reports of police attacks earlier this year on Catholic men and women in Ca'n Dau, a village located in east central Vietnam, after they resisted a plan by local authorities to uproot their 135-year-old parish, as well as its cemetery, to build a tourist resort.

In his opening statement, Cao explained that in May, violence broke out at a funeral procession for a member of the parish. "The police seized the casket," he said, "and cremated the body of the deceased against her last wish."

Cao said that "many members of the funeral procession were beaten and arrested, and now some are facing trial. Others have fled the country and are seeking asylum." He said that Nguyen Nfm, a member of the funeral procession, "was interrogated numerous times and died after a severe beating."

Nguyen Nfm's brother, Nguyen Tai of Houston, Texas, described his brother's death in riveting detail while holding up a photo of the mauled body for the three Commission members in attendance: Cao, Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-04) and Congressman Frank Wolf (VA-10). Wolf is Co-Chairman of the Commission. Both Cao and Smith sit on the Executive Committee.

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LOAD-DATE: August 18, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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57 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

August 18, 2010 Wednesday 12:34 AM EST

Cao Hears Testimony on Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 494 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Joseph Cao, R-La. (2nd CD), issued the following news release:

Less than four weeks after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged stronger U.S. ties with Hanoi, a Congressional human rights commission today heard testimony from Vietnamese-Americans on how relatives in their native country have been tortured and killed at the hands of the Vietnamese government.

Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02), the nation's first and only Vietnamese-American Congressman, called the hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to investigate reports of police attacks earlier this year on Catholic men and women in C?"n D?u, a village located in east central Vietnam, after they resisted a plan by local authorities to uproot their 135-year-old parish, as well as its cemetery, to build a tourist resort.

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Nguy?...n N?fm's brother, Nguy?...n Tai of Houston, Texas, described his brother's death in riveting detail while holding up a photo of the mauled body for the three Commission members in attendance: Cao, Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-04) and Congressman Frank Wolf (VA-10). Wolf is Co-Chairman of the Commission. Both Cao and Smith sit on the Executive Committee.

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Cao is among Congressmen now calling for a U.N. investigation of the alleged abuses in C?"n D?u. He is also calling for Vietnam to be placed on the U.S. State Department's "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) list of nations known for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom; its "**Tier 3**" list of countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards for combatting **trafficking in persons** for purposes of prostitution and labor; and that Congress pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009, which would prohibit U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese government unless the President certifies to Congress that Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media and religious freedoms, minority rights access to U.S. refugee programs and actions to end **trafficking in persons**.

Contact: Taylor Henry, 202/225-3117

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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58 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 9, 2010 Monday

Malaysian rights group wants separate law for migrant smuggling

LENGTH: 637 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian independent website Malaysiakini, owned by Mkinin Dotcom, on 7 August
[Report by Richard Loo Wai Hoong: "Separate Act Needed for Migrant Worker Smuggling"]

Migrant rights NGO Tenaganita is still dissatisfied with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 in tackling the smuggling of migrant workers, and wants separate legislation for better enforcement.

"There should be a separate Act for the offence of smuggling migrant workers because the thin line between the definitions of trafficking victims and smuggled migrant workers is confusing," said Aegile Fernandez (left), Tenaganita's consultant manager for the anti-trafficking of humans unit.

"We've talked to our lawyers, who agree that it would be difficult for the various enforcement agencies to differentiate between the two," she said.

Fernandez was responding to Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman Yusop's statements at a press conference after officiating a march in Kuala Lumpur today to raise awareness of child sex trafficking.

A member of the Bar Council had, during the press conference, quizzed the minister about Human Rights Watch Asia division deputy director Philip Robertson's remark that Malaysia was committing a "cardinal sin" for failing to differentiate between the trafficking and smuggling of people in the amendments to the Act.

Wira was adamant that the current Act was clear enough.

"I beg to differ. They are different elements that constitute two different offences. Both offences are clearly defined in the Act, so one must read it to understand clearly," he said.

He added that the country need not worry about being downgraded in the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report because in this year's report, Malaysia had ascended to the second **tier watch list** from the third.

Ready to ratify

Meanwhile, the deputy minister also announced that the government was finally ready to ratify the UN protocol complementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), saying they were not prepared to do so earlier.

"We were not ready because the infrastructure was not there. However, now we are more than ready to do so," he said to loud applause from the crowd.

Abu Seman shared with those present statistics of trafficking victims rescued in Malaysia and placed into protection shelters.

"1,656 victims from 19 countries were rescued and given an interim protection order. Only 484 of them were found to be genuine human trafficking victims, after investigations were conducted."

"From this 484,291 of them are sex trafficking victims where 8.6 per cent of them are under-age females."

"Earlier this year, we launched a nine-point national action plan against trafficking in persons to focus on the efforts towards achieving the national goal to suppress the problem and outline the strategic directions for the next five years," he added.

Speeding up prosecution

Abu Seman, who is the Tanah Masjid MP, also said that the attorney-general will work on speeding up the prosecution process for those charged with trafficking, by improving the training of prosecutors.

The march today was part of the 'Petition Campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People' organised by The Body Shop with several NGOS such as Tenaganita, PS Save the Children and Nursalam.

A crowd of about 250 marched from the main entrance of the Pavilion shopping centre to Berjaya Times Square and back.

Their objective was to pressure the Malaysian government to sign the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography which complements the CRC.

The CRC aims to enhance the protection of children from sexual exploitation. Malaysia is the remaining of three countries in Southeast Asia that has not yet ratified the document.

Source: Malaysiakini website, Petaling Jaya, in English 7 Aug 10

LOAD-DATE: August 9, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

59 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

August 8, 2010 Sunday

'Bulk of those trafficked are sex workers'**BYLINE:** Lee Shi-Ian**SECTION:** Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 394 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Many of the foreigners rescued in Malaysia on suspicion of being victims of human trafficking turned out to be people who came to work as prostitutes.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Abu Seman Yusop said of the 1,656 suspected human trafficking victims rescued between February 2008 and July this year, only 484 of them were actual victims.

The 1,656 came from 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and China.

Abu Seman said the 484 victims were now being housed in shelters and safe houses.

"Of the 484, 291 had been trafficked for sexual purposes and checks later revealed that 25 were below the age of 18," he said yesterday.

The remaining 1,172 people had been sent back to their respective countries.

It is learnt that most of those who were deported had entered the country to work in the vice trade.

Earlier, Abu Seman launched the "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People" campaign organised by the Body Shop and several non-governmental organisations at the Pavilion Kuala Lumpur shopping mall.

"Studies have shown that 2.5 million people are being trafficked annually worldwide and this activity generates a profit of RM38 billion for crime organisations.

"Of that figure, at least 1.2 million are below the age of 18 and they are raped, beaten and tortured. They are normally exploited sexually or for labour purposes," he said.

"This is a difficult issue to eradicate as people enter Malaysia with valid travel documents. How do you differentiate between a trafficker and a person being trafficked?"

He lamented the fact that few people were willing to assist the authorities in fighting the crime.

"However, despite the obstacles, the government remains committed to the battle against **human trafficking** and our efforts have been reflected in the latest **watch list** released by the United States State Department."

In June, Malaysia was upgraded back to **Tier 2** of the department's **Trafficking in Persons** list after it had complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Malaysia was downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 3 in 2007.

Abu Seman said the passing of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill recently and -- more importantly -- the inclusion of non-governmental organisations in fighting human trafficking, marked another milestone in Malaysia's battle against the crime.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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60 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

August 7, 2010 Saturday
1 Edition**IMF to visit****BYLINE:** Elenoa Baselala**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 273 words

A JOINT mission of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will be in the country next month to further discuss with the government its request for significant funding.

This was confirmed by the World Bank East Pacific region vice president James Adams in an interview.

Mr Adams said the mission would likely discuss the economic reforms Fiji needs to take.

Fiji is looking at borrowing up to \$1billion from the IMF. One of the previous obstacles in accessing that funding was it being listed as a **tier** three country in **human trafficking**, which meant countries such as the United States of America was obliged to object to the funding.

However, Fiji has now moved up to tier two.

During the announcement of the Revised Budget last month, Finance permanent secretary John Prasad said changing the accounting system of the government from cash to accrual, was one of the recommendations of the IMF.

The IMF had visited Fiji this year and made a number of recommendations on economic reforms.

The reforms, Mr Adams explained, would need to be conducted due to the downturn in the economy, particularly in the tourism industry.

In addition, Fiji's expected to pay over \$200million next year for the bonds it floated in 2005.

The Asian Development Bank economic update said Fiji's revenue from tourism, export and remittances remained weak.

The revised Budget, the ADB said, did not provide fiscal consolidation required under the current economic conditions.

Therefore, underlying fiscal risk remained.

The update added that any unexpected government expense or a revenue slow down would place the achievement of the planned deficit in doubt.

LOAD-DATE: August 10, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

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61 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

August 2, 2010 Monday

Anti-human smuggling hampered (... as fund lack imperils US watch list prospects)

BYLINE: Prinz P. Magtulis

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 640 words

THE GOVERNMENT may fall short on improving its status in the **human trafficking watch list** of the US State Department as lack of funds is hampering efforts to crack down on the illegal activity.

But political analysts said the funding issue is only an excuse to cover up failure in meeting stringent US standards.

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) under the Department of Justice (DoJ) has been given a budget of P25 million of the total P14.9 billion proposed for the Justice department in 2011, data from the department's finance office showed.

Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima has admitted that IACAT had not been included in the department's budget since its creation in 2003.

In a phone interview, she admitted that the program is sorely lacking in funds.

"If you really want to sustain vigor in prosecution of cases, in investigation, resources are important," Ms. de Lima said.

IACAT facilitates the implementation of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003. Ms. de Lima chairs the group and the members include the chiefs of the Bureau of Immigration, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, and Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

The evaluation period for next year's State Department report on the global human trafficking situation started last February and will end in February 2011.

Delayed budget approval in Congress is largely to blame, especially when the outlay is reenacted for the succeeding year due to Congress's failure to pass a budget before the fiscal year ending December. This has happened several times during the Arroyo administration.

For 2010, the country was forced to operate in a reenacted budget after Congress failed to transmit to then-president and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (Pampanga, 2nd district) the P1.54-trillion budget before the end of 2009. Mrs. Arroyo enacted the new budget only on Feb. 8.

Tina Rose Marie L. Canda, director of the Budget and Management Bureau-D under the Budget department, said IACAT had been consistently stricken out of the DoJ budget as the group has failed to present an expense breakdown.

"During budget deliberations, [agencies] are given a last look at their budget proposals, and they have a chance to lobby with us some projects that they want us to reconsider," Ms. Canda said by phone.

She said the Justice department has not been persistent in having IACAT's outlay approved. "That is why we removed it (IACAT)."

But this was countered by Rodolfo B. Felix, director III of the DoJ's Finance and Management Service.

"We are giving lots of supporting documents," he said without citing data.

Last June, a US State Department report placed the Philippines in the Tier 2 watch list, which groups countries that fail to meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The Philippines has been classified under Tier 2 since 2007, but this was the second straight year it has been on the watch list.

The US could withhold aid worth \$250 million if the country is downgraded to Tier 3.

Sought for comment, Gary Martinez, chairman of worker rights group Migrante International, said lack of funds should not be an excuse for the DoJ to fail in its fight against human trafficking.

"Wag naman sana presyohan ang laban sa human trafficking [The campaign against human trafficking should not have a price tag]," he said by phone.

Ramon C. Casiple, a political analyst, agreed. "What the Philippines needs to do is to meet the requirements set by the US like to prosecute more cases in relation to human trafficking," he said.

They both said focus should be given to eliminating graft and corruption in the Bureau of Immigration.

Ms. de Lima had reactivated a DoJ task force formed in 2005 to monitor the implementation of the anti-trafficking law immediately after assuming office on July 1.

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

62 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Sikkim Express

August 2, 2010 Monday

A matter of grave concern

LENGTH: 479 words

The increasing number of incidence of human trafficking in the State is a cause for concern and it is time the authorities woke up and took notice. However, the trend is not just confined to the State; India has the dubious distinction of leading in human trafficking and this is certainly we should be worried about. India has been ranked as a "**Tier II Watch List**" country - only one level better than worst-performing **Tier III** countries such as Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe - in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) compiled by the Union government. Given the definition of **Tier II Watch List** in the TIP, this implies that India ranks among those countries whose governments "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards." Additionally, one of the three following conditions was found in India: first, that the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was very significant or was significantly increasing; second, that there was a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year; or, third, that the determination that India was making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by India itself, to take additional future steps over the next year. In terms of the definition of trafficking under the TVPA, a person may be a trafficking victim "regardless of whether they once consented, participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked, were transported into the exploitative situation, or were simply born into a state of servitude." The TIP adds that at the heart of this phenomenon are the myriad forms of enslavement including forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour debt bondage among migrant labourers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. The TIP noted that the Government of India "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so, particularly with regard to the law enforcement response to sex trafficking." Yet, the TIP argues, the Indian government did not demonstrate sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour.

"Therefore India is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for the seventh consecutive year," the report said. Rough estimates by the UN suggest that 70000 to 2 million persons trafficked across international borders annually are women and children. It is violation of human rights that India as nation needs to address the issue and the civil societies need to seek to the questions on how to respond to the issue.

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63 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

August 2, 2010 Monday 2:23 AM EST

AIT Kaohsiung Branch Office and Kaohsiung City Co-Host Event to 'Turn the Tide' Against Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 285 words**DATELINE:** TAIPEI CITY, Taiwan

The American Institute in Taiwan issued the following news release:

The American Institute in Taiwan Kaohsiung Branch Office (AIT/K) is pleased to join the Kaohsiung City Government in co-hosting the press event, Kaohsiung - Turning the Tide against Human Trafficking, at the Kaohsiung City Hall on Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. The event will highlight the critical role of local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the international fight to "turn the tide" against human trafficking. In its 2010 **Trafficking in Person** Report, the U.S. Department of State noted that Taiwan achieved the highest ranking of "**Tier 1**" for the year because of the Taiwan authorities' full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The press event will feature remarks by Kaohsiung City Mayor Chen Chu, AIT/Kaohsiung Branch Chief Chris Castro and noted television personality Janet Hsieh, who has agreed to serve as AIT/Kaohsiung's first "Honorary Anti-Human Trafficking Celebrity Ambassador." The widely-acclaimed Kaohsiung City Children's Choir will also perform at the event.

AIT Spokeswoman and Public Affairs Officer Sheila Paskman said, "AIT is pleased to collaborate with the City of Kaohsiung, and the Kaohsiung based NGOs, in their efforts to ensure that Taiwan maintains its forward momentum on dealing with the issue of trafficking in persons. We recognize the key to ending the crime of human trafficking lies within strong and effective partnerships."

For more information about the event, please contact Beatrice Lin by phone at 07-238-7744 ext. 625 or by email at linbmc@state.gov

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LOAD-DATE: August 29, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

64 of 404 DOCUMENTS



August 2010

Razing Arizona

BYLINE: Robert Draper; - with contributions by John Ritter

SECTION: POLITICS; Pg. 69 Vol. 80 No. 8 ISSN: 0016-6979

LENGTH: 4192 words

HIGHLIGHT: Deep in the desert Southwest, a battle is raging between an ex-maverick presidential nominee and a defeated congressman with a checkered history (and a penchant for bad jokes). In any other election cycle, this contest would be a laugher. But this year: Arizona's voters are royally pissed! Robert Draper goes inside the most entertaining race of 2010

The television studio is J. D. Hayworth's natural habitat, and in the greenroom of the Yuma, Arizona, NBC affiliate he's happily primping for an interview in which he'll defend his state's controversial new immigration policy. But right now he's chewing on his other favorite topic, Senator John McCain, whom Hayworth seeks to upset in the August 24 Arizona Republican primary--which, as a visceral paean to the far right, has become an emblematic brawl of the 2010 election year.

Hayworth is telling me about how McCain--"the patron saint of campaign-finance reform," he snorts--is exploiting a campaign-funding loophole. "He always does that," says Hayworth. "It's always, 'It's cool for me but not for thee.' " While condemning his opponent's lack of authenticity, Hayworth is self-applying a layer of Pan-Cake makeup with the casual dexterity of an opera diva. The red silk handkerchief in his blazer pocket perfectly matches his red necktie. His hair is short, full, and immobile.

Being a former sportscaster and talk-radio personality, Hayworth knows how to deliver a line, and this election year he has been treating Arizona audiences to an attack on his opponent that is both precise and devastating. McCain, he says, criticized the TARP bailout, but only after he voted for it. McCain, the Reagan Republican, voted against Bush's tax cuts. And on the white-hot subject of immigration, the former congressman lingers like a buzzard on desert carrion: "While my opponent five years ago was co-authoring an amnesty bill with the late Senator Ted Kennedy, I was introducing in the House of Representatives the Enforcement First Act."

Closing in for the kill, J.D. then intones, "Whether it is Barack Obama or Janet Napolitano or, yes, even John McCain, here's the fundamental problem. So many in Washington, D.C., view illegal immigration as a political problem to be managed, instead of seeing it for what it is: a national-security threat, an economic-security threat, and an invasion that must be stopped!"

Hayworth's immigration shtick came fairly late in his twelve-year congressional career, which ended when he was voted out of office in 2006. Other than his association with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the congressman's chief distinction was as a bombastic floor speaker who used his offensive-lineman's girth to intimidate Democrats. Soon after arriving in Washington, he picked a fight with Representative Steny Hoyer by passing out a flyer that said things like "Hoyer = sex training for federal employees" and "Hoyer = illegal drug use" and "Hoyer = New Age cult training."

These days, the 52-year-old Hayworth has both slimmed and toned down. Indeed, among this year's conservative agitators, he's surprisingly well-mannered, and his disapproval of abortion, gun control, and gay marriage play only bit roles

in his windy denunciations of Big Government. He has a Rotarian's joviality and feathers his monologues with historical references and ten-dollar words--"He wanted you to know he wasn't a dummy," says congressional analyst Charlie Cook--yet his face is always red as if fighting back a primal scream. To rally the Tea Party faithful, he travels the state in a beige pickup truck ‡ la Scott Brown, though not by choice: He has raised maybe a fifteenth of the McCain campaign's war chest and has no more than a half-dozen paid staffers. Wry and seemingly well-read, Hayworth nonetheless has, like other right-wing insurgents this season, the air of someone who's gotten a little ahead of himself. In the green-room, I ask him a question about a hot-button issue among conservatives: whether he believes individuals who appear on terrorist watch lists should be permitted to buy firearms.

Hayworth looks pleasantly puzzled. "I haven't even taken a look at that right yet," he says.

I point out that the subject came up after the disclosure that the alleged Times Square bomber had purchased a rifle. Hayworth responds by orating generally on "how you preserve liberties and at the same time deal with security threats." In other words, he has no idea how to answer the question.

In any other year, J. D. Hayworth's campaign would merit little more than a few jokes on *The Daily Show*. Yet McCain, at 73, is regarding the congressman as an existential threat, burying the underdog on the airwaves while relentlessly challenging his conservative purity--and intelligence. In one notable exchange, after Hayworth's remarkable assertion that the United States had never formally declared war on Germany during World War II, the McCain operation circulated online ads mocking the claim, adding, "J. D. Hayworth--is it any wonder he was voted among the dumbest members of Congress?" The senator's operation has never subjected any opponent, including Barack Obama, to such a carpet bombing. When I ask McCain's communication director, Brian Rogers, about the daily savaging, he says, "It's not about Hayworth. It's really about the environment. When you have this massive anti-incumbent sentiment combined with issues about the economy, it's a devil's brew. And look, he's a very vigorous guy who has his lines down. He's gonna get noticed. So you confront him directly."

But McCain has done more than confront--he has converted, shape-shifting in the time-honored manner of a politician who fears his days are numbered. In the past few months--as his lead in the polls fluctuated from twenty-two points to five and, by press time, back to twelve--the senator has lurched to the right. He has backed away from his call to close Guantanamo and threatened to filibuster the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." He has also voiced his support of Arizona's notorious statute 1070, a bill that permits local police to stop an individual they have "reasonable suspicion" to believe is an illegal immigrant; if unchallenged, it will go into effect July 28. Even some of McCain's Republican friends, including former state attorney general Grant Woods and Senator Lindsey Graham, call the law unconstitutional and mean-spirited. "I think it does a lot of harm in the community," Woods says. "We're talking about doctors, lawyers, firemen, housewives, who were born here, whose parents were born here, and they already have that sinking feeling that they're being watched. And that's not right."

The senator's conservative shift, says Arizona State University professor emeritus and political guru Bruce Merrill, is not without risk. "Conservative ideologues tend to have long memories," he says. "I think that far from attracting their support, McCain's latest moves to the right are likelier to make them more suspicious." Hayworth agrees, of course. "You can see national trends, but ultimately what we're finding anecdotally is a feeling that John has had his time," he says. "He was the party's nominee for president. His position in history is secure. All these contortions to try and morph into *my* positions, that I hold, appear to be inauthentic and don't reflect well on his legacy."

As such, says J. D. Hayworth, "It's time to have a consistent conservative"--implying quite plainly that he is the man.

Nearly every night during the election year of 1994, Hayworth's maiden voyage for political office, the telephone would ring at the home of Bruce Merrill, and he or his wife would say, "That's J.D." Hayworth would be calling seeking highly specific advice on how to get out his message and organize a staff. Back in 1991, the sportscaster had taken Merrill's class, Public Opinion & Political Communication, and had been an apt pupil. "The class was about creating reality," recalls Merrill. "Something can be true, but people don't have time to keep up on all the issues. So they believe what's presented to them. J.D. grasped that. As a broadcaster, he understood the media and how to manipulate it. He understood that controversy sells."

To rustle through John David Hayworth's life story is to learn that there are as many people out there who find him lovable and bright as there are who regard him as a bully and buffoon. But even among his admirers, the word *authentic* is never uttered. Born in High Point, North Carolina, he nonetheless "never acted or sounded like a southerner, even though he'd been one all his life," says Kenn Sparks, who anchored the Greenville, South Carolina, TV station where Hayworth spent the early '80s as a sportscaster. N.C. State awarded the offensive lineman a football scholarship, and in

Raleigh he found work at a TV station, won election as student-body president, and never looked back. Hayworth was--like Reagan, whom he campaigned against in 1980 but would lovingly quote in years thereafter--a born performer and a politico, camera-ready. "J.D. wanted to be president, there's no doubt about that in my mind," recalls Sparks. But, he adds, Hayworth's political role model was a moderate: "I think he must've sprung from his mother's womb quoting Eisenhower." Back in the Greenville days, according to two of his former colleagues, a favorite Hayworth line was "I'm a liberal Republican and a drinking Baptist!" His signature phrase, however, was nonpolitical; when describing a home run, the sportscaster would invariably boom, "It's *VAPOR!!!*"

In 1987, Hayworth and his black Corvette convertible departed Greenville for the larger market of Cincinnati, where he spent much of his time discussing politics with then anchorman Jerry Springer and contemplating a run for some office or other. His search for a political springboard intensified upon moving to Phoenix in 1988. Though an actual newsman would have been obligated to maintain a public pretense of objectivity, a sportscaster like Hayworth could regularly exercise his freedom to speak at local GOP "Trunk & Tusk" gatherings. And sure enough, after a relatively unknown progressive was elected to Congress in 1992 in his very district, J. D. Hayworth began assembling staff for a run in '94.

With the full support of Newt Gingrich, who flew out to campaign on his behalf, Hayworth won the race in a landslide. And when John McCain called to congratulate him, the senator offered this advice: "Pick out one or two things to focus on. Because when you get there, you're gonna feel like a mosquito at a nudist colony--there are so many targets of opportunity." In fact, Representative Hayworth would focus, as always, on the camera, becoming the C-SPAN Shakespearean that Speaker Gingrich could rely on to unleash screeds against Clinton and "our good friends in the minority."

IN ANY OTHER YEAR, HAYWORTH'S CAMPAIGN WOULD MERIT LITTLE MORE THAN A FEW JOKES ON 'THE DAILY SHOW.' YET MCCAIN REGARDS HIM AS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT.

When he wasn't advancing the Gingrich revolution, Hayworth took time to speak his mind on issues as varied as campaign-finance reform and the environment. Charlie Cook remembers Hayworth arguing against expanding preserves for Arizona's endangered spotted owls. "Y'know, the way I figure it," the congressman told him, "if two teenagers can reproduce in the backseat of a car, why do spotted owls need a thousand acres apiece?"

Though other House conservatives would grow disillusioned by Newt's willingness to abandon strict term limits, disciplined budgets, and other precepts of the Contract with America, Hayworth "was a loyal vote for whatever the leadership wanted," recalls fellow Arizona congressman Matt Salmon. "I remember he ended up voting for the transportation bills when we thought they were full of pork. He was very anxious to develop a long-term political career." Indeed, when I contacted Club for Growth spokesman Mike Connolly to ask why Tea Party groups have been reluctant to underwrite Hayworth's Senate campaign, Connolly would reply, "He didn't vote like a Tea Partier when he was in the House."

Hayworth's loyalty to Gingrich paid off with an assignment to the elite House Committee on Ways and Means--though a former House colleague remembers, "I witnessed Hayworth crying in front of Gingrich, his face swollen and red, saying, 'If I don't get on this committee, I won't be able to raise the kind of money I need to win in my district.'" Hayworth's constituents, meanwhile, soon grew tired of the congressman's floor antics. "Entertainment is a big part of J.D.," says his former campaign manager, Scott Hildebrand. "That's his Achilles' heel--learning when it's time to turn down the volume. And that's hard to do for a guy who's spent so many years in front of a television camera."

Hayworth's showmanship seemed specifically designed to offend the sensibilities of John *Character Is Destiny* McCain. Though the senator gamely campaigned for Hayworth in 1998, the congressman's press secretary at the time, Jim Heath, recalls that "they'd get out of the plane and hug each other, then get back on and never once say a word to each other." In 2001, Hayworth publicly took umbrage with McCain's campaign-finance-reform position, calling it a violation of free speech. After that, "there was a huge freeze-out," recalls Hayworth. During the 2006 cycle, McCain was only too happy to tell people that Hayworth's ties to Jack Abramoff (which included \$101,000 in campaign donations and frequent access to Abramoff's sports skybox) would sink the congressman that November. McCain was right. Hayworth lost his seat to Democrat Harry E. Mitchell. And though the Department of Justice never pressed charges, he was forced to return to Arizona and to the airwaves--this time as a talk-radio host whose chief target was&

"J Mac," Hayworth bellowed during a typical rant on his drive-time show on KFYI, "is bound and determined to institute some sort of worker program that involves amnesty& in the midst of double-digit unemployment!" Like most right-wing radio personalities, Hayworth focused his ire on the White House and Nancy Pelosi, but the immigration debate made McCain a ripe target. "McCain is out of touch!" callers said. "Please run for office. The country needs you!" Hayworth would often respond with a creaky imitation of the senator--"My friends, thank you for your support."

And was McCain aware of Hayworth's withering impression? "Oh yes," says campaign spokesman Brian Rogers. By April, the McCain campaign had filed an FCC complaint asserting that the candidate was electioneering on his show. Soon after, Hayworth left the airwaves to focus on campaigning full-time.

"I'm proud of my record--not being Mister Congeniality. I'm proud to have investigated Jack Abramoff, who certain congressmen stood along with.& And if I sound a little angry? I'm angry because *you're* angry!"

John McCain indeed looks angry, and for the precise reason he specifies. An American hero turned away twice by voters across the nation, he must now in his declining years be content with another six-year turn on the senatorial dance floor, only to come home and find that Arizonans are royally pissed& at him! Not just at him, of course, and maybe far less angry at him than at everyone else in Washington. Nonetheless, here he is, forced to remind his own people that he's the one guy who should not be blamed for all the mess, that he's the Maverick& oh& except that he told *Newsweek* he's never thought of himself as a Maverick& and God damn the liberal media! No more interviews! (My request was denied.)

"ENTERTAINMENT IS A BIG PART OF J.D.," SAYS HIS FORMER CAMPAIGN MANAGER. "THAT'S HIS ACHILLES' HEEL--LEARNING WHEN IT'S TIME TO TURN DOWN THE VOLUME."

He's red-faced and pacing the stage of a rec center in Sun City West, Arizona, while a hundred or so Anglo senior citizens listen to their senior senator go batshit about the border: "Now, I don't know how often you go down to the southern part of the state. But when you meet the ranchers, they'll tell you their livelihood is not safe.& And why is it? Because their borders are not secure!& Complete the fence, complete the fence, complete the fence!& We have to secure the border!"

But the audience is not with him. Immigration, as a McCain adviser has told me, "is his one weakness," and the senator's overcompensation is a discomfiting spectacle. When a woman asks how he's going to come up with the money to pay for his elaborate new ten-point border-security plan, McCain replies tartly, "I could find you 5 billion in funds tomorrow--from [eliminating] earmarks. That's not a problem, finding the money." When the woman wonders aloud how McCain is going to persuade Congress to give up the practice of earmarks, the senator mumbles, "Listen, I'm not saying it'll be easy."

A man stands up and interjects, "Just a small correction on your speech about immigrants. I don't particularly consider them illegal *immigrants*. I consider them illegal *aliens*."

The crowd murmurs its approval. "Thank you, thank you very much," replies the senator. This would have been the moment for him to say--as he once did with regularity, and as he did just this morning to a smaller, less inflamed gathering--that these people, whatever one wishes to call them, are "God's children." That moment passes.

Then comes a somewhat dissenting voice, from a man with a cane who stands up and wonders what, realistically and humanely, can be done about the millions of Hispanics who have crossed the desert at great peril to do honest work and who have raised families here in America. It sounds like the kind of question the senator himself might have posed, not so long ago. Taken aback, McCain jokes, "I thought you were gonna ask me, 'Why are you such a great American?' Look, we have to address this in a nuanced fashion.& " Having blurted out the dreaded N-word, McCain scrambles back to the right: "But the fact is, we're a nation of laws. And they broke these laws. So I would be glad to sit down and discuss that, once we get the borders secured. But certainly not until then."

To the skeptical expressions in the audience, McCain adds, "Some people say this is a change in my position. The last three years, the smugglers and drugs have dramatically increased. Twenty-two thousand Mexican citizens have been killed. In 2007, when I saw this coming, I said we have to secure the borders first!" This, as anyone who followed McCain's campaign in 2007 knows, is more than a little untrue. What McCain "saw coming" was not a darkening picture on the border but instead a growing resentment among Republican voters toward illegal immigrants--and toward McCain's comprehensive immigration-reform bill, which he thereupon disavowed.

A woman stands up and says, "Senator, I've voted for you every time since I moved here to Arizona. But I'd suggest that when you talk about Hayworth, that you be careful. Because I'd hate to see, if you're not nominated, that you'll be out there saying anything bad."

McCain snaps, "I'm not saying anything bad. I'm just pointing out his record. And that's what I'll continue to do. So thanks for the advice."

"You don't sound that grateful for it," the woman says with a smile.

He replies, without a smile, "I will not allow anyone to define me and my record. And that's what I will do. Listen, I know that we're out of time& "

I later ask the woman, whose name is Stephanie Elitz, if she was satisfied with the senator's answer. "Not at all," Elitz replies. "I've always voted for Senator McCain. But I thought he was a bit arrogant."

J. D. Hayworth, she added, could now count on her vote.

The week I spend in Hayworth's orbit takes me through all corners of a border state roiled by the passage of Arizona's immigration statute, Senate Bill 1070. State senator Rebecca Rios, whose electoral base is part of Hayworth's former district, believes that racial profiling will inevitably result from the bill, then adds, "People clearly want to address the increase in illegal immigrants, border violence, and drug and human trafficking. Politically speaking, it's a hot-button issue that can very quickly rally folks behind you. I'm frankly disappointed to see McCain try and reinvent himself in this tough-on-immigration image. Hayworth, clearly that's what we expect of him."

Hayworth often chides McCain for his "conversion" on immigration. But the seal-the-border stalwart tells me he experienced one of his own, which occurred with a visit to an Arizonan's ranch in 2003. By 2005, the congressman was sponsoring the Enforcement First Act, a bill similar to SB 1070, and as his spokesman Mark Sanders says today, he "literally wrote the book on this subject"--which is to say, he wrote a book titled *Whatever It Takes* in 2006. In the book's opening chapter, the author says that when "I was first elected to Congress," flight crews frequently told him that their red-eye flights were full of illegals. They asked him, "Where is the Border Patrol?" Writes the author, "The real question is: where are the politicians?" Which, back then, would have included Hayworth.

Hayworth's sizable audiences are uniformly white, and on the immigration issue he fields an array of rather edgy questions. But I find that, when pressed in private, Hayworth often backs away from his most extreme rhetoric. For example, I ask what he means by his statement that "we need to stand up for our culture." Well, explains the candidate, "there's a concern about, for lack of a better term, a Balkanization. There's not assimilation anymore." I later ask him how assimilation can be legislated. "Uhh& that's an interesting thought," he says. He suggests that perhaps "the community sector, like YMCAs" or even Tea Party activists, can offer courses in English the way they're now doing on the Constitution. Then Hayworth says, "Of course, those people who play by the rules and want to come here--man, they're eager to learn!"

When discussing Spanish-speaking voters, Hayworth speaks often of "the myth of the Hispanic monolith," a unified voting block. And so I ask him what Hispanic groups are likely to support him. The candidate--who does not speak Spanish, other than when he refers to the "Hayworth hacienda"--mentions a single supporter, a Fountain Hills, Arizona, man who appeared with him on a Fox show, but confesses he's not sure about the guy's name. Maybe Rodriguez.

AN AMERICAN HERO TURNED AWAY TWICE BY VOTERS ACROSS THE NATION, McCAIN CAME HOME ONLY TO FIND THAT VOTERS ARE EXTREMELY PISSED...AT HIM!

I was a little surprised he didn't mention Pee Wee Maestas. Back in his C-SPAN days, Congressman Hayworth more than once praised the little Hispanic lady who operates the Wayside Caf  in Holbrook, Arizona: "She came to this nation legally. Her mother applied for a visa& was willing to work and play by the rules." I decide to drop by the restaurant, and a diminutive woman emerges from the kitchen and offers me a lemonade.

Pee Wee recalls visiting with her former congressman a few times--though she says she never voted for Hayworth, as she is a staunch Democrat. She says he didn't bring up the immigration issue with her, perhaps because her mother was born in the United States. Had Hayworth ever done so, Pee Wee likely would have shared with him the memory of having been one of the only Hispanic children at school and of having been punished by the teacher for an offense that one of the white students committed. Over a half century later, the recollection still pains her. "She wanted to make an example of me," Pee Wee Maestas says. "And how do you think that made me feel? People being singled out for their race--there's no worse feeling than that. Have you ever been prejudiced against? If you haven't, then you can't understand."

Pee Wee mentions John McCain's now notorious "build the danged fence" ad, in which the senator walks the borderlands with a beleaguered county sheriff and lists the issues associated with the border. "Remember how it starts?" she says, referring to the senator's first line--"Drug and human smuggling, home invasions, murder." "He should've said that they're not all criminals. He made it sound too harsh. There are a lot of good people that are coming over, just trying to feed their families."

Were she to make this point to McCain, he might well agree--or he might snarl, as he did at the Sun City West town hall, "Thanks for the advice." It's already evident that J. D. Hayworth will not be the biggest loser on August 24. All but obliterated from memory is the John McCain who once declared that he "would rather lose a political campaign than lose a war," who praised champions of unpopular causes in his book *Hard Call*, and who promised in his 2008 concession speech "to do all in my power to help [Obama] lead us through the many challenges we face."

Though the incumbent's campaign aides like to describe their candidate as "a competitive guy," in the end McCain is no longer competing against another politician or against a new strain of conservatism. He is now competing only against his own legacy as a statesman--which would be of no concern to us, were the very ranks of statesmen not already so badly depleted. Meanwhile, the legacy of J. D. Hayworth may be that he did his part in persuading the Republican Party to renounce everything that John McCain and its finest standard-bearers once stood for. If that is what prevails in 2010, then let's see the victory for what it is:

Vapor.

ROBERT DRAPER *is a GQ correspondent.*

LOAD-DATE: August 26, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Picture, While in Congress, J. D. Hayworth commemorated the September 11 attacks with prayer and song.

Picture, While in Congress, J. D. Hayworth commemorated the September 11 attacks with prayer and song.

PUBLICATION-TYPE: MAGAZINE

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65 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Latin America Monitor - Central America

August 1, 2010 Sunday

Sugar Exports Set To Bounce

LENGTH: 377 words

POLITICAL RISK - Still Tier Two

Costa Rica remains in the **tier-two** category of the US State Department's **Trafficking In Persons** Report for 2010, yet is placed above neighbours Nicaragua and Panama, which are grouped in the **tier two watch list** ranking. If the country is to achieve tier one status and join Colombia (the only Latin American country in the highest group) we believe it will need to make a clear attempt on legislative reforms that comply with the UN's anti-trafficking standards. Any consequent effort to improve Costa Rica's rule of law would bode well for the country's 'characteristics of society' subsection of our proprietary long-term political risk rating.

Our short-term political risk rating remains unchanged at 73.3

ECONOMIC RISK - Sugar Exports Set To Bounce

With the last of the import tariffs on sugar removed by the US as part of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Costa Rica's sugar industry is set to benefit from a significant bounce in export revenues, in our view. Indeed, the country's foreign trade ministry suggests that Costa Rica can now export up to 13,880 tonnes of sugar to the US duty free, which we expect will compensate somewhat for the US\$1mn losses that were incurred when the US suspended all tariff-free sugar trade back in January (due to Costa Rica's delay in implementing the reforms required by the CAFTA).

Our short- and long-term economic risk ratings stand at 52.3 and 56.7 respectively.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT - Mobile Market Making Progress

We believe that there is considerable potential for growth in the Costa Rican mobile market, and the recent decision by state-owned **Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE)** to acquire 400,000 GSM lines from Sweden-based equipment vendor **Ericsson** supports this view. Our telecoms team forecasts mobile phone subscribers in the country to rise from 2.26mn in 2009 to 3.58mn in 2014, with penetration rising from 49% to 108% over the same period. Indeed, it is likely we will be encouraged to upgrade our technological infrastructure rating (at just 22.8) for Costa Rica in the near term, boding well for the country's business environment going forward.

Our business environment rating stands at 48.8, ranking Costa Rica 68th of 167 economies worldwide.

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66 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

July 29, 2010 Thursday 2:55 AM GMT

Human traffickers prey on vulnerable in Thailand

LENGTH: 765 words**DATELINE:** Koh Kred, Thailand, July 29 2010

Sixteen-year-old Kaew slumped into unconsciousness in a van somewhere in southern Thailand, believing she was on her way to work in a textile factory near the border.

She woke up in Malaysia to discover that she had been sold into the sex trade.

Hers is just one of a multitude of cases of modern-day slavery in Thailand, most of which involve a mix of poverty, violence and betrayal.

Apparently drugged and later locked in a room in Kuala Lumpur, Kaew met three other Thai women who asked if she had been lured to work like them.

"I had no idea what they were talking about, but then they told me what kind of job they did and what kind of job I had to do. I was very scared," said Kaew, whose name AFP has changed to protect her identity.

She managed to escape before her first job, using money she had been given to buy food to take a taxi to the Thai embassy.

Now she is now being cared for at Baan Kredtrakarn, a government-run shelter just outside Bangkok. But she can't help thinking of the women she left behind -- or her abductors.

"I want them to be punished. I am very angry," she said.

The US State Department last month put Thailand on its **human trafficking watchlist**, accusing it of not doing enough to combat trafficking.

It said the country was a source, destination and transit point for trafficking, with ethnic minorities and citizens of neighbouring countries at particular risk of sexual abuse or forced labour.

Victims -- mainly from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos -- have been found in the fishing industry, seafood factories, sweatshops and domestic work, while young girls are also ensnared in Thailand's vast sex industry.

They form part of a vast shadow economy across Asia that generates about 10 billion dollars in yearly profits from forced labourers, mainly prostitutes, according to a 2005 report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

It estimated there were 1.36 million trafficking-related victims in forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region -- more than half the global total.

Thai authorities are believed to have identified and helped 530 foreign victims of trafficking last year and repatriated 79 Thai citizens who had been taken overseas.

But experts say that is just the tip of the iceberg, partly because many victims do not want to identify themselves by making a complaint.

"The fact is we just do not have an accurate understanding of the numbers for Thailand, but we do know that the problem is significant," said Allan Dow, an expert at the ILO.

Thailand has said the US report did not take into account its efforts to curb human trafficking.

The country has introduced a scheme to register migrants to give them legitimacy, and reached agreements with its neighbours to cooperate on tackling the issue.

But experts said costly registration procedures, the risk of extortion by corrupt police or civil servants and -- in Myanmar's case -- fear of the authorities mean people often shy away from going through legal channels.

Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's deputy Asia director, said Thai officials needed to recognise that trafficking "will stain their record" internationally.

"In the worse forms of exploitation that these migrant workers face, they are being trafficked into situations where they may be held for months or years with no pay and physical and sexual abuse," he said.

With porous borders and a prosperous economy compared to some of its neighbours, Thailand is a magnet for migration.

The challenges faced by authorities are huge, particularly as trafficking networks are seldom more than loose connections.

Victims are often approached by acquaintances who promise lucrative work across the border. When there is no way back, they find they have been duped.

That's what happened to Bopha, a 40-year-old Cambodian woman who arranged a job in a fish ball factory in Thailand through a broker. After more than a month working from 6:00 am until at least midnight she still had not been paid.

"I cried every day but I had to hide it," she said.

Workers were imprisoned inside the factory compound by high walls, barbed wire and security cameras, and those who tried to escape were beaten.

"When I saw them hit people I thought, we are all human why do they have to do this when we just came to work?" said Bopha, whose name AFP has also changed.

In the end one worker was able to use a smuggled mobile phone to call his relatives and arrange a rescue. Now at the same shelter as Kaew, she yearns to see her family again.

"I am old. I think a lot," Bopha said. "I miss home. I miss my children. I miss my husband and I miss my mother."

tp-klm/dr/lb

LOAD-DATE: July 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

67 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

July 27, 2010 Tuesday

SINGAPORE: CONCERTS BUILD YOUTH CRUSADE AGAINST TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Stanislaus Jude Chan

LENGTH: 867 words

DATELINE: SINGAPORE, Jul 27 2010

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is no stranger to loud music and louder fashion sense. Home to one of the most vibrant student communities in Singapore, it wasn't too surprising to see this at Polytechnic - a concert to drum up youth support against human trafficking.

The trafficking of people, including for sex, is still a concept alien to many in affluent Singapore, where young people learn quickly to be more apathetic and less passionate - especially about human rights.

"I didn't know that Singapore also has this sex trafficking going on. It's quite a shock to me that in our country, even this type of things exist," said 19-year-old Ng Chun Yan, at United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Singapore's 'Sound Out' event on July 23. "It's an important issue to look at," she said.

"Human trafficking is now the third largest international crime in the world. It's not a left-of-centre, sort of 'out there' issue. It's an enormous issue," said UNIFEM Singapore volunteer Katrina Dick.

The event, comprising a talk and a concert by local musicians, was part of the U.N. organization's public awareness program to put a stop to trafficking of women and children in Asia, including Singapore.

UNIFEM Singapore also launched a website, inviting young people to leave a note to support the cause, as well as contribute or listen to music tracks, and spread the message through Facebook, the popular social networking site with some 500 million users worldwide.

"We actually dedicated a show on Radio Heatwave (a campus radio station) to talk about 'Sound Out' as well as UNIFEM," says 20-year-old Germaine D'Rozario, a student-radio presenter who pledged her support on the website. "I knew it was about sex trafficking, but I really didn't know the statistics, that there are 1.2 million kids in Asia being trafficked each year."

"Singapore is a destination for girls from foreign and less developed countries to be trafficked for sex exploitation. Although we are lucky enough not to have the same thing happening to Singaporean girls, that does not mean that we are not able to play a part to help these victims," says Fifi Handayani, a 19-year-old student.

"From this event, I've learnt a lot more about the sex trafficking issues. And as a woman, I feel that the issue is close to my heart," adds Handayani, an account director at m:idea - the first media conglomerate in Singapore managed by tertiary students - which was commissioned by UNIFEM Singapore to coordinate and manage the concert.

Already, more than 2,300 people have visited the anti- trafficking website and declared their support. But some say the campaign's effectiveness remains to be seen.

"It's a step in the right direction, but will anything change here, even if one million Singaporeans sign up on the site to say we want to put a stop to this?" says one 18- year-old student, who declined to be named.

He does raise a valid point. The Singapore government, in 2005, turned a deaf ear to some 30,000 citizens who petitioned against the legalising of casinos here, an issue which sparked unprecedented public debate.

Even with the potential of news spreading virally through social media, it is unlikely that the campaign against sex trafficking will attract the same attention, much less put any real pressure on the government to clamp down on the issue.

"I think in Singapore, most of the people think that since it's not happening to them, and it's not a very open situation, then they hardly care about it," says Gaby Aw, a 17-year-old student volunteer at 'Sound Out'.

Like many here, D'Rozario is "not too sure" about the human trafficking situation in Singapore, or that it even exists. "I think we're quite safe (from such occurrences) here, but we may never know," she says.

"Everyone knows about Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, where sexual exploitation and trafficking is a big, big problem, but not many people know that Singapore is also affected," says Dick.

Maps depicting sex trafficking activity in the region resemble trade routes, and show the flow of women and children from poorer, developing regions of countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, to richer city centres within the country - or across borders to well-off neighbours like Singapore.

However, the Singapore government in June protested a U.S. government report ranking the republic alongside countries such as Afghanistan on a **human-trafficking watch list**, dismissing it as a "political ritual" rather than an objective study.

The Philippine embassy in Singapore reported some 212 cases of human trafficking here involving Filipino women in 2007. Nearly 30 percent of the women had admitted to having engaged in prostitution or to have been coerced into sexual acts.

Filipino consul Neal Imperial called it just the "tip of the iceberg" as it reflected only women who turned to the embassy for help.

Exact statistics of sex trafficking activity, though, are not easy to derive. Even within various U.N. agencies, Dick says, the figures are different.

"We try not to get too caught up with the numbers because basically if this is happening to one person in Singapore, if this is happening in a flat next door to you, would it be ok to do nothing?" she asks.

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68 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 27, 2010 Tuesday

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE: THE NEED FOR INCREASED NGO INVOLVEMENT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 2903 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs:

by COHA Research Associate Kelsey Carey

- U.S. politicization of trafficking unfairly nabs Venezuela;
- Human trafficking is a serious issue;
- Haiti's restaveks particularly exploited.

Human Trafficking is a global industry that transcends borders, regions, and cultures. Within the Western Hemisphere trafficking is an important issue that arguably helps to shape relations between Latin American and the United States. In June 2010, the State Department Report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) included, for the first time, in its ten year existence, a ranking allocated to the United States as well as 177 other countries. The TIP report helps substantiate the claim that the United States and Latin American governments must strive to improve the lives of millions of innocent people who increasingly are victims of human trafficking. The restaveks, Haitian youth forced into domestic labor without compensation, exemplify the lack of protective measures against child trafficking who usually turn out to be the chief victims of trafficking.

The plight of these children, in Haiti and elsewhere throughout the region, reflect both the obvious and more subtle weaknesses in efforts to reduce human trafficking in Latin America. The trafficking of children is an immensely serious problem that regional governments paired with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) must address. Moreover, the United States must actively engage with both the governments of other countries as well as foreign NGOs to facilitate this improvement.

Difficulties in Definition: The Palermo Protocol

Defining human trafficking is quite controversial. Although human trafficking is universally condemned by the international community, individual nations struggle to implement measures that meet the standards under the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, more commonly known as the Palermo Protocol. It defines trafficking in persons as:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force to other forms of coercion of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth [above] shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth [above] have been used.

Though the above definition discusses the illegality of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, two significant weaknesses remain. An article published by Human Rights Quarterly stipulates that the Palermo Protocol fails to

acknowledge the trafficking of persons within borders, and instead may focus too heavily on the transfer of persons from one state to another. However, domestic trafficking exists in many Latin American countries, such as Haiti and Brazil. A second concern regarding the Protocol's definition is its inclusion in U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Its placement there seems fitting, as much of human trafficking comes as a consequence of the actions of organized crime groups; however, individual actors and small groups also are responsible for a significant portion of trafficking.

Human Trafficking Defined by the U.S.

Even though the U.N. instituted the Palermo Protocol, many Latin American countries use the United States' definition of human trafficking. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines trafficking as:

sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subsection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

The U.S. government allots foreign aid in part based on the grade a country receives in the Trafficking in Person's Report, thus explaining many regional governments' attempts to adhere to the U.S. definition rather than the one given by the United Nations.

The TIP Report

The U.S. State Department releases the TIP Report annually. It discusses each country elaborating on improvements or regression and gives countries a grade: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2-Watch or Tier 3. Tier 1 countries are those deemed to comply fully with the minimum requirements provided by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TPVA). Tier 2 consists of nations that do not fully comply with the TPVA, but are making substantial attempts to do so, while Tier 2-Watch nations make these efforts as well, but still have a significant increase in absolute number of trafficking victims. Tier 3 countries, such as the Dominican Republic, do not fulfill the minimum standards nor are they making attempts to do so. Some critics of the TIP report argue that some countries in the region attempt to meet TIP requirements out of fear of receiving a low rank in the compilation's annual report and therefore do not implement measures specific to the nature and dimensions of the tempo of trafficking that is occurring within a given country.

Others speculate that the status of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Latin America serves as the driving force behind the grade each country receives. Opponents of the U.S., like Venezuela unquestionably perceive a lower grade, than a country like Colombia which is rewarded for supporting U.S. interests in the region. For example, the United States ranks Cuba (a country with which the U.S. lacks basic diplomatic relations) as a Tier 3 country while Colombia receives the rank of Tier 1. Moreover, in 2005, Latin America had a higher percentage of Tier 3 countries than any other region in the world.

Even though it is difficult to produce a completely unbiased account of government efforts against trafficking without being swayed by foreign policy objectives, the TIP could at least try to find a balance between ethical concern and broader U.S. geopolitical goals and interests. This equilibrium is particularly important with regards to Latin American countries because the concept of migration and human trafficking are closely related to one another. Illegal immigrants who travel up through Mexico and Central America lack legal protection and are therefore more vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking. Moreover, strict immigration policies, such as those in the United States, provide only limited opportunities for legal migration that would go to protect immigrants. Restrictive human trafficking measures implemented by other countries in the region are likely to reduce the amount of trafficking in the United States.

The TIP Report as a Tool

In an interview with COHA, Mark Lagon, Former Ambassador to Combat Trafficking in Persons and current Senior Advisor of Corporate Responsibility for Lexus Nexus, uses the case of Venezuela to refute some criticism of the TIP report: "I advocated for raising Venezuela to a better ranking. The integrity of the report requires acknowledging improvement because all in all, there is no reason to give countries anything but an objective assessment." In this capacity, Lagon contributed to global anti-trafficking policy and directed the compilation of the TIP report. Venezuela, a nation with which the United States has strained ties, had a Tier 3 rank in 2007, but in 2008, it was moved down a level to Tier 2-Watch class. Lagon views the TIP report as a constructive tool for improving relations between the U.S. and Latin America.

He describes the improvement in US-Mexico relations with regards to human trafficking as a quiet success, which in part is due to the State Department's decision to assign the U.S. a grade for the first time. Furthermore, Lagon contends, Mexico continually hated any report where it was given a grade, but by including the U.S. in the TIP report we admitted weaknesses in a way that we had not done before. Consequently, this dialogue has led to a more constructive relationship, fostering cooperation in regards to preventing human trafficking.

He went on to clarify that the heart of human trafficking lies in exploitation; it's not always about migration. Forty percent of trafficking victims in the U.S. come from Latin America. It is every bit as much for labor as for sexual exploitation. A Congressional Research Report highlights the case of Mexico because it accounted for twenty-three percent of recognized human trafficking victims in the U.S. in 2008 alone. Thus, increased collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico regarding immigration and trafficking legislation will only yield positive outcomes. By examining the case of Mexico it is evident that a deepening of relations between the U.S. and Latin American countries could be facilitated by engaging in dialogue regarding human rights, especially trafficking.

The Nature of Child Trafficking

Countries that do not provide programs to combat child trafficking often receive more condemnation and higher rankings in the TIP report. One of the most unsettling aspects of human trafficking is the exploitation of children used for sex tourism. A significant discrepancy exists in the legal age of consent for females in Latin American countries. Averages range from fourteen to eighteen years, the legal age as provided by the Palermo Protocol. These disparities make victim identification more difficult. A 2008 article published in *Human Rights Quarterly* reports that other forms of trafficking include using children as panhandlers, news agents, garbage recyclers (i.e. those who sort through the public dumps for recyclable materials), domestic help, mining, agriculture, illegal adoption and child soldiers. These types of forced labor jobs frequently occur within the borders of one country, as with the *restaveks* in Haiti and child soldiers in Colombia.

A Focus on the Restaveks

The term *restavek* comes from a French word meaning to stay and refers to Haitian children who are forced into domestic labor without pay or guarantee of decent living conditions. According to the TIP report, there are 230,000 *restaveks* in Haiti who epitomize the concept that trafficking is not based solely on sexual exploitation. The United Nations Human Rights Council estimates that there are between 150,000 and 500,000 *restaveks*. Either figure still leads to the same conclusion: this form of exploitation should be of real concern to the island nation. Haitian society has historically been characterized by class stratification whereby authoritarian and hierarchal factors largely influence standards of living. In the most impoverished country in the hemisphere, adults regularly view children as economic commodities, which make them highly vulnerable to the perils of trafficking. Death of parents, runaways, and local sources of demand for child labor in urban centers and free trade zones are all factors that leave Haitian children open to exploitation.

Haiti has a long history of economic destitution. Seventy percent of the Port-au-Prince population was living in abject poverty even before the January 12th earthquake. Mark Lagon explains that this distress perpetuates human trafficking in that the rule of law is lacking in Haiti and economic desperation only exacerbates the already dire status quo. Poverty is the driving force here. It leaves people vulnerable and it's likely to take decades if efforts are limited to fighting trafficking." Consequently, parents, if possible, will send their own children to stay with other families in urban areas based on the reasoning that these new caretakers will provide a better life than they themselves could. Unfortunately, this is not the case, as most end up subjected to little better than indentured servitude and then may have to work for their owners from birth to adulthood. Often these children must work from the early hours in the morning until the last household adult goes to bed. When discussing trafficking in Haiti specifically, Mark Lagon commented, "Restaveks suffer the most acute form of domestic servitude. In Haiti there's a permanent underclass locked in homes, paid little or nothing.

In order to improve the lives of Haitian *restaveks* as well as those of trafficking victims in general, a moral imperative must be present as well as the maintenance of a political system where everyone has equal access to justice, not just the wealthy elites. Additionally, trafficking usually occurs as a consequence of corruption that pervades all levels of society, from law enforcement to the judiciary. The United States has the capacity to assist other countries in the region to make laws become reality by helping train enforcement agencies, pressuring governments, to conduct themselves with rectitude and cooperating with NGOs that have proven themselves worthy of respect.

UN Perspective on the Restaveks

Gulnara Shahinian, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, also articulated the manipulative nature of the restavek system in a BBC article in June 2009. She contends that it is equivalent to slavery through the ways in which it "deprives children of their family environment and violates their most basic rights such as rights to education, health, and food as well as subjecting them to multiple forms of abuse including economic exploitation, sexual violence, and corporal punishment, violating their fundamental right to protection from all forms of violence." This 'modern form of slavery' has proven difficult to suppress for a number of reasons. First, a law exists in Haiti stating that employers must pay people for their services, starting at the age of fifteen. This almost guarantees restaveks being thrown on to the streets at that age, adding to the chronic cycle of poverty in the country. Although Haiti is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it has no laws to protect restavek children and the likelihood of any law's effectiveness today would be limited. The January 12th earthquake has only made the situation worse, as both the Haitian National Police and NGOs have reported an increase in alleged cases of forced labor and forced prostitution of children and adults since the disaster. Haiti's inability to protect the most vulnerable societal demographic -children-reflects a problem rampant throughout the region and the world.

The Importance of NGOs

Increased cooperation between the U.S. and Latin American countries regarding laws as well as punitive measures will be crucial to countering the efforts of traffickers in the region, but the legal canvas is not necessarily the only area of concern. Lagon pointed to the problem of corruption among law enforcement officials who "tend to blame victims instead of help them." In order to assist victims not only in Haiti but also those to be found within the region, it is crucial that Washington step up its assistance to NGOs. For example, the Polaris Project is an NGO that focuses on victim identification and then provides social services and transitional housing as called for by advocates of stronger federal anti-trafficking legislation. Another NGO, International Justice Mission (IJM), works in many locations, such as Guatemala, Peru, and Honduras, to rescue victims of human trafficking, particularly children, and bring justice to their perpetrators. Lagon explains that "We need to move the needle by extending the capacities of NGOs. They are often seen as an irritant, but are an essential part of civil society. By assisting NGOs financially, we can help build the capacity to decrease **human trafficking**." It is not merely a coincidence that Colombia which has a flawed human rights reputation, nevertheless received a **Tier 1** ranking and is the largest recipient of U.S. aid in the region as well as being among Washington's primary military allies in the Caribbean.

Working Towards a Brighter Future

Human trafficking is a wealth-generating industry in which the risk to reward ratio eventually perpetuates the problem. A person can be exploited repeatedly, whereas drugs bear a one-time use restriction. This makes trafficking a lucrative matter for those involved. Tensions over definition and desensitization on the trafficking issue have only weakened efforts to prevent it. Consequently, the United States and governments in the region need to work together and thrust human trafficking into more of a spotlight. This must be done not merely once a year when the State Department releases the TIP report. Progress in the fight against human trafficking in the region will not come to fruition until the United States is willing to not only assist the governments of the Latin American countries, but also help NGO's identify as well as liberate victims. Washington must also resist any temptation to politicize the matter, as has been seen in the evaluation of Venezuela.

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69 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Sikkim Express

July 26, 2010 Monday

A Matter of Grave Concern

LENGTH: 479 words

The increasing number of incidence of human trafficking in the State is a cause for concern and it is time the authorities woke up and took notice. However, the trend is not just confined to the State; India has the dubious distinction of leading in human trafficking and this is certainly we should be worried about. India has been ranked as a "**Tier II Watch List**" country - only one level better than worst-performing **Tier III** countries such as Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe - in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) compiled by the Union government. Given the definition of **Tier II Watch List** in the TIP, this implies that India ranks among those countries whose governments "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards." Additionally, one of the three following conditions was found in India: first, that the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was very significant or was significantly increasing; second, that there was a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year; or, third, that the determination that India was making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by India itself, to take additional future steps over the next year. In terms of the definition of trafficking under the TVPA, a person may be a trafficking victim "regardless of whether they once consented, participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked, were transported into the exploitative situation, or were simply born into a state of servitude." The TIP adds that at the heart of this phenomenon are the myriad forms of enslavement including forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour debt bondage among migrant labourers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. The TIP noted that the Government of India "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so, particularly with regard to the law enforcement response to sex trafficking." Yet, the TIP argues, the Indian government did not demonstrate sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour.

"Therefore India is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for the seventh consecutive year," the report said. Rough estimates by the UN suggest that 70000 to 2 million persons trafficked across international borders annually are women and children. It is violation of human rights that India as nation needs to address the issue and the civil societies need to seek to the questions on how to respond to the issue.

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2010

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70 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

July 24, 2010 Saturday

Speakers demand special law on women trafficking in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

LENGTH: 506 words

DATELINE: PESHAWAR

PESHAWAR, July 24 -- The speakers at a provincial conference on "Trends and causes of women trafficking in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" stressed

upon the need for special law on women trafficking for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that would address the issue holistically.

The conference was organized by Community Appraisal and Motivation Program (CAMP) here at a local hotel. Provincial lawmakers and people from various walks of life attended the conference.

Speaking on the occasion, Program Manager Advocacy Camp Mariam Khan, shared the findings and outcomes of the base line survey conducted by CAMP in four targeted districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa namely Charsadda, Swabi, Chitral and Landi Kotal where trends and causes of Women Trafficking are high.

She said that most of the victims are trafficked to other Provinces in the country, mostly Punjab, and families have no way of following up.

Among the 50 probable victims who were interviewed, 32 percent had left home for marriage while 28 percent were taken by force, 18 percent left homes for jobs, 16 percent because of the negative attitude of their families, 14 percent on the victim admitted they were subjected to sexual exploitation, 14 percent were forced into marriage, six percent were asked to get money from parents and 10 percent were compelled for theft and smuggling of contraband items, she told.

Mariam Khan said that as for their final destinations 34 percent of those interviewed had reached police stations for help while only 10 percent managed to get to shelter, 34 percent ended up in different cities or towns while the remaining did not share information of their final destinations.

Renowned legal/gender expert Rakhshanda Naz highlighted the national plan of action and policies existing in the country regarding women trafficking.

She said that due to non implementation of the existing laws and policies this year Pakistan have been placed in **tier 2 watch list** in the United States **trafficking in persons** report (TIP) for not complying into minimum standard regarding prevention, protection and prosecution.

An official from the Federal Investigation Agency said that FIA has very meager resources to combat the issue adding that it has only 12 officers in 24 districts with no female investigation officers. He said that legally FIA is not authorized to deal cases of internal trafficking.

Addressing the conference, Provincial Minister for Law, Barrister Arshad Abdullah, said that women trafficking is an emerging issue which should be holistically addressed by the government, NGOs and community.

He said that soon law would be made that will address all aspect pertaining to this menace.

Earlier, Program Manager CAMP, Tahir Ali Awan said that drastic reforms in laws and policies and implementation of the national plan of action in letter and spirit would address the issue Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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71 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

July 23, 2010 Friday

Speakers demand special law on women trafficking in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 203

LENGTH: 471 words

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

72 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
 Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 23, 2010 Friday

Philippines says US report on human trafficking "unfair, discriminatory"

LENGTH: 1454 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Manila Times website on 23 July

[Report by Bernice Camille V. Bauzon: "Rising human trafficking cases put RP at par with Somalia"]

Failure to curb human trafficking and to win convictions in court have put the Philippines on the verge of being downgraded to a category with countries like Somalia, according to a US Department of State report. The government said that the report was unfair.

Citing the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US State Department, Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum Foundation, said that the Philippines was in "a very alarming stage" when it comes to its human trafficking.

The Philippines is currently at the Tier 2 watchlist.

"Exploitation in the Philippines is massive . . . Unless efforts are made, or the President [Benigno Aquino 3rd] signs a waiver [to ask for consideration] from US President Barack Obama, we will be downgraded to **Tier 3**," Flores-Oebanda said during the Dialogue on **Human Trafficking** between Civil Society and Leaders in Government held at the G Hotel in Manila.

At Tier 1, a country is at full compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA). Countries under the Tier 2 are those who have made significant efforts to comply with the act, and Tier 3 countries are those who did not make any effort at all to comply with the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

The Philippines, according to the US State Department report, was placed at Tier 2 in 2008 and at Tier 2 watchlist in 2009. The Philippines can be downgraded to Tier 3 by the US unless minimum compliance standards are met by the Aquino administration.

If downgraded to Tier 3, the Philippines will be subjected to various sanctions, including the withholding of all non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance and elimination of educational and cultural exchange programmes for government officials.

There is also a risk of losing \$250-million worth of foreign assistance for defence and security funding in Mindanao.

Philippines cries unfair

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr., who heads the office on migrant affairs, said that the US report "is unfair, discriminatory and not founded on facts." He added that the same report gave the Philippines a grade 9 in almost all important aspects - prevention, protection and partnership - except prosecution.

Conejos added that the report does "not accurately reflect what the executive and legislative is doing."

He argued, however, that the country's inability to prosecute human traffickers was "a matter of perceptions." Conejos noted that the difference between "illegal recruitment and human trafficking," and said that intent has to be established at the time of the recruitment in order to define between the two different violations.

Still, Flores-Oebanda said that the country was placed at Tier 2 watchlist in the US report because it did "not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and further efforts need to be taken to address the significant level of corruption that allows serious trafficking crimes to continue."

She added that "there were reports that officials in government units and agencies assigned to enforce laws against human trafficking permitted trafficking offenders to conduct illegal activities, either tacitly or explicitly."

This month, a few weeks after Justice Secretary Leila de Lima took office, 20 officials of the Bureau of Immigration were given 90-day suspensions after de Lima reversed the earlier ruling of former Justice Secretary Alberto Agra. He had junked the recommendation of a panel of state prosecutors to file administrative charges against the accused immigration officials.

The 20 immigration personnel were allegedly part of a human-trafficking syndicate operating in the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, and victimizing Filipino workers bound for Malaysia.

Report cites specifics

Flores-Oebanda said that the US report specifically noted that the Philippines failed to resolve human trafficking cases. Of the 900 reported cases of human trafficking, only 380 cases were filed in court, and there were only 18 convictions since the law, Republic Act 9209, or The Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, was passed in 2003.

In 2009, law enforcement agencies referred 228 alleged trafficking cases to the Department of Justice, but prosecutors initiated only 206 cases.

The report said: "Greater progress in prosecution and conviction of both labour and sex trafficking offenders are essential for the government of the Philippines to demonstrate significant and increasing progress towards compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

The Philippines is the third-most leading source of migrant workers, next to China and India. Of the nine million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) abroad, only 13 per cent are professionals.

"The remaining percentage [performs some of the most] demeaning works . . . [but] nothing is wrong with Philippines working abroad as long as they are protected," Flores-Oebanda said.

In remittances alone, the country has much to be thankful for migrant workers. In 2007, OFWs remitted \$14.8 million; \$16.4 billion, 2008; and \$17 billion in 2009.

The dark side

Flores-Oebanda said, however, that human trafficking was modern-day slavery. Most victims end up in forced labour, debt bondage and prostitution.

The report said that human trafficking was a \$32-billion industry that "places over 12 million people in exploitative situations." More than 161 countries are affected by human trafficking by either being a source, transit or destination country.

Every year, more than 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders. Some 50 per cent are believed to be children and 80 per cent women and girls.

Women were also always trafficked to countries like Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and other neighbouring Southeast Asian nations where they are made into sex workers.

Going rate for Filipinas

Susan "Toots" Ople, head of the Blas F. Ople Policy Centre and Training Institute, said that some Filipino women sell for P26,000 if they were "virgins." Others are compelled to take pay as low as P5,000 to be a domestic helper in other countries.

Flores-Oebanda said: "Domestic helpers are the most vulnerable group of workers."

Ople, who is also the daughter of the late Sen. Blas Ople, added that another form of human and sex trafficking were migrant workers who end up working for websites peddling pornography.

In fact, she said that one such site has thousands of Filipino women working as entertainers. Ople added that most Filipinos victims of human trafficking also end up as "bar girls."

According to the US report, "Child sex tourism remained a serious problem in the Philippines, with sex tourists coming from Northeast Asia, Australia, Europe and North America to engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of children."

Ople said, "[If we don't act now], human slavery will have a Filipino face. Please be champions in the fight against human trafficking, not just in words but in well-defined sustainable and concrete actions."

She appealed to legislators who attended the event including Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr and Rep. Manny Pacquiao of Sarangani province.

Elzadia Washington, acting mission director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said that the government must focus on alleviating poverty and generating jobs so that Filipinos would no longer feel the need to leave their homes and work abroad.

"No one, anywhere in the world including in the US, should be treated as slaves," she said, adding that the US government, who was "very much concerned," was ready to provide resources and assistance to the Philippines' fight against human trafficking and slavery.

Among the recommendations of the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report are to demonstrate greater progress on efficiently investigating, prosecuting and convicting both labour and sex traffickers; increase efforts to investigate and prosecute government officials complicit in trafficking; dedicate more resources and personnel to process trafficking cases; devote increase resources like shelters to victims of human trafficking; increase efforts to create linkages between governments of destination countries; ensure that agreement with foreign countries hosting OFWs are in place; assess methods to measure and address domestic-labour trafficking; and continue to disseminate information on the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

Source: The Manila Times website, Manila, in English 23 Jul 10

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

73 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

July 23, 2010

Cao Disappointed Over Administration's Decision to Strengthen Ties with Hanoi; Rep. Joseph Cao (R-LA) News Release

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 384 words

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02) expressed his "profound disappointment" over the Obama Administration's decision to strengthen bilateral relations with Vietnam's communist government.

Cao, the first and only Vietnamese-American ever to serve in the United States Congress, described Hanoi's record on human rights and religious freedom as "atrocious." He said the the Vietnamese government does not deserve better U.S. ties until it demonstrates greater respect for the freedom and dignity of its own people.

Cao cited numerous examples of abuses committed by the Vietnamese government, including the harrassment, arrest and false imprisonment of pro-democracy advocates and clerics, the seizing of religious institutions and destruction of religious symbols, and the use of eminent domain to strip property owners of their holdings without just compensation.

The Congressman said, "These outrageous abuses should be universally condemned."

Clinton, in Vietnam to attend a forum of Southeast Asian nations on security and commemorate the 15th anniversary of normalization between the U.S.-Vietnamese relations, said she would be in Hanoi again this October for the East Asia Summit and to prepare for President Obama's visit to Vietnam next year.

But Cao said Vietnam's progress on the issue of human rights has actually declined since around the time of Vietnam's admission to the World Trade Organization in 2007. "Rather than building stronger ties," Cao said, "the Administration should be holding Hanoi's feet to the fire on its human rights record."

Cao called for Vietnam to be placed on the U.S. State Department's "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) list of nations known for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom; its "**Tier 3**" list of countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards for combatting **trafficking in persons** for purposes of prostitution and labor; and that Congress pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009, which would prohibit U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese government unless the President certifies to Congress that Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media and religious freedoms, minority rights access to U.S. refugee programs and actions to end **trafficking in persons**.

LOAD-DATE: July 26, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSHM

74 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

July 23, 2010 Friday

Rising human trafficking cases put RP at par with Somalia

BYLINE: BY BERNICE CAMILLE V. BAUZON REPORTER

LENGTH: 1417 words

Failure to curb human trafficking and to win convictions in court have put the Philippines on the verge of being downgraded to a category with countries like Somalia, according to a US Department of State report.

The government said that the report was unfair.

Citing the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US State Department, Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum Foundation, said that the Philippines was in "a very alarming stage" when it comes to its human trafficking.

The Philippines is currently at the Tier 2 watchlist.

"Exploitation in the Philippines is massive . . . Unless efforts are made, or the President [Benigno Aquino 3rd] signs a waiver [to ask for consideration] from US President Barack Obama, we will be downgraded to **Tier 3**," Flores-Oebanda said during the Dialogue on **Human Trafficking** between Civil Society and Leaders in Government held at the G Hotel in Manila.

At Tier 1, a country is at full compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA). Countries under the Tier 2 are those who have made significant efforts to comply with the act, and Tier 3 countries are those who did not make any effort at all to comply with the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

The Philippines, according to the US State Department report, was placed at Tier 2 in 2008 and at Tier 2 watchlist in 2009. The Philippines can be downgraded to Tier 3 by the US unless minimum compliance standards are met by the Aquino administration.

If downgraded to Tier 3, the Philippines will be subjected to various sanctions, including the withholding of all non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance and elimination of educational and cultural exchange programs for government officials.

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Still, Flores-Oebanda said that the country was placed at Tier 2 watchlist in the US report because it did "not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and further efforts need to be taken to address the significant level of corruption that allows serious trafficking crimes to continue."

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Every year, more than 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders. Some 50 percent are believed to be children and 80 percent women and girls.

Women were also always trafficked to countries like Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and other neighboring Southeast Asian nations where they are made into sex workers.

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LOAD-DATE: July 26, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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75 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 23, 2010 Friday

CAO DISAPPOINTED OVER ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH HANOI

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 395 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of Louisiana Rep. Joseph Cao:

Today, Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02) expressed his "profound disappointment" over the Obama Administration's decision to strengthen bilateral relations with Vietnam's communist government.

Cao, the first and only Vietnamese-American ever to serve in the United States Congress, described Hanoi's record on human rights and religious freedom as "atrocious." He said the the Vietnamese government does not deserve better U.S. ties until it demonstrates greater respect for the freedom and dignity of its own people.

Cao cited numerous examples of abuses committed by the Vietnamese government, including the harrassment, arrest and false imprisonment of pro-democracy advocates and clerics, the seizing of religious institutions and destruction of religious symbols, and the use of eminent domain to strip property owners of their holdings without just compensation.

The Congressman said, "These outrageous abuses should be universally condemned."

Clinton, in Vietnam to attend a forum of Southeast Asian nations on security and commemorate the 15th anniversary of normalization between the U.S.-Vietnamese relations, said she would be in Hanoi again this October for the East Asia Summit and to prepare for President Obama's visit to Vietnam next year.

But Cao said Vietnam's progress on the issue of human rights has actually declined since around the time of Vietnam's admission to the World Trade Organization in 2007. "Rather than building stronger ties," Cao said, "the Administration should be holding Hanoi's feet to the fire on its human rights record."

Cao called for Vietnam to be placed on the U.S. State Department's "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) list of nations known for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom; its "Tier 3" list of countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards for combatting **trafficking in persons** for purposes of prostitution and labor; and that Congress pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009, which would prohibit U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese government unless the President certifies to Congress that Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media and religious freedoms, minority rights access to U.S. refugee programs and actions to end **trafficking in persons**.

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LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

76 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 23, 2010 Friday 2:11 AM EST

Cao Disappointed Over Administration's Decision to Strengthen Ties with Hanoi

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 410 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Rep. Joseph Cao, R-La. (2nd CD), issued the following news release:

Today, Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02) expressed his "profound disappointment" over the Obama Administration's decision to strengthen bilateral relations with Vietnam's communist government.

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Contact: Taylor Henry, 202/225-3117

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LOAD-DATE: July 24, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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77 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 22, 2010 Thursday

CAO CALLS ON CLINTON TO PRESS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN VIETNAM

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 402 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of Louisiana Rep. Joseph Cao:

On the occasion of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Hanoi, Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao joined fellow members of the Vietnam Caucus on Capitol Hill today in urging her to press Vietnam's communist government to improve its record on human rights and religious freedom.

Cao and other Caucus members cited numerous examples of human rights abuses committed by the Vietnamese government, including: the harassment, arrest and false imprisonment of pro-democracy advocates and clerics; the seizing of religious institutions and destruction or defiling of religious symbols; and the use of eminent domain to strip property owners of their holdings without just compensation and with no recourse.

Clinton's visit marks the 15th anniversary of normalization between the U.S.-Vietnamese relations, and the visit is highlighted by signing of the U.S.-Vietnam Partnership Framework, which outlines a five year joint strategic framework for cooperation between the U.S. Government, the Vietnamese Government and other partners to combat HIV/AIDS through service delivery, policy reforms and coordinated financial commitments.

But Cao said Vietnam's progress on the issue of human rights has been spotty at best, and has actually declined since around the time of Vietnam's admission to the World Trade Organization in 2007. "They don't practice what they preach," Cao said, "and these outrageous abuses should be universally condemned."

Cao was joined at today's news conference by other members of the Vietnam caucus, including fellow Representatives Chris Smith, Loretta Sanchez and Ed Royce.

They recommended that Vietnam be placed on the U.S. State Department's "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) list of nations known for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom; its "**Tier 3**" list of countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards for combatting **trafficking in persons** for purposes of prostitution and labor; and that the U.S. Senate pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009, which would prohibit U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese government unless the President certifies to Congress that Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media and religious freedoms, minority rights access to U.S. refugee programs and actions to end **trafficking in persons**.

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

78 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 22, 2010 Thursday 2:12 AM EST

Cao Calls on Clinton to Press for Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Vietnam

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 417 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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79 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US State News

July 17, 2010 Saturday 10:37 PM EST

HELSINKI COMMISSION CALLS FOR INCREASED EFFORTS TO COMBAT DEMAND THAT ENCOURAGES HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 593 words

Washington, July 16 --The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe issued the following news release:

On July 14, 2010, U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), convened a standing-room only hearing centered on the diplomatic impact of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The hearing focused on the ten years that the annual TIP report has been prepared by the State Department. In his statement, Chairman Cardin said that the "TIP report has emerged as a centerpiece in diplomatic efforts to advance human rights." He also noted that "child trafficking continues, which is why it is essential that Congress expedite consideration of the bipartisan Child Protection Compact Act (S.3184), an important tool that would give the State Department greater ability to provide assistance to countries with high incidences of child trafficking."

In his statement, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, cited the inspiration he derived from the designation of "Heroes Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery" acknowledged each year in the TIP report, including this year's designee, fellow Floridian Laura Germino, of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Congressman Hastings stated that, "Many agricultural laborers still encounter practices as insidious as I had seen in my youth, which rob them of their basic human rights. Unfortunately, these circumstances thrive throughout the world. We would be at a serious loss in challenging exploitation were it not for the dogged determination of heroes like Laura and the important monitoring efforts of the Trafficking in Persons Report each year."

Ranking Commissioner Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), the author of the legislation that created the TIP report (Public Law 106-386), encouraged Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** (G/TIP) to work more closely with the **Tier 2 Watch List** countries in the OSCE Region, helping them to implement the changes necessary to meet the minimum standards and to avoid statutory downgrades which will otherwise be required in next year's TIP report. These countries include Azerbaijan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Smith also focused on ways to deter demand for trafficking victims in all countries, including **Tier 1** countries, saying: "The internet has opened a whole new front in the war with **human trafficking**-allowing demand to run free without obstacles. We must develop appropriate safeguards to ensure that freedom of speech does not become freedom to exploit and abuse."

Commissioner Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) focused attention on the need for greater tools for prosecution of traffickers and called on CdeBaca and Dr. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to explore ways to potentially create extra-territorial jurisdiction for trafficking cases.

The Commissioners also heard testimony from Ms. Jolene Smith, CEO and Co-Founder of Free the Slaves and Ms. Holly Burkhalter, Vice President for Government Relations at the International Justice Mission.

More information about the hearing, including copies of statements and a transcript of the proceedings, can be found here. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: July 17, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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80 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Press Releases

July 16, 2010 Friday

HELSINKI COMMISSION CALLS FOR INCREASED EFFORTS TO COMBAT DEMAND THAT ENCOURAGES HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, SENATOR, SENATE

SECTION: PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 590 words

For Immediate Release

Helsinki Commission Calls For Increased Efforts To Combat Demand That Encourages Human Trafficking

Contact: Shelly Han 202.225.1901

July 16, 2010

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The Commissioners also heard testimony from Ms. Jolene Smith, CEO and Co-Founder of Free the Slaves and Ms. Holly Burkhalter, Vice President for Government Relations at the International Justice Mission.

More information about the hearing, including copies of statements and a transcript of the proceedings, can be found [here](#).

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81 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

July 16, 2010

Helsinki Commission Calls for Increased Efforts to Combat Demand that Encourages Human Trafficking

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 625 words

-- July 16, 2010

Contact: Shelly Han Phone: (202) 225-1901

Helsinki Commission Calls for Increased Efforts to Combat Demand that Encourages Human Trafficking

Highlights Role of Trafficking in Persons Report in Effective Diplomacy

WASHINGTON---On July 14, 2010, U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), convened a standing-room only hearing centered on the diplomatic impact of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The hearing focused on the ten years that the annual TIP report has been prepared by the State Department. In his statement, Chairman Cardin said that the "TIP report has emerged as a centerpiece in diplomatic efforts to advance human rights." He also noted that "child trafficking continues, which is why it is essential that Congress expedite consideration of the bipartisan Child Protection Compact Act (S.3184), an important tool that would give the State Department greater ability to provide assistance to countries with high incidences of child trafficking."

In his statement, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, cited the inspiration he derived from the designation of "Heroes Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery" acknowledged each year in the TIP report, including this year's designee, fellow Floridian Laura Germino, of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Congressman Hastings stated that, "Many agricultural laborers still encounter practices as insidious as I had seen in my youth, which rob them of their basic human rights. Unfortunately, these circumstances thrive throughout the world. We would be at a serious loss in challenging exploitation were it not for the dogged determination of heroes like Laura and the important monitoring efforts of the Trafficking in Persons Report each year."

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<http://csce.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContentRecords.ViewDetailandContentRecordid=481andContentType=H,BandContentRecordType=HandCFID=36633715andCFTOKEN=44199882>.

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82 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 16, 2010 Friday 1:40 AM EST

Helsinki Commission Calls for Increased Efforts to Combat Demand that Encourages Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 616 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe issued the following news release:

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(http://csce.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContentRecords.ViewDetail&ContentRecord_id=481&ContentType=H,B&ContentRecordType=H&CFID=36633715&CFTOKEN=44199882).

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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83 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 15, 2010 Thursday

Human trafficking or is it smuggling?

BYLINE: Radha Basu, Senior Correspondent

SECTION: REVIEW - OTHERS

LENGTH: 741 words

IS HUMAN trafficking a big problem or is it a rarity in Singapore?

On the one side is the United States government's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report that downgraded Singapore to a **Tier 2 'watch list'** of countries that fell short of minimum anti-trafficking standards set by American and international law.

On the other is the Singapore Government, which dismissed the report as 'superficial and perfunctory'. It said that 32 cases of alleged sex trafficking were reported to the authorities here last year. Of these, two were found to be substantiated and were prosecuted.

Given the small number of reported cases here - and the fact that even embassies and activists agree that most women who come here for prostitution do so willingly - it is indeed unfair to lump Singapore in the same category as countries that are hot spots of human trafficking.

But why the difference in views on the extent of human trafficking in Singapore? One possible reason is definition.

In 2004, in response to an earlier TIP report, Singapore maintained that if a person enters the country willingly to work illegally (as, say, a prostitute), such cases would be considered 'human smuggling' not 'trafficking', which Singapore takes to mean the person was coerced or brought in against his or her will.

Human smuggling, as defined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, is when a person pays another person to transport him or her to another country illegally, usually for work.

These days, the word 'trafficking' has a much looser meaning than what Singapore ascribed to it in 2004. Under American law and a UN Protocol signed by 120 countries, human trafficking refers to any form of forced labour or servitude, irrespective of whether a person consented to the job at some point in time. So those who are willingly smuggled into a country could end up victims of trafficking if they are exploited or forced to work against their will.

Singapore is not a signatory to the UN Protocol, known as the Palermo Protocol.

To bridge the gap of understanding, the US might share details of the alleged transgressions in the countries that have been downgraded. Singapore, too, can have a clearer definition of what constitutes trafficking under its laws.

The Government says Singapore has 'strong laws' against trafficking. The Penal Code, Children and Young Persons Act and Women's Charter allow the authorities to prosecute those involved in trafficking. However, none of these statutes gives a comprehensive definition of trafficking.

Countries that have specific anti-trafficking laws have definitions enshrined in their laws that mirror the Palermo Protocol's definition of human trafficking.

In 2003, the Philippines became the first South-east Asian nation to have a specific anti-trafficking Act. Under this law, the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person - with or without that person's consent - for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, would constitute trafficking.

The Singapore authorities say the large majority of foreign women arrested for prostitution here came voluntarily, and so were not trafficked. Still, for the few genuine cases that may arise, Singapore could increase the penalties.

Under the Women's Charter, the maximum prison term for trafficking a woman or a girl is five years. Under the Penal Code, the maximum jail sentence is 10 years for selling a minor for prostitution. In the US, penalties for sex trafficking range from a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment.

There is one critical step the Singapore authorities have taken to encourage victims to come forward: in cases with 'clear evidence' of trafficking, victims will not be prosecuted but will serve as prosecution witnesses.

This approach should be publicised so that foreign victims know that though they have broken the law here, they can get help from the authorities to nail the unscrupulous middlemen who used them.

The fact is whether one calls it human smuggling or trafficking, Singapore is a destination for middlemen who want to trade in women. Tougher laws, together with a softer approach towards the women caught in a legal bind, can help more women report cases and eventually deter criminal rings from carrying on their trade in Singapore.

And if this gets Singapore a better rating in the flawed US trafficking report in the future - that's an incidental plus.

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84 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

July 15, 2010 Thursday 5:41 AM EST

Release of the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report - Mauritius Remains in Tier One

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 358 words

DATELINE: PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

On Monday, June 14, 2010, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the tenth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report at the State Department.

The TIP report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern form of slavery. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The assessment includes reports and rankings on 177 countries, including the first-ever ranking of the United States.

In the 2010 TIP Report, Mauritius remains in Tier 1. The Government of Mauritius fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Mauritius sustained its strong efforts to identify, investigate, and prosecute incidences of trafficking during the reporting period. The Mauritius Police Force increased its offerings of anti-trafficking training programs for police officers and continued its awareness campaign in schools and villages. As part of the TIP action plan, the U.S. State Department has suggested possible additional actions by the Government of Mauritius to accomplish even more against Trafficking in Persons. The State Department TIP report recommends that Mauritius utilize anti-trafficking legislation to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses and convict and punish trafficking offenders, including those involving adult women exploited in forced prostitution. Another recommendation is to designate an official coordinating body or mechanism to facilitate improved anti-trafficking communication and coordination among the relevant ministries, law enforcement entities, working groups, and non-governmental organizations.

The full text of the TIP Report, including all recommendations, is available on the State Department's website, www.state.gov/g/tip. The Mauritius country report is also available from the "Country reports" feature box on the homepage of the Embassy website: <http://mauritius.usembassy.gov>.

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LOAD-DATE: July 25, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

85 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 14, 2010 Wednesday

FIJI DELEGATION TELLS WOMEN'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE CHANGE WILL TAKE TIME, BUT NEW DECREES AIM TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS WHILE CONSTITUTION IS FORMULATED

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 7110 words

DATELINE: NEW YORK

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Committee Experts Urge Greater Voice for Women in Drafting New Constitution,
Express Concerns about Human Trafficking, Inadequate Health Care in Rural Areas

More than a year after the abrogation of its Constitution in April 2009, Fiji was working with a series of newly established decrees to ensure that the rights of women were protected as the South Pacific island nation shaped a new Constitution by 2012 before holding elections two years later, members of the Fiji Government delegation told the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women today.

Introducing the country's combined second, third and fourth periodic reports to the 23-member expert Committee that ensures States parties are complying with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, Juki Luveni, Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, said the Government was making significant progress in reforms to advance the equality of women and protect them from adverse and unfair discrimination. Yet the Government was the first to admit, "with sincerity and humility", its shortcomings in regard to its international obligations, and acknowledge that it had work to do to expand the advancement of women in the island nation, she added.

With a country that had both maritime and rural landscapes, members of the delegation addressing the Committee acknowledged that change and reform would take time. The focus in that was to remove the determinants that had caused upheaval in the past - there had been four coups in Fiji, and even with the pressure from the international community to enact "band-aid" solutions, those coups, which were race-based, had continued - and to then create a more stable system.

Dr. Luveni said that to ensure the protection of human rights since the State had been re-established under the Presidential Decree in 2009, the Government had promulgated numerous decrees, including the Domestic Violence Decree, the Crimes Decree, the Criminal Procedures Decree and Human Rights Commission Decree. And, in a direct move to bridge the gap between the Federal Government's Department for Women and non-governmental organizations, the Department had created the Fiji Women's Federation. It was meant to coordinate the programmes and activities of registered women's non-governmental organizations, in order to help achieve gender equality and empower women throughout the islands.

The creation of several women centres, she said, would help rural women by providing a venue for meetings, training activities and health clinics, and also help them to enhance their leadership skills and prove to voters that they could manage programmes, participate in the nation's development and become effective politicians, the delegation told the Committee. Two centres had opened since May.

Experts commended efforts under way, but urged that women be given a voice in shaping the new Constitution and that they ramp up their participation heading into the 2014 elections. The role of non-governmental organizations surfaced with the submission to the Committee of a so-called "shadow report", written in parallel to the country's official presentation. Saying they welcomed those reports, some Committee experts expressed concern that the authors of the "shadow report" in Fiji might face discrimination and personal persecution and victimization. The delegation assured the Committee that would not be the case.

Other concerns voiced by the panel of experts focused on human trafficking, the lack of health-care facilities for rural women and victims of sexual violence, inadequate supply of computers and textbooks in schools, women's insufficient access to credit and the pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes that produced a bias against women.

The delegation explained that the Government was working in all areas to help women improve their lives. It was encouraging girls to engage in non-traditional academic subjects such as engineering, draft drawing and carpentry. Programmes to help rural women use the country's agricultural resources to earn incomes were in place, and women were targeted in a micro-enterprise scheme of the Government.

In response to questions about violence against women, the delegation said that, while there were no Government facilities for women victims of domestic violence, a non-governmental organization, the Women's Crisis Centre, provided care for those women. The Government also had a Domestic Violence Decree in place that protected women, and the Government was training the police in that area.

The Committee will meet again at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 15 July, to consider the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation.

Background

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women met today to consider the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Fiji (document CEDAW/C/FJI/2-4). Led by Jiko Luveni, the Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, the delegation also included Salote Radrodro, Director for Women, and from the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative, Luke Daunivalu, and Esala Nayasi.

Introduction of Report

Presenting Fiji's combined second, third and fourth periodic reports, Minister LUVENI said her country had experienced a turbulent history since its independence in 1970. That had included military coups, discouraging economic growth and an over-reliance on the agricultural sector, which had made the country vulnerable to political change and natural disasters. The Government believed it had made significant progress in reforms that would advance the equality of women, their protection from adverse and unfair discrimination, and aim to improve the long-term welfare of the vulnerable.

She explained that the report was a collaborative effort, which embraced the consultations with more than 600 individuals, including Government officials, non-governmental organizations, development partners and others.

In May 2010, the Department for Women had created the Fiji Women's Federation to coordinate the programmes and activities of registered women's non-governmental organizations, in an effort to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. It aimed to bridge the gap between the Department and non-governmental organizations. The Department was also working with development partners to support that goal by constructing women's centres in 14 provinces and semi-urban settlements. Those centres were meant to empower rural women by enhancing their leadership and programme management skills and providing a venue for meetings, training activities, women's health clinics and other exercises to build their capacity.

Referring to the abrogation of the 1997 Constitution on 10 April 2009, she said it had not removed the right to gender equality or the right of ordinary persons to challenge discrimination before the Fiji Human Rights Commission and the High Court of Fiji. Other developments since April 2009 that ensured human rights included the re-establishment of the judiciary, the promulgation of the Domestic Violence Decree, the Crimes Decree, Criminal Procedure Decree and the proposed promulgation of the HIV and STIs (sexually transmitted infections) Prevention, Care and Support Decree 2010.

She added that she had read the "shadow report", written by unnamed persons, about Fiji's commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It was clear that the report's focus was not Fiji's commitment to the treaty, but rather on mostly unrelated political issues. The community of non-governmental organi-

zations in Fiji was divided about the admission of the "shadow report"; most of the women's organizations were prepared to work with the Government in the reform process. The "shadow report" was silent about its consultation process and authorship, and it was outdated and did not refer to several important reforms adopted by the Government.

With regard to important economic reforms that impacted women, she said the Wages Regulation Order 2009 had helped boost minimum wages by 20 per cent and the Employment Relations Promulgation 2007 had brought about much fairer employment practices, providing, for example, maternity-leave benefits. As a patriarchal society with culturally driven attitudes on women's subordination, women remained disadvantaged in many fundamental ways. The proper implementation of laws was essential, therefore, and Fiji needed to work harder to strengthen its laws and regulatory frameworks to achieve greater economic empowerment for women.

In that vein, she said many significant laws had been passed and workshops held to train the judiciary, prosecutors, police and legal aid lawyers on the extent of the laws and how to implement them in a gender-sensitive way. Rape, for example, was now tried only in the High Court and was no longer prosecuted in the Magistrates Courts by lay police prosecutors, the need for corroboration had been abolished, and questions on the previous sexual history of the victim was now limited.

Since the Crimes Decree had entered into force on 1 February, she said, extensive laws on **human trafficking** for the first time. The United States State Department's report on **human trafficking** last month recognized the Fiji Government's efforts in that area and removed Fiji from **Tier 3** of the categories of countries. To give women greater access to the justice system, the Sentencing and Penalties Decree of 2009 required judges and magistrates to follow a careful sentencing process. Section 4, subsection 3, for example, required that the courts, when sentencing offenders for domestic violence, consider such factors as the impact of violence on the children and whether the offenders posed an additional threat.

The Crime Decree had created a new offence of torture as a crime against humanity, she continued. And, with the drafting of its new Constitution, Fiji would be ready to consider ratifying the Convention against Torture. The law on abortion under the Penal Code gave little protection to women who sought abortion, and while the Crimes Decree did not legalize the procedure, it provided much stricter guidelines for doctors to follow before they conducted abortions and required counselling of the patient by a doctor other than the doctor who would conduct the abortion.

She noted that the Department for Women continued its role as the Government's primary adviser on women's development and gender issues. The Cabinet had endorsed the implementation of the new Women's Plan of Action 2010-2019 and the Department would implement the five areas of concern: formal sector employment and livelihood; equal participation in decision-making; elimination of violence against women and children; access to basic services; and women and law.

Turning to women in decision-making, she said Fiji was slowly moving towards its target of having 30 per cent representation of women on all boards and committees. There were plans to address women's representation in Parliament under Fiji's new Constitution, which was being developed in preparation for the general election in 2014. Regarding education, Fiji had 99 per cent school enrolment and had put in place several measures to sustain that high level, such as providing free textbooks to cover all primary school children by 2012.

The Cabinet had deferred the ratification of the Convention's Optional Protocol in April 2009, she said, explaining the view that, during this time of reform, Fiji had to focus on strengthening its laws and institutions that allowed complaints of unfair discrimination within its borders. The Human Rights Commission Decree provided for the creation of the Commission and for investigating complaints, and it prohibited unlawful discrimination based on gender. During the period of institutional strengthening and law reform, the Cabinet would reconsider ratification of the Optional Protocol, after every effort had been made nationally to deal with discrimination cases.

Experts' Comments and Questions

CORNELIS FLINTERMAN, expert from the Netherlands, noted that the definition of discrimination in the 1997 Constitution was comprehensive, but included the word "unfairly". Since that Constitution was no longer in force, was the definition of discrimination still present in current law, and, if so, could the word "unfairly" be reconsidered? In that vein, noting the recommendations of Fiji's peers to restore constitutional order and rule of law, which was crucial to the protection of women's rights, had Fiji taken steps and was there a time frame towards that goal? He also noted that the report stated that Fiji's courts would be the watchdog of the implementation of the Women's Convention in all branches of Government. Was that still the case?

PRAMILA PATTEN, expert from Mauritius, appreciating the challenges that Fiji faced in implementing the Women's Convention, inquired about some decrees made several years ago towards that goal. How was the impact of those new policies and decrees being measured, and was there a special budgetary allocation and a national action plan? She also asked about any awareness campaigns targeting women in particular and if the new judges and magistrates brought in with the new regime had been trained on the Convention.

INDIRA JAISING, expert from India, said that the anonymity of the authors of the "shadow report" on Fiji reflected a fear of discrimination and personal persecution and victimization. She pointed out that the Committee welcomed shadow reports by non-governmental organizations, and she requested that the delegation give assurances that its authors would not be persecuted. Commenting on the report's section on military and security officers being tried for human rights violations, she observed that another section of the report spoke of immunity for such officers. That contradiction did not "quite square with each other", and she sought clarification.

DUBRAVKA IMONOVIC, expert from Croatia, observed that the combined third and fourth reports had been done by the former regime and that the responses to questions and inquiries had been done by the current regime. Was there continuity between the two documents? Also commenting on the "shadow report", she asked whether - with the strict media decree and lack of support for freedom of expression - it was difficult to have constructive dialogues on human rights with non-governmental organizations, which would be, in her view, helpful.

DORCAS AMA FREMA COKER-APPIAH, expert from Ghana, commented on the delegates' statement that they were not ready to ratify the Convention's Optional Protocol because of the need to build national institutions. She reminded the delegates that ratification did not mean that cases would not go through the national system, and she urged Fiji to ratify the Optional Protocol.

VIOLETA NEUBAUER, Expert from Slovenia, inquired about the status of the establishment of women's centres in rural areas. She was also interested in whether or not there were inter-ministerial and departmental systems in place to ensure gender perspective in all programmes.

Country Response

Regarding the definition of discrimination against women, a member of the delegation said there were several pieces of legislation in place, such as the Human Rights Decree and the Family Law Act, which helped to ensure protection of women against discrimination. Plus, the rights of all individuals would be embedded in the new Constitution. Other laws aimed at ensuring a robust legal system helped to protect women against discrimination.

Regarding electoral reform, she acknowledged that Fiji's political problems had had serious negative effects on the country's political life. As for the abrogation of the Constitution, she said that, since then, the Government had made reforms that had forged the independence of the judiciary, which was a priority. The adoption of a new Constitution was another priority for the Government, and a political dialogue was under way towards that goal. The country was in the process of shaping its new Constitution, which should be ready for implementation well before the general election in 2014.

Another delegate said that the Human Rights Commission Decree was in place to replace the Human Rights Protection Act. The Commission plugged in gaps in human rights protections left by the abrogation of the Constitution. He acknowledged that it did not go far enough. The Government intended to ratify all outside human rights treaties within a 10-year period.

Another delegate assured the Committee that the authors of the "shadow report" would not be victimized. The decrees were very new - adopted during the past year. She acknowledged that an impact assessment plan would have to be done.

The creation of the Fiji Women's Federation had bridged the gap between the Government and the community of non-governmental organizations and was an effort to avoid a duplication of resources, another delegate said. Two women's centres had been constructed and opened since May. Each centre, which served many villages, sought to ensure that the voice of rural women was heard.

Regarding the role of the courts, after the abrogation of the Constitution, the Administration of Justice Decree re-established the judiciary and its functions, a delegate said. Training was under way to empower the judges to enforce human rights laws, and gender-sensitivity training was being done to help implement the Domestic Violence Decree, which was enforced.

Experts' Comments and Questions

NAELA MOHAMED GABR, Committee Chairperson and expert from Egypt, inquired about the development and new plan of action for the social justice act, seeking information about how it would impact the gender perspective.

MAGALYS AROCHA DOMINGUEZ, expert from Cuba, noting that indicators on educational life and health and reproductive rights showed improvement, pointed out that political and economic power for women did not show the same improvement and that women were still at a disadvantage with regards to property and inheritance rights. With men moving to urban centres and creating a rural exodus, women were "a bit lost in all this". She also wanted more information on the new class on family life at the primary-school level, including if it had been limited to one area or the whole country. While commending the changes to the educational system, she expressed concerns about persistent stereotypes of women in family life and urged broader measures to eradicate those stereotypes.

SOLEDAD MURILLO DE LA VEGA, expert from Spain, commended Fiji on organizing its Women's Day. She noted that despite the media constraints, the media had been instrumental in challenging military misconduct. Were there any future plans to lift the strict media constraints?

Ms. NEUBAUER, expert from Slovenia, inquiring about the sex industry, requested information on the extent of prostitution, from street business and brothels to sex workers visiting clients in hotels. Commending the new Penal Code that criminalized the use of prostitution services, she asked about the efforts to introduce the new law. Also, were there exit programmes for former prostitutes?

SAISUREE CHUTIKUL, expert from Thailand, noted that the Penal Code stated that prostitution was illegal and that sex workers were not afforded the same protection and rights of other workers. However, the Ministry of Health worked with sex workers, which she found commendable. "You do take care of them even though it is supposed to be illegal." However, she also noted that prostitutes were fined \$500, which was quite steep as compared to \$30 in Thailand. She was also curious whether, in such a relaxed atmosphere, the decriminalization of prostitution for adult sex workers could be proposed. Because Fiji was based on tourism, and specifically on sex tourism, the report noted the economic issues and social implications of that industry. The Government was taking a multisectoral approach to address prostitution. She asked the delegation to describe that approach in concrete terms.

Turning to trafficking, she asked for Fiji's definition, how police and law enforcement officials were trained, and what protective measures were being taken for victims of trafficking.

Country Response

A delegate said the women's centres would give women the opportunity to prove to voters that they could manage programmes and participate in the nation's development, as well as become effective politicians. The Government was aware that it needed to secure a quota for women in parliamentary seats. That would be addressed as the Constitution was being developed. The Government capitalized on systems in place, such as the semi-annual provincial meetings, to bring women together from the 14 provinces and minimize the isolation of women living in remote islands.

Regarding the country's patriarchal society, she said attitudes differed throughout Fiji, and in several places in the country, it was not difficult to engage men. Though weakening, there was still an extended family support system for the elderly in the villages. Regarding property rights, all women had land rights. If married, a woman moved to her husband's land, but her land remained with her family. All indigenous women and men had property to which they could return. But if a person from the provinces moved into an urban area, they would have to find land for themselves. Eighty-six per cent of the land in Fiji was owned by the people. The Government was using laws to promote policies to enable land owned by a couple to be registered in both their names.

Regarding the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the delegation sent to New York, another delegate explained that financial constraints meant the Government could only send two to this meeting.

As for freedom of the press, a media decree was in place that restricted the level of foreign ownership of the media to ensure that local values were reflected, a delegate said. Given the country's volatile political history, it was necessary for the media to be governed by socially responsible laws.

Turning to questions on prostitution, a delegate said that the Immigration Act did not deal directly with that practice, but requests for student visas and permits were processed by the immigration authorities, who engaged with appropriate entities, such as universities. The Crimes Decree was focusing on punishing people who sexually exploited women, rather than on the victims. The owners of the premises where prostitution was carried out were now prosecuted. The Crimes Decree, which replaced the old Penal Code, was specifically aimed at people who exploited child prostitutes.

Sections 111 to 121 of the Crimes Decree targeted the trafficking of women and children on both a global and domestic basis, strengthening the laws to prosecute the perpetrators.

The Government did not now have a database on prostitution, the delegate said, adding, however, that it was working with the police and prostitutes. Training was under way to identify alternative work for the women, such as in the catering or garment fields.

Experts' Comments and Questions

Ms. CHUTIKUL, expert from Thailand, reiterated her questions regarding the definition of trafficking, and the preparations and training of police and law enforcement. She also requested a description of the multisector approach being taken in those areas.

Mr. FLINTERMAN, expert from the Netherlands, expressed his disappointment with the new Constitution and new constitutional order time frame, and also asked for a more detailed explanation about the use of the term "unfair discrimination on the basis of gender".

Ms. COKER-APPIAH, expert from Ghana, asked how the Fiji Women's Federation decided what areas to work on.

Ms. NEUBAUER, expert from Slovenia, requested further clarification on the advisory committee and its composition, as well as its mandate and any results from its efforts.

YOKO HAYAHSI, expert from Japan, wanted more information about how women, within the time frame of developing the new Constitution, would be contributing.

Ms. IMONOVI, expert from Croatia, asked how the Women's Convention would be directly applied.

Country Response

One delegate stated that the Crime Decree did not give the definition of trafficking, but just gave the acts and offences of trafficking. Regarding the empowerment of police, exchange with the Immigration Department provided continuing education to police working in that area. The Judiciary Department also received that training. Capacity-building was in place for law enforcement personnel being sent overseas to other departments and agencies. At present, no data on prostitution had been provided, but the experts were assured that the delegation would provide that when it became available.

Regarding the participation of women in the drafting of the Constitution, the rural and national population were involved and their inputs would be used in drafting. There was a one-year time frame given before the text's finalization and one year for familiarization before the election in 2014.

Regarding the Women's Federation, participation was not compulsory; each non-governmental organization decided if it was interested in being part of it and how they wished to operate. Members of the Women's Federation Advisory Committee included heads of umbrella non-governmental organizations, among them, the National Council of Women, National Catholic Women's League, and Soqosoqo Vakamarama, an indigenous women's organization. Although there were only two rural women's centres at present, their managers had been invited to serve on the Advisory Committee, which advised ministers on women's issues they wanted addressed by the Government.

The implementation of the Women's Convention had begun within the Government's National Development Plan, which had then been mainstreamed into the planning documents of ministries and departments. All women's issues were now being picked up by line ministries, which then incorporated the concerns into their departments. The Women's Federation "captured" those action plans for implementation from the National Development Plan and developed work plans, which were then used by the women's centres and other groups. From that process, it was evident that there was "clear articulation" of how implementation of the Women's Convention trickled down to the community level.

Experts' Comments and Questions

Ms. HAYASHI, expert from Japan, regarding articles 7 and 8 of the Convention, respectively on political and public life, and representation, sought clarification on how women would be participating in the Constitution's formulation. She also asked for more information about the Media Decree and its interaction with the public emergency regulation, and how it would affect women's right to do outreach activities. She sought reassurance from the delegates that women would be allowed to do so.

Concerning women human rights activists not being allowed to leave the country, she asked for an explanation on the travel restrictions. She also asked for reassurance that the authors of the "shadow report" not be penalized.

MERIEM BELMIHOUB-ZERDANI, expert from Algeria, commended the equal composition of men and women on the delegation and added that the report was well presented and clear. Noting that the Fiji Senate was "by appointment only", she said that, in order to bring women into the political arena and fulfil the requirements of the Convention's article 8, up to at least 50 per cent of the Senate seats should be filled by women.

Country Response

A delegate pointed out that there had been four coups in Fiji, and even with the pressure from the international community to enact "band-aid" solutions, those coups, which were race-based, had continued. The need to eliminate the race-based determinants in institutions and culture required time. Currently, all Fiji citizens were referred to as Fijian, and not by race. With a country that had both maritime and rural landscapes, change and reform would take time. The focus in that was to remove the determinants that had caused upheaval in the past and to then create a more stable system. Regarding women activists, there were no restrictions on outreach activities and they were free to function as they had in the past. There was also no travel ban in place. If there were restrictions, they were court ordered. But at present, all citizens were able to move freely.

Another delegate said that women would participate in drafting the Constitution. In developing the People's Charter of Change, Peace and Progress of Fiji, every village and sector of society had been asked for their views in reforming society and implementing institutional reforms. That had been done without regard to race or gender. The drafting of the Constitution, which the Prime Minister's office was supervising, would ensure that the interests of both men and women would be represented. The interests of all stakeholders, including those of non-governmental organizations, would also be ensured. The electoral process would not be advanced without meeting the benchmarks of the road map the Government had set in place to be achieved before the general elections in 2014. Currently, economic reforms and infrastructure development were Fiji's focus.

The Media Decree and the public emergency regulation did not affect outreach programmes and activities for women, another delegate explained. All that was required was an application for a license or permit for any meetings or gatherings.

Experts' Comments and Questions

XIAOQIAO ZOU, expert from China, noted that 10 per cent of children between the ages of 5 and 14 were not in school in Fiji. She requested data on the racial and gender demographic in both rural and urban areas. Commenting on gender segregation, she noted that, according to the report, in 2003, girls had accounted for only 30 per cent in the technology field, with the majority in domestic service. What special measures were being taken to encourage girls to study non-traditional areas, which was an essential component to eliminating gender discrimination in the work force?

SILVIA PIMENTEL, expert from Brazil, asked when schools would receive computers, books and other educational materials, as indicated in the report. There was also a mention of schools being equipped to educate disabled students, and she requested information about the Education Ministry's plans and strategies in that regard.

Ms. PATTEN, expert from Mauritius, noting that the equal employment policy had had little impact on the presence of women in the work force, asked if counselling was available for women to stimulate occupational choices of non-traditional jobs. Regarding the pay gap, she noted that there were 10 wage councils, but she said she did not know their mandate.

NIKLAS BRUUN, expert from Finland, asked about the forced retirement at age 55 of civil servants, asserting that that had serious financial effects on female civil servants. He also commented on the report's description of cultural attitudes restricting female employment and asked what action plans and measures were being taken to challenge that.

Ms. MURILLO DE LA VEGA, expert from Spain, observed that women made up only a minority of the formal work force, and asked for information about the obstacles they faced in that regard. She also noted that not having a mandatory maternity leave was discriminatory, urging that provision for such leave should be included in the new Constitution. She pointed out that countries that did not utilize women's talents did not emerge from poverty.

ZOHRA RASEKH, expert from Afghanistan, noted that teenage pregnancies were increasing, but that there was no mention about sex education in the school system. What measures were being taken to educate girls in that area? Furthermore, cervical and breast cancer rates indicated a limitation of health services and education for women, and she

also requested information on the measures being taken to address that. With HIV and AIDS, although preventive steps had been mentioned, they were vague and not gender-specific. The reference to the 12 women's centres had not contained information about girls' and women's access to them. Turning to prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, she asked why programmes targeted at reduction had not been successful.

Taking up the issue of family planning, Ms. PIMENTEL, expert from Brazil, inquired about actions being taken to educate women about contraceptive use and strategies when dealing with unwilling partners. She also noted that the "shadow report" discussed the prevalence of violence against women. Yet, there was no policy against such violence in the Ministry of Health. What present or future measures were in place to address that?

Ms. ZOU, expert from China, questioned whether there was indirect discrimination against women in the area of credit. She asked if the Government had considered taking specific measures to create favourable conditions for women to gain access to credit to start their own businesses. She also asked what measures had been taken to help rural women in that regard.

Among several questions posed by FERDOUS ARA BEGUM, expert from Bangladesh, was whether there were any specific programmes in place to protect the rights of older women in various sectors, such as housing and health. In that connection, she noted that, as younger men and women left the rural areas for better economic prospects in urban areas, older women were left with more responsibilities in the rural areas. She also asked if women working the land had property rights and whether gender was considered in the development of housing plans. How many shelters existed in rural areas to protect victims of trafficking and prostitution?

Country Response

On education, a delegate said there was now free tuition in all primary and secondary schools. The Government provided bus fares to students in areas where there were buses, and free textbooks went to students in islands where there were no buses. Women were encouraged to engage in non-traditional subjects in school, and boys and girls could choose whatever subjects they wanted. Women were encouraged to take up subjects such as engineering, draft drawing and carpentry, and a girl's graduation from a technical school was highlighted by the media.

The delegate noted that Fiji had limited employment opportunities and educated people had traditionally looked to the Government as an employment source. The Government had established a mandatory retirement age of 55 years to give younger people more employment opportunities and to let retired people develop other sources of employment using the land.

To questions concerning the informal sector, the delegate said the Government was helping women engage in the production of agricultural products, such as vanilla farming and honey production, which would produce additional income. Women were targeted in its micro-enterprise scheme, and the Government encouraged banks to provide small loans and training to women in rural areas.

Regarding pregnancy and education, the law allowed any girl who left school when she was pregnant to return after she delivered her baby, the delegate said. It was mandated that women in the workplace could take a three-month maternity leave. Every village would have a women's organization, entrusted with looking after women's livelihoods, she added.

Fiji had a good number of health centres and nursing centres to provide access to reproductive health services and to promote the use of condoms, in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, another delegate explained. The Government had a family planning campaign, and there was a family-life education programme, which was incorporated into the school curriculum. Many young people living with HIV had "gone public" with their status and even gone on road shows to meet with the public. That had helped to eliminate the discrimination against them. There was a non-governmental organization that helped people living with HIV.

On another point, the delegate acknowledged that Fiji was losing doctors and that the Government was trying to train more physicians in its medical training centres. With a decree governing the care of children and women, doctors were compelled to report any cases stemming from abuse or violence.

Responding to queries on other issues, the delegate said that some islands had no banks and, thus, it was encouraging banks to set up facilities on the islands that had roads. While poverty existed among rural women and they did not always have money to pay for education or health services, there was always food available.

Single women and disabled women were included in the Government's housing scheme, the delegate said to other questions. There were no shelters in rural areas for women victims of domestic violence, but the villages offered community

support. The 14 women's centres would serve as health facilities. She added that nearly every maritime island had a nursing centre.

Country Response

Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, Fiji was developing a framework to foster an inclusive society for all persons, a delegate said. It was also working very closely with non-governmental organizations on a policy focused on the empowerment of all persons, including women and children, with disabilities. The Government was constructing a new facility on one of the islands for persons with disabilities, and looking into constructing additional centres, as well.

Concerning the public emergency regulation, the Government felt the freedom of association was to be balanced with the protection of national interest and security, especially if a gathering might incite political unrest, the delegate said. The procedural requirements for any proposed meeting were intended to safeguard the public interest.

Follow-up Experts Comments and Questions

VIOLET TSISIGA AWORI, expert from Kenya, commented on Fiji's patriarchal society and values, and asked for information about how the new family law was bringing about protection for all women in Fiji.

RUTH HALPERIN-KADDARI, expert from Israel, noted that married people were mentioned in the law, but that "de facto" relationships were not. How were women in informal marriages protected by the law? In terms of property and land ownership, the report stated that both men and women were equally entitled to own land and that in the case of the land being owned by a couple, it had to be registered to both the husband and wife. In the case of divorce, would the wife be entitled to half the land? she asked.

Noting that Amnesty International had said that the full text of the 2009 Decree on Domestic Violence had been limited to the Government's media statement, she asked how women could become aware of their rights under that new legislation if it was not fully available. Also, under that new decree, were shelters available for victims of domestic violence?

She pointed out that "bulubulu", a custom of amicable reconciliation, had previously been included in the Criminal Procedure Decree, but said she had not noticed that that specific section had been repealed under the new Criminal Decree. She said she considered that worrisome as there was no justification of forced reconciliation in a domestic violence case.

Ms. JAISING, expert from India, asked which would prevail in the case of an "intersection" between customs and the law; would the system be willing to put aside the custom and go with the law instead?

Country Response

Regarding de facto relationships, a delegate said that there was no specific law covering property distribution. But, as pointed out earlier, the law of contract would prevail, and on issues of title and ownership, partners were encouraged to share property.

The Decree on Domestic Violence, as mentioned earlier, was still a new law, the delegate said. Training currently was being conducted for the police and judiciary departments, as well as those responsible for implementation of the law. It was the delegate's personal view that the law was a public document and, hence, accessible to anyone. When custom and law intersected, the law would always prevail. The practice of "bulubulu" was in fact declining as women were now more aware of their rights. Furthermore, in courts, "bulubulu" was no longer accepted.

With the new implementation of no-fault divorce, there did not seem to be any significant problem, he said, promising to provide statistics on that at a later date.

Follow-up Experts Comments and Questions

Ms. COKER-APPIAH, expert from Ghana, requested clarification on the Women's Department, asking, in particular, if it was a full ministry.

Ms. HALPERIN-KADDARI, expert from Israel, said she did not want a personal view on the publication of the Decree on Domestic Violence, but an official one. And, she had asked whether or not shelters were available for victims of domestic violence.

Ms. HAYASHI, expert from Japan, said she understood that time was required to get it right in the lead-up to an election. But if the Government was to have open dialogue with its citizens in order to overcome determinants that created

instability, then freedom of expression and association was essential. The delegation had said that women activists would have freedom of expression in outreach programmes, but it had also stated there were safeguards in place on the freedom of associations.

Country Response

The delegate clarified that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation was referred to in the Department of Women. Although the Government did not have shelters for domestic violence, a non-governmental organization, Women Crisis Centre in Suva, had some provisions for victims. She also noted that, in Fijian tradition, extended family ties were strong and victims often moved in with their families.

The Domestic Violence Decree enforced prosecutions in courts and had ongoing training for law enforcement personnel, with a focus on gender sensitivity. "Bulubulu" was not part of the Criminal Procedure Decree. Law enforcement now had to deal with domestic violence as an offence, despite "bulubulu", and had to proceed with due process. Victims also had a procedure through which to complain against the police officer if her rights were not processed correctly.

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ArabianBusiness.com

ArabianBusiness.com

July 13, 2010 Tuesday**Officials plan new Kuwaiti domestic worker salary law****BYLINE:** Elsa Baxter**LENGTH:** 158 words

Employers of domestic workers in Kuwait will have to ensure their employee's salary is paid directly into a bank account under new plans by the General Directorate of Immigration.

Legislation is still in the initial stages because many banks have failed to sign up to the new system saying workers' salaries are too low to warrant setting up an account, the Kuwait Times reports.

Brigadier Abdullah Al-Ali, head of the domestic labour department, told the paper the new measures would help protect workers against withholding of salaries.

The move follows recent concerns over abuses of domestic workers' rights, and officials hope it will help Kuwait remove its name from an official US State Department **blacklist** of countries with poor **human trafficking** records.

According to the report, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait and Gulf Bank offer current accounts to people on low salaries, but neither lender has said whether they would sign up to the scheme.

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87 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ajc.com

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 13, 2010 Tuesday
Main Edition

Change exploited kid laws

BYLINE: Jonathan Todres; For the AJC

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. 11A

LENGTH: 699 words

Do you remember being 13 years old? Picture your 13-year-old self and imagine someone older and seemingly much cooler taking an interest in you. It's initially great. Then imagine it all goes terribly wrong. He becomes abusive and forces you to have sex with older men so he can make money. Terrified and repeatedly raped by "customers," you reach a police officer one day. What happens next might surprise you. The handcuffs come out, and you are arrested for prostitution.

At 13, though the law says you are too young to consent to sex, once money is involved, even if it's paid to a pimp, the law now says you are mature enough to be considered criminally responsible.

In June, the U.S. government published its annual Trafficking in Persons Report, in which it reviews countries' progress combating human trafficking. For the first time, the report included a review of U.S. practices, giving the U.S. the highest possible rating. Indeed, the U.S. government has taken many important steps. But that is just part of the picture.

The report noted that the U.S. had rescued 306 children last year, evidence that certain law enforcement officers recognize the trauma these children experience. Yet in 2008, the latest year for which U.S. government data are available, 849 children were arrested for prostitution and commercialized vice. In other words, nearly three times as many children were treated as criminals than as crime survivors/victims.

Until now, in almost every state, a child under the legal age of consent could be charged with prostitution. New York, Connecticut, Washington, and Michigan are now the only exceptions.

On June 18, the Texas Supreme Court might have changed the landscape, when it decided *In the Matter of B.W.*, a case in which a 13-year-old was charged with prostitution. She had been living with her 32-year old "boyfriend" and was arrested for prostitution by an undercover officer. Noting the "special vulnerability of children," the court held that a child under the legal age of consent cannot be deemed criminally liable for the crime of prostitution.

The opinion is worth reading, as it methodically answers every question raised by skeptics. Yes, there are many. This year, in Georgia, several concerned legislators attempted to fix a similar flaw in the state's law, to ensure sexually exploited children are not further victimized by being arrested and charged with a crime. The bill died in committee.

Opponents of "safe harbor" laws argue that they will create a loophole for pimps to exploit. The Texas court has answered that charge: Treating sexually exploited children as crime victims does not change the fact that pimps and johns can be charged with sexual exploitation of a minor. Also, as the court explains, if the concern is being able to help these children, then the juvenile justice system is not our only option.

The U.S. government asserts it deserves a "**Tier 1**" rating for its efforts to combat **human trafficking**. Yet too little is done to ensure victims' dignity and recovery, and even less is done to assist vulnerable children before they are exploited.

Let's hope the Texas Supreme Court's decision is the turning point. If we deem children below a certain age to be incapable of consenting to sex, then money paid to a pimp cannot change that. This flaw in the law must be corrected in every state in the land. And while we're at it, let's actually do something to prevent these violations of our children from occurring in the first place.

Legislators ought to prioritize prevention and strengthen family supportive initiatives that enable kids to pursue their education and avoid risky situations. Businesses should adopt socially responsible policies and support community initiatives to protect vulnerable children and reduce the demand for such exploitative services. And as citizens, we should hear the voices of survivors and learn from them so we prevent others from suffering.

If any of us were 13 again and a target of sexual exploitation, what would we expect from our community, state and country?

Jonathan Todres is a law professor at Georgia State University and an advisor to ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking).

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88 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Kuwait Times

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July 13, 2010 Tuesday

Domestic workers' wages to be paid into bank

BYLINE: Abdullah Al-Qattan, Kuwait Times

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 718 words

July 13--KUWAIT -- The domestic labor department of Kuwait's General Directorate of Immigration is introducing new measures to safeguard the rights of Kuwait's domestic labor workforce, according to department head Brigadier Abdullah Al-Ali. One major change to the current system will be the introduction of legislation compelling employers to pay maids directly into their own bank accounts to avoid any type of embezzlement or withholding of salaries.

This legislation is still in its initial stages, however, due to the failure of many Kuwaiti banks to sign up to the new system since the domestic workers' salaries are considered too low to justify setting up bank accounts, while the Central Bank of Kuwait has also raised some objections. The new measures, which come in response to recent concerns over abuses of domestic workers' rights, will cover all domestic workers, from maids to drivers, cooks and others, he explained.

Brigadier Al-Ali explained that the directorate will specifically target those bodies and individuals concerned with this issue, working closely with recruitment agencies, sponsors and the domestic workers themselves. As well as protecting these workers' rights, the new procedures will help in removing Kuwait's name from the **blacklist** of countries criticized in the US State Department's 2009 **Human Trafficking** report for the conditions of migrant workers.

Some of the procedures will take effect at once, while others will take more time," Brig. Al-Ali explained. Some citizens, too, have expressed misgivings about the new regulation. Mohammad Al-Kandari, the head of a Kuwaiti family of five which employs three maids and a chauffeur, said that having to pay one's domestic staff on a monthly basis could disrupt the household budget of those homes with a number of servants.

For this reason, he said, some families pay their servants on a quarterly basis rather than giving them their wages every month. Al-Kandari also complained that paying servants' salaries direct to their bank accounts would cause more problems than it would solve, saying "Why fix something that's not broken?"

Mona Al-Shehab, a housewife and mother-of-two whose family employs two maids, a cook and a chauffeur, said that some households in Kuwait employ more servants than they need in order to make their lives easier. "Later on when it's time to pay the maids their wages, those people tend to underpay them so that they can afford that extra maid that sits all day long doing nothing," she said. The Commercial Bank of Kuwait is the largest bank to offer current accounts for those on low salaries in Kuwait, with man

y account holders being paid KD 350 per month or less, a source from the bank said.

CBK has a specialist branch dealing specifically with account holders on low wages, whose charges are less than those for better paid customers, the source explained. The Gulf Bank also offer an account for those on minimal salaries, along with various other flexible accounts for low earners. Neither bank has yet commented, however, on whether it will be participating in the new payment system for domestic workers, although senior executives have welcomed the idea of working closely with the immigration de

partment.

Brigadier Al-Ali has also announced that there will be other amendments to the current system governing the employment of domestic workers, with the department working closely with various embassies to provide a refuge for domestic workers fleeing abuse. This shelter will be able to accommodate a maximum of 1,000 people, taking the pressure off local embassies which currently have to house 90 percent of the maids fleeing abuse. The domestic labor recruitment agencies, meanwhile, will also be subject to mo

re scrutiny and stricter conditions, which will include increasing the cost of their licenses from the current KD 5,000 to KD 20,000.

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89 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

July 6, 2010 Tuesday

Heavier penalty for traffickers

BYLINE: V. Vasudevan; Eileen Ng**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 14**LENGTH:** 227 words

THE government is taking the fight against human trafficking to the next level by proposing increased penalties for offenders.

The proposal also includes punitive and custodial sentences for those who assist or provide facilities to migrants who use the country as a transit point.

The proposed changes to the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Act 2007 have been in the pipeline even after the country's standing in the fight against **human trafficking** has improved from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2**.

In the Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 released by the United States' Department of State recently, Malaysia's efforts in fighting human trafficking were recognised.

In the bill tabled yesterday, it was proposed that any person who profited from the exploitation of a trafficked person would be fined between RM500,000 and RM1 million.

This is higher than the penalty of between RM50,000 and RM500,000 imposed for the same offence currently. Those convicted under this clause shall also be liable to forfeiture of the profits.

In tabling the bill, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Abu Seman Yusop said it would be tabled for second and third reading during the current meeting.

Under the proposed changes, the prosecution does not need to prove the movement or conveyance of the trafficked person.

The prosecution needs only to prove that the trafficked person was subject to exploitation.

(END)

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90 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

July 5, 2010 Monday

some thoughts on Rejuvenating us and thai relations

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 1045 words

In normal circumstances, the US Congress would probably not bother to adopt a resolution expressing political support of Thailand's effort to strengthen democracy and rule of law. It could be construed as an act of political interference. But this is an unusual time, so it has been considered as much-needed moral support as the country continues to build up credibility in the international community.

Last week's resolution (411 for, 4 against) by the House of Representatives received media headlines praising the US lawmakers for backing the ongoing national reconciliation roadmap through peaceful means initiated by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. The House resolution came hot on heels of a stronger resolution of the US Senate, sponsored by Jim Webb (Democrat-Virginia) in May reiterating the importance of Thailand's long-term military alliance with the US with the five-point road map spelled out in detail. Then, a few days later, the US State Department issued a damaging report on Thailand's substandard handling of **human trafficking** with a **Tier-2 Watch-list** rating.

Earlier, the two sides quarrelled over the repatriation of Hmong refugees to Laos. Thailand proceeded with the plan, which was heavily condemned in Washington and Western capitals, ending half a century of Thai-Lao mistrust. There was also a small side-show when Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, met with the anti-government leaders in early June in a Bangkok hotel, causing emotional outbursts from some senior Thai officials. But they managed to make up briefly after.

Such bickering has categorised the eventful years of Thai-US ties under Abhisit. Indeed, it reads a tale of two lovers who have stuck together for the past 177 years, from days when Siam, the former name of Thailand, was the first Asian nation to establish ties with the US. Since then, they have been through thick and thin, full of hopeful moments and disappointments.

As they try to maintain their relations, the world around them has transformed beyond recognition. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Thailand is no longer the once much-valued US strategic ally in this part of the world. Amazingly, some Thai policymakers still expect the same old American reactions with the usual all-time support. These days, other countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam have come to the fore with improved relations with the US, without being a US ally and immersing themselves with friendly rhetoric. After September 11, 2001, the US mentality has also changed, which affected its diplomatic approach towards friends and foes around the world.

Now, both countries will have the opportunity to address issues of mutual concern and reinvent their nonchalant ties. Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya will hold a third-round of strategic dialogue with the US led by William Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, in the middle of this month. Outcomes from previous rounds were anything but strategic. Problem is, Thai-US ties are extremely diverse and entrenched in all spheres of cooperation. The US remains an important trading and economic partner of Thailand. They have made progress by dwelling on the past, building up on past successes. Somehow, this mindset is no longer sufficient. They have to think 'outside the box' to push their relations to the next level.

There should be a serious overall review of their security backbone, underlined by the 1954 Manila Pact and the 1962 Thanat-Rush communiqué, guaranteeing the US protection if foreign forces attack Thailand. Today, we live in a globalised world where armed conflicts among states are a no-no. Their time-tested alliance must be shaped in such a way that it boosts regional security and stability. Maritime security cooperation, nuclear non-proliferation and non-traditional security issues are new areas to be considered. But to do this, both sides would have to be creative and frank.

The Abhisit government has often asked what Thailand and the US, as an alliance, can do together to enhance peace and security in the region. Bangkok wants to be a proactive strategic partner of the US, rather than a recipient, as in the past. Thailand wants to be more than a logistic hub in American strategic thinking during times of natural crisis and conflicts through the use of U-Tapao air base and Sattahip naval base.

With the rise of China and India, Thailand's strategic location as a land bridge between South Asia and East Asia should come into play. Ways must be found to enhance broad-based security cooperation between the two nations. Instead of hedging its ways with major powers - a common practice in the past - Thailand now desires a more comprehensive strategic blueprint with the US.

On the surface, what made these relations more complicated and difficult has been Thailand's unpredictable domestic circumstances. However, deep down, one pivotal element, which must be discerned, has permeated into Thai-US ties - the broader participation of civil society in the government's decision-making process, especially in bilateral negotiations. Article 190 of the present charter, following the US checks and balances system, specifically gives Parliament the mandate to oversee negotiations with foreign countries. Due to bureaucratic red tape and a lack of understanding of Thai lawmakers, this mechanism has been misused and rendered the opposite effect, delaying key bilateral memorandums or agreements, including additional Thai-US public health cooperation.

The collapse of Thai-US free trade talks in 2006 was a case in point. Civil society representatives, for good or for worse, contributed to the richness of the debate, which in turn hampered the expected conclusion. Top-down decisions during the 2001-2006 Thaksin era led to extraordinary Thai-US diplomatic initiatives including claims of "black" prisons in the Kingdom.

Some rethinking on both sides is necessary to redress these aberrations. Transparency and civil society participation, crucial elements of American democracy - has become an indispensable part of Thai foreign policy - a far cry from the secretive world of yesteryears. In the long run, these democratic qualities will help boost Thai-US relations.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

91 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

July 5, 2010 Monday

Rejuvenating the US's oldest friend in Asia

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 976 words

Last week's resolution (411 for, 4 against) by the House of Representatives received media headlines praising the US lawmakers for backing the ongoing national reconciliation roadmap through peaceful means initiated by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. The House resolution came hot on heels of a stronger resolution of the US Senate, sponsored by Jim Webb (Democrat-Virginia) in May reiterating the importance of Thailand's long-term military alliance with the US with the five-point road map spelled out in detail. Then, a few days later, the US State Department issued a damaging report on Thailand's substandard handling of **human trafficking** with a **Tier-2 Watch-list** rating.

Earlier, the two sides quarrelled over the repatriation of Hmong refugees to Laos. Thailand proceeded with the plan, which was heavily condemned in Washington and Western capitals, ending half a century of Thai-Lao mistrust. There was also a small side-show when Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, met with the anti-government leaders in early June in a Bangkok hotel, causing emotional outbursts from some senior Thai officials. But they managed to make up briefly after.

Such bickering has categorised the eventful years of Thai-US ties under Abhisit. Indeed, it reads a tale of two lovers who have stuck together for the past 177 years, from days when Siam, the former name of Thailand, was the first Asian nation to establish ties with the US. Since then, they have been through thick and thin, full of hopeful moments and disappointments.

As they try to maintain their relations, the world around them has transformed beyond recognition. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Thailand is no longer the once much-valued US strategic ally in this part of the world. Amazingly, some Thai policymakers still expect the same old American reactions with the usual all-time support. These days, other countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam have come to the fore with improved relations with the US, without being a US ally and immersing themselves with friendly rhetoric. After September 11, 2001, the US mentality has also changed, which affected its diplomatic approach towards friends and foes around the world.

Now, both countries will have the opportunity to address issues of mutual concern and reinvent their nonchalant ties. Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya will hold a third-round of strategic dialogue with the US led by William Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, in the middle of this month. Outcomes from previous rounds were anything but strategic. Problem is, Thai-US ties are extremely diverse and entrenched in all spheres of cooperation. The US remains an important trading and economic partner of Thailand. They have made progress by dwelling on the past, building up on past successes. Somehow, this mindset is no longer sufficient. They have to think 'outside the box' to push their relations to the next level.

There should be a serious overall review of their security backbone, underlined by the 1954 Manila Pact and the 1962 Thanat-Rush communique, guaranteeing the US protection if foreign forces attack Thailand. Today, we live in a globalised world where armed conflicts among states are a no-no. Their time-tested alliance must be shaped in such a way that it boosts regional security and stability. Maritime security cooperation, nuclear non-proliferation and non-traditional security issues are new areas to be considered. But to do this, both sides would have to be creative and frank.

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92 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 4, 2010 Sunday

S'pore rebuts US trafficking report point by point; Wrong claims, factual errors made, ignoring Republic's holistic and comprehensive efforts

BYLINE: Goh Chin Lian

LENGTH: 981 words

The Singapore Government yesterday made public its detailed rebuttal of a United States Department of State report accusing the Republic of not doing enough to curb sex and labour trafficking.

The six-page document lambasted the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, published on June 14, for wrong assertions and factual errors.

It made the stand that Singapore did not have a serious human trafficking problem.

Singapore's Ambassador in Washington DC Chan Heng Chee has conveyed the document, dated June 30, to Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell and Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca.

The US report placed Singapore on a **human trafficking watch list** for the first time together with countries like China and India. Singapore's Foreign Affairs Ministry responded swiftly by calling on the US to examine its own record of illegal workers.

The Government's latest response criticised the report's mere reliance on reported and prosecution figures to judge Singapore's commitment against trafficking, as 'superficial and perfunctory at best'.

The Republic's approach of prevention, prosecution and victim assistance is comprehensive and holistic, but one 'which the US has chosen to ignore'.

It covers tough checks to prevent traffickers from entering Singapore, strong laws to prosecute anyone caught for human trafficking or exploiting foreign workers, and engagement with embassies to identify potential victims.

This approach is an effective deterrent, said the Singapore Government, borne out by an extremely low number of substantiated cases: Of the 32 reported cases of alleged trafficking last year investigated, two cases were substantiated and prosecuted.

Singapore will continue its calibrated and pragmatic approach, reviewing the approach if necessary, it said, rather than blindly follow a one-for-all operating model just to achieve a better technical ranking on the US report.

And just as the US has developed its own way to deal with its trafficking problems, different countries adopt different approaches. It said: 'It is a matter of what works for each country.'

Here is a summary of its response to the US allegations:

1 Many domestic workers in Singapore face debts associated with their employment that may amount to six to 10 months' wages.

It is odd that the US would choose to lay the blame on Singapore's door as these debts are almost always incurred in the worker's home country, the Singapore Government said.

Those entering Singapore on a work permit are issued with In-Principle Approval letters before they come, laying out their expected occupation, basic monthly salary and job-related expenses that their employers should bear.

Accredited maid agencies must facilitate the use of an employment contract on pay and rest days, or compensation in place of rest days.

2 Law enforcement agencies are passive and reactive.

Regular inspections ensure employers meet their legal obligations to foreign workers. The authorities held 2,252 foreign worker-related inspections last year.

Errant bosses are prosecuted. Foreign maids working here for the first time are randomly selected for interviews.

3 The Government made no increasing effort to prosecute and punish forced labour offences.

This allegation appears to be based solely on the fact that no cases were prosecuted under the Penal Code's provision on forced labour. The US' preoccupation with this clause is hard to understand, said the Government, which had informed the US that Singapore has prosecuted such behaviour under other Penal Code clauses or other Acts.

Last year, 4,761 errant employers, including those hiring foreign workers and maids, were prosecuted.

The police also conducted some 2,600 anti-vice operations last year, up from some 1,400 operations in 2008.

A total of 7,614 female foreigners were arrested last year for suspected vice activities, up from 5,047 in the previous year.

4 Some foreign embassies here identified about 105 female sex trafficking victims.

The police received only three reports of alleged trafficking from embassies. It is surprising and puzzling that embassies choose not to report these cases to the police, said the Government.

5 Observers expressed doubts as to whether the police routinely applied victim identification protocols in anti-vice sweeps.

As part of the interview protocol for women arrested for vice, all arrested people are asked if they had been coerced into prostitution and if they were trafficking victims.

6 Law enforcement efforts to curb prostitution led to trafficking victims being penalised by deportation for unlawful acts.

Trafficking victims are not prosecuted, but serve as prosecution witnesses. They are granted protection in shelter homes, and given meals and medical attention. When the case is over, the police arrange with the embassy for their return to their home country.

For cases without proof of trafficking, female foreigners are prosecuted only if found to have committed a crime or immigration offence. Otherwise, they are repatriated.

7 The Government reported referring eight children, who were potential trafficking victims, to shelters.

This is a gross distortion of facts, the Government said. The eight were not children, but aged between 17 and 41.

8 The police arrested 89 children for prostitution offences last year.

The Government had told the US Embassy the 89 arrested were minors under 18, not children, who are defined as those below 14. None of the 89 were below the age of 14.

9 None of the 228 prosecutions of employment agencies and bosses last year led to jail terms.

Twenty-seven of the prosecutions resulted in jail terms.

10 Indonesian and Filipino maids in job disputes were forced to stay in embassy shelters as government-funded shelters were not available.

This is false. They can opt to stay in government-funded housing, embassies and non-governmental organisation shelters.

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93 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

July 2, 2010 Friday

Separate law on women trafficking sought

LENGTH: 245 words

DATELINE: PESHAWAR

PESHAWAR, July 02 -- Participants at a seminar stressed the need for making separate law on women trafficking in Khyber Pakhtun-khwa and its extension to Fata to combat the problem in a holistic manner.

In the consultative meeting of the Counter Trafficking Technical Working Group organised by the Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme, Project Coordinator of Combating Women Trafficking Said Afzal Shinwari said Pakistan Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking had been prepared. "The goal of the government is to prevent and control human trafficking," he said, adding that the Action Plan had a three-pronged approach to achieve the goals including prevention of the crime, prosecution of those responsible for the crime and protection of the victims. "Unfortunately the government is not doing the needful in this regard, which has resultantly placed it on **tier 2 watch-list of trafficking in person** report this year," he said.

The participants were briefed on the proposed draft bill, which would deal the issue in a number of ways like inclusion of women and girls as the victims of trafficking, separate tribunal for prosecution, due role of police and other law-enforcement agencies, women trafficking, focused shelter homes and legal-cum-medical support to the victims of trafficking. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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94 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 30, 2010 Wednesday 10:04 PM GMT

Five Ukrainians charged in human trafficking ring in US

LENGTH: 670 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 30 2010

Five Ukrainians were charged with running a human trafficking ring that forced migrants to work for little or no pay cleaning US chain stores such as Target and Walmart, according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday.

The victims, mainly young Ukrainians, were subjected to rape and other physical violence, slave-like conditions, debt bondage and extortion of relatives in Ukraine -- abuse that added up to a "nightmare" of human deprivation, the US Justice Department said.

The charges were released just weeks after the United States for the first time included itself in its annual State Department report on global **human trafficking**, ranking itself in the "top **tier**" of compliance with standards to protect against such trafficking.

The indictment unsealed in the northeastern city of Philadelphia charged brothers Omelyan Botsvyniuk, Stepan Botsvyniuk, Mykhaylo Botsvyniuk, Dmytro Botsvyniuk, and Yaroslav Botsvyniuk, alias Yaroslav Churuk, with extortion and conspiracy to violate racketeering laws, the Justice Department said.

If convicted of all charges, the defendants face sentences ranging from 20 years in prison and a 250,000 dollar fine to life in prison and a 750,000 fine.

Four of the five suspects were arrested Wednesday. Dmytro Botsvyniuk was said to be in Ukraine, which has not entered into an extradition treaty with the United States, the statement said.

They allegedly conspired "to engage in a pattern of racketeering activity, from the fall of 2000 through the spring of 2007, by operating a human trafficking organization that smuggled young Ukrainian migrants into the United States and forced them to work for the brothers with little or no pay."

The five allegedly told victims they would earn 500 dollars a month with free room and board by working for their organization.

But "they smuggled the workers into the United States and put them to work as cleaning crews in retail stores, private homes and office buildings without paying them," the department said, citing Target and Walmart -- the world's largest retailer -- as examples.

The workers "lived with up to five people in one room, slept on dirty mattresses on the floor, and were rarely, if ever, paid," it said.

"They were told that they had to continue working until their debts, ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 dollars, were paid."

One woman who worked for the brothers was "brutally raped on several occasions," the statement said.

Omelyan Botsvyniuk once "threatened to place a worker's then nine-year-old daughter into prostitution to pay off the family debt," the department statement added.

After some managed to escape, Omelyan Botsvyniuk "resorted to extorting the workers' families in Ukraine, threatening them with harm if the workers did not return to work or pay their debts," it said.

"They used physical force, threats of force, sexual assault and debt bondage to keep the victims in involuntary servitude," the statement noted.

US Attorney Zane Memeger said "the victims in this case entered this country with dreams of great opportunity only to find themselves living a nightmare.

"They trusted this band of brothers, they performed the work they were told only to be rewarded with false promises, threats of brutality, and deprivation of their basic human needs. No one trying to immigrate to this country should have to endure such mistreatment."

The State Department says human trafficking is among the most profitable criminal industries in the world, along with illegal drugs and weapons.

In a State Department report on world trafficking earlier this month, the United States listed itself as compliant with minimum standards to protect against the crime.

The report did however acknowledge that the United States is "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution."

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

mdl-ksh/mlm

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95 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 30, 2010 Wednesday

Upgradation of Pakistan on human trafficking list a significant achievement

LENGTH: 152 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 30 -- Upgradation of Pakistan from Tier-2 **Watchlist** to **Tier 2** ranking by US **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2010 is a significant success of Pakistani officials working hard to combat human trafficking, said an Interior Ministry press release on Monday. Earlier on account of illegal human trafficking and smuggling the United States State Department had previously ranked Pakistan on Tier-2 Watchlist which was a cause of concern for the country. With significant efforts of Ministry of Interior, Federal Investigation Authority and other concerned government agencies under the supervision of Rehman Malik, Minister for Interior, the US has upgraded Pakistan's ranking. This development has improved the stature of Pakistan before the world

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96 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 29, 2010 Tuesday

Pak rank in anti-human trafficking improves

LENGTH: 365 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 29 -- Out of the twelve South and Central Asia nations ranked in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) 2010 report, Pakistan is the only country to improve on its ranking from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2**.

Pakistan's ranking as a Tier 2 country in the TIP 2010 report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a Tier 2 watch list country," the report read.

The annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims.

A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards.

Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the U.S. listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "the US Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking."

The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour and protect trafficking victims."

Of the 12 South and Central Asia nations ranked in the 2010 report, Pakistan was the only one to improve on its ranking. In 2010, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan are ranked as Tier 2 nations, as they were in 2009. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are ranked as Tier 2 watch list, the same as in 2009. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and the Maldives all ranked on the Tier 2 watch list in 2010, down from their Tier 2 rankings in 2009. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

97 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 29, 2010 Tuesday

Pakistan shows improvement

LENGTH: 667 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

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During 2009, Pakistan endeavoured to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labour or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalised for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded labourers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded laborers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labour in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organisations to prevent child trafficking.

Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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98 of 404 DOCUMENTS

South Asian Media Network

June 29, 2010 Tuesday

Pak improves "Trafficking In Persons 2010" rankings

LENGTH: 653 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

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99 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 28, 2010 Monday

Russian condemns new US government report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 867 words

Text of "Commentary by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs information and press department in connection with the publication of the US State Department's report on global human trafficking in 2009", published on the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on 28 June

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has closely studied the 10th and latest US State Department report on global human trafficking [the Trafficking in Persons Report].

We were awaiting publication of this document with interest, given the US State Department's promise to analyse the situation "in its own home" for the first time. Unfortunately, instead of a thorough and objective examination of the reasons why human trafficking on US territory is on the rise, the authors of the report, with no sense of false modesty, classified themselves as star pupils. In other words, they allocated themselves to Tier 1 in the system they themselves invented to categorize states by different ratings levels.

The data adduced in the section on the US was designed to stress the episodic and in no way systemic nature of crimes in the area of human trafficking. Meanwhile, it is no secret to anyone that it is specifically the US which has been and remains the world's largest importer of "human commodities". The report's authors managed to ignore numerous publications in the American press about the presence on US territory of more than 11 million illegal migrants, who are ruthlessly exploited on construction sites, in agricultural work, in the services industry and so on. They also chose to ignore the luring of more than 50,000 women and girls into the American sex industry every year, as cited by human rights activists. So the US State Department's idea of positioning itself in the role of "honest broker" in the report clearly didn't succeed. It would seem that preaching to others is considerably easier than sorting out the actual state of affairs in your own country.

We have said on more than one occasion that the methodology used by the US State Department in preparing the report is unacceptable. States are divided into ratings groups based on the extent to which they meet certain "minimum standards" in combating human trafficking, or, simply put, the requirements of domestic American legislation. This approach gives rise to antagonism not only amongst us, but also among many other states. For example, a few years ago, Switzerland, a fairly trouble-free country, reacted extremely negatively to the report after being included in its group of "miscreants" on the grounds that the country does not have the sort of special law on combating human trafficking that features in the "standard package" recommended by the Americans.

We were not surprised that this report once again puts Russia in the group of problem states, the so-called **Tier 2**. In order to merit being promoted up the rating, we were to have carried out the US Justice Department's "Action plan for Russia", in which we were required to change our legislation and our law-enforcement practices in the fight against **human trafficking**. It is clear that, from the very start, this requirement could not be met - in fighting organized crime, which includes combating "trafficking", the Russian authorities will never be guided by instructions drawn up in other countries, and will certainly not meet conditions that have virtually been issued as an ultimatum. In addition to everything else, it quite simply suits our American partners to keep us in the group of "miscreants", so that they can have a hypothetical pretext for introducing economic and trade restrictions against Russia - for example, they need at least something to justify the preservation of the notorious Jackson-Vanik amendment.

As far as the use in Russia of US experience of countering human trafficking is concerned, we are undoubtedly ready to make use of those areas of know-how that may be required in the Russian environment. At the same time, practice shows that it is unrealistic, and probably inexpedient, to copy other people's methods of work in full. Each state has the

right to work out for itself what would be the best national mechanism for fighting human trafficking, and to devise legislative and other instruments to counter "trafficking".

Russia has an interest in the stepping-up of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the prevention and restriction of human trafficking. In our opinion, the time has come to move from general political discussions about the problems posed by "trafficking" to specific practical collaboration among law-enforcement agencies and representatives of other state structures whose functions include combating human trafficking. Well-organized direct contacts between relevant units from the police, the migration services and border monitoring agencies in the countries in which "human commodities" originate and arrive, an exchange of experience and expert-level meetings to discuss the most urgent unresolved issues may bring considerably greater results than the US State Department's practice of drawing up "global" reports on human trafficking.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, Moscow, in Russian 28 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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100 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Financial Daily

June 28, 2010 Monday

Pak improves "Trafficking In Persons 2010" rankings

SECTION: Vol. 3 No. 324

LENGTH: 622 words

Out of the twelve South and Central Asia nations ranked in the Trafficking In Persons (TIP) 2010 report, Pakistan is the only country to improve its ranking from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2.

"Pakistan's ranking as a Tier 2 country in the TIP 2010 report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a Tier 2 watch list country," the report mentioned.

The annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims.

A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards.

Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the US listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards.

The US Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "the US Government is committed to support Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking."

The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour and protect trafficking victims."

Of the 12 South and Central Asian nations ranked in the 2010 report, Pakistan is the only one to improve its ranking.

Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are ranked as "Tier 2 watch list", the same as in 2009. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Maldives all ranked on the Tier 2 watch list in 2010, down from their Tier 2 rankings in 2009.

During 2009, Pakistan endeavoured to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labour or sex trafficking.

In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalised for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded labourers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricul-

tural assistance, to bonded labourers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labour in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management

Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerised National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organisations to prevent child trafficking.

Pakistan has also invested in training of its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

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101 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 28, 2010 Monday

RUSSIAN MFA PRESS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE US STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE WORLD IN 2009

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 774 words

DATELINE: MOSCOW, Russia

The following information was released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation:

The Russian Foreign Ministry has taken a close look at the 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report, released by the US State Department.

We had awaited with interest the publication of this document, given the promise of the US State Department for the first time to analyze in it the situation "at home." Unfortunately, instead of an in-depth and objective review of the causes of the rise in **human trafficking** in the US the authors of the report without false modesty at once placed themselves among the best performers, that is, in **Tier 1** under the country ranking system of their own devising.

The statistics adduced in the chapter on the United States are intended to underline the episodic, not systemic nature of the human trafficking offenses. Meanwhile, it's not a secret to anyone that the United States has been and remains the world's biggest importer of "human commodities." The report's authors managed to overlook the numerous American press reports about the presence in the US of more than 11 million illegal migrants mercilessly exploited at construction sites, on the farm, in the services, etc. They also chose not to notice the facts cited by local human rights activists of the annual trafficking of over 50 thousand women and girls into the US sex industry. So the idea of the US State Department this time to position themselves in the report as "an honest arbitrator" has manifestly failed. Probably, to lecture others is much easier than straightening the actual state of things in their own country.

We have repeatedly talked about the unacceptability to us of the methodological approach that the US State Department uses in preparing the report. Countries are ranked in **tiers** based on their conformance to certain "minimum standards" in the fight against **trafficking in persons**, and, more simply, to the requirements of internal American law. Such an approach is rejected not only by us, but also by many other countries. Several years ago, for example, Switzerland, a country with a fairly good track record in this respect, sharply negatively reacted to the report, having been placed among those in breach of the standards for lack of a specific law to combat human trafficking, which is included in the "standard set" recommended by the Americans.

We are not surprised that the current report has again placed Russia among the problem states, on the so-called **Tier 2 Watch List**. To earn promotion in the rankings, we should have fulfilled the Action Plan for Russia, prepared by the US Justice Department and instructing us to change our legislation and law enforcement practices to combat **human trafficking**. It is obvious that from the outset, this requirement was unfulfillable - the Russian authorities in the struggle against organized crime, which includes a drive against trafficking in persons, will never be guided by the instructions developed in another country; still less will they fulfill the conditions set forth almost as an ultimatum. Among other things, it is simply advantageous for the American partners to keep us on the Tier 2 Watch List in order to have a hypothetical reason to use economic and trade restrictions against Russia - for example, they must have at least something to justify the retention of the notorious Jackson-Vanik amendment.

As for the application in Russia of the American experience in combating human trafficking, we are certainly ready to take advantage of the ideas and suggestions that can be useful in the Russian context. Practice shows, however, that to fully copy someone else's schemes of work is unrealistic and hardly expedient, too. Each state is free to create the most optimal-for-itself national mechanism for combating trafficking in persons and to develop legislative and other instruments against the trafficking.

Russia is interested in intensifying multilateral and bilateral cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. In our view, it is time to move from a general debate on trafficking in persons to specific practical cooperation of law enforcement and other government agencies whose functions include the fight against human trafficking. Well-established direct contacts of relevant police units, migration services and border control bodies of countries of origin and destination of human commodities, along with exchange of know-how and meetings at expert level on the critical outstanding issues can bring much better results than preparing "global" Trafficking in Persons reports, which is practiced by the US State Department.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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102 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 28, 2010 Monday

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

BYLINE: Mavis Toh

LENGTH: 670 words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RELUCTANCE

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

MP Alvin Yeo

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

103 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

June 27, 2010 Sunday

Pakistan shows improvement in Trafficking In Persons 2010 report

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 177

LENGTH: 639 words

Out of the twelve South and Central Asia nations ranked in the **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) 2010 report, Pakistan is the only country to improve on its ranking from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2**. "Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the TIP 2010 report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country," the report read.

The annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards.

Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments. For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the U.S. listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "the US Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking." The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour and protect trafficking victims."

Of the 12 South and Central Asia nations ranked in the 2010 report, Pakistan was the only one to improve on its ranking. In 2010, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan are ranked as Tier 2 nations, as they were in 2009. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are ranked as Tier 2 watch list, the same as in 2009. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and the Maldives all ranked on the Tier 2 watch list in 2010, down from their Tier 2 rankings in 2009. During 2009, Pakistan endeavoured to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labour or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalized for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling." "The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded labourers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded labourers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labour in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organizations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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104 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 25, 2010 Friday

US acknowledges Pak's 2010 ranking for combating human smuggling

LENGTH: 737 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 25 -- US Embassy acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking saying that the U.S. Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking.

According to the US Embassy Spokesman, the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labor, and protect trafficking victims."

Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country.

The annual report, required by the U.S. Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a U.S. law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards. Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

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During 2009, Pakistan endeavored to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labor or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalized for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded laborers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded laborers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

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The State Department also honored nine Heroes in the Fight Against Modern Slavery in 2010, including activists from Uzbekistan, India, Brazil, Burundi, Hungary, Jordan, Mauritania, Mongolia and the United States.

Natalia Abdullayeva of Uzbekistan was honored for forging unprecedented partnerships between the private sector and the government to fight trafficking. India's Sattaru Umapathi, the anti-human trafficking officer of the Crime Investigation Department for the state of Andhra Pradesh, was honored for leading numerous interstate and intrastate rescue operations, rescuing victims and arresting traffickers, report added Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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105 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 25, 2010 Friday

US admits Pakistan combating human trafficking effectively

LENGTH: 577 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 25 -- Pakistan has received a **Tier 2** ranking and is the only country out of 12 South and Central Asia nations which has improved its ranking as far as **human trafficking** is related.

To achieve this, the Pakistan government has done a commendable job by penalising more than 150 Pakistani officials for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling".

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report points out that Pakistan has improved over its 2009 rating. According to the spokesman at the US Embassy who has made available this information, the annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims.

"A Tier 2 ranking means a government is making significant efforts to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards. "The Tier 2 watchlist countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments", says the report.

The US Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "The US government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking."

The embassy's statement added that the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour, and protect trafficking victims."

During 2009, Pakistan endeavoured to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labour or sex trafficking.

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded labourers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded labourers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh.

More than 1,000 children, who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates, were also successfully repatriated, the Trafficking in Persons report said. Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labor in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organisations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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106 of 404 DOCUMENTS

South Asian Media Network

June 25, 2010 Friday

US to help Pak hit human-smuggling

LENGTH: 625 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 25 -- United States of America is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking, according to US Embassy.

US Embassy spokesman said the Trafficking in Persons (TIP)-2010 report reflected "the government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labor, and protect trafficking victims."

Pakistan's ranking as a Tier 2 country in the 2010 TIP Report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a Tier 2 watch list country.

The annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims.

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107 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 24, 2010 Thursday

Philippines-Germany anti-trafficking resolution adopted by UN - official

LENGTH: 560 words

Text of report in English by Philippine newspaper The Manila Times website on 24 June

[Report by Llanesca T. Panti: "UN adopts RP-Germany anti-trafficking resolution"]

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted the Philippines Germany draft resolution on regional and sub-regional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported Wednesday.

This developed just eight days after the US State Department Report on **Trafficking in Persons** released this month listed the Philippines under the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the second straight year for being a source country, and to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to **trafficking in persons** specifically forced prostitution and forced labour.

The RP-Germany resolution particularly calls on governments to take measures on three things namely: implementing legally binding international instruments on combating trafficking in persons, coming up with a coordinated and comprehensive approach through the development of regional initiatives or plans of action based on relevant international instruments such as the Palermo Protocol and integrating human rights-based approach to combat trafficking and promote the provision of gender-and age-sensitive responses.

Such measures, according to the Foreign Affairs department, will address the needs of victims in full respect of their human rights that will enhance the level of protection, assistance and recovery, particularly with victim identification, their access to shelter, medical and psychosocial assistance, and rehabilitation, and the cooperation between intergovernmental and non government organizations.

Moreover, the RP-Germany resolution also raised the profile of addressing the demand created by commercial and sexual exploitation and other factors that spur trafficking in persons by encouraging governments to refer to the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Evan Garcia, noted that the RP-Germany resolution will prevent and end trafficking in persons, as well as protect, assist and provide access to adequate redress to victims, including the possibility of obtaining compensation from perpetrators.

For his part, Germany's Permanent Representative Reinhard Schweppe said the resolution is a continuation of the cooperation between the Philippines and Germany on the global problem of trafficking in persons.

"Our two delegations do attach great importance to the fostering of the cooperation in the fight against trafficking on the regional and sub-regional levels. Neighbouring countries do often share common or very similar problems when it comes to the phenomenon of human trafficking," Garcia said.

The Philippines and Germany held three open-ended informal consultations on the draft resolution. Some 60 delegations co-sponsored the resolution including the United States which expressed its gratitude to the Philippines and Germany for their leadership in bringing this issue to the forefront of the Council's attention.

Source: The Manila Times website, Manila, in English 24 Jun 10

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108 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Financial Daily

June 24, 2010 Thursday

US to help Pak hit human-smuggling

SECTION: Vol. 3 No. 320

LENGTH: 594 words

United States of America is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking, according to US Embassy.

US Embassy spokesman said the Trafficking in Persons (TIP)-2010 report reflected "the government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labor, and protect trafficking victims."

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109 of 404 DOCUMENTS

THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times

June 24, 2010 Thursday

Human trafficking report ranking 'positive' - gov't

LENGTH: 431 words

By Hani Hazaimeh

AMMAN - The government on Wednesday welcomed a US State Department report on human trafficking which indicated that the Kingdom may be a transit country for forced labour.

Responding to the US State Department's 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications Nabil Sharif said in a press conference yesterday that the government reviewed the contents of the annual report, which noted that instances of forced labour in the Kingdom reportedly continued to decline.

He indicated that the government considered Jordan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country for the second year in a row as "positive", underlining that the classification means that the Kingdom does not require observation in regards to **human trafficking**.

"This classification is due to several measures taken by the government including joining the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the endorsement of Anti-Human Trafficking Law and the launch of the national strategy to prevent human trafficking for the years 2010-2012," the minister said.

Moreover, the government issued bylaws last year governing the recruitment and treatment of non-Jordanian domestic helpers, Sharif pointed out.

In a press conference held jointly with Minister of Transport Alaa Batayneh and Minister of Social Development Hala Lattouf, Sharif also lauded the report for including the United States under its classifications.

This year's **Trafficking in Persons** Report ranked Jordan in **Tier 2**, the same classification as in the previous report, indicating that the Kingdom is "possibly a source and transit country for women and men subjected to conditions of forced labour and forced commercial sexual exploitation".

The US State Department report also referred to "reports of Jordanian child labourers experiencing conditions of forced labour. Migrant workers may be rendered vulnerable to forced labour in Jordan due to indebtedness to recruiters; legal requirements mandating foreign workers relying on employers to renew work and residency permits, and negative societal attitudes toward foreign workers".

The report added that some of the Sri Lankan, Indonesian and Filipina women who come to Jordan to work as domestic helpers are subjected to conditions of forced labour after arrival, such as "unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats of imprisonment, and physical or sexual abuse".

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Jordan Times (Amman)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 24, 2010 Thursday

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BYLINE: Hani Hazaimah, Jordan Times, Amman**SECTION:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 500 words

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Manila Times (Philippines)

June 24, 2010 Thursday

UN adopts RP-Germany anti-trafficking resolution

BYLINE: BY LLANESCA T. PANTI REPORTER

LENGTH: 523 words

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted the Philippines Germany draft resolution on regional and sub-regional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported Wednesday.

This developed just eight days after the US State Department Report on **Trafficking in Persons** released this month listed the Philippines under the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the second straight year for being a source country, and to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to **trafficking in persons** specifically forced prostitution and forced labor.

The RP-Germany resolution particularly calls on governments to take measures on three things namely: implementing legally binding international instruments on combating trafficking in persons, coming up with a coordinated and comprehensive approach through the development of regional initiatives or plans of action based on relevant international instruments such as the Palermo Protocol and integrating human rights-based approach to combat trafficking and promote the provision of gender- and age-sensitive responses.

Such measures, according to the Foreign Affairs department, will address the needs of victims in full respect of their human rights that will enhance the level of protection, assistance and recovery, particularly with victim identification, their access to shelter, medical and psychosocial assistance, and rehabilitation, and the cooperation between intergovernmental and non government organizations.

Moreover, the RP-Germany resolution also raised the profile of addressing the demand created by commercial and sexual exploitation and other factors that spur trafficking in persons by encouraging governments to refer to the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Evan Garcia, noted that the RP-Germany resolution will prevent and end trafficking in persons, as well as protect, assist and provide access to adequate redress to victims, including the possibility of obtaining compensation from perpetrators.

For his part, Germany's Permanent Representative Reinhard Schweppe said the resolution is a continuation of the cooperation between the Philippines and Germany on the global problem of trafficking in persons.

"Our two delegations do attach great importance to the fostering of the cooperation in the fight against trafficking on the regional and sub-regional levels. Neighboring countries do often share common or very similar problems when it comes to the phenomenon of human trafficking," Garcia said.

The Philippines and Germany held three open-ended informal consultations on the draft resolution. Some 60 delegations co-sponsored the resolution including the United States which expressed its gratitude to the Philippines and Germany for their leadership in bringing this issue to the forefront of the Council's attention.

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112 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

US acknowledges Pak's 2010 ranking for combating human smuggling

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 173

LENGTH: 709 words

US Embassy acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking saying that the U.S. Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking."

According to the US Embassy Spokesman, the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour, and protect trafficking victims." Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country.

The annual report, required by the U.S. Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a U.S. law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards. Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the U.S. listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards.

Of the 12 South and Central Asia nations ranked in the 2010 report, Pakistan was the only one to improve on its ranking. In 2010, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan are ranked as Tier 2 nations, as they were in 2009. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are ranked as Tier 2 watch list, the same as in 2009. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and the Maldives all ranked on the Tier 2 watch list in 2010, down from their Tier 2 rankings in 2009. During 2009, Pakistan endeavoured to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008.

Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labour or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalized for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded labourers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded labourers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh.

More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said. Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labour in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organizations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

The State Department also honoured nine Heroes in the Fight Against Modern Slavery in 2010, including activists from Uzbekistan, India, Brazil, Burundi, Hungary, Jordan, Mauritania, Mongolia and the United States. Natalia Abdullayeva of Uzbekistan was honoured for forging unprecedented partnerships between the private sector and the government to fight trafficking. India's Sattaru Umapathi, the anti-human trafficking officer of the Crime Investigation Department for the state of Andhra Pradesh, was honoured for leading numerous interstate and intrastate rescue operations, rescuing victims and arresting traffickers, report added.

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113 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

Pakistan shows improvement in TIP report

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 173

LENGTH: 638 words

Out of the twelve South and Central Asia nations ranked in the **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) 2010 report, Pakistan is the only country to improve on its ranking from **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2**. "Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the TIP 2010 report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country," the report read.

The annual report, required by the US Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a US law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards.

Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments. For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the U.S. listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "the US Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking." The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labour and protect trafficking victims."

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Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labour in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so labourers could get out of debt, and fund community organizations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

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114 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

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SECTION: Vol. XV No. 173

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115 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

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116 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Messenger

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

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LENGTH: 708 words

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117 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Pakistan Press International

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

Pakistan's efforts on trafficking cited by United States

LENGTH: 524 words

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118 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 23, 2010 Wednesday 1:25 AM EST

Pakistan's Efforts on Trafficking Cited by United States

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 735 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan issued the following news by Gabriella Krohmal Staff Writer:

Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country. The annual report, required by the U.S. Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a U.S. law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards. Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

For the first time, the 2010 report includes the United States in its rankings, with the U.S. listed as a Tier 1 country, where the government complies fully with the law's minimum standards.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "The U.S. Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking." The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labor, and protect trafficking victims."

Of the 12 South and Central Asia nations ranked in the 2010 report, Pakistan was the only one to improve on its ranking. In 2010, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan are ranked as Tier 2 nations, as they were in 2009. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are ranked as Tier 2 watch list, the same as in 2009. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and the Maldives all ranked on the Tier 2 watch list in 2010, down from their Tier 2 rankings in 2009.

During 2009, Pakistan endeavored to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008. Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labor or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalized for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded laborers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded laborers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labor in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so laborers could get out of debt, and fund community organizations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

The State Department also honored nine Heroes in the Fight Against Modern Slavery in 2010, including activists from Uzbekistan, India, Brazil, Burundi, Hungary, Jordan, Mauritania, Mongolia and the United States.

Natalia Abdullayeva of Uzbekistan was honored for forging unprecedented partnerships between the private sector and the government to fight trafficking. India's Sattaru Umapathi, the anti-human trafficking officer of the Crime Investigation Department for the state of Andhra Pradesh, was honored for leading numerous interstate and intrastate rescue operations, rescuing victims and arresting traffickers.

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119 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Tico Times (San Jose, Costa Rica)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

Costa Rica falls short of U.S. human trafficking standards

BYLINE: Mike McDonald, The Tico Times, San Jose, Costa Rica

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 398 words

Jun. 23--The U.S. State Department listed Costa Rica as a **tier two** country in its 10th annual report on **human trafficking** released this month.

The ranking, the second that uses the report's three-tier system, grades countries based on their compliance with the United States' Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. As a tier two country, Costa Rica "does not fully comply with the act's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

Third tier countries are the worst offenders.

Since the report's inception in 2001, Costa Rica has consistently been listed as a tier two country, with the exception of 2008, when the country fell to the tier two watch list, signaling a decrease in compliance or a significant increase in the number of victims.

Female sex slaves, some of whom are under 18 years old, account for the majority of human trafficking victims in Costa Rica, according to the report. Women and girls from Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Colombia and Panama have been subject to forced prostitution in Costa Rica. The report calls child sex tourism here "a serious problem."

Men, women and children are also victims of forced labor in the agriculture, construction and fishing sectors, according to the report.

The report commended Costa Rica for ensuring basic assistance to trafficking victim, but determined that the country has implemented "no proactive efforts to search for trafficking victims."

The report recommends that Costa Rica "vigorously implement anti-trafficking statutes" and "intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses."

Costa Rica's neighbors, Nicaragua and Panama, are both listed under the tier two watch list ranking in this year's report. Colombia, having complied with all of the U.N.'s minimum requirements to fight trafficking, is the only Latin American country that was ranked as a tier one country in this year's report.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ACC-NO: 20100623-1TT-Costa-Rica-falls-short-of-U-S-human-trafficking-standards-0623

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 1TT

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120 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 22, 2010 Tuesday

Burmese police chief "unhappy" over US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 338 words

Text of report in English by Thailand-based Burmese publication Irrawaddy website on 21 June

[Report by The Irrawaddy from the "News" section: "Burma Unhappy over Human Trafficking Ranking"]

Burmese police chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi is angry over a US State Department report that says Burma is one of more than a dozen countries doing the least to stop human trafficking, and he will hold a press conference in response, say sources in Naypyidaw.

"The police chief said that the accusation came despite police efforts to tackle the human trafficking issue, including workshops on prevention," said a police officer in Naypyidaw, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2010," released on Monday, ranked Burma along with Iran, North Korea and Cuba as "**Tier 3**" countries that have made no significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards to eliminate **human trafficking**.

On Burma, the report said, "The regime's widespread use of and lack of accountability in forced labour and recruitment of child soldiers is particularly worrying and represents the top causal factor for Burma's significant trafficking problem."

There has been no official response to the US report in the state-controlled media. The report also placed Singapore and Thailand on the **human trafficking watch list**.

Last week, the Thai foreign ministry expressed disappointment over the report, saying that it did not consider the efforts of the government to tackle the problem. The Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement last week that it is committed to tackling the human trafficking issue, and its efforts have not weakened since last year.

The US report said that Malaysia and Taiwan have made progress on the issue.

"Malaysia's upgraded status is a recognition of what we have been doing so far to tackle the issue of human trafficking," Malaysia Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein was quoted as saying in The Star online website last week.

Source: Irrawaddy website, Chiang Mai, in English 21 Jun 10

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

121 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Caribbean Net News, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 22, 2010 Tuesday

US refuses to correct 'inaccuracies' in trafficking in persons report

BYLINE: Caribbean Net News, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**SECTION:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 520 words

Jun. 22--GEORGETOWN, Guyana -- The United States State Department said its findings in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which has placed Guyana on **tier** two for another year, are accurate and there is no need for any correction.

This came as the Guyana government rejected the report last Monday, claiming that it was riddled with inaccuracies and does not present a true picture about the country's human trafficking situation.

In a statement, the government said human services minister Priya Manickchand was discussing Guyana's concern with Luis De Baca, Ambassador-at-large and head of the GTIP office via telephone

The statement said that, during a telephone conversation on Monday, De Baca insisted that the conclusions and recommendations in the report are based on an earlier inaccuracy about large numbers of traffickers and trafficking victims existing in Guyana.

"Minister Manickchand said she observed that, despite sincere and comprehensive efforts, the US State Department failed to have the inaccuracies corrected and continued basing their conclusions and recommendations on those inaccuracies," it added.

Manickchand pointed out how ridiculous the finding is that children from the country who come to town to go to school are potential victims of domestic servitude and therefore trafficking.

"Equally senseless was the recommendation that Guyana establish trafficking specific shelters to provide accommodation, care and counseling without credible evidence of a scale of trafficking to warrant more than what currently exists through Government supported NGOs like Help and Shelter," Manickchand said.

She explained that Guyanese across the board are upset that isolated, anecdotal accounts of trafficking in persons in Guyana were given such unusual significance as to generate many of the recommendations by the US State Department in its report.

The minister added that countered the Ambassador's invitation for Guyana to work in a partnership with the US by pointing out that the US State Department did not see fit to have the glaring inaccuracies and baseless accusations against Guyana corrected.

"The US State Department's stubborn refusal to acknowledge Guyana's contentions and their insistence on not changing anything in the report, makes a favorable response by Guyana to their offer of partnership difficult," the statement noted.

The Guyana government, according to the statement, continues to insist that the reports are misleading and based on fabrications designed to make the GTIP office appear competent. The Administration intends to approach higher levels of the US Government and members of Congress to correct these misleading reports.

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LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ACC-NO: 20100622-1CB-US-refuses-to-correct-inaccuracies-in-trafficking-in-persons-report-0622

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 1CB

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122 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

June 22, 2010 Tuesday

RIGHTS: PROBLEMS BESET CAMBODIA'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN

BYLINE: Irwin Loy

LENGTH: 925 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PEN, Jun 22 2010

Worrying trends continue to plague Cambodia and provide considerable concern for the future despite the gains it has reportedly made in combating human trafficking.

Citing renewed attention to law enforcement and the prosecution of offenders engaged in "modern slavery," the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** report released earlier this month by the U.S. State Department removed Cambodia from its **watch list** of countries seen as not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**.

"The government of Cambodia demonstrated significant progress in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking during the last year," the report states.

Cambodia was judged to be a **Tier 2** country on a three-level scale, indicating that while it does not comply with "minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**," it is nonetheless "making significant efforts to do so."

The report cites increased convictions of people accused of **human trafficking** as justification for removing Cambodia from the **watch list**. There were 36 convictions of offenders during the reporting period, compared with 11 in 2008.

Bith Kimhong, director of the anti-**human trafficking** department in Cambodia's Ministry of Interior, called the decision to remove the country from the U.S. **watch list** "just."

"We have worked hard to combat human trafficking," he said.

Samleang Seila, country director for the group Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), which helps child victims of sex abuse, acknowledged that authorities have demonstrated increased commitment to tackling the problem.

"Cambodia is making progress against trafficking," he said. "The number of arrests and investigations done by the police last year has increased. There are more sex offenders sent to court."

Yet, he added, it remains difficult to prosecute offenders accused of abusing the children his organisation helps.

Impunity and corruption - sometimes from police and judicial officials alleged to be both "directly and indirectly involved in trafficking" - continue to impede progress, states the U.S. report.

Children, women and men still fall victim to trafficking within the country and outside of Cambodia's borders.

And a "weak judicial system," combined with "credible fears of retaliation," means that many victims are unwilling to rely on the legal system for help, the report adds.

These and related warnings have left critics wondering why the U.S. State Department saw fit to lift Cambodia from its **human trafficking watch list**.

U.S. Congressman Ed Royce, a frequent critic of government corruption in Cambodia, said the country's removal from the watch list was an unjustified reward.

"For Cambodia to make meaningful progress in addressing human trafficking, it must address the growing problem of government corruption," Royce said in response to e-mailed questions. "The problem is getting worse by the year."

Royce, who is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sponsored a House Resolution last year condemning Cambodian corruption and "the role it plays in furthering human trafficking."

"Having heard scores of accounts from NGOs (non-government organisations) and from eyewitnesses, the Cambodian government's corruption often hampers trafficking investigations, and at worse, covers up the problem. Rewarding Cambodia, as the State Department Report does, only hampers efforts to curtail human trafficking," said Royce in a statement.

Global Witness, an international anti-corruption watchdog, has accused Cambodia of "widespread corruption and mismanagement of public funds" even as it urged the international donor community to demand that the government fulfill its promised reforms, including those in the judicial system.

"What needs to be improved is the judicial system and the court process, which sometimes discourages victims from participating in the legal system against the defender," APLE's Seila said.

There is also a fear that economic problems could magnify human trafficking concerns in the near future, with migrant workers looking abroad for job opportunities.

Neighbouring Thailand remains a major destination country for Cambodian migrants, with some 124,000 migrants legally registered to work there. However, it is estimated that many more undocumented labourers head abroad each year.

Fueled by a lack of opportunity at home, trafficked migrant workers are often lured by middlemen who promise lucrative jobs abroad. Instead, they are often smuggled to perform dangerous work on fishing vessels.

"Most of them work under slave labour conditions for a very long time," said Manfred Hornung, a legal adviser with the Cambodian rights group LICADHO.

The escaped migrants he has interviewed report brutal conditions - 22-hour work days, frequent beatings, even murder at sea.

Migrants are rarely paid until after they are released, he said, a timeline that can last for months and even years.

"In May, I had two guys come back after being away for three years," Hornung said. "None of them received salaries."

Hornung calls dozens of smuggled migrants he has interviewed "the tip of the iceberg" when it comes to human trafficking concerns.

Estimates suggest that between 250,000 and 300,000 young Cambodians will enter the labour market each year in search of jobs. If they cannot find them in Cambodia, many will choose to look abroad, potentially putting them at risk.

The U.S. State Department has also warned of this alarming trend.

"Labour trafficking among Cambodians migrating abroad for work is a growing problem that will require greater attention from authorities in the coming year," it says.

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123 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 22, 2010

Pakistan's Efforts on Trafficking Cited by United States; U.S. joins South, Central Asia nations ranked in trafficking report

BYLINE: Gabriella Krohmal, Staff Writer, ,

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 757 words

Washington -- Among the countries of the South and Central Asia region, Pakistan stands out in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report -- for positive reasons.

Pakistan's ranking as a **Tier 2** country in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report is an improvement over its 2009 rating, when it was listed as a **Tier 2 watch list** country. The annual report, required by the U.S. Congress, ranks 177 nations by **tiers** to measure the extent to which each government adheres to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a U.S. law enacted in 2000 to combat **human trafficking** and protect victims. A Tier 2 ranking means a government is "making significant efforts" to comply with the anti-trafficking law's minimum standards but does not yet meet those standards. Tier 2 watch list countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant efforts, yet trafficking is either increasing or more concrete steps are needed by the governments.

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The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad acknowledged Pakistan's 2010 ranking in a statement, saying, "The U.S. Government is committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking." The embassy's statement added that the 2010 TIP report reflected "the Government of Pakistan's efforts to prosecute trafficking offenders, prevent and combat bonded labor, and protect trafficking victims."

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During 2009, Pakistan endeavored to prosecute individuals charged with human trafficking, the TIP report said. According to the report, 385 people were convicted in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, compared to just 28 in 2008. Another 166 were convicted under various other laws associated with human trafficking, the report said. At least three of those convicted were guilty of child trafficking, with the rest guilty of either labor or sex trafficking. In addition, the report said more than 150 Pakistani officials were penalized for facilitating or "participating in illegal migration and human smuggling."

"The Government of Pakistan made some progress in its efforts to protect victims of human trafficking," the report said. During 2009, local police successfully freed more than 2,000 bonded laborers in Sindh province, and Pakistan's federal government succeeded in providing legal aid and development assistance, including land, housing, money and agricultural assistance, to bonded laborers from the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. More than 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates were also successfully repatriated, the report said.

Pakistan also received mention for its efforts at preventing human trafficking, including projects such as eliminating bonded labor in brick kilns and the country's Child Protection Management Information System, which collectively

spent millions of dollars to issue Computerized National Identification Cards, provide loans so laborers could get out of debt, and fund community organizations to prevent child trafficking. Pakistan has also invested in training its police and military officials in the most effective ways to combat human trafficking, the report said.

The State Department also honored nine Heroes in the Fight Against Modern Slavery in 2010, including activists from Uzbekistan, India, Brazil, Burundi, Hungary, Jordan, Mauritania, Mongolia and the United States.

Natalia Abdullayeva of Uzbekistan was honored for forging unprecedented partnerships between the private sector and the government to fight trafficking. India's Sattaru Umapathi, the anti-human trafficking officer of the Crime Investigation Department for the state of Andhra Pradesh, was honored for leading numerous interstate and intrastate rescue operations, rescuing victims and arresting traffickers.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)

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JOURNAL-CODE: SDWF

124 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 21, 2010 Monday

Better ranking next year

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 427 words

PUTRAJAYA: The government is optimistic that the country will graduate to **Tier 1** in the United Nation's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report by next year.

Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Mahmood Adam said the target was based on a strategic action plan by the authorities and significant requirements set out by Malaysia Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council (MAPO).

Mahmood, who is also council chairman, said the government would curb human trafficking activities to the core "until the rate goes down to zero".

Malaysia was re-elevated to Tier 2 Watch List in this year's TIP report released by the United States' State Department last week after being demoted to Tier 3 last year.

Countries in Tier 3 could face trade sanctions from the US and be subjected to non-humanitarian aid cuts.

Mahmood said under MAPO, five main divisions were designated to handle each area and they were supported by 36 government agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"The divisions are law enforcement agencies led by the police force, Attorney-General's Chambers, Women, Family and Community Development Ministry, Human Resources Ministry and the media."

He added that although the aim of reaching zero TIP activities sounded impossible, the ministry would go all out to realise the mission.

"Our target is to hit zero cases where the practice is completely abandoned and we don't report any more cases. Knowing fully that this is going to be an unenviable task, we will do our best to make our target become a reality."

"Last year, we were downgraded to Tier 3 because we did not have any action plan. Now, we can combat these activities efficiently with well-designated national action plans."

He said the National Action Plan (2010-2015) was a strategic direction outlined to ensure smooth and effective initiative implementation.

However, Mahmood said there were several hurdles that needed to be overcome quickly.

"One of them is the long time it takes to prosecute suspects. We hope to expedite cases through law enforcement operations."

He added that traffickers used Malaysia as a transit point for human traffickers to cross to other nations.

"They come here legally with proper travel documents before they are smuggled out. The best way to counter this is through tight screening on visa applications and others."

Mahmood also said agencies under MAPC were monitoring closely visitors from countries identified as sources of human trafficking.

Apart from enforcement, MAPO is also going all out in their campaign to promote awareness among the public on this issue.

(END)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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125 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Toronto Star

June 20, 2010 Sunday

Looking for work, finding a nightmare

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A6

LENGTH: 290 words

After a gruelling, 18-hour day, 15-year-old Kaminah, a domestic worker, would rest her head on a bag filled with blood-stained clothes, sleeping on cold ceramic tiles outside the bathroom.

The blood was her own, from the beatings inflicted by her employer on a daily basis.

"(Whenever I got a beating) I would always think of my family," Kaminah told The Jakarta Post. "Late at night, before going to sleep, I would think about my father and mother and feel very sad. I miss my parents a lot."

UNICEF estimates that more 100,000 Indonesian women and children are trafficked annually within the country and abroad, with about one in three being under the age of 18.

Pressured by families or lured with promises of work, an alarming number of girls and women find themselves in conditions of virtual slavery, both within Indonesia and abroad.

A recently released report by the U.S. State department on **human trafficking** lists Indonesia as a **Tier-2** country for trafficking, for not fully complying with standards set by the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"There is a particularly big problem with Indonesian women being trafficked as domestic workers, ending up basically enslaved in conditions in the Middle East, Malaysia, and to a lesser extent countries like Singapore," says Elaine Pearson, Deputy Director of the Asia Division for Human Rights Watch.

"Part of the problem is that there is not effective oversight of recruitment agencies in Indonesia."

But for some, the root of the problem lies not with the agencies, but with rampant poverty.

"I really wanted to finish school but we didn't have enough money to pay for tuition," another girl, Kiya, told The Jakarta Post. "So I decided to work as a domestic worker and help my family."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: NEWSPAPER

126 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 19, 2010 Saturday

Nigeria; Rape - Naptip Promises Dire Consequences for Offenders

BYLINE: Daily Champion (Lagos)

LENGTH: 406 words

Fire consequences await rapists, Mr. Simon Egede, Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) promised in Abuja yesterday.

Egede, who made the promise during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), added that rape offenders would serve jail terms.

According to him, the law that established NAPTIP, the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition, Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, prohibits the carnal knowledge of a child.

"So it is an offence under the NAPTIP Act to have carnal knowledge of a child whether she is your own daughter or a neighbour's daughter or a child on the streets.

"Once she is somebody below 18 years you cannot have carnal knowledge of her and where you do, it is an offence and you stand a chance of going to prison," Egede said.

When asked why offenders were given options of fines, Egede said the discretion when it comes to sentencing an accused person belonged to the judge.

"We cannot interfere with judicial process, all we are enjoined to do is properly investigate cases, prosecute, tender evidences and secure convictions. Thereafter, it is entirely judicial discretion.

"For instance, some of these people are sick. If the accused is a mental case or an old person, or shows remorse during trial for an offence, there can be so many considerations," he said.

The NAPTIP boss, however, expressed joy that some of the cases handled by his agency received favourable convictions "like 15 years without option of fine, 10 years, seven years depending on the level of crime".

On the adoption of the Child Rights Act in the remaining 12 states yet to adopt the Act, Egede appealed to such state governments to pass it.

"We hope that the governments and legislatures in these states will take a cue from the majority of other states and pass the Act because it is for the benefit and good of the children of the respective states," he said.

Mrs. Veronica Umar, national coordinator of WOTCLEF in a separate interview, told NAN that old men who sexually assault "babies" are sick.

She advised that such people should go to the psychiatric hospital because it's very unnatural.

"For a big man to force a child to make love with him is more than incest, if there's anything worse than incest, then that is it," she said.

Umar also congratulated the NAPTIP boss for Nigeria's **tier** one rating for the second year running on anti-**human trafficking** campaigns.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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127 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Champion (Lagos)

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LENGTH: 406 words

DATELINE: Lagos

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128 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

June 19, 2010 Saturday
1 Edition

New hope for IMF loan

BYLINE: Shalveen Chand**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 7**LENGTH:** 317 words

FIJI has managed to move up in the classification of countries in the United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, giving some hope for the Government's \$1billion loan application to the International Monetary Fund.

The 2009 TIP Report ranked Fiji as a Tier 3 nation with the 2010 Report upgrading Fiji to the Tier 2 Watch List.

Tier 2 lists countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to comply.

Moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2 removes US congressionally-mandated sanctions against US approval of World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Bank financing proposals.

Fiji has applied for a \$1bn loan from the IMF and being a Tier 3 nation meant US members on the IMF board would have had to vote against Fiji's application.

This was highlighted last month by US Deputy Chief of Mission, Richard Pruett, who said Fiji was a **Tier 3** nation in the US report on **Human Trafficking**, and as policy the US government did not support governments listed in that **tier**.

"Fiji has applied for a standby credit agreement with the IMF of no less than \$1 billion. The United States is the most prominent member of the IMF's board," he said.

"So long as Fiji is at Tier 3, our law requires us not just to vote against the loan but to actively oppose it.

"One billion dollars is a lot of money. But trafficking in persons is an important issue."

The report found the Government was making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards for the elimination of the trafficking of people.

Over the past year, the Government has enacted an anti-trafficking law, the Crimes Decree, and repealed the archaic Penal Code.

The Crimes Decree defines trafficking as a crime of compelled service which does not necessarily involve crossing a border or otherwise moving a victim, and includes several innovative provisions to protect both adult and child trafficking victims.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

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129 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

June 19, 2010 Saturday

Human trade

LENGTH: 463 words**DATELINE:** Assam

Assam, June 19 -- The United State's action in placing India in **Tier 2 Watch List** on **human trafficking** for the seventh consecutive year once again brings to the fore this deep rooted problem. Though human trafficking is a global phenomenon, it is very acute in the North Eastern region of the country. It is quite disconcerting that the annual Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton revealed that girls from the North Eastern region including the educated are duped with promise of well-paid employment in the large cities and then forced into prostitution or marriages in Haryana and Punjab. Taking advantage of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment well organized groups are luring away women and minors outside the region. Most of such victims of human trafficking are sold off in the red light areas of Mumbai, Delhi, Siliguri .Human trafficking in the North East have reached an alarming proportion.

The US report also slammed the weak implementation of policies and corrupt officials for failure to effectively confront the scourge. It revealed the involvement of a section of corrupt officials facilitating in human trafficking and providing protection to those who are carrying out this nefarious activities. The report had pointed out that the Indian Government has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement efforts to tackle prevalent bonded labour trafficking. The only positive aspect in the report is that Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have constituted Anti- Human Trafficking Units. But it is not known how far these units are effective in tackling trafficking. It is high time the law enforcing agencies coordinate their activities to tackle the menace of human trafficking head on. The vulnerable areas should be identified and awareness campaigns be conducted with the help of voluntary agencies. A strong vigil by the village elders, NGOs can go a long way in thwarting the activities of the traffickers. To check this menace the authorities along with voluntary organizations should identify the vulnerable areas and step up vigil to ensure that the agents of human traffickers cannot dupe the gullible people. The authorities should also initiate action to end complicity of law enforcing officials in trafficking. Strong deterrent action must be taken against those engaged in this heinous criminal activity. Rehabilitation schemes should be formulated to put life back in track for the rescued victims of human trafficking. The society must come forward and assist the authorities in tackling this menace. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Assam Tribune. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

130 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 17, 2010 Thursday

US human trafficking reports upgrades Cambodia

LENGTH: 1075 words

Text of report in English by Cambodian state news agency AKP email service

[AKP report: "2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report: Cambodia Upgraded to **Tier 2**"]

Phnom Penh, June 16, 2010 AKP - Cambodia has been upgraded to **Tier 2** on 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, a noted improvement from last year's ranking of **Tier 2 Watchlist**, according to press release of the US Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The full press release dated June 15 reads as follows:

"On Monday, June 14th, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the release of the State Department's 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. This year Cambodia has been upgraded to Tier 2, a noted improvement from last year's ranking of Tier 2 Watchlist. Over the past year, the Cambodian government demonstrated increased efforts to address human trafficking. Law enforcement efforts stepped up significantly, resulting in an increase in convictions over the prior year. The Government also issued guidelines to improve victim treatment and protection, and began to train officials on the use of these standards.

Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children, who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and forced prostitution. Cambodian men, women, and children migrate to Thailand, Malaysia, and other countries for work and many are subsequently forced into commercial sexual exploitation or forced to labour in fishing and seafood processing industries, on agricultural plantations, in factories, in domestic work, or for begging and street selling. Debt bondage is sometimes a factor that contributes to the vulnerability of Cambodians to trafficking. Local recruiting agencies sometimes detained recruits in training centres during the pre-departure training period, and the fees make workers more vulnerable to debt bondage. Some workers are reportedly subjected to confinement and conditions of involuntary servitude in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and other destination countries, and some returning workers reported being paid only at the end of their contract, at which time they were also informed that a substantial part of their pay was deducted. Parents sometimes sell their children into exploitation or domestic servitude. Within the country, children are also subjected to forced labour, including being forced to beg, scavenge refuse, work in quarries, and work in the production and processing of bricks, rubber, salt, and shrimp.

The Government of Cambodia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The Royal Government demonstrated significant progress in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking during the last year. Authorities convicted 36 trafficking offenders; all but one of these convictions were for sex trafficking. Authorities also reported one conviction of a public official for trafficking-related corruption during the year. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSAVY) issued a new 'Policy and National Minimum Standards for the Protection of the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking,' which includes guidelines to improve victim treatment and protection, and began to train officials on the use of these standards. The government partnered with NGOs to train several thousand police, social workers, court officials and other employees on the 2008 law and its enforcement.

To improve its Tier ranking, the Royal Government of Cambodia should conduct robust investigations and prosecutions of government officials involved in trafficking activities, expand efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable groups and refer them to adequate victim services, and establish protections for Cambodian migrant workers such as laws to regulate recruitment and placement. The Royal Government of Cambodia should also continue

training officials, particularly provincial-level police, about human trafficking, especially since some officials wrongly believe that enforcing laws against non-trafficking sex crimes contributes to efforts to combat trafficking.

The US Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as amended, requires the Secretary of State to submit this report each year. The 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat trafficking in persons, a modern form of slavery. The goal of the report is to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The assessment includes reports on 175 countries assigned ranks, including the first-ever ranking of the United States, and special case commentaries on Haiti and Somalia. Countries assessed as meeting the 'minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking' set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards, are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

This year, in keeping with the Obama Administration's commitment to hold the United States to the same standards to which we hold others, and following up Secretary Clinton's pledge made at the release of 2009 TIP Report last June, the 2010 TIP Report contains a full narrative and ranking of the United States for the first time. The US narrative is a candid and detailed assessment of US anti-trafficking efforts, based on the same methodology used to determine rankings for other countries. It points out a number of deficiencies in those efforts, and contains a list of recommendations for improvement. While the United States is ranked as **Tier 1**, it is important to remember that **Tier 1** means the United States complies with the TVPA minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, not that the United States does not have a **human trafficking** problem. A Tier 1 ranking means there is much room for improvement; that is the case for all countries ranked Tier 1.

The US Embassy looks forward to working further with the Cambodian government in the upcoming year to achieve the necessary steps to see Cambodia maintain Tier Two, and eventually achieve Tier One, status." - AKP

Source: Agence Kampuchea Presse email, Phnom Penh, in English 0000 gmt 16 Jun 10

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

131 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

June 17, 2010 Thursday

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: REGION GETS AN 'F' IN HALTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Marwaan Macan-markar**LENGTH:** 1008 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK, Jun 17 2010

In the wake of a new U.S. government report on human trafficking, human rights and migrant rights activists are calling on a South-east Asian regional bloc to review its policies toward this scourge to protect the group's most vulnerable citizens - its women and children.

Such an appeal to the 10 members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) stems from the way human trafficking is viewed by this bloc, currently racing ahead to create a rules-based community that would closely resemble the European Union.

ASEAN's narrow definition of what constitutes human trafficking and how it should be combated was revealed last year. It came after all members of the 43-year-old bloc endorsed its new charter to be a "more rules-based, effective and people-centered organization" to become an ASEAN Community by 2015.

ASEAN's members include Brunei, Burma (or Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

To achieve this quest of regional unity, leaders of the 10 countries endorsed the creation of three pillars to build on: a political security community, an economic community and a social and cultural community.

In doing so, ASEAN placed human trafficking as a security challenge and labor migration as a social and cultural challenge.

"The separation of migration and trafficking into different areas reveals a lack of understanding about the problem," says Phil Robertson, deputy director at the Asia division for Human Rights Watch, a New York-based global rights lobby. "If ASEAN wants to get its act together on trafficking, it needs to deal with migration and trafficking together."

ASEAN is fortunate that the U.S. State Department's annual trafficking in persons report, released on Jun. 14, does not rank regional blocs, Robertson remarks. "If they grade ASEAN as a region, they would have to give it a Tier 3 rating."

The U.S. government's report, published for the past 10 years, has become a benchmark to assess the scourge of human trafficking and what governments across the world are doing to protect the victims, prosecute the abusers and prevent the spread of the traffickers' network. The worst ranked countries earn a 'Tier 3' rating, while those with a success rate are listed as 'Tier 1' countries.

Washington's 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2010' has been far from flattering for ASEAN, which is trying to reinvent itself from its original mission - as a bulwark against the spread of communism in the region - and appear more meaningful to its over 550 million citizens, some four million of whom have been forced to seek jobs in neighboring countries. Nine ASEAN countries joined a global list of notoriety, where human trafficking is rampant. Military-ruled Burma was ranked among the worst offenders by this 10th annual report, a position shared with other countries like North Korea and Saudi Arabia, where little has been done to protect children, women and men from human trafficking networks.

Cambodian children forced to sell sweets and flowers on the streets of Thai cities, and Burmese women forced into prostitution in Malaysia are among the disturbing cases singled out in the report.

Singapore and Thailand, two of the strongest U.S. allies in the region, were placed on the 'Tier 2 Watch List', suggesting that they had regressed from last year. Other countries in the region ranked likewise for clear evidence of **human trafficking** were Laos, Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia, which had been in the worst **tier** last year.

Indonesia, the region's giant, and Cambodia, one of the region's poorest, were placed among the 'Tier 2' countries. "Indonesia is a major source country, and to lesser extent a destination and transit country for women, children and men who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution and forced labor," the report reveals.

Burma was described likewise. "Many men, women, and children who migrate abroad for work in Thailand, Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, India and South Korea are trafficked into conditions of forced or bonded labor or commercial sexual exploitation," the report notes.

The affluent city-state of Singapore, on the other hand, is a "destination country for women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution, and for some migrant workers in conditions that may be indicative of forced labor," the report adds.

Thailand and Cambodia share similar trends as a source, transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking. "The government of Thailand does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the report states while acknowledging that Bangkok was "making significant steps to do so."

The Singapore and Thai governments have fired back at Washington. "(The report) is rather puzzling because the U.S. has not satisfactorily explained how it arrived at its conclusions," the island's foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement released to the media. "Let me say that the (report) is more a political ritual than an objective study."

Bangkok echoed similar sentiments. "Thailand doubts the credibility of the U.S. report because this came out despite our efforts to provide further updates," a Thai foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying in the local media on Thursday.

Such reactions confirm the wide gulf between how the U.S. government views human trafficking and how ASEAN countries do. "The U.S. government has a broad definition of what trafficking means, including sex trafficking, labor trafficking and forced labor," says Sinapan Samydarai, convenor of the Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers, a coalition of non-government organizations.

"ASEAN countries like Singapore see trafficking as only sex trafficking. Left out is the whole area of labor trafficking," he said during a telephone interview from the city-state. "ASEAN countries also place a greater burden on victims of intra-regional trafficking to prove they have been trafficked or face deportation. This is unfair on the victims."

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132 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPR Strategic Business Information Database

June 17, 2010

REJECTS US ACCUSATIONS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**LENGTH:** 140 words**DATELINE:** CUBA

According to ACN: The head of the North American Department at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Josefina Vidal, categorically rejected the inclusion of Cuba in a report released on Monday by the US State Department accusing the island of human trafficking. Countries covered in the report are placed in three categories, according to anti-trafficking performance. Those lowest rated, in **Tier 3**, are subject to US sanctions, where applicable, including cuts in non-humanitarian aid. There are thirteen **Tier 3** countries this year, including Cuba. A statement published in the website of the Cuban Foreign Ministry strongly rejects the US State Department's allegations that in Cuba children are subjected to **trafficking in persons**, specifically commercial sexual exploitation within the country. "These shameful slanders deeply offend the Cuban people.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

133 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 17, 2010 Thursday

Human trafficking severe in Korea :US

LENGTH: 374 words

Korea has been labeled as a 'source and destination country' for human trafficking.

The U.S. State Department said in its annual report on **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Monday that the **human trafficking** situation in Korea is still substandard, despite its **Tier 1** status.

Countries are divided into Tier 1, 2, 2 Watchlist and 3 based upon criteria such as victim protection, criminal prosecution and preventive measures.

Korea has maintained a Tier 1 status for nine consecutive years since 2002. Tier 1 countries are in 'full compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA),' Tier 2 countries make 'significant efforts' to comply, while Tier 3 countries make 'no efforts.'

But the Korean government's efforts and the actual state of affairs are completely at odds. In its initial words, the TIP Report on South Korea revealed that South Korea 'is a source, transit, and destination country for men and women subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor, and women and girls in forced commercial sexual exploitation.'

The report also said that men and women from Southeast Asian countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Morocco, China, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia are forced into prostitution or mandatory labor when they come to Korea for jobs.

The TIP report especially criticized Korea for allowing women from countries such as Russia and Uzbekistan who enter Korea via entertainment visas, including those 'recruited to be singers and bar workers near U.S. military facilities,' to be trafficked for forced prostitution.

It also stressed that Korean women are forced into prostitution not only in Korea, but also in foreign countries such as the U.S., Canada, Japan and Australia.

The report also said that 'Korean men continue to be a major source of demand for child sex tourism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific' and that 'the government has never prosecuted a Korean citizen for engaging in child sex tourism abroad.'

The report also warned that widespread Internet use was revitalizing the prostitution industry, and advised Korea to increase efforts to 'investigate, prosecute, and convict trafficking offenders involved in both sex and labor trafficking in the ROK.'

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

134 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Morning Star

June 17, 2010 Thursday

World - Cuba hits back at 'slander' of US blacklisting

BYLINE: Tom Mellen

LENGTH: 267 words

Cuba blasted President Obama's administration on Tuesday for including it on a US **human trafficking blacklist**, branding it a 'shameful slander' designed to justify its discredited trade embargo.

On Monday Washington released a report which charged that Cuba is one of 13 countries that they are not complying with minimum international standards to eliminate the trade in human beings.

Cuba and other states on the list, including the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and Iran, could face more US sanctions.

Havana was singled out for allegedly not doing enough to prevent the trafficking of child prostitutes on the island.

Cuban Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Josefina Vidal Ferreiro said: "Cuba categorically rejects these allegations as false and disrespectful."

Ms Vidal Ferreiro said that the allegations were all the more offensive because the government had concentrated its limited resources on protecting women and the young.

The socialist system ensures that all citizens have access to free education through university, free health care and heavily subsidised housing and transportation.

Crime and drug abuse rates are low.

Ms Ferreiro added that Cuban laws "put us among the countries in the region with the most advanced norms and mechanisms for the prevention of abuse."

She concluded that Cuba's inclusion on the trafficking list was a political decision.

"It can only be explained by the desperate need that the US government has to justify, under whatever pretext, the persistence of its cruel blockade, which has been overwhelmingly rejected by the international community," said Ms Ferreiro.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

135 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 17, 2010 Thursday

It takes a generation

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 16**LENGTH:** 441 words

MODERN Malaysian historians now uniformly acknowledge the double-edged sword that was forged in the crucible of the global expansion of tertiary education beginning in the early 1970s, when the first local scholarship recipients under the then New Economic Policy were sent abroad to university. That quantum leap in the educational refinement of Malaysian - especially Malay - youth indeed fuelled the new technocracy serving their country's subsequent transformation, but that vastly expanded exposure was also infused with the heady fumes of radicalism, rebellion and revolution. What has since come to be termed "Islamism" was gestated among young Malaysians at tertiary levels of education abroad, transplanted home to local soil by the alarmed cancellations of overseas scholarships.

The second wave of tertiary educational expansion was domestic, reversing the flow with the proliferation of local colleges offering access to and actively wooing foreign students. Although the imperatives were different - from educating a new generation of Malaysians to developing local tertiary education as a revenue-earning sector of the economy - the leitmotif of connections among transnational radicals has persisted, not only intact but growing, in tandem with the acceleration of communications and ease of travel.

It has also been a historical fact that Malaysians' interest in and support of Islamist causes over the past generation, from Afghanistan through Bosnia to Palestine, has seen many slip through the cracks into the dark underworld of these causes. From the notorious depredations of the now-deceased "Bali Bombers" to the brace of hapless stooges who turned up entangled in Yemeni connections to the "Underwear Bomber" over Detroit last December, Malaysians crop up in such circumstances often enough for the world to have begun developing the notion that this country tolerates and accommodates such nonsense more than it should.

Climbing up to **Tier 2** on the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** report, off the **Tier 3 blacklist**, goes some distance towards redressing this misperception that Malaysia turns a blind eye to being used in this manner; indeed, there is a genuine aspiration here for **Tier 1** status: to go from being part of the problem to being part of the solution. Better still, however, would be wider knowledge of how familiar these individuals and their networks are to local enforcers. The recent deportation of 10 foreign nationals for such subversive activities may be taken as an indication of the vigilance required against such elements. It is equally an indication of that vigilance in progress.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Editorial**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

136 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 17, 2010 Thursday**Pakistan: US excludes Pakistan from watch list****LENGTH:** 157 words**DATELINE:** Islamabad

Islamabad, June 17 -- America praised the Pakistan's efforts in curbing **human trafficking** and exited its name out of **watch list**.

Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accord of its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in report issued by American Foreign Ministry. American assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

According to the report up till now 385 convicts have been sentenced in accordance with Pakistan's anti human trafficking law whereas 2,864 cases were made. US Foreign Ministry categorized Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka are in the list too likewise that of last yea Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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137 of 404 DOCUMENTS

South Asian Media Network

June 17, 2010 Thursday

Pakistan: Pakistan out of human smuggling watch list

LENGTH: 176 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, June 17 -- United States of America has deleted the name of Pakistan from the **watch list** of countries infamous for **human trafficking**.

From now on Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accordance with its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in the report issued by US Foreign Ministry, a private news channel reported.

The report also lauded the efforts of Pakistan in curbing human smuggling from the country.

American assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

Out of 2,864 cases filed against human traffickers, Pakistani government has taken actions against 385 convicted, it noted.

US Foreign Ministry categorised Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka maintained the last year's grades Published by HT Syndication with permission from South Asian Media Network. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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138 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 17, 2010 Thursday**THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON REBUTS 2010 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 320 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK

The following information was released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand:

With reference to the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report issued annually by the US Department of State, which downgraded Thailand from **Tier II** to **Tier II Watch List** on 14 June 2010, Ms. Vimon Kidchob, Director-General of the Department of Information and Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, gave a comment to the media as follows:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand has conveyed its disappointment to the US Government on the said matter and questioned the accuracy of the 2010 TIP Report since it disregarded and failed to take into account Thailand's strenuous effort to resolve the human trafficking problem, especially prevention and protection of the victims. The combating of human trafficking has always been a matter of high priority of the Royal Thai Government, which has taken actions to tackle it at both national and regional levels. Among others, at the domestic level, efforts have been made through the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Coordinating and Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Performance Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. At the regional level, Thailand has signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking with its neighbouring countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. Furthermore, Thailand is also working to enhance cooperation with Japan, Australia and South Africa on the issue of combating human trafficking.

Given the importance the Government and Thai society as a whole have attached to the issue, and the continuous efforts they have made, Thailand wishes to reaffirm its strong determination to press ahead with preventing and combating human trafficking as well as protecting victims of human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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139 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US State News

June 17, 2010 Thursday 6:04 PM EST

ANTI-TRAFFICKING SUCCESSES IN AFRICA OFFER HOPE TO CONTINENT

LENGTH: 888 words

LIBREVILLE, Gabon, June 16 -- The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Judged on **tier** ranking, a look at the map of Africa in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report reveals that most of the countries there are struggling in the battle to end **human trafficking**.

But two countries stand out: Nigeria and Mauritius. Both should serve as models for other countries seeking to end modern-day slavery, according to Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large for the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the standards identified in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Countries are given a tier ranking. At the bottom are Tier 3 countries that have governments that do not comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA and are not making significant efforts to do so. Five countries in Africa have received Tier 3 status in this year's TIP report.

Most of the countries in Africa, however, have received Tier 2 or Tier 2 Watch List rankings. Their governments are attempting to meet TVPA minimum standards but do not yet fully comply (Tier 2). Or, the governments, while attempting to comply with minimum TVPA standards, fall short and suffer from a significant and/or increasing incidence of severe forms of trafficking (Tier 2 Watch List).

Nigeria and Mauritius are in Tier 1, with governments that fully comply with the TVPA minimum standards. The two countries are very different in terms of their size and legal systems, and yet both serve as beacons of hope to other countries grappling with the problem of human trafficking.

Mauritius, a tiny island 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of Madagascar, has a population of just more than 1.2 million people. For years it languished on **Tier 2** and suffered as a destination country for victims of **human trafficking**.

"When you're talking about these small island countries," CdeBaca told America.gov in a recent interview, "you're talking about clusters of victims - dozens rather than hundreds. ... It's very easy, I think, for small island nations to look at the trafficking thing and think that it doesn't apply to them because the numbers are smaller." Nonetheless, every country has a responsibility under international law to address the problem, he said.

Mauritius was able to muster a "combination of political will and then a willingness to go out and find enforcement models that would work there," CdeBaca said. A former French colony with a civil law background, Mauritius should serve as a model for smaller countries, he said.

"Mauritius has actually done a very good job of having those standard operating procedures in place - knowing that they're not going to get hundreds of victims a year, they're going to get less than 20 in a given year," CdeBaca said. "But when they do find them, they know what to do with them, and they know how to treat them right."

Nigeria, a much larger country with a population of some 148 million, suffers from being a source country for victims of human slavery. It, too, spent years on the Tier 2 list in the TIP report.

"Nigeria was well on its way to being on Tier 3 in the report, plagued, as in many countries, by corruption [and] weak rule of law," CdeBaca said. "But they worked with the American Bar Association; they worked with UNODC [United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime]; they worked with us [U.S. Agency for International Development]; they aggressively went out and found best practices."

With the creation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), CdeBaca said, all the involved parties were brought together and held accountable. "You've seen success," he said of Nigeria's efforts. "So it is something that I'd like to see replicated and scaled outside of just Nigeria."

Abject poverty and lack of governing structures can be blamed for the prevalence of many social ills, CdeBaca said. "What is interesting is a lot of [social problems] go away as [gross domestic product] rises; a lot of things go away as governments become more set up. And yet, human trafficking is prevalent in all of the countries."

When asked about notions of "hereditary slavery" and "slave castes" in some countries of West Africa, CdeBaca replied: "There's been some progress in West Africa on the issue of hereditary slavery, although it's slow in coming. As was reflected in last year's trafficking report, we've seen some people ordered emancipated from their hereditary slave owners who received some money settlements."

"But at the end of the day, we have to not only change the cultural practice, we also have to call upon the governments to impose the rule of law and to comply with Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says no person shall be held as a slave," CdeBaca said. "At some point it stops being culture and it starts being a crime. And with slavery, it's not that hard of a decision to make."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>). For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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140 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Nigeria; Anti-Traffic Agency Retains High Global Rating

BYLINE: Daily Trust (Abuja)

LENGTH: 87 words

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) has retained its **Tier** 1 status in the fight against trafficking, the 2010 annual Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report has shown.

Executive Secretary of the agency Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede disclosed this yesterday while briefing newsmen in Abuja.

In the annual report, countries are assigned and rated according to **Tiers** 1-3, depending on the degree of compliance to the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

141 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Zambia; U.S. Hails Region's Strides in Human Trafficking Fight

BYLINE: The Times of Zambia (Ndola)**LENGTH:** 224 words

THE United States has said the Zambian Government has made significant efforts in the fight against human trafficking offenders.

US Embassy public affairs officer Pricilla Hernandez said the Zambian Government made great achievements in raising public awareness of trafficking, and that the Government has also addressed the demands for sex and labour trafficking.

She however said that victim's assistance facilities and services for victims in Zambia had remained inadequate despite Government's mandate to construct such facilities.

Ms Hernandez said in a statement released yesterday that according to the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report, Zambia had been ranked '**Tier** 2' for anti-trafficking efforts.

"While the Government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant efforts to do so," she said.

She implored the Zambian Government to continue with programmes such as the training of police, immigration officers, prosecutors and judges on how to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes.

Ms Hernandez said that this year had marked ten years since the United Nations negotiated the international standards against human trafficking, and she said her government had enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to identify and protect against modern slavery.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

142 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Mozambique; Government Criticised on Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique (Maputo)

LENGTH: 800 words

The Mozambican government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking", although it is making "significant efforts to do so", according to the US State Department's 2010 Annual Report on Human Trafficking, released this week.

During 2009, however, the government "did not show evidence of increased efforts to address human trafficking, particularly efforts to address human trafficking, as it has done in the past, or to investigate continuing reports of government officials' complicity in trafficking crimes".

The US has therefore put Mozambique on its "Tier two watch list". The report divides the nations of the world into three tiers. **Tier one** covers those countries which, in the eyes of the State Department, acknowledge the existence of **human trafficking**, take steps against it, and meet minimum standards set by the United States' own Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

At the opposite end of the scale is Tier three, which covers those countries that do not comply with the minimum standards and make no efforts to do so (E.g. Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, North Korea, Zimbabwe and Sudan).

Most of the world is in Tier two - these are countries that are making an effort to meet the minimum standards, but have not yet succeeded. Countries are placed on the Tier Two Watch list if the absolute number of victims of trafficking is "very significant or is significantly increasing", or there is no effort of increased efforts (compared with the previous year) to combat trafficking.

The only African countries in Tier one are Nigeria and Mauritius. The great majority of African states are in Tier Two, and Mozambique is joined on the "Watch List" by countries such as Tanzania, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Mali.

The Mozambique section of the report says "there is no evidence of widespread government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking; however, there are known cases of government officials facilitating human trafficking".

It notes that "traffickers commonly bribed law enforcement officials to allow their movement of trafficking victims internally and across national borders into South Africa and Swaziland, sometimes without passports".

Despite this, "no officials have been investigated, detained or prosecuted for complicity in trafficking crimes".

Looking at specific cases, the report mentions one incident in which the police did act promptly. This concerned eight people who were arrested in March for trafficking women to South Africa.

They were detained thanks to investigations by reporters from the Media24 group, which owns the Johannesburg paper "City Press". The journalists infiltrated the crime syndicate by passing themselves off as people interested in buying Mozambican girls who would then be forced to work in the South African sex industry.

Media24 alerted the Mozambican police, and the first arrests occurred on 17 March, in the Milano restaurant in central Maputo. Three members of the gang had just handed over a young Mozambican woman to two supposed buyers, still unaware that in reality that they were journalists, when the police swooped and detained them three. Other arrests followed three days later.

The report remarks that "within weeks, all of the suspects were released on bail". The report is wrong: they were released, not within weeks, but within days, much to the annoyance of the police who believed they had a solid case against the traffickers.

A judge in the Maputo city court released them without explanation. Although the Public Prosecutor's Office can still press charges, there must be a serious risk that all the traffickers will flee the country.

The State Department report also criticized the government for showing "little progress in its efforts to protect victims, as it continued to suffer from limited resources and a lack of political commitment". The government "continued to lack formalized procedures for identifying potential victims of trafficking and referring them to organisations providing protective services".

Nonetheless, the report notes that, with UNCEF assistance, the police have set up services especially designed to assist women and children, including the victims of trafficking.

The report is marred by some odd mistakes - notably the belief that the recruitment of migrant labour for the South African gold mines is a form of trafficking. It claims that "young Mozambican men and boys are subjected to conditions of forced labour in South African farms and mines".

Mozambicans certainly face appalling conditions on South African farms - but all the tens of thousands of Mozambican on the mines went there voluntarily, under a mine labour recruitment scheme which is many decades old, and earn much higher wages than they could expect in rural Mozambique.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

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143 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Africa; Anti-Trafficking Successes in Africa Offer Hope to Continent

BYLINE: America.gov (Washington, DC)

LENGTH: 837 words

Judged on **tier** ranking, a look at the map of Africa in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report reveals that most of the countries there are struggling in the battle to end **human trafficking**.

But two countries stand out: Nigeria and Mauritius. Both should serve as models for other countries seeking to end modern-day slavery, according to Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large for the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the standards identified in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Countries are given a tier ranking. At the bottom are Tier 3 countries that have governments that do not comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA and are not making significant efforts to do so. Five countries in Africa have received Tier 3 status in this year's TIP report.

Most of the countries in Africa, however, have received Tier 2 or Tier 2 Watch List rankings. Their governments are attempting to meet TVPA minimum standards but do not yet fully comply (Tier 2). Or, the governments, while attempting to comply with minimum TVPA standards, fall short and suffer from a significant and/or increasing incidence of severe forms of trafficking (Tier 2 Watch List).

Nigeria and Mauritius are in Tier 1, with governments that fully comply with the TVPA minimum standards. The two countries are very different in terms of their size and legal systems, and yet both serve as beacons of hope to other countries grappling with the problem of human trafficking.

Mauritius, a tiny island 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of Madagascar, has a population of just more than 1.2 million people. For years it languished on **Tier 2** and suffered as a destination country for victims of **human trafficking**.

"When you're talking about these small island countries," CdeBaca told America.gov in a recent interview, "you're talking about clusters of victims -- dozens rather than hundreds. ... It's very easy, I think, for small island nations to look at the trafficking thing and think that it doesn't apply to them because the numbers are smaller." Nonetheless, every country has a responsibility under international law to address the problem, he said.

Mauritius was able to muster a "combination of political will and then a willingness to go out and find enforcement models that would work there," CdeBaca said. A former French colony with a civil law background, Mauritius should serve as a model for smaller countries, he said.

"Mauritius has actually done a very good job of having those standard operating procedures in place -- knowing that they're not going to get hundreds of victims a year, they're going to get less than 20 in a given year," CdeBaca said. "But when they do find them, they know what to do with them, and they know how to treat them right."

Nigeria, a much larger country with a population of some 148 million, suffers from being a source country for victims of human slavery. It, too, spent years on the Tier 2 list in the TIP report.

"Nigeria was well on its way to being on Tier 3 in the report, plagued, as in many countries, by corruption [and] weak rule of law," CdeBaca said. "But they worked with the American Bar Association; they worked with UNODC [United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime]; they worked with us [U.S. Agency for International Development]; they aggressively went out and found best practices."

With the creation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), CdeBaca said, all the involved parties were brought together and held accountable. "You've seen success," he said of Nigeria's efforts. "So it is something that I'd like to see replicated and scaled outside of just Nigeria."

Abject poverty and lack of governing structures can be blamed for the prevalence of many social ills, CdeBaca said. "What is interesting is a lot of [social problems] go away as [gross domestic product] rises; a lot of things go away as governments become more set up. And yet, human trafficking is prevalent in all of the countries."

When asked about notions of "hereditary slavery" and "slave castes" in some countries of West Africa, CdeBaca replied: "There's been some progress in West Africa on the issue of hereditary slavery, although it's slow in coming. As was reflected in last year's trafficking report, we've seen some people ordered emancipated from their hereditary slave owners who received some money settlements."

"But at the end of the day, we have to not only change the cultural practice, we also have to call upon the governments to impose the rule of law and to comply with Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says no person shall be held as a slave," CdeBaca said. "At some point it stops being culture and it starts being a crime. And with slavery, it's not that hard of a decision to make."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

144 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Nigeria; We'll Make Our Villages Free of Traffickers, Says Agency

BYLINE: Leadership (Abuja)

LENGTH: 330 words

The Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of **Trafficking in Persons** and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), Mr. Simon Chuzi Egede, has asked the agency and partners not to bask on the cozy warmth of the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one on **human trafficking** until all villages are clean and free of traffickers.

He added that every state should adopt the child rights acts law and pursur its realisation doggedly without any resistant in their domain.

He stressed that, the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one in the recently released annual global report on **trafficking in persons** 2010, does not mean the battle against **human trafficking** have been won.

Speaking yesterday to members of the press on the release of the annual global report on **trafficking in persons** by the united secretary of states, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Egede said, the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one has not freed the country from stranglehold of criminal syndicates who would want to continue with their crime, therefore, Nigerians should still be mindful of the fact that the battle is far from being won.

"The enemies of Nigerian children are ever ready to deploy their arsenals of assault through any loophole either real or imagined. We are renewing our call for government, stakeholders, international organization and destination countries to gird their loins for greater battle. "

We must inject more strength, determination and commitment to pursue and achieve the elimination of those factors that predispose and enhance trafficking of Nigerians out of the shores of the country while we internally promote a protective environment."

He added that, NAPTIP will not take the credit alone for the elevation but also acknowledges the support of Honorable Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohamed Bello Adoke (SAN), partners, other organisations and the courage of destination countries like Netherlands, Sweden and Iceland who have criminalised the purchase of sex in their domain.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

145 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 16, 2010 Wednesday 1:24 PM GMT

Vietnam defends effort against human trafficking

LENGTH: 228 words**DATELINE:** HANOI, June 16 2010

Vietnam on Wednesday defended its efforts against **human trafficking**, after the United States placed it on a **watch list**.

The State Department report "has political characteristics with unobjective comments that do not correctly reflect the real situation in Vietnam," foreign ministry spokeswoman Nguyen Phuong Nga said in a statement.

Vietnam joined fellow Southeast Asian nations Singapore and Thailand on the watch list in the State Department's annual report, which accused them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

Nga responded that Vietnam considered the trafficking of women and children, in particular, to be a dangerous crime that violated human rights and was severely punished.

She said that since 2004 the government had implemented a plan to reduce the problem.

"So far, efforts by Vietnam in the fight against human trafficking have positively impacted the whole society and have been noticed by the international community," the spokeswoman said.

The state Vietnam News this month cited a government report which said human trafficking was rising in Vietnam, with organised gangs using more sophisticated techniques to evade authorities.

From 2005 until this year, 3,190 women and children returned to Vietnam after being trafficked, the report said, citing the social affairs ministry. Most were rescued or escaped, it said.

tmh-it/mtp

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

146 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique (English)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Government Criticised on Human Trafficking

LENGTH: 800 words

DATELINE: Maputo

The Mozambican government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking", although it is making "significant efforts to do so", according to the US State Department's 2010 Annual Report on Human Trafficking, released this week.

During 2009, however, the government "did not show evidence of increased efforts to address human trafficking, particularly efforts to address human trafficking, as it has done in the past, or to investigate continuing reports of government officials' complicity in trafficking crimes".

The US has therefore put Mozambique on its "Tier two watch list". The report divides the nations of the world into three tiers. **Tier one** covers those countries which, in the eyes of the State Department, acknowledge the existence of **human trafficking**, take steps against it, and meet minimum standards set by the United States' own Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

At the opposite end of the scale is Tier three, which covers those countries that do not comply with the minimum standards and make no efforts to do so (E.g. Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, North Korea, Zimbabwe and Sudan).

Most of the world is in Tier two - these are countries that are making an effort to meet the minimum standards, but have not yet succeeded. Countries are placed on the Tier Two Watch list if the absolute number of victims of trafficking is "very significant or is significantly increasing", or there is no effort of increased efforts (compared with the previous year) to combat trafficking.

The only African countries in Tier one are Nigeria and Mauritius. The great majority of African states are in Tier Two, and Mozambique is joined on the "Watch List" by countries such as Tanzania, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Mali.

The Mozambique section of the report says "there is no evidence of widespread government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking; however, there are known cases of government officials facilitating human trafficking".

It notes that "traffickers commonly bribed law enforcement officials to allow their movement of trafficking victims internally and across national borders into South Africa and Swaziland, sometimes without passports".

Despite this, "no officials have been investigated, detained or prosecuted for complicity in trafficking crimes".

Looking at specific cases, the report mentions one incident in which the police did act promptly. This concerned eight people who were arrested in March for trafficking women to South Africa.

They were detained thanks to investigations by reporters from the Media24 group, which owns the Johannesburg paper "City Press". The journalists infiltrated the crime syndicate by passing themselves off as people interested in buying Mozambican girls who would then be forced to work in the South African sex industry.

Media24 alerted the Mozambican police, and the first arrests occurred on 17 March, in the Milano restaurant in central Maputo. Three members of the gang had just handed over a young Mozambican woman to two supposed buyers, still unaware that in reality that they were journalists, when the police swooped and detained them three. Other arrests followed three days later.

The report remarks that "within weeks, all of the suspects were released on bail". The report is wrong: they were released, not within weeks, but within days, much to the annoyance of the police who believed they had a solid case against the traffickers.

A judge in the Maputo city court released them without explanation. Although the Public Prosecutor's Office can still press charges, there must be a serious risk that all the traffickers will flee the country.

The State Department report also criticized the government for showing "little progress in its efforts to protect victims, as it continued to suffer from limited resources and a lack of political commitment". The government "continued to lack formalized procedures for identifying potential victims of trafficking and referring them to organisations providing protective services".

Nonetheless, the report notes that, with UNCEF assistance, the police have set up services especially designed to assist women and children, including the victims of trafficking.

The report is marred by some odd mistakes - notably the belief that the recruitment of migrant labour for the South African gold mines is a form of trafficking. It claims that "young Mozambican men and boys are subjected to conditions of forced labour in South African farms and mines".

Mozambicans certainly face appalling conditions on South African farms - but all the tens of thousands of Mozambican on the mines went there voluntarily, under a mine labour recruitment scheme which is many decades old, and earn much higher wages than they could expect in rural Mozambique.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

ArabianBusiness.com

ArabianBusiness.com

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

UAE says committed to human trafficking fight

BYLINE: Andy Sambidge**LENGTH:** 470 words

The UAE said on Wednesday that it was committed to stamping out human trafficking as it opened two more shelters for victims in Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.

UAE officials said combating human trafficking and protecting victims remained a "top priority on its national agenda".

Dr Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and chair of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, said "several challenges" remained, adding it would continue to work with international partners to fight the crime.

At least 43 cases of human trafficking were registered in the UAE during 2009, compared to 20 cases in 2008, a statistic he said that reflected the country's progress since federal laws were introduced in late 2006 on the issue, news agency WAM reported on Wednesday.

His comments came two days after the US State Department's 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report noted the UAE's progress in addressing the problem of human trafficking.

In a 373-page report, the department said that employers in the Gulf states exploit the widely used 'kafala' system to abuse workers and named Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the region's worst offenders.

It added that the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Egypt were each assigned a **Tier 2** rating, indicating they have made significant efforts to tackle **human trafficking**.

Gargash added: "The UAE welcomes recognition of the country's anti-trafficking efforts, constructive criticism, as well as collaborative efforts.

"This year's TIP Report takes into account the measurable progress on the ground in the UAE's concerted fight against this crime, however the UAE is aware that several challenges still lie ahead and we are committed to continuing our efforts alongside our international partners."

According to the UAE's annual trafficking report released in May, the measures undertaken in 2010 as part of the comprehensive four-pillar strategy include expanding the size and scope of the anti-trafficking committee; establishing a human rights department at the Ministry of Interior and starting a new facility at Dubai Police to monitor and control human trafficking.

The government is set to launch its first public awareness campaign at airports and UAE embassies abroad towards the end of 2010 with the clear message that the UAE maintains a zero tolerance approach to the crime of human trafficking.

Millions of migrants, primarily from Asia and Africa, have short-term employment contracts for blue-collar jobs in the construction, domestic work, and service industries across the Middle East.

Under the 'kafala' system, nationals and companies can hire migrant workers who are dependent on their employers for food and shelter.

Many workers complain that agencies or employers confiscate their passports, do not pay them regularly or deduct housing or health costs from their pay.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

JOURNAL-CODE: 167

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148 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Bahrain News Agency

June 16, 2010 Wednesday 8:45 AM EST

More Operations To Rescue Human Trafficking Victims in Malaysia

LENGTH: 105 words

Kuala Lumpur, June 16 (BNA) In continuous efforts to rescue victims and rout human trafficking syndicates, the police would conduct more operations, Criminal Investigation Department director Mohd Bakri Zinin said Tuesday.

He said policemen would be assigned to 'hot spots' such as the Melaka Straits and South China Sea as they were identified as main entry points for syndicates to traffick victims abroad. He was commenting on a report yesterday, which quoted Home Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein as saying that Malaysia had risen to **Tier 2** of **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the US Department of State EM.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** BNA

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ARABIA 2000

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149 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Bahrain News Agency (BNA)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

More Operations To Rescue Human Trafficking Victims in Malaysia

LENGTH: 118 words

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LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** 387

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150 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

US praises Pakistan's efforts in curbing human trafficking

LENGTH: 165 words

Text of report headlined "US excludes Pakistan from watch list" published by Pakistani newspaper Pakistan Observer website on 16 June

Islamabad--America praised the Pakistan's efforts in curbing **human trafficking** and exited its name out of **watch list**.

Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accord of its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in report issued by American Foreign Ministry, a private news channel reported. American assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

According to the report up till now 385 convicts have been sentenced in accordance with Pakistan's anti human trafficking law whereas 2,864 cases were made. US Foreign Ministry categorized Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka are in the list too likewise that of last year.

Source: The Pakistan Observer, Islamabad, in English 16 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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151 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Singapore slams US trafficking report

LENGTH: 836 words

Text of report by Singapore newspaper The Straits Times website on 16 June

[Report by Mavis Toh: "Human trafficking: S'pore tells US to put own house in order"]

An American report accusing Singapore of not doing enough to curb sex and labour trafficking has been lambasted by the Singapore Government.

The United States State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (Tip) report said Singapore's performance in dealing with 'modern slavery' had worsened over the last year.

This resulted in the Republic being placed on a **human trafficking watch list** for the first time, alongside countries such as Bangladesh, China and India.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) called the report more of a 'political ritual than an objective study'.

In a blunt rebuttal, a ministry spokesman said: 'How, for example, can the US rank itself in Tier 1 when it is well known that it has been unable to stem a flood of illegal workers, many of whom are trafficked by organized criminal gangs?'

The 10th annual report for the first time included a ranking of the US, which it said was 'based on the same standards to which we hold other countries'.

But the ministry spokesman pointed out that the US 'has not been able to cope adequately with the problem, and that is among the reasons why immigration is such a hot political issue in the US'.

He added: 'The US should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries. Then its reports may be more credible.'

This is Singapore's worst showing since the report was first released in 2001. It had previously been in 'Tier 2', except in 2003, when it was excluded, and in 2006, when it made it to 'Tier 1'.

The country's current status is listed as 'Tier 2 Watch List', down from Tier 2.

Countries on the watch list do not fully comply with minimum international standards for protecting migrant workers from forced labour or other forms of trafficking.

They are also deemed to have a significant number of victims and have failed to show increasing efforts to combat the situation.

Other countries downgraded along with Singapore are Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

This year's report estimated that 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are victims of trafficking.

It said Singapore is a destination for forced prostitution and added that women from Thailand, the Philippines and China have been tricked into coming here for legitimate employment, only to be forced into the sex trade upon arrival.

The report also said that while the Government has taken 'some significant new steps' against trafficking, it has not shown increased efforts in prosecuting more culprits or identifying more victims.

It added that of the 32 sex trafficking reports investigated by the state during the year, only two were confirmed to be trafficking cases and prosecuted. Of the 89 children arrested for prostitution offences last year, according to the report, the police investigated only four cases as potential sex trafficking cases.

MFA called the report 'puzzling' because the US had not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions.

Its spokesman said: 'The Singapore Government is committed to tackling the Tip issue, and our efforts in dealing with this issue have certainly not weakened since last year.'

This is not the first time Singapore has spoken up against the US State Department's report.

In 2008, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng said its findings were a 'gross distortion of reality' and that investigations here showed there were 'very few' cases of forced servitude. He added that many sex workers are not forced but come to Singapore for economic reasons.

The US report stated that it uses 'information from US embassies, government officials, NGOs and international organizations, published reports, research trips to every region, and information submitted to tipreport@state.gov[1]'.

Ms Bridget Tan, president of the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (Home) here, said that each year, about 10 women claiming they were tricked into prostitution come to her centre for help.

Though unable to tell whether their claims are true, Ms Tan said that these women should be given the benefit of the doubt and seen as 'innocent till proven guilty'.

'To show traffickers and the world that we are serious in fighting human trafficking, we should put in place an anti-human trafficking law,' she said.

Government Parliamentary Committee chairman for Home Affairs and Law, Mr Alvin Yeo, expressed surprise and disappointment at the downgrade, and said he would be interested in seeing what statistics the report is based on.

He added: 'Singapore must remain vigilant to the threat of organized crime, as criminal syndicates are typically involved in the trafficking of women for the 'sex trade'. The fact that their influence level has not been high is no reason to let our guard down now.'

Source: The Straits Times website, Singapore, in English 16 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

152 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Malaysian police to conduct more anti-human trafficking operations

LENGTH: 247 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian official news agency Bernama website

[Bernama report from the "General" page: "More Operations To Rescue Human Trafficking Victims"]

Kuala Lumpur, June 15 (Bernama) - In continuous efforts to rescue victims and rout human trafficking syndicates, the police would conduct more operations, Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Seri Mohd Bakri Zinin said Tuesday.

He said policemen would be assigned to 'hot spots' such as the Melaka Straits and South China Sea as they were identified as main entry points for syndicates to traffic victims abroad.

He was commenting on a report yesterday, which quoted Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein as saying that Malaysia had risen to **Tier 2** of **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the US Department of State.

Mohd Bakri said the force would strengthen and expand its Anti-Human Trafficking Unit by cooperating with other countries, such as Australia, Canada and the US.

In addition, he said, policemen would undergo courses related to anti-human trafficking to enable them to be more equipped when carrying out investigations into the syndicates.

"We will also tighten existing laws affecting human trafficking, which involves enforcement agencies, such as the immigration, customs and the like," he said.

According to the TIP 2009 published on June 16, last year, Malaysia had fallen from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

Source: Bernama website, Kuala Lumpur, in English 0129 gmt 15 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

153 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
 Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Guyanese officials call US report on people trafficking "crap", "sinister"

LENGTH: 1480 words

Text of report by Guyanese newspaper Stabroek News website on 15 June

[Stabroek News headline: "Outraged government protests US human trafficking ranking -calls on US to back-up findings"]

The government yesterday denounced the 2010 US State Department Report on **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP), rejecting the findings of a "significant" number of cases here and Guyana's placement on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the fourth consecutive year.

At a news conference shortly after the release of the report, Human Services Minister Priya Manickchand said angrily that it was "based on sheer ignorance and eye pass" and labelled it "crap," while Cabinet Secretary Dr Roger Luncheon suggested that there was something "sinister" in the findings. Manickchand warned that while the two countries have enjoyed very good relations over the years, "this inaccurate report hurts this friendship".

Of major contention for the government is a statement in the report that indicates that some 984 children were removed from exploitive child labour from 2005 to 2009. Foreign Affairs Minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett has been mandated to make contact with her counterparts in the US to ascertain from where the children were removed and under which project.

According to the report, "during the reporting period the US Department of Labour reported results of a project that withdrew 984 children from exploitive child labour in logging and saw-milling, fishing, hazardous farming, factory work, mining, and freight handling from 2005 to 2009."

Just hours after the report was released, Luncheon arranged a press conference at the Office of the President, where he along with Manickchand, Minister of Education Shaik Baksh and Minister of Home Affairs Clement Rohee condemned the report. They referred to Guyana's own recent TIP report which concluded that there is no evidence of large-scale trafficking in persons and registered "outrage" on behalf of their cabinet colleagues over the US report.

Luncheon said the fact that the government called a press briefing within hours of the US "un-embargoing" the report was a signal that the country has serious concerns. "They have been unable to sustain the kind of diatribe that they run against Guyana transparently with numbers," he said, adding, "we don't doubt that trafficking exists. Whether it does to justify putting Guyana on Tier 2 and to offend this government and this nation with this tripe that is produced annually by the State Department by the most opaque of units... we have to repudiate it, we got to go public and we are going to be aggressive about this position."

He added, "there is something sinister as far as we are concerned in manufacturing TIP and manufacturing TIP to the extent to be saying that Guyana you are going to be Tier 3 in 2011...." According to him, what Guyana has been saying and doing is consistent with its reality and has a lot to do with how the enormity of trafficking is judged. He said all in Guyana should have a keen interest in the way the country and government "is being held up and put to shame by the US government... for the most nebulous, unproven of grounds."

He said the government is calling upon the TIP unit of the State Department to provide the information that will put to rest its reservations, especially when the threats of sanctions are being held out to enforce decisions that are made "on the most superficial, unproven, the dirtiest kind of information collection and analysis that goes on...."

Source country

According to the report, Guyana is a source country for men, women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, and specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labour. "Guyanese trafficking victim cases have been identified in the country, as well as in other countries in the region," the report said. It also said that identified foreign victims have come from Venezuela and Brazil while forced prostitution occurs in brothels on the coast and around mining camps as well as in rum shops and Chinese restaurants. "The common Guyanese practice of poor, rural families sending children to live with higher income family members or acquaintances in more populated areas has the potential to evolve into forced domestic servitude," the report said. It added that trafficking victims may not self-identify to authorities due to fear of retribution, fear of resettlement to abusive home situations, and lack of awareness that human trafficking is a crime. Those most vulnerable to trafficking, the report said, include Amerindian females, foreign women (such as Brazilians) in prostitution, and children.

"The Government of Guyana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these efforts, the government did not initiate any new prosecutions of trafficking offences during the reporting period and has yet to convict to punish any trafficking offenders under its five-year-old anti-human trafficking law," it added. (Guyana recorded its first conviction on April 29, this year when Wesley Benn was sentenced to three years in prison after he was found guilty of trafficking two girls at One Mile Potaro Road, Bartica.)

The report said during the reporting period, the government and NGOs identified four victims of trafficking, "two of whom prison officials proactively identified". It said the government provided some resources towards victim protection and local anti-trafficking groups but no suspected traffickers were charged, limiting the level of safety and protection provided to victims. "While the government took some tangible steps to raise awareness of human trafficking, including the establishment of focal point groups and an anti-trafficking task force, some local observers felt that the government discouraged discussions on developing effective strategies for combating this phenomenon of modern-day slavery," it further stated.

In the area of prosecution, it stated that progress is perpetually delayed by judicial backlogs, incorrectly-filed paperwork or the failure of key parties to appear at hearings. "NGOs and one government official expressed concern that trafficking-related official complicity was a problem. It is reportedly common for defendants to bribe court officials for favourable rulings," the report said.

Wrong

Addressing the report yesterday, Manickchand said that the US has again gotten its facts in Guyana wrong, noting that from the beginning the country has objected to its ranking. The government, she said, has always asserted that Guyana did not have significant numbers of trafficking victims. "We have said that we do not have significant numbers of victims. Moreover, no evidence of said significant numbers had been presented by any interested party, including the government of the United States of America," she said.

Manickchand pointed out that there has never been a claim by the US that the government or its officials are complicit in trafficking and in fact they have made positive assertions to the contrary. "...[T]he resources that are being expended on the issue of combating trafficking in Guyana could arguably be called excessive for our country when one considers the scale of the problem in comparison to the other numerous social ills that we have to fight," she added.

She said Guyana has not prosecuted and/or convicted any large numbers of persons for trafficking but argued that no apology should be made for this fact. "Every citizen is guaranteed the right to be presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction. We hold this presumption and its constitutional guarantee very dear to us. It must be protected at all times."

According to Manickchand, the sloth of the justice system is being addressed through a massive investment programme - the Justice Sector Reform Strategy - whose conclusion and implementation should see all matters, including trafficking cases, being dealt with expeditiously. Further, she said the government has a duty to nurture confidence in the justice system and to assist victims throughout the process so that they may make informed choices.

She also noted that the US has explained that for countries to be placed on the **Tier 2** list, they would have had to fail to increase efforts to combat **human trafficking** over the past year, fail to make significant efforts based on commitments of anti-trafficking reforms, and to see very significant victims or a significantly increasing victim population. "Taking cognisance of the definition of countries which should be on the Tier 2 watch list as well as the US report on Guyana, one cannot help but question whether the report about us and our subsequent placement on the tier ranking are not contradictory," she declared.

Source: Stabroek News website, Georgetown, in English 15 Jun 10

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154 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Trust (Abuja)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Anti-Traffic Agency Retains High Global Rating

BYLINE: Akor Ojoma

LENGTH: 87 words

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) has retained its **Tier** 1 status in the fight against trafficking, the 2010 annual Global **Trafficking in Persons** Report has shown.

Executive Secretary of the agency Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede disclosed this yesterday while briefing newsmen in Abuja.

In the annual report, countries are assigned and rated according to **Tiers** 1-3, depending on the degree of compliance to the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

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155 of 404 DOCUMENTS



The Daily Star (Lebanon)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Lebanon still lax on human trafficking - US report

BYLINE: Michael Legrand

LENGTH: 774 words

BEIRUT: The Lebanese government does not comply with the minimum standards for prohibition of human trafficking, according to an annual report US Secretary of State Department Hillary Clinton presented on Monday. Lebanon is in the "**Tier 2**" **Watch List** category of US State Department's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** report, where it rates 130 out of 170 states

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Lebanon is in the "**Tier 2**" **Watch List** category of US State Department's 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** report, where it rates 130 out of 170 states listed by the report.

The US State Department considers Lebanon a transit point for women and children from Eastern Europe and Maghreb destined for forced prostitution. The traffic chain includes other neighboring countries in the Middle East.

The report also targets forced labor involving Asian and African women who are recruited as domestic workers by Lebanese agencies and later exploited by their employers. It denounces such practices as withholding of passports, non-payment of wages, restrictions on movement, verbal abuse, and physical assault. "In some cases," it says, "employers have kept foreign domestic workers confined in houses for years."

The report further states that "the Lebanese government's 'Artiste' visa program, which facilitated the entry of 4,518 women from Eastern Europe, Morocco, and Tunisia in 2009 to work in the adult entertainment industry, serves to sustain a significant sex trade and facilitates sex trafficking."

Although it seemingly acknowledges some anecdotal progresses, the report is harsh on Lebanese authorities regarding foreign immigrants' treatment and protection.

The legal framework exists, it says, but lacks sufficient law enforcement, as it is "hampered by bureaucratic indifference and inefficiency, difficulty proving cases of abuse, victims' lack of their own rights, court backlogs and cultural prejudices against foreign domestic workers."

It mentions several 2009 cases that exemplified the inefficiency of public authorities in its struggle with local forms of human trafficking.

The report recommends that the government criminalize all forms of human trafficking. It should in particular extend Labor Law protections to foreign workers, a measure NGOs in Lebanon have long campaigned for despite the reluctance of state authorities to enact it.

It also recommends instituting procedures to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, such as women holding "Artiste" visas and domestic workers who have escaped abusive employers.

The report also insists that authorities refer trafficking victims to protection services instead of detaining or deporting them for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of the traffic, mentioning as a counterexample the case of trafficking victims deported in 2009 with their wages unpaid and legal complaint unresolved.

Taking the 2009 bilateral agreement with Ethiopia as an example, it supports enhancing relations with the countries of origin of immigrant populations. It also points out to the common practice of having domestic workers contract in Arabic, "a language most cannot read" and promotes the translation of work documents.

The report concludes by observing that "the government did not take any steps to reduce the demand for forced labor or commercial sex acts during the year" and that "the Ministry of Labor provided no statistics documenting the work of its 130 inspectors charged with investigating situations of forced adult or child labor."

The report also downgrades traditional allies Singapore and Thailand into the "Tier 2 Watch List" category along with Vietnam, on the ground of "failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution," a charge US State Department applies as well to Lebanon. Downgrading a country in the **human trafficking watch list** opens the way for the US to cut off some civilian assistance.

The State Department ranked 13 nations that it considers do not meet minimum standards on fighting trafficking in a lowest "Tier 3" category. The latter includes some of US long-time foes, like Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Sudan, along with others countries: Congo, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Kuwait, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe.

Although it does mention trafficking problems in the US, the report places it in the top "Tier 1" category for compliance with minimum standards, along with 27 other mainly European countries.

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156 of 404 DOCUMENTS



The Daily Star (Lebanon)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Stop the slavery in Lebanon

BYLINE: Daily Star Staff

LENGTH: 545 words

The US State Department issued on Monday its annual Trafficking in Persons report, and the horrifying litany of abuses catalogued from Lebanon and throughout this region should be more than enough to push our legislators to finally enact a law against trafficking. Yes, that's right - Lebanon does not even have on the books the most basic legislation against trade in human beings

Editorial

The US State Department issued on Monday its annual Trafficking in Persons report, and the horrifying litany of abuses catalogued from Lebanon and throughout this region should be more than enough to push our legislators to finally enact a law against trafficking.

Yes, that's right - Lebanon does not even have on the books the most basic legislation against trade in human beings. A draft amendment to the labor laws is waiting and waiting in Parliament, and we call without reservation on lawmakers to pass this bill as soon as possible.

That glaring absence of rudimentary legislation served as one of the failures that dumped Lebanon into second-tier status in the trafficking report, and Qatar also finished in that ignominious category, as far as other Arab states are concerned. Should the circumstances here further worsen, we could yet find ourselves in the third and lowest **tier** of countries - nations which are not even making significant efforts to combat **human trafficking**. Unfortunately, we would find there a number of our regional brethren: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Sudan and Iran all lack laws against trafficking and any marked moves to address the problem.

In Lebanon, the violations of human rights through trafficking take a variety of forms. For instance, more than 4,500 visas were granted last year alone to allow the entry into Lebanon of "artistes" from Eastern Europe, Morocco and Tunisia. We never knew there was so much art in this country. But this is not a humorous matter - in Lebanon we have a visa category which exists only to let trade flourish in trafficked sex workers. The government must abolish this disgrace immediately.

In addition, we call on parliamentary deputies to grant legal protections to all foreign workers here and to reform the visa system, which essentially gives employment sponsors the status of slave masters. This sponsorship system creates the ideal conditions to foster trafficking and forced labor. Foreign workers - whether female domestic workers or male construction laborers - cannot change jobs or leave the country without the consent of their sponsors.

Over the years, we have recorded in these pages the nearly unavoidable consequences of such a system: Lebanese employers confiscate the passports of their foreign wards and subject them to the spectrum of abuse, from beatings and sexual harassment to the withholding of wages and confinement. A number of nongovernmental organizations have released countless reports - entirely verified and credible reports, we should add - of foreign workers driven to attack their employers, to flee unbearable conditions and even to commit suicide. We wholeheartedly condemn the abuse of our fellow humans through trafficking, and we demand that our legislature without delay approve the basic elements of international law in order to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

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157 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Regional Times

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Positive changes

SECTION: EDITORIAL Vol. III No. 1560

LENGTH: 454 words

A recently published report on **human trafficking** has ranked Pakistan as a "**Tier 2**" country, citing improvements from the previous year due to efforts to prosecute human traffickers, and prevent and combat bonded labour.

Announcing the release of the 2010 US Trafficking in Persons Report, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton said Washington was committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking.

Highlighting Pakistan's action against human trafficking, the report said the conviction of 385 criminals in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, and 2,894 prosecutions and 166 convictions under various other penal code sections used to prosecute trafficking offences had led to significant improvements.

The report stated that the Sindh police's successful efforts to free over 2,000 bonded labourers from feudal landlords, and their work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to raise awareness and develop better protection services for labourers and their families had also improved the situation.

It also lauded the Sindh government's Landless Haris Programme, which offered the landless-poor in rural Sindh an alternative to tenant farming including land, seed and fertilizer distribution, agricultural development assistance, cash grants, and micro health insurance.

The report stated the Punjab government's Elimination of Bonded Labour in Brick Kilns project - launched with assistance from the International Labour Organization and Pakistani NGOs - helped nearly 6,000 bonded labourers obtain Computerized National Identification Cards, provided \$140,000 in interest-free loans to labourers and established 60 schools for the workers' children.

The report highlighted that Islamabad had also completed a four-year project to repatriate and rehabilitate over 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates.

The report provides a positive picture into how changes are taking place in Pakistan. The days of vaderas and jagirdars making life miserable for the poor and treating them like slaves are gradually coming to end.

However, this process is considerably slow and many in the rural areas of the country are still suffering the tyranny of feudal landlords. Time and again reports come to fore about people being chained and forced to work by the influential vaderas and jagirdars, who not only boast their power due to their financial background but enjoy political support in many cases as well.

People from the deprived class are also smuggled to other countries to serve as slaves or their kidneys are sold.

Efforts need to be made to bring an end to their cruel practices and bring relief to the poor in the rural areas of the country.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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158 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Regional Times

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

US excludes Pakistan's name out of watch list

SECTION: Vol. III No. 1560

LENGTH: 132 words

United States praised the Pakistan's efforts in curbing **human trafficking** and exited its name out of **watch list**. Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accord of its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in report issued by the US Foreign Ministry, a private news channel reported. The US assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

According to the report up till now 385 convicts have been sentenced in accordance with Pakistan's anti human trafficking law whereas 2,864 cases were made. The US Foreign Ministry categorized Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka are in the list too likewise that of last year.

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159 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Financial Daily

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Pakistan out of human smuggling watch list

BYLINE: Monitoring Desk

SECTION: Vol. 3 No. 312

LENGTH: 143 words

United States of America has deleted the name of Pakistan from the **watch list** of countries infamous for **human trafficking**.

From now on Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accordance with its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in the report issued by US Foreign Ministry, a private news channel reported.

The report also lauded the efforts of Pakistan in curbing human smuggling from the country.

American assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

Out of 2,864 cases filed against human traffickers, Pakistani government has taken actions against 385 convicted, it noted.

US Foreign Ministry categorised Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka maintained the last year's grades.

LOAD-DATE: September 19, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

160 of 404 DOCUMENTS

THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Jordan maintains **Tier 2** ranking in **Trafficking in Persons** Report

LENGTH: 1034 words

By Hani Hazaimeh

AMMAN - Jordan is a "destination for women and men subjected to trafficking in persons" although instances of forced labour reportedly continued to decline due to enhanced labour inspections and other recent measures undertaken by the government", a US State Department report said this week.

Issued annually, this year's **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which covers last year, ranked Jordan in **Tier 2**, the same classification as in the previous report, indicating that the Kingdom is "possibly a source and transit country for women and men subjected to conditions of forced labour and forced commercial sexual exploitation".

Labour Minister Ibrahim Omoush described the report as positive as it maintains Jordan's position in Tier 2.

In a statement sent to The Jordan Times from Geneva, where he is attending the International Labour Conference, he added that this indicates that the government has taken action.

The minister attributed this to the government's keenness to address the issue by endorsing a law to prevent human trafficking as well as strengthening inspection programmes and amending relevant laws.

"Jordan will continue to work to modernise relevant legislation and improve the capabilities of the ministry's inspectors in order to be able to reach a better ranking," the minister said in the statement.

Meanwhile, the US State Department report also referred to "reports of Jordanian child labourers experiencing conditions of forced labour. Migrant workers may be rendered vulnerable to forced labour in Jordan due to indebtedness to recruiters; legal requirements mandating foreign workers relying on employers to renew work and residency permits, and negative societal attitudes toward foreign workers".

The report added that some of the Sri Lankan, Indonesian and Filipina women who come to Jordan to work as domestic helpers are subjected to conditions of forced labour after arrival, such as "unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats of imprisonment, and physical or sexual abuse".

The report cited 400 Filipina, Indonesian and Sri Lankan domestic workers, who had fled some form of forced labour and were sheltered at their respective embassies in Amman.

With regards to working children, the report said some Jordanian children employed within the country as street vendors, carpenters, painters, mechanics, domestics, restaurant staff, or agricultural labourers may be exploited in situations of forced labour.

"The government of Jordan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said, adding that over the past year, the government continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to combat human trafficking via implementation of the 2008 Anti-Trafficking Law by increasing investigations into suspected cases, resulting in several prosecutions.

The report also highlighted that the government has finalised a national anti-trafficking action plan; instituted bylaws providing standards for employing domestic workers and operating recruitment agencies; drafted a plan and guidelines for opening a long-term shelter, and designed a public awareness strategy.

However, the report recommended several measures that the government should take in order to address any violations to workers' rights.

These include using the anti-trafficking statute to "increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and sentence trafficking offences, especially those involving the forced labour of domestic workers; increase penalties for forced labour offences and jointly train labour inspectors, police, border officials, judges and prosecutors to enhance anti-trafficking law enforcement cooperation".

The report also suggested the implementation of a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate the general public, as well as foreign migrant workers in all sectors, on the nature of human trafficking, particularly forced labour and the proper treatment of domestic workers under Jordanian law; strengthening efforts to proactively identify victims of forced labour and forced prostitution and ensure identified victims are not punished for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

Omoush noted that the government will take the report and its recommendations into account and study the suggestions contained therein.

With regards to prosecution, the report said the government "made improved efforts to criminally punish trafficking offenders during the reporting period, citing the 2008 Anti-Human Trafficking Law, which became effective in March 2009 and prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment for forced prostitution and trafficking involving aggravating circumstances, such as trafficking of a child".

"These penalties are sufficiently stringent, but not commensurate with those for other serious crimes, such as rape," the report noted.

The report commended the National Committee for the Prevention of Human Trafficking for launching its National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2010-2012).

"This plan includes provisions for a specific visa for human trafficking victims to allow victims to receive residency and work permits while they pursue a legal case. In August 2009, the Cabinet endorsed and made effective two new sets of bylaws to the Labour Law[[#x629](#)] these bylaws, however, require the worker to obtain the employer's permission to leave the house," the report said.

Meanwhile, the US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) criticised Arab countries for not securing protection for domestic helpers in a statement issued earlier this month. The watchdog, however, underlined that in 2008 Jordan became the first Arab country to extend protections in its Labour Law to domestic workers.

"Regulations specifying those protections issued in October 2009 prohibit an employer from taking a domestic worker abroad without her consent and without informing the worker's embassy. This prohibition, if enforced, can help safeguard against trafficking of domestic workers," the HRW statement added.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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JOURNAL-CODE: 62

161 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Jordan Times (Amman)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Jordan maintains **Tier 2** ranking in **Trafficking in Persons** Report

BYLINE: Hani Hazaimah, Jordan Times, Amman

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 1092 words

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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162 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Leadership (Abuja)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

We'll Make Our Villages Free of Traffickers, Says Agency

BYLINE: Christiana Esebonu

LENGTH: 330 words

DATELINE: Abuja

The Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of **Trafficking in Persons** and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), Mr. Simon Chuzi Egede, has asked the agency and partners not to bask on the cozy warmth of the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one on **human trafficking** until all villages are clean and free of traffickers.

He added that every state should adopt the child rights acts law and pursur its realisation doggedly without any resistant in their domain.

He stressed that, the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one in the recently released annual global report on **trafficking in persons** 2010, does not mean the battle against **human trafficking** have been won.

Speaking yesterday to members of the press on the release of the annual global report on **trafficking in persons** by the united secretary of states, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Egede said, the elevation of Nigeria to **tier** one has not freed the country from stranglehold of criminal syndicates who would want to continue with their crime, therefore, Nigerians should still be mindful of the fact that the battle is far from being won.

"The enemies of Nigerian children are ever ready to deploy their arsenals of assault through any loophole either real or imagined. We are renewing our call for government, stakeholders, international organization and destination countries to gird their loins for greater battle. "

We must inject more strength, determination and commitment to pursue and achieve the elimination of those factors that predispose and enhance trafficking of Nigerians out of the shores of the country while we internally promote a protective environment."

He added that, NAPTIP will not take the credit alone for the elevation but also acknowledges the support of Honorable Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohamed Bello Adoke (SAN), partners, other organisations and the courage of destination countries like Netherlands, Sweden and Iceland who have criminalised the purchase of sex in their domain.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

163 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Mozambique News Agency (English)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

GOVERNMENT CRITICISED ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 804 words

Maputo, 16 Jun (AIM) - The Mozambican government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking", although it is making "significant efforts to do so", according to the US State Department's 2010 Annual Report on Human Trafficking, released this week.

During 2009, however, the government "did not show evidence of increased efforts to address human trafficking, particularly efforts to address human trafficking, as it has done in the past, or to investigate continuing reports of government officials' complicity in trafficking crimes".

The US has therefore put Mozambique on its "Tier two watch list". The report divides the nations of the world into three tiers. **Tier one** covers those countries which, in the eyes of the State Department, acknowledge the existence of **human trafficking**, take steps against it, and meet minimum standards set by the United States' own Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

At the opposite end of the scale is Tier three, which covers those countries that do not comply with the minimum standards and make no efforts to do so (E.g. Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, North Korea, Zimbabwe and Sudan).

Most of the world is in Tier two - these are countries that are making an effort to meet the minimum standards, but have not yet succeeded. Countries are placed on the Tier Two Watch list if the absolute number of victims of trafficking is "very significant or is significantly increasing", or there is no effort of increased efforts (compared with the previous year) to combat trafficking.

The only African countries in Tier one are Nigeria and Mauritius. The great majority of African states are in Tier Two, and Mozambique is joined on the "Watch List" by countries such as Tanzania, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Mali.

The Mozambique section of the report says "there is no evidence of widespread government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking; however, there are known cases of government officials facilitating human trafficking".

It notes that "traffickers commonly bribed law enforcement officials to allow their movement of trafficking victims internally and across national borders into South Africa and Swaziland, sometimes without passports".

Despite this, "no officials have been investigated, detained or prosecuted for complicity in trafficking crimes".

Looking at specific cases, the report mentions one incident in which the police did act promptly. This concerned eight people who were arrested in March for trafficking women to South Africa.

They were detained thanks to investigations by reporters from the Media24 group, which owns the Johannesburg paper "City Press". The journalists infiltrated the crime syndicate by passing themselves off as people interested in buying Mozambican girls who would then be forced to work in the South African sex industry.

Media24 alerted the Mozambican police, and the first arrests occurred on 17 March, in the Milano restaurant in central Maputo. Three members of the gang had just handed over a young Mozambican woman to two supposed buyers, still unaware that in reality that they were journalists, when the police swooped and detained them three. Other arrests followed three days later.

The report remarks that "within weeks, all of the suspects were released on bail". The report is wrong: they were released, not within weeks, but within days, much to the annoyance of the police who believed they had a solid case against the traffickers.

A judge in the Maputo city court released them without explanation. Although the Public Prosecutor's Office can still press charges, there must be a serious risk that all the traffickers will flee the country.

The State Department report also criticized the government for showing "little progress in its efforts to protect victims, as it continued to suffer from limited resources and a lack of political commitment". The government "continued to lack formalized procedures for identifying potential victims of trafficking and referring them to organisations providing protective services".

Nonetheless, the report notes that, with UNCEF assistance, the police have set up services especially designed to assist women and children, including the victims of trafficking.

The report is marred by some odd mistakes - notably the belief that the recruitment of migrant labour for the South African gold mines is a form of trafficking. It claims that "young Mozambican men and boys are subjected to conditions of forced labour in South African farms and mines".

Mozambicans certainly face appalling conditions on South African farms - but all the tens of thousands of Mozambican on the mines went there voluntarily, under a mine labour recruitment scheme which is many decades old, and earn much higher wages than they could expect in rural Mozambique.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

164 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

US State Department puts Thailand, Singapore on its **human-trafficking watch list**

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 475 words

The United States has put allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human-trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

The move opens the way for the United States to cut off some civilian assistance, although it usually functions as a way to pressure countries to take action.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has made women's and children's rights a signature issue, called human trafficking a "terrible crime" as she presented the State Department's annual report.

"All of us have a responsibility to bring this practice to an end," she said.

The report estimated that 12.3 million people were the victims of trafficking in 2009-2010, although it said there has been progress over the past decade.

The State Department added a number of Asian nations to its watch list - Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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

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

The State Department said that Thailand was a source, destination and transit point for trafficking, with ethnic minorities and citizens of neighbouring countries at particular risk of sexual abuse or forced labour.

Senator Jim Webb, who heads the Foreign Relations subcommittee on East Asia, had made an unusually open appeal not to place Thailand on the watch list.

Webb visited Bangkok this month and said US embassy staff disagreed with the intended downgrade as it could curb assistance for democracy and human rights programmes in the wake of the kingdom's political violence.

Explaining the downgrade for Singapore, the report said that some women from China, the Philippines and Thailand are tricked into coming to the city-state with promises of legitimate employment and coerced into the sex trade.

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

The State Department recognised improvements in Pakistan, which was taken off the watch list, and Malaysia, which was on the watch list but lifted from the lowest category.

From other regions, Cuba, Iran and Saudi Arabia remained in the rock-bottom category and the Dominican Republic was newly added.

Representative Christopher Smith, a Republican who authored the law that requires the human trafficking report, said that more countries should have been assigned the lowest rank.

"If we are willing to hold the Dominican Republic to account, as we should, it's outrageous that China, Vietnam and India get a free pass," Smith said.

Agence France-Presse

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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165 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Pakistan: US excludes Pakistan's name out of watch list**LENGTH:** 157 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, June 16 -- America praises the Pakistan's efforts in curbing **human trafficking** and exits its name out of **watch list**.

Pakistan has been added in the list of nations of 2nd grade in accord of its efforts in curbing human smuggling, mentioned in report issued by American Foreign Ministry. American assistance in efforts of Pakistan to counter human smuggling was also mentioned in the report.

According to the report up till now 385 convicts have been sentenced in accordance with Pakistan's anti human trafficking law whereas 2,864 cases were made.

US Foreign Ministry categorized Afghanistan, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in first category whereas Bangladesh, China, India, Philippine, Sri Lanka are in the list too likewise that of last year Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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

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166 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

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LENGTH: 161 words

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

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167 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 16, 2010

Anti-Trafficking Successes in Africa Offer Hope to Continent; Nigeria, Mauritius rank in top tier in 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Jane Morse, Staff Writer, ,

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 861 words

Washington -- Judged on **tier** ranking, a look at the map of Africa in the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report reveals that most of the countries there are struggling in the battle to end **human trafficking**.

But two countries stand out: Nigeria and Mauritius. Both should serve as models for other countries seeking to end modern-day slavery, according to Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large for the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the standards identified in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Countries are given a tier ranking. At the bottom are Tier 3 countries that have governments that do not comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA and are not making significant efforts to do so. Five countries in Africa have received Tier 3 status in this year's TIP report.

Most of the countries in Africa, however, have received Tier 2 or Tier 2 Watch List rankings. Their governments are attempting to meet TVPA minimum standards but do not yet fully comply (Tier 2). Or, the governments, while attempting to comply with minimum TVPA standards, fall short and suffer from a significant and/or increasing incidence of severe forms of trafficking (Tier 2 Watch List).

Nigeria and Mauritius are in Tier 1, with governments that fully comply with the TVPA minimum standards. The two countries are very different in terms of their size and legal systems, and yet both serve as beacons of hope to other countries grappling with the problem of human trafficking.

Mauritius, a tiny island 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of Madagascar, has a population of just more than 1.2 million people. For years it languished on **Tier 2** and suffered as a destination country for victims of **human trafficking**.

"When you're talking about these small island countries," CdeBaca told America.gov in a recent interview, "you're talking about clusters of victims -- dozens rather than hundreds. ... It's very easy, I think, for small island nations to look at the trafficking thing and think that it doesn't apply to them because the numbers are smaller." Nonetheless, every country has a responsibility under international law to address the problem, he said.

Mauritius was able to muster a "combination of political will and then a willingness to go out and find enforcement models that would work there," CdeBaca said. A former French colony with a civil law background, Mauritius should serve as a model for smaller countries, he said.

"Mauritius has actually done a very good job of having those standard operating procedures in place -- knowing that they're not going to get hundreds of victims a year, they're going to get less than 20 in a given year," CdeBaca said. "But when they do find them, they know what to do with them, and they know how to treat them right."

Nigeria, a much larger country with a population of some 148 million, suffers from being a source country for victims of human slavery. It, too, spent years on the Tier 2 list in the TIP report.

"Nigeria was well on its way to being on Tier 3 in the report, plagued, as in many countries, by corruption [and] weak rule of law," CdeBaca said. "But they worked with the American Bar Association; they worked with UNODC [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime]; they worked with us [U.S. Agency for International Development]; they aggressively went out and found best practices."

With the creation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), CdeBaca said, all the involved parties were brought together and held accountable. "You've seen success," he said of Nigeria's efforts. "So it is something that I'd like to see replicated and scaled outside of just Nigeria."

Abject poverty and lack of governing structures can be blamed for the prevalence of many social ills, CdeBaca said. "What is interesting is a lot of [social problems] go away as [gross domestic product] rises; a lot of things go away as governments become more set up. And yet, human trafficking is prevalent in all of the countries."

When asked about notions of "hereditary slavery" and "slave castes" in some countries of West Africa, CdeBaca replied: "There's been some progress in West Africa on the issue of hereditary slavery, although it's slow in coming. As was reflected in last year's trafficking report, we've seen some people ordered emancipated from their hereditary slave owners who received some money settlements."

"But at the end of the day, we have to not only change the cultural practice, we also have to call upon the governments to impose the rule of law and to comply with Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says no person shall be held as a slave," CdeBaca said. "At some point it stops being culture and it starts being a crime. And with slavery, it's not that hard of a decision to make."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)

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168 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Human trafficking: S'pore tells US to put own house in order; Foreign Affairs Ministry points to problem of illegal workers in US

BYLINE: Mavis Toh

LENGTH: 844 words

AN AMERICAN report accusing Singapore of not doing enough to curb sex and labour trafficking has been lambasted by the Singapore Government.

The United States State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (Tip) report said Singapore's performance in dealing with 'modern slavery' had worsened over the last year.

This resulted in the Republic being placed on a **human trafficking watch list** for the first time, alongside countries such as Bangladesh, China and India.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) called the report more of a 'political ritual than an objective study'.

In a blunt rebuttal, a ministry spokesman said: 'How, for example, can the US rank itself in Tier 1 when it is well known that it has been unable to stem a flood of illegal workers, many of whom are trafficked by organised criminal gangs?'

The 10th annual report for the first time included a ranking of the US, which it said was 'based on the same standards to which we hold other countries'.

But the ministry spokesman pointed out that the US 'has not been able to cope adequately with the problem, and that is among the reasons why immigration is such a hot political issue in the US'.

He added: 'The US should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries. Then its reports may be more credible.'

This is Singapore's worst showing since the report was first released in 2001. It had previously been in 'Tier 2', except in 2003, when it was excluded, and in 2006, when it made it to 'Tier 1'.

The country's current status is listed as 'Tier 2 Watch List', down from Tier 2.

Countries on the watch list do not fully comply with minimum international standards for protecting migrant workers from forced labour or other forms of trafficking.

They are also deemed to have a significant number of victims and have failed to show increasing efforts to combat the situation.

Other countries downgraded along with Singapore are Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

This year's report estimated that 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are victims of trafficking.

It said Singapore is a destination for forced prostitution and added that women from Thailand, the Philippines and China have been tricked into coming here for legitimate employment, only to be forced into the sex trade upon arrival.

The report also said that while the Government has taken 'some significant new steps' against trafficking, it has not shown increased efforts in prosecuting more culprits or identifying more victims.

It added that of the 32 sex trafficking reports investigated by the state during the year, only two were confirmed to be trafficking cases and prosecuted. Of the 89 children arrested for prostitution offences last year, according to the report, the police investigated only four cases as potential sex trafficking cases.

MFA called the report 'puzzling' because the US had not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions. Its spokesman said: 'The Singapore Government is committed to tackling the Tip issue, and our efforts in dealing with this issue have certainly not weakened since last year.'

This is not the first time Singapore has spoken up against the US State Department's report.

In 2008, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng said its findings were a 'gross distortion of reality' and that investigations here showed there were 'very few' cases of forced servitude. He added that many sex workers are not forced but come to Singapore for economic reasons.

The US report stated that it uses 'information from US embassies, government officials, NGOs and international organisations, published reports, research trips to every region, and information submitted to tipreport@state.gov'.

Ms Bridget Tan, president of the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (Home) here, said that each year, about 10 women claiming they were tricked into prostitution come to her centre for help.

Though unable to tell whether their claims are true, Ms Tan said that these women should be given the benefit of the doubt and seen as 'innocent till proven guilty'.

'To show traffickers and the world that we are serious in fighting human trafficking, we should put in place an anti-human trafficking law,' she said.

Government Parliamentary Committee chairman for Home Affairs and Law, Mr Alvin Yeo, expressed surprise and disappointment at the downgrade, and said he would be interested in seeing what statistics the report is based on.

He added: 'Singapore must remain vigilant to the threat of organised crime, as criminal syndicates are typically involved in the trafficking of women for the 'sex trade'. The fact that their influence level has not been high is no reason to let our guard down now.'

mavistoh@sph.com.sg

QUESTIONABLE AUTHORITY

'The US should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries. Then its reports may be more credible.'

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the Trafficking in Persons report

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169 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Times of Zambia (Ndola)

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

U.S. Hails Region's Strides in Human Trafficking Fight

LENGTH: 224 words

THE United States has said the Zambian Government has made significant efforts in the fight against human trafficking offenders.

US Embassy public affairs officer Pricilla Hernandez said the Zambian Government made great achievements in raising public awareness of trafficking, and that the Government has also addressed the demands for sex and labour trafficking.

She however said that victim's assistance facilities and services for victims in Zambia had remained inadequate despite Government's mandate to construct such facilities.

Ms Hernandez said in a statement released yesterday that according to the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report, Zambia had been ranked '**Tier 2**' for anti-trafficking efforts.

"While the Government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant efforts to do so," she said.

She implored the Zambian Government to continue with programmes such as the training of police, immigration officers, prosecutors and judges on how to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes.

Ms Hernandez said that this year had marked ten years since the United Nations negotiated the international standards against human trafficking, and she said her government had enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to identify and protect against modern slavery.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

170 of 404 DOCUMENTS

AAP Newsfeed

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 9:00 AM AEST

Highlights of the AAP world wire at 08:00 June 15**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 685 words**DATELINE:** JAKARTA June 14

An Australian woman accused of conspiring to assassinate East Timor's top two political leaders has had her acquittal upheld by an appeals court. (TIMOR PIRES Wrap sent at 22:26, 271 words.)

NY temple-plot trial delayed

WHITE PLAINS, New York, June 14, AP - The federal trial of four men accused of plotting to blow up New York synagogues and shoot a missile at military planes was delayed on Monday - probably for months - at the request of prosecutors after they were dealt a setback on evidence. (US TEMPLE sent at 08:33, 535 words.)

South, North Korea brief UN on sinking

UNITED NATIONS, June 14 AFP - The UN Security Council heard separate closed-door briefings on Monday by rivals South Korea and North Korea on the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on its Stalinist neighbour. (KOREA SHIP UN sent at 07:50, 332 words.)

Whaling Commission chairman sick

AMSTERDAM, June 14 AP - The International Whaling Commission says its chairman is ill and will not attend its annual meeting due to discuss his proposal to control the annual whale hunt. (WHALING CHAIRMAN sent at 21:49, 124 words.)

US teacher gets life murdering girl, 8

STOCKTON, California, June 14 AP - A Sunday school teacher who pleaded guilty to kidnapping and murdering a girl in Northern California made a tearful apology to the victim's family on Monday as she was sentenced to prison for the rest of her life. (US GIRL Update sent at 05:08, 362 words.)

Iraq parly opens three months after vote

BAGHDAD, June 14 AFP - Iraq moved to bolster its shaky democracy on Monday with the opening of its second parliament since the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003, more than three months after an election stalemate. (IRAQ PARLIAMENT sent at 04:15, 462 words.)

Kyrgyz refugees find borders shut

OSH, Kyrgyzstan, June 14 AFP - Uzbekistan has ordered its frontier closed to an exodus of refugees fleeing deadly violence in Kyrgyzstan where government forces are accused of helping gangs slaughter ethnic Uzbeks. (KYRGYZSTAN Update sent at 03:41, 727 words.)

Death toll hits 124 in Kyrgyzstan ethnic

BISHKEK, June 14 AFP - At least 124 people have been killed and more than 1,685 wounded in spiralling ethnic violence in the south of the ex-Soviet state

of Kyrgyzstan, the health ministry said on Monday. (KYRGYZSTAN TOLL sent at 22:58, 171 words.)

US issues **human trafficking watch list**

WASHINGTON, June 14 AFP - The United States has put allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution. (US TRAFFICKING Update sent at 02:20, 362 words.)

BP presents oil containment plan

WASHINGTON, June 14 AFP - Energy giant BP has presented a new plan to contain more than 50,000 barrels a day of oil gushing from a ruptured Gulf of Mexico well by the end of June, an administration official said on Monday. (US RIG PLAN Update sent at 23:20, 410 words.)

40 feared dead as boat capsizes in India

LUCKNOW, India, June 14 AFP - At least 25 people drowned and 17 others were missing after their boat capsized on Monday during a prayer ceremony on the river Ganges in northern India, officials said. (INDIA BOAT Update sent at 23:12, 204 words.)

Israel ready to ease Gaza blockade: Blair

LUXEMBOURG, June 14 AFP - Israel has agreed in principle to greatly ease its blockade of the Gaza Strip, allowing in everyday goods while ensuring arms and military material stay out, Middle East envoy Tony Blair said on Monday. (MID-EAST SHIPS GAZA sent at 22:44, 607 words.)

Iran's Revolutionary Guard dismisses UN

TEHRAN, Iran June 14 AP - Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard says it's "not worried" by the latest wave of UN sanctions imposed over Tehran's controversial nuclear program. (NUCLEAR IRAN sent at 21:58, 127 words.)

Hamas says Israel 'fleeing' pressure

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories, June 14 AFP - Hamas has dismissed reports that Israel planned to ease its Gaza blockade, accusing it of "fleeing" international pressure after a botched raid on an aid flotilla. (MIDEAST SHIPS HAMAS sent at 21:54, 303 words.)

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

171 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Nigeria; Strong Political Will Fuels Country's Fight Against Trafficking

BYLINE: America.gov (Washington, DC)

LENGTH: 1146 words

Nigeria, like many countries in Africa, must cope with issues such as corruption, mismanagement and poverty. Nonetheless, the country has become a success to be emulated with its drive to end human trafficking, according to Reed Slack, who spent three years helping Nigeria implement programs to combat modern-day slavery.

"There was tremendous political will from the highest levels of government to tackle the issue of trafficking," Slack told America.gov in a recent interview. The effort of the Nigerian government, he said, "is most commendable and is -- and ought to be -- a model for other countries, not only in Africa but in Europe and in North and South America and Asia."

Slack is now the executive director of the Utah Health and Human Rights Project, but from 2006 to 2009 he served as chief of party in Nigeria for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). In that capacity, he worked to help implement a program underwritten by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to fight human trafficking by building capacity in Nigeria's law enforcement agencies and the judiciary and to provide support for victim rehabilitation services. The ABA-USAID program provided training for hundreds of Nigerian prosecutors, police, immigration enforcement officers and government officials in various agencies.

According to Slack, public awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria began to increase in the mid- to late 1990s, with a series of widely publicized stories about the repatriation of a number of Nigerian women who had been trafficked to Italy for prostitution. Photos showing the women being dropped off on the tarmac at the Lagos airport and abandoned to make their own way engendered a feeling of public insult in Nigeria's citizens, he said.

Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, the wife of the vice president under the former Obasanjo administration, became alarmed about the issue of trafficking and saw it as "a national affront to the dignity of all Nigeria," Slack said. She established the Women Trafficking & Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), which was able to further raise public awareness and lobby for the passage of an anti-trafficking statute. The statute was adopted in late 2003 with the strong support of then-President Olusegun Obasanjo, Slack said.

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was established as a stand-alone agency within the executive branch. Responsible for preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers, NAPTIP engaged all of the law enforcement agencies -- local police as well as immigration officers -- in the fight against trafficking, Slack said.

The greatest strength of Nigeria's anti-trafficking effort, Slack said, was its ability to marshal and coordinate considerable law enforcement resources with the backing of a legislative mandate and political support. "Perhaps the next greatest thing," Slack said, "was the personnel that were chosen to head up these agencies and offices."

"They were all dedicated to the fight; they were passionate about it; they understood the issues very well and were committed to doing all that they had power to do to combat trafficking in Nigeria," Slack said.

Slack attributed the ability of Nigeria's anti-trafficking efforts to evade the corruption that sometimes hobbles other government programs to the fact that human trafficking "affects the dignity and pride of all Nigeria" and the public's "genuine concern for the citizens who are affected by it."

Nigeria's success has been reflected in the United States' annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Since the report's first publication in 2001, Nigeria consistently ranked as a Tier 2 country -- meaning its government did not comply with TVPA's minimum standards, although it was making efforts to do so. In the 2009 TIP Report, which evaluated governments for the year 2008, Nigeria climbed to Tier 1 status, meaning it fully complied with TVPA minimum standards.

Slack said he believes Nigeria will be able to sustain effective anti-trafficking measures. Ongoing training courses remain, even with the conclusion of the ABA-USAID program. "That is a sustainable long-term impact of the program," he said. "I think it will continue to yield good results in building the capacities of the law enforcement agencies to detect and prosecute trafficking."

The real benefit of training, Slack said, is "helping an officer to see something differently. And in my experience, both in the United States and in Nigeria, we become accustomed to seeing things around us in a way that it becomes, I don't want to say invisible, but it just kind of blends into the background. But once you understand what it is you're seeing, you understand that it's not just normal. There is something abnormal about what's happening. It's not just prostitution; it is slavery. It's not just farm labor; there is someone who is being forced to do that. People see things differently, and that changes the dynamics within law enforcement as to the attention and efforts that they are able to bring to bear on tackling trafficking."

Perceptions within the general public in Nigeria are changing as well, Slack said. Ten or 15 years ago, Nigerians were proud to have a daughter working overseas and sending money back to her family. "There was not an awareness of what actually was involved or what their daughter was doing, or being forced to do," he said. But as awareness grew about the realities of what was really happening to many Nigerian women in Italy and elsewhere, it no longer was socially acceptable to boast of having a daughter working overseas.

The enticement of good pay and a better life somewhere else remain the traffickers' biggest lure, Slack said. "Desperation makes people vulnerable to those enticements," he said. "How do you then address the underlying socio-economic issues that might reduce the vulnerability to those enticements? But it is not a helpless situation, and I don't know of anybody who is actually working in trafficking that feels that it's helpless. Daunting, yes. But there is progress to be made, and is being made."

Nigeria ranked in **Tier 1** again for the **Trafficking in Persons** report for 2010, which reports on 2009 activity. According to the report, Nigeria demonstrated sustained progress to combat human trafficking, convicted 25 trafficking offenders and provided care for 1,109 victims -- an increase over 2008. Nigeria continued to undertake strong efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking, according to the report. The full narrative on Nigeria is available on the State Department website.

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172 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

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"There was tremendous political will from the highest levels of government to tackle the issue of trafficking," Slack told America.gov in a recent interview. The effort of the Nigerian government, he said, "is most commendable and is -- and ought to be -- a model for other countries, not only in Africa but in Europe and in North and South America and Asia."

Slack is now the executive director of the Utah Health and Human Rights Project, but from 2006 to 2009 he served as chief of party in Nigeria for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). In that capacity, he worked to help implement a program underwritten by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to fight human trafficking by building capacity in Nigeria's law enforcement agencies and the judiciary and to provide support for victim rehabilitation services. The ABA-USAID program provided training for hundreds of Nigerian prosecutors, police, immigration enforcement officers and government officials in various agencies.

According to Slack, public awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria began to increase in the mid- to late 1990s, with a series of widely publicized stories about the repatriation of a number of Nigerian women who had been trafficked to Italy for prostitution. Photos showing the women being dropped off on the tarmac at the Lagos airport and abandoned to make their own way engendered a feeling of public insult in Nigeria's citizens, he said.

Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, the wife of the vice president under the former Obasanjo administration, became alarmed about the issue of trafficking and saw it as "a national affront to the dignity of all Nigeria," Slack said. She established the Women Trafficking & Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), which was able to further raise public awareness and lobby for the passage of an anti-trafficking statute. The statute was adopted in late 2003 with the strong support of then-President Olusegun Obasanjo, Slack said.

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was established as a stand-alone agency within the executive branch. Responsible for preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers, NAPTIP engaged all of the law enforcement agencies -- local police as well as immigration officers -- in the fight against trafficking, Slack said.

The greatest strength of Nigeria's anti-trafficking effort, Slack said, was its ability to marshal and coordinate considerable law enforcement resources with the backing of a legislative mandate and political support. "Perhaps the next greatest thing," Slack said, "was the personnel that were chosen to head up these agencies and offices."

"They were all dedicated to the fight; they were passionate about it; they understood the issues very well and were committed to doing all that they had power to do to combat trafficking in Nigeria," Slack said.

Slack attributed the ability of Nigeria's anti-trafficking efforts to evade the corruption that sometimes hobbles other government programs to the fact that human trafficking "affects the dignity and pride of all Nigeria" and the public's "genuine concern for the citizens who are affected by it."

Nigeria's success has been reflected in the United States' annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Since the report's first publication in 2001, Nigeria consistently ranked as a Tier 2 country -- meaning its government did not comply with TVPA's minimum standards, although it was making efforts to do so. In the 2009 TIP Report, which evaluated governments for the year 2008, Nigeria climbed to Tier 1 status, meaning it fully complied with TVPA minimum standards.

Slack said he believes Nigeria will be able to sustain effective anti-trafficking measures. Ongoing training courses remain, even with the conclusion of the ABA-USAID program. "That is a sustainable long-term impact of the program," he said. "I think it will continue to yield good results in building the capacities of the law enforcement agencies to detect and prosecute trafficking."

The real benefit of training, Slack said, is "helping an officer to see something differently. And in my experience, both in the United States and in Nigeria, we become accustomed to seeing things around us in a way that it becomes, I don't want to say invisible, but it just kind of blends into the background. But once you understand what it is you're seeing, you understand that it's not just normal. There is something abnormal about what's happening. It's not just prostitution; it is slavery. It's not just farm labor; there is someone who is being forced to do that. People see things differently, and that changes the dynamics within law enforcement as to the attention and efforts that they are able to bring to bear on tackling trafficking."

Perceptions within the general public in Nigeria are changing as well, Slack said. Ten or 15 years ago, Nigerians were proud to have a daughter working overseas and sending money back to her family. "There was not an awareness of what actually was involved or what their daughter was doing, or being forced to do," he said. But as awareness grew about the realities of what was really happening to many Nigerian women in Italy and elsewhere, it no longer was socially acceptable to boast of having a daughter working overseas.

The enticement of good pay and a better life somewhere else remain the traffickers' biggest lure, Slack said. "Desperation makes people vulnerable to those enticements," he said. "How do you then address the underlying socio-economic issues that might reduce the vulnerability to those enticements? But it is not a helpless situation, and I don't know of anybody who is actually working in trafficking that feels that it's helpless. Daunting, yes. But there is progress to be made, and is being made."

Nigeria ranked in **Tier 1** again for the **Trafficking in Persons** report for 2010, which reports on 2009 activity. According to the report, Nigeria demonstrated sustained progress to combat human trafficking, convicted 25 trafficking offenders and provided care for 1,109 victims -- an increase over 2008. Nigeria continued to undertake strong efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking, according to the report. The full narrative on Nigeria is available on the State Department website.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

173 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 3:32 PM GMT

The 1530 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 712 words

DATELINE: Hong Kong, June 15 2010

Duty Editor: Peter Stebbings

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

OSH, Kyrgyzstan: Humanitarian crisis as refugees stranded

PESHAWAR: Pakistan arrests American on bin Laden mission

PENSACOLA, Florida: Oil company execs grilled over disaster

LONDON: PM says sorry for N.Ireland's Bloody Sunday killings

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest-US-BinLaden,4thlead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

An American businessman armed with a pistol, dagger and a sword has been arrested in Pakistan on suspicion of wanting to hunt down and kill Osama bin Laden, police say.

700 words moved by S.H. Khan

UN-SKorea-NKorea-military-politics,newseries

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council warns South and North Korea against escalating regional tension after hearing briefings by both sides on the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on the North.

650 words moved by Gerard Aziakou

We have also moved: SKorea-NKorea-military-history,lead

NKorea-nuclear-weapons-US-diplomacy,lead

WASHINGTON

The Obama administration has been "halfhearted" on North Korea and needs a long-term strategy that includes engaging ordinary people to weaken the regime's grip, a study says.

600 words moved by Shaun Tandon

Bangladesh-weather-landslide,4thlead

COX'S BAZAAR, Bangladesh

At least 53 people have been killed after days of heavy rain triggered flash floods and landslides in southeastern Bangladesh, police say.

600 words moved by Muazzem Shakil

China-Japan-auto-labour-Honda,lead-WRAP

BEIJING

Striking workers at a Honda factory in China resume their duties as Premier Wen Jiabao calls for better treatment of migrant workers, highlighting growing concern over a wave of labour unrest.

550 words moved by Susan Stumme

Indonesia-Australia-Britain-Tonga-history-Bligh,lead

KUPANG, Indonesia

Four adventurers land in Indonesia at the end of a harrowing 47-day re-enactment of Lieutenant William Bligh, [TM]'s epic sea voyage from the mutiny on the HMS Bounty.

650 words moved. Picture

Australia-aviation-accident,4thlead

SYDNEY

A light plane crash-lands and explodes close to a Sydney primary school, killing the two people on board and leaving children and passersby in shock, police said.

600 words moved

US-trafficking-Asia-women,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

The United States puts allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

600 words moved by Shaun Tandon

Japan-economy-bank,5thlead

TOKYO

Japan's central bank unveils a 33 billion dollar loan scheme to boost growth and battle deflation as it faces mounting pressure from a new government focused on economic restoration, but analysts question the move.

600 words moved by David Watkins. Picture

Asia-entertainment-media-economy

HONG KONG

China will overtake Japan to become the world's second-largest advertising market within five years, according to a new report.

600 words moved by Adrian Addison. Graphic

-- EUROPE --

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics,6thlead-WRAP

OSH, Kyrgyzstan

Thousands desperate to flee ethnic clashes in Kyrgyzstan plead to pass through the sealed border into Uzbekistan, powerless to escape a growing humanitarian catastrophe engulfing the country.

750 words moved by Matt Siegel. Picture, video

We have also moved: Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics-rights,lead-SCENE

NIreland-Britain-unrest-report,2ndlead

LONDON

British Prime Minister David Cameron apologises for the Bloody Sunday killings, one of the darkest days in Northern Ireland's history, calling them "unjustified and unjustifiable."

700 words moved by Katherine Haddon. Picture.Video

-- AMERICAS --

US-oil-pollution-environment,newseries-WRAP

PENSACOLA, Florida

Oil company executives are grilled by US lawmakers on the Gulf of Mexico disaster, just hours before President Barack Obama outlines new steps to control the spill and compensate victims in a solemn Oval Office address.

750 words moved by Stephen Collinson. Picture, graphic, video

-- AFRICA --

SAfrica-fbl-WC2010,2ndlead-WRAP

JOHANNESBURG

South African police take over security at two showpiece World Cup venues after a strike by stewards which heaped more pressure on beleaguered organisers.

650 words 1545 GMT by Sibongile Khumalo. Pictures, graphics, video

We will also move: SAfrica-labour-fbl-WC2010,SCENE

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

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174 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 10:34 AM GMT

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 776 words

DATELINE: Hong Kong, June 15 2010

Duty Editor: Peter Stebbings

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

OSH: Kyrgyzstan withdraws request for peacekeepers

PESHAWAR: Pakistan arrests American on bin Laden mission

UNITED NATIONS: Security Council warns South, North Korea

JOHANNESBURG: Police take charge of WCup stadium security

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest-US-BinLaden,3rdlead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

A middle-aged American suspected of going on a mission to hunt down and kill Osama bin Laden has been arrested in Pakistan carrying a pistol, dagger and a sword, police say.

600 words 1130 GMT by S.H. Khan

UN-SKorea-NKorea-military-politics,newseries

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council warns South and North Korea against escalating regional tension after hearing briefings by both sides on the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on the North.

650 words moved by Gerard Aziakou

NKorea-nuclear-weapons-US-diplomacy,lead

WASHINGTON

The Obama administration has been "halfhearted" on North Korea and needs a long-term strategy that includes engaging ordinary people to weaken the regime's grip, a study says.

600 words moved by Shaun Tandon

Bangladesh-weather-landslide,3rdlead

COX'S BAZAAR, Bangladesh

At least 42 people have been killed by landslides and flash floods in southeastern Bangladesh and dozens more are missing, police and local officials say.

550 words 1100 GMT by Muazzem Shakil

China-Japan-auto-labour-Honda,lead-WRAP

BEIJING

Striking workers at a Honda factory in China resume their duties as Premier Wen Jiabao calls for better treatment of migrant workers, highlighting growing concern over a wave of labour unrest.

550 words moved by Susan Stumme

Indonesia-Australia-Britain-history-Bligh,lead

KUPANG, Indonesia

In a feat of seamanship, endurance and, some may say, sheer madness, four adventurers from Australia and Britain land in Indonesia after re-enacting William Bligh, [TM]'s epic voyage in an open boat.

600 words 1130 GMT. Picture

Australia-aviation-accident,4thlead

SYDNEY

A light plane crash-lands and explodes close to a Sydney primary school, killing the two people on board and leaving children and passersby in shock, police said.

600 words moved

US-trafficking-Asia-women,2ndlead

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600 words moved by Shaun Tandon

Japan-economy-bank,5thlead

TOKYO

Japan's central bank unveils a 33 billion dollar loan scheme to boost growth and battle deflation as it faces mounting pressure from a new government focused on economic restoration, but analysts question the move.

600 words moved by David Watkins. Picture

Asia-entertainment-media-economy

HONG KONG

China will overtake Japan to become the world's second-largest advertising market within five years, according to a new report.

600 words moved by Adrian Addison. Graphic

-- EUROPE --

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics,4thlead-WRAP

OSH, Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan's interim leader withdraws a demand for peacekeepers amid a calming of the inter-ethnic fighting in its south but concerns intensify over the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe for tens of thousands of refugees.

800 words 1100 GMT by Matt Siegel. Picture. Video

We will also move: Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics-rights,SCENE

NIreland-Britain-unrest-report,lead

LONDON

Authorities in Britain and Northern Ireland brace for a long-awaited report into the killings of 13 people on Bloody Sunday, a key flashpoint in three decades of violence, amid fears it could re-open wounds.

650 words 1130 GMT by Katherine Haddon. Picture. Video.

We will also move: NIreland-Britain-timeline,CHRONO

NIreland-Britain-unrest-parade,SCENE

-- AFRICA --

SAfrica-fbl-WC2010,lead-WRAP

JOHANNESBURG

South African police take over security at two showpiece World Cup venues after stewards go on strike over pay, infuriating organisers as they tackle a growing list of complaints.

650 words 1045 GMT by Sibongile Khumalo. Pictures. Video. Graphics

We will also move: SAfrica-tourism-fbl-WC2010,FOCUS

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iran-energy-gas-contracts-Guards,3rdlead

TEHRAN

Iran signs contracts worth 21 billion dollars with local firms to develop six gas fields, some of them awarded to the elite Revolutionary Guards, state media reports.

650 words 1230 GMT by Farhad Pouladi

-- AMERICAS --

US-oil-pollution-environment,2ndlead-WRAP

PENSACOLA, Florida

US President Barack Obama prepares to make his debut Oval Office address to the American people, as he seeks to wrest political control over the Gulf of Mexico oil catastrophe.

800 words 1100 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Picture

afp

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

175 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 10:21 AM GMT

Singapore lashes out at US over trafficking report

LENGTH: 503 words**DATELINE:** SINGAPORE, June 15 2010

Singapore reacted indignantly Tuesday to a US government report putting it on a **human-trafficking watchlist** and bluntly told Washington to examine its own record on immigration.

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report by the State Department listed Singapore, a staunch US ally, along with Thailand and Vietnam as countries that failed to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

"We have read the latest TIP report. It is rather puzzling because the US has not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions," Singapore's foreign ministry said in a written reply to media queries.

"The Singapore government is committed to tackling the TIP issue, and our efforts in dealing with this issue have certainly not weakened since last year. We will respond in detail as appropriate in due course."

Thousands of women from poorer Asian countries such as China, the Philippines and Thailand work as call girls and bar hostesses in wealthy Singapore, a bustling port city where prostitution is legal in designated zones.

Explaining the downgrade for Singapore to the "Tier Two Watch List" where it sits alongside impoverished countries, the US report said some women were tricked into coming to the city-state with promises of legitimate employment but coerced into the sex trade.

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

In its reaction, the Singapore foreign ministry said the annual US report "is more a political ritual than an objective study."

"How, for example, can the US rank itself in Tier One when it is well known that the US has been unable to stem a flood of illegal workers, many of whom are trafficked by organised criminal gangs?" the ministry said.

"It has not been able to cope adequately with the problem and that is among the reasons why immigration is such a hot political issue in the US.

"The US should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries. Then its reports may be more credible," the Singapore foreign ministry added.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has made women's and children's rights a signature issue, called human trafficking a "terrible crime" as she presented the annual report on Monday.

"All of us have a responsibility to bring this practice to an end," she said.

The report estimated that 12.3 million people were the victims of trafficking in 2009-2010, although it said there had been progress over the past decade.

The State Department added a number of Asian nations to its watch list -- Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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

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

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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176 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 5:40 AM GMT

The 0530 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 710 words

DATELINE: Hong Kong, June 15 2010

Duty Editor: Tanya Willmer

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

OSH: Uzbekistan struggles to cope with Kyrgyzstan refugees

THEODORE, Alabama: Obama says BP deal on oil spill near

UNITED NATIONS: Security Council warns Koreas on rising tension

CAPE TOWN: Police take charge of World Cup stadium security

-- ASIA --

UN-SKorea-NKorea-military-politics,newseries

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council warn rival South and North Korea against escalating tension after hearing briefings by both sides on the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on Pyongyang.

650 words moved by Gerard Aziakou

NKorea-nuclear-weapons-US-diplomacy,lead

WASHINGTON

The Obama administration has been "halfhearted" on North Korea and needs a long-term strategy that includes engaging ordinary people to weaken the regime's grip, a study says.

600 words 0600 GMT by Shaun Tandon

China-Japan-auto-labour-Honda,lead-WRAP

BEIJING

Striking workers at a Honda factory in China return to their jobs as Premier Wen Jiabao calls for better treatment of migrant workers, highlighting growing concern over a spate of strikes and suicides at several foreign-backed plants.

500 words 0800 GMT

US-trafficking-Asia-women,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

The United States puts allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

600 words moved by Shaun Tandon

Japan-economy-bank,4thlead

TOKYO

Facing pressure from a new government that has put economic restoration at the heart of its agenda, Japan's central bank unveils a three trillion yen lending scheme to boost growth, but analysts question the move.

550 words 0800 GMT by David Watkins

Asia-entertainment-media-economy

HONG KONG

China will overtake Japan to become the world's second largest advertising market by 2015, according to a new report on the entertainment and media industry by accountancy giant PricewaterhouseCoopers.

600 words 0200 GMT by Adrian Addison. Graphic.

Environment-whaling-IWC-Japan-Iceland-Norway

PARIS

Companies in Japan, Iceland and Norway are developing whale-based products ranging from drugs to cosmetics to animal feed, banking on a resumption of global trade, according to a report.

650 words moved by Marlowe Hood. Graphic

US-trade-Asia-APEC,lead

SAN FRANCISCO

The United States and seven other nations launch a second round of talks to forge a Pacific trade deal that could become President Barack Obama's first free trade agreement.

500 words moved

US-Afghanistan-economy-minerals,newseries

WASHINGTON

US officials say Afghanistan has mineral deposits worth at least one trillion dollars and that the vast untapped riches carry the potential to lift the war-ravaged country out of its deep poverty.

750 words moved by Dan De Luce

-- EUROPE --

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics,2ndlead-WRAP

OSH, Kyrgyzstan

Uzbeks and Kyrgyz exchange hostages as ethnic violence appears to ease in tense southern Kyrgyzstan while neighboring Uzbekistan struggles to cope with tens of thousands of refugees.

600 words 0630 GMT by Matt Siegel. Video. Picture. Graphic.

-- AFRICA --

SAfrica-fbl-WC2010,WRAP

JOHANNESBURG

World Cup organisers battle to contain walkouts by South African workers which forced the police to take charge of security at the champions Italy's opening match and disrupted transport for fans.

600 words 0900 GMT. Picture. Video. Graphic

Mauritania-crime-drugs-Mali-Qaeda-attacks,FOCUS

NOUAKCHOTT

Al-Qaeda's north African operation is not above offering protection to drug traffickers moving into the region, say experts -- despite Islam's condemnation of drugs.

700 words 0730 GMT by Michel Moutot

-- AMERICAS --

US-oil-pollution-environment,WRAP

PENSACOLA, Florida

US President Barack Obama prepares to make his debut Oval Office address to the American people, as he seeks to wrest political control over the Gulf of Mexico oil catastrophe.

800 words 0600 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Picture

We will also move: US-oil-pollution-environment-people,SCENE

Lifestyle-US-France-music-videogames-dance-Ubisoft-E3

LOS ANGELES, California

French videogame titan Ubisoft is making a videogame that lets players "step into the shoes" of legendary King of Pop Michael Jackson.

550 words 0600 GMT by Glenn Chapman. Picture

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

177 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 2:50 AM GMT

AFP Asia news agenda

LENGTH: 668 words

DATELINE: Hong Kong, June 15 2010

Duty Editor: Huw Griffith

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

ASIA NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ON TUESDAY

+ Security Council warns Koreas on rising tension

+ Pakistan court to resume Facebook blasphemy hearing

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council meets to discuss the sinking of a South Korean warship near the disputed border with North Korea, an act Seoul blames on Pyongyang (UN-SKOREA-NKOREA-MILITARY-POLITICS)

LAHORE, Pakistan: A Pakistani court scheduled to resume hearing on a petition brought by Islamic lawyers against Facebook for blasphemy. (PAKISTAN-INTERNET-FACEBOOK-ISLAM-RELIGION)

-- OTHER AGENDA ITEMS --

BANGKOK/HANOI/SINGAPORE: Monitoring reax after Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore were included on a US **human trafficking watch list**, accused of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution (US-TRAFFICKING-ASIA-WOMEN-)

BANGKOK: Eleven leaders of Thailand's Red Shirt anti-government movement to appear in court over recent street protests (THAILAND-UNREST-COURT)

BEIJING: Monitoring a labour dispute at a Honda parts supplier in southern China, after a partial resumption of operations following a pay dispute (CHINA-JAPAN-AUTO-LABOUR-HONDA)

-- Moving a FEATURE on zoos in China, where tourists can pay to feed live animals to lions (CHINA-WILDLIFE-ANIMAL)

COLOMBO: Yasushi Akashi, Tokyo's special representative for peace-building in Sri Lanka, starts five-day visit one year after the island's civil war ended (SRILANKA-UNREST-JAPAN)

DHAKA: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping completes a two-day visit to Dhaka (BANGLADESH-CHINA-DIPLOMACY)

HANOI: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping begins official visit to Laos (LAOS-CHINA-ECONOMY-DIPLOMACY)

-- Fred Hochberg, chairman and president of the US Ex-Im Bank, holds press conference at 0400 GMT (VIETNAM-US-TRADE).

-- Moving a piece focussed on China's rising influence in resource-rich Laos despite competition from Vietnam (LAOS-CHINA-ECONOMY-DIPLOMACY,FOCUS)

JAKARTA: The trial resumes of Saudi man Al Khelaiw Ali Abdullah accused of financing twin suicide bombings on luxury hotels in Jakarta last year (INDONESIA-ATTACKS-TRIAL-SAUDI)

-- Awaiting sentencing of Rahmat Puji Prabowo alias Bejo, who assisted Malaysian terror mastermind Noordin M. Top. (INDONESIA-ATTACKS-TRIAL)

NEW DELHI: Reporting ex-GUWAHATI as India plans to start sending paramilitary troops to break a blockade of remote Manipur state by tribal groups who have blocked food and medical supplies for over two months (INDIA-UNREST-NORTHEAST)

SEOUL: South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak holds summit with Turkish President Abdullah Gul on enhancing economic and diplomatic cooperation (SKOREA-TURKEY-DIPLOMACY)

SINGAPORE: The first day of CommuniAsia technology conference, with Skype CEO Josh Silverman and other industry leaders speaking (ASIA-TELECOM-)

SYDNEY: A light plane crash-lands and explodes just metres (yards) from a Sydney primary school, killing at least two people on board (AUSTRALIA-AVIATION-ACCIDENT)

-- Monitoring as scientists prepare to transfer a space probe, thought to contain the first fragments from a moving asteroid, from Australia for analysis in Japan (SPACE-JAPAN-AUSTRALIA-ASTEROIDS)

-- Rugby Union. Australia A v England in Gosford at 0930 GMT (RUGBYU-AUS-ENG)

TAIPEI: China policy decision-maker Lai Shin-yuan to brief parliament at 0800 GMT on progress made during the third round of negotiations for a proposed trade agreement with China (TAIWAN-CHINA-POLITICS-TRADE)

TOKYO: Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa holds press conference at 0630 GMT (JAPAN-ECONOMY-BANK-RATE-FOREX)

-- Japanese media hail national team's first World Cup finals victory on foreign soil after their 1-0 win over Cameroon (FBL-WC2010-JPN-CMR,REAX)

-- Monitoring a widening sumo scandal as the sport's governing body meets to decide disciplinary measures against dozens of wrestlers allegedly involved in illegal gambling (JAPAN-SUMO-CRIME-JPN)

WELLINGTON: Rugby Union. New Zealand announce their team to play Wales in the first of two Tests on Saturday (RUGBYU-NZL-WAL)

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

178 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 1:25 AM GMT

US puts Singapore, Thailand on human trafficking watch list

LENGTH: 658 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 14 2010

The United States has put allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

The move Monday opens the way for the United States to cut off some civilian assistance, although it usually functions as a way to pressure countries to take action.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has made women's and children's rights a signature issue, called human trafficking a "terrible crime" as she presented the State Department's annual report.

"All of us have a responsibility to bring this practice to an end," she said.

The report estimated that 12.3 million people were the victims of trafficking in 2009-2010, although it said there has been progress over the past decade.

The State Department added a number of Asian nations to its watch list -- Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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

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

Explaining the downgrade for Singapore, the report said that some women from China, the Philippines and Thailand are tricked into coming to the city-state with promises of legitimate employment and coerced into the sex trade.

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

The State Department said that Thailand was a source, destination and transit point for trafficking, with ethnic minorities and citizens of neighboring countries at particular risk of sexual abuse or forced labor.

Senator Jim Webb, who heads the Foreign Relations subcommittee on East Asia, had made an unusually open appeal not to place Thailand on the watch list.

Webb visited Bangkok this month and said US embassy staff disagreed with the intended downgrade as it could curb assistance for democracy and human rights programs in the wake of the kingdom's political violence.

The downgrade occurs "at a time when this type of aide is desperately needed to bolster political reforms in Thailand and to promote political stability," Webb said last week in a letter to Clinton.

The State Department recognized improvements in Pakistan, which was taken off the watch list, and Malaysia, which was on the watch list but lifted from the lowest category.

Pakistan "has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for human trafficking, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor," Luis CdeBaca, the US envoy on human trafficking, told reporters.

Malaysian authorities "have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious human trafficking problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments," CdeBaca said.

From other regions, Cuba, Iran and Saudi Arabia remained in the rock-bottom category and the Dominican Republic was newly added.

Representative Christopher Smith, a Republican who authored the law that requires the human trafficking report, said that more countries should have been assigned the lowest rank.

"If we are willing to hold the Dominican Republic to account, as we should, it's outrageous that China, Vietnam and India get a free pass," Smith said.

Taiwan was upgraded and listed as fully compliant in efforts against human trafficking after starting new services for victims, CdeBaca said.

Australia, New Zealand and South Korea were also listed as fully compliant.

For the first time, the United States included itself in the report. It ranked itself in compliance.

Japan was listed as not fully compliant but making efforts. The United States put its close ally on the watch list in 2004 and 2005, embarrassing Tokyo into stepping up efforts to protect trafficked women.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

179 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 1:16 AM GMT

The 0100 GMT News Advisory

LENGTH: 790 words

DATELINE: Hong Kong, June 15 2010

Duty Editor: Huw Griffith

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

OSH: Uzbekistan closes border to people fleeing Kyrgyzstan

THEODORE, Alabama: Obama says BP deal on oil spill near

UNITED NATIONS: Security Council warns Koreas on rising tension

CAPE TOWN: Police take charge of World Cup stadium security

-- ASIA --

UN-SKorea-NKorea-military-politics,newseries

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council warn rival South and North Korea against escalating tension after hearing briefings by both sides on the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on the North.

650 words 0130 GMT by Gerard Aziakou

US-trafficking-Asia-women,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

The United States puts allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

600 words 0130 GMT by Shaun Tandon

Environment-whaling-IWC-Japan-Iceland-Norway

PARIS

Companies in Japan, Iceland and Norway are developing whale-based products ranging from drugs to cosmetics to animal feed, banking on a resumption of global trade, according to a report.

650 words 0130 GMT by Marlowe Hood. Graphic

US-trade-Asia-APEC,lead

SAN FRANCISCO

The United States and seven other nations launch a second round of talks to forge a Pacific trade deal that could become President Barack Obama's first free trade agreement.

500 words 0130 GMT

US-Afghanistan-economy-minerals,newseries

WASHINGTON

US officials say Afghanistan has mineral deposits worth at least one trillion dollars and that the vast untapped riches carry the potential to lift the war-ravaged country out of its deep poverty.

750 words 0130 GMT by Dan De Luce

Afghanistan-unrest-US-warlords,FOCUS

RAWHANAY, Afghanistan

Drawing on a cigarette held between his tattooed fingers, Mohammed Daoud is thanked by an American junior officer for dispatching 5,000 Afghan militiamen to join the police force.

700 words 0200 GMT by Claire Truscott

Laos-China-economy-diplomacy-Vietnam,FOCUS

HANOI

China's presumed future leader will seek to boost his country's fast-growing ties with Laos during a visit Tuesday, as Beijing competes with Vietnam for influence in the small but resource-rich nation, observers say.

600 words 0230 GMT by Ian Timberlake

-- EUROPE --

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics,newseries-WRAP

OSH, Kyrgyzstan

Uzbekistan closes its border to refugees fleeing the deadly violence in Kyrgyzstan, some of whom have accused government forces of helping armed gangs slaughter ethnic Uzbeks.

800 words 0200 GMT by Matt Siegel. Graphic. Picture. Video.

We will also move: Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics-history,FOCUS

NIreland-Britain-unrest-report

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland

The families of those killed here on Bloody Sunday will finally get to hear Tuesday the findings of a long-awaited, mammoth inquiry into the highly controversial 1972 shootings.

700 words 0200 GMT by Alice Ritchie. File picture.

Greece-finance-economy-ratings-Moodys,5thlead

PARIS

Moody's rating agency slashes its sovereign rating for Greece to 'junk' status on concerns about Athens can pay its debts, as EU and IMF auditors began taking a hard look at the country's budget.

700 words moved

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Israel-conflict-Gaza,6thlead-WRAP

JERUSALEM

Israel's cabinet backs the creation of an internal committee to probe its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in a move swiftly dismissed by both Turkey and the Palestinians.

750 words moved by Hazel Ward. Picture. Graphic.

-- AFRICA --

SAfrica-fbl-WC2010,2ndlead-WRAP

CAPE TOWN

South African police take control of security at reigning champions Italy's opening World Cup match, after stewards walk out in a spiralling dispute over pay.

700 words moved by Justine Gerardy. Pictures. Video. Graphics

SAfrica-Germany-Fbl-WC2010-economy,FOCUS

BERLIN

World Cup fans may be split on South Africa's vuvuzela, either merry fanfare or deafening din, but two German entrepreneurs who bought the resale rights for Europe hope the horn will spell gold.

450 words 0130 GMT by Aurelia End. Picture.

-- AMERICAS --

US-oil-pollution-environment,3rdlead-WRAP

THEODORE, Alabama

US President Barack Obama says he hopes to seal a deal with reeling BP by Wednesday on a multi-billion dollar fund for oil disaster victims and vows to deploy all his power to save the Gulf coast from an advancing oil slick.

700 words 0200 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Graphic.

we will also move: US-oil-environment-pollution-drilling,FOCUS

US-Afghanistan-economy-minerals,newseries

WASHINGTON

US officials say Afghanistan has mineral deposits worth at least one trillion dollars and that the vast untapped riches carry the potential to lift the war-ravaged country out of its deep poverty.

750 words 0130 GMT by Dan De Luce

afp

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

180 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 15, 2010 Tuesday 3:06 PM EET

US REPORT MAKES NOTE OF LITHUANIA'S EFFORTS TO BATTLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CORRECTS) US report makes note of Lithuania's efforts to battle human trafficking (corrects) (corrected version: corrects info in para 4)

LENGTH: 474 words

DATELINE: VILNIUS Jun 15

The new Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 released in the US on Monday makes note of Lithuania's anti- trafficking efforts. Even though women and girls are still known to become victims to forced prostitution, the Baltic state has done more to prevent such manifestations than most neighboring and post-soviet states. "The Government of Lithuania fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," reads the report, presented on Monday by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The report, besides stressing that girls and women are most usually subjected to **human trafficking** in Lithuania, places Lithuania among the ranks of **Tier 1** states, which it finds strictly punish human traffickers, protect victims, identify and investigate cases of **human trafficking** and comply with other minimum standards outlined in US law. Of all former Soviet Union states, Tier 1 classification, besides Lithuania, was given to Georgia. From neighboring states, Poland was also ranked Tier 1. Latvia, Estonia, Belarus and Russia were ranked alongside Tier 2 countries. A total of 177 countries were grouped into three categories based on anti-trafficking efforts during the reporting period. The report said Lithuania is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons, singling out forced prostitution. "Lithuanian women are also subjected to forced prostitution in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, France, and the Czech Republic. A small number of women from Russia and Belarus are transited through Lithuania and are subjected to forced prostitution in Western Europe," the report reads. The research found that even though the Lithuanian government doesn't put aside financing to aid human trafficking victims, it collaborates with anti-trafficking NGOs. Recommendations for Lithuania are to improve efforts to identify, investigate, and prosecute forced labor offenses and allocate some funding or in-kind support to NGOs providing victim protection services among other suggestions. According to the report, penalties in Lithuania are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious crimes. Lithuanian authorities initiated 11 sex trafficking investigations in 2009, the report said. Lithuanian authorities convicted 14 individuals for sex trafficking offenses during the reporting period in comparison to 13 in 2008, says the report. It also said the government extradited one person accused of trafficking offenses to Finland during the reporting period. Lithuania has ranked among Tier 1 states annually from 2002. The report was prepared and countries ranked after investigating data collected by US institutions, international NGOs and foreign governments. Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2058514, politika@bns.lt-

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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181 of 404 DOCUMENTS

**June** 15, 2010 Tuesday 3:06 PM EET

US REPORT MAKES NOTE OF LITHUANIA'S EFFORTS TO BATTLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING US report makes note of Lithuania's efforts to battle human trafficking

LENGTH: 468 words**DATELINE:** VILNIUS Jun 15

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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182 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Maldives among countries added to US human trafficking watch list

LENGTH: 197 words

Excerpt from report by Maldives pro-government newspaper Miadhu News website on 15 June

The United States on Monday [14 June] put Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**. Although reason for inclusion of the Maldives was not stated, treatment of expatriate labourers was believed to be the reason. Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam was bombarded by the State Department for failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

The move opens the way for the United States to cut off some civilian assistance, although it usually functions as a symbolic means to pressure countries to take action.

The State Department recognized improvements in Malaysia and Fiji, keeping them on the list but removing them from the lowest category of countries that do not even meet the minimum standards on human trafficking.

North Korea, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea remained at that bottom level. Taiwan was upgraded and listed as fully compliant in efforts against human trafficking. Australia, New Zealand and South Korea were also listed as fully compliant. [passage omitted]

Source: Miadhu News website, Male, in English 15 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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183 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

US State Department says North Korea among "worst" for human trafficking

LENGTH: 207 words

Text of report in English by South Korean news agency Yonhap

WASHINGTON, June 14 (Yonhap) - North Korea remains one of the worst countries in human trafficking, along with 11 other nations, the US State Department said Monday.

The 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report categorized North Korea with other **Tier** 3 countries that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so" under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The Congress-mandated report cited a number of North Koreans subjected to human trafficking in neighbouring China while seeking food, work and freedom.

Among the other worst countries are Iran, Sudan, Cuba, Iran and Myanmar.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) is a source country for men, women, and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and forced prostitution," the report said. "The most common form of trafficking involves North Korean women and girls forced into marriage or prostitution in China. Women and girls from North Korea migrate to China, often with the help of a facilitator, seeking food, work, freedom, and better life prospects."

Source: Yonhap news agency, Seoul, in English 1412 gmt 14 Jun 10

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

184 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Guyana dismisses US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 724 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website on 15 June

Georgetown, Guyana: The Guyana government has warned that relations with the United States could be affected if Washington continues to issue reports on human trafficking that were inaccurate and painted Guyana in a bad light.

"It seems to me that the US is contradicting its own report," said Human Services and Social Security Minister Priya Manickchand as she "strongly criticised" the US State Department 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report that placed Guyana on the **Tier 2 watch list** for the fourth consecutive year.

Manickchand said that there is no evidence made available by the US to the effect that Guyana has a significant number of victims and that the report "is based on ignorance and this type of reporting is hurting Guyana's friendship with the US".

She told reporters that since 2004, when the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act was established, Guyana has been making significant strides in dealing with the situation.

But the US State Department in maintaining the **Tier 2** level against Guyana, said the country has failed to take steps to combat **human trafficking** for the past year, is not making significant efforts based on commitments to anti-trafficking reforms over the next year and has a significant number of trafficking victims or a significantly increasing victim population.

"The Government of Guyana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these efforts, the government did not initiate any new prosecutions of trafficking offences during the reporting period and has yet to convict or punish any trafficking offenders under its five-year old anti-human trafficking law," the report said.

"During the reporting period, the government and NGOs (non government organizations) identified four victims of trafficking, two of whom prison officials proactively identified," the report said, noting that "the government provided some resources towards victim protection and local anti-trafficking groups, no suspected traffickers were charged, limiting the level of safety and protection that could be provided to victims".

According to the Trafficking in People (TIP) 2010 Report, while the government took some "tangible" steps to raise awareness of human trafficking, including the establishment of focal point groups and an anti-trafficking task force, "some local observers felt that the government discouraged discussions on developing effective strategies for combating this phenomenon of modern-day slavery".

The 2010 report said Guyana is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labour. Guyanese trafficking victim cases have been identified in the country, as well as in other countries in the region.

But Manickchand insists that the 2010 document is in contradiction to the reports issued over the years by the US that have noted Guyana's efforts to implement the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act and has made significant efforts to enhance assistance for victims of trafficking. She said that over the years the US State Department reports also acknowledged that Guyana has increased its efforts to prevent trafficking and protect victims and vulnerable persons who may be potential victims.

She said that the US has never asserted that Guyana's non-compliance with minimum standards and its Tier 2 rank are a result of its failure to charge and or prosecute persons who are alleged to have been involved in TIP.

"It has always been because we fail to churn out mass numbers of prosecutions and convictions," she said, adding that Guyana will make no apology for not prosecuting a large number of persons for TIP since citizens are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"If a magistrate cites lack of evidence or if a victim withdraws from a matter or refuse to give evidence, it is the duty of the court to acquit or discharge the accused and to do anything else would be to render an injustice to a citizen who is guaranteed the right to a fair trial and due process," she added.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1510 gmt 15 Jun 10

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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185 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Caribbean Net News, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Guyana remains a **Tier 2** country on US State Department's **human trafficking watch list**

BYLINE: Caribbean Net News, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 833 words

Jun. 15--GEORGETOWN, Guyana -- Guyana remains on **tier** two of the United States' State Department **trafficking in persons** report 2010, which was released on Monday.

The CARICOM nation was placed on tier 2 three years ago has retained that spot. According to the report, this is as a result of Guyana's failure to implement recommendations made by the United States over the past three years.

"The Government of Guyana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these efforts, the government did not initiate any new prosecutions of trafficking offenses during the reporting period and has yet to convict or punish any trafficking offenders under its five-year old anti-human trafficking law," the report said.

As such, it noted that Guyana is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year.

"During the reporting period, the government and NGOs identified four victims of trafficking, two of whom prison officials proactively identified," the report said, noting that "The government provided some resources toward victim protection and local anti-trafficking groups, no suspected traffickers were charged, limiting the level of safety and protection that could be provided to victims."

According to the TIP 2010 report, while the government took some "tangible" steps to raise awareness of human trafficking, including the establishment of focal point groups and an anti-trafficking task force, "some local observers felt that the government discouraged discussions on developing effective strategies for combating this phenomenon of modern-day slavery."

The 2010 report said Guyana is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labour. Guyanese trafficking victim cases have been identified in the country, as well as in other countries in the region.

It noted that identified foreign victims have come from Venezuela and Brazil. Forced prostitution occurs in brothels on the coast and around mining camps as well as in rum shops and Chinese restaurants.

"The common Guyanese practice of poor, rural families sending children to live with higher income family members or acquaintances in more populated areas has the potential to evolve into forced domestic servitude," the report said.

It added that trafficking victims in Guyana may not self-identify to authorities due to fear of retribution from trafficking offenders, fear of resettlement to abusive home situations, and lack of awareness that human trafficking is a crime.

Groups particularly vulnerable to human trafficking in Guyana include Amerindian females, foreign women (such as Brazilians) in prostitution, and children. During the reporting period the US Department of Labor reported results of a project that withdrew 984 children from exploitive child labour in logging and saw-milling, fishing, hazardous farming, factory work, mining, and freight handling from 2005 to 2009.

The report meanwhile urged that the administration "greatly increase efforts to prosecute, convict, and punish trafficking offenders, including any government officials complicit in human trafficking; offer legal alternatives to removal for foreign trafficking victims; encourage law enforcement and other officials as well as NGOs to identify trafficking victims and refer them for assistance."

It also highlighted the need to encourage police, the Ministry of Labour, and the Forest Service to employ formalized procedures, based on recognized trafficking indicators, as part of routine inspections to identify additional victims; ensure trafficking-specific shelter and care is offered to identified victims of trafficking; foster a climate of open discussion about the scope and magnitude of Guyana's human trafficking problem.

It called for enhanced partnerships with NGOs to boost the trust of trafficking victims in law enforcement personnel and raise awareness among the general population about all forms of human trafficking.

The Guyana government is, however, arguing that the report is not a true reflection of the actual situation since there have been significant steps to address this problem.

The government noted too that the report magnifies the situation as the level of human trafficking here is very minimal and that several persons have been charged and prosecuted, with some receiving sentence for this offence.

The government said it will be responding officially to the report soon.

To see more of the Caribbean Net News or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/>. Copyright (c) 2010, Caribbean Net News, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For reprints, email tmsreprints@permissionsgroup.com, call 800-374-7985 or 847-635-6550, send a fax to 847-635-6968, or write to The Permissions Group Inc., 1247 Milwaukee Ave., Suite 303, Glenview, IL 60025, USA.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ACC-NO: 20100615-1CB-Guyana-remains-a-Tier-2-country-on-US-State-Department-s-human-trafficking-watch-list-0615

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 1CB

186 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Channel NewsAsia

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 9:44 AM GMT

MFA questions US human trafficking report which downgraded Singapore's ranking

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS**LENGTH:** 178 words**DATELINE:** SINGAPORE

Singapore's Foreign Ministry (MFA) has questioned a US Department of State's human trafficking report which has downgraded Singapore's ranking on the issue of human trafficking.

The "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2010", which was released on Monday, put Singapore on a **watch list** this year.

MFA is puzzled and said the US has not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at this conclusion.

In a statement, the Ministry added the Singapore Government is committed to tackling the human trafficking issue, and its efforts in dealing with the issue have not weakened since last year.

MFA said it will respond in detail as appropriate in due course.

It stressed that the report is more a political ritual than an objective study.

The Singapore Government questioned how the US could rank itself in Tier One, when it is well known that the US has been unable to stem a flood of illegal workers, many of whom are trafficked by organised criminal gangs.

MFA suggested that the US should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Transcript

187 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Lanka must probe traffickers

LENGTH: 338 words**DATELINE:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, June 15 -- The 2010 US State Department Trafficking in Person's Report has recommended that Sri Lanka investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offences and convict and punish trafficking offenders particularly those who are responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees.

The report states that Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards of elimination but is making a noteworthy effort to do so. The report also states that although the government has enacted a law that facilitates the prosecution of recruitment engaged in fraudulent recruitment, it has made little progress in identifying trafficking victims.

As a result of these reasons, Sri Lanka has been placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** in the 2010 **Trafficking in Person's** Report. The reports also appreciated the efforts made by the Foreign Employment Bureau to conduct public outreach programs to warn people of the dangers of going abroad illegally and using unlicensed recruitment to find employment. The government also carried out raids in 184 fraudulent foreign recruiting and took legal against some of them.

Commenting on the report, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau, Kingsley Ranawaka said that they conduct investigations when they receive complaints regarding fraudulent recruitment and that they produce them to courts after they are arrested.

He added that they have even taken measures to increase the fine imposed on fraudulent.

Ranawaka added that last year, the Foreign Employment Bureau made it mandatory for migrant workers to come and sign their agreements at the Bureau before they take up employment. He added that if there are any complaints to be made, migrant workers can easily gain access to the staff at the Foreign Employment Bureau to make their complaints. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

188 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily the Pak Banker

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Human Trafficking: India on Tier II Watch List

LENGTH: 465 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 15 -- US today placed India on **Tier Two watch list of human trafficking** arguing that New Delhi has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour.

This is the seventh consecutive year that India has been placed in **Tier Two Watch list** of its annual report on **human trafficking**. The 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report was released by the State Department today.

The report recommended that India strengthen central and state government law enforcement capacity to conduct intra-state and interstate law enforcement activities against labour trafficking (including bonded labour) and sex trafficking.

It also urged India to encourage state and district governments to file bonded labour cases under the appropriate criminal statutes to facilitate speedier justice and limit traffickers' opportunities for bail; encourage other states to establish Immoral Trafficking.

The report said India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

It said the Indian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so, particularly with regard to the law enforcement response to sex trafficking.

Despite these efforts, the Indian government has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour; the report said explaining the reason why India has been placed in Tier Two of the Watch List.

Tier Two Watch List is a list of those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Acts' minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

In her remarks, the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, said, the Report, for the first time, includes a ranking of the United States based on the same standards to which it hold other countries.

"The United States takes its first-ever ranking not as a reprieve but as a responsibility to strengthen global efforts against modern slavery, including those within America. This human rights abuse is universal, and no one should claim immunity from its reach or from the responsibility to confront it," she said.

The 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report outlines the continuing challenges across the globe, including in the United States, Clinton said Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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189 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

June 15, 2010

Waging war on trafficking

BYLINE: MOHAMMED AL A'ALI

LENGTH: 480 words

BAHRAIN pledged yesterday to continue combating human trafficking and make it national objective, regardless of international recognition for measures it has already achieved.

The declaration comes after it was announced yesterday that Bahrain is being recognised for continuing significant efforts and being excluded from among nations under watch listed in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Dr Abdulla Abdullatif praised Bahrain's progress, but said that the country was keen to achieve more in its efforts to eliminate human trafficking.

Bahrain has already implemented a law specifically dealing with human trafficking, set up a special department in the Public Prosecution, a hotline and shelter to help victims, he said.

The report ranks nations in three categories or **tiers** based on measures they take in accordance with US laws to combat **human trafficking**.

In tier one are countries whose governments fully comply with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards, while in tier two are those who do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply.

Bahrain has been in the second category watch list since 2008 after it was in tier three in 2007, which are countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

However, despite remaining in the second category, Bahrain's efforts resulted in it being removed from the report's watch list.

Dr Abdullatif said that Bahrain's main aim was not the report's first **tier**, which he hoped the country would achieve next year, but in having the full implementation of legislation that would eliminate **human trafficking**.

"It is not about climbing a ladder on a report, it is more about combating human trafficking in Bahrain," said Dr Abdullatif, who is also National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking chairman, at a Press conference.

"There is no pinnacle for us to reach since international standards change frequently and we have to be in line with them.

"As the world looks for ways to put a stop to human trafficking, those committing violations look for loopholes to get around the measures that are being taken."

Dr Abdullatif said that Bahrain was interested in improving the living conditions of expatriate labourers in Bahrain.

"We have formed a committee which is co-operating with embassies concerned, especially of Asian countries, to help raise awareness about not surrendering passports to employers even if they are forced to do so," he said.

Under the country's laws, forcing employees to surrender their passports is a crime that could be punished with up to seven years in prison.

"If the employee willingly gives in the passport as in most cases, we can't take any legal action against the employer, as there is no case of human trafficking."

alaali@gdn.com.bh

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 5

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190 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IZ Reloaded via Twitter

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 12:00 AM EST**IZ Reloaded via Twitter****BYLINE:** IZ Reloaded**LENGTH:** 564 words

Jun. 15, 2010 (Newstex Newstwits delivered by Newstex) --

"My cough is getting worse. Time for wood's peppermint cough syrup."
sup06-15-2010 at 09:49:20 UTCsup

'US put Singapore on **human trafficking watch list**, says SG fails to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.'
sup06-15-2010 at 10:18:08 UTCsup

"I've been informed that the Wonder Girls reached Singapore at 11.35 am. I can't wait to meet the girls tomorrow at their media conference."

sup06-15-2010 at 10:23:34 UTCsup

"I'm meeting the Wonder Girls tomorrow. Do you have any question for them?"
sup06-15-2010 at 10:54:54 UTCsup

'Just found out that my first ever girlfriend got engaged to a very ugly guy.'
sup06-15-2010 at 11:18:10 UTCsup

"You guys rock! RT hey! i'm admin of sgwonderfuls. compiling the questions now and will mail you in a moment! #wginsg"
sup06-15-2010 at 11:22:28 UTCsup

'Got any questions for Wonder Girls tomorrow? wants to know what plastic surgery did they do? LOL'
sup06-15-2010 at 11:27:07 UTCsup

"Video: Top 10 World Cup Goalkeeping Blunders. Cheer up Robert Green. You're not alone. #worldcup"
sup06-15-2010 at 11:45:29 UTCsup

'Wonder Girls media conference tomorrow morning. Send me your questions quick so that I can compile them. #wginsg'
sup06-15-2010 at 14:41:35 UTCsup

'I was blowing my nose and coughing non stop at work today. Hopefully no one gets sick because of me.'
sup06-15-2010 at 15:07:08 UTCsup

"Anyone knows a quick remedy for cough? I don't wanna be coughing when I meet Wonder Girls tomorrow. Don't want them to run away."
sup06-15-2010 at 15:09:12 UTCsup

'Excellent cough remedy from : i used to drink cold soya bean milk or eat ice cream whenever i have cough :)'
sup06-15-2010 at 15:28:14 UTCsup

"Maybe I shouldn't be too shock when my first gf got engaged to a very ugly guy. All my exs ended up with Shrek like creatures."
sup06-15-2010 at 15:32:32 UTCsup

'Moral of the story is: Break up with me and your future husband is one ugly mother fucker.'
sup06-15-2010 at 15:33:43 UTCsup

'Good news. Just got a tip. Wonder Girls are safely back in their hotel after their Night Safari adventure. Thank god no tigers eat them up.'
sup06-15-2010 at 15:47:00 UTCsup

"Won't be watching Brazil vs North Korea. Need to sleep. Hopefully I'll be better tomorrow. BTW, go North Korea! All hail Kim Jong il!!!!"
sup06-15-2010 at 16:24:56 UTCsup

"How can I be with another? I don't want any other. I want nobody, nobody but you. "
sup06-15-2010 at 23:39:02 UTCsup

"On the way to marina bay sands to meet the wonder girls. Damn it's raining heavily"
sup06-16-2010 at 02:18:53 UTCsup

'Outside the room where the wonder girls media conference will be held. '
sup06-16-2010 at 02:41:56 UTCsup

'Waiting for wonder girls to enter the room '
sup06-16-2010 at 03:02:15 UTCsup

'The wonder girls are late for their own media conference. Probably too tired after last nights night safari adventure'
sup06-16-2010 at 03:28:00 UTCsup

'The wonder girls are walking from their hotel to the conference room. Shld be here in 5 mins.'
sup06-16-2010 at 03:41:05 UTCsup

"The wonder girls media conference is finally over. Here's a shot of the girls. "
sup06-16-2010 at 04:39:31 UTCsup

"I'm so much in love with yubin. She's so fucking hot at the wonder girls media conference just now. "
sup06-16-2010 at 04:58:51 UTCsup

'River forms in the middle of Orchard Road. The videos! '
sup06-16-2010 at 06:46:54 UTCsup

Newstex ID: IZR-5230-46121761

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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191 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 11:55 AM GMT

Singapore slams U.S. for downgrading ranking on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 380 words

DATELINE: SINGAPORE June 15

The Singaporean government on Tuesday blasted the United States for downgrading the country's ranking in government efforts to crack down on human trafficking.

The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2010," released Monday, was "more a political ritual than an objective study."

"The U.S. should perhaps examine its own record more carefully before presuming to pronounce on other countries," the ministry said in a statement.

It questioned how the United States could give itself the best ranking -- "Tier 1" -- "when it is well-known that the U.S. has been unable to stem a flood of illegal workers, many of whom are trafficked by organized criminal gangs."

Singapore was downgraded a notch in the U.S. ranking list, placed on the so-called "Tier 2 watch list," down from the higher "Tier 2" last year.

"It is rather puzzling because the U.S. has not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions," the Foreign Ministry said, adding that it will respond in detail soon.

The U.S. report has four **tiers** for ranking countries: **Tier 1** for countries that fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; a **Tier 2** for those that do not fully comply but are making significant efforts to improve the situation, a **Tier 2 watch list** for countries which are trying to improve and yet failed to provide evidence of raising their efforts to combat **human trafficking** and where the number of victims is continuing to rise, and a **Tier 3** for countries that have not been making any efforts to comply with the minimum standards.

The report says "Singapore is a destination country for women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution, and for some migrant workers in conditions that may be indicative of forced labor."

"Some women from Thailand, the Philippines, and China are recruited in their home countries with offers of legitimate employment but upon arrival in Singapore, are deceived or coerced into forced prostitution," it says.

The report says there has been no indication of "increasing efforts to prosecute and punish forced labor offenses or to identify both victims of sex trafficking and victims of forced labor. Therefore, Singapore is placed on Tier 2 Watch List."

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

192 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

NK one of 13 worst human trafficking countries

LENGTH: 334 words

North Korea remains one of the worst countries in human trafficking, along with 12 other nations, Yonhap News reported Monday.

The 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report of the State Department categorized North Korea with other **Tier 3** countries that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so" under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The congressionally mandated report cited North Koreans subjected to human trafficking in neighboring China while seeking food, work and freedom.

"North Korea continues to be a **Tier 3** country in this year's report," Luis Cdebaca, director of the office to monitor and combat **trafficking in persons**, told reporters.

"We have not seen any indication that the North Korean government is actually addressing the human-trafficking problem."

North Korea has been on the list since 2003.

The other countries with the worst records are Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Iran, Kuwait, Mauritania, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

The U.S. government imposes financial sanctions and a ban on humanitarian aid on Tier 3 countries for two straight years.

South Korea was listed among **Tier 1** countries, which fully comply with the minimum standards on **human trafficking**.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) is a source country for men, women, and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor and forced prostitution," the report said.

"The most common form of trafficking involves North Korean women and girls forced into marriage or prostitution in China. Women and girls from North Korea migrate to China, often with the help of a facilitator, seeking food, work, freedom, and better life prospects."

China has been under criticism for repatriating North Korean refugees under a secret agreement with North Korea, categorizing defectors as economic immigrants rather than refugees, despite the danger of them being persecuted back home.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

193 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday**MORE OPERATIONS TO RESCUE HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS****LENGTH:** 202 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 15

In continuous efforts to rescue victims and rout human trafficking syndicates, the police would conduct more operations, Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Seri Mohd Bakri Zinin said today.

He said policemen would be assigned to 'hot spots' such as the Melaka Straits and South China Sea as they were identified as main entry points for syndicates to traffick victims abroad.

He was commenting on a report yesterday, which quoted Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein as saying that Malaysia had risen to **Tier 2** of **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the US Department of State.

Mohd Bakri said the force would strengthen and expand its Anti-Human Trafficking Unit by cooperating with other countries, such as Australia, Canada and the US.

In addition, he said, policemen would undergo courses related to anti-human trafficking to enable them to be more equipped when carrying out investigations into the syndicates.

"We will also tighten existing laws affecting human trafficking, which involves enforcement agencies, such as the immigration, customs and the like," he said.

According to the TIP 2009 published on June 16, last year, Malaysia had fallen from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

194 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Malaysia goes up to Tier 2

BYLINE: Eileen Ng

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 208 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's efforts in fighting human trafficking has been recognised by the United States.

The country has been elevated from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2** in this year's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report, which was released by the US State Department yesterday.

The news was conveyed to Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein by the US embassy.

"I have received a letter from the embassy today informing me that Malaysia's ranking for 2010 has been upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

"This is a recognition of our efforts in combating human trafficking. I congratulate the ministry's officials and other relevant agencies," he said at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Lack of progress in combating the scourge in 2008 led Malaysia to be downgraded from the Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3 (blacklisted countries) in the 2009 TIP report.

The 2009 report listed Malaysia as one of 17 countries not doing enough to curb human trafficking. It said Malaysia was a destination, source and transit country for women and children trafficked for commercial and sexual purposes and forced labour.

Countries listed under Tier 2 are those that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

195 of 404 DOCUMENTS

RTT News (United States)

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

Singapore Dismisses US Report On Human Trafficking As Subjective

LENGTH: 279 words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For comments and feedback: contact editorial@rttnews.com

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

196 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Singapore Government News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST

Singapore Reacts Over US Trafficking Report

LENGTH: 102 words

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

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

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

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

197 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Singapore Government News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST**Singapore put on Human Trafficking Watch List****LENGTH:** 119 words

Singapore, June 15 -- With the charge of not succeeding from saving women from being forced into prostitution, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have been put on **human trafficking watch list** by the US. Pointing out Singapore, the report mentioned that some women from China, the Philippines and Thailand were tricked into coming here with promises of employment and were forced into the sex business.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, called human trafficking a 'terrible crime' as she presented the State Department's annual report and said, 'All of us have a responsibility to bring this practice to an end.' It was evident from the report that 12.3 million people were the victims of trafficking merely in 2009-2010.

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

198 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

RP STILL ON US TRAFFICKING WATCH LIST

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 812 words

DATELINE: MANILA

The following information was released by the government of the Philippines:

The United States is waiting to see labor traffickers sent to jail before it removes the Philippines from its **Tier 2 watch list** of countries that failed to curb **human trafficking** last year.

This is the second year in a row that the Philippines is on the Tier 2 watch list, making the country vulnerable to sanctions by next year if the situation does not improve.

Despite legal provisions designed to ensure a timely judicial process, trafficking cases in the Philippines take an average of three to four years to conclude, the US State Department said in its 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report released yesterday in Washington, DC.

It noted that despite rampant labor trafficking in the country, no conviction has yet been made since an anti-trafficking law was passed in 2003.

It added that the first ever conviction of a public official for sex trafficking only happened last year, referring to a September 2009 court ruling that sentenced a police officer caught four years earlier to have trafficked children at a nightclub he owned.

Greater progress in prosecution and conviction of both labor and sex trafficking offenders is essential for the Government of the Philippines to demonstrate significant and increasing progress toward compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the State Department said in the report.

While it acknowledged the Department of Justice's June 2009 order to have prosecutors prioritize trafficking cases, the US report noted there is no corresponding mechanism to do so in the Philippine court system where over 380 such cases are pending.

US State Secretary Hillary Clinton described the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report as very thorough, which also outlines how countries could be removed from **Tier 3** or the **Tier 2 watch list**.

Tier 3 is a list of countries not making significant efforts to combat **human trafficking**.

Tier 2 countries are those making significant efforts, but others on the watch list are countries that failed to achieve much during the year in review.

Tier 1 countries are those deemed fully responsive to anti-**human trafficking** benchmarks. Overall, 177 countries are monitored in the report.

Countries come to us and ask very forcefully not to be dropped in their category and we hear them out and we tell them. And we increasingly tried last year to do that earlier in the process were going to do it even earlier this year to tell them the kinds of things that we would look to that would demonstrate the commitment that we think would make a difference, to talk about best practices, to share stories. And some countries have listened and the results speak for themselves. Others have not, she said during a press briefing.

The State Department's recommendations to the Philippines are:

Demonstrate greater progress on efficiently investigating, prosecuting, and convicting both labor and sex trafficking offenders involved in the trafficking of Filipinos in the country and abroad;

Increase efforts to vigorously investigate and prosecute government officials complicit in trafficking;

Dedicate more resources and personnel to prosecuting trafficking cases;

Devote increased resources to victim and witness protection, including for shelters;

Increase efforts to engage governments of destination countries through law enforcement and diplomatic channels in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenders;

Ensure the terms of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with foreign countries hiring Filipino workers are met such that workers are adequately protected while abroad;

Assess methods to measure and address domestic labor trafficking; and continue to disseminate information on the 2003 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act throughout the country and train law enforcement and social service officials, prosecutors, and judges on the use of the law.

In East Asia and the Pacific, also on the Tier 2 watch list are China, Macau, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Micronesia and Fiji.

On Tier 2 are Mongolia, Japan, Indonesia, Palau and Timor Leste. Among Tier 1 countries in the region are Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea.

In contrast, on the negative list (Tier 3 countries) are North Korea, Burma and Papua New Guinea.

Trafficking law enforcement slackened in East Asia and the Pacific last year despite a 55-percent increase in the number of victims identified.

According to the report, the number of prosecutions slid from 1,083 in 2008 to a dismal 357 last year and in terms of convictions, from 643 to 256.

On a global scale, there was an eight-percent increase in trafficking prosecutions and a 40-percent increase in convictions last year compared to 2008.

There were 49,105 trafficking victims identified in 2009, which is almost 60 percent more than the previous years number.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

199 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 15, 2010

Ambassador CdeBaca on 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report; CdeBaca answers questions on modern slavery, sex and labor trafficking

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 5305 words

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesman, June 14, 2010

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, On the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, June 14, 2010

Washington, D.C.

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail. And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes that's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10:00 a.m. And then at 1:00 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery. This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency: prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple weeks ago, they recently completed a self assessment similar to the United States of their trafficking in persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-

trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look toward promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking in women -- are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice, and as still holds true today, these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude. And I'd point out that in recent months, I think in the UAE, there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on those human rights issues. I'll run through a few quick successes and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to Tier 1 on the report. Bosnia was on Tier 3 for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people -- for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian Government: clear progress, especially over the last year; significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences; imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers; partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection; and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year we also saw noteworthy success by the Government of Egypt. The Egyptian Government's progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children. Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the Secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key of one of which was -- we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the Government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States Government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered, a situation last fall -- August and September -- in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sind Province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards. The Secretary raised this and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people. And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani Government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle

their serious **human trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the Government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the Government of Syria, which was, this year, upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years. In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of an anti-trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political role on that government as well as many others. And again, we are encouraged.

We look at -- as the Secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather, diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership. I appreciate your attention and we'll take a few questions.

I know you had one to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. Government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the Secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. Government, trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it or were they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 -- not the watchlist, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries, often in Europe, have put into the -- in place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an -- kind of like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as -- to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama Administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we looked at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework. And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self assessment, but to perform their own as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. They're -- in our review this year and working with the Swiss Government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We've -- we're talking to the Swiss as to how we can -- as -- in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

QUESTION: And it would require legislation (inaudible)? And could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it --

QUESTION: Locally?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- state by state, locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at as --

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think --

QUESTION: I mean, I just don't understand how the -- I mean, was -- did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it --

QUESTION: Ah, okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- as we --

QUESTION: So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or -- and the year before?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I certainly would let -- this year's ranking speaks for itself.

QUESTION: And then how about Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: And then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia --

QUESTION: And then who else was trying to -- who was trying to get themselves out of the --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower tier ranking. So I think that as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is: What are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait, or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law. In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is -- continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we are certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out how do we get them onto a different tier; it's how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning, and it's also in the report which I haven't, of course, read all of, that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas, or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it -- because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The -- what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals. Some of the for-

eign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually -- and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Slavery Museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks -- it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African American men from Florida who spoke English who don't have those same issues of being a foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain special cases -- what that is, Haiti and -- what was the other country?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. Back on the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what actually is the justification for the -- I mean, I read a little bit, but it sounds -- it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together perhaps in order to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done. I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children are -- can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation. So in a country where not only do you have a -- such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba, have large child sex tourism problems, and are working to address those, we don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

QUESTION: Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking is actually happening?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean Government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the Government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, of enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese Government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean Government exports labor to

other countries, are those people in the places that they're going -- do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it was the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean Labor Export Company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the situation in Taiwan. It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 year. And is there any special reason for such a movement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that, hopefully, jumps out at you as you read the report this year - - and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost -- is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the UN protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3-P approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Taiwan -- and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law, which is very well-conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things that it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world when you go to a shelter -- first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused -- these are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation. Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh -- which usually come to Europe and Africa and then they are brought to U.S. through -- by land or sea, from Mexico. And this is -- it's very much related to the -- the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network which is called hawala, which is word-of-mouth, have you addressed that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese -- often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in southern Africa being forced in prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention -- because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies -- we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria - - and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial network with is called hawala, which works just word of mouth? You know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money moves across the continents. It is paid by this network.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

QUESTION: Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement? Is the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the UN reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have -- 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased -- 40 percent, actually -- since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335. But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work.

I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection, and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental -- like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group -- once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them; it's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place and so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there was no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the structures that had been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot -- it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive; you'd like to see it go down, but I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Take one more question and then -- yeah.

MR. TONER: Yeah, one more question.

QUESTION: Yeah, wait -- yeah. Do you get the sense from the report, from the overview, that -- you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about? One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to -- I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some, in more cases, worse problems. I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms collapsed and there is no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states. So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit as far as the demand for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon. Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of a slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So it's not simply -- we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned -- it's not simply a social program; it's actually a law enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf. And frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there -- if Moldova can come up

with \$50-or-\$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you so much.

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200 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 15, 2010

Strong Political Will Fuels Nigeria's Fight Against Trafficking; Activist Reed Slack reflects on how Nigeria battles modern-day slavery

BYLINE: Jane Morse, Staff Writer, ,

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1175 words

Washington -- Nigeria, like many countries in Africa, must cope with issues such as corruption, mismanagement and poverty. Nonetheless, the country has become a success to be emulated with its drive to end human trafficking, according to Reed Slack, who spent three years helping Nigeria implement programs to combat modern-day slavery.

"There was tremendous political will from the highest levels of government to tackle the issue of trafficking," Slack told America.gov in a recent interview. The effort of the Nigerian government, he said, "is most commendable and is -- and ought to be -- a model for other countries, not only in Africa but in Europe and in North and South America and Asia."

Slack is now the executive director of the Utah Health and Human Rights Project, but from 2006 to 2009 he served as chief of party in Nigeria for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). In that capacity, he worked to help implement a program underwritten by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to fight human trafficking by building capacity in Nigeria's law enforcement agencies and the judiciary and to provide support for victim rehabilitation services. The ABA-USAID program provided training for hundreds of Nigerian prosecutors, police, immigration enforcement officers and government officials in various agencies.

According to Slack, public awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria began to increase in the mid- to late 1990s, with a series of widely publicized stories about the repatriation of a number of Nigerian women who had been trafficked to Italy for prostitution. Photos showing the women being dropped off on the tarmac at the Lagos airport and abandoned to make their own way engendered a feeling of public insult in Nigeria's citizens, he said.

Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, the wife of the vice president under the former Obasanjo administration, became alarmed about the issue of trafficking and saw it as "a national affront to the dignity of all Nigeria," Slack said. She established the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), which was able to further raise public awareness and lobby for the passage of an anti-trafficking statute. The statute was adopted in late 2003 with the strong support of then-President Olusegun Obasanjo, Slack said.

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was established as a stand-alone agency within the executive branch. Responsible for preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers, NAPTIP engaged all of the law enforcement agencies -- local police as well as immigration officers -- in the fight against trafficking, Slack said.

The greatest strength of Nigeria's anti-trafficking effort, Slack said, was its ability to marshal and coordinate considerable law enforcement resources with the backing of a legislative mandate and political support. "Perhaps the next greatest thing," Slack said, "was the personnel that were chosen to head up these agencies and offices."

"They were all dedicated to the fight; they were passionate about it; they understood the issues very well and were committed to doing all that they had power to do to combat trafficking in Nigeria," Slack said.

Slack attributed the ability of Nigeria's anti-trafficking efforts to evade the corruption that sometimes hobbles other government programs to the fact that human trafficking "affects the dignity and pride of all Nigeria" and the public's "genuine concern for the citizens who are affected by it."

Nigeria's success has been reflected in the United States' annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which tracks to what extent governments worldwide comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), a U.S. law (PDF, 39KB) adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent human trafficking overseas. Since the report's first publication in 2001, Nigeria consistently ranked as a Tier 2 country -- meaning its government did not comply with TVPA's minimum standards, although it was making efforts to do so. In the 2009 TIP Report, which evaluated governments for the year 2008, Nigeria climbed to Tier 1 status, meaning it fully complied with TVPA minimum standards.

Slack said he believes Nigeria will be able to sustain effective anti-trafficking measures. Ongoing training courses remain, even with the conclusion of the ABA-USAID program. "That is a sustainable long-term impact of the program," he said. "I think it will continue to yield good results in building the capacities of the law enforcement agencies to detect and prosecute trafficking."

The real benefit of training, Slack said, is "helping an officer to see something differently. And in my experience, both in the United States and in Nigeria, we become accustomed to seeing things around us in a way that it becomes, I don't want to say invisible, but it just kind of blends into the background. But once you understand what it is you're seeing, you understand that it's not just normal. There is something abnormal about what's happening. It's not just prostitution; it is slavery. It's not just farm labor; there is someone who is being forced to do that. People see things differently, and that changes the dynamics within law enforcement as to the attention and efforts that they are able to bring to bear on tackling trafficking."

Perceptions within the general public in Nigeria are changing as well, Slack said. Ten or 15 years ago, Nigerians were proud to have a daughter working overseas and sending money back to her family. "There was not an awareness of what actually was involved or what their daughter was doing, or being forced to do," he said. But as awareness grew about the realities of what was really happening to many Nigerian women in Italy and elsewhere, it no longer was socially acceptable to boast of having a daughter working overseas.

The enticement of good pay and a better life somewhere else remain the traffickers' biggest lure, Slack said. "Desperation makes people vulnerable to those enticements," he said. "How do you then address the underlying socio-economic issues that might reduce the vulnerability to those enticements? But it is not a helpless situation, and I don't know of anybody who is actually working in trafficking that feels that it's helpless. Daunting, yes. But there is progress to be made, and is being made."

Editor's note: Nigeria ranked in **Tier 1** again for the **Trafficking in Persons** report for 2010, which reports on 2009 activity. According to the report, Nigeria demonstrated sustained progress to combat human trafficking, convicted 25 trafficking offenders and provided care for 1,109 victims -- an increase over 2008. Nigeria continued to undertake strong efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking, according to the report. The full narrative on Nigeria (scroll down) is available on the State Department website.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)

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201 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 3:43 AM EST

Release of the 2010 **Trafficking in Persons** Report - Mauritius Remains in **Tier One**

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 358 words

DATELINE: PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

On Monday, June 14, 2010, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the tenth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report at the State Department.

The TIP report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern form of slavery. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The assessment includes reports and rankings on 177 countries, including the first-ever ranking of the United States.

In the 2010 TIP Report, Mauritius remains in Tier 1. The Government of Mauritius fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Mauritius sustained its strong efforts to identify, investigate, and prosecute incidences of trafficking during the reporting period. The Mauritius Police Force increased its offerings of anti-trafficking training programs for police officers and continued its awareness campaign in schools and villages. As part of the TIP action plan, the U.S. State Department has suggested possible additional actions by the Government of Mauritius to accomplish even more against Trafficking in Persons. The State Department TIP report recommends that Mauritius utilize anti-trafficking legislation to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses and convict and punish trafficking offenders, including those involving adult women exploited in forced prostitution. Another recommendation is to designate an official coordinating body or mechanism to facilitate improved anti-trafficking communication and coordination among the relevant ministries, law enforcement entities, working groups, and non-governmental organizations.

The full text of the TIP Report, including all recommendations, is available on the State Department's website, www.state.gov/g/tip. The Mauritius country report is also available from the "Country reports" feature box on the homepage of the Embassy website: <http://mauritius.usembassy.gov>.

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202 of 404 DOCUMENTS

UAE Government News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST

UAE makes 'Significant' on Human Trafficking

LENGTH: 127 words

Dubai, June15: UAE's significance efforts to solve the problem of sex trade leads to remove its name from the United States "**watch list**" on **human trafficking** However, it has to do more to combat forced labour. The 2010 Trafficking in Persons report suggests that the Emirates is making "significant efforts" against human trafficking. Now UAE moved to Tier 2 List from its Tier 2 Watch List.

Luis CdeBaca, the head of the State Department's office to monitor and combat human trafficking informed that "We are starting to see cases going through the court, victims heard and liberated, and see commitment on part of the Government". He also said that both Dubai and Abu Dhabi's police raised their efforts to tackle the issues efficiently.

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203 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 15, 2010 Tuesday 10:54 PM EST

2010 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

LENGTH: 5283 words

WASHINGTON, June 14 -- The U.S. Department of State's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs issued the following press release:

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail. And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes that's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10:00 a.m. And then at 1:00 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery. This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency: prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple weeks ago, they recently completed a self assessment similar to the United States of their trafficking in persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look toward promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking in women -- are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice, and as still holds true today, these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude. And I'd point out that in recent months, I think in the UAE, there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on those human rights issues. I'll run through a few quick successes and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to Tier 1 on the report. Bosnia was on Tier 3 for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people - for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian Government: clear progress, especially over the last year; significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences; imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers; partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection; and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year we also saw noteworthy success by the Government of Egypt. The Egyptian Government's progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children. Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the Secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key of one of which was - we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the Government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States Government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered, a situation last fall - August and September - in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sind Province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards. The Secretary raised this and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people. And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani Government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious **human trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the Government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the Government of Syria, which was, this year, upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years. In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of an anti-trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political role on that government as well as many others. And again, we are encouraged.

We look at - as the Secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather, diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership. I appreciate your attention and we'll take a few questions.

I know you had one to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. Government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the Secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. Government, trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it or were they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 - not the watchlist, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries, often in Europe, have put into the - in place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an - kind of like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as - to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama Administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we looked at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework. And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self assessment, but to perform their own as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. They're - in our review this year and working with the Swiss Government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We've - we're talking to the Swiss as to how we can - as - in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

QUESTION: And it would require legislation (inaudible)? And could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it --

QUESTION: Locally?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- state by state, locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at as --

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think --

QUESTION: I mean, I just don't understand how the - I mean, was - did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it --

QUESTION: Ah, okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- as we --

QUESTION: So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or - and the year before?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I certainly would let - this year's ranking speaks for itself.

QUESTION: And then how about Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: And then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia --

QUESTION: And then who else was trying to - who was trying to get themselves out of the --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower tier ranking. So I think that as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is: What are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait, or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law. In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is - continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we are certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out how do we get them onto a different tier; it's how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning, and it's also in the report which I haven't, of course, read all of, that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas, or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it - because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The - what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals. Some of the foreign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually - and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Slavery Museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks - it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African American men from Florida who spoke English who don't have those same issues of being a

foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain special cases - what that is, Haiti and - what was the other country?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. Back on the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what actually is the justification for the - I mean, I read a little bit, but it sounds - it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together perhaps in order to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done. I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children are - can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation. So in a country where not only do you have a - such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba, have large child sex tourism problems, and are working to address those, we don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

QUESTION: Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking is actually happening?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean Government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the Government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, of enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese Government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean Government exports labor to other countries, are those people in the places that they're going - do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it was the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean Labor Export Company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the situation in Taiwan. It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 year. And is there any special reason for such a movement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that, hopefully, jumps out at you as you read the report this year - and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost - is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the UN protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3-P approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Taiwan - and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law, which is very well-conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things that it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world when you go to a shelter - first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused - these are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation. Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh - which usually come to Europe and Africa and then they are brought to U.S. through - by land or sea, from Mexico. And this is - it's very much related to the - the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network which is called hawala, which is word-of-mouth, have you addressed that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese - often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in southern Africa being forced in prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention - because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies - we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria - and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial network with is called hawala, which works just word of mouth? You know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money moves across the continents. It is paid by this network.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

QUESTION: Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement? Is the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the UN reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have - 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased - 40 percent, actually - since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335. But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work.

I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection, and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental - like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group - once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them; it's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place and so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there was no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the structures that had been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot - it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive; you'd like to see it go down, but I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Take one more question and then - yeah.

MR. TONER: Yeah, one more question.

QUESTION: Yeah, wait - yeah. Do you get the sense from the report, from the overview, that - you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about? One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to - I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some, in more cases, worse problems. I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms collapsed and there is no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states. So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit as far as the demand for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon. Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of a slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So it's not simply - we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned - it's not simply a social program; it's actually a law enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf. And frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there - if Moldova can come up with \$50-or-\$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you so much. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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204 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

LENGTH: 5272 words

WASHINGTON, June 14 -- The U.S. Department of State issued the following press release:

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail. And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes that's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10:00 a.m. And then at 1:00 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery. This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency: prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple weeks ago, they recently completed a self assessment similar to the United States of their trafficking in persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look toward promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking in women - are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice, and as still holds true today, these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude. And I'd point out that in recent months, I think in the UAE, there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on those human rights issues. I'll run through a few quick successes and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to Tier 1 on the report. Bosnia was on Tier 3 for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people - for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian Government: clear progress, especially over the last year; significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences; imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers; partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection; and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year we also saw noteworthy success by the Government of Egypt. The Egyptian Government's progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children. Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the Secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key of one of which was - we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the Government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States Government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered, a situation last fall - August and September - in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sind Province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards. The Secretary raised this and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people. And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani Government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious **human trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the Government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the Government of Syria, which was, this year, upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years. In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of an anti-trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political role on that government as well as many others. And again, we are encouraged.

We look at - as the Secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather, diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership. I appreciate your attention and we'll take a few questions.

I know you had one to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. Government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the Secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. Government, trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it or were they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 - not the watchlist, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries, often in Europe, have put into the - in place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an - kind of like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as - to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama Administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we looked at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework. And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self assessment, but to perform their own as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. They're - in our review this year and working with the Swiss Government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We've - we're talking to the Swiss as to how we can - as - in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

QUESTION: And it would require legislation (inaudible)? And could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it -

QUESTION: Locally?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: - state by state, locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at as -

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think -

QUESTION: I mean, I just don't understand how the - I mean, was - did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it -

QUESTION: Ah, okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: - as we -

QUESTION: So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or - and the year before?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I certainly would let - this year's ranking speaks for itself.

QUESTION: And then how about Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: And then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia -

QUESTION: And then who else was trying to - who was trying to get themselves out of the -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower tier ranking. So I think that as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is: What are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait, or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law. In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is - continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we are certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out how do we get them onto a different tier; it's how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning, and it's also in the report which I haven't, of course, read all of, that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas, or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it - because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The - what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals. Some of the foreign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually - and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Slavery Museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks - it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African American men from Florida who spoke English who don't have those same issues of being a

foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by -

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain special cases - what that is, Haiti and - what was the other country?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. Back on the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what actually is the justification for the - I mean, I read a little bit, but it sounds - it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together perhaps in order to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done. I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children are - can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation. So in a country where not only do you have a - such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba, have large child sex tourism problems, and are working to address those, we don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

QUESTION: Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking is actually happening?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean Government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the Government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, of enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese Government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean Government exports labor to other countries, are those people in the places that they're going - do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it was the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean Labor Export Company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the situation in Taiwan. It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 year. And is there any special reason for such a movement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that, hopefully, jumps out at you as you read the report this year - and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost - is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the UN protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3-P approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Taiwan - and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law, which is very well-conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things that it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world when you go to a shelter - first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused - these are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation. Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh - which usually come to Europe and Africa and then they are brought to U.S. through - by land or sea, from Mexico. And this is - it's very much related to the - the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network which is called hawala, which is word-of-mouth, have you addressed that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese - often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in southern Africa being forced in prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention - because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies - we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria - and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial network with is called hawala, which works just word of mouth? You know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money moves across the continents. It is paid by this network.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

QUESTION: Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement? Is the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the UN reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have - 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased - 40 percent, actually - since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335. But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work.

I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection, and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental - like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group - once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them; it's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place and so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there was no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the structures that had been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot - it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive; you'd like to see it go down, but I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Take one more question and then - yeah.

MR. TONER: Yeah, one more question.

QUESTION: Yeah, wait - yeah. Do you get the sense from the report, from the overview, that - you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about? One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to - I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some, in more cases, worse problems. I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms collapsed and there is no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states. So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit as far as the demand for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon. Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of a slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So it's not simply - we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned - it's not simply a social program; it's actually a law enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf. And frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there - if Moldova can come up with \$50-or-\$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you so much. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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205 of 404 DOCUMENTS



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-- TOP STORIES --

+ Mounting concern over Kyrgyzstan unrest

+ Obama labels oil spill environmental 9/11

+ Israel under fire over flotilla probe

+ World Cup security guards quit Italy match

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-unrest-politics,4thlead-WRAP

OSH, Kyrgyzstan

Pressure grows for international intervention in deadly violence in Kyrgyzstan, as accusations mount that government forces helped slaughter ethnic Uzbeks and Uzbekistan closes its border to an exodus of refugees.

750 words 2030 GMT by Matt Siegel. Graphic. Picture. Video

US-oil-pollution-environment,lead

THEODORE, Alamaba

The White House says it is confident it can force BP to set up a multi-billion fund for Gulf oil disaster victims, as President Barack Obama labels the spill an environmental 9/11.

700 words 2130 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Picture. Graphic

Israel-conflict-Gaza,6thlead-WRAP

JERUSALEM

Israel's cabinet backs the creation of an internal committee to probe its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in a move swiftly dismissed by both Turkey and the Palestinians.

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SAfrica-fbl-WC2010,lead-WRAP

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South African police takes control of security at reigning champions Italy's opening World Cup match, after stewards walk out in a spiralling dispute over pay.

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-- EUROPE --

Germany-France-EU-finance-economy-diplomacy,2ndlead

BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel looks to have brought French President Nicolas Sarkozy around to her vision for post-crisis Europe ahead of this week's EU summit, after talks in Berlin.

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Belgium-vote,4thlead

BRUSSELS

Right-wing Flemish separatists and left-wing francophone unionists begin tortuous negotiations to resolve federal Belgium's future and its finances.

650 words 2100 GMT. Picture. Video

Greece-finance-economy-ratings-Moodys,4thlead

PARIS

Moody's rating agency slashes its sovereign rating for Greece to 'junk' status on concerns about Athens can pay its debts, as EU and IMF auditors began taking a hard look at the country's budget.

600 words 1930 GMT

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iraq-politics,4thlead-WRAP

BAGHDAD

Iraq moves to bolster its shaky democracy with the opening of its second parliament since the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003, more than three months after an election stalemate.

650 words moved by Salam Faraj. Graphic. Picture. Video

-- AMERICAS --

US-trafficking-Asia-women,lead

WASHINGTON

The United States puts allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

600 words 2000 GMT by Shaun Tandon

-- ASIA --

US-Afghanistan-economy-minerals,3rdlead

KABUL

A US survey uncovers at least one trillion dollars in mineral deposits in Afghanistan, officials say, but there are doubts as to how the war-torn and graft-prone country will manage the windfall.

700 words 2030 GMT by Waheedullah Massoud

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SYDNEY

Scientists in Australia's vast Outback recover a capsule that they hope contains the first piece of asteroid ever brought to Earth -- perhaps offering a glimpse into ancient space history.

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UN-SKorea-NKorea-military,lead

UNITED NATIONS

South Korea and North Korea gear for a UN clash outlining separate versions of the murky circumstances surrounding the sinking of a South Korean warship which Seoul blames on its Stalinist neighbor.

600 words 2100 GMT

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June 14, 2010 Monday

US urges GCC states to scrap sponsorship system

BYLINE: Joanne Bladd**LENGTH:** 427 words

Gulf countries must scrap their sponsorship system for migrant workers that leaves labourers and domestic workers exposed to human trafficking and forced labour, the US State Department reported on Monday.

In a 373-page report, the department said that employers in the Gulf states exploit the widely used 'kafala' system to abuse workers and named Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the region's worst offenders.

Both were described by the department as a "destination country for men and women subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour."

The two countries were ranked in Tier 3, the lowest possible category; potentially leaving the pair open to US sanctions of non-humanitarian aid.

"These countries consistently fall at the bottom of the list when compared to others around the world," said Nisha Varia of Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"It is disappointing that governments across the Middle East have been slow to change the kafala system when it is so easily abused."

Qatar and Lebanon were both placed on the Tier 2 watchlist, the report's second lowest ranking. The UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Egypt were each assigned a **Tier 2** rating, indicating they have made significant efforts to tackle **human trafficking**.

Millions of migrants, primarily from Asia and Africa, have short-term employment contracts for blue-collar jobs in the construction, domestic work, and service industries across the Middle East.

Under the 'kafala' system, nationals and companies can hire migrant workers who are dependent on their employers for food and shelter.

Many workers complain that agencies or employers confiscate their passports, do not pay them regularly or deduct housing or health costs from their pay.

A number of Arab states, including the UAE and Jordan, have signed up to anti-trafficking legislation. Saudi Arabia has operated a shelter for female domestic workers since 1997, while Kuwait has maintained a shelter facility since 2007.

However, other countries, including Lebanon and Kuwait, have yet to adopt anti-trafficking legislation, Many Arab countries retain immigration laws that critics claim penalise rather than protect migrant workers.

"For efforts to end forced labour and human trafficking to be successful, governments in the Middle East should reform the current visa sponsorship system," said Varia.

"When employers have near-total control over migrants' ability to change jobs, and sometimes to leave the country, workers can get trapped in exploitative situations in which they are forced to work without wages, get beaten, or face other abuses."

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207 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
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June 14, 2010 Monday

Malaysia rises to "Tier 2" of US people trafficking report

LENGTH: 453 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian official news agency Bernama website

[Bernama report from the "General" page: "Malaysia Rises To **Tier 2** Of **Trafficking In Persons** Report"]

Kuala Lumpur, June 14 (Bernama) - Malaysia has risen to **Tier 2** of **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the United States Department of State.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein told Dewan Rakyat on Monday he was informed of this via a letter from the United States embassy this morning.

"This is in recognition of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2007, creation of Anti-Human Trafficking Council and government action to address the issue," he told reporters at parliament lobby.

Malaysia dropped from Tier 2 to Tier 3 according to TIP Report 2009 issued on June 16 last year.

The TIP Report ranks countries based on their level of compliance on established minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

Tier 1 countries are for governments that fully comply with minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA).

Tier 2 countries for governments that not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply.

Tier 3 countries are for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Earlier, replying to a question by Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong), Hishammuddin said 1,447 people were given interim protection order (IPO) under Section 44 (2) of Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2007 from Feb 28-May 30.

"Of the number, 338 were identified as victims of human trafficking and given protection order (PO) under Section 51(3) of the same act," he said.

Tan wanted to know problems faced by the government in tackling the issue and the number of human trafficking victims traced.

The government faced many challenges in efforts to check human trafficking as it involved transborder crimes with links to prostitution, drug trafficking and money laundering.

"Most victims entered this country as tourists but later got involved with human trafficking syndicates. Lack of public cooperation to provide information and threats by syndicates made victims scared to make reports."

Hishammuddin said internal and external factors also led to the prolonged situation.

"Transnational crimes occur in most countries including developed ones as it give a high return of US\$38 billion annually.

"Malaysia's rapidly growing economy attract foreigners to come here in search of jobs."

He said the government had implemented a mechanism to check crimes but lack of will on the part of source countries caused many people to fall prey to syndicate members.

Source: Bernama website, Kuala Lumpur, in English 0803 gmt 14 Jun 10

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208 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Christian Science Monitor

June 14, 2010 Monday

**World makes progress against slavery, but 13 nations lag;
The US State Department's annual report on modern-day slavery cites greater
determination worldwide to stamp it out. But 13 nations are on the list of slug-
gards neglecting the issue.**

BYLINE: Howard LaFranchi Staff writer

LENGTH: 636 words

The United States is hailing growing determination in most corners of the globe to combat modern-day slavery through stepped-up law enforcement and legislative action. That's the good news.

But the State Department's annual report on human trafficking nevertheless brands 13 countries as standouts for failure to address rampant cases of sex trading, indentured domestic work, forced field labor, and other varieties of slavery within their borders.

The global scofflaws range from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to North Korea and Cuba. The bright spots include Pakistan, Malaysia, Syria, Egypt, and Bosnia-Herzegovina - countries that don't always shine in annual human-rights ratings but that the State Department found have acted to address human-trafficking issues over the past year.

"We saw overall improvement," with 116 countries enacting legislation of some form in 2009 to combat human trafficking, says Luis CdeBaca, senior adviser on modern slavery issues to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The report estimates that more than 12 million people are trafficked globally every year.

For the first time, the US rated itself in the report, giving itself a "tier one," or top-tier, rating (along with most Western countries and Nigeria, which stands out in Africa as a tier one country) but recommending more training for federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to better detect and prosecute cases ranging from debt bondage to child prostitution.

In reviewing the 10th annual human-trafficking report, Ambassador CdeBaca said the State Department tallied more than 4,000 convictions worldwide in trafficking and slavery cases in 2009 - a 40 percent increase over the previous year. On the other hand, the global economic downturn means that more people facing deteriorating living conditions are finding fewer alternatives to forced labor - either in their own countries or in foreign locations to which they are trafficked.

"People are more desperate, and are therefore willing to take more risks," he says.

A not-so-positive trend in this year's report is a "feminization of trafficking," with more women being involuntarily placed in domestic or "maid" work, either in their home countries or abroad. In other cases - as in a documented case in the United Arab Emirates - women are hoodwinked into accepting what they are told will be maid jobs in a foreign country, only to find themselves "prostituted out," as CdeBaca says.

Cases of large-scale trafficking of men have fallen off, not so much as a result of better enforcement against the practice but because the global recession has curtailed the building boom in the Middle East and other regions, CdeBaca says. Fewer large development and infrastructure projects mean less need for armies of manual laborers.

The US report has high praise for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which it lauds for imposing stronger penalties for trafficking and for improving services for trafficking victims. On the other hand, the report slaps Switzerland with a "tier two," or

less-than-exemplary, rating, largely over Swiss law that in some cases allows 16- and 17-year-olds to legally engage in prostitution.

The report also honors nine antitrafficking heroes - individuals from countries as different as Mauritania and the United States who dedicate their lives to denting the practice of human trafficking in one of its forms.

The Mauritanian woman, Aminetou Mint Moctar, has worked to denounce the trafficking of Mauritanian girls to Persian Gulf nations. In Florida, Laura Germino coordinates the antislavery campaign of the coalition of Immokalee Workers, which for years has uncovered slavery operations in the agriculture sector in the southeastern US.

Related:

Colombia becomes new hub for human smuggling into US

Global slavery at a high, but reasons for hope

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209 of 404 DOCUMENTS

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AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, HOLDS A STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING ON THE 2010 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

June 14, 2010 Monday

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LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,

WITNESSES:

MARK TONER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PRESS RELATIONS, STATE DEPARTMENT
LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

TEXT:

TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department.

As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail.

And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Person Heroes. That's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10 a.m. And then at 1 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca. Thank you.

CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global efforts to combat modern slavery.

This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year -- in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency, prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple of weeks ago, they recently completed a self-assessment similar to the United States of their Trafficking in Persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self-diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims' services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look towards promising practices, such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking.

Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking women are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors and in some ways are the most vulnerable, because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice and as still holds true today, these women -- and in some cases, men and boys -- are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude.

And I'd point out that, in recent months, I think in the UAE there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers.

So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on this human rights issue. I'll run through a few quick successes, and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia- Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to tier one on the report. Bosnia was on **tier** three for many years at the beginning of this decade, and I think that a lot of people -- for a lot of people, the global fight against **human trafficking** first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the -- the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian government. Clear progress, especially over the last year, significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences, imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers, partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection, and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims.

It is a sea change, if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade, that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year, we also saw noteworthy success by the government of Egypt. The Egyptians' government's progress in combating human trafficking over the past year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for a prostitution of children.

Their activity against the summer marriages -- and as the secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key one of which was we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department, in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **tier two** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered a situation last fall -- August, September -- in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded labor, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sindh province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards.

The secretary raised this, and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people, and we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to tier two watch list. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to tier three. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious human trafficking problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments.

For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak.

Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening, as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the government of Syria, which was this year upgraded to the tier two watch list from tier three, where it had been for years.

In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of anti- trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a pre-existing government-supported shelter in Damascus.

Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much -- much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political (inaudible) government, as well as many others, and again, we are encouraged.

We look at -- as the secretary said today -- we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership.

I appreciate your attention, and we'll take a few questions. I know you have some to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple things. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. government trying not to be left in low categories or drop down to them. And give us some sense of who those are? Tier three, for example, this year, yet again, includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources, and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it? Or are they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on tier two, not the watch list, but tier two, again, a country with significant resources? Why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order.

As far as the self-assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries often in Europe have put into the -- in place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often like an -- kind of like an ombudsman are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as -- to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama administration's committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we look at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only do we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States' anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework.

And so as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self-assessment, but to perform their own, as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. In our review this year and working with the Swiss government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution.

And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards, as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise, make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We've -- we're talking to the Swiss as to how we can -- in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see a commitment from them to -- to address these issues.

QUESTION: That would require legislation on their part? Or could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

CDEBACA: I wouldn't -- you know, I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could -- could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is, when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can exchange their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it...

QUESTION: Locally?

CDEBACA: ... state by state, locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at as we speak.

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think...

QUESTION: I mean, I just don't understand how -- what -- did something change over the last year to get them dropped from tier one?

CDEBACA: The -- the law and the loophole was existent for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it...

QUESTION: Ah, OK.

CDEBACA: ... as we...

(CROSSTALK)

QUESTION: So, basically, they should have been on tier two last year and the year before?

CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I -- I certainly would let this year's ranking speak for itself.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) Kuwait and Saudi Arabia...

CDEBACA: The Kuwait and Saudi Arabia...

(CROSSTALK)

QUESTION: ... who else was trying to -- who was trying to get themselves out of the cellar?

CDEBACA: Well, I mean, you know, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower-tier ranking. So I think that, you know, as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to -- to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is, what are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action, and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of a -- of an anti-trafficking law.

In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is -- continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we're certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out, how do we get them under a different tier? It's, how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better? The tiers then follow.

Yes?

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning -- and it's also in the report, which I haven't, of course, read all of -- that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are, you know, trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas? Or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside that are operating these trafficking rings and those kind of things?

What is it? Because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The -- what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy. And some of those end up enslaving American citizens. Some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals.

Some of the -- the foreign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have emigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually -- and I know you have a very busy day -- but if people have a chance, the Coalition Immokalee Workers' slavery museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks -- it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with -- and men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida, picking crops, but African-American men from Florida who spoke English, who don't have those same issues of being a foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African-American men being enslaved in agricultural in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by...

CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways.

In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the -- the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain the special cases, what that is, Haiti? And what was the other country?

CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government in that country not only gets assessed, but actually ranked.

In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

CDEBACA: Yes?

QUESTION: In the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what -- what actually is the justification for the -- I read a little bit, but it sounds -- it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of, you know, political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on tier three.

CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no -- no law against this practice. There are some other laws that could be cobbled together, perhaps, in order to -- to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done.

I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections, and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation.

So in a -- in a country where not only do you have a -- such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba have large child sex tourism problems and are working to address those. We don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on tier three.

QUESTION: Can you comment on (OFF-MIKE) what do you say to China, where a lot of (OFF-MIKE)

CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a tier three country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there's the North Korean refugee community, that that population -- what we'd like to see from the government of -- of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims.

We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese government.

When it comes to -- to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean government exports labor to other countries, are those people -- in the places that they're going, do they have a modicum of freedom there? Or is the government sending -- whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line?

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe -- I think it was the Czech Republic, actually, terminated their contracts with the North Korean labor export company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes?

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) to tier one this year. And is there any special reasons for such movement?

CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that hopefully jumps out at you as you read the report this year -- and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost -- is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims.

If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the U.N. protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the three P approach of prevention, protection and prosecution.

Taiwan -- and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year -- is that the victims' services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law -- that is very well conceived -- has now come into force. And one of the things it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able to stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world, when you go to a shelter, first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused. These are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation.

Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, which usually come to Europe and Africa, and then they're brought to U.S. to -- by land or sea, Mexico, and this -- and this is -- it's -- it's very much related to the -- you know, the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network, which is called hawala, which is word of mouth, have you addressed that?

CDEBACA: I think that the -- the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese -- often Chinese women who are way-laid for a couple of years in southern Africa, being forced into prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention -- because it's such a large human smuggling route -- much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect.

And our colleagues over at Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies. We've got a good cadre of folks who are working out of Pretoria and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that -- that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm.

And so we're looking at that kind of across the board to try to make sure that -- that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial -- the financial network, which is called hawala, which works just word of mouth, you know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money -- moves across the continent. It is paid by this network.

CDEBACA: I would -- I would defer to our colleagues at -- at Treasury and others as far as the -- the mechanics.

QUESTION: But Europe is doing a lot to control this.

CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

CDEBACA: Yes, and -- and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement in the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the U.N. reported about 12 million people were victims. How -- how do you see it? Is it improvement?

CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we're seeing now 116 countries that have -- 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased, 40 percent, actually, since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335.

But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work?

I think that one of the things that we see is that, as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental -- like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group, once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims.

It's because they're finding them. It's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place. And so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there was no cases, no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the -- the structures that enable them to see it.

So I actually think that success in the -- the next few years is actually going to look a lot -- it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive. You'd like to see it go down. But I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then, as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

Take one more question and then...

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) from the -- from the report, from the overview that, you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about. One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to -- I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some -- more cases, worse problem. I wonder, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the -- the economy downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are, therefore, willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the gulf, those building booms collapsed, and there's no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe, for your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the gulf states.

So it seems to be canceling itself out a little bit, as far as the demand for the -- for the exploitable labor, going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that, even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon.

Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of the slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So it's not simply -- we would suggest to the countries that are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned, it's not simply a social program. It's actually a law enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf.

And, frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there, if Moldova can come up with \$50,000 or \$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to, as well.

QUESTION: Thank you very much.

CDEBACA: Thank you so much.

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LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2010

210 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

June 14, 2010 Monday

**STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL BRIEFING WITH LUIS CDEBACA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS;
SUBJECT: 2010 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT;
LOCATION: STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING**LENGTH:** 5302 words

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STAFF: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department.

As you now, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

This 177-country report's the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail.

And just for your awareness, later on this week Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes. That's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

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Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca. Thank you.

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark (sp).

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery.

This year the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia.

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We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple of weeks ago, they recently completed a self-assessment, similar to the United States, of their trafficking-in-persons response. And we certainly look forward to other countries' undertaking that type of self-diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-trafficking standards in the Palermo protocol, we've seen much progress. And, as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges. The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victim services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look towards promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today more than 56 percent of trafficking women (sic/victims) are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice -- and this still holds true today -- these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude.

And I'd point out that in recent months -- I think in the UAE there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought into the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on this human-rights issue. I'll run through a few quick successes, and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia- Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to tier one on the report. Bosnia was on tier three for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people -- for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian -- the Bosnian government: clear progress, especially over the last year, significantly in reducing its use of suspended sentences, imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers, partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection, and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change, if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade, that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year, we also saw noteworthy success by the government of Egypt. The Egyptian government's progress in combatting human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law-enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages -- often termed "summer marriages" -- of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for a prostitution of children.

Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria, reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key one of which was, we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department, in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So too the government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered a situation last fall, September, in which over a hundred -- 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sindh province in retaliation

for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards.

The secretary raised this, and in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people.

And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani government to fight that situation.

Another success: Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious **human-trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the -- in the book, and that is the action on the part of the government of Syria, which was this year upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years.

In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included enhancement of an anti- trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria.

So we see that kind of increased political will on that government as well as many others.

And, again, we are encouraged. We look at -- as the secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership.

I appreciate your attention, and we'll take a few questions. I know that you had one to begin it.

Q A couple things. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. government trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources, and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it? Or are they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 -- not the Watch List, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions, and I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self-assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries often in Europe have put into the -- in place the practice of what's called a -- the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an -- kind of like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country. We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as -- to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes but also challenges.

And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries. So when we look at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework.

And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self-assessment, but to perform their own as well. Switzerland I think is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. There are -- in our review this year, and working with the Swiss government, we did identify a gap in their

law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards, as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise, make 18 a very bright line, even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We're talking to the Swiss as to how we can, in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

Q That would require legislation on their part, or can it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

MR. CDEBACA: I wouldn't -- you know, I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this.

One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues. Some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it --

Q Locally.

MR. CDEBACA: -- state by state. Locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at.

Q (Off mike) -- last year?

MR. CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think --

Q I just don't understand how -- I mean, did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

MR. CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it as we --

Q Ah. Okay. So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or the -- and the year before?

MR. CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I certainly would let this year's ranking speak for itself.

Q (Off mike) -- Saudi Arabia --

MR. CDEBACA: In the Kuwait and Saudi Arabia --

Q -- and who else was trying to -- who was trying to themselves out of the --

MR. CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower-tier ranking. So I think that, you know, as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is what are the actions, what are the activities.

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia we have seen some beginning of action, and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example, in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law.

In both countries we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is -- continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored.

Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home, or getting another job.

So we're certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out how do we get them under a different tier. It's how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

Q You said earlier this morning -- and it's also in the report, which I haven't of course read all of -- that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are, you know, trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas? Or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it -- because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

MR. CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The -- what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals.

Some of the foreign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually -- and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' slavery museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks of -- it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who were enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African-American men from Florida, who spoke English, who don't have those same issues of being a foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that -- African-American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

Q By U.S. citizens, or by --

MR. CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens.

So it's a very multifaceted way that it -- that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then, there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

Q One quick thing. Can you explain special cases, what that is -- Haiti, and what was the other country?

MR. CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

Q Thank you.

MR. CDEBACA (?): Yes.

Q (Off mike) -- in the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what -- what actually is the justification for the -- I mean, I read I've read a little bit, but it sounds -- it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of, you know, political ranking.

I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

MR. CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together, perhaps, in order to prosecute a trafficker. But there's no evidence that that has actually been done.

I think that one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children are -- can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human-trafficking protections and no training for the police prosecutors or social workers on what to do if one sees a human-trafficking situation. So in a -- in a country where not only do you have a -- such a large tourist industry -- other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba have large child sex-tourism problems and are working to address those. We don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

Q (Off mike.) Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking -- (off mike)?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean government is actually addressing the human-trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's

of forced marriages, enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also, when the North Korean government exports labor to other countries, are those people -- in the places that they're going, do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it's the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean labor export country because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

Q (Off mike) -- in Taiwan? It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 this year. And is there any special reason for such movement?

MR. CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that hopefully jumps out at you as you read the report this year -- and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost -- is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the U.N. protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3P approach of prevention, protection and prosecution.

Taiwan -- and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim-services side has been addressed. So for the first time their new comprehensive law, which was very well conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able to stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world, when you go to a shelter -- first of all, it might look more like a detention center -- but the victims are just there being warehoused. These are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation.

Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

Yes.

Q I haven't read the report yet. But I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- which usually come to Europe and Africa.

And then they are brought to the U.S. through -- by land or sea, Mexico. And this is -- it's very much related to the -- you know, the terrorists can use this network. And another thing was, the financial network which is called hawala, which is word of mouth, have you addressed that?

MR. CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing, that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up, is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien-smuggling situations.

We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably as you said with Chinese, often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in Southern Africa being forced into prostitution, in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention -- because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches.

At the embassies, we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria, and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

Q And about the financial network, which is called hawala, which works just word of mouth. You know, \$1 million to be transferred. No money changes -- moves across the continent; it is paid by this network.

MR. CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

Q Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

MR. CDEBACA: Excuse me?

Q Europe is doing a lot to control this.

MR. CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

Q Do you see movement, the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year the U.N. reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

MR. CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have -- 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased, 40 percent, actually, since last year, up to over 4,000.

The number of labor convictions have tripled up to 335.

But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the base line as to what is the base line from which we would work. I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection and prosecution -- once they put together an intergovernmental -- like an inter-administerial working group or an interagency working group -- once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them. It's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place. And so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands. But there was no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers, because they built the structures that have been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot -- you know, it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive. You'd like to see it go down. But I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then, as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

Q Thank you.

MR. CDEBACA: Just one more question, and then --

STAFF: Yeah. One more question.

MR. CDEBACA: Yeah.

Q Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, you get a sense from the report, from the overview that -- you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about. Now, one might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to -- I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to, in some -- in more cases worse problems.

I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

MR. CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate, and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter. On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms

collapsed and there's no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe, or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states.

So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit, as far as the demand for the -- for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market. What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening, of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn it's something that your money is well spent upon.

Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of the slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business. So it's not simply -- you know, we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned, it's not simply a social program.

It's actually a law-enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf.

And frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there -- if Moldova can come up with \$50,000 or 60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

Q Thank you very much.

MR. CDEBACA: Thank you so much.

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211 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 14, 2010 Monday

MALAYSIA RISES TO TIER 2 OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

LENGTH: 406 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR June 14

Malaysia has risen to **Tier 2** of **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010 released by the United States Department of State.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein told Dewan Rakyat today he was informed of this via a letter from the United States embassy this morning.

"This is in recognition of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2007, creation of Anti-Human Trafficking Council and government action to address the issue," he told reporters at parliament lobby.

Malaysia dropped from Tier 2 to Tier 3 according to TIP Report 2009 issued on June 16 last year.

The TIP Report ranks countries based on their level of compliance on established minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

Tier 1 countries are for governments that fully comply with minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA).

Tier 2 countries for governments that not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply.

Tier 3 countries are for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Earlier, replying to a question by Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong), Hishammuddin said 1,447 people were given interim protection order (IPO) under Section 44 (2) of Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2007 from Feb 28-May 30.

"Of the number, 338 were identified as victims of human trafficking and given protection order (PO) under Section 51(3) of the same act," he said.

Tan wanted to know problems faced by the government in tackling the issue and the number of human trafficking victims traced.

The government faced many challenges in efforts to check human trafficking as it involved transborder crimes with links to prostitution, drug trafficking and money laundering.

"Most victims entered this country as tourists but later got involved with human trafficking syndicates. Lack of public cooperation to provide information and threats by syndicates made victims scared to make reports."

Hishammuddin said internal and external factors also led to the prolonged situation.

"Transnational crimes occur in most countries including developed ones as it give a high return of US\$38 billion annually.

"Malaysia's rapidly growing economy attract foreigners to come here in search of jobs."

He said the government had implemented a mechanism to check crimes but lack of will on the part of source countries caused many people to fall prey to syndicate members.

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212 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 14, 2010 Monday

SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MALAYSIA TO IMPROVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIONS

LENGTH: 1197 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 14

The U.S. Department of State, which has upgraded Malaysia from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2 Watch List** in **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) 2010, is urging Malaysia to build on initial law enforcement actions under the **Trafficking in Persons** Act, particularly relating to labour trafficking.

It recommends that Malaysia apply stringent criminal penalties on those involved in fraudulent labour recruitment or exploitation of forced labour.

Releasing the Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 posted on its website on Monday, it also calls on Malaysia to increase efforts to prosecute and convict public officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking or who exploit victims.

The report also recommends that Malaysia develop and implement procedures to identify labour trafficking victims among vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers and refer them to available protection services.

The report calls on Malaysia to ensure that victims of trafficking are not threatened or otherwise punished for crimes committed as a result of being trafficked.

It proposes that Malaysia re-negotiate MoUs with source countries to incorporate victim protection and revoke passport or travel document confiscation.

It suggests that Malaysia increase cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to improve victim protection efforts, including in shelters, for trafficking victims.

It also suggests that Malaysia continue to expand the training of officials on effective handling of sex and labour trafficking cases, with particular emphasis on victim protection, and continue and expand a comprehensive and visible anti-trafficking awareness campaign to encompass both labour and sex trafficking.

The TIP Report ranks countries based on their level of compliance on established minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

Tier 1 countries are for governments that fully comply with minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA).

Tier 2 countries are for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply.

The Tier 2 Watch List is for governments that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and:

- a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
- b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or,
- c) the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards is based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year

Tier 3 countries are for governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The report says the Malaysian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so.

"Because the assessment that the government has made significant efforts is based in part on its commitment to undertake actions over the coming year - notably greater implementation of Malaysia's anti-trafficking law against labour trafficking - Malaysia is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List," it says.

The report says the Malaysian government has shown greater commitment to address human trafficking that is expected to lead to increasing investigations and prosecutions of labour trafficking offences and identification of labour trafficking victims, increasing efforts to prosecute trafficking-related corruption by government officials and greater collaboration with NGOs and international organisations to improve victim services in government shelters.

During the reporting period, senior government officials, including the prime minister, publicly acknowledged Malaysia's human trafficking problem.

The report says the government has also increased its investigations into trafficking cases and filed an increased number of criminal charges against traffickers, significantly expanded training of officials on the 2007 anti-trafficking law, conducted a public awareness campaign on human trafficking, opened three more shelters for trafficking victims, and launched a five-year national action plan on human trafficking.

"Nevertheless, these early efforts will require continued attention, as there are many serious concerns remaining regarding trafficking in Malaysia, including the detention of trafficking victims in government facilities," it says.

The report says the Malaysian government made some progress in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking during the reporting period, and limited progress in prosecuting and convicting offenders of labour trafficking.

Malaysian law prohibits all forms of human trafficking through its 2007 anti-trafficking law, which prescribes penalties that commensurate with those for other serious offences, such as rape.

During the reporting period, the government convicted three sex trafficking offenders and reported initiating 180 trafficking-related investigations and filing 123 charges against 69 individuals, though it is unclear how many of these cases were for actual trafficking, it says.

The report says the government made minimal progress in protecting victims of trafficking during the reporting period.

"Efforts to identify and protect both sex and labour trafficking victims remained inadequate overall. The government did not report the identification of any Malaysian victims of trafficking," it says.

The report notes that the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development continued to run two "shelters" for women and children and opened a third in July 2009, which detained suspected and confirmed foreign sex trafficking victims involuntarily for 90 days until they were deported to their home countries, per Malaysian law.

During the reporting period, the government also opened its first two shelters designed to house male victims of trafficking, although these shelters also detained victims involuntarily until they were deported, it says.

According to the report, during the reporting period, 139 women and children were certified as victims and detained in the shelters.

An additional 232 individuals were given initial protective orders but were ultimately determined by the government to not be victims of trafficking and were deported, though the officials acknowledged that some of these might have been trafficking victims who were reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement proceedings, it says.

The report also notes during the year, the government reportedly made some improvement in its screening to identify individuals possessing UNHCR cards or possessing traits of trafficking victims in order to separate them from the illegal migrants.

The report says the anti-trafficking law provides immunity to trafficking victims for immigration offences such as illegal entry, unlawful presence and possession of false travel documents, but victims continue to be detained and deported as they would be if they were arrested for illegal immigration.

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213 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Rupee News

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Dramatic moves reduce Human Trafficking in Pakistan

BYLINE: aliphbay@aol.com (Rupee News)

LENGTH: 665 words

Jun. 14, 2010 (Rupee News delivered by Newstex) --

Pakistan ranks as **Tier 2** country in **human trafficking** * Report says 385 criminals convicted under Prevention and Control of **Human Trafficking** Ordinance in 2009 The United States on Monday put allies Singapore and Thailand as well as Vietnam on a **human trafficking watch list**, accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution. The report estimated that 12.3 million people were the victims of trafficking in 2009-2010, although it said there has been progress in the past decade. The State Department added a number of Asian nations to its watch list " Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Bangladesh, China, India, Micronesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka remained on the list, unchanged from a year earlier. North Korea, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea remained at the bottom level of countries that do not even meet the minimum standards on human trafficking.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been ranked as a **Tier 2** country in the 2010 US **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which has cited improvements from the previous year due to efforts to prosecute human traffickers, and prevent and combat bonded labour, Daily Times learned on Monday.

Announcing the release of the report, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton said Washington was committed to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to combat human trafficking.

Prosecutions: Highlighting Pakistans action against human trafficking, the report said the conviction of 385 criminals in 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, and 2,894 prosecutions and 166 convictions under various other penal code sections used to prosecute trafficking offences had led to significant improvements.

The report stated that the Sindh polices successful efforts to free over 2,000 bonded labourers from feudal landlords, and their work with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to raise awareness and develop better protection services for labourers and their families had also improved the situation.

The report stated the Punjab governments Elimination of Bonded Labour in Brick Kilns project " launched with assistance from the International Labour Organisation and Pakistani NGOs " helped nearly 6,000 bonded labourers obtain Computerized National Identification Cards, provided \$140,000 in interest-free loans to labourers and established 60 schools for the workers children.

The report highlighted that Islamabad had also completed a four-year project to repatriate and rehabilitate over 1,000 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates.

It also lauded the Sindh governments Landless Harees Programme, which offered the landless-poor in rural Sindh an alternative to tenant farming including land, seed and fertiliser distribution, agricultural development assistance, cash grants, and micro health insurance.

The 10th annual US Trafficking in Persons Report outlines the continuing challenges across the globe, including in the US. The report, for the first time, includes a ranking of the US based on the same standards with which it ranks other countries.

The report stated Washington takes its first-ever ranking not as a reprieve but as a responsibility to strengthen global efforts against modern slavery, including those within America. This human rights abuse is universal, and no one should claim immunity from its reach or from the responsibility to confront it, it stated.

The report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which Washington encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against forced labour, sexual exploitation and modern-day slavery. By Iqbal Choudhry, AFP and agencies

Taiwan was upgraded and listed as fully compliant in efforts against human trafficking after starting new services for victims, CdeBaca said. Australia, New Zealand and South Korea were also listed as fully compliant.

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214 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 14, 2010 Monday**2010 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 5237 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Washington, DC

June 14, 2010

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, were very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail. And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes that's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10:00 a.m. And then at 1:00 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery. This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency: prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple weeks ago, they recently completed a self-assessment similar to the United States of their trafficking in persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self-diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look toward promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking in women -- are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice, and as still holds true today, these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude. And I'd point out that in recent months, I think in the UAE, there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that were starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on those human rights issues. Ill run through a few quick successes and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to Tier 1 on the report. Bosnia was on Tier 3 for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian Government: clear progress, especially over the last year; significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences; imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers; partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection; and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year we also saw noteworthy success by the Government of Egypt. The Egyptian Government's progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children. Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the Secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key of one of which was we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department in collaboration with civil society. Were very encouraged by what were seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the Government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States Government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered, a situation last fall August and September in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sind Province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards. The Secretary raised this and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people. And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani Government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle their serious **human trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the Government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the Government of Syria, which was, this year, upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years. In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of an anti-trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political role on that government as well as many others. And again, we are encouraged.

We look at as the Secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather, diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership. I appreciate your attention and will take a few questions.

I know you had one to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. Government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the Secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. Government, trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it or were they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 not the watchlist, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries, often in Europe, have put into the place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama Administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we looked at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework. And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self assessment, but to perform their own as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. They're in our review this year and working with the Swiss Government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And Ive already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. Weve were talking to the Swiss as to how we can as in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

QUESTION: And it would require legislation (inaudible)? And could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldnt speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when youre dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it --

QUESTION: Locally?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- state by state, locality by locality. And I think that thats something that the Swiss are looking at as --

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Its a situation that I think --

QUESTION: I mean, I just dont understand how the I mean, was did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it --

QUESTION: Ah, okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- as we --

QUESTION: So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or and the year before?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldnt speculate backwards. I certainly would let this years ranking speaks for itself.

QUESTION: And then how about Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: And then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia --

QUESTION: And then who else was trying to who was trying to get themselves out of the --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower tier ranking. So I think that as we work with the countries throughout the year, theres always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is: What are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action and we will continue to work with them, whether its the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait, or whether its the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law. In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we are certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because were trying to figure out how do we get them onto a different tier; its how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning, and its also in the report which I havent, of course, read all of, that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas, or are you saying that theres people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals. Some of the foreign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

Id actually and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Slavery Museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African American men from Florida who spoke English who don't have those same issues of being a foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain special cases what that is, Haiti and what was the other country?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. Back on the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what actually is the justification for the I mean, I read a little bit, but it sounds it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together perhaps in order to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done. I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation. So in a country where not only do you have a such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba, have large child sex tourism problems, and are working to address those, we don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

QUESTION: Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking is actually happening?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean Government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the Government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, of enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese Government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that were looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean Government exports labor to other countries, are those people in the places that they're going do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether its police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it was the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean Labor Export Company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the situation in Taiwan. It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 year. And is there any special reason for such a movement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that, hopefully, jumps out at you as you read the report this year and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the UN protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3-P approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Taiwan and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law, which is very well-conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things that it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able to stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world when you go to a shelter first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused these are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation. Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh which usually come to Europe and Africa and then they are brought to U.S. through by land or sea, from Mexico. And this is it's very much related to the the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network which is called hawala, which is word-of-mouth, have you addressed that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in southern Africa being forced in prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial network with is called hawala, which works just word of mouth? You know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money moves across the continents. It is paid by this network.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

QUESTION: Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement? Is the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the UN reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased 40 percent, actually since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335. But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work.

I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection, and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them; it's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place and so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there were no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the structures that had been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot like an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive; you'd like to see it go down, but I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Take one more question and then yeah.

MR. TONER: Yeah, one more question.

QUESTION: Yeah, wait yeah. Do you get the sense from the report, from the overview, that you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about? One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some, in more cases, worse problems. I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harms way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms collapsed and there is no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states. So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit as far as the demand for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon. Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of a slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So its not simply we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned its not simply a social program; its actually a law enforcement tool that theyd be putting on the shelf. And frankly, weve seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there if Moldova can come up with \$50-or-\$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you so much.

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Targeted News Service

June 14, 2010 Monday 6:05 AM EST

U.S. Included in This Year's Trafficking in Persons Report Released Today

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 157 words

DATELINE: ATHENS, Greece

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which for the first time included a ranking and full country narrative of the United States' effort in combating this global scourge. This inclusion reiterates that the United States government holds ourselves to the same standards by which we hold others.

Greece continues to be ranked at **Tier** Two. The fight against **human trafficking** is a global movement and much work remains to be done. The United States government is working to advance that movement. With the inclusion of the U.S. ranking and narrative, we seek to emphasize the common challenges all countries face in developing effective responses to modern day slavery.

For more information and to read the TIP report in its entirety, please visit www.state.gov/g/tip.

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LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2010

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216 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 14, 2010 Monday 1:38 AM EST

Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Speaks on 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 5276 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

MR. TONER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the State Department. As you know, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning the release of the 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This 177-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In light of that, we're very fortunate to have with us today Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons here to answer some of your questions and talk a little bit about the report in more detail. And just for your awareness, later on this week, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate on Tuesday in a congressional reception for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Heroes that's hosted by the Helsinki Commission.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Ambassador CdeBaca will participate in a briefing on the Trafficking in Persons Report at the Foreign Press Center in New York, and that's at 10:00 a.m. And then at 1:00 p.m. that day, he'll deliver keynote remarks regarding the 2010 report at a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

Without further ado, I'll hand it over to Ambassador CdeBaca.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you for the introduction, Mark.

Earlier this morning, Secretary Clinton publicly released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report. The annual report provides a diagnosis of the global effort to combat modern slavery. This year, the report assessed 177 countries, including two special cases. Those special cases are Haiti and Somalia. Two countries were ranked for the first time, Kiribati and the United States.

It's important to highlight the significance of the U.S. ranking. As we work towards a lead-by-example diplomacy, it was common sense to include ourselves in this year's report. Data was collected across the interagency: prosecutions from Department of Justice, information from DHS, and victim services efforts by Department of Health and Human Services. We also collected information from state and local law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and governments.

The Trafficking in Persons Report has spurred action throughout the years by other countries to take a hard look at their internal efforts against trafficking. Finland is a good example. Just a couple weeks ago, they recently completed a self assessment similar to the United States of their trafficking in persons response, and we certainly look forward to other countries undertaking that type of self diagnostic.

Without a doubt, the United States continues to be the world leader on this issue. In the 10 years since President Clinton signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the United Nations outlined the international community's anti-

trafficking standards in the Palermo Protocol, we've seen much progress. And as diagnosed by this year's report, we still face a number of challenges.

The report discusses a host of those challenges, including the need for improved victims services. Whether in the United States or another country, we must treat victims as victims and not as criminals. We must look toward promising practices such as shelters that do not imprison victims, but instead allow for rehabilitation and recovery from the crimes committed against them.

The feminization of trafficking is a trend that we see in this year's report, and that's something that's expanding beyond the conventional stereotypes of sex trafficking. Today, more than 56 percent of trafficking in women -- are women and girls, and we see more and more women suffering from labor trafficking, specifically involuntary domestic servitude. These maids suffer in silence behind closed doors, and in some ways are the most vulnerable because they do not know anyone other than their captors.

Often, as I've personally seen while I prosecuted these cases at an earlier career at the Department of Justice, and as still holds true today, these women, and in some cases men and boys, are also forced into sex slavery by those who would hold them in involuntary domestic servitude. And I'd point out that in recent months, I think in the UAE, there have been a couple of prosecutions in which women who were brought in to the Emirates in order to be domestic servants were then prostituted out by their employers. So the connection between domestic servitude and sex slavery is something that we're starting to recognize more and more.

I would like to highlight some successes that are in the report, because even as we face challenges in our fight against modern slavery, there are more people around the world than ever before working on those human rights issues. I'll run through a few quick successes and then we can move to questions.

One success that I think is very noteworthy is that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which this year is upgraded to Tier 1 on the report. Bosnia was on Tier 3 for many years at the beginning of this decade. And I think that a lot of people - for a lot of people, the global fight against human trafficking first came to people's attention because of the widespread sex slavery and the widespread abuses in the Balkans during the various wars of the 1990s.

This is something that we've seen on the part of the Bosnian Government: clear progress, especially over the last year; significantly reducing its use of suspended sentences; imposing stronger penalties for convicted traffickers; partnering with nongovernmental organizations on victim protection; and employing proactive procedures to go out and identify and help victims. It is a sea change if you look at the trafficking issue over the course of the last decade that Bosnia would be ranked in the first tier of countries that are fully compliant with the minimum standards.

This year we also saw noteworthy success by the Government of Egypt. The Egyptian Government's progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children. Their activity against the summer marriages and, as the Secretary pointed out earlier this morning, the steps that they are taking towards starting shelters with some of the major hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria reflects the government's partnerships with international legal experts, the key of one of which was - we were happy to be able to help fund from here at the State Department in collaboration with civil society. We're very encouraged by what we're seeing coming out of Egypt.

So, too, the Government of Pakistan, which was upgraded to **Tier 2** this year, has dramatically increased the number of convictions and prosecutions for **human trafficking**, undertaking creative efforts to prevent bonded labor. Behind this enhanced commitment, particularly a greater focus on bonded labor, are stronger partnerships with United States Government and international organizations on the issue of trafficking in persons.

Some of you may recall, some of you may have covered, a situation last fall - August and September - in which over 170 Pakistani nationals, victims of bonded laborers, were taken hostage by feudal landlords in Sind Province in retaliation for actually seeking a habeas corpus writ to free them from debt bondage in court. What they got for their troubles was confined and jailed by the landlords and their henchmen, their guards. The Secretary raised this and, in fact, civil society actors asked her about it in her October visit to Islamabad. Simultaneously, as that was going on, local police were in the process of liberating those people. And we certainly appreciate the activities and the actions taken by the Pakistani Government to fight that situation.

Another success, Malaysia upgraded this year to **Tier 2 watch list**. You may recall that last year Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3**. Over the course of the last year, the Malaysian authorities have acknowledged and begun to tackle

their serious **human trafficking** problem, including intensified engagement with foreign governments. For the first time, the government formed partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to work in partnership. And as a result of their work with the United Nations interagency anti-TIP program out of Bangkok, they identified and assisted victims of forced labor on fishing boats on the coast of Sarawak. Those initial cases of labor trafficking, as well as what they're doing on sex trafficking, is certainly heartening as far as the commitment that is beginning to be shown by the Government of Malaysia.

One final success that I'd like to highlight, although there are many more in the book, and that is the action on the part of the Government of Syria, which was, this year, upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list from Tier 3, where it had been for years. In Syria, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs contributed to the progress. It included its enhancement of an anti-trafficking law, enactment of two decrees to better protect foreign domestic workers, and opening a second shelter for trafficking victims in Aleppo, which added to a preexisting government-supported shelter in Damascus. Again, we see much of the problem in Syria and much of the activity now to protect the workers coming with the issues of foreign domestic workers, the maids who have been brought into Syria. So we see that kind of increased political role on that government as well as many others. And again, we are encouraged.

We look at - as the Secretary said today, we look at this not as an exercise in finger-wagging or calling out, but rather, diagnosing ourselves and countries around the world so that we can work together in partnership. I appreciate your attention and we'll take a few questions.

I know you had one to begin with.

QUESTION: A couple. One, just in very simple terms, can you explain why the U.S. Government feels that it is beneficial to rate itself? Does it add to your credibility when you talk to others?

Second, the Secretary alluded to some countries who had reached out to the U.S. Government, trying not to be left in low categories or dropped down to them. And can you give us some sense of who those are? Tier 3, for example, this year yet again includes both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, countries with enormous resources and yet they have been very durable presences in that bottom category. Were they the ones trying to get off it or were they just making no real efforts?

And then lastly, could you address the question of Switzerland, which is on Tier 2 - not the watchlist, but Tier 2? Again, a country with significant resources; why has it not been possible for the Swiss to do better?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, there's several questions. I'll try to take them in descending order. As far as the self assessment, one of the things that we've seen over the last few years is a number of countries, often in Europe, have put into the - in place the practice of what's called the national rapporteurs. And they often, like an - kind of like an ombudsman, are assessing the anti-trafficking efforts within that country.

We have seen that as a helpful activity on the part of those governments, as - to the degree that they are honest, to the degree that they confront not just successes, but also challenges. And so we felt that the United States needed that as a diagnostic tool for ourselves, that the Obama Administration is committed to applying the same diagnostics that we would apply to other countries.

So when we looked at the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons that we are statutorily bound to apply to the other countries of the world, not only did we feel that it was only fair and just that we apply those same minimum standards, but also that it would be helpful to run the United States anti-trafficking activities through that analytical framework. And so, as I said, we encourage other countries not simply to look to our report for their own self assessment, but to perform their own as well.

Switzerland, I think, is in the process of doing that. We stand ready to continue to work with the Swiss. They're - in our review this year and working with the Swiss Government, we did identify a gap in their law that created a loophole in which children at the ages of 16 and 17 could legally participate in prostitution. And since the law here in the United States as far as the minimum standards as well as the international norms of the Palermo Protocol and otherwise make 18 a very bright line. Even for countries that have legalized prostitution, the child prostitution situation was something that had to be dealt with.

And I've already spoken with the Swiss ambassador. We've - we're talking to the Swiss as to how we can - as - in partnership, work through some of the legal challenges that they face. And we do see commitment from them to address these issues.

QUESTION: And it would require legislation (inaudible)? And could it be done by, you know, regulations or something?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate on the various ways that the Swiss could actually handle this. One of the issues, of course, with Switzerland is when you're dealing at the cantonal level with law enforcement issues, some countries can change their entire trafficking regime overnight simply by passing a federal law. Others have to do it --

QUESTION: Locally?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- state by state, locality by locality. And I think that that's something that the Swiss are looking at as --

QUESTION: Was this a problem last year?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: It's a situation that I think --

QUESTION: I mean, I just don't understand how the - I mean, was - did something change over the last year to get them dropped from Tier 1?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: The law and the loophole was extant for quite a while. I think that our recognition of it --

QUESTION: Ah, okay.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: -- as we --

QUESTION: So basically, they should have been on Tier 2 last year or - and the year before?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I wouldn't speculate backwards. I certainly would let - this year's ranking speaks for itself.

QUESTION: And then how about Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: And then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia --

QUESTION: And then who else was trying to - who was trying to get themselves out of the --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I mean, we have yet to see a country come to us and ask to be put on a lower tier ranking. So I think that as we work with the countries throughout the year, there's always the desire to move up in the tier rankings. What we then look for is: What are the actions? What are the activities?

In both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we have seen some beginning of action and we will continue to work with them, whether it's the Kuwaitis starting to at least discuss the extension of certain labor protections to foreign workers in Kuwait, or whether it's the Saudi Arabia example in which this spring they did pass a first draft of an anti-trafficking law. In both countries, we would like to see enhanced victim services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia especially, the situation for escaped maids and escaped workers is - continues to be untenable, in no small part because of the situation where the employer has to kind of countersign the exit visas for the person who they sponsored. Even if that person was running away from the employer for abuse, that employer still has the power to block them from leaving and going home or getting another job.

So we are certainly going to work with the governments both of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as far as how they can address these situations, not because we're trying to figure out how do we get them onto a different tier; it's how do we get the situation for workers in those countries to be better. The tiers then follow.

Yes.

QUESTION: You said earlier this morning, and it's also in the report which I haven't, of course, read all of, that the United States is a source country for human trafficking. What does that mean? Are you saying that there are U.S. citizens around the country that are trafficking women and children and taking advantage of people that are here for temporary working visas, or are you saying that there's people that are coming in from outside the country that are operating these trafficking rings and those kinds of things? What does it - because it doesn't seem to specify that in here.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I hate to say this, but the answer is kind of yes. The - what we have in the United States is a situation where there are homegrown traffickers who are enslaving people in various segments of the economy, and some of those end up enslaving American citizens, some of those end up enslaving foreign nationals. Some of the for-

eign nationals who are here were recruited in their home countries and brought here by people who intended to do that all along. Others may have immigrated and then, once they're here, get trapped.

I'd actually - and I know you have a very busy day, but if people have a chance, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Slavery Museum, which is out in the parking lot right now, breaks this down, I think, pretty well, in that it talks - it has some of the artifacts not just from cases with men and women from Mexico and Guatemala who are enslaved in Florida picking crops, but African American men from Florida who spoke English who don't have those same issues of being a foreign person or afraid of the immigration or something like that, African American men being enslaved in agriculture in Florida within the last five, six years.

QUESTION: By U.S. citizens or by --

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: By U.S. citizens. So it's a very multifaceted way that it ends up manifesting. And in sex trafficking, then there's also the difference between those who are enslaving immigrant women in prostitution and those who are enslaving U.S. citizen women and girls. It's often runaways. In those situations, those cases have historically been dealt with in the United States under the prostitution statutes rather than under the involuntary servitude and slavery statutes, though what's happening in some of the situations is that the pimps are actually enslaving the women that are working for them.

QUESTION: One quick thing. Can you explain special cases - what that is, Haiti and - what was the other country?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Somalia. Haiti and Somalia are special cases in no small part because of the capacity of the government. When we have a functional government, even a very haltingly functional government, then that country not only gets assessed but actually ranked. In both Haiti and Somalia, it continues to be our position that those governments are not sufficiently operative to actually give them a ranking in the report.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. Back on the case of Cuba, I'm wondering what actually is the justification for the - I mean, I read a little bit, but it sounds - it seems like the U.S. might be open to charges of political ranking. I'm just trying to get why Cuba is on Tier 3.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, I think that one of the things that we see for Cuba is that there is no law against this practice. There's some other laws that could be cobbled together perhaps in order to prosecute a trafficker, but there's no evidence that that has actually been done. I think one of the things that we also look at there is, again, the age of legal prostitution. Again, children are - can legally be in prostitution at ages 16 and 17.

We also see the lack of human trafficking protections and no training for the police, prosecutors, or social workers on what to do if one sees a human trafficking situation. So in a country where not only do you have a - such a large tourist industry, other countries in the region that draw tourists from the same places as Cuba, have large child sex tourism problems, and are working to address those, we don't see the same activity in Cuba. So it's a multifaceted approach as far as why they would end up on Tier 3.

QUESTION: Can you comment on North Korea? And also, what do you say to China, where a lot of North Korean human trafficking is actually happening?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, North Korea continues to be a Tier 3 country in this year's report. We have not seen any indication that the North Korean Government is actually addressing the human trafficking problem.

One of the issues, of course, that we have when we look at the northeastern part of China is that there is the North Korean refugee community, that population. What we'd like to see from the Government of China is that there would be actual screening of people within that refugee flow to see which are the people who are actually trafficking victims. We're not saying that every one of them necessarily is, but we've had enough reports, whether it's of forced labor, whether it's of forced marriages, of enough reports of abuse coming out of that region that we'd like to see more screening and then more victim protections on the part of the Chinese Government.

When it comes to North Korea, I think that one of the issues that we're looking at is not simply the lack of a legal regime in order to address human trafficking or to be able to prosecute traffickers or rehabilitate the victims or do any of the things that even are the baseline to be working on it, but also when the North Korean Government exports labor to

other countries, are those people in the places that they're going - do they have a modicum of freedom there or is the government sending, whether it's police or security services or others with them in order to keep them in line.

And so we've expressed concern, as have some of the governments of Western Europe. I think it was the Czech Republic actually terminated their contracts with the North Korean Labor Export Company because of their concerns of the type of abuse that was happening with the exported North Korean laborers.

Yes.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the situation in Taiwan. It had been moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 year. And is there any special reason for such a movement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Well, one of the things that, hopefully, jumps out at you as you read the report this year - and if not, I'll give it a little bit of a boost - is the need for more victim protections and the need for a victim response that's not based on detaining the victims. If you take somebody out of a servitude situation where they've had their freedom denied, you take them out, ostensibly rescuing them, and then you put them into a detention center, then that is not necessarily going to win any cases, it's not necessarily going to rehabilitate the victim, it's not really honoring the ethos of the UN protocol on what you're supposed to do as far as the 3-P approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Taiwan - and one of the things that we've seen that occasioned the upgrade this year is that the victim services side has been addressed. So for the first time, their new comprehensive law, which is very well-conceived, has now come into force. And one of the things that it allows is it allows for victims to work, to be able stay in Taiwan, to get jobs with other employers, and to work while their cases are being investigated.

So many countries around the world when you go to a shelter - first of all, it might look more like a detention center, but the victims are just there being warehoused - these are people who are coming out of a tremendously abusive situation. The research shows that most of them haven't even gotten to the point of having post-traumatic stress disorder; they're still in trauma for the first 90 days or so when they're coming out of this slavery situation. Taiwan has recognized that, has studied it, and has actually acted to make sure that these people are not just put in jail after they get liberated.

QUESTION: I haven't read the report yet, but I was just wondering if you can address this issue of trafficking from China and the Indian subcontinent - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh - which usually come to Europe and Africa and then they are brought to U.S. through - by land or sea, from Mexico. And this is - it's very much related to the - the terrorists can use this network.

And another thing was the financial network which is called hawala, which is word-of-mouth, have you addressed that?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I think that the network that you're describing that goes through Africa and into Latin America and up is typically a route that we see with the large-scale alien smuggling situations. We have heard situations of trafficking occurring within that migrant stream, most notably, as you said, with Chinese - often Chinese women who are waylaid for a couple of years in southern Africa being forced in prostitution in order to pay the smuggling fees or pay the debts that the alien smugglers claim that they're owed.

But one of the things that we've seen is that this is a route that is used by both alien smugglers and human traffickers. It's hard to differentiate amongst the two. And so a lot of our attention - because it's such a large human smuggling route, much of our attention has been on the smuggling aspect. And our colleagues over at the Department of Homeland Security have beefed up their legal attaches at the embassies - we've got a good cadre of folks working out of Pretoria - and have been able to dismantle and impinge a number of the shipments and actually have been able to arrest and prosecute some of the large players in that.

I think that you do raise a good point, though, that we have to be mindful of the fact that these routes can be used for various things. You can have a person who's flowing through it who is headed towards a life of indentured servitude. You can have another person who's headed through that route who's simply going to melt into society as an illegal alien. But then you could also have someone who's coming in to do harm. And so we're looking at that across the board to try to make sure that we can disrupt those established smuggling routes.

QUESTION: And about the financial network with is called hawala, which works just word of mouth? You know, \$1 million to be transferred, no money moves across the continents. It is paid by this network.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: I would defer to our colleagues at Treasury and others as far as the mechanics.

QUESTION: Because Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Europe is doing a lot to control this.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Yes, and I know that hawala is something that Treasury and other working groups have been dealing with. That's not necessarily something that's reflected in this year's report.

QUESTION: Do you see improvement? Is the number of victims decreasing or increasing this year? Last year, the UN reported about 12 million people were victims. How do you see it? Is there improvement?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We see improvement in that we see now 116 countries that have - 116 countries have enacted legislation. The number of convictions have increased - 40 percent, actually - since last year, up to over 4,000. The number of labor convictions have tripled, up to 335. But what we don't necessarily see yet is the decrease in victims, partially because we're still trying to get the baseline as to what is the baseline from which we would work.

I think that one of the things that we see is that as a country starts to comply with their obligations under the Palermo Protocol around prevention, protection, and prosecution, once they put together an intergovernmental - like an inter-ministerial working group or an interagency working group - once they put those structures in place, they start to see more victims. It's because they're finding them; it's not because the victims weren't there before.

So the Netherlands Antilles is a perfect example. Up until last year, they didn't have those structures in place and so NGOs would report that there was trafficking in Curacao and those different islands, but there was no cases and no victims identified. In the last year, they've actually arrested and prosecuted nine traffickers because they had built the structures that had been able to see it.

So I actually think that success in the next few years is actually going to look a lot - it's going to be an increase in numbers of cases, an increase in numbers of victims. That might be counterintuitive; you'd like to see it go down, but I think that success will actually be that we're uncovering more cases. Then as we get the baseline, we'll be able to start assessing the efficacy of the various things.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Take one more question and then - yeah.

MR. TONER: Yeah, one more question.

QUESTION: Yeah, wait - yeah. Do you get the sense from the report, from the overview, that - you know, the sense of progress and improvement that you're talking about? One might have imagined that the economic global downturn might have led to - I mean, you can imagine how it could have led to some, in more cases, worse problems. I'm wondering, do you have any sense of the economic impact of the global recession?

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: As far as we can tell, there's a couple of competing issues within the economic downturn. On the one hand, people are more desperate and are therefore willing to take more risks, putting themselves into harm's way with an abusive labor recruiter.

On the other hand, there are fewer big projects for them to be placed by those abusive labor recruiters. So if you see, for instance, building booms in Western Europe or in the Gulf, those building booms collapsed and there is no longer the demand for your Eastern European construction workers in Western Europe or your South Asian construction workers, say, for instance, in the Gulf states. So it seems to be cancelling itself out a little bit as far as the demand for the exploitable labor going down as part of the market.

What we are very concerned, though, about the economic downturn is the softening, or what appears to be a softening of the amount of money that some of the countries are spending on victim protection. And we think that even in the economic downturn, it's something that your money is well spent upon. Victim protection in this situation is not simply a social program. It's also being able to help the folks who you've gotten out of a slavery situation, work them through their trauma, and then have them as effective witnesses against the transnational criminals that you're trying to put out of business.

So it's not simply - we would suggest to the countries who are thinking about cutting the budgets as far as victim protection is concerned - it's not simply a social program; it's actually a law enforcement tool that they'd be putting on the shelf. And frankly, we've seen countries that are as poor as Moldova still spending money on victim shelters, still supporting these types of things. So if Moldova, which has one of the lowest GDPs out there - if Moldova can come up

with \$50-or-\$60,000 to fund shelters, we would certainly expect other countries, even in a recession, would be able to as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: Thank you so much.

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217 of 404 DOCUMENTS



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U.S. included in human trafficking report

LENGTH: 359 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 14

Iran, North Korea and Myanmar were among countries named for not meeting minimum international human trafficking standards in a U.S. State Department report.

Besides those three repressive regimes, the 10th annual **Trafficking in Persons** report released Monday listed Papua New Guinea, Kuwait, Sudan, Cuba, Mauritania, the Dominican Republic, Congo, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Zimbabwe as "**Tier 3**" countries that haven't shown effort to comply with minimum international standards.

The United States is included the first time because "we believe it is important to keep the spotlight on ourselves," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said when introducing the report.

The United States is listed as a "Tier 1" country -- along with 20-plus other countries -- meaning it complies with minimum standards. "Tier 2" countries aren't fully compliant but are working to improve.

Behind statistics of the report, Clinton said, "are the struggles of real human beings, the tears of families who may never see their children again, the despair and indignity of those suffering under the worst forms of exploitation."

The report provides assessments and recommendations for 177 countries, she said.

"All of us have a responsibility to bring this practice to an end," Clinton said. "Survivors must be supported and their families aided and comforted, but we cannot turn our responsibility for doing that over to non-governmental organizations or the faith community."

Key numbers from the 2010 report for the year 2009 include:

-- 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution worldwide, and 56 percent are women and girls.

-- Human traffickers collect \$32 billion annually.

-- The 49,105 victims of trafficking worldwide is a 59 percent increase over 2008, the last reporting year.

The report said 23 countries' rankings were upgraded in the 2010 report while 19 countries were downgraded in their rankings.

The report also said 4,166 prosecutions in 2009 were successful, but 62 countries still haven't convicted a human trafficker and 104 countries don't have laws, policies or regulations to prevent victims from being deported.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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218 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

June 14, 2010

US Warns Nations Failing to Fight Human Trafficking ^% ^hl2>

BYLINE: VOA News

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 348 words

The United States is warning more than a dozen nations, including Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Burma, of possible sanctions for failing to meet minimum international standards to fight human trafficking.

In its annual report on **human trafficking**, the U.S. State Department designated 13 nations as "**Tier 3**," meaning their governments are not following international standards to fight trafficking and could face penalties if their records do not improve.

The report says 12.3 million adults and children around the world are currently victims of forced labor, bonded labor or forced prostitution.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the report is a "catalog of tragedies" the world cannot continue to accept. She said human trafficking crosses cultures and continents, and the entire world has a responsibility to bring these crimes to an end.

The report says trafficking in Burma remains a serious concern because the military allegedly engages in unlawful conscription of child soldiers and continues to be the main perpetrator of forced labor.

In North Korea, the report says the most common form of trafficking involves North Korean women and girls forced into marriages or prostitution in China.

The report also says women in Iran are trafficked for forced prostitution and forced marriages. It says Iranian and Afghan children living in Iran are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.

The 2010 report evaluated 175 countries and ranked them by their anti-trafficking efforts.

Other nations receiving the failing status for their lack of anti-trafficking efforts are the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Kuwait, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

For the first time, the report, which is in its 10th year, also includes a ranking of U.S. anti-trafficking efforts. The report says most trafficking in the United States involves foreign victims trafficked primarily for labor. But it also says more U.S. citizens, both adults and children, are victims of sex trafficking.

Some information for this report was provided by AP.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Journal

JOURNAL-CODE: VA

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219 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

June 8, 2010

**Webb Recommends State Department Strengthen Engagement in Asia;
Calls for passage of US-Korea Free Trade Agreement, increased East Asia Bu-
reau funding, immediate appointment of Special Envoy to Burma;
Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) News Release**

SECTION: U.S. SENATE DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 1568 words

Senator Jim Webb, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, today sent the following letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton regarding his recent trip to Asia and his recommendations for strengthening U.S. policies in the region:

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In my capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, I visited Korea and Thailand last week to assess the current situation in both of those countries, as well as in the region. I had also intended to visit Burma on this trip, but postponed my visit for reasons described below.

Following meetings with government representatives, business and community leaders, U.S. diplomats, and others, I would like to share with you the following observations and recommendations. As you will note, some of these recommendations are quite time-sensitive.

1. United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement:

I believe strongly that the United States, the Republic of Korea, and all of East Asia will benefit greatly from the implementation of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). I am also very concerned about the time delay in gaining congressional approval for this agreement.

The KORUS FTA was signed on June 30, 2007. With this agreement, tariffs on consumer and industrial goods will be immediately eliminated on almost 95 percent of all bilateral trade within three years. Tariffs on two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports will be immediately eliminated. U.S. automakers have concerns, and processes exist for these matters to be addressed. In sum, the advantages of implementing this agreement far outweigh any disadvantages, and failure to implement the agreement could have negative repercussions.

Korea has used this agreement as a model for negotiating other free trade agreements, principally with the European Union (EU). The EU-Korea FTA is expected to be signed in June and implemented by December. If the United States does not take steps toward cementing its own agreement with Korea, our businesses could face significant market com-

petition. Just as importantly, such a failure could negatively affect East Asian views of how our country values this region.

I hope you will call on the President to submit this agreement to Congress this year before the November elections, and I can assure you that I will do my part in the Senate to ensure that it is approved.

2. Democracy assistance to Thailand:

The State Department **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report is due for release in mid-June. The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok has reported that Thailand's status will be downgraded from **Tier II** to the **Tier II Watch List**. The Embassy disagrees with the merits of this assessment, and it also has concerns about the consequences of this placement.

Downgrading Thailand to the Tier II Watch List places the country at risk for sanctions on U.S. assistance, primarily for democracy and human rights programs. Such a downgrade would occur at a time when this type of aid is desperately needed to bolster political reforms in Thailand and to promote political stability. Under current law a presidential waiver can be granted, but only after the sanctions have been announced.

I hope you will accept the advice and counsel of our embassy in Thailand, and reject in advance of the TIP report's release any recommendation to downgrade the Thai government's status. From what I am hearing regarding the timeliness issue, this would require immediate action by you and your staff.

3. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874:

In May 2010, Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell raised allegations that Burma has violated its commitment to UN Resolution 1874 regarding acceptance of shipments of military items from North Korea. Although not explained in his statement, and not validated by subsequent information, news reports alleged that Burma received a shipment of arms from North Korea. This allegation, which from my understanding has yet to be publicly clarified and substantiated by the State Department, has frozen any prospect of further engagement with the Burmese government.

Prior to my recent Asia trip, I and my staff worked for weeks to seek public clarification of this allegation, but the State Department provided none. At the time I left for my trip to Asia, no other countries had joined the United States in this allegation, although it had been discussed with several other countries. The State Department still has not publicly clarified this matter. My staff was told by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Scot Marciel that no other nation has joined the United States in publicly denouncing Burma on this matter.

As you know, only hours before I was scheduled to enter Burma, reports surfaced in the international media regarding new allegations that the military regime was cooperating with North Korea to develop a nuclear program. These allegations were raised by the Democratic Voice of Burma, which is a U.S.-funded media organization.

As a consequence of these two allegations, I postponed my visit to Burma until such time as both of them can be examined objectively and factually. I am now calling on you to do so, in a timely manner, so that our future relations with this country can proceed forward in a responsible way.

4. Special Envoy to Burma:

You will recall that the 2008 Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act requires the President to appoint a Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Among other responsibilities, this position should "promote a comprehensive international effort, including multilateral sanctions, direct dialogue with the SPDC and democracy advocates, and support for nongovernmental organizations operating in Burma and neighboring countries, designed to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma and address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Burmese people." Since this act has been in effect, the position has not been filled.

I hope you will ask the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Burma without delay. In that regard, I would like to strongly recommend Ambassador Eric John, who currently serves in Thailand, for this position. Ambassador John has spent many years in East Asia, and has long experience in dealing with the North Korean regime on issues that might be similar to those we will be facing in Burma.

5. Increase East Asia Bureau Funding:

In April, I submitted an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act to increase funding to the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau by \$100 million. The East Asia Bureau is consistently funded at lower levels than all other regional bureaus, despite its extensive population and its frequent political volatility.

The East Asia Bureau had the lowest FY11 request for overseas programs at \$169 million. Among foreign assistance accounts, Economic Support Funds (ESF) for East Asia are facing a decline from \$177.9 million in FY10 to \$61.3 million in FY11--a 65 percent reduction just as we see a growth in political instability and regional tensions. As a comparison, FY09 and FY10, \$4.8 billion was appropriated for Afghanistan ESF. As of May 2010, a total of \$2.06 billion from that appropriation remains unobligated. These remaining funds are more than 30 times the ESF request for East Asia.

Also, the Department's request for International Military Education and Training (IMET) in East Asia is the lowest of any region, with only \$9.3 million. This is a critical account for engaging the region's military leaders through English language training, promoting trust and confidence, and strengthening relationships with our partners and allies.

I am gravely concerned that the lack of proper funding for these programs in the State Department places our relationships in Asia at risk. For example, as Thailand recovers from recent political unrest and moves forward with reconciliation, it needs greater U.S. assistance and public support for the improvement of democratic institutions. It is our responsibility as an ally of Thailand to ensure that it remains an open and stable society, and to help stem further political instability. We can do so only when we properly fund our initiatives and provide our diplomats with the resources they need.

I intend to seek greater funding for these programs in the FY11 appropriations process. I would hope that you might support this initiative. Further, as you develop your budget for FY12, I ask you to make funding of the East Asia Bureau a strategic priority for the Department and increase East Asia accounts by at least \$100 million. For my part, I will continue to seek through all available means the resources needed now for the Bureau.

In sum, despite all of this Administration's rhetoric about re-engaging Asia, unless we properly resource diplomatic and foreign assistance programs, the United States will not be fulfilling this stated commitment to the region. Moreover, our continued inaction is opening the door for other actors, namely China, to build influence.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. I look forward to your response and to working with you and the State Department to implement these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Jim Webb

United States Senator

#DAL1234#

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: COSSM

220 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 8, 2010 Tuesday**WEBB RECOMMENDS STATE DEPARTMENT STRENGTHEN ENGAGEMENT IN ASIA****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 1577 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by Virginia Senator Jim Webb:

Senator Jim Webb, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, today sent the following letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton regarding his recent trip to Asia and his recommendations for strengthening U.S. policies in the region:

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In my capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, I visited Korea and Thailand last week to assess the current situation in both of those countries, as well as in the region. I had also intended to visit Burma on this trip, but postponed my visit for reasons described below.

Following meetings with government representatives, business and community leaders, U.S. diplomats, and others, I would like to share with you the following observations and recommendations. As you will note, some of these recommendations are quite time-sensitive.

1. United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement:

I believe strongly that the United States, the Republic of Korea, and all of East Asia will benefit greatly from the implementation of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). I am also very concerned about the time delay in gaining congressional approval for this agreement.

The KORUS FTA was signed on June 30, 2007. With this agreement, tariffs on consumer and industrial goods will be immediately eliminated on almost 95 percent of all bilateral trade within three years. Tariffs on two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports will be immediately eliminated. U.S. automakers have concerns, and processes exist for these matters to be addressed. In sum, the advantages of implementing this agreement far outweigh any disadvantages, and failure to implement the agreement could have negative repercussions.

Korea has used this agreement as a model for negotiating other free trade agreements, principally with the European Union (EU). The EU-Korea FTA is expected to be signed in June and implemented by December. If the United States does not take steps toward cementing its own agreement with Korea, our businesses could face significant market com-

petition. Just as importantly, such a failure could negatively affect East Asian views of how our country values this region.

I hope you will call on the President to submit this agreement to Congress this year before the November elections, and I can assure you that I will do my part in the Senate to ensure that it is approved.

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Downgrading Thailand to the Tier II Watch List places the country at risk for sanctions on U.S. assistance, primarily for democracy and human rights programs. Such a downgrade would occur at a time when this type of aid is desperately needed to bolster political reforms in Thailand and to promote political stability. Under current law a presidential waiver can be granted, but only after the sanctions have been announced.

I hope you will accept the advice and counsel of our embassy in Thailand, and reject in advance of the TIP reports release any recommendation to downgrade the Thai government's status. From what I am hearing regarding the timeliness issue, this would require immediate action by you and your staff.

3. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874:

In May 2010, Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell raised allegations that Burma has violated its commitment to UN Resolution 1874 regarding acceptance of shipments of military items from North Korea. Although not explained in his statement, and not validated by subsequent information, news reports alleged that Burma received a shipment of arms from North Korea. This allegation, which from my understanding has yet to be publicly clarified and substantiated by the State Department, has frozen any prospect of further engagement with the Burmese government.

Prior to my recent Asia trip, I and my staff worked for weeks to seek public clarification of this allegation, but the State Department provided none. At the time I left for my trip to Asia, no other countries had joined the United States in this allegation, although it had been discussed with several other countries. The State Department still has not publicly clarified this matter. My staff was told by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Scot Marciel that no other nation has joined the United States in publicly denouncing Burma on this matter.

As you know, only hours before I was scheduled to enter Burma, reports surfaced in the international media regarding new allegations that the military regime was cooperating with North Korea to develop a nuclear program. These allegations were raised by the Democratic Voice of Burma, which is a U.S.-funded media organization.

As a consequence of these two allegations, I postponed my visit to Burma until such time as both of them can be examined objectively and factually. I am now calling on you to do so, in a timely manner, so that our future relations with this country can proceed forward in a responsible way.

4. Special Envoy to Burma:

You will recall that the 2008 Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act requires the President to appoint a Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Among other responsibilities, this position should promote a comprehensive international effort, including multilateral sanctions, direct dialogue with the SPDC and democracy advocates, and support for nongovernmental organizations operating in Burma and neighboring countries, designed to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma and address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Burmese people. Since this act has been in effect, the position has not been filled.

I hope you will ask the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Burma without delay. In that regard, I would like to strongly recommend Ambassador Eric John, who currently serves in Thailand, for this position. Ambassador John has spent many years in East Asia, and has long experience in dealing with the North Korean regime on issues that might be similar to those we will be facing in Burma.

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Also, the Departments request for International Military Education and Training (IMET) in East Asia is the lowest of any region, with only \$9.3 million. This is a critical account for engaging the regions military leaders through English language training, promoting trust and confidence, and strengthening relationships with our partners and allies.

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In sum, despite all of this Administrations rhetoric about re-engaging Asia, unless we properly resource diplomatic and foreign assistance programs, the United States will not be fulfilling this stated commitment to the region. Moreover, our continued inaction is opening the door for other actors, namely China, to build influence.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. I look forward to your response and to working with you and the State Department to implement these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Jim Webb

United States Senator

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

221 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 8, 2010 Tuesday 9:37 PM EST

Webb Recommends State Department Strengthen Engagement in Asia

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 1591 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The office of Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., has issued the following news release:

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Sincerely,

Jim Webb

United States Senator

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TNS CT21CT-100609-2851254 61ChengTacorda

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

222 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

May 17, 2010 Monday
1 Edition

Teleni seeks joint effort on traffickers

BYLINE: Shalveen Chand And Samantha Rina**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 333 words

THERE should be a joint effort to tackle human trafficking as signs of it were becoming clearer in the region, said Police Commissioner Commodore Esala Teleni.

"This global phenomenon of trafficking in human beings will continue to increase unless we begin to initiate strategies to counter the problem," Commodore Teleni said.

"We are forced to cope with factors like weak economies, increasing poverty and few job opportunities, low risk of prosecution, the enormous profit potential, and improved international transportation and communication infrastructures such as the internet that provide innovative uses for prostitution and pornography.

"The Fiji Police Human Trafficking Working Group has been tasked to make an assessment through consultations, of the regional and international trends in addressing the issue of trafficking in human beings in Fiji, to take stock of best practices adopted by countries in the region and outside to combat the problem, to carry out demonstration projects and to evaluate these projects based on a standardised criteria."

The police have particular interest in addressing the issue in view of the introduction of the Crimes Decree No 44, and Fiji being highlighted as **Tier 3** in the 2009 **Trafficking In Persons** (TIP) report.

"Our position on the trafficking of persons, especially women and children, is firmly grounded in the existing laws and on a human rights approach," Commodore Teleni emphasised.

"It builds on the principles already laid down by previous international human rights instruments."

He told the workshop that trafficking was the sale of human beings and also a sale of one's dignity.

"The only difference between trafficking and traditional slavery is that trafficking occurs without the sanction of law.

"Slavery has been outlawed by the international community for over a century, but the criminalisation of slavery and trafficking has not affected its prevalence."

Fiji is obliged by a number of international treaties to address the problem.

LOAD-DATE: May 25, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

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223 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 16, 2010 Sunday

Fiji judge criticizes US assessment on human trafficking

LENGTH: 196 words

Text of report by news portal Fijilive website on 15 May

Fiji's Chief Justice Anthony Gates says Fiji's efforts in the area of **human trafficking** need to be lifted in a "politics-neutral way". Commenting on the State Department Trafficking Report 2009, Justice Gates said the report seemed to have lost its way in its commentary on **tier** placement, penalties for **tier** countries and sanctions.

"It may be that the 2009 report is now history," Justice Gates told the Fiji Police Human Trafficking Consultative Forum in Suva yesterday. "For with the far reaching reforms of (Fiji's) new Crimes Decree with its fulsome trafficking, people-smuggling and related offences, together with the new initiative shown at this forum, and the input from the wide field of stakeholders, the approach in Fiji will be seen to have made excellent progress."

A senior US official told the workshop this week that Fiji was listed as a Tier 3 nation in the US report. He said it was US government policy not to support countries listed in that tier.

The workshop has heard that children as young as 10 years are commercially exploited for sex in Fiji.

Source: Fijilive website, Suva, in English 15 May 10

LOAD-DATE: May 16, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

224 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

May 14, 2010 Friday
1 Edition**\$1bn loan****BYLINE:** Shalveen Chand**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 1**LENGTH:** 331 words

Fiji's chances of getting a \$1billion loan from the International Monetary Fund may depend on steps it takes over United Nations conventions on human trafficking.

United States deputy chief of mission Richard Pruett said Fiji was listed as a **Tier 3** nation in the US report on **human trafficking** and as policy the US government could not support governments listed in that **tier**.

"Well Fiji has applied for a standby credit agreement with the IMF of no less than \$1billion. The United States is the most prominent member of the IMF's board," he said.

"So long as Fiji is at Tier 3, our law requires us not just to vote against the loan but to actively oppose it. \$1billion is a lot of money. But trafficking in persons is an important issue."

Mr Pruett made the comments at the start of the two-day Fiji Police Human Trafficking Action Program. Police Commissioner Commodore Esala Teleni acknowledged that much was needed to be done to effectively combat human trafficking here.

He said all parties involved in combating trafficking must interact with each other.

"Trafficking is a problem that we can only hope to solve by a multi-disciplinary and co-ordinated approach," Commodore Teleni said.

"It will require a combination of extended research, legislative measures, improved policing and prosecution practices and judicial awareness."

According to Mr Pruett, Fiji and the US Embassy made substantial progress in combating human trafficking in the past two years.

He said the President, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, showed strong support to combat the issue.

"There has been much more public awareness on the issue," said Mr Pruett.

Currently, the US funds two projects in Fiji but Mr Pruett believes that there is a need to do more.

"The problem is particularly urgent now as the global financial crisis drives people to greater desperation," he added.

Mr Pruett said Fiji could remove itself from the Tier 3 status by strengthening effective law enforcement and collaboration on anti trafficking efforts.

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: FIJ

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225 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

May 14, 2010 Friday
1 Edition**Pruett: Fiji used as transit point****SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 304 words

Organised crime syndicates are already operating in Fiji and probing for weaknesses in Fiji's system and the weaknesses exist, said United States Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Pruett.

"When it comes to trafficking never underestimate your opponents," said Mr Pruett referring to the organisational structure of trafficking rings.

Addressing participants at a workshop on human trafficking organised by the Fiji Police and UNICEF, Mr Pruett said when Fiji was told of the dangers of human trafficking a few years ago, the government did not seem to care about the issue.

"Even after the United Nations report on human trafficking there was no action taken to eradicate the problem and no steps to educate the public," he said.

According to Mr Pruett, the economical and political situation in 2006 also meant that Fiji's focus was not on such matters.

He said the police was not funded well to look after the issue of human trafficking.

"The snakeheads, pimps and triads (name given to Chinese crime syndicate) are real, even more real than you think. They are always looking for weaknesses in immigration control," said Mr Pruett.

Mr Pruett told participants that his initial thoughts on Fiji's involvement in human trafficking was very minimal.

However news reports on Asian prostitution rings arrest, a Filipina's passport being held by her employer and the emergence of an 11-year-old girl in Bangkok, changed his view.

He said Fiji was being used as a transit point and there was a need for a collaborated effort from the government and the civil society.

Fiji's attitude towards **human trafficking** saw Fiji being listed as a **Tier 3** nation in the US report on **Human Trafficking** meaning that the country has not met the minimum requirement to deal with **human trafficking** and the Government is not doing anything to address the issue.

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

226 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

May 12, 2010 Wednesday

**PREPARED REMARKS OF LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE,
OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,
STATE DEPARTMENT, AT THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS;
SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN COMBATING HU-
MAN TRAFFICKING;
LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

LENGTH: 2498 words

PREPARED REMARKS OF LUIS CDEBACA, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, STATE DEPARTMENT, AT THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C. DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010

MR. CDEBACA: Good morning and thank you Ken Gude for your kind introduction. I am delighted to be here today at the Center for American Progress. This institution is truly an academic hub whose top-rate thinkers provide cutting-edge ideas. We'll hear from some of those thinkers this morning: David Abramowitz of Humanity United, Holly Burkhalter of the International Justice Mission, Neha Misra of the Solidarity Center, and John Norris of Enough - thank you for putting time and energy into today's conversation. I am also pleased to see so many key partners in the anti-trafficking movement here with us today.

Human trafficking is a human rights abuse; a byproduct of conflict; a threat to national security, public health and democracy; a labor and migration issue, and an ever-growing phenomenon. While this is a modern phenomenon, affecting communities across the globe, it is rooted in a very antiquated practice: involuntary servitude.

The United States' role in combating trafficking is simple: we must deploy every tool at our disposal in a strategic and coordinated way. We must tackle every form of this crime - whether it has been labeled peonage, involuntary servitude, sex trafficking, or debt bondage. We cannot focus on one form of trafficking over another if we truly want to end this crime. We must broaden our efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child is able to pursue, and achieve, his or her God-given potential.

Translating the fight against this modern form of slavery into our 21st Century foreign policy priorities is essential, as it cross-cuts and impacts a myriad of policy concerns. It is a fluid phenomenon, responding to market demands, vulnerabilities in laws, weak penalties, natural disasters, and economic and environmental instability.

Traffickers thrive in the shadows and operate in zones of impunity. The global response must not only catch and punish the traffickers we find, but also destroy their safe havens by fighting for rule of law, security, and economic empowerment.

In the decade since the world embraced the global standards under the international trafficking in persons protocol and the Clinton Administration enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the United States has pursued innovative approaches to combat this human rights abuse. There has been a lot of progress made against this crime; and, there is still much work to do - 10 years is just a blip in the history of this modern abolitionist effort.

One of the key tools that the United States uses is the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will release in June. The report is a diagnostic tool, based on the minimum standards to combat

trafficking as outlined in the TVPA. Countries are assessed, and sorted into clusters, or **tiers**. Based on in-country reporting from U.S. embassies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners, we work to provide a fair and transparent glimpse into the on-the-ground efforts against trafficking in persons through the "three P" paradigm - protection, prevention, and prosecution. The Report is not a rebuke or reprimand to our fellow nations across the globe, but a real assessment on how countries are progressing - and in some cases, not progressing - in the fight against modern slavery.

The Trafficking in Persons Report is a smart power tool that leads to greater bilateral and multilateral partnerships. It may lead to tough discussions, but the Report has incited action worldwide. More countries have implemented legislation, trained law enforcement, raised public awareness, implemented protective mechanisms for victims, and in the end, freed people from modern slavery. As the Secretary said last summer, we are encouraging countries to be full partners in tackling our shared global agenda; countries such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and Turkey. We need such emerging leaders to be stronger partners in our global effort against human trafficking.

The diagnostic tool that is the annual report is not a rebuke; it is a roadmap for engagement and cooperation. And, for it to be that, the United States must return to the role it has carried throughout history: lead by example.

So this year, in addition to the 175 countries that are assessed in the Report, we will rank and analyze the United States based on the same minimum standards. This ranking is essential to our efforts to implement smart-power diplomacy. Because we know that human trafficking exists in the United States, from young runaway youths being coerced by pimps, to men, women, and children being forced to pick and harvest crops in the southeastern part of the country, to immigrants being held in domestic servitude. For a long time, we called our efforts against this the "Peonage Program." Then, to lessen confusion over debt, the effort was renamed as the "Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Program."

Whatever we may call our efforts, we have to take a "whole of government" approach to enforce this constitutional guarantee. Human trafficking is not an issue in which we can implement policies of "exceptionalism." We must not only enforce the 13th Amendment and meet our international obligations we must also assess our efforts as we would assess others.

Another important tool of self-assessment is the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR), which the State Department is undertaking for the first time.

This review, which is slated to be released this September, will provide the short-, medium-, and long-term blueprint for our diplomatic and development efforts. Our goal is to use this process to guide us to agile, responsive, and effective institutions of diplomacy and development, including how to transition from approaches no longer commensurate with current challenges. It will offer guidance on how we develop policies; how we allocate our resources; how we deploy our staff; and how we exercise our authorities. As traffickers continue to use even more modern technology and methods, the United States Government must be equipped and able to deal with the fluid nature of this shadowy crime.

In the coming weeks, we will be working with partners worldwide to ensure that the Palermo Protocol is implemented to the fullest against forms of labor trafficking.

Specifically, we will be working to ensure that there is a stronger global effort to punish forced labor offenders with criminal penalties, as called for in the international protocol. Debt has long been identified as part of traffickers' coercive power to enslave. Research around the world, including that funded by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, shows that recruiters, labor brokers, and employers rely on debts - often sanctioned under law - tying migrants to a form of exploitation that these countries would otherwise ignore.

The United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) Report in late 2009 gave a special focus to the high costs of labor migration and how this often leads to instances of forced labor. When migrants are coerced or deceived into assuming debts that are several times the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in their country of origin, they easily become modern slaves once abroad. This weekend, we saw media reports that the suicide rate among guestworkers in the Gulf States is off-the-charts. A better system for ensuring that guestworkers are not enslaved is clearly needed in labor markets from the Gulf region to Africa to Southeast Asia.

Most vulnerable among these indebted migrants are domestic workers. From Indonesian girls and women exploited in the Gulf to Malagasy women in Lebanon and Mexicans here in the United States, domestic workers are uniquely vulnerable. Usually working outside the protections of prevailing labor laws, and that sadly is the case in the United States today, and often socially isolated in their workplace, domestic workers may easily fall into modern slavery by an abusive employer. So too, we have seen cases where women who traveled to work as a maid or a waitress are enslaved in prostitution.

While we utilize the Trafficking in Persons Report to highlight these trends and jumpstart bilateral and multilateral action, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons also funds international anti-trafficking efforts based on the Report's rankings. In essence, our work after the Report release does not end; it begins.

Based on the Report rankings, the Office funds anti-trafficking efforts around the world. This federal funding, which totals nearly \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010, is strategically placed in predominantly Tier Two Watch List and Tier Three countries.

We have funded law enforcement training efforts, prevention mechanisms such as public awareness campaigns, and shelters to protect victims from their captors. This year, the Office received more than 400 applications for anti-trafficking efforts. We regret that our budget constraints leave many worthy programs unfunded. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships through international programmatic efforts as well as cultivate new ones.

We are also working on relief and redevelopment efforts in Haiti. When instability shakes governments, communities, and societies as a whole, there is an increased likelihood of exploitation. Haiti was ranked as a special case in the past, which means that the government efforts could not be ranked due to on-the-ground circumstances and things have gotten worse since. Prior to the earthquake, my Office worked with key on-the-ground partners; and in its wake, we continue our work, especially with regards to the enslavement of restavek children.

Poor, mostly rural families send their children to cities to live with relatively wealthier "host" families, whom they expect will provide the children with food, shelter, and an education in exchange for domestic work. While some restaveks are cared for and sent to school, most of these children are subjected to involuntary domestic servitude. These restaveks, 65 percent of whom are girls between the ages of 6 and 14, work excessive hours, receive no schooling or payment and are often physically and sexually abused. Haitian labor laws require employers to pay domestic workers over the age of 15, so many host families dismiss restaveks before they reach that age. Dismissed and runaway restaveks make up a significant proportion of the large population of street children, who frequently are forced to work in prostitution or street crime by violent criminal gangs.

As the world looks to help Haiti build back better, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is utilizing strategic efforts on-the-ground to ensure that future generations of Haitians are allowed to live freely. Just a few weeks ago, one of our on-the-ground partners reported:

At the Ouanaminthe border crossing in the countryside of Northeast Haiti, teams have worked hard with very limited support and infrastructure to identify children at risk of being trafficked.

On March 10, our team of Child Protection Officers found a five year-old girl walking alone on the street. Despite efforts by our team to softly ask her questions, the young girl was too nervous to speak. She only responded that her name was BÈBÈ. Concerned for the young girl's safety, our Child Protection Officers got her to the closest interim care facility provided by Catholic Relief Services and announced a description of her on the local radio. Fortunately, not long after the call, her mother and father found her at the center. Our teams were ecstatic that they were able to reunify BÈBÈ with her family, and are very motivated to continue their work.

This is truly a success story for BÈBÈ and her family. There are still more men, women, and children in Haiti -- throughout the countryside and within the temporary camps -- at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

And yet, there are more success stories yet to be realized. We stand ready to work with the Government of Haiti to put the legal safeguards in place through a new anti-trafficking law, as well as new structures that are needed to guarantee that freedom.

The promise of freedom we seek to fulfill will be bolstered by what has now been coined as the fourth "p" - partnerships. We must strive toward better coordination with our interagency partners within our "whole of government" approach, but also partners from unlikely or untapped resources.

We are fortunate that non-governmental organizations have historically been strong partners in the anti-trafficking movement. Today, we are working as well to build on our historic relationships and cultivate new partnerships with the private sector, namely private business and corporations so that we can leverage the resources, expertise, and talents against trafficking.

Partnering with the private sector is essential to scrubbing modern slavery out of the supply chains that create our everyday products--food, clothes, and cell phones to name a few. It's also an unmistakable opportunity to go back to the vic-

tim-centered approach and partner with businesses across the United States to provide victims in-kind assistance through job-training and employment and to collaborate on stamping out trafficking from the demand side.

As you know, much of international human rights work has been about naming and shaming. But Secretary Clinton said it right when she said: "Calling for accountability doesn't start or stop, however, at naming offenders. Our goal is to encourage - even demand - that governments must also take responsibility by putting human rights into law and embedding them in the government institutions; by building strong independent courts; competent and disciplined law enforcement. And once rights are established, governments should be expected to resist the temptation to restrict freedom."

Freedom is the greatest human right. It cannot be guaranteed by naming and shaming alone, or by development programs, or better schools or the alleviation of poverty. At some point, the State has to guarantee this most basic of rights. Those who violate it must be punished; for those who lose it, it must be restored and protected. Those who restrict freedom are not just violating a human rights norm; they are committing a crime. As we turn from a movement in its infancy to one that has matured, we must all look to strategic and dynamic efforts to combat this modern form of slavery.

Because as much as we discuss the policies of protection or prevention or prosecution, our work is about people; we should dare to pledge that every single person around the world can succeed, in a life built on the pillars of freedom.

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227 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

May 12, 2010 Wednesday

THE ROLE OF UNITED STATES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 2476 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large , Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Center for American Progress

Washington, DC

May 12, 2010

As Prepared

Good morning and thank you Ken Gude for your kind introduction. I am delighted to be here today at the Center for American Progress. This institution is truly an academic hub whose top-rate thinkers provide cutting-edge ideas. We'll hear from some of those thinkers this morning: David Abramowitz of Humanity United, Holly Burkhalter of the International Justice Mission, Neha Misra of the Solidarity Center, and John Norris of Enough thank you for putting time and energy into today's conversation. I am also pleased to see so many key partners in the anti-trafficking movement here with us today.

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The United States role in combating trafficking is simple: we must deploy every tool at our disposal in a strategic and coordinated way. We must tackle every form of this crime whether it has been labeled peonage, involuntary servitude, sex trafficking, or debt bondage. We cannot focus on one form of trafficking over another if we truly want to end this crime. We must broaden our efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child is able to pursue, and achieve, his or her God-given potential.

Translating the fight against this modern form of slavery into our 21st Century foreign policy priorities is essential, as it cross-cuts and impacts a myriad of policy concerns. It is a fluid phenomenon, responding to market demands, vulnerabilities in laws, weak penalties, natural disasters, and economic and environmental instability.

Traffickers thrive in the shadows and operate in zones of impunity. The global response must not only catch and punish the traffickers we find, but also destroy their safe havens by fighting for rule of law, security, and economic empowerment.

In the decade since the world embraced the global standards under the international trafficking in persons protocol and the Clinton Administration enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the United States has pursued innovative approaches to combat this human rights abuse. There has been a lot of progress made against this crime; and, there is still much work to do 10 years is just a blip in the history of this modern abolitionist effort.

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Most vulnerable among these indebted migrants are domestic workers. From Indonesian girls and women exploited in the Gulf to Malagasy women in Lebanon and Mexicans here in the United States, domestic workers are uniquely vulnerable. Usually working outside the protections of prevailing labor laws, and that sadly is the case in the United States today, and often socially isolated in their workplace, domestic workers may easily fall into modern slavery by an abu-

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This is truly a success story for Bb and her family. There are still more men, women, and children in Haiti -- throughout the countryside and within the temporary camps -- at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

And yet, there are more success stories yet to be realized. We stand ready to work with the Government of Haiti to put the legal safeguards in place through a new anti-trafficking law, as well as new structures that are needed to guarantee that freedom.

The promise of freedom we seek to fulfill will be bolstered by what has now been coined as the fourth "p" partnerships. We must strive toward better coordination with our interagency partners within our "whole of government" approach, but also partners from unlikely or untapped resources.

We are fortunate that non-governmental organizations have historically been strong partners in the anti-trafficking movement. Today, we are working as well to build on our historic relationships and cultivate new partnerships with the private sector, namely private business and corporations so that we can leverage the resources, expertise, and talents against trafficking.

Partnering with the private sector is essential to scrubbing modern slavery out of the supply chains that create our everyday products--food, clothes, and cell phones to name a few. It's also an unmistakable opportunity to go back to the victim-centered approach and partner with businesses across the United States to provide victims in-kind assistance through job-training and employment and to collaborate on stamping out trafficking from the demand side.

As you know, much of international human rights work has been about naming and shaming. But Secretary Clinton said it right when she said: Calling for accountability doesn't start or stop, however, at naming offenders. Our goal is to encourage even demand that governments must also take responsibility by putting human rights into law and embedding them in the government institutions; by building strong independent courts; competent and disciplined law enforcement. And once rights are established, governments should be expected to resist the temptation to restrict freedom.

Freedom is the greatest human right. It cannot be guaranteed by naming and shaming alone, or by development programs, or better schools or the alleviation of poverty. At some point, the State has to guarantee this most basic of rights. Those who violate it must be punished; for those who lose it, it must be restored and protected. Those who restrict freedom are not just violating a human rights norm; they are committing a crime. As we turn from a movement in its infancy to one that has matured, we must all look to strategic and dynamic efforts to combat this modern form of slavery.

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LOAD-DATE: May 12, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

228 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

May 12, 2010 Wednesday 2:13 AM EST

Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person, Speaks on the Role of the United States in Combating Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 2963 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca:

Thank you Ken. Good morning everyone. I'm delighted to be here at the Center for American Progress. I do have to put in a quick rebuttal on behalf of Holly, which is that both of us went to Iowa State for undergrad as well. This is definitely old-home week. I'm wondering if Neha and I went to high school together.

It's great to be here at CAP. This institution is truly an academic hub whose top-rate thinkers provide cutting-edge ideas. We're going to be hearing from some top-rate thinkers today: David, Holly, Neha, and John. I think that for me it's not just being able to be on a panel with them. It's also to be able to be here in the room and also online with so many of the folks who are making things work in the movement to fight slavery in the modern era.

We're talking about human trafficking today. It is, as Ken said, a human rights abuse. It's a byproduct of conflict. A threat to national security, public health and democracy. It's a labor; a migration issue.

We're told that it is a fast-growing phenomenon. While it certainly is a modern phenomenon that affects communities across the globe, this is rooted in a very antiquated practice -- involuntary servitude.

The United States' mandate in combating trafficking is a long one but it is a simple one: we must deploy every tool at our disposal in a strategic and coordinated fashion. We must tackle every form of this crime - whether it has been labeled peonage, involuntary servitude, sex trafficking, or debt bondage.

We cannot focus on one form of trafficking over another if we truly want to end this crime. And, we ought to broaden our efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child is able to pursue, and achieve, his or her God-given potential.

Translating the fight against modern slavery into 21st Century foreign policy is essential. It cross-cuts and impacts so many policy concerns; it is a fluid phenomenon that responds to market demands, vulnerabilities in laws, weak penalties, natural disasters, economic and environmental instability.

What we're really talking about are the shadows: traffickers operate in the shadows and they take advantage of zones of impunity no matter why those zones exist. So, our global response must have to not just be to catch and punish those that we can find; we have to destroy their safe havens by fighting for rule of law, security, and economic empowerment.

It has been a decade since the world embraced the global standards of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. We have seen innovative approaches: innovative approaches from the Clinton Administration, the Bush Administration, and the Obama Administration alike. This is clearly an issue that cuts across partisan lines. So I'm proud to build on the work of my predecessors, Nancy LaRafael, John Miller, and Mark Lagon, and I see that Mark is able to join us today.

There has been a lot of progress made, but there is a lot to do - 10 years is really just a blip in any movement much less in our modern abolitionist effort.

One of the key tools that the United States uses is the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which Secretary of State Clinton will release in June. The report is a diagnostic tool. It's based on the minimum standards to combat trafficking that Congress articulated in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act - the TVPA. Countries are assessed, and sorted into clusters or **Tiers** as we call them.

Based on in-country reporting from our embassies, NGOs, and other partners, we strive for a fair and transparent glimpse into the on-the-ground efforts against trafficking in persons through the "three P" paradigm of Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention.

The Report is not a rebuke or reprimand to our fellow countries; it's a real assessment on how countries are doing - or frankly, sometimes not doing - in the fight against modern slavery. It's a smart power tool that leads to greater bilateral and multilateral partnerships. The Report might lead to tough discussions, but it has driven action worldwide.

Because of the Report, countries have implemented legislation, trained law enforcement, raised public awareness, implemented protective mechanisms for victims, and in the end, what's important: freed people from slavery.

As the Secretary said last summer, we are encouraging countries to be full partners in tackling our shared global agenda; countries such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Turkey. We need such emerging leaders to be stronger partners in this effort, the effort against global trafficking.

So the report is not a rebuke; but a roadmap - a roadmap for engagement and cooperation. For it to be that, the United States has return to the role we have always carried throughout history: to lead by example.

So this year, in addition to the 175 other countries that are going to be assessed in the Report, we will rank and analyze the United States based on the same minimum standards that we do other countries. This is an essential move to implement smart-power diplomacy. IT's a vehicle for cooperation, a tool for principled engagement with our skeptics, a guidepost for shared development projects. It will not only help us at home, but leverage what we do, what we feel is a key source of American power - the power of example.

Because we know that human trafficking exists in the United States and it has from the beginning. Women and children being held by pimps; people being forced to harvest crops; immigrants held in domestic servitude. This is happening today, and it has happened for a very long time. For decades, we called our efforts against this the "Peonage Program." Then, to lessen confusion over whether a debt needed to be proven in court, the effort was renamed as the "Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Program." And, in the late 1990s, it was again recast, as "Human Trafficking." But whatever we may it, we have to take a "whole of government" approach to enforce this constitutional guarantee.

Human trafficking is not an issue in which we can implement policies of American "exceptionalism." We must not only enforce the 13th Amendment and meet our international obligations -- we also have to assess our efforts as we would assess others.

Now, another important tool of self-assessment is the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review - the QDDR - which the State Department is undertaking for the first time. This review, which is slated to be released this September, will provide the short-, medium-, and long-term blueprints for our diplomatic and development efforts on all issues, not just trafficking.

Our goal is to use this process to guide us; to guide us to agile, responsive, and effective institutions of diplomacy and development, including the difficult one: how to transition from an approach no longer commensurate with current challenges. It will offer guidance on how we develop policies; how we allocate resources; how we deploy staff; and how we exercise our authorities.

As traffickers continue to use even more modern technology and methods, the U.S. Government has to be equipped and able to deal with the fluid nature of this shadowy crime. In the Palermo Protocol and the TVPA, we have the tools that we need.

In the coming weeks, we'll be working with partners such as the OSCE, the UN Human Rights Council, the OAS, and of course, the Office of Drugs and Crime at the UN to ensure that the Palermo Protocol is used to its fullest against all forms of trafficking.

While continuing to stress the need to liberate and compassionately restore victims of sex trafficking, we will work to ensure an intensified global effort to punish forced labor offenders with criminal penalties, not just administrative remedies, as is called for in the international protocol.

And to do that, we have to address debt bondage. Debt has long been identified as part of traffickers' coercive power to enslave. In late 2009, the United Nations' Development Programme, the UNDP, gave a special focus in their report on the high costs of labor migration and how this often leads to instances of forced labor.

When migrants are coerced or deceived into assuming debts that are several times the per capita GDP in their country, they easily become modern slaves once abroad. They travel with the slavery already attached.

Just this weekend, we saw media reports that the suicide rate among guestworkers in the Gulf States is off-the-charts. Just yesterday, an article came out about a Thai guestworker in the United States who ran away from his abuser but continues to be afraid. He risks losing everything at home from the recruiters who helped to traffic him and are still free.

Research around the world, including some funded by my office, shows that workers are often trapped in a web of deceit and debt bondage by unscrupulous recruiters, labor brokers, and employers. And too often, these debts are legal, or are dealt with only as administrative violations.

A better system for ensuring that guestworkers are not enslaved is clearly needed in labor markets around the world - in the Gulf region, in Africa, in Southeast Asia - and here in the United States as well.

Perhaps most vulnerable among that group are the domestic workers. From Indonesian girls and women exploited in the Gulf to Malagasy women in Lebanon, to African children here in the United States, domestic workers are uniquely vulnerable.

Usually working outside the protections of prevailing labor laws - and sadly, that's the case in the United States today - and socially isolated in their workplace, domestic workers too easily fall into modern slavery.

So too, we have seen reports of cases where women who traveled to work as a maid or a waitress have been enslaved as prostitutes, not simply forced to work behind closed doors. We need to break that zone of impunity, to get behind those closed doors, to confront and eliminate the conditions in which domestic servants are so often abused.

While we use the Trafficking in Persons Report to highlight these trends and jumpstart multilateral and bilateral action, our office also supports anti-slavery programs around the world, and I'm going to tell you a little bit about those.

In essence, our work after the Report release does not end; it just starts. Based on the Report rankings, we fund about 20 million dollars in programs around the world, strategically placed, largely in countries that are largely on Tier Two Watch List and Tier Three - the lowest rankings in our Report. We fund law enforcement training efforts, prevention - things such as public awareness campaigns, and shelters to protect the victims from their captors.

This year, we received more than 400 applicants for anti-trafficking efforts; almost a half of billion dollars worth of requests and sadly, we are only going to fund about \$20 million worth. Budget constraints are leaving many worthy programs unfunded around the world. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships through these programs, and responding to the needs of victims in real time.

Speaking of responding in real time. I would be remiss if I didn't address Haiti. Our work on relief and redevelopment in Haiti necessarily includes human trafficking and slavery issues. When instability shakes governments, communities, and societies as a whole, there is an increased likelihood of exploitation.

Especially in Haiti. Haiti was ranked as a special case in past Reports. This means that the government efforts could not be ranked because of the on-the-ground circumstances. And things have gotten worse since the earthquake. Before the earthquake, we were working with local partners; and in its wake, we continued to work, especially with regards to the enslavement of children or the restaveks.

Under the restavek system, poor, mostly rural families send their children to cities to live with wealthier families whom they think will provide the children with food, shelter and an education, in exchange for a little bit of domestic help.

While some restaveks are cared for and sent to school, most of them are subjected to involuntary domestic servitude. Sixty-five percent of the victims are girls between the ages of six and fourteen. They work excessive hours, receive no schooling or payment and are often physically and sexually abused. Haitian labor laws require employers to pay domestic workers over the age of 15, so not surprisingly, many host families dismiss the restaveks just before that kicks in.

As a result, dismissed and runaway restaveks make up a significant proportion of the large population of street children in Haiti. They are easy prey for gangs who trap them in prostitution or petty crime.

As the world looks to help Haiti build back better, we're undertaking strategic efforts to ensure that future generations of Haitians are allowed to live freely. Just a few weeks ago, one of our NGO partners who we rushed money to in the wake of the earthquake reported this, and I'll quote an email that they sent:

"At the Ouanaminthe border crossing in the countryside of Northeast Haiti, our teams have worked hard with very limited support and infrastructure to identify children at risk of being trafficked.

"On March 10, our team of Child Protection Officers found a five year-old girl walking alone on the street. Despite efforts by our team to softly ask her questions, she was too nervous to speak. She only responded that her name was Bebe. Concerned for the young girl's safety, our Child Protection Officers got her to the closest interim care facility provided by Catholic Relief Services, and announced a description of her on the local radio. Fortunately, not long after the call, her mother and father found her at the center. Our teams were ecstatic that they were able to reunify Bebe with her family, and are very motivated to continue their work."

This is truly a success story: an unaccompanied child, reunited with her family, not taken by traffickers. But there are still so many Haitians, of all ages throughout the countryside and within the temporary camps who continue to be at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

There are more success stories yet to be realized and we stand ready to support our NGO partners, to work with the Government of Haiti as it puts forth legal safeguards in place through a new anti-trafficking law in Parliament, and enacting new structures that are needed to guarantee its citizens' rights. We stand with them because partnerships are how we can achieve this goal. We cannot do this alone.

The promise of freedom that we seek to fulfill will be bolstered by what has been termed now as the Fourth "P" in our paradigm - of partnerships. We have to strive toward better coordination. Coordination through "whole of government" approach, but also with partners from unlikely or untapped sources. We are fortunate that non-governmental organizations have historically been strong partners in the anti-trafficking movement. Today, we are also working to build on our historic relationships by cultivating new partnerships with the private sector.

We'll work with private business and corporations to leverage their resources, expertise, and talents against trafficking. Partnering with the private sector is essential to reduce the demand for commercial sex and cheap labor that traffickers rush to meet through violence. It means scrubbing modern slavery out of the supply chains that create our every-day products--food, clothes, and cell phones to name a few.

It's also an opportunity to go back to the victim-centered approach in a new way. Why not partner with businesses across the United States and around the world to provide victims the best kind of rehabilitation: jobs.

As you know, much of international human rights work of the past decades has been largely about identifying a problem, naming, and shaming." But as Secretary Clinton recently said:

"Calling for accountability doesn't start or stop, however, at naming offenders. Our goal is to encourage - even demand - that governments must also take responsibility by putting human rights into law and embedding them in the government institutions; by building strong independent courts; competent and disciplined law enforcement. And once rights are established, governments should be expected to resist the temptation to restrict freedom."

Freedom. It's the greatest human right; slavery is its antithesis. In speeches and proclamations, President Obama has called for us to fight for democracy, freedom, and opportunity by taking on modern slavery.

Because freedom alone does not deliver itself. Freedom cannot be guaranteed by naming and shaming, or by development programs, or better schools or the alleviation of poverty although all of these are necessary. At some point, the State has to guarantee this most basic of rights.

Those who violate it must be punished; for those who lose it, it must be restored and protected. Because those who restrict freedom aren't just violating a norm, they're committing a crime.

As we turn from a movement in its infancy to one that has matured, we have to look to strategic and dynamic effects, how can we combat this modern form of slavery?

As much as we discuss the policies of protection or prevention or prosecution, for the concepts of freedom or democracy, this work is about people. It is for them that we have to be hopeful, audacious, and urgent. It is for them that we should together dare to pledge that every single person alive today can succeed - will succeed - in a world without slavery.

Thank you.

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229 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

May 12, 2010 Wednesday 2:13 AM EST

Luis CdeBaca Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person, Speaks on the Role of the United States in Combating Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 2963 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca:

Thank you Ken. Good morning everyone. I'm delighted to be here at the Center for American Progress. I do have to put in a quick rebuttal on behalf of Holly, which is that both of us went to Iowa State for undergrad as well. This is definitely old-home week. I'm wondering if Neha and I went to high school together.

It's great to be here at CAP. This institution is truly an academic hub whose top-rate thinkers provide cutting-edge ideas. We're going to be hearing from some top-rate thinkers today: David, Holly, Neha, and John. I think that for me it's not just being able to be on a panel with them. It's also to be able to be here in the room and also online with so many of the folks who are making things work in the movement to fight slavery in the modern era.

We're talking about human trafficking today. It is, as Ken said, a human rights abuse. It's a byproduct of conflict. A threat to national security, public health and democracy. It's a labor; a migration issue.

We're told that it is a fast-growing phenomenon. While it certainly is a modern phenomenon that affects communities across the globe, this is rooted in a very antiquated practice -- involuntary servitude.

The United States' mandate in combating trafficking is a long one but it is a simple one: we must deploy every tool at our disposal in a strategic and coordinated fashion. We must tackle every form of this crime - whether it has been labeled peonage, involuntary servitude, sex trafficking, or debt bondage.

We cannot focus on one form of trafficking over another if we truly want to end this crime. And, we ought to broaden our efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child is able to pursue, and achieve, his or her God-given potential.

Translating the fight against modern slavery into 21st Century foreign policy is essential. It cross-cuts and impacts so many policy concerns; it is a fluid phenomenon that responds to market demands, vulnerabilities in laws, weak penalties, natural disasters, economic and environmental instability.

What we're really talking about are the shadows: traffickers operate in the shadows and they take advantage of zones of impunity no matter why those zones exist. So, our global response must have to not just be to catch and punish those that we can find; we have to destroy their safe havens by fighting for rule of law, security, and economic empowerment.

It has been a decade since the world embraced the global standards of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. We have seen innovative approaches: innovative approaches from the Clinton Administration, the Bush Administration, and the Obama Administration alike. This is clearly an issue that cuts across partisan lines. So I'm proud to build on the work of my predecessors, Nancy LaRafael, John Miller, and Mark Lagon, and I see that Mark is able to join us today.

There has been a lot of progress made, but there is a lot to do - 10 years is really just a blip in any movement much less in our modern abolitionist effort.

One of the key tools that the United States uses is the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which Secretary of State Clinton will release in June. The report is a diagnostic tool. It's based on the minimum standards to combat trafficking that Congress articulated in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act - the TVPA. Countries are assessed, and sorted into clusters or **Tiers** as we call them.

Based on in-country reporting from our embassies, NGOs, and other partners, we strive for a fair and transparent glimpse into the on-the-ground efforts against trafficking in persons through the "three P" paradigm of Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention.

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Because of the Report, countries have implemented legislation, trained law enforcement, raised public awareness, implemented protective mechanisms for victims, and in the end, what's important: freed people from slavery.

As the Secretary said last summer, we are encouraging countries to be full partners in tackling our shared global agenda; countries such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Turkey. We need such emerging leaders to be stronger partners in this effort, the effort against global trafficking.

So the report is not a rebuke; but a roadmap - a roadmap for engagement and cooperation. For it to be that, the United States has return to the role we have always carried throughout history: to lead by example.

So this year, in addition to the 175 other countries that are going to be assessed in the Report, we will rank and analyze the United States based on the same minimum standards that we do other countries. This is an essential move to implement smart-power diplomacy. IT's a vehicle for cooperation, a tool for principled engagement with our skeptics, a guidepost for shared development projects. It will not only help us at home, but leverage what we do, what we feel is a key source of American power - the power of example.

Because we know that human trafficking exists in the United States and it has from the beginning. Women and children being held by pimps; people being forced to harvest crops; immigrants held in domestic servitude. This is happening today, and it has happened for a very long time. For decades, we called our efforts against this the "Peonage Program." Then, to lessen confusion over whether a debt needed to be proven in court, the effort was renamed as the "Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Program." And, in the late 1990s, it was again recast, as "Human Trafficking." But whatever we may it, we have to take a "whole of government" approach to enforce this constitutional guarantee.

Human trafficking is not an issue in which we can implement policies of American "exceptionalism." We must not only enforce the 13th Amendment and meet our international obligations -- we also have to assess our efforts as we would assess others.

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While continuing to stress the need to liberate and compassionately restore victims of sex trafficking, we will work to ensure an intensified global effort to punish forced labor offenders with criminal penalties, not just administrative remedies, as is called for in the international protocol.

And to do that, we have to address debt bondage. Debt has long been identified as part of traffickers' coercive power to enslave. In late 2009, the United Nations' Development Programme, the UNDP, gave a special focus in their report on the high costs of labor migration and how this often leads to instances of forced labor.

When migrants are coerced or deceived into assuming debts that are several times the per capita GDP in their country, they easily become modern slaves once abroad. They travel with the slavery already attached.

Just this weekend, we saw media reports that the suicide rate among guestworkers in the Gulf States is off-the-charts. Just yesterday, an article came out about a Thai guestworker in the United States who ran away from his abuser but continues to be afraid. He risks losing everything at home from the recruiters who helped to traffic him and are still free.

Research around the world, including some funded by my office, shows that workers are often trapped in a web of deceit and debt bondage by unscrupulous recruiters, labor brokers, and employers. And too often, these debts are legal, or are dealt with only as administrative violations.

A better system for ensuring that guestworkers are not enslaved is clearly needed in labor markets around the world - in the Gulf region, in Africa, in Southeast Asia - and here in the United States as well.

Perhaps most vulnerable among that group are the domestic workers. From Indonesian girls and women exploited in the Gulf to Malagasy women in Lebanon, to African children here in the United States, domestic workers are uniquely vulnerable.

Usually working outside the protections of prevailing labor laws - and sadly, that's the case in the United States today - and socially isolated in their workplace, domestic workers too easily fall into modern slavery.

So too, we have seen reports of cases where women who traveled to work as a maid or a waitress have been enslaved as prostitutes, not simply forced to work behind closed doors. We need to break that zone of impunity, to get behind those closed doors, to confront and eliminate the conditions in which domestic servants are so often abused.

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Speaking of responding in real time. I would be remiss if I didn't address Haiti. Our work on relief and redevelopment in Haiti necessarily includes human trafficking and slavery issues. When instability shakes governments, communities, and societies as a whole, there is an increased likelihood of exploitation.

Especially in Haiti. Haiti was ranked as a special case in past Reports. This means that the government efforts could not be ranked because of the on-the-ground circumstances. And things have gotten worse since the earthquake. Before the earthquake, we were working with local partners; and in its wake, we continued to work, especially with regards to the enslavement of children or the restaveks.

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As a result, dismissed and runaway restaveks make up a significant proportion of the large population of street children in Haiti. They are easy prey for gangs who trap them in prostitution or petty crime.

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As you know, much of international human rights work of the past decades has been largely about identifying a problem, naming, and shaming." But as Secretary Clinton recently said:

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Freedom. It's the greatest human right; slavery is its antithesis. In speeches and proclamations, President Obama has called for us to fight for democracy, freedom, and opportunity by taking on modern slavery.

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As we turn from a movement in its infancy to one that has matured, we have to look to strategic and dynamic effects, how can we combat this modern form of slavery?

As much as we discuss the policies of protection or prevention or prosecution, for the concepts of freedom or democracy, this work is about people. It is for them that we have to be hopeful, audacious, and urgent. It is for them that we should together dare to pledge that every single person alive today can succeed - will succeed - in a world without slavery.

Thank you.

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230 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

April 27, 2010 Tuesday

More teeth to combat human trafficking

LENGTH: 306 words**DATELINE:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, April 27 -- *Task Force to begin operation in few months

*Border protection unit at BIA, harbours

A Task Force (encompassing several key Government and non-Governmental stakeholders) and a border protection unit will be setup at ports of entry to combat human trafficking.

The proposed Task Force may come into operation within the next couple of months in collaboration with the Justice Ministry, Immigration and Emigration Department, Law Enforcement Authorities, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Child Protection Authority and the International Organization for Migration, Immigration Department sources said. Authorities are contemplating on setting up border protection units at the Bandaranaike International Airport and harbours to identify potential victims of trafficking, both in coming and out bound.

More muscle to the existing laws and the introduction of new ones too are sought.

According to the same sources, meetings on the formation of the Task Force had taken place and a final decision is to be taken shortly.

Meanwhile, the first ever case referred to a Sri Lankan Court of Law, involving a human trafficking charge, was taken up before the Colombo High Court yesterday. The Government prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its Penal Code.

Trafficking offenders could face up to 20 years imprisonment. The punishments are commensurate with those assigned for other grave crimes. The latest efforts come as the US annual report on **human trafficking** which categorizes countries into three different **tiers** according to their identified vulnerable levels, has included Sri Lanka in the **tier two watch list**. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: April 27, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

231 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

April 27, 2010 Tuesday 10:33 PM EST

Special Measures to Combat Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 244 words**DATELINE:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

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LOAD-DATE: April 28, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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Cyprus Mail

Internet Edition

Cyprus Mail

April 25, 2010 Sunday

Two-year action plan to combat flesh trade

LENGTH: 256 words

Author:
Sebastian Heller

CYPRUS HAS come up with an action plan to combat human trafficking more effectively over the next two years.

The plan's details were presented yesterday at an awareness-raising event at the Presidential Palace.

"This is significant, as no previous action plan had a timescale with specific objectives and so under them nothing was done," said Doros Polycarpou, director of migrant support group KISA.

Cyprus has dedicated several years to improving its previously embarrassing record on human trafficking and harmonising with international laws.

"The significant steps in the last two years have been recognised internationally, removing Cyprus from the **blacklist** [where it had been] designated as not taking sufficient measures to combat the phenomenon of **human trafficking**," said Interior Minister Neoclis Sylikiotis.

The problem has crept back into the spotlight over the past few years with stories of children being trafficked and instances of trafficking for organ transplants coming to light.

Polycarpou believes there is a false perception among Cypriots that human trafficking only relates to prostitution.

The illegality lies in bringing people to the island to work under false pretences and then keeping them here under conditions of dependency.

Nowadays, said Polycarpou, it is in the labour market that human trafficking in Cyprus presents the most intractable programme.

"Our legal structure has attributes which not only encourages this form of trafficking but also protects those who engage in it," he said.

LOAD-DATE: April 25, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 70

Syndigate.info, Al Bawaba.com

233 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

April 4, 2010 Sunday

Pakistan: US interim report shows progress in combating trafficking in persons in Pak

LENGTH: 542 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, April 04 -- US Department of State released the 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Interim Assessment report for Pakistan, citing improvements at both the national and provincial levels in combating trafficking in persons.

According to our correspondent, interim reports evaluate progress made in combating **trafficking in persons** by those countries placed on the Special **Watch List** in September 2009.

Pakistan Interim Assessment Report says Government of Pakistan has made some progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2009 TIP Report, with improvements evident at both the national and provincial levels.

While the Government of Pakistan has not reported any prosecutions or convictions of labor trafficking offenders, or any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government officials complicit in human trafficking, it has reported many investigations of labor and sex trafficking offenses. The reporting of law enforcement data on bonded labor and forced child labor, a provincial police purview, has been difficult because of the high level of extremist violence and other criminal activity affecting Pakistan.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) disseminated the 2009 TIP Report's findings and recommendations among federal and provincial labor, education, and health ministries, provincial chief secretaries, and provincial inspectors general of police, and requested data on anti-trafficking efforts from these government entities. As of October 2009 law enforcement officers in four districts of the Sindh Province had rescued approximately 650 laborers from bondage and placed some in state-owned housing. The federal government formed a Legal Review Committee and held nation-wide multi-stakeholder consultations to draft a legislative amendment to strengthen the 1992 Bonded Labour Abolition Act.

Pakistan has expanded victim protection services and prevention efforts. The government provided medical and psychological services to Pakistani trafficking victims in Oman through its FIA Oman offices. The federal government, as part of its National Plan of Action for Abolition of Bonded Labor and Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Laborers, continued to provide legal aid to bonded laborers in the North West Frontier Province and Punjab and expanded services to include Balochistan and Sindh provinces, establishing provincial capital bases and district offices. This legal aid program has had an average annual expenditure of \$21,000 since its launch in 2005. The Punjab provincial government continued implementation of its \$1.4 million project (launched at the end of 2008) aimed at eliminating bonded labor in brick kilns. This project to date helped nearly 6,000 bonded laborers obtain national identity cards and has provided \$140,000 in no-interest loans to help free laborers from debt.

The Sindh provincial government has continued to implement its \$116,000 project (launched at the end of 2005) which provided state-owned land for housing camps and constructed 75 low-cost housing units for freed bonded laborer families. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarbjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: April 3, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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234 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

April 2, 2010 Friday

US interim report shows progress in combating trafficking in persons in Pak

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 91

LENGTH: 515 words

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LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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235 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

April 2, 2010 Friday

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SECTION: Vol. XV No. 91

LENGTH: 514 words

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236 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

March 29, 2010 Monday

South Africa; Human Trafficking Not Our Highest Priority

BYLINE: Business Day (Johannesburg)

LENGTH: 777 words

THE preparation of legislation and a policy framework to combat human trafficking show the difficulties of developing countries in meeting their obligations to multilateral institutions such as the United Nations (UN).

SA has taken the first step towards developing a policy on combating the trafficking of persons, but it does so in the dark because it lacks information about the scale of the problem.

SA is a signatory to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which imposes obligations on signatory countries to provide support to the victims of human trafficking. Pretoria has also been pressed by the US state department to implement measures to combat human trafficking. The US placed SA on its **tier 2 watch list** for the years 2005 to 2008 because it failed to comply fully with the minimum international standards for eliminating **human trafficking**.

In addition, nongovernmental organisations have been blowing their vuvuzelas in recent months, warning that the World Cup this year will provide cover for crime syndicates involved in human trafficking.

The dilemma facing SA over the human trafficking issue was highlighted once more last week when the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) released a report, Tsireledzani: understanding the dimensions of human trafficking in southern Africa.

"The limited number of studies that have been conducted suggests that SA is a key destination and, to a lesser extent, a country of origin and transit for people trafficked to and from Africa and abroad," said the study, conducted for the NPA by the Human Sciences Research Council. "However, while varying (and often alarmist) statistics pertaining to human trafficking are sometimes reported in the media and by civil society institutions, reliable information on the scale, direction and nature of trafficking remains sparse."

The study came out a week after Justice Minister Jeff Radebe submitted to Parliament the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, which is meant to meet our obligations under the UN protocol.

The government cannot quantify the cost of these obligations because it has no information about the scale of human trafficking. "There will be substantial financial implications for the government departments which will be involved in the implementation of the act, once it has been passed," is all that is said in an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

The obligations, which arise from article 6 of the UN protocol, include the provision of housing; information regarding the legal rights of the victims in a language they can understand; medical, psychological and other material assistance; and employment, education and training opportunities.

The challenge for a developing country, which by definition has limited resources, is that complying with UN protocols can be expensive. It can divert resources from the most significant problems - efforts to solve which give the biggest bang for our buck - to problems that are less pressing.

This challenge is even more magnified when a country has to make such commitments in the dark, as SA is doing with regard to human trafficking.

Consider the institutional capacity that must now be devoted to combating human trafficking, ahead of all other crimes - for which information is available - that beset the country. The bill calls for the setting up of an intersectoral committee to be made up of the directors-general of eight departments as well as the national director of public prosecutions and the CEO of the Government Communication and Information System. The committee will prepare a national policy framework to deal with all matters contained in the bill, including compiling a database of human trafficking cases.

The other dilemma that arises from the UN protocol is that once the policy is in place, it will in effect create a two-**tier** system, where victims of **human trafficking** will be entitled to the best support as mandated by the UN, while victims of other crimes will not.

The bill provides for the victim to ask the court to order a person convicted of the crime of human trafficking to pay the victim for, among other things, damage or loss of property; physical, psychological or other injury; being infected with a life-threatening disease; or loss of income or support.

The only recourse available to other victims of crime is to sue for damages, a costly process that is out of reach for most.

What this means is that you may be better off, financially at least, being infected with HIV as a victim of human trafficking than ordinary rape. That can't be right.

Sikhakhane is editor-in-chief of Destiny Man and a freelance writer.

LOAD-DATE: March 29, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

237 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Business Day (South Africa)

March 29, 2010
Business Day Edition

Human trafficking not our highest priority

BYLINE: Jabulani Sikhakhane

SECTION: OPINION & EDITORIAL

LENGTH: 800 words

Human trafficking not our highest priority

Complying with UN protocols is expensive and can divert resources away from more pressing problems

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

238 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

March 26, 2010 Friday

West Africa; African Union Campaign Against Trafficking Launched for Ecowas

BYLINE: Economic Community of West African States (Abuja)**LENGTH:** 413 words

Participants at a joint African Union/ECOWAS programme on **human trafficking** that ended on 26th March 2010 have recommended a variety of initiatives under a three-**tier** arrangement that would enable countries of origin, transit and destination address the dimensions of the menace, particularly as it affects women and children.

At the continental and regional levels, they called for strategic partnership and cooperation arrangements among countries of origin, transit and destination in Africa, the Arab world and other regions while ensuring coherence between bilateral and multilateral agreements to address the challenge of trafficking.

Moreover, they stressed the desirability of a mechanism for information and data exchange and for reporting the status of implementation of the Ouagadougou plan of action agreed by the African Union Council of Ministers.

The joint programme was meant to evaluate the status of implementation of the plan and launch the ECOWAS phase of the African Union Commission Campaign Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) which seeks to galvanise the various stakeholders for a synergised and coordinated in combating human trafficking.

Among the actions recommended for national level implementation is the designation and equipment of a focal agency with responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the plan and which should network with regional communities and undertake multi-level prevention and awareness campaigns.

Participants said that regional level institutions should ensure the creation of a mechanism for information flow for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation; support fundraising efforts for targeted actions and assist in ascertaining national, regional and continental centres of excellence that need to be supported. They also challenged the AU to revise its definition of human trafficking so that it becomes 'clear, succinct and fully encapsulating' and to support other activities in the areas of lobbying governments in support of the implementation of the plan, design and launch a tool for formation flow and establish a continental one stop shop for technical support for the various stakeholders.

The participants also acknowledged some critical deficiencies including 'a general lack of understanding of the scope and dimensions of trafficking, the lack of followup, monitoring and evaluation of implementation, the dearth of institutional structures, resource constraints and the lack of partnerships.'

LOAD-DATE: April 20, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

239 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 26, 2010 Friday 11:27 PM EST

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

LENGTH: 1453 words

WASHINGTON, March 25 -- The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Good morning and thank you Co-Chairman McGovern and Co-Chairman Wolf for holding this hearing today on such a far-reaching and important issue: human trafficking. I am pleased today to provide an update to the Commission on the Obama Administration's global efforts against modern slavery and I look forward to fielding your questions.

Today is the International Day to Remember the Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. And yet, in this day and age, in the year 2010, we are still combating a phenomenon that has plagued cultures, communities, and countries since the beginning of time. Ten years have passed since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was signed into law by President Clinton. It has also been a decade since the United Nations negotiated the Palermo Protocol, which clearly defines human trafficking on the international stage, and has been adopted by 137 countries.

Thousands of victims have been helped; thousands of traffickers have been arrested and prosecuted; neither of which would have come about without the legal and policy achievements of the last decade.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is working hard to ensure that the policy and legal achievements of the last 10 years are turned into actual results: freeing more people from the shackles of modern slavery and preventing this human rights abuse in the first place.

Today we are seeing more incidences of human trafficking than ever before for a myriad of reasons, including greater public awareness and more cooperation between government, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement. The spike in these numbers reflects trends that we saw in the wake of the domestic violence movement and the hate crimes movement - as awareness increases, more cases are brought to light. Yet, we must be honest in this assessment as well; there are still thousands, if not millions, of cases not reported due to the dark and shadowy nature of this crime. As old as the practice of slavery may be, the criminals that bind these people's hopes by force, fraud, and coercion are looking for new ways to commit these crimes. We are looking for new ways to apprehend them.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is partnering with more non-governmental organizations than ever before by funding and supporting on-the-ground anti-trafficking efforts. Even with the \$20 million in annual funds dedicated to these efforts, we are only able to fund a fraction of the requests we receive, as nearly \$289 million was requested in Fiscal Year 2010. There are more requests, more worthy efforts, and more victims that we need to help. Today, I humbly ask for your help and support so that we may continue to make progress against modern slavery.

In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, the Office was able to act swiftly and expedite monies to fund efforts to improve child protection and lower the risk of exploitation during this natural disaster. The Office was already engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic prior to the earthquake and now we are looking at ways to build on and improve those programs. The earthquake in Haiti also highlighted an important notion: anti-trafficking efforts must be implemented in every disaster-response plan - both international and domestic - to ensure that men, women, and children are not preyed upon and exploited. Your help and support in Congress to ensure these standards is vital to ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable populations in a time of crisis.

In addition to the Office's programmatic efforts, we are also working to combat modern slavery through the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

In February, the Office released its 2010 interim assessment, which as directed by law, is a semi-annual update on those countries who received a **Tier Two Watch List** ranking in the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report or who moved up a

tier from the 2008 to the 2009 Report. I offer the tier ranking definitions for your information as well as the 2010 interim assessment. The semi-annual assessment is an opportunity to look at the progress made by those countries as well as gauge the work still remaining. The majority of the 55 countries covered in this assessment showed some progress since the release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report - an overall positive trend. Fifteen of these countries, however, have shown minimal or negligible progress since June 2009 and it is these countries that bear close analysis. It is important to note that the Office is currently compiling the reporting for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, which is slated to be released in June. The Office will be happy to update the Commission on its contents as we near the release.

Countries included in the interim assessment, which as I stated are based on the previous year's rankings, range in their ability to combat trafficking in persons. We see some countries, which have access to vast resources, stagnate in their efforts to combat human trafficking while others with few resources make impressive gains against this terrible crime. The Department of State is committed to strengthening our partnerships to combat trafficking in persons with all nations who wish to work with us on this issue. It is clear that political will is the necessary element to make tangible progress against this global scourge.

And, it will take political will here in the United States to improve our efforts against human trafficking. In the last year, we have seen a "whole of government" commitment under the Obama Administration in tackling this scourge. Under the leadership of Secretary Clinton, the Office will rank the United States for the first time in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report. This reporting will be based on the same minimum standards outlined in the TVPA and by which we rank foreign countries. We must acknowledge to foreign governments that human trafficking exists everywhere, including the United States. As chair of the Senior Policy Operating Group, which coordinates the Obama Administration's 'whole of government approach' to anti-trafficking efforts and policy, it is necessary to note the interagency cooperation in reporting for the U.S. ranking. As Secretary Clinton rightly said, "Human rights are universal, but their experience is local. This is why we are committed to holding everyone to the same standard, including ourselves."

Including the United States in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report is not the only major initiative undertaken by the Office this year. Partnering with the United States' Office of the Chief of Protocol we have made marked improvements to ensure that domestic workers for diplomatic personnel are properly paid, safeguarded from exploitation, and are fully aware of their rights while in the United States. The Office is also working on a key preventive effort with partners in the business community to rid product supply chains of modern slavery. It is essential to our overall efforts to ensure that we reach the root causes and tracing these supply lines are key components to lowering the incidence of worker exploitation.

Today, I have shared information on the Obama Administration's global efforts on a host of levels. As evidenced by our work in Haiti, with the interim assessment and annual report, the first-ever U.S. ranking, improved domestic worker safeguards, and supply chain efforts it is quite clear that human trafficking has cross-cutting implications. It affects our agricultural, economic, trade, security, domestic, and foreign policies to name a few.

Yet, the greatest implication is the human one. It is through the example of people like Tom Lantos, who so bravely pursued the path to freedom during the Holocaust, and turned his victim status into survivor status through his life's work. His story is the story of human trafficking victims today - it is through bravery, courage, and hope that these victims become survivors and live a life built on freedom.

His example is in keeping with what the President called us to do in January: to "acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and ... recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

Thank you again for holding this hearing today. The Department looks forward to working with you and I welcome your questions. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

240 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 25, 2010 Thursday

Taiwan PM pledges to strengthen crackdown on human trafficking

LENGTH: 369 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese newspaper The China Post website on 25 March

[Unattributed article from the "Taiwan" page: "Premier Pledges To Strengthen Crackdown on Human Trafficking"]

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Premier Wu Den-yih pledged Thursday to step up a crackdown on human trafficking as part of the government's efforts to improve human rights protection and maintain public order.

Wu said in a weekly Cabinet meeting that since 2006, the government has adopted various measures against human trafficking, which include enacting a law on human trafficking prevention and control, cracking down on related crimes and strengthening protection for victims.

In addition, the government has been providing more guidance and paying more attention to foreign spouses, and has reviewed the country's policy towards foreign workers and strengthened the regulation of labour brokers, he said.

According to the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report by the US Department of State, Taiwan is placed in the **Tier 2** ranking, which is for governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking prescribed by the US law that guides anti-**human trafficking** efforts - the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The report said Taiwan has made some progress in combating human trafficking over the past year but should do much more, including extending labour protection to all categories of workers to prevent labour trafficking.

According to a report delivered by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) in the Cabinet meeting, justice authorities uncovered 88 cases of human trafficking in 2009. While 46 of the cases involved labour exploitation, the other 42 cases involved sexual exploitation.

Meanwhile, 355 local people were indicted in 118 human trafficking cases.

The MOI said that in the future, the ministry will require law enforcement officers to strengthen the identification of victims so that they can be provided with proper protection.

It said the ministry will continue the shelter and protection services provided by authorized civic groups and will also expand its crackdown on human trafficking.

Source: The China Post website, Taipei, in English in English 25 Mar 10

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

241 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

March 25, 2010 Thursday 4:09 PM TST

Premier pledges to strengthen crackdown on human trafficking

BYLINE: Chiachen Hsieh and Y.F. Low**LENGTH:** 322 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, March 25

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LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

242 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 25, 2010 Thursday

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 1420 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

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Thousands of victims have been helped; thousands of traffickers have been arrested and prosecuted; neither of which would have come about without the legal and policy achievements of the last decade.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is working hard to ensure that the policy and legal achievements of the last 10 years are turned into actual results: freeing more people from the shackles of modern slavery and preventing this human rights abuse in the first place.

Today we are seeing more incidences of human trafficking than ever before for a myriad of reasons, including greater public awareness and more cooperation between government, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement. The spike in these numbers reflects trends that we saw in the wake of the domestic violence movement and the hate crimes movement as awareness increases, more cases are brought to light. Yet, we must be honest in this assessment as well; there are still thousands, if not millions, of cases not reported due to the dark and shadowy nature of this crime. As old as the practice of slavery may be, the criminals that bind these peoples hopes by force, fraud, and coercion are looking for new ways to commit these crimes. We are looking for new ways to apprehend them.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is partnering with more non-governmental organizations than ever before by funding and supporting on-the-ground anti-trafficking efforts. Even with the \$20 million in annual funds dedicated to these efforts, we are only able to fund a fraction of the requests we receive, as nearly \$289 million was requested in Fiscal Year 2010. There are more requests, more worthy efforts, and more victims that we need to help. Today, I humbly ask for your help and support so that we may continue to make progress against modern slavery.

In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, the Office was able to act swiftly and expedite monies to fund efforts to improve child protection and lower the risk of exploitation during this natural disaster. The Office was already engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic prior to the earthquake and now we are looking at ways to build on and improve those programs. The earthquake in Haiti also highlighted an important notion: anti-trafficking efforts must be implemented in every disaster-response plan both international and domestic to ensure that men, women, and children are not preyed upon and exploited. Your help and support in Congress to ensure these standards is vital to ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable populations in a time of crisis.

In addition to the Office's programmatic efforts, we are also working to combat modern slavery through the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

In February, the Office released its 2010 interim assessment, which as directed by law, is a semi-annual update on those countries who received a **Tier Two Watch List** ranking in the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report or who moved up a **tier** from the 2008 to the 2009 Report. I offer the tier ranking definitions for your information as well as the 2010 interim assessment. The semi-annual assessment is an opportunity to look at the progress made by those countries as well as gauge the work still remaining. The majority of the 55 countries covered in this assessment showed some progress since the release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report an overall positive trend. Fifteen of these countries, however, have shown minimal or negligible progress since June 2009 and it is these countries that bear close analysis. It is important to note that the Office is currently compiling the reporting for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, which is slated to be released in June. The Office will be happy to update the Commission on its contents as we near the release.

Countries included in the interim assessment, which as I stated are based on the previous years rankings, range in their ability to combat trafficking in persons. We see some countries, which have access to vast resources, stagnate in their efforts to combat human trafficking while others with few resources make impressive gains against this terrible crime. The Department of State is committed to strengthening our partnerships to combat trafficking in persons with all nations who wish to work with us on this issue. It is clear that political will is the necessary element to make tangible progress against this global scourge.

And, it will take political will here in the United States to improve our efforts against human trafficking. In the last year, we have seen a "whole of government" commitment under the Obama Administration in tackling this scourge. Under the leadership of Secretary Clinton, the Office will rank the United States for the first time in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report. This reporting will be based on the same minimum standards outlined in the TVPA and by which we rank foreign countries. We must acknowledge to foreign governments that human trafficking exists everywhere, including the United States. As chair of the Senior Policy Operating Group, which coordinates the Obama Administration's whole of government approach to anti-trafficking efforts and policy, it is necessary to note the interagency cooperation in reporting for the U.S. ranking. As Secretary Clinton rightly said, Human rights are universal, but their experience is local. This is why we are committed to holding everyone to the same standard, including ourselves.

Including the United States in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report is not the only major initiative undertaken by the Office this year. Partnering with the United States Office of the Chief of Protocol we have made marked improvements to ensure that domestic workers for diplomatic personnel are properly paid, safeguarded from exploitation, and are fully aware of their rights while in the United States. The Office is also working on a key preventive effort with partners in the business community to rid product supply chains of modern slavery. It is essential to our overall efforts to ensure that we reach the root causes and tracing these supply lines are key components to lowering the incidence of worker exploitation.

Today, I have shared information on the Obama Administration's global efforts on a host of levels. As evidenced by our work in Haiti, with the interim assessment and annual report, the first-ever U.S. ranking, improved domestic worker safeguards, and supply chain efforts it is quite clear that human trafficking has cross-cutting implications. It affects our agricultural, economic, trade, security, domestic, and foreign policies to name a few.

Yet, the greatest implication is the human one. It is through the example of people like Tom Lantos, who so bravely pursued the path to freedom during the Holocaust, and turned his victim status into survivor status through his life's work. His story is the story of human trafficking victims today it is through bravery, courage, and hope that these victims become survivors and live a life built on freedom.

His example is in keeping with what the President called us to do in January: to acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade.

Thank you again for holding this hearing today. The Department looks forward to working with you and I welcome your questions.

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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243 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

March 25, 2010 Thursday 6:56 AM EST

Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 1451 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech of Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca:

Good morning and thank you Co-Chairman McGovern and Co-Chairman Wolf for holding this hearing today on such a far-reaching and important issue: human trafficking. I am pleased today to provide an update to the Commission on the Obama Administration's global efforts against modern slavery and I look forward to fielding your questions.

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244 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

March 24, 2010

Human Trafficking: National and International Implications Hearing

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 465 words

Human Trafficking: National and International Implications

Thursday, March 25

10:00 a.m. - noon

Room: Rayburn 2255

Please join the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission at a hearing on human trafficking. The hearing is open to the media and the interested public.

Human trafficking is one of the most serious threats to the protection of human rights, as it exploits the most vulnerable populations in the most vulnerable circumstances in a predatory manner, both within and across international borders. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA; P.L. 106 - 386) defines human trafficking as inducing a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any persons under age 18 who perform a commercial sex act are considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present. People who are trafficked are denied basic freedoms, are extremely vulnerable to global health risks, and are sold and resold within rapidly spreading organized crime networks.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates at least 12.3 million children and adults are in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sex servitude at any given time. INTERPOL estimates human trafficking to be a \$28 billion enterprise. The most comprehensive and far-reaching governmental report in the United States is the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which was mandated in the TVPA. The primary objective of this report is to "[free] victims from this form of modern-day slavery." The legislation further requires the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** (G/TIP) to promote global awareness regarding **human trafficking**, to develop country-specific strategies to help foreign governments to better tackle the problem of trafficking, and to classify their accomplishments or failures to adhere to minimum standards in a **tier** system.

To discuss these issues, we will welcome the following witnesses:***

I. Panel:

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, G/TIP, U.S. Department of State

II. Panel:

Timothy Williams, director of INTERPOL, Washington, D.C.

III. Panel:

Dallas Jessup, founder, Just Yell Fire, a NGO protecting teenage-girls from trafficking

Deborah Sigmund, director, Innocents at Risk, a NGO raising awareness of trafficking

Sandra Fiorini, flight attendant, graduate of DHS "Operation Blue Lightning," which combats trafficking on commercial airlines

Selene Martin, director, LexisNexis Cares, a public-private initiative to provide trafficking case management.

***Witness list subject to change.

If you have any questions, please contact Allison McGuire (Rep. McGovern) or Elizabeth Hoffman (Rep. Wolf) at 202-225-3599.

James P. McGovern, M.C. Frank R. Wolf, M.C.

Co-Chairman, TLHRC Co-Chairman, TLHRC

LOAD-DATE: March 24, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: DOH

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245 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

March 23, 2010 Tuesday 9:10 PM EST

Royce Decries Human Rights Violations in Vietnam at Human Rights Commission Hearing

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 421 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif. (40th CD), issued the following news release:

Today, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) participated in a Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on human rights in Vietnam. The Vietnamese governments continued denial of basic human rights like freedom of speech, assembly, and religion were highlighted.

"The Vietnamese government remains an abusive, one-party state, and the release of Father Nguyen Van Ly doesn't change that fact," said Royce, noting the recent release of the prominent Vietnamese dissident who was imprisoned for his advocacy of democracy and religious freedom.

"This is a pattern that we've seen before; the Vietnamese government feels pressured, so they make a token gesture to try to appease its critics. I can assure its party leaders, though, that until the communist government fully respects the rights of its citizens, we will not let up," Royce continued.

Religious persecution remains particularly widespread in Vietnam, as the government continues to harass, beat, and detain those that practice religions not officially recognized by the state. Catholics, Montagnard Christians, and numerous Buddhist groups catch the brunt of the government's abuse. According to recent reports, Bat Nha Buddhists have been terrorized by undercover police and communist party officials, Montagnards report being shocked by electric batons, and many others report similar treatment.

"It's vital that the State Department re-list Vietnam as a 'Country of Particular Concern' for violations of religious freedom. The House expressed its will last year by passing language that I offered calling on this re-listing. It's now time for the State Department to take this issue as seriously as the House does," said Royce.

At the hearing, Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao echoed Royce's call, testifying that "if there's one thing the U.S. government can do to put pressure on Vietnam, it's putting it back on the CPC list." Royce also questioned Cao about Vietnam's human trafficking record and commended him for his efforts to meet with peaceful dissidents during a recent trip to Vietnam.

"In Vietnam, the government itself actively engages in human trafficking through labor export companies partly or wholly owned by the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor," Cao said. "Until the government of Vietnam eliminates these exploitative aspects of its labor export program (its) placement on **Tier Two** of the **Trafficking in Persons** list... is indefensible."

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LOAD-DATE: March 23, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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246 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

March 22, 2010**TLHRC Hearing: Human Trafficking: International and National Implications****SECTION:** U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 465 words

Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

10 a.m. - noon

Thursday, March 25

2255 Rayburn HOB

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LOAD-DATE: March 23, 2010

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

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247 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

March 6, 2010 Saturday

Anti-human trafficking effort lauded

BYLINE: Lee Shi-Ian**SECTION:** Pg. 13**LENGTH:** 478 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's efforts in combating human trafficking syndicates has been praised by Australia.

The latest statistics show that 280 syndicate members had been arrested as of February, with 54 charged in court. Eight have been convicted under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007.

More than 1,400 men, women and children from 17 countries were rescued from the clutches of traffickers between February 2008 and February this year.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar said the Australian authorities recognised the ongoing efforts of local enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking, which has been aptly described as the modern day slave trade.

"Our investigations show that the syndicates have 'cooled down' their activities in the past three months after continuous police raids and operations," he said at Bukit Aman yesterday.

Police have identified the syndicate's chain of operations, uncovering those responsible for transporting the victims and providing them with temporary accommodation.

They have beefed up security at the entry and exit points in the country. Various smuggling points along the coastline have also been identified and maritime patrols and surveillance increased.

"For the first two months of this year, 43 syndicate members were arrested and 10 of them prosecuted under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act," he said, adding that police had rescued 199 people and placed them in safe houses.

There were immigrants who used genuine passports to enter Malaysia before using fake ones to sneak out of the country to reach their final destination.

"In some cases, the final destination was Malaysia."

The most recent joint success by Malaysian and Australian police came in October last year when a major human trafficking syndicate was crippled with the arrest of a couple in Ampang.

Nine women, including a foreigner, were rescued and investigations revealed that they were bound for Australia to work in the flesh trade there.

The couple were members of a syndicate which brought in foreign women, provided them with false travel documents and sent them to Australia, Germany and Holland.

The couple are believed to have been operating from a rented apartment, raking in almost RM2 million.

Their role was to arrange for forged passports and tourist and student visas for the women, who were mostly from Asian countries.

Last August, Australia and Malaysia signed a bilateral agreement to combat human trafficking and smuggling. Since then, an integrated data base has been set up as one of the measures.

Lack of progress in combating **human trafficking** in 2008 led Malaysia to being downgraded from the **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3** (blacklisted countries) in the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report, 2009.

The report listed Malaysia as one of 17 countries not doing enough to curb human trafficking.

(END)

LOAD-DATE: March 7, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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248 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Marketwire

March 04, 2010 Thursday 1:36 AM EST

Senhoa Lotus Gala

LENGTH: 384 words

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - March 4, 2010) -

Lotus Gala 2010

MC Thuy Duong of Asia Entertainment, Inc. hosts the Senhoa Lotus Gala 2010 in support of victims of human trafficking in South East Asia. Join our many Canadian dignitaries including Joe Pantalone and our community business leaders at the luxurious Le Parc Dining Banquet on Saturday, March 6th. Thanh Bui, Australian Idol Finalist, leads an impressive line-up of entertainers for an inspiring evening of lively music and theatrical performances.

The Reason

Cambodia is ranked as a **Tier II** and on the **Watch List** by the US State Department in their **Trafficking in Person's** Report dated June, 2009. In the same report, it was noted that "Cambodia is a source, destination, and transit country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation..."

It has been estimated that the number of ethnic-minority women, who are forced into sex work, represent as high as 30% of the total number of commercial sex workers. Even more demoralizing is the increase in the sale of children's virginity, from undocumented families.

Then Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, said: "Trafficking in persons is a modern-day form of slavery... Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our day". Whether these victims are from East or West, they are all our children. Join our chorus today.

Planting the seeds...

Senhoa supports victims of human trafficking by providing income-generating opportunities, social reintegration and programs for self-empowerment. Our mission is to provide:

Income-generation so that vulnerable women can gain economic independence

Educational and social programs for intellectual empowerment

Business sensibilities to achieve humanitarian goals

100% of the proceeds from this event will go directly to the rescue, rehabilitation, and education of young women sold into slavery in South East Asia.

/T/

Event: Lotus Gala 2010

Date: Saturday March 6th 2010 Venue: Le Parc Dining Banquet

20 North Rivermeade Rd (Concord)

Time: 5:30pm Cocktail, Dinner & Show

Info: www.senhoea.org Contact: Jasmine Do (Event Coordinator) E-mail: jasmine@senhoea.org

/T/

CONTACT:

Jasmine Do
Event Coordinator
jasmine@senhoa.org

LOAD-DATE: March 5, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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249 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Christian Newswire

March 2, 2010 Tuesday 6:32 PM GMT

Nicaraguan University Students Rescued from Potential Human Trafficking Scenario

BYLINE: By Free for Life International**LENGTH:** 403 words

Free for Life International, 888-335-8835

MEDIA ADVISORY, March 2 /Christian Newswire/ -- Free for Life International, a U.S. anti-trafficking organization, met last week with Nicaragua's new Ministry of Families Director Marcia Ramirez Mercado to discuss the issue of human trafficking in Nicaragua. Director Mercado stated at that time that Nicaragua is stepping up their efforts in the fight against human trafficking. Evidence of this fact appeared two days later when a couple was arrested in Managua for attempting to sex traffic several University students from Nicaragua into Guatemala and Mexico. The girls, primarily minors, were lured with the promise of appearing in several of Latin America's most prominent magazines.

Director Marcia Ramirez Mercado has recently been appointed Ministry of Families Director in Nicaragua. In this position a key part of her duties will include the oversight of governmental efforts against human trafficking in Nicaragua. Colette and Dr. Daniel Bercu, founders of Free for Life International, along with directors of Nicoya & Friends Mission were honored to meet with her last week to talk about their work concerning human trafficking. The discussion included the future placement of minor victims into the shelter, efforts the Nicaraguan government is making in the fight against trafficking, and a potential collaboration concerning awareness and victim services with Free for Life International.

Free for Life International, a Tennessee based 501c3 nonprofit organization, has made it their mission to partner with those around the world in the rescue, restoration and reintegration of trafficking survivors. Nicoya and Friends Mission, a shelter for minor age trafficking victims in Nicaragua, is one of these shelters. They are one of the only designated shelters in Nicaragua set up for minor sex trafficking victims and are providing a place of love and restoration for these young women.

The U.S. State Department's 2009 **Trafficking In Persons** Report places Nicaragua on a **Tier 2 Watch List**, stating that the government of Nicaragua does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, they also state that they are making significant efforts to do so.

For more information, or to partner with Free for Life International, call 1-888-335-8835 or visit the website at www.freeforlifeministries.com.

CONTACT: Colette Bercu, CEO,**LOAD-DATE:** March 2, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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250 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

February 21, 2010 Sunday

US-Kuwaiti relationship "foundational" -- Ambassador Jones

LENGTH: 1067 words

The US-Kuwaiti relationship has become foundational, dating back to the founding of the American Hospital in Kuwait and later solidifying and maturing in the wake of the invasion and the liberation of the Gulf state, said US Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones. "The US-Kuwaiti relationship has become foundational. Obviously its roots go back to the founding of the American Hospital in Kuwait - the first real interaction between Americans and Kuwaitis - but it was solidified and matured in the wake of the (1990) invasion and the (1991) liberation (of Kuwait), and the subsequent relationships that have built up following that, both the institutional and person-to-person," she said in an interview with KUNA on the occasion of Kuwait's national celebrations. Congratulating the Kuwaiti leadership, government and people on the 49th National Day and the 19th Liberation Day, Jones noted that for those who had seen the destruction that was wrought on Kuwait during the invasion, "now it's really an oasis in a very difficult neighborhood."

This oasis, she explained, was brought about by Kuwait's system of governance, a freely elected parliament, an open and free press, and a highly educated populace that was guaranteed to keep Kuwait in the forefront. She described the Kuwaiti-US relationship as "mature" and one of "honest friends," but said that "we have obligation not only to keep developing ourselves, but to do it so that we can be stabilizing factors in the world around us, and that we can be the enzymes for positive change in the world. That's why I believe in this relationship." Asked about areas of cooperation, she said that as in any mature relationship, there was cooperation "across the board." "Obviously we have a very important security relationship, and that remains the case because Kuwait remains essential to our logistical support for operations in Iraq and elsewhere in the region in terms of regional security ... But we consult regularly on a broad range of regional security

issues, including Iran and Yemen, Al-Qaeda, etc.," she explained. Dialogue between the Kuwaiti and US governments extends to

counter-terrorism cooperation, human rights and trafficking in persons issues, as well as democracy and civil society, she added. "The US isn't a quiet country; obviously we are very open about our concerns. And again, Kuwait has

a mature government, and has open and free press that talks a lot about these concerns as well, so we have a very lively exchange."

Economy is another important topic of dialogue. "I have often said that one of my goals as ambassador is to grow the economic and commercial and business relationship so that it brings appropriate balance to our security relationship."

When asked how far negotiations had come between the two countries in signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), she noted that Kuwait and the US were cooperating under the existing Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). However, the Trade Promotion Authority - the authority the US Congress grants to the executive branch to negotiate certain trade agreements, including FTAs - expired on July 1, 2007 and has not yet been renewed. Thus, she said, "that's something that at the right will re-emerge, but is not happening anytime soon."

As for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, Jones said that the "excellent, outstanding, functional security relationship with Kuwait" allowed the movement of equipment out of Iraq to go "very smoothly."

She stressed that the US goal was "to ensure that Iraq is secure as much for Iraqis themselves as for Kuwait or anyone else, and that we leave a situation where Iraq is a secure and productive neighbor in the region that is at peace within itself and at peace with its neighbors."

Moreover, she said that the nature of US presence in Iraq in future was a matter of negotiations with Iraqis, noting that "the US is never anywhere uninvited; we don't impose our presence on Kuwait, we don't impose our presence per se anymore on an elected government in Iraq. So the nature of that presence, or what we call our footprint, in both places is always an ongoing matter of evaluation and assessment and discussions by the governments."

On the matter of attracting Kuwaitis to study in the US, the ambassador explained that the number of Kuwaiti university students in the US always hovered around 3,000, but said that in the last 6-8 months some 1,400 students visas and graduate student visas for the US had been issued by the embassy, "which is an increase of 45 percent or more over what it has been the previous year, and we're now well above the 9/11 figures."

She explained that the embassy hosted four university fairs a year. "We really make an effort to recruit students to go to the US. We know some other places are closer, but we still think Kuwaitis feel at home in the US the way we feel at home here; we still think it's a great education, it's great exposure."

Jones noted that US President Barack Obama's initiative in Cairo was moving beyond government-to-government interaction to people-to-people in areas of education, science and technology, research, "and the only way that's going to happen is if we get to know each other."

As for the issue of human trafficking, the ambassador said that Kuwait was "fortunate in having a very lively press" that was an important player in bringing attention to some issues that remain outstanding here. "I think there's been a lot of focus and attention ... I think the

government has taken some very important steps to address these issues ... We realize the difficulty of these things, and we have these difficulties at home (the US) too," she said, adding that the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry

of Social Affairs and Labor were "very open" about this matter and that the NGOs played an important role in keeping this issue in the forefront. "My goal, by the time I leave in another year or so, that we are completely free of the **Tier III** (ranking on the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report)," she said, hoping that Kuwait and the US could work together on this matter "as partners and friends who are facing a common challenge."

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251 of 404 DOCUMENTS



February 9, 2010 Tuesday 12:11 PM EST

Man goes undercover to combat child sex slavery

BYLINE: By Leif Coorlim, CNN Producer

SECTION: WORLD

LENGTH: 1211 words

DATELINE: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Aaron Cohen first met Jonty Thern and her older sister, Channy, in 2005 while singing in a karaoke bar in Battambang, Cambodia. He has come back to see them every year since.

The California native often schedules his trips for November, the month when Cambodians celebrate the Bonn Om Teuk water festival, marking the end of the rainy season.

"The whole country comes together for boat races. Hundreds of thousands of people descend on the waterfront and it's filled with colors and flags," said Cohen. "You know my thoughts about the water festival always include Jonty, because she and her sister would get a day pass during the festival."

There was a smile on his face when he started the sentence, but by the time he had finished, it was gone.

Abolishing slavery

Cohen is a human rights advocate. He founded a charity called AbolishSlavery.org last year, but his work freeing victims of human trafficking began more than a decade ago.

At 6'5" (195 cm) with long, black hair, he stands out in almost every crowd. But Cohen often goes undercover to obtain the information needed for law enforcement officials to conduct raids and make arrests.

His trips have taken him around the world, from Sudan to Nicaragua to Israel. But, he says, in Southeast Asia the problem is especially bad.

"I would rank Cambodia right up there with India as one of the worst places in the world for sex-trafficking."

A bad problem getting worse

According to the NGO, End Child Prostitution, Abuse and Trafficking (ECPAT), as many as one-third of all sex workers in Cambodia are children. Government entities, including the U.S. State Department, are pressuring countries like Cambodia to do more to stop the modern-day slavery epidemic.

"We are making major strides in the fight against human trafficking. But it is a major problem, we know that," said Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca, who leads the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. "You have estimates as to the number of people in servitude worldwide and it's anywhere from 12.3 million on the low end as cited by UN's International Labour Organization -- to as many as 27 million people on the high end. That's a number coming from the research done by (the aid organization) Free the Slaves. But 12.3 million is a baseline number that everybody agrees that there are at least that many people in forced labor, and that's far too many."

In its comprehensive 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the State Department put Cambodia on its **Tier 2 Watch List**. The ranking means the Cambodian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making an effort to do so.

"[In Cambodia] the number of victims is increasing and the number of prosecutions has gone down from the previous year," says CdeBaca. "The report shows that despite the overall effort, the government has not shown enough progress in convicting and punishing human trafficking offenders or protecting trafficking victims."

Cambodia is categorized as a destination country for foreign child sex tourists, with increasing reports of Asian men traveling to Cambodia in order to have sex with underage virgin girls. The State Department report states a significant proportion of trafficking victims in Cambodia are ethnic Vietnamese women and girls who are forced into prostitution in brothels and karaoke bars.

A chance encounter

Jonty Thern's short life could be a case study for that assessment. Jonty's family immigrated to Cambodia from Vietnam shortly after the Vietnam War.

Faced with gripping poverty and a debt, Jonty's mother sold her daughter, who was 10-years-old at the time, to a person on Cambodia's border with Thailand.

There, the mother was told, Jonty would sell flowers and candy to customers in bars and nightclubs. It was only later the mother says, she would learn that while there, Jonty would be repeatedly raped and beaten.

After three years of physical and sexual abuse, Jonty was released by her captors and allowed to return home to Battambang. Soon after, she and her sister willingly went to work at a karaoke bar to help the family pay off their debt, according to her parents.

The scenario in which Cohen describes meeting Jonty Thern, then 13-years-old, is as appalling as it is prevalent.

"I was working as an undercover sex vice," Cohen said. "I was posing as a sex tourist, going from karaoke bar to karaoke bar, massage parlor to massage parlor, looking for underage workers, to see if I could get them on camera soliciting me for sex."

As evidenced in the State Department report, it is a poorly-kept secret in Cambodia that many of these establishments are also operating brothels.

"I went to a number of karaokes and about my second or third karaoke of the night and I immediately notice this one really young looking girl. I requested Jonty and her sister and a group of other girls," Cohen said.

"In these bars, the girls are told to drink as much as they can, because they'll charge you for the beers. So this girl comes in and I noticed, man, she downed that beer in like 2 seconds. She seemed to be having a good time, she didn't seem unhappy or anything. But here she is nonetheless, a 13-year-old girl in a brothel drinking 10 beers in the time that I drank two," he added.

He said he invited several friends who work at a nearby victims' shelter to come join him. They posed as partiers as well, until Cohen felt comfortable to ask the manager an important question.

"After the girls began to dance and sing, I asked the mamasan what more can I get besides karaoke and so then she says 'well, for sex it's \$50.'"

Cohen used the solicitation video from that night, recorded on a cell phone camera, to provide police with the information they needed to raid the karaoke brothel.

More than a dozen girls, including Jonty and her sister, Channy, were freed that night and sent to live in a victim's shelter, where they received counseling, care and an education.

Final Respects

Cohen's most recent trip to see Jonty and Channy in Cambodia was not a happy reunion. It was a trip planned so that he could say goodbye to one of them.

Three days before arriving in Phnom Penh for the water festival, Cohen and Channy, along with Channy's mother, spent the morning in an 8th century pagoda in Siem Reap, watching as monks conducted an ancient funeral ceremony. They were transferring Jonty Thern's ashes into a marble urn.

Jonty died of liver failure at age 17. Her family claims it was the result of years of alcohol and drug abuse she was subjected to while working first in the nightclubs as a 10-year-old, and then later in the karaoke bars.

"The ashes of my goddaughter are the symbol of why we have to do this. This doesn't have to happen. These girls do not have to be enslaved," Cohen said.

"We tried our best with Jonty and we failed because we lost her. But if there's meaning in her death, the meaning is that there is more work to be done. When I'm in that karaoke now, or when I'm in that massage parlor, she's my little angel. She's watching over me and she's protecting me," he added.

That evening, after watching the festival's fireworks display and saying goodnight to Channy, Cohen strapped an undercover watch camera to his wrist, and went to a karaoke bar.

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252 of 404 DOCUMENTS



February 8, 2010 Monday 9:44 AM EST

Man goes undercover to combat child sex slavery

BYLINE: By Leif Coorlim, CNN Producer

SECTION: WORLD

LENGTH: 1213 words

DATELINE: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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253 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

February 6, 2010 Saturday**Bangladesh: 10,000 workers to return from Oman****LENGTH:** 394 words**DATELINE:** Pakistan

Pakistan, Feb. 06 -- Around 10,000 Bangladeshi workers having irregular status in Oman are expected to return home soon taking advantage of the Gulf country's amnesty that first time allowed them to go back to their motherlands without paying any penalties. "Over 2,600 irregular workers have already registered with Bangladesh embassy in Oman. But the total number of such workers wishing to respond to the amnesty may be triple in size," SM Ferdous, charge d'affaires of the Bangladesh embassy, told media yesterday over the phone. The return of Bangladeshis follows the amnesty declared by the Oman's Ministry of Manpower which asks 'illegal workers' to leave the country or update their papers without paying financial penalties or serving jail terms.

The workers must register with their embassies to get the benefits of amnesty, says Dubai based newspaper Gulf News on January 25. This is good news for the irregular workers as they can now return home without paying any penalties, Ferdous said, adding that earlier Oman's such amnesties required a large amount of fines for such workers. Many workers who even have been working for 10-15 years could not dare to respond to the amnesty, he added. According to an official figure, so far some 2.56 lakh Bangladeshis went to the Sultanate in the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula. However, a large number of irregular workers have entered Oman after crossing the borders of the United Arab Emirates or Iran, the Bangladesh Embassy official said. The US has put Oman on a **blacklist because of human trafficking**, SM Ferdous said, adding that Oman therefore framed a strict law last year. If any company provides jobs to any irregular foreign workers, it will have to count heavy penalties, he said. "Therefore, the companies also now will not give shelter to any foreigners having illegal status," Ferdous said, adding that the Bangladeshis living here irregularly are bound to leave for home. Oman, home to 1.05 million foreign workers, is really disciplining the expatriates labour sector, he said. Thousands of Indian and Pakistani workers are also queuing up to their embassies concerned to respond to the amnesty of Oman government, he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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254 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

January 27, 2010 Wednesday

With 1-child policy, China 'missing' girls; 'Gendercide' fueling sex trade

BYLINE: By Cheryl Wetzstein THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: A, PAGE ONE; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1075 words

When Chinese officials created the country's one-child-per-couple policy in 1978, they intended to contain the country's burgeoning population for the sake of economic growth, national security and environmental preservation.

But Chinese boys now outnumber Chinese girls by the millions, and the impact of the lopsided sex imbalance is starting to spill beyond China's borders.

This phenomenon of "missing girls" has turned China into "a giant magnet" for human traffickers, who lure or kidnap women and sell them - even multiple times - into forced marriages or the commercial sex trade, says Ambassador Mark Lagon, who oversaw human rights issues at the State Department during the administration of President George W. Bush.

"The impact is obvious. It's creating a 'Wild West' sex industry in China," Mr. Lagon said.

In China, "an entire nation of women" is missing because they were aborted before they were born, said Reggie Littlejohn, founder of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, a nonprofit anti-sex-slavery group. "This is gendercide."

To grasp the magnitude of the human-trafficking problem in China, it's important to have a reliable tally of the "missing girls."

Recently, the government-backed Chinese Academy of Social Services (CASS) predicted that 24 million Chinese men might not be able to find brides in 2020. However, previous estimates put that number in the 30 million to 50 million range.

In fact, a 2009 study in the BMJ (formerly known as the British Medical Journal) said that in 2005, there were 32 million extra Chinese men under the age of 20 - and that 1.1 million extra males were born in just that year.

"Sex-selective abortion accounts for almost all the excess males," said study authors Wei Xing Zhu, Li Lu and Therese Hesketh, who urged China to enforce its laws forbidding abortions based on gender.

Chinese officials plan to enforce those laws, as well as try to change Chinese "son-preferential ideologies," said a 2007 report from a Chinese academic institute. A "Care for Girls" campaign is already under way in Chinese districts that have especially large imbalances in their sex ratios, Shuzhuo Li, director of the Institute for Population and Development Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong University in China, wrote in that report.

But changing the deeply rooted "son-preference ideologies" will be very difficult.

Chinese parents believe they must have a son to carry their family name, inherit family properties, support them in their old age and host their funeral ceremonies. Tradition says children belong to their father's lineages, and daughters become part of their husband's families.

Because of these ancient beliefs, China's one-child policy forces couples to choose between "their future retirement and the lives of their daughters," said Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, a nonprofit pro-life group who has been tracking the one-child policy since the late 1980s.

Chinese officials repeatedly reaffirm the one-child policy, but also appear to be tinkering with it.

For instance, last summer, faced with a stunningly anemic 0.88 children per woman birthrate in Shanghai, officials announced that certain couples could have a second child.

But this week, the Beijing News had to back off a similar story for Beijing's couples. The paper had reported that an official with the Beijing family- planning commission said the panel was considering allowing couples to apply for a second birth permit even if only one spouse was an "only" child. Currently, both spouses must be "only" children to get a second permit.

The Beijing News report was swiftly retracted via Xinhua News Agency, a government news agency, which noted that the "journalist who wrote the original false report had already apologized" to the official. A second, unnamed Beijing family-planning official reminded Xinhua that birth-planning is "a fundamental policy" and "requires stability and continuity" to succeed.

Meanwhile, multiple alarm bells are going off about China's demographics.

The massive population is "graying," which means there will be many elderly people with far fewer workers and family members to support them.

There is also the specter of millions of young, unmarried, restless and unfettered Chinese men and how that might explode into civil unrest.

But the most immediate and horrifying consequence of China's "missing girls" is that it is fueling a growing trade in human beings, especially girls and women, say those who are fighting it.

The State Department's 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report downgraded China to its **Tier 2 "watch list,"** because it is a "source, transit, and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation."

While women from many countries are being captured or trafficked into China, North Korean women are especially vulnerable. Neither China nor North Korea "seems to want to protect that population," Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said in June when the TIP report was released.

"China's approach to human trafficking is strictly an iron-fist, law-and-order approach," said Mr. Lagon, who is now the executive director and chief executive of the Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization that fights international sex slavery.

If North Korean women protest or try to flee their forced marriages or prostitution houses, they can be "repatriated" to North Korea, said Mr. Lagon. Upon their return, they are treated like criminals and are likely to be beaten, imprisoned or killed, he said.

Laura Lederer, a former State Department official who now is part of Global Centurion, a nonprofit group fighting sex slavery, said that the sex imbalance in China is leading to a "new tsunami of demand."

"We need to be working on this on the front end," she said, calling for high-level enforcement in anti-trafficking laws.

As for the trafficking victims, Mr. Lagon urged Americans who suspect illegal activities to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hot line, which is operated by the Polaris Project.

Sex trafficking is a heinous human rights violation, and people may instinctively want to turn away from the issue, he said. But "it's inspiring" to see how people can escape and survive even the worst situations. "It doesn't have to be a dark subject if you are exposed to those who are fighting for dignity," he said.

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255 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

January 20, 2010 Wednesday

Weak legislation behind growing menace of women trafficking in NWFP: Speakers

SECTION: Vol. XXXIV No. 20**LENGTH:** 332 words

The weak legislation, inadequate resources, lack of political will and institutional fragmentation has been the major barriers in combating women trafficking in NWFP.

These observations were made in the concluding session of the two days capacity building workshop for media persons on 'Countering Women Trafficking' here Wednesday. The workshop was organized by Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme (CAMP) in collaboration with UNDP and GJP.

Speaking on the occasion, Rukhshanda Naz, Chairperson Aurat Foundation said that in 2009 Pakistan did not demonstrate efforts to address the serious issues of bonded labour and other forms of trafficking, such as forced child labour, prostitution and trafficking of migrant workers by fraudulent labour recruiters.

She said that punishments assigned to convicted traffickers were also weak while the government failed to provide protection services to the victims.

Project Manager Human Rights CAMP, Said Afzal Shinwari said that the trafficking of girls from NWFP has risen sharply over the past few harmful traditional practices like bride price or walver which made these women and girls more vulnerable to trafficking.

These harmful traditional practices are also a strong catalyst for localized forms and trends of women trafficking in rural areas, he added.

Mr. Mashood Mirza, Director Federal Ombudsman Office highlighted the thematic and legal aspects of the issue.

He said that due to the dearth of laws and non-implementation of the national plan of action number of women trafficking has increased in recent years putting Pakistan on **tier -2 watch list** in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) 2009 report.

At the end of the workshop the participants recommended the formation and strengthening of shelter homes, amendments in P& CHTO 2002, effective implementation of the national plan of action, free legal aid, rehabilitation of the victims, capacity building of the law enforcement agencies and advocacy campaigns at the grass root level.

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

256 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily the Pak Banker

January 15, 2010 Friday**Pakistan: CAMP held training for lawyers on counter women trafficking****LENGTH:** 405 words**DATELINE:** Pakistan

Pakistan, Jan. 15 -- PESHAWAR, Experts on Friday lamented the non-implementation of relevant laws, lack of social support, harmful traditional practices and lack of awareness among public as leading factors contributing towards growing menace of women trafficking in NWFP. The two-day long workshop for lawyers on 'Countering Women Trafficking' was organized by Community for Appraisal & Motivation Programme (CAMP) with the financial support from the DFID (UK Department for International Development) and UNDP under the Gender Justice and Protection Project (GJP). The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity and knowledge of lawyers on countering women trafficking techniques. It covered both legal and humanitarian aspects.

The participants were briefed and educated by a panel of experts on the nature, trends, forms, and laws regulating women trafficking in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Mashood Mirza, Director Federal Ombudsman said that the only law dealing with women trafficking is P&CHTO (Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance), which does not address internal trafficking, one of the major sources of trafficking occurring inside the country. Renowned rights activist, Rakhshanda Naz, highlighted the regional aspects of trafficking particularly from a Pakistani perspective and national plan of action. She said that Pakistan did not comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and place it on **tier 2** watch list in 2009 TIP (**Trafficking in Person**) report, the only international report generating annually regarding **human trafficking** by the US State Department. Project Coordinator for Human Rights CAMP, Siad Afzal Shinwar said that the human trafficking is third largest lucrative illegal business after drug and weapons smuggling generating eight to 10 billion US dollars annually, terming it a major threat to all developmental initiatives around the world. At the end of the workshop participants' recommended effective implementation of the relevant laws, increase number of shelter homes for the victims, panel of lawyers, unified monitoring and evaluation system of victims at national level, sensitization and involvement of media and policy makers, advocacy campaigns and protective cum rehabilitative mechanism for the victims. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For more information on news feed please contact Sarbjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LOAD-DATE: January 15, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

257 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily the Pak Banker

January 13, 2010 Wednesday

Experts flay non implementation of laws countering women trafficking

LENGTH: 378 words**DATELINE:** Pakistan

Pakistan, Jan. 13 -- PESHAWAR Experts lamented non-implementation of the relevant laws, lack of social support, harmful traditional practices and lack of awareness among the general public are leading factors towards the growing menace of women trafficking in NWFP. This was the gist of a two day workshop for lawyers on countering women trafficking, which was organized by the Community Appraisal & Motivation Programme (CAMP) with the support from the DFID and UNDP under the Gender Justice and Protection Project (GJP). The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of lawyers on countering women trafficking techniques.

The workshop covered both Legal and Humanitarian aspects. Participants were briefed and educated by a panel of experts on the nature, trends, forms, ailing effects and laws regulating woman trafficking in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion Mashood Mirza, Director Federal Ombudsman said that the only law dealing women trafficking is Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, which does not address internal trafficking. Human rights activist Ms Rukhshanda Naz, highlighted regional aspects of trafficking. She said in Pakistan minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are not complied with, which resultantly placed it on **tier 2** watch list in 2009 TIP (**Trafficking in Person**) report, the only international report generating annually regarding human trafficking by the US State Department. Said Afzal Shinwari CAMP, Project coordinator for Human rights said that **human trafficking** is the third largest lucrative illegal business after drug and weapon smuggling generating 8 to 10 billion US dollars annually, terming it a major threat to all developmental initiatives around the world. At the end of workshop, the participants recommended effective implementation of the relevant laws, increase in number of shelter homes for the victims, panel of lawyers, unified Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system of victims at national level, sensitization and involvement of media and policy makers, advocacy campaigns and protective cum rehabilitative mechanism for the victims. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

South Africa's approach to the global human trafficking crisis: an analysis of the proposed legislation and the prospects of implementation.

SECTION: Pg. 171 Vol. 9 No. 1

LENGTH: 13328 words

I. INTRODUCTION

The worldwide epidemic of trafficking in persons continues to be a global problem each year, (1) despite the creation and ratification in 2000 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime ("Protocol" or "U.N. Protocol"). (2) Even with 117 signatories, (3) the Protocol alone is ineffective in curbing the increasing crisis. The responsibility to remedy the problem still lies in the hands of individual countries, (4) which must enact legislation to deal with intrastate issues and work with each other to deal with interstate issues. South Africa is not only a signatory to the Protocol; it ratified the Protocol on February 20, 2004. (5) Despite the country's commitment to eliminating the illegal trafficking of persons, it took the South African Law Reform Commission over four years to draft legislation combating human trafficking.

On November 25, 2008, the South African Law Reform Commission released the final version of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill. (6) This proposed legislation was created to

[G]ive effect to the [Protocol]; to address the trafficking of persons within or across the border of the Republic; to in persons; to provide for an persons and other offences associated with trafficking in persons; to provide for measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons; and to provide for matters connected therewith. (7)

The proposed bill was submitted to the Minister of Justice and was later published for public comment after March 31, 2009. (8) The period for public commentary closed on June 15, 2009, and the bill was expected to be presented to Parliament for a year-end vote. (9)

Since the inception of the United States' Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, (10) the United States annually issues the Trafficking in Persons Report in an attempt to gather and disseminate information about the growing worldwide problem of human trafficking. (11) The United States monitors and evaluates other governments' efforts to combat trafficking using a tier system that determines a state's level of compliance with minimum standards for eliminating the trafficking of persons. First, the Department of State "evaluates whether the government[s] fully compl[y] with the TVPRA's [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act] minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." (12) Next, the Department "considers whether governments [have] made significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance." (13) There are four possible tier placements, ranging from full compliance to little or no compliance: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; Tier 1 represents full compliance. (14)

In the 2005 report, South Africa was removed from **Tier 2** and placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List**. (15) It remained on the **Tier 2 Special Watch List** from 2005 until 2009. (16) According to the 2008 Report, "[t]he Government of South Afri-

ca [did] not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it [was] making significant efforts to do so." (17) Throughout the remainder of 2008 and into 2009, South Africa demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of **trafficking in persons**, warranting its removal from the **Tier 2 Watch List** and its return to the **Tier 2** List in the 2009 Report. (18)

The enactment of the Prevention and Combating of **Trafficking in Persons** Bill, combined with proper implementation devices, should be enough to remove South Africa from its current placement on the **Tier 2** List, ideally bringing the country up to full compliance with U.S. and international standards for **human trafficking**. The proposed legislation includes provisions that give full effect to the U.N. Protocol, as well as those that provide for the creation of inter-sectoral task teams throughout the country in order to facilitate its effective implementation. (19) The scope of the proposed legislation, combined with the support of these task teams, should enable South Africa to competently fight human trafficking within and across its borders. The country has numerous reasons (20) to work toward the end goals of eliminating human trafficking and aligning with U.S. and international standards, and it must begin by enacting the proposed legislation.

This Note will first discuss the historical background of trafficking in persons in South Africa. It will then review the legislative measures currently in place in South Africa to prosecute and prevent human trafficking. Next, it will analyze the proposed legislation and assess the likelihood of its effectiveness with regard to the U.N. Protocol and the standards set forth in the United States' TVPRA. Finally, from international methods of implementing the U.N. Protocol, it will draw suggestions for South Africa to most effectively prevent human trafficking within and across its borders, prosecute those who engage in human trafficking, and protect victims. (21)

II. BACKGROUND: HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

While trafficking in human beings in South Africa is not new, there has been a rapid increase over the past two decades in the prevalence and documentation of cases. (22) With the growth of globalization, human trafficking worldwide has become "a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial level." (23) In a country where demand for cheap labor and commercial sex is high, it is no wonder that the black-market business of trafficking in persons has flourished in South Africa. A combination of extreme poverty, poor education, and a lack of employment opportunities "propel[s] vulnerable people into the hands of traffickers." (24)

In the aftermath of apartheid, South Africa has become a "source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children." (25) This modern-day form of slavery has become increasingly problematic for South Africans as "[a]rmed conflict and associated dislocation, political and economic upheaval, food insecurity, lack of education and employment opportunities and the blight of the AIDS epidemic make South Africa a magnet that attracts migration from across the continent." (26) As these immigrants are vulnerable and easily susceptible to traffickers, the increase in migration across South Africa's borders correlates with the rise in trafficking. (27) In 2003, the International Organization for Migration ("IOM") published a report on human trafficking in southern Africa. (28) The report notes that male refugees, who make up the vast majority of the growing population of refugees in the region, (29) may turn to conducting human trafficking as a way of easily earning money. (30) The report suggests that "[t]he struggle to survive in South Africa in the face of unemployment and xenophobia pushes some refugee men to pursue opportunities from within the relative security of the clan, which may entail engaging in illegal activities. The trafficking of female family members for sexual exploitation is one such activity." (31) Additionally, criminal syndicates have been implicated as an alternative driving force behind the increase in human trafficking in South Africa. (32)

According to the Southern Africa Counter-Trafficking Assistance Program ("SACTAP"), "South Africa is commonly regarded as the main country of destination for trafficked persons in the region." (33) It further explains that, "[i]n many cases, women and children are lured to South Africa with promises of jobs, education or marriage, only to be sold and sexually exploited in the country's major urban centres, or small towns and more rural environments." (34) According to a 2004 report by South Africa's Independent Newspapers, "every year nearly 900,000 people are smuggled across borders as sex slaves, child labourers and illegal organ donors, with 75 percent of them going through South Africa." (35) Other research suggests that the number of women and children trafficked annually into South Africa for the purpose of sexual exploitation is between 850 and 1,100. (36) Most researchers, however, seem to believe that cases of human trafficking are underreported, and thus feel that the current statistics do not accurately reflect the immensity of the problem. (37) Many factors may play a role in the projected high percentage of incidents of trafficking in persons that go unreported or undiscovered. For instance, under the current legislative regime in South Africa, there are disincentives for victims of human trafficking to turn themselves in, as they may be prosecuted for prostitution or other crimes. (38) Additionally, South Africa's current witness protection program fails to provide complete support and protection for vic-

tims and, thus, may also deter human trafficking victims from stepping forward. (39) Researchers also contend that access to victims is difficult as they are hard to identify, "may speak a language that is not native to the country in which they end up, and may be involved in hidden criminal activity." (40)

According to a policy paper published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO"), the root causes of human trafficking in South Africa can be broken down into supply and demand factors. (41) Factors that contribute to the supply of victims of human trafficking include "unequal access to education ... lack of legitimate and fulfilling employment opportunities ... sex-selective migration policies and restrictive emigration policies/laws ... less access to information on migration/job opportunities ... disruption of support systems due to natural and human created catastrophes; and traditional attitudes and practices." (42) community

Many factors augment demand, including the increased use of foreign workers in household roles, the growth of the sex and entertainment industries, and the low-risk, high-profit nature of trafficking. (43) Because the business of human trafficking feeds on poverty and despair, it is commonly found in countries, such as South Africa, that lack the general stability and economic resources to combat it.

III. SOUTH AFRICA'S CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

With the 2010 World Cup--set to be held in South Africa--rapidly approaching, researchers and legislators are growing more concerned about implementing effective legislation to combat the problem of trafficking in persons in South Africa. (44) According to Amanda Ledwaba, Director of Investigations in the Department of Home Affairs, "[t]he pressure is now on the government to pass this legislation as soon as possible." (45) She further stated that "it would also be 'a disaster' if the Act were not introduced before 2010, as sex workers from all over the world would be coming in ahead of 2010 to ply their trade. And the human-traffickers who brought them in would manipulate the women." (46) Pre-World Cup tensions may be one of the driving forces behind the current push for legislation. Additional factors may include: South Africa's constitutional commitment to freedom from slavery; its need to follow through on its international obligations under the U.N. Protocol; and its interest in raising its status on the United States' tier list.

While South Africa has not yet enacted legislation dealing solely with the issue of human trafficking, it has taken a number of steps in that direction. Prior to the release of the proposed Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, South Africa signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime ("Convention") (47) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. (48) South Africa has also signed and ratified a number of international instruments related to trafficking in persons. (49) Despite its commitment to fighting human trafficking, evidenced by the signing and ratification of these agreements, the South African government cannot utilize these international agreements to prosecute human traffickers without first enacting implementing legislation. (50) Without explicit legislation addressing human trafficking, South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority is forced to prosecute human trafficking under various other statutes. (51) In addition to employing criminal statutes, the legislators have amended a number of acts in order to provide minimal coverage of human trafficking issues. (52) While these measures can be used to address some forms of human trafficking, full compliance under the Protocol mandates that each ratifying country implement national legislation that is modeled on the Protocol. (53)

The Children's Act of 2005 (54) is one of the most important acts currently at the disposal of South African prosecutors. Chapter 18 of the Children's Act deals with trafficking in children and was enacted to give effect to the U.N. Protocol as well as to "generally combat trafficking in children." (55) It sets forth a comprehensive definition of trafficking, which broadens the one found in the U.N. Protocol with respect to child trafficking victims. (56) The Act is divided into sections outlining target areas for the increased prevention of human trafficking, prosecution of traffickers, and protection of victims. (57) The proposed legislation for combating trafficking in persons is much more comprehensive in scope than the current text of the Children's Act. (58) While Chapter 18 of the 2005 Children's Act is a solid start to remedying the problem of trafficking in minors, it cannot sufficiently and effectively address all aspects of the growing international crisis in just three pages. (59)

In addition to Chapter 18 of the Children's Act, South Africa's strategy to combat trafficking in persons includes a Sexual Offences Bill. (60) This bill provides another provisional definition of trafficking (61) and was put in place "[p]ending the adoption of legislation in compliance with" the U.N. Protocol. (62)

While the National Prosecuting Authority is currently able to prosecute offenders under only common law (63) or statutory law, (64) South African legislators' recognition of the compelling need to enact comprehensive and all-inclusive

legislation addressing the prevention, prohibition, and prosecution of human trafficking demonstrates their continued commitment to combating the problem.

IV. IMPLEMENTING THE U.N. PROTOCOL: THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL

In assessing the implementation of South Africa's proposed legislation, it is important to consider the framework upon which it is based--the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The Protocol, as discussed below, sets forth an international standard, which its signatories are requested to meet by enacting domestic legislation that provides individualized interstate and intrastate solutions to the global problem of human trafficking.

A. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime

In 2000, the United Nations enacted the Protocol, which recognizes that

effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights.... (65)

It first sets forth a statement of purpose (66) and defines the terms of art that are utilized throughout the document. (67) The majority of sections begin with the mandate, "each State Party shall," and prescribes the measures that states should implement to best combat trafficking. (68)

While the Protocol proposes a comprehensive international approach to combat human trafficking, it cannot be enforced globally unless the signatories enact domestic legislation. Thus, it functions more as a starting point for those countries that have signed and ratified it, mandating domestic legislation modeled after the Protocol. (69) It is clear from the language of the Protocol that the United Nations views some measures as necessary to combat trafficking, and others as useful, but not essential. (70) Therefore, those nations that enact legislation in compliance with the required sections of the Protocol will have fulfilled their obligations as signatories of the document. (71)

B. South Africa's Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill

On November 25, 2008, the South African Law Reform Commission ("SALRC") submitted the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill to the then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mohamed Enver Surty. (72) South Africa's proposed legislation appears to be in full compliance with the standards set forth in the U.N. Protocol. The SALRC's investigation process (73) was accompanied by other responses of the South African government to the increasing prevalence of human trafficking. (74) The Bill was "gazetted," or published, for public comment by the new Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Jeffrey Thamsanqa Radebe, in early 2009. (75) The proposed bill contains eleven chapters in which the SALRC sets out legislation for the prevention of trafficking, newly formulated offenses and penalties for traffickers, procedures for identification, protection and compensation of victims, general administrative measures, and a renewed commitment to international cooperation. (76) Additionally, it provides comprehensive definitions of the elements of human trafficking that incorporate and exceed the scope of the definitions set forth in the U.N. Protocol. (77)

The proposed bill complies with the U.N. Protocol by suggesting legislative measures that would establish criminal offenses for trafficking in persons. (78) Once adopted, this legislation will provide the National Prosecuting Authority with a new arsenal of tools with which to prosecute traffickers and almost anyone who has even minimal involvement with the movement of trafficking victims into, out of, and through the Republic. (79)

In compliance with article 6 of the Protocol, the Bill provides for programs to increase public awareness in order to lay a foundation for the prevention of human trafficking. (80) It is important to note that Chapter 6 of the Bill calls on "an accredited organisation" to draw up plans to provide access to such programs and additional assistance. (81) The Bill

places a positive obligation on other functioning members of the State to be more involved, and establishes a more cohesive approach to South Africa's fight against trafficking. (82)

Additionally, in accordance with article 9 of the Protocol, the Bill includes statutory measures for the identification and protection of victims of trafficking. (83) It further protects victims of trafficking by specifically prohibiting criminal prosecution of victims in certain circumstances, i.e., if a victim's violation of another statutory or common law provision was a direct result of being trafficked. (84) The Bill also addresses the compensation of victims and the State, (85) deportation and repatriation of victims, (86) and general implementation provisions. (87)

As the period for public comment on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill closed on June 15, 2009, the Department of Justice's next step will be to introduce the Bill to the Cabinet for approval and from there, it will be introduced into Parliament. (88) At the press briefing on November 25, 2008, the Minister of Justice projected that the proposed legislation would become law by the end of 2009. (89) While the accuracy of this estimate is dependent on the parliamentary process, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is committed to finalizing the process as soon as possible. (90) As of January 2010, the draft bill had not yet been introduced into Parliament for a vote, however, such action is expected in the near future. (91) Further, inter-sectoral task teams on human trafficking are already being set up throughout the country, demonstrating that South Africa is committed to fighting the problem on all fronts. (92)

V. SOUTH AFRICA'S COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In 2000, the United States enacted the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act ("VTVP Act"). (93) This Act has since been reauthorized and amended in 2003 (94) and 2005. (95) The United States' VTVP Act created minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking globally. (96) In order to assess each country's compliance with these minimum standards, the VTVP Act established seven criteria for consideration. (97) According to the process laid out in the VTVP Act, if a country does not meet the minimum standards, the United States then assesses what efforts the country is making to do so. This determines whether the country is placed in Tier 2 or Tier 3. (98)

In 2001, in response to the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, (99) the President of the United States created the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, (100) which publishes the Trafficking in Persons ("TIP") Report, an annual report on trafficking in persons worldwide. These reports recognize the major forms of **human trafficking** (101) throughout the world and categorize countries in **tiers** that reflect each country's efforts to combat trafficking. (102) The reports also provide country narratives for each country reviewed, which discuss the current problems, measures being taken, and recommendations for future action in prosecution, protection, and prevention. (103) The TIP Reports suggest a three-pronged approach to ending global human trafficking, focusing on prosecution, protection, and prevention. (104) The reports further provide a succinct definition of human trafficking, which is extrapolated from the U.N. Protocol. (105) The annual TIP Reports are an important part of the global effort to prevent, protect, and prosecute instances of human trafficking because they target non-compliant countries putting pressure on them to focus on domestic problems and solutions for human trafficking.

South Africa remained on the Tier 2 Watch List from 2005 until 2009, and the country report published in the 2009 TIP Report concluded that, while the government does not fully comply with the minimum standards, "it is making significant efforts to do so." (106) South Africa's proposed Bill demonstrates the country's commitment to all three prongs suggested in the TIP Reports. It addresses issues of criminalization and prohibition of trafficking, (107) protection and assistance for trafficking victims, (108) and prevention of trafficking through awareness programs. (109) While these measures were not implemented nor fully functioning by the release of the 2009 TIP Report on June 16, 2009, the report recognized that South Africa had made great strides over the past year toward compliance with international standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. (110) South Africa's commitment toward implementing successful legislation proved to the United States that it was taking human trafficking seriously. Recognizing this, the United States removed South Africa from the Tier 2 Watch List and placed it back on the Tier 2 list, (111) where it had been prior to 2005. (112) Once the proposed legislation is signed into law and proven effective, South Africa will likely be classified as a Tier 1 country, indicating that its government "fully complies with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards." (113)

VI. THE FUTURE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

With the 2010 World Cup on the horizon, it is more important than ever that South Africa stays committed to fighting the phenomenon of trafficking in persons within and across its borders. (114) If the South African government implements the suggestions made by the SALRC in its Report on Trafficking in Persons (115) and codifies the Bill into law,

not only will it have aligned itself domestically with U.N. and U.S. schemata, but it will also have made great strides to protect its people against the very real and dangerous threat of human trafficking.

To suggest that South Africa has not been committed to solving this problem prior to the submission of the Bill to the Minister of Justice would be far from accurate. The SALRC has been investigating trafficking in persons since South Africa ratified the U.N. Protocol. South Africa's well-formulated plan of attack addresses each of the three P's of U.S. policy--prevention, prosecution, and protection--and is likely to be effective in all three areas, assuming that all departments called upon in the proposed legislation contribute to the inter-sectoral task team and work together to solve the human trafficking crisis. Particularly in the wake of apartheid, South Africa's commitment to eliminating trafficking in persons into, out of, and through the Republic is essential to the current regime's continued legitimacy. A failure to prosecute and prevent trafficking in persons would be too closely linked to a failure to prevent South Africans from being subject to "slavery, servitude or forced labour," which is specifically prohibited by the Constitution of the Republic. (116) Thus, the only avenue for South Africa is to comply with its international obligations and enact the proposed legislation so that it is binding throughout the Republic.

(1.) See Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, Summary of Remarks at the Release of the Ninth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report Alongside Leaders in Congress (June 16, 2009), <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm> ("The ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report sheds light on the faces of modern-day slavery and on new facets of this global problem. The human trafficking phenomenon affects virtually every country, including the United States.").

(2.) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, G.A. Res. 55/25, U.N. GAOR, 55th Sess., Annex II (Nov. 15, 2000) [hereinafter Protocol], available at http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf.

(3.) United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime [UNODC], Signatories to the CTOC [Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime] Trafficking Protocol, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html> (last visited Aug. 28, 2009).

(4.) See, e.g., Protocol, *supra* note 2, art. 5 ("Each State Party shall adopt such legislation and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this Protocol, when committed intentionally."). Language requiring state legislative implementation is also used in articles six through thirteen. *Id.* arts. 6-13 (employing the words, e.g., "each State Party shall").

(5.) South Africa ratified the Protocol, but stated:

[P]ending a decision by the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of

Justice, the Government of the Republic does not consider itself bound by the terms of Article 15 (2) of the Protocol which provides

for the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in differences arising out of the interpretation or application of the Protocol. The Republic will adhere to the position that, for the submission of a particular dispute for settlement by the International Court, the consent of all the parties to the dispute is required in every individual case.

Signatories to the CTOC Trafficking Protocol, *supra* note 3.

(6.) South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/reports.htm> (last visited Aug. 28, 2009).

(7.) SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMM'N, PROJECT 131: REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, Annexure D, 2 (2008), http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/reports/r_par131_trafficking_2008.pdf [hereinafter SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT].

(8.) Nthambeleni Gabara, Human Trafficking Legislation to Be Gazetted for Public Comment, BUA NEWS ONLINE, Mar. 31, 2009, <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/09/09033111151002>.

(9.) U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 261 (2009), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123357.pdf> [hereinafter 2009 TIP REPORT]. As of January 18, 2010 the draft bill does not yet appear to have been presented to Parliament. See Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Bills Before Parliament, http://www.parliament.gov.za/live/content.php?Category_ID=72 (last visited Jan. 18, 2010).

(10.) Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. [section] 7101 (2000) (amended 2003, 2005).

(11.) The Trafficking in Persons Report

is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of persons--a form of modern-day

focused the efforts of a growing community of nations to share information and to partner in new and important ways to fight human trafficking. A country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons** receives a negative "**Tier 3**" assessment in this Report. Such an assessment could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country.

U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 5 (2005), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf> [hereinafter 2005 TIP REPORT].

(12.) Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment, U.S. DEPT OF STATE, Feb. 1, 2006, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/60487.htm> [hereinafter Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment]. See infra notes 98 and 100 and accompanying text.

(13.) Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment, supra note 12.

(14.) The tier classification system is defined as follows:

Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Act's minimum standards.

Tier 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Special Watch List: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and:

(a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; or

(b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or

(c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Tier 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

2005 TIP REPORT, supra note 11, at 28.

(15.) Id. at 198-99.

(16.) Id.; U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 46 (2006), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf> [hereinafter 2006 TIP REPORT]; U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 42 (2007), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf> [hereinafter 2007 TIP REPORT]; U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 44 (2008),

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf> [hereinafter 2008 TIP REPORT]; 2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 50.

(17.) 2008 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 16, at 228.

(18.) 2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 50.

(19.) See generally SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D.

(20.) These reasons include: the fast-approaching Federation Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA") World Cup that is sure to spark an influx of tourism of all kinds; South Africa's constitutional commitment to protect its citizens from slavery; South Africa's signing and ratification of the U.N. Protocol; and South Africa's demotion to **Tier 2 Watch List** status in 2005 by the United States in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Reports, though this particular issues has been partially remedied already by South Africa's significant efforts in the past year, which warranted its removal from the **watch list** and its placement on the **Tier 2** list in the 2009 TIP Report.

(21.)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) describes victims as "young girls sold by their families; children drugged and forced to fight as soldiers; men bonded/chained in labor on mines and farms; women enslaved in quarries and households; women and girls trapped in the sex trade; boys forced to fish in dangerous waters--all of them people, human beings, coerced to do what others would never freely do, paid virtually nothing for their pains."

International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 110th Cong. 39 (2007) (statement of Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale, President, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida) (footnote omitted).

(22.) This increase in the perceived prevalence and documentation may come from the heightened interest of the human interest group Molo Songololo in South Africa and the International Organization for Migration ("IOM"). A 2008 article published by the Integrated Regional Information Networks stated, "Official statistics are not available and 'reports on the trade in South Africa draw almost entirely on three pieces of primary research': two reports compiled in 2000 by the children's advocacy group, Molo Songololo, and a 2003 study by the IOM, but only the IOM study attempted to ascertain the numbers involved." Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), South Africa: How Heavy Is Human Trafficking?, Sept. 8, 2008, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48eeld5ele.html>. However, the article further recognized that human trafficking has become a prevalent and lucrative economic threat:

The IOM contends that global human trafficking is worth between US \$7 billion and \$12 billion dollars annually, making it the third most lucrative trades, although "in contrast to these other criminal activities, however, the penalties for human trafficking in most countries are much less severe, or non-existent."

Id.

(23.) U.N. Educ., Scientific & Cultural Org. [UNESCO], Policy Paper No. 14.5(E): Human Trafficking in South Africa: Root Causes and Recommendations, at 7, SHS/CCT/2007/P1/H/6 (2007), available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001528/152823e.pdf> [hereinafter Root Causes and Recommendations].

(24.) Id.

(25.) 2008 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 16, at 227.

(26.) Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 7.

(27.) "Traditional migration patterns of labour to South Africa from surrounding states, the practice of children being loaned/sent to better-situated family members to be raised; and casual border procedures contribute to acceptance and expectations of unregulated cross-border movement." Id. at 11. See also JONATHAN MARTENS, MACIEJ PIEC-ZKOWSKI & BERNADETTE VAN VUUREN-SMYTH, INT'L ORG. FOR MIGRATION (IOM), SEDUCTION, SALE AND SLAVERY: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 21 (May 2003) (suggesting that "[m]obile populations are always more vulnerable to exploitation than stable populations").

(28.) MARTENS, supra note 27, at 133.

(29.) At the time the IOM report was published, the population of refugees stood at 23,000. Id. at 21. Ninety-five percent of the refugee population was male. Id. at 23.

(30.) "The sexual exploitation of women, as a means of earning an income, soon becomes an attractive and viable option for some refugee men, particularly those living in cities where there is an obviously profitable sex industry." Id. at 24.

(31.) Id. at 33.

(32.) "Traffickers operating in South Africa include Nigerian networks, Chinese triads, Russian and Bulgarian mafia and various groups of organised criminal syndicates." Yazeed Kamaldien, International Women's Day: South Africa Linked in the Global Human Trafficking, INTER PRESS SERVICE NEWS AGENCY, Mar. 8, 2005, <http://ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=27772>.

In the past, victims had typically been runaways who fell prey to city pimps, but now crime syndicates recruit victims from rural towns.

East for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Nigerian syndicates have reportedly begun moving trafficked women from South Africa to the U.S. as well for African migrant clients there.

See 2009 TIP REPORT, supra note 9, at 260.

(33.) IRIN, supra note 22.

(34.) Id.

In most cases, women and children are lured with promises of employment or educational opportunities abroad; offers made appealing and credible within the context of historical migration patterns in the region which flow southwards to the relative prosperity of South Africa, or northwards to Europe. Only sometimes are their situations absolutely desperate.... Their sexual exploitation is facilitated largely by their relocation from a place with which they are familiar to one with which they are not.

MARTENS, supra note 27, at 123-24.

(35.) IRIN, supra note 22.

(36.) Id.

(37.) According to Karen Blackman, a spokesperson for the IOM's Southern Africa Counter-Trafficking Assistance Program ("SACTAP"), "[t]he clandestine nature of human trafficking makes the scale of the illicit industry difficult to assess and there are few reliable statistics on the number of persons trafficked in the southern African region." Id.

38. MARTENS, supra note 27, at 133.

When identified by police in South Africa, victims of trafficking are deported as illegal immigrants without being questioned about

their experiences. Victims are afraid of law enforcement, and do not trust police to assist them. [In addition,] South Africa has no public services specifically designed to assist victims of trafficking.

Id. at 125.

(39.) South Africa passed the Witness Protection Act of 1998, which created the Office of Witness Protection and established protocol to be followed with respect to the protection of witnesses. Witness Protection Act 112 of 1998. There are a number of holes in this piece of legislation, including a failure to place a limit on how long the witness protection program may run, a failure to discuss what happens after testimony is given by a witness, and any explanation of whether there is a structure in place to take care of witnesses for the long term. See id.

(40.) IRIN, *supra* note 22. The language problem may be particularly enhanced in South Africa as it has eleven official languages. S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 6(1).

(41.) Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 32.

(42.) Id. at 32-33. Additional supply factors are categorized as poverty, HIV and AIDS, gender and age imbalances, discriminatory cultural practices and beliefs, lack of knowledge and information, and absence of effective laws. Id. at 34-38.

(43.)

[T]he increasing demand for foreign workers for domestic and care-giving roles, and lack of adequate regulatory frameworks to support this; the growth of the billion-dollar sex and entertainment industry, tolerated as a "necessary evil" while women in prostitution are criminalized and discriminated against; the low risk-high profit nature of trafficking encouraged by a lack of will on the part of enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers (which includes owners/managers of institutions into which persons are trafficked); the ease in controlling and manipulating vulnerable women; lack of access to legal redress or remedies, for victims of traffickers; and devaluation of women and children's human rights.

Id. at 32. Additional demand factors are categorized as "[n]eed for low-skilled and cheap labor, [c]ultural beliefs, [s]ex tourism and industry, [a]doption trade, [d]emand for organs and body-parts, [and] [n]eed for children-soldiers in armed conflict." Id. at 38.

(44.) Frederico Links, Human Trafficking and Prostitution to Surge Ahead of 2010 World Cup, NAMIBIAN, Sept. 2, 2008, [http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=51243&no_cache=1](http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=51243&no_cache=1).

(45.) Barbara Cole, Human Trafficking Must Be Addressed Now, DAILY NEWS (Durban), Sept. 12, 2008, at 5, available at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080912_113400769C601405 (quoting Amanda Ledwaba at a workshop on human trafficking in Durban, South Africa in September 2008).

(46.) Id. See also Katherine L. Morrow, Comment, Soccer, Sex and Slavery: Human Trafficking in the World Cup, 17 TUL. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 243 (2008) (analyzing the estimate that 40,000 women would have been trafficked into Germany prior to its hosting of the 2006 World Cup but for the implementation of preventive and protective measures).

(47.) U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime [UNTOC], G.A. Res. 55/25, U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/25 (Jan. 8, 2001).

(48.) The Protocol was created in 2000 to supplement the Convention. Protocol, *supra* note 2. The Convention came into operation on September 29, 2003 and the Protocol came into operation on December 25, 2003. See South African

Government Information, Human Trafficking Strategy, <http://www.info.gov.za/issues/humantrafficking/strategy.htm> (last visited on Jan. 11, 2010) [hereinafter Human Trafficking Strategy].

(49.) These include: the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949, signed in 1950, ratified in 1951); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979, signed in 1993, ratified in 1996); and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2002, signed in 1998, ratified in 2000). South Africa has ratified other legal instruments including: the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1999, ratified in 2005); the Hague Convention no.33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993, ratified in 2003); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000, ratified in 2003); the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified in 1995); the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999, ratified in 2000). Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 41-42.

(50.) Section 231(2) of South Africa's Constitution states that an international agreement binds the republic when it is enacted into law through national legislation. S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 231 (2).

(51.) The available legislative means include

the Sexual Offences Act 23 of 1957, the Child Care Act 74 of 1983, as amended, the of and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004, the Immigration Act 13 of 2002, as amended, the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996, as amended, the Corruption Act 94 of 1992, the Intimidation Act 72 of 1982 and the Riotous Assemblies Act 17 of 1956.

Human Trafficking Strategy, *supra* note 48. "The absence of legislation specific to human trafficking limits prosecutors to dealing only with the perpetrator directly linked to the offences resulting from the trafficking of the victim, to the exclusion of the perpetrators behind the scenes, as this is often an organized crime activity." *Id.*

(52.) These additions include: Chapter 18 of the Children's Act [Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291]; Section 50(A) of the Child Care Act [Child Care Act 74 of 1983 s. 50(A)], and Chapter 5 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill [Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill, 2003, Bill 50-2003]. Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 45-48.

(53.)

[The Protocol] mandates that States Parties take the necessary measures not only to criminalize the also to trafficking, and promote international cooperation to combat the problem of trafficking. Thus, the Protocol provides a "comprehensive international approach" to combating trafficking, which surpasses the earlier international trafficking prohibitions....

Mohamed Y. Mattar, Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in Countries of the Middle East: The Scope of the Problem and the Appropriate Legislative Responses, 26 *FORDHAM INT'L L.J.* 721, 722 (2003) (internal citations omitted).

(54.) Children's Act 38 of 2005.

(55.) Children's Act 38 of 2005 s. 281(b). The Act further states: "The UN Protocol to Prevent Trafficking in Persons is in force in the Republic and its provisions are law in the Republic, subject to the provisions of this Act." *Id.* s. 282.

(56.)

"[T]rafficking", in relation to a child--(a) means the recruitment, sale, supply, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children, within or across the borders of the Republic--(i) by any means, including the use of threat, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of a child; or (ii) due to a position of vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation; and (b) includes the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through illegal means....

Children's Act 38 of 2005 s. 1 at "trafficking."

(57.) These target areas include: international co-operation, prohibition of trafficking in children, prohibition of behavior facilitating trafficking in children, providing assistance to children who are victims of trafficking, parental trafficking of children, protocols for reporting instances of child victimization, and treatment and repatriation of victims of human trafficking. See Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291.

(58.) The draft version of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, as submitted to the Minister of Justice on November 25, 2008, is forty-five pages long and is divided into eleven chapters that attempt to create lasting definitions of the various offenses that may be prosecuted via this legislation. SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D.

(59.) Chapter 18 of the Children's Act of 2005 dealing with trafficking in children spans pages numbered 144 through 148, which is only three pages of actual text in the Act, as compared to the much more comprehensive proposed human trafficking legislation, which is forty-five pages. Compare Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291, with SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D.

(60.) Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill, 2003, Bill 50-2003 [hereinafter Sexual Offenses Amendment Bill].

(61.) Trafficking is defined to include

the supply, recruitment, procurement, capture, removal, transportation, transfer, harbouring, sale, disposal or receiving of a person, within or across the borders of the Republic, by means
of--(a) threat of harm; (b) the threat or use of force, intimidation or other forms of coercion; (c) abduction; (d) fraud; (e) deception or false pretenses; (f) the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, to the extent that the complainant is inhibited from indicating his or her unwillingness or resistance to being trafficked, or unwillingness to participate in such an act; or (g) the giving or receiving of payments or benefits, for the purpose of any form or manner of exploitation, grooming or abuse of a sexual nature of such person, including the commission of any sexual offence or any offence of a sexual nature in any other law against such person or performing any sexual act with such person, whether committed in or outside the borders of the Republic.

Sexual Offenses Amendment Bill, supra note 60, s. 70(2)(b).

(62.) Id. at 40. See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 14 (concluding that "[p]ending the promulgation of comprehensive legislation on trafficking in persons, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act is the most appropriate legislation to charge those who traffick persons for purposes of sexual exploitation").

(63.) "[D]epending on the circumstances of each case, such persons could be charged with kidnapping, common assault, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, extortion, slavery, attempted murder and murder." SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 14.

(64.)

Statutory offences are provided for in the Sexual Offences Act [23 of 1957], the Riotous Assemblies Act [17 of 1956], the Immigration Act [13 of 2002], the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [75 of 1997], the Intimidation Act [72 of 1982], the Domestic Violence Act [116 of 1998] and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act [121 of 1998].

Id.

(65.) Protocol, supra note 2, pmbl.

(66.)

The purposes of this Protocol are: (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; (b) To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and (c) To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives. Protocol, supra note 2, art. 2.

(67.)

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs....

Protocol, supra note 2, art. 3.

(68.) See, e.g., Protocol, supra note 2, arts. 5-6.

(69.) See Mattar, supra note 53. Additionally, "[a]ny anti-trafficking legislation must comply with the international mandate of the Protocol." Id. at 758.

(70.) Compare Protocol, supra note 2, art. 5 ("[e]ach State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this Protocol, when committed intentionally"), with Protocol, supra note 2, art. 7 ("each State Party shall consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures that permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in its territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases"). This difference in language suggests that the Protocol drafters believe that defining a criminal offense is necessary to combat trafficking in persons, but do not believe that countries must allow victims to remain in the country into which they have been trafficked.

(71.) South Africa has both signed and ratified the Protocol. According to section 231 of the South African Constitution:

An international agreement binds the Republic only after it has been approved by resolution in both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, unless ... [it is] [a]n

international agreement of a technical, administrative or executive

nature, or an agreement which does not require either ratification or accession, entered into by the national executive.

S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 231(2)-(3). South Africa's signature and ratification of the Protocol "has placed an obligation on the government to bring its domestic laws and policies in line with the standards set by these instruments." SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 4.

(72.) SALRC Submits Reports on Trafficking and Stalking Amongst Others, JUSTICE TODAY (Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., Republic of South Africa), Nov./Dec. 2008, at 6, available at http://www.doj.gov.za/newsletter/JT/JT2008_Vol%206.pdf.

(73.) See infra note 115. The SALRC first created an Issue Paper with a closing deadline for comment of April 30, 2004 to "serve as a basis for the Commission's deliberations, to elicit comment and suggestions from relevant stakeholders and to disseminate information on the issue of trafficking in persons to the public at large." SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REVIEW COMM'N, ISSUE PAPER 25, PROJECT 131: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, at iii (2004), http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/ipapers/ip25_prj131_2004.pdf. Following up on the Issue Paper, the SALRC published a Discussion Paper with a comment submission deadline of June 30, 2006. SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMM'N, DISCUSSION PAPER 111, PROJECT 131: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, at iii (2004), <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/dp111.pdf>. Finally, the SALRC published its official Report, which included the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, on November 25, 2008. South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, supra note 6.

(74.) According to the South African government website, the government has created a "human trafficking strategy" in order to coordinate South Africa's response to trafficking in persons. Aside from the SALRC's investigation, the government established a "Human Trafficking Desk within the Organised Crime Unit at the South African Police Service (SAPS)." Human Trafficking Strategy, supra note 48.

Additionally, "[t]he presidential mandate of the SOCA [Sexual Offences and Community Affairs] Unit is to deal efficiently and effectively with sexual offences," and as such, SOCA has been tasked with the "[e]stablishment of an inter-sectoral Task Team to commence a process of coordination and refinement of activities towards the development of a multi-sectoral and comprehensive strategy." Id.

In the interest of inclusiveness, the following organizations and respective internal departments were elected to the Task Team: SAPS (the Human Trafficking Desk, Organised Crime Unit; Ports of Entry Policing); Department of Justice & Constitutional Development (Legislative Directorate); Department of Home Affairs (International Affairs); International Organisation for Migration; Department of Social Development; Department of Labour; Molo Songololo; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "The Task Team identified six pillars of a national strategy to effectively address trafficking in persons, as an instance of organised crime: Information, Capacity-Building & Development, Victim Assistance & Integration, Policy & Legislation Development, Liaison & Consulation as well as Monitoring & Evaluation." Id. See also Malebo Kotu-Rammopo, National Prosecuting Authority, South Africa's Strategy to Counter Human Trafficking: Media Briefing Session (Aug. 13, 2008), <http://www.npa.gov.za/UploadedFiles/HUMAN%20TRAFFICKING%20PROGRAMME%20Media%2013%20Aug%202008.ppt>.

(75.) See General Notice, Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., Publication of Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill (2009), available at http://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/invitations/20090508_EnglishTIP.pdf.

(76.) SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D. The first chapter of the Bill includes a definitional section as well as an outline of the proposed legislation's objectives. Id.

(77.) The Bill defines trafficking as the recruitment, sale, supply, procurement, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt of persons or the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through legal or illegal means, within or across the borders of the Republic--

(a) by means of the use of threat, force, intimidation or other forms of coercion, abduction, kidnapping, fraud, deception, debt bondage, abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control or authority over another person; or

(b) by abusing vulnerability.

Id. at 11. The Bill further defines exploitation in much greater detail than does the U.N. Protocol.

"[E]xploitation" includes, but is not limited to--(a) all forms of or practices similar to

labour as defined in section 1 of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005); (g) the removal of body parts; and (h) the impregnation of a female person against her will for the purpose of selling her child when born.

Id. at 9.

(78.) Chapter 3 of the Bill introduces offenses and penalties, making it a crime to intentionally traffic another human being. Id. at 13. In a footnote to the Bill, the SALRC explains:

Schedule 1 to this Bill amends the Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997 by including the Schedule 2, Part 1 of that Act. This means that a regional court or

a High Court may sentence a person it has convicted of the offence of trafficking in persons to imprisonment for life.

Id. at 13.

(79.) The Bill establishes penalties for trafficking in persons; engaging in conduct that causes another person to enter into debt bondage; destroying, confiscating, possessing or concealing documents; using the services of, or intentionally benefitting from, a victim of trafficking; any conduct that facilitates trafficking in persons; and carrying victims of trafficking into or out of the Republic--with some restrictions. Id. at 13-17. The Bill further provides that a court of the Republic may exert jurisdiction outside of the Republic if the person to be charged

(a) is a citizen of the Republic; (b) is ordinarily resident in the Republic; (c) has committed the offence against a citizen of the Republic or a person who is ordinarily resident in the Republic; (d) is, after the commission of the offence, present in the territory of the Republic, or in its territorial waters or on board a ship or aircraft registered or required to be registered in the Republic; (e) is, for any reason, not extradited by the Republic or if there is no application to extradite that person; or (f) is a juristic person or a partnership in terms of any law in the Republic.

Id. at 17.

(80.)

Each State Party shall ensure that its domestic legal or administrative system contains measures that provide to victims of

in persons, in appropriate cases: (a) Information on relevant court and administrative proceedings; (b) Assistance to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings against offenders, in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of the defence.

Protocol, supra note 2, art. 6, [section] 2.

Chapter 4 of the Bill deals with the identification and protection of victims of trafficking, including how to report and refer both child and adult victims of trafficking to the correct authorities to ensure their safety. The chapter further provides specific measures to be taken to aid a child trafficking victim and provide health care to victims. See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D, at 18-21.

Additionally, Chapter 5 of the Bill addresses the status of foreign victims of trafficking by providing a recovery and reflection period, temporary residency, and possible permanent residency. *Id.* at 21-24. Chapter 6 further elaborates on the available services for adult victims of trafficking. It includes a list of the minimum norms and standards that must be provided to such victims and a description of programs that must be offered by accredited organizations in the Republic for accommodations, counseling, rehabilitation, and reintegration for adult victims. *Id.* at 24-27.

(81.) Chapter 6 of the Bill places an obligation on "an accredited organisation" to offer specified programs, draw up plans "to address the immediate and long term needs of a person who has been certified as a victim of trafficking," and manage and collect information on victims of trafficking. *Id.* at 25-26. Whether this will be effective will depend on the organization tasked with these obligations. Because the SALRC did not name a specific organization in this draft, the choice is likely to be left to the Minister of Justice or to Parliament.

(82.) For example, in Chapter 10 Section 40 the proposed bill calls for the establishment of an Inter-sectoral Committee, which it calls on in Chapter 2 Section 3 to "establish public awareness programmes or other measures for the prevention of trafficking in persons." See *id.* at 12, 39-40. The proposed legislation also calls on the help of immigration officials, labour inspectors, social workers, social service professionals, doctors, nurses and healers to report all instances where they have "reasonable grounds" to conclude that an adult person is a victim of trafficking. See *id.* at 19.

(83.) "States Parties shall establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures: (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and (b) To protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimization." Protocol, *supra* note 2, art. 9.

Chapter 2 of the Bill is aimed at preventing trafficking in persons and sets forth measures to increase public awareness. It mandates that the Inter-sectoral Committee:

[E]stablish public awareness programmes or other measures for the of educate members of the public, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, foreigners who apply for South African visas who may be victims of trafficking, and South African citizens or permanent residents who depart for work abroad, on issues relating to trafficking in persons ... (b) inform and educate victims of trafficking on--(i) their rights as victims;
 (ii) legal or other measures in place to ensure their safety, recovery and repatriation; and (iii) organisations, institutions or law enforcement agencies that may be approached for assistance or information; (c) discourage the demand for and the supply of victims of trafficking that fosters the exploitation of such victims, especially women and children.

SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D, at 12.

(84.)

No criminal prosecution shall be instituted against a child who was found to be a victim of trafficking after an investigation in terms of section 110(5)(c) of the Children's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 41 of 2007), or an adult person who has been certified as a victim of trafficking in terms of section 12(6)(a) for--

(a) entering or remaining in the Republic in contravention of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002);

(b) assisting another person to enter or remain in the Republic in contravention of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002);

(c) possessing any fabricated or falsified passport, identity document or other document used for the facilitation of movement across borders; and

(d) being involved in an illegal activity to the extent that he or she has been compelled to do so, as a direct result of his or her situation as a victim of trafficking. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 21.

(85.) *Id.*, Annexure D, at 27-30.

(86.) *Id.*, Annexure D, at 30-33.

(87.) These provisions include measures for dealing with trafficking by a parent, guardian, or other person who has parental responsibilities and rights for international co-operation, general directions for implementation and procedures that must be followed. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 33-39. The Bill further provides for the establishment of an Inter-Sectoral Committee, sets forth who will comprise this committee, and what its functions will be with respect to solving the crisis of human trafficking. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 39-42.

(88.) South Africa's legislative process involves a number of steps. The preparation of draft legislation requires the "investigation and evaluation of the legislative proposals ... and consultation with interested parties." Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., *The Legislative Process*, <http://www.doj.gov.za/legislation/legprocess.htm> (last visited Aug. 29, 2009). The majority of South Africa's bills are prepared by a government organization under the direction of a Minister or Deputy Minister. Once the Minister signs off on the proposed legislation, it is submitted to the Cabinet along with a Cabinet memorandum for approval. After such approval has been granted, the Minister "must submit a copy of the draft Bill to the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. However, before a Bill can be formally submitted to Parliament the State Law Advisers must be approached to certify the draft Bill." *Id.* This step ensures that the bill is in line with current South African law. Once approved, the bill is formally introduced into Parliament and, if passed, referred to the President to be signed into law. *Id.*; see also S. AFR. CONST. 1996 ss. 73, 82.

(89.) E-mail from Lowesa Stuurman, Researcher, SA Law Reform Comm'n, to Laura Najemy, J.D. Candidate, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (Dec. 5, 2008, 05:35 CST) (on file with author).

(90.) *Id.*

(91.) E-mail from Gaile Moosmann, Executive Director, Parliamentary Monitoring Group, to Laura Najemy, J.D. Candidate, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (Jan. 12, 2010, 03:38 CST) (on file with author).

(92.) The National Prosecuting Authority spearheaded an inter-sectoral task team on human trafficking in the Kwa-Zulu Natal province that has already proved successful. The Kwa-Zulu Natal province has seen a decrease in the number of brothels in Durban Central because of an increase in police activity in the area according to Police Superintendent Anton Booysen of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Pornography and Brothels Task Team. Kamin Padayachee, *Battle to Control Brothels in Suburbs*, MERCURY, Aug. 28, 2009, http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=2937&art_id=vn20090828042540710C294076. Additionally, international organizations have been influential in creating task teams to combat human trafficking in South Africa. The International Organization for Migration launched the Western Cape Provincial Task Team, South Africa's "first provincial civil society initiative against human trafficking," in 2008. SA: Western Cape Provincial Task Team on Human Trafficking Launched, *EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A BULLETIN OF NEWS, INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA* (International Organization for Migration, Pretoria, South Africa), Issue 17, 2008, at 6, available at http://iom.org.za/site/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=101.

(93.) Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. [section] 7101 (2000) (amended 2003, 2005). The VTVPA Act was originally intended for three main purposes: "to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims." [section] 7101(a).

(94.) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, H.R. 2620, 108th Cong. (2003).

(95.) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972, 109th Cong. (2005).

(96.)

Minimum Standards--For purposes of this chapter, the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking applicable to the government of a country of origin, transit, or destination for a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking are the following:

- (1) The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking.
- (2) For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault.
- (3) For the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense.
- (4) The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. VTVP Act [section] 7106(a).

(97.) The Act also sets out seven criteria that "should be considered" as indicia of the fourth point above, "serious and sustained efforts to eliminate trafficking." VTVP Act [section] 7106(a)(4), (b). Summarized, they are:

1. Whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes acts of trafficking within its territory.
2. Whether the government protects victims of trafficking, encourages victims' assistance in investigation and prosecution, provides victims with legal alternatives to their removal to countries where they would face retribution or hardship, and ensures that victims are not inappropriately penalized solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being trafficked.
3. Whether the government has adopted measures, such as public education, to prevent trafficking.
4. Whether the government cooperates with other governments in investigating and prosecuting trafficking.
5. Whether the government extradites persons charged with trafficking as it does with other serious crimes.
6. Whether the government monitors immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking, and whether law enforcement agencies respond appropriately to such evidence.
7. Whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes public officials who participate in or facilitate trafficking, and takes all appropriate measures against officials who condone trafficking.

[section] 7106(b). See also U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 15 (2003), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/21555.pdf> [hereinafter 2003 TIP REPORT].

(98.)

If a government is not in compliance with the minimum standards, the Department's determination of whether that government is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with these minimum standards dictates its placement in Tier 2 or 3. The Act sets out three mitigating factors which the Department is to consider in making such determinations. Summarized, they are as follows:

1. the extent of trafficking in the country;
2. the extent of governmental noncompliance with the minimum standards, particularly the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking; and
3. what measures are reasonable to bring the government into compliance with the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities.

Id. at 15-16.

(99.) VTVP Act, [section] 7101.

(100.) Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/> (last visited Sept. 15, 2009). The office "provides the tools to combat trafficking in persons and assists in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts both worldwide and domestically." Id.

(101.) Major forms of trafficking include: forced labor, bonded labor, debt bondage and involuntary servitude among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers, sex trafficking and prostitution, children exploited for commercial sex, and child sex tourism. 2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 19-25.

(102.) See 2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16.

(103.) In the 2008 TIP Report, the recommendations for South Africa were:

Fully implement the trafficking provisions of the Sexual Offenses and Children's Acts and raise awareness among all levels of relevant government officials as to their responsibilities under

these provisions; develop and employ national procedures for victim protection, including the identification of trafficking victims among undocumented immigrants; and regularly compile national statistics on the number of trafficking cases prosecuted and victims assisted, as is done for other crimes.

2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 228.

(104.) See Mohamed Y. Mattar, Incorporating the Five Basic Elements of a Model Antitrafficking in Persons Legislation in Domestic Laws: From the United Nations Protocol to the European Convention, 14 TUL. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 357 (2006) (suggesting that the U.S. approach of the "Three Ps" should be expanded to a "Five P's" approach that would focus on protection, participation, prevention, provision, and prosecution).

(105.)

Human Trafficking is: Process ([r]ecruitment or [t]ransportation or [t]ransferring or [h]arboring or [r]eceiving) and Way/Means ([t]hreat or [c]oercion or [a]bduction or [f]raud or [d]eception or

[d]eception or [a]buse of [p]ower) and Goal ([p]rostitution or

[p]ornography or [v]iolence/[s]exual [e]xploitation or [f]orced

[l]abor or [i]nvoluntary [s]ervitude or [d]epr [b]ondage with unfair wages or [s]lavery/[s]imilar practices).

2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 290.

(106.) 2009 TIP REPORT, supra note 9, at 260.

(107.) See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D, at 13-18 (Chapter 3 is titled "Offences and Penalties.").

(108.) See id., Annexure D, at 18-33 (Chapter 4 is titled "Identification and Protection of Victim of Trafficking." Chapter 5 is titled "Status of Foreign Victim of Trafficking." Chapter 6 is titled "Services to Adult Victims of Trafficking." Chapter 7 is titled "Compensation." Chapter 8 is titled "Deportation and Repatriation of Victim of Trafficking.").

(109.) See id., Annexure D, at 12-13, 33-45 (Chapter 2 is titled "Prevention of Trafficking in Persons." Chapter 9 is titled "General Provisions." Chapter 10 is titled "Administration of Act.").

(110.)

The Government of South Africa does not fully comply with the for the elimination of is making significant efforts to do so. The government opened

The Government of South Africa does not fully comply with the for the elimination of is making significant efforts to do so. The government opened prosecutions against 16 suspected trafficking offenders during the year and is continuing to prepare for late 2009 passage and subsequent implementation of its comprehensive anti-trafficking law by developing inter-agency operating procedures and training officials on the law, victim identification, and agency roles.

2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 260.

(111.) See *id.* at 50.

(112.) See U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 39 (2004), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/34158.pdf> [hereinafter 2004 TIP REPORT].

(113.) *Id.* at 30. Both downward and upward movement of classification within the tiers is very possible. For example, in 2003, Canada was demoted from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2**. 2003 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 97; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS** REPORT (2002), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10815.pdf> [hereinafter 2002 TIP REPORT]. Yet, according to the 2004 TIP Report,

[t]he Government of Canada fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of Interdepartmental Working Group coordinates and reports on the effectiveness of the national anti-trafficking policy. Senior government officials are speaking out more often, and more resources are being devoted to border control; a new RCMP anti-trafficking taskforce is also being created. For these reasons, Canada has been reclassified from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

2004 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 112, at 228.

(114.) Some anecdotal evidence already exists suggesting that there will be a surge in trafficking in persons in anticipation of the 2010 World Cup. "IOM in Ethiopia, for example, is increasingly aware of stories of men who are promised lucrative contracts in the construction industry in South Africa as the country prepares for the football World Cup in 2010." Press Briefing, Int'l Org. for Migration, Research on Trafficking of Men for Labour Exploitation (Dec. 18, 2007), <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pbnAF/cache/offonce?entryId=16263>.

(115.) The SALRC's report is comprehensive, and it outlines and explains the rationale behind the proposed legislation. It is important to note that the SALRC's Report takes into consideration not only the views of the SALRC and the Department of Justice, but also those of South African society as a whole. The SALRC investigation process involves three main steps, and after each, various governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations are allotted a substantial amount of time to comment on the document to allow for the most complete investigation possible.

The first step is publication of an issue paper. The SALRC website explains:

In order to actively involve the community at an earlier stage, the Commission has decided to publish issue papers for appropriate investigations as the first step in the consultation process. The

purpose of an issue paper is to announce an investigation, to elucidate the aim and extent of the investigation, to point to possible options available for solving existing problems and to initiate and stimulate debate on identified issues by way of

In order to actively involve the community at an earlier stage, the Commission has decided to publish issue papers for appropriate investigations as the first step in the consultation process.

The including specific questions on relevant issues.

South African Law Reform Comm'n, Issue Papers Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/ipapers.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2009). The SALRC's Issue Paper on Trafficking in Persons was published in early 2004 and was open for commentary until April 30, 2004. Id.

The second step is publication of a discussion paper. The SALRC website explains: Discussion papers, previously referred to as working papers, are documents in which the Commission's preliminary

research results are contained. In most cases discussion papers also contain draft legislation which gives effect to the Commission's tentative recommendations and proposals. The main purpose of these documents is to test public opinion on solutions

identified by the Commission.

South African Law Reform Comm'n, Discussion Papers Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/dpapers.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2009). The Discussion Paper on Trafficking in Persons was published on May 5, 2006, and was open for commentary until June 30, 2006. Id.

The third step is publication of a final report. The SALRC published the final report on Project 131, Trafficking in Persons, on November 25, 2008, and subsequently submitted it to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, *supra* note 6.

(116.)

The Bill of Rights contained in Chapter 2 of the Constitution is the cornerstone of the provides that no one may be subjected to

forced labour. It states that everyone has the right to freedom and

security of the person, which includes the right not to be deprived

of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause, the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources, the right not to be tortured in any way and the right not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way. It further affirms the democratic values of human dignity and freedom of movement. Children also have the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation and the right to be protected from exploitative labour practices.

SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, at 3 (citing S. AFR. CONST. 1996 ss. 10, 12, 13, 21, 28) (internal footnotes omitted).

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South Africa's approach to the global human trafficking crisis: an analysis of the proposed legislation and the prospects of implementation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The worldwide epidemic of trafficking in persons continues to be a global problem each year, (1) despite the creation and ratification in 2000 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime ("Protocol" or "U.N. Protocol"). (2) Even with 117 signatories, (3) the Protocol alone is ineffective in curbing the increasing crisis. The responsibility to remedy the problem still lies in the hands of individual countries, (4) which must enact legislation to deal with intrastate issues and work with each other to deal with interstate issues. South Africa is not only a signatory to the Protocol; it ratified the Protocol on February 20, 2004. (5) Despite the country's commitment to eliminating the illegal trafficking of persons, it took the South African Law Reform Commission over four years to draft legislation combating human trafficking.

On November 25, 2008, the South African Law Reform Commission released the final version of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill. (6) This proposed legislation was created to

[G]ive effect to the [Protocol]; to address the trafficking of persons within or across the border of the Republic; to in persons; to provide for an persons and other offences associated with trafficking in persons; to provide for measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons; and to provide for matters connected therewith. (7)

The proposed bill was submitted to the Minister of Justice and was later published for public comment after March 31, 2009. (8) The period for public commentary closed on June 15, 2009, and the bill was expected to be presented to Parliament for a year-end vote. (9)

Since the inception of the United States' Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, (10) the United States annually issues the Trafficking in Persons Report in an attempt to gather and disseminate information about the growing worldwide problem of human trafficking. (11) The United States monitors and evaluates other governments' efforts to combat trafficking using a tier system that determines a state's level of compliance with minimum standards for eliminating the trafficking of persons. First, the Department of State "evaluates whether the government[s] fully compl[y] with the TVPRA's [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act] minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." (12) Next, the Department "considers whether governments [have] made significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance." (13) There are four possible tier placements, ranging from full compliance to little or no compliance: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; Tier 1 represents full compliance. (14)

In the 2005 report, South Africa was removed from **Tier 2** and placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List**. (15) It remained on the **Tier 2 Special Watch List** from 2005 until 2009. (16) According to the 2008 Report, "[t]he Government of South Afri-

ca [did] not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it [was] making significant efforts to do so." (17) Throughout the remainder of 2008 and into 2009, South Africa demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of **trafficking in persons**, warranting its removal from the **Tier 2 Watch List** and its return to the **Tier 2** List in the 2009 Report. (18)

The enactment of the Prevention and Combating of **Trafficking in Persons** Bill, combined with proper implementation devices, should be enough to remove South Africa from its current placement on the **Tier 2** List, ideally bringing the country up to full compliance with U.S. and international standards for **human trafficking**. The proposed legislation includes provisions that give full effect to the U.N. Protocol, as well as those that provide for the creation of inter-sectoral task teams throughout the country in order to facilitate its effective implementation. (19) The scope of the proposed legislation, combined with the support of these task teams, should enable South Africa to competently fight human trafficking within and across its borders. The country has numerous reasons (20) to work toward the end goals of eliminating human trafficking and aligning with U.S. and international standards, and it must begin by enacting the proposed legislation.

This Note will first discuss the historical background of trafficking in persons in South Africa. It will then review the legislative measures currently in place in South Africa to prosecute and prevent human trafficking. Next, it will analyze the proposed legislation and assess the likelihood of its effectiveness with regard to the U.N. Protocol and the standards set forth in the United States' TVPRA. Finally, from international methods of implementing the U.N. Protocol, it will draw suggestions for South Africa to most effectively prevent human trafficking within and across its borders, prosecute those who engage in human trafficking, and protect victims. (21)

II. BACKGROUND: HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

While trafficking in human beings in South Africa is not new, there has been a rapid increase over the past two decades in the prevalence and documentation of cases. (22) With the growth of globalization, human trafficking worldwide has become "a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial level." (23) In a country where demand for cheap labor and commercial sex is high, it is no wonder that the black-market business of trafficking in persons has flourished in South Africa. A combination of extreme poverty, poor education, and a lack of employment opportunities "propel[s] vulnerable people into the hands of traffickers." (24)

In the aftermath of apartheid, South Africa has become a "source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children." (25) This modern-day form of slavery has become increasingly problematic for South Africans as "[a]rmed conflict and associated dislocation, political and economic upheaval, food insecurity, lack of education and employment opportunities and the blight of the AIDS epidemic make South Africa a magnet that attracts migration from across the continent." (26) As these immigrants are vulnerable and easily susceptible to traffickers, the increase in migration across South Africa's borders correlates with the rise in trafficking. (27) In 2003, the International Organization for Migration ("IOM") published a report on human trafficking in southern Africa. (28) The report notes that male refugees, who make up the vast majority of the growing population of refugees in the region, (29) may turn to conducting human trafficking as a way of easily earning money. (30) The report suggests that "[t]he struggle to survive in South Africa in the face of unemployment and xenophobia pushes some refugee men to pursue opportunities from within the relative security of the clan, which may entail engaging in illegal activities. The trafficking of female family members for sexual exploitation is one such activity." (31) Additionally, criminal syndicates have been implicated as an alternative driving force behind the increase in human trafficking in South Africa. (32)

According to the Southern Africa Counter-Trafficking Assistance Program ("SACTAP"), "South Africa is commonly regarded as the main country of destination for trafficked persons in the region." (33) It further explains that, "[i]n many cases, women and children are lured to South Africa with promises of jobs, education or marriage, only to be sold and sexually exploited in the country's major urban centres, or small towns and more rural environments." (34) According to a 2004 report by South Africa's Independent Newspapers, "every year nearly 900,000 people are smuggled across borders as sex slaves, child labourers and illegal organ donors, with 75 percent of them going through South Africa." (35) Other research suggests that the number of women and children trafficked annually into South Africa for the purpose of sexual exploitation is between 850 and 1,100. (36) Most researchers, however, seem to believe that cases of human trafficking are underreported, and thus feel that the current statistics do not accurately reflect the immensity of the problem. (37) Many factors may play a role in the projected high percentage of incidents of trafficking in persons that go unreported or undiscovered. For instance, under the current legislative regime in South Africa, there are disincentives for victims of human trafficking to turn themselves in, as they may be prosecuted for prostitution or other crimes. (38) Additionally, South Africa's current witness protection program fails to provide complete support and protection for vic-

tims and, thus, may also deter human trafficking victims from stepping forward. (39) Researchers also contend that access to victims is difficult as they are hard to identify, "may speak a language that is not native to the country in which they end up, and may be involved in hidden criminal activity." (40)

According to a policy paper published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO"), the root causes of human trafficking in South Africa can be broken down into supply and demand factors. (41) Factors that contribute to the supply of victims of human trafficking include "unequal access to education ... lack of legitimate and fulfilling employment opportunities ... sex-selective migration policies and restrictive emigration policies/laws ... less access to information on migration/job opportunities ... disruption of support systems due to natural and human created catastrophes; and traditional attitudes and practices." (42) community

Many factors augment demand, including the increased use of foreign workers in household roles, the growth of the sex and entertainment industries, and the low-risk, high-profit nature of trafficking. (43) Because the business of human trafficking feeds on poverty and despair, it is commonly found in countries, such as South Africa, that lack the general stability and economic resources to combat it.

III. SOUTH AFRICA'S CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

With the 2010 World Cup--set to be held in South Africa--rapidly approaching, researchers and legislators are growing more concerned about implementing effective legislation to combat the problem of trafficking in persons in South Africa. (44) According to Amanda Ledwaba, Director of Investigations in the Department of Home Affairs, "[t]he pressure is now on the government to pass this legislation as soon as possible." (45) She further stated that "it would also be 'a disaster' if the Act were not introduced before 2010, as sex workers from all over the world would be coming in ahead of 2010 to ply their trade. And the human-traffickers who brought them in would manipulate the women." (46) Pre-World Cup tensions may be one of the driving forces behind the current push for legislation. Additional factors may include: South Africa's constitutional commitment to freedom from slavery; its need to follow through on its international obligations under the U.N. Protocol; and its interest in raising its status on the United States' tier list.

While South Africa has not yet enacted legislation dealing solely with the issue of human trafficking, it has taken a number of steps in that direction. Prior to the release of the proposed Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, South Africa signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime ("Convention") (47) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. (48) South Africa has also signed and ratified a number of international instruments related to trafficking in persons. (49) Despite its commitment to fighting human trafficking, evidenced by the signing and ratification of these agreements, the South African government cannot utilize these international agreements to prosecute human traffickers without first enacting implementing legislation. (50) Without explicit legislation addressing human trafficking, South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority is forced to prosecute human trafficking under various other statutes. (51) In addition to employing criminal statutes, the legislators have amended a number of acts in order to provide minimal coverage of human trafficking issues. (52) While these measures can be used to address some forms of human trafficking, full compliance under the Protocol mandates that each ratifying country implement national legislation that is modeled on the Protocol. (53)

The Children's Act of 2005 (54) is one of the most important acts currently at the disposal of South African prosecutors. Chapter 18 of the Children's Act deals with trafficking in children and was enacted to give effect to the U.N. Protocol as well as to "generally combat trafficking in children." (55) It sets forth a comprehensive definition of trafficking, which broadens the one found in the U.N. Protocol with respect to child trafficking victims. (56) The Act is divided into sections outlining target areas for the increased prevention of human trafficking, prosecution of traffickers, and protection of victims. (57) The proposed legislation for combating trafficking in persons is much more comprehensive in scope than the current text of the Children's Act. (58) While Chapter 18 of the 2005 Children's Act is a solid start to remedying the problem of trafficking in minors, it cannot sufficiently and effectively address all aspects of the growing international crisis in just three pages. (59)

In addition to Chapter 18 of the Children's Act, South Africa's strategy to combat trafficking in persons includes a Sexual Offences Bill. (60) This bill provides another provisional definition of trafficking (61) and was put in place "[p]ending the adoption of legislation in compliance with" the U.N. Protocol. (62)

While the National Prosecuting Authority is currently able to prosecute offenders under only common law (63) or statutory law, (64) South African legislators' recognition of the compelling need to enact comprehensive and all-inclusive

legislation addressing the prevention, prohibition, and prosecution of human trafficking demonstrates their continued commitment to combating the problem.

IV. IMPLEMENTING THE U.N. PROTOCOL: THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL

In assessing the implementation of South Africa's proposed legislation, it is important to consider the framework upon which it is based--the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The Protocol, as discussed below, sets forth an international standard, which its signatories are requested to meet by enacting domestic legislation that provides individualized interstate and intrastate solutions to the global problem of human trafficking.

A. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime

In 2000, the United Nations enacted the Protocol, which recognizes that

effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights.... (65)

It first sets forth a statement of purpose (66) and defines the terms of art that are utilized throughout the document. (67) The majority of sections begin with the mandate, "each State Party shall," and prescribes the measures that states should implement to best combat trafficking. (68)

While the Protocol proposes a comprehensive international approach to combat human trafficking, it cannot be enforced globally unless the signatories enact domestic legislation. Thus, it functions more as a starting point for those countries that have signed and ratified it, mandating domestic legislation modeled after the Protocol. (69) It is clear from the language of the Protocol that the United Nations views some measures as necessary to combat trafficking, and others as useful, but not essential. (70) Therefore, those nations that enact legislation in compliance with the required sections of the Protocol will have fulfilled their obligations as signatories of the document. (71)

B. South Africa's Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill

On November 25, 2008, the South African Law Reform Commission ("SALRC") submitted the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill to the then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mohamed Enver Surty. (72) South Africa's proposed legislation appears to be in full compliance with the standards set forth in the U.N. Protocol. The SALRC's investigation process (73) was accompanied by other responses of the South African government to the increasing prevalence of human trafficking. (74) The Bill was "gazetted," or published, for public comment by the new Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Jeffrey Thamsanqa Radebe, in early 2009. (75) The proposed bill contains eleven chapters in which the SALRC sets out legislation for the prevention of trafficking, newly formulated offenses and penalties for traffickers, procedures for identification, protection and compensation of victims, general administrative measures, and a renewed commitment to international cooperation. (76) Additionally, it provides comprehensive definitions of the elements of human trafficking that incorporate and exceed the scope of the definitions set forth in the U.N. Protocol. (77)

The proposed bill complies with the U.N. Protocol by suggesting legislative measures that would establish criminal offenses for trafficking in persons. (78) Once adopted, this legislation will provide the National Prosecuting Authority with a new arsenal of tools with which to prosecute traffickers and almost anyone who has even minimal involvement with the movement of trafficking victims into, out of, and through the Republic. (79)

In compliance with article 6 of the Protocol, the Bill provides for programs to increase public awareness in order to lay a foundation for the prevention of human trafficking. (80) It is important to note that Chapter 6 of the Bill calls on "an accredited organisation" to draw up plans to provide access to such programs and additional assistance. (81) The Bill

places a positive obligation on other functioning members of the State to be more involved, and establishes a more cohesive approach to South Africa's fight against trafficking. (82)

Additionally, in accordance with article 9 of the Protocol, the Bill includes statutory measures for the identification and protection of victims of trafficking. (83) It further protects victims of trafficking by specifically prohibiting criminal prosecution of victims in certain circumstances, i.e., if a victim's violation of another statutory or common law provision was a direct result of being trafficked. (84) The Bill also addresses the compensation of victims and the State, (85) deportation and repatriation of victims, (86) and general implementation provisions. (87)

As the period for public comment on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill closed on June 15, 2009, the Department of Justice's next step will be to introduce the Bill to the Cabinet for approval and from there, it will be introduced into Parliament. (88) At the press briefing on November 25, 2008, the Minister of Justice projected that the proposed legislation would become law by the end of 2009. (89) While the accuracy of this estimate is dependent on the parliamentary process, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is committed to finalizing the process as soon as possible. (90) As of January 2010, the draft bill had not yet been introduced into Parliament for a vote, however, such action is expected in the near future. (91) Further, inter-sectoral task teams on human trafficking are already being set up throughout the country, demonstrating that South Africa is committed to fighting the problem on all fronts. (92)

V. SOUTH AFRICA'S COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In 2000, the United States enacted the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act ("VTVP Act"). (93) This Act has since been reauthorized and amended in 2003 (94) and 2005. (95) The United States' VTVP Act created minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking globally. (96) In order to assess each country's compliance with these minimum standards, the VTVP Act established seven criteria for consideration. (97) According to the process laid out in the VTVP Act, if a country does not meet the minimum standards, the United States then assesses what efforts the country is making to do so. This determines whether the country is placed in Tier 2 or Tier 3. (98)

In 2001, in response to the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, (99) the President of the United States created the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, (100) which publishes the Trafficking in Persons ("TIP") Report, an annual report on trafficking in persons worldwide. These reports recognize the major forms of **human trafficking** (101) throughout the world and categorize countries in **tiers** that reflect each country's efforts to combat trafficking. (102) The reports also provide country narratives for each country reviewed, which discuss the current problems, measures being taken, and recommendations for future action in prosecution, protection, and prevention. (103) The TIP Reports suggest a three-pronged approach to ending global human trafficking, focusing on prosecution, protection, and prevention. (104) The reports further provide a succinct definition of human trafficking, which is extrapolated from the U.N. Protocol. (105) The annual TIP Reports are an important part of the global effort to prevent, protect, and prosecute instances of human trafficking because they target non-compliant countries putting pressure on them to focus on domestic problems and solutions for human trafficking.

South Africa remained on the Tier 2 Watch List from 2005 until 2009, and the country report published in the 2009 TIP Report concluded that, while the government does not fully comply with the minimum standards, "it is making significant efforts to do so." (106) South Africa's proposed Bill demonstrates the country's commitment to all three prongs suggested in the TIP Reports. It addresses issues of criminalization and prohibition of trafficking, (107) protection and assistance for trafficking victims, (108) and prevention of trafficking through awareness programs. (109) While these measures were not implemented nor fully functioning by the release of the 2009 TIP Report on June 16, 2009, the report recognized that South Africa had made great strides over the past year toward compliance with international standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. (110) South Africa's commitment toward implementing successful legislation proved to the United States that it was taking human trafficking seriously. Recognizing this, the United States removed South Africa from the Tier 2 Watch List and placed it back on the Tier 2 list, (111) where it had been prior to 2005. (112) Once the proposed legislation is signed into law and proven effective, South Africa will likely be classified as a Tier 1 country, indicating that its government "fully complies with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards." (113)

VI. THE FUTURE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

With the 2010 World Cup on the horizon, it is more important than ever that South Africa stays committed to fighting the phenomenon of trafficking in persons within and across its borders. (114) If the South African government implements the suggestions made by the SALRC in its Report on Trafficking in Persons (115) and codifies the Bill into law,

not only will it have aligned itself domestically with U.N. and U.S. schemata, but it will also have made great strides to protect its people against the very real and dangerous threat of human trafficking.

To suggest that South Africa has not been committed to solving this problem prior to the submission of the Bill to the Minister of Justice would be far from accurate. The SALRC has been investigating trafficking in persons since South Africa ratified the U.N. Protocol. South Africa's well-formulated plan of attack addresses each of the three P's of U.S. policy--prevention, prosecution, and protection--and is likely to be effective in all three areas, assuming that all departments called upon in the proposed legislation contribute to the inter-sectoral task team and work together to solve the human trafficking crisis. Particularly in the wake of apartheid, South Africa's commitment to eliminating trafficking in persons into, out of, and through the Republic is essential to the current regime's continued legitimacy. A failure to prosecute and prevent trafficking in persons would be too closely linked to a failure to prevent South Africans from being subject to "slavery, servitude or forced labour," which is specifically prohibited by the Constitution of the Republic. (116) Thus, the only avenue for South Africa is to comply with its international obligations and enact the proposed legislation so that it is binding throughout the Republic.

(1.) See Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, Summary of Remarks at the Release of the Ninth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report Alongside Leaders in Congress (June 16, 2009), <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm> ("The ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report sheds light on the faces of modern-day slavery and on new facets of this global problem. The human trafficking phenomenon affects virtually every country, including the United States.").

(2.) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, G.A. Res. 55/25, U.N. GAOR, 55th Sess., Annex II (Nov. 15, 2000) [hereinafter Protocol], available at http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf.

(3.) United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime [UNODC], Signatories to the CTOC [Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime] Trafficking Protocol, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html> (last visited Aug. 28, 2009).

(4.) See, e.g., Protocol, *supra* note 2, art. 5 ("Each State Party shall adopt such legislation and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this Protocol, when committed intentionally."). Language requiring state legislative implementation is also used in articles six through thirteen. *Id.* arts. 6-13 (employing the words, e.g., "each State Party shall").

(5.) South Africa ratified the Protocol, but stated:

[P]ending a decision by the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of

Justice, the Government of the Republic does not consider itself bound by the terms of Article 15 (2) of the Protocol which provides

for the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in differences arising out of the interpretation or application of the Protocol. The Republic will adhere to the position that, for the submission of a particular dispute for settlement by the International Court, the consent of all the parties to the dispute is required in every individual case.

Signatories to the CTOC Trafficking Protocol, *supra* note 3.

(6.) South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/reports.htm> (last visited Aug. 28, 2009).

(7.) SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMM'N, PROJECT 131: REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, Annexure D, 2 (2008), http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/reports/r_par131_trafficking_2008.pdf [hereinafter SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT].

(8.) Nthambeleni Gabara, Human Trafficking Legislation to Be Gazetted for Public Comment, BUA NEWS ONLINE, Mar. 31, 2009, <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/09/09033111151002>.

(9.) U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 261 (2009), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123357.pdf> [hereinafter 2009 TIP REPORT]. As of January 18, 2010 the draft bill does not yet appear to have been presented to Parliament. See Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Bills Before Parliament, http://www.parliament.gov.za/live/content.php?Category_ID=72 (last visited Jan. 18, 2010).

(10.) Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. [section] 7101 (2000) (amended 2003, 2005).

(11.) The Trafficking in Persons Report

is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of persons--a form of modern-day

focused the efforts of a growing community of nations to share information and to partner in new and important ways to fight human trafficking. A country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons** receives a negative "**Tier 3**" assessment in this Report. Such an assessment could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country.

U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 5 (2005), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf> [hereinafter 2005 TIP REPORT].

(12.) Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment, U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, Feb. 1, 2006, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/60487.htm> [hereinafter Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment]. See infra notes 98 and 100 and accompanying text.

(13.) Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment, supra note 12.

(14.) The tier classification system is defined as follows:

Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Act's minimum standards.

Tier 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Special Watch List: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and:

(a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; or

(b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or

(c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Tier 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

2005 TIP REPORT, supra note 11, at 28.

(15.) Id. at 198-99.

(16.) Id.; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 46 (2006), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf> [hereinafter 2006 TIP REPORT]; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 42 (2007), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf> [hereinafter 2007 TIP REPORT]; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 44 (2008),

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf> [hereinafter 2008 TIP REPORT]; 2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 50.

(17.) 2008 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 16, at 228.

(18.) 2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 50.

(19.) See generally SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D.

(20.) These reasons include: the fast-approaching Federation Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA") World Cup that is sure to spark an influx of tourism of all kinds; South Africa's constitutional commitment to protect its citizens from slavery; South Africa's signing and ratification of the U.N. Protocol; and South Africa's demotion to **Tier 2 Watch List** status in 2005 by the United States in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Reports, though this particular issues has been partially remedied already by South Africa's significant efforts in the past year, which warranted its removal from the **watch list** and its placement on the **Tier 2** list in the 2009 TIP Report.

(21.)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) describes victims as "young girls sold by their families; children drugged and forced to fight as soldiers; men bonded/chained in labor on mines and farms; women enslaved in quarries and households; women and girls trapped in the sex trade; boys forced to fish in dangerous waters--all of them people, human beings, coerced to do what others would never freely do, paid virtually nothing for their pains."

International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 110th Cong. 39 (2007) (statement of Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale, President, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida) (footnote omitted).

(22.) This increase in the perceived prevalence and documentation may come from the heightened interest of the human interest group Molo Songololo in South Africa and the International Organization for Migration ("IOM"). A 2008 article published by the Integrated Regional Information Networks stated, "Official statistics are not available and 'reports on the trade in South Africa draw almost entirely on three pieces of primary research': two reports compiled in 2000 by the children's advocacy group, Molo Songololo, and a 2003 study by the IOM, but only the IOM study attempted to ascertain the numbers involved." Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), South Africa: How Heavy Is Human Trafficking?, Sept. 8, 2008, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48eeld5ele.html>. However, the article further recognized that human trafficking has become a prevalent and lucrative economic threat:

The IOM contends that global human trafficking is worth between US \$7 billion and \$12 billion dollars annually, making it the third most lucrative trades, although "in contrast to these other criminal activities, however, the penalties for human trafficking in most countries are much less severe, or non-existent."

Id.

(23.) U.N. Educ., Scientific & Cultural Org. [UNESCO], Policy Paper No. 14.5(E): Human Trafficking in South Africa: Root Causes and Recommendations, at 7, SHS/CCT/2007/P1/H/6 (2007), available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001528/152823e.pdf> [hereinafter Root Causes and Recommendations].

(24.) Id.

(25.) 2008 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 16, at 227.

(26.) Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 7.

(27.) "Traditional migration patterns of labour to South Africa from surrounding states, the practice of children being loaned/sent to better-situated family members to be raised; and casual border procedures contribute to acceptance and expectations of unregulated cross-border movement." Id. at 11. See also JONATHAN MARTENS, MACIEJ PIEC-ZKOWSKI & BERNADETTE VAN VUUREN-SMYTH, INT'L ORG. FOR MIGRATION (IOM), SEDUCTION, SALE AND SLAVERY: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 21 (May 2003) (suggesting that "[m]obile populations are always more vulnerable to exploitation than stable populations").

(28.) MARTENS, supra note 27, at 133.

(29.) At the time the IOM report was published, the population of refugees stood at 23,000. Id. at 21. Ninety-five percent of the refugee population was male. Id. at 23.

(30.) "The sexual exploitation of women, as a means of earning an income, soon becomes an attractive and viable option for some refugee men, particularly those living in cities where there is an obviously profitable sex industry." Id. at 24.

(31.) Id. at 33.

(32.) "Traffickers operating in South Africa include Nigerian networks, Chinese triads, Russian and Bulgarian mafia and various groups of organised criminal syndicates." Yazeed Kamaldien, International Women's Day: South Africa Linked in the Global Human Trafficking, INTER PRESS SERVICE NEWS AGENCY, Mar. 8, 2005, <http://ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=27772>.

In the past, victims had typically been runaways who fell prey to city pimps, but now crime syndicates recruit victims from rural towns.

East for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Nigerian syndicates have reportedly begun moving trafficked women from South Africa to the U.S. as well for African migrant clients there.

See 2009 TIP REPORT, supra note 9, at 260.

(33.) IRIN, supra note 22.

(34.) Id.

In most cases, women and children are lured with promises of employment or educational opportunities abroad; offers made appealing and credible within the context of historical migration patterns in the region which flow southwards to the relative prosperity of South Africa, or northwards to Europe. Only sometimes
are their situations absolutely desperate.... Their sexual exploitation is facilitated largely by their relocation from a place with which they are familiar to one with which they are not.

MARTENS, supra note 27, at 123-24.

(35.) IRIN, supra note 22.

(36.) Id.

(37.) According to Karen Blackman, a spokesperson for the IOM's Southern Africa Counter-Trafficking Assistance Program ("SACTAP"), "[t]he clandestine nature of human trafficking makes the scale of the illicit industry difficult to assess and there are few reliable statistics on the number of persons trafficked in the southern African region." Id.

38. MARTENS, supra note 27, at 133.

When identified by police in South Africa, victims of trafficking are deported as illegal immigrants without being questioned about

their experiences. Victims are afraid of law enforcement, and do not trust police to assist them. [In addition,] South Africa has no public services specifically designed to assist victims of trafficking.

Id. at 125.

(39.) South Africa passed the Witness Protection Act of 1998, which created the Office of Witness Protection and established protocol to be followed with respect to the protection of witnesses. Witness Protection Act 112 of 1998. There are a number of holes in this piece of legislation, including a failure to place a limit on how long the witness protection program may run, a failure to discuss what happens after testimony is given by a witness, and any explanation of whether there is a structure in place to take care of witnesses for the long term. See id.

(40.) IRIN, *supra* note 22. The language problem may be particularly enhanced in South Africa as it has eleven official languages. S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 6(1).

(41.) Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 32.

(42.) Id. at 32-33. Additional supply factors are categorized as poverty, HIV and AIDS, gender and age imbalances, discriminatory cultural practices and beliefs, lack of knowledge and information, and absence of effective laws. Id. at 34-38.

(43.)

[T]he increasing demand for foreign workers for domestic and care-giving roles, and lack of adequate regulatory frameworks to support this; the growth of the billion-dollar sex and entertainment industry, tolerated as a "necessary evil" while women in prostitution are criminalized and discriminated against; the low risk-high profit nature of trafficking encouraged by a lack of will on the part of enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers (which includes owners/managers of institutions into which persons are trafficked); the ease in controlling and manipulating vulnerable women; lack of access to legal redress or remedies, for victims of traffickers; and devaluation of women and children's human rights.

Id. at 32. Additional demand factors are categorized as "[n]eed for low-skilled and cheap labor, [c]ultural beliefs, [s]ex tourism and industry, [a]doption trade, [d]emand for organs and body-parts, [and] [n]eed for children-soldiers in armed conflict." Id. at 38.

(44.) Frederico Links, Human Trafficking and Prostitution to Surge Ahead of 2010 World Cup, NAMIBIAN, Sept. 2, 2008, [http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=51243 &no_cache=1](http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=51243 &no_cache=1).

(45.) Barbara Cole, Human Trafficking Must Be Addressed Now, DAILY NEWS (Durban), Sept. 12, 2008, at 5, available at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080912_113400769C601405 (quoting Amanda Ledwaba at a workshop on human trafficking in Durban, South Africa in September 2008).

(46.) Id. See also Katherine L. Morrow, Comment, Soccer, Sex and Slavery: Human Trafficking in the World Cup, 17 TUL. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 243 (2008) (analyzing the estimate that 40,000 women would have been trafficked into Germany prior to its hosting of the 2006 World Cup but for the implementation of preventive and protective measures).

(47.) U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime [UNTOC], G.A. Res. 55/25, U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/25 (Jan. 8, 2001).

(48.) The Protocol was created in 2000 to supplement the Convention. Protocol, *supra* note 2. The Convention came into operation on September 29, 2003 and the Protocol came into operation on December 25, 2003. See South African

Government Information, Human Trafficking Strategy, <http://www.info.gov.za/issues/humantrafficking/strategy.htm> (last visited on Jan. 11, 2010) [hereinafter Human Trafficking Strategy].

(49.) These include: the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949, signed in 1950, ratified in 1951); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979, signed in 1993, ratified in 1996); and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2002, signed in 1998, ratified in 2000). South Africa has ratified other legal instruments including: the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1999, ratified in 2005); the Hague Convention no.33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993, ratified in 2003); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000, ratified in 2003); the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified in 1995); the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999, ratified in 2000). Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 41-42.

(50.) Section 231(2) of South Africa's Constitution states that an international agreement binds the republic when it is enacted into law through national legislation. S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 231 (2).

(51.) The available legislative means include

the Sexual Offences Act 23 of 1957, the Child Care Act 74 of 1983, as amended, the of and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004, the Immigration Act 13 of 2002, as amended, the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996, as amended, the Corruption Act 94 of 1992, the Intimidation Act 72 of 1982 and the Riotous Assemblies Act 17 of 1956.

Human Trafficking Strategy, *supra* note 48. "The absence of legislation specific to human trafficking limits prosecutors to dealing only with the perpetrator directly linked to the offences resulting from the trafficking of the victim, to the exclusion of the perpetrators behind the scenes, as this is often an organized crime activity." *Id.*

(52.) These additions include: Chapter 18 of the Children's Act [Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291]; Section 50(A) of the Child Care Act [Child Care Act 74 of 1983 s. 50(A)], and Chapter 5 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill [Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill, 2003, Bill 50-2003]. Root Causes and Recommendations, *supra* note 23, at 45-48.

(53.)

[The Protocol] mandates that States Parties take the necessary measures not only to criminalize the also to trafficking, and promote international cooperation to combat the problem of trafficking. Thus, the Protocol provides a "comprehensive international approach" to combating trafficking, which surpasses the earlier international trafficking prohibitions....

Mohamed Y. Mattar, Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in Countries of the Middle East: The Scope of the Problem and the Appropriate Legislative Responses, 26 FORDHAM INT'L L.J. 721, 722 (2003) (internal citations omitted).

(54.) Children's Act 38 of 2005.

(55.) Children's Act 38 of 2005 s. 281(b). The Act further states: "The UN Protocol to Prevent Trafficking in Persons is in force in the Republic and its provisions are law in the Republic, subject to the provisions of this Act." *Id.* s. 282.

(56.)

"[T]rafficking", in relation to a child--(a) means the recruitment, sale, supply, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children, within or across the borders of the Republic--(i) by any means, including the use of threat, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of a child; or (ii) due to a position of vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation; and (b) includes the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through illegal means....

Children's Act 38 of 2005 s. 1 at "trafficking."

(57.) These target areas include: international co-operation, prohibition of trafficking in children, prohibition of behavior facilitating trafficking in children, providing assistance to children who are victims of trafficking, parental trafficking of children, protocols for reporting instances of child victimization, and treatment and repatriation of victims of human trafficking. See Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291.

(58.) The draft version of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, as submitted to the Minister of Justice on November 25, 2008, is forty-five pages long and is divided into eleven chapters that attempt to create lasting definitions of the various offenses that may be prosecuted via this legislation. SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D.

(59.) Chapter 18 of the Children's Act of 2005 dealing with trafficking in children spans pages numbered 144 through 148, which is only three pages of actual text in the Act, as compared to the much more comprehensive proposed human trafficking legislation, which is forty-five pages. Compare Children's Act 38 of 2005 ss. 281-291, with SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D.

(60.) Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill, 2003, Bill 50-2003 [hereinafter Sexual Offenses Amendment Bill].

(61.) Trafficking is defined to include

the supply, recruitment, procurement, capture, removal, transportation, transfer, harbouring, sale, disposal or receiving of a person, within or across the borders of the Republic, by means

of--(a) threat of harm; (b) the threat or use of force, intimidation or other forms of coercion; (c) abduction; (d) fraud; (e) deception or false pretenses; (f) the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, to the extent that the complainant is inhibited from indicating his or her unwillingness or resistance to

being trafficked, or unwillingness to participate in such an act; or (g) the giving or receiving of payments or benefits, for the purpose of any form or manner of exploitation, grooming or abuse of

a sexual nature of such person, including the commission of any sexual offence or any offence of a sexual nature in any other law against such person or performing any sexual act with such person, whether committed in or outside the borders of the Republic.

Sexual Offenses Amendment Bill, supra note 60, s. 70(2)(b).

(62.) Id. at 40. See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 14 (concluding that "[p]ending the promulgation of comprehensive legislation on trafficking in persons, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act is the most appropriate legislation to charge those who traffick persons for purposes of sexual exploitation").

(63.) "[D]epending on the circumstances of each case, such persons could be charged with kidnapping, common assault, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, extortion, slavery, attempted murder and murder." SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 14.

(64.)

Statutory offences are provided for in the Sexual Offences Act [23 of 1957], the Riotous Assemblies Act [17 of 1956], the Immigration Act [13 of 2002], the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [75 of 1997], the Intimidation Act [72 of 1982], the Domestic Violence Act [116 of 1998] and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act [121 of 1998].

Id.

(65.) Protocol, supra note 2, pmb1.

(66.)

The purposes of this Protocol are: (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; (b) To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and (c) To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives. Protocol, supra note 2, art. 2.

(67.)

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs....

Protocol, supra note 2, art. 3.

(68.) See, e.g., Protocol, supra note 2, arts. 5-6.

(69.) See Mattar, supra note 53. Additionally, "[a]ny anti-trafficking legislation must comply with the international mandate of the Protocol." Id. at 758.

(70.) Compare Protocol, supra note 2, art. 5 ("[e]ach State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this Protocol, when committed intentionally"), with Protocol, supra note 2, art. 7 ("each State Party shall consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures that permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in its territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases"). This difference in language suggests that the Protocol drafters believe that defining a criminal offense is necessary to combat trafficking in persons, but do not believe that countries must allow victims to remain in the country into which they have been trafficked.

(71.) South Africa has both signed and ratified the Protocol. According to section 231 of the South African Constitution:

An international agreement binds the Republic only after it has been approved by resolution in both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, unless ... [it is] [a]n

international agreement of a technical, administrative or executive

nature, or an agreement which does not require either ratification or accession, entered into by the national executive.

S. AFR. CONST. 1996 s. 231(2)-(3). South Africa's signature and ratification of the Protocol "has placed an obligation on the government to bring its domestic laws and policies in line with the standards set by these instruments." SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, at 4.

(72.) SALRC Submits Reports on Trafficking and Stalking Amongst Others, JUSTICE TODAY (Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., Republic of South Africa), Nov./Dec. 2008, at 6, available at http://www.doj.gov.za/newsletter/JT/JT2008_Vol%206.pdf.

(73.) See infra note 115. The SALRC first created an Issue Paper with a closing deadline for comment of April 30, 2004 to "serve as a basis for the Commission's deliberations, to elicit comment and suggestions from relevant stakeholders and to disseminate information on the issue of trafficking in persons to the public at large." SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REVIEW COMM'N, ISSUE PAPER 25, PROJECT 131: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, at iii (2004), http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/ipapers/ip25_prj131_2004.pdf. Following up on the Issue Paper, the SALRC published a Discussion Paper with a comment submission deadline of June 30, 2006. SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMM'N, DISCUSSION PAPER 111, PROJECT 131: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, at iii (2004), <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/dp111.pdf>. Finally, the SALRC published its official Report, which included the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, on November 25, 2008. South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, supra note 6.

(74.) According to the South African government website, the government has created a "human trafficking strategy" in order to coordinate South Africa's response to trafficking in persons. Aside from the SALRC's investigation, the government established a "Human Trafficking Desk within the Organised Crime Unit at the South African Police Service (SAPS)." Human Trafficking Strategy, supra note 48.

Additionally, "[t]he presidential mandate of the SOCA [Sexual Offences and Community Affairs] Unit is to deal efficiently and effectively with sexual offences," and as such, SOCA has been tasked with the "[e]stablishment of an inter-sectoral Task Team to commence a process of coordination and refinement of activities towards the development of a multi-sectoral and comprehensive strategy." Id.

In the interest of inclusiveness, the following organizations and respective internal departments were elected to the Task Team: SAPS (the Human Trafficking Desk, Organised Crime Unit; Ports of Entry Policing); Department of Justice & Constitutional Development (Legislative Directorate); Department of Home Affairs (International Affairs); International Organisation for Migration; Department of Social Development; Department of Labour; Molo Songololo; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "The Task Team identified six pillars of a national strategy to effectively address trafficking in persons, as an instance of organised crime: Information, Capacity-Building & Development, Victim Assistance & Integration, Policy & Legislation Development, Liaison & Consulation as well as Monitoring & Evaluation." Id. See also Malebo Kotu-Rammopo, National Prosecuting Authority, South Africa's Strategy to Counter Human Trafficking: Media Briefing Session (Aug. 13, 2008), <http://www.npa.gov.za/UploadedFiles/HUMAN%20TRAFFICKING%20PROGRAMME%20Media%2013%20Aug%202008.ppt>.

(75.) See General Notice, Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., Publication of Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill (2009), available at http://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/invitations/20090508_EnglishTIP.pdf.

(76.) SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D. The first chapter of the Bill includes a definitional section as well as an outline of the proposed legislation's objectives. Id.

(77.) The Bill defines trafficking as the recruitment, sale, supply, procurement, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt of persons or the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through legal or illegal means, within or across the borders of the Republic--

(a) by means of the use of threat, force, intimidation or other forms of coercion, abduction, kidnapping, fraud, deception, debt bondage, abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control or authority over another person; or

(b) by abusing vulnerability.

Id. at 11. The Bill further defines exploitation in much greater detail than does the U.N. Protocol.

"[E]xploitation" includes, but is not limited to--(a) all forms of or practices similar to

labour as defined in section 1 of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005); (g) the removal of body parts; and (h) the impregnation of a female person against her will for the purpose of selling her child when born.

Id. at 9.

(78.) Chapter 3 of the Bill introduces offenses and penalties, making it a crime to intentionally traffic another human being. Id. at 13. In a footnote to the Bill, the SALRC explains:

Schedule 1 to this Bill amends the Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997 by including the Schedule 2, Part 1 of that Act. This means that a regional court or

a High Court may sentence a person it has convicted of the offence of trafficking in persons to imprisonment for life.

Id. at 13.

(79.) The Bill establishes penalties for trafficking in persons; engaging in conduct that causes another person to enter into debt bondage; destroying, confiscating, possessing or concealing documents; using the services of, or intentionally benefitting from, a victim of trafficking; any conduct that facilitates trafficking in persons; and carrying victims of trafficking into or out of the Republic--with some restrictions. Id. at 13-17. The Bill further provides that a court of the Republic may exert jurisdiction outside of the Republic if the person to be charged

(a) is a citizen of the Republic; (b) is ordinarily resident in the Republic; (c) has committed the offence against a citizen of the Republic or a person who is ordinarily resident in the Republic; (d) is, after the commission of the offence, present in the territory of the Republic, or in its territorial waters or on board a ship or aircraft registered or required to be registered in the Republic; (e) is, for any reason, not extradited by the Republic or if there is no application to extradite that person; or (f) is a juristic person or a partnership in terms of any law in the Republic.

Id. at 17.

(80.)

Each State Party shall ensure that its domestic legal or administrative system contains measures that provide to victims of

in persons, in appropriate cases: (a) Information on relevant court and administrative proceedings; (b) Assistance to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings against offenders, in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of the defence.

Protocol, supra note 2, art. 6, [section] 2.

Chapter 4 of the Bill deals with the identification and protection of victims of trafficking, including how to report and refer both child and adult victims of trafficking to the correct authorities to ensure their safety. The chapter further provides specific measures to be taken to aid a child trafficking victim and provide health care to victims. See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D, at 18-21.

Additionally, Chapter 5 of the Bill addresses the status of foreign victims of trafficking by providing a recovery and reflection period, temporary residency, and possible permanent residency. *Id.* at 21-24. Chapter 6 further elaborates on the available services for adult victims of trafficking. It includes a list of the minimum norms and standards that must be provided to such victims and a description of programs that must be offered by accredited organizations in the Republic for accommodations, counseling, rehabilitation, and reintegration for adult victims. *Id.* at 24-27.

(81.) Chapter 6 of the Bill places an obligation on "an accredited organisation" to offer specified programs, draw up plans "to address the immediate and long term needs of a person who has been certified as a victim of trafficking," and manage and collect information on victims of trafficking. *Id.* at 25-26. Whether this will be effective will depend on the organization tasked with these obligations. Because the SALRC did not name a specific organization in this draft, the choice is likely to be left to the Minister of Justice or to Parliament.

(82.) For example, in Chapter 10 Section 40 the proposed bill calls for the establishment of an Inter-sectoral Committee, which it calls on in Chapter 2 Section 3 to "establish public awareness programmes or other measures for the prevention of trafficking in persons." See *id.* at 12, 39-40. The proposed legislation also calls on the help of immigration officials, labour inspectors, social workers, social service professionals, doctors, nurses and healers to report all instances where they have "reasonable grounds" to conclude that an adult person is a victim of trafficking. See *id.* at 19.

(83.) "States Parties shall establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures: (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and (b) To protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimization." Protocol, *supra* note 2, art. 9.

Chapter 2 of the Bill is aimed at preventing trafficking in persons and sets forth measures to increase public awareness. It mandates that the Inter-sectoral Committee:

[E]stablish public awareness programmes or other measures for the of educate members of the public, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, foreigners who apply for South African visas who may be victims of trafficking, and South African citizens or permanent residents who depart for work abroad, on issues relating to trafficking in persons ... (b) inform and educate victims of trafficking on--(i) their rights as victims;
 (ii) legal or other measures in place to ensure their safety, recovery and repatriation; and (iii) organisations, institutions or law enforcement agencies that may be approached for assistance or information; (c) discourage the demand for and the supply of victims of trafficking that fosters the exploitation of such victims, especially women and children.

SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, Annexure D, at 12.

(84.)

No criminal prosecution shall be instituted against a child who was found to be a victim of trafficking after an investigation in terms of section 110(5)(c) of the Children's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 41 of 2007), or an adult person who has been certified as a victim of trafficking in terms of section 12(6)(a) for--

(a) entering or remaining in the Republic in contravention of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002);

(b) assisting another person to enter or remain in the Republic in contravention of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002);

(c) possessing any fabricated or falsified passport, identity document or other document used for the facilitation of movement across borders; and

(d) being involved in an illegal activity to the extent that he or she has been compelled to do so, as a direct result of his or her situation as a victim of trafficking. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 21.

(85.) *Id.*, Annexure D, at 27-30.

(86.) *Id.*, Annexure D, at 30-33.

(87.) These provisions include measures for dealing with trafficking by a parent, guardian, or other person who has parental responsibilities and rights for international co-operation, general directions for implementation and procedures that must be followed. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 33-39. The Bill further provides for the establishment of an Inter-Sectoral Committee, sets forth who will comprise this committee, and what its functions will be with respect to solving the crisis of human trafficking. *Id.*, Annexure D, at 39-42.

(88.) South Africa's legislative process involves a number of steps. The preparation of draft legislation requires the "investigation and evaluation of the legislative proposals ... and consultation with interested parties." Dep't of Justice & Constitutional Dev., *The Legislative Process*, <http://www.doj.gov.za/legislation/legprocess.htm> (last visited Aug. 29, 2009). The majority of South Africa's bills are prepared by a government organization under the direction of a Minister or Deputy Minister. Once the Minister signs off on the proposed legislation, it is submitted to the Cabinet along with a Cabinet memorandum for approval. After such approval has been granted, the Minister "must submit a copy of the draft Bill to the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. However, before a Bill can be formally submitted to Parliament the State Law Advisers must be approached to certify the draft Bill." *Id.* This step ensures that the bill is in line with current South African law. Once approved, the bill is formally introduced into Parliament and, if passed, referred to the President to be signed into law. *Id.*; see also S. AFR. CONST. 1996 ss. 73, 82.

(89.) E-mail from Lowesa Stuurman, Researcher, SA Law Reform Comm'n, to Laura Najemy, J.D. Candidate, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (Dec. 5, 2008, 05:35 CST) (on file with author).

(90.) *Id.*

(91.) E-mail from Gaile Moosmann, Executive Director, Parliamentary Monitoring Group, to Laura Najemy, J.D. Candidate, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (Jan. 12, 2010, 03:38 CST) (on file with author).

(92.) The National Prosecuting Authority spearheaded an inter-sectoral task team on human trafficking in the Kwa-Zulu Natal province that has already proved successful. The Kwa-Zulu Natal province has seen a decrease in the number of brothels in Durban Central because of an increase in police activity in the area according to Police Superintendent Anton Booysen of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Pornography and Brothels Task Team. Kamin Padayachee, *Battle to Control Brothels in Suburbs*, MERCURY, Aug. 28, 2009, http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=2937&art_id=vn20090828042540710C294076. Additionally, international organizations have been influential in creating task teams to combat human trafficking in South Africa. The International Organization for Migration launched the Western Cape Provincial Task Team, South Africa's "first provincial civil society initiative against human trafficking," in 2008. SA: Western Cape Provincial Task Team on Human Trafficking Launched, *EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A BULLETIN OF NEWS, INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA* (International Organization for Migration, Pretoria, South Africa), Issue 17, 2008, at 6, available at http://iom.org.za/site/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=101.

(93.) Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. [section] 7101 (2000) (amended 2003, 2005). The VTVPA Act was originally intended for three main purposes: "to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims." [section] 7101(a).

(94.) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, H.R. 2620, 108th Cong. (2003).

(95.) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972, 109th Cong. (2005).

(96.)

Minimum Standards--For purposes of this chapter, the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking applicable to the government of a country of origin, transit, or destination for a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking are the following:

(1) The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking.

(2) For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault.

(3) For the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense.

(4) The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. VTVP Act [section] 7106(a).

(97.) The Act also sets out seven criteria that "should be considered" as indicia of the fourth point above, "serious and sustained efforts to eliminate trafficking." VTVP Act [section] 7106(a)(4), (b). Summarized, they are:

1. Whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes acts of trafficking within its territory.
2. Whether the government protects victims of trafficking, encourages victims' assistance in investigation and prosecution, provides victims with legal alternatives to their removal to countries where they would face retribution or hardship, and ensures that victims are not inappropriately penalized solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being trafficked.
3. Whether the government has adopted measures, such as public education, to prevent trafficking.
4. Whether the government cooperates with other governments in investigating and prosecuting trafficking.
5. Whether the government extradites persons charged with trafficking as it does with other serious crimes.
6. Whether the government monitors immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking, and whether law enforcement agencies respond appropriately to such evidence.
7. Whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes public officials who participate in or facilitate trafficking, and takes all appropriate measures against officials who condone trafficking.

[section] 7106(b). See also U.S. DEPT OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 15 (2003), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/21555.pdf> [hereinafter 2003 TIP REPORT].

(98.)

If a government is not in compliance with the minimum standards, the Department's determination of whether that government is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with these minimum standards dictates its placement in Tier 2 or 3. The Act sets out three mitigating factors which the Department is to consider in making such determinations. Summarized, they are as follows:

1. the extent of trafficking in the country;
2. the extent of governmental noncompliance with the minimum standards, particularly the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking; and
3. what measures are reasonable to bring the government into compliance with the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities.

Id. at 15-16.

(99.) VTVP Act, [section] 7101.

(100.) Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/> (last visited Sept. 15, 2009). The office "provides the tools to combat trafficking in persons and assists in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts both worldwide and domestically." Id.

(101.) Major forms of trafficking include: forced labor, bonded labor, debt bondage and involuntary servitude among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers, sex trafficking and prostitution, children exploited for commercial sex, and child sex tourism. 2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 19-25.

(102.) See 2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16.

(103.) In the 2008 TIP Report, the recommendations for South Africa were:

Fully implement the trafficking provisions of the Sexual Offenses and Children's Acts and raise awareness among all levels of relevant government officials as to their responsibilities under

these provisions; develop and employ national procedures for victim protection, including the identification of trafficking victims among undocumented immigrants; and regularly compile national statistics on the number of trafficking cases prosecuted and victims assisted, as is done for other crimes.

2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 228.

(104.) See Mohamed Y. Mattar, Incorporating the Five Basic Elements of a Model Antitrafficking in Persons Legislation in Domestic Laws: From the United Nations Protocol to the European Convention, 14 TUL. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 357 (2006) (suggesting that the U.S. approach of the "Three Ps" should be expanded to a "Five P's" approach that would focus on protection, participation, prevention, provision, and prosecution).

(105.)

Human Trafficking is: Process ([r]ecruitment or [t]ransportation or [t]ransferring or [h]arboring or [r]eceiving) and Way/Means ([t]hreat or [c]oercion or [a]bduction or [f]raud or [d]eception or

[d]eception or [a]buse of [p]ower) and Goal ([p]rostitution or

[p]ornography or [v]iolence/[s]exual [e]xploitation or [f]orced

[l]abor or [i]nvoluntary [s]ervitude or [d]epr [b]ondage with unfair wages or [s]lavery/[s]imilar practices).

2008 TIP REPORT, supra note 16, at 290.

(106.) 2009 TIP REPORT, supra note 9, at 260.

(107.) See SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, supra note 7, Annexure D, at 13-18 (Chapter 3 is titled "Offences and Penalties.").

(108.) See id., Annexure D, at 18-33 (Chapter 4 is titled "Identification and Protection of Victim of Trafficking." Chapter 5 is titled "Status of Foreign Victim of Trafficking." Chapter 6 is titled "Services to Adult Victims of Trafficking." Chapter 7 is titled "Compensation." Chapter 8 is titled "Deportation and Repatriation of Victim of Trafficking.").

(109.) See id., Annexure D, at 12-13, 33-45 (Chapter 2 is titled "Prevention of Trafficking in Persons." Chapter 9 is titled "General Provisions." Chapter 10 is titled "Administration of Act.").

(110.)

The Government of South Africa does not fully comply with the for the elimination of is making significant efforts to do so. The government opened

The Government of South Africa does not fully comply with the for the elimination of is making significant efforts to do so. The government opened prosecutions against 16 suspected trafficking offenders during the year and is continuing to prepare for late 2009 passage and subsequent implementation of its comprehensive anti-trafficking law by developing inter-agency operating procedures and training officials on the law, victim identification, and agency roles.

2009 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 9, at 260.

(111.) See *id.* at 50.

(112.) See U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 39 (2004), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/34158.pdf> [hereinafter 2004 TIP REPORT].

(113.) *Id.* at 30. Both downward and upward movement of classification within the tiers is very possible. For example, in 2003, Canada was demoted from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2**. 2003 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 97; U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS** REPORT (2002), <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10815.pdf> [hereinafter 2002 TIP REPORT]. Yet, according to the 2004 TIP Report,

[t]he Government of Canada fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of Interdepartmental Working Group coordinates and reports on the effectiveness of the national anti-trafficking policy. Senior government officials are speaking out more often, and more resources are being devoted to border control; a new RCMP anti-trafficking taskforce is also being created. For these reasons, Canada has been reclassified from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

2004 TIP REPORT, *supra* note 112, at 228.

(114.) Some anecdotal evidence already exists suggesting that there will be a surge in trafficking in persons in anticipation of the 2010 World Cup. "IOM in Ethiopia, for example, is increasingly aware of stories of men who are promised lucrative contracts in the construction industry in South Africa as the country prepares for the football World Cup in 2010." Press Briefing, Int'l Org. for Migration, Research on Trafficking of Men for Labour Exploitation (Dec. 18, 2007), <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pbnAF/cache/offonce?entryId=16263>.

(115.) The SALRC's report is comprehensive, and it outlines and explains the rationale behind the proposed legislation. It is important to note that the SALRC's Report takes into consideration not only the views of the SALRC and the Department of Justice, but also those of South African society as a whole. The SALRC investigation process involves three main steps, and after each, various governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations are allotted a substantial amount of time to comment on the document to allow for the most complete investigation possible.

The first step is publication of an issue paper. The SALRC website explains:

In order to actively involve the community at an earlier stage, the Commission has decided to publish issue papers for appropriate investigations as the first step in the consultation process. The

purpose of an issue paper is to announce an investigation, to elucidate the aim and extent of the investigation, to point to possible options available for solving existing problems and to initiate and stimulate debate on identified issues by way of

In order to actively involve the community at an earlier stage, the Commission has decided to publish issue papers for appropriate investigations as the first step in the consultation process. The
including specific questions on relevant issues.

South African Law Reform Comm'n, Issue Papers Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/ipapers.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2009). The SALRC's Issue Paper on Trafficking in Persons was published in early 2004 and was open for commentary until April 30, 2004. Id.

The second step is publication of a discussion paper. The SALRC website explains: Discussion papers, previously referred to as working papers, are documents in which the Commission's preliminary

research results are contained. In most cases discussion papers also contain draft legislation which gives effect to the Commission's tentative recommendations and proposals. The main purpose of these documents is to test public opinion on solutions identified by the Commission.

South African Law Reform Comm'n, Discussion Papers Index, <http://www.doj.gov.za/salrc/dpapers.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2009). The Discussion Paper on Trafficking in Persons was published on May 5, 2006, and was open for commentary until June 30, 2006. Id.

The third step is publication of a final report. The SALRC published the final report on Project 131, Trafficking in Persons, on November 25, 2008, and subsequently submitted it to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. South African Law Reform Comm'n, Reports Index, *supra* note 6.

(116.)

The Bill of Rights contained in Chapter 2 of the Constitution is the cornerstone of the provides that no one may be subjected to

forced labour. It states that everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause, the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources, the right not to be tortured in any way and the right not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way. It further affirms the democratic values of human dignity and freedom of movement. Children also have the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation and the right to be protected from exploitative labour practices.

SA LAW REFORM COMM'N REPORT, *supra* note 7, at 3 (citing S. AFR. CONST. 1996 ss. 10, 12, 13, 21, 28) (internal footnotes omitted).

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260 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

December 31, 2009 Thursday

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

BYLINE: RUTH EGLASH**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 695 words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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261 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

December 18, 2009 Friday 11:28 AM GMT

Myanmar stung by US criticism of human trafficking record

LENGTH: 292 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, Dec 18 2009

Myanmar's military rulers are "disappointed" by US criticism of their efforts to combat human trafficking, a senior police colonel said Friday.

"We are doing all we can do to address the human trafficking issue, which is, as we all know, a complex issue," said Police Colonel Sit Aye at a ceremony to launch a documentary raising awareness of trafficking in the region.

Sit Aye, who heads the transnational crime unit of the Myanmar police force, said Myanmar should no longer be placed on Washington's "Tier 3" for trafficking.

The US State Department places on **Tier 3** those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards on **human trafficking** and are not making significant efforts to stem the problem.

"We are disappointed about the continuous placement of Myanmar in Tier 3... as we feel that our efforts, not only of the government but also of UN agencies and international organisations, have not been well acknowledged," he said.

Myanmar enacted the international Anti-trafficking in Persons law in 2005 and has signed two bilateral agreements -- with Thailand in April and China in November -- to combat human trafficking, he said.

The police colonel said that more than 400 cases of human trafficking had been identified and more than 1,100 offenders prosecuted since the law was enacted.

Sit Aye spoke at the launch of a documentary by the US government-funded MTV Exit campaign, a regional public awareness initiative supported through USAID to educate people about the dangers of human trafficking.

Myanmar has been ruled by the military since 1962. Tens of thousands of people, particularly in rural areas, are estimated to leave the country every year in search of better jobs, unaware of the dangers of human trafficking.

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262 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Globe and Mail (Canada)

December 16, 2009 Wednesday

As countries shut out migrants to stay afloat, Canada warned it will become the new safe harbour

BYLINE: JOE FRIESEN**SECTION:** NATIONAL NEWS; IMMIGRATION REPORT; Pg. A1**LENGTH:** 726 words

DEMOGRAPHICS REPORTER

The worst recession in a generation has already played havoc with the job market, housing prices and the banking system. Now it's doing the same with something else: the worldwide movement of people.

The world's wealthiest nations, from Japan to Spain to Australia, are cutting immigration targets to protect fragile labour markets and encouraging itinerant workers to leave. Only Canada has refused to adjust immigration levels in response to the downturn.

This outlier status has led to concern among border officials that the country's sympathetic refugee system and generous social programs will make it a prime target for migrants rejected elsewhere.

A government intelligence document described as sensitive and not for public distribution warns that more migrants from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America could opt to come to Canada rather than Western Europe or the United States. The report refers to both legal applicants and those who try to enter illegally.

"We're planning for the economic recovery. Cutting immigration levels is a short-term measure," said Alykhan Velshi, spokesman for Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney. At the same time, Mr. Velshi said, Canada must guard against those who would try to enter illegally.

Asylum claims in Canada increased dramatically in 2008, and were on pace for another increase in 2009 until visa restrictions were slapped on travellers from Mexico and the Czech Republic, he said.

"Individuals who may not be fleeing persecution are drawn to Canada because of our overly generous asylum system," Mr. Velshi said. Human trafficking rings in Canada and the Czech Republic, for example, were encouraging people to make refugee claims in Canada, he added.

"This is something we have to take very seriously ... We can't allow the creation of a two-**tier** immigration system: one **tier** for people who wait patiently and legally in the queue to come to Canada and another for profiteers, for those who engage the services of snakeheads and **human trafficking** groups."

The trigger for the shift in migration patterns and immigration policy is the domino-effect in labour markets unleashed by the recession, the report says. Unemployment is expected to rise to 10 per cent in developed countries and could stay that high for up to eight years, it states. Those at the bottom of the wage scale, and those with temporary status, or none at all, in their host countries are likely to be among the first and most severely affected.

As jobs disappear, host countries are lowering immigration quotas to trim welfare rolls and quell potential anti-immigrant feeling. They're also bolstering immigration enforcement. Authorities in Italy and Spain, for example, have redoubled their efforts to expel undocumented workers and prevent boatloads of African migrants from reaching their shores. Japan announced plans to send home 400,000 South Americans of Japanese heritage to ease its labour market strain. Spain has returned 300,000 migrants and paid 6,000 others a special supplement to leave the country. Australia reduced its intake targets by nearly 15 per cent.

The report, produced by the Canada Border Services Agency, was obtained by immigration lawyer Richard Kurland through access to information. Mr. Kurland said the document shows that the wisest path is to further integrate the temporary foreign workers already in Canada and not reduce immigration.

The document forecasts unrest in the migrants' home countries that could create a complicated feedback loop of migration issues. Migrants send their families about \$283-billion a year, and when remittances from some countries dry up, poverty will be exacerbated, which in turn can destabilize the population and encourage more people to seek any route to a well-paying job. Desperation could lead more people to human smugglers and organized crime, it says.

"The knee-jerk reaction is to yank the welcome mat and this internal intelligence report clearly shows that's not the way to go ... You're going to be exporting political instability by exporting workers into regions already fragile politically and economically. It will inevitably hasten their decline," Mr. Kurland said. "In the short term, protecting foreign workers who are already in Canada is the gateway to future economic growth."

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263 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

December 9, 2009 Wednesday 9:17 AM GMT

Human rights worsening under Malaysia's new PM: watchdog

LENGTH: 362 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 2009

Malaysia's human rights record has deteriorated under new premier Najib Razak, a leading rights group alleged Wednesday, saying he was more intolerant of dissent than his predecessors.

Launching its annual report, Voice of the Malaysian People (Suaram) criticised Najib's performance since he took office in April, including the arrest of nearly 600 people in a protest against internal security laws.

It also cited the arrest of 167 people in May "for holding candlelit vigils" during a political crisis over the control of a northern state.

"We warned the new leadership of Najib might herald a new era of stronger authoritarianism compared to previous prime ministers, and what we see so far is the exact thing we thought would happen," said Suaram coordinator John Liu.

Najib came to power vowing to heal race relations in the multi-ethnic country, and to review a tough Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows indefinite detention without trial.

Suaram demanded the ISA be abolished, saying there had been seven new arrests under the law this year even though 39 detainees were freed. Currently nine people are still being held under the ISA.

"We don't think there is any improvement on human rights. Out of a ranking of 1-10, I would give Najib a score of three to four," Suaram director Kua Kia Soong told a press conference.

In the report, Suaram said Najib has displayed an "increased level of intolerance" towards dissent and was "seriously undermining the freedom of speech, expression and assembly".

Institutions such as the judiciary and police continued to suffer a "serious crisis of public confidence", the group said.

It also said it was "very concerned" about the plight of indigenous people, amid arrests over land claims and rape allegations that have been the subject of a government investigation.

The report said Malaysia continued to be listed as one of the worst places for refugees by a US watchdog, and had been reinstated by the United States on a **human trafficking blacklist**.

Suaram also urged the government to approve a freedom of information act, noting the country only scored 132 out of 173 on the Reporters Without Borders' global press freedom index.

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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264 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

December 8, 2009 Tuesday

To end human trafficking; Survivors craft, sell products

BYLINE: By Meredith Hulley SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** A, CITIZEN JOURNALISM: SUBURBIA; Pg. 17**LENGTH:** 1185 words

Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson was the keynote speaker at the Human Trafficking Summit hosted by the African Tourism Organization at the National Harbor earlier this fall.

"I cannot think of a better place to have a summit like this," Mr. Johnson stated. "Our county is very diverse, with many nations represented in our population. Therefore, it is proper that we be at the forefront of the discussion and the fight against human trafficking."

Mr. Johnson pledged during the Sept. 18 and 19 summit that he would set up special units of local prosecutors dedicated to investigating human trafficking and heightening awareness among police.

"Working together, we can build the foundation for an effort that will ensure that families are no longer separated from each other for such cruel and inhuman intentions, and we can see that those who would use human trafficking as a way to make money are caught and prosecuted to the full extent of the law," Mr. Johnson stated.

According to the State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, "human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat. It deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, it increases global health risks, and it fuels the growth of organized crime."

The TIP report divides human trafficking, which affects up to 27 million people each year, into nine major categories: forced labor, bonded labor, debt bondage and involuntary servitude among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers, sex trafficking and prostitution, children exploited for commercial sex, and child sex tourism.

"Human trafficking has a devastating impact on individual victims, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, and even death," according to the TIP report. "But the impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines health, safety, and security of all nations it touches."

Mr. Johnson isn't the only one making a difference in the fight against human trafficking.

When Anna Leung was in college at the Rochester Institute of Technology, she watched a documentary about human trafficking and "decided I was going to spend my life working to stop it."

Earlier this year, she founded a company, Restoring International Justice Imports Green (RIJI Green), to assist trafficking survivors by selling merchandise made by survivors and donating the profits.

"I've been an abolitionist for six years," said Ms. Leung, 25, who lives in Manassas.

Ms. Leung said she had worked with organizations before, and when the time came to make a decision about starting out on her own, her husband told her to pray. When she did, she discovered a Bible passage that read, "The fields are ripe for harvesting."

"Long story short, that's how I founded RIJI Green," Ms. Leung said. "Through my experience working with survivors, through my experiences with all these different human trafficking issues, and through an affirmation from God."

Because trafficking is "mainly caused by poverty, RIJI Green's solution to end modern-day slavery is through economic empowerment for at-risk [people] and survivors of human trafficking," she said.

The products, which include bags and journals, are made by survivors in their own countries and shipped to the United States for sale. Ms. Leung said she makes contact with the survivors through organizations designed to help them after they're rescued from slavery.

In November, RIJI Green partnered with the International Justice Mission (IJM) and donated half its profits to help free people from slavery. The original goal was to raise \$45,000, which would have sponsored 10 rescue operations. Though the company did not reach its goal, "we are still hoping to be able to raise \$45,000 for IJM by" Dec. 31, Ms. Leung said via e-mail.

She said she chose IJM because of the unique mission of the organization.

"They actually train the public justice system on how to handle trafficking cases, and they also prosecute the traffickers, which is so important," Ms. Leung said. "Because I believe you can rescue as many victims as you can, but if you do not hold the perpetrators accountable, then this issue will not be able to overcome without putting the perpetrators in jail."

Ms. Leung also has taken part in Stop Modern Slavery, a group dedicated to ending human trafficking. The group held a walk in the District's Meridian Hill Park in September with more than 700 participants and raised \$40,000.

A stay-at-home-mom to two boys, Ms. Leung said she is very happy with her decision to found RIJI Green.

"I wake up every morning excited," she said.

While Ms. Leung's efforts are concentrated mainly in India, other organizations, including the State Department, are concentrating efforts to end trafficking in every country around the world, including the United States.

Tier 1 countries include those that deal with some **human trafficking** but are not major sources of trafficked people, though they are sometimes destinations for people who are trafficked.

Tier 2 countries are those where trafficking is more widespread but not considered a major problem. Countries also can be placed on the Tier 2 watch list, meaning they are in danger of becoming Tier 3 countries.

Finally, Tier 3 countries are those where trafficking is a huge problem and often a lucrative business.

It is important to realize that no country is immune from the problem and that it can happen anywhere. One country that finds itself in the Tier 1 category is the United States. That doesn't mean this country is exempt from trafficking problems.

Sean A'Hearn, an author, was with his wife in Atlanta when he saw the "baby stroll," which is when "kids who have not yet reached sexual maturity are out there earning a little extra money." He decided to "channel my outrage" into a book.

A successful author of young-adult novels who writes under a pen name, Mr. A'Hearn was outraged when he found out that the "baby strolls" take place "from San Francisco to New York."

He eventually wrote the book "The Power and the Plunder," about two young women who escape from trafficking in the Congo. He based his information on countless interviews he did with prostitutes and call girls within the United States.

"You learn quickly not to ask them about themselves," Mr. A'Hearn said. "They're happy to tell you about stories they've heard. And then you hear stories about abductions and you hear stories of enslavement.

"And I learned not to make notes. I would run back to the car and take notes," he said. "So it was almost like we were having a little chat, so they wouldn't get in trouble with their own slavemasters."

When asked if he hopes the book will influence people to get involved, Mr. A'Hearn responded, "Oh, I know it will.

"It will influence people to contribute. It will raise awareness," he said. "It takes a while to get things done in our country. I remember when MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] got started and it was nothing. And they changed the whole thing."

* Meredith Hulley is a freelance writer and University of Maryland student.

LOAD-DATE: December 8, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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265 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

December 1, 2009 Tuesday

Home Ministry probes human trafficking ring

BYLINE: V. Vasudevan; Sajahan Waheed; Lydia Gomez

SECTION: Pg. 10

LENGTH: 332 words

ONE government officer has been taken to court for trafficking in Myanmar refugees, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said yesterday.

He said the ministry is investigating the issue which has been cited as one of the main reasons for Malaysia being black-listed by the US State Department in its Trafficking in Persons Report this year.

Malaysia and 16 other countries were placed on **Tier** 3 of the report which analysed efforts taken to combat **human trafficking** in 173 countries.

In a written reply to Lim Lip Eng (DAP-Segambut), Hishammuddin said the government officer was among the 39 human trafficking cases prosecuted so far.

He said since the Anti-Human Trafficking Act was enforced in February last year, 88 people have been arrested and five were charged and convicted.

Other efforts to tackle the problem include a five-year National Anti-Human Trafficking Strategic Action Plan; setting up more shelters for victims, especially in Sabah and Sarawak, including one shelter for male victims; working with Australia, United States and the Netherlands to carry out awareness programmes for enforcement officers and improving the cooperation network in neighbouring and sender countries.

"The Myanmar refugee problem is not something that can be handled by Malaysia alone because this is a regional and international problem.

"This issue has to be dealt with carefully by rectifying the root cause."

He said the Attorney-General's Chambers was reviewing the act to resolve any ambiguity and to study whether human smuggling should be included in the law.

During question time in the house, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop said there were 64,731 Malaysia-born people holding red identity cards.

He said Sabah had the highest number of red IC holders with 12,000 people, followed by Selangor (11,307), Perak (6,589) and Johor (5,509).

He said this in reply to a question by Tan Tee Beng (PKR-Nibong Tebal) who wanted to know how many Malaysians were still red IC holders.

(END)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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266 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

November 30, 2009 Monday

South Africa; Spotlight On Trafficking Syndicates Ahead of 2010

BYLINE: West Cape News (Cape Town)

LENGTH: 502 words

As the world's media focuses its attention on the Fifa World Cup 2010 Final Draw in Cape Town on December 4, few will be aware of the impact the tournament may have on the lives of vulnerable women and children targeted by trafficking syndicates.

National Trafficking Awareness Day, which takes place two days before the draw, on December 2, hopes to raise some awareness about the global problem.

"The huge influx of people over this period will drive demand. Of equal concern is the amount of school age children who will be trafficked during this time. We have already come across cases of children going missing in schools and we expect this to escalate over the 2010 period," said Natalie Bulling, coordinator for Red Light Human Trafficking, an initiative started with the intention of combating and creating awareness about the disturbing prevalence of human trafficking in Southern Africa.

Concerns have been raised by Red Light and other organisations operating in this field, that more than 100 000 people could be trafficked into the country during the World Cup.

Currently South Africa has no legislation to cover human trafficking; as a result, a lot of cases slip through the radar. "The absence of legislation has impacted on the data-collection, investigation and prosecution of people involved with in-country and cross border trafficking," said Julayga Alfred, Director of Activists Networking against the Exploitation of Child Domestic Workers (Anex CDW).

A global report on trafficking has identified South Africa as source, transit and destination country for the trafficking of women, men and children. The **Trafficking in Person's** (TIP) report has put South Africa on the **Tier Two Watch list**, for the fourth consecutive year for its failure to show increasing efforts to address trafficking. More than 175 countries are included in the report, the most comprehensive worldwide research on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Ranging from Tier One to Three, the Tier Two Watch list places South Africa in a danger zone in terms of compliance with laws to prevent trafficking.

Director of child rights organisation Molo Songololo, Patric Solomons, said children have been identified as the most vulnerable during the World Cup.

"The vulnerable status of children places them at particular risk of being exploited by their elders in the hope of economic gain. Pull factors specifically related to the 2010 Fifa World Cup are mostly linked to poorer communities' perceptions regarding the socio-economic benefits of the event," said Solomons.

The United Nations estimates that child trafficking generates \$US7 to \$10 billion annually for traffickers, citing trafficking in persons as the second most lucrative crime around the world next to the drug trade.

Solomons said the importance of large-scale awareness campaigns during the World Cup, which is expected to generate more than \$4-billion, the highest revenue in World Cup history, is of the utmost importance.

LOAD-DATE: December 1, 2009

1970

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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267 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 29, 2009 Sunday

Fiji decree creates crime of trafficking in people

LENGTH: 340 words

Text of press release carried by Fiji government website on 28 November

The president of Fiji has commended government for its initiative in making Fiji compliant with international standards with respect to human trafficking. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau said that human trafficking was a growing area of concern internationally and Fiji's history and that of the Pacific sadly recorded that the country had experienced the traumas of institutionalized human trafficking. He said that the new Crimes Decree addressed the issue of human trafficking by creating offences of trafficking in persons and children, as well as offences of domestic and international trafficking.

"The decree creates a new and separate offence of trafficking in person. Section 112 of the decree provides that a person commits an indictable offence of trafficking in person if the person organizes or facilitates the entry or proposed entry of another person into Fiji with the use of force or threat," the president explained.

Ratu Epeli said that the new provisions in the decree ensured that Fiji was now fully compliant with its international obligations in the various international and regional treaties and conventions that dealt with human trafficking. He cautioned that we must be on guard given our recent experience which showed that history could very well repeat itself and that Fiji could be used as a conduit to the global phenomenon of human trafficking.

In addition, the president said that there was a need to remove Fiji from its **Tier 3** category in the United States State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report which was published in June this year and covered 166 countries.

Tier 3 is made up of "countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. There are five countries of the Pacific Islands Forum featured in the report, with Australia and New Zealand in Tier 1, Palau in Tier 2 and Fiji and Papua New Guinea in Tier 3.

Source: Fiji government website, Suva, in English 28 Nov 09

LOAD-DATE: November 29, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

268 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

November 16, 2009 Monday 8:04 PM GMT**US official: Kuwait moving against modern slavery****BYLINE:** By DIANA ELIAS, Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 224 words**DATELINE:** KUWAIT CITY

Oil-rich Kuwait, which has been on a U.S. **watch list** of countries suspected of not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**, has taken encouraging steps to combat modern-day slavery, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

The State Department's latest report on trafficking in people says the majority of victims in Kuwait are from among the more than 500,000 foreign women recruited as domestic helpers. They suffer from confinement, abuse and nonpayment of wages.

Asian men employed to clean offices and streets often complain their salaries are not paid for months, and thousands have staged strikes in recent years that sometimes turned violent.

The director of the U.S. State Department's anti-human trafficking office, Luis CdeBaca, said Kuwait now has a law before parliament that will help fight human trafficking.

"I'm beginning to see that kind of response from Kuwait, which is very encouraging," he told The Associated Press after a weeklong tour of the Middle East.

CdeBaca said the numbers of trafficking victims seeking refuge at their embassies in Kuwait were "pretty astounding." He said one embassy alone said it dealt with more than 5,000 citizens a year. He did not say which embassy or provide an overall figure.

Kuwait has set up a temporary shelter for runaway maids and promised to build another with a capacity to help 700 people.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

269 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

November 15, 2009

Human trafficking 'escalating in GCC'

BYLINE: MANDEEP SINGH

LENGTH: 648 words

The problem of human trafficking in the GCC region is of "alarming proportions", but there is a strong will to solve it, a top US official said yesterday (Nov 12).

US State Department Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Luis C de Baca, said the issue was still a long way from being addressed completely.

"Be it female domestic help from not being covered under the labour law or the inhuman treatment of construction workers, all of the GCC countries are on an equal footing," he told a round table discussion at the Gulf Hotel.

"Bahrain and other nations in the region, except Oman, fall on a tier two watch list but that needs to get better," he said.

"Oman is the only nation that is cracking down heavily on traffickers."

The US State Department annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) ranks countries in a **tier** system.

Those in Tier 1 have governments which fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act's minimum standards, while Tier 2 countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

The US ranks countries in Tier 3 as those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Mr de Baca said another issue was that several government agencies seemed to be working at cross purposes, including in Bahrain.

"There was the case of some Chinese women in Bahrain who were seized in a police raid on a hotel and police took the case to the prosecutors under the trafficking law, but prosecutors felt that was the wrong law to have been applied," he said.

"In this case, maybe the police could have prepared better or the prosecutors could have taken the police line. That did not happen."

Mr de Baca said government agencies working at cross purposes ultimately benefit traffickers who take advantage of the rigmarole and carry on with their activities. "No nation, anywhere in the world, can achieve success unless there is unanimity of purpose," he said.

Mr de Baca said withholding workers' passports, the sponsorship system for guest workers and those not doing what they were brought to do were also cases of trafficking.

"Meetings we have had at the Labour, Foreign Affairs and Justice ministries have concluded the problem is immense," he said.

"The issue has also been recognised as worrisome by foreign embassies and non-government organisations. There is also unanimity there should be solutions and that is encouraging."

Mr de Baca said they had been assured at the government level that laws were under way to help prevent such cases.

"Hopefully, we shall see these laws implemented pretty soon," said the official.

He said Bahrain seemed to be doing better than most of its neighbours because of the laws that are in the pipeline, which he said match set United Nations standards.

Mr de Baca said that the US State Department did not have any figures for the numbers of people trafficked and exploited in the GCC, but that the numbers were 'very large'.

"As far as prosecutions in such cases go, these are also very, very few," he said.

The official said that he did not recall a single instance of employers holding their employees' passports had been brought to court.

He said that housemaids, in particular, should be able to go out and seek help and know that help is waiting for them.

Mr de Baca was appointed by President Barack Obama to co-ordinate US government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery.

He serves as senior advisor to the Secretary of State and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance and advocates for an end to modern slavery.

He formerly served as counsel to the house committee on the judiciary.

mandeep@gdn.com.bh

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 5

270 of 404 DOCUMENTS



November 2, 2009 Monday 5:37 PM EST

Recession boosts global human trafficking, report says

BYLINE: By Elise Labott, CNN State Department Producer

SECTION: U.S.

LENGTH: 787 words

DATELINE: Washington

The global financial crisis has increased the worldwide trade in trafficked persons, says a State Department report released in June.

The State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report also says trafficking has increased in Africa and slaps six African nations on a **blacklist** of countries not meeting the minimum standard of combating trafficking.

The report, mandated by Congress, features data and statistics from 175 countries around the world regarding the amount of human trafficking that goes on within their borders.

The report cites the International Labor Organization, which estimates that at least 12.3 million adults and children are victims of forced labor, bonded labor and sex slavery each year.

"This is modern slavery. A crime that spans the globe, providing ruthless employers with endless supply of people to abuse for financial gain," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said as she announced the report. "With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery, so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed."

The report says the global economic crisis is boosting the demand for human trafficking because of a growing demand for cheap goods and services.

"A striking global demand for labor and a growing supply of workers willing to take ever greater risks for economic opportunities seem a recipe for increased forced labor cases of migrant workers and women in prostitution," it says.

It predicts that the economic crisis will push more businesses underground to avoid taxes and unionized labor, which will increase the use of forced, cheap and child labor by cash-strapped multinational companies.

African countries Nigeria and Mauritius are praised in the report for making strong efforts to combat trafficking.

But six African nations -- Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Swaziland and Zimbabwe -- were put on the report's "Tier 3" blacklist of countries whose efforts to combat trafficking are inadequate.

Most of the countries are "source" and "destination" countries, the report says, meaning trafficking victims both come from and are sent there. Most are trafficked throughout Africa, but many end up in the Middle East, it says.

Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria remain on the blacklist for another year, with the report saying they often become a destination for trafficked persons who are sold into domestic servitude. Other repeat offenders on the list include North Korea, Myanmar and Fiji.

The State Department also put Malaysia in the Tier 3 list, because of its trafficking of Burmese refugees.

The report cites information that Malaysian immigration officials sold refugees to traffickers operating along its border with Thailand. When the victims were unable to pay a ransom demanded by the traffickers, the report says, they were sold for labor and commercial sex exploitation.

The blacklisted countries are subject to U.S. sanctions if they don't make greater efforts to fight trafficking.

The Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Pakistan were added to a "watch list" because of what the report calls a worsening trafficking record in those countries. The 52 countries on the watch list have failed to meet the minimum anti-trafficking standards but are making efforts to do so.

For the first time, countries that have been on the watch list for two years -- including China, Russia, India, Sri Lanka and Egypt -- will automatically be moved to the Tier 3 blacklist next year without a presidential waiver if they fail improve their trafficking record, the State Department said.

This year, the Justice Department also put out a report on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking efforts at home. In 2008, the FBI opened 132 trafficking investigations, made 139 arrests and obtained 94 convictions.

Clinton invited to the event members of Congress who are active on the issue, as well as global advocates for trafficking victims, in an effort to give the issue a higher profile and shine a spotlight on the need to combat it.

Calling for a renewed worldwide partnership between countries and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking, Clinton said, "Trafficking thrives in the shadows, and it can be easy to dismiss it as something that happens to someone else, somewhere else. But that's not the case.

"Trafficking is a crime that involves every nation on Earth, and that includes our own," she said, calling trafficking a "grave problem" in the United States.

For the first time, she said, the United States next year will rank its own efforts at combating trafficking along with the rest of the world. She expressed hope that it will be on the Tier 1 list of countries that are making robust efforts.

LOAD-DATE: November 7, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

271 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

October 31, 2009 Saturday 11:29 PM EST

OFFICE TO MONITOR, COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FUNDING INFORMATION

LENGTH: 858 words

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 -- The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following press release:

Bidders Conference for 2010 Grant Competition:

G/TIP invites those interested in applying for 2010 funding for projects to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) outside of the U.S. to attend a Bidders' Conference on Thursday, November 5, 2009, 1:00-3:00 PM. Subject to the availability of funds, G/TIP will solicit proposals for fiscal year 2010 funding in early November.

The Bidders' Conference will be held in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street Northwest Washington, DC. Photo identification is required for admittance. Guests are asked to be cleared through security at the 23rd Street entrance of the State Department (between C and D Streets NW) no later than 12:30 pm.

To register for this conference please contact Christina Johnson at JohnsonCW@state.gov and provide the following information: full name, name of the organization you represent, date of birth, and government issued I.D. number, for example, a driver's license or passport number.

General Information about G/TIP Programs:

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (P.L. 106-386), as amended, authorized the establishment of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) in the U.S. Department of State. G/TIP coordinates the implementation of the TVPA and leads the interagency operating group that facilitates policy and planning coordination. The office also engages foreign governments, civil society, and multilateral organizations focused on combating and preventing modern day slavery.

Pursuant to the TVPA, human trafficking is at its essence all the activities involved in obtaining or maintaining compelled service of a person by another. G/TIP seeks to fund programs that reflect this view.

G/TIP-funded programs combat human trafficking by employing a "3 P" strategy: preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers, and protecting victims. Additionally, as Secretary Clinton has indicated, G/TIP will seek partnerships to effectuate this strategy.

G/TIP's funds are used primarily to address issues or deficiencies identified in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report and Interim Assessments in **Tier 3**, **Tier 2 Watch List**, and some **Tier 2** countries. In addition to tier ranking, G/TIP also considers the country's financial resources, a government's political will to address TIP, and other USG funding to address in the country.

G/TIP allocates foreign assistance aimed at improving the response to trafficking in persons in other countries through an open competitive process. G/TIP announces a solicitation for applications early each fiscal year and the office strives to award new grant projects late in the same fiscal year.

2009 G/TIP Anti-trafficking Program Funding Information:

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, G/TIP received approximately \$22 million in foreign assistance funds to support programs that combat trafficking in persons worldwide. G/TIP published the FY 2009 request for proposals on December 1, 2008. In an effort to target resources effectively and save applicants' precious resources, G/TIP named 44 priority countries for funding consideration in the FY 2009 solicitation: Africa Region: Burundi, Chad, Congo (DRC), Cote D'Ivoire, Gam-

bia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia; East Asia/Pacific Region: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand; European Region: Albania, Moldova, Montenegro; Near East Region: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq; South and Central Asia Region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Western Hemisphere Region: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru.

The response to G/TIP's FY 2009 solicitation reached record levels. G/TIP received 372 proposals for funding: nearly 300 proposals for bilateral projects in 56 countries and more than 70 proposals for regional and global projects. These submissions requested a total of \$146.5 million.

As indicated in the solicitation, G/TIP conducted a technical review of each proposal. Proposals that did not meet the specified technical review criteria were not reviewed further. Proposals that met the technical criteria were reviewed at the U.S. embassy in the country where the proposed activity would take place and by an interagency panel at G/TIP. Following this competitive review, 52 bilateral projects in 40 countries and five regional and global projects were recommended for 2009 funding.

In FY 2009 G/TIP awarded funds for 93 programs totaling more than \$26 million, using FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriated funds. [Click here to view programs awarded by G/TIP in FY 2009.](#) G/TIP will award the remaining FY 2009 funds in early FY 2010.

New Funding Opportunity: 2010 Grant Competition

Subject to the availability of funds, G/TIP will solicit proposals for fiscal year 2010 funding in early November. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

272 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

October 30, 2009 Friday 5:55 AM EST

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Funding Information

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 850 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release:

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G/TIP allocates foreign assistance aimed at improving the response to trafficking in persons in other countries through an open competitive process. G/TIP announces a solicitation for applications early each fiscal year and the office strives to award new grant projects late in the same fiscal year.

2009 G/TIP Anti-trafficking Program Funding Information:

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, G/TIP received approximately \$22 million in foreign assistance funds to support programs that combat trafficking in persons worldwide. G/TIP published the FY 2009 request for proposals on December 1, 2008. In

an effort to target resources effectively and save applicants' precious resources, G/TIP named 44 priority countries for funding consideration in the FY 2009 solicitation: Africa Region: Burundi, Chad, Congo (DRC), Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia; East Asia/Pacific Region: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand; European Region: Albania, Moldova, Montenegro; Near East Region: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq; South and Central Asia Region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Western Hemisphere Region: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru.

The response to G/TIP's FY 2009 solicitation reached record levels. G/TIP received 372 proposals for funding: nearly 300 proposals for bilateral projects in 56 countries and more than 70 proposals for regional and global projects. These submissions requested a total of \$146.5 million.

As indicated in the solicitation, G/TIP conducted a technical review of each proposal. Proposals that did not meet the specified technical review criteria were not reviewed further. Proposals that met the technical criteria were reviewed at the U.S. embassy in the country where the proposed activity would take place and by an interagency panel at G/TIP. Following this competitive review, 52 bilateral projects in 40 countries and five regional and global projects were recommended for 2009 funding.

In FY 2009 G/TIP awarded funds for 93 programs totaling more than \$26 million, using FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriated funds. [Click here to view programs awarded by G/TIP in FY 2009.](#) G/TIP will award the remaining FY 2009 funds in early FY 2010.

New Funding Opportunity: 2010 Grant Competition

Subject to the availability of funds, G/TIP will solicit proposals for fiscal year 2010 funding in early November.

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TNS MT93 091103-2459143 61MarlizTagarum

LOAD-DATE: November 3, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

273 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

October 21, 2009 Wednesday

Forum on human trafficking

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 11**LENGTH:** 219 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and nine countries will share information on tackling human smuggling and trafficking during the Pacific Rim Intelligence Conference.

Deputy Home Minister Jelaing Mersat launched the conference, which aims to strengthen intelligence in the Immigration Department, at a hotel here yesterday.

The conference, themed "Making Immigration Intelligent Relevant", will end on Thursday.

In August, Australia and Malaysia signed a bilateral agreement and have since set up an integrated data base as one of the steps to tackle the problem.

Jelaing said the lack of progress in combating **human trafficking** last year led Malaysia to being downgraded from the **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3** (blacklisted countries) in the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, 2009.

The report lists Malaysia as one of 17 countries not doing enough to stop human trafficking.

It said Malaysia was a destination, source and transit country for women and children trafficked for commercial, sexual and forced labour.

Jelaing said: "We are giving our full cooperation.

"The conference will benefit not only our country but also neighbouring countries."

He said the conference would give the opportunity for Malaysia to increase knowledge, information and intelligence on how to reduce illegal movements of people.

LOAD-DATE: October 20, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

274 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

October 13, 2009 Tuesday

GUATEMALA: 10 AGENTS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING NATIONWIDE

BYLINE: Danilo Valladares**LENGTH:** 1405 words**DATELINE:** GUATEMALA CITY, Oct 13 2009

In spite of a new law against human trafficking in effect since March, little has been done in Guatemala to fight the trafficking of children, and child sex tourism has begun to flourish, experts say.

"The office of the public prosecutor has only 10 agents (to fight human trafficking) throughout the entire country, and they have no telephone and just three or four computers," and "the police do not have the capacity to tackle the problem at a national level," said Sandra Gularte, an official with the ombudsman's office.

Activist Leonel Dub'n, director of the Asociaci'n El Refugio de la Niñez, which provides shelter for rescued children, told IPS of "two girls brought from El Salvador to work in a cafeteria, and the day after the girls got here they were prostituted. Young girls are preferred, because they bring the biggest profits in the sex exploitation market."

Dub'n said trafficking of children occurs mainly in border areas, although he said it also exists in the capital, where underage girls are brought in by means of phony job offers.

In this Central American country where corruption is so notorious that a U.N.-sponsored commission was set up to strengthen and purge the country's justice system and help identify and dismantle clandestine armed security groups, the impunity enjoyed by traffickers is so great that their business has diversified.

"We know tourists come to have sex with street kids and that a network of taxi drivers is involved," said Dub'n.

After drug and arms dealing, human trafficking is the third largest organised crime industry in the world, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

At least 15,000 children under 18 are the victims of child sex trafficking networks in Guatemala, estimates Casa Alianza, the Latin American branch of the New York-based Covenant House, which stopped operating in Guatemala in January due to lack of funds.

In the capital alone, Casa Alianza identified more than 2,000 children sexually exploited in bars and massage parlours, most of whom came from Central American countries.

One of the biggest achievements in the fight against such crimes was the new Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, which entered into force in March.

The new law classified crimes related to sexual exploitation, created a Secretariat Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, and put in place procedures for the repatriation of trafficking victims who have been taken out of the country.

But "the Secretariat has not been assigned the necessary resources for it to function, there is no training for the judges responsible for applying the law, and there has been no real interest in implementing the necessary actions on the part of state institutions," Dub'n complained.

In the meantime, trafficking continues apace in border areas.

"In Malacatán and Tecún Umán (municipalities in the southwestern province of San Marcos, on the border with Mexico), owners of child care centres, and even parents and other relatives, are involved in the trafficking of children," Jose Maldonado, an official in the ombudsman's office in Coatepeque, in the neighbouring province of Quetzaltenango, told IPS.

The trafficking industry feeds on the vulnerability and desperate economic situation of the Central American migrants who pass through the area in large numbers on their way to the United States, and the sexual exploitation of mainly Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran girls in that area is commonplace, the ombudsman's office reports.

"Because there are so many people involved in this illegal trade that undermines the integrity of girls and boys, it has been impossible to curb it," said Maldonado.

According to the World Bank, in Guatemala, one of the poorest countries in Latin America, around 75 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, defined as an income that is insufficient to purchase a basic basket of goods and services, while nearly 58 percent have incomes below the extreme poverty line, defined as the amount needed to purchase a basic basket of food.

Guatemalan girls, and to a lesser extent boys, are the victims of trafficking in border cities in southeastern Mexico, Guatemalan vice consul Estuardo Figueroa in the city of Tapachula, in the Mexican state of Chiapas, denounced last month.

At a meeting of the human rights department of the Tapachula city government, aimed at finding ways to rescue child victims of trafficking, the Guatemalan diplomat said the children are purchased in border areas of the two countries and subjected to labour or sexual exploitation in Chiapas.

Figueroa described how children can be seen in the streets of Tapachula and Tuxtla Gutierrez hawking sweets, shining shoes, cleaning windshields or dressed up as clowns.

The ninth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report on Guatemala, published by the U.S. State Department in June, put this country on the **Tier 2 Watch List** "for failing to show increasing efforts to combat **human trafficking**, particularly in terms of providing adequate assistance to victims and ensuring that trafficking offenders, including corrupt public officials, are appropriately prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced for their crimes."

The State Department trafficking in persons report places nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to curb human trafficking, prosecute those involved and support and assist victims. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1; Tier 2 includes countries that are demonstrating a commitment to addressing the problem but have not yet met international standards; and the Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of digressing to Tier 3, the lowest level.

In Latin America, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama were put in Tier 2, while Nicaragua, Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela are on the Tier 2 Watch List, along with Guatemala, due to the large number of victims of trafficking, despite the efforts made.

The report mentions the "nascent child sex tourism" in certain areas such as Antigua and Guatemala City, and points out that young Guatemalan girls are often subject to forced labour within the country as domestic servants.

In addition, it says, "Guatemalan men, women, and children are trafficked within the country, as well as to Mexico and the United States, for forced labour, particularly in agriculture.

And "In the Mexican border area, Guatemalan children are exploited for forced begging on streets and forced labour in municipal dumps (and) Guatemalan men, women, and children are trafficked for forced agricultural work, particularly on coffee plantations," the State Department report adds.

It recommends that Guatemala "Implement and enforce the new anti-trafficking law; increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offenders, including public officials complicit with trafficking activity."

Maria Eugenia Villarreal, director of ECPAT International in Guatemala told IPS that the main concerns of her organisation - whose name stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children - are the protection of children and adolescents and the prosecution of traffickers.

"There are many problems in terms of enforcing the law," she said. "Although the law is new, we should have had many more sentences. We have also observed an enormous weakness in investigations by prosecutors and in the failure of judges to classify crimes as trafficking."

Sandra Gularte, coordinator of trafficking issues in the ombudsman's office, told IPS that Guatemala's law is the most advanced of its kind in Latin America.

This year, the ombudsman's office received 41 complaints of trafficking from January to September, compared to 23 in 2008, which she said does not represent an increase in cases as much as a growing willingness to report trafficking-related crimes and seek assistance.

Nevertheless, she said "there is a greater vulnerability due to the economic crisis, which will prompt more Guatemalans to try to make the journey to other countries and to fall prey to organised crime networks."

Greater information and awareness-raising are essential, she said, because many people are unaware of what trafficking is and thus do not report it. But in Gularte's view, the essential thing is to continue strengthening the office of the public prosecutor and the police.

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

275 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

October 13, 2009 Tuesday 11:48 PM EST

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Funding Information

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 442 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release:
General Funding Information:

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (P.L. 106-386), as amended, authorized the establishment of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) in the U.S. Department of State. G/TIP's mission is to address trafficking in persons (TIP) through combined efforts of the "3 P" strategy: preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers, and protecting victims. Additionally, the office will emphasize a fourth "P:" partnership. G/TIP coordinates the implementation of the TVPA and addresses emerging interagency grants policy and planning issues. The office also engages foreign governments, civil society, and multilateral organizations focused on combating and preventing modern day slavery. G/TIP seeks to fund programs that reflect the views of the TVPA. In Fiscal Year 2009, G/TIP received approximately \$22 million in foreign assistance to combat trafficking in persons worldwide.

Funding Update:

The response to G/TIP's FY 2009 solicitation reached record levels, with over 370 proposals submitted requesting a total of \$146.5 million for bilateral, regional, and global projects. As indicated in the solicitation, G/TIP conducted a technical review of each proposal. This was followed by an interagency panel review of the proposals that met the technical criteria.

During FY 2009, G/TIP awarded nearly 100 anti-trafficking grants with FY 2008 and FY 2009 funds totaling more than \$26 million. G/TIP will award the remaining FY 2009 funds in the coming months.

G/TIP Funding Priorities:

G/TIP's funds are used primarily to address issues or deficiencies identified in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report and Interim Assessments in **Tier 3**, **Tier 2 Watch List**, and some **Tier 2** countries. In addition to tier ranking, G/TIP also considers the country's financial resources and a government's political will to address TIP. Additional priority country designations will be outlined in the upcoming solicitation.

2010 Grant Competition Overview:

Subject to the availability of funds, G/TIP plans on soliciting proposals for 2010 grants in early November. G/TIP invites those interested in applying for funding to attend a Bidders' Conference on Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 PM. For registration information, please contact Christina Johnson at JohnsonCW@state.gov

Please check the website regularly for additional updates about the Bidders' Conference and upcoming funding opportunities.

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LOAD-DATE: October 16, 2009

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THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times

October 11, 2009 Sunday

'Economic empowerment key to assisting victims of violence'

LENGTH: 329 words

By Khetam Malkawi

AMMAN - The Kingdom must do more to economically empower women victims of violence in order to tackle the phenomenon, an international expert said.

Ludy Green, an international expert on financial independence for abused women, said that although Jordan has shelters for women victims of violence, authorities and civil society should focus on bettering women's financial situation.

"You can save a woman, one woman at a time... how you help in changing someone's life is the most important," Green said in a press conference on Thursday.

During her five-day stay in the Kingdom, Green met with government and business leaders, academicians and NGOs to discuss economic empowerment of women as a solution to combat violence against women.

Green, an international spokesperson on financial independence for victims of violence and their children, is the president and founder of Second Chance Employment Services, a nonprofit organisation seeking employment for battered and abused women.

During her visit to Jordan, Green visited Dar Al Aman and Dar Al Wifaq shelters and held a workshop for workers at the Ministry of Social Development's shelter.

Meanwhile, during a press conference held last week to introduce Green, US Ambassador to Jordan Robert Beecroft said the Kingdom has made progress on tackling human trafficking.

Following the progress the country has made in strengthening its laws against **human trafficking**, Jordan was recently upgraded to **Tier II** status in the annual US **Trafficking in Persons** Report, he noted.

"In February, Jordan passed a law on human trafficking and issued regulations in August regarding rights of domestic workers," the ambassador said.

He added that Jordan was "good in putting together an anti-trafficking committee to deal with workers from third world countries, as well as having shelters for violence victims".

"The government realised that there is a problem and they are addressing this problem," Beecroft noted.

LOAD-DATE: November 23, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

JOURNAL-CODE: 62

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277 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Jordan Times (Amman)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

October 11, 2009 Sunday**'Economic empowerment key to assisting victims of violence'****BYLINE:** Khetam Malkawi, Jordan Times, Amman**SECTION:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 394 words

Oct. 11--AMMAN -- The Kingdom must do more to economically empower women victims of violence in order to tackle the phenomenon, an international expert said.

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LOAD-DATE: October 11, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

ACC-NO: 20091011-JT-Economic-empowerment-key-to-assisting-victims-of-violence-1011

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: JT

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Khaleej Times (United Arab Emirates)

October 8, 2009 Thursday

Abu Dhabi Police Foils Attempt to Smuggle Chinese Youth to Europe

LENGTH: 484 words

ABU DHABI - The Abu Dhabi Police has foiled an attempt by an organised crime ring to smuggle Chinese teenagers to Europe through the UAE, according to a report in the October issue of '999' magazine, a publication of the Ministry of Interior.

"The strategic location of the UAE, its economic and financial weight and importance on the world's tourist map with world-class facilities and services have been abused by organised criminals. However, security agencies in the seven-emirate federation have been instrumental in foiling gangsters' attempts," said Major Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Sakkaf of the Criminal Investigation Department of Abu Dhabi Police.

According to Al Sakkaf, on April 24 this year, three Chinese youngsters and a 51-year-old Korean were deported from Istanbul to Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Upon investigation by the police, it was found that the three Chinese teenagers travelled to Istanbul on fake Korean travel documents, which were confiscated by the Turkish authorities at Istanbul Airport, before deporting them back to Abu Dhabi from where they had departed the day before.

The Chinese youngsters, aged 19, 17 and 16, said they met each other at a hotel room in Beijing. From Beijing, they travelled on a boat to Hong Kong where they used their Chinese passports to obtain visit visas to the UAE.

They later flew to Dubai where a Korean national, identified as Y. Yotchol, met them at the airport and took them to a hotel near Dragon Mart.

On their second day in the UAE, Yotchol reportedly took them to Abu Dhabi International Airport from where they departed to Istanbul on Turkish Airlines.

When questioned, Yotchol denied meeting the teenagers in Dubai or knowing anything about the fake passports.

Al Sakkaf said their investigations found that a gang involved in organised crime was smuggling teenagers from China to Europe where they could be used to carry out criminal activities.

The report added that the ring starts its operations in China where relatives pay the gang, or the other way round, to smuggle teenagers to Europe.

"We are currently carrying out further investigations to uncover Yotchol's fellow conspirators and are also checking hotels that issue visit visas," said Al Sakkaf.

Yotchol, who had been legally entering the UAE with his Korean passport, is now blacklisted from entering the country.

The US Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008 has placed the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

The report said the PRC is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Although the majority of trafficking in the PRC occurs within the country's borders, there is also considerable trafficking of PRC citizens to Africa, other parts of Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America.

olivia@khaleejtimes.ae

LOAD-DATE: October 8, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 44

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279 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Middle East Monitor - The Gulf

October 1, 2009 Thursday

Social Policy Takes Priority

LENGTH: 562 words

BMI View: *With much of the country's policy effort focused on external affairs, the only pressure points are in the social realm - dealing with human trafficking and tackling swine flu.*

Oman's foreign policy has taken centre stage in line with its current presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with Sultan Qaboos Bin Said pushing an ambitious strategy to engage with Iran - a controversial course of action in the wake of the disputed Iranian election in June. Domestically, Qaboos' rule is not under any form of challenge and he is set to continue with his cautious political reform programme, largely focused on the codification of citizens' rights, rather than outright democratic participation as some other Gulf states have pioneered. The state retains a strict control on free expression of public opinion, and the sultanate will continue to lag its Gulf neighbours in developing a pluralist political system.

The government is responsive to external criticism of its human rights and governance record. After strong criticism from the US State Department over its efforts in combating **human trafficking** last year, the newly-released 2009 report from the State Department has found an improvement in Oman's performance in eliminating trafficking, resulting in its accession to **Tier 2** nations - categorised as countries which are making significant efforts to comply with the with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act after acting upon a new law against trafficking. In 2008, Oman was categorised as being Tier 3 on the watch list, which provoked intense frustration in Muscat, which zealously guards its international reputation. However, it is clear that the authorities in Muscat have taken a tougher line on trafficking in response to the US criticism. In May of this year it successfully prosecuted 11 men for bringing foreign women into Oman and then shipping them to other Gulf states to work as prostitutes - the first enactment of new legislation on human trafficking.

Small-Scale Problems

The domestic policy thrust will remain focused on social policy, with Omanisation now a central ambition for the sultanate. The 2009-2010 Omanisation quotas for the private sector have set out benchmark quotas on a range of sectors, ranging from 35% of ICT staff being Omani nationals, through to 15% for technical support staff. According to the latest list released in July, all marketing and sales employees must be Omani nationals. For those job areas where Omanis are either reluctant to work in or not sufficiently skilled, the quotas are low. For contracting staff, the target is just 30%, while for consulting engineers it is just 25%.

The threat posed by H1N1 'swine flu', which had caused 12 deaths by mid-September, has made this health issue a number one policy priority. On September 5, Sultan Qaboos ordered the establishment of a Supreme Committee for H1N1 to draw up a comprehensive plan to tackle the disease. The country has also deferred the start of the school year by a few weeks to 26 September in order to cut down on infection rates. The new Supreme Committee will be headed by Diwan of the Royal Court Minister Ali Bin Hamad al-Busaidi, and includes Royal Office Minister General Ali Majid Bin Mussabagh Al-Mamaria and the ministers of the interior, national economy, health, religious affairs, and information.

LOAD-DATE: September 15, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Political Risk Analysis

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

JOURNAL-CODE: MMEG

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280 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

September 30, 2009 Wednesday

New laws ensure best practices

LENGTH: 578 words

DATELINE: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, Sept. 30 -- The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) is to be given wider powers, including permission to arrest without warrant any errant job agent or individual violating established protocol in a bid to ensure and enforce best ethical practices in labour migration.

The proposed new regulation by way of amendments to the SLBFE Act which was originally introduced in 1985 was passed in Parliament by a majority vote on Thursday.

A revision of laws when dealing with rogue agents too are to be effected with fines ranging from Rs.100,000 and a maximum four year imprisonment being proposed.

Permission is also to be given to regularize the five percent cess tax charged from recruiting agents.

Restrictions are also to be placed on advertisements carried out by agents in the media. Accordingly, both the agents and media would have to seek prior approval before carrying such material.

The new proposals would also place restrictions on charges levied on overseas employment seekers. Issuing a receipt for the monies taken would be mandatory.

Charges levied would need prior approval from authorities. Under the new proposals, false details and promises by job agents would come under a fine ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 25,000.

According to Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, during the first nine months of this year, the Government had only received Rs.11 million so far although Rs.33 million is due to it. Minister Rambukwella told the media yesterday that changes were made with the idea of ensuring best practices related to protection and welfare of labour migrants.

Remittance by migrant workers which amounts to over US \$ 03 billion annually is Sri Lanka's number one foreign exchange earner. Over 1.6 million Lankans are employed abroad with another 220,000 (average) joining the force annually.

According to the Minister, through these amendments the SLBFE's authorized officers would be given authorization to examine any document in the possession of a person going abroad for employment at any port of embarkation to see whether they have the required registration.

Sleuths will be given powers to arrest any illegal labour migrant if found to be without the required documents.

According to Rambukwella this move would help authorities to tighten screws on illegal migration, where Sri Lanka has being categorized by the US annual report on the subject as a country in the **tier two watch list** and a hub for **human trafficking**.

SLBFE sleuths would also be permitted to do periodical checks on licensed agents premises and their documents if and when they deem it necessary.

Aiding and abetting rogue agents too have been termed as a punishable offence according to the proposed laws.

A part of the fines obtained through fines are to be forwarded to a migrant worker welfare fund.

During this year, SLBFE sleuths have nabbed more than 100 rogue recruiters. In addition more than 30 licensed agents too have been taken to task for alleged wrongdoing. According to authorities over 100 job at present are doing illegal business in various parts of the island but they do not have enough powers to deal with them effectively under existing laws. The SLBFE Act was first introduced in 1985 and has undergone several minor changes since then. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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281 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

September 27, 2009 Sunday

Trafficked women too afraid to tell the truth

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 17**LENGTH:** 406 words

KUALA LUMPUR: The irony is that willing sex workers confess to being trafficked women when they are caught in police raids while the real trafficked women deny their status.

Many of the "professional" sex workers are said to be from the Philippines and China while those from other neighbouring countries are the "sex slaves".

The professionals from these two countries know that there are rich pickings to be had in Malaysian brothels, said Tenaganita Sdn Bhd coordinator for Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Aegile Fernandez.

However, the sex slaves from other regional countries are often ignorant women who are coerced or beaten into submission by members of the trafficking syndicates and readily "confess" to police that they are sex workers.

There is also the fear that the syndicates will harm their families back home.

"The police have a 14-day remand order to interview these victims but they are unable to achieve much," said Fernandez.

"In our shelters, it usually takes at least two months before they reveal anything.

"First, we must become their friends and confidants and only then, will they open up and tell us what exactly happened in the brothels and how they were brought in.

"We have cases of victims who had only spoken to us upon going back to their countries."

Fernandez said while it was true that some sex workers came into Malaysia voluntarily, the syndicates held their passports, curtailed their movements and did not pay them.

"This becomes human trafficking."

Malaysia, has been classified as **Tier 3** by the United States State Department where **human trafficking** is concerned.

The Tier 3 classification means that Malaysia has made no effort to comply with the US Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

Fernandez said there were also cases of exploitation in the case of mail-order brides.

Some Malaysian men in their 60s and 70s get married to young women from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia.

These women, who are in their early 20s, are what the mail-order agencies call "3-in-1" brides.

They are required to work at their offices or stalls run by their husbands in the morning, do housework in the afternoon and evening, and satisfy the sexual needs of their husbands at night.

There had been cases of mail-order brides forced to work in brothels to pay their husbands a monthly allowance of RM400 to RM500.

The husbands apparently claimed this was payment for marrying them and bringing them into the country.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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282 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

September 26, 2009 Saturday

US backs anti-trafficking infomercials in RP

BYLINE: Llanesca T. Pantì

LENGTH: 283 words

The United States Department of State has earmarked \$294,350 to help fund the production of anti-human trafficking infomercials in the Philippines, the US Embassy in Manila has reported.

The US Department of State gave the grant to The Asia Foundation, which produced the infomercials together with the Visayan Forum Foundation and the Foundation for Communication Initiatives (FOCI).

"Our partnership, cooperation, and teamwork have never been more essential," said Deputy Chief of Mission Leslie Bassett in her remarks at the launching of the radio and TV "infomercials" against human trafficking on Thursday.

The infomercials will be seen and heard at transportation hubs and other locations that trafficking victims are likely to transit, including ports and bus terminals.

Bassett also expressed condolences to the anti-human trafficking activist community over the tragic murder last month of Finardo Cabilao, the Philippine Social Welfare Attachè based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"The US government will continue to support Philippine initiatives to prevent human trafficking, protect its victims, and prosecute the traffickers," she said.

The 2009 US Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report for the Philippines shows Manila on **Tier 2 Watch List**, which means that while the government is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it has failed to show progress in convicting trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for labor trafficking.

The report described the country as a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.

LOAD-DATE: September 30, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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283 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

September 20, 2009 Sunday

Nigeria; Country Rises to Tier 1 in 2009 Trafficking Report

BYLINE: Daily Trust (Abuja)**LENGTH:** 378 words

In the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, Nigeria has been elevated to **Tier** 1 status - countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking", U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said.

Nigeria was rated for its increased efforts in 2008 and its cumulative achievements over the past few years to curtail human trafficking

A statement by U.S embassy in Abuja said Clinton made the statement at the Department of State's ninth annual TIP Report in a public event at Washington, D.C.

"Over the past year, the Government of Nigeria more than doubled the number of trafficking offenders convicted, while it improved assistance given to victims, demonstrated strong awareness-raising efforts, and increased funding to its anti-human trafficking organization, the National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)" it stated.

It stated that "the 175-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern-day form of slavery".

The statement added that findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

It added that the U.S. Mission in Nigeria congratulates the Government of Nigeria and the National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) on this accomplishment and encourages continued progress in the future.

"The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as amended, requires the Secretary of State to submit this Report each year. The goal of this Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery".

"Within the Report, countries are assigned to one of three tiers: countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" as set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1; countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts are classified as Tier 2; and countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3." It stated.

LOAD-DATE: September 21, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

Israelis arrested for holding Filipino woman captive

LENGTH: 479 words

Sep. 20, 2009 (Digital Journal delivered by Newstex) --

A Filipino woman was found and freed by Israeli police last week in East Jerusalem. She had been kept captive by the family for almost two years. Israeli police made the announcement that they arrested two people in the case on September 13, 2009.

The woman told police her passport had been taken away by her employers, confined to the house and forced to work. She also claimed she had been locked in a bathroom at times. While she had been initially hired to work for the family, she had not been paid. The woman said her employers accused her of stealing expensive jewellery and threatened to turn her in to police. Fearing arrest, the woman complied with them. An Israeli group, Kav L'oved, a non-profit group that works to protect the rights of vulnerable workers, had learned details about the woman's captivity and passed the information on to the police. Israel has been attempting to crack down on human trafficking for years. According to a U.S. State Department report, **Trafficking in Persons**, June 2009, Israel is a "**Tier 2**" country, "...a destination country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Low-skilled workers from China, Romania, Turkey, Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India migrate voluntarily and legally to Israel for contract labor in the construction, agriculture, and health care industries. Some, however, subsequently face conditions of forced labor, including the unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats, and physical intimidation. Many labor recruitment agencies in source countries and in Israel require workers to pay recruitment fees ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 " a practice that makes workers highly vulnerable to trafficking or debt bondage once in Israel. Women from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and China are trafficked to Israel for forced prostitution, often by organized crime groups across the border with Egypt. Israeli women are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation, and small numbers are reportedly trafficked to Ireland and the United Kingdom." The report went on to say that while Israel does not "fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so." Italy, by comparison, is a "**Tier 1**" country, both a destination for **human trafficking**, but also a source of human traffickers. According to the report, Kuwait is a Tier 3 country, and is a destination for forced labour. Earlier this year, Israeli police arrested 12 people who were part of the biggest human trafficking ring. Police said that the ring had smuggled thousands of women into Israel and forced them into prostitution.

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285 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

September 14, 2009 Monday 11:43 PM EST

Memorandum of Justification Consistent With the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Regarding Determinations With Respect to 'Tier 3' Countries

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 7159 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release:

Pursuant to Section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (the "TVPA" or the "Act"), the President has made determinations regarding the 17 countries placed on **Tier 3** in the Department of State's 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The President has determined to sanction Burma, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Eritrea, Fiji, Iran, Syria, and Zimbabwe. The United States will not provide certain non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance to the Governments of Burma, Cuba, the DPRK, Eritrea, Fiji, Iran, Syria, and Zimbabwe until such governments comply with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or make significant efforts to do so. The United States will not provide funding for participation by officials or employees of the Government of Cuba in educational and cultural exchange programs until that government complies with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or makes significant efforts to do so. Furthermore, the President determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of certain assistance to the Governments of Burma, Eritrea, Fiji, Iran, Syria, and Zimbabwe would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The President also determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of all bilateral and multilateral assistance to Chad, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan that otherwise would have been cut off would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The determinations also indicate the Secretary of State's subsequent compliance determination regarding Swaziland. It is significant that one of the 17 Tier 3 countries took actions that averted the need for the President to make a determination regarding sanctions and waivers. Information highlighted in the Trafficking in Persons Report and the possibility of sanctions, in conjunction with our diplomatic efforts, encouraged this country's government to take important measures against trafficking.

Section 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act interferes with the President's authority to direct foreign affairs. We, therefore, interpret it as precatory. Nonetheless, it is the policy of the United States that, consistent with the provisions of the Act, the U.S. Executive Director of each multilateral development bank, as defined in the Act, and of the International Monetary Fund will vote against, and use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to the Governments of Burma, Cuba, the DPRK, Eritrea, Fiji, Iran, Syria, and Zimbabwe (with specific exceptions for Eritrea, Fiji, and Zimbabwe) for Fiscal Year 2010, until such governments comply with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to come into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act.

Explanations of the President's determinations regarding each of the 17 countries follow.

Swaziland

On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland since March 2009, the Deputy Secretary of State has determined that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland does not yet fully comply

with the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. This is the standard for placement on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The Deputy Secretary of State has placed Swaziland on the Special Watch List because the determination that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland is making significant efforts is based, in part, on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

In July 2009, the Department of State began working with the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland on an action plan that outlined steps to combat trafficking. Since that time, it has accomplished each of the items in the Department's action plan or made commitments to take additional steps over the next year, thus demonstrating "significant efforts."

Since June 2009, the government publicly recognized human trafficking as an important problem facing the country and took tangible steps to enact and implement an anti-trafficking law. In July, the government drafted a comprehensive anti-trafficking and human smuggling bill, which, as of mid-August 2009, was nearly through its mandatory 30-day public comment period, after which it will be voted on by the parliament. Public education on the bill's specific provisions also began in August 2009.

In July 2009, the government established a multi-sectored Anti-Trafficking Task Force comprised of officials from multiple government and law enforcement agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The task force launched programs to educate the public on the draft bill, began drafting a national strategy on human trafficking, and planned the establishment of an anti-trafficking hotline. The Prime Minister and Task Force members granted numerous media interviews on the subject of human trafficking, and a local NGO was commissioned to conduct a study on the scope and magnitude of human trafficking in Swaziland.

Burma

The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and it is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Burma. The President has also determined that provision of funding for programs to combat infectious disease would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: Burmese military and civilian officials remain directly involved in using citizens for forced labor and the unlawful conscription of child soldiers, with reported cases of child soldiers increasing annually. Although the Burmese government has taken some steps to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, the significant state-sanctioned use of internal forced labor, especially by the military, continues.

Impact of Sanctions: The United States generally does not provide direct assistance to the Burmese government. Existing sanctions on Burma include a ban on new investment, imports, exports of financial services, bilateral assistance, and arms sales. Additionally, travel restrictions and/or financial sanctions have been imposed against senior Burmese officials and their immediate relatives, a number of state-owned enterprises, and other individuals and entities affiliated with the regime. A partial waiver would allow for assistance to government labs and offices to combat infectious diseases.

Chad

The Government of Chad does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Chad, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Chad has not taken sufficient steps to address the problem of trafficking in persons. Although the government released to UNICEF child soldiers captured in a rebel offensive and conducted inspections of its own military facilities to identify and release unlawful child soldiers, it failed to make efforts to prosecute and punish trafficking offenders. The government has not sufficiently collaborated with NGOs to provide care to trafficking victims or developed a draft work plan to address and resolve the problem of unlawful conscription of child soldiers.

Chad is a partner in the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership (TSCTP) program and strongly supports counterterrorism objectives. Chad also plays a critical role in our humanitarian response to the crisis in Darfur, currently hosting 280,000 Sudanese refugees and cooperating with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Chad and Central African Republic. As part of this effort, Chad is tasked with providing security to civilians and humanitarians in eastern

Chad. The Government of Chad has worked with the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan to encourage Sudanese rebel movements to commit to peace talks with the Government of Sudan.

Impact of Sanctions: Sanctions would affect the expenditure of \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 International Military Education and Training (IMET), \$500,000 in FY 2010 Foreign Military Financing (FMF) funding, as well as a yet-to-be determined amount of TSCTP funding. IMET programs are critical to influencing and training current and future Chadian military leaders. The FMF program for Chad includes funding programmed for C-130 spare parts, training, and technical manuals that are critical to support Chad's flying program. Sanctions could also affect \$600,000 in Development Assistance initiatives to develop Chad's political and social institutions. Chad is scheduled to receive a portion of \$27.267 million allocated to Chad, Mauritania, and Niger from the PDEV component of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, which is designed to improve the regional security situation and the country's ability to combat terrorism. PDEV promotes good governance, youth empowerment, and media outreach.

Cuba

The Government of Cuba does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Cuba.

Justification: The Government of Cuba publishes no data on internationally or domestically-trafficked persons. Furthermore, the government dismisses as politically motivated requests for information on any anti-trafficking efforts it may be making. The government does not appear to have developed a comprehensive strategy to address the problem, and has little discernable anti-trafficking law enforcement, victim protection measures, or trafficking prevention policies in place.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Cuba is already subject to an extensive economic embargo tied to Cuba's poor record on, among other things, democracy, human rights and economic reform. No Cuban government officials or employees participate in current or planned United States Government-funded educational or cultural exchange programs. The United States Government does not offer economic assistance to the Government of Cuba and will not allow any significant new investment in Cuba by U.S. companies until democratic and economic reforms are instituted. While the existing sanctions will remain in place until there are fundamental political and economic reforms in Cuba, sanctioning Cuba for activities related to trafficking in persons expresses clear U.S. disapproval of the Cuban Government's acceptance, if not endorsement, of such activities.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The Government of the DPRK ("North Korea") does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction the DPRK.

Justification: The Government of the DPRK does not acknowledge the existence of human trafficking, and is making no effort to address trafficking in persons. The North Korean regime continues to use forced labor as part of an established system of political repression. The regime actively punishes trafficking victims for acts they commit that are the direct result of being trafficked. The government does not recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes forced labor conditions on its prisoners, including North Koreans forcibly returned from China. Furthermore, conditions in the DPRK drive many North Koreans to seek a way out of the country, putting them at risk of becoming trafficking victims. Women who enter northern China from the DPRK may be sold as brides and trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. The United States strongly disapproves of the DPRK Government's failure to address trafficking in persons.

Impact of Sanctions: Sanctioning the DPRK for activities related to trafficking in persons expresses clear U.S. disapproval of the DPRK government's acceptance, if not endorsement, of such activities. The United States Government does not provide direct foreign assistance to the Government of the DPRK.

Eritrea

The Government of the State of Eritrea does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Eritrea. The President has also determined that provision of funding for educational and cultural exchange programs would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of the State of Eritrea did not exhibit progress toward educating government officials or the general public about human trafficking and does not appear to have made tangible efforts to conduct anti-trafficking

law enforcement, victim protection, or prevention initiatives. Furthermore, Eritrea failed to demonstrate making any effort to curb abuses of Eritrean citizens who are forced to participate in the government's national service program for indefinite periods.

Virtually all Eritrean citizens are required to perform national service and as a result involuntarily become employees in government-controlled institutions to include public health, education, library and information, and media. A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as the continuation of existing educational and cultural exchanges will promote greater understanding of the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of the State of Eritrea is already subject to sanctions that prohibit the sale or licensing for export of defense articles and defense services to countries certified by the United States, as not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts. Eritrea is also designated a country of particular concern for its poor human rights record. As a result, Eritrea is subject to ongoing arms embargo referenced in 22 CFR 126.1(a) pursuant to the Presidential Action under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Sanctioning Eritrea for activities related to trafficking in persons expresses clear U.S. disapproval of the Eritrean Government's acceptance, if not endorsement, of such activities. The United States Government does not provide direct foreign assistance to the Government of the State of Eritrea. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for participation by government officials or employees in educational and cultural exchange programs.

Fiji

The Government of Fiji does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Fiji. The President has also determined that provision of funding for participation of government officials and employees in educational and cultural exchange programs would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The de facto Government of Fiji has taken no significant steps to address the problem of children exploited in the commercial sex trade. It did not begin any law enforcement investigations into alleged trafficking situations. Since June, the government also made no effort to educate the public about the dangers of trafficking in Fiji, or to support organizations which attempted to do so. The de facto government is, however, beginning to engage in a positive dialogue with the United States on trafficking issues and has taken some steps to eliminate certain social practices, such as the early marriage of girls, which can lead to the trafficking of children.

Fiji's diminished vigilance on TIP is due in large part to the illegitimate and ineffective nature of the interim government installed after the military coup d'état in December 2006. The coup ousted a democratically-elected government and, as a result, most United States assistance to the interim government is restricted and will continue to be restricted until a democratically elected government takes office.

The United States Government closely coordinates its policy and sanctions on Fiji with the Pacific Island Forum, the regional organization that includes all the Pacific Island countries, Australia, and New Zealand. The explicit goal sought by the United States and its regional partners is a restoration of democracy. A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as the continuation of existing educational and cultural exchanges will promote greater understanding of the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The de facto Government of Fiji is already subject to sanctions that bar most foreign assistance. Thus additional sanctions would not increase the pressure on Fiji's de facto government to address its trafficking problem. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for educational and cultural programs that involve the participation of individuals who in some cases may be affiliated with the government.

Iran

The Government of Iran does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Iran. The President has also determined that provision of funding for participation of government officials and employees in educational and cultural exchange programs would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Iran continues to dismiss criticism of its inadequate anti-trafficking efforts while continuing to punish -- often severely, including beatings, imprisonment, and execution -- victims of trafficking. The gov-

ernment has neither developed a comprehensive strategy to address Iran's human trafficking problem nor instituted victim protection procedures to systematically identify and protect victims of trafficking.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as the continuation of existing educational and cultural exchanges will promote greater understanding of the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Iran is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism. The United States Government does not provide economic assistance to the Government of Iran. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for the participation of government official or employees in educational and cultural exchange programs.

Kuwait

The Government of Kuwait does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Kuwait, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Kuwait has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary domestic servitude, particularly by failing to establish a long-promised permanent shelter for domestic workers who have been victims of forced labor. Furthermore, it failed to enact anti-trafficking legislation that explicitly prohibits and punishes all trafficking offenses; did not provide training to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases; did not provide evidence of increased prosecutions; and did not develop or implement procedures to proactively identify victims. The government did issue a resolution to make modest reforms to its flawed foreign worker sponsorship system that would affect some but not all foreign workers; however, a subsequent statement by authorities appears to limit the implementation of the resolution.

The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Kuwait is in the national interest because it will allow for the continuation of democracy programs in Kuwait through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively combat terrorism and bolster regional security; maintaining Kuwait's indispensable support for Operation Iraqi Freedom is a high U.S. priority.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$3 billion dollars in projected foreign military sales to Kuwait, \$15,000 in IMET funding, and an approximately \$6 million in MEPI assistance would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. The immediate impact of sanctions would be a reduction in access necessary to maintain Kuwait's support for our efforts to combat terrorism and in our ability to encourage Kuwait's efforts to contribute to regional security. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Kuwait. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of combating terrorism.

Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Malaysia, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Malaysia has taken some, but not sufficient steps to address the significant problems of trafficking of foreign nationals to its country for labor and sexual exploitation and the complicity of Malaysian law enforcement personnel in trafficking. The government has not markedly improved its anti-trafficking law enforcement record or shown an effort to identify and protect victims of labor trafficking, though it has increased significantly the number of sex trafficking victims identified and assisted. It has made no discernable effort to address prevalent forced labor of migrant workers. The government's implementation of its July 2007 anti-trafficking law appears uneven. The government continues to incarcerate and summarily deport foreign victims - particularly victims of forced labor - and the new law has not curbed the practice of Malaysian employers' confiscation of workers' passports. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Malaysia is in the national interest because it will permit continued security cooperation and the promotion of democratic principles and will allow continued dialogue and engagement to combat human trafficking.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$1.35 million in Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism finance, and export control/border security assistance; \$1.2 million in IMET funds; up to \$170 million in Peacekeeping Operations funds under the Global Peace Operations Initiative; \$200,000 in Economic

Support Fund funds; and \$140,000 in International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of allowing for the uninterrupted continuation of important military-to-military security cooperation programs and to allow for military sales in order to advance regional efforts to confront terrorist activities, eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and work with regional partners to ensure the security of critical maritime areas, including the Strait of Malacca and the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas.

Mauritania

The Government of Mauritania does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Mauritania, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: A military junta seized power in a bloodless coup in August 2008. During this period, the government has not made appreciable progress in addressing trafficking, including hereditary slavery. The government did not increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and punish trafficking offenders, including hereditary slave masters. Despite NGO reports of cases involving minors in slavery, the courts failed to remove young girls from abusive households or prosecute their masters. The government did not take steps to educate the public about trafficking, including hereditary slavery. A new government was inaugurated in August and has indicated its intent to address this problem.

Mauritania is a partner in the TSCTP program and strongly supports counterterrorism objectives.

Impact of Sanctions: The waiver of sanctions enables the United States government to promote more effectively democratic reform and human rights in Mauritania. The African Union (AU) declared Presidential elections held on July 18, 2009, to be transparent, with some irregularities not deemed to be outcome-determinative. The AU reinstated Mauritania's membership and lifted its sanctions against the military junta. The action to approve a legal determination necessary to lift section 7008 coup restrictions on Mauritania in order to resume foreign assistance is currently pending signature by the Deputy Secretary.

Assistance planned to be provided to Mauritania in Fiscal Year 2010 that would be affected by sanctions includes \$1.5 million in development assistance and \$40,000 in IMET funding. This assistance is aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law and supporting development efforts to promote economic prosperity and social parity.

In addition, Mauritania is scheduled to receive a portion of \$27.267 million allocated to Chad, Mauritania, and Niger from the Peace through Development (PDEV) component of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, which is designed to improve the regional security situation and the country's ability to combat terrorism. PDEV promotes good governance, youth empowerment, and media outreach.

Niger

The Government of Niger does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Niger, consistent with the provisions in the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Niger has not taken sufficient steps to address trafficking, including hereditary slavery. The government did not enact its draft 2006 legislation to combat trafficking. The government failed to strengthen efforts to punish trafficking offenders, sentencing a man who enslaved a woman for more than ten years to an inadequate two-year suspended sentence and a fine. Officials did not investigate NGO reports of Nigerien girls sold to Nigerian businessmen or take steps to rescue and provide care to seven women reported to be subjected to hereditary slavery.

Niger is a partner in the TSCTP program and strongly supports counterterrorism objectives.

Impact of Sanctions: Despite condemnation from the international community, the President of Niger has taken steps to consolidate his power and extend his term in office. Consequently, the United States has made a policy decision to restrict its development and military assistance to Niger. Should the political situation in Niger improve, the waiver of sanctions would enable the United States Government to more effectively promote democratic reform, human rights and development of Niger.

In addition, Niger is scheduled to receive a portion of \$27.267 million allocated to Chad, Mauritania, and Niger from the PDEV component of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, which is designed to improve the regional se-

curity situation and the country's ability to combat terrorism. PDEV promotes good governance, youth empowerment, and media outreach.

Papua New Guinea

The Government of Papua New Guinea does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Papua New Guinea, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Papua New Guinea has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of trafficking of women and underage girls for commercial sexual exploitation within the country. Despite committing itself to some initial efforts to address its many trafficking problems, the government has not improved its poor anti-trafficking law enforcement record or shown an effort to identify and protect victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Impact of Sanctions: A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of allowing for the uninterrupted continuation of important programs to support efforts by the Government of Papua New Guinea to participate in international peace support operations, as well as initiatives that would protect irreplaceable biodiversity resources. Papua New Guinea is home to many unique forms of tropical biodiversity. Sanctioning development assistance funding that helps to protect tropical forests (\$330,000 in FY2008) and marine biodiversity (\$480,000 in FY2008) would run counter to United States Government policies to protect the global environment.

Saudi Arabia

The Government of Saudi Arabia does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and it is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Saudi Arabia, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Saudi Arabia has not taken adequate steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude but has indicated its willingness to work on this issue through recent actions. The government enacted a new comprehensive anti-trafficking law that purports to define and punish all forms of trafficking; however, because it is not yet clear that the law will prohibit employers from holding passports and denying exit visas, practices present in most trafficking cases, actual prosecutions under this law may be limited. There is no evidence that the government criminally prosecuted or punished any traffickers since the release of the 2009 Trafficking In Persons Report. The new law also requires the government to provide victims with access to medical assistance and security; however, it is unclear whether the law requires the government to provide the many victims currently not granted access to government facilities or shelters with temporary housing. The government began drafting procedures to identify both sex and labor trafficking victims; however, the government has not yet articulated a policy establishing screening for victims or trained government personnel to identify victims. If fully implemented, the foundational efforts made during the assessment period may constitute significant efforts at the conclusion of the 2010 reporting cycle.

The government has ample resources to address Saudi Arabia's trafficking problems but has only recently begun to show an interest in tackling this serious human rights issue. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Saudi Arabia is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue programs in Saudi Arabia, and it will permit continued security cooperation to effectively combat terrorism and bolster regional security.

Impact of Sanctions: Foreign military sales to Saudi Arabia likely to total significantly more than \$1 billion, approximately \$7 million in MEPI funds, \$65,000 in IMET funding, and \$300,000 in NADR assistance would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance counterterrorism and regional security goals.

Sudan

The Government of National Unity of Sudan (GNU) does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive sanctions against Sudan, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: Since April 2009, the GNU has made no progress in combating human trafficking through law enforcement or significant prevention measures. It made no effort to rescue or reintegrate victims of internal trafficking into

their communities of origin, resulting in thousands of people continuing to remain in prolonged situations of forced labor and sexual exploitation. It also made no progress on demobilization of unlawful child soldiers or efforts to address the trafficking of women and girls for involuntary domestic servitude within and through the country.

The end of the 21-year civil war in Sudan, as marked by the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in January 2005, signaled a new era for Sudan. The United States continues to work with the parties to implement the peace agreement and bring about democratic transformation in Sudan. While the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement 3 years ago provided an opportunity to contribute towards the resolution of the crisis in Darfur, the conditions on the ground remain tenuous and the progress towards a bona fide peace process remains stalled. Under the CPA, we continue to implement a wide variety of programs to restore effective governance and allow economic growth in the South and other conflict areas. These include, but are not limited to, programs aimed at restoring a functioning judicial system and other elements necessary for the return to the rule of law and security, a functioning legislature, elements of a market economy, mitigating conflict, and ensuring security.

Because both humanitarian and consensus-building efforts to support a peaceful transition in Darfur have been hampered by a delayed peace process, the United States Government remains cautious in exploring opportunities to begin to support recovery activities. However, the United States Government maintains diplomatic engagement to strengthen the peace process that will eventually allow opportunities for longer-term development activities.

Bilateral programs and projects in both of these areas, in conjunction with other countries and international institutions, are currently underway. The President's waiver of sanctions will allow these important efforts to continue as appropriate, thereby enhancing security within the country, supporting democratic development, and carrying out additional reconstruction projects in southern Sudan.

Impact of Sanctions: Comprehensive sanctions against Sudan are already in place, including those imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, those related to its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and several other sanctions. Applying additional sanctions could have affected more than \$433 million in assistance to bolster security within the country and further the reconstruction of Southern Sudan.

The primary U.S. strategic objectives for Sudan are to ensure that all sides end the violence in Darfur; that both the north and the south continue working toward full implementation of the CPA, which includes transforming the defense institutions and military forces of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to provide security for itself and its people adequately; and that Sudan not be a base for terrorist activity. U.S. assistance is being used to assist the GoSS and the GoSS's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) with security sector reform, including infrastructure, command headquarters, and transportation projects. Our objective is to convey values of democracy, civil-military relations, and human rights, and to transform the SPLA from a guerrilla to a professional military force.

Prohibiting IMET and Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) funding for the GoSS/SPLA would preclude the ability to deliver necessary defense transformation services specifically cited for implementation in the United States Government Sudan Strategy, which highlights those areas of national interest of the United States. Sanctions would affect the expenditure of \$300,000 in IMET funding currently allocated for the GoSS/SPLA, which is critical to training current and future military leaders in Southern Sudan. In FY 2009, PKO funded \$1.5 million in security sector reform.

Sanctions would also affect programs aimed at addressing encouraging broad economic development in southern Sudan and supporting efforts towards peace in Darfur. These programs contribute to a better environment for good governance while increasing the availability of social services and strengthening nascent democratic policies and institutions.

Syria

The Government of Syria does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Syria. The President has also determined that provision of funding for educational and cultural exchange programs would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Syria made few significant efforts to address its human trafficking problem since the release of the June Trafficking in Persons Report. There was little progress in passing and enacting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law drafted in 2006. The government made no visible efforts to increase identification of trafficking victims, prosecutions of trafficking offenses, or raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking. An informal referral policy, however, has recently succeeded in transferring a small number of trafficking victims from criminal detention

facilities to a shelter operating in a government-owned building. In April 2009, however, the Syrian Government ratified the 2000 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Since the release of the June Report, the Syrian Government made initial steps toward direct engagement with the United States Government on human trafficking issues.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as the continuation of existing educational and cultural exchanges will promote greater understanding of the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Syria is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for participation by government officials and employees in educational and cultural exchange programs.

Zimbabwe

The Government of Zimbabwe does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Zimbabwe. The President has also determined that provision of funding for programs to support the promotion of health, good governance, education, agriculture, poverty reduction, livelihoods, or family planning would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: In June 2009, the State Department began working with the Government of Zimbabwe on an action plan that outlined steps to combat trafficking. Since that time, Zimbabwe has failed to increase efforts to prosecute, convict, and punish trafficking offenders; formalize procedures for interviewing trafficking victims and transferring them to the care of NGOs; or launch a broad anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaign. Furthermore, members of security forces of local populations have not ceased using local populations for forced diamond mining. Since the release of the June 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report, however, officials in the Prime Minister's Office, the Parliament, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice agreed that enacting anti-trafficking legislation is important for Zimbabwe. The Prime Minister's office took up the issue and began consulting with stakeholders with an eye toward drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill. In August, the Zimbabwean Embassy in Angola assisted in facilitating the repatriation of Zimbabwean trafficking victims who escaped forced labor situations in Luanda.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as it will allow certain types of assistance through NGOs to promote the country's transformation from repression and poverty to a government which respects democratic freedoms and seeks to meet the needs of its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Zimbabwe is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, failure to repay debts owed to the United States [Section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act and section 7012 (the "Brooke amendment") of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Act, 2009 (Div. H, P.L. 111-8)]. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for programs to support the good governance, health, agricultural, family planning, poverty reduction, livelihoods, private sector competitiveness, and educational sectors. The fragile transition government's ability to provide social services is weak, thereby contributing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economy Recovery Act, signed into law in 2001, and provisions in subsequent appropriations acts, restrict the ability of the United States to cast its vote in support of assistance to Zimbabwe at the international financial institutions, except for programs that meet basic human needs or promote democracy. These restrictions can be waived upon fulfillment of certain conditions, including restoration of the rule of law, respect for ownership and title to property, and freedom of speech and association.

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Cyprus Mail

Internet Edition

Cyprus Mail

September 2, 2009 Wednesday

'Prostitution in Cyprus is a theoretical position'

BYLINE: Alexia Saoulli**LENGTH:** 816 words

A DEFENCE lawyer with a reputation for courtroom theatrics yesterday stunned his audience when he said the existence of prostitution in Cyprus was only theoretical. Specifically Nassos Panayiotou said "prostitution in Cyprus is a theoretical position of which the burden of proof lies in court".

People sitting in the courtroom, including members of an international watchdog on human trafficking for sexual exploitation and lawyers for the state prosecutor's office, exchanged uncomfortable glances, while several tried to stifle mortified smirks.

The comment was made during Panayiotou's cross-examination of Katerina Papachristodoulou, Head of Nicosia's District Civil Registry and Migration Office.

Papachristodoulou had been called to testify by the prosecution in the ongoing human trafficking and prostitution trial at Nicosia's Assize Court.

During her testimony Papachristodoulou outlined how cabaret owners had secured entry permits and work contracts for their female, third country employees - known as artistes - pre February 2009. The law was changed earlier this year after the Republic of Cyprus was repeatedly accused of turning a blind eye to human trafficking.

Panayiotou's point was included as part of his introduction, where he also referred to Cyprus as an "obedient child" which bowed down to the likes of the United States. The latter remark was made with reference to the US State Department's 2006 annual report on **human trafficking** when Cyprus was placed on the **Tier 2 'watch list'**.

During cross-examination Papachristodoulou made it clear that her department merely processed applications to employ cabaret artistes. She said complaints from artistes regarding their work conditions were investigated by police during routine inspections of cabarets.

"Complaints are not filed with us," she said.

Papachristodoulou said she personally had no contact with cabaret agents, owners or managers unless they specifically asked to meet with her. She said applications were processed in line with whoever was licensed to operate the cabaret and as long as all legal requirements were met, including the validity of the premises' operation, liquor and loudspeaker licenses.

She also said women employed at cabarets had to attach medical certificates to their entry permit applications including test results for HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and tuberculosis. Within seven days of arriving in Cyprus the women had to undergo the tests again at a state hospital, she said.

During cross-examination Papachristodoulou turned down the option of remaining seated, choosing instead to stand in the witness box. With her jet black bob and power suit, she looked every inch the department head and refused to be bullied when pushed by the defence team as she answered each question in her distinctive throaty voice. At one point Papachristodoulou even asked Panayiotou why he had looked away when she was speaking to him. This was a far cry from the intimidated, alleged victims of sexual exploitation the defence lawyer had cross-examined earlier on in the trial.

Papachristodoulou said third country nationals were supposed to have their terms of employment explained to them before they came to Cyprus.

"But I can't know what they tell them or don't tell them. If they give them (pamphlets in their mother tongue outlining their job description) or not, or how they explain it to them or if they do," she said.

With respect to the Dominican Republic she said the Honorary Consulate for the Republic of Cyprus in the Dominican Republic had no authority to issue entry permits for cabaret artistes and that it had to come from Cyprus' nearest Embassy which was in Mexico.

Papachristodoulou repeatedly told the defence team their questions regarding what procedures were carried out in the women's country of origin and later in Cyprus with respect to prostitution allegations had nothing to do with her department but with the Foreign and Justice Ministries.

She said she could not know whether procedure was followed and whether the women were fully briefed on their rights because she was not present.

Almost losing her temper, when for the umpteenth time she was asked whether immigration police followed procedure, she said: "Why should I know? Why should I know? How should I know what is asked as part of the investigation?"

Papachristodoulou was the 12th prosecution witness in what looks set to be a lengthy trial after five women from the Dominican Republic filed complaints against a downtown Nicosia cabaret that they were victims of human trafficking and forced into prostitution.

The accused are five Greek Cypriot men and a 26-year-old cabaret artiste from the Dominican Republic. The men are a 55-year-old cabaret manager, three cabaret waiters aged 66, 62 and 53, and a 55-year-old cabaret artiste agent. If convicted they face a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment.

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JOURNAL-CODE: 70

287 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

September 1, 2009 Tuesday

Negros is 'hot spot' for human trafficking:NGO launches Step UP campaign, a preventive program to curb problem among youth sector in province

BYLINE: By Ma. Ester L. Espina, Correspondent

LENGTH: 535 words

Negros Occidental joins the list of provinces on the **watch lists** of groups working to fight **human trafficking** and worse, has become not just a source of persons being trafficked in various forms of human slavery, but as another "destination."

Visayan Forum Foundation executive director, Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda said that their rescue and monitoring operation has indicated that the problem has now been categorized as the third-largest underground business and a \$30-million industry.

"This is not anymore a simple migration problem but we have been seeing more and more of these trafficked victims sold and resold many times over," she added.

She said several residents hailing from Negros Occidental and Bacolod City have fallen victims to human trafficking "many of them ending up in the prostitution trade."

Oebanda, a native of Negros and was formerly a rebel commander at the height of the insurgency said many of those they have rescued and interviewed come from the CHICKS area in southern Negros and from Banago in Bacolod.

"Worse, and the local government should know this, the province is not only a hotspot for source of trafficked persons but has become a destination," citing that they have monitored night entertainment centers whose workers are mostly from other regions in the Visayas, said Oebanda.

Oebanda was in Bacolod recently for the launching of the STEP UP project that will be implemented locally by the Negros Ecological and Development Foundation (NEDF) in cooperation with Microsoft as a "preventive program" against human trafficking.

STEP UP, which means Stop Trafficking and Exploitation of People through Unlimited Potential, provides information technology and life skills to potential victims of human trafficking.

NEDF executive director, Roseo Depra, said they have established a STEP UP Learning Center in Barangay Handumanan which she said has been also cited as one of the major areas in Bacolod where recruiters would operate in to entice young boys and girls with hopes of employment in Manila and abroad but "unfortunately they end up in prostitution dens."

For their first batch of STEP UP scholars, NEDF screened and chose 20 out-of-school youth residents in the area who will undergo a three-month program, which includes matching employment after graduation. In the next three years, Depra said they hope to see more than a thousand youth gainfully employed and helping in the anti-human trafficking advocacy work.

She recounted the tale of a 14-year-old girl from Samar who was recruited for domestic work in Manila but ended up in a prostitution den where she found 100 more girls like her in the flesh trade.

Oebanda said that while their early years focused mostly on rescue operations and legal cases against "head-hunters," they have shifted direction toward prevention through a community-based program.

She acknowledged that the problem stems from economics and the promise of money which is why more and more of the younger set fall into the trap.

"We need to create a counter-move against this culture of deception and we hope that through STEP UP, we will be able to prevent thousands of youth fall victim to human traffickers," she added.

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Global News Bites

288 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

August 27, 2009 Thursday 12:31 PM GMT

US to Malaysia: Stop human trafficking quickly

BYLINE: By EILEEN NG, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 441 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

The United States welcomes Malaysia's crackdown on **human trafficking**, but wants to see "results rather than rhetoric" before it can remove the Southeast Asian country from a **blacklist**, a senior official said Thursday.

Several alleged traffickers, including government officials colluding with them, have been arrested and charged in recent weeks after Malaysia was labeled one of the world's worst offenders in a U.S. State Department report released in June.

The prosecutions were "heartening," Luis CdeBaca, a top State Department official, told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Malaysia where he met with government officials and aid groups.

But "we are looking for sustainability. We want to make sure that cases are brought (to court) not simply in the interim period," he said.

CdeBaca was appointed in May to head the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which coordinates U.S. government activities in the global fight against human trafficking.

"We are looking at results rather than rhetoric," he said. "We are heartened by the tone and desire of the (Malaysian) government to achieve results but in terms of having tangible results that is something we have to continue to discuss."

The U.S. report said Malaysia is a destination and source for women and children trafficked for the purpose of prostitution, and men, women and children used for forced labor. Many of the victims were brought from Myanmar.

CdeBaca said Washington wants to see sustained investigations and prosecutions throughout the year before making its final decision on whether to remove Malaysia from the list in its 2010 report.

This was the third time Malaysia has been singled out for its record on human trafficking. It was first included in the State Department blacklist in 2001 and again in 2007, but was removed last year. Fifty-one other countries are also on the list.

If a country appears on the list for two consecutive years, it can be subject to U.S. sanctions.

CdeBaca said a team of American experts comprising an experienced federal prosecutor, FBI personnel and a victims' specialist will travel to Malaysia in October to help train Malaysian counterparts in enforcement.

He also urged the Malaysian government to work together with NGOs in what he said was a fight against "modern slavery."

Malaysia's Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein has said the government will do "whatever it takes" to stop the problem, but noted there were many hurdles including a porous border with Thailand.

Activists estimate that hundreds of thousands of people from Myanmar live illegally in Malaysia in addition to 140,000 legal Myanmar migrant workers.

2019

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289 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 27, 2009 Thursday

Nigerian authorities rescue 3600 victims of human trafficking

LENGTH: 453 words

Text of report by Nigerian newspaper This Day website on 27 August

Executive Secretary, National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), Mr Simon Egede, yesterday in Kaduna, said the agency has so far rescued about 3,600 victims from human traffickers, with 60 convictions gotten, while 50 cases are pending in different courts across Nigeria.

Speaking at a three-day workshop to facilitate sectoral implementation of the National Plan of Action by members of the National Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, Egede said the victims would have ended up in dehumanising enslavement in Europe and other countries, or die in the process of being taken outside the country.

He said the recent elevation of Nigeria from **Tier** One to **Tier** Two status in the global rating of the United States Department of State 2009 Annual Global Trafficking Report, has further placed more need on the country to fight **human trafficking**, as global searchlight is now beamed on Nigeria to justify her elevation.

He however, said all the rescued victims have been trained to start new businesses, while others have been put in school and their school fees paid by the agency, adding that it became necessary to empower victims because traffickers target the poor and vulnerable, especially those who are not employed.

While appealing to the general public to help the agency with any useful information on any suspected case of human trafficking, Egede said, in addition to the six zonal offices that NAPTIP has, it has also been collaborating with the police and Immigration Services, so as to help to properly police the country's borders against traffickers.

He said the goals of the Action Plan, which was approved by the Federal Executive Council last year, apart from streamlining stakeholder's activities include, rationalising and coordinating available resources and acting as a broad-based action for all stakeholders.

He said it also includes seeking to prioritise activities of the agency with limited resources, with a view to achieving success in the fight against human traffickers in Nigeria. Representatives of the Finish government, Norway, Spain, Netherland, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy and the United States who were all in attendance, promised to unite and collaborate against human traffickers. UNICEF Representative, Dr Sharon Oladiji, said unless the fight against traffickers is coordinated and backed by international support, no significant success will be recorded. She said necessary political will must be included to forcefully address the "phenomenon, which preys primarily on the most vulnerable women, children, the poorest and the least educated."

Source: This Day website, Lagos, in English 27 Aug 09

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290 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Right Vision News

August 27, 2009 Thursday

Pakistan blasts US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 920 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 27 -- The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday came hard on the State Department for having an 'unrealistic view' of the ground realities of Pakistan and said downgrading Pakistan in the field of **human trafficking** by Washington was unfair and based on inconclusive evidence obtained by the American Embassy in Islamabad. Reacting to the State Department's recent annual report for 2009 on **human trafficking** that downgraded Pakistan to the **Tier-II Watch List** as reported by media on Thursday, the FIA, without being diplomatic or too shy to confront the otherwise most powerful State Department, said, 'The report of the US State Department does not mention its sources of information which, to say the least, has an unrealistic view of the ground realities of Pakistan's society and the capacity of its state institutions to deal with deep-rooted social and cultural issues.' It added, 'Downgrading Pakistan to **Tier-II Watch List** was rather unfair on the basis of inconclusive evidence or material acquired by the US Embassy.' The FIA, which is the top official body to check **human trafficking**, expressed its surprise over the State Department's findings, which show Afghanistan better than Pakistan although India stays on **Tier-II Watch List** along with Pakistan. 'If not anything, some excellent efforts made by the FIA and other state institutions during 2008 have unfortunately been ignored,' the FIA rejoinder to this correspondent said. The FIA admitted that although the State Department report raised some core inadequacies of our society and governance, it did not throw enough light on some important points that should have been considered in November 2008 before preparation of the TIP Report released by the State Department in June 2009 such as: i) Should the non-availability of data ignore the progress on ground? ii) Whether the US Embassy asked the FIA for this data? iii) Did the US embassy officials tap the multiple sources to check/verify the progress being made in this regard? iv) How was the data on convictions and complicity of government officers reflected in the report acquired by the US Embassy? The FIA is shocked how Pakistan can be downgraded when it actually performed well compared to the past years. 'Downgrading Pakistan to the **Tier-II Watch List** for performance in 2008, however, should be seen in comparison to its performance in 2007 when Pakistan was not in the **Watch List** category.' Giving details of its improved performance during the year assessed, the FIA said: a) The number of passengers offloaded by the FIA on the basis of forged documents had increased from 518 in 2007 to 572 in 2008 while the passengers deported by other countries because of forged documents reduced from 174 in 2007 to 108 in 2008; b) Though the number of convictions reduced under the **human trafficking** law in 2008, this must be viewed against the backdrop of the black coat revolution during 2008. However, the quality of convictions registered substantial improvement and human smugglers were convicted even up to 10 years, which was not the case in earlier years; c) The creation of Inter-Agency Task Force in 2005 was a landmark decision of the government in the direction of reducing illegal cross-border movement between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. It performed an excellent job of arresting 10,703 persons in 2007 attempting to cross the international border illegally but these interceptions reduced to 8,543 in 2008 due to the peculiar security circumstances of Balochistan. Sharing the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency for the first eight months of 2009, the FIA said it clearly highlights an improvement over the corresponding period of the last year. These details include the number of persons offloaded on account of forged/suspected travel documents by various immigration check-posts of the country is 487 compared to 365 of the previous year; likewise, the deportees received from other countries on account of forged documents, is only 49 in comparison to 77 of the last year; the greater number of offloaded persons due to suspected travel documents and lesser number of deportees received back on account of suspected documents clearly substantiates improved vigilance of immigration check-posts; out of 69 Most Wanted Traffickers in the Red Book, the FIA has already arrested 12 this year and is vigorously pursuing early arrest of others; the FIA is improving the capacity of its Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs) across the country: both in terms of its physical resources and training of its personnel. As many as 278 officers of various ranks have been put through improved training courses

in 2009; a focal group has been constituted at the FIA headquarters to coordinate, monitor and improve the performance of various stakeholders which includes provincial/federal law-enforcement agencies, NGOs, international agencies and other stakeholders like the foreign governments, etc.; An Immigration Intelligence Unit has been raised in the FIA to gather information about networks operating locally and internationally in the field of human trafficking; an awareness campaign with the help of print/tele media, IGOs/NGOs and the local provincial governments has been planned in about 20 districts of the country which are most affected areas of potential illegal immigrants. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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291 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

August 27, 2009 Thursday 12:31 PM GMT

US to Malaysia: Stop human trafficking quickly

BYLINE: By EILEEN NG, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 441 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

The United States welcomes Malaysia's crackdown on **human trafficking**, but wants to see "results rather than rhetoric" before it can remove the Southeast Asian country from a **blacklist**, a senior official said Thursday.

Several alleged traffickers, including government officials colluding with them, have been arrested and charged in recent weeks after Malaysia was labeled one of the world's worst offenders in a U.S. State Department report released in June.

The prosecutions were "heartening," Luis CdeBaca, a top State Department official, told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Malaysia where he met with government officials and aid groups.

But "we are looking for sustainability. We want to make sure that cases are brought (to court) not simply in the interim period," he said.

CdeBaca was appointed in May to head the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which coordinates U.S. government activities in the global fight against human trafficking.

"We are looking at results rather than rhetoric," he said. "We are heartened by the tone and desire of the (Malaysian) government to achieve results but in terms of having tangible results that is something we have to continue to discuss."

The U.S. report said Malaysia is a destination and source for women and children trafficked for the purpose of prostitution, and men, women and children used for forced labor. Many of the victims were brought from Myanmar.

CdeBaca said Washington wants to see sustained investigations and prosecutions throughout the year before making its final decision on whether to remove Malaysia from the list in its 2010 report.

This was the third time Malaysia has been singled out for its record on human trafficking. It was first included in the State Department blacklist in 2001 and again in 2007, but was removed last year. Fifty-one other countries are also on the list.

If a country appears on the list for two consecutive years, it can be subject to U.S. sanctions.

CdeBaca said a team of American experts comprising an experienced federal prosecutor, FBI personnel and a victims' specialist will travel to Malaysia in October to help train Malaysian counterparts in enforcement.

He also urged the Malaysian government to work together with NGOs in what he said was a fight against "modern slavery."

Malaysia's Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein has said the government will do "whatever it takes" to stop the problem, but noted there were many hurdles including a porous border with Thailand.

Activists estimate that hundreds of thousands of people from Myanmar live illegally in Malaysia in addition to 140,000 legal Myanmar migrant workers.

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292 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

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293 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

August 16, 2009 Sunday

Mo. RICO charges a 1st for human trafficking case

BYLINE: By BILL DRAPER, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: BUSINESS NEWS

LENGTH: 883 words

DATELINE: KANSAS CITY, Mo.

From a nondescript brick building a few blocks from the bright lights of Westport, Kansas City's oldest entertainment district, Giant Labor Solutions lured hundreds of foreigners to the city with promises of good jobs and a chance to live the American dream.

But from 2001 until this spring, Giant Labor and two other metro-area companies turned the workers into slaves, fanning them out to housekeeping jobs in hotels and other businesses in 14 states while forcing them to live, sometimes eight at a time, in small apartments for which they were charged exorbitant rent, federal authorities allege. Most of the workers were in the country illegally and were threatened with deportation.

In a 45-count indictment handed down in May, the U.S. attorney's office accuses eight Uzbekistan nationals and four others in the largest human trafficking case ever prosecuted in the city. Authorities say it is the first time a human trafficking ring has been charged under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the federal statute most often associated with mafia cases.

It's also the first time the charge of fraud in foreign labor contracting has been used since it was added last year to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which in 2000 became the first comprehensive federal law for prosecution of traffickers.

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Blakey said RICO was amended in 1995 to include provisions dealing specifically with modern slavery, but he's not surprised it took 14 years for someone to use the law in a human trafficking case.

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The workers, who were mainly from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Philippines, paid thousands of dollars often taking out loans in their home countries for Giant Labor to bring them to the U.S. and get them temporary visas, authorities said. But once they arrived, the workers were stuck in small, sparsely furnished apartments, had no access to their mail and were charged so many fees that they were sometimes told on payday they owed the company money.

Prosecutors said the workers became trapped because they couldn't afford to leave.

Askarkhodjaev's attorney, Willie Epps Jr., said his client denies that his companies were involved in human trafficking.

"The government's assertion of modern-day slavery is inaccurate and offensive," Epps told The Associated Press in a statement. "Abror Askarkhodjaev has pleaded not guilty to the charges and intends to proceed to trial."

The maximum sentence for racketeering is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine; many of the other charges in the indictment carry similar penalties.

The 13 other defendants held positions with Giant Labor or the other companies, several of which had addresses at UPS stores in Missouri and Kansas. At least two businesses were operated out of apartments, the indictment said.

Giant Labor, Crystal Management Inc. and Five Star Cleaning applied for more than 1,000 fraudulent work visas without being required to identify who would be using them, prosecutors said.

Once the visas were approved and the workers arrived in Kansas City, Giant Labor used them to fill labor contracts in Missouri, Kansas, Arizona, California, Florida and eight other states.

Eight of the suspects have been arrested, while the others are believed to have fled the country. No trial date has been set.

Acting U.S. Attorney Matt Whitworth said the government began focusing on **human trafficking** during the Bush administration with passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Under President Barack Obama, who in June expanded the U.S. **watchlist** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, efforts to fight trafficking are being ratcheted up even more.

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294 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Financial Wire

August 16, 2009 Sunday 8:11 PM GMT

Mo. RICO charges a 1st for human trafficking case

BYLINE: By BILL DRAPER, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: BUSINESS NEWS

LENGTH: 883 words

DATELINE: KANSAS CITY Mo.

From a nondescript brick building a few blocks from the bright lights of Westport, Kansas City's oldest entertainment district, Giant Labor Solutions lured hundreds of foreigners to the city with promises of good jobs and a chance to live the American dream.

But from 2001 until this spring, Giant Labor and two other metro-area companies turned the workers into slaves, fanning them out to housekeeping jobs in hotels and other businesses in 14 states while forcing them to live, sometimes eight at a time, in small apartments for which they were charged exorbitant rent, federal authorities allege. Most of the workers were in the country illegally and were threatened with deportation.

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296 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

August 16, 2009 Sunday 8:08 PM GMT

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BYLINE: By BILL DRAPER, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

LENGTH: 964 words

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"RICO was passed in 1970, but it was almost 1980 before any prosecutions showed up under it," Blakey said. "I thought at the time it was outrageous. I've come to realize that getting the federal government to do anything is like trying to turn an aircraft carrier: You don't do it on a dime."

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Once the visas were approved and the workers arrived in Kansas City, Giant Labor used them to fill labor contracts in Missouri, Kansas, Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, South Carolina and Wyoming.

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Acting U.S. Attorney Matt Whitworth said the government began focusing on human trafficking during the Bush administration with passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The law also allows victims to become temporary U.S. residents and eligible for permanent residency after three years.

Under President Barack Obama, who in June expanded the U.S. **watchlist** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, efforts to fight trafficking are being ratcheted up even more.

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297 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 13, 2009 Thursday 10:34 PM EST

EXAMPLES OF OFFICE TO MONITOR, COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS-FUNDED PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 1408 words

WASHINGTON, June 15 -- The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following fact sheet:

AFRICA

Burundi (Tier 2 Watch List) To address concerns about the lack of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will provide technical assistance for the Ministry of Justice in Burundi to draft TIP legislation that is in alignment with international standards. UNODC will also conduct training for Burundi law enforcement, criminal justice, and judicial agencies to improve their identification of TIP victims and the investigation and prosecution of TIP offenses.

Djibouti (Tier 2 Watch List) The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training will arrange a six-month assignment for a U.S. prosecutor to consult with, mentor, and train prosecutors, investigators, and judges in Djibouti on how to prosecute trafficking cases effectively.

Ghana (Tier 2 Watch List) The Legal Resource Center (LRC) is a Ghanaian NGO with expertise in human rights and **trafficking in persons**. The LRC will work with the Government of Ghana to improve current anti-trafficking laws. LRC will also provide TIP training to criminal justice officials and assist the Shelter Project of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to develop comprehensive guidelines and procedures for handling victims of trafficking.

Sierra Leone (Tier 2) The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) in Freetown is enhancing the quality of treatment for victims of **human trafficking** by providing psychological counseling to TIP victims. This model project focuses on victim recovery from psychological trauma and will train local Psychosocial Counselors and Clinical Training Supervisors who will continue to provide direct services to survivors after the project has ended.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Indonesia (Tier 2) The International Organization for Migration Recovery Center at the Indonesia National Police Hospital provides comprehensive medical, psychological, and reintegration services to Indonesian citizens who are repatriated after becoming victims of **human trafficking** in Asia and the Middle East. The Center receives key resources from the Government of Indonesia that contribute to the continuation of these critical services for Indonesian victims.

Cambodia (Tier 2 Watch List) AFESIP, founded by antihuman trafficking leader Somaly Mam, provides rehabilitation and reintegration services at three residential centers in Cambodia. This year AFESIP will add additional professional staff to ensure that victims have access to comprehensive services, including medical and psychological treatment. World Hope International operates the residential Assessment Center for short-term care of trafficked and sexually exploited girls. This unique multidisciplinary diagnostic and treatment center facilitates victims' recovery, safe participation in legal proceedings against their traffickers, and coordinates long-term placement for victims.

Philippines (Tier 2 Watch List) To support prosecutorial efforts to hold traffickers accountable, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training will arrange for a U.S. prosecutor and a victim/witness coordinator to work in the Philippines with prosecutors who handle TIP cases. The DOJ prosecutor will spend four months in the country and will conduct training and facilitate enhanced prosecutor-police cooperation. The training will focus on relevant TIP statutes, legal advocacy skills, and victim assistance and protection.

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Moldova (Tier 2 Watch List) Winrock International is working in Transnistria to build the capacity of local NGOs to identify and assist TIP victims and provide them with economic opportunities, and legal assistance, and psychological support. This project is the first of its kind in the region and is designed to bring needed expertise to a previously underserved area. Winrock will establish Mobile Training Teams that will reach health, education, and law enforcement professionals and give them the skills necessary to sustain services.

NEAR EAST

Iraq (Tier 2 Watch List) The Protection Project (TPP) at Johns Hopkins University is assisting the Iraqi government with anti-trafficking legislation and working to raise general awareness of TIP in Iraq technical by training representatives of Iraqi civil society organizations. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights will enhance protection of Iraqi sex trafficking victims in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria by working with law enforcement, human rights groups, and women's organizations to create a protection network and train key organizations in identification of victims and basic victim care.

Lebanon (Tier 2 Watch List) In Lebanon, the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) are working cooperatively to identify and assist TIP victims detained in the government-run migrant facility. Caritas staff is housed within the facility and are able to interview and assess each migrant. TIP victims who are identified are then transferred to the Caritas/ICMC Safe House where they receive comprehensive services. Caritas will also conduct training for government officials on identification of trafficking victims, as well as victim-centered interviewing techniques, thus working toward sustainability of victim protection services in the government facility.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan (Tier 2) In Afghanistan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is building the capacity of local NGOs to more effectively address TIP while concurrently increasing the capacity of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases. IOM will provide support, technical assistance and training to local NGO's to improve victim identification and referral mechanisms, as well as data collection, management and reporting of TIP cases. Training for government officials will target police officers, judges, and prosecutors in an effort to increase the number of trafficking cases that are investigated and prosecuted.

India (Tier 2 Watch List) The International Justice Mission (IJM) is working with government authorities to free victims of debt bondage and help them secure rehabilitation payments and vital social services. IJM uses a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach that focuses on victim relief, perpetrator accountability, victim aftercare, and structural prevention as the basis for activities to secure the release of children, women, and men from slavery and to develop care that is tailored to their needs. IJM plans to build on a landmark case, in which a perpetrator who held six young men as slaves in a sweets shop and factory was sentenced to one year in jail.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Argentina (**Tier 2 Watch List**) Three complementary projects address **human trafficking** in Argentina. Maria de los Angeles Foundation will develop and train special police units to investigate TIP cases in selected provinces. Unidos por la Justicia will enhance the efficiency of the prosecution of crimes related to human trafficking through the integrated training of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials. Their training will include a focus on courtroom management techniques, particularly with regards to interviewing and securing testimony from child victims, as well as how to protect victims from re-victimization. IOM will strengthen counter-trafficking networks in the Tri-Border Area (TBA) in the Southern Cone of South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay). IOM will provide medical, psychological, legal, and job training assistance to victims and will work to increase coordination and improve cooperation between key judicial actors.

Dominican Republic (**Tier 2 Watch List**) IOM will work with Government of the Dominican Republic to strengthen its response to **human trafficking** by conducting training for the Attorney General's office and the judiciary. The training will focus on investigation and prosecution techniques, enforcement of existing legislation, and strategies for victim identification and protection. IOM will help to establish a shelter and provide technical assistance in shelter management and comprehensive services for TIP victims. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyn-dication@hindustantimes.com

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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298 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 9, 2009 Sunday

Taiwan broke up human-trafficking ring

LENGTH: 422 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese newspaper Taipei Times website on 9 August

[Unattributed article from the "Taiwan" page: "Criminal Investigation Bureau Busts Smugglers"]

The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) yesterday said it had broken up a human-trafficking ring that used the passports of Taiwanese Aboriginal children to smuggle Chinese minors into France.

In June, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) made a similar breakthrough involving another group that used the same method to traffic Chinese youths to the US.

The CIB yesterday said it received a tip that a man surnamed Liao and the criminal group he headed had successfully smuggled Chinese minors to the US several times.

After the US strengthened its visa application policy last month by requiring that all persons under the age of 14 go to the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) for a face-to-face visa interview, the group shifted its operations to France, the bureau said.

The CIB said the traffickers would pay anywhere between \$5NT,000 to \$10NT,000 for the personal information of Aboriginal children in Hualien and would then use the documents to apply for authentic Republic of China (ROC) passports and foreign visas.

Currently, the Bureau of Consular Affairs does not require people to apply for a passport in person.

After obtaining an ROC passport and a visa to a third country, the traffickers would bring the travel documents to Hong Kong to meet up with Chinese counterparts who brought minors from China. Together, the children and their escorts would fly to either the US, France, Mexico or other countries from Hong Kong using the passports.

The CIB said the crime syndicates had bought the personal information of 45 Aboriginal children and trafficked 37 Chinese minors to the US and other countries.

The crime ring earns \$70US,000 for each child it smuggles. The CIB estimated that Liao's group had made a profit of more than \$80NT million (\$2US.4 million).

Together with Hualien police, the CIB arrested members of the group at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport on Thursday. Police also found the members had a large quantity of fraudulent passports and counterfeit NIA immigration custom stamps.

The 2009 annual **Trafficking in Persons** report published in June by the US Department of Homeland Security said that Taiwan remained a **Tier 2** country.

Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan all received the same ranking, while China has stayed on the Tier 2 watch list for five years running.

Source: Taipei Times website, Taipei, in English 9 Aug 09

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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299 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

August 8, 2009 Saturday

OFWs trafficked to Bahamas

BYLINE: By Llanesca T. Pantì**LENGTH:** 371 words

Manila-based recruiters are trafficking aspiring Filipino migrant workers to Bahamas, the Department of Foreign Affairs warned Friday.

Citing reports from the Philippine Embassy in Havana, the Foreign Affairs department said that officers of the Filipino Association in the Bahamas alerted the Manila's embassy there of human trafficking operations led by a certain Leonid "Ned" Pascual.

Pascual's group, which includes Pascuala "Peachy" Ramos, reportedly attempted to bring in seven Filipinos disguised as tourists to the Bahamas via Havana, the capital city of Cuba. They have been using the same modus operandi since 2008.

Cuban authorities learned of the two attempts made in July 2008 and April 2009 wherein the victims were left stranded in Havana.

Pascual, according to the Foreign Affairs department, has been implicated in previous cases of **human trafficking** and is currently on Cuba's immigration **blacklist**.

The Bahamian Embassy in Havana has vowed to turn down visa applications of suspicious applicants, while Cuban immigration authorities have indicated that they will apprehend and incarcerate anyone who violated their laws.

"The Philippine Embassy urges Filipino jobseekers not to deal with Pascual, and instead report him and his cohorts, to police authorities," the department said in its advisory, adding that the National Bureau of Investigation and the Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment headed by Vice President Noli de Castro are also conducting an investigation on the matter.

In the 2009 US Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report for the Philippines released last week, Manila was put on **Tier 2 Watch List** status.

As a result, the Philippines ranked one notch worst after being in the **Tier 2** status for the last three years, during which the country failed to meet the minimum standards to eradicate trafficking despite significant efforts to do so. Countries on the **Tier 1** status show considerable success in stopping **trafficking in persons**, while the **Tier 3** group includes countries that do not implement considerable measures to breach the minimum target.

Such an assessment could prompt the United States to withhold non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance.

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

300 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

August 7, 2009 Friday

Human trafficking

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. 15

LENGTH: 399 words

HUMAN TRAFFICKING for sexual exploitation is a modern form of slavery where women and girls from the world's poorest regions are coerced and exploited for profit in the more affluent parts of the world – including Ireland. The trafficked women are taken across national borders and forced to engage in prostitution. As a result, they face multiple hazards, including those of arrest, detention and deportation as illegal immigrants.

Meanwhile, those who organise and greatly profit from this lucrative criminal trade in humans are rarely charged. To date none has been successfully prosecuted in the courts for trafficking.

Ireland's record in tackling this area of human rights abuse remains unimpressive. In June, the annual US state department report on human trafficking, which presents a global review of how 170 countries are handling the problem, concluded the Government had failed to meet the minimum standards necessary to eliminate trafficking. The report, while acknowledging Ireland's performance had improved, found no evidence that trafficking offenders were prosecuted or convicted during the reporting period. Gardaí are investigating some 65 cases of suspected **human trafficking** but for a second year in succession, the report placed Ireland in the second of three performance **tiers**, indicating a sub-standard performance on this issue.

The state department has advised that Ireland vigorously prosecute trafficking offences. It has suggested also that the Government should ensure trafficking victims are not penalised for unlawful acts – like prostitution – that they have been forced to undertake.

Its recommendation comes as other countries have introduced much stricter laws on prostitution: Norway and Sweden have outlawed the purchase of sexual services from a prostitute, while the UK plans to criminalise payment for sex with a trafficked woman and to make it a strict liability offence. Under proposed legislation, ignorance of her trafficked status would provide no defence in court.

Fine Gael spokesman on immigration and integration Denis Naughten has argued in recent days that prostitution laws here must be reviewed and changed to reflect the much tougher legal provisions applying elsewhere. For the Government, a failure to respond with urgency to this issue will almost certainly ensure that human trafficking for sexual exploitation becomes a greater problem here.

LOAD-DATE: August 7, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

301 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US State News

August 3, 2009 Monday 4:48 PM EST

U.S. EMBASSY DONATES COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, RADIOS, VEHICLE TO ASSIST RA POLICE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

LENGTH: 428 words

YEREVAN, Armenia, July 17 -- The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On July 17, 2009, the U.S. government donated computer and radio equipment and a vehicle, worth a total of over \$40,000, to the National Police Unit to Combat Trafficking-in-Persons under the Main Department Combating Organized Crime. The donation ceremony on behalf of the U.S. Embassy was attended by Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch and, on behalf of the Government of Armenia- by Chief of Police Major-General Alik Sargsyan.

Purchased by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, the equipment includes two servers, several computers and printers, six radios and a vehicle. The new equipment and the vehicle are donated to assist the Unit to Combat Trafficking-in-Persons to effectively and speedily implement operations and searches; compile, process and preserve sensitive information and databases on the trafficking cases and traffickers; as well as protect victims from potential threats during the investigation of cases. It will also contribute to effective cooperation between the Police Unit and other stakeholders (state agencies and NGOs) in implementation of the National Referral Mechanism and National Action Plans to fight trafficking-in-persons.

In the most recent U.S. Department of State **Trafficking-in-Persons** Report, Armenia was ranked in **Tier 2**, reflecting advances made by the Armenian Government, NGOs and citizens in combating modern-day slavery.

This project is only part of the U.S. Government's comprehensive law enforcement assistance program in the Republic of Armenia. The U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, through its International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section, has funded the renovation of the Police Induction Center in Kanaker and donated administrative and classroom equipment to the Police Academy of the RA. In cooperation with the Government of Armenia the Embassy successfully established a nationwide computer network for the RA Police. U.S. Government assistance in the fight against human trafficking is directed at training law enforcement personnel in investigation, prosecution and prevention of the crime, victim protection, as well as legislative instruments and international practice in the field. The U.S. Government has been funding the operations of the NGO "Hope and Help," which provides a hotline, shelter, and social, psychological and legal assistance to the victims of trafficking. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

302 of 404 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

August 2009

U.S. Department of State Publishes 2009 Tracking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Philip Mayer .

Philip Mayer has a B.A. in Government and in Literature from Claremont McKenna College. He is the Assistant Editor of the INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT LAW REPORTER.

SECTION: TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS; Pg. 322 Vol. 25 No. 8

LENGTH: 1183 words

On June 16, 2009, the United States Department of State published and released its ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) through the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. In the report, the human trafficking situations in 173 nations were described in detail. Human trafficking is defined as "obtaining or maintaining the labor or services of another through force, coercion, and, in effect, modern slavery." n2 The United Nations estimates that 12 million people are currently victims of human trafficking in virtually every nation in the world. n3 Traffickers make an estimated \$31 billion dollars in profits a year, while denying their victims an estimated \$21 billion in lost wages. n4

n2 Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador CdeBaca's Remarks at Release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report. U.S. Department of State, Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, June 16, 2009.

n3 Hillary Clinton, *Partnering Against Trafficking*, THE WASHINGTON POST, June 17, 2009.

n4 CdeBaca, *supra*.

At a press conference, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Luis CdeBaca, stated that "despite the name, the use of the word 'trafficking' seems to have the notion of movement built into it. Under both U.S. law and under the United Nations protocol, movement is not required. And so what we're really dealing with is that notion of global forced labor, global enslavement." n5 CdeBaca expressed disappointment that last year there were only 2,983 human trafficking convictions around the world. n6 This number is certainly an understatement since different nations have different classification and reporting standards.

n5 CdeBaca, *supra*.

n6 CdeBaca, *supra*.

Nations are ranked into four **tiers** according to how well they control and prosecute **human trafficking** in their nation. Tier 1 is the highest level and had 28 nations, mainly from Europe. Tier 2 had 76 nations, the Tier 2 Watch List had 52 nations, and the lowest Tier 3 had 16 nations. Starting this year, two consecutive years on the Tier 2 Watch List earns a nation an automatic demotion to the Tier 3 List.

CdeBaca mentioned how Nigeria has improved from Tier 2 Watch List in 2004, to a Tier 1 nation in 2009 "because of political will, because of talented detectives, because of a willingness to work with NGO's and actually do cases, and has seen an upward trend in their prosecutions, and has seen an improvement in how they treat victims." n7 Nigeria and Mauritius are the only African nations on the Tier 1 List.

n7 CdeBaca, *supra*.

The current global financial crisis has exacerbated the problem of human trafficking. Compared to last year, there are 30% more nations on the Tier 2 Watch List. Economically desperate people are more likely to succumb to traffickers' false promises of well paying jobs overseas. The most common form of human trafficking is "bonded labor," where a worker assumes a "debt bondage" to recruiters as part of the initial terms of employment. In recent years, bonded labor,

a traditionally rural practice, has moved to urban areas, due to development and modernization. n8 Domestic servitude is a growing form of forced labor which is particularly likely to affect women and children. Involuntary domestic servitude is often more difficult for law enforcement authorities to control since it is usually more difficult to inspect private residences than traditional workplaces. These workers can either be held within their own nation, or are often recruited from nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to work in the Gulf States, Singapore, Taiwan, Europe, and the United States. n9

n8 CdeBaca, *supra*.

n9 U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Major Forms of Trafficking in Persons, June 17, 2009.

Forced child soldiers is perhaps the least well known aspect of human trafficking. The U.N. estimates that 57 armed groups used children in some capacity. Around the world, governments, paramilitary organizations, and rebel groups recruit teenagers, as well as children as young as seven. n10 Besides the traumas of combat, children are abducted to work as cooks, guards, messengers, and spies. Young girls are forced to have sex with male soldiers. Some soldiers are forced to wage violence against their own families and communities, which often shun them when and if they return home.

n10 *Id.*

Sex trafficking is perhaps the most frequently discussed form of human trafficking. However, according to the International Labor Organization, of the 12.3 million people currently held in bondage, only 1.5 million are engaged in forced sexual servitude. n11 However, UNICEF reports that as many as two million children alone are engaged in sexual slavery. n12 Besides robbing children of their childhoods, child prostitution leaves victims susceptible to drug abuse, pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, violence, social ostracism, and death. The report also takes into account how actively a nation works to prevent its citizens from traveling abroad to engage in child sex tourism. n13

n11 *Id.*

n12 *Id.*

n13 *Id.*

The report has received its usual volley of criticism from nations unsatisfied with their rankings. The most common, and perhaps the most glaring critique of the report is that the United States itself is not ranked despite the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton does not deny that human trafficking exists in the U.S.

Venezuela, a Tier 3 nation as recently as 2007, has found itself on the Tier 2 Watch List for the second year in a row, which prompted its Foreign Relations Minister to say, "'The false accusations against our country over the course of recent years in this report on the trafficking of persons have served as a justification for a brutal aggression against our people and our government,' the Ministry stated. 'These reports are nothing other than a tool for imperial politics and aggression toward the countries in the world that develop independent policies.'" n14 The Report praises recent Venezuelan legislation to combat human trafficking, but claims that enforcement of these laws is still too weak. n15

n14 James Sugget, *Venezuela Says U.S. Report on Human Trafficking Reflects "Double Standards," Venezuelanalysis.com, June 19, 2009.*

n15 *Id.*

Malaysian authorities have adopted a much calmer attitude after being demoted to the **Tier 3** List. Malaysian Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein revealed some agreement with his nation's classification saying, "after a while, you get immune to these things." n16 He later announced that his nation "will do whatever it takes, whatever possible, but of course, there are limitations." Hishammuddin cites his nation's poverty and porous borders as the main obstacles to controlling **human trafficking**.

n16 CHINA POST, *Malaysia "Immune" to U.S. Criticism of Human Trafficking*, June 18, 2009

Clinton said that combating human trafficking has been a foreign policy priority since her husband's administration. The United States currently funds 140 anti-trafficking programs in almost 70 nations, as well as 42 domestic programs. n17

n17 Clinton, *supra*.

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2009

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303 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

July 28, 2009

Fact Sheets: Examples of Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons-Funded Programs to Address Human Trafficking

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 1421 words

Fact Sheets: Examples of Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons- Funded Programs to Address Human Trafficking

Tue, 28 Jul 2009

Examples of Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons-Funded Programs to Address Human Trafficking

Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Fact Sheet

June 15, 2009

AFRICA

Burundi (Tier 2 Watch List) To address concerns about the lack of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will provide technical assistance for the Ministry of Justice in Burundi to draft TIP legislation that is in alignment with international standards. UNODC will also conduct training for Burundi law enforcement, criminal justice, and judicial agencies to improve their identification of TIP victims and the investigation and prosecution of TIP offenses.

Djibouti (Tier 2 Watch List) The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training will arrange a six-month assignment for a U.S. prosecutor to consult with, mentor, and train prosecutors, investigators, and judges in Djibouti on how to prosecute trafficking cases effectively.

Ghana (Tier 2 Watch List) The Legal Resource Center (LRC) is a Ghanaian NGO with expertise in human rights and **trafficking in persons**. The LRC will work with the Government of Ghana to improve current anti-trafficking laws. LRC will also provide TIP training to criminal justice officials and assist the Shelter Project of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to develop comprehensive guidelines and procedures for handling victims of trafficking.

Sierra Leone (Tier 2) The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) in Freetown is enhancing the quality of treatment for victims of **human trafficking** by providing psychological counseling to TIP victims. This model project focuses on victim recovery from psychological trauma and will train local Psychosocial Counselors and Clinical Training Supervisors who will continue to provide direct services to survivors after the project has ended.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Indonesia (Tier 2) The International Organization for Migration Recovery Center at the Indonesia National Police Hospital provides comprehensive medical, psychological, and reintegration services to Indonesian citizens who are repatriated after becoming victims of **human trafficking** in Asia and the Middle East. The Center receives key resources from the Government of Indonesia that contribute to the continuation of these critical services for Indonesian victims.

Cambodia (Tier 2 Watch List) AFESIP, founded by antihuman trafficking leader Somaly Mam, provides rehabilitation and reintegration services at three residential centers in Cambodia. This year AFESIP will add additional professional staff to ensure that victims have access to comprehensive services, including medical and psychological treatment.

World Hope International operates the residential Assessment Center for short-term care of trafficked and sexually exploited girls. This unique multidisciplinary diagnostic and treatment center facilitates victims' recovery, safe participation in legal proceedings against their traffickers, and coordinates long-term placement for victims.

Philippines (Tier 2 Watch List) To support prosecutorial efforts to hold traffickers accountable, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training will arrange for a U.S. prosecutor and a victim/witness coordinator to work in the Philippines with prosecutors who handle TIP cases. The DOJ prosecutor will spend four months in the country and will conduct training and facilitate enhanced prosecutor- police cooperation. The training will focus on relevant TIP statutes, legal advocacy skills, and victim assistance and protection.

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Moldova (Tier 2 Watch List) Winrock International is working in Transnistria to build the capacity of local NGOs to identify and assist TIP victims and provide them with economic opportunities, and legal assistance, and psychological support. This project is the first of its kind in the region and is designed to bring needed expertise to a previously underserved area. Winrock will establish Mobile Training Teams that will reach health, education, and law enforcement professionals and give them the skills necessary to sustain services.

NEAR EAST

Iraq (Tier 2 Watch List) The Protection Project (TPP) at Johns Hopkins University is assisting the Iraqi government with anti-trafficking legislation and working to raise general awareness of TIP in Iraq technical by training representatives of Iraqi civil society organizations. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights will enhance protection of Iraqi sex trafficking victims in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria by working with law enforcement, human rights groups, and women's organizations to create a protection network and train key organizations in identification of victims and basic victim care.

Lebanon (Tier 2 Watch List) In Lebanon, the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) are working cooperatively to identify and assist TIP victims detained in the government- run migrant facility. Caritas staff is housed within the facility and are able to interview and assess each migrant. TIP victims who are identified are then transferred to the Caritas/ICMC Safe House where they receive comprehensive services. Caritas will also conduct training for government officials on identification of trafficking victims, as well as victim-centered interviewing techniques, thus working toward sustainability of victim protection services in the government facility.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan (Tier 2) In Afghanistan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is building the capacity of local NGOs to more effectively address TIP while concurrently increasing the capacity of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases. IOM will provide support, technical assistance and training to local NGO's to improve victim identification and referral mechanisms, as well as data collection, management and reporting of TIP cases. Training for government officials will target police officers, judges, and prosecutors in an effort to increase the number of trafficking cases that are investigated and prosecuted.

India (Tier 2 Watch List) The International Justice Mission (IJM) is working with government authorities to free victims of debt bondage and help them secure rehabilitation payments and vital social services. IJM uses a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach that focuses on victim relief, perpetrator accountability, victim aftercare, and structural prevention as the basis for activities to secure the release of children, women, and men from slavery and to develop care that is tailored to their needs. IJM plans to build on a landmark case, in which a perpetrator who held six young men as slaves in a sweets shop and factory was sentenced to one year in jail.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Argentina (**Tier 2 Watch List**) Three complementary projects address **human trafficking** in Argentina. Maria de los Angeles Foundation will develop and train special police units to investigate TIP cases in selected provinces. Unidos por la Justicia will enhance the efficiency of the prosecution of crimes related to human trafficking through the integrated training of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials. Their training will include a focus on courtroom management techniques, particularly with regards to interviewing and securing testimony from child victims, as well as how to protect victims from re-victimization. IOM will strengthen counter-trafficking networks in the Tri-Border Area (TBA) in the Southern Cone of South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay). IOM will provide medical, psycho-

logical, legal, and job training assistance to victims and will work to increase coordination and improve cooperation between key judicial actors.

Dominican Republic (**Tier 2 Watch List**) IOM will work with Government of the Dominican Republic to strengthen its response to **human trafficking** by conducting training for the Attorney General's office and the judiciary. The training will focus on investigation and prosecution techniques, enforcement of existing legislation, and strategies for victim identification and protection. IOM will help to establish a shelter and provide technical assistance in shelter management and comprehensive services for TIP victims.

LOAD-DATE: July 29, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: STD

304 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 27, 2009 Monday

Taiwan vows to boost cooperation on combating human trafficking

LENGTH: 559 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Rachel Chan]

Taipei, July 27 (CNA) - Taiwan is seeking to boost its cooperation with countries around the world and non-government organizations (NGOs) in its efforts to combat human trafficking, Minister of the Interior Liao Liou-yi said Monday.

Liao made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 2009 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking, which was held by the Ministry of the Interior with the aim of studying issues such as victim identification, protection and shelter, as well as exploring ways to work with NGOs and increasing international cooperation.

Liao noted that over the years, Taiwan has made many efforts in the field of stamping out human trafficking, including the launch of a human trafficking action programme in 2006, the establishment of a coordination unit and the enactment of a human trafficking law.

Through the workshop, Taiwan wishes to exchange views and experience with other countries on human trafficking and to establish an international cooperation network, as well as a protection mechanism, with the help of NGOs, Liao said.

Taiwan passed a human trafficking bill Jan. 12 this year that focuses on preventing the crime and imposing stiff penalties on offenders.

Promulgated June 1, the law is aimed at helping the country more effectively combat human trafficking by closing existing legal loopholes.

Robert Wang, acting director of the American Institute in Taiwan, said at the opening ceremony that the workshop is significant as it showcases the attention and care that the Taiwanese government and its people give to the issue of human trafficking.

Noting that according to United Nations statistics, at least 12 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking, Wang said the crime represents the modern version of slavery and is a public insult to human dignity, human rights and democratic values.

"Human trafficking is a universal problem that civil societies like Taiwan and the United States should not neglect, as it weakens legal economic activities, triggers violence, destroys families and hampers our sense of community and sense of justice," Wang said, adding that it will also damage education and public security and eventually affect social and economic development.

Wang said the US wants to boost cooperation with Taiwan on the existing foundations to help rescue victims, bring human traffickers to justice and hope to the next generation.

According to the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released in June by the US State Department, Taiwan, which was placed in a **Tier 2** ranking, has made some progress in combating **human trafficking** over the past year, but should do much more, including extending labour protection to all categories of workers to prevent labour trafficking.

The anti-human trafficking workshop was attended by law enforcement personnel and representatives from the US Department of Homeland Security, the Thailand Foundation for Women and a number of Taiwanese NGOs, including the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation, Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services, and the End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes - Taiwan, as well as the Rerum Novarum Centre.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 0351 gmt 27 Jul 09

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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305 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

July 27, 2009 Monday 11:39 AM TST

Taiwan vows to boost cooperation on combating human trafficking

BYLINE: Rachel Chan

LENGTH: 529 words

DATELINE: Taipei, July 27

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LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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306 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

July 23, 2009 Thursday

PHILIPPINES: LEGAL SYSTEM FALLS SHORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 815 words

DATELINE: NAIROBI, Kenya

The following information was released by IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks) of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs:

Many trafficking victims are forced into exploitive conditions, including forced marriages (file photo)

MANILA, 22 July 2009 (IRIN) - Like many Filipinos, 20-year-old Analyn dreamed of a brighter future for her family abroad, but instead of a well-paying job, she was forced to marry a man more than twice her age from South Korea to get an entry visa to that country.

Yet Analyn, whose nightmare began in December 2007, was also luckier than most. Before joining her new "husband", she had to secure a clearance certificate from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), a legal requirement for all those wishing to work abroad, and took the opportunity to report her case.

"It is always better if we can prevent them from leaving the country. But sometimes the victims don't know they are victims," Janet Ramos of the CFO Task Force Against Human Trafficking told IRIN in Manila.

Such cases are not unusual in the Philippines, which remains a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking, say specialists.

Although many Filipinos are voluntary labour migrants, many like Analyn are later coerced into exploitative conditions, including forced marriages.

Humantrafficking.org a web resource for combating human trafficking, reports that between 300,000 and 400,000 women are trafficked annually.

But despite strict laws to combat it, the country's legal system is apparently unable to prosecute such cases, allowing traffickers to work with impunity.

According to a US State Department 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released in June, "the government's ability to effectively prosecute trafficking crimes is severely limited by an inefficient judicial system and endemic corruption", with the result that it has been downgraded to **Tier 2 Watch-list** status.

This refers to countries that are making "significant efforts to comply with the [Office to Monitor and Trafficking of Persons] OMCTP standards but show no evidence that they increased their efforts compared to the previous year". A country may also be demoted to the Watch-list if the number of cases increases.

"It [the fight against human trafficking] is sustained but inadequate," the report stated.

Legal delays

NDTV report on combating human trafficking in the Philippines

Watch larger version in YouTube

The CFO is helping Analyn in her case against the traffickers but it is taking time. Since filing her case in early 2008, there have been three hearings, the last in June, all of which have been postponed or delayed for various reasons.

Analyn has been approached by the traffickers to settle the case and although she says she has no plans to give up, Ivy Miravales, her CFO handler, is worried.

"We know she has other problems. She doesn't have a job and her family is poor. We hope she'll be able to keep up the fight," she said.

To ensure a greater chance of conviction, instead of trying the case under Republic Act 9208, otherwise known as the 2003 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, which could be more difficult to prove given she escaped, the judge wants the case tried under Republic Act 6955 or the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law.

"It's supposedly hard to prove exploitation because she got away," Ramos said.

But in doing so, the disincentive for traffickers will also be diminished.

Added to that, judges often have a poor understanding of the anti-trafficking law, the US State Department said.

While the maximum sentence for traffickers under RA 9208 can be life imprisonment, under RA 6955 it is eight years.

Inefficient judicial system

Photo: International Justice Mission

Trafficking remains a source of concern for activists. Thousands of women fall victim every year

"Trials often take years to conclude because of a lack of judges and courtrooms, high turnover [of judges], and non-continuous trials, which cause some victims to withdraw their testimony," the OMCTP report charged.

Of particular concern is the need to step up the number of convictions for labour trafficking cases, it said. To date, there have been only 12 convictions under the 2003 Anti-trafficking in Persons Act - all sex trafficking offences.

However, the government says it is making headway.

According to Ferdinand Lavin, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Human Trafficking Division, there were 168 alleged cases of trafficking in 2008, a 60 percent increase over the previous year, with four convictions.

"It's not a setback. It's a warning. It's more of a challenge," Lavin told IRIN. "We will have to talk separately with law enforcement. We have to talk to courts. Courts take a long [time]. We cannot intervene."

What the government fears most is a Tier 3 assessment next year, which could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from Washington.

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

307 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

July 21, 2009 Tuesday

US humantrafficking report based on 'old info'

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 394 words

Looking at conditions in 175 countries, the ninth report put Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, Vietnam and Japan in the **Tier 2** category, which means these countries don't quite meet the international standard of observing **human trafficking** laws but were trying. Meanwhile, Cambodia, Philippines, China and North Korea were in the **Tier 2 Watch List**, which means that there are a larger number of victims or a lack of clear evidence of attempts made to curb **human trafficking**. Countries that remain in the Tier 2 Watch List for two years can be demoted to the Tier 3.

Countries in Tier 1 are those that keep up with international standards, while Tier 3 countries are those that show no attempt to tackle the issue, which means the US could suspend trade assistance as punishment or use diplomatic tools to pressure them into solving the problem. Burma and Malaysia were put on Tier 3 this year.

Despite praising Thailand for providing humantrafficking victims temporary shelters as well as launching antihuman trafficking campaigns and training programmes, the report pointed out that Thailand was the origin, transit and destination of human traffickers. This was because economic development attracted people from neighbouring countries to sneak in to work as prostitutes or cheap labour, thus putting them at the risk of exploitation, it said.

The report also said that Thailand did not inform migrant workers of their rights and had not fully implemented measures to curb human trafficking. The report said Thailand should work harder in investigating and punishing human traffickers; improve the screening of victims; guarantee that adult victims are not placed in shelters against their will; provide a mechanism that allows adult victims to work; provide migrant workers with information about their rights; and give legal assistance to victims.

"Since some information used by the US is not in line with reality, the government will explain these points to the secretary of state tomorrow," Watchara said.

Watchara made this comment after the AntiHuman Trafficking Committee, chaired by Deputy PM Sanan Kachornprasat, met yesterday. The meeting ended with the Social Development and Human Security Ministry being told to put a team together with related agencies to consider the US report's suggestions and gather points for further discussion.

e event.

LOAD-DATE: July 21, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

308 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Sudan Tribune

Sudan Tribune

July 19, 2009 Sunday

Eight Ethiopians poisoned to death in UAE

LENGTH: 512 words

By Tesfa-alem Tekle July 18, 2009 (ADDIS ABABA) - Addis Ababa has begun a probe after eight Ethiopian housemaids were reported to have been murdered under mysterious circumstances in their apartment last week in Sharjah, the third largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a source from Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated. Ethiopian authorities have contacted Ethiopia's consulate general in Dubai for details in the incident. But UAE police has declined to comment or provide details to the Ethiopian authorities for a reason that "case still under investigation."

As off-hand for facts at this moment, an Ethiopian official who requested anonymity told Sudan Tribune that Ethiopian authorities are following up the incident seriously and government will reveal details early next week. According to sources from the Ethiopian embassy in the UAE, the eight female maids had been poisoned by a compatriot maid last Wednesday. But the motive behind the killings remains unclear. The murder case was reported to the police on July 8 and later referred to forensics. While investigations are under way, arrests have been made, but an exact number could not be ascertained. The women are said to have been living together in an apartment in the Abu Shagara neighborhood. The UAE has received extensive criticism over the years from human rights and labor organizations over the conditions for foreign workers in the country. Domestic workers, which make up a significant proportion of the UAE's predominantly foreign population, have complained of sub-standard housing, lack of medical care, abuse and non-payment of wages. The International Labor Organization plans to push international standards or labor recommendations for domestic laborers in their annual conference next year. The United States recently placed the country on a **watch list** of countries with poor **human trafficking** records. Thousands of young Ethiopian women are being enticed via Djibouti, Egypt and Somalia for domestic work, to the Middle East particularly to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon with the promises of lucrative work but except few lucky ones, most of them suffer worst verbal, physical and sexual abuses. Most girls are employed in back-breaking jobs for up to 18 hours a day. Many Ethiopians have ended up killed by their employers, or commit suicide and many more return home mentally ill, partially paralyzed, insane, with broken backs and legs and others been burned with acid. Following the rise in deaths of a number of Ethiopian domestic workers, the Ethiopian government in May last year banned its citizens from attempting economic travel to Lebanon. The ban remains in effect. During the past few years, the Ethiopian government have scaled up preventive steps such as issuing proclamation for agencies to have a permit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and also a massive awareness campaign by the Ethiopian media, but the numbers flocking to the Middle East are still huge and seem to cost the government relentless efforts nationwide. (ST)

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309 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

July 18, 2009 Saturday

Move to cut down on foreign labour

BYLINE: Farrah Naz Karim

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 591 words

PUTRAJAYA: The government has introduced a five-year ceiling on foreign workers staying in the country under a move to reduce dependence on them.

The only exception to the rule are domestic maids.

This is among seven measures agreed upon yesterday by the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers and Illegal Immigrants chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said employers who needed certain category of workers, especially professionals and skilled workers, could apply for extensions on a case-by-case basis.

Speaking to reporters after a three-hour meeting here, he said the government would also review procedures and processes involved in bringing in foreign workers.

He said the government was far from happy with progress achieved in reducing dependence on foreign workers with 2.1 million registered foreign workers in the country.

There were some 630,000 foreign workers in 1997 with the figure jumping to 1.9 million in 2006.

He hoped efforts could be made to cap the number of foreign workers at 1.8 million next year.

Muhyiddin said the issuance of licences to outsourcing companies had been frozen. He said this would allow the 277 companies engaged in the sector to fulfil their responsibilities to the fullest. The companies would be monitored closely with the government ensuring they abide by regulations.

Muhyiddin said emphasis would also be placed on adherence to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

Other decisions taken were:

to continue the freeze on the intake of Bangladeshi workers;

reopening the intake of foreign workers in the electrical sector;

reopening the intake of foreign workers in the electronic, manufacturing and textile sectors;

the continued freeze on the intake of foreign workers in the service sector remains with the exception of restaurant cooks, cleaners and island resort workers; and,

implementing the strategy on reducing dependency on foreign workers so that it would not adversely affect the country's economy and industries.

He said existing outsourcing companies would also be limited to supplying manpower to the manufacturing, plantation and agriculture sectors. He added that industries were also encouraged to shift to capital-based sectors including through government capital assistance funds and tax incentives.

The decision came in the wake of calls by many quarters, including the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, which want these companies to be disbanded to improve the country's rating on the **human trafficking blacklist**.

The companies were said to have caused apprehension besides casting a negative perception of Malaysia among foreign governments, workers and their organisations.

This was because some collected high fees from the workers but provided poor or no services. Some even abandoned the workers on arrival in Malaysia.

Muhyiddin said the government was also pushing for the practice of self-service within the services sector like restaurants, petrol stations and mini markets.

He said to reduce dependency on foreign workers in the construction sector, the government was encouraging the sector to implement the industrial building system in at least 70 per cent of construction contracts.

To a question on Indonesian maids wanting to work here despite their government's move to temporarily disallow them from coming over, he said the government would not stop them from doing so.

It is understood that Indonesians intending to work as maids in the country can travel here, identify an employer and apply for a work permit within the one-month visa period granted to them.

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310 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

July 16, 2009 Thursday

Israel failing to prosecute recruiters and employers of slave labor, US report says. Ayalon: Inaction has 'direct impact on Israel's standing in the international community'

BYLINE: CARRIE SHEFFIELD**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 619 words

A US government report lumping Israel together with states like Afghanistan, Jordan and Botswana in its success in combating human trafficking has troubling political implications for Israel, Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon said Wednesday.

Ayalon addressed a Knesset subcommittee analyzing the report, released by the US State Department in June, which says Israel is making "significant efforts" but is failing to comply with US standards for preventing human trafficking.

This year's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" states that Israel is particularly lacking in its prosecution and conviction of recruiters and employers of slave labor, a problem which contributed to Israel's distinction as a "**Tier 2**" country, behind most Westernized, "**Tier 1**" countries.

"It has far-reaching political implications," Ayalon told The Jerusalem Post following the meeting of the Knesset's Committee on the Status of Women's Subcommittee on the Trafficking in Women. "It has a direct impact on Israel's standing in the international community."

Ayalon said significant problems with human trafficking for slavery and forced prostitution hamper's Israel's ability to join the United Nation's Western European and Others Group (WEOG) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

He also said the Foreign Ministry is bolstering its efforts to prevent countries - the US report specifically mentions China, Romania, Turkey and Thailand, Russia and other former Soviet bloc countries - from exporting slave labor to Israel. Israeli consular officials abroad have also received training on how to identify potential perpetrators during visa interviews.

"The goal is to eliminate this scourge once and for all," Ayalon said.

Rachel Gershuni, a Justice Ministry official who handles inter-agency coordination to fight trafficking, said the issue requires far-reaching communication between ministries including the Foreign, Interior, Industry and Trade, Labor and Social Affairs.

"This is something we need to work on," said Gershuni, who also attended the subcommittee hearing.

Gershuni pointed to the success of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in fighting human trafficking, a problem which she said runs counter to Israeli principles safeguarding human rights.

"We're not being compared with our countries, we're being compared with our potential," said Gershuni, who noted that the "Tier 1" category of countries included countries such as Germany and Holland, which have legalized prostitution.

Lynn Cassel, acting deputy political counselor at the US embassy, attended the hearing as well as a number of Israeli NGOs.

When asked why the United States chose to issue an annual report that does not include an analysis of its own actions, a US embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv said the report was not meant to be a "blame game."

"This isn't a political statement, it's trying to bring to light the situation that's on the ground," said Ruben Harutunian, deputy spokesman for the US embassy. "You can look at the same facts as blaming Israel, but you can also look at it as an acknowledgement of the significant steps that Israel is taking."

MK Orit Zuaretz (Kadima), who chairs the Knesset subcommittee, said she hoped the Knesset would issue its own report on human trafficking in Israel soon.

"For me, I refer to the report as a reflection from the outside. We can't avoid that," Zuaretz said. "We have to reflect on it ourselves ... We have very good laws against trafficking, but we have to implement those laws."

Zuaretz said she was working to gather support for legislation introduced in the previous Knesset session that would heavily prosecute those who patronize prostitution and forced labor services.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2011

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GRAPHIC: Photo: DESPITE ISRAEL'S making 'significant efforts,' a US report on combatting human trafficking still has it falling short in this area. (Credit: Courtesy)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

311 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Pak Banker

July 15, 2009 Wednesday

'Steps still needed to curb illegal migration'**LENGTH:** 526 words**DATELINE:** Karachi

Karachi, Aug. 15 -- The government of Pakistan has promulgated laws to counter the problem of illegal migration, but a lot needs to be done regarding implementation. The Director, FIA, Sindh, Zubair Mahmood, said this while speaking at a policy seminar on illegal migration, human trafficking, and smuggling, on Thursday at a local hotel. He appreciated the efforts of Basic Education For Awareness, Reforms, and Empowerment (Befare) to counter illegal migration and said that the problem existed in Pakistan in all its dimensions. He also said due internal trafficking, Pakistan had been placed in **Tier-II watch list** in 2009. He further said that every day 6,000 passengers passed through Karachi Airport and only three persons had been able to bypass the system during the last one year, which shows the commitment and resilience of the FIA. According to him, this problem is culture- and area-specific and anticipated that the FIA would achieve its set targets with the assistance of NGOs and other stakeholders. The Director, Anti-Human Smuggling, Chaudhry Mohammad Manzoor, said that **human trafficking** and smuggling had emerged as the third largest lucrative activity around the globe after drugs and weapons smuggling, to the tune of US\$10 billion per annum. He said the practice was being carried out on three main routes including Pakistan-Africa-Spain, Pakistan-Iran-Turkey-Greece and Pakistan-Oman-UAE.

He said out of the total illegal immigrants in 2008, 56 per cent went to Oman, 22 per cent to Turkey, 17 per cent to Iran, three per cent to Greece, and two per cent to other parts of the world, adding that 39 per cent of the total trafficking last year was through agents operating in Gujranwala District alone. He said that there are many cities that are prime targets of human smugglers such as Gujranwala, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Swabi, Sukkur, Buner and Larkana. Manzoor also said that it was essential to narrow down economic inequality besides identifying and neutralising the traffickers' network, adding that efforts are underway to curb human trafficking and for the purpose, the country has been divided into five zones, Punjab, Sind, NWFP, Balochistan and Islamabad (also including Rawalpindi, AJK, and Northern Areas). The Deputy-Head of Mission, Bangladesh Consulate in Karachi, Diwan Husn-e-Ayub, speaking on the occasion, said poor and deprived people were always trafficked and exploited and the exploiters make a fortune out of it. He pleaded for a special law to monitor the traffickers and smugglers as well. Dewan was straight and categorical in highlighting poverty as the primary cause of illegal human trafficking and human smuggling in Bangladesh. Mohammad Amin, Project Manager, C-PRISM said that illegal migration is one of the predicaments Pakistan was facing today. He said to control the situation, Befare had established 485 community organisations so far and trained more than 400 at the grassroots level on the issue of illegal migration, human trafficking and smuggling. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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312 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 10, 2009 Friday

South Africa; Police Warned On Duty to Women, Children

BYLINE: Business Day

LENGTH: 257 words

THE police, who will have to maintain peace and fight crime during next year's soccer World Cup, will have the added challenge of detecting and preventing sexual and labour exploitation of women and children, says US ambassador Luis CdeBaca.

CdeBaca, director of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, warned SA yesterday not to allow the problems of human trafficking to eclipse the excitement of the World Cup.

"There should be no reluctance to arrest and prosecute tourists in SA intending to sexually exploit young girls or boys," he said.

His comments come barely a month after the US state department released its 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** report, in which SA's standing was upgraded to **tier 2** -- taking it off the **watch list** of countries doing little to combat **human trafficking**.

CdeBaca told media in Pretoria yesterday the upgrade was in recognition of SA's efforts to improve legislation to fight human trafficking and the successful prosecution of syndicates and individuals. CdeBaca is visiting the continent to engage authorities on ways to close loopholes in the regulations that human traffickers use to escape prosecution for sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

"It is essential that the (Southern African Development Community) region share information and experience about combating human trafficking."

He said he had been told local police units were already monitoring certain areas, preparing to provide such services ahead of 2010.

This meant that illegal acts could be prevented and victims protected.

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2009

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

313 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 10, 2009 Friday

US diplomat asks SAfrica to curb sexual exploitation during soccer World Cup

LENGTH: 298 words

Text of report by Hopewell Radebe entitled "SA warned on duty to women, children" published by influential, privately-owned South African daily Business Day website on 10 July

The police, who will have to maintain peace and fight crime during next year's soccer World Cup, will have the added challenge of detecting and preventing sexual and labour exploitation of women and children, says US ambassador Luis C de Baca.

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Source: Business Day website, Johannesburg, in English 10 Jul 09

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2009

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314 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Business Day (South Africa)

July 10, 2009
Business Day Edition

SA warned on duty to women, children

BYLINE: HOPEWELL RADEBE

SECTION: CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE

LENGTH: 269 words

SA warned on duty to women, children

Diplomatic Editor

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

315 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 5, 2009 Sunday

Nigeria; Naptip - Human Trafficking, Worst Crime Against Mankind

BYLINE: This Day

LENGTH: 2876 words

The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters {NAPTIP}, recently convicted three human traffickers. The traffickers, which include Jonah Osaarimwan, 25, Patience Aisomwan, 30, and Helen Aisomwan were sentenced to two years imprisonment without an option of fine.

While Patience and Helen Aisomwan were sentenced to one-year imprisonment each for their role in the procurement of 17 young girls to a human trafficker, Gladys Joy Okonta, 30, for trafficking abroad. Both sentences are without an option of fine.

In the case of Okonta who is standing trial on charges of procurement and organising foreign travels for 17 young girls, which promotes exploitative sex trade, Justice Okeke reserved judgment for July 28 2009. Delivering the judgment, Justice Okeke reiterated the stand of the court as the last hope for justice for victims of human trafficking, as she insisted that the accused person's plea of guilt does not mitigate the offence as preferred against them.

The Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Simon Chuzi Egede, a lawyer, said the judgment is a strong statement in the condemnation of the crime of trafficking and a complete support of the judiciary arm to finally rid the nation of the crime. He said human trafficking is a sad commentary due to collapse of family values as it has become a family business, judging that the two female traffickers were from the same family who showed lack of respect for their own family as well as to life of the young and vulnerable ones.

Egede told THISDAY in Abuja recently that NAPTIP has been and will always be a trafficker's worst nightmare. He stated that the rate at which the courts are prosecuting these cases and securing convictions clearly shows a strong level of collaboration among "our partners and stakeholders. This conviction brings to 14 of the number of convictions secured by Sokoto Zonal Office of NAPTIP and 57 of the number of traffickers brought to justice by the agency since inception."

The Executive Secretary said the human traffickers who think that with the change in the leadership of the organisation would slow the campaign against the illicit business should better have a rethink because he has resolved to haunt them wherever they are. Egede who assumed duty as the boss of the organisation few months ago, while basking in the latest conviction by the courts however explained some of the challenge in the campaign against human trafficking.

"As you are very much aware, NAPTIP is a law enforcement agency and as with other law enforcement agencies, we deal with the crime of trafficking in persons and the major challenge that one would allude to would be the nature of the crime. The traffickers themselves are very much organised. They go into the villages and every nook and cranny of the country and lure the vulnerable children and women with false messages, coercion and all sorts of false presentations.

"The victims themselves do not know what they are getting into. Most times, they buy what these people feed them with and then begin to dream of the financial wealth that would come out of these foreign trips. So the major challenge is even when they are apprehended, the victims are not ready to tell us all about the perpetrators of these evil trips. The more dangerous aspect of it is the fact that many of them are taken to the shrines and other institutions where oath of secrecy is administered on them," he said. On the other hand, he said some of the victims are threatened with death if they should reveal the identity of the traffickers. So it becomes very difficult for them to tell the story that would enable the agency apprehend a full time trafficker. Again the Act, like all other laws is a public document which people are

aware of, but there is the challenge where people are not able to accept or reconcile themselves with the provision of the Act vis-à-vis the cultural belief of the people.

For instance, Egede noted that the area of internal trafficking- the syndrome of housewife and house girl, culturally is part of the society where a boy serves a master or a man brings his uncle's or aunt's daughter to take care of his children. Also, a businessman brings a young girl or boy to be an apprentice and all that. These, he said, are the areas the agency wants to reconcile between cultural practices and the law, because it is realised that children and their parents were actually being exploited.

He said, "You bring somebody from the village and he/she lives with you, does not earn any money or go to school as he or she should while your own children are going to school. The people in the village believe that the children are living better lives over there in the city but the world knew and we have all come to agree that this is exploitation and child labour which must not continue. Some times, we have inadequate financial cooperation in the area of investigation and deportation of traffickers in destination countries."

According to investigation, a lot of Nigerians are trafficked into some North African countries where they are promised a passage to Europe as most of the trafficking is perpetrated across the land borders in the Northern part of the country. Despite the efforts of the men and officers of the Nigerian Immigration and Police, because of the massive land border of the country, it is not possible to mount check points on every major road, so traffickers still find other illegal routes out of the country. Having succeeded in leaving the country, they go through other hideouts and camp in Niger, Libya and Morocco, en-route to Europe, hence the concentration of many Nigerian victims in those countries.

Efforts have been made in the past; including NAPTIP officials in collaboration with other agencies in the country to have these stranded illegal immigrants deported. "Indeed, I would want to say that these countries take the menace very seriously. In Libya for instance, where official information is received, it is treated very promptly and these illegal immigrants are handed over to the police and are deported immediately. But as with other trans-national criminal organisations, traffickers have huge financial outlay at their disposal to influence concerned authorities in these countries and do all that it takes to avoid being caught up by the law," Egede said.

The NAPTIP boss further told THISDAY that he is aware of the sophistication the traffickers are devising to carry out their illegal businesses. He however said that his agency is always ready to combat such acts. "It is true that their antics are becoming more and more sophisticated. But we have also been able to collaborate with several international organisations as well as adopt a national plan of action, which has been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and adopted by ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

"This kind of action is a comprehensive document which encompasses all strategies to deal with these problems. We have opened a new office in Maiduguri, which makes it three within the northern part of the country. The essence is to have operatives in those zonal offices that can easily be mobilised to the borders to check trafficking and to apprehend traffickers. Again with the support of some European countries, we have developed several software and material. We have some materials that when traffickers are arrested and apprehended, their handset can be taken to our computer and all calls and messages within a period of time can be monitored and accessed.

"This is a very good technical assistant that we have received and only last month, the Italian government also donated another modern equipment (software) where we can also intercept some of these people within a particular area and our investigators would be able to follow the trend in trafficking and communication and other gathering of information would become easier and effective. So we thank the governments of those countries and our sponsors for being able to equip us in the most modern technology in this fight and I dare say we are one of the first that is being equipped with these technologies. We are very well equipped and focused on the fight and I believe our officers are equal to the task too," the NAPTIP boss said.

He said the fight is in two forms: internally and within the borders. The internal trafficking, he pointed out, gives a bit of headache because it has been very much entrenched in the cultural values. For instance, Egede mentioned the case of child begging in some parts of the country. Another difficult area is where 'madams' who run restaurants and beer palours recruit these young hands to help out in the running of such place, but unfortunately, many of them eventually turns out to become prostitutes under the supervision of their 'madam.'

He said these young girls are given away to their customers after they have patronised the restaurant. If NAPTIP want to intervene, the girls would not tell the real story as they leave in fear of being returned to the villages and so they are prepared to obey the instructions of the people who have brought them to the cities. While on the other hand, young able

bodied men are moved to cocoa farms in the western part of the country where they do hard labour without worthwhile remuneration.

"All these lie in our tradition where unsuspecting parents back home entrust their children and wards to these people who promise to give them better lives, not knowing that they are used for forced labour. These are the issues we are facing and we believe that the main focus should be public enlightenment so that we inform parents the intention of those that take their children and promise them better lives but turn out not to be true.

In that regard, Egede said all its zonal offices have been provided with some form of sensitization materials to inform the people about the trade so that they can devise means to reject juicy but fake promises of the traffickers. He believes that when people are aware of the real intentions of the traffickers, they would become less vulnerable.

He said "we are pleased to inform that the United States government has undertaken a project on public awareness, they have voted a very large sum of money for it and they are bringing an officer from Washington for this purpose. We believe that by the time it takes off more people will be aware of the evil of human trafficking and then prepare themselves against the traffickers and their antics. We have also been in touch with Wale Adenuga Productions (WAP) for the production of a television drama series. If we have money to execute this, it will be very successful because over 50 million Nigerians would watch the programme.

All these to Egede are testimonies that the organisation is making progress in the fight against human trafficking. "We are indeed making good progress; the statistics are very clear as we have stepped up our prosecution of the traffickers. I am pleased to report that recently, within one week we have had nine convictions. These people have been sentenced to jail terms without options of fine. We believe that these will give a clear message and signal to the traffickers that it cannot be business as usual. Again we have rehabilitated over 3,000 victims, and some of them were trained in various vocations.

"We are also supporting the rescued victims with finance to enable them establish small businesses. Many of them have made progress and are now useful to the society. We have also raised a very high level of awareness, traveled around the country and worked with Nigerian communities in various countries to see how they would come in to assist in the rehabilitation of the victims. So we have made a lot of progress in the space of five years; we have also established various offices and accommodations in various parts of the country," the executive secretary stated.

The organisation, he stressed, has been making so much progress that it was not surprised that the United Nation during its 2009 annual global report on **trafficking in persons**, Nigeria was elevated from **tier** two to **tier** one. **Tier** one meaning that it is the highest level of classification and through the hard work of his predecessor, Chief Mrs. Carol Ndaguba and the team she put in place, the agency has been able to achieve this feat in just five years. However, he believes with more vigour and determination, NAPTIP would sustain its status in tier one.

The elevation to **tier** one by the US Government definition, Egede said, is that the Nigerian government now fully complies with all efforts to eradicate **trafficking in persons**. That is to say that the country has put in place all necessary machineries, while government has shown that it is prepared to stop the menace by giving financial and all manner of support to ensure that trafficking in persons is eradicated.

"So to that extent, it shows that we have reached the level where the world is satisfied that we are doing what it takes to battle the traffickers. We have reached the level where the traffickers themselves would begin to feel that they are up against the law of the nation and that is very important. Again, it is very important because we are now in a position where we can get the maximum support and cooperation for their efforts," a former Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice in Benue State said.

He emphasised that the conviction of the 13 traffickers recently would send a clear signal to traffickers that the road is now tough and it is not business as usual. He commended the Nigerian Police, Immigration Service and the Judiciary for a job well done. "As you know, ours is a small agency and we rely very much on the collaborative action of these agencies. Most of the arrests that are made are by the police and immigration services. I must say that the judiciary has helped us so well because each case taken to court are held by very reputable judges and emphasis is not on option of fines, but jail terms. We are happy that the judiciary is living up to expectation and is also giving the maximum sentences and jail terms to the convicts," Egede said with a sense of fulfillment. Consequently, THISDAY investigation showed that the National Assembly has aided the work of the agency by giving it a comprehensive law to guide its operations. The Act itself has provision for assets confiscation and sales, and use proceeds for the benefit of victims. It is established under the board headed by the Attorney General of the Federation. Once conviction is secured and assets of the

trafficker connected with the crimes are traced and identified, NAPTIP goes back to the court with a motion for orders of the court to enable it have them confiscated and sold.

Once the Court grants this, the movable and immoveable assets are sold and the proceeds are paid into the Victims of Trafficking Trust Funds. The agency however, has not succeeded so much in assets confiscation and sales because it does not have the technical knowledge and most of the traffickers as with other criminal organisations are based mainly in Europe, while those arrested in Nigeria are mere agents.

However, two of the convictions NAPTIP secured recently involved the prosecution of a proprietor of a brothel in Lagos. Those are the rare cases where it actually apprehended the core people in the business that kept young girls and exploit daily. The agency has secured his conviction and the next thing the agency said it will do is to apply to the court to have the brothel confiscated and sold and proceeds paid into the coffers of the Trafficking Trust Fund.

To seriously tackle or fight human trafficking, there is a need to look critically on what the law says about house helps because all these areas are captured in the NAPTIP Act. Egede said if a girl of about 25 to 30 years old who chose to go into prostitution as a profession, that is her choice. "Here we are talking of children who are not matured and cannot decide for themselves and are being lured into these places and then exploited.

"The Child Right Act is very clear that a child of that certain age should be in school. So all we are now trying to do in collaboration with the state is to sensitise them to implement the child right act and the states that have not implemented them, we are urging them to adopt them. Once this Child Right Act is put together, you won't have young girls and boys that are being used as hawkers and street vendors. This is a challenge that we are all determined to face," he emphasised.

Though he added that poverty and economic backwardness is part of the problem, but he quickly argued that it is not all of it that is economic. For example, he said Edo State is in the forefront of human trafficking and most of the people apprehended are from that state, despite a lot of campaign in those areas.

Again, he insisted that poverty is a major factor that lures people into the hands of the traffickers, but maintained that it is not an excuse that should be encouraged. He, therefore, warned prospective traffickers that NAPTIP like never before has been strategically positioned to go after them. "We will snuff them out from wherever they are," Egede said.

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316 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US State News

June 30, 2009 Tuesday 5:31 PM EST**GEORGIA MAINTAINS TIER 1 STATUS, INCREASES VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING****LENGTH:** 246 words

TBILISI, Georgia, June 16 -- The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On Tuesday, June 16th, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Ambassador-at-large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis de Baca released the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report. For the third year in a row Georgia was placed on Tier 1, which means Georgia fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Georgia retained its Tier 1 ranking in part because the government has significantly increased its victim assistance funding to \$250,000 and modestly increased the number of victims assisted by government-funded programs. The government also provided \$150,000 in funding for the support of two trafficking shelters that provided full victim assistance, including medical aid, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. The government continued to implement a formal mechanism for its officials to identify and refer victims for assistance. All convicted trafficking offenders were given adequate prison sentences. The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign government's efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. The report also raises awareness, highlights best practices, and inspires governments to take action against trafficking. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email: - htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** NewswireCopyright 2009 Targeted News Service LLC
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317 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 29, 2009 Monday 4:23 AM GMT

Afghans, Pakistanis migrants held in raid: Malaysian police

LENGTH: 303 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 2009

Malaysian authorities arrested 36 Afghans and six Pakistanis after detaining two boats trying to smuggle them to Australia via Indonesia, a top marine police official said Monday.

Marzuki Ismail, central Selangor state's marine police chief, told AFP that authorities Saturday also arrested 14 Indonesians, including three boat operators, involved in smuggling migrants.

"We first detained a small wooden boat around midnight near Port Klang (west of the capital Kuala Lumpur) with 15 Afghans and six Pakistanis in it.

"Upon investigation we secured information that there was a mother ship that was waiting nearby," Marzuki said.

"The next morning (Sunday), we successfully tracked down the mother ship and arrested 21 Afghans," he added.

Marzuki said that with the latest arrests, a total of 93 migrants had been nabbed since January for attempting to sail to Australia via neighbouring Indonesia by crossing the treacherous Malacca Strait.

Just two weeks ago, Malaysian police detained a boat that was also trying to smuggle 17 Iraqis to Australia via Indonesia. Seven Indonesians were arrested in that raid.

Marzuki said the 42 arrested Afghans and Pakistanis had paid 1,300 dollars each to get to Indonesia, adding that a criminal syndicate operated by Malaysians and Indonesians could be behind the incident.

The Afghans and Pakistanis will be charged with trying to leave the country illegally, he said.

Human trafficking and drug smuggling have replaced piracy as the main crime threat off Malaysia's long coastline, and Prime Minister Najib Razak admitted that his country was being used as a transit point for illegal immigrants.

In an annual report released on June 16 the United States re-entered Malaysia on a **human-trafficking blacklist**, saying it had failed to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

318 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Edge Malaysia

June 29, 2009

My Say: How Malaysia can get out of Tier 3

BYLINE: Quek Sue Yian

LENGTH: 1472 words

Between 1945 and 1970, Malaysia was a rising star in economic development, an accolade it shared with Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil and Malta.

The country's GDP growth was more than 7% y-o-y, and continued to improve in the 1980s through to the late 1990s. Malaysia was hailed as one of the tiger economies of Southeast Asia and expectations were that it would join the ranks of high-income countries.

However, this momentous - although somewhat socially tumultuous - quest for the holy grail of development has reached a plateau.

Malaysia is now a middle-income country, with a per capita income of \$4US,500 (RM15,916). In contrast, Singapore's per capita income - bearing in mind the argument of nation state versus country - is more than triple this figure. Malaysia is just not achieving the growth it needs to reach fully developed status.

If anything, rampant development, followed quickly by the economic hiatus, has had a ripple effect on the social fabric of the country, and also on child trafficking. The global economic downturn has aggravated the problem by making sexual exploitation, forced labour and barter of human cargo more acute.

Lack of satisfactory progress in combating **human trafficking** in 2008 has led Malaysia to being downgraded from the **Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3** (blacklisted country) in the US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, 2009. The report lists Malaysia as one of 17 countries not doing enough to stop **human trafficking**. The others are Myanmar, Chad, Cuba, Eritrea, Fiji, Iran, Kuwait, Mauritania, Niger, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, and Zimbabwe.

The report further affirms Malaysia as a destination, source and transit country for women and children trafficked for the purpose of commercial, sexual and forced labour. While the reason for the downgrade remains unclear, Voice of the Children speculates that it could be because alleged traffickers were not properly processed under the law and the lack of adequate methods to properly counsel and care for the victims of child trafficking. There are simply not enough shelters, counselling, protection and other services for child victims. Simply put, a trafficked child is one that has been bought and sold, and this includes false adoptions.

In spite of the 2007 Human Trafficking in Persons Act, only one person has been convicted, while another 91 cases are pending, according to Dr Hartini Zainudin, adviser of Rumah NurSalam, which is a centre for homeless children in Kuala Lumpur.

Who are the biggest victims of child trafficking? The group most at risk would have to be undocumented children. Why? Because, crudely put, they do not exist. They are virtual phantoms with no identity; indeed no records to show they exist as persons.

Yet the problem of undocumented children is within the capability of the government to solve in a piecemeal yet practical manner, none of which will compromise the security of Malaysia.

To make it clear, what we mean by undocumented children is not to be confused with migrants, illegals or refugees. We mean children in Malaysia - or indeed any person who does not possess any identification documents - usually because their births have not been registered.

While some of these children may be "undocumented" migrant children who may not be entitled to citizenship, the great majority of undocumented children are born in Malaysia with either one or both parents having citizenship and who need some form of identity.

Factors that lead to children being undocumented include:

- * failure to register children at birth;
- * administrative or procedural problems, for example, excessive registration fees, opaque non-accessible procedures, remoteness of communities or being born to undocumented or unwed parents;
- * children who are trafficked who have no documentation and therefore cannot be repatriated to any other country;
- * false adoptions; and
- * abandonment of children, in particular, babies.

Every delay is potentially costly, since the cost of belated repatriation, indeed, reintegration of undocumented children into the mainstream society - be it in Malaysia or abroad - is seven times more expensive than simple preventive action, according to well-placed non-governmental sources.

There is no reason for Malaysia to remain in the Tier 2 Watch List, let alone be downgraded to Tier 3. What should we do? The answer is twofold - we need to have systems in place to combat child trafficking and we need to solve the problem of undocumented children so that there is not this ready faceless fodder for child traffickers.

To address the issue of child trafficking, we need the political will to bring Malaysia to Tier 1 classification. Any thoughts of "jumping" from Tier 3 back to Tier 2 should be banished. Why should Malaysia want to go back the Watch List when it is totally capable of turning the situation around to be in Tier 1? Since 2002, the country has spent more than \$40US million on promoting "Malaysia, Truly Asia". It is a travesty to the message of this campaign to be on the Tier 3 blacklist for child misery and exploitation in the region.

To address the issue of undocumented children, we need to examine what makes them so vulnerable to child trafficking. Generally, undocumented children have no access to formal mainstream education and healthcare, and of course, are unable to have gainful formal employment. This increases social and financial marginalisation, which in turn foments a criminal underclass.

Additionally, and more poignant, is that undocumented children are particularly vulnerable because anyone who does not have any document technically does not exist. It becomes more acute with each generation making the children susceptible to:

- * Exploitation for commercial, social and sexual purposes, for example, as drug mules and for pornography, prostitution and hazardous labour.
- * Trafficking syndicates that target untraceable, vulnerable children (within and out of Malaysia) as traffickers seek out less educated, socially marginalised and poor families (Malaysian or others) to exploit through their networks. Unregistered babies and toddlers are more at risk of false adoption and abduction, while undocumented older children are easily trafficked for prostitution and drug-running.
- * Social isolation.
- * Involvement in juvenile crime, delinquency and long-term detention.
- * Vagrancy and prone to becoming streetchildren.
- * Potential for long-term drug and alcohol abuse

These are some of the reasons why we need to get the authorities concerned to work together, first to establish and register the children's status, bearing in mind that Malaysia is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 7 of the convention states that all children have a right to acquire nationality at birth.

Second, we need to address issues of education and primary healthcare. A child with an identity is a child that cannot vanish into the trafficking world. A child with an education will not be as susceptible to exploitation, be in a safe environment and be at lower risk from abduction.

Thus, to move from Tier 3 to Tier 1, a special unit to be led by the Ministry of Home Affairs should be set up, assisted by the civil society with national and international roundtables to deal with the cross-border problems of child trafficking. The unit should also deal with intra-ministerial problems of child trafficking and undocumented children. The Attorney General's Chambers must ensure that alleged traffickers are appropriately processed under the law and that the court process is suitably expedient. It is important that child victims are not seen and handled as criminals.

Malaysia can and should move from Tier 3 to Tier 1 quite simply by enforcing the laws and providing effective services to victims of child trafficking. An integrated solution that involves criminal prosecution, shelters and services for child victims and training of all stakeholders in the child trafficking network (police, lawyers, judges, airport staff, among them) will be the keys to saving the reputation of Malaysia, and keeping it solidly entrenched in Tier 1.

The issue of undocumented children needs to be addressed urgently. If need be, instead of the more contentious issue of full citizenship, different categories of citizenship can be considered without which the fate of the children, (invariably, adults, when time takes its course), would be in permanent limbo. Why should Malaysia encourage an underclass to emerge when it is bent on moving beyond its middle income status? Such a self-defeating strategy must be stopped.

Quek Sue Yian is the founding member of Voice of the Children, a newly set up child advocacy group formulated to protect the rights and dignity of all children in Malaysia.

LOAD-DATE: July 3, 2009

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

319 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 28, 2009 Sunday

2 Malaysians held over human trafficking

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 31**LENGTH:** 337 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysians were recently arrested by the Filipino authorities at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Angeles City for alleged human trafficking.

A Bukit Aman source told the New Sunday Times that the two were suspected of illegally recruiting three Filipino women for the purpose of human trafficking.

"The Malaysians were nabbed by Immigration officers at the airport for attempting to bribe them with 6,000 pesos (RM800). Checks revealed they were leaving the country with three Filipino women," the source said.

"The money had been inserted into the passports of the three Filipino women, allegedly to facilitate their quick departure to Kota Kinabalu."

It is believed that the women were being taken out of the Philippines and meant for the vice trade in Malaysia.

"The two are expected to be charged with attempted bribery and human trafficking," the source said.

Meanwhile, Malaysian police are expected to participate in a joint-operation targeted at modern-day sex slave traders.

"In order to hit the kingpins behind the syndicates, police from various countries have to share intelligence and conduct joint investigations," the source said.

Apart from Chinese nationals, women from South-east Asian countries, such as Indonesia and Vietnam, are usually among those detained in vice raids by police and Immigration officials.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan recently said all agencies, including the Immigration Department, had vital roles to play in combating human trafficking.

He added that Malaysian police were working closely with their Australian counterparts, while the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation was providing intelligence on human trafficking activities.

Since Malaysia had been relegated to **Tier 3** of the United States' State Department **Trafficking in Persons blacklist**, the relevant enforcement agencies have come under the spotlight.

It is learnt that the Australian Federal Police Department will post its officers in Asia to act as liaison officers.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

320 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Atlantic Free Press

June 27, 2009 Saturday 3:18 AM EST

Beyond Politics: People for Sale in Hungry World

BYLINE: Ramzy Baroud

LENGTH: 1128 words

Jun. 27, 2009 (Atlantic Free Press delivered by Newstex) --
by Ramzy Baroud

One might be tempted to dismiss the recent findings of the US State Department on human trafficking as largely political. But do not be too hasty.

Criticism of the State Department's report on trafficked persons, issued on 16 June, should be rife. The language describing US allies' efforts to combat the problem seems undeserved, especially when one examines the nearly 320- page report and observes the minuscule efforts of these governments. Also, it was hardly surprising to find that Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria " Washington's foremost foes " languish in the report's Tier 3 category, i.e. countries where the problem is most grave and least combated. Offenders in **Tier 3** are subject to US sanctions, while governments of countries in **Tier 1** are perceived as vigilant in fighting **human trafficking**.

One could also question the US government's own moral legitimacy; classifying the world into watch lists, congratulating some and reprimanding and sanctioning others, while the US itself has thus far (and for nine consecutive reports starting 2000) been immune to self-criticism.

Undoubtedly, the political hubris and self- righteous underpinnings of the report are disturbing, but that hardly represents an end to the argument. The fact remains that the report's rating of over 170 countries is thorough and largely consistent with facts as observed, reported by the media and examined in other comprehensive reports on the same issue. Indeed, the UN's own Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in February 2009, affirms much of the State Departments' findings regarding patterns of abuse reported around the world, most notably in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

The report examined governmental responses to the exploitation of people, including children, for the purposes of forced labour, sex and stolen organs. At least 12.3 million adults and children are used to sustain the thriving business of modern-day slavery, though the real number is probably much higher given that human traffickers have little interest in divulging exact data.

The global financial crisis has fuelled the demand for cheap labour, making the exploitation of the most vulnerable people part and parcel of the economic recovery plans of many companies, and even countries. Under these circumstances, there should be little doubt that the UN's once promising campaign to eradicate much of the world's hunger by 2015 is already a pipedream.

One of the testimonies cited in the State Department's report was that of Mohamed Selim Khan, who "woke up in a strange house and felt an excruciating pain in his abdomen. Unsure of where he was, Khan asked a man wearing a surgical mask what had happened. 'We have taken your kidney,' the stranger said. 'If you tell anyone, we'll kill you.'" Khan's experience epitomizes the nightmare of millions of people around the world, as they struggle to provide for hungry families. Their plight is no secret. It can be seen on the streets of many cities around the world, from Europe to Asia and Central America to the Gulf, where worn out, haggard looking men in dirty uniforms are working long hours for little pay, trapped between pressing needs at home and the merciless demands of their "recruitment agencies". But cheap or forced labor is not the only form of human trafficking. According to the UN's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, based on data collected in 155 countries, "the most common form of human trafficking [79 per cent] is sexual exploitation".

IRIN News, affiliated with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reported on 18 June that "women from the former Soviet Union and China are still being trafficked across the border with Egypt into Israel for

forced prostitution by organized criminal groups". Israel has been identified as a "prime destination for trafficking by both the State Department and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime". One Israeli gang alone, according to the report, has trafficked over 2,000 women into Israel and Cyprus in the last six years.

One has to wonder the wisdom of international conferences and global efforts aimed at cracking down on Gazans smuggling food and medicine across the same Egyptian border to survive the Israeli siege when almost no efforts have been dedicated to ending the stark exploitation and abuse of thousands of women enriching Israel's sex industry. Dare I say that while human trafficking is itself an apolitical issue, recognizing and combating, or failing to combat, the problem is very much political. Think of the banking crisis, which fuelled a global recession, and the way astronomical amounts of money have been dedicated to solving it, trillions of dollars in global bailouts ultimately rewarding those who caused the crisis in the first place. Compare these efforts to the pathetic attempts at halting the disgraceful commercialization of humans, their organs, their sexuality, their very humanity.

The problem is now compounded. UN food officials declared on 19 June that hunger around the world has passed the unprecedented threshold of one billion, that is one in six people. The alarming increase of 100 million hungry children, women and men from last year's estimates is blamed on the economic recession. While international institutions are efficient at recognizing such problems, proposed solutions often lack sincerity, or any sense of urgency.

"A hungry world is a dangerous world," said Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme. "Without food, people have only three options: they riot, they emigrate or they die." They also become products in markets ready to exploit those whose very survival is at stake.

When Julia, from the Balkans, was eight years old, she was taken along with her sisters to a neighboring country, where she was sold to beg. She was beaten every time she failed to return with her fixed quota of money. Once she became a teenager she was forced into prostitution. After escaping she was placed in a government orphanage from which she also escaped, returning to the streets. According to the State Department report, eventually "Julia was arrested on narcotics charges".

Can this injustice be any more obvious?

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321 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 27, 2009 Saturday

Malaysia: Freeze Outsourcing Licences To Improve Malaysia's Rating

BYLINE: shiv03

LENGTH: 342 words

Freeze new licences for companies outsourcing foreign labour and legislate the protection of foreign maids. These two measures will greatly improve the country's rating on the **human trafficking blacklist**, said the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC).

Its general secretary, G. Rajasegaran, said the activities of the companies and maid agencies were causing much apprehension and negative perception on Malaysia, among foreign governments, workers and their organisations overseas. He said the companies and agencies charged the workers very high fees but provided very poor or no service at all, adding that once the workers arrived in Malaysia, they were often left on their own.

"If they were employed, they are exploited in being made to work 16 hours daily, without overtime pay, no off days, no medical and health protection and dingy working and living environment.

"It is this exploitation that might have been interpreted as trafficking, and prompted the United States to downgrade us to tier 3 on the blacklist," he told Bernama today.

Rajasegaran was commenting on the US' latest list of nations on trafficking where Malaysia was downgraded to tier 3. This ranking meant that the country faced possible sanctions in the form of non-trade-related US aid.

He said: "We, as Malaysians, are greatly offended by the rating, but we should also be realistic and catch the bull by the horns and strive to improve our rating."

Rajasegaran suggested that for a start, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussein and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam should go down to the ground to see for themselves how these workers were being treated.

"I am sure the ministers would be able to gauge the situation for themselves when they see the pathetic work and living conditions these workers endured," he added. In this aspect, the MTUC, he said, was willing to assist the ministers.

Rajasegaran said the human resources ministry should also implement a weekly off day for the maids and amend the Employment Act to include the maids.

Ltd.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2009

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JOURNAL-CODE: 81

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322 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 26, 2009 Friday 9:28 PM GMT

Obama, Malaysian PM discuss NKorea in phone call

LENGTH: 168 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 26 2009

US President Barack Obama spoke by telephone with Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razakon Friday, and discussed proliferation, North Korea and financial regulation, the White House said.

"They discussed the ongoing global economic crisis, and stressed the importance of growth and sound regulatory systems in both their economies," the White House said in a statement.

"The president described US concerns over proliferation and discussed North Korea and Iran, stressing the importance of implementation of UN Security Council resolutions," the statement said.

"They also discussed ways to contribute to reconstruction and stability in Afghanistan."

The statement did not mention Malaysia's claim that Washington had meted out unfair treatment over its decision to relist the country on a **human trafficking blacklist**.

The annual "Trafficking in Persons Report", released last week, said Malaysia was failing to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking and "is not making significant efforts to do so."

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The Palestine Chronicle

June 26, 2009

Beyond Politics: People for Sale in Hungry World

LENGTH: 1112 words

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Undoubtedly, the political hubris and self- righteous underpinnings of the report are disturbing, but that hardly represents an end to the argument. The fact remains that the report's rating of over 170 countries is thorough and largely consistent with facts as observed, reported by the media and examined in other comprehensive reports on the same issue. Indeed, the UN's own Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in February 2009, affirms much of the State Departments' findings regarding patterns of abuse reported around the world, most notably in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

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324 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 26, 2009 Friday

Malaysia: Freeze Outsourcing Licences To Improve Malaysia's Rating

BYLINE: shiv03

LENGTH: 342 words

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"If they were employed, they are exploited in being made to work 16 hours daily, without overtime pay, no off days, no medical and health protection and dingy working and living environment.

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325 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US State News

June 26, 2009 Friday 4:19 PM EST

2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED- GREEK AGAIN AMONG 'HEROES'

LENGTH: 380 words

ATHENS, Greece, June 16 -- The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

The State Department today released the annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report for 2009, as required by U.S. law. Greece is again assessed at "**Tier 2**," the midpoint of three levels measuring effectiveness in the prevention, protection, and prosecution of **human trafficking**. For the second year in a row, the U.S. Secretary of State also cited a Greek anti-trafficking proponent, Major George Vanikiotis of the Attica Police, as one of nine "Heroes in the Global Effort to Combat Trafficking in Persons."

Greece is a destination and transit country for victims of trafficking for purposes of both sexual exploitation and forced labor, with an assessment in the TIP Report for 2009 of "Tier 2:" not fully compliant with minimum standards but making significant efforts to do so. This year's report notes that the Greek government increased overall funding toward victim protection and demonstrated strong law enforcement efforts. However, the report also notes insufficient progress in Greece on punishing trafficking offenders, proactively identifying victims, providing reliable shelter facilities for trafficking victims, and specifically targeting domestic audiences with sex and labor trafficking prevention campaigns. One of nine "Heroes in the Global Effort to Combat Trafficking in Persons" honored by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton this year, Major George Vanikiotis, a commander in the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Attica Police's Organized Crime Division, is one of Greece's most knowledgeable anti-trafficking proponents. He provides training to police cadets, prosecutors, health professionals, labor inspectors, and NGOs throughout the country. Major Vanikiotis also leads anti-trafficking seminars at high schools and universities. The Anti-Trafficking Unit he directed concentrated on tackling several major urban trafficking rings in 2008 and will focus on labor exploitation and international law enforcement cooperation in 2009. Last year, the State Department honored Emma Skjonsby Manousaridis, director of the Athens-based non-governmental organization "Nea Zoi" (New Life). For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

326 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 25, 2009 Thursday

Home Ministry insists "no human-trafficking in Brunei"

LENGTH: 578 words

Excerpt from report in English by Brunei newspaper Borneo Bulletin website on 25 June

[By James Kon] The Ministry of Home Affairs in a press release yesterday reiterated that there is no human-trafficking in Brunei. The ministry also clarified that the country is not a hub for recruitment of men and women from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand for domestic or low-skilled labour as previously stated in the Borneo Bulletin.

[This website reported the State Department's annual report's assessment of Brunei at length on 18 June.]

In the statement commenting about the Trafficking in Persons report that was recently released by the US State Department, the ministry added that to date, Brunei Darussalam has not received any reported case on human-trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

The Ministry agrees that the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report on Brunei Darussalam and other countries published by the US State Department is aimed at raising awareness on the issues of human-trafficking among the international community and to allow the listed countries to monitor and get a grip of the issue in each country.

In the report, Brunei is in the "Tier 2" category, together with 76 countries including Singapore, Philippines and Hong Kong. The report classifies countries between a total of four tiers.

Most European countries are listed in "Tier 1", whereby the countries have fulfilled a minimal standard of Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), while "Tier 2" are countries that have yet to fulfil the TVPA but are trying to achieve the standard with continuing efforts.

The "Tier 2 Watch List" includes countries that are in between "Tier 2" and "Tier 3." Countries that did not meet the minimal standard of TVPA and were not seen to make any effort in trying to achieve the standard were listed as "Tier 3" countries.

The Ministry of Home Affairs emphasized that the TIP report did not come from the United Nations or any agencies under it.

On the issue of labour, the working hour for a domestic labourer in Brunei Darussalam is excluded from the Labour Act and Regulation, whereby the daily working hours is an agreement between the employer and the domestic employee only.

It can be seen that there are some domestic workers who are given time off during the weekend.

Also in regards to the Labour Act and Regulation, the exchange of contract that is permitted depends on the agreement between the worker and the employer and needs to be approved by the commissioner of labour.

Meanwhile, according to the interpretation of law in the country, "non-payment of salaries" is not included in the category of human-trafficking. Due to the proper arrangement in the recruitment of domestic helpers and foreign workers, the Ministry of Home Affairs states, the issue of human-trafficking does not exist.

The Labour Act and Regulations provide protection to foreign and local employees. It also requires all employers who brought in foreign workers to provide adequate and hygienic accommodation including clean water supply and sanitary system.

As an effort to continuously safeguard the rights of every foreign worker, the Labour Department will be enforcing the Employment Agencies Order 2004 whereby only qualified and registered employment agencies can recruit foreign workers into Brunei Darussalam.

Source: Borneo Bulletin website, Bandar Seri Begawan, in English 25 Jun 09

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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327 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Pacific Free Press

June 25, 2009 Thursday 11:59 PM EST

Hunger: Israel's Human Trafficking Rings

BYLINE: Ramzy Baroud ramzybaroud@hotmail.com

LENGTH: 1135 words

Jun. 25, 2009 (Atlantic Free Press delivered by Newstex) --

Beyond Politics: People for Sale in Hungry World

by Ramzy Baroud

One might be tempted to dismiss the recent findings of the US State Department on human trafficking as largely political. But do not be too hasty.

Criticism of the State Department's report on trafficked persons, issued on 16 June, should be rife. The language describing US allies' efforts to combat the problem seems undeserved, especially when one examines the nearly 320- page report and observes the minuscule efforts of these governments. Also, it was hardly surprising to find that Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria -- Washington's foremost foes -- languish in the report's Tier 3 category, i.e. countries where the problem is most grave and least combated. Offenders in **Tier 3** are subject to US sanctions, while governments of countries in **Tier 1** are perceived as vigilant in fighting **human trafficking**.

One could also question the US government's own moral legitimacy; classifying the world into **watch lists**, congratulating some and reprimanding and sanctioning others, while the US itself has thus far (and for nine consecutive reports starting 2000) been immune to self-criticism.

Undoubtedly, the political hubris and self- righteous underpinnings of the report are disturbing, but that hardly represents an end to the argument. The fact remains that the report's rating of over 170 countries is thorough and largely consistent with facts as observed, reported by the media and examined in other comprehensive reports on the same issue. Indeed, the UN's own Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in February 2009, affirms much of the State Departments' findings regarding patterns of abuse reported around the world, most notably in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

The report examined governmental responses to the exploitation of people, including children, for the purposes of forced labour, sex and stolen organs. At least 12.3 million adults and children are used to sustain the thriving business of modern-day slavery, though the real number is probably much higher given that human traffickers have little interest in divulging exact data.

The global financial crisis has fuelled the demand for cheap labour, making the exploitation of the most vulnerable people part and parcel of the economic recovery plans of many companies, and even countries. Under these circumstances, there should be little doubt that the UN's once promising campaign to eradicate much of the world's hunger by 2015 is already a pipedream.

One of the testimonies cited in the State Department's report was that of Mohamed Selim Khan, who "woke up in a strange house and felt an excruciating pain in his abdomen. Unsure of where he was, Khan asked a man wearing a surgical mask what had happened. 'We have taken your kidney,' the stranger said. 'If you tell anyone, we'll kill you.'" Khan's experience epitomizes the nightmare of millions of people around the world, as they struggle to provide for hungry families. Their plight is no secret. It can be seen on the streets of many cities around the world, from Europe to Asia and Central America to the Gulf, where worn out, haggard looking men in dirty uniforms are working long hours for little pay, trapped between pressing needs at home and the merciless demands of their "recruitment agencies".

But cheap or forced labor is not the only form of human trafficking. According to the UN's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, based on data collected in 155 countries, "the most common form of human trafficking [79 per cent] is sexual exploitation".

IRIN News, affiliated with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reported on 18 June that "women from the former Soviet Union and China are still being trafficked across the border with Egypt into Israel for forced prostitution by organized criminal groups". Israel has been identified as a "prime destination for trafficking by both the State Department and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime". One Israeli gang alone, according to the report, has trafficked over 2,000 women into Israel and Cyprus in the last six years.

One has to wonder the wisdom of international conferences and global efforts aimed at cracking down on Gazans smuggling food and medicine across the same Egyptian border to survive the Israeli siege when almost no efforts have been dedicated to ending the stark exploitation and abuse of thousands of women enriching Israel's sex industry.

Dare I say that while human trafficking is itself an apolitical issue, recognizing and combating, or failing to combat, the problem is very much political. Think of the banking crisis, which fuelled a global recession, and the way astronomical amounts of money have been dedicated to solving it, trillions of dollars in global bailouts ultimately rewarding those who caused the crisis in the first place. Compare these efforts to the pathetic attempts at halting the disgraceful commercialization of humans, their organs, their sexuality, their very humanity.

The problem is now compounded. UN food officials declared on 19 June that hunger around the world has passed the unprecedented threshold of one billion, that is one in six people. The alarming increase of 100 million hungry children, women and men from last year's estimates is blamed on the economic recession. While international institutions are efficient at recognizing such problems, proposed solutions often lack sincerity, or any sense of urgency.

"A hungry world is a dangerous world," said Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme. "Without food, people have only three options: they riot, they emigrate or they die." They also become products in markets ready to exploit those whose very survival is at stake.

When Julia, from the Balkans, was eight years old, she was taken along with her sisters to a neighboring country, where she was sold to beg. She was beaten every time she failed to return with her fixed quota of money. Once she became a teenager she was forced into prostitution. After escaping she was placed in a government orphanage from which she also escaped, returning to the streets. According to the State Department report, eventually "Julia was arrested on narcotics charges".

Can this injustice be any more obvious? Ramzy Baroud (www.ramzybaroud.net) is an author and editor of PalestineChronicle.com. His work has been published in many newspapers, journals and anthologies around the world. His latest book is, "The Second Palestinian Intifada: A Chronicle of a People's Struggle" (Pluto Press, London), and his forthcoming book is, *oeMy Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gazas Untold Story* (Pluto Press, London)

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328 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 25, 2009 Thursday

Malaysia: Freeze Outsourcing Licences To Improve Malaysia's Rating

BYLINE: shiv03

LENGTH: 342 words

Freeze new licences for companies outsourcing foreign labour and legislate the protection of foreign maids. These two measures will greatly improve the country's rating on the **human trafficking blacklist**, said the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC). Its general secretary, G. Rajasegaran, said the activities of the companies and maid agencies were causing much apprehension and negative perception on Malaysia, among foreign governments, workers and their organisations overseas.

He said the companies and agencies charged the workers very high fees but provided very poor or no service at all, adding that once the workers arrived in Malaysia, they were often left on their own. "If they were employed, they are exploited in being made to work 16 hours daily, without overtime pay, no off days, no medical and health protection and dingy working and living environment.

"It is this exploitation that might have been interpreted as trafficking, and prompted the United States to downgrade us to tier 3 on the blacklist," he told Bernama today. Rajasegaran was commenting on the US' latest list of nations on trafficking where Malaysia was downgraded to tier 3. This ranking meant that the country faced possible sanctions in the form of non-trade-related US aid.

He said: "We, as Malaysians, are greatly offended by the rating, but we should also be realistic and catch the bull by the horns and strive to improve our rating." Rajasegaran suggested that for a start, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussein and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam should go down to the ground to see for themselves how these workers were being treated.

"I am sure the ministers would be able to gauge the situation for themselves when they see the pathetic work and living conditions these workers endured," he added. In this aspect, the MTUC, he said, was willing to assist the ministers. Rajasegaran said the human resources ministry should also implement a weekly off day for the maids and amend the Employment Act to include the maids.

Ltd.

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JOURNAL-CODE: 81

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329 of 404 DOCUMENTS

arab news

Arab News

June 24, 2009 Wednesday

People for sale in hungry world

BYLINE: Ramzy Baroud

LENGTH: 1089 words

One might be tempted to dismiss the recent findings on human trafficking by the US State Department as largely political. But do not be too hasty. Criticism of the State Department's report on trafficked persons, issued on June 16 should be rife. The language describing the efforts of US allies aimed at combating the problem seems undeserved, especially when one examines the nearly 320-page report and observes the minuscule efforts of these governments. Also, it was hardly surprising to find that Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria - the US' foremost foes - are in the report's Tier 3 category, i.e. countries where the problem is most grave, yet least combated. Offenders in **Tier 3** are subjected to US sanctions, while governments of countries in **Tier 1** are perceived as most genuine in fighting **human trafficking** in their countries.

One could also venture off to question the US government's own moral legitimacy; classifying the world into tiers and watch lists, congratulating some and reprimanding and sanctioning others, while the US itself has thus far (and for nine consecutive reports starting in 2000) been immune from self-criticism. Undoubtedly, the political hubris and self-righteous underpinnings of the report are disturbing, but that should hardly represent an end to the argument. The fact remains that the report's rating of over 170 countries is both thorough and largely consistent with facts as observed, reported by the media and examined in other comprehensive reports pertaining to the same issue. Indeed, the UN's own Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in February 2009, confirms many of the State Departments' findings regarding the pattern of abuses reported around the world, most noticeably in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

The report examined the calamity and governmental responses to the exploitation of people, including children, for the purposes of forced labor, sexual servitude and stolen organs. At least 12.3 million adults and children are used to sustain the thriving business of modern-day slavery. One can only imagine that the number is much higher, considering that human traffickers have little interest in divulging exact data. In addition, the global financial crisis has fueled the demand for cheap laborers, making the exploitation of the most vulnerable people part and parcel of the economic recovery plans of many companies and even countries. Under these circumstances, there should be little doubt that the UN's once promising campaign to eradicate much of the world's hunger by 2015 has already become a pipedream.

One of the testimonies cited in the State Department's report was that of Mohammed Salim Khan, who "woke up in a strange house and felt an excruciating pain in his abdomen. Unsure of where he was, Khan asked a man wearing a surgical mask what had happened. 'We have taken your kidney,' the stranger said. 'If you tell anyone, we'll kill you.'" Khan's nightmare epitomizes the nightmare of millions of people around the world forced to accept the intolerable out of sheer need to survive or to provide for a hungry family. But their plight is no secret. It can be seen in the streets of many cities around the world, from Europe to Asia to Central America to the Gulf, where worn out, haggard-looking men in dirty clothes are working long hours for little pay, trapped between pressing needs at home and the merciless demands of their 'recruitment agencies'.

But cheap labor, or forced labor, is not the only form of human trafficking. According to the UN's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, based on data collected in 155 countries, "the most common form of human trafficking (79 per cent) is sexual exploitation."

IRIN News, affiliated with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reported on June 18, "women from the former Soviet Union and China are still being trafficked across the border with Egypt into Israel for forced prostitution by organized criminal groups," making Israel a "prime destination for trafficking by both the State Department and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime." One Israeli gang alone, according to the report, trafficked over 2,000 women into Israel and Cyprus in the last six years.

One has to wonder at the wisdom of international conferences and global efforts aimed at cracking down on Gazans smuggling food and medicine across the same Egyptian border in order to survive the Israeli siege, while next to no efforts have been dedicated to ending the stark exploitation and abuse of thousands of women used in Israel's sex industry. Dare I say, that while human trafficking is itself an apolitical issue, recognizing and combating, or failing to combat the problem is very much political. Think of the sense of absolute urgency the banking crisis, which fueled a global recession, received; the astronomical amounts of money that were dedicated to solving it, the trillions of dollars in global bailouts, ultimately rewarding the very culprits, etc. Now, compare these efforts to the pathetic attempts at halting the disgraceful commercialization of humans, their organs, their sexuality, their very humanity.

Alas, the problem is now compounded, as UN food officials declared on June 19 that hunger around the world has reached the unprecedented number of 1 billion; that is one in six people. The alarming increase of 100 million hungry children, women and men from last year's estimates is blamed on the economic recession. While international institutions are efficient at recognizing such problems, proposed solutions often lack sincerity, and frankly, any sense of urgency.

"A hungry world is a dangerous world," said Josette Sheeran of the World Food Program. "Without food, people have only three options: They riot, they emigrate or they die." They also become fresh products in markets ready to exploit those whose very survival is at stake. When Julia, from the Balkans was eight years old, she and her sisters were taken to a neighboring country, where she was sold to beg. She was beaten every time she failed to return with a certain amount of money. Once a teenager, she was sold into prostitution. After escaping, she was placed in some government orphanage, from which she also escaped, returning to the streets and sold to local men and tourists for prostitution. According to the State Department report, eventually "Julia was arrested on narcotics charges." Can such injustice be any more obvious?

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JOURNAL-CODE: 9

330 of 404 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

June 24, 2009 Friday

MALAYSIA: BLACKLISTED FOR NOT ENFORCING TRAFFICKING LAWS

BYLINE: Baradan Kuppusamy**LENGTH:** 1087 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, Jun. 24, 2009

After years of lobbying by rights activists and the international community, Malaysia passed an effective and comprehensive law in 2007 against human trafficking with provisions for protection, shelter and return of trafficked person to their home countries.

That law earned international praise and saw Malaysia upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in the 2007 annual list of trafficking offenders maintained by the United States State Department.

But now, two years later the State Department, in its annual '**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2009,' has Malaysia back on the **Tier 3 blacklist** with 16 other countries - a shocking reversal for the authorities here.

The report evaluates steps taken in over 170 countries to combat trafficking for forced labour, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

Malaysia joins other blacklisted countries, including Myanmar, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

The downgrade has shocked authorities who had believed that by passing the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, and sitting on it, they could escape international attention.

The country, which is the largest employer of migrant labour in Asia, comes into constant scrutiny for its often-horrendous human rights record with regard to abuse and exploitation of migrant workers.

Moving Malaysia back to Tier 3 is the price the country paid for its complacency, ignorance and arrogance, said Irene Fernandez, executive director of Tenaganita, a prominent rights organisation for migrant workers.

"It is a major slap in the face for Malaysia," Fernandez told IPS. "Our poor rights record with migrant workers and trafficked person is widely known and internationally condemned."

"The authorities must step out of their complacency and take urgent measures to improve their record," she said blaming "official arrogance" as a key reason for the "state of denial" that afflicts officials.

"This is the crux of the problem. There is no commitment to tackle and improve conditions," Fernandez said urging the authorities to give the report their "highest priority" because its findings are internationally recognised and accepted.

Malaysia is the one of five Asian nations on the blacklist - the others are Burma, Fiji, North Korea and Papua New Guinea.

"Malaysia is a destination and, to a lesser extent, a source and transit country for women and children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation; and for men, women, and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labour," said the report released by the State Department this month.

"Malaysia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, despite some progress in enforcing the country's new anti-trafficking law," the report said.

It said that while the government took initial actions under the 2007 anti- trafficking law against sex trafficking, it has failed to fully address issues of human trafficking.

The details of the reason for the downgrade can be found in a damning report by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee released in April, which said Malaysian Immigration Department officials were involved in trafficking Burmese refugees arriving in Malaysia into Thailand.

The report stated that the officials sold refugees - including Muslim Rohingyas - for approximately 200 dollars per person to traffickers operating along Malaysia's southern border with Thailand. It said the traffickers then demanded ransom for their release from their families back in Myanmar. Those who failed to raise the ransom were sold for purpose of labour and as sex workers.

Malaysia had promised an in-depth investigation into these allegations by the U.S. Committee, but within days announced that there was no truth to the allegations.

Opposition lawmakers also raised the matter in parliament, but to date no official has been arrested, prosecuted, or convicted for alleged involvement in human trafficking.

It is common knowledge that migrant workers especially undocumented Asians are badly treated by employers and enforcement officials, and by the voluntary outfit called RELA, whose 500,000 untrained but armed members are often used in anti-migrant worker operations.

These undocumented people are often at the mercy of employers, employment agents, officials and traffickers. Victims suffer physical and sexual abuse, debt bondage, non-payment of wages, threats, confinement, and withholding of travel documents, said Fernandez.

Women from Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are regularly trafficked into the country and forced into prostitution.

The 2009 State Department report concluded: "As a regional economic leader approaching developed nation status, Malaysia has the resources and government infrastructure to do more in addressing trafficking in persons."

Countries on the Tier 3 blacklist could face U.S. sanctions - including the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

They would also be subject to withholding of funding for government officials to participate in educational and cultural exchange programs.

The report's conclusion is also disputed by officials and others here.

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, or Suhakam, said that the 2009 report "should have been more balanced and factual, and not merely fault finding."

"Trafficking is a complex issue, and apprehending criminals involved in trafficking is not an easy task. We have an adequate law to combat trafficking but changes cannot be expected at once," said Suhakam commissioner Raj Abdul Karim.

"The implementation of the law and efforts to combat trafficking take time to yield the expected results," Karim said in a statement.

Malaysia's Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman Yusop also told parliament the downgrading to Tier 3 was "unfair" because the authorities were already doing their best to curb trafficking.

"We don't condone human trafficking and have taken stern actions to deal with the problem, including enacting an anti-human trafficking law in 2007, and setting up a special task force," he said.

However U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia James R. Keith, in comments to local media, said that while Malaysia does have "comprehensive laws to deal with human trafficking" enforcement and conviction of offenders were urgently missing.

Keith stressed, Malaysia needs to deter traffickers with arrest, court charges and convictions. "That makes people realise that the government is serious," he said. "That's the bottom line."

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331 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

June 24, 2009 Wednesday

DOJ orders inventory of human trafficking cases, seeks help of High Court

BYLINE: By William B. Depasupil And Francis Earl A. Cueto

LENGTH: 525 words

ACTING Justice Secretary Agnes VST Devanadera on Tuesday ordered an inventory of all pending cases of human trafficking in an effort to speed up their resolutions amid a warning from the US State Department that the Philippines "could be barred from receiving non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance" if it fails to address the problem.

In a memorandum, Devanadera ordered all government prosecutors nationwide to submit immediately the status of cases involving anti-trafficking in persons, including those undecided by the courts, on or before July 31, 2009.

She also sought the assistance of the Supreme Court for doable measures that will lead to speedy decision on human trafficking cases pending in courts.

In her letter to Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the Department of Justice (DOJ) chief said that she considered the reforms initiated by the chief in the judiciary as "encouragement for us in this protracted battle against trafficking in persons knowing that these concerns will not go unheeded."

According to Devanadera, all statistics obtained from the prosecution will be taken as factors in sitting down with the Supreme Court counterparts for viable solutions on pending trafficking cases in courts.

Devanadera made the twin move after the US State Department came out with a report that placed the Philippines on Tier 2 Watch List because of the slow progress in convicting trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for labor trafficking.

Open skies blamed

A group of travel executives blamed the open skies policy for the Philippines' inclusion by the report of the United States, which retained the Philippines on its Tier 2 list.

In its 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report, the US State Department said the Philippines continues to be "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor."

Robert Lim Joseph, chairman emeritus of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas), said human traffickers exploited open skies, which allowed budget foreign air carriers to operate outside Metro Manila, away from the prying eyes of the authorities.

Joseph recalled that on July 2, 2008, the composite team formed by Vice President Noli de Castro prevented five Filipinos from boarding an Air Asia flight in Clark for Kuala Lumpur on suspicion that they were using tourist visas to gain entry in another country and work there.

The off-boarded Filipinos admitted they were going to the Malaysian capital to work as domestic helpers.

De Castro has sought wide and deeper investigation to prevent human traffickers from using international airports in the provinces as jump-off points for their illegal trade.

Earlier, Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Severino Gana Jr., chair of DOJ Task Force on **Trafficking in Persons**, said that being on **Tier 2 Watch List** is a wake-up call because if it drops to **Tier 3** category, the US would stop its military and economic aid to the Philippines.

Gana claimed though that the recent US State Department report did not include recent convictions won by state prosecutors.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

332 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 22, 2009 Monday

St Vincent official seeks to discuss human trafficking with US officials

LENGTH: 404 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

WASHINGTON DC, CMC - A top St Vincent and the Grenadines government official has demanded a meeting with officials at the US State Department over report that included the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nation on a list of countries that have not done enough to counter human trafficking.

La Celia Prince, Kingstown's envoy to the United States and the Organization of American States (OAS), reiterated Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves objection to the "Ninth Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report" that placed St Vincent and the Grenadines on its **tier two watch list** of countries that had not made enough efforts to satisfy US requirements.

The ambassador said the report was not based on any hard evidence.

"It is insufficient and reckless to rely on anecdotal reports, considering the gravity of a report of this nature.

The report described St Vincent and the Grenadines as a "potential source country for children trafficked internally for the purposes of sexual exploitation," adding it may also be a destination country for women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.

"Anecdotal reporting suggests the number of victims trafficked in, to, or through St Vincent and the Grenadines is small," it said.

"We categorically reject that assessment," Prince said. "It is patently incorrect, and we have reason to question the methodology that is employed in gathering information that forms the basis of the report."

The Vincentian envoy said the CARICOM caucus in Washington has registered its displeasure with the report.

"I foresee a lot of problems if they continue in this vein," Prince said. "We categorically reject their assessment. It is not an objective report."

Other CARICOM countries placed on the watch list are Belize and Guyana. Georgetown has also voiced its displeasure with the US classification.

The department said Haiti was on its "Special Case" list, while six CARICOM nations - Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago - were listed in the "Tier 2" category.

"**Tier 2**" applies to countries considered to be making minimal efforts to satisfy the US anti-**Trafficking in Persons**' requirement, while "**Tier 2 Watch List**" is when their efforts are not enough, according to US standards.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1930 gmt 21 Jun 09

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333 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 22, 2009 Monday

FREEZE OUTSOURCING LICENCES TO IMPROVE MALAYSIA'S RATING

LENGTH: 340 words**DATELINE:** PETALING JAYA June 22

Freeze new licences for companies outsourcing foreign labour and legislate the protection of foreign maids.

These two measures will greatly improve the country's rating on the **human trafficking blacklist**, said the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC).

Its general secretary, G. Rajasegaran, said the activities of the companies and maid agencies were causing much apprehension and negative perception on Malaysia, among foreign governments, workers and their organisations overseas.

He said the companies and agencies charged the workers very high fees but provided very poor or no service at all, adding that once the workers arrived in Malaysia, they were often left on their own.

"If they were employed, they are exploited in being made to work 16 hours daily, without overtime pay, no off days, no medical and health protection and dingy working and living environment.

"It is this exploitation that might have been interpreted as trafficking, and prompted the United States to downgrade us to tier 3 on the blacklist," he told Bernama today.

Rajasegaran was commenting on the US' latest list of nations on trafficking where Malaysia was downgraded to tier 3. This ranking meant that the country faced possible sanctions in the form of non-trade-related US aid.

He said: "We, as Malaysians, are greatly offended by the rating, but we should also be realistic and catch the bull by the horns and strive to improve our rating."

Rajasegaran suggested that for a start, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussein and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam should go down to the ground to see for themselves how these workers were being treated.

"I am sure the ministers would be able to gauge the situation for themselves when they see the pathetic work and living conditions these workers endured," he added.

In this aspect, the MTUC, he said, was willing to assist the ministers.

Rajasegaran said the human resources ministry should also implement a weekly off day for the maids and amend the Employment Act to include the maids.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

334 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 21, 2009 Sunday

US ranks Swaziland among "worst offenders" in human trafficking

LENGTH: 625 words

Text of report by Swazi newspaper The Times of Swaziland website on 20 June

[Report by Mabandla Bhembe: "Obama Gives SD 90 Days"]

Mbabane -Swaziland forms part of the six African countries that have been blacklisted by the United States of America (USA) as worst offenders in human trafficking.

Owing to this, President Barack Obama's government has given the country a 90 day ultimatum to put its house in order or face severe sanctions.

Accor-ding to the US State De-partment's annual report, the other African countries that have been recently included on the same **human trafficking blacklist** as Swaziland are Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Niger, Chad and Mauritania.

Minimum

Inclusion on the list means these countries' governments are not fully complying with minimum standards set by US laws for cooperating in efforts to reduce the rise of human trafficking.

Human trafficking involves trading in human beings who are smuggled out of a country and subjected to torture, hard labour and forced sexual intercourse (sex slave).

Swaziland, including the other five countries on the list, now risks sanctions including suspension of US non-humanitarian aid. According to the US State Department's annual report, if a country appears on the list for two consecutive years, it can be subjected to further US sanctions.

The addition of the six African countries was due largely to a relaxation in efforts to fight domestic slavery, which has allegedly persisted, according to the US.

These countries were added to the list in the annual report, which analysed efforts in 173 countries to fight trafficking in humans for forced labour, prostitution, military service and other reasons.

Crisis

The State Department's annual report, the first to be released since President Barack Obama took office, also states that the global economic crisis is also boosting the demand side of human trafficking.

The report further states that 17 nations, up from 14 in 2008, are now subject to the trafficking sanctions, which can include a ban on non-humanitarian and trade-related aid and US opposition to loans and credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The penalties can be waived if President Obama determines it is in the US' national interest to do so.

In an interview with the Swazi News this week, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Lutfo Dlamini confirmed the 90 day ultimatum.

"Indeed we received the US report and we were expecting such correspondence," said Dlamini.

"I am pleased to confirm that we will meet the deadline that has been set by the US. Our inclusion into the list has been for two main reasons which are that the country is not putting much effort to curb these illegal practices and that there is no law that has been passed on human trafficking," explained Dlamini.

Independent investigations revealed that the country also finds itself in this situation because of being used by these human trafficking perpetrators as a by-pass country.

Disturbing

To this the minister said: "The ministry has also had an experience of people coming to seek help to return to their respective countries after having been trafficked into Swaziland for a number of reasons, including jobs."

Dlamini lamented that the listing of the country under this category was disturbing.

"We cannot afford to be listed as a human trafficking state because it is a serious offence globally. It is for this reason that we have acted swiftly to avoid jeopardising our good relationship with the Americans, which has been going on for years," he said.

Countries that have managed to cope with the US law and have since been removed from the list include Qatar, Oman, Algeria, and Moldova.

Source: The Times of Swaziland website, Mbabane, in English 20 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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335 of 404 DOCUMENTS

GlobalPost

June 21, 2009 Sunday 10:27 AM EST

Working on the chain gang

BYLINE: Jason Overdorf

LENGTH: 1270 words

Jun. 21, 2009 (GlobalPost delivered by Newstex) --
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FARIDABAD, India " Twenty years ago, Teerath Ram came to Faridabad, on the outskirts of New Delhi, to work in one of its many stone quarries. Recruited by a labor contractor who promised he'd earn much higher wages here than he could ever make in his native state of Chhattisgarh, Teerath Ram took a notional "advance" of a few thousand rupees to pay the contractor for getting him the job and agreed to work in the quarry to repay his debt. Fifteen years later, he's still there.

The high wages he was meant to receive never materialized, and at the end of the month when the rock he had risked his neck to blast out of the ground was weighed against the dynamite he'd "bought" from the company store, the owner told him that his wages were just enough to cover the interest on his debt.

"They just kept records of what they loaned me in a notebook," he said. And because Teerath Ram is illiterate as well as desperately poor, "They could change the figures anytime they wanted."

There are literally millions like Teerath Ram in India, which has failed to meet minimum standards to combat human trafficking, according to the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report released by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton this week.

"India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," according to the report.

Because it has been on the **oetier** two **watch list** " the second-worst category of offenders " for two years, India now faces the prospect of being moved to the **oetier** three **blacklist** of egregious violators next year if it fails to improve its record in fighting **human trafficking**. Those countries face sanctions under which the U.S. can withhold non-humanitarian aid and oppose aid projects from agencies like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, though it is likely India would receive a presidential waiver.

The sad thing for India is that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Though they are still being cheated and exploited, laborers like Teerath Ram, for instance, don't even understand that they were the victims of trafficking, since nobody clubbed them on the head and threw them in the back of a truck. Nor do the police.

oeThe word trafficking has not been defined in India, said Bhuwan Ribhu, a lawyer with the New Delhi-based Global March Against Child Labor. oeThere is no comprehensive definition, despite the fact that trafficking in human beings has been banned as [violating] a fundamental right. That means when people are duped into migrating for work, rather than kidnapped, India's law enforcement agencies rarely recognize them as the victims of traffickers.

Technically, Teerath Ram is now no longer a bonded laborer. He knows exactly how much money he owes the quarry owner and the rate of interest on his debt. He can leave anytime, provided he finds someone else " which would mean another labor contractor " to grant him another loan to pay off his debt. But he still has to pay for the blasting equipment he uses from the quarry to which he's indebted, and the owner and debt-holder still assesses the value of the rock Teerath Ram blasts out of the ground. Naturally, the price of dynamite always seems to climb, while the price for stone plunges.

The quarry workers of Faridabad " only a 15-minute drive from the heart of Delhi " are victims of what some Indian economists are terming "modern bonded labor."

Unlike in the past, when agricultural laborers were forced to work because of traditional feudal ties to landlords or debts that went back generations, these modern bonded laborers migrate to new farms or industrial sites where wages are higher. They enter "freely" into loan agreements with their employers and sometimes even pay off what they owe at the end of the year. This has prompted some economists to argue that the laborers aren't the victims of traffickers, and that they opt to take these jobs because they are better than the alternatives available to them elsewhere, said Professor Ravi Srivastava, a labor economist at Jawarhalal Nehru University.

But, as Teerath Ram knows, the reality is very different. "This is the way the new bonded labor relationships are emerging," Srivastava said. These relationships are not purely economic contracts, even though employees may enter them due to necessity, rather than compulsion. And once employees enter into these relationships, there are high exit costs that the employees did not understand at the outset.

Bonded labor has been illegal in India since the enactment of the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act in 1976, and a series of progressive Supreme Court judgments expanded India's definition of bonded labor to make it more comprehensive.

India's highest court ruled in *Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs. the Union of India* (1984) that all laborers who are working for below the nationally mandated minimum wage should be presumed to be bonded to their employers. The ruling recognized that economic compulsions can be as powerful as historical feudal relationships and even the threat of physical harm, and that proving exploitation can be a knotty problem when employers keep all the records and their workers are illiterate and mathematically ignorant.

While this law doesn't go so far as to define anybody who is working for less than minimum wage to be a bonded laborer, it shifts the burden onto the employer to prove that his employees are there of their own volition. But despite this progressive interpretation of the law, forced labor, debt servitude and even slavery persist, according to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector.

Numbers are hard to come by. The *Bandhua Mukti Morcha* (or Bonded Labor Liberation Front) claims that as many as 300 million Indian workers should be presumed to be bonded laborers, based on the Supreme Court's definition.

The working conditions for such laborers are grim. They handle hazardous chemicals " and even explosives " without any safety equipment. Crippling and fatal accidents are routine. The work is backbreaking, and the pay is miserable. For instance, the oerapaswala, a kiln worker who buries the bricks before firing, earns only 8 rupees (or about 20 cents) for every thousand bricks he produces.

Things are no better for Teerath Ram and the other the oemodern bonded laborers of Faridabad, even though they have fought long and hard for their rights, and, according to some definitions, they're free.

Organized by the *Bandhua Mukti Morcha* (Bonded Labor Liberation Front) in 1984, they have secured a school and access to electricity at the cost of the life of one of their own " allegedly at the hands of company goons. But they still have yet to receive the legally mandated minimum wage for their labor. They handle dynamite and blasting caps without proper safety equipment because their employer requires them to pay for their gear themselves, and fatal accidents are so commonplace no one has an accurate count.

"I owe 20,000 rupees (\$500), which I borrowed to buy dynamite and other equipment," said Resham Lal, another quarry worker. "Every month, I repay 250 rupees. Nobody has told me how long it will take me to pay off my debt at this rate, and I keep working and spending more money on equipment and the interest on my loan keeps growing."

More GlobalPost dispatches on abuse:

The slaves next door

Saudi princess speaks out on abuse

Ireland deeply shocked by abuse revelations

Forced to cut corners, bosses prey on Burmese migrants

Newstex ID: 35904248

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2009

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336 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

June 21, 2009

Trafficking clamp underway

BYLINE: BEGENA P PRADEEP

LENGTH: 871 words

ACTIVISTS are gathering evidence of human trafficking in Bahrain under a nationwide campaign against the trade in misery.

They are calling for tougher laws and want officials to take more action.

Human rights activists backed a new US State Department report which says much more must be done to improve the country's track record.

The country remains on a special watchlist of nations being monitored over what action is being taken to combat trafficking, despite issuing new guidelines on the employment conditions of migrant workers.

Bahrain was one of 170 nations included in the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which said it did little to improve its services to protect victims of trafficking.

It was placed in the **Tier 2 watchlist** for failing to enforce laws against **trafficking in persons** and prevent the punishment of victims.

This put it alongside countries like Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan.

However, Bahrain was ahead of most of the other Gulf countries, which ranked in Tier 3, except Oman.

Those in Tier 1 have governments which fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, while Tier 2 countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to do so.

The US ranks countries in Tier 3 as those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The report, published by the GDN on Wednesday, recommends that Bahrain significantly increase its investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences.

It was also advised to ensure that victims are not punished for illegal migration or prostitution.

Bahrain was, however, recognised for reportedly closing several manpower agencies alleged to have confiscated workers' passports, switched contracts, or withheld payment of salaries.

Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS) secretary-general Faisal Fulad blamed officials' complacency for allowing the problem to get worse.

He praised Bahrain's leadership for its efforts to tackle the problem, but accused the Labour Ministry of not doing enough.

"The problem has been increasing, from the deaths of workers (in labour camp fires and site accidents), violence against housemaids and the number of people in shelters for abused women," he said.

"We have never seen any statement about human trafficking from them (Labour Ministry), but only from the Interior and Foreign ministries.

"There is nothing about human trafficking even on the Labour Ministry website, though they are responsible for issuing visas to Bahrain.

"The introduction of a new law to punish offenders, among other initiatives, appears to have made little progress in stopping the exploitation of women and children."

Mr Fulad said the BHRWS was set to launch a major report on the scale of Bahrain's human trafficking problem, in December.

It will feature case studies from people of all nationalities and include evidence presented by local and international human rights activists.

Earlier this year, the BHRWS launched the Bahraini Civil Partnership to Fight Human Trafficking, to improve co-operation between the government and national and international organisations seeking to eliminate the problem.

The BHRWS has also set up a 24-hour hotline to help victims.

It is available from 8am to 6pm on 17536222 and on 36633882 at other times.

Bahrain Human Rights Society secretary-general Abdulla Al Derazi said that Bahrain had notably changed for the better in the past year by issuing the ban on transporting workers in open trucks, the introduction of anti-trafficking law and moves to abolish the sponsorship system.

"Of course more awareness is needed among officials and accommodation facilities for migrant workers need improvement," he said.

"Housemaids not being included in Bahrain's labour law is a short-coming, expected to be tackled with amendments waiting to be approved by parliament.

"Plans are also underway to form a fund for trafficking victims to help them fight cases among other genuine needs."

Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) action committee head Marietta Dias agreed that much more needed to be done.

"Though the situation in Bahrain has improved to some extent there's still a long way to go," she said.

"Many trafficking victims in Bahrain are effectively silenced by the language barrier as there are no qualified translators to help them in court.

"Victims are signing statements in Arabic and don't know what is written on them."

Ms Dias also called for cases to be fast-tracked through the justice system, because at the moment they often took months and even years to complete.

"Migrants are reluctant to file cases against their employers as it would mean that they cannot work legally with another employer until the case is over."

Labour Ministry officials told the GDN that it is up to the Foreign Ministry to comment on the issue, as human trafficking was their concern.

The Foreign Ministry said that any statement, if at all, would be sent later.

begena@gdn.com.bh

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337 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 21, 2009 Sunday

US human trafficking report disappoints UAE officials

BYLINE: Eman Mohammed Abu Dhabi Deputy Editor, Wafa Issa and Abbas Al Lawati, Staff Reporters

LENGTH: 927 words

Dubai: A US State Department report on human trafficking that downgraded the UAE has met with sharp criticism from UAE officials who believe it is ambiguous and inconsistent.

The State **Trafficking in Persons** report for June 2009 classified the UAE as falling under "**tier** two", dropping one spot from last year, saying there were no "discernable anti-trafficking efforts against the forced labour of temporary migrant workers and domestic servants".

Dr Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs, issued a statement on Tuesday describing the report as "disappointing" and "subjective".

"It appears that the US definition of human trafficking varies every year, depending on the nature of debate on this issue in its domestic environment.

"It is incongruous to equate alleged labour rights violations, which are a critical but separate issue, to the coercive and unacceptable sexual exploitation of women for profit," said Gargash.

The report said that the UAE "historically has not recognised people forced into labour as trafficking victims". However, the definition of human trafficking according to Article 1 of the UAE's Federal Law 51 of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes is almost identical to that of the United Nations, which also considers forced labour as human trafficking.

"The anti-trafficking law recognises forced labour but they want us to include it in an article in the labour law. Different countries have different methods that serve the same purpose," Dr Saeed Bin Omair Al Ghafly, Executive Director at the Ministry of State for the FNC affairs, told Gulf News, adding that the report was "demotivating".

"What is saddening is that we sat with them [authors of the report] and clarified issues with them, but they don't seem to have taken that into considerations," he said.

"There is no clear definition of the minimum standards that are cited."

Afra Al Basti, CEO of the Dubai Women and Children Foundation (DWCF), said that her shelter was approached by researchers for the State Department to schedule a visit, but the date the shelter offered was not convenient for them.

"The report does not reflect the reality in the UAE and many of the efforts carried out by the government to combat human trafficking were only briefly cited. Our efforts to liaise with international organisations in the victims' home countries were left out."

She said however that steps needed to be taken by the authorities to combat human trafficking, such as putting limits on entry of girls between 15 and 30 from high risk countries.

Lieutenant General Dahi Khalfan Tamim, Chief of Dubai Police, said: "I stopped reading these reports several years ago. It's full of contradictions". He questioned the credibility of a report coming from a state "that violates human rights in front of the whole world".

"Our conscience dictates our efforts, and not the US government," he said.

Rashid Musabah Al Kindi, member of the Federal National Council who sits on a committee for labour issues, said the report was not fair and the UAE was made to pay for other people's mistakes, referring to fraudsters in other countries who lure young women to the UAE for job opportunities and force them into prostitution.

On the issue of passports, he said: "Keeping workers' passports is the employer's right and not a violation for human rights as stated in the report".

"In case workers commit a crime then it is the employer's responsibility and keeping his passport will prevent him from leaving the country."

Abdul Rahim Al Shahin, also a member of the FNC, questioned why the UAE was being "attacked" when other countries' violations were not being talked about.

"The UAE lately hosted a conference for Human Right Watch and celebrated for the first time labour day which is mainly for foreign workers," he added.

Comparison: Forced labour

Below are the definitions of human trafficking as per the United Nations and UAE law. Contrary to claims by a US State Department human trafficking report, the UAE does consider forced labour to be a form of human trafficking in law.

UN Definition: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

UAE definition: According to UAE's Federal Law 51 of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, human trafficking is: recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving persons by means of threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation includes all forms of sexual exploitation, engaging others in prostitution, servitude, forced labour, enslavement, quasi-slavery practices, or detachment of organs.

- Staff report

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338 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 21, 2009 Sunday**Puzzled over US move****SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 237 words

PUTRAJAYA: He is disappointed and a little puzzled by the United States' government recent move to list Malaysia as one of the top trafficking offenders in the world.

But Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said since the country had been re-relegated to **Tier 3** recently (after it had been upgraded to **Tier 2** last year after the enactment of the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Act 2007), it would be taking the necessary measures to look into **human trafficking**.

He said he would wait for an official letter from the US to know why exactly Malaysia was downgraded and what the country should be addressing.

"Is it illegal workers, Myanmar refugees, child labour or prostitution? Maybe it's the implementation of the act we need to look at. But the issue of human trafficking involves international cooperation, and I feel we can work together with Australia, United Kingdom and the US to address this crime."

With the media spotlight on the recent downgrade, Malaysia faces embarrassment with the report saying, among other things, that it had become a destination and at least a source and transit country for the trafficking of women and children.

"I am not trying to defend that. But I hope people will be fair to us, and be more specific with respect to their judgments towards Malaysia."

"We will have to specifically ask the US why. Tell me which areas you want us to overcome and in my capacity, I will overcome it."

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

339 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 20, 2009 Saturday

Malaysian foreign minister talks about efforts to tackle human trafficking

LENGTH: 277 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian official news agency Bernama website

["Malaysia Downgraded To Tier 3 In US Tip Report"]

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) - Malaysia has been downgraded to **Tier 3** from **Tier 2** in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report 2009 released on June 16 by the US Department of States, said Foreign Minister Datuk Anifah Aman.

He said Malaysia had enforced the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2007 to prosecute traffickers, and protect and rehabilitate the victims.

The act is aimed at upgrading Malaysia's status in tackling human trafficking, he said in a statement Friday.

The TIP Report ranks countries based on their level of compliance on established minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

"Malaysia's seriousness in tackling the issue can be seen in the number of cases brought to the court and the number of victims rescued.

"These are not considered in the TIP Report (between April 2008 and March 2009). Countries are ranked according to the Tiers based on the United States' perception on their records," he added.

Anifah said he met US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Ranking Minority Member of US Senate Committee Senator Richard Lugar when he visited Washington DC on Monday and Tuesday.

"During the meeting, I told them that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak took a serious view on an allegation that Malaysian civil servants had been implicated in human trafficking and he had ordered an investigation," said Anifah.

He said he had also proposed that human trafficking should be deliberated at the regional or international forum.

Source: Bernama website, Kuala Lumpur, in English 0004 gmt 20 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2009

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

340 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 20, 2009 Saturday

MALAYSIA DOWNGRADED TO TIER 3 IN US TIP REPORT**LENGTH:** 239 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 19

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341 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 20, 2009 Saturday

ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT: SUHAKAM REGRETS**LENGTH:** 308 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 20

As human trafficking is an intricate crime, an overnight result should not be expected from the 18-month-old Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (ATIP).

This is due to the complexities and wide range of stakeholders and actors involved in the trafficking chain, notes the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam).

"The multiple changes of hands and modus operandi between the time a person is trafficked to the place they are found or rescued from, require continuous efforts.

"Therefore, change cannot be expected at once," said Suhakam commissioner Datuk Dr Raj Abdul Karim when expressing deep regret over Malaysia's downgrading from Tier2 to Tier3 in the US Department of State's Trafficking In Persons Report 2009.

In a statement today, she said the report should have been more balanced and factual, and not merely fault finding.

The **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report 2009 released on June 16 by the US Department of State, indicated that Malaysia was downgraded to **Tier 3** from **Tier 2** for failing to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and was not making significant efforts to curb TIP issues.

In 2007, Malaysia enforced the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act to prosecute traffickers, besides protecting and rehabilitating the victims.

The act is aimed at upgrading Malaysia's status in tackling human trafficking.

Dr Raj said it would not be possible to see results over a period of one year (US ATIP reporting period) as the implementation of the act and efforts to combat the inhumane crime of human trafficking took time to yield expected results.

"As such, Suhakam fails to understand the US Department of State's system of placing grades on a yearly basis.

"It should really be looking at efforts taken by the Government, non-governmental organisations and the civil society to handle the issue," she added.

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342 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 20, 2009 Saturday

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SERIOUS IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING - MUSA

LENGTH: 284 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR June 20

Malaysian enforcement agencies are committed in addressing human trafficking by tightening surveillance and checks on travellers, said Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan.

"We have solved many human trafficking cases, made arrests and charged those responsible. These prove our seriousness in eliminating trafficking in persons," he told reporters at the police family day at Titiwangsa Lake Garden here today.

Malaysia has been downgraded to **Tier 3** from **Tier 2** in the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report 2009 released by US Department of State for allegedly not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**.

Musa said the Malaysian police would compare notes with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Australian police on human trafficking.

On a defamation suit filed against the government and the police by textile shop owner and his brother-in-law for wrongful arrest and trespass, Musa said it was their rights and the police were prepared to face it.

He said the duo, who were suspects in the Nurin Jazlin Jazimin's abduction and murder two years ago, were picked up based on information received.

Musa said the police had not closed the case and were still gathering evidence.

Trader Mohamad Zamri Ibrahim, 35, and former engineer Mohd Suhaimi Yusoff, 30, claimed that they want to clear their names which were tarnished due to the arrest and detention.

The two plaintiffs yesterday named investigating officer ASP Loh Pei Pei, Musa and the Government as defendants.

Eight-year-old Nurin went missing on Aug 20 2007 after going to a night market alone near her home in Wangsa Maju.

Her naked body was found stuffed in a sports bag and left outside a shop in Petaling Utama on Sept 17 2007.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

343 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 20, 2009 Saturday

Police: We're doing all we can on human trafficking

BYLINE: Fadhil A. Ghani; Sajahan Abdul Waheed

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 336 words

KUALA LUMPUR: The deputy inspector-general of police yesterday rejected allegations that the force was not doing enough to investigate human trafficking cases.

Tan Sri Ismail Omar said the proof that police were giving attention to such cases lay in their records.

He said the United States State Department had no basis to put Malaysia in **Tier 3** of its **Trafficking in Persons black-list** or to make allegations that the force had not done its best to counter the problem.

Ismail said the force will continue to do so until the issue was resolved.

"Although there are many challenges and factors in curbing the problem, we have managed to take appropriate action based on the power given to us and the laws of the country."

Ismail said policemen had been stationed at border areas and other "hot" spots for those attempting to smuggle illegals into the country, adding that the force also worked closely with other enforcement agencies in the country such as Customs, Immigration and the Anti-Smuggling Unit.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Malaysia was waiting for a written reply from the United States embassy on its government's list of top trafficking offenders.

He said he was told the report would be submitted soon.

"I want to know which aspects they are referring to. They have to be more specific and should not make accusations without backing their claims," he said yesterday.

He said the government would take all steps under its jurisdiction to overcome the problem if it was within its control.

"The issues regarding human trafficking cannot be overcome overnight. We need to get an accurate account from the embassy."

He said Malaysia was blacklisted in 2001 but its ranking improved to **Tier 2** in the subsequent years until 2007, when it was relegated to **Tier 3**. Last year, after the enactment of the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Act 2007, Malaysia was again elevated to **Tier 2**.

Malaysia is listed with 16 other countries in Tier 3 this year, including six newly-added African nations.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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344 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 20, 2009 Saturday

A reality check

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 16

LENGTH: 422 words

HOME Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein is seeking an explanation from the United States embassy for the report putting Malaysia back on the **blacklist** of the worst offenders in **human trafficking**. There's nothing wrong with doing that. Doubtless, it is the men and women in the Kuala Lumpur outpost who have been the major source of the country "narrative" on Malaysia in the US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2009". To be sure, certain sections of one year's report are indistinguishable from those in another year. A case in point is the "recommendations" in this year's report which are almost identical to last year's. But there are crucial differences. In a nutshell, the main one is that when Malaysia was taken off the blacklist and put on the watch list last year, despite still not fully complying with the "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking", it was because we were seen to be "making significant efforts to do so". But for this year's report, the assessment was that we were "not making significant efforts to do so".

In other words, it is not necessary to look any further than the report itself for the reasons for the damning conclusion. One of these involved the US Senate report on the trafficking of Myanmar refugees on our border with Thailand. In the view of the US ambassador James Keith, as expressed in a telephone interview from Washington DC, this was a major factor for our lowly status on the human trafficking scale. As the American ambassador has acknowledged, the problem has also to be tackled at the root causes in Myanmar. But as the home minister has rightly reiterated, we also have an obligation to "do whatever we can to overcome it".

The minister has also got it spot on in not sending a protest note. The police may have concluded that the allegations about the selling of refugees to brothels, restaurants and fishing boats were not "credible". But we should not close our eyes to the probable official connivance and corruption, the forced prostitution, forced labour and other abuses, or fool ourselves into thinking that the drowning of those seeking passage to third countries are isolated incidents. Rather than express outrage at being lumped together with countries like Myanmar, we should look at the blacklisting as a reality check. Furthermore, as this year's report says, as "a regional economic leader approaching developed-nation status, Malaysia has the resources and government infrastructure to do more in addressing trafficking in persons".

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Editorial

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

345 of 404 DOCUMENTS

**June** 19, 2009 Friday 11:56 PM EET

25 LITHUANIAN WOMEN FREED FROM SEXUAL SLAVERY ABROAD IN 2008

LENGTH: 364 words**DATELINE:** VILNIUS Jun 19

Some 25 Lithuanian women in 2008 were freed from sexual slavery abroad and returned back to their home country. A fifth of the victims of human trafficking were reportedly underage. Five indictments were made against Lithuanian citizens in 2008 for human trafficking, the Interior Ministry said.

Lithuanian women are reported to have fallen victim to human trafficking both within the country and taken abroad, namely the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has come forward with the comprehensive report on the human trafficking situation in 2008 around the globe. Lithuania has for the sixth consecutive year retained **Tier 1** status, meaning its efforts to eliminate **human trafficking** meet the minimum requirements. "While the report says Lithuania to be a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, it also underlines that our government fully complies with the requirements to battle human trafficking," Lithuanian Interior Minister Raimundas Palaitis said. "In 2008, the government increased victim assistance funding to \$150,000, demonstrated strong law enforcement efforts, and increased the number of victims referred by law enforcement personnel for assistance. It also ensured that a majority of convicted traffickers served significant time in prison," the report reads. The report cites an estimate that 20 percent of all victims of human trafficking in Lithuania are underage. The minister said the figure is inconceivable, however noting the percentage is lower than it was in 2007. The US Department of State in line with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 annually assesses anti-human trafficking efforts on the global level. The assessment groups countries into four different categories, starting with **Tier 1** - countries displaying most ardent efforts to combat trafficking and ending with **Tier 4** states, which seem to be experiencing the most problems in the field of battling **human trafficking**. Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2058531, politika@bns.lt

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

346 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 19, 2009 Friday

St Vincent sees "no evidential basis" for being on US human trafficking list

LENGTH: 372 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent, CMC - St Vincent and the Grenadines has objected to being placed on the United States government's State Department **watch list** for **human trafficking**.

In a statement Thursday morning in Parliament, Prime Minister and National Security Minister Ralph Gonsalves accused the State Department of acting "unfair, wrong, arbitrarily" by placing St Vincent and the Grenadines on the second **tier of the trafficking in persons watch list**, as it released its ninth annual report on **trafficking in persons**.

"St Vincent does not have trafficking of persons," Gonsalves said, adding that the country's placement on the list was greeted here with "utter shock and disdain".

The Prime Minister sent a letter on Wednesday to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton strongly expressing the government's displeasure and disagreement.

"There is no evidential basis for the placement of St Vincent and the Grenadines on any such watch list," it said.

The State Department report said "St Vincent and the Grenadines is a potential source country for children trafficked internally for the purposes of sexual exploitation; it may also be a destination country for women trafficked for the purposes of Commercial sexual exploitation".

The document claims that "a traditional practice of sending children away from home to live with another family is sometimes misused for the purpose of coercing children into commercial sexual exploitation.

"In these situations, care-givers force fostered children into sexual relationships in exchange for financial and in-kind compensation."

Gonsalves said that the persons charged with preparing that report on St Vincent and the Grenadines obviously did so "oblivious to the real facts of the situation", and wrote the report based on "hearsay, unreliable information and some mischief making possibly by some busy-bodies".

He said that besides his letter to Clinton, he has held discussions with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Brent Hardt and made clear his feeling on the matter.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 2050 gmt 18 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

347 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 19, 2009 Friday

Taiwan needs to do more to fight human trafficking: US report

LENGTH: 689 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Roger Chou]

Taipei, June 18 (CNA) - Taiwan has made some progress in combating human trafficking over the past year, but should do much more, including extending labour protections to all categories of workers to prevent labour trafficking, according to the just-released 2009 US

Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The annual report placed Taiwan in **Tier 2** ranking, which is for governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking prescribed by the US law that guides anti-**human trafficking** efforts -the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Governments that fully comply are placed in Tier 1. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in Tier 3.

"Taiwan authorities made noticeable progress during the reporting period by passing a new anti-trafficking law, bolstering law enforcement efforts, and approving a budget plan of \$14US.8 million for victim protection measures," the report acknowledged.

Trafficked victims -including men, women and children -are usually brought to Taiwan for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation, according to the report.

Most trafficking victims are workers from rural areas of Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. They are employed through recruitment agencies and brokers to perform low-skilled work in Taiwan's construction, fishing, and manufacturing industries, or to work as domestic helpers.

"Many of these workers fall victim to labour trafficking by unscrupulous brokers and employers, who force workers to perform work outside the scope of their contract and often under exploitative conditions, " the report said, which is available online.

Some women and girls from China and Southeast Asian countries are trafficked to Taiwan through fraudulent marriages, deceptive employment offers, and illegal smuggling for sexual exploitation and forced labour, the report found.

It said many migrant workers are charged job placement and service fees up to the equivalent of \$14US,000, some of which are unlawful.

The report added that this results in substantial debt for the workers that unscrupulous labour brokers or employers may use as a coercive tool to subject the workers to involuntary servitude.

"Many foreign workers remain vulnerable to trafficking because legal protections, oversight by authorities and enforcement efforts are currently inadequate, " said the report.

Taiwan's regulations currently allow employers to implement a system of "forced savings, " whereby employers deduct up to 30 per cent of a foreign worker's monthly salary to be placed in a bank account in the worker's name, but inaccessible to the worker, the report said. This system has facilitated trafficking, it said.

The report cited NGOs saying that immigration, police and local law enforcement officials continue to view trafficking victims as runaways or criminals, resulting in some victims being penalized rather than assisted.

In addition to recommending that Taiwan extend labour protections to all categories of workers, the report also suggested that Taiwan implement its new comprehensive anti-trafficking law and effectively carry out its victim and witness protections so that victims are not penalized for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, which would encourage them to seek help.

It also suggested Taiwan increase police efforts to investigate trafficking crimes and to identify trafficking victims, and improve cooperation with governments of labour source countries on trafficking investigations.

Taiwan's National Immigration Agency (NIA), which did not have a direct response to the findings of the report, said Thursday that Taiwan has remained on Tier 2 in the annual report for three consecutive years. It said Japan and Singapore also received Tier 2 ranking.

The agency said Taiwan was placed on Tier 2 Watch List in 2006 and upgraded to Tier 2 the next year.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1326 gmt 18 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

348 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 19, 2009 Friday

Justice chief seeks faster case resolution

SECTION: Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 215 words

Justice Secretary Agnes VST. Devanadera has ordered prosecutors to request courts to fast-track the resolution of human trafficking cases.

The directive tracked a 2009 Global **Trafficking in Persons** report of the US State Department that classified the Philippines under the **tier 2 watch list**.

The report noted "the government did not show evidence of progress in convicting trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for labor trafficking."

The US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 provides that a country, which has been included in the tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years, may be subjected to restrictions on non-humanitarian and non-trade related foreign assistance. The Philippines is in the tier 2 watch list for the first time. It was previously in the lower tier 2 level.

Ms. Devanadera, however, said prosecutors should not "antagonize" the courts in seeking a faster resolution of cases, but at the same time should "exert all efforts" to address delays.

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Severino Gana, Jr. noted advances in fast-tracking cases, including winning a Cebu case where a female, accused of harboring a person for pornography, was sentenced to life imprisonment and a P3-million fine. Mr. Gana is chairman of the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

349 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Christian Science Monitor

June 19, 2009, Friday

A stop sign for human trafficking

BYLINE: the Monitor's Editorial Board

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 614 words

It's not every day that the US government gives Nigeria a shout-out for a job well done. After all, the State Department labels this African nation's human rights record "poor" and its 2007 presidential election "seriously flawed."

But this week, the State Department praised Africa's most populous country for its progress in prosecuting human traffickers and helping their victims. "I can't talk about Nigeria enough," said Ambassador Luis Cde-Baca, who leads the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In only five years, Nigeria has advanced from the State Department's **human-trafficking "watch list"** to its top **tier** of countries fully complying with standards to eliminate servitude.

That stands as proof that other countries and the world as a whole can do something about this scourge flourishing in the shadows. An estimated 12 million adults and children have been induced by force, fraud, or coercion to become prostitutes, miners, farmhands, domestics, sweatshop workers - mostly in the developing world.

In its ninth annual report on human trafficking, the State Department said this week that the economic crisis has made people more vulnerable to the false promises and trickery that can lead to enslavement. Of the 175 countries and territories it rated, the 2008 report put 52 of them on its watch list, up from 40 the year before - a 30 percent increase.

And yet, since 2000, more than half of all countries have enacted laws that ban human trafficking. Nongovernmental organizations are working more closely with law enforcement and that's leading to thousands of prosecutions. Last year, nearly 3,000 traffickers were convicted.

It's the law enforcement follow-through that counts most, and that's one reason why Nigeria moved into the top-tier rank. Over the last year, it investigated 209 trafficking cases resulting in 23 convictions - more than double the convictions from the year before.

That number is small considering that 150 million people live in this West African country. Nigeria is a source and a destination for coerced labor. Boys are forced to work as street vendors and beggars, in stone quarries and as domestics. Women and girls are trafficked mostly for the commercial sex trade and as servants.

But Nigeria's anti-trafficking trajectory is moving in the right direction. The government is making a concerted effort to train law enforcement and cooperate internationally. Last year it helped in the arrest of 60 Nigerian trafficking suspects in Europe. It has increased funding for its anti-trafficking program and is assisting victims by working with NGOs to provide shelter, counseling, and vocational training.

Nigeria's efforts are even more remarkable given what happened elsewhere on the continent. Of the seven countries demoted to the report's worst-performing category, six were from Africa (the seventh was Malaysia, where traffickers are exploiting migrants from Burma, or Myanmar).

Mr. CdeBaca said several of these countries had stalled in their commitment to curb "hereditary slavery," in which a slave caste serves the same families, sometimes going back hundreds of years. He singled out the West African countries of Chad, Mauritania, and Niger.

Human trafficking occurs in every country, including the United States - which for the first time will be rated in next year's report. No doubt, it, too, can do more to stop this serious crime.

At the end of the day, it's not enough to pass laws banning human trafficking. Cases must be investigated, suspects prosecuted, and traffickers convicted. Nigeria has shown the political will to follow through. Other countries can, too.

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LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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350 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 19, 2009 Friday

'Lanka not doing enough to combat human trafficking'**LENGTH:** 574 words**DATELINE:** Colombo

Colombo, June 19 -- The United States has placed Sri Lanka together with India and 51 other countries, including China, Pakistan and Bangladesh on a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for still not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**.

The report for 2008 released on Wednesday by the US State Department said Sri Lanka was primarily a source and, to a much lesser extent, a destination for men and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Sri Lankan men and women migrate willingly to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, and Singapore to work as construction workers, domestic servants, or garment factory workers. Some of these workers find themselves in situations of involuntary servitude when faced with restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and debt bondage that is, in some instances, facilitated by large pre-departure fees imposed by labor recruitment agencies and their unlicensed sub-agents. The report said children were trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation and, infrequently, for forced labour. It said a small number of women from Thailand, China, and Russia, and other countries of the former Soviet Union might be trafficked into Sri Lanka for commercial sexual exploitation. Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these overall efforts, the government has not shown evidence of progress in convicting and punishing trafficking offenders; therefore, Sri Lanka is placed on Tier 2 Watch List, the report said. While the Sri Lankan government did not achieve any convictions of trafficking offenders, it arrested 29 alleged traffickers and started prosecutions against ten people for trafficking-related offenses, an increase from the previous year when no one was arrested or prosecuted for trafficking-related crimes. It also drafted a national policy on migration that promises to prevent the trafficking of Sri Lankan migrants and it developed a national anti-trafficking task force that should become operational in the coming year. The report calls on Sri Lanka to vigorously investigate and prosecute suspected trafficking offenses and convict and punish trafficking offenders, particularly those responsible for recruiting victims with fraudulent offers of employment and excessive commission fees; follow through with the creation of the national anti-trafficking task force; develop and implement through training of law enforcement personnel formal victim referral procedures; and ensure that victims of trafficking found within Sri Lanka are not detained or otherwise penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their being trafficked. It also said although the Government of Sri Lanka made strides in arrests and prosecutions of alleged traffickers, it did not demonstrate adequate law enforcement efforts in addressing human trafficking cases over the reporting period. Sri Lanka prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its penal code, which prescribes punishments of up to 20 years' imprisonment; these penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other grave offenses, such as rape. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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351 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 19, 2009 Friday 7:53 AM GMT**Taiwan cracks major human trafficking ring: reports****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 122 words**DATELINE:** TAIPEI June 19

Taiwan broke up the biggest human trafficking ring in the island's history, thwarting an operation to traffic young Chinese girls to the United States, the island's media reported Friday.

Taiwan's National Immigration Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security conducted an eight-month joint investigation into the operation, which involved using Taiwanese passports for mainland Chinese girls, who were trafficked to the United States via Hong Kong to work in brothels, local media reported.

Taiwanese authorities reportedly arrested 74 members of the ring.

The U.S. State Department lists Taiwan as a "**Tier 2**" territory in its annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, indicating a high level of **human trafficking** and smuggling.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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352 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 19, 2009 Friday

POLICE DENY NOT DOING ENOUGH TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 280 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 19

Police today refuted claims that the force was not doing enough to combat human trafficking, including those involving Myanmar refugees who were taken to Thailand from Malaysia, as mentioned in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2009.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar said on the contrary, police investigated all reports including those related to the trafficking of Myanmar into Thailand.

The TIP report downgraded Malaysia to **Tier 3** this year from **Tier 2** last year, putting the country on the US' **human trafficking blacklist** along with 16 other countries.

Describing the report as baseless, Ismail said the Malaysian authorities had been taking actions on the matter in accordance with the country's laws and regulations.

"In terms of enforcement, we have done our best to combat human trafficking. We have records to show that we have been discharging our duties to the best of our ability.

"We have also stationed personnel in border areas and in places which we think are prone to intrusion," he told reporters after closing the human right workshop for Asean police trainees at the Royal Malaysia Police College in Cheras, here today.

Ismail said that despite numerous challenges, he believed that police had the capability to tackle the crime.

"The important thing is that we are committed in discharging our duties and we are not alone... we have the support and cooperation from other agencies such as the Immigration, Customs and maritime enforcement agency," he said.

Apart from Malaysia, countries in the US **blacklist** for **human trafficking** include Zimbabwe, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and North Korea.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

353 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Mercury (South Africa)

June 19, 2009 Friday
e1 Edition

Trafficking warning for 2010

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2**LENGTH:** 195 words

The US government has warned South Africa to be ready for a possible upsurge of trafficking in prostitutes, especially children, into the country before the World Cup next year.

Washington has upgraded South Africa by one rank in its latest human trafficking report because of the government's "significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking".

The US State Department's 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** report, released this week, raises South Africa from "**Tier 2 Watchlist**" to "**Tier 2**" largely because of greater efforts by the police and judiciary to prosecute human traffickers, and the drafting of a dedicated anti-**human trafficking** bill.

The report says that "South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children." This includes girls for prostitution and domestic servitude, and both boys and girls for the removal of their organs for "muti".

Ray Brown, political counsellor at the US embassy in Pretoria, said: "We are very happy to be a partner with the South African government in combating this problem because of its serious commitment to tackling it." - Independent Foreign Service

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** NM

354 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 19, 2009 Friday**PRESS STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA
US TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2009****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 363 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

The following information was released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia:

Malaysia is concerned that it has been downgraded to **Tier 3** in the US **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2009 that was released on 16 June 2009. The categorisation of countries into groups or **Tiers** is based solely on the US perception of that country's record relating to **trafficking in persons**. Malaysia was placed at Tier 2 (watch list) in 2008.

Malaysia implemented in 2007 the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, which will result in better prosecution as well as protection and rehabilitation related to trafficking in persons. The implementation of the Act will lead to Malaysia attaining the highest possible standards in addressing trafficking in persons. The seriousness of Malaysia in handling this issue is also reflected by the increased number of prosecutions and number of victims saved thus far. The efforts that have been undertaken and that will be implemented to address this issue have obviously not taken into account in the US Trafficking in Persons Report (which covers the period April 2008 until March 2009).

It should be noted that YB Datuk Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs had met with the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton and Senator Richard Lugar, the Ranking Minority Member of US Senate Committee on Foreign Relation during the Minister's visit to the United States on 14-15 May 2009. During these meetings, the Foreign Minister had informed the US side that the Malaysian Prime Minister was deeply concerned about the allegations of Malaysian officials being involved with trafficking in persons and had ordered the relevant Ministers to investigate these allegations. The investigations are now ongoing.

As the issue related to trafficking in persons might involve many parties, the Foreign Minister had also expressed his hope to Secretary Clinton that this matter would be explored and discussed at the regional level and international levels.

Malaysia hopes that with the full implementation and improvements of the existing legislations, the issue pertaining to trafficking in persons will be fully addressed.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA

LOAD-DATE: July 18, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

355 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Star (South Africa)

June 19, 2009 Friday
e1 Edition

SA warned of 2010 upsurge in human trafficking; The US says law is needed to deal with trade in human beings

BYLINE: Peter Fabricius

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 642 words

The US government has warned South Africa to prepare for a possible upsurge of trafficking in prostitutes, especially children, into the country before the World Cup.

Washington has upgraded South Africa by one rank in its latest human trafficking report because of the SA government's "significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking".

The US State Department's 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report released this week raises South Africa from the "**Tier 2 Watchlist**" to "**Tier 2**" largely because of greater efforts by the SA police and judiciary to prosecute human traffickers and the drafting of a dedicated anti-**human-trafficking** bill.

The TIP report, which probes human trafficking around the world, says "South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children."

This includes boy children being trafficked within SA from rural areas to cities for forced street vending, begging and crime, girls for prostitution and domestic servitude; and both boys and girls for the removal of their organs for "muti".

The report says South African women are trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation; Nigerian syndicates have reportedly begun trafficking women from South Africa to the US for African migrant clients there; while women and girls from Thailand, Congo, India, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Russia, Ukraine, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are trafficked to South Africa for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude... Some of these women are trafficked onward to Europe for sexual exploitation.

Many Thai women are trafficked into South Africa's illegal brothels while Eastern European organised crime units force women from Russia and Ukraine into debt-bonded prostitution in exclusive private men's clubs, the report says.

Organised traffickers from China bring victims from Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland to Joburg for exploitation locally or to send them on to other cities, and men from China and Taiwan are trafficked to mobile sweatshop factories in Chinese urban enclaves in South Africa.

"Young men and boys from Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe voluntarily migrate illegally to South Africa for farm work, sometimes labouring for months... with little or no pay and under conditions of involuntary servitude before unscrupulous employers have them arrested and deported as illegal immigrants.

"The Government of South Africa does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it made significant efforts to do so over the past year.

"The government opened prosecutions against 16 suspected trafficking offenders during the year. It is continuing to prepare for late 2009 passage and subsequent implementation of its comprehensive anti-trafficking law (the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill) by developing inter-agency operating procedures and training officials on the law, victim identification, and agency roles.

"Foreign victims in South Africa, however, still face inadequate protection from the government. Labour trafficking does not receive as much government attention as does sex trafficking.

The report recommends several concrete steps be taken to combat trafficking in South Africa - including the enactment of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, and implementation of the Children's Amendment Act of 2007.

Ray Brown, political counsellor at the US embassy in Pretoria, said the government should be vigilant ahead of 2010. He said that it was by no means clear that the new dedicated anti-trafficking legislation would be in place before the World Cup, but even without it the South African authorities could adapt and use other legislation such as the Sexual Offences Act and Child Protection Act.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: SW

356 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Atlas Shrugs

June 18, 2009 Thursday 9:13 AM EST

Muslim Countries lead in Trafficking and Slavery

BYLINE: Pamela Geller

LENGTH: 1343 words

Jun. 18, 2009 (Atlas Shrugs delivered by Newstex) --

We seek broader engagement based upon mutual interest and mutual respect. We will listen carefully, we will bridge misunderstanding, and we will seek common ground. We will be respectful even when we do not agree. Obama Obama, champion of the new magical world of kumbaya, common goals, harmony and Jew hating, somehow missed this. Even so, RESPECT IT! This is the garbage we decent Americans have to swallow.

Muslim Countries in Mideast, Africa Lead World in Human Trafficking Gil Ronen hat tip Davida
if (sLinkData != "") document.write("Edit
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(IsraelNN.com) Muslim countries in the Middle East and north-central Africa lead the world in human trafficking, according to a new U.S. State Department report. Of the 17 countries that were given the "Tier 3" listing reserved for the worst offenders, nine were Muslim countries or countries with a large Muslim population from these two regions. Tier 3 countries are defined as those whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and "are not making significant efforts to do so."

The Middle Eastern countries with Tier 3 status are Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The north-central African countries are Mauritania, Chad, Sudan, Niger and Eritrea, all of which have very large Muslim populations. Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Lebanon are on the Tier 2 Watchlist "one step above Tier 3."

Shyima Hall, 19, was photographed for the State Department report in the windowless garage where she was kept for two years. Shyima was 10 when a wealthy Egyptian couple brought her from a poor village in northern Egypt to work in their home in California. She used to wake before dawn and often worked past midnight ironing clothes, mopping the marble floors and dusting the family's crystal. She sometimes worked up to 20 hours a day and earned \$45 a month. (Photo: Traffic in Persons Report 2009).

The data in the report indicates that Muslim countries in the Middle East and Africa are continuing their centuries-old practice of human trafficking. Historians estimate that between 9 and 14 million black Africans were brought to the Americas in the Atlantic slave trade and between 11 and 18 million black African slaves crossed the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and Sahara Desert between the Muslim conquests in the 7th century and 1900.

Iran: The report says that Iran is a source, transit, and destination for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. Iranian women are trafficked internally for the purpose of forced prostitution and forced marriage. Iranian and Afghan children living in Iran are trafficked internally for the purpose of forced marriage, commercial sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude as beggars or laborers to pay debts, provide income, or support drug addiction of their families. Iranian women and girls are also trafficked to Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom for commercial sexual exploitation.

The State Department report noted that the Government of Iran does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to do so. Lack of access to Iran by U.S. Government officials impedes the collection of information on the country's **human trafficking** problem and the government's efforts to curb it.

North Africa and Middle East: **Tier 3** countries are shaded maroon. (Traffic in Persons Report 2009).

Saudi Arabia, the report says, is a destination country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of involuntary servitude and, to a lesser extent, commercial sexual exploitation. Men and women from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and many other countries voluntarily travel to Saudi Arabia as domestic servants or other low-skilled laborers, but some subsequently face conditions indicative of involuntary servitude, including restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and non-payment of wages.

Some Saudi men have also used legally contracted temporary marriages in countries such as Mauritania, Yemen, and Indonesia as a means by which to sexually exploit migrant workers. Females as young as seven years old are led to believe they are being wed in earnest, but upon arrival in Saudi Arabia subsequently become their husbands sexual slaves, are forced into domestic labor and, in some cases, prostitution. The Government of Saudi Arabia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making discernible efforts to do so.

Syria is principally a destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation. Women from Iraq, Eastern Europe, former Soviet states, Somalia, and Morocco are recruited as cabaret dancers and subsequently forced into prostitution after their employers confiscate their passports and confine them to their work premises. A significant number of women and children in the large Iraqi refugee community in Syria are forced into sexual exploitation by criminal gangs or, in some cases, their families. Some desperate Iraqi families reportedly abandon their girls at the border with the expectation that traffickers on the Syrian side would arrange forged documents for the children and work in a nightclub or brothel. Iraqi families arrange for young girls to work in clubs and to be married, often multiple times, to men for the sole purpose of prostitution.

Africa: Tier 3 countries are shaded maroon. (Traffic in Persons Report 2009).

In Kuwait, the majority of trafficking victims are from among the over 500,000 foreign women recruited for domestic service work. Men and women migrate from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in search of work in the domestic and sanitation industries. Although they migrate willingly to Kuwait, upon arrival some are subjected to conditions of forced labor from their sponsors and labor agents, such as withholding of passports, confinement, physical sexual abuse and threats of such abuse or other serious harm, and non-payment of wages with the intent of compelling their continued service.

Adult female migrant workers are particularly vulnerable, and consequently are often victims of sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. There have been instances of domestic workers who have fled from their employers, lured by the promise of well-paying service industry jobs, and being coerced into prostitution. In other cases, the terms of employment in Kuwait are wholly different from those agreed to in their home countries. The Government of Kuwait does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making sufficient efforts to do so.

What Obama did not mention

The report has four tiers altogether: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watchlist and Tier 3. Israel is in Tier 2, the second-best listing. It should be noted, however, that statistics regarding trafficking in Israel are largely provided by powerful organizations inside Israel which have been accused of exaggerating the severity of the situation there for political reasons. U.S. President Barack Obama, himself a descendant of black Africans, did not mention the subject of Muslim human trafficking in his recent speech to the Arab world in Cairo. He did mention, however, that for centuries, black people in America suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation, but did so in the context of talking about Palestinian suffering.

Newstex ID: 35847839

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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357 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 18, 2009 Thursday

US names Zimbabwe as source, transit, destination country for human trafficking

LENGTH: 434 words

Text of report by South Africa-based ZimOnline website on 18 June

[Report by Nokuthula Sibanda: "Zim on US **Human Trafficking Blacklist**"]

HARARE -The United States (US) has named Zimbabwe alongside six other African countries, which it accuses of human trafficking.

In a document entitled "Trafficking in Persons Report" released by the US State Department on Tuesday, Washington also cited Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Swaziland and Sudan as some of the African countries responsible for human trafficking.

The report says Zimbabwe "is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation", citing the global economic crisis as also adding to the demand side of human trafficking.

Some of the countries on the US "blacklist" are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Cuba, Fiji, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea and Syria, according to the US State Department report for 2009.

The black listed countries risk suspension of US non-humanitarian aid.

Over the past decade Zimbabwe -which was once a model African economy -experienced an unprecedented economic recession that in addition to hyperinflation was also seen in shortages of food, rising unemployment and poverty that forced millions to leave the country in search of greener pastures.

At least three million or a quarter of the southern African country's 12 million people live in exile after fleeing an economic crisis once described by the World Bank as the worst in the world outside a war zone.

Critics blame President Robert Mugabe -in power since independence from Britain in 1980 -for ruining the economy through repression and wrong policies.

Mugabe denies ruining the economy and instead says his country's problems are because of sanctions and sabotage by Britain and its Western allies opposed to his land reforms.

A unity government formed by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Mugabe in February is yet to convince rich Western nations that the southern African country is firmly on the path to genuine reform for them give it much needed financial support to resuscitate its shattered economy.

Under the inclusive government, Zimbabwe has halted its spectacular economic collapse, abandoning its worthless currency and easing price controls, which has brought food back on to store shelves.

But with state coffers empty, unemployment at 94 per cent, more than half the population surviving on international food aid and some squabbles still dogging the unity government, the country remains mired in crisis.

Source: ZimOnline, Johannesburg, in English 18 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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358 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 18, 2009 Thursday

US report criticizes Caribbean over human trafficking

LENGTH: 773 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

WASHINGTON, CMC - The United States has placed three Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries on its "**Tier 2 Watch List**" and one on its "Special Case" in its ninth Annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report. The State Department has also placed six CARICOM nations on its "Tier 2" list. The report, released here Wednesday, listed Belize, Guyana, and St Vincent and the Grenadines in the "Tier 2 Watch List" category, and Haiti as the "Special Case." Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago are listed in the "Tier 2" category.

Tier 2 applies to countries considered to be making minimal efforts to satisfy the US anti-**Trafficking in persons'** requirement, while "**Tier 2 Watch List**" is when their efforts are not enough, according to US standards. Washington said that Belize is a "source, transit, and destination country" for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. It said the most common form of trafficking in Belize is the internal sex trafficking of minors, particularly situations in which "poor families push their school-aged daughters to provide sexual favours to wealthy older men in exchange for school fees, money, and gifts." This 'sugar daddy' phenomenon occurs in Belize and other Caribbean countries, but often it is not recognised as a form of human trafficking by local communities or law enforcement personnel," the report said. It said the Belize government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. "Despite these overall significant efforts, the government did not show evidence of progress in convicting and sentencing trafficking offenders last year," the report said, adding "therefore, Belize is placed on Tier 2 Watch List". The US said Guyana is also a source country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. It said Guyanese trafficking victims have been identified within the country, as well as in Barbados, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname. It said the majority of victims are trafficked internally for sexual and labour exploitation in the more heavily populated coastal areas and in the remote areas of the country's interiors. "In coastal areas, traffickers promise rural women and girls jobs as domestic servants, then coerce them into working in shops or homes for little or no pay, or sell them to brothels," the report said, stating, too, that the Bharrat Jagdeo administration does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so. But, despite its overall efforts, the US said the government did not show evidence of progress in prosecuting and punishing acts of trafficking. The Guyana government has already criticised the US report. Washington said St Vincent and the Grenadines is a "potential source country for children trafficked internally for the purposes of sexual exploitation," adding it may also be a destination country for women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. "Anecdotal reporting suggests the number of victims trafficked in, to, or through St Vincent and the Grenadines is small. "Information on the full extent of human trafficking in St Vincent and the Grenadines, however, is lacking, as neither the government nor NGOs have conducted any related investigations, studies, or surveys," it said noting that "reports indicate that a traditional practice of sending children away from home to live with another family is sometimes misused for the purpose of coercing children into commercial sexual exploitation". Despite overall significant efforts, it said the Ralph Gonsalves' administration also did not provide "evidence of vigorous law enforcement efforts to combat trafficking by investigating reports of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and of women who may be forced to engage in prostitution." The State Department said Haiti remains a "Special Case" for the fourth consecutive year as the new government, formed in September 2008, has not yet been able to address the significant challenges facing the country, including human trafficking. "The US government, however, notes the progress of Haiti's government, and urges the Government of Haiti to take immediate action to address its serious trafficking-in-persons problems," the report said.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1450 gmt 18 Jun 09

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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359 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 18, 2009 Thursday 8:38 PM TST

Taiwan needs to do more to fight human trafficking: U.S. report

BYLINE: Roger Chou

LENGTH: 659 words

DATELINE: Taipei, June 18

Taiwan has made some progress in combating human trafficking over the past year, but should do much more, including extending labor protections to all categories of workers to prevent labor trafficking, according to the just-released 2009 U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The annual report placed Taiwan in **Tier 2** ranking, which is for governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking prescribed by the U.S. law that guides anti-**human trafficking** efforts - the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Governments that fully comply are placed in Tier 1. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in Tier 3.

"Taiwan authorities made noticeable progress during the reporting period by passing a new anti-trafficking law, bolstering law enforcement efforts, and approving a budget plan of \$14US.8 million for victim protection measures," the report acknowledged.

Trafficked victims - including men, women and children - are usually brought to Taiwan for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation, according to the report.

Most trafficking victims are workers from rural areas of Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. They are employed through recruitment agencies and brokers to perform low-skilled work in Taiwan's construction, fishing, and manufacturing industries, or to work as domestic helpers.

"Many of these workers fall victim to labor trafficking by unscrupulous brokers and employers, who force workers to perform work outside the scope of their contract and often under exploitative conditions," the report said, which is available online.

Some women and girls from China and Southeast Asian countries are trafficked to Taiwan through fraudulent marriages, deceptive employment offers, and illegal smuggling for sexual exploitation and forced labor, the report found.

It said many migrant workers are charged job placement and service fees up to the equivalent of \$14US,000, some of which are unlawful.

The report added that this results in substantial debt for the workers that unscrupulous labor brokers or employers may use as a coercive tool to subject the workers to involuntary servitude.

"Many foreign workers remain vulnerable to trafficking because legal protections, oversight by authorities and enforcement efforts are currently inadequate," said the report.

Taiwan's regulations currently allow employers to implement a system of "forced savings," whereby employers deduct up to 30 percent of a foreign worker's monthly salary to be placed in a bank account in the worker's name, but inaccessible to the worker, the report said. This system has facilitated trafficking, it said.

The report cited NGOs saying that immigration, police and local law enforcement officials continue to view trafficking victims as runaways or criminals, resulting in some victims being penalized rather than assisted.

In addition to recommending that Taiwan extend labor protections to all categories of workers, the report also suggested that Taiwan implement its new comprehensive anti-trafficking law and effectively carry out its victim and witness protections so that victims are not penalized for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, which would encourage them to seek help.

It also suggested Taiwan increase police efforts to investigate trafficking crimes and to identify trafficking victims, and improve cooperation with governments of labor source countries on trafficking investigations.

Taiwan's National Immigration Agency (NIA), which did not have a direct response to the findings of the report, said Thursday that Taiwan has remained on Tier 2 in the annual report for three consecutive years. It said Japan and Singapore also received Tier 2 ranking.

The agency said Taiwan was placed on Tier 2 Watch List in 2006 and upgraded to Tier 2 the next year.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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360 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

June 18, 2009

Trafficking battle call

BYLINE: BEGENA P PRADEEP

LENGTH: 754 words

BAHRAIN must step up the battle against human trafficking, according to a new US State Department report.

The country remains on a special watchlist of nations being monitored for what action they are taking to combat the problem, despite issuing new guidelines on the employment conditions of migrant workers.

Bahrain was one of 170 nations included in the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP), which said it did little to improve its services to protect victims of trafficking.

It was placed in the second **tier watchlist** for failing to enforce laws against **trafficking in persons** and prevent the punishment of victims of trafficking.

This put it alongside countries such as Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan.

However, Bahrain was ahead of most of the other Gulf countries, who ranked in the third tier, except Oman.

The US State Department is required by law to submit an annual report to Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of human trafficking.

Interim assessments are also made to gauge the anti-trafficking progress of countries.

Those in the first tier have governments that fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act (TVPA)'s minimum standards, while second tier countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

The US ranks countries in the third tier as those whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The report recommends that Bahrain significantly increases its investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences, particularly those involving forced labour.

It was also advised to apply formal procedures to identify victims of trafficking to ensure that victims are not punished for illegal migration or prostitution.

"The government made modest progress in conducting anti-trafficking law enforcement during the year, prosecuting its first case under its January 2008 anti-trafficking statute," said the report.

"The Interior Ministry's specialised unit investigated trafficking crimes, particularly those involving sex trafficking, claiming to have disbanded a prostitution ring and rescued 43 Chinese women believed to be trafficking victims.

"But prosecutors reportedly viewed the evidence as insufficient to pursue legal action."

The report noted that last December a Thai woman was jailed for three and a half years and fined BD5,000 for trafficking three other Thais into Bahrain for prostitution.

"During this time, the government reportedly closed several manpower agencies alleged to have confiscated workers' passports, switched contracts, or withheld payment of salaries," it said.

"The government also ordered 12 employers to pay back and release their workers."

The report said the law against withholding workers' passports, a common practice affecting migrant workers, was not enforced effectively and remains widespread.

It said the majority of victims sought shelter at their embassies or through the Migrant Workers Protection Society, which received a grant of BD6,000 from the government to operate its shelter.

Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) reforms allowing workers to change employers criminalising the use of "free visas" was praised.

However, the report noted that regulations do not apply to domestic workers, who are most vulnerable to forced labour.

"The government continued to lack a formal procedure to identify victims among vulnerable groups, such as domestic workers who have left their employers or women arrested for prostitution," it said.

The report said long legal delays and a perceived bias against foreign workers by judges and prosecutors discouraged workers from filing cases.

However, it noted that Bahrain's efforts to prevent trafficking had increased in the last year.

"The Interior Ministry produced a brochure describing Bahrain's anti-trafficking law, distributing them to at-risk groups upon arrival in the country, and soliciting complaints to its hotline for investigations," it said.

Bahrain was also praised for providing services and support valued at more than \$60,000 (BD22,617) allowing 315 civil society volunteers, journalists, foreign diplomats, and government officials, including LMRA officials to be trained.

Foreign Ministry officials were yesterday unavailable for comment.
begena@gdn.com.bh

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: 5

361 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Jordan Times (Amman)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 18, 2009 Thursday**'Anti-trafficking measures fall short of standards'****BYLINE:** Hani Hazaimah, Jordan Times, Amman**SECTION:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 1029 words

Jun. 18--AMMAN -- A US State Department report on human trafficking released on Tuesday acknowledged the government is making significant efforts to fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but they are still not enough.

The State Department on Tuesday posted its ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report on its website, which came in 318 pages, covering 170 countries across the globe.

The report said: "Jordan is a destination and transit country for women and men from South and Southeast Asia for the purpose of forced labour." However, it advanced the Kingdom's status to **Tier 2**, compared to **Tier 2 Watch List** in 2008, indicating progress in the Kingdom's push to eliminate **human trafficking**.

An official, who spoke to The Jordan Times on condition of anonymity Wednesday, said the government will reply to the allegations included in the report after it is studied by a special ad hoc committee tasked with examining and responding to international reports.

The report alleged that "women from Morocco and Tunisia [are] being subjected to forced prostitution after arriving in Jordan to work in restaurants and nightclubs".

The report added some women from other countries, such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines who migrate willingly to work as domestic servants, are subjected to conditions of forced labour, citing a ban on new Filipina workers migrating to the Kingdom for domestic work because of "a high rate of abuse of Filipina domestic workers by employers in Jordan".

The report highlighted efforts by the government to address trafficking, citing a recently endorsed Anti-Trafficking Law that prohibits all forms of trafficking and imposes penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment for forced prostitution and trafficking involving aggravating circumstances such as the trafficking of a child or trafficking involving a public official.

"The government of Jordan made improved efforts to criminally punish trafficking offenders during the reporting period," the report said, adding, however, that penalties prescribed for labour trafficking offences not involving aggravating circumstances are limited to a minimum of six months imprisonment and a maximum fine of JD5,000 -- penalties that are not sufficiently stringent.

"Although the Jordanian government did not provide comprehensive data on its Anti-Trafficking Law enforcement efforts over the last year," the State Department said, "it reported investigating at least 19 cases, of which 10 were sent to judicial authorities for prosecution and nine were resolved administratively."

During 2008, the Ministry of Labour closed seven labour recruitment agencies for offences related to forced labour, and investigated 535 general labour complaints received from Jordanian and foreign workers through the ministry's hotline, which included some indicators of forced labour, such as employers withholding workers' passports, according to the report.

It added: "In late 2008, the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] investigated the forced prostitution of two Tunisian women and arrested their trafficker. In early 2009, the CID investigated and forwarded for prosecution two cases, involving seven women, of forced labour in nightclubs."

Meanwhile, the report underlined that the government in 2008 began prosecuting 75 municipal employees in Karak for abuses of their power that included forging work permits for migrant workers.

"During the year, the government amended its Labour Law to cover agriculture and domestic workers, passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, initiated a joint labour inspector and police anti-trafficking investigation unit, started a Human Trafficking Office within the Public Security Directorate's Criminal Investigation Unit, and improved efforts to identify victims of trafficking and related exploitation among foreign domestic workers, foreign labourers in the Qualifying Industrial Zones, and foreign women in prostitution," the report said.

In its recommendations, the report called on the Kingdom to enforce the Anti-Trafficking Law "by increasing efforts to investigate, prosecute and sentence trafficking offenders, particularly those involving forced labour; [and] complet[ing] regulations defining the terms of employment for domestic workers and those governing the operation of recruitment agencies".

The recommendations also included enhancing the services available for trafficking victims to include shelter, implementing a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate the public on trafficking and forced labour, focusing on domestic workers and the new Anti-Trafficking Law, and strengthening efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking and forced labour and ensure victims are not punished for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their being trafficked.

Regarding the government's efforts to prevent trafficking, the report said the Ministry of Labour collaborated with local NGOs to raise awareness of labour trafficking through ads on billboards and public service announcements in the print media and via radio, and continued training labour inspectors on various facets of human trafficking. Efforts also included the distribution of a guidebook on protection of foreign domestic workers, including hotlines to report abuse.

"The human trafficking phenomenon affects virtually every country, including the United States. In acknowledging America's own struggle with modern-day slavery and slavery-related practices, we offer partnership. We call on every government to join us in working to build consensus and leverage resources to eliminate all forms of human trafficking," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement posted on the State Department website.

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362 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Kuwait Times

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 18, 2009 Thursday

Khorafi, MPs blast US over trafficking report

BYLINE: B Izzak, Kuwait Times

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 622 words

Jun. 18--KUWAIT -- National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi and several lawmakers yesterday blasted the United States for keeping Kuwait on its **trafficking in persons blacklist** and accusing Kuwait of not doing enough to improve human rights conditions of expatriate manpower. Khorafi harshly criticized Washington, saying the United States believes it is a country of angels and a guardian of the entire world.

I have repeatedly said that Kuwait is not a country of angels but what hurts me is that the United States thinks itself to be a country of angels," Khorafi told reporters in comments over the new US Trafficking in Persons report. The speaker said that the picture the report depicted about Kuwait is "neither true nor adequate and I think those who prepared the report did not consult with the US embassy in Kuwait.

Khorafi said that he hopes that the US leadership realizes that "it is not the world's police and not a guardian of the world and if it wants to be so it should make sure that the information it gathers is true". He added that Kuwait has an Assembly and a parliamentary committee for human rights which receives and follows up any complaints from any side and tries to resolve them with concerned authorities. Khorafi called on the government to respond to the accusations in the report through a detailed reply

, describing the report as excessive.

Kuwait was among 17 countries on the blacklist. The report accused Kuwait of admitting men and women from Asia and Africa to work as servants but then subjecting them to involuntary servitude. It however said that Kuwait has made some progress in punishing culprits.

Liberal MP Aseel Al-Awadhi meanwhile said the material in the report is regrettable and rings danger bells about the inhuman conditions of expatriate laborers. She accused the government of failing to deal with the issue of expatriate labor. MP Adnan Abdulsamad said Washington should better focus on improving human rights conditions in the United States rather than criticizing others.

MP Saleh Ashour admitted there are violations against expatriate manpower, but added that authorities are taking legal actions against violators. MP Hassan Jowhar said the US report includes many facts about the reality in Kuwait and demanded for finding a fundamental solution to the problems of expatriates in the country.

In another development, Interior Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Sabah yesterday met with a number of MPs and discussed with them the implications of the grilling scheduled to be debated on June 23. MP Mubarak Al-Waalan, who attended the meeting, hailed the minister for accepting to face the grilling but added that he will support the grilling against the minister. Sheikh Jaber on Tuesday referred the first issue raised by the grilling to the public prosecution for an investigation. The first point alle

ges that the Interior Ministry awarded a KD 5.3 million contract in violation of the law and in which costs were highly exaggerated.

Meanwhile, MP Khaled Al-Sultan yesterday resigned as secretary general of the Islamic Salaf Alliance, but added he will remain a member of the political bureau of the Salafist group. Sultan has been in the post for the past 17 years. Salafist MP Ali Al-Omair was appointed acting secretary general until a permanent official is elected.

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ACC-NO: 20090618-KU-Khorafi-MPs-blast-US-over-trafficking-report-0618

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: KU

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363 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 18, 2009 Thursday**COMMENDED IN US REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING****LENGTH:** 370 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 18

Although Malaysia was placed on the United States **human trafficking blacklist**, the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry was commended in the same report, its minister, senator Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, said today.

She said the ministry had done well in combating human trafficking.

"My ministry has done everything we can to combat this threat. We do not want Malaysia to be a port of call for this sort of undesirable activities. However, being blacklisted was due to many aspects such as women, labour and refugees.

"According to the American embassy here, they are very happy with the steps taken by my ministry, especially since we do not condone such acts as this issue is close to our hearts," Shahrizat told reporters here.

Asked about the Parti Keadilan Rakyat women's wing's success in pushing through a constitutional amendment for a 30 per cent quota for women leaders at all levels of the party, Shahrizat said she was happy that the Opposition had achieved something based on her presentation in the Cabinet back in 2004.

"On Aug 4, 2004, the Cabinet gave approval on a policy to ensure that at least 30 per cent of high-profile positions would be allocated to women. It's good to see that the opposition has managed to achieve something that I initiated in the BN (Barisan Nasional)," she said.

She said a paper on Wanita Umno's own 30 per cent quota was being prepared for submission to party vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

Shahrizat, who is also Wanita Umno chief, also said that she would send a letter of invitation to the PAS women's wing chief, Nuridah Saleh, tomorrow to initiate unity talks.

She hoped that Nuridah would accept her invitation and put political ideologies aside to overcome the political crisis faced by the country.

However, minutes after the news conference, 10 PAS Members of Parliament, including those from the women's wing strongly turned down any talks on a unity government.

"We PAS MPs would like to state that we hold strongly to the decision of the PAS general assembly which unanimously wants PAS to strengthen the opposition alliance and reject any form of cooperation with Umno/BN, including the unity government," they said in a statement.

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

364 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

June 18, 2009 Thursday

Trafficking worsens in Philippines

BYLINE: Llanesca T. Panti And Angelo S. Samonte

LENGTH: 833 words

Human trafficking situation in the Philippines fell a notch after the US State Department kept the country on the **Tier 2 Watch List** on Wednesday.

Tier 2 means that number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was increasing significantly.

According to the 2009 US Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report for the Philippines, the country was put on **Tier 2 Watch List** because the government failed to show evidence of progress in convicting human traffickers, particularly those in labor trafficking. The report added the situation here worsened, despite the significant government efforts.

The report described the country as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. A significant number of Filipino men and women who migrate abroad for work were also subjected to involuntary servitude in Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, the report added.

Even Muslim girls from Mindanao were being trafficked to the Middle East by other Muslims, according to the report.

Filipino women were also trafficked abroad for commercial sexual exploitation, primarily to Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and countries in Africa, the Middle East and Western Europe.

"Internally, women and children are trafficked from poor farming communities in the Visayas and Mindanao to urban areas, such as Manila and Cebu City, but also increasingly to cities in Mindanao, for commercial sexual exploitation or for forced labor as domestic servants or factory workers," the report also said. "An increasing number of women and children from Mindanao were trafficked internally and transnationally for domestic work."

As a result, the Philippines ranked one notch lower in the Tier 2. The country has been in that status for three years.

Countries with **Tier 1** status are seen as doing a good job against **human trafficking**.

Worse situation

In the same US report, the Philippines inched closer to Tier 3, which groups countries that did not implement considerable measures to breach the minimum target.

Thirty-nine other countries are on the Tier 2 list, which is a notch higher than the lowest ranking of Tier 3. Countries in this category could face sanctions from Washington, such as the withholding of non-humanitarian or non-trade related US aid.

Human traffickers, according to the report, use land and sea transportations to transfer victims from island provinces to major cities. The criminals also use budget airline carriers to transport victims out of the country, a growing trend.

"Traffickers used fake travel documents, falsified permits and altered birth certificates," it said.

The migrant workers were cited as the most vulnerable of the victims, since they were often subjected to violence, threats, inhumane living conditions, non-payment of salaries, and withholding of travel and identity documents.

A small number of women were also occasionally trafficked from the People's Republic of China, Russia, South Korea and Eastern Europe to the Philippines for commercial sexual exploitation.

The report, citing information from non-government organizations, also disclosed that organized crime syndicates, including syndicates from Japan, were heavily involved in Manila's commercial sex industry. International organized crime syndicates also transported people from mainland China through the Philippines to third-country destinations.

"Child sex tourism continues to be a serious problem for the Philippines, with sex tourists coming from Northeast Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America to engage in sexual activity with minors," it said.

The report said that only four trafficking convictions were obtained in the Philippines under the 2003 anti-trafficking law during the reporting period. Plus, there were no reported labor trafficking convictions, despite widespread reports of Filipinos trafficked for forced labor within the country and abroad.

Palace vows action

The government vowed to intensify its campaign against human trafficking in light of the US report.

"We have to advise authorities, like the Bureau of Immigration, to be on look out for such activity [human trafficking]," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. "We won't tolerate human trafficking and BI should be alerted to be more focused in monitoring not just in the port of Manila but also in Davao, Cebu and Zamboanga."

He added that he does not believe that the US government would sanction the Philippines for failing to effectively address human- trafficking issues in the country.

"We're a sovereign state, and we have own laws and legal system," Ermita said. "I don't suppose we can be sanctioned if we feel under sovereign state to undertake violations of law like trafficking we can't be dictated upon. They should respect our sovereignty."

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

365 of 404 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

June 18, 2009 Thursday

US says HK slipping in exploitation fight

BYLINE: Phyllis Tsang

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 02

LENGTH: 294 words

The US State Department yesterday said Hong Kong was doing worse in combating human-trafficking within its borders.

The department for the first time downgraded the city from **tier 1** to **tier 2** status in its annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**", which has been mandated by the US Congress since 2001.

"Hong Kong is primarily a transit point for illegal migrants, some of whom are subject to conditions of debt bondage, forced commercial sexual exploitation, forced commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labour," the report said.

It said some women in Hong Kong's commercial sex trade were believed to be victims of trafficking. Some had been lured under false pretences by crime syndicates or acquaintances and then had their passports confiscated when they arrived, leaving them trapped by debt.

Foreign domestic workers also faced high levels of debt owing to the terms of their employment, it said.

The Hong Kong government did "not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and "did not investigate, prosecute, or convict any trafficking offenders", the report said.

A government spokesman called the report's criticisms "unfounded and unfair".

"We do not see any difference, certainly no deterioration, in the trend of such crimes or the effectiveness of our law enforcement in term of number of arrests, prosecution or convictions," he said. The government was disappointed that Hong Kong was ranked as tier 2, he said.

The mainland was listed on the tier 2 "watch list" as "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labour and sexual exploitation." If China does not improve its record, it will be moved to tier 3 next year, barring a presidential waiver.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

366 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 18, 2009 Thursday 1:03 PM EST

Release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 429 words**DATELINE:** PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

On Tuesday, June 16, 2009, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report at a press conference in the State Department's Press Briefing Room in Washington, D.C.

In the 2009 TIP Report, the rating for Mauritius has been upgraded from **Tier 2** to **Tier 1**. Countries assessed as meeting the minimum standards of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act are classified as **Tier 1**. The Parliament's passage of a comprehensive **human trafficking** law in April 2009 brought Mauritius into full compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Mauritius sustained its strong efforts to identify, address and prevent incidences of trafficking in the last year. Government officials demonstrated an increasing level of awareness of human trafficking and commitment to address the problem. Public awareness projects, particularly those convened for school students by police officers and the National Children's Council, were frequently conducted and broad-reaching. There was also improvement in the protections available to trafficking victims. According to the 2009 TIP Report, the government made notable efforts to prevent the sex trafficking of children and reduce the demand for commercial sex acts during the year.

This 175-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern-day form of slavery. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

This year the State Department TIP report recommends that to advance its anti-trafficking efforts, the Government of Mauritius could utilize newly passed anti-trafficking legislation to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses and convict and punish trafficking offenders.

This year's Report includes a particular focus on the effects of the global economic crisis on the supply and demand of human trafficking. Modern-day slavery continues to be a problem in nearly every country in the world and traffickers continue to search for new opportunities to exploit men, women, and children.

The full text of the TIP Report is available on the State Department's website, www.state.gov/g/tip. The Mauritius country report is also available from the "Country reports" feature box on the homepage of the Embassy website: <http://mauritius.usembassy.gov>.

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LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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367 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 17, 2009 Wednesday 5:54 AM GMT

Malaysia opposes its re-listing on US trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 326 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 2009

Malaysia has accused the United States of unfair treatment over its decision to re-list the country on a **human trafficking blacklist**.

Washington's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report", released yesterday, says Malaysia is failing to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking and "is not making significant efforts to do so".

Last year the report elevated Malaysia to a "watch list" from the 2007 blacklist after finding that it was "making significant efforts" to comply with standards.

"It is unfair to put us back on the list as we are doing our best," Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman Yusop told reporters.

"We will have to consider our next action in opposing the re-listing of our country on the blacklist," he added.

Abu Seman said the Malaysian government did not condone human trafficking and had taken stern action to deal with the problem, including enacting an anti-human trafficking law in 2007 and setting up a special task force.

The report said that while the Malaysian government took early steps to fight sex trafficking, it has yet to fully tackle labour trafficking.

It said there were "credible allegations", including those in a US Senate report this year, that some immigration officials took part in trafficking and extorting refugees from Myanmar.

Malaysia, which is listed with 16 other countries, including six newly-added African nations, could face sanctions such as the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said recently his country was being used as a transit point for illegal immigrants.

Recent incidents include the arrests of 17 Iraqis and seven Indonesians over the weekend after authorities intercepted a boat that was trying to smuggle some of them to Australia via Indonesia.

Authorities have said 12 suspected illegal immigrants were drowned off Malaysia's southern coast in the last two months when they tried to sneak out of the country.

rb-ly/ft

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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368 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 17, 2009 Wednesday 2:55 AM GMT

AFP Asia news agenda

LENGTH: 668 words

DATELINE: HONG KONG, June 17 2009

Duty Editor: Adrian Addison

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

ASIA NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ON WEDNESDAY

+ China's Hu meets Medvedev, Putin in Moscow

+ Pakistan president in talks with NATO, EU

MOSCOW: Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Medvedev at 0900 GMT. Putin at 0600 GMT (RUSSIA-CHINA-DIPLOMACY)

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari visits for talks at NATO headquarters and a landmark summit with senior European Union officials. 0830 GMT (EU-PAKISTAN-SUMMIT, NATO-PAKISTAN-DIPLOMACY)

-- OTHER STORIES --

BEIJING: Reporting on seven teachers and students from a Californian school who have been diagnosed with swine flu in China (HEALTH-FLU-CHINA-US-SCHOOL)

-- Attending press conference at 0200 GMT by environmental group Greenpeace and poverty alleviation group Oxfam on how climate change worsens conditions for the poor (CHINA-CLIMATE-ENVIRONMENT-GREENPEACE)

-- Moving a story on the start of a new campaign against corruption in the booming city of Shenzhen, just north of Hong Kong, as China prepares for the sensitive 60th anniversary of the communist state (CHINA-POLITICS-ECONOMY-CORRUPTION)

-- Chinese share prices down 0.28 percent (STOCKS-CHINA-OPEN)

JAKARTA: Monitoring the rescue effort after more than 40 miners were feared dead after a massive explosion of methane gas collapsed a coal mine (INDONESIA-MINING-LANDSLIDE)

KUALA LUMPUR: Watching after the US relisted Malaysia on its **human trafficking blacklist** (MALAYSIA-US-RIGHTS-TRAFFICKING)

MANILA: Asian Development Bank (ADB) president Haruhiko Kuroda and climate change expert Rajendra Pachauri discuss effects of climate change on Asia at a forum on 0300 GMT (ADB-ASIA-CLIMATE-ECONOMY)

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Covering as Pakistan military prepares to launch a fresh offensive against Taliban leader in tribal areas bordering Afghanistan (PAKISTAN-UNREST)

PHNOM PENH: Reporting on the UN-backed war crimes trial of former Khmer Rouge prison chief Duch (CAMBODIA-UN-TRIAL)

SEOUL: Watching developments in North Korean nuclear standoff after US President Barack Obama describes its atomic programme as a "grave threat" (NKOREA-NUCLEAR)

-- Football. South Korea vs Iran in World Cup qualifier, kick-off 1100 GMT

(FBL-WC2010-ASIA-KOR-IRN)

SINGAPORE: Reporting on world oil prices in Asian trade (COMMODITIES-ENERGY-OIL-ASIA-PRICE)

-- Singapore releases export data for May (SINGAPORE-ECONOMY-TRADE)

SYDNEY: Football. World Cup qualifier, Australia v Japan in Melbourne (FBL-WC2010-AUS-JPN)

- Covering case of a Melbourne underworld matriarch accused over the execution-style killing of her brother-in-law, in a case police describe as too far fetched for television (AUSTRALIA-CRIME-GANGS)

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso holds a one-on-one debate in parliament with opposition leader Yukio Hatoyama after his approval rating slumped below 20 percent ahead of a general election (JAPAN-POLITICS)

-- Philippine President Gloria Arroyo arrives on a four-day visit (JAPAN-PHILIPPINES-DIPLOMACY)

-- Bank of Japan releases a monthly report on economic and financial developments for June (JAPAN-ECONOMY)

-- The dollar fell against the yen and rose against the euro (FOREX-ASIA)

-- Share prices rose 0.40 percent in morning trade (STOCKS-JAPAN)

-- Moving a feature on the unique Japanese sport of sumo, which is attracting more foreigners as young Japanese prefer other sports (JAPAN-LIFESTYLE-SUMO-JPN) and an interview with a Mongolian sumo champion who details the harsh life that recruits face (JAPAN-LIFESTYLE-SUMO-JPN-MONGOLIA-CONDITIONS)

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton opens a US-India business summit (US-INDIA-TRADE)

WELLINGTON: France names team for second Test against the All Blacks (RUGBYU-FRA-NZL-TEAM)

YANGON: Reporting on an application at Myanmar's high court by Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers to appeal against a ban on two witnesses in her trial on charges of breaking her house arrest rules (MYANMAR-POLITICS-SUUKYI)

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LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

369 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Asian News International (ANI)

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

US report puts India under watch for human trafficking

BYLINE: ANI**LENGTH:** 182 words

Washington June 17(ANI): A US report on global **human trafficking** has placed India in **tier 2 watch list** of countries.

The report that was released by the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed its unhappiness over the failure of Indian authorities to curb human smuggling.

The 2009 Trafficking in Persons, report observed that in recent years, there has been an increase of sex trafficking to sub cities and India is a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

The report also says that, India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. It also says that India is making significant efforts to control it.

Despite the efforts put by the Indian Government, there was no sufficient progress in its law enforcement to address human trafficking, the report observed.

The report also mentions that, the Indian labours who migrate willingly to Middle East, Europe, and the US in search of work as domestic servants and un skilled labourers, are becoming the victims of labour trafficking.(ANI)

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** 239

370 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

US adds Malaysia to human trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 647 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian independent website Malaysiakini, owned by Mkinin Dotcom, on 17 June

[Unattributed report: "M'sia, 6 African nations join 'modern slavery' list"]

The United States today added six African countries to a blacklist of countries trafficking in people, and put US trading partner Malaysia back on the list.

Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe were added to the list in the annual report, which analysed efforts in 173 countries to fight trafficking in humans for forced labour, prostitution, military service and other reasons.

Staying on the blacklist list are US allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait but also Cuba, Fiji, Iran, Burma, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, and Syria, according to the State Department report for 2009.

Removed from the list were Qatar, Oman, Algeria, and Moldova.

"This is modern slavery, a crime that spans the globe, providing ruthless employers with an endless supply of people to abuse for financial gain," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in introducing the report.

The 'Trafficking in Persons Report' said "the global economic crisis is also boosting the demand side of human trafficking."

The 17 countries on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid.

The report said Malaysia fails not only to "fully comply" with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking but "is not making significant efforts to do so."

Last year the report elevated Malaysia to a "watch list" from the 2007 blacklist after finding that it was "making significant efforts" to comply with such standards.

The new report said that while the government took early steps to fight sex trafficking, it has yet to fully tackle labour trafficking in Malaysia.

It also said there were "credible allegations," including those in a Senate report this year, that some immigration officials took part in trafficking and extorting refugees from Burma.

Zimbabwe joins rogues' gallery

Like many African and other poor countries, the report said, Zimbabwe "is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation."

Some of the many Zimbabweans who fled to neighbouring countries amid Zimbabwe's severe economic and political crisis faced "human trafficking," it said.

It charged that members of Zimbabwe's military were involved in trafficking.

Chad "showed no results in enforcing government policy prohibiting recruitment of child soldiers," the 320-page report said.

The government of Niger "demonstrated marginal efforts to combat human trafficking, including traditional slavery, during the last year," it said.

"The government of Mauritania made inadequate efforts to raise awareness of trafficking during the last year," it added.

Eritrea showed no progress in prosecuting or punishing traffickers, while Swaziland showed no effort to do the same.

Burma shows some progress

The report said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait admit men and women from Asian and African countries to work as domestic servants or other low-skilled labourers, but then subject many to "involuntary servitude."

It added that Saudi Arabia made "no discernible efforts" to punish or prosecute traffickers, although Kuwait "demonstrated some progress" in punishing them.

North Korea does not recognise or make any attempt to identify trafficking victims, it said. Nor does it make any effort to prosecute perpetrators.

But another longstanding blacklist member Burma showed some progress to fight cross-border trafficking as well as limited efforts to investigate and prosecute internal trafficking, it said.

Fiji, described as a source country for child labourers and prostitutes, showed no significant efforts to protect victims or prosecute perpetrators, it said.

Source: Malaysiakini website, Petaling Jaya, in English 17 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

371 of 404 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

Malaysia criticizes US decision to put country on human trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 369 words

Text of report in English by Malaysian independent website Malaysiakini, owned by Mkinin Dotcom, on 17 June
[Unattributed report: "Outcry over human trafficking blacklist"]

Malaysia has accused the United States of unfair treatment over its decision to re-list the country on a human trafficking blacklist.

Washington's annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report', released yesterday, says Malaysia is failing to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking and "is not making significant efforts to do so".

Last year the report elevated Malaysia to a 'watch list' from the 2007 blacklist after finding that it was "making significant efforts" to comply with standards.

"It is unfair to put us back on the list as we are doing our best," Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Abu Seman Yusop told reporters.

"We will have to consider our next action in opposing the re-listing of our country on the blacklist," he added.

Abu Seman said the Malaysian government did not condone human trafficking and had taken stern action to deal with the problem, including enacting an anti-human trafficking law in 2007 and setting up a special task force.

Transit point for illegal immigrants

The report said that while the Malaysian government took early steps to fight sex trafficking, it has yet to fully tackle labour trafficking.

It said there were "credible allegations", including those in a US Senate report this year, that some immigration officials took part in trafficking and extorting refugees from Burma.

Malaysia, which is listed with 16 other countries, including six newly-added African nations, could face sanctions such as the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said recently his country was being used as a transit point for illegal immigrants.

Recent incidents include the arrests of 17 Iraqis and seven Indonesians over the weekend after authorities intercepted a boat that was trying to smuggle some of them to Australia via Indonesia.

Authorities have said 12 suspected illegal immigrants were drowned off Malaysia's southern coast in the last two months when they tried to sneak out of the country.

Source: Malaysiakini website, Petaling Jaya, in English 17 Jun 09

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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372 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Daily Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

US adds Pakistan to human trafficking watchlist**LENGTH:** 226 words**DATELINE:** Pakistan

Pakistan, June 17 -- The Obama administration on Tuesday expanded the US **watchlist** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, putting more than four dozen nations on notice that they may face sanctions unless their records improve.

The State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the first released since President Obama took office, placed 52 countries and territories - mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East - on the **watch list**. That number is a 30 percent jump from the 40 countries on the list in 2008. Several previously cited nations were removed from the list, but new countries cited for human trafficking include Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, according to the report. The report also placed the Netherlands' Antilles, a self-governing Dutch territory in the Caribbean, on the watchlist. Trafficking sanctions: If a country appears on the list for two consecutive years it can be subject to US sanctions. Seventeen nations, up from 14 in 2008, are now subject to the trafficking sanctions, which can include a ban on non-humanitarian and trade-related aid and US opposition to loans and credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Times.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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

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373 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday**US report puts India under watch for human trafficking****LENGTH:** 194 words**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, June 17 -- A US report on global **human trafficking** has placed India in **tier 2 watch list** of countries.

The report that was released by the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed its unhappiness over the failure of Indian authorities to curb human smuggling. The 2009 Trafficking in Persons, report observed that in recent years, there has been an increase of sex trafficking to sub cities and India is a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. The report also says that, India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. It also says that India is making significant efforts to control it. Despite the efforts put by the Indian Government, there was no sufficient progress in its law enforcement to address human trafficking, the report observed. The report also mentions that, the Indian labours who migrate willingly to Middle East, Europe, and the US in search of work as domestic servants and un skilled labourers, are becoming the victims of labour trafficking. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Asian News International.

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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374 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

Ireland criticised in US report on human trafficking

BYLINE: RUADHÍN MAC CORMAIC, Migration Correspondent

SECTION: IRELAND; Other Stories; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 617 words

THE GOVERNMENT is not fully complying with minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, a report by the US State Department has found.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which is regarded as the most comprehensive global compendium of trafficking trends, again places the Republic in the second of three **tiers**, indicating that the Government is not adhering to minimum standards but is making significant efforts to do so.

Those efforts include the enacting of legislation criminalising trafficking, the initiation of awareness campaigns and the investigation of nearly 100 cases of potential trafficking.

Although Ireland made significant strides, there was no evidence that trafficking offenders were prosecuted or convicted during the reporting period, and concerns remained about victim identification and protection, the report states.

For the second consecutive year, the US government names Ireland as a destination and transit country for women, men and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

It states that women from eastern Europe, Africa, South America and Asia have been trafficked here for forced prostitution, while labour trafficking victims reportedly came from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, the Philippines and elsewhere. The report also notes that, over the last eight years, 388 unaccompanied immigrant children have disappeared from State care.

While Irish authorities believe the majority of these children have been reunited with family members, the government reported that a small number of the missing children have been found in involuntary servitude in brothels, restaurants, and in domestic service.

The State Department recommended that Ireland vigorously prosecute trafficking offences and convict offenders, and continue to implement procedures to guide officials in identifying possible victims among vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied foreign minors.

It also suggested that the Government should continue to take steps to ensure trafficking victims are not penalised for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

The report, released yesterday by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, added six African countries to a tier 3 blacklist of countries that do not make significant efforts to comply with minimum standards. These were Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

US allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait remained on the list, as did Cuba, Fiji, Iran, Burma, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria. The 17 countries on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid.

With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed, Mrs Clinton said.

The report also observed that the global economic crisis was boosting the demand side of human trafficking.

A shrinking global demand for labour and a growing supply of workers willing to take even greater risks for economic opportunities seem a recipe for increased forced labour cases of migrant workers and women in prostitution, it stated.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland endorsed the report's recommendations.

We have been raising concerns for some time that there are real problems in the identification of victims of sex trafficking in Ireland and although we acknowledge that the Government is committed to combating trafficking, this remains a real concern, chief executive Denise Charlton said.

388:

The number of unaccompanied immigrant children who have disappeared from State care in the last eight years, according to a US State Department report

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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375 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

Poverty boosting human trafficking - US report

SECTION: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 483 words

MILLIONS OF people around the world are living in bondage and the global financial crisis has made many more vulnerable to labour and sex trafficking, the US state department said yesterday.

In its annual *Trafficking in Persons* report, which tracks modern slavery such as forced labour and the sex trade, the state department said growing poverty around the world had sparked an increase in both the supply and demand for human trafficking.

In a time of economic crisis, victims are more vulnerable, affected communities are more vulnerable, Luis de Baca said as he presented the report.

Persons who are under economic stress are more likely to fall prey to the wiles of the traffickers who often get their victims through promises of a better life, promises of better earnings.

Mr de Baca said human trafficking could be valued at about \$50 billion (EUR 36 billion) a year. That includes about \$31 billion profit earned by the traffickers, plus about \$20 billion in opportunity cost from lost labour of the people who are forced into bondage.

US secretary of state Hillary Clinton urged governments to work to eliminate forms of human trafficking. This year, there is a new urgency in this call, she wrote in a preface to the report.

As the ongoing financial crisis takes an increasing toll on many of the world's migrants who often risk everything for the slim hope of a better future for their families too often they are ensnared by traffickers who exploit their desperation.

We recognise their immense suffering and we commit to aiding their rescue and recovery.

The state department expanded a **blacklist** of governments it believes are not doing enough to stop **human trafficking** to 17 out of 175 countries it monitors in the annual report.

Chad, Malaysia, Niger, Mauritania and Zimbabwe were included among the worst offenders putting them at risk of losing some US aid.

Cuba, Burma and North Korea have received the lowest ranking in each year they have been included in the report, which started nine years ago. The lowest ranking means the US could withhold aid that is not humanitarian or trade-related.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), about 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labour and sexual servitude at any time in the world.

Almost 1.4 million of those are victims of sex trafficking, ILO figures show.

They labour in fields and factories, under brutal employers who threaten them with violence if they try to escape, Mrs Clinton said at an event to present the report.

They work in homes for families that keep them virtually imprisoned. They are forced to work as prostitutes or to beg in the streets, fearful of the consequences if they fail to earn their daily quota.

This is modern slavery, she said. A crime that spans the globe, providing ruthless employers with an endless supply of people to abuse for financial gain. (Reuters)

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376 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

Ireland criticised in US report on human trafficking

BYLINE: RUADHÍN MAC CORMAIC, Migration Correspondent

SECTION: IRELAND; Other Stories; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 617 words

THE GOVERNMENT is not fully complying with minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, a report by the US State Department has found.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which is regarded as the most comprehensive global compendium of trafficking trends, again places the Republic in the second of three **tiers**, indicating that the Government is not adhering to minimum standards but is making significant efforts to do so.

Those efforts include the enacting of legislation criminalising trafficking, the initiation of awareness campaigns and the investigation of nearly 100 cases of potential trafficking.

Although Ireland made significant strides, there was no evidence that trafficking offenders were prosecuted or convicted during the reporting period, and concerns remained about victim identification and protection, the report states.

For the second consecutive year, the US government names Ireland as a destination and transit country for women, men and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

It states that women from eastern Europe, Africa, South America and Asia have been trafficked here for forced prostitution, while labour trafficking victims reportedly came from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, the Philippines and elsewhere. The report also notes that, over the last eight years, 388 unaccompanied immigrant children have disappeared from State care.

While Irish authorities believe the majority of these children have been reunited with family members, the government reported that a small number of the missing children have been found in involuntary servitude in brothels, restaurants, and in domestic service.

The State Department recommended that Ireland vigorously prosecute trafficking offences and convict offenders, and continue to implement procedures to guide officials in identifying possible victims among vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied foreign minors.

It also suggested that the Government should continue to take steps to ensure trafficking victims are not penalised for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

The report, released yesterday by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, added six African countries to a tier 3 blacklist of countries that do not make significant efforts to comply with minimum standards. These were Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

US allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait remained on the list, as did Cuba, Fiji, Iran, Burma, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria. The 17 countries on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade related US aid.

With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed, Mrs Clinton said.

The report also observed that the global economic crisis was boosting the demand side of human trafficking .

A shrinking global demand for labour and a growing supply of workers willing to take even greater risks for economic opportunities seem a recipe for increased forced labour cases of migrant workers and women in prostitution, it stated.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland endorsed the report's recommendations.

We have been raising concerns for some time that there are real problems in the identification of victims of sex trafficking in Ireland and although we acknowledge that the Government is committed to combating trafficking, this remains a real concern, chief executive Denise Charlton said.

388:

The number of unaccompanied immigrant children who have disappeared from State care in the last eight years, according to a US State Department report

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377 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

Poverty boosting human trafficking - US report

SECTION: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 483 words

MILLIONS OF people around the world are living in bondage and the global financial crisis has made many more vulnerable to labour and sex trafficking, the US state department said yesterday.

In its annual *Trafficking in Persons* report, which tracks modern slavery such as forced labour and the sex trade, the state department said growing poverty around the world had sparked an increase in both the supply and demand for human trafficking.

In a time of economic crisis, victims are more vulnerable, affected communities are more vulnerable, Luis de Baca said as he presented the report.

Persons who are under economic stress are more likely to fall prey to the wiles of the traffickers who often get their victims through promises of a better life, promises of better earnings.

Mr de Baca said human trafficking could be valued at about \$50 billion (EUR 36 billion) a year. That includes about \$31 billion profit earned by the traffickers, plus about \$20 billion in opportunity cost from lost labour of the people who are forced into bondage.

US secretary of state Hillary Clinton urged governments to work to eliminate forms of human trafficking. This year, there is a new urgency in this call, she wrote in a preface to the report.

As the ongoing financial crisis takes an increasing toll on many of the world's migrants who often risk everything for the slim hope of a better future for their families too often they are ensnared by traffickers who exploit their desperation.

We recognise their immense suffering and we commit to aiding their rescue and recovery.

The state department expanded a **blacklist** of governments it believes are not doing enough to stop **human trafficking** to 17 out of 175 countries it monitors in the annual report.

Chad, Malaysia, Niger, Mauritania and Zimbabwe were included among the worst offenders putting them at risk of losing some US aid.

Cuba, Burma and North Korea have received the lowest ranking in each year they have been included in the report, which started nine years ago. The lowest ranking means the US could withhold aid that is not humanitarian or trade-related.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), about 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labour and sexual servitude at any time in the world.

Almost 1.4 million of those are victims of sex trafficking, ILO figures show.

They labour in fields and factories, under brutal employers who threaten them with violence if they try to escape, Mrs Clinton said at an event to present the report.

They work in homes for families that keep them virtually imprisoned. They are forced to work as prostitutes or to beg in the streets, fearful of the consequences if they fail to earn their daily quota.

This is modern slavery, she said. A crime that spans the globe, providing ruthless employers with an endless supply of people to abuse for financial gain. (Reuters)

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378 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MALAYSIA WANTS US EMBASSY TO EXPLAIN

LENGTH: 685 words

DATELINE: PUTRAJAYA June 17

Malaysia will seek an explanation from the United States (US) Embassy after the country put Malaysia on its list of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat human trafficking.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the move was to identify the causes leading to the allegations and claims.

"In 2007, we were placed on level three and at the time, a special legislation had to be drafted. At that time, the anti-human trafficking act was introduced and our status had been brought down to level two.

"Today, we were put back on three so we will see the US Embassy to identify what really are the allegations and claims," he told reporters here today.

He said that if in 2007 Malaysia looked at it proactively and reacted positively with regard to the matter, he was sure that the same would be done to tackle the allegations.

The US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 that analysed efforts in more than 173 countries to combat human trafficking had blacklisted Malaysia and 16 other countries.

The report said that Malaysia became a destination and at least a source and transit country for the trafficking of women and children for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and men, women and children for the purpose of forced labor.

Last year, Malaysia was removed from the list and put on the Level 2 watchlist.

Hishammuddin said Malaysia would use the same mechanism to interact with the US Embassy to find out what had made them so concerned and would do whatever it takes to overcome the issue.

However, he said, there were limitations in terms of border and others, and the US was realistic about it that they would take that into consideration.

"But otherwise, I feel that they are making judgement on something that is beyond of our control. That would be unfair.

"I just need to know from them what is it that has become an issue. If it is within our control, we will do whatever it takes to overcome it," he said.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said that from Monday, he would visit areas considered as hot spots for having high crime rates so that the ministry could look at the measures to be taken to tackle the problem.

"The time has come for me to see for myself the situation down there.

"If before this I saw our staff at the Prisons Department, police and Immigration Department, next week I will go down to the areas considered as hot spots where crimes happen, like meeting the victims of loan sharks," he said.

Meanwhile at the Parliament lobby in Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop said it was wrong to **blacklist** Malaysia as one of the worst **human trafficking** countries and to accuse the country of not doing anything to curb the problem.

He said the government had set up a committee to act on this matter and various actions had been taken since the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

"The authorities had arrested quite a number of illegal entries through Malaysian waters recently and kept close cooperation with our neighbours like Australia.

"Recently, the advisor to the prime minister of Australia came to discuss common issues including human trafficking," he said.

Deputy Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar who is also chairman of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) described the listing of Malaysia in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 as a political ploy.

"In 2006 when the country did not have the Act dealing with human trafficking, the US accused us of failing to comply with the United Nations regulations while many other countries also did not have such an Act.

"When we have the Act in force, they did not change the country's position from Level 3 to Level 2 so here it looks like something quite suspicious," he said.

He said that during the IAPA's first meeting in April, Malaysia had reached a resolution together with other Asean countries to focus on the harmonisation laws dealing with human trafficking.

"We will bring the resolution to the AIPA meeting in August in Thailand because it is a very important agenda to be discussed," he said.

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379 of 404 DOCUMENTS

UNI (United News of India)

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

India figures on US human trafficking watch list**LENGTH:** 397 words**DATELINE:** Washington

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

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

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380 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

June 16, 2009 Tuesday

US expands human trafficking watchlist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 461 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Tuesday expanded the U.S. **watchlist** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, putting more than four dozen nations on notice that they may face sanctions unless their records improve. The move came as officials said the world financial crisis has left more people at risk for the crime.

The State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**," the first released since President Barack Obama took office, placed 52 countries and territories mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East on the **watchlist**. That number is a 30 percent jump from the 40 countries on the list in 2008.

Several nations that had been cited previously were removed from the list, but new countries cited for human trafficking problems included Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

The report also placed the Netherlands' Antilles, a self-governing Dutch territory in the Caribbean, on the watchlist.

"With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said as she released the 320-page document.

"Economic pressure, especially in this global economic crisis, makes more people susceptible to the false promises of traffickers," she said.

Inclusion on the **watchlist** means those countries' governments are not fully complying with minimum standards set by U.S. law for cooperating in efforts to reduce the rise of **human trafficking** a common denominator in the sex trade, coerced labor and recruitment of child soldiers.

If a country appears on the list for two consecutive years, it can be subject to U.S. sanctions.

Seventeen nations, up from 14 in 2008, are now subject to the trafficking sanctions, which can include a ban on non-humanitarian and trade-related aid and U.S. opposition to loans and credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The penalties can be waived if the president determines it is in U.S. national interest to do so.

Those 17 countries include traditional U.S. foes like Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan and Syria, but also American allies and friends such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Malaysia, another U.S. partner, was added to the list of worst offenders, as were the African nations of Zimbabwe, Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger and Swaziland.

Luis Cdebaca, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the addition of the six African countries was due largely to a relaxation in efforts to fight domestic slavery, which has persisted.

"Those efforts seem to have stalled," he said.

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381 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Christian Science Monitor

June 16, 2009, Tuesday

Economic downturn fuels human trafficking

BYLINE: Howard LaFranchi Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

SECTION: USA; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 754 words

DATELINE: Washington

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not so encouraging was Malaysia, which suffered a downgrade of its ranking over evidence of increased trafficking of Burmese refugees for servitude in the South Asian country. The downgrade reflects the findings of a US Senate Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations report earlier this year that exposed rampant exploitation and trafficking of Burmese migrants and refugees - often with the collaboration of Malaysian officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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382 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 16, 2009 Tuesday 11:56 PM GMT**U.S. blasts N. Korean forced labor****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 240 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON June 16

The United States on Tuesday blasted North Korea for continuing to force hundreds of thousands of its people to perform hard labor in political prison camps.

"The North Korean regime continues to use forced labor as part of an established system of political repression," the State Department said in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

"Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children in political prison camps are subjected to reeducation through labor, a common punishment in which prisoners, including children, are forced to participate in logging, mining, and crop tending," it said.

The State Department kept North Korea on a **blacklist** of countries it considers are not doing enough to stop **human trafficking**. Sixteen other nations were placed on the list out of 175 governments it monitors in the annual report.

All the nations on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the suspension of U.S. nonhumanitarian aid. Newly added to the list this year are Chad, Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Citing nongovernmental organizations' estimates, the report said tens of thousands of North Koreans presently live in China and over 80 percent of North Korean refugees are "victims of human trafficking."

"North Koreans forcibly repatriated from China...are often jailed and forced into prison camps, where they may undergo torture, forced labor, sexual abuse by prison guards, and other severe punishment," it added.

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383 of 404 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 16, 2009

Introduction to State Dept. 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report; Report raises awareness, encourages governments to combat trafficking

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 2846 words

(begin text)

U.S. Department of State

Washington, D.C.

June 16, 2009

[The full report is available on the State Department website in PDF format at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm>.]

Introduction

OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Trafficking in Persons Report 2009

Purpose

The Department of State is required by law to submit each year to the U.S. Congress a report on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This is the ninth annual TIP Report; it seeks to increase global awareness of the human trafficking phenomenon by shedding new light on various facets of the problem and highlighting shared and individual efforts of the international community, and to encourage foreign governments to take effective action against all forms of trafficking in persons.

The United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended, guides efforts to combat human trafficking. The most recent amendments to the TVPA were enacted in December 2008. The purpose of the law is to punish traffickers, protect victims, and prevent trafficking from occurring. Freeing victims from this form of modern-day slavery is the ultimate goal of this report -- and of the U.S. Government's anti-human trafficking policy.

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional issue. It is a crime that deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, increases global health risks, fuels growing networks of organized crime, and can sustain levels of poverty and impede development in certain areas.

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

A growing community of nations is making significant efforts to eliminate this atrocious crime. The TVPA outlines minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. Countries that do not make significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards receive a Tier 3 ranking in this report. Such an assessment could prompt the United States to withhold nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance. In assessing foreign governments' efforts, the TIP Report highlights the "three P's" -- prosecution, protection, and prevention. But a victim-centered approach to trafficking also requires attention to the "three R's" -- rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Sharing the best practices in

these areas will encourage governments to go beyond the initial rescue of victims and restore to them dignity and the hope of productive lives.

Human Trafficking Defined

The TVPA defines "severe forms of trafficking" as:

- a. sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b. the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A victim need not be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.

The Scope and Nature of Modern-Day Slavery

The common denominator of trafficking scenarios is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for profit. Traffickers can subject victims to labor exploitation, sexual exploitation, or both. Trafficking for labor exploitation, the form of trafficking claiming the greatest number of victims, includes traditional chattel slavery, forced labor, and debt bondage. Trafficking for sexual exploitation typically includes abuse within the commercial sex industry. In other cases, individuals exploit victims in private homes, often demanding both sex and work. The use of force or coercion can be direct and violent or psychological.

A wide range of estimates exists on the scope and magnitude of modern-day slavery. The International Labor Organization (ILO) the United Nations agency charged with addressing labor standards, employment, and social protection issues estimates that there are at least 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and sexual servitude at any given time.

Of these victims, the ILO estimates that at least 1.39 million are victims of sexual servitude, both transnational and within countries. According to the ILO, 56 percent of all forced labor victims are women and girls.

Human traffickers prey on the weak. Targeting vulnerable men, women, and children, they use creative and ruthless ploys designed to trick, coerce, and win the confidence of potential victims. Very often these ruses involve promises of a better life through employment, educational opportunities, or marriage.

The nationalities of trafficked people are as diverse as the world's cultures. Some leave developing countries, seeking to improve their lives through low-skilled jobs in more prosperous countries. Others fall victim to forced or bonded labor in their own countries. Women, eager for a better future, are susceptible to promises of jobs abroad as babysitters, housekeepers, waitresses, or models -- jobs that traffickers turn into the nightmare of forced prostitution without exit. Some families give children to adults, often relatives, who promise education and opportunity but instead sell the children into exploitative situations for money. But poverty alone does not explain this tragedy, which is driven by fraudulent recruiters, employers, and corrupt officials who seek to reap profits from others' desperation.

Focus of the 2009 TIP Report

The TIP Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on governments' efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. It includes countries of origin, transit, or destination for trafficking victims. It represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it.

The 2009 TIP Report covers the period April 2008 through March 2009. During this time and since passage of the TVPA, the fight against trafficking passed an important milestone, as more than half of the world's countries have enacted criminal legislation prohibiting all forms of trafficking in persons. Over the last year alone, 26 countries enacted new anti-trafficking legislation, some going beyond the minimum standards of the TVPA and the 2000 UN TIP Protocol by offering the victims of trafficking restitution through court proceedings and other protections.

The last year was marked also by the onset of a global financial crisis, which has raised the specter of increased human trafficking around the world. As a result of the crisis, two concurrent trends -- a shrinking global demand for labor and a growing supply of workers willing to take ever greater risks for economic opportunities -- seem a recipe for increased forced labor cases of migrant workers and women in prostitution.

Because trafficking likely extends to every country in the world, the omission of a country from the report may indicate only a lack of adequate information. The country narratives describe the scope and nature of the trafficking problem, and the government's efforts to combat trafficking. Each narrative also contains an assessment of the government's compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as laid out in the TVPA and includes suggestions for additional government actions. The remainder of the country narrative describes each government's efforts to enforce laws against trafficking, to protect victims, and to prevent trafficking. Each narrative explains the basis for ranking a country as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, or Tier 3. In particular, if a country has been placed on Tier 2 Watch List, the narrative will contain a statement of explanation, using the special criteria found in the TVPA for the Watch List.

Methodology

The Department of State prepared this report using information from U.S. embassies, foreign government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, published reports, research trips to every region, and information submitted to tipreport@state.gov. This e-mail address allows NGOs and individuals to share information on government progress in addressing trafficking. U.S. diplomatic posts reported on the trafficking situation and governmental action based on thorough research that included meetings with a wide variety of government officials, local and international NGO representatives, officials of international organizations, journalists, academics, and survivors.

To compile this year's report, the Department reviewed credible information sources on every country and assessed each government's anti-trafficking efforts. In prior years a "significant number" (defined to be 100 or more) of trafficking victims had to be documented for a country to be ranked on the TIP Report. The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA of 2008) eliminated this requirement, thereby expanding the scope of countries included in this year's Report.

Some countries have held conferences and established task forces or national action plans to create goals for anti-trafficking efforts. While such activities are useful and can serve as a catalyst toward concrete law enforcement, protection, and prevention activities in the future, these conferences, plans, and task forces alone are not weighed heavily in assessing country efforts. Rather, the report focuses on governments' concrete actions to fight trafficking, especially prosecutions, convictions, and prison sentences for traffickers as well as victim protection measures and prevention efforts. Although critical to increasing anti-trafficking efforts, the Report does not give great weight to laws in draft form or laws that have not yet been enacted. In general, the Report does not focus on governmental efforts that have indirect implications for trafficking, such as general efforts to keep children in school or general economic development programs, though the Report is making a stronger effort to identify trafficking vulnerabilities and measures taken by governments to prevent trafficking that may result from such vulnerabilities. Similarly, this Report attempts to identify systemic contributing factors to particularly forms of human trafficking. These include particular policies or practices, such as labor recruiters' charging of excessive fees to prospective migrants and governmental policies allowing employers to confiscate passports of foreign workers -- factors that have been shown to contribute to forced labor.

Tier Placement

The Department places each country in the 2009 TIP Report onto one of the three tier lists as mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on the size of the problem, although that is also an important factor. The Department first evaluates whether the government fully complies with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Governments that fully comply are placed on Tier 1. For other governments, the Department considers the extent of efforts to reach compliance. Governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed on Tier 2. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed on Tier 3. Finally, the Department considers the Special Watch List criteria and, when applicable, moves Tier 2 countries to Tier 2 Watch List.

The TVPA lists three factors by which to determine whether a country should be on **Tier 2** (or **Tier 2 Watch List**) versus **Tier 3**: (1) the extent to which the country is a country of origin, transit, or destination for severe forms of trafficking; (2) the extent to which the country's government does not comply with the TVPA's minimum standards including, in particular, the extent to which officials or government employees have been complicit in severe forms of trafficking; and (3) the government's resources and capabilities to address and eliminate severe forms of **trafficking in persons**.

Tier 2 Watch List

The TVPA requires that certain countries be placed on a Special Watch List. This includes countries in which:

- a. The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
- b. There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of trafficking crimes; increased assistance to victims; and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; or
- c. The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.

Countries that meet one of these three criteria are placed into what the Department of State has termed the "Tier 2 Watch List." There were 40 countries on Tier 2 Watch List in the June 2008 report. Two additional countries were reassessed as Tier 2 Watch List countries in November 2008. The Department of State included these 42 countries in an "Interim Assessment" released on January 27, 2009.

Of these 42 countries on Tier 2 Watch List at the time of the Interim Assessment, 11 moved up to Tier 2 in this report, while four fell to Tier 3 and 27 remain on Tier 2 Watch List. Countries on Tier 2 Watch List in this report will be re-examined in the next Interim Assessment, which will be submitted to the U.S. Congress by February 1, 2010.

Amendments made by the TVPRA of 2008 provide that any country that has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years (beginning with the 2009 Report) will be ranked Tier 3, unless the President waives application of this provision based on a determination that, among other things, the government has a written plan for meeting the TVPA's minimum standards.

Potential Penalties for Tier 3 Countries

Pursuant to the TVPA, governments of countries on Tier 3 may be subject to certain sanctions whereby the U.S. Government may withhold nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance. Countries that receive no such assistance may not receive such assistance and, in addition, may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs. Consistent with the TVPA, governments subject to sanctions would also face U.S. opposition to assistance (except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance) from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Imposed sanctions will take effect October 1, 2009; however, all or part of the TVPA's sanctions can be waived if the President determines that the provision of such assistance to the government would promote the purposes of the statute or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. The TVPA also provides that sanctions can be waived if necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children. Sanctions would not apply if the President finds that, after this report is issued but before sanctions determinations are made, a government has come into compliance with the minimum standards or is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

No tier ranking is permanent. Every country can do more, including the United States, which has a significant human trafficking problem. All countries must maintain and increase efforts to combat trafficking.

How the Report Is Used

The TIP Report is a diplomatic tool for the U.S. Government to use to encourage continued dialogue and to help focus resources on prosecution, protection, and prevention programs and policies. In the narrative of each ranked country, the Report provides specific recommendations to facilitate future progress. The Department of State will continue to engage governments on the Report's contents in order to strengthen cooperative efforts to eradicate trafficking. In the coming year, and particularly in the months before sanctions are determined for **Tier 3** countries, the Report will inform programs that will address all aspects of trafficking, administered not only by the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, but also tapping the longstanding expertise of others in the U.S. Government, such as the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Labor, and Human Rights, the Departments of Labor, Justice, and Health and Human Services. The Department hopes this report will be a catalyst for increased government and nongovernment efforts to combat human trafficking around the world.

(end text)

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384 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 16, 2009 Tuesday 5:45 AM EST

Georgia Maintains **Tier 1** Status, Increases Victim Assistance in Fight against **Human Trafficking**

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

LENGTH: 238 words

DATELINE: TBILISI, Ga.

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

On Tuesday, June 16th, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Ambassador-at-large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis de Baca released the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report. For the third year in a row Georgia was placed on Tier 1, which means Georgia fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Georgia retained its Tier 1 ranking in part because the government has significantly increased its victim assistance funding to \$250,000 and modestly increased the number of victims assisted by government-funded programs. The government also provided \$150,000 in funding for the support of two trafficking shelters that provided full victim assistance, including medical aid, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. The government continued to implement a formal mechanism for its officials to identify and refer victims for assistance. All convicted trafficking offenders were given adequate prison sentences.

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign government's efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. The report also raises awareness, highlights best practices, and inspires governments to take action against trafficking.

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TNS C-AmbRan 091221-mt93-2531539 61MarlizTagarum

LOAD-DATE: December 22, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

385 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

June 16, 2009 Tuesday 9:08 PM GMT

US expands human trafficking watchlist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 461 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Tuesday expanded the U.S. **watchlist** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**, putting more than four dozen nations on notice that they may face sanctions unless their records improve. The move came as officials said the world financial crisis has left more people at risk for the crime.

The State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," the first released since President Barack Obama took office, placed 52 countries and territories mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East on the **watchlist**. That number is a 30 percent jump from the 40 countries on the list in 2008.

Several nations that had been cited previously were removed from the list, but new countries cited for human trafficking problems included Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

The report also placed the Netherlands' Antilles, a self-governing Dutch territory in the Caribbean, on the watchlist.

"With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said as she released the 320-page document.

"Economic pressure, especially in this global economic crisis, makes more people susceptible to the false promises of traffickers," she said.

Inclusion on the **watchlist** means those countries' governments are not fully complying with minimum standards set by U.S. law for cooperating in efforts to reduce the rise of **human trafficking** a common denominator in the sex trade, coerced labor and recruitment of child soldiers.

If a country appears on the list for two consecutive years, it can be subject to U.S. sanctions.

Seventeen nations, up from 14 in 2008, are now subject to the trafficking sanctions, which can include a ban on non-humanitarian and trade-related aid and U.S. opposition to loans and credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The penalties can be waived if the president determines it is in U.S. national interest to do so.

Those 17 countries include traditional U.S. foes like Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan and Syria, but also American allies and friends such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Malaysia, another U.S. partner, was added to the list of worst offenders, as were the African nations of Zimbabwe, Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger and Swaziland.

Luis Cdebaca, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the addition of the six African countries was due largely to a relaxation in efforts to fight domestic slavery, which has persisted.

"Those efforts seem to have stalled," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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386 of 404 DOCUMENTS



June 16, 2009 Tuesday 3:11 PM EST

Recession boosts global human trafficking, report says

BYLINE: By Elise Labott CNN State Department Producer

SECTION: U.S.

LENGTH: 788 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The global financial crisis has increased the worldwide trade in trafficked persons, says a State Department report released Tuesday.

The State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report also says trafficking has increased in Africa and slaps six African nations on a **blacklist** of countries not meeting the minimum standard of combating trafficking.

The report, mandated by Congress, features data and statistics from 175 countries around the world regarding the amount of human trafficking that goes on within their borders.

The report cites the International Labor Organization, which estimates that at least 12.3 million adults and children are victims of forced labor, bonded labor and sex slavery each year.

"This is modern slavery. A crime that spans the globe, providing ruthless employers with endless supply of people to abuse for financial gain," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said as she announced the report. "With this report, we hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery, so all governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed."

The report says the global economic crisis is boosting the demand for human trafficking because of a growing demand for cheap goods and services.

"A striking global demand for labor and a growing supply of workers willing to take ever greater risks for economic opportunities seem a recipe for increased forced labor cases of migrant workers and women in prostitution," it says.

It predicts that the economic crisis will push more businesses underground to avoid taxes and unionized labor, which will increase the use of forced, cheap and child labor by cash-strapped multinational companies.

African countries Nigeria and Mauritius are praised in the report for making strong efforts to combat trafficking.

But six African nations -- Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Swaziland and Zimbabwe -- were put on the report's "Tier 3" blacklist of countries whose efforts to combat trafficking are inadequate.

Most of the countries are "source" and "destination" countries, the report says, meaning trafficking victims both come from and are sent there. Most are trafficked throughout Africa, but many end up in the Middle East, it says.

Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria remain on the blacklist for another year, with the report saying they often become a destination for trafficked persons who are sold into domestic servitude. Other repeat offenders on the list include North Korea, Myanmar and Fiji.

The State Department also put Malaysia in the Tier 3 list, because of its trafficking of Burmese refugees.

The report cites information that Malaysian immigration officials sold refugees to traffickers operating along its border with Thailand. When the victims were unable to pay a ransom demanded by the traffickers, the report says, they were sold for labor and commercial sex exploitation.

The blacklisted countries are subject to U.S. sanctions if they don't make greater efforts to fight trafficking.

The Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Pakistan were added to a "watch list" because of what the report calls a worsening trafficking record in those countries. The 52 countries on the watch list have failed to meet the minimum anti-trafficking standards but are making efforts to do so.

For the first time, countries that have been on the watch list for two years -- including China, Russia, India, Sri Lanka and Egypt -- will automatically be moved to the Tier 3 blacklist next year without a presidential waiver if they fail improve their trafficking record, the State Department said.

This year, the Justice Department also put out a report on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking efforts at home. In 2008, the FBI opened 132 trafficking investigations, made 139 arrests and obtained 94 convictions.

Clinton invited to Tuesday's event members of Congress who are active on the issue, as well as global advocates for trafficking victims, in an effort to give the issue a higher profile and shine a spotlight on the need to combat it.

Calling for a renewed worldwide partnership between countries and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking, Clinton said, "Trafficking thrives in the shadows, and it can be easy to dismiss it as something that happens to someone else, somewhere else. But that's not the case.

"Trafficking is a crime that involves every nation on Earth, and that includes our own," she said, calling trafficking a "grave problem" in the United States.

For the first time, she said, the United States next year will rank its own efforts at combating trafficking along with the rest of the world. She expressed hope that it will be on the Tier 1 list of countries that are making robust efforts.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

387 of 404 DOCUMENTS

The Gazette (Montreal)

June 15, 2009 Monday
Final Edition

Cambodia shows how not to clean up the sex trade

BYLINE: The Economist**SECTION:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; The Economist; Pg. A21**LENGTH:** 521 words

In eerie, deserted silence on the outskirts of Phnom Penh sits the Prey Speu detention centre. Barely legible on its grimy walls a few weeks ago were cries for help and whispers of despair from the tormented souls once crammed into its grimy cells. "This is to mark that I lived in terror under oppression," read one message.

It recalls a Khmer Rouge torture centre from the genocidal 1970s. But in fact the building was used just last year as a "rehabilitation" centre, where detained sex workers, along with beggars and the homeless, learned sewing and cooking. They were rounded up in a crackdown on trafficking for the sex industry.

At first an attempt to clean up Phnom Penh, it soon escalated into a violent campaign by the police against prostitutes and those living on the street. According to Licadho, a local human-rights group, guards at the centre beat three people to death, and at least five detainees killed themselves. Sreymoa, a trafficked sex worker detained in May 2008 with her 4-year-old daughter, recalls daily beatings, rapes and one death.

Partly to allay the previous U.S. administration's concerns about trafficking, Cambodia in February 2008 outlawed prostitution. Three months later the U.S. Department of State took Cambodia off its annual "**watch list**" of **human-trafficking** countries. But the police read the law as entitling them to lock up all sex workers, not help victims of trafficking.

Reports of abuses soon surfaced, at first denied by the government. But in August it halted the raids as the United Nations and NGOs expressed mounting concern. One worry was that they would endanger HIV/AIDS-prevention programs. The prevalence of HIV in Cambodia had fallen to 0.8 per cent of the population since the government adopted a campaign in 2001 for "100-per-cent condom" use.

Now, however, fearing the brothels where they worked would be raided, many sex workers had started plying their trade on the streets or in karaoke bars, where health-care workers could not find them to distribute condoms.

Tony Lisle, of the UN's AIDS organization, says that since the raids stopped, HIV-prevention efforts have resumed with more success. Sex workers in bars as well as brothels are to be covered, and the police to be encouraged to teach sex workers about condom use. But those campaigning for sex workers' rights have objected, fearing that this might give the police a pretext to renew the raids. Jason Barber of Licadho says that for years the government has stopped arbitrary detentions when a fuss has been made, only to restart them as soon as attention has shifted.

Indeed, just before a regional summit in Phnom Penh in late May, the police again herded up beggars, sex-workers, and drug-users and sent them back to Prey Speu, newly reopened (with the graffiti painted over). Detaining sex workers is much easier than arresting the traffickers. But the global slowdown is adding to the ranks of the unemployed.

The World Bank forecasts that 200,000 Cambodians will fall below the poverty line this year. Many will fall into prostitution or beggary, whatever the law says and high-minded donors hope.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC:

Photo: NICOLAS ASFOURI, AFP GETTY IMAGES; Prostitutes in Phnom Penh: Efforts to wipe out the sex trade led to abuses and and hurt the fight against HIV. ;

DOCUMENT-TYPE: column

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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388 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Targeted News Service

June 11, 2009 Thursday 9:28 PM EST

U.S. State Department Releases 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report: South Africa Upgraded

BYLINE: Targeted News Service**LENGTH:** 356 words**DATELINE:** PRETORIA, South Africa

The U.S. Embassy issued the following news release:

The United States Department of State released the 2009 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report on June 16. South Africa's ranking has been upgraded from **Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2**, indicating that this past year, the government made significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress. The goal of this report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. The entire TIP Report, including the South Africa country report, is available on-line at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children. This past year, the government has taken steps with the NGO community to enhance legal protection and other supports for victims of trafficking. The government opened prosecutions against 16 suspected trafficking offenders during the year. It is continuing to prepare for late 2009 passage and subsequent implementation of its comprehensive anti-trafficking law by developing inter-agency operating procedures and training officials on the law, victim identification, and agency roles. Foreign victims in South Africa, however, still face inadequate protection from the government. Labor trafficking does not receive as much government attention as does sex trafficking.

The report recommends several concrete steps be taken to combat trafficking in South Africa -- among them, that the South African government pass and enact the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill; implement the Children's Amendment Act of 2007; and support prevention strategies developed by NGOs to address demand for commercial sex acts and protect children from commercial sexual exploitation in advance of the 2010 World Cup.

Contact: Sharon Hudson-Dean, 079/111-8276

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TNS C-AmbRan 091221-mt93-2530689 61MarlizTagarum

LOAD-DATE: December 22, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire



Gulf Daily News

May 15, 2009

Workers 'ripe' for exploitation

LENGTH: 560 words

HUMAN trafficking in Bahrain primarily consists of the exploitation of workers who arrive in the country legitimately but fall into rogue hands, a top government official told a UN General Assembly meeting.

Government action alone is not sufficient and foreign embassies, non-governmental organisations and the business community have to be engaged to combat the practice, said Foreign Ministry assistant under-secretary for co-ordination and follow-up Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

"Above all, awareness is the key," he said at the 63rd General Assembly Thematic Dialogue on Human Trafficking in New York on Wednesday.

The topic of discussion was 'Articulating a Global Plan of Action: Drawing Upon Practice at the National and Regional Level'.

Other speakers included UN special rapporteur on trafficking in persons Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, India's Apne Aap Women Worldwide president Ruchira Gupta and UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women member Saisuree Chutikul.

The Susan Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement head Aleya Hammad was the moderator.

Trafficking exists in the world because there is a supply of desperate, vulnerable people, ripe for exploitation, and a demand for cheap labour, said Shaikh Abdulaziz, who heads the Bahrain National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

"Thus, both supply and demand sides of the equation must be addressed.

"International co-operation is essential, but there are also measures that countries should take individually.

"Trafficking in Bahrain primarily consisted of the exploitation of workers who had legitimately entered the country.

"Legislation was enacted in January last year to define and criminalise trafficking, along with a national committee to combat it, involving government and non-governmental organisations.

"Shelters for victims have been established and awareness programmes instituted for lay people and those involved in the criminal justice system.

"Most significantly, the government has announced that the sponsorship system, tying workers to their employers and a source of much abuse, will be abolished on 1 August.

"In Bahrain, it has been found, however, that government action alone is not sufficient and foreign embassies, non-governmental organisations and the business community have to be engaged."

He said that to strengthen regional and international co-operation, Bahrain had hosted an international forum on the topic, with participation at the highest level.

"The outcome, known as the Manama Declaration, stresses the need for action at the national and international levels, in both the government and private sectors, and made clear the role of awareness."

He hoped it would become a cornerstone of international efforts against the problem.

Efforts

The US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report rated Bahrain last year in the **Tier 2** category based on its "significant efforts" to address the issue and pledges.

It urged Bahrain to stop deporting victims of human trafficking and set up a shelter to provide them with medical and psychological care.

The department is required by law to submit an annual report each year to Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of human trafficking.

The aim is to raise awareness as well as highlight and encourage international community's effort to combat the problem.

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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JOURNAL-CODE: 5

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390 of 404 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

May 10, 2009

Bahrain rights drive expanded

BYLINE: SOMAN BABY

LENGTH: 485 words

BAHRAIN's efforts to eliminate human trafficking will come under the spotlight at the UN next week.

Chairman of the national committee for combating human trafficking, Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, has been invited to make a presentation at the thematic meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday.

"I consider it as an opportunity to bring our human rights records to international attention," Shaikh Abdul Aziz told the GDN.

"I shall talk about the committee's successful efforts to eliminate the practice of human trafficking by implementing the anti-human trafficking law."

Shaikh Abdul Aziz said the first prosecution under the law took place in December last year.

"A foreign woman, working as a waitress in a hotel, was jailed for three years for encouraging prostitution in the country," he said.

Shaikh Abdul Aziz said the abolition of the sponsorship system was the latest measure undertaken by the government as part of eliminating human trafficking.

He said the committee would make every effort to ensure that expatriate workers are treated in Bahrain with dignity.

"The committee has representatives from various ministries, including the ministries of Interior, Labour, Justice, Information and Foreign Affairs," he said.

"This helps us to forward complaints from workers brought to our attention directly to the concerned ministries or departments.

"For example, if there is a case to prosecute a sponsor, it will be brought to the notice of the Justice Ministry to ensure that justice is done without delay."

Cases of sponsors harassing the workers will be taken up with the Interior Ministry and non-payment of salary will be brought to the notice of the Labour Ministry, said Shaikh Abdul Aziz, who is also the Foreign Ministry assistant under-secretary.

"The committee now meets once a month, and reviews its activities," he added. "A public awareness campaign will be strengthened with the support of the Information Ministry."

"Leaflets in different languages will be distributed in various places."

The committee had so far received very few complaints, said Shaikh Abdul Aziz.

"The committee will expand its activities in the new year to help workers in distress and stop all forms of human trafficking in Bahrain," he added.

The US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report rated Bahrain last year in the **Tier 2** category based on its "significant efforts" to address trafficking and on future pledges.

It urged Bahrain to stop deporting victims of human trafficking and to set up a shelter to provide them with medical and psychological care.

The US State Department is required by law to submit an annual report each year to Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of human trafficking.

The aim is to raise global awareness as well as highlight and encourage efforts by the international community to combat the problem.

soman@gdn.com.bh

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 2009

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391 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Cape Argus (South Africa)

April 16, 2009 Thursday
e1 Edition

SECTION: LIFE; Pg. 19

LENGTH: 242 words

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It is the selling of people for exploitation, be it for sex, labour or the harvesting of organs and body parts. According to the International Organisation for Migration, human trafficking is the third most lucrative crime in the world, after drug trafficking and weapon smuggling.

1 Is it really happening in SA?

Since there is no legislation criminalising human trafficking in South Africa, no official statistics are available.

South Africa is, however, widely regarded as a source, destination and transit country for human trafficking.

In 2005, a situational assessment on human trafficking in South Africa reported that in the five months between October, 2004, and March, 2005, a task team (investigating the commercial sexual exploitation of children) dealt with 62 cases relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

1 Human trafficking and the law

In June, 2007, a human trafficking bill was drafted but has not yet been passed.

The South African government has ratified the Palermo Protocol (the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in people) and established an inter-sectoral task team on trafficking in people.

But because of our failure to meet the minimum standards needed to eliminate trafficking, and for failure to provide data on trafficking crimes, South Africa has been placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" by the US Department of State in its **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

LOAD-DATE: April 16, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: CA

392 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Cyprus Mail

Internet Edition

Cyprus Mail

April 5, 2009 Sunday

For the priest with a crusade the campaign never ends

BYLINE: Elias Hazou

LENGTH: 2348 words

EIGHT years ago last week, Oxana Rantseva plunged to her death from a fifth-storey apartment in Limassol. The circumstances surrounding her death have never been fully elucidated. The 20-year-old Russian was an artiste working for a well-known cabaret in the coastal town. Her body was found only an hour after police had released her into the custody of her employer.

She had been tricked into coming to work in Cyprus as a translator. But Oxana found herself employed at Zigos Cabaret. She stayed there for seven days before fleeing, leaving behind a note that read:

[#x20ac]oeI[#x20ac][TM]m tired. I[#x20ac][TM]m leaving for Russia.[#x20ac]

She disappeared and after a day her employer notified police that she had abandoned her workplace.

Ten days later she was spotted during the early hours at a local discotheque by another cabaret artiste, who tipped off Oxana[#x20ac][TM]s employer. The latter, along with a relative, picked up the young woman and took her to the police station.

The duty officer at the station released her into her employer[#x20ac][TM]s custody, who was told to come back with her the next day to clear the issue up with immigration. Oxana never made it to sunrise. Her family believes that in a desperate bid to escape from her apartment, she slipped and fell to her death.

More recently, former US Ambassador to Cyprus Michael Klosson and Turkish Cypriot politician Serdar Denktash joined forces to rescue another victim of sexual exploitation, Elena Potoran from Moldavia.

Like Oxana, Elena had been duped into coming to work on the island, this time as a waitress. Instead, she found herself working at a cabaret in a Turkish Cypriot cabaret.

Elena, a virgin, refused to have sex with customers, but allegedly was forced to do it on the very first night. Eventually, through an intricate salvage operation involving a Russian Orthodox cleric in the south, the US Embassy in Nicosia and Serdar Denktash, Turkish Cypriot police raided the cabaret and freed Elena from the clutches of her boss.

The priest in question is Father Savvas Michaelides, who used to run a shelter for artistes in Limassol that claims to have rescued hundreds of women from the sex trade. He continues to counsel them.

The crusading cleric[#x20ac][TM]s ultimate goal is the criminalisation of the sex trade on the demand side. In his view, the most effective way of cracking down on traffickers and pimps is to go after the punters.

And he advocates following the Swedish model - a ban on the purchase of sexual services which observers there say has drastically reduced human trafficking and prostitution, though it has had the side-effect of driving the trade underground.

To Father Savvas, it[#x20ac][TM]s all or nothing. Half measures get you nowhere. And he feels that the government[#x20ac][TM]s recent attempts to crack down on cabarets in Cyprus are just that - half measures.

Under the new regime introduced last year, performers must be hired in dance troupes of four. They must also have papers proving they are professional dancers with a minimum of two years paid experience and dancing qualifications.

Where necessary the artistes will have to show they are [#x20ac]owell known[#x20ac] in their own

country or internationally. In addition, if one member leaves, the entire troupe has to leave. Moreover, the paperwork process has been moved from the Interior Ministry (Immigration) to the Ministry of Labour.

Cabaret owners say these are impossible conditions that will drive them out of business. Father Savvas is not convinced; he says that cabarets will simply find a workaround. One way, he surmises, is that cabarets will be able to procure forged documents certifying that a woman is a professional dancer. While that may increase the costs of recruiting women - for example through kickbacks to authorities in the country of provenance - it can be done.

For years, our government has been an accomplice to sexual exploitation. How? By issuing artiste visas. But the inescapable truth is that artistes are in fact prostitutes. Therefore, the government has been condoning this activity, Father Savvas told the Sunday Mail.

The US **Trafficking in Persons** report has placed the Republic of Cyprus on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for three consecutive years. Tier 2 is for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to bring themselves in compliance. Cyprus is the only EU country in that category.

It is thought this sort of pressure has forced the government's hand. But a mentality shift is also needed, says Father Savvas.

Sadly, in Cyprus buying a woman is still considered acceptable behaviour, and even something men take pride in doing. All that needs to change, through a combination of government action and an awareness campaign to inform people of the evils of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The priest is well aware that cabarets are only part of the equation. It's no secret that recent years have seen a steady rise in the number of women employed as barmaids on the island but who in reality offer sex services on the side, with the bar owners getting a piece of the action. But because these women are registered as barmaids and their profession has the veneer of legitimacy, it is that much harder to crack down on the activity. Potentially, this status allows for greater exploitation of the women.

A study commissioned by AKEL found that as many as 80 per cent of bars hired out women for sex. Although the data for this category was based largely on anecdotal evidence, in the year 2000 around 430 out of 537 bars were said to be involved in this activity.

Why is the government still issuing hundreds of barmaid visas? If they really want to stamp out sexual exploitation, they should abolish them as well, said Father Savvas.

The aforementioned study attempted to gauge the size of the informal, underground and illegal economy on the island, with emphasis on the exploitation of women and prostitution. It found that the turnover ran in the tens of millions of euros.

Hotels across the country also generate a sizeable income through room reservations. It is common knowledge that punters often meet women for sex at hotels.

Though bordering on the conspiracy-theory, Father Savvas maintains there are a great deal of vested interests keeping the sex industry going. Among other things, the industry generates income for lawyers defending cabaret owners against charges of abuse brought up by artistes. Some of these lawyers happen to be members of parliament.

It brings to mind a line from the movie American Gangster, where Detective Richie Roberts laments on the drugs trade: They don't want this to stop. It employs too many people. Cops, lawyers, judges, probation officers, prison guards. The day dope stops coming into this country, a hundred thousand people lose their jobs.

Being a prominent activist, Father Savvas was once interviewed by a French television network about human trafficking in Cyprus. Soon after the documentary was broadcast in France, Interior Minister Neoclis Sylikiotis happened to be on a visit to that country. During one of his meetings, someone who had watched the documentary broached the subject of human trafficking with regard to Cyprus, and on his return to the island Sylikiotis was able to use this as ammunition to crack down on the activity.

But there was a flipside: a few days later, Father Savvas got a call from a concerned CTO (Cyprus Tourism Organisation) officer.

He complained to me that we had become a laughing stock in Europe, hinting that my interview was a bad move, Father Savvas told the Sunday Mail.

Prostitution and sexual trafficking are two sides of the same coin. It doesn't matter whether the girl is aware of what her job entails. And consumption (punters buying drinks for artistes) is sexual harassment, no matter what spin you put on it.

Majority of girls know the score

IN CYPRUS, the act of prostituting oneself is legal and there are no laws against the purchase of sexual services; however, it is illegal for third parties (i.e. pimps) to earn a living out of prostitution. Otherwise said, brothels are outlawed.

Cabarets have been able to evade the arm of the law because they are registered as [nightclubs] and on paper are legitimate businesses.

Kleitos Kleovoulou, owner of the Mirage nightclub in Limassol, describes cabarets as strip-joints, where men come to meet women.

[We sell the company. What happens afterwards between two consenting adults is their own business. We never push the girls to have sex,] he insisted.

Though admitting that abuse of women was common in the past (cabaret owners would hold on to a woman's passport or threaten her if she refused to go out with punters), Kleovoulou said that today cabarets have cleaned up their act and that abuse is the exception rather than the rule.

And he shoots down the victimisation argument, pointing out that 99 per cent of the women coming to work as artistes know the score.

[Yes, some of the girls hate the job and leave, and they are free to do so,] said Kleovoulou, rejecting the notion of debt bondage, after numerous reports that girls have been manipulated into having sex with customers to repay their airfare once they reached the island.

[But many of them come back several times. Either way, I can guarantee you that no one is forced to do anything against their will.]

Kleovoulou himself has been in jail after one of the women he employed reported him to the police for abuse. He claims it was a set-up.

And while professing to have the [outmost respect] for Father Savvas - the two are acquainted - he says that stories of exploitation should be taken with a pinch of salt.

According to Kleovoulou, women are often coached or cajoled into testifying against their employer. In return for testifying, he says, the women are allowed to stay on the island for a year, during which time they receive state benefit.

Asked by the Sunday Mail whether it would not be more profitable for the girls to remain employed at cabarets rather than receive the monthly benefit, Kleovoulou said:

[Maybe so, but more often than not the girls go to the police when their contract is coming at an end, so that they get to stay here for another year. For many of these girls, who come from poor countries, the state benefit is way better than any salary they could get back home.]

Kleovoulou, who worked at Las Vegas Olympic Garden Cabaret for years before returning to Cyprus, ascribes to the view that having regulated prostitution is better than unregulated prostitution. An outright ban is of course out of the question - and unrealistic.

[Look, there will always be a demand for sex. And we agree that the worst practices should be rooted out. But what about all the girls working out of apartments? Does anyone check them for HIV and other diseases? No. By law, girls working at cabarets undergo all these medical checks.]

Kleovoulou believes that the new regulations governing cabaret girls have arisen out of a misguided attempt by the government to control the sex trade.

[The people who are behind this idea, they couldn't figure out a clever way of regulation. Under pressure from the Americans, they decided effectively to shut us down, using the new rules as a disguise. It's as simple as that.]

[This business about artistes requiring dancing certificates is utter nonsense.

Let's face it, the girls are strip dancers. I mean, come on, it's like asking Cicciolina [the famous Italian porn actress] for a university degree!]

Though denying that cabarets are in the prostitution business, Kleovoulou argues that sexual services perform a vital social function.

[Even here in Cyprus we're seeing an increase in sex crimes, minors being raped and what not. Now imagine what would happen if someone could no longer pay for sex. Things would get worse.]

And according to Kleovoulou - who claims credit for introducing a Hollywood style and glamour to the local cabaret scene - equating cabarets to brothels is a false impression.

[People come here to relax, to wind down. We put on exotic shows, we have lap dances. You wouldn't believe the clientele we've had. Famous people, even politicians. I think that some folks are taking this whole business way too seriously. Do they want to create a theocracy or something? They should lighten up a bit.]

Competition from bars and so-called [massage parlours] is getting tougher, and the economic crisis isn't helping either. Now, Kleovoulou says, the new regulations are the final nail in the coffin for cabarets.

Desperate times call for desperate measures - so to speak. In a marketing ploy, Kleovoulou, for example, plans to perk up business by bringing back an oldie. Every weekend, his cabaret will be staging a competition, where male punters walk up on the stage and are stripped by the girls.

The goal is to see which guy gets an erection first. If you get an erection, you win, Kleovoulou says.

The jackpot now stands at 10,000.

I'm still looking for a winner. We've had hundreds of guys go up on stage, and believe it or not they all freeze up. Personally, I was amazed by this, given the Cypriot male's macho ego. Just goes to show you.

Side bar

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, or receipt of people for the purposes of slavery, forced labor (including bonded labor or debt bondage), and servitude. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, with the total annual revenue for trafficking in persons estimated to be between \$5 billion and \$9 billion.

Exploitation includes forcing people into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery and servitude. For children, exploitation may also include forced prostitution, illicit international adoption, trafficking for early marriage, or recruitment as child soldiers, beggars, for sports (such as child camel jockeys or football players), or for religious cults.

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 2009

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393 of 404 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

April 4, 2009 Saturday 2:27 PM EST

GUINEA FEELS EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

LENGTH: 543 words

CONAKRY, Guinea, April 2 -- The U.S. Agency for International Development issued the following news release:

An elderly man from a remote area of Guinea broke into tears when he related how he was powerless to assist an orphan boy taken from his family and sent to a gold mine where he was forced to work from dusk till dawn. In Upper Guinea a mother explained that her daughter left home one day and never returned, apparently suffering a fate similar to other children in the village. These cases are not isolated incidents, but form a disturbing pattern of trafficking in persons that targets young children and even babies. The **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report ranks countries worldwide on a **tier** system based on their compliance with minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**. The four categories, indicating incrementally increasing levels of trafficking, include Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3. Guinea was recently upgraded to Tier 2 watch list, reflecting deepening concern and drawing special worldwide attention to the problem. Along the border of Guinea authorities reported 52 cases of trafficked young boys and girls between one and 15 years old. Young children are trafficked for sexual exploitation, illegal adoptions, and cheap labor, particularly in the mining sector. In Guinea, the majority of trafficked children are taken to Conakry for work. The trafficking usually involves an intermediary who promises the parents to educate the child or help the child find work then sells the child into virtual slavery. Guinea also serves as a transit country for international trafficking. UNICEF has identified a variety of trafficking operations including cross-border trafficking networks that transport young girls from Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso to Nigeria, or from neighboring countries to Conakry for domestic or sexual work. Some children are transported to Europe, and some trafficking involves individuals who wish to immigrate illegally to other countries. The two-year USAID project, Strengthening Communities against Trafficking and Exploitation (SCATE), is active in Guinea and Mali. In this initiative, Save the Children program works to reinforce the capacity of village members, community councils, and government authorities face the threat of trafficking through training and legal reform. The effort also aims to alert authorities, particularly immigrations officials at the border, to detect trafficking in persons. To help young trafficking victims readjust once they have been returned to their families, vocational training centers strive to provide children with useful skills. The program has met with success. The USAID anti-trafficking program in Guinea yielded impressive results in 2007. Eleven 11 districts covered by a USAID-sponsored Save the Children project took part in the education and child protection assistance plan. The 2008 report from Save the Children's indicates that 350 parenting association and management committees have been reinforced. Over 200 teachers have been trained in protection/education, and more than 3000 children sensitized to the dangers of human trafficking. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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394 of 404 DOCUMENTS

PNG Post-Courier (Australia)

March 24, 2009 Tuesday
1 Edition

PNG placed in human trafficking

BYLINE: By Caldron Laepa**SECTION:** HOME NEWS; Pg. 10**LENGTH:** 220 words

PNG has been rated in the third **tier** on United States Annual Reporting on **Trafficking in Persons** in its 2008 report.

This was revealed during the 2009 Human Smuggling and Trafficking conference last week.

Countries were rated by how they implemented the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Those under the first tier are countries that are fully complying with the law, the second tier countries are making a significant effort to meet the minimum standard and those under the third tier are nations that did not comply with the minimum standards and whose governments are not acting significantly in dealing with the issue.

Speaking at the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Puka Temu said there were relevant laws that could be applied to deal with human trafficking in PNG. Dr Temu said even though the criminal code did not provide a direct approach to human trafficking and smuggling in 2002, the Government introduced laws on commercial sex exploitation of children. He urged government departments to form working groups to continue implementation of necessary measures. We need to work together to ensure that the three Ps prosecution, protection and prevention are fully implemented. PNG Law Reform Commission Secretary Dr Lawrence Kalinoe said there was evidence of human smuggling and trafficking in the country.

LOAD-DATE: March 24, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** PTC

395 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Cyprus Mail

Internet Edition

Cyprus Mail

March 12, 2009 Thursday

Anti-trafficking offices to be expanded

BYLINE: Alexia Saoulli

LENGTH: 468 words

TRAFFICKING of human beings for sexual and labour exploitation is a problem that the police force wants to better curtail.

For this reason the police office responsible for handling combatting of trafficking of human beings will be extended to all districts with special training offered to the officers involved.

The idea is to better investigate trafficking cases in an effort to deal with the problem more effectively.

Although the initiative had not yet been implemented, it had the full backing of the police leadership, said Chief Superintendent Charalambos Ioannou.

Ioannou, who heads Department C at the Police HQ, said a circular had been issued recommending the office was strengthened. More details about the plan would be available over the next few days, he said.

It is thought that around 20 officers will be appointed across all districts and responsible for handling trafficking cases. They will all receive special training for this purpose. Up until now investigations have come under each district's Criminal Investigation Departments.

Each district office will be answerable to the Combatting of Trafficking of Human Beings Office in Nicosia which is headed by Rita Superman and comes under the umbrella of Department C. Superman's office will be responsible for the all over co-ordination of operations.

The scheme will greatly facilitate the office which is currently staffed by Superman and two other officers.

Meanwhile reports that Cyprus was involved in receiving thousands of trafficked women for sexual exploitation were referring to the occupied areas, said Superman.

According to press reports Tel Aviv police are searching for the suspected ringleader of Israel's biggest woman trafficking network which smuggled thousands of women from the former Soviet Union into Israel, Cyprus, Belgium and England, forcing them to work as prostitutes.

This was referring to the occupied areas, she said.

Nevertheless the US **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report has placed the Republic of Cyprus on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for three consecutive years.

Tier 2 is for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant effort to bring themselves in compliance. It is the only EU country in that category.

It is thought that improvements to the Combatting of Trafficking of Human Beings Office could have something to do with recent changes in US legislation that stipulate any country on Tier 2 for two consecutive years is automatically demoted to Tier 3 Watch List.

Tier 3 status is for countries that neither comply with the minimum standards nor make significant efforts to come into compliance. In 2008 Tier 3 countries included Iran, North Korea, Qatar and Fiji.

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JOURNAL-CODE: 70

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396 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Gates of Vienna

March 12, 2009 Thursday 11:58 PM EST**Gates of Vienna News Feed 3/12/2009****BYLINE:** Baron Bodissey**LENGTH:** 24496 words

Mar. 12, 2009 (Gates of Vienna delivered by Newstex) --

There are a lot of news stories tonight about the Netherlands. Bus drivers in Arnhem walked off the job to protest increasing violence on their buses by oeyouths. Stores in an Amsterdam shopping mall (including IKEA) were closed down due to terrorist bomb threats. The Dutch have been cited by the Council of Europe for their human rights violations. And a new chief of police has been appointed for the region of Zuid-Holland, despite being a white male.

Thanks to Amil Imani, C. Cantoni, CSP, Insubria, JD, Steen, TB, Tuan Jim, and all the other tipsters who sent these in. Headlines and articles are below the fold.

Financial Crisis

|45 Percent of Worlds Wealth Destroyed: Blackstone CEO

|Chinese Exports Plunge: Minus 25% in February

|David Frum: an Insiders Guide to the Obama Administrations Mistakes

|Iran Says Capitalism on Verge of Collapse

|Obamas Honeymoon Bliss Fading

|US Calls for Tripling of IMF Firepower

USA

|EPA Plans U.S. Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

|For Sale: the New York Times Corporate Jet

|Lies in Plain Sight

|Listen to the Gitmo Five

|Obama Grants 2 More Lobbyists Waivers

|Obama: Pro-Israel Talk, Anti-Israel Walk

|S.F. Police Union Accuses Ayers in 1970 Bombing

|Terrorist **Watch List** Hits 1 Million

Canada

|Canada: Khawaja Sentenced to 10 1/2 Years on Terror Charges

Europe and the EU

|Court Rules on CIA Snatch Secrecy

|Czech Republic: NATO Must Remain Basis of European Defence " Klaus

|Czech Republic: Qatar Sends to Czech Republic Decision on Prince Sani " Server

|Denmark: Victims Funeral Procession in Nørrebro

|Denmark: Minister: OK to Secret Hearings

|Energy: Segolene Royal Launches Regional Solar Energy Plan

|Film: Catalonia Forces 50% Films to be Dubbed in Catalan

|Finland: Interior Ministry Plans Tighter Screening of Gun Licence Applicants

|Finland: Dispute Over Female Clergy Leads to First Sackings of Church Employees

[Finland: Shooting Clubs: New Age Limits Kill Shooting Hobby
 [Finland: Indian oeFilm-Maker Convicted of **Human Trafficking**
 [Greece: Stop to New Bar and Restaurant Licences in Athens
 [Greece: Hundreds of Public Officials Accused of Corruption
 [Netherlands: Bus Drivers Walk Out in Protest at Aggression
 [Netherlands: White Male Candidate Nominated After All
 [Netherlands First Choice for Somalians
 [Netherlands: Council of Europe Criticises Dutch Human Rights
 [Netherlands: Cabinet Ignores Motion to Protest Wilders Ban in EU
 [Netherlands: Police Arrest Seven in Amsterdam Terror Threat
 [Row After French Director Compares Illegals to War-Time Jews
 [Sweden: Criminal Gangs Show No Signs of Leaving Sweden
 [UK: Muslim Protester Who Works as Baggage Handler at Luton Airport Has Security Pass Suspended After Hurling Abuse at Troops
 [UK: Stop Pandering to Enemies of Our Way of Life
 Balkans
 [Serbia: Minister, 7.9% of Population Under Line of Poverty
 [Serbia: One in Four Citizens Works in Grey Zone
 [Serbia-Spain: Accord on Avoiding Double Taxation Signed
 Mediterranean Union
 [Energy: EU Commission, Integrated Med Market Needed
 [Mediterranean: First Western Area Country Talks in Genoa
 North Africa
 [Al Azhar Says Yes to Organs Explant From Sentenced to Death
 [Algeria: Newspaper Seized for Article on Bouteflika
 [Darfur: Algeria Rejects Arrest Warrant for Bashir
 [Economy: Tunisian Minister Says Trade Balance is Improving
 [ENI: it Will Take Months to Purchase Stake, Libyan Ambassador
 [Israel: Shalit, Family Fears Forthcoming Netanyahu Govt
 [Oil: OPEC Considering More Production Cuts, Khelil Says
 [Tunisia: Leather-Footwear Export Triples in 10 Years
 Israel and the Palestinians
 [#x2dc]Deep Concern Obama Ready to Talk to Hamas
 [EU Concerned on Demolition in East Jerusalem
 [Israel: Street Named in Honour of Egyptian Singer
 Middle East
 [Iraq: Saddam Aide Gets 15-Year Jail Term for Murders
 [Iraq: Suspected Iranian Bombing Kills Child
 [Iraq: Shoe Thrower Sentenced to 3 Years
 [Saudi Arabia: Prison, Whipping for 75-Year-Old Widow: Her Nephew Brought Her Bread
 [Turkey, Egypt Under Fire for Textile Duties
 [Turkeys Arab-Bound Trade Shows Sharp Rise
 [Turkey Opens Education Center in Lebanon
 Russia
 [Estonia: Kremlin Loyalist Says Launched Estonia Cyber-Attack
 South Asia
 [Malaysia: Visas for 70,000 Bangladeshi Immigrants Revoked
 [More Troops in Thai South
 [Pakistan: Islam Has [#x2dc]No Link With Terrorism, Says PM
 [Pakistan: Swat Valley: Sharia Implemented on 16 March
 [Singapore: 2 Ji Detainees Released
 [Thai Bloggers Face Jail Without Bail for Discussing Monarchy
 Far East
 [Philippines: Cardinals Rosales and Vidal Pressure Arroyo for Agrarian Reform
 Latin America

|From Chile, Appeal to End Embargo Against Cuba
 |The Americas Report: Nicole Ferrand on Islamic Terrorism in Latin America
 |Venezuela: Israel Lobbies Chavez to Curb Anti-Semitism in Venezuela
 Immigration
 |Denmark: Immigration Service to Reopen Old Residency Cases
 |Justice Dept. Investigates Arizona Sheriff for Enforcing Immigration Law
 |Spain: Government Wont Prosecute if Illegals Taken in
 Culture Wars
 |Coed Showers Going Statewide?
 |Germany: the Anti-God Squad
 |Girl Scouts Birthday " But Nothing to Celebrate
 |Judge Orders Homeschoolers Into Public District Classrooms
 |Policy Discriminating Against Bible Clubs Challenged
 |UK: Labour Double Standards as Smoking Ban is Lifted for G20 World Leaders
 General
 |An Appeal to Cultural Muslims
 |Regulate Armed Robots Before Its Too Late
 |Space Junk Threat Worried Space Station
 |Why We Elect Liars as Leaders

45 Percent of Worlds Wealth Destroyed: Blackstone CEO

Private equity company Blackstone Group LP (BX.N) CEO Stephen Schwarzman said on Tuesday that up to 45 percent of the worlds wealth has been destroyed by the global credit crisis.

Between 40 and 45 percent of the worlds wealth has been destroyed in little less than a year and a half, Schwarzman told an audience at the Japan Society. This is absolutely unprecedented in our lifetime.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Chinese Exports Plunge: Minus 25% in February

Experts were expecting a reduction of 5%. Party academics estimate that the government will have to find work for at least 50 million unemployed.

Beijing (AsiaNews/Agencies) " Chinas exports fell 25.7 % in February from a year earlier. Imports fell 24.1%, the General Administration of Customs also announced today. Economists forecasts had put the slide at 5% exports and 25% imports.

The new data confirms the worrying slowdown in the Chinese economy, the third strongest in the world, and up until now based on exports, a sector now in crisis because of the global economic situation.

Reductions in exports are creating heavy unemployment. Businesses which relied upon foreign orders are closing without notice, leaving thousands of workers on the streets without jobs. According to academics of the Chinese communist party, this year the government will have to find work for an estimated 50 million people.

In order to halt the effects of the crises, linked to exports, the government has planned to increase internal demand, by adopting a packet of measures worth 4 trillion Yuan (over 400 billion Euro) as well as tax relief for exporters and investment in large infrastructural projects.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

David Frum: an Insiders Guide to the Obama Administrations Mistakes

Invited by a reporter Monday to criticize President Obamas economic plans, the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, Christina Romer, naturally brushed the question aside. "You want me to tell you whats wrong with the fiscal stimulus package?" she said. "SO not going to do that!"

Too late! As it happens, the lecture Romer had just finished delivering at the Brookings Institute on Monday afternoon was criticism enough.

An expert on the Great Depression, Romer organized her lecture around six lessons distilled from the era. The administration she serves seems to be disregarding every one of them.

LESSON ONE: Romer warned that a small fiscal stimulus has only small effects. "While Roosevelts fiscal actions were a bold break from the past, they were nevertheless small relative to the size of the problem, she said. Roosevelts spending increased the deficit by only 1.5 percent of GDP in 1934. And Obama? His fiscal stimulus is certainly big-almost \$800 billion, or oeclose to three percent of GDP in each of the next two years, Romer said. But most of that money wont be spent until 2010 or later, meaning its fairly modest right now, when we really need it.

LESSON TWO: Romer argued that monetary expansion can be a powerful tool even when interest rates have reached zero. The Roosevelt administration reflatd by taking the U.S. off the gold standard in 1933-and then (unintentionally) by issuing oegold certificates against the European gold that flowed into the U.S. as war approached in the late 1930s. The Obama administration, by contrast, seems to have written off monetary policy as exhausted, and is betting everything on the power of its inadequate fiscal stimulus.

Romer expressed her concerns on this matter delicately: "In thinking about the lessons from the Great Depression for today, she said, "I want to tread very carefully. A key rule of my current job is that I do not comment on Federal Reserve policy. So, let me be very clear-I am not advocating going on a gold standard just so we can go off it again, or that Tim Geithner should start conducting rogue monetary policy. But the experience of the 1930s does suggest that monetary policy can continue to have an important role to play even when interest rates are low by affecting expectations, and in particular, by preventing expectations of deflation.

Behind Romers delicate words is a question: Why does the Obama administration talk down the importance of monetary policy? The Federal Reserve still has weapons in its arsenal, including whats called oequantitative easing-technical jargon for what amounts to printing more money and deliberately inflating. These measures are not only powerful, they are a lot easier to stop when they are no longer needed-unlike, say, the administrations big spending plans.

LESSON THREE: Romer warned against cutting back on stimulus too soon-the mistake that FDR made in 1937. That may sound like a justification for the slow-release Obama fiscal plan. But as Romer notes, FDRs stimulus was not so much ended as it was counteracted, by the imposition of Social Security taxes in 1937, for example. In the same way, the Obama administration has already announced that upper-bracket income taxes will rise in 2011. More ominously, thats likely the date at which the administrations cap-and-trade plan will go into effect, sharply increasing energy costs.

Romer seems worried about this problem too: "We will need to monitor the economy closely to be sure that the private sector is back in the saddle before government takes away its crucial lifeline, she said.

LESSON FOUR: Romer noted that financial recovery and real recovery go together. But not in this administration! The stimulus plan is already enacted. A huge omnibus spending bill is rolling to the finish line. And big budget increases in fiscal 2010 seem certain. Yet at best the Obama financial plan is still a work in progress. My colleague John Makin from the American Enterprise Institute offers a tougher description: the plan, he says, is oepaque, ad hoc and unsystematic.

LESSON FIVE: Romer urged that the recovery efforts must be global. Too bad, then, about this report in Tuesdays Washington Post: oe Even as world trade takes its steepest drop in 80 years amid the global economic crisis, the administration is preparing to take a harder line with Americas trading partners. It will seek new benchmarks before supporting already-written trade agreements with Colombia and South Korea and is suggesting that it will dig in its heels on global trade talks, demanding that other countries make broader concessions first.

LESSON SIX: Romers final lesson may be the least reassuring: Despite the chaos, loss of faith and lost wealth, the Great Depression, she said, oedid eventually end. So it did. And so did the dinosaurs. In the long run we are indeed all dead. In the short run, however, it would be nice not to be poor.

In an administration that increasingly seems baffled by the financial crisis, a White House official who is willing to pierce the illusion of happy consensus can do a real service. We dont need jolly, bogus reassurance. We need real thinking and a more open and productive debate. The administrations top economist has now publicly, if elliptically, served notice of the likely inadequacy of the administrations plans. Better to correct course early rather than too late!

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Iran Says Capitalism on Verge of Collapse

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told regional leaders on Wednesday that the capitalist system was close to collapse.

Opening a one-day summit of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) including Turkey, Pakistan and other neighbors, he also suggested a single currency should be used in trade between members.

" Hat tip: JD

[Return to headlines]

Obamas Honeymoon Bliss Fading

President Obamas honeymoon is beginning to fade.

Members of Congress and old political hands say he needs to show substantial progress reviving the economy soon.

Some Democrats have started to worry that voters dont and wont understand the link between economic revival and Obamas huge agenda, which includes saving the banking industry, ending home foreclosures, reforming healthcare and developing a national energy policy, among much else.

While lawmakers debate controversial proposals contained in the new presidents debut budget " cutting farm subsidies, raising taxes on charitable contributions, etc. " there is a growing sense that time is running out faster than expected.

Democrats from states racked by recession say Obama needs to produce an uptick by August or face unpleasant consequences. Others say that there is more time, but that voters need to see improvement by the middle of next year.

" Hat tip: JD

[Return to headlines]

US Calls for Tripling of IMF Firepower

The US raised the stakes in its drive for an aggressive response to the global financial crisis on Wednesday, calling for a tripling of the International Monetary Funds firepower and bigger fiscal stimulus measures worldwide.

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

EPA Plans U.S. Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to establish a nationwide system for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, a program that could serve as the basis for a federal cap on the buildup of carbon dioxide and other gases linked to global warming.

The registry plan, which was announced yesterday, would cover about 13,000 facilities that account for 85 to 90 percent of the nations greenhouse gas output. It was drafted under the Bush administration but stalled after the Office of Management and Budget objected to it because the EPA based the rule on its powers under the Clean Air Act.

oeOur efforts to confront climate change must be guided by the best possible information, said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson in a statement. oeThrough this new reporting, we will have comprehensive and accurate data about the production of greenhouse gases. This is a critical step toward helping us better protect our health and environment " all without placing an onerous burden on our nations small businesses.

Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, both California Democrats, had inserted language in a 2007 spending bill instructing EPA to develop a national greenhouse gas reporting system.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

For Sale: the New York Times Corporate Jet

by Micahel Calderone

It looks like Arthur Sulzberger Jr. may have to fly commercial: The Times Co. is selling its corporate jet.

Editor & Publisher pulled out this nugget from the Times annual meeting proxy.

Besides chauffeuring around the Times top executive, the jet came in handy after the Iowa caucus last year, as Times staffers avoided congestion at the Des Moines airport en route to New Hampshire.

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Lies in Plain Sight

The establishment press gives no airtime to experts with a pragmatic sense of economics. They dont report the lavish soirees the Obamas have been throwing, or the harridan Nancy Pelosis squandering of taxpayer money on military jets to ferry her family and friends around the country. Not a word has been spoken with respect to Obama lying about banning earmarks and curtailing the influence of lobbyists. Most Americans would be amazed to learn that aggressor na-

tions such as North Korea and Iran " which were supposed to have changed their tunes as soon as Obama was sworn in " have stepped up their anti-American rhetoric.

Most importantly, we dont hear that Congress and the Obama administration are wiping their behinds with the Constitution and quite literally stealing billions of dollars from us on a weekly basis.

" Hat tip: JD

[Return to headlines]

Listen to the Gitmo Five

WASHINGTON WONKS IN DENIAL KSM: TELLING US EXACTLY WHAT HE BELIEVES.

AS White House staffer Jane Austen put it to Sen. Darcy: oeIt is a truth universally acknowledged that a single terrorist in possession of a good bomb must be in want of patient understanding.

Unfortunately for Washington wonks determined to deny that Islamist extremists are motivated by extremist Islam, the pride and prejudice of Allahs butchers were on public display (again) this week.

Framed in florid quotations from the Koran, the Gitmo Five " hard-core terrorists, including Khalid Sheik Mohammed " proclaimed in a filing released by a brave military judge that oeWe are terrorists to the bone who regard the charges resulting from oethe blessed 11 September operations as oebadges of honor.

Desperate to placate its blame-America supporters, the Obama administration has clamped down on news from Guantanamo. Why? After their lurid criticisms of Gitmo, the Dems now have the worlds worst killers on their hands.

And they dont know what to do. Responsibility sucks.

At the core of our inability to cope with Islamist terrorists lies Washingtons denial that fanatical Islam is even a factor. Yet refusing to accept that Islam Gone Wild is behind the actions of al Qaeda or the Taliban is akin to insisting that sex has nothing to do with making babies.

Other factors may intensify or accelerate a terrorists will to slaughter the innocent. But the dark heart of the matter is that these men believe theyre on a mission from their god to punish the godless (including fellow Muslims who dont measure up).

Yet, no matter how fiercely our enemies declare that their faith compels them to kill, our elected and appointed officials continue to insist that the terrorists dont understand themselves " that theyre really driven by economic factors or our own foreign-policy missteps, that their savage interpretation of Islam is only a ploy . . .

Shouldnt we pay just a little attention to what our enemies say about themselves?

Radical Islam isnt just a smokescreen. Jihad is real. And it aint about who got the Coca-Cola franchise in Khartoum.

As I seethe through DC meetings (always careful to wash thoroughly afterward), Im continually disheartened by the contortions of oeexperts determined to prove that enemies who regard death as a promotion arent really devout, that they just need hugs and massive amounts of aid.

A few weeks back, I spoke to a roomful of senior military officers. In response to my suggestion that we should listen to what terrorists are only too glad to tell us, a foreign oecounterinsurgency expert insisted that religion simply isnt a factor.

To buttress his claim, he cited the survey every Muslims-R-Us analyst trots out: In questioning 138,000 prisoners who passed through US hands in Iraq, barely 10 percent claimed to be motivated by Islam, while 60 percent of the violent actors said they did it for money. (The rest were just in a bad mood.)

Even if every Iraqi told the complete truth, that misses the point. This isn't about quantity, but the quality of commitment. Terrorist movements never field a majority or even a significant minority of a population. At most, a few hundred fanatics were behind 9/11.

Anyway, who paid the did-it-for-cash bunch? The religious fanatics.

Even in ethnic struggles, such as those in the Balkans in the 1990s, the violence begins with less than 1 percent of the population armed and determined. The ranks of the violent swell for various reasons, but it's the hard-core believers in the supremacy of their blood or faith who instigate the destruction of troubled societies.

To counter that carpetbaggers statistics, I pointed out that a sampling of 138,000 German POWs in 1945 would have shown that fewer than 5 percent were unrepentant believers in Nazi ideology. But subtract Nazism from the German political equation, and there would've been no World War II in Europe. True believers shatter worlds.

As for the argument that not every terrorist lived in a state of perfect religious purity before jumping into jihad, that utterly misses the point: A society's prevailing sense of right and wrong is shaped by centuries of religious culture. American atheists conform to behavioral values ingrained in us all by thousands of years of Judeo-Christian authority.

In the Greater Middle East, even lackadaisical Muslims have been molded by the legacy of 13 centuries of Islam. Thus Mom thinks it a splendid thing that her son strapped on a bomb and became a martyr by murdering 40 innocents in a market.

Her culture admires that sacrifice. Ours doesn't.

Listen to the Gitmo Five. Unlike our Washington pols, they have intellectual integrity. They're telling us honestly who they are and why they seek to kill us.

Our response? They don't know what they're talking about.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Obama Grants 2 More Lobbyists Waivers

Brings La Raza immigration activist on board

The waivers were provided for Jocelyn Frye, director of policy and projects in the Office of the First Lady, and Cecilia Munoz, director of intergovernmental affairs in the executive office of the president. The two waivers were announced on the White House blog Tuesday evening, which said the exceptions were granted under a public interest exemption of the executive order on ethics.

Munoz was a senior vice president for the National Council of La Raza, where she supervised all legislative and advocacy activities on the state and local levels. Munoz was heavily involved in the immigration battles in Congress in recent years, and is now a principal liaison to the Hispanic community for the administration.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Obama: Pro-Israel Talk, Anti-Israel Walk

Barely a month into the presidency of Barack Obama, a profound realization is spreading among the pro-Israel community: we do not have an ally in the White House. The growing threat that Israel and the Jewish People now face demands an immediate acceptance of the facts on the ground regarding President Obama's perspective and agenda, and decisive action to prevent the frightening reality that he may play a leading role in creating.

So how exactly did this get by most Jewish voters during last year's election? While some, including this author, warned of his dubious associations and likely course of action regarding Israel, Obama brilliantly pandered to Jewish crowds around the country with his scripted and amorphous proclamations of support for Israel, while utilizing an array of prominent Jewish surrogates in order to avoid any real accountability.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

S.F. Police Union Accuses Ayers in 1970 Bombing

Leaders of San Francisco's police officers union have accused Weather Underground co-founder Bill Ayers and his wife, Bernardine Dohrn, of taking part in the 1970 bombing of a city police station that killed a sergeant.

The union leveled the charge in a letter to a conservative organization lobbying for arrests in the case, but said it had not been in contact with investigators and had no new evidence related to the bombing, which killed Sgt. Brian McDonnell.

Instead, the union cited information from a former Bay Area resident, Larry Grathwohl, who is working with the conservative group, America's Survival Inc. of Maryland. Grathwohl asserts that he infiltrated the Weather Underground as an FBI informant and heard Ayers confess to a role in the bombing.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Terrorist Watch List Hits 1 Million

The government's terrorist watch list has hit 1 million entries, up 32% since 2007.

Federal data show the rise comes despite the removal of 33,000 entries last year by the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center in an effort to purge the list of outdated information and remove people cleared in investigations.

It's unclear how many individuals those 33,000 records represent " the center often uses multiple entries, or identities, for a person to reflect variances in name spellings or other identifying information. The remaining million entries represent about 400,000 individuals, according to the center.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Canada: Khawaja Sentenced to 10 1/2 Years on Terror Charges

OTTAWA " Momin Khawaja, the Ottawa computer specialist who plotted jihad from his government desk, was sentenced Thursday to a further 10 1/2 years in jail on five terrorism-related charges, including financing and facilitating a group of British Islamist extremists plotting to bomb London and to wage religious war against the West.

Khawaja, 29, was found guilty in October, five years after he was arrested in what was seen as a key test of Canadas Anti-terrorism Act, controversial legislation that was enacted just three months after 9/11.

The court accepted the Crowns argument that Khawaja had agreed to build 30 remote-controlled bomb detonators for jihadists, although it is not clear that he knew where or how they would be deployed.

Khawaja was working in Ottawa as a software contractor for the Department of Foreign Affairs, when the Mounties swooped on March 29, 2004.

Hours later, hundreds of British police and MI5 security service officers fanned out across pre-dawn London. They arrested several people and seized 600 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, which they say was to be used in chemical attacks against public sites in and around London by a British terrorist cell directed from Pakistan.

British police charged several suspects, all of Pakistani descent, with terrorism offences. Five were convicted last year and sentenced to life terms.

Khawajas defence lawyer, Lawrence Greenspon, suggested during pre-sentence hearings that Khawaja, who has been behind bars for five years, should serve just one day more. Greenspon contended that Khawajas actions were oethe low-er end of the spectrum and not oetrue terrorism.

Khawaja did not take the stand in his defence and has been silent on the charges since his arrest.

Crown attorney David McKercher has called Khawaja a threat to society and had asked the courts to impose a life sentence.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Court Rules on CIA Snatch Secrecy

Both sides claim victory in cleric rendition case

(ANSA) " Rome, March 12 " Italys Constitutional Court left both sides in a CIA rendition case crying victory after ruling prosecutors had broken state secrecy rules in some cases but not others.

The ruling meant a Milan trial into the 2003 abduction of Muslim cleric Hassan Mustafa Omar Nasr will go ahead next Wednesday but prosecutors will have to do without some pieces of evidence.

In particular, certain documents on the activities of military intelligence agency SISMI have been ruled inadmissible, as well as the confession of a Carabinieri officer who said he took part in the snatch.

But prosecutors will be allowed to use wiretaps of SISMI agents.

However, the exact impact of the sentence on the trial is not yet sure, the presiding judge said Thursday.

oeWe shall have to wait for the explanation of the verdict, which typically comes out weeks or even months after rulings, said Judge Oscar Magi.

Prosecutor Armando Spataro said Wednesday night's verdict showed we were correct while the state's general advocate, Ignazio Francesco Caramazza, claimed a complete victory.

Legal experts said the prosecutors would perhaps be hampered by not being allowed to ask questions about relations between the CIA and SISMI.

The upper and lower house caucus chiefs for Premier Silvio Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party, Maurizio Gasparri and Fabrizio Cicchitto, reacted to the court ruling Thursday by saying the prosecutors should be punished for damaging the Italian secret service, Italy's reputation and the fight against terrorism.

"This does not end here, they said, announcing moves to call Spataro and his fellow prosecutors to account.

The Constitutional Court took two days to examine three pleas from successive Italian governments on the trial of several top Italian spies and 26 CIA agents in the abduction of Nasr.

It also considered two counterpleas, from the Milan judge and the prosecution in the case, arguing that state secrecy norms were not violated and the abduction itself was a subversive act that breached the Constitution. Spataro has accused Berlusconi and his predecessor Romano Prodi of using national security norms to obstruct justice and prevent the truth from emerging.

Successive Italian governments, while denying any role in Nasr's abduction, have argued that the probe compromised relations with foreign security agencies.

The abduction of Nasr claimed headlines worldwide and stoked discussion of the controversial US policy of extraordinary rendition, which was recently extended by President Barack Obama under the proviso that detainees' rights should be respected.

The top Italian defendant in the case is Niccolò Pollari, the former head of SISMI, which recently changed its name to AISE.

Eight Italians including Pollari and his former deputy Marco Mancini are on trial with the 26 CIA agents, who are being tried in absentia.

The US agents include ex-Rome CIA station chief Robert Seldon Lady and ex-Milan chief Jeff Castelli.

PERFECT EXAMPLE OF RENDITION.

The Council of Europe, Europe's human rights body, has called Nasr's case a perfect example of rendition.

Nasr, the former head of Milan's main mosque, disappeared from the northern Italian city on February 17, 2003.

Prosecutors say he was snatched by a team of CIA operatives with SISMI's help and whisked off to a NATO base in Ramstein, Germany.

From there, he was taken to Egypt to be interrogated, allegedly under duress.

Nasr, who was under investigation in Italy on suspicion of helping terrorists, was released early in 2007 from an Egyptian jail where he says he was beaten, given electric shocks and threatened with rape.

He has demanded millions of euros in compensation from the Italian government.

Berlusconi, who was in power at the time of the events, has been called to testify at the trial.

Prodi, his predecessor and successor, has also been admitted as a witness.

The CIA was first granted permission to use rendition in a presidential directive signed by President Bill Clinton in 1995 and the practice grew sharply after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Czech Republic: NATO Must Remain Basis of European Defence " Klaus

Prague " NATO has been one of the pillars of the free world and must remain the basis of the European defence architecture, Czech President Vaclav Klaus writes in a commentary in Hospodarske noviny (HN) when ten years have passed since the Czech Republics entry to NATO.

This is the only way to preserve the firm Transatlantic bond on which the postwar security in Europe is based, Klaus says.

He writes that he considers the Czech Republics accession to NATO on March 12, 1999 the fulfillment of one of the key priorities of the countrys post-November 1989 foreign and security policy.

All considerations about the future development of European integration in the security area should follow the priority to maintain NATOs efficiency and ability of action, Klaus points out.

oeWe must not allow further enlargement to occur at the expense of the ability of action and devaluate the strength and scope of NATOs security commitments. We must not allow for NATOs trustworthiness and strength in the world to decline, Klaus writes.

He says he thinks that NATO has always meant more than a mere military and security pact.

The defence alliance of the most significant democratic countries from both sides of the Atlantic are namely connected not only by joint political interests, but also by the values that these countries are prepared to develop and defend, Klaus notes.

Europe owes its unprecedented 64 years in peace exactly to the U.S. military force and the alliance with it.

oeMany of us viewed NATO, even in the communist era, as one of the fundamental pillars of the free world. We saw that it had proved successful face to face to the expansion of the communist totalitarian rule and that it had considerably contributed to the victory of the free world in the Cold War, Klaus writes.

He adds that the statesmen from the NATO member states who have contributed to the enlargement of the Alliance by the accession of the communist countries deserve great thanks.

During the ten years in NATO, Czech soldiers have proved that they are reliable allies, they have shown courage in combat actions and initiative, Klaus writes.

NATO membership has enabled the Czech military to be transformed into a modern armed force, he concludes in HN.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Czech Republic: Qatar Sends to Czech Republic Decision on Prince Sani " Server

Prague " Qatar has at last sent to the Czech Justice Ministry the official decision by which the Qatari prosecutors office halted the prosecution of Prince Hamid bin Abdal Sani who was convicted of sex with underage girls in the Czech Republic, server Tyden.cz reports today.

[Comment from Tuan Jim: By islamic standards, they certainly werent underage.]

The Czech verdict was not valid. The Prague Municipal Court could now re-open the case on the basis of the Qatari decision.

The two-page document must first be translated from Arabic, however.

A Prague court sentenced Prince Sani to 2.5 years in prison for sex with 16 underage and juvenile girls in 2005.

The court made the decision even though then justice minister Pavel Nemecek decided to hand over Sanis prosecution to Qatar a few days after Sani was charged.

The lower court and later the Municipal Court in Prague said Nemeceks decision was illegal.

The Supreme Court, however, said law allows the minister to make such a decision.

Sani was released from custody and he left for Qatar where he was arrested, spent eight days in custody and then was investigated for several months.

The Qatari prosecutor, however, eventually halted the prosecution.

Qatar took time sending the official decision and the Czech Justice Ministry sent it several notes, Tyden.cz writes.

The decision eventually arrived in the Czech Republic in February.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Denmark: Victims Funeral Procession in Nørrebro

The Copenhagen police has given the go-ahead for a funeral procession in Nørrebro as part of a demonstration against an ongoing gang war in the district.

The family of Mustafa Shakir Hsownay, who was an innocent victim of a shooting in the Mjølnerparken Estate in Nørrebro on February 27, has been given permission to hold a funeral procession through Nørrebrogade on Saturday.

Mustafa Shakir Hsownays coffin will be carried a 3.5 km stretch from Nørrebro Station to Nørreport.

The demonstration has been registered, and since theres nothing in the rules that says that you cannot carry a coffin during a demonstration, they have permission, Jørgen Thomsen of the Permissions and Licensing Department of the Copenhagen Police tells bt.dk.

The family says that the procession is in protest against an ongoing gang war in the capital, according to bt.dk.

Mustafa Shakir Hsownay was killed while sitting in his car in a parking lot at the Mjølnerparken Estate on Feb. 27. Police say he had nothing to do with the ongoing gang war between bikers and immigrant gangs that has plagued the Nørrebro district in recent months.

" Hat tip: TB

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Denmark: Minister: OK to Secret Hearings

Denmark is to allow secret intelligence material to be presented in closed administrative extradition court sessions, in cases of claims of dangerous foreigners.

The Minister for Integration Birthe Rønne Hornbech (Lib) is proposing that secret intelligence material can be presented in special closed court sessions in cases involving the administrative expulsion of foreigners deemed a security risk.

Hitherto, the Security and Intelligence Service has declined to provide secret intelligence to back up expulsion orders in order not to compromise its methods and relations with other services.

Hornbech's proposal will be contingent on all court officers and lawyers having security clearance, and that the accused is not present in court. At the same time, the proposal suggests that detained individuals, or those on restraining orders, can be denied contacts and visits with people who can counteract an expulsion.

Finally, the proposal calls for the use of electronic tags in cases in which those under restraining orders have ignored the rules governing their leave to remain in the country.

Case in question The proposals come in the wake of a controversy surrounding a Tunisian man who was administratively expelled from Denmark because of allegations that he had planned to murder a Danish cartoonist who had produced a published cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed.

The man could not, however, be expelled to Tunisia for fear of torture in his home country and was given extraordinary leave to remain in Denmark under special restraining orders.

The man appealed the administrative expulsion order, but the Security and Intelligence Service declined to produce its evidence in court for fear of compromising its methods and sources.

The ministerial proposals are expected to be put to Parliament before the summer recess and are based on a report in which the authors have studied how similar cases are handled in countries such as Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Canada and France.

Lawyers Although reluctant to enforce additional security clearance on defence lawyers, the Danish Bar and Law Society says the proposal is a step forward.

"The courts will be involved in more cases" but this is not a practice that would exist in an ideal world, says Bar and Law Society Chairwoman Sys Røvsing, who adds that she would prefer full openness in all cases.

She says that additional security clearance for lawyers is not what the society would like to see. "We normally live up to our obligations or we are struck off, she says adding that clearance should not be necessary.

"But let's live with it for a period and see how it goes, she concludes.

[Comment from Tuan Jim: If I heard statements like that coming from the ACLU here in the US, I think my head would explode.]

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Energy: Segolene Royal Launches Regional Solar Energy Plan

(ANSAMed) " BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 27 " Segolene Royal, the President of the French region of Poitou-Charantes, has launched a regional plan for solar energy with the European Investment Bank and Credit Agricole. The plans include an investment of 400 million euros, an unprecedented sum in Europe. Work on the project will continue until 2012, allowing for the installation of 650 thousand square metres of solar panels, the consolidation of the territories energy self-sufficiency, the creation of one thousand new jobs across the region, and the realisation of a full solar energy distribution chain in Poitou-Charentes. oeThis is a unique experience in Europe, emphasises a note from the European Investment Bank which guarantees a total of 200 million euros of financing for the public bodies, businesses, associations, professionals and farmers involved. The aim is to realise a production of 73 gigawatt hours of solar energy by 2012, which would be 150% of that which was produced in the entire country in 2007 for just 2.8% of the French population. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Film: Catalonia Forces 50% Films to be Dubbed in Catalan

(ANSAMed) " Madrid, MARCH 4 " The government of the Generalitat of Catalonia wants 50% of all films shown in the region to be dubbed into Catalan, the same number that must be dubbed into Spanish. Currently only 3% of films distributed in Catalonia are dubbed into Catalan. The decision " which is likely to create further problems in the relationship between the [Comunitat] and the mainly American film industry " was announced by councillor in charge of Culture Joan Manuel Tresserras. Reports in todays media show that the councillor explained that the measure was already part of the Law on language normalisation from 1982, which has never been implemented. The initiative, which will be made part of the new film law being worked on by the regional government, means the resumption of one of the hardest battles in defence of the Catalan language, in which the Generalitat has been beaten various times in the past. As Tresserras underlined, oethe market has not worked in Catalonia due to the dominance of the Spanish language oewhich has frozen the situation to the time of Francoism, when the regime forbade the speaking of the Basque and Catalan languages. Councillor Tresserras called this situation oea deficit of democracy and oean anomaly of the cultural system. The new film law should be passed this summer. It may not be enough though to obtain parity between Catalan and Spanish due to the fact that the big distribution companies will probably refuse to obey the law. In the past the former Catalan president Jordi Pujiol applied a system of subsidies for films screened in Catalan but he was unable to convince big distributors like Disney, which refused to increase its quota of one film in Catalan per year. Big players like Warner, Fox, Columbia, United Artist and Disney itself even appealed against the decree. The climax of the battle for the Catalan language was reached on the occasion of the first Harry Potter film, distributed by Warner, which refused to dub it into Catalan. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Finland: Interior Ministry Plans Tighter Screening of Gun Licence Applicants

Finlands Ministry of the Interior said on Wednesday that it is putting forward changes to the countrys gun law that would tighten especially the availability of handguns.

The planned changes would further define the governments policy draft from last autumn. The basic idea is that for every gun there has to be an appropriate use, and any person granted a licence has to be suited to carry a weapon. In order to obtain a gun, the applicant would have to be able to prove that it will be used for a serious and active shooting hobby. oeThe idea is to do away with the practice of shooting in the woods or behind the sauna, says Interior Minister Anne Holmlund (Nat. Coalition Party). The suitability of those filing an application for a gun licence is to be examined more closely. The ministry is recommending an aptitude test.

A test will be developed based on a Defence Forces aptitude test called the oep2 personality test. With the P2 test the military rates the conscripts mental stability and their leadership qualities. Together with the police the National Defence University will develop a new version of the test, into which questions measuring propensity to violence and mental problems will be added. Certain segments weighing leadership skills, in turn, will be left out. The aim of the test is not to produce a complete psychological profile of the applicant, but merely a result founded on a classification system, based on which questionable cases can be directed to a more detailed screening.

The authorities also want to grant the police permission to access military evaluations regarding the applicants fitness for service. Persons liable to military service would have to present their military identity papers or a decision regarding the postponement or the discontinuing of their service. Furthermore, the government recommends that the police be given the right to ask the applicant for permission to see the applicants medical certificate. Refusing access to medical records would lead to rejection of the firearm licence application. Another proposal is to give doctors the right to inform the police of people who may be unsuited to carry a weapon for health reasons. A doctors certificate is already required for nearly every handgun licence. The practice was adopted after last autumns school shooting in Kauhajoki.

The government initiatives are meant to enter a round of comments next week. The government bill is scheduled to be presented to the Parliament in June. The law could come into force from the beginning of 2010. Later on, the gun law articles that deal with, for example, shooting ranges, bow weapons, and spray weapons are also meant to be amended.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Finland: Dispute Over Female Clergy Leads to First Sackings of Church Employees

The long-standing dispute within the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church over the ordination of women has led to the first cases in which church employees have been sacked for their opposition to female pastors. Previously church workers have only been suspended for a given term. The Langinkoski parish in the southeast of Finland has now terminated the contracts of two youth workers for their refusal to cooperate with clergywomen. According to the Kotka-based newspaper Kymen Sanomat, the Parish Council decided on the dismissal of the employees on Tuesday evening.

The reason given for the sackings was that in spite of warnings, the youth workers had refused to take part in services in which a woman pastor delivered the sermon, served communion, or was involved in the liturgy. The paper writes that in spite of being told not to, the workers in question had used material that they had drawn up themselves in their work with young people in their early teens. Langinkoski vicar Jukka Lopperi told Kymen Sanomat that the grounds for dismissal were discrimination and that the decision was the product of a conflict that had lasted years.

The Lutheran Church and organisations within the church that are opposed to the ordination of women issued a joint expression of a desire for cooperation last week. According to the statement the oeparties want to work together so that nobody in the church will suffer discrimination on the basis of their gender, conviction, or view of who should be entitled to ordination.

In 2007 a female pastor in Hyvink%%o desisted from taking part in a service when a visiting clergyman from a conservative faction of the Lutheran Church refused to work at the altar with her. The issue went to court, and led to a fine for discrimination. The Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Church approved the ordination of women in 1986.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Finland: Shooting Clubs: New Age Limits Kill Shooting Hobby

Governments proposal to tighten gun laws has been met with a mixed response by gun clubs. The new, higher minimum age limits for gun ownership will render competitive shooting hobbies for youth obsolete, says the Finnish Shooting Sport Federation, SAL.

SAL says it fears that the Interior Ministrys proposal, if enacted, could mean an end to competitive shooting at the junior level. SAL says it wants government to revise the proposed 20-year-old minimum age limit for handguns.

The suggested changes would make it impossible for under 20-year-olds to compete in European and World Championship games, says Risto Aarrekiivi of SAL.

Aarrekiivi, however, says the proposals stipulation that firearm license applicants have to be shooting club members for two years prior to applying for a permit could bring firearm clubs new members.

Hunting Not Affected

Meanwhile, the Finnish Hunting Association says its in favour of strict and clear-cut gun laws.

Hand guns are rarely used in hunting, and hunting permits are granted under strict supervision, says Lauri Kontro of the Finnish Hunting Association.

Kontro reiterated that the school shooting tragedies in Kauhajoki and Jokela had no connection to sports hunting hobbies.

Hunting is growing in popularity in Finland. Some 300,000 new hunting permits are applied for yearly.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Finland: Indian Film-Maker Convicted of Human Trafficking

The Vantaa District Court handed down a prison sentence to an Indian man who by posing as a movie producer in the summer of 2006 illicitly brought young Indians into Finland under the auspice of acting in movies.

The court found the man guilty of aggravated fraud and human smuggling charges and ordered him to serve an unconditional three-year prison sentence. He was also ordered to pay the Finnish state 539,000 euros in damages. This sum is based on information that those who were smuggled into Finland paid the bogus movie-maker some 15,000 euros each.

This was the largest-ever human smuggling case to come before the courts in Finland.

The defendant was part of an international criminal organisation, which managed to arrange visas for 117 people, who were said to be coming to Finland to film movies and music videos. The group had struck a deal worth hundreds of thousands of euros with a Finnish cinema production company to shoot films here.

Most of those smuggled in have been sent back to India. Three young Indians applied for asylum and have been granted residence permits.

The defendant says he plans to appeal the courts decision.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Greece: Stop to New Bar and Restaurant Licences in Athens

(ANSAmEd) " ATHENS, FEBRUARY 25 " Athens city council decided to suspend the granting of new licences for bars and restaurants in some areas of the city that have been deemed saturated and in which the quality of life for residents has been negatively influenced by the establishments. Moreover, the city council decided to start a control committee to protect areas considered to be worthy and to make sure that the restaurants dont illegally occupy the sidewalks with tables and seats. Offenders will have to pay a fine of 1,100 euro a day for every square metre they occupy illegally. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Greece: Hundreds of Public Officials Accused of Corruption

(ANSAmEd) " ATHENS, MARCH 11 " Hundreds of Greek public officials risk being tried and suspended from office for corruption following the conclusions of an investigation conducted by the ombudsman for public administration. The head of the Public Administration Inspectorate, Leandros Raditzis, has announced that he would be requesting trials for 354 tax officials and local public officials for granting building permits, who were not able to explain the origin of money or goods in their possession, in accordance with Greek law. Raditzis has been quoted by the media as saying that he is investigating another 200 state workers that might be suspended from office. In addition, the bank accounts of another 30 officials will be investigated since their wealth does not seem to be justified by their salaries. This is the first time that the investigations by the ombudsman have led to the indictment of so many public officials. The corruption scandals have come during a time of widespread preoccupation in Greece due to the economic crisis. Both have contributed to a collapse in approval ratings for the party of Premier Costas Karamanlis.(ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Netherlands: Bus Drivers Walk Out in Protest at Aggression

Buses are at a standstill due to a walkout by drivers in the town of Ede near Arnhem, in the province of Gelderland. The trade union FNV Bondgenoten says the strike is in protest at aggressive behaviour by some passengers. In the past two weeks, two drivers have been threatened by youths.

FNV Bondgenoten says that in one of the incidents, when a female driver was threatened, police took half an hour to arrive at the scene. The union also claims bus company Veolia has failed to respond to the problem adequately. Veolia said on Monday that youth workers were travelling on its buses to assess the extent of the problem. The Ede drivers say they will only return to work if more action is taken to deal with the aggression.

On Monday, in the city of Tilburg in the southern province of North Brabant, a 17-year-old youth was arrested for an assault on a bus driver in late January. Nevertheless, figures released by bus companies Arriva and Veolia on Tuesday actually show a major decrease in incidents of aggression towards bus drivers in the province over the past year.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Netherlands: White Male Candidate Nominated After All

Interior Minister Guusje ter Horst has nominated Teun Visscher as new chief of police in the region of Zuid-Holland Zuid after all. She initially refused to nominate him because she wanted a woman or a person from an ethnic minority to be appointed to the post.

The minister said she had a clear understanding with the police leadership that more women and candidates from ethnic minorities would be appointed to senior positions, but noted that most of the candidates are still white men.

In the past few days, Minister Ter Horst has met with the chairman of the council of police commanders. During the meeting, the earlier agreement on appointing more women and candidates from ethnic minorities to senior positions was tightened even further.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Netherlands First Choice for Somalians

The number of asylum requests filed by Somalians in 2008 was double the figure for the previous year " going from about 2000 to 4000.

The situation in Somalia is deteriorating. Apart from hunger, drought and a constantly unsafe situation, the increase in violence in 2007 has led since to a sharp increase in the number of refugees. About a million people have left their homes, almost half of them coming from the capital, Mogadishu.

Ismael is a typical Somali newcomer. He fled Mogadishu and came to the Netherlands in September 2006. His journey to Amsterdams Schiphol airport was oearranged for a few thousand dollars. Since then, his wife and four children have joined him in the Netherlands. Theyre staying in an centre for asylum seekers in the middle of the country. Ismael says:

oeI had a good life in Somalia. I ran an import and export business for medicines. I had a better life in Somalia than I have here now, but it was too unsafe. As a businessman, its not easy to survive in that city [Mogadishu].

Good reputation

It was obvious choice for him to come to the Netherlands. Friends and family who had come here around 1992 in the first wave of Somali refugees told him of the possibilities for seeking asylum and reuniting families. On top of that, he already had a fondness for the Netherlands: as a football fan he had been a supporter of the Dutch national team for years.

However, Ismael " who can scarcely speak Dutch " has difficulty finding his way here in the Netherlands. Also, the support he receives from Somalians who have been here for longer leaves something to be desired.

oeThere are different groups of Somalians. The newcomers have contact with each other, but only have a limited amount of information about the Netherlands to share with one another. The Somalians who have been here longer live in the cities and have little contact with the newcomers, unless they are family members.

Mutual help and solidarity is made difficult by the fact that the Somali diaspora is divided along tribal lines. The animosity between tribes and sub-tribes in the Netherlands has its roots in the conflict in Somalia.

Newcomers Although the first Somali refugees were highly educated, the more recent ones are less so. Shukri Said, who himself came to the Netherlands ten years ago and has been working with other Somali refugees for a number of years, characterises the newcomers:

oeI cant give an overview of the whole group, but you can see that most newcomers have had to cope with 20 years of war. In that period there was no government, and no schools. Most refugees have only attended primary school. Therefore they need a lot of guidance and support here. Theyre not as self-supporting as the first group, and they have a lot more worries and problems.

In 2002 nearly half the Somalians in the Netherlands had, at the most, five years of primary education, and only 20 percent had a secondary school diploma. As a result of the low level of education and poor command of the Dutch language, only one in three Somalians has a job. Whats more, Somalians tend to end up coming into contact with the law (i.e. the police) more often than the average resident of the Netherlands.

United Kingdom At the moment, there are about 20,000 Somalians in the Netherlands. In 2001, the number was almost twice that. So, many Somalians have clearly left the country as others have arrived; the largest group has gone to the United Kingdom.

According to estimates, about 10,000 moved to the UK in the period from 1998 to 2003. The UK is attractive because the language barrier, which is a problem even for the better-educated, is not so great there, and so they can get on their feet more quickly in Britain.

And what about Somalian newcomer Ismael " is he thinking of moving on to the UK?

oeI didnt have the chance to get a good education in Somalia. But I want to give my children the chances that I have missed. Therefore I want my children to get a good education in the Netherlands. So I wont be transferring to another country.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Netherlands: Council of Europe Criticises Dutch Human Rights

The Council of Europe has published a critical report on the human rights situation in the Netherlands. The report criticises policy on migrants and asylum seekers.

Thomas Hammarberg, the European Commissioner for Human Rights, writes that in particular the conditions in centres for asylum seekers should be improved. For example, no separate shower facilities are available for men and women, and young asylum seekers are not properly informed of the legal proceedings in their cases.

Hammarberg also raises concerns about childrens rights in the Netherlands, particularly criticising the low age of 12 years at which children are subject to adult criminal law. In most countries the age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The commissioner also said there were serious concerns about oeracist and intolerant tendencies in the Netherlands. He called for careful use of language in the debate on integration.

The human rights commissioner carried out an inspection in the Netherlands in September. All 47 Council of Europe member states are subject to such inspections. The report makes no comparisons with other countries.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Netherlands: Cabinet Ignores Motion to Protest Wilders Ban in EU

THE HAGUE, 12/03/09 " The cabinet has ignored a motion in which the Lower House almost unanimously called upon it to complain in the European Union about the United Kingdoms refusal to admit MP Geert Wilders. At the same time, however, the House is accepting that its motion is disregarded.

A month ago, Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders could not enter the UK because the British government decided that his criticisms of Islam made him a threat to public safety. The Dutch government expressed its objections, though modestly, calling Wilders refusal every regrettable rather than unacceptable. It but did not resort to serious diplomatic steps, such as summoning the British ambassador, either.

The conservatives (VVD) thereupon appealed to the cabinet to condemn the UKs treatment of Wilders within the EU. All parties with the exception of the Christian democrats (CDA) voted in favour of this VVD motion. But in a debate in the Lower House, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen said the cabinet would not accept the motion.

In protest, VVD handed in a second motion demanding that the initial motion be carried out after all. This time however, the broad majority support had evaporated. Labour (PvdA) and ChristenUnie voted against it, in a clear demonstration of the inflexibility of their coalition with CDA.

Lower House Speaker Verbeet, who is also an MP on behalf of PvdA, did support the motion. It is highly unusual in the Netherlands for MPs to vote independently instead of as a party as a whole.

PvdA MP Martijn van Dam made attempts to defend his partys backing out by stating that the momentum had been lost. oeA diplomatic signal needs to be made at once. There is no point in doing so three weeks later.

VVD leader Mark Rutte sharply criticised the coalitions attitude. oeThis cabinet is a friend to freedom of religion but is not interested in freedom of speech. Socialist Party (SP) MP Harry van Bommel went even further by stating that the cabinet was conducting oemiddle finger politics towards the House.

Wilders himself handed in a motion demanding the resignation of both Balkenende and Verhagen. oeWe already knew that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister are prepared to slaughter our most precious fundamental law " freedom of speech " at the altar of Islam, in order to thus please angry Muslims. But we now also know that this cabinet is flouting democracy, he declared. The PVV motion was not supported by any party though.

PvdA MP Van Dam stated that oethe most important step now is to ensure that a member of parliament is not refused entry abroad again. More will be revealed soon, since Wilders will try to enter the UK again this spring, this time to campaign for the European Parliament elections in June.

According to Balkenende, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown is considering whether to allow the PVV leader admittance next time. The Dutch Prime Minister is to see his British counterpart during an EU summit in Brussels next week and will then ask him if he has come to a decision yet, said Balkenende.

It is in Balkenendes best interest that Brown is accommodating, since the British refusal led to the PVV becoming the largest Dutch party in a leading poll. His own CDA party especially suffered, with many supporters switching to Wilders during the past weeks.

" Hat tip: TB

[Return to headlines]

Netherlands: Shops in Amsterdam Evacuated After Bomb Threat

The area around Amsterdam Ikea store and shops in the Arena shopping mall remain close as police investigate what they described as oea serious threat involving explosives.

Shops in Amsterdam Arena shopping mall and the Ikea furniture store in southeast Amsterdam remained closed on Thursday following a bomb threat in the morning.

The area around the Ikea furniture store along A9 highway and shops in the Arena shopping mall have been evacuated and cordoned off after the threat was made at 09:00 on Thursday.

Police are currently investigating what they described as a serious threat involving explosives.

According to media reports, the Ikea store received a warning call targeting furniture stores. An Ikea spokesperson said the threat was not targeted specifically at the Swedish furniture chain.

In December 2002, explosives were found in Ikea stores in Amsterdam and the town of Sliedrecht, to the southeast of Rotterdam. This led to all Ikea stores in the country being closed for two days.

" Hat tip: <http://snaphanen.dk/>Steen

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Netherlands: Police Arrest Seven in Amsterdam Terror Threat

The police have arrested seven suspects in connection with a threat to stores in the southeast of Amsterdam. The suspects are all Dutchmen of Moroccan descent. One of them allegedly has ties with a person involved in the 2004 Madrid terror attacks on commuter trains in which 191 people were killed.

The police say they received a phone call from Brussels just before midnight on Wednesday that three men intended to plant explosives in the Amsterdam stores. The caller gave the names and addresses of the men in question and the stores they intended to attack.

The police picked up the seven suspects after consultation with the national security service. The homes of the seven suspects, who are accused of preparing terrorist attacks, have been searched.

The IKEA home furnishings store and several other stores on the Arena Boulevard have been closed all day in connection with the threats. The Heineken Music Hall has also been closed, forcing the cancellation of Thursday nights concert by US band The Killers.

" Hat tip: <http://snaphanen.dk/>Steen

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Row After French Director Compares Illegals to War-Time Jews

PARIS (AFP) " A French film-maker, whose new movie depicts a Kurdish refugee hoping to swim the Channel to Britain, has angered the government by comparing its policies on illegal immigrants to Nazi-occupied France's repression of Jews.

To suggest that the French police are like the police of Vichy (the wartime French collaborationist regime), and that Afghans are hunted down, are the target of roundups " is intolerable, said Immigration Minister Eric Besson. Film-maker Philippe Lioret more than overstepped the mark when he says that the illegals in Calais are the equivalent of Jews in 1943. That sort of thing is completely intolerable, he told RTL radio last weekend.

Lioret made the comparison in an interview he gave about the new film titled "Welcome to La Voix du Nord, a newspaper based in a northern French region in which lies the port of Calais.

Calais became a destination for migrants from across the world in the late 1990s with the opening of the Sangatte refugee camp, right next to the entrance to the Channel Tunnel linking France and Britain.

The camp was finally closed in 2002 but migrants still come to Calais in their attempts to get to Britain. Every night, some try to hide in trucks and trains using the tunnel or in cross-Channel ferries.

oeIf tomorrow you help a bloke who has no papers, youre guilty under the offence of [x2dc]helping a person whose papers are not in order, Lioret told the paper.

oeWhat country are we living in? I have the impression that were in 1943 and that weve hidden a Jew in the cellar, he said.

French officials helped round up around 75,000 Jews who were deported during the Nazi occupation of France between 1940 and 1944. Most of these Jews died in extermination camps. Only 2,500 returned to France after the war.

In Liorets film, which opens in French cinemas on Wednesday, he denounces a law here that punishes anyone who has helped an illegal immigrant with up to five years in jail.

oeWelcome tells the story of Simon, a just-divorced swimming instructor and former swimming champion, who becomes involved in the lives of illegal immigrants.

He meets a Kurd from northern Iraq called Bilal, played by Firat Ayverdi, whose previous attempt to cross the Channel in the back of a lorry has failed.

Bilal now wants to try to swim to Britain, which like many of his counterparts in Calais he perceives as being a better bet for a bright future than France.

Simon tries to dissuade him. But he is touched by Bilals determination and agrees to give him swimming lessons.

The Frenchmans eyes are slowly opened to the grim realities of life for illegals in his country, and to the racism to which they are subjected.

The film also probes the ambiguous attitude of the French authorities, who allow charity groups to help illegals, but who also enforce legislation that punishes citizens who accommodate undocumented migrants.

Vincent Lindon, the actor who plays Simon, has also condemned a situation in which oeillegals are sometimes treated worse than dogs.

He told Le Parisien newspaper that when he went to Calais, he found oea town in a state of siege, dotted with giant barbed wire fences.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Sweden: Criminal Gangs Show No Signs of Leaving Sweden

More than a year after a bomb ripped through the home of a prosecutor, Sweden carries on its struggle to curb the spread of criminal gangs, AFPs Nina Larson reports.

Prosecutor Barbro Jnsson was driving to work when a bomb exploded at the front door of her house, rocking her whole neighbourhood and sending shockwaves through traditionally serene Sweden.

It is very hard to describe how I felt when I heard what happened. I think I still haven't grasped how serious it was, Jansson, 53, told AFP more than a year after the attack.

She was prosecuting a high-profile case against a violent criminal gang called the Wolfpack Brotherhood and had just left her home in the southwestern town of Trollhättan on November 20, 2007, when the blast ripped off the front door and shattered the hallway.

Two young gang members were remanded in custody just over a month ago on suspicion they planted the bomb, which could have killed Jansson had she been at home.

The bombing "one of the first overt attacks on a Swedish prosecutor" prompted calls to root out the swelling criminal gangs that have smashed the country's tranquil image.

The gangs have caused a spike in a number of crimes, including extortion and loan-sharking "a gang specialty" which have jumped from 740 cases reported in 2003 to 1,715 last year, according to preliminary statistics from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention.

Police say it is difficult to estimate the number and size of criminal gangs in Sweden since membership can vary from day to day, but media reports indicate around 1,000 people are actively involved in at least six large criminal gangs with numerous branches across the country.

Gangs make headlines almost daily with stories of drug busts, brutal attacks on business owners unable to pay off debts, and bloody gang wars.

This is a serious problem that has grown in recent years, Swedish Justice Minister Beatrice Ask told AFP.

We used to be fairly sheltered in the Nordic countries, but unfortunately this problem has surfaced and we must react very forcefully now or else this could be extremely serious in say 10 years, she cautioned.

Police also think that attacks like the one on Jansson constitute a novel and dangerous twist in Swedish gang activity.

Attacks on the judiciary are a rather new and very serious phenomenon, said Klas Friberg, the police chief in the Västra Götaland region that comprises Trollhättan and Gothenburg.

Jansson, who moved after the attack on her home and joined a police unit in Gothenburg working to fight gang crime, agreed.

We risk having judges who don't dare to judge, prosecutors who are afraid to prosecute and police who refrain from making arrests, she said, adding that if that happens, the first bastion against these groups will fall.

Just four months after the Trollhättan bombing, shots were fired at the home of another prosecutor in the region, Mats Mattsson, who had worked extensively on cases involving criminal motorcycle gangs like Bandidos.

While no one was hurt in that attack either, it prompted more calls for action and sent the government and police scurrying to come up with new measures to combat the scourge.

Special police and intelligence units were created along with a Knowledge Centre on gang activity as part of a national strategy aimed at cracking down on gangs and blocking recruitment of new members.

Local police have to be on their case all the time, making it uncomfortable for anyone who has not yet been fully recruited to hang around these people, said Justice Ask.

Despite heightened police efforts, around 10 new clubhouses belonging to gangs like Hells Angels, Bandidos, Wolfpack Brotherhood, and Original Gangsters reportedly sprouted up across Sweden last year alone.

The highest concentration of gang units is centred around the southern towns of Malm[^] and Gothenburg, largely due to their proximity to Denmark, where the gangs also constitute a major problem.

A few years ago, Denmark carried out very forceful measures against these gangs and a number of these people moved over to Sweden. Now, we hope they will move back, or rather further, Ask said.

Erik Lannerb%ock, a former member of several gangs including the Wolfpack Brotherhood and Bandidos, meanwhile told AFP that simply cracking down on the gangs would accomplish little.

The main focus should be on getting members to leave the gangs, and to do that you cant just lock people up and hope theyll be better when they get out, said Lannerb%ock, who after a decade in criminal gangs began working as a counselor for troubled youths in Stockholm in 2004.

Gang members trying to get out often need protection and help paying off debts and finding a job, but most of all oethey need support from people who understand them and can help them see the value in being normal, and to create a new identity, he insisted.

Lannerb%ock said he himself repeatedly tried to leave his life of crime only to be drawn back in by the promise of wads of cash or the desire to once again be feared and respected instead of stepped upon in a menial job.

It was like a drug, he said, adding that landing a good job where he was appreciated was what made it possible to get out for good.

It is very important that people can leave, Ask agreed, adding that a project to help people get out of the gangs would likely be funded soon.

Huge efforts are needed and we need a lot of people to push in the same direction, but I think we can bring this problem under control, she said.

If I didnt think (so), I wouldnt be working in this field.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

UK: Muslim Protester Who Works as Baggage Handler at Luton Airport Has Security Pass Suspended After Hurling Abuse at Troops

Muslim extremist who works as a baggage handler at Luton Airport had his security pass suspended today after it was revealed he took part in a protest hurling abuse at British troops.

Jalal Ahmed was among the 20-strong group of extremists protesting when the Royal Anglian Regiment returned home from Iraq earlier this week. During their homecoming parade, he was spotted clutching a banner proclaiming: [x2dc]Anglian soldiers: Butchers of Basra. After he was revealed to be part of the hate-filled demonstration, his pass allowing him to go airside and work at the airport was revoked.

Ahmed, who is in his twenties and lives in Luton, works on a casual basis for Menzies Aviation, which provides baggage handling at the airport for easyJet and other airlines. He is believed to have worked there during peak periods over the past two years and would have had access to secure areas of the site.

The Muslim, who is in his early 20s, is said to have once joked he was the nephew of Osama bin Laden and was also allegedly questioned over pictures of passenger jets. He told officers he was interested in planes and no further action was taken.

John Menzies plc said he had passed all criminal and security checks but that his job would now be reviewed in light of his involvement in the protest on Tuesday. [x2dc]All employees are subject to a five year criminal record check and airport authority checks before they can be given an airside pass to work on the airport, [x2dc] a spokesman said. [x2dc]Jalal Ahmed passed these checks. We are now working with the airport authority to review the current position. The company insisted Ahmed would have been supervised at all times as he worked at the airport, where he is not a full-time employee. Luton Borough Council, which owns the airport, said: [x2dc]The Council has been assured that all employees at the Airport receive criminal record and security checks. We are unable to comment on individuals. [x2dc]The issue of security is taken very seriously by the Council and the Airport Company.

Budget airline easyJet, which is the main operator at Luton, made it clear Ahmed was not employed directly by them. A spokesman said: [x2dc]We are obviously working with his employers. We are working with Special Branch and we are aware his airside pass has been temporarily suspended.

The Royal Anglian soldiers return home from Iraq on Tuesday was ruined by the Muslim protest, which ended in clashes with people who had turned out to support the troops. Islamic extremists waved offensive placards branding the soldiers [x2dc]killers as they marched through the streets of Luton, provoking shock and condemnation.

Firebrand preacher Anjem Choudary added insult to injury yesterday by taunting the grieving families of three Royal Anglian regiment members killed by [x2dc]friendly fire. He said troops in Iraq and Afghanistan were [x2dc]not heroes but closer to cowards who cannot fight, as their uncanny knack for death by friendly fire illustrates. The three soldiers to whom he was referring " Privates Robert Foster, 19, John Thrumble, 21, and Aaron McClure, 19 " were killed in Afghanistan in August 2007 when an American F-15 jet dropped a 500lb bomb on their position.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

UK: Stop Pandering to Enemies of Our Way of Life

Radical Muslims get special treatment, says Ruth Dudley Edwards

The Governments neurotic placating of Islamists has not yet led to the censorship of tabloids for giving vent to occasional outrage. oeHate for Heroes: Muslims in vile demo, declared yesterdays Sun, rightly furious that in Luton 15 or so youths had screamed oeterrorists at a homecoming parade of the Royal Anglias 2nd Battalion and waved banners calling the soldiers baby-killers and butchers. Other newspapers showed a group of watching women enveloped in abayas and niqabs.

In some ways the silent women were the more potent image of what disturbs readers of broadsheets as well as tabloids, their dress providing an in-your-face statement that they consider themselves proudly separate from the rest of us.

That the police arrested only counter-demonstrators will increase the average Joes belief that radical Muslims have reason to think of themselves as not only separate but privileged. oeI am worried at how Bedfordshire police allowed this type of protest with offensive banners to take place, said Margaret Moran, the Labour MP for Luton South. oeIt seems to me that this amounted to huge provocation and was potentially racially divisive.

Shes right, of course, but she must know that in agreeing in advance to what was bound to be an offensive protest, the police were only following what they believe to be government policy: dont upset radical Muslims in case they blow us up. Luton has around 20,000 Muslims and is a black spot for jihadism. The police conciliate the vociferous in the hope they wont get so cross that they bomb the airport.

Fear is the only reason that Muslim groups receive special treatment. Why else would the representatives of around two million people have money and time lavished on them in such an obscenely disproportionate way, while no one much bothers about the peaceable Hindus? And why else would the Government throw £90 million at PVE (Preventing Vio-

lent Extremism) " an unaccountable, contradictory, bureaucratically convoluted counter-terrorism initiative that has the authorities snuggle up to homophobic, misogynistic West-haters, just so long as they dont actually use violence?

The whole mess was highlighted this week in the Policy Exchange report Choosing Our Friends Wisely, which catalogues how the Government has empowered reactionaries, marginalised moderates and driven councils and police into bed with enemies of our way of life. Due diligence has been even more lacking here than for Lloyds TSB and HBOS.

oeA new generation is being radicalised, sometimes with the very funds that are supposed to be countering radicalisation, say the reports authors, Shiraz Maher, himself a former radical, and Martyn Frampton. For example, Tower Hamlets council awarded a substantial grant to the Cordoba Foundation, an Islamist pressure group, which in turn offered a platform to the radical Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir, which promotes the message that democracy is forbidden in Islam.

As Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Ruth Kelly came to realise that government policy towards Muslims was counter-productive. What is necessary, she says in the foreword to this report, is to stop pandering, to give incentives for good behaviour and disincentives for bad, and to defend the Western values shared by many British Muslims. She has a special commendation for Hazel Blears, who almost alone in the Cabinet is standing up to Jack Straw in the interests of national unity, common sense and morality. Moderate Muslims, embarrassed daily by their so-called community leaders, deserve a total change of direction in government policy.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Serbia: Minister, 7.9% of Population Under Line of Poverty

(ANSAMed) " BELGRADE, MARCH 6 " The rebalance of the budget will provide RDS 2 billion (around 21 million euro) to RSD 5 billion dinars (around 52 million euro) for combating poverty in Serbia, Deputy Prime Minister Bozidar Djelic said, reports VIP Daily News Report. oeThe government will secure the additional few billion dinars for combating poverty, but there is not a lot of manouevring space since difficult negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which demand saving are to follow, and a redistribution of funds in the public sector will have to be undertaken, Djelic said during the opening of the forth National convention on reducing poverty in Belgrade. Djelic said that in 2008 He said that the number of poor was 50% lesser in Belgrade then in other parts of the country. In Serbia, 7,9% of population lived under the line of poverty, which is RSD 7,937 (around 83 euro) per person. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Serbia: One in Four Citizens Works in Grey Zone

(ANSAMed) " BELGRADE, MARCH 10 " Serbia PMs economic advisor Jurij Bajec said that about 600,000 people out of 2 million employees worked in the grey zone, not paying taxes to the state, reports daily Politika. On the other hand, according to data from the National Employment Office, there are 200,000-300,000 such workers. Bajec stressed that the numbers differ mainly due to the methodology of collecting data, adding that the 600,000 cipher was reached by way of surveys. Economist Danilo Sukovic stated that the state needs to take into consideration that such employment is to a certain extent a social valve, because people have to find ways to survive in a situation when jobs are lost on a daily basis. oeUntil the state finds a way to stimulate small businesses, this problem will be part of our daily lives, underlined Sukovic.(ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Serbia-Spain: Accord on Avoiding Double Taxation Signed

(ANSAMed) " BELGRADE, MARCH 10 " Serbia and Spain have signed in Madrid an agreement to avoid double taxation, which should boost Spanish investment in Serbia. So reported BETA news agency quoting Trade and Services Minister Slobodan Milosavljevic. "This agreement will provide a stimulus for Spanish investors to come to Serbia, it will make it easier for Spanish companies to operate in the Serbian market, as well as for Serbian companies in Spain. According to the minister, the accord will also benefit all Serbian and Spanish citizens, including athletes and cultural workers who cooperate at a national level for the two countries. Milosavljevic announced that a meeting will be held today with business people at which specific investments and improving economic cooperation and trade between the two countries will be discussed. "Foreign trade between the two countries was around USD 300 million last year, said Milosavljevic, adding that there is a large deficit on the Serbian side. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Energy: EU Commission, Integrated Med Market Needed

(ANSAMed) " BRUSSELS, MARCH 11 " "The development of an integrated and interconnected energy market in the Mediterranean area is a priority for the European Commission, said Commissioner Benita Ferrero Waldner today at the fourth Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum in Barcelona. According to Waldner [x2dc]the regional harmonisation of regulations will increase energy security, by promoting industrial and technological cooperation. "The development of a stable framework of regulations for energy production in the Euro-Mediterranean area, is needed to achieve this, she added. With regard to the climate emergency and the need to diversify energy sources the EU Commission says that "it is important to explore the potential for green energy in the Mediterranean, from wind to solar power, to the capture and storage of carbon. Ferrero Waldner highlighted in particular the solar power plan promoted by the Mediterranean Union. Another area of interest for the two shores is the "development of common interest energy infrastructures said the Commissioner, who is also relying on the increase "in energy relationships between the European Union, the Mediterranean and the Gulf states. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Mediterranean: First Western Area Country Talks in Genoa

(ANSAMed) " GENOA, MARCH 11 " On Friday and Saturday European and African citizens from countries on the Western shore of the Mediterranean Sea will meet and exchange ideas in Genoa. The initiative, organised by the EU and the Liguria Region, in support of the creation of the Mediterranean Union (UpM), will bring together around 150 people including some Arab representatives like Ouidad Cadi Ayyad, of the University of Marrakech, and Mehla Mint Ahmed, former minister from Mauritania. The objective of the event, explained the director of the European Commissions representation in Italy, Pier Virgilio Dastoli, the president of the Regional Council of Liguria Mino Ronzitti, and the vice president of the town council Massimiliano Costa, is to promote dialogue between regions and societies to improve decentralised cooperation and participatory democracy. Political tensions in some of the Arab countries with which the organisation had hoped to start a dialogue, like Libya and Mauritania, have made participation of members of local institutions difficult. Members of the Italian government and the president of Catalonia, Ernest Benach, are expected to be there however. (ANSAMed).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Al Azhar Says Yes to Organs Explant From Sentenced to Death

(ANSAmEd) " CAIRO, MARCH 11 " The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and head of the Islamic Research Academy Sheikh, Mohamed Sayyed Tantawi, has said that Islam allows the explant of organs from pepole sentenced to death in premeditated murder and rape cases without their approval. In press statements on the sidelines of an academy conference, the Grand Imam said those sentenced to death, according to the Islamic Sharia, have no legal say as to the fate of their bodies after being executed for crimes they had committed. He said the transplant process, according to the Sharia, must be unprofitable. Yesterday, the grand Imam said all members of the academy from Egypt and other Islamic countries unanimously agreed that the sale of any part of the body is prohibited by Islam. He said it is possible, according to the Islamic Sharia, to transplant the organs as long as the operation serves public interest and saves the patients life on condition it is not done for profit.(ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Algeria: Newspaper Seized for Article on Bouteflika

(ANSAmEd)- ALGIERS, MARCH 11 " Algerian authorities have banned the distribution of the latest issue of monthly Afrique Magazine (AM), which dedicated ample space to a story on President Abdelaziz Bouteflikas ties to the military. The most recent issue of the magazine oehas been seized due to oean attack on national values in compliance with oeArticle 7/90 of the Information Code, explained an official of the Secretary of State in charge of communication cited by the local press. The controversial article entitled oeAlgeria, Dawn of the Generals, talks about the relationship between the head of state and the top-ranked generals of the Algerian army, as well as the role played by the military in Bouteflikas ascent to power in 1999 and 2004. After a change to the Constitution, which cancelled the two-term limit for the presidency, Bouteflika is running for president for a third time in elections to be held on April 9. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Darfur: Algeria Rejects Arrest Warrant for Bashir

(ANSAmEd) " ALGIERS, MARCH 11 " Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci has been quoted by APS as saying that oeAlgeria categorically rejects the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir. The decision is oea true threat to peace, security and stability, added Medelci in stressing that Algiers oecategorically rejects politics making use of double standards to deal with the crisis, and that oeAlgeria supports Arab and Muslim states and foreign ones which reject the arrest warrant issued by the ICC against the Sudanese president. oelt is necessary to find an urgent and permanent solution to the crisis (in Darfur, ed.), he said, but the ICC decision oeis unfair and will not lead to peace in the region. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Economy: Tunisian Minister Says Trade Balance is Improving

(ANSAmEd) " TUNIS, MARCH 6 " Tunisias balance of trade is showing positive results for the first two months of the year, according to the Minster for Trade and Crafts, Ridha Touiti. The minister was speaking at a periodic meeting with the press, where he emphasised how, above all, inflation dropped in February from 5.7% to 3.3% compared to the same month in 2007, thanks partly to controls on prices " which can now be said to be stable. Both imports and exports have

recorded contractions, however. Mr Touiti underscored the improvement in the balance of trade in January and February 2009 compared to the same period of 2008, which has caused the deficit to decline from 793.9 to 650.4 million dinars (roughly 410 to 336 million euro) " a drop of 18%. Such a fall, he noted, is due to the improvement in trade balance in both the food and energy sectors. Looking at imports, the only increase was seen in machinery, which in the ministers opinion, emphasises the importance of foreign investment in Tunisia. (ANSAMED).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

ENI: it Will Take Months to Purchase Stake, Libyan Ambassador

(ANSAMED) " ROME, MARCH 12 " It will take months, or even longer than a year for Libyas stake in ENI to reach the 10% mark, according to the schedule the African state announced in December. In an interview given to the Financial Times, the Libyan ambassador in Rome, Hafed Gaddur, explains that oethe right moment for the acquisition will be chosen in view of price. Following which, purchase options will be exercised gradually. (ANSAMED).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Israel: Shalit, Family Fears Forthcoming Netanyahu Govt

(ANSAMED) " TEL AVIV, MARCH 11 " The parents of Ghilad Shalit, the young Israeli soldier who has been held prisoner in the Gaza Strip by radical Islamic movement Hamas for almost a thousand days, said today that they fear that the expected coming of a right-wing government in Israel could make an agreement for the release of their son less likely. So said Shalits mother Aviva. She has been camping out with her husband Noam in front of outgoing centrist Premier Ehud Olmerts residence in Jerusalem, to ask for a rapid exchange of prisoners with Hamas to guarantee the release of Ghilad. oeWe dont trust a right-wing government which probably will take their time to examine the issue, letting days and months go by, which is an eternity for Ghilad said the woman. She added that she hopes the issue will be resolved before the formation of the new government which Likud leader (nationalist right-wing) Benyamin Netanyahu, expects to complete within a week, or soon after. This morning outgoing Infrastructure Minister Benyamin Ben Eliezer (Labour) visited the Shalits in their tent. He sympathises with the couple and has invited Olmert to soon propose an exchange of prisoners with Hamas (which is asking for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit) in cabinet, in order to oebring the boy home before the end of the outgoing governments tenure. After several days of deadlock people are trying to revive this hope in a new round of talks in Cairo with Egypt as mediator. Noam Shalit has advised Hams to oeclse a deal soon and to oeunderstand that no better conditions can be obtained from the next Israeli government. oeThe window of opportunity, he fears, oeis closing rapidly. (ANSAMED).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Oil: OPEC Considering More Production Cuts, Khelil Says

(ANSAMED) " ALGIERS, MARCH 11 " The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oewill discuss the opportunity to reduce production during its meeting on Sunday in Vienna, said Algerian Energy Minister Chakib Khelil during a forum organised by daily El Moudjahid. oeThe consensus that will be reached, said Khelil, oewill guarantee market stability and will be able to bring crude oil prices to 74 dollars per barrel. During 2008 OPEC decided to cut production by 4.2 million barrels per day. (ANSAMED).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Tunisia: Leather-Footwear Export Triples in 10 Years

(ANSAmEd) " MILAN, MARCH 6 " Tunisian exports in the footwear and leather sector have more than tripled in the last ten years, passing from a value of 162 million euros in 1997 to 494 million in 2008. Of these exports, footwear and uppers represent 85% of the total. The EU is the primary market, in particular Italy, France and Germany. In presenting this growing market, Promos, the company that works for the internationalisation of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, organised this morning a business meeting at the sectors expo currently taking place at Fieramilano, Milans convention centre, in collaboration with AICE (Italian Association for Foreign Trade) and CEPEX (Tunisian Centre for the Promotion of Foreign Trade). The objective is to illustrate the opportunities in the North African country, where over 60 Italian companies operate in the sector are present, and to allow for the meeting of a Tunisian delegation with Italian and international entrepreneurs. The footwear and leather products sector in Tunisia is composed of 302 companies, of which over half are export-only. The sector employs a total of 30,000 workers. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

[#x2dc]Deep Concern Obama Ready to Talk to Hamas

Terrorist group calls for murder of Jews, destruction of Israel

There is deep concern among Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas Fatah organization that the U.S. government has changed its attitude toward Hamas and may be ready to end the terrorist groups isolation, a senior PA negotiator told WND.

oeThree years of the siege against Hamas is ending, said the PA negotiator, speaking from Ramallah on condition his name be withheld. oeThere is a new policy in the Obama administration regarding Hamas. We are concerned Hamas is starting to be a legitimate player in the equation of the Mideast and the PA.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

EU Concerned on Demolition in East Jerusalem

(ANSAmEd) " BRUSSELS, MARCH 11 " The EU is oedeeply concerned about the threat of demolition to approximately 90 houses in the Al-Bustan-Silwan area adjacent to the Old City in East Jerusalem. As stated in a EU press release, oeif implemented, the demolition would deprive more than 1000 Palestinians of their homes and would be the largest destruction of Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem since 1967. oeThe EU reminds Israel of its obligations under the Roadmap and international law. Demolition of houses in this sensitive area threatens the viability of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, in conformity with international law. The EU urges the Israeli authorities oeto prevent the demolition of Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem.(ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Israel: Street Named in Honour of Egyptian Singer

(ANSAm) " JERUSALEM, MARCH 11 " An Israeli village has decided to honour one of the greatest Egyptian singers ever, Umm Khaltoum, by naming a street after one of her most famous songs, [Anta Omri (You Are My Life)]. The unanimous decision to pay homage to the singer " despite her hostility to Israel, she has a large number of fans in the country " was made by the inhabitants a small village near Jerusalem, Neve Ilan, on the proposal of an Arab from the nearby village Abu Gush. The Arab, Jawdat Ibrahim, is building his house in Neve Ilan. I proposed this song, said Jawdat to the local press, to bring together the hearts of Arabs and Jews, and I explained to the committee members that it is a song loved by all. After initial surprise my proposal was approved by unanimous decision. Umm Khaltoum, considered the Star of the East by her fans, was most likely the best known and loved singer in the Arab world in the twentieth century. On her death in Cairo in 1975, millions of Egyptians attended her funeral in tears, wanting to carry her coffin on their shoulders to the cemetery while the entire Arab world grieved. (ANSAm).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[Return to headlines]

Iraq: Saddam Aide Gets 15-Year Jail Term for Murders

Baghdad, 11 March (AKI) " An Iraqi court has sentenced the countrys former foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to 15 years in prison for his role in the execution of 42 merchants in 1992. Another senior official from late president Saddam Husseins regime, Ali Hassan al-Majid, commonly known as Chemical Ali, also received a 15-year jail term for signing the flour traders death warrants.

Azizs lawyer, Badye Arif, told Adnkronos International (AKI) his clients conviction was a political move with no basis in law.

The Iraqi government wants to put pressure on Aziz and force former Baathists to come to terms with it in order to bring about national reconciliation, Arif told AKI.

He should be released immediately, as he is an elderly man suffering from various health problems.

Aziz, 72, has been in US custody in Iraq since US-led forces ousted former dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003. He is said to suffer from a heart condition and was treated last year at a US military hospital in Balad, north of Baghdad.

It was Azizs first conviction in the controversial Iraqi High Tribunal process, which has drawn criticism from human rights groups.

Aziz (photo) could have been sentenced to death over the executions of the flour traders who were accused in summary trials in 1992 of profiteering during international economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The court issued death sentences to two top Saddam aides over the case, in which there are eight defendants. Two of Saddams half-brothers " former presidential adviser Watban Ibrahim and former intelligence chief Sabawi Ibrahim " were sentenced to death by hanging.

Details of all of the defendants sentences were not announced immediately.

Al-Majid had already received death sentences for his role in the notorious al-Anfal gas campaign against the Kurds in northern Iraq in the 1980s, the crushing of a Shia uprising in 1991 and the 1999 killings of Shia protesters.

Aziz was acquitted last week in a separate trial of the killings of Shia Muslim protesters in 1999.

A Chaldean Christian, Aziz also served as deputy prime minister, was considered by many as the international face of Saddams regime. He was the Eight of Spades in the United States playing card pack depicting the toppled regimes most wanted officials.

He surrendered into US custody on 24 April 2003, days after the invasion of Iraq.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Iraq: Suspected Iranian Bombing Kills Child

Baghdad, 11 March (AKI) " Suspected Iranian artillery killed a two-year-old child and injured his parents in the northern Iraqi village of Zarawa close to the Iranian border, Iraqi radio reported on Wednesday.

Iranian forces fired artillery rounds for two hours into the village late on Tuesday, a police official told the Voices of Iraq news agency.

The child's mother is in a stable condition, but the father's health is critical, the police official added.

Northern Kurdish villages in Iraq are regularly exposed to Turkish air bombings and Iranian artillery targeting the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party and the Party For a Free Life in Kurdistan, which oppose the Turkish and Iranian governments.

Zarawa is more than 500 kilometres north of Baghdad.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Iraq: Shoe Thrower Sentenced to 3 Years

Baghdad, 12 March (AKI) " An Iraqi court on Thursday sentenced Iraqi journalist Montazer al-Zaidi to three years in jail for throwing his shoes at former US president George W. Bush at his farewell press conference in Baghdad last December. Al-Zaidi pleaded not guilty to the charge of assaulting a foreign leader on an official visit.

oeMy reaction was natural, just like any Iraqi, he told the judge. His lawyers had asked for his release.

Bush managed to miss both shoes, but al-Zaidi's gesture made international headlines and turned him into a hero in the Arab world.

As he hurled the shoes, al-Zaidi called Bush a oedog and said they were a oefarewell kiss from those who had been killed, orphaned and widowed in Iraq.

His lawyers said al-Zaidi was just reflecting the sentiment of a war-torn country still inflamed by the US-led invasion and its aftermath.

Al-Zaidi, who was arrested and has been held in custody ever since, could have been jailed for 15 years.

His actions were condemned by the Iraqi government as oeshameful although Bush shrugged off the incident.

Al-Zaidi has claimed he has been mistreated in jail.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Saudi Arabia: Prison, Whipping for 75-Year-Old Widow: Her Nephew Brought Her Bread

The poor woman is suspected of seducing two young men. She even risks being kicked out of the country. There are criticisms of abuse of power on the part of the religious police, who watch over the morality and behavior of citizens, gravely interfering in individuals private lives.

Jeddah (AsiaNews/Agencies) " There is great distress in the country over the sentence against a 75-year-old widow who has been condemned to 40 lashes and 4 months in prison for being with two young men, one of whom was her nephew, who were bringing her bread at her request. The religious police (muttawa) who watch over morality and behavior have been criticized for blindly applying sharia, partly for the sake of their own power.

Kamisa Sawadi is a Syrian woman formerly married to a Saudi. Last week, she was found guilty of meeting with two young men who were not her immediate relatives. One of them, Fahd Al-Anzi, is a nephew of her deceased husband; the other is his coworker, Hadiyan bin Zein. The two men, at the old womans request, had brought her five loaves of bread, but when they left her home they encountered the religious police, who arrested them and sentenced them as well to whipping. According to sharia, the woman is guilty. But her lawyers want to appeal above all by emphasizing that the woman breastfed the nephew when he was a baby, giving her a quasi-maternal relationship with him. In this case, the accusation should be withdrawn.

A few of the newspapers in the Middle East are criticizing the sentence and accusing the muttawa of interfering too much in peoples private lives. Some of them suspect that behind the sentence is a vendetta on the part of Fahd Al-Anzis father, the widows brother-in-law, who notified the religious police and urged them to intervene against oethe scandal, accusing the widow of oecorruption.

The poor Kamisa Sawadi has been accused twice before of meeting with men, always in connection with bread deliveries. If the sentence is upheld under appeal, she could even be expelled from Saudi Arabia and be forced to return to Syria, her country of origin.

The lawyer Ibrahim Zamzami notes that a 75-year-old woman cannot be considered a oeseductress, but sharia does not distinguish between old and young women.

Laila Ahmed al-Ahdab, who writes for the newspaper Al-Watan, is criticizing the muttawa because it bases all of its accusations on suspicions that are not confirmed by any evidence. She accuses the oeCommission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice of oemisusing religion to serve their own interests.

Last month, King Abdallah fired the chief of the religious police and an imam who had called for the killing of owners of television stations that broadcast immoral content. Many saw the action as an attempt by the king to weaken the police and its fundamentalist inspiration from Sunnism.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[Return to headlines]

Turkey, Egypt Under Fire for Textile Duties

(ANSAmEd) " CAIRO, MARCH 10 " New Delhi has approached Turkey and Egypt asking them to remove the additional duties they have imposed on Indian cotton textile imports or pay suitable compensation. According to an Egyptian senior government official, the moves by Ankara and Cairo are actionable at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and if the discussions do not lead to a mutually-satisfactory solution, India can drag them to WTO. With the global downturn reducing the demand for most goods, countries are resorting to various protectionist measures to check imports. Egypt has hiked the import duty on cotton textile from India to 30% against the 15% bound rate at WTO. Egypt ranks fifth with exports worth \$100 million. According to the government official, action can be taken against the two

countries if the discussions prove that the higher duties were imposed just to reduce competition from the domestic industry without suitable provocation. However, if the two countries can prove that it was a measure against a surge in imports taken to protect the domestic industry from injury, it will be valid at WTO as it allows such safeguard measures.(ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Turkeys Arab-Bound Trade Shows Sharp Rise

(ANSAmEd) " ANKARA, MARCH 9 " Turkeys exports to Egypt, Iraq and Syria have increased significantly recently, as the country focuses on nearby economies less affected by the crisis, in an attempt not to lose income from exports, as Hurriyet daily reports. Exports to Egypt rose 165% on last year, while they rose by 75% to Iraq and by 27% to Syria, according to January and February data from the Turkish Statistical Institute, or TUIK. This trend has been visible since October-November, with the emergence of the effects of the crisis, Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade authorities said, also suggesting some political developments. The outburst of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan in Davos over Israels attacks on Gaza, as well as the decline of terrorist acts and the ameliorations at Habur Border Gate are among the factors that have increased exports to these countries. Turkeys exports to Egypt rose in value from \$179 million to \$474 million within the first two months of the year. Turkeys export to Iraq, which was \$4 billion according to official figures and \$7 billion according to unofficial figures, is expected to surpass \$10 billion this year. The export to the country within the first two months of the year rose by 75.5% from \$473 million to \$830 million. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Turkey Opens Education Center in Lebanon

(ANSAmEd) " BEIRUT, MARCH 9 " A womens education center constructed by the Turkish Corps of Engineers carrying out activities under the command of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was inaugurated Saturday, as Turkish Hurriet daily website reports from the Lebanese capital. Turkish Corps of Engineers deployed in Lebanon transformed a ruined two-story school building into an education center in the Lebanese city of Tire. Turkey had completed the construction of 37 schools in Lebanon. (ANSAmEd).

" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Estonia: Kremlin Loyalist Says Launched Estonia Cyber-Attack

MOSCOW (Reuters) " An activist with a pro-Kremlin youth group said Thursday he and his friends were behind an electronic attack on Estonia two years ago that paralyzed the NATO states Internet network.

Ex-Soviet Estonia blamed the Russian government for the attack at the time, though Moscow denied involvement. The incident prompted the NATO military alliance to review its readiness to defend against oecyber-warfare.

Konstantin Goloskokov, an activist with Russias Nashi youth group and aide to a pro-Kremlin member of parliament, said he had organized a network of sympathizers who bombarded Estonian Internet sites with electronic requests, causing them to crash.

He said the action was a protest against the dismantling in 2007 of a Soviet-era monument to the Red Army from a square in the center of Estonias capital Tallinn. The removal prompted two nights of rioting by mainly Russian-speaking protesters.

oeI was not involved in any cyber-attack. What I did and what my friends did was no kind of attack, it was an act of civil disobedience, absolutely legal, 22-year-old Goloskokov told Reuters in a telephone interview.

oeIts aim was to express our protest against the policy of soft apartheid which has been conducted by the leadership of Estonia for many years and the climax of which was the dismantling of the ¶ soldiers (monument) in Tallinn.

OVERLOADED WEBSITES

oeWe made multiple requests to these sites, he said. oeThe fact that they could not withstand this is, strictly speaking, the fault of those people who from a technical point of view did not equip them properly.

He said his action " known as a distributed denial-of-service attack " was his own initiative and he received no help either from Nashi or from Russian officials.

The creation of the youth group was masterminded by Kremlin officials and its activists have had audiences with former President Vladimir Putin, who is now prime minister. Nashis former leader is now the head of a government agency.

Nashi stages regular protests outside the embassies of Western states with which the Kremlin has disagreements, and its activists picket meetings of opposition parties.

Kristina Potupchik, a spokeswoman for the organization, said it had nothing to do with jamming Estonian Internet sites. oeIf anything did happen, it was the personal initiative of Konstantin Goloskokov, she said.

Russian officials allege that Estonia routinely discriminates against its Russian-speaking minority and accuse European institutions of turning a blind eye.

The decision to move the Red Army monument in Tallinn was seen in Moscow as a deliberate snub to the sacrifices the Soviet Union made to liberate eastern Europe from German occupation during World War Two.

But Estonians, like many eastern Europeans, say Nazi rule was replaced by decades of brutal Soviet repression which only ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Estonias government denies discriminating against Russian-speakers. It said the presence of the Red Army monument in the center of the capital was causing public order problems, and moved it instead to a military cemetery.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Malaysia: Visas for 70,000 Bangladeshi Immigrants Revoked

The immigrants were expected to work in manufacturing, farming and construction. Permits were revoked by Malaysias government amid accusations that foreigners were taking Malaysian jobs. Some 3,000,000 foreigners work in Malaysia, fleeing poverty in their own countries for low-paying jobs.

Kuala Lumpur (AsiaNews/Agencies) " Malaysia has revoked work visas for 70,000 Bangladeshis who were to begin arriving this week in response to a public outcry about migrants taking Malaysian jobs.

The would-be immigrants were to be employed in manufacturing, agriculture and construction, and would have joined an estimated 500,000 Bangladeshi already in the country, out of an estimated three million Asian migrant workers in the whole country.

These oeworkers are from poverty-stricken families and had to raise about 200,000 Bangladeshi taka [or about US\$ 2,500] to send their son to Malaysia in the hope of escaping poverty, said Irene Fernandez, executive director of Tena-ganita, an NGO that helps migrant workers in distress. For purpose of comparison she noted that a primary school teacher in Bangladesh earned only about 800 taka (US\$ 13) a month.

Malaysias about-face on the 70,000 visas is the direct result of the global economic crisis which is having major impact on the local labour market.

oeBecause of the downturn, factory owners are cutting costs by letting locals go and keeping foreigners because they are cheaper, said Govindasamy Rajasegaran, secretary general of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress. oeIf this trend continues, by June we expect 400,000 local workers to be laid off.

But foreign workers are also affected by cuts in jobs and lay-offs. Most are repatriated but many choose to go under-ground and take underpaid jobs just to avoid going home.

Under current rules, migrant workers are given 30 days to secure work after arriving in Malaysia or they are forced to leave the country.

oeIn theory, if there are no jobs they are repatriated, but in practice they . . . easily find extremely low-paid jobs that are shunned by locals, Ms Fernandez said.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[Return to headlines]

More Troops in Thai South

BANGKOK " THAI Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on Thursday he would send a further 4,000 troops to the kingdoms troubled south where a bloody five-year insurgency continues to claim lives almost daily. Mr Abhisit told reporters the extra rangers would help improve relations between authorities and the Muslim-majority population, despite vowing in January to end emergency rule following allegations of military abuses.

[#x2dc]I have authorised an additional 4,000 rangers. Their mission is non-combat. They will work towards a better understanding with residents, Mr Abhisit said after meeting with top military officials.

[#x2dc]The government can currently only maintain the status quo and¶ its not enough because there are still violent militants who have succeeded in creating a climate of fear in the area, he said.

More than 3,600 people have been killed since unrest erupted in the deep south in January 2004, with separatist militants employing increasingly brutal tactics including frequent roadside bombings, shootings and beheadings.

Tensions have simmered since predominantly Buddhist Thailand annexed the mainly Malay sultanate in 1902.

The increased troop levels follow the approval by the cabinet on Tuesday of a 1.2 billion baht (\$50S.6 million) budget to fund an increase in the hardship allowance of soldiers, police and civilians battling the insurgency.

The allowance is to be raised from 1,500 to 2,500 baht monthly for the 60,000 personnel deployed in the three troubled southern provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

Mr Abhisit said the government would reassess troop levels again in April when the cabinet decides on a further three-month extension of emergency rule " which would be the 15th since it was first imposed in mid-2005.

The premier has charged a special commission of ministers with drafting a new law to replace the emergency decree. " AFP

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Pakistan: Islam Has No Link With Terrorism, Says PM

Islamabad, 11 March (AKI/Asian Age) " Islam had no links with sectarianism or terrorism, Pakistani prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said on Tuesday. Addressing the National Seerat Conference in the capital Islamabad, Gillani called for the introduction of Islamic universal teachings to the world.

oeMuslims around the world are victims of educational, economic and political backwardness. All negative tendencies like sectarianism, terrorism and extremism are being attributed to the Muslims. This is not right, Gillani said.

oeMuslims have to prove with practice that Islam is the religion of peace and harmony, he added.

Gillani said that Pakistan wanted the Muslim world to adopt concerted action to formulate a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism in all its forms.

The prime minister said it was also vital to address the root causes of terrorism. oeThese include injustice, sense of helplessness and economic and political deprivation, he said.

oeAs the world has become a global village, we have to propagate the true message of Islam which stands for universal peace and brotherhood, said Gillani.

The prime minister regretted that faith has come under increasing attacks in the Western world resulting in recent incidents of what he called Islamophobia.

oeThis is mainly due to a handful of misguided people who have by their interpretation of Islam made the religion target of our detractors, he said.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[Return to headlines]

Pakistan: Swat Valley: Sharia Implemented on 16 March

Only President Zardari's signature is needed to implement the law. Two Shariatic courts will administer justice in Malakand district and Taliban militias will run the region. Women will be the first to suffer and some 400 girls schools could be closed.

Peshawar (AsiaNews) " The government of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) announced that Sharia will come into effect next Monday in Malakand district after President Zardari signs into law the Nizam-e-Adl Regulations 2009. Henceforth two appellate Shariatic courts, the Darul Qaza and Darul-Darul Qaza, will administer justice in the area. Judges will be appointed to these Qazi courts by the High Court, and it will be possible to challenge verdicts delivered by the Darul Qaza court in the Darul-Darul Qaza court.

The agreement that opened the door to the introduction of Quranic law in the area also requires that local Taliban militias, the Tehreek-i-Nafaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi, rein in violence in the Swat Valley.

Religious minorities, including Christians, and human rights groups are very concerned about the governments decision which effectively places the whole region in the hands of militias.

Women, who are already victims of discrimination and exclusion in society, will be the first to suffer from the application of Sharia.

Girls and young women are likely to lose the right to go to schools. Since the start of the year many have been targeted by armed groups.

Since the start of the Taliban military campaign in 2007 168 schools have been attacked, including 104 girls schools. An additional 400 private schools could also be shut down.

Altogether some 80,000 female students could have their education put at risk whilst about 8,000 female teachers could lose their job.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[Return to headlines]

Singapore: 2 Ji Detainees Released

TWO Singaporean members of the Jemaah Islamiah terror network who were detained under the Internal Security Act have been released.

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) statement on Thursday said both men have been cooperative in investigations and shown significant progress in their rehabilitation since they were detained in January 2002.

The two, Mohamed Ellias Mohamed Khan and Jaafar Mistooki, were arrested in December 2001 for their involvement in the JIs plans to mount attacks against several targets in Singapore. They were released on Jan 5.

MHA said on Thursday they were assessed to no longer pose a security threat that required preventive detention. Both have been released on Suspension Directions, it added.

This means their detention orders have been suspended, and they must abide by certain conditions and restrictions after their release.

Should a person fail to comply, he may be detained again.

The ISA allows for detention without trial for up to two years at a time, but detentions are extended when detainees are assessed to remain a security threat.

When they were detained, Mohamed Ellias was 29 and a manager, while Jaafar was 40 and a freelance despatch driver.

MHA also announced the lapse of a Restriction Order (RO) for Faisal Abdullah Abdat, which expired on Feb 8 and was not renewed.

Faisal was detained in February 2003 for providing material support to an Al-Qaeda collaborator, and released on a Suspension Direction in October 2003. When this lapsed in February 2005, he was first issued with a two-year RO.

As he had been cooperative in investigations and responded to rehabilitation, he was assessed to no longer require supervision under an RO regime, MHA said.

It added that there are now 20 men in detention for terror activities, while another 42 are out on ROs, which regulate their movements and activities.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Thai Bloggers Face Jail Without Bail for Discussing Monarchy

By Daniel Ten Kate

Suwicha Thakhor has spent two months in a Thai prison, accused by police of insulting the royal family. He says he should be allowed to express an opinion.

Arrested Jan. 14 and charged in connection with material posted on the Internet, the 34-year-old oil engineer spends his days missing his wife and three children.

oeWe have to be able to think freely, Suwicha said on March 4 at Klong Prem Central Prison, his eyes red with tears. oeThey cannot stop ideas by sending people to jail.

More than a dozen similar cases are pending under Thai law as a widening political divide prompts discussion on the future role of the monarchy. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 81, has ruled for six decades, making him an enduring force in a country that has seen 10 coups since absolute monarchy was abolished in 1932.

Succession oeis the single biggest variable that shapes Thai risk, said Robert Broadfoot, managing director of Hong Kong-based Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. Equating King Bhumibols integrity with that of the monarchy as an institution oeis an assumption that will be tested by the transition.

Thailands constitution says the king oeshall be enthroned in a position of revered worship and shall not be violated. The law, called lese-majeste " it means injury to majesty in French " makes it a criminal offense to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, heir apparent or regent. Offenders face as many as 15 years in prison.

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Philippines: Cardinals Rosales and Vidal Pressure Arroyo for Agrarian Reform

The Catholic Church calls for oemoral pressure on members of parliament, so that the norm may benefit poor farmers in the country. Doubts concerning members of the presidents family, whose land is not included in the CARP.

Manila (AsiaNews) " The Filipino Catholic Church is supporting the poor farmers in the country, and asking for the extension of the law on agrarian reform (CARP). Last March 6, two cardinals, Gaudencio Rosales of Manila and Ricardo Vidal of Cebu, met with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss the law under consideration in parliament. The cardinals express the hope that this may benefit oepoor farmers and call on politicians to oegive the CARP additional five years.

According to Fr. Anton Pascual, executive director of Caritas Manila, the president promised the two cardinals that her administration is oeone with the Church in the fight for approval of the CARP. oeMalacanang [the presidential palace] is not the problem. The Church has the full support of the president.

Arroyos full support is an important point for the Church, but it is the parliament that must decide whether or not to extend the law. Fr. Pascual is asking for oemoral pressure on the countrys politicians, and is inviting the bishops to oepersonally call on their respective legislators in order to convince them oeto pass CARP. We have three months to turn the tide to CARPs favor.

The effects of the law on agrarian reform " promulgated in 1988, and extended ten years later " expired in December of 2008. The authors of the CARP and farmers in the country have criticized the manner in which the law was extended to June of 2009, because it does not include a provision on oecompulsory land acquisition and distribution on behalf of poor farmers. This, he stresses, oeis the heart and soul of the CARP.

Finally, Arroyo has asked both of her sons, members of the House of Representatives, to vote in favor of the reform, and not oeto break the legacy of the Macapagal family in this matter. The presidents family has vast land holdings; there are rumors from various directions that Arroyo is more interested in oeprotecting property than in the well-being of the country.

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

From Chile, Appeal to End Embargo Against Cuba

oeIn order for the USA to have good relations with South America it is essential that they change their policy toward Cuba. Speaking in Santiago del Chile, where the South American Defense Council (CDS) was formally constituted, the Brazilian defense minister Nelson Jobim stressed the need for an immediate repeal of the embargo imposed against Cuba since 1962. oeWe see that today, with the new president in the USA, there are favorable conditions such that and end can be brought to this unjust and discriminatory situation echoed his Argentinean counterpart Nilda GarrÈ, noting that Cuba has also been excluded from OAS, from which it was expelled in 1962. oeChile says that the American community must be integrated by all members said the Chilean minister of defense, JosÈ GoÒi, adding that oeit is a common opinion that Cuba should be readmitted to OAS. As for the Uruguayan JosÈ Bayardi, oea change of vision and relationship is incumbent upon the USA toward Cuba. Today, Cuba does not represent any security problem for the USA and their policies are dictated more by the internal Cuban migrant lobbies than a cold and rational analysis of the realities. [AB]

" Hat tip: C. Cantoni

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

The Americas Report: Nicole Ferrand on Islamic Terrorism in Latin America

Over the years, there has been disturbing information about the presence of radical Islamic terrorist groups in Latin America. The Americas Report has published several articles regarding this subject including a recent article on how terrorists have and could use fake or doctored passports to enter the United States to carry out attacks. In light of this information, it is important to know which Islamic terror groups are present in the region and the threat they could pose to regional security¶

" Hat tip: CSP

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Venezuela: Israel Lobbies Chavez to Curb Anti-Semitism in Venezuela

Israel has embarked on an intensive diplomatic campaign to persuade Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to rein in a recent wave of anti-Semitic attacks against Venezuelas Jews.

Over the last week, the Foreign Ministry has asked 15 different countries that maintain ties with both Israel and Venezuela to take high-level action on this issue. The use of international intermediaries is necessary because Venezuela severed diplomatic ties with Israel and expelled all its diplomats about a month ago, in response to Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip.

oeThere has been a significant outbreak of anti-Semitism there, and we wanted to send messages to Venezuelas president through several different channels in order to clarify the gravity with which we view the situation, a senior government source said. oeWe wanted them to know that in Israels view, Chavez is responsible for the Jewish communitys welfare. Advertisement

Two of the countries whose assistance Israel requested are Argentina and Brazil, both of whose presidents subsequently called Chavez and relayed Israels message. Another is Russia, and a fourth is Spain, whose foreign minister, Miguel Moratinos, is due to visit the Venezuelan capital of Caracas soon. In addition to passing on Israels message, Moratinos has agreed to meet with leaders of the local Jewish community.

Israeli officials believe that the strong messages have begun to have an impact on Chavezs government: Venezuelan police recently arrested several suspects in the recent anti-Semitic attacks. However, there is still great fear among Venezuelas Jewish community, which numbers some 15,000 people.

Members of the Caracas Jewish community, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals, told Haaretz that Chavez has thus far given tacit backing to the growing anti-Semitism, and he could also stop it if he so desired, by giving the necessary orders to his security services. oeTheres an atmosphere of intimidation against the Jews, said one.

During Operation Cast Lead, the largest synagogue in Caracas was vandalized by unknown assailants, and several Jews were physically attacked. Two weeks ago, a bomb was thrown at the Jewish community center in Caracas. In response to growing public criticism of such incidents within his own country, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro made a well-publicized visit last month to the synagogue that was attacked.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Denmark: Immigration Service to Reopen Old Residency Cases

Some spouses of Danish citizens who have had their application for residence rejected will have their cases reopened

The Immigration Service is set to reopen 50 applications for residency for spouses of Danish citizens that have been rejected since 2002.

Birthe R̄nn Hornbech, the immigration minister, announced the about face on Wednesday, stating that immigration authorities would look into rejected applications that could be contested using the precedent-setting European Court of Justice decision in the Metock case.

Until now, Hornbech had been unwilling to order reviews of applications that had been rejected. She took the position that the countrys immigration laws took precedence over the 2007 Metock ruling, which states that non-EU spouses of EU citizens may obtain residence permits without having previously lived in an EU country. As recently as late February Hornbech had indicated that Denmark would continue to fight against any changes to its immigration laws, saying [x2dc]If you ram your head against a wall you may as well keep doing it until theres a hole.

Hornbech denied that pressure from the EU had forced her to ordering the reopening.

The decision applies only to applications involving the spouse of a Danish citizen " not those of citizens of other EU countries living in Denmark.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[Return to headlines]

Justice Dept. Investigates Arizona Sheriff for Enforcing Immigration Law

By Penny Starr

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched an investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office in Arizona following requests by congressional Democrats and allegations by liberal activists that the department has violated the civil rights of illegal aliens.

Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), and Robert Scott (D-Va.) requested the investigation, and activists groups such as National Day Laborer Organizer Network and ACORN launched petition drives and rallies in support of the probe.

The investigation focuses on Sheriff Joe Arpaio and dozens of officers under his command who were trained through the Department of Homeland Securitys Immigration and Customs Enforcements Agreements of Cooperation in Communities to Enhance Safety and Security (ACCESS), which partners federal and local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws. (The Homeland Securitys Immigration and Customs Enforcement division is known popularly as ICE.)

[story continued at URL]

[Return to headlines]

Spain: Government [#x2dc]Wont Prosecute if Illegals Taken in

(ANSAmEd) " MADRID, MARCH 11 " The Spanish secretary of state for immigration, Consuelo Rumi, said today that the socialist government oewill not prosecute NGOs, religious congregations and people who decide to take in irregular immigrants, saying that oeincorrect information has been spread regarding the matter: the news was reported on the online edition of El Mundo. Rumis statements follow the debate sparked in Spain over the presentation of the immigration bill in December. Article 53.2c sets fines of up to 10,000 euros for anyone who oepromotes the irregular stay of a foreigner in Spain. Some 4 thousand signatures in protest at the oeBerlusconian tones of the article have already been collected by the Platform lets save the receptions, says El Mundo. Rumİ confirmed that the new immigration law would include a register of entries and exits from the country which would allow the movements of people arriving in Spain to be checked for a set period only.(ANSAmEd).

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" Hat tip: Insubria

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Coed Showers Going Statewide?

Family group says gender identity bill threatens women, children

A transgender identity plan for coed showers, locker rooms and other public facilities already implemented in one suburban Maryland county could be going statewide, according to alarmed members of a pro-family organization.

Officials with Maryland Citizens for a Responsible Government say a plan is pending in the state legislature that is similar to Montgomery County's permissive ordinance and now offers one of the greatest threats to privacy, safety and security that Maryland residents have ever known.

[¶]

With the bill's vague wording, all an adult male has to do to gain legal access to facilities normally reserved for women and girls is to indicate, verbally or non-verbally, that he has a sense of being female at the moment, the organization said.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Germany: the Anti-God Squad

Atheist Bus Campaign Gets into Gear in Germany

[Comment from Tuan Jim: Good timing!]

There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life. The brightly colored ads were part of a provocative campaign on British buses. Spain reacted with its own string of atheist slogans, and now a German group is following suit.

Those waiting by at bus stops in Berlin, Munich or Cologne later this year may be in for a surprise. In place of ordinary commercial ads, commuters will be greeted by hard-hitting atheist slogans. That at least is the plan of a new German atheism campaign, the latest European group to use buses as a vehicle for its provocative views.

Organizers are taking a leaf out of the book of Spanish and English groups that have run similar campaigns. Right now the German organizers are trying to raise money to embellish seven buses with their ads.

Atheists pledging a euro or more to the campaign can vote on a selection of slogans, some loosely based on the British signs. Phillip Müller, one of the campaign organizers, says the German group has collected €3,500 in the first four days of fundraising. They need €16,000 euros more to fund the project.

Müller, one of the six founders, doesn't see himself as any sort of missionary. "We just want to inform people," he said. "In an enlightened society you should be able to say something like that without being punished."

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Girl Scouts Birthday " But Nothing to Celebrate

The Daisy and Brownie Journey programs begin innocently enough. The youngsters meet flowers and critters who encourage them to explore botany and the environment and introduce them to the U.N. concept of oeglobal diversity..

By the time an oeenlightened Girl Scout reaches the Seniors program, she is encouraged to become an oeagent of change for the global good and an oeambassador for causes championed by left-leaning womens advocacy groups. Partnerships have been formed with Planned Parenthood, and the Girl Scouts have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with gun control advocates and radical environmental groups.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Judge Orders Homeschoolers Into Public District Classrooms

Decides children need more [#x2dc]focus despite testing above grade levels

A North Carolina judge has ordered three children to attend public schools this fall because the homeschooling their mother has provided over the last four years needs to be oechallenged.

The children, however, have tested above their grade levels " by as much as two years.

The decision is raising eyebrows among homeschooling families, and one friend of the mother has launched a website to publicize the issue.

[¶]

Williams told WND the public school order was the worst possible outcome for Ms. Mills, who had made it clear she felt it was important to her children that she continue homeschooling.

According to Williams website, the judge also ordered a mental health evaluation for the mother " but not the father " as part of the divorce proceedings, in what Williams described as an attack on the oemothers conservative Christian beliefs.

[¶]

Williams said the mother originally moved into a homeschool schedule because the children were not doing as well as she hoped at the local public schools.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Policy Discriminating Against Bible Clubs Challenged

Supreme Court asked whether Equal Access Act can be [#x2dc]circumvented

The U.S. Supreme Court is being asked to decide whether school officials at Kentridge High School near Seattle can circumvent the requirements of the Equal Access Act by denying religious student groups the rights afforded other organizations.

[¶]

The members of the Truth Bible Club wish to limit the clubs voting membership to Christians, but because of the faith-based decision, Kentridge officials repeatedly have rejected the application, citing the schools oenondiscrimination policy.

Officials also said the name of the club is oeooffensive.

" Hat tip: JD

[Return to headlines]

UK: Labour [x2dc]Double Standards as Smoking Ban is Lifted for G20 World Leaders

Labour has been accused of double standards for amending legislation to allow world leaders to use smoking rooms during the G20 economic conference.

Dozens of heads of state, politicians and diplomats will be meeting at the Excel Exhibition Centre in Docklands, London, next month.

It is believed that laws have been changed to get around the smoking ban and provide specialist rooms that the visiting dignitaries can use.

Smoking in all enclosed public spaces and places of work was banned under the Health Act 2006, and came into force in England in 2007.

It is not clear which Government department has amended the law for the venue or whether is only a temporary measure.

But the Foreign and Common Office, who is hosting the event, said it was aware of the smoking rooms and has launched an investigation.

Local authority Newham Council is also looking into the matter as environmental health officers in charge were not aware of the amendment.

Critics say the Government is flouting the ban and should apply the same concession to struggling businesses.

Smoking campaign group Freedom2choose chairman Andy Davis said: [x2dc]This clearly demonstrates that there are alternative solutions to the current smoking ban that our government is ignoring.

[x2dc]Smoking rooms would provide welcome relief for our hospitality industry with the ban being acknowledged as one of the major factors in its current downturn.

[x2dc]Our government is accommodating the political leaders from across the globe, yet they are not prepared to accommodate millions of their own citizens.

[x2dc]This concession should now be made available to all private businesses and clubs for them to adopt if they so desire.

Conservative MP Anne Widdecombe said: [x2dc]Its one law for one, and one for another, and I think that sums up this Government.

The G20 summit, which starts on April 2, is being held under the motto [x2dc]stability, growth, jobs.

It is due to bring together leaders of the worlds advanced and emerging economies along with representatives of international financial institutions with the aim of restoring stability and stimulating global economic growth.

On Monday, it was revealed that consultants will be paid more than £6 million to help the Government host the event.

Junior Foreign Office minister Gillian Merron gave details of four contracts worth an expected £6,204,065 with external consultancy firms hired to oeadvise on the G20.

She said Feltech/MRG, an event production company, had been hired to help stage the summit at a cost of £5,941,597 excluding VAT.

The development of the summit logo and the creation of the original globe image to overcome copyright issues cost £6,000.

" Hat tip: Tuan Jim

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

An Appeal to Cultural Muslims

by Amil Imani

There are some 1.2 billion Muslims in the world, the overwhelming majority of which are Cultural Muslims who are generally called moderate Muslims. Muslims are born into Islam, where a great many never go through the process of deciding for themselves if they want to be Muslims. It is not a religion that they choose, it is a belief they inherit. For whatever reason, this great majority of Cultural Muslims are Muslims of sort without fully toeing the line of Islam. The real Muslims are the jihadists, a small minority who lives and dies by the dictates of the Quran and the Sunna, the life examples of Muhammad¶

" Hat tip: Amil Imani

[\[Return to headlines\]](#)

Regulate Armed Robots Before Its Too Late

IN THIS age of super-rapid technological advance, we do well to obey the Boy Scout injunction: oeBe prepared. That requires nimbleness of mind, given that the ever accelerating power of computers is being applied across such a wide range of applications, making it hard to keep track of everything that is happening. The danger is that we only wake up to the need for forethought when in the midst of a storm created by innovations that have already overtaken us.

We are on the brink, and perhaps to some degree already over the edge, in one hugely important area: robotics. Robot sentries patrol the borders of South Korea and Israel. Remote-controlled aircraft mount missile attacks on enemy positions. Other military robots are already in service, and not just for defusing bombs or detecting landmines: a coming generation of autonomous combat robots capable of deep penetration into enemy territory raises questions about whether they will be able to discriminate between soldiers and innocent civilians. Police forces are looking to acquire minia-ture Taser-firing robot helicopters. In South Korea and Japan the development of robots for feeding and bathing the elderly and children is already advanced. Even in a robot-backward country like the UK, some vacuum cleaners sense their autonomous way around furniture. A driverless car has already negotiated its way through Los Angeles traffic.

In the next decades, completely autonomous robots might be involved in many military, policing, transport and even caring roles. What if they malfunction? What if a programming glitch makes them kill, electrocute, demolish, drown and explode, or fail at the crucial moment? Whose insurance will pay for damage to furniture, other traffic or the baby, when things go wrong? The software company, the manufacturer, the owner?

Most thinking about the implications of robotics tends to take sci-fi forms: robots enslave humankind, or beautifully sculpted humanoid machines have sex with their owners and then post-coitally tidy the room and make coffee. But the real concern lies in the areas to which the money already flows: the military and the police.

A confused controversy arose in early 2008 over the deployment in Iraq of three SWORDS armed robotic vehicles carrying M249 machine guns. The manufacturer of these vehicles said the robots were never used in combat and that they were involved in no uncommanded or unexpected movements. Rumours nevertheless abounded about the reason why funding for the SWORDS programme abruptly stopped. This case prompts one to prick up ones ears.

Media stories about Predator drones mounting missile attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan are now commonplace, and there are at least another dozen military robot projects in development. What are the rules governing their deployment? How reliable are they? One sees their advantages: they keep friendly troops out of harms way, and can often fight more effectively than human combatants. But what are the limits, especially when these machines become autonomous?

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Space Junk Threat Worried Space Station

The crew of the international space station had a close call with space junk.

The three astronauts took refuge for 11 minutes Thursday in a Russian escape capsule before returning inside. Officials were worried that the space station might get hit with a piece of space junk.

NASA says the debris was a small piece of an old spacecraft motor and it was passing within three miles of the station

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Why We Elect Liars as Leaders

One of the most creative uses of lying " and a key tactic for bending a population to your will " is the creation of a crisis. Now, anyone even superficially familiar with the history of the political left has heard references to the strategy of creating crises as a means of transforming society. Youve probably heard of the Hegelian dialectic, a key Marxist technique whereby an idea (oeWe need more gun control laws!) generates its opposite (oeNo, we dont need more gun laws, we just need tougher sentencing of criminals!), which leads to a reconciliation of opposites, or synthesis (oeOK, well compromise by passing new gun-control laws, but watering them down somewhat). This is how socialist progress is achieved opeacefully " through conflict or crisis " and always in the direction of greater socialism.

" Hat tip: JD

[\[\[Return to headlines\]\]](#)

Newstex ID: GATE-0001-32999825

LOAD-DATE: March 14, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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397 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Cyprus Mail

Internet Edition

Cyprus Mail

March 11, 2009 Wednesday

Anti-trafficking offices to be expanded

BYLINE: Alexia Saoulli

LENGTH: 468 words

TRAFFICKING of human beings for sexual and labour exploitation is a problem that the police force wants to better curtail.

For this reason the police office responsible for handling combatting of trafficking of human beings will be extended to all districts with special training offered to the officers involved.

The idea is to better investigate trafficking cases in an effort to deal with the problem more effectively.

Although the initiative had not yet been implemented, it had the full backing of the police leadership, said Chief Superintendent Charalambos Ioannou.

Ioannou, who heads Department C at the Police HQ, said a circular had been issued recommending the office was strengthened. More details about the plan would be available over the next few days, he said.

It is thought that around 20 officers will be appointed across all districts and responsible for handling trafficking cases. They will all receive special training for this purpose. Up until now investigations have come under each district's Criminal Investigation Departments.

Each district office will be answerable to the Combatting of Trafficking of Human Beings Office in Nicosia which is headed by Rita Superman and comes under the umbrella of Department C. Superman's office will be responsible for the all over co-ordination of operations.

The scheme will greatly facilitate the office which is currently staffed by Superman and two other officers.

Meanwhile reports that Cyprus was involved in receiving thousands of trafficked women for sexual exploitation were referring to the occupied areas, said Superman.

According to press reports Tel Aviv police are searching for the suspected ringleader of Israel's biggest woman trafficking network which smuggled thousands of women from the former Soviet Union into Israel, Cyprus, Belgium and England, forcing them to work as prostitutes.

This was referring to the occupied areas, she said.

Nevertheless the US **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report has placed the Republic of Cyprus on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for three consecutive years.

Tier 2 is for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant effort to bring themselves in compliance. It is the only EU country in that category.

It is thought that improvements to the Combatting of Trafficking of Human Beings Office could have something to do with recent changes in US legislation that stipulate any country on Tier 2 for two consecutive years is automatically demoted to Tier 3 Watch List.

Tier 3 status is for countries that neither comply with the minimum standards nor make significant efforts to come into compliance. In 2008 Tier 3 countries included Iran, North Korea, Qatar and Fiji.

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398 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Financial Mail (South Africa)

February 20, 2009
Financial Mail Edition

HUMAN TRAFFICKING. World Cup warning

BYLINE: Matebello Motloung

SECTION: CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE

LENGTH: 632 words

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

World Cup warning

As SA gears up to host the 2010 soccer World Cup, fears are mounting that the country's socioeconomic disparities and history of cheap labour will leave it more vulnerable during this period to a growing social ill - human trafficking.

According to the United Nations, SA is one of the world's hotspots for human trafficking - the third most profitable trade (about \$12USbn in 2007) for crime syndicates after drugs and guns.

Reports by the UN and local and international human rights groups show how Chinese, Nigerian and local syndicates use SA as a transit point to enter Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique and other international markets.

Simply put, human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Often boys and girls younger than 20 become victims for commercial exploitation, in most cases by people they know, with the promise of a better life in the city.

The unsuspecting victims hail from poor provinces such as Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, informal settlements and rural areas. They are either recruited or abducted, and then forced into prostitution, farm labour or criminal activities. They are sold for anything between R250 and R3500, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 2008 report into human trafficking in SA. Johannesburg is the favourite destination, followed by Durban and Cape Town.

Western Cape-based children's rights NGO Molo Songololo says the World Cup poses a big challenge for SA in that during such events, there's a spike in sex tourism. "Given that part of the 2010 package will be the relaxation of visa controls, this will make trafficking in and out of SA easier," says Patric Solomon, Molo Songololo's director. The fact that schools will be closed for the duration of the World Cup leaves children vulnerable to exploitation by those seeking cheap labour.

There is already evidence of this. The IOM in East Africa says trafficking syndicates are using the World Cup to lure young men from Ethiopia to SA on the pretext of lucrative contracts in the construction industry. On arrival they are forced into crime, and because of their illegal status they don't report their captors. Home affairs is aware of the problem and is working with the intersectoral task team on human trafficking comprising the National Prosecuting Authority, the police, IOM, Molo Songololo and social welfare.

SA's perceived lenient border controls are not to blame for the increase in human trafficking, says Amanda Ledwaba, a director at home affairs. She attributes it to a high demand globally, cheap labour and muti practices.

If SA is to get it right, it needs legislation that covers all these dynamics. There's already a draft policy that human rights activists are hoping will be tabled before parliament this year.

Offenders are prosecuted under legislation such as the Children's Act and the Sexual Offences Act. However, the latter only prosecutes trafficking for sexual exploitation. There's also criticism that sentences don't correlate with the severity of the crime.

The IOM's Mia Immelback says the main ingredients that should inform the drafting of the new policy are prevention, prosecution, taking into consideration the number of people involved in the trafficking chain, and assistance and support. "You don't want to just punish the exploiter but everyone in the chain," says Immelback. "The ruthlessness of the trade also demands that victims are guaranteed safety from their captors."

Though SA has shown commitment by signing UN protocols, it hasn't done enough. In the US's **Trafficking in Persons** 2008 report, SA has been placed on its **watch list** due to its inability to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

IOM's anti-trafficking awareness campaigns SA must do more

LOAD-DATE: February 23, 2009

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399 of 404 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

February 8, 2009 Sunday

Don't make them victims twice over

BYLINE: Santha Oorjitham**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 20**LENGTH:** 1301 words

MALAYSIA has taken big steps to tackle human trafficking. Now it needs to improve public and official awareness, open more shelters for victims and focus on cases of forced labour, experts tell SANTHA OORJITHAM.

AMU had an Indian passport with a visa when she landed in Singapore, where she had been promised a job as a tailor.

But her passport was taken away from her at the airport and she never saw it again. The agent who brought her in tried to force her into prostitution. But when she refused, despite beatings, he sent her to work in various homes in Malaysia - and held back her salary to "make arrangements" for her eventual return to Tamil Nadu.

He threatened that if she gave him any trouble, "he would kill me and throw my body somewhere, never to be found".

For her last employer, the 31-year-old not only had to clean his house and the homes of his four children, but also had to serve as a nurse to his elderly mother. When the mother was hospitalised, Amu had to stay with her.

That's when she approached a stranger - who took her to a nearby police station. The police brought her to a shelter run by Tenaganita, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) protecting the rights of women and migrant workers.

Amu has no passport and no money - but has to pay a fine of RM2,000 before she is allowed to leave Malaysia.

Her story shows how far Malaysia has come in combating human trafficking -- and how much still needs to be done, especially for victims of forced labour like Amu.

In June 2007, the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report downgraded Malaysia from **Tier 2** to **Tier 3** for not making a significant effort in combating **human trafficking**.

But in July that year, Malaysia gazetted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007, which imposed a mandatory jail term of up to 20 years for those convicted of trafficking.

The act came into force in February last year. The following month, the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry opened two places of refuge for women and child trafficking victims.

The embassies of Indonesia and the Philippines have shelters in Kuala Lumpur for their nationals.

NGOs, such as Tenaganita, the Women's Aid Organisation and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Sabah, also manage shelters.

But these are not enough to house all the trafficking victims, says Aegile Fernandez, coordinator for Tenaganita's anti-trafficking in persons programme. She reckons there should be at least two in each state and notes there is none for men yet.

In the June 2008 TIP Report, Malaysia was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List but noted that it was not fully complying with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking although "it is making significant efforts to do so". A TIP interim assessment will come out at the end of this month and the next annual TIP Report will be released in June.

Over the past year, Malay-sian enforcement officers have rescued 88 human trafficking victims and assisted six who lodged reports.

In March last year, police made the first arrest under the act -- of 33-year-old Ee Chin Kai, who was charged under the act in May with living off the earnings of two Thai women lured into prostitution in Johor.

So far, seven traffickers have been charged and last December, Indian national Punitha Raja, was the first to be sentenced under the act -- to eight years in jail.

An inter-agency National Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons has been set up, headed by the Home Ministry secretary-general and it includes representatives from NGOs.

The Royal Malaysia Police are on the council and are linking up with the NGOs.

Bukit Aman set up a special Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in July last year and plans branches in each district.

Senior Assistant Commissioner (II) Ahmad Sofian Md Yassin, principal assistant director of D7 (in the Criminal Investigation Department, tackling gangsterism, prostitution and gambling), "is very open and very much into working with us to curb trafficking", says Fernandez. "They have put this high on the agenda and are serious about it."

But although police within the Klang Valley are well informed about the act and follow the proper procedures, she says those in other states who have not yet been trained may not be able to identify trafficking victims.

"If victims go to a police station and complain about trafficking, they may be handed to the Immigration Department if they have no documents," she says. And some Immigration officers still view them as illegal immigrants.

That's what happened to 15 Thais, Vietnamese and Cambodians last year. They were subsequently repatriated to the Thai border.

"Such cases will be history in the future," promises Ahmad Sofian. "We are out to make all officers conversant with the law. We are very careful not to turn victims into the accused."

Last December, police began a series of roadshows on trafficking in persons that will visit every contingent.

They also held briefings on the act and procedures for trainers in Kedah, Perlis, Penang and Perak, as well as a seminar at the Royal Malaysia Police College with participants from Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, and Immigration, Customs and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency officials.

Meanwhile, there are about 1,000 Filipinos in Immigration detention centres in Sabah and Sarawak but fewer in the peninsula, says Melchor Lalunio, Jr, consul at the the Philippine embassy here. Although they are Immigration Act violators, the embassy doesn't know if they were trafficked.

"If we could be informed immediately when our nationals are detained, we would appreciate it," says Lalunio.

"Time is really of the essence. When they are first detained, the mode of entry is still open. But later, the recruiter and their local counterpart may have moved on.

"We are always left with the victims but the machinery is still there."

Border patrols, especially, need training on procedures to identify trafficking victims, Fernandez adds. Tenaganita claims that since the end of 2006, hundreds of refugees -- mainly from Myanmar -- have been trafficked at the Thai border.

After an ntv7 programme made similar allegations last year, Home Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said in a written reply to Parliament in November that a committee set up by the Immigration Department had cleared its officers of involvement.

Both activists and diplomats hope that Malaysia will now turn its attention to victims of forced labour such as Amu -- who face abuse, threats, debt bondage and withholding of pay and travel documents.

Police are already investigating the first forced labour case reported this year. "If there are cases of forced labour, we will classify them accordingly and investigate," says Ahmad Sofian, asking the public to call or SMS Rakan Cop about suspected cases.

Of the 500 reports of Filipinos trafficked into Malaysia, Lalunio estimates most are cases of forced labour.

"They were promised jobs in construction or general services but forced to do low-paying jobs without work permits.

"They could not report to the police because they had overstayed after entering as tourists and their passports were held by the agents."

Malaysia is acting to fight human trafficking, the consul stresses.

"It has the law, it has the institutional will as shown by the meetings and consultations. It has the budget for places of refuge and it is learning more from others about the procedures. We are happy and smiling, but not yet ecstatic."

But for Amu, the future looks bleak. To pay the agent before she left India, she had borrowed from her sister and brother and pawned her jewellery -- hoping to send money home later to help her ailing husband, son and daughter.

Wiping tears away with the loose end of her sari, she says: "I am tired and heartsick that after working here for more than a year, I still have no money."

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

400 of 404 DOCUMENTS



The Sun (England)

January 23, 2009 Friday
Edition 1

Boost for 'sex' girls

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 19

LENGTH: 78 words

A SCOTS charity has helped build two refuge centres in Moldova to stop teenagers being trafficked into the underground sex trade.

Peterhead-based New Hope Trust is trying to prevent girls being forced into the industry when they leave orphanages aged 16.

It helps them with their studies and aims to get them safe jobs.

The Trust's Philip Cameron said: "There are tens of thousands of these kids." Moldova is the only European country on the US **human trafficking blacklist**.

LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: SUN

401 of 404 DOCUMENTS



The Sun (England)

January 23, 2009 Friday
Edition 2

Boost for 'sex' girls

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 27

LENGTH: 78 words

A SCOTS charity has helped build two refuge centres in Moldova to stop teenagers being trafficked into the underground sex trade.

Peterhead-based New Hope Trust is trying to prevent girls being forced into the industry when they leave orphanages aged 16.

It helps them with their studies and aims to get them safe jobs.

The Trust's Philip Cameron said: "There are tens of thousands of these kids." Moldova is the only European country on the US **human trafficking blacklist**.

LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: SUN

402 of 404 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 19, 2009 Monday

Proclamation 8342--To Suspend Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Foreign Government Officials Responsible for Failing To Combat Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: Pg. 86**LENGTH:** 768 words**HIGHLIGHT:** This proclamation will be published in the Federal Register on January 22.

January 16, 2009

By the President of the United States
of America

A Proclamation

In order to foster greater resolve to address **trafficking in persons** (TIP), specifically in punishing acts of trafficking and providing protections to the victims of these crimes, consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (the "Act") (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), it is in the interests of the United States to restrict the international travel and to suspend entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of certain senior government officials responsible for domestic law enforcement, justice, or labor affairs who have impeded their governments' antitrafficking efforts, have failed to implement their governments' antitrafficking laws and policies, or who otherwise bear responsibility for their governments' failures to take steps recognized internationally as appropriate to combat **trafficking in persons**, and whose governments have been ranked more than once as **Tier 3** countries, which represent the worst anti-TIP performers, in the Department of State's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and for which I have made a determination pursuant to section 110(d)(1)-(2) or (4) of the Act. The Act reflects international antitrafficking standards that guide efforts to eradicate this modern-day form of slavery around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of the following aliens is hereby suspended:

(a) Senior government officials--defined as the heads of ministries or agencies and officials occupying positions within the two bureaucratic levels below those top positions--responsible for domestic law enforcement, justice, or labor affairs who have impeded their governments' antitrafficking efforts, have failed to implement their governments' antitrafficking laws and policies, or who otherwise bear responsibility for their governments' failures to take steps recognized internationally as appropriate to combat trafficking in persons, and who are members of governments for which I have made a determination pursuant to section 110(d)(1)-(2) or (4) of the Act, in the current year and at least once in the preceding 3 years;

(b) The spouses of persons described in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 or 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall implement this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such determination by the Secretary of State shall be published in the Federal Register.

Sec. 7. This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., January 21, 2009]

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Reports

403 of 404 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 16, 2009 Friday

TO SUSPEND ENTRY AS IMMIGRANTS AND NONIMMIGRANTS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILING TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS A PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 754 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the White House:

In order to foster greater resolve to address trafficking in persons (TIP), specifically in punishing acts of trafficking and providing protections to the victims of these crimes, consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (the "Act") (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), it is in the interests of the United States to restrict the international travel and to suspend entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of certain senior government officials responsible for domestic law enforcement, justice, or labor affairs who have impeded their governments' antitrafficking efforts, have failed to implement their governments' antitrafficking laws and policies, or who otherwise bear responsibility for their governments' failures to take steps recognized internationally as appropriate to combat **trafficking in persons**, and whose governments have been ranked more than once as **Tier 3** countries, which represent the worst anti-TIP performers, in the Department of State's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and for which I have made a determination pursuant to section 110(d)(1)-(2) or (4) of the Act. The Act reflects international antitrafficking standards that guide efforts to eradicate this modern-day form of slavery around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

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(b) The spouses of persons described in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 or 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall implement this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such determination by the Secretary of State shall be published in the Federal Register.

Sec. 7. This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH # # #

LOAD-DATE: January 16, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

404 of 404 DOCUMENTS

White House Documents and Publications

January 16, 2009

To Suspend Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Foreign Government Officials Responsible for Failing to Combat Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASES

LENGTH: 776 words

To Suspend Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Foreign Government Officials Responsible for Failing to Combat Trafficking in Persons A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

In order to foster greater resolve to address trafficking in persons (TIP), specifically in punishing acts of trafficking and providing protections to the victims of these crimes, consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (the "Act") (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), it is in the interests of the United States to restrict the international travel and to suspend entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of certain senior government officials responsible for domestic law enforcement, justice, or labor affairs who have impeded their governments' antitrafficking efforts, have failed to implement their governments' antitrafficking laws and policies, or who otherwise bear responsibility for their governments' failures to take steps recognized internationally as appropriate to combat **trafficking in persons**, and whose governments have been ranked more than once as **Tier 3** countries, which represent the worst anti-TIP performers, in the Department of State's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, and for which I have made a determination pursuant to section 110(d)(1)-(2) or (4) of the Act. The Act reflects international antitrafficking standards that guide efforts to eradicate this modern-day form of slavery around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

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Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 or 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall implement this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such determination by the Secretary of State shall be published in the Federal Register.

Sec. 7. This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

LOAD-DATE: January 16, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

JOURNAL-CODE: WP

1 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
 Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

December 28, 2008 Sunday

Guyanese paper slams "fake report" by USA on human trafficking

LENGTH: 686 words

Text of report by Guyanese newspaper Starbroek News website on 23 December

[Editorial: "Dangerous Delusions"]

How many reports on trafficking in persons does this country need? Apparently annoyed by the uncomfortable comments contained in the United State's Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons annual Trafficking in Persons Report, Guyana's Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons simply decided to write its own anodyne version. Does having two contradictory reports improve public safety?

Released on June 4, 2008, the USA report stated soberly that "Guyana is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour... Amerindian girls are trafficked to brothels near the mining camps and to coastal areas for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Young Amerindian men are exploited under forced labour conditions in mining and logging camps."

More seriously, the USA report added "The Government of Guyana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While the government has undertaken a commendable initiative to increase public awareness of the dangers of **human trafficking** through a nationwide outreach campaign and advertising of its anti-trafficking hotline, Guyana is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for a second consecutive year for failing to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, particularly in the area of law enforcement actions against trafficking offenders."

This unflattering US report was a rebuke to the administration and a blemish on its reputation. But it is delusional to disregard it because it is unfavourable. Rather than correct the specific problems that the report identified, the administration simply wrote its own vacuous version. Presented on July 28, 2008 and launched on December 1, the local report for the year 2007 aimed less at collecting fresh evidence than at contradicting the US report's findings.

Minister of Home Affairs Clement Rohee, Chairman of the task force, said that the local report was born out of a desire to present to citizens a "factual and authentic" picture of the nature and magnitude of trafficking in persons in Guyana. "Too often we have external agencies of the donor community compiling reports on various phenomena in our country as if we Guyanese do not have the capacity and objectivity to compile such reports on our own," he said. Even former President Mrs Janet Jagan criticised the local media for publishing foreign reports that, she wrote, are "frequently false, malicious or just produced by persons or groups that know little about Guyana, pick up bits and pieces of information that are not researched, put them together and issue so-called reports."

To no one's surprise, the sanitised local report determined that trafficking in persons was "not a major problem," finding only 10 reported cases of persons "presumed to be trafficked" in all of Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 for an entire year. The local report oddly omits references to Regions 7 and 8 where many mining and logging camps are located. This report masks the realities of activities in the 'E & F' hinterland divisions where, owing to the vast size of the area and the small number of policemen, trafficking in persons is hugely underreported and, perhaps, undiscovered.

Self congratulation does not solve crime. It is a dangerous delusion to believe that a spurious report can airbrush underlying social and economic problems -particularly youth unemployment in Amerindian villages -and their consequences out of hinterland actuality.

Rather than writing fake reports, the administration should intensify anti-trafficking training for police and magistrates; increase its efforts to employ more efficient law enforcement techniques; improve policing in 'E & F' divisions; investigate and convict offenders; and enhance assistance for victims of trafficking.

Source: Starbroek News website, Georgetown, in English 23 Dec 03

LOAD-DATE: December 28, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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2 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

December 23, 2008 Tuesday

GROUNDBREAKING HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 378 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney:

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), co-chair of the Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus, applauded President Bush today for signing into law H.R. 7311, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. H.R. 7311 is historic legislation that will combat human trafficking in the United States and around the world.

Thousands of human trafficking victims are being held in often deplorable conditions in cities and towns throughout America. Let there be no mistake: human trafficking is modern-day slavery, Maloney said. The bipartisan Wilberforce Act will dramatically strengthen our efforts to fight human trafficking, giving prosecutors the tools they need to hold traffickers accountable and providing a helping hand to victims, as well.

H.R. 7311 increases penalties against traffickers; expands protections for trafficking victims and their families; requires the Department of Justice to develop a new model state-level law focusing on a more comprehensive approach to investigating and prosecuting **human trafficking**; authorizes increased assistance for all victims of trafficking, including U.S. citizens; ensures that countries do not park on the State Departments **Tier II Watch List**; and establishes a presidential award for extraordinary anti-trafficking efforts.

###

BACKGROUND: Congresswoman Maloney is an original cosponsor of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly in December 2007. She has worked to combat sex trafficking internationally, nationally, and in her New York City district for the past seven years. Maloney urged state and federal prosecutors to investigate Queens-based Big Apple Oriental Tours and other sex tour operators for criminal violations. She is a strong supporter of federal legislation to strengthen the ability of the government to prosecute sex tour operators.

In 2006, a landmark law to make the United States a leader in combating the worldwide affliction of sex trafficking was enacted. That law incorporated key provisions of the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act championed by Maloney and Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (R-OH).

LOAD-DATE: January 15, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

3 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

December 12, 2008 Friday

MALONEY HAILS PASSAGE OF CRITICAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 391 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney:

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), co-chair of the Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus, applauded Wednesday's passage in both the House and Senate of H.R. 7311, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. H.R. 7311, which will be sent to the President for his signature, is ground-breaking legislation that will combat human trafficking in the United States and around the world.

H.R. 7311 increases penalties against traffickers, expands protections for trafficking victims and their families, requires the Department of Justice to develop a new model state-level law focusing on a more comprehensive approach to investigating and prosecuting **human trafficking**, authorizes increased assistance for all victims of trafficking including U.S. citizens, ensures that countries do not park on the State Departments **Tier II Watch List**, and establishes a Presidential award for extraordinary anti-trafficking efforts.

The House and Senate have again shown our commitment to ending this form of modern-day slavery by passing this important legislation, Maloney said. I want to commend Chairman Berman, Chairman Conyers, Chairman Bobby Scott, Vice-President-elect Biden, Senator Brownback, my colleagues in the Human Trafficking Caucus, their staffs, and the anti-trafficking coalition for their support and their heartfelt commitment to this issue.

###

BACKGROUND: Congresswoman Maloney is an original cosponsor of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly in December 2007. She has worked to combat sex trafficking internationally, nationally, and in her New York City district for the past seven years. Maloney urged state and federal prosecutors to investigate Queens-based Big Apple Oriental Tours and other sex tour operators for criminal violations. She is a strong supporter of federal legislation to strengthen the ability of the government to prosecute sex tour operators.

In 2006, a landmark law to make the United States a leader in combating the worldwide affliction of sex trafficking was enacted. That law incorporated key provisions of the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act championed by Maloney and Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (R-OH).

LOAD-DATE: December 12, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

4 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

December 12, 2008 Friday 12:20 AM EST

REP. MALONEY HAILS PASSAGE OF CRITICAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 250 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y. (14th CD), issued the following news release:

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), co-chair of the Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus, applauded Wednesday's passage in both the House and Senate of H.R. 7311, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act." H.R. 7311, which will be sent to the President for his signature, is ground-breaking legislation that will combat human trafficking in the United States and around the world.

H.R. 7311 increases penalties against traffickers, expands protections for trafficking victims and their families, requires the Department of Justice to develop a new model state-level law focusing on a more comprehensive approach to investigating and prosecuting **human trafficking**, authorizes increased assistance for all victims of trafficking including U.S. citizens, ensures that countries do not "park" on the State Department's **Tier II Watch List**, and establishes a Presidential award for extraordinary anti-trafficking efforts.

"The House and Senate have again shown our commitment to ending this form of modern-day slavery by passing this important legislation," Maloney said. "I want to commend Chairman Berman, Chairman Conyers, Chairman Bobby Scott, Vice-President-elect Biden, Senator Brownback, my colleagues in the Human Trafficking Caucus, their staffs, and the anti-trafficking coalition for their support and their heartfelt commitment to this issue."

Contact: Jon Houston, 202/225-7944.

LOAD-DATE: December 13, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

5 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Fox News Network

December 1, 2008 Monday**SHOW:** FOX ON THE RECORD WITH GRETA VAN SUSTEREN 10:50 PM EST

Interview With Ambassador Mark Lagon

BYLINE: Greta Van Susteren**GUESTS:** Mark Lagon**SECTION:** NEWS; Domestic**LENGTH:** 972 words

VAN SUSTEREN: This is a Fox News alert. There is more terror in India. According to the Associated Press an Indian official says a bomb blast on a train has killed two people and wounded 30 in the country's northeast region.

We have very few details at this hour.

Joran Van Der Sloot told us "On the Record" that he sold Natalee Holloway for \$10,000. Now Van Der Sloot says he was lying to us and made up the story.

Lie or no lie, it is a fact that human trafficking is an international crisis. Bigger numbers of people are sold for labor and sex and just plain cruelty.

Moments ago we spoke to Ambassador Mark Lagon, Secretary of State Rice's global advisor for fighting human trafficking.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

VAN SUSTEREN: Ambassador, thank you very much for agreeing to sit down and talk with us.

AMBASSADOR MARK LAGON, SENIOR ADVISOR TO SECRETARY OF STATE: Great being with you.

VAN SUSTEREN: Ambassador, I'm not going to ask you about to be Natalee Holloway case. While we have been seeking to prove or disprove what happened to her, one of the things that has come to our attention is the enormity of the problem with human trafficking. And this is your job.

LAGON: It is. I head the office in the State Department to fight this problem of sex trafficking and forced labor, working with other countries.

VAN SUSTEREN: I was reading some of your materials--across borders over 800,000 people a year or more.

LAGON: If you look at trafficking within borders, it's millions, and across borders we think it's at least 800,000 people a year, many of them for sexual exploitation. We think a good 80 percent of them are females who are the victims.

VAN SUSTEREN: Is this a problem that, say, in the last five years is growing or is decreasing?

LAGON: I think it is growing. But we certainly are more aware of this problem. Nations around the world are beginning to put in place laws and only starting to effectively prosecute the bad guys.

VAN SUSTEREN: It's worldwide?

LAGON: Yes.

VAN SUSTEREN: Our attention has been focused more on the South American and Caribbean area. You have given me this map. Tell me in this Aruba, Venezuela, Caribbean area, what has our state department determined?

LAGON: In the Caribbean, you see a lot of transit of human trafficking victims, a lot of them for sexual exploitation. In the region of Latin America there has been increased focus on children and prostitution, but not enough of people who are adults.

And there's a problem in the region, including where there is legal prostitution, where there are being a magnet for sex trafficking.

Venezuela had for three years in a row the lowest ranking in our annual global report on its record on fighting **human trafficking** until last year, and then it moved up to the second lowest category of the **watchlist**.

VAN SUSTEREN: Is there any record or history of actual trafficking through Aruba?

LAGON: There is. Aruba, being small, is not ranked in our report, but there are cases. Admittedly, much of the pattern seems to be going to Aruba. But it is quite conceivable that trafficking from Aruba is possible.

VAN SUSTEREN: In Aruba, do you find that the policemen are willing to look at the problem? Are they honest, thorough, good, or does our state department have any problem with the law enforcement in Aruba?

LAGON: I am not in a position to give a really good assessment of that. But it is a region in which, in Latin America, corruption and lack of efficacy and law-enforcement is serious.

VAN SUSTEREN: We have some been dealing with the Natalee Holloway case, and you are not part of this investigation, but we have some information that we would like them to look at. But there is an unwillingness to even look at what we have. Do you find that unusual?

LAGON: Everyone should be open to the opportunity to look at evidence, because the possibility of trafficking in this region is serious.

VAN SUSTEREN: What do these women say, and I don't know if you have ever spoken to them or talked to people who have been the victim of trafficking-everyone says why don't you just walk away? I have talked to them, and I know what-but what to do here?

LAGON: The definition of human trafficking by law and under U.N. treaties involved force, fraud, and coercion.

In general prostitution, there is a lot of violence and manipulation by pimps. And in the situation of the human trafficking it is terribly acute.

Oftentimes people are kept in a brothel and cannot leave. They are living and being exploited in the same place. Their traffickers get them into debt. They make them afraid that if they run they will only be treated like a criminal.

VAN SUSTEREN: I take it then that you are not dismissive of the possibility that this could have happened to Natalee Holloway?

LAGON: I'm not. The flow of human trafficking through this region is significant. Rule of law is lacking. Where there are even laws, like in Aruba, they are not well implemented. It is quite possible that this is happening on a significant scale. So you really can't reject out of hand that idea.

VAN SUSTEREN: Ambassador, thank you.

LAGON: Pleasure.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

VAN SUSTEREN: Our entire interview with the ambassador will be posted on gretawire.com tomorrow.

And up next, the results of your live vote--do you think former President Clinton would be a good choice to serve out his wife's Senate term? Go to Gretawire.com and tell us--vote.

VAN SUSTEREN: Senator Hillary Clinton has been tapped to be our next Secretary of State. That leaves a vacant U.S. Senate seat for the state of New York.

You went to gretawire.com and answered this poll question--do you think former President Bill Clinton would be a good choice to serve out his wife's Senate term? 19 percent said yes, 81 percent said no. Thank you voting.

Thank you for watching and being with us. "The O'Reilly Factor" is next. Goodnight from Washington.

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6 of 445 DOCUMENTS



UPI

November 26, 2008 Wednesday 2:17 PM EST

Analysis: Berlin a Russian mafia hub

BYLINE: STEFAN NICOLA

LENGTH: 629 words

DATELINE: BERLIN, Nov. 26

Berlin has become a European hub for the Russian mafia, according to security experts in the German capital.

If you own a BMW X5 or a Porsche Cayenne, you shouldn't park it in the streets of Berlin too often, because these fancy SUVs top the list from which the Russian mafia is "shopping" in Germany's capital. The criminals cruise the rich neighborhoods until they find their car of choice, then open, short-circuit and load it onto a truck -- in less than two minutes. Chances are the owners won't see their cars again.

"Such vehicles are brought into nearby body shops, where they are tuned or taken apart completely," Bernd Finger, the head of the Berlin Criminal Office, said earlier this month in an interview with the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper. "From there they are taken to intermediate traders in Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia. And from there they are taken into the buyer's country, most often Russia or Asia."

Finger is Berlin's chief anti-mafia czar, and he raised eyebrows when he recently revealed that Berlin, along with London and New York, has turned into a hub for the Russian mafia.

"We're in the center between east and west," he told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "You can get stolen goods to Poland within an hour, and the anonymity of a metropolis with 3.4 million people enables ethnic compartmentalization. The members stay among themselves, and thus undisturbed."

He later told the Tagesspiegel newspaper that Berlin in 2007 saw 68 organized crime cases with more than 1,000 individual crimes. Because of ongoing investigations, Finger didn't want to comment on how many members the Russian mafia has permanently stationed in Berlin.

Unlike the Mafia from Italy, Russian organized crime is not based on local or family structures, he said, but on professional strategic alliances that operate globally.

"It's all about making a lot of money very quickly," Finger said.

The organized car thefts are only the lowest in a three-tier structure the Russian mafia has established in Berlin, officials say. The Russian mafia's activities also include the middle league, such as prostitution or **human trafficking**, and the top league -- money laundering. Berlin for these crimes serves as an intermediate hub between Europe and the rest of the world, said Finger, who has also had to investigate targeted killings and racketeering.

So what do these guys look like? Big SUVs, tattoos, ordering several Dom Perignon bottles at once -- that holds true only for the midlevel gangsters, the henchmen, Finger said.

The really dangerous guys are eager not to make waves, and most often they are wearing expensive watches and business suits instead of gold chains and baggy pants.

&"They work as economic experts in international companies, and move, in a matter of seconds, millions (of euros) that are tainted with the blood of the innocent. These are the guys we have to take care of.&"

The Berlin police also advise German politicians, because the Russian mafia in the past has tried to influence their decision-making.

&"You won't believe it, but many politicians like to experience this sort of excitement that comes when you encounter the criminal milieu,&" he said, adding that organized crime is increasingly trying to influence how government money is spent.

Spending money the right way -- the German Police Union feels that has not happened when it comes to fighting organized crime.

&"It doesn't seem to be the political wish to do more&" against the mafia, Konrad Freiberg, head of the police union, told the Berliner Zeitung newspaper a few days after the Finger interview. He said the German states needs to dish out more money to improve police equipment.

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November 16, 2008 Sunday

Illegal recruiters on 'watchlist'

LENGTH: 398 words

Manila: As part the government's new measures against **human trafficking**, the Bureau of Immigration announced that it will place illegal recruiters, as well as their victims, in its "**watchlist**," of suspected offenders.

Commissioner Marcelino Libanan of the Bureau of Immigrations (BI) said personnel at all ports of exit in the country will be furnished a watchlist of persons suspected to have been involved in human smuggling.

"They will remain in the **watchlist** until they can show substantive and convincing proof that they are not involved in illegal recruitment and **human trafficking**," he said. While particularly focused on monitoring the movements of human traffickers, the watchlist will also include victims, because he said that most often than not, human traffickers and illegal recruiters travel with their prey. "Suspected illegal recruiters and their victims caught attempting to leave the country will now be placed in the watchlist as part of the agency's intensified campaign to stop the trafficking and exit of undocumented overseas Filipino workers," he said.

He added that the guideline will be enforced at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila and other ports of exit.

According to Libanan, passengers will be photographed and that the circumstances and reasons for their being taken off from a particular flight be recorded for future references.

Libanan said the BI adopted the tougher policy to discourage Filipinos wishing to work abroad from falling prey to the schemes of syndicates engaged in the illegal recruitment and deployment of undocumented workers abroad.

He added the immigrations bureau will continue to strictly monitor departing passengers to make sure that those who leave for overseas jobs are properly documented and registered with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Statistics showed that nearly 400 Filipinos were barred from leaving the country from January to September this year.

Labour workers in Iraq

The Philippines labour secretary says the country has no immediate plan to lift a ban on its citizens working in Iraq.

His comments come after a plea from an Iraqi diplomat for more foreign labourers to help with the war-torn country's reconstruction. Labour Secretary Marianito Roque said on Friday there would be no deployment of Filipino workers pending an assessment of the security situation in Iraq.

- AP

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JOURNAL-CODE: 57

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8 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Gulf Daily News

November 13, 2008

Justice vowed for expatriates

BYLINE: By SOMAN BABY

LENGTH: 377 words

BAHRAIN's national committee to combat human trafficking is expanding its activities to take care of expatriate workers in distress, it was revealed yesterday.

The committee will make every effort to ensure expat workers are treated in Bahrain with dignity, said its chairman Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

"The committee has representatives from various ministries, including Interior, Labour, Justice, Information and Foreign Affairs," he told the GDN.

"This helps us to forward complaints from workers directly to the ministries or departments.

Cases of sponsors harassing the workers will be taken up with the Interior Ministry and non-payment of salary will be brought to the notice of the Labour Ministry, said Shaikh Abdul Aziz, who is also the Foreign Ministry assistant under-secretary.

"The committee now meets once a month," he added.

"An awareness campaign will be strengthened with the support of the Information Ministry and will include leaflets in different languages highlighting workers' rights.

"It will also advise on sponsors how to treat their workers with dignity."

The committee had so far received very few complaints, said Shaikh Abdul Aziz.

"One of the complaints was from the Thai Embassy relating to forced prostitution involving their nationals," he revealed.

"Some complaints on workers being exploited were received from the Indian and Filipino embassies.

"We have taken them up with authorities for immediate action."

Shaikh Abdul Aziz said his committee would expand its activities in the new year to help workers in distress and stop all forms of human trafficking in Bahrain.

The US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report rated Bahrain earlier this year in the **Tier 2** category based on its "significant efforts" to address trafficking and on future pledges.

It urged Bahrain to stop deporting victims of human trafficking and set up a shelter to provide them with medical and psychological care.

The US State Department is required by law to submit an annual report each year to Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of human trafficking.

The aim is to raise global awareness as well as highlight and encourage efforts by the international community to combat the problem.

soman@gdn.com.bh

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9 of 445 DOCUMENTS



TradeArabia (Bahrain)

November 13, 2008 Thursday

Justice vowed for expatriates

BYLINE: Manama

LENGTH: 394 words

(Category: Government, Laws & Statutes)

(Image: expats.gif)

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10 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Business Day (South Africa)

November 08, 2008
The Weekender Edition

Human trafficking may escalate ahead of 2010 World Cup - report

BYLINE: MLUNGISI ZONDI

SECTION: CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 453 words

Human trafficking may escalate ahead of 2010 World Cup - report

A NEW study has raised fears of an escalation in human trafficking in SA for commercial sexual exploitation during the Soccer World Cup, when thousands of tourists are expected to flood the country.

The report's findings are in contrast to the traditional forced migration of women and children, a cross-border phenomenon predominantly involving syndicates that recruit Zimbabwean, Mozambican and Asian nationals to work in SA.

The International Organisation for Migration's report identifies SA's unique sociopolitical history, stark economic inequalities, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS as factors that place women and children at risk of human trafficking. It also identifies traditional beliefs involving *muti*, *lobolo* and child placement as risks.

So dire is the situation that the US state department this year put SA on its **watch list** for the fourth consecutive year for its inability to meet the minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**.

"Data collected shows internal trafficking victims are generally recruited from regions of lower socioeconomic status, in provinces such as Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, as well as informal settlements or rural areas of Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng," the study says.

Child-headed households are most vulnerable to recruitment for commercial sexual exploitation.

"Respondents most often mentioned Johannesburg as a destination, followed by Durban and Cape Town", the study found. They are often transported there by minibus taxi, with the fare paid for by the recruiter.

Victims are controlled through intimidation, threats and use of force, while their movement is restricted. Often, they are required to repay their transport "debts".

"Drugs and alcohol are often cited as a means of control, particularly in situations related to commercial sexual exploitation," the report says.

The victims are mostly black, female and under the age of 20. They are often recruited with the offer of a job, through an ad in a newspaper or through a friend or acquaintance.

"The upcoming Fifa World Cup in 2010 has sparked specific concerns around internal and cross-border trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation," the report says.

Despite having ratified the United Nations Palermo Protocol, which obligates signatories to address trafficking as a crime, SA does not have comprehensive laws addressing the issue. The International Organisation for Migration says despite provisions under various laws "vaguely referring to child welfare and sexual offences" used in prosecution, SA's conviction rates are low.

Offenders generally receive minimal sentencing, often just a fine.

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11 of 445 DOCUMENTS



The Weekender (South Africa)

November 8, 2008
The Weekender Edition

Human trafficking may escalate ahead of 2010 World Cup - report

BYLINE: Mlungisi Zondi

SECTION: CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 455 words

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12 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

November 4, 2008 Tuesday

OMA blacklists 15 pilgrim guides for human trafficking

BYLINE: By Julmunir I. Jannaral

LENGTH: 628 words

COTABATO CITY: The Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA) has totally banned at least 15 sheikhs or pilgrim guides from transacting business with OMA regarding hajj or the annual pilgrimage to Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on suspicion of their involvement in human trafficking to the Middle East in the guise of performing the minor hajj known as umrah.

Undersecretary Datu Ali Sangki, the OMA executive director, on Monday told The Manila Times that as a result of his drastic action in banning whom he described as "recalcitrant sheikhs," his leadership as Muslim affairs chief is now the subject of a demolition job by people who would want to get back at him.

Sangki said the 15 sheikhs including one from this city who are now blacklisted even went to the extent of using the "padrino system" to restore their accreditation with the OMA. In particular, he cited Lanao del Sur Rep. Pangalian Balindong whom these sheikhs have tapped to get back at the OMA.

He said Balindong was totally misled by the sheikhs to fight for their cause and to raise an issue against him in his capacity as OMA chief. At least of the 15 blacklisted sheikhs, five come from the home province of Balindong in Lanao del Sur, namely Sheikh Abduljalil Mauna with 10 jamaah or wards that illegally stayed behind in Saudi Arabia; Sheikh Basaroden Maruhom, 2 wards; Sheikh Abdulmojib Dipatuan, 2 wards; Sheikh Mohammad Abdulmajid, 7 wards; and Sheikh Mustapha Abdullah, 1 ward.

The Muslim affairs chief said the case actually stemmed from the act of conspiracy of the 15 sheikhs with five of them identified above in allowing their jamaah (wards) numbering around 100 who performed the recent umrah to stay illegally behind in Saudi Arabia even after they have already performed their minor pilgrimage.

Sangki also identified one of the accused pilgrim guides as Sheikh Manson Kusin who is in-charge as a pilgrim guide for Region 12-A, particularly Cotabato City, who abandoned his 16 wards in Saudi Arabia and returned alone to Manila even before the religious rite could start. "This is tantamount to human trafficking which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia just like any other country strictly prohibits," Sangki said.

Weng Danial, a native of Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi who is has been an OMA employee for more than 20 years already had observed that the "iron fist" policy now implemented by Sangki is just appropriate for the misdemeanors of these sheikhs. "This should have been done by previous Muslim affairs executive directors," Danial said.

In his stern memorandum regarding the violation committed by the sheikhs, Sangki wrote: "In view of their violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Sheikh Accreditation as contained in the Office Order No. 0237 dated July 1, 2008, particularly the Affidavit of Undertaking executive by Sheikhs with the Office on Muslim Affairs, the...Sheikhs are hereby advised to cease and desist from recruiting Jamaah/s and further instructed to exhaust all means to repatriate their over staying Jamaah/s [pilgrim wards] in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Sangki said the sheikhs and their pilgrim wards have in effect violated the Saudi government immigration laws and the Saudi Ministry of Hajj Rules and Regulations which binds the OMA to comply with.

As this developed, Sangki said he appealed to all Muslim lawmakers and his fellow Muslims for their kind understanding in his move to cleanse and bring reforms to OMA especially the Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment (BPE) which has been a source of intrigues or controversy in past administration.

He said he handpicked Hadji Soekarno "Bong" Mohammad of Tubig Indangan, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi as officer-in-charge of BPE in order to bring about the much needed reforms in the pilgrimage program of the country.

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13 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

October 20, 2008 Monday 1:35 AM EST

PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 5578 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following news release: Consistent with section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Division A of Public Law 106-386), as amended, (the "Act"), I hereby:

* Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, with respect to Burma, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Syria, not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2009, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;

* Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act, with respect to Cuba and Iran not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2009, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;

* Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(3) of the Act, concerning the determination of the Secretary of State with respect to Moldova and Oman;

* Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Algeria, Fiji, Kuwait, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, that provision to these countries' governments of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

* Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to the DPRK, that a partial waiver to allow funding for programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act that support the goals of the Six-Party talks would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States; and

* Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Iran, that a partial waiver to allow funding for educational and cultural exchange programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this determination and the certification required by section 110(e) of the Act to the Congress and to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Memorandum of Justification Consistent With the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Regarding Determinations With Respect to "Tier 3" Countries

The President has made determinations regarding the 14 countries placed on **Tier 3** of the State Department's 2008 annual Report on **Trafficking in Persons**. The President has determined to sanction Burma, Cuba, the Democratic Peo-

ple's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, and Syria. The United States will not provide funding for participation by officials or employees of the Government of Cuba in educational and cultural exchange programs until such government complies with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or makes significant efforts to do so. The United States will not provide certain non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance to the Governments of Burma or Syria until such government complies with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or makes significant efforts to do so. Furthermore, the President determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of certain assistance to the Governments of the DPRK and Iran would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. The President also determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of all bilateral and multilateral assistance to Algeria, Fiji, Kuwait, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan that otherwise would have been cut off would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The determinations also indicate the Secretary of State's subsequent compliance determinations regarding Moldova and Oman. It is significant that 2 of the 14 Tier 3 countries took actions that averted the need for the President to make a determination regarding sanctions and waivers. Information highlighted in the Trafficking in Persons Report and the possibility of sanctions, in conjunction with our diplomatic efforts, encouraged these countries' governments to take important measures against trafficking.

Section 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act interferes with the President's authority to direct foreign affairs. We, therefore, interpret it as precatory. Nonetheless, it is the policy of the United States that, consistent with the provisions of the Act, the U.S. Executive Director of each multilateral development bank, as defined in the Act, and of the International Monetary Fund will vote against, and use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to the Governments of Burma, Cuba, the DPRK, Iran, and Syria for Fiscal Year 2009, until such a government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act.

Explanations of the President's determinations regarding each of the 14 countries follow.

Moldova On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of Moldova since March 2008, the Secretary of State has determined that the Government of Moldova does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. This is the standard for placement on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The Secretary of State has placed Moldova on the Special Watch List because the determination that the Government of Moldova is making significant efforts is based, in part, on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

In June 2008, the Government of Moldova was presented with an action plan by the State Department that outlined steps to combat trafficking. Since that time, it has accomplished each of the items in the Department's action plan or made commitments to take additional future steps over the next year, thus demonstrating "significant efforts." These efforts include:

Since the release of the June 2008 TIP Report, the Moldovan government has presented evidence that it is taking tangible steps to address the problem of trafficking-related complicity, the primary factor for its Tier 3 ranking in the 2008 Report. Specifically, the government acknowledged a lack of adequate efforts to prosecute officials reportedly complicit in trafficking, and in June 2008, it re-opened investigations into high profile allegations of such complicity that had been previously dismissed without transparency. Furthermore, the government opened several new investigations of alleged trafficking complicity of law enforcement officials. In addition, since its Tier 3 placement, the Government of Moldova has: made high-level public statements condemning trafficking-related complicity, drafted a code of conduct for law enforcement personnel; initiated vetting procedures for public officials involved in combating trafficking; and established an anonymous reporting mechanism for trafficking related complicity.

Since the release of the 2008 TIP Report, the Government of Moldova has taken additional measures that include: improving data collection on trafficking-related law enforcement efforts; concrete outreach to anti-trafficking NGOs; releasing funds for victim protection (marking the first time the government has provided direct funding for victim services); and enacting regulations for facilitating and funding victim repatriation.

Oman

On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of Oman since March 2008, the Secretary of State has determined that the Government of Oman does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. This is the standard for placement on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The Secretary of State has placed Oman on the Special Watch List because the determination that the Government of Oman is making significant efforts is based, in part, on our expectations of additional future steps over the next year.

Since the June 2008 release of the TIP Report, the Government of Oman has adopted significant measures to prevent trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labor by addressing abusive work conditions. Such measures include its recruitment of a total of 94 additional labor inspectors (male and female) - as well as 7 legal researchers - to strengthen enforcement of Oman labor laws and punish acts of trafficking for labor exploitation. In August, labor inspectors received training in collaboration with the International Labor Organization that, among other topics, highlighted their role in combating human trafficking and best practices against trafficking in persons. Oman's Ministry of Manpower has publicly admonished the poor performance and excessive fees charged to workers by some Omani labor recruiting firms, and it has pledged to conduct more regular inspections of their operations.

Algeria The Government of Algeria does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Algeria, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Algeria has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of trafficking of men, women, and children both within and through Algeria. The government did not prosecute any individuals for trafficking offenses, and did not train law enforcement or judicial officials on anti-trafficking measures. The government does not offer protective services to victims and did not institute a victim identification procedure to prevent the punishment or summary deportation of trafficking victims. The Government of Algeria also has not developed a public awareness campaign or other trafficking prevention programs. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Algeria, however, is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Algeria in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$1.3 million in security assistance, including \$800,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET), and an anticipated \$4 million in MEPI assistance would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing this assistance in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. security interests. Development assistance of approximately \$965,000 would have also been subject to sanction. Sanctioning this and MEPI aid would have removed United States Government tools in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Algeria.

Burma The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Burma.

Justification: The Burmese military remains directly involved in forced labor, and there are reports that some children have been involuntarily conscripted into the Burmese Army for the purpose of forced labor. Although the Burmese Government has taken increased steps to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, the significant state-sanctioned use of internal forced labor, especially by the military, continues.

Impact of Sanctions: The United States does not provide direct assistance to the Burmese government. In Fiscal Year 2008, the Government of Burma received \$1.2 million in U.S. assistance through the United Nations World Health and Food and Agriculture Organizations for avian influenza preparedness and response. In response to the devastating Cyclone Nargis that hit in May 2008, the United States has provided \$50 million to date in assistance to the people of Burma. Some in-kind assistance initially went through the Burmese government; however, once transportation lines were established, assistance was channeled through the United Nations and various NGOs. The United States Government provides humanitarian assistance along the Thai-Burmese border through various nongovernmental organizations, supports democracy activities both inside and outside the country, and supports the provision of services to those with or at-risk of HIV/AIDS. The United States also has supported a nongovernmental organization working in Burma to assist victims of trafficking repatriated from Thailand.

Existing sanctions on Burma include restrictions on new investment, imports, exports of financial services, bilateral assistance, and arms sales. Additionally, travel restrictions and/or financial sanctions have been imposed against senior

Burmese officials and their immediate relatives, a number of state-owned enterprises, and other individuals and entities affiliated with the regime.

Cuba The Government of Cuba does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Cuba.

Justification: The Government of Cuba continues to dismiss as politically motivated requests for information on any anti-trafficking efforts it may be making. Furthermore, the Cuban government does not appear to have made tangible efforts to prosecute traffickers, identify victims, and provide victims with protections and legal aid. Cuba's state-sponsored tourism industry tacitly promotes the prostitution of children and is a draw for foreign sex tourists. The government has avoided developing a strategy to address the problem and has no discernable anti-trafficking law enforcement, victim protection, or prevention policies.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Cuba is already subject to an extensive economic embargo tied to Cuba's poor record on, among other things, democracy, human rights, and economic reform. No Cuban Government officials or employees participate in current or planned United States Government-funded educational or cultural exchange programs. The United States Government does not offer economic assistance to the Government of Cuba and will not allow any significant new investment in Cuba by U.S. companies until democratic and economic reforms are instituted. While the embargo-related sanctions will remain in place until there are fundamental political and economic reforms in Cuba, sanctioning Cuba for activities related to trafficking in persons expresses clear U.S. disapproval of the Cuban Government's acceptance, if not endorsement, of such activities. The United States Government supports non-governmental entities under specific authorities, including Section 109 of the LIBERTAD Act of 1996, and sanctions against Cuba do not restrict these activities.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) The Government of the DPRK does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction the DPRK. The President has also determined that provision of funding that supports the goals of the Six-Party Talks would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of the DPRK is making no effort to address trafficking in persons. The government does not recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes forced labor conditions and other forms of severe punishment on its prisoners, including North Koreans forcibly returned from China. Further, conditions in the DPRK drive many North Koreans to seek a way out of the country, putting them at risk of becoming trafficking victims. Women who enter northern China from the DPRK may be sold as brides and trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. Although other U.S. measures against North Korea are in place, the President's determination indicates the strong U.S. disapproval of the DPRK Government's failure to address trafficking in persons.

Impact of Sanctions: The imposition of partial sanctions will further the national interest of the United States by allowing certain activities that promote the goals of the Six-Party Talks.

Fiji The Government of Fiji does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Fiji, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Interim Government of Fiji has taken no significant steps to address the problem of children exploited in the commercial sex trade. The Interim Government has, however, begun a positive dialogue with the United States on trafficking issues. Fiji's diminished vigilance on TIP is due in large part to the illegitimate and increasingly ineffective nature of the interim government installed after the military coup d'état in December 2006. The coup ousted a democratically-elected government and, as a result, most United States assistance to the Interim Government is restricted and will continue to be restricted until the country's constitutional democracy is restored. A full waiver of sanctions is in the U.S. national interest as it will enable the United States to offer meaningful inducements to Fiji's leaders to encourage them to restore democratic rule and to provide timely assistance to a new government once it assumes power. Thus, a second layer of sanctions would greatly complicate the United States' ability to promote democracy.

The United States Government coordinates closely its policy and sanctions on Fiji with the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), the regional organization that includes all the Pacific Island countries, Australia, and New Zealand. The explicit goal sought by the United States and its regional partners is a restoration of democracy. In 2007, Interim President Bainimarama pledged to hold elections by the end of March 2009 but reneged on this commitment in mid-2008. Immediately after his announcement, Secretary of State Rice met senior officials from the Pacific region in Samoa and urged them

to remain determined to press the Interim Government to fulfill its commitment to restore democracy. A regional summit meeting in August did just that, sending a strongly-worded message to Fiji's interim leaders that urged it to hold elections on schedule or face possible expulsion from the PIF.

Impact of Sanctions: The Interim Government of Fiji is already subject to sanctions that bar bilateral assistance from the United States government. Thus, additional sanctions would not increase the pressure on Fiji's Interim Government to address its trafficking problem. The waiver enables the United States Government to more effectively promote democratic reform and human rights in Fiji.

Iran The Government of Iran does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Iran. The President has also determined that provision of funding for educational and cultural exchange programs that would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Iran continues to dismiss criticism of its inadequate anti-trafficking efforts while continuing to punish - often severely, including beatings, imprisonment, and execution - victims of trafficking. Specifically, children who have been trafficked in Iran's illegal commercial sex trade have been punished as adulterers by Iran's Islamic courts; some have been executed. The government has avoided developing a comprehensive strategy to address Iran's human trafficking problem.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as it will allow certain types of individuals who are influential in Iranian society to learn about and be exposed to the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Iran is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism. The United States Government does not provide economic assistance to the Government of Iran. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for educational and cultural programs that involve the participation of individuals who in some cases may be affiliated with the government.

Kuwait The Government of Kuwait does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Kuwait, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Kuwait has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers and laborers are found in Kuwait, but has committed to work with the United States Government on this problem through a constructive dialogue. The government has opened a shelter for victims of forced labor, though it has helped few victims, and it reportedly has turned away other victims. The government has ample resources to address Kuwait's trafficking problems, but has not yet reported any significant law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes and convict and sentence trafficking offenders. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Kuwait is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Kuwait in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$2.7 billion dollars in projected foreign military sales (FMS) to Kuwait, \$15,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET) funding, and an anticipated \$3 million in MEPI assistance would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Kuwait.

Papua New Guinea The Government of Papua New Guinea does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Papua New Guinea, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Papua New Guinea has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of trafficking of underage girls for commercial sexual exploitation within the country. The government has not improved its poor anti-trafficking law enforcement record or shown an effort to identify and protect victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$280,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of allowing for the uninterrupted continuation of important military-to-military security cooperation programs.

Qatar The Government of Qatar does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Qatar, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Qatar has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers are found in Qatar. The government offers protective services to victims through a shelter. Nonetheless, the government has not instituted a victim identification procedure to prevent the punishment of trafficking victims, and victims are believed to be among those detained indefinitely in deportation centers. Qatar continues to provide training to government officials through seminars and conferences and has committed to paying for comprehensive law enforcement training over the next year. However, the Government of Qatar's record of prosecuting trafficking offenses remains poor; the government did not report any prosecutions of those suspected of trafficking crimes. Qatar also has not developed a public awareness campaign or other trafficking prevention programs. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Qatar is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$400 million in projected foreign military sales (FMS) and \$15,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Qatar.

Saudi Arabia The Government of Saudi Arabia does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Saudi Arabia, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: The Government of Saudi Arabia has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers and laborers are found in Saudi Arabia, but has committed to work with the United States Government on this problem through a constructive dialogue. The government offers only a small number of services for these victims of trafficking - who are among millions of South and Southeast Asian workers brought to the Kingdom - and prosecutes few of those suspected of trafficking crimes. The government has ample resources to address Saudi Arabia's trafficking problems, but has only recently begun to show an interest in tackling this serious human rights issue. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Saudi Arabia is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Saudi Arabia in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions: Approximately \$2.2 billion dollars in projected foreign military sales to Saudi Arabia, \$1.5 million in MEPI funds, and \$15,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET) funding would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Saudi Arabia.

Sudan The Government of Sudan does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive sanctions against Sudan, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification: Since March 2008, the Government of Sudan has made no progress in rescuing and reintegrating victims of trafficking into their communities of origin, resulting in thousands of people continuing to remain in prolonged situations of forced labor and sexual exploitation. It also made no effort to address the trafficking of women for domestic servitude within and through the country. The government's Council of Ministers did, however, in 2007, approve the draft Child Protection Act, which prohibits the recruitment or enlisting of children (under the age of 18) in the armed forces; the Act must be approved by parliament before it can be enacted. Southern Sudan also made progress in passing its own Child Protection Act.

A full waiver of sanctions is in the U.S. national interest as it will allow the funding of programs to, among other things, enhance security within the country, support democratic development, and carry out additional reconstruction projects in Southern Sudan.

Impact of Sanctions: Comprehensive sanctions against Sudan are already in place, including those imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, those related to its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and several other sanctions. Applying additional sanctions could have affected more than \$365 million in assistance to bolster security within the country, implement peace agreements, and further the reconstruction of Southern Sudan.

The end of the 21-year civil war in Sudan, as marked by the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army on January 9, 2005, signaled a new era for Sudan. The United States continues to work with the parties to support the implementation of the peace agreement and bring about democratic transformation in Sudan. While the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement two years ago provided an opportunity to contribute towards the resolution of the crisis in Darfur, the conditions on the ground remain tenuous, and the progress towards a bona fide peace process remains stalled. Under the CPA, we continue to implement a wide variety of programs to restore effective governance and allow economic growth in the South and other conflict areas. These include, but are not limited to, programs aimed at restoring a functioning judicial system and other elements necessary for the return to the rule of law and security, a functioning legislature, elements of a market economy, mitigating conflict, and ensuring security. Because both humanitarian and consensus-building efforts to support a peaceful transition in Darfur have been hampered by a delayed peace process, the United States Government remains cautious in exploring opportunities to begin to support recovery activities. However, the United States Government maintains diplomatic engagement to strengthen the peace process that will eventually allow opportunities for longer-term development activities. Bilateral programs and projects in both of these areas, in conjunction with other countries and international institutions, are currently underway. The President's action will allow these important efforts to continue as appropriate.

Syria The Government of Syria does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Syria.

Justification: The Government of Syria has not made significant efforts to address its trafficking in persons problem since the release of the June Report. The government made no efforts to develop an anti-trafficking policy, increase identification of trafficking victims or prosecutions of traffickers, or raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking. There was no discernable progress in passing and enacting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law drafted in 2006. Syria reported no law enforcement efforts to punish trafficking offenses this year. In addition, the government made no discernable efforts to identify and provide protection services to victims of trafficking; instead it appears to have arrested or prosecuted some victims for prostitution or immigration violations.

Impact of Sanctions: The Government of Syria is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism.

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14 of 445 DOCUMENTS



October 12, 2008 Sunday

Omanisation can be good if done the right way

LENGTH: 606 words

The issue of nationalisation, or replacing expatriate workers with locals, is a serious business in Oman.

For one, the authorities are worried about the job prospects for nationals. For another, Omanisation could improve the sultanate's record in a US report dealing with trafficking in people.

Knowing about real unemployment rate is not an exact science in Oman. By one report, the jobless rate stands at about 15 per cent of eligible Omani nationals. Yet actual figures are most likely to be higher in rural areas and among women. Still, available statistics point out disturbing facts about demographics. About 43 per cent of the population is below 15 years of age. Many will enter the job markets in the next few years.

Foreign workers soaked up 79 per cent, or 580,000 private sector jobs, in July 2007. Locals represented about a quarter of employment in the private sector only a few years ago. Private sector firms increased their dependence on foreign workers as a rise in oil prices opened up fresh opportunities to bring in expatriates.

However, officials seem to have reached a conclusion that only a ban on visas for numerous professions would force companies to consider hiring locals in certain jobs. In late July, the Ministry of Manpower stopped issuing visas to companies engaged in the following activities: import and export, cleaning, barbershop, laundry, electronic repair, garbage cleaning and selling, textile shops, mobile GSM shops, health clubs, workshops in aluminium, iron, wood, car repair and all related activities, tailoring shops and beauty parlours.

However, employers rightly complain that such a ban would undermine their business prospects. Some firms will most likely suffer losses because of the visa ban. At stake is creating the sort of employment opportunities that locals admire and not just jobs per se.

Trouble is, employment in the private sector seems to be the only forward, as the public sector could not promise a sizeable number of job opportunities for locals. Already, Omani nationals assume more than 90 per cent of jobs in governmental departments. Vision 2020 calls for ensuring that locals make up 68 per cent of civil servants. Still, major firms such as BankMuscat report Omanisation in excess of 90 per cent levels.

Challenge

Separately, the policy of reducing reliance on expats should help address another challenge, namely the accusation of not enough doing to fight trafficking. The 2008 **Trafficking in Persons**, issued by the US State Department, places Oman under **Tier 3** category, the lowest. The report cites practices not allowed under international law, namely that of employers confiscating passports of foreign workers. In addition, the report considers "not sufficient stringent" the punishment of a month in prison for those charged with forced labour.

Oman had promised to improve matters related to foreign workers in the run-up to a Congressional voting of a free trade agreement with the US in the summer of 2006. Prior to voting and then approving the pact, US lawmakers had voiced concerns about mistreatment of foreign workers in the sultanate. The concerns dealt with numerous issues, including child employment. Omani officials promised to rectify the shortcomings. However, the State Department confirms that mistreatment of expatriate workers remains a concern in Oman.

Omani officials deserve kudos for taking up measures designed to improve job prospects for locals in the private sector. However, authorities should avoid undermining the country's business prospects while implementing the Omanisation policy.

- The writer is Member of Parliament in Bahrain.

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15 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
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October 6, 2008 Monday

Kenyan paper says country key to international human trafficking cartel

LENGTH: 1199 words

Text of report by Ken Opala entitled "How Kenyans are sold into slavery" published by Kenyan privately-owned newspaper Daily Nation website on 6 October; subheadings inserted editorially

Thousands of Kenyans are being driven into modern slavery abroad in their desperate attempts to escape from worsening economic conditions at home.

Nation investigations show that nearly 20,000 Kenyans fall prey to human trafficking cartels yearly and are living in appalling conditions in north America, Europe and the Middle East.

The case of a 14-year-old girl rescued in the UK is a stark reminder of the growing trade in humans. She had been moved to Liverpool by a man who locked her in a house and forced her to have sex with numerous people. Luckily she escaped and she is now under the care of a charity in the UK.

Her plight came to light on 8 July, when UK Conservative Party MP Peter Bone of Wellingborough told Westminster Hall: "(She) was a black girl from Kenya. She came in on a passport that did not have her name or photograph on it, but was allowed into the country."

Apart from the revelation by Mr Bone, little information is available about the girl. The Kenyan high commission was not forthcoming when this writer used a London contact to seek more information about the girl.

Yet what emerges from this case is that Kenya has become a key operation base for cartels that are turning 17,500 Kenyans (according to estimates by Randy Fleitman, until recently the US labour attache, in Nairobi) into bondage abroad, about one in 40 people trafficked worldwide.

The cartels have also been bringing into Kenya Ugandans, Tanzanians, Indians, Chinese, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Congolese, who are forced to work in construction industry and the EPZ [Export Processing Zones] factories, and as prostitutes in brothels in Nairobi.

After rescuing two Kenyan children in Tanzania last year, police believe another 40 minors and six adults are living there as slaves.

Police sources say investigations have also moved to The Netherlands and Ireland where five children are believed to be living in similar circumstances.

And the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (Anppcan), Kenya chapter, is pursuing investigations on reports that children bought or stolen in Kenya are held in Busia town homes [western Kenya, Uganda border] veiled as schools before they are ferried to Burundi, southern Africa and Europe.

It has emerged also that some of these children are being trafficked "for purposes such as removal of organs, religious rituals or witchcraft", according to Child Rights Advisory Documentation and Legal Centre (Cradle, The Children's Foundation) in its 90-page report, "Grand Illusions, Shattered Dreams" published three months ago. "Kenya is a source, transit and destination for trafficked children," says Mr Ahmed Hussein, director of children's services, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development.

Women trafficking

In a report "Human Trafficking in East Africa: Research Assessment and Baseline Information in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi", published three months ago, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) says Kenya and

Tanzania are transit routes for Ethiopian women being trafficked to Europe and the Middle East and Somalis trafficked to South Africa.

Chinese women have been trafficked for sexual exploitation and Bangladeshis for forced labour through Kenya. "In all of the countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi) the majority of trafficked respondents indicated that traffickers used either promises of jobs and/or promises of jobs with a good salary to persuade them."

Victims pay between 80,000 shillings [about 1,000 dollars] and 700,000 shillings [10,000 dollars] to the cartels for either right of passage abroad or jobs that hardly exist in Kenya, according to Cyrus Omooria, the officer in charge of investigations and prosecution, Immigration Department, Mombasa [coast].

For those able to get to their destinations (Kenya, Europe, North America, South Africa, Middle East), the cartels seize their identification documents, hold them incommunicado and could turn them into sex slaves, according to Noah Chanyisa Chune, the COTU [Central Organization of Trade Unions] director of education who is trying to fight slavery in the EPZs.

"The most common form of recruitment is deception, followed by abuse of power or coercion. Most of the victims were given false promises of jobs, better life and even marriage to rich people abroad and at home," the Cradle report says.

Following two months investigations, this writer can reveal that about 20,000 people in Kenya are pushed into slavery in Europe and Middle East each year while another 30,000 get into slavery locally, working as house-helpers or as involuntary prostitutes in Nairobi and at the coast.

Repatriation

The situation has become so bad that the government is repatriating 80 foreigners each month (about 1,000 a year), according to a top immigration official.

In its publication, US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report, June 2008, the American government places Kenya in "**Tier 2**", the classification of a country that is a "source, transit and destination" for people trafficked for purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Those vulnerable are people hungry for foreign jobs. Mr Omooria, who has been in Immigration Department for 15 years, has rescued hundreds of trafficked victims, the latest being 28 Somalis discovered at the Miritini [coastal] vehicle inspection unit on 8 May.

The van that had gone for mere check up happened to be carrying human cargo destined for Tanzania. It was at this checkpoint the immigration and police stumbled on a big story, the 25 Somalis on board had no identification on them and were headed to South Africa.

In another case in May, a group of 20 Somalis and Ethiopians were seized by police in Msambweni abandoned on an island next to Shimoni.

Human smugglers and traffickers have become so impudent that they advertise their services in local daily newspapers. They invite applications from cabin crews, nurses, beauticians, waiters and sales executives to work in foreign lands, mostly Middle East and Asia.

"Jobs guaranteed in Dubai", "Jobs in Dubai and Canada", "Jobs in America/Dubai", "Jobs in Kuwait", "Live and work as an Au Pair in Europe and Canada", "Kenya, Sudan, Dubai jobs", they advertise. And the gullible apply.

But a close scrutiny reveals the "recruiters" only offer cell phone numbers and do not indicate their location. Those with premises tend to shift every few months to avoid people they would have duped.

An agency in Nairobi's South B claims to hire house helps for Syria and Turkey. But a counsellor in the Turkish embassy in Nairobi denied issuing work permits to Kenyans recently.

The South B agency is not registered with the government and the Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (Kapea). "That agency is illegal," says Kapea Secretary-General Margaret Mugwanja.

Kapea has only 25 members, yet "hundreds of such agencies operate in the country", COTU's education director Noah Chanyisa Chune says.

Source: Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 6 Oct 08

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16 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

October 5, 2008 Sunday

Kenya; How Kenyans Are Sold Into Slavery

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 1130 words

Thousands of Kenyans are being driven into modern slavery abroad in their desperate attempts to escape from worsening economic conditions at home.

Nation investigations show that nearly 20,000 Kenyans fall prey to human trafficking cartels yearly and are living in appalling conditions in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

The case of a 14-year-old girl rescued in the United Kingdom is a stark reminder of the growing trade in humans.

She had been moved to Liverpool by a man who locked her in a house and forced her to have sex with numerous people. Luckily she escaped and she is now under the care of a charity in the UK.

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The cartels have also been bringing into Kenya Ugandans, Tanzanians, Indians, Chinese, Pakistani, Bangladeshis and Congolese, who are forced to work in construction industry and the EPZ factories, and as prostitutes in brothels in Nairobi.

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Bought or stolen

And the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (Anppcan), Kenya Chapter, is pursuing investigations on reports that children bought or stolen in Kenya are held in Busia Town homes veiled as schools before they are ferried to Burundi, southern Africa and Europe.

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17 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

September 24, 2008 Wednesday**HEARING OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (HELSINKI COMMISSION) (AS RELEASED BY THE HELSINKI COMMISSION);****SUBJECT: EAST OR WEST? THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN MOLDOVA;****CHAired BY: CLIFF BOND, SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISER, CSCE;****WITNESSES: AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CHIRTOACA, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED STATES; VLAD LUPAN, SOROS FOUNDATION-MOLDOVA, EUROPEAN INITIATIVES PROGRAM; WILLIAM HILL, NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY AND FORMER HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA;****LOCATION: 1539 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.****SECTION: PRESS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH****LENGTH: 15131 words**

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MR. BOND: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to today's briefing organized by the Helsinki Commission. The title of today's briefing is, "East or West? The Future of Democracy in Moldova."

My name is Cliff Bond. I am a State Department representative on the Helsinki Commission. Chairman Hastings had planned to join us here today to share the meeting. Unfortunately, he was called away on House business. He may join us later on, but we are lucky to have Congressman Joseph Pitts with us who is a member of the Helsinki Commission.

And let me invite Congressman Pitts to say a few words.

REP. JOSEPH PITTS (R-PA): Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Thank you for setting up this important briefing.

The issues currently facing Eastern Europe are of great concern and deserve priority consideration by the OSCE and the participating states. This is a critical time for the region, and its next steps and future actions will send an important message to the rest of the world. Russia's recent invasion of the Republic of Georgia has shown its expansionist goals and raise questions about the future of Eastern Europe and the potential for the European bloc.

Since its independence the Republic of Moldova has faced many political challenges, in part due to the disputes over Transdnistria. Nonetheless, the country has taken steps toward political and economic freedom. It has held free and fair elections, it's opened its markets, it's engaged in negotiations in efforts to resolve the situation in Transdnistria.

However, there are still concerns raised over issues in Moldova, and I particularly remain concerned that Moldova continues to be a major source and transit country for sex trafficking. Moldovan women have been trafficked to the Middle East, in Eastern Europe, in Western Europe, and girls, young women, have even been trafficked within the country from rural areas.

And so I'm very interested in hearing today's testimonies and hope the important issues will be addressed. And I wanted to express my gratitude to Chairman Hastings for scheduling this important hearing to discuss the future of Moldova, and I look forward to learning from our distinguished panelists who are with us today.

Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Congressman.

We have, as you said, several very distinguished presenters here with us today. They are the Moldovan ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Nicolae Chirtoaca, as well as Vlad Lupan from the European Initiatives Program of the Soros Foundation, and Dr. William Hill, who's a former head of the OSCE mission in Moldova.

We'll begin with Ambassador Chirtoaca, and we'll follow through with the other two presenters, and then we'll open for questioning.

Mr. Ambassador?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Pitts, (inaudible), ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to start my presentation by expressing my gratitude to the Helsinki Commission for organizing and hosting this event and for the possibility to address the issue related to democracy development in my country, the Republic of Moldova, from the perspective of approaching 2009 parliamentary elections and taking into consideration the changing geopolitical environment in Eastern Europe caused mostly by the recent Georgia crisis that has a direct impact on the settlement of so-called frozen conflicts in the ex- Soviet states. Since the beginning of this century, Moldova has made visible progress, moving from a typically weak state (inaudible) confronted with multiple problems and obsessed by an identity crisis to relatively stable democratic institutions, functional government structures, growing economy -- GDP growth is around 6, 7 percent per year -- and an economy based on the private sector.

Throughout this period, (inaudible) limited internal capacities (inaudible) for change. The Republic of Moldova has remained committed to democratic reforms and (inaudible) of the society, providing security and stability in the region, mostly through efforts painted as peaceful resolution of the separatist crisis and the territorial reintegration of the state.

Following the 2005 parliamentary elections, the government continues its effort in order to improve democratic governance in the country. It's reducing corruption, pushing through economic reforms and welcoming foreign investments.

At the same time, President Voronin made clear his intentions that the Republic of Moldova follow in the path of other successful post-communist countries and draw closer to the European Union as well as develop partnership relations with NATO within the framework of the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

What I would like today -- my presentation will be based mostly on the idea of how to measure democratic reforms, how deep are democratic changes, what are criteria to approach this problem? And, of course, I will not -- speaking as a representative of my country, I will rely mostly on the appreciation given to my country by the international organizations, first of all, by the Council of Europe who is monitoring very, very closely the democratic reforms in my country. The organizational security in cooperation with Europe is engaged in this process, as well as the European Union.

I would like to remind you, Moldova just ended an entire period and implemented the three-year action plan, and we have reports concerning the state of democracy in my country. I think it will help the participants just to see more clearly the picture without making quite a lot of publicity in the favor of one issue or another.

But I would like to start with the Millennium Challenge Account eligibility, and Moldova has been offered the chance to develop the compact in December 2006. This eligibility is the kind of -- not reward -- it's the appreciation of a partner country, a good policy performance and is based on scoring above the median, at least half of 17 indicators in each of three policy categories: Ruling justly, investing in people and economic freedom.

The first category contains indicators that mirror the quality of democratic governance: Country performance and freedom of expression and belief, association and organizational rights, the rule of law, respect of human and civil rights and independence of judiciary.

The conditionality -- I underline -- the conditionality of the assistance provided within the framework of cooperation with the Millennium Challenge Corporation help my government and improve the governance in accordance with the recommended norms and good practices. First of all, the gradual reduction of corruption and state bureaucracy, and this way is making irreversible the market and democratic reforms in Moldova.

But what are the appeal of the leading (inaudible) European organizations? First of all, I would like to start with the recent European Commission progress state report on the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2007 made public on April 2008. During the reporting period, the Republic of Moldova, it said in this report, "made good progress in most areas, including democracy and rule of law. The 2007 local elections were generally well administered, and voters were offered a genuine choice." I'm quoting from the report, it's not my interpretation of this paper.

Other (inaudible) during the reporting period were substantial progress in improving the institutional framework and procedures on control and certification of origin, which allows E.U. to grant the Republic of Moldova additional economic (ph) state preferences.

(inaudible) on visa facilitation and the admission and the positive cooperation with E.U. Border Assistance Mission, known as the EUBAM. The Republic of Moldova also cooperated closely with the E.U. in all questions related to the Transdnistria settlement effort, and work is ongoing to put into practice the proposals of the president of the Republic of Moldova on confidence-building measures.

A look at self-government and (inaudible) legislative acts, including on administrative decentralization, local public administration, regional development were adopted in December 2006. This brought national legislation closer to the recommendation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.

The Republic of Moldova adopted a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan for reforming its judicial system. It's the capacity of the Supreme Council of Magistrates, the body in charge of judicial self-administration, were consolidated, and the Department of Judicial Administration subordinated as the Ministry of Justice was created and started operating in January of 2008.

The code of ethics for judges was approved in November 2006 and judicial (inaudible) under the (inaudible) of Supreme Council. It was introduced by law in 2007.

My country also (inaudible) accepting activities in the fields of combating corruption and raising awareness on corruption in light of phenomenon, as well took steps in the area to adjust its legislative framework to international standards and to (inaudible) institutional framework. I would like also to remind you that we take part in the Threshold Millennium Challenge Corporation Program since 2006, and it's also focused on reducing and combating corruption.

The National Human Rights Action Plan 2004-2008 is under implementation in the context of ongoing efforts to battle human trafficking, (inaudible) for victims of human trafficking while it's establishing five pilot regions. The National Action Plan of Anti- Trafficking 2007-2009 was set up with National Committee of Anti- Trafficking ensuring full implementation.

In February 2008, the European Convention for Human Trafficking (inaudible), and the Republic of Moldova has been the first country to ratify this convention.

The broadcasting role, the mass media freedom is one of the issue of concerns, and the opposition is not really happy how it functions. In 2006, a new law that has been adopted by the parliament provides a good legislative basis to ensure respect for the freedom of expression. The correct implementation in a manner which promotes the plurality of the media has to be ensured.

The biggest problem of Moldova, and especially the current media and written press, is the fact that they are not financially free, and the financial freedom of this mass media goes together with economic reforms and is good competition and the monies that are paid for to a newspaper and to give radio stations just to ensure this independence. The next parliamentary elections I expect to be called in mid-March 2009, so the parliament will decide.

The parliament of Moldova, because we are parliamentarian republic, will form the new government, will elect the president, as the second and last tenure of President Vladimir Voronin comes to an end next year. The parliament has

passed a number of amendments to the electoral code that dates back to '97. According to the OSCE, I quote, "It provides an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections if implemented in good faith," the end of the quote.

In 2007, a new law of political parties -- I would like to remind you that we have, according to the last report of Freedom House, 28 political parties and organizations, because it's quite a lot for small Moldova. Sorry, I'm saying that. Maybe, who knows how many parties we need?

But there are a lot of political parties (inaudible) of the electoral code and was adopted and submitted to Venice Commission. Adopted in December 21, 2007, the law aims to regulate legislation functioning, financing of political parties (inaudible) electoral system, all transparent and less prone to abuse.

However, it also creates a number of restrictions that can be explained by the need to weigh the efficiency of the current party system as well as the national security concerns. For example, the threshold was increased from 4 to 6 percent. The electoral blocs were prohibited and certain restrictions to persons holding dual citizenship were introduced.

It is worth to be mentioned that Venice Commission recommended 5 percent of this threshold (inaudible). It is also worth mentioning that electoral blocs are prohibited to participate at elections in such European countries with long-lasting democratic traditions, like Germany, Austria, (inaudible), Hungary and Finland. At the same time, according to Moldovan legislature, the parties enjoy the right to create post-electoral colleges. According to the civil societies (inaudible) represented a vibrant aspect of Moldova's public space. As is mentioned in this year's Freedom House Nations in Transit report, which just appeared, by the way, I quote, "The number of active organizations is significant, and only certain NGOs have the capacity to contribute to public policies. (inaudible) and activities are developing slowly but lack (inaudible). At the same time, more reporting efforts did not bear the expected results.

Dependence on donor support leaves NGOs vulnerable and poses a key challenge to the sector's development. Until NGOs become transparent and open working with media, they will lack credibility in their mission to promote democratic matters. And, unfortunately, quite a lot of think tanks and NGOs are fully involved in the political processes, and, in this way, our citizens are liking alternative information (inaudible) democratization processes in my country.

Now, about Transdnistria conflict, our strategy in a conflict settlement, about how we approach this issue just now, especially after the August events in South Caucasus region.

For about a year, Moldova has been vigorously pushing for resuming the discussion between the current international format known as five plus two. I would like to remember this is international format with participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Russia, Ukraine, as mediators; European Union and United States of America as observers, as well as the Republic of Moldova and secessionist authorities.

The government strategy for conflict resolution is based on a complex package approach to all the issues related to the (inaudible) crisis: Political, economic, social, military and humanitarian.

The package proposals includes the development and adoption of a special (inaudible) statute for Transdnistria region, while respecting the sovereignty and (inaudible) integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The consolidation of the neutrality studies, neutral studies, constitutional (inaudible) we call it, because it's written -- our constitution of Moldova, it's a neutral state. (inaudible) military troops from the national territory, a condition of ownership right and of certain special guarantees to the population of the eastern part of the country, currently under the control of separatist authorities.

These particular results were adopted in 2006 by Moldovan experts who tried to find a common denominator that would accommodate very small dollars and Russia interests without undermining the viability of a future reintegrated state or legalizing Russian military presence in Moldova.

The key elements of the negotiation process is a special (inaudible) status for Transdnistria region. Clear division of confidences in (inaudible), though it is functional central institutions. (inaudible) of Transdnistria region under the Moldovan parliament. The last part is important because of the spring 2009 parliament elections, and (inaudible) the population from the eastern bank of Dniestr River will take part in this democratic exercise.

The separate (inaudible) of the region will be, in part, (inaudible) in the (inaudible) legislature, and the (inaudible) total population currently is estimated at 13 percent.

The European Union and the United States of America long ago welcomed the package proposal as a good foundation and platform for viable and long-lasting settlement. It is necessary to mention that before the Georgian crisis Moldova has never formally -- sorry, Moscow has never formally reacted to our proposals in spite of our government persistent

attempts to elicit a positive response. My country is currently observing the (inaudible) region while reiterating its firm belief of the exclusively political solutions of all of the disputes to be taken to the negotiations table. The same position is also reflected in the statement by the government of the Republic of Moldova issued on August 29 regarding the situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It's (inaudible) that Moldova does not see the international recognition of these provinces as a stabilizing factor of the situation.

At this point, we can clearly state that the (inaudible) mediators and observers (inaudible) still continue. Moldova insists on five plus two international format. At this time being, as far as we know, neither (inaudible) or Moscow does not have a different approach, accepting five plus two as a basic format for negotiations. (inaudible) the president of the Republic of Moldova and of the Russian affiliation from the (inaudible) this year. There is a decision of (inaudible) to stop so-called moratorium on (inaudible) and begin a meeting in the three plus two format (inaudible) Russia (inaudible) on September 8 (inaudible) are developments that bring assurance of an early resumption of the five plus two international negotiation format.

However, it will be wrong and premature to conclude that Moscow has fully abandoned hopes of achieving a settlement on its own terms. There are no indications that Russia is prepared to renounce its long-standing policy of using the end result of Transdnistria conflict as leverage to circumscribe Moldova's foreign policy options or to legalize its military presence in Moldova, at least during so-called post-conflict years. The main goal is contained in the famous Kozak memorandum from 2003.

At the same time, there are a few further concessions our government can make without compromising the future of Moldovan state and the European integration strategy. Despite the progress made, effective implementation of reforms remain a challenge. In order to advance democracy, peace and total integration of the country, Moldova has to be successful in its effort to end the transition from the Soviet past to the sustainable and durable democracy of market economy and efficient governance.

But I would like just to invite you to address the problem of the current state of democracy from the point of view of more sustainable and less politicized. We understand there are three different and distinct periods of transition, and we are now just in between the second and the third. (inaudible) liberalization we passed in '95- '94, then a democracy stabilization that took us seven, eight years, and now we are ending by democracy consolidation, very often, opposition and quite a lot of (inaudible). They try to use an ideal model (inaudible), how it works in developed countries with maybe hundreds of years of experience, trying to compare with the model and criticizing (inaudible), which is basically not constructive and not a positive approach to (inaudible).

Moldova is still in transition. It's monitored very closely, it's given assistance. The biggest key problem is institutional deficiencies. The system works, but, of course, we need probably three or five years and the transition. Now, this transition is based on European and Western paradigm of development, and the Moldovan policy, to be integrated into the union is the biggest driving force and European model, which is basically the Western one, is taken as (inaudible) people like just this model for development of the country.

Concluding, I would like to mention that there's a large consensus in the country among the leading political parties, nine representatives of the developing (inaudible) and the socially visible and responsible civil society organization regarding the European future of Moldova.

There's a common understanding that only real and consistent democratic reforms can bring Moldova closer to the implementation of (inaudible) built around national strategy for development, to restore our historic and cultural ties to Europe that date back to the (inaudible) of Roman empire, an early Christian period of the modern Western civilization.

The integration of the countries of today's European institution, a leading organization, first of all, the European Union is understood as main way of implementation of the vision and strategy.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today and welcome any questions that you may have.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador. We'll turn to Mr. Vlad Lupan of the Soros Foundation now.

MR. LUPAN: Thank you, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to share my views about the democracy in Moldova, as well as, thank you for the concern that the commission shows for my country. I hope this extreme-

ly encouraging attitude continues, and the commission will organize a hearing on Moldovan matters ahead of 2009 elections.

I would also like to thank the Moldova Foundation based in Washington for assisting me in attending this session.

I don't intend to speak about the comparative success or successes of the current government, thus its existing problems, as the government has the opportunity to promote its point of view extensively through the existing network of officials, official visits and meetings.

The civil society has fewer possibilities; therefore, I will go to the point and focus mainly on those concrete shortcomings that present a serious concern for democracy in Moldova.

I think, first of all, three matters should be taken into account. In 2008, we can agree, is an eventful year for Moldova. First of all, the country is approaching general and presidential elections at the beginning of 2009. Secondly, 2008 is also the year when the action plan signed between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova already expired formally. Thirdly, as mentioned about the 2000, it's also a year of changes with impact on Transdnistran conflict resolution and Russia's role in it, particularly after the war in Georgia.

The state of democracy in Moldova and the elections are matters of concern for people now. The state was admirable by regional standards at the beginning of its independence, and the country was the first from the countries of newly created CIS to be admitted into the Council of Europe.

The local assessment of the situation, the indicators of such international non-governmental organizations, as Freedom House, Amnesty International and Transparency International, do not place now Moldova in a position of leader.

The Council of Europe announced this year that it does not intend to renounce its monitoring of Moldova since the country did not meet the democratic criteria that would allow for such an image-making decision.

The state of democracy is closely linked now with country's European aspirations. Moldova signed in February 2005 a three-year action plan with the European Union. This (inaudible) the step-by- step implementation of those democratic reforms that Moldova needs in order to come closer to the E.U.

And by European rules, Moldova should abide by Copenhagen criteria: The stability of democratic institutions, the rule of law, human rights and the respect for minorities as well as a free and functioning market and the capacity to face the obligation of an E.U. member state.

The European action plan with Moldova left some question marks, some still unanswered. The E.U., indeed, decided to encourage Moldova in 2008 due to the fact that it was already facing a difficult relationship with Russia on Transdnistran conflict resolution as well as due to the fact that the country already on E.U. and NATO border still made some steps toward mostly legalistic reforms.

At the beginning of 2008, the Europeans took the decision to formally extend the action plan for a brief period of time, while in May 2008 they started -- they took a decision to start a reflection process in the new agreement with Moldova.

Even though there are concerns in relations to Russia's intentions, the E.U. remains also concerned about the pace of reform in Moldova. In its country report that was mentioned of April 3, as well as during its May 2008 decision on the reflection process, it stated that the action plan implementation needs progress in five crucial areas. Those are exactly the areas that are mentioned as Copenhagen criteria.

Moldova also suggested that it has arrears in such fields as the independence of justice, fight against corruption, freedom of the media and investment climate and business environment.

One more warning came from the European Union along the May 2008 decision to support Moldova with a reflection process. The Moldovan government was asked to ensure free and fair elections in 2009. Such a warning came as it is widely believed that there is a high temptation of the governing party to use state resources and their control over the public media (inaudible) on competition or fraud the election in less visible ways.

(inaudible) one is of primary attention as it forms the base for a sustainable democracy and respect for human rights, the independence of justice. The government again declared the reform of the judiciary as its priority in 2008. This is indeed true, although most of the so-called achievements meant presenting by the minister of justice a Council of Europe opinion to the prosecutor's office, creating a commission to draft a concept paper and other similar actions and achievements.

The Moldovan non-government organization lawyers for human rights rightly assesses that the most relevant indicator of the state of judiciary in Moldova and about its independence is the number of cases that are directed to the European Court of Human Rights. And among the state members of the Council of Europe, Moldova holds the first place with the highest number of cases per capita -- 15 cases per 1 million citizens. Analyses, both governmental and non-governmental, show that of all the cases that Moldova was accused, about half are related to the faulty judiciary procedures and decisions.

Despite officially expressed concerns by prime minister and minister of justice, this reality is the result of the unofficial policies of the current governing party implemented since its accession to power in 2001. The independence, of course, was affected in 2002 by mass cleaning of judges by the Moldovan president who is also the chairman of the Communist Party. He refused to extend the nomination period of the judges at that time without any written explanation. At the same time, there were cases of nominations of some other judges based on loyalty to the ruling party, as Freedom House reported yet in 2003.

Now, the civil society assesses that such a cleaning that started in 2002 led to an increased interference of the executive power in judiciary. The U.S. State Department report on human rights practices in Moldova from this year, March 2008, confirms that in the case of judiciary, specifically stating that the official pressure and corruption remain the problem.

The problem with the procedure of selection of judges is another point where the Moldovan NGOs agree with the findings of the U.S. State Department report. Thus, the initial phase of elimination is not uncommon. The judges are appointed upon suggestions of the Supreme Council on Magistrates by the president of the country. However, one of the NGO's tests is that under an informal (inaudible), such an appointment is done only after a hearing by the governing Communist Party faction of the parliament and not by the parliament's legal commission. The prosecutor's office is also considered to be affected by the same weaknesses and pressures as the courts.

When we speak about reform in Moldova and the reforms, the local E.U. experts conclude that the adoption of documents regulation and legislation is not followed by their implementation in such a problem that is reported, basically, in all the areas. This is a problem that is not only specific to judiciary.

Thus, we are coming to another important element of a democratic society: Free media. Moldova dropped down, according to the Freedom House reports on that matter as well. Although media legislation legally embraces the European norms as rightly reported, still, the implementation, the matter that we have just mentioned, the implementation of those provisions is done in such a manner as to ensure governing party control over the only national TV, Moldova 1.

Despite promises of reform that the Moldovan president made in May after your meeting, real actions still do not meet the promises. The position parties have no access to the national TV, which is now, by law, a public station. The broadcasting code was previously edited to allow the governing party to preserve control over the Broadcasting Coordination Council. This body then distributed broadcasting frequencies to the politically loyal stations and operated arbitrary licenses (inaudible). There were concrete cases of inappropriate treatment of foreign commentators, journalists or unwanted media by law enforcement, such as the cases of (inaudible) commentators, Romanian TV prohibition and contact (inaudible) with Russia (inaudible) to journalists. These are also raising concerns regarding the freedom of expression.

Even non-important and anti-governmental demonstrations, sometimes by singular people, were violently stopped by police despite the existing legislation.

Media outlets are not closed in Moldova. Their criticism of the governing party is quite often quoted by the Moldovan president as proof of media freedom. However, the impression is that these media are afloat only to be such examples of (inaudible) while obviously they are permanently pressured, and, as mentioned above, limited in distribution and broadcast just to minimize the competition to the government-controlled media. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, and this makes the investment climate as well as business environment important elements that the state should insure. Moldova's economy is growing this year, particularly when looking at the former USSR this is true. However, when compared with its European neighbors, it seriously lags behind.

Due to that, nearly one-third of the Moldovans have already left to find jobs in the E.U. and Russia. The supply in remittance is already near 50 percent of country's GDP and has provided the opportunities to grow. However, people leaving the country is not a sign of a growing economy. The money transfers cannot mean proper economic development as these are not reinvested into business.

The so-called tax amnesty, operated last year by the government, does not seem to be the best solution to manage the fiscal burden. The unconfirmed rumors of presidential family involvement in taking over many lucrative businesses do not help the situation.

Pressure over foreign investors seem to produce a negative effect regardless of the good intentions.

Last year, reduction of taxes, operated by the government, in an attempt to increase interest in investing in Moldova, was considered by International Monetary Organization as insufficient as to favor foreign direct investment. The FDI is proven by those organizations to grow in countries with predictable business climate and a stable judiciary -- last one being a crucial problem reported about.

Now we can focus on the internal political climate where there are interconnected elements that need our attention.

The governing party made an internal analysis that prompted them to change the electoral legislation, as speculated, to ensure a greater electoral success in 2009. The communists changed the electoral threshold from 4 to 6 percent. They further prohibited pre-electoral critical alliances which are often voted by Moldovan people. And, finally, passed legislation that provides state funds only to those parties that will enter the parliament or local regional governments.

If seen separately, these steps, indeed, may raise minor questions. Since many of those principles are separately present on the European political scene. However, only one year ahead of the elections and taken in conjunction to another -- one to another, they create a commutative effect that is actually anti-democratic.

It affects the right of a large part of the populous to unite, choose and ensure that they are properly represented in the political life. Moreover, the government used the state budget to distribute funds mainly to the communist-led local governments. Moldovan president himself publicly declared that those who did not vote for the Communist party in local 2007 elections will have to pay the price and they receive no state funds, a promise that is now actually implemented. Using state resources to fine voters, in fact, the citizens of own country, is, in my opinion, undemocratic act.

A number of party has been affected as well directly. Signatories, for example, for one -- or for the party's newly created, which started to have impact on Moldovan political life, were subject to excessive questioning by law enforcement bodies. People were called by law enforcement and questioned for hours as to why they want to become a member of that party, who are their relatives. They're asked to sign standing, sitting, with right hand, with left hand and so on.

In case of another parliamentary party that declared during this June congress that the E.U. integration was transformed into unsupported political gain, the government communists accused the party of being devoted to Russia's goals. As we already know, the communists themselves are in negotiations with Russia.

Yes, there is a matter of a new, assertive Russia. European integration, in case of Moldova, was declared the strategic irreversible goal of the country. The Moldovan ruling party also insisted to bring forth the resolution of the Transdnistrian problems and relations with Russia, as the two top priorities of the country since 2006.

After almost unanimously adopting on July 22 of 2005 a law on the principles of the Transdnistrian conflict resolution by the Moldovan parliament, the governing party unexpectedly launched direct, bilateral negotiations with Russia, which provoked an increased amount of concerns. These concerns came out of the previous experience of 2003 when the Kremlin pressed for an unacceptable settlement through a memorandum adopted by Russian presidential (inaudible), Dmitry Kozak.

The unfortunate Kozak precedent made the civil society and political party suspicious of the new negotiations and (inaudible) pressures from national and particularly international (inaudible). The governing party admitted that something that they initially called consultations is taking place and suggested that we prepare a package deal that would be based on the July 2005 law along with other documents that are in line with that law. The government also stated that the deal was drafted in such a way as to already include Russia's interests in it and, thus, make it interesting for Moscow while respecting the Moldovan law. In my opinion, this is in itself a contradiction.

Russia is a country that behaves in real politic manner, projects power and believes in the controlled chaos of separatist region that it actually masters.

Russia is a country that strongly believes in tradeoffs on the international arena. This is a reality on the ground that contradicted assessments that we are not in the 19th century. Indeed, we are not but Russia is.

Moldova cannot negotiate on equal terms in a bilateral negotiation with a country such as Russia, because it cannot offer in tradeoff terms something that Moscow already has: The leverage of Moldova through the Transdnistrian conflict

resolution, its military presence and the so-called mediator's role. It seems that the Moldovan officials in charge of the matter, who are the same people who negotiated a bad deal with Kozak in 2003, did not presume that such negotiations meant offering something to Russia that Moldova did not have.

Affirming that Moldova will not yield to Kremlin pressure was unrealistic. It now transpired that Russia was not clearly responding to Moldovan proposal, generating pressure and subsequent concessions, particularly in the economic sphere. The unilateral dependence on Russia gas was already a concern for the government due to a previous decision by that government to provide Russia the control package of shares to the Moldovan statement (inaudible) Moldova gas in exchange for eradicating the debts. However, when faced with lack of Russian response to the governmental package deal on Transdnistria, the government recently followed up with a contradictory move that strengthens Moldovan dependency. The state decided to cede the local distribution network to (inaudible) as well.

Russian companies that border (inaudible) Transdnistrian region without governmental approval were ensured that their new property rights will be recognized. Experts were encouraged to Russia lately while there was not the same level of official visible encouragement to the experts to the E.U., at least through diversified markets and ensuring economic security goals.

These unilateral concessions made in hope to sweeten, sorry to say, Russia did not yield the results. And, contrary, it was rumored that Russia was warning Moldova, Moldovan officials to be more flexible, and that the reason for such a warning will be seen during 2008. It was exactly before the August war in Georgia.

By no coincidence, Moldovan President Voronin was called to meet the Russian president on the day when Dmitry Medvedev announced the decision to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The next troubling step was an announcement made by the Russian minister of foreign affairs that deciding Moldovan conflict will return to the 2003 Kozak memorandum. This is the very memorandum that was rejected by Moldova as unacceptable and which comes against the Moldovan law of July 2005, which cannot be violated by the Moldovan negotiators.

A number of Moldovan experts believe that further Russian pressure to either implement such a memorandum or to simply promote its interest in Moldova will follow with certainty during 2008, with possible negative repercussions over its populous. Certain political parties might be supported by Moscow. Transdnistrian leadership will be used to put more pressure over Chisinau, particularly through the newly instituted two plus one format of negotiations that is outside the five plus two format and which is not a good format for Moldova, as Chisinau recognizes correctly. This effort is so the autonomous region of Gagauzia in the south of Moldova will be, and already is, reignited. Eventually, some do not even exclude gas cuts in this winter, which happened before, all leading to, if not a social event or a political crisis.

Russian pressure is detrimental for a democratic future of Moldova. (inaudible) is insistently promoting the concept of a future Moldova with a Transdnistria veto over most important foreign policy decisions but also internal decisions, such as E.U. membership. Basically, it's a (inaudible) right over democratic reforms and the Transdnistrian leadership has shown that it is against such reforms. The Transdnistria itself is a dictatorship, and it is against such concepts when it is actually supporting such concepts as the sovereign democracy it is promoting in Russia and the vertical of power, which allow for an unlimited and uncontrolled leadership that declare each of its decisions as democratic.

In conclusion, I would like to state that there is, of course -- there are several dilemmas in Moldova. Indeed, the Russian pressure is real and important factor in Moldova. Indeed, we can expect negative developments, possibly even before December 2008.

However, the geopolitical determinism is not the way to ensure that Moldova should receive unconditional support without seriously implementing democratic reforms.

The Moldovan communists have been responsible for the current situation of Moldova, which is, indeed, deteriorating since they have been, by the way, democratically elected to power. It does seem that they are now trying to avoid yielding to the Russian pressure. They would like the Moldovan civil society and political parties to help them out through statements that reject the Russian proposal, as it seems, so that the president can save face.

The problem is that it is believed that the communists will use the blame game, not only to avoid complications with Russia before elections. As in 2003, they will presumably blame the civil society for not being active enough for the political parties or for the fact that they have deteriorated the relations with Russia, thus place responsibility ahead of the elections on other shoulders.

The dilemma of the civil society, and particularly of the political parties unaffiliated with the government, is how they can help a Communist Party in government that is prosecuting them and does not genuinely implement democratic reforms in a sufficient manner (inaudible) free political competition.

We believe that support for Moldova should be and should exist and should be from now on conditional on reforms.

Thank you very much for your attention.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

And now we'll turn to Dr. William Hill of the National War College, currently of the National War College, formerly a director of the OIC mission in Moldova.

MR. HILL: Thank you, Thank you very much, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, our friends.

First of all, I have to state that the remarks I offer here are in my personal capacity and do not necessarily represent the views or position of the National War College or the Department of Defense. I've distributed, or made available, to the commission a short article that may or may not appear in the print soon, which addresses some of the issues involved in the status of the Transdniestran settlement negotiations going on right now.

This briefing does, indeed, come at a sensitive time with much attention on other crucial areas of the former Soviet Union following last month's war in Georgia. In Moldova, the good news out of all of this, first and foremost, I'd presume, is that nobody really seems to be preparing or wish to fight each other from one position or another, and, therefore, any movement toward a settlement is, frankly, likely to be peaceful.

The five plus two negotiations are on the cusp of renewing after some two and a half years without a negotiating round. You may well see a formal session very soon, and attempts have been ongoing to generate work on portions -- or begin expert work on portions of the comprehensive Moldovan package that has been on the table for quite some time.

The Russian Federation has also been more active, in particular, Russian activities were probably instrumental in bringing about a meeting of President Voronin and the Transdniestran leader, Igor Smirnov, last spring, the first time the two had seen each other in almost seven years. The prospects for further movement or success are mixed. Partially, the positions of Chisinau and Tiraspol are pretty far apart. The positions of those who were involved in the process as mediators or observers also are not particularly close together on some issues, and these differences have to be reconciled, the commonalities need to be found before real progress can be made. I would point out one thing that's not generally mentioned but I found during my time there, and I think it's still a phenomenon: There is a potential, and unrealized and perhaps paradoxical potential, for progress in the left bank, in particular in the Transdniestran business community where leaders and representatives of a number of enterprises have made considerable headway for a decade or more in penetrating the Western European and North American market. And these businessmen, entrepreneurs from the left bank are actually oriented toward integration and further operation in Western markets, and this may be a potential for finding common ground that could lead to an acceptable settlement for all parties involved. It doesn't mean that it will happen, but it's something that one might look at.

The real question with the increased activity of the Russian Federation now is whether Russia will work within or outside the generally accepted negotiated framework. In this sense, in my informal conversations with negotiators, both from the OSCE and then particularly U.S. representatives, what I hear from them is generally that we are open to greater Russian activity and constructive Russian initiatives, but these initiatives should contribute then to progress within the five plus two format. In other words, there's nothing wrong with an individual country being active, but it should lead back to the general framework within which we consider an acceptable settlement has to be reached.

I also think that after what I've seen, as after especially the events of August, the U.S. is more active and more supportive of constructive progress and just more active in support in Moldova, and that's probably a good thing.

The other note I'd put to all of this is that a settlement of the Transdniestran conflict, in my view, would be a good thing, but it's not a sine qua non for progress in everything else in Moldova. In other words, I'd like to reiterate what you'll see if you read through. With respect to Moldova in 2008, the absence of a solution to the Transdniestran question will be better than a bad solution that cripples the country's chances for reform and integration into Europe as a whole. For any settlement to succeed, Russia must be a part, but so must the rest of Europe and the North Atlantic community, that is, the E.U. and the U.S.

I'd say commenting on U.S. actions elsewhere in the globe, my Russian colleagues have often said that unilateralism and unilateral solutions are generally not a good thing. The conflict areas in the periphery of the former USSR, like Moldova, are places where I think Moscow would do well to listen to its own counsel, its own advice.

Very briefly, in terms of other elements that have been raised today, the status of Moldovan electoral democracy, this is a classic case of, is the glass half full or half empty? On the half full category, opposition parties generally are allowed - are able to register and conduct activity in Moldova. There's considerable freedom of advocacy, organization and campaigning, and opposition parties have won significant victories in elections and garnered a considerable percentage of the vote. For example, municipal elections in 2007, the opposition won a resounding victory and defeated the communist candidates in Chisinau. So that's the good part.

On the half empty side, indeed, the 2007 law on political parties is worrisome, because it allows the basis for government interference and regulation of all political parties, including opposition political parties, not necessarily a desirable thing. The new 6 percent threshold and the prohibition of electoral blocs is generally aimed, or in Moldovan circumstances, will probably work against diversity and freedom or the success of opposition parties or a multitude parties in electoral competition.

And there's still problems with the use of administrative resources, administrative restrictions on political parties or political prosecutions and investigations of opposition figures or opposition parties.

Now, if you look at the situation in Moldova leading up to the elections in 2009, it leads to a couple of observations. First of all, the ruling party, the PCRM, or Party of Communists, has considerable popular support, and partisans or supporters of this party really don't need to engage in some of the chicanery and administrative juggling in order to promote electoral success of the party.

The party does have a base, so why do this if you want to have free and fair elections?

The other thing is that some of the opposition's problems are of their own making. The opposition, broad right, right center opposition consistently draws over 40 percent of the electorate in Moldova. The problem is, this is split among some 10 to 15 opposition parties where every political leader wishes to be king of his little faction rather than a part of a broad coalition within the rules that would have a chance of electoral success, considerable representation in parliament and perhaps even control. It remains -- it was a problem in the 1990s, it remains a problem late into this decade in Moldova. The opposition does have legitimate complaints about the status of the playing field, rules of the game, but they also have to stop shooting themselves in the foot if they want to be successful.

Overall, I'd say, what we from outside really should encourage is for the U.S., E.U., OSCE, Council of Europe and other international organizations and bodies that engage in electoral monitoring, in human rights monitoring, should remain very active and communicate early to all participants in the Moldovan electoral process, that irrespective of who wins, we expect a clean election, and this is the best way to ensure continued and broad support.

On human rights, in general, we've heard things -- I second what I've heard about difficulties with freedom of expression, in particular, broadcasting is long since of the authorities in Moldova have had the benefit of the good advice of the Council of Europe, E.U., OSCE, and in many respects having to do with public broadcasting, they failed to listen.

Anti-trafficking, this has been a big disappointment. Now, Moldova has done enough recently to get themselves raised back from **tier** three up to **tier** two, but since I began working with the Moldovan government in 1999, 2000 to help them draft legislation against **trafficking in persons**, and more needs to be done on this. It's a problem on both sides of the river. It's sort of been, sort of, like squeezing balloons. First, the traffic went toward Western Europe and the Balkans. As the international community and authorities got a handle on that, it moved toward the east and south. But it's something where clearly the authorities can and should, must do much more.

Corruption and the judicial system is still a big problem, despite a decade and a half of promises of reform from many administrations and work with many international organizations. Some things have been done but not as much has been done as needs to be. And until this is tackled, it's corrosive of trust of citizens in government, and it prevents effective reform in many other areas.

On the economy and business climate, it's a patchy picture here. Moldova has gotten recently good remarks from the IMF and World Bank and is doing a number of things correct in their economy. However, the web of economic reforms is still patchy, and there are problems with implementation, especially in things that are important to the creation of a

favorable business and investment climate and allowing small businesses to pop up, especially outside of the capital, and this needs to be implemented.

Given some of these difficulties, you saw Fitch where it recently downgraded the Moldovan economic outlook from positive to stable, because there are some fundamental weaknesses behind this good picture. The biggest one is that there is not enough domestic jobs, enough domestic business, enough domestic investment being created. The figure I had is about 33 percent of the Moldovan GDP comes from remittances from Moldovans who work abroad. The figure, according to the Moldovan press recently, hit \$1 billion submitted back to Moldova in remittances for 2008. That's before the end of the year, so it's going to be well over \$1 billion.

It's good to have the money coming in, but it's not stable. What if the people stop sending money home? What if their families go out to join them? The problem is getting someone to change this and put the Moldovan economy on a more stable basis, because the money comes back to Moldova, people use it for consumption, which means that Moldova has a highly unfavorable trade balance. The current account is highly disbalanced but offset by the remittances.

But the people pay taxes in Moldova so the government budget is more than filled, and so you go to either the executive branch or the legislative branch and they say, "What's the problem? We have a surplus in the government budget this year, and as far as out as we can see if it stays the same. If it doesn't stay the same, the economic foundations could be worrisome."

Overall, looking at Moldova, much has been done that is good, and a lot needs to be encouraged. Things need to be corrected, to be sure, but this is by no means -- by no means we wish to paint a dismal picture. What I would recommend, as an individual, simply for my own country, is, first of all, to provide continued and consistent high-level engagement and support with conditionality. I think the Millennium Challenge Account has been a good approach, it's been useful. Other elements of support and conditionality have been useful, and we can see positive results from this. In particular, in Transdnistria, there needs to be sustained, high-level attention. This is not something that can come up in a meeting every once in a while, then we forget about it and low-level -- working-level people deal with it and don't get any attention.

This is an important question for some of our interlocutors, and, therefore, it needs to be an attention that gets consistent -- or an issue that gets consistent attention from us at a level that can communicate authoritatively and take decisions.

Most particularly, I would advocate, including this issue, regularly in high-level U.S.-Russian Federation dialogues. It's an important issue to Moscow, and we will not influence what Moscow thinks about it unless we raise it with Moscow at an appropriate level and conduct a dialogue at that level. Otherwise, we won't be taken seriously.

Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity. BOND: Thank you so much, Dr. Hill.

I'm going to open it up to questions now, but I'd like to start by putting a question to our panelists.

It seems to me from what you said that it's going to be extraordinarily important to have an election this spring that shows the support of the Moldovan people for the government and the elected officials and strengthens their hand in dealing with the Transdnistria problem, as well as advancing reforms.

Dr. Hill mentioned monitoring, election monitoring, long and short term, as a way to influence the outcome of those elections so that they're free and fair. Do you have other ideas on things the United States, Europe, multilateral organizations, like the OSCE, can do to help assure that free and fair outcome?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: Definitely, the election from March 2009 will be a moment of truth for our democratic system, but I would like to remind you that since the beginning of our period of independent existence, Moldova always had a very good record concerning the organization of free and, more or less, fair elections and criticism from the international observers. I've been focused mostly on the use of administrative state power resources, which is, basically, we understand that this is raising awareness but since the beginning of the '90s.

So we always have been, as I mentioned, monitored (inaudible) special missions sent to Moldova by the OSCE, by the Council of Europe, by the European Union, even by commonwealths of independent states. It always has been monitored very, very closely.

Definitely, this is already a part of Moldova. Even despite we are in transition, this is a part of our democratic culture. Moldovans are a civil society, one of the most maybe success story. I think it was the creation in 2005 of association of

civil society organizations that are taking -- well, ensuring this kind of monitoring, not only the capital but all over Europe -- sorry, Sigmund Freud (inaudible)-- all over Moldova.

So from that point of view, I think everything will be OK. We understand how important. We are scrutinized very closely. The European (inaudible) of Moldova depends on the quality of democracy, and this is not political wrestling, this is a reality, and this is understood politically, responsible presenting of political class that has made really, really a big test for Moldova.

I have a feeling that we'll have already some changes in (inaudible) to conflict settlement even earlier, and we did not exclude that (inaudible) in December. That meeting will be kind of benchmark, it is a benchmark for Russian diplomacy in trying just to make some efforts in using the current situation as an argument in the dialogue with the best, but I will not collaborate too much on this topic. We'll see. Initiatives that we do, we are not inclined to any concession anymore.

This is a problem of the future of Moldovan state. The future of real sovereignty and independence. We'll see what Russian Federation will propose, and a package approach is conceded as the main element of our strategy. But definitely take good democracy and efficient democracy can help us to solve our (inaudible) conflict.

Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

MR. LUPAN: Indeed, the 2009 elections are important in the view of the future of Moldova, because that is what the European Union actually said, that we will support Moldova, but we want to see free and fair elections. This is an important element for our future support as a country.

I think that we should look -- and we are looking as the civil society and some experts from the civil society -- are looking at the events of 2009 from the perspective -- not from that perspective of negative problems that are existing, on which I have focused on parts, but from the perspective of the future of the country, independent of which political party wins the elections, this is the important thing.

The important thing is that these elections should be free and fair, and then we will speak about the developments, and then we can speak about the proper developments. This is a first step now that is necessary. The problem that we see here is that for the moment there are no sufficient signs that these will be free and fair elections, and these will be changed. And what and who can do for Moldova, what can be done for Moldova and who can do it?

Speaking about monitoring, the long-term monitoring of the OSCE starts one month ahead of elections, if I'm right, if I still remember from my previous OSCE -- two months, all right -- from my previous OSCE experience. Because I was also working for the OSCE myself and monitored the elections in several countries.

Two months is not enough. Two months is not enough, because it is not a matter of time ahead of the elections, it's a matter of preparations for the elections at the beginning of the campaign, and the campaign will not start two months ahead of the elections. It will be well-prepared to have a lot -- but there is one positive thing that we can and should look at.

There is an OIC mission in Moldova that is actually already monitoring the situation. There is an E.U. delegation in Moldova that is already monitoring the reforms and the elections. And these organisms, in conjunction with monitoring by the civil society and political parties, can be supported, you know, to monitor the pre- electoral campaign, on one hand.

On the other hand, what E.U. can do for Moldova, and why I am focusing that much on the E.U., because, actually, as I said before, the reforms that are stipulated by the E.U. are the democratic reforms that Moldova needs. And we want to become a member of the E.U.

The E.U. can support Moldova through a decision to start a negotiation process on the new agreement, and the U.S. can help Moldova in its bilateral discussions with E.U. on that matter.

What is important here, however, as I said, is to have the necessary conditionality. When Moldova -- if Moldova wants to receive such a support, then it still should implement a number of reforms, and they should be done in good faith.

This is the role that U.S. can play in its relations with the E.U. and in its relations with Moldova, particularly, the U.S. can clearly state that there is -- hopefully, there is -- and I feel there is -- there is a support for Moldova, but this support

needs to be seen. There should be a feedback from Moldova as well. One should be a player, one should be a democratic player, one should show that we are a group of the same countries, that we believe in the same values as the E.U. and U.S. in democratic values. And that has to be proven. Although, of course, it is difficult for Moldova to progress on its path to democracy, and it is indeed a matter of time, and it is indeed -- nobody expects Moldova overnight to become a country but we do tend to better ourselves, and this is the message that the civil society is trying to send. And in this respect, the E.U. and the U.S. can help, and the OSCE already is helping us in the sense that it already monitors the elections.

What can be done by these organizations for countries is that it can start to, sort of, support this for the monitoring of the elections already from now, and also it should work closely with the government on the matters that are not considered to be sufficiently democratic.

MR. HILL: I would just like to add that in my experience in working with the authorities in Moldova, including the present ones in this area, is that they do desire to meet their international commitments and international norms. They also want to win the election. The key is early involvement, engagement and feedback in the area from missions that are on the ground, because the problems arise, generally, in the campaign. Election day everything will look good, but it's the conditions of the campaign which are the primary concern and where the engagement can be most effective. And I've found it can be effective, because my interlocutors were very often influenced, I thought positively, by international feedback.

MR. BOND: OK. Thank you for all of that.

One remark and then I'm going to open it to the floor to questions, and I'm going to encourage people to come forward, use a microphone here, state your name and affiliation and pose a question to our speakers.

But my comment is the dependence on remittances is not -- is a problem that other countries share. I know in Latin American, in a couple of cases, the countries have set up investment funds so that their foreign workers can actually invest in the funds as well as send money back to their families, which will be consumed. It's a way of saving for them, and it's a way of encouraging investment in the home country. I don't know if Moldova's considered that.

Now, if we have people who would like to pose a question? Please?

VLAD SPANU: My name is Vlad Spanu, and I'm the president of the Moldova Foundation here in Washington. And my question is regarding the topic of today's discussion, "Where Moldova Goes, East or West?"

So my organization, along with other organization partnerships, partnered and organized two events on post-elections Moldova. We did it (inaudible); in 2005, after the parliamentary elections; in 2007, after the local elections.

Among the conclusion of experts I brought from Moldova, from the United States was one important statement. Moldova does conduct the free and fair elections on election day, and I think the speakers and Ambassador Hill actually mentioned. But the big problem is before the elections. During this month, there are -- the state institutions prevent the competition, both the parties and for independent media.

So the question is this to all speakers: Why Moldova behaves this way? If it wants to join the democratic society, the democratic family, if all Moldova wants to play both ways, to be a semi-authoritarian country within the CIS and at the same time to declare itself a democratic country and be part of the European Union. So it's very difficult to play this way.

So my question is, what way Moldova really wants to go? The current comments are it really wants to go to join the West or to stay outside of Western family. Thank you.

AMB. CHIRTOACA: To tell the truth, I was not really very happy with the topic of our discussion but just right, OK to just to stay open about it. There's no doubt about this, no question about the strategic orientation of Moldova. It's the problem how to address the threat of Transdniestra, the Russian intervention in the different area of Soviet space and this is a problem of Moldova specificity.

Moldova is still, let's say, trapped and looking endless transition. The end of transition landed in Europe, and this is, again, I would like to state it, repeat it here, again, model of development, it's a functional democracy, efficient governance, freedom of mass media, rule of law and the (inaudible) judiciary system place a great, great values and principles. The problem is, at the institutional level, Moldova needs new capacity, (inaudible), strange people, educated people just to ensure the efficiency of functions of this democratic mechanism.

(inaudible), and I think this is nothing more than speculations concerning their orientation as a foreign policy and long, long-term strategy of my country. It reminds me a little bit Mr. Lupan saying, "What we have to do political parties and vibrant single society organization to move Moldova in the right place.

Moldova is not Milosevic Serbia with non-government organizations. Please get back to the natural functions. Please educate people, provide society with a clear vision, have more analytical and systemic approach. Do not make speculations, because we need professionals with clear strategies, and you can contribute in a very direct way unless you would like to be political fighters. Please organize 20 non-service political formations and struggle for democracy. If you'd like to be struggle for democracy, be a patriot outside Moldova and be freedom fighter inside Moldova. I think this is the best formula to be efficient and to help our country, which is still in an extraordinarily difficult situation, even now. Thank you.

MR. LUPAN: The problem that we are facing now, as a country, is that we have this situation when the attitude of the government is changing according to its preferences on the international (inaudible), according to its international relations. The relations of Moldova should not -- not in the past but especially not in the future -- should not be those factors that should be influenced, the democratic development inside the country. These are the things that are clear.

I think that specificity is often quoted by many countries when they fail to implement certain reforms or to take certain steps. Specificity of each country is not in failing to implement certain reforms but to implement them in a different way, (inaudible).

I think this issue is where Moldova goes, East or West, was very much speculated in recent years, coming again to the matter of geopolitical determinants, the fact that if we have better relations with Russia, then we should give Russia what Russia wants. The E.U. is a richer area, and we should go there, and that is why we want to be an E.U. member.

I think these sort of issues are now already going away and should be going away. I think that we should be moving to the West, and I think that the point is that if it comes to the political and geopolitical determinants, we can see that relations with Russia are not exactly progressing in the way they were planned. So that's why Moldova will be moving to West, and this is something encouraging.

But as I said again, it should not be a matter of international relations. It should be a matter of political will of the people. And that (inaudible), indeed, was already expressed in 2005 when both parties signed a joint paper on the European integration. I think this is the only way for the moment, at least. I think this is the only way we should look at it. The problems of relations with other countries, indeed, appear, and that's the role of all of us to correct our course in such a way as to ensure that European integration.

MR. HILL: I think Ambassador Chirtoaca has given a good enumeration of the standards and values that go into what is perceived as European or, generally, broader European integration or orientation. Clearly, my experience is that most Moldovans that I had dealings with were broadly oriented toward becoming a part of the larger European community, specifically the European Union.

The problem is juxtaposing this with countries to the east or to the north, because I found on a personal level relatively little hostility among Moldovans to having good relations on a personal level with either Ukraine or the Russian Federation, although they might object to policies.

But I think it's very important to focus on these and focus on what you mean by east or west or European and non-European. I'm reminded by some of the very emotional debates of 2002, 2003 when representatives of various organizations said, "No, we want a European solution to the Transdnistran problem, we don't want federalization." Well, my German colleagues were very puzzled to what respect a federation is now the European phenomenon. I mean, it was quite clear that what the people meant is they didn't want a certain kind of federation that left the country in a non-viable state. And so it's good to be very clear what you're talking about.

So I come back to that basic set of values is I think broadly shared by most of the Moldovan public, and given a chance to work at it freely, that's the direction that Moldova will go. BOND: I'd just note, before this session, I was doing some reading on Moldova, and on the 23rd of September, an association of sociologists and demographers, so-called Vox-Populi, took a referendum on Moldova's future, and 63 percent of the respondents said that they supported Moldova's eventual entry into the European Union. Only 12 percent of the country were against it.

Please, further questions? Any further questions from the audience? Please.

JONAS ROLETT: My name is Jonas Rolett from the Open Society institute.

You know, one of the things that is evident whenever there's a discussion of Moldova is that it lives in, kind of, a rough neighborhood, and a lot of issues which we've been discussing today relate directly, I think, to trying to survive in that zone.

I wanted to ask a little bit, given that there is consensus among the speakers about the direction of Moldova, a little bit about Western instruments that can, sort of, assist, push, pull Moldova in its stated direction. We know, of course, that there's the prospect, at least, of E.U. membership, and there are lots of instruments that the European Union has at its disposal to, sort of, promote reform and to assist Moldova, generally, to move in that direction. I'm wondering a little bit about, since we're here in Washington, what instruments the U.S. might have, particularly on issues related to energy, democratic consolidation, support within the spheres of international diplomacy, et cetera. Thank you.

MR. BOND: Dr. Hill, you might want to address OSCE in particular in that, in terms of how we could use the OSCE.

MR. HILL: Well, everybody turns -- OK, sure thing -- everybody turns to the American on the panel.

We've mentioned the Millennium Challenge Account, which is a way in which the current administration in Washington has found to address providing assistance based upon conditionality and rewarding performance. That is one area.

One other area that has been, I think, recently both Washington and the embassy have done is to make efforts to treat Moldova as a whole country and to try to find ways without providing any basis for legal recognition of the Transdnestr entity to provide assistance to people throughout the country, including on the left bank, which has been a way -- to do it in a way that is reinforcing of the idea that this is one country, all of the population should benefit from -- and should see -- that the population on the left bank should see benefits from association with the broader outside community.

In terms of the OSCE, I mean, I could exhaust the rest of the time with recommendations, but with the OSCE and other international bodies, the first thing is for the U.S. to provide personnel and involvement, both financing and personnel. Unfortunately, recently, the United States has been understandably preoccupied with the Middle East and South Asia, and it's been to the great detriment of our involvement with organizations that work on the ground, not only in Moldova but elsewhere through a broad swathe of Eurasia. And this is invaluable. Organizations on the ground provide direct contact, direct information, daily day-to-day back and forth with officials, both support and feedback when they have something not terribly supportive to provide.

Yes, given the current economic situation, not only in the U.S. but worldwide, it's not a great time -- it's never a great time to suggest that one needs to reverse -- instead of declining contributions, raise them. But one needs to keep in mind -- from the U.S. needs to keep in mind the great necessity of maintaining American support and American personnel in these international operations that go out on the ground and provide a direct and less structured contact with governments, civil society and people, less structured contact than you can get formally by doing it through formal, accredited, national diplomatic missions.

That's the very short list. I mean, there's undoubtedly more that I could cite.

MR. LUPAN: Just a very brief mention. As I mentioned before, one of the main (inaudible) for Moldova and for the future of Moldova is a matter of accession to the European Union. That agreement that Moldova is supposed to sign with new agreement going beyond the partnership and cooperation agreement, this is something that Moldova really wants. This is the governmental position, but it is also the position of the civil society that issued a statement on these matters now in August with relation to the events in Georgia.

This is one of the things which I have mentioned before. There is need for Moldova to receive positive signals that it will receive -- it will be treated as a European country. It will receive more attention, but it should be also conditional on reforms. And these reforms should be encouraged and supported.

When we think about the involvement of the U.S., we, indeed, can speak about the involvement with the government and with preparation of the government or, let's say, training of the governmental officials for those tasks that they need to fulfill. Because as the ambassador mentioned, there is a lack of capacity within the government, not only within the government but also within the civil society there is lack of capacities, because both are representing Moldova. Moldova, unfortunately, is underdeveloped, and that's why we cannot develop neither one nor another.

What I can add is that the civil society, at least, has some capacity, some limited capacity. It is coming out with policies and recommendations. This has been done on 23rd of September with another opinion of the experts with regard to the Transdnestr problem. This was done in August when the civil society experts came out with their opinion on the

events in Georgia and the impact on Moldova. They have called the government to cooperate on -- eventually on a study for the Moldovans' future security. These are the methods that, unfortunately, cannot be done without support.

The training and the preparations, good advice would be sometimes very helpful. With regard to energy worldwide, as I mentioned, there is a slight chance, but it does exist, that in winter Moldova could face energy cuts, particularly in gas. I don't know what would be the best solution for this problem, if it will happen at all. Last time, Moldova was supplied gas from Ukraine. I'm not sure this will happen this time. If it happens, Moldova needs to be prepared for contingencies, and in this respect perhaps we should look at other options and you're asking, look at other options to support Moldova in energy field through its neighbors, through Ukraine, through eventually Romania, although relations with Romania are not great.

But this probably can be U.S. support, this probably can be European support for Moldova, and, therefore, it might be under certain circumstances accepted even if it comes through Romania.

And I think that one of the real instruments that already exists in the field of democracy but encourages Moldova and that makes Moldova move ahead with all sorts of reforms is the Council of Europe. I think this instrument should be used continuously for further monitoring and, of course, advice for Moldova with regard to those reforms that I have mentioned that are necessary for Moldova. And OSCE here, as well, has necessary instruments. U.S. is present in this organization, in OSCE, I mean. It can support such projects for Moldova, as Moldova would need.

AMB. CHIRTOACA: I would just briefly about the conditionality as one of the tools and driving force behind democratic reforms in the transitional countries. Definitely, there is a big difference between central European countries. I mean, (inaudible) Baltic for Baltic's union and Bulgaria, Romania. They've been promised a clear (inaudible) for new integration, which is not the case of Moldova.

I agree with the idea, we are negotiating now, so since '98 we have partnership and cooperation agreements with E.U., just as right that we conceded to sign another association and civilization agreement, and maybe and definitely for this negotiation we'll start after the 2009 new elections. That's why, again, this is so important to mention it.

And it's not (inaudible) of E.U. conditionality, so-called Copenhagen criteria, words because, again, the integration of Moldova's pursuit as a national idea with a large commitment, with reliable polls, even sociological polls, in terms of (inaudible) more than 70 percent of population. We have much more modest indicators (inaudible) around one set of population in favor with (inaudible). This is all about to be neutral, to have a constitutional (inaudible) of public policy and debate inside the society. We are dependent on natural gas 100 percent. This is our national security concern. I do not have very negative perception of winter problems. I do not think that there will be difficulties in the relationship with Ukraine and Russia ally provoked a couple of years ago. They, sort of, (inaudible) policy of Moscow.

Anyway, we have to be justified, and this is a very good sign, so we have good relations with Azerbaijan corporations, and we are looking at a good terminal. We invite the MCC American corporation to take part in the reconstruction of well terminal on (inaudible) to develop the infrastructure. It's all about MCC complex strategy. It's reconstruction of infrastructure roads, qualitative (inaudible) on public health, and we consider that here in the United States of America plays a great role, because this is roughly \$300 million to \$350 million will be granted to local and American corporations, and this is an economic and business platform for further development for some more, different involvement, and this is an (inaudible) for attracting investments and to ensure there are growing economic, stable, growing, economic development of my country.

And, of course, Transdnistria, this is a permanent, open and transparent dialogue with the Department of State with other bodies that are involved in a way (inaudible) in a frozen conflict. That means I can assure you this is the biggest part of our job (inaudible) diplomats (inaudible) in Washington, D.C.

We understand that (inaudible) limited capacity for small countries. It has a clear geopolitical dimension, has a clear strategic (inaudible) who are witnessing the emerging new security world in Europe, and, of course, we would like to move closer to more stable zone, and we'd like to use this moment of opportunity, but, again, it's still very risky.

Of course, we need assistance, partnership and five plus two exactly for U.S. (inaudible) of European Union, especially after Nicolas Sarkozy mediation in Georgia crisis. This is a new fact that gives new dynamics, and we would like to use them in the most positive and constructive way just to get closer to the Transdnistria conflicts (inaudible). Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador.

I'd like to turn the floor over to John Finerty, who is -- and deserves the credit for organizing this session today and has done all the work to put this program together.

JOHN FINERTY: Thank you. I'll try to be brief here.

I was interested in something Ambassador Hill mentioned about the, sort of, business interests in the left bank of Transdniestra being more conciliatory, and I think this had a lot to do with E.U. borders, just the mission there and cutting down on some of the black marketing things like this. And some of us on the staff (inaudible).

It seems to me, though, that if you have the right coalition of forces where Russia decided for one reason or another to go along with the settlement, to get out of the way of a settlement, and if the suggestion is that your government has made, Mr. Ambassador, concessions, if you will, to resolve this situation, that could be done.

I don't have in front of me the legislation that goes back to 2005 on the principles of the Transdniestra situation. It seems to me, though, there is little there that would -- it leaves too much space for the folks who operate in Transdniestra.

Would that legislation have to be changed?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: This time I will start and we'll go right to the left.

No, the legislation will not be changed. We consider it will provoke or destabilize the situation, and this legislation has been voted on the basis large consensus among all the political parties in our parliament. Nobody will revise or give back or just put under the impression it's basic, but this is the basic principles. So the problem is flexibility, and there's always a certain degree of flexibility will be thin interpretation.

But this is a package of (inaudible). We are speaking about a large autonomy of Transdniestra region populated mostly by ethnic Moldovans, and the rest of the Russian-speaking -- but the biggest minority is the Ukrainian-speaking minority and then Bulgarian and Russian. So there is no basis for any kind of other approach. But this is a negotiated status -- special status of the region all about. That's why this is a main element I mentioned in my presentation of the future negotiations.

Regarding the OSCE (inaudible) left bank (inaudible), this is a (inaudible) all a perception of a confidence -- consolidating the future confidence measures. And when Transdniestra business, this is the kind of (inaudible) in eastern part of Moldova. So we'll be involved in (inaudible) projects financed by MCC. It was involved in the United States government. This is (inaudible) create and form new channels of communication. And the E.U. result of that is supportive. The E.U. would like also an opinion and would like also just to assist financially and to take part in this project and communication.

(inaudible) before all these events. Now, this is a little bit -- well, it's a different situation, but these principles remain as the basic elements of our conflict settlement. LUPAN: With business interests in 2005 law, hypothetically speaking, indeed, they do not contradict each other, in my personal opinion. The point is that this law clearly states that it was for certain business interests. What does it actually mean by that? It means that what Moldova already started to implement, the return of the Transdniestran enterprise under its control within the economics has yielded some posted results in the sense that there is less, at least, speculation about what and who does in Transdniestran region and with business interests. They have been reduced.

There is a certain reduction of illegal business in Transdniestra, and that is the point. The point is, legally or illegally, legal or illegal business. It does not block, basically, the development of business. That's what we should aim for, and I think this is the point where we should come and we are coming to the development of business in Moldova, as a whole. The development of business in Moldova as a whole should set some standards that would allow for both Moldovan and Transdniestran business to develop freely without harm and actually promote business, because that would be, of course, helpful for the whole country, and it would provide more taxes and better incomes and so on and more tax.

MR. HILL: OK. I told the Moldovan government in 2005, when they were considering the law, that I thought it restricted their flexibility in negotiating unduly, and I still think that, but it's not a fatal restriction. And, you know, laws can be amended if situations change and if circumstances change.

Business on the left bank, I didn't say the businessmen were good guys. I did say they were interested in the Western European, North American market and had been more successful in left bank -- or right bank, excuse me, western Moldovan enterprises, which are still oriented largely toward the Russian and Ukrainian market. But the point here is that

the interest of many of the entrepreneurs on the left bank is pointing toward being able to conduct commerce on the greater European market, and this offers an opportunity for creating conditions that would encourage them to integrate politically into a Moldovan community.

As a matter of fact, following the 2005 law, the negotiations and the package, all significant Transdnierstran enterprises have registered as economic agents of the Republic of Moldova. They receive Moldovan seal stamps, documentation for trade with the European Union. They even receive preferences, E.U. preferences operating as economic agents of the Republic of Moldova. Integration here on the economic side has proceeded far in advance of any political integration within the country.

What worries the businessmen, what is right now the -- they don't trust the political institutions in Moldova, and what has been given by Moldovan authorities, they say, "Well, the Moldovan authorities could take away again with the stroke of a pen," and they want a political guarantee and some sort of political system or autonomy or something that guarantees their ability to defend these preferences. And that's, basically, in very, very blunt terms what one of the most fundamental issues in the negotiations. There are others. My whole point in this was, though, that there is an element on the left bank that actually is favorably inclined toward integration in Moldova, and the Moldovan government has been at times very skillful in using this phenomenon, and it's a phenomenon that I would encourage, both all to use because it's a way of narrowing the differences between the two banks rather than concentrating on what divides them. And there are other things in the historical memory that prove divisive.

I know we're reaching the end. I'd like to say one more thing, just to get back to the assistance and what outsiders can do and other things. We can give all sorts of advice as to what various authorities in Moldova, whether in Chisinau or Tiraspol, should do.

The thing that strikes me, though -- something worth keeping in mind, because I'm not sure I have the ultimate answer to it -- is when you give advice, then someone locally has to carry it out. And if what you have in the country is a population composed of elderly people in villages, pensioners and their grandchildren, with the adult working population working abroad and sending money back, you have the ultimate capacity problem, and it's one that I've seen increasingly and consistently going on in Moldova.

And one of the things, whether authorities in Moldova or those that help from outside, need constantly to keep in mind is a way of encouraging the development of businesses, industries and jobs in Moldova that attract and keep talented young and middle-aged people in the country that provides the basic capacity base for doing all of the things that the country can do. It's not something that can be solved quickly, and it's not something that can be attacked directly through a single program, but it runs now as an undercurrent that affects, at least in my estimation and my experience in the country, it affects almost all initiatives that either domestic authorities or international bodies in other countries involved from the outside have to deal with is simply not that the people aren't talented but there just aren't enough of them, because too many are working abroad because there aren't the opportunities at home.

Thanks very much.

MR. BOND: I mean, it's sort of circular, but by integrating into Europe and meeting conditions of European integration, you will create an environment in which people (inaudible). But that's the direction the country obviously has to go.

Well, we are out of time, and I want to thank our speakers and their participation today. Also thank our audience for posing questions.

And all of this will be transcribed and available on our Web site in about 48 hours, I'm told, on our Helsinki Commission Web site. Thank you very much.

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**HEARING OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE;
SUBJECT: EAST OR WEST? THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN MOLDOVA;
CHAIR BY: CLIFF BOND, SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISER, CSCE;
WITNESSES: AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CHIRTOACA, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED STATES; VLAD LUPAN, SOROS FOUNDATION-MOLDOVA, EUROPEAN INITIATIVES PROGRAM; WILLIAM HILL, NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY AND FORMER HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA;
LOCATION: 1539 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 10:10 A.M. EDT DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008**

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HEARING OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (HELSINKI COMMISSION) (AS RELEASED BY THE HELSINKI COMMISSION) SUBJECT: EAST OR WEST? THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN MOLDOVA CHAIRED BY: CLIFF BOND, SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISER, CSCE WITNESSES: AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CHIRTOACA, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED STATES; VLAD LUPAN, SOROS FOUNDATION-MOLDOVA, EUROPEAN INITIATIVES PROGRAM; WILLIAM HILL, NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY AND FORMER HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA LOCATION: 1539 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 10:10 A.M. EDT DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

MR. BOND: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to today's briefing organized by the Helsinki Commission. The title of today's briefing is, "East or West? The Future of Democracy in Moldova."

My name is Cliff Bond. I am a State Department representative on the Helsinki Commission. Chairman Hastings had planned to join us here today to share the meeting. Unfortunately, he was called away on House business. He may join us later on, but we are lucky to have Congressman Joseph Pitts with us who is a member of the Helsinki Commission.

And let me invite Congressman Pitts to say a few words.

REP. JOSEPH PITTS (R-PA): Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Thank you for setting up this important briefing.

The issues currently facing Eastern Europe are of great concern and deserve priority consideration by the OSCE and the participating states. This is a critical time for the region, and its next steps and future actions will send an important message to the rest of the world. Russia's recent invasion of the Republic of Georgia has shown its expansionist goals and raise questions about the future of Eastern Europe and the potential for the European bloc.

Since its independence the Republic of Moldova has faced many political challenges, in part due to the disputes over Transdnistria. Nonetheless, the country has taken steps toward political and economic freedom. It has held free and fair elections, it's opened its markets, it's engaged in negotiations in efforts to resolve the situation in Transdnistria.

However, there are still concerns raised over issues in Moldova, and I particularly remain concerned that Moldova continues to be a major source and transit country for sex trafficking. Moldovan women have been trafficked to the Middle East, in Eastern Europe, in Western Europe, and girls, young women, have even been trafficked within the country from rural areas.

And so I'm very interested in hearing today's testimonies and hope the important issues will be addressed. And I wanted to express my gratitude to Chairman Hastings for scheduling this important hearing to discuss the future of Moldova, and I look forward to learning from our distinguished panelists who are with us today.

Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Congressman.

We have, as you said, several very distinguished presenters here with us today. They are the Moldovan ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Nicolae Chirtoaca, as well as Vlad Lupan from the European Initiatives Program of the Soros Foundation, and Dr. William Hill, who's a former head of the OSCE mission in Moldova.

We'll begin with Ambassador Chirtoaca, and we'll follow through with the other two presenters, and then we'll open for questioning.

Mr. Ambassador?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Pitts, (inaudible), ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to start my presentation by expressing my gratitude to the Helsinki Commission for organizing and hosting this event and for the possibility to address the issue related to democracy development in my country, the Republic of Moldova, from the perspective of approaching 2009 parliamentary elections and taking into consideration the changing geopolitical environment in Eastern Europe caused mostly by the recent Georgia crisis that has a direct impact on the settlement of so-called frozen conflicts in the ex- Soviet states. Since the beginning of this century, Moldova has made visible progress, moving from a typically weak state (inaudible) confronted with multiple problems and obsessed by an identity crisis to relatively stable democratic institutions, functional government structures, growing economy -- GDP growth is around 6, 7 percent per year -- and an economy based on the private sector.

Throughout this period, (inaudible) limited internal capacities (inaudible) for change. The Republic of Moldova has remained committed to democratic reforms and (inaudible) of the society, providing security and stability in the region, mostly through efforts painted as peaceful resolution of the separatist crisis and the territorial reintegration of the state.

Following the 2005 parliamentary elections, the government continues its effort in order to improve democratic governance in the country. It's reducing corruption, pushing through economic reforms and welcoming foreign investments.

At the same time, President Voronin made clear his intentions that the Republic of Moldova follow in the path of other successful post-communist countries and draw closer to the European Union as well as develop partnership relations with NATO within the framework of the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

What I would like today -- my presentation will be based mostly on the idea of how to measure democratic reforms, how deep are democratic changes, what are criteria to approach this problem? And, of course, I will not -- speaking as a representative of my country, I will rely mostly on the appreciation given to my country by the international organizations, first of all, by the Council of Europe who is monitoring very, very closely the democratic reforms in my country. The organizational security in cooperation with Europe is engaged in this process, as well as the European Union.

I would like to remind you, Moldova just ended an entire period and implemented the three-year action plan, and we have reports concerning the state of democracy in my country. I think it will help the participants just to see more clearly the picture without making quite a lot of publicity in the favor of one issue or another.

But I would like to start with the Millennium Challenge Account eligibility, and Moldova has been offered the chance to develop the compact in December 2006. This eligibility is the kind of -- not reward -- it's the appreciation of a partner country, a good policy performance and is based on scoring above the median, at least half of 17 indicators in each of three policy categories: Ruling justly, investing in people and economic freedom.

The first category contains indicators that mirror the quality of democratic governance: Country performance and freedom of expression and belief, association and organizational rights, the rule of law, respect of human and civil rights and independence of judiciary.

The conditionality -- I underline -- the conditionality of the assistance provided within the framework of cooperation with the Millennium Challenge Corporation help my government and improve the governance in accordance with the recommended norms and good practices. First of all, the gradual reduction of corruption and state bureaucracy, and this way is making irreversible the market and democratic reforms in Moldova.

But what are the appeal of the leading (inaudible) European organizations? First of all, I would like to start with the recent European Commission progress state report on the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2007 made public on April 2008. During the reporting period, the Republic of Moldova, it said in this report, "made good progress in most areas, including democracy and rule of law. The 2007 local elections were generally well administered, and voters were offered a genuine choice." I'm quoting from the report, it's not my interpretation of this paper.

Other (inaudible) during the reporting period were substantial progress in improving the institutional framework and procedures on control and certification of origin, which allows E.U. to grant the Republic of Moldova additional economic (ph) state preferences.

(inaudible) on visa facilitation and the admission and the positive cooperation with E.U. Border Assistance Mission, known as the EUBAM. The Republic of Moldova also cooperated closely with the E.U. in all questions related to the Transdnistria settlement effort, and work is ongoing to put into practice the proposals of the president of the Republic of Moldova on confidence-building measures.

A look at self-government and (inaudible) legislative acts, including on administrative decentralization, local public administration, regional development were adopted in December 2006. This brought national legislation closer to the recommendation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.

The Republic of Moldova adopted a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan for reforming its judicial system. It's the capacity of the Supreme Council of Magistrates, the body in charge of judicial self-administration, were consolidated, and the Department of Judicial Administration subordinated as the Ministry of Justice was created and started operating in January of 2008.

The code of ethics for judges was approved in November 2006 and judicial (inaudible) under the (inaudible) of Supreme Council. It was introduced by law in 2007.

My country also (inaudible) accepting activities in the fields of combating corruption and raising awareness on corruption in light of phenomenon, as well took steps in the area to adjust its legislative framework to international standards and to (inaudible) institutional framework. I would like also to remind you that we take part in the Threshold Millennium Challenge Corporation Program since 2006, and it's also focused on reducing and combating corruption.

The National Human Rights Action Plan 2004-2008 is under implementation in the context of ongoing efforts to battle human trafficking, (inaudible) for victims of human trafficking while it's establishing five pilot regions. The National Action Plan of Anti- Trafficking 2007-2009 was set up with National Committee of Anti- Trafficking ensuring full implementation.

In February 2008, the European Convention for Human Trafficking (inaudible), and the Republic of Moldova has been the first country to ratify this convention.

The broadcasting role, the mass media freedom is one of the issue of concerns, and the opposition is not really happy how it functions. In 2006, a new law that has been adopted by the parliament provides a good legislative basis to ensure respect for the freedom of expression. The correct implementation in a manner which promotes the plurality of the media has to be ensured.

The biggest problem of Moldova, and especially the current media and written press, is the fact that they are not financially free, and the financial freedom of this mass media goes together with economic reforms and is good competition and the monies that are paid for to a newspaper and to give radio stations just to ensure this independence. The next parliamentary elections I expect to be called in mid-March 2009, so the parliament will decide.

The parliament of Moldova, because we are parliamentarian republic, will form the new government, will elect the president, as the second and last tenure of President Vladimir Voronin comes to an end next year. The parliament has

passed a number of amendments to the electoral code that dates back to '97. According to the OSCE, I quote, "It provides an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections if implemented in good faith," the end of the quote.

In 2007, a new law of political parties -- I would like to remind you that we have, according to the last report of Freedom House, 28 political parties and organizations, because it's quite a lot for small Moldova. Sorry, I'm saying that. Maybe, who knows how many parties we need?

But there are a lot of political parties (inaudible) of the electoral code and was adopted and submitted to Venice Commission. Adopted in December 21, 2007, the law aims to regulate legislation functioning, financing of political parties (inaudible) electoral system, all transparent and less prone to abuse.

However, it also creates a number of restrictions that can be explained by the need to weigh the efficiency of the current party system as well as the national security concerns. For example, the threshold was increased from 4 to 6 percent. The electoral blocs were prohibited and certain restrictions to persons holding dual citizenship were introduced.

It is worth to be mentioned that Venice Commission recommended 5 percent of this threshold (inaudible). It is also worth mentioning that electoral blocs are prohibited to participate at elections in such European countries with long-lasting democratic traditions, like Germany, Austria, (inaudible), Hungary and Finland. At the same time, according to Moldovan legislature, the parties enjoy the right to create post-electoral colleges. According to the civil societies (inaudible) represented a vibrant aspect of Moldova's public space. As is mentioned in this year's Freedom House Nations in Transit report, which just appeared, by the way, I quote, "The number of active organizations is significant, and only certain NGOs have the capacity to contribute to public policies. (inaudible) and activities are developing slowly but lack (inaudible). At the same time, more reporting efforts did not bear the expected results.

Dependence on donor support leaves NGOs vulnerable and poses a key challenge to the sector's development. Until NGOs become transparent and open working with media, they will lack credibility in their mission to promote democratic matters. And, unfortunately, quite a lot of think tanks and NGOs are fully involved in the political processes, and, in this way, our citizens are liking alternative information (inaudible) democratization processes in my country.

Now, about Transdnistria conflict, our strategy in a conflict settlement, about how we approach this issue just now, especially after the August events in South Caucasus region.

For about a year, Moldova has been vigorously pushing for resuming the discussion between the current international format known as five plus two. I would like to remember this is international format with participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Russia, Ukraine, as mediators; European Union and United States of America as observers, as well as the Republic of Moldova and secessionist authorities.

The government strategy for conflict resolution is based on a complex package approach to all the issues related to the (inaudible) crisis: Political, economic, social, military and humanitarian.

The package proposals includes the development and adoption of a special (inaudible) statute for Transdnistria region, while respecting the sovereignty and (inaudible) integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The consolidation of the neutrality studies, neutral studies, constitutional (inaudible) we call it, because it's written -- our constitution of Moldova, it's a neutral state. (inaudible) military troops from the national territory, a condition of ownership right and of certain special guarantees to the population of the eastern part of the country, currently under the control of separatist authorities.

These particular results were adopted in 2006 by Moldovan experts who tried to find a common denominator that would accommodate very small dollars and Russia interests without undermining the viability of a future reintegrated state or legalizing Russian military presence in Moldova.

The key elements of the negotiation process is a special (inaudible) status for Transdnistria region. Clear division of confidences in (inaudible), though it is functional central institutions. (inaudible) of Transdnistria region under the Moldovan parliament. The last part is important because of the spring 2009 parliament elections, and (inaudible) the population from the eastern bank of Dniestr River will take part in this democratic exercise.

The separate (inaudible) of the region will be, in part, (inaudible) in the (inaudible) legislature, and the (inaudible) total population currently is estimated at 13 percent.

The European Union and the United States of America long ago welcomed the package proposal as a good foundation and platform for viable and long-lasting settlement. It is necessary to mention that before the Georgian crisis Moldova has never formally -- sorry, Moscow has never formally reacted to our proposals in spite of our government persistent

attempts to elicit a positive response. My country is currently observing the (inaudible) region while reiterating its firm belief of the exclusively political solutions of all of the disputes to be taken to the negotiations table. The same position is also reflected in the statement by the government of the Republic of Moldova issued on August 29 regarding the situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It's (inaudible) that Moldova does not see the international recognition of these provinces as a stabilizing factor of the situation.

At this point, we can clearly state that the (inaudible) mediators and observers (inaudible) still continue. Moldova insists on five plus two international format. At this time being, as far as we know, neither (inaudible) or Moscow does not have a different approach, accepting five plus two as a basic format for negotiations. (inaudible) the president of the Republic of Moldova and of the Russian affiliation from the (inaudible) this year. There is a decision of (inaudible) to stop so-called moratorium on (inaudible) and begin a meeting in the three plus two format (inaudible) Russia (inaudible) on September 8 (inaudible) are developments that bring assurance of an early resumption of the five plus two international negotiation format.

However, it will be wrong and premature to conclude that Moscow has fully abandoned hopes of achieving a settlement on its own terms. There are no indications that Russia is prepared to renounce its long-standing policy of using the end result of Transdnistria conflict as leverage to circumscribe Moldova's foreign policy options or to legalize its military presence in Moldova, at least during so-called post-conflict years. The main goal is contained in the famous Kozak memorandum from 2003.

At the same time, there are a few further concessions our government can make without compromising the future of Moldovan state and the European integration strategy. Despite the progress made, effective implementation of reforms remain a challenge. In order to advance democracy, peace and total integration of the country, Moldova has to be successful in its effort to end the transition from the Soviet past to the sustainable and durable democracy of market economy and efficient governance.

But I would like just to invite you to address the problem of the current state of democracy from the point of view of more sustainable and less politicized. We understand there are three different and distinct periods of transition, and we are now just in between the second and the third. (inaudible) liberalization we passed in '95- '94, then a democracy stabilization that took us seven, eight years, and now we are ending by democracy consolidation, very often, opposition and quite a lot of (inaudible). They try to use an ideal model (inaudible), how it works in developed countries with maybe hundreds of years of experience, trying to compare with the model and criticizing (inaudible), which is basically not constructive and not a positive approach to (inaudible).

Moldova is still in transition. It's monitored very closely, it's given assistance. The biggest key problem is institutional deficiencies. The system works, but, of course, we need probably three or five years and the transition. Now, this transition is based on European and Western paradigm of development, and the Moldovan policy, to be integrated into the union is the biggest driving force and European model, which is basically the Western one, is taken as (inaudible) people like just this model for development of the country.

Concluding, I would like to mention that there's a large consensus in the country among the leading political parties, nine representatives of the developing (inaudible) and the socially visible and responsible civil society organization regarding the European future of Moldova.

There's a common understanding that only real and consistent democratic reforms can bring Moldova closer to the implementation of (inaudible) built around national strategy for development, to restore our historic and cultural ties to Europe that date back to the (inaudible) of Roman empire, an early Christian period of the modern Western civilization.

The integration of the countries of today's European institution, a leading organization, first of all, the European Union is understood as main way of implementation of the vision and strategy.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today and welcome any questions that you may have.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador. We'll turn to Mr. Vlad Lupan of the Soros Foundation now.

MR. LUPAN: Thank you, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to share my views about the democracy in Moldova, as well as, thank you for the concern that the commission shows for my country. I hope this extreme-

ly encouraging attitude continues, and the commission will organize a hearing on Moldovan matters ahead of 2009 elections.

I would also like to thank the Moldova Foundation based in Washington for assisting me in attending this session.

I don't intend to speak about the comparative success or successes of the current government, thus its existing problems, as the government has the opportunity to promote its point of view extensively through the existing network of officials, official visits and meetings.

The civil society has fewer possibilities; therefore, I will go to the point and focus mainly on those concrete shortcomings that present a serious concern for democracy in Moldova.

I think, first of all, three matters should be taken into account. In 2008, we can agree, is an eventful year for Moldova. First of all, the country is approaching general and presidential elections at the beginning of 2009. Secondly, 2008 is also the year when the action plan signed between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova already expired formally. Thirdly, as mentioned about the 2000, it's also a year of changes with impact on Transdnistran conflict resolution and Russia's role in it, particularly after the war in Georgia.

The state of democracy in Moldova and the elections are matters of concern for people now. The state was admirable by regional standards at the beginning of its independence, and the country was the first from the countries of newly created CIS to be admitted into the Council of Europe.

The local assessment of the situation, the indicators of such international non-governmental organizations, as Freedom House, Amnesty International and Transparency International, do not place now Moldova in a position of leader.

The Council of Europe announced this year that it does not intend to renounce its monitoring of Moldova since the country did not meet the democratic criteria that would allow for such an image-making decision.

The state of democracy is closely linked now with country's European aspirations. Moldova signed in February 2005 a three-year action plan with the European Union. This (inaudible) the step-by- step implementation of those democratic reforms that Moldova needs in order to come closer to the E.U.

And by European rules, Moldova should abide by Copenhagen criteria: The stability of democratic institutions, the rule of law, human rights and the respect for minorities as well as a free and functioning market and the capacity to face the obligation of an E.U. member state.

The European action plan with Moldova left some question marks, some still unanswered. The E.U., indeed, decided to encourage Moldova in 2008 due to the fact that it was already facing a difficult relationship with Russia on Transdnistran conflict resolution as well as due to the fact that the country already on E.U. and NATO border still made some steps toward mostly legalistic reforms.

At the beginning of 2008, the Europeans took the decision to formally extend the action plan for a brief period of time, while in May 2008 they started -- they took a decision to start a reflection process in the new agreement with Moldova.

Even though there are concerns in relations to Russia's intentions, the E.U. remains also concerned about the pace of reform in Moldova. In its country report that was mentioned of April 3, as well as during its May 2008 decision on the reflection process, it stated that the action plan implementation needs progress in five crucial areas. Those are exactly the areas that are mentioned as Copenhagen criteria.

Moldova also suggested that it has arrears in such fields as the independence of justice, fight against corruption, freedom of the media and investment climate and business environment.

One more warning came from the European Union along the May 2008 decision to support Moldova with a reflection process. The Moldovan government was asked to ensure free and fair elections in 2009. Such a warning came as it is widely believed that there is a high temptation of the governing party to use state resources and their control over the public media (inaudible) on competition or fraud the election in less visible ways.

(inaudible) one is of primary attention as it forms the base for a sustainable democracy and respect for human rights, the independence of justice. The government again declared the reform of the judiciary as its priority in 2008. This is indeed true, although most of the so-called achievements meant presenting by the minister of justice a Council of Europe opinion to the prosecutor's office, creating a commission to draft a concept paper and other similar actions and achievements.

The Moldovan non-government organization lawyers for human rights rightly assesses that the most relevant indicator of the state of judiciary in Moldova and about its independence is the number of cases that are directed to the European Court of Human Rights. And among the state members of the Council of Europe, Moldova holds the first place with the highest number of cases per capita -- 15 cases per 1 million citizens. Analyses, both governmental and non-governmental, show that of all the cases that Moldova was accused, about half are related to the faulty judiciary procedures and decisions.

Despite officially expressed concerns by prime minister and minister of justice, this reality is the result of the unofficial policies of the current governing party implemented since its accession to power in 2001. The independence, of course, was affected in 2002 by mass cleaning of judges by the Moldovan president who is also the chairman of the Communist Party. He refused to extend the nomination period of the judges at that time without any written explanation. At the same time, there were cases of nominations of some other judges based on loyalty to the ruling party, as Freedom House reported yet in 2003.

Now, the civil society assesses that such a cleaning that started in 2002 led to an increased interference of the executive power in judiciary. The U.S. State Department report on human rights practices in Moldova from this year, March 2008, confirms that in the case of judiciary, specifically stating that the official pressure and corruption remain the problem.

The problem with the procedure of selection of judges is another point where the Moldovan NGOs agree with the findings of the U.S. State Department report. Thus, the initial phase of elimination is not uncommon. The judges are appointed upon suggestions of the Supreme Council on Magistrates by the president of the country. However, one of the NGO's tests is that under an informal (inaudible), such an appointment is done only after a hearing by the governing Communist Party faction of the parliament and not by the parliament's legal commission. The prosecutor's office is also considered to be affected by the same weaknesses and pressures as the courts.

When we speak about reform in Moldova and the reforms, the local E.U. experts conclude that the adoption of documents regulation and legislation is not followed by their implementation in such a problem that is reported, basically, in all the areas. This is a problem that is not only specific to judiciary.

Thus, we are coming to another important element of a democratic society: Free media. Moldova dropped down, according to the Freedom House reports on that matter as well. Although media legislation legally embraces the European norms as rightly reported, still, the implementation, the matter that we have just mentioned, the implementation of those provisions is done in such a manner as to ensure governing party control over the only national TV, Moldova 1.

Despite promises of reform that the Moldovan president made in May after your meeting, real actions still do not meet the promises. The position parties have no access to the national TV, which is now, by law, a public station. The broadcasting code was previously edited to allow the governing party to preserve control over the Broadcasting Coordination Council. This body then distributed broadcasting frequencies to the politically loyal stations and operated arbitrary licenses (inaudible). There were concrete cases of inappropriate treatment of foreign commentators, journalists or unwanted media by law enforcement, such as the cases of (inaudible) commentators, Romanian TV prohibition and contact (inaudible) with Russia (inaudible) to journalists. These are also raising concerns regarding the freedom of expression.

Even non-important and anti-governmental demonstrations, sometimes by singular people, were violently stopped by police despite the existing legislation.

Media outlets are not closed in Moldova. Their criticism of the governing party is quite often quoted by the Moldovan president as proof of media freedom. However, the impression is that these media are afloat only to be such examples of (inaudible) while obviously they are permanently pressured, and, as mentioned above, limited in distribution and broadcast just to minimize the competition to the government-controlled media. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, and this makes the investment climate as well as business environment important elements that the state should insure. Moldova's economy is growing this year, particularly when looking at the former USSR this is true. However, when compared with its European neighbors, it seriously lags behind.

Due to that, nearly one-third of the Moldovans have already left to find jobs in the E.U. and Russia. The supply in remittance is already near 50 percent of country's GDP and has provided the opportunities to grow. However, people leaving the country is not a sign of a growing economy. The money transfers cannot mean proper economic development as these are not reinvested into business.

The so-called tax amnesty, operated last year by the government, does not seem to be the best solution to manage the fiscal burden. The unconfirmed rumors of presidential family involvement in taking over many lucrative businesses do not help the situation.

Pressure over foreign investors seem to produce a negative effect regardless of the good intentions.

Last year, reduction of taxes, operated by the government, in an attempt to increase interest in investing in Moldova, was considered by International Monetary Organization as insufficient as to favor foreign direct investment. The FDI is proven by those organizations to grow in countries with predictable business climate and a stable judiciary -- last one being a crucial problem reported about.

Now we can focus on the internal political climate where there are interconnected elements that need our attention.

The governing party made an internal analysis that prompted them to change the electoral legislation, as speculated, to ensure a greater electoral success in 2009. The communists changed the electoral threshold from 4 to 6 percent. They further prohibited pre-electoral critical alliances which are often voted by Moldovan people. And, finally, passed legislation that provides state funds only to those parties that will enter the parliament or local regional governments.

If seen separately, these steps, indeed, may raise minor questions. Since many of those principles are separately present on the European political scene. However, only one year ahead of the elections and taken in conjunction to another -- one to another, they create a commutative effect that is actually anti-democratic.

It affects the right of a large part of the populous to unite, choose and ensure that they are properly represented in the political life. Moreover, the government used the state budget to distribute funds mainly to the communist-led local governments. Moldovan president himself publicly declared that those who did not vote for the Communist party in local 2007 elections will have to pay the price and they receive no state funds, a promise that is now actually implemented. Using state resources to fine voters, in fact, the citizens of own country, is, in my opinion, undemocratic act.

A number of party has been affected as well directly. Signatories, for example, for one -- or for the party's newly created, which started to have impact on Moldovan political life, were subject to excessive questioning by law enforcement bodies. People were called by law enforcement and questioned for hours as to why they want to become a member of that party, who are their relatives. They're asked to sign standing, sitting, with right hand, with left hand and so on.

In case of another parliamentary party that declared during this June congress that the E.U. integration was transformed into unsupported political gain, the government communists accused the party of being devoted to Russia's goals. As we already know, the communists themselves are in negotiations with Russia.

Yes, there is a matter of a new, assertive Russia. European integration, in case of Moldova, was declared the strategic irreversible goal of the country. The Moldovan ruling party also insisted to bring forth the resolution of the Transdnestrian problems and relations with Russia, as the two top priorities of the country since 2006.

After almost unanimously adopting on July 22 of 2005 a law on the principles of the Transdnestrian conflict resolution by the Moldovan parliament, the governing party unexpectedly launched direct, bilateral negotiations with Russia, which provoked an increased amount of concerns. These concerns came out of the previous experience of 2003 when the Kremlin pressed for an unacceptable settlement through a memorandum adopted by Russian presidential (inaudible), Dmitry Kozak.

The unfortunate Kozak precedent made the civil society and political party suspicious of the new negotiations and (inaudible) pressures from national and particularly international (inaudible). The governing party admitted that something that they initially called consultations is taking place and suggested that we prepare a package deal that would be based on the July 2005 law along with other documents that are in line with that law. The government also stated that the deal was drafted in such a way as to already include Russia's interests in it and, thus, make it interesting for Moscow while respecting the Moldovan law. In my opinion, this is in itself a contradiction.

Russia is a country that behaves in real politic manner, projects power and believes in the controlled chaos of separatist region that it actually masters.

Russia is a country that strongly believes in tradeoffs on the international arena. This is a reality on the ground that contradicted assessments that we are not in the 19th century. Indeed, we are not but Russia is.

Moldova cannot negotiate on equal terms in a bilateral negotiation with a country such as Russia, because it cannot offer in tradeoff terms something that Moscow already has: The leverage of Moldova through the Transdnestrian conflict

resolution, its military presence and the so-called mediator's role. It seems that the Moldovan officials in charge of the matter, who are the same people who negotiated a bad deal with Kozak in 2003, did not presume that such negotiations meant offering something to Russia that Moldova did not have.

Affirming that Moldova will not yield to Kremlin pressure was unrealistic. It now transpired that Russia was not clearly responding to Moldovan proposal, generating pressure and subsequent concessions, particularly in the economic sphere. The unilateral dependence on Russia gas was already a concern for the government due to a previous decision by that government to provide Russia the control package of shares to the Moldovan statement (inaudible) Moldova gas in exchange for eradicating the debts. However, when faced with lack of Russian response to the governmental package deal on Transdnistria, the government recently followed up with a contradictory move that strengthens Moldovan dependency. The state decided to cede the local distribution network to (inaudible) as well.

Russian companies that border (inaudible) Transdnistrian region without governmental approval were ensured that their new property rights will be recognized. Experts were encouraged to Russia lately while there was not the same level of official visible encouragement to the experts to the E.U., at least through diversified markets and ensuring economic security goals.

These unilateral concessions made in hope to sweeten, sorry to say, Russia did not yield the results. And, contrary, it was rumored that Russia was warning Moldova, Moldovan officials to be more flexible, and that the reason for such a warning will be seen during 2008. It was exactly before the August war in Georgia.

By no coincidence, Moldovan President Voronin was called to meet the Russian president on the day when Dmitry Medvedev announced the decision to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The next troubling step was an announcement made by the Russian minister of foreign affairs that deciding Moldovan conflict will return to the 2003 Kozak memorandum. This is the very memorandum that was rejected by Moldova as unacceptable and which comes against the Moldovan law of July 2005, which cannot be violated by the Moldovan negotiators.

A number of Moldovan experts believe that further Russian pressure to either implement such a memorandum or to simply promote its interest in Moldova will follow with certainty during 2008, with possible negative repercussions over its populous. Certain political parties might be supported by Moscow. Transdnistrian leadership will be used to put more pressure over Chisinau, particularly through the newly instituted two plus one format of negotiations that is outside the five plus two format and which is not a good format for Moldova, as Chisinau recognizes correctly. This effort is so the autonomous region of Gagauzia in the south of Moldova will be, and already is, reignited. Eventually, some do not even exclude gas cuts in this winter, which happened before, all leading to, if not a social event or a political crisis.

Russian pressure is detrimental for a democratic future of Moldova. (inaudible) is insistently promoting the concept of a future Moldova with a Transdnistria veto over most important foreign policy decisions but also internal decisions, such as E.U. membership. Basically, it's a (inaudible) right over democratic reforms and the Transdnistrian leadership has shown that it is against such reforms. The Transdnistria itself is a dictatorship, and it is against such concepts when it is actually supporting such concepts as the sovereign democracy it is promoting in Russia and the vertical of power, which allow for an unlimited and uncontrolled leadership that declare each of its decisions as democratic.

In conclusion, I would like to state that there is, of course -- there are several dilemmas in Moldova. Indeed, the Russian pressure is real and important factor in Moldova. Indeed, we can expect negative developments, possibly even before December 2008.

However, the geopolitical determinism is not the way to ensure that Moldova should receive unconditional support without seriously implementing democratic reforms.

The Moldovan communists have been responsible for the current situation of Moldova, which is, indeed, deteriorating since they have been, by the way, democratically elected to power. It does seem that they are now trying to avoid yielding to the Russian pressure. They would like the Moldovan civil society and political parties to help them out through statements that reject the Russian proposal, as it seems, so that the president can save face.

The problem is that it is believed that the communists will use the blame game, not only to avoid complications with Russia before elections. As in 2003, they will presumably blame the civil society for not being active enough for the political parties or for the fact that they have deteriorated the relations with Russia, thus place responsibility ahead of the elections on other shoulders.

The dilemma of the civil society, and particularly of the political parties unaffiliated with the government, is how they can help a Communist Party in government that is prosecuting them and does not genuinely implement democratic reforms in a sufficient manner (inaudible) free political competition.

We believe that support for Moldova should be and should exist and should be from now on conditional on reforms.

Thank you very much for your attention.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

And now we'll turn to Dr. William Hill of the National War College, currently of the National War College, formerly a director of the OIC mission in Moldova.

MR. HILL: Thank you, Thank you very much, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, our friends.

First of all, I have to state that the remarks I offer here are in my personal capacity and do not necessarily represent the views or position of the National War College or the Department of Defense. I've distributed, or made available, to the commission a short article that may or may not appear in the print soon, which addresses some of the issues involved in the status of the Transdniestran settlement negotiations going on right now.

This briefing does, indeed, come at a sensitive time with much attention on other crucial areas of the former Soviet Union following last month's war in Georgia. In Moldova, the good news out of all of this, first and foremost, I'd presume, is that nobody really seems to be preparing or wish to fight each other from one position or another, and, therefore, any movement toward a settlement is, frankly, likely to be peaceful.

The five plus two negotiations are on the cusp of renewing after some two and a half years without a negotiating round. You may well see a formal session very soon, and attempts have been ongoing to generate work on portions -- or begin expert work on portions of the comprehensive Moldovan package that has been on the table for quite some time.

The Russian Federation has also been more active, in particular, Russian activities were probably instrumental in bringing about a meeting of President Voronin and the Transdniestran leader, Igor Smirnov, last spring, the first time the two had seen each other in almost seven years. The prospects for further movement or success are mixed. Partially, the positions of Chisinau and Tiraspol are pretty far apart. The positions of those who were involved in the process as mediators or observers also are not particularly close together on some issues, and these differences have to be reconciled, the commonalities need to be found before real progress can be made. I would point out one thing that's not generally mentioned but I found during my time there, and I think it's still a phenomenon: There is a potential, and unrealized and perhaps paradoxical potential, for progress in the left bank, in particular in the Transdniestran business community where leaders and representatives of a number of enterprises have made considerable headway for a decade or more in penetrating the Western European and North American market. And these businessmen, entrepreneurs from the left bank are actually oriented toward integration and further operation in Western markets, and this may be a potential for finding common ground that could lead to an acceptable settlement for all parties involved. It doesn't mean that it will happen, but it's something that one might look at.

The real question with the increased activity of the Russian Federation now is whether Russia will work within or outside the generally accepted negotiated framework. In this sense, in my informal conversations with negotiators, both from the OSCE and then particularly U.S. representatives, what I hear from them is generally that we are open to greater Russian activity and constructive Russian initiatives, but these initiatives should contribute then to progress within the five plus two format. In other words, there's nothing wrong with an individual country being active, but it should lead back to the general framework within which we consider an acceptable settlement has to be reached.

I also think that after what I've seen, as after especially the events of August, the U.S. is more active and more supportive of constructive progress and just more active in support in Moldova, and that's probably a good thing.

The other note I'd put to all of this is that a settlement of the Transdniestran conflict, in my view, would be a good thing, but it's not a sine qua non for progress in everything else in Moldova. In other words, I'd like to reiterate what you'll see if you read through. With respect to Moldova in 2008, the absence of a solution to the Transdniestran question will be better than a bad solution that cripples the country's chances for reform and integration into Europe as a whole. For any settlement to succeed, Russia must be a part, but so must the rest of Europe and the North Atlantic community, that is, the E.U. and the U.S.

I'd say commenting on U.S. actions elsewhere in the globe, my Russian colleagues have often said that unilateralism and unilateral solutions are generally not a good thing. The conflict areas in the periphery of the former USSR, like Moldova, are places where I think Moscow would do well to listen to its own counsel, its own advice.

Very briefly, in terms of other elements that have been raised today, the status of Moldovan electoral democracy, this is a classic case of, is the glass half full or half empty? On the half full category, opposition parties generally are allowed - are able to register and conduct activity in Moldova. There's considerable freedom of advocacy, organization and campaigning, and opposition parties have won significant victories in elections and garnered a considerable percentage of the vote. For example, municipal elections in 2007, the opposition won a resounding victory and defeated the communist candidates in Chisinau. So that's the good part.

On the half empty side, indeed, the 2007 law on political parties is worrisome, because it allows the basis for government interference and regulation of all political parties, including opposition political parties, not necessarily a desirable thing. The new 6 percent threshold and the prohibition of electoral blocs is generally aimed, or in Moldovan circumstances, will probably work against diversity and freedom or the success of opposition parties or a multitude parties in electoral competition.

And there's still problems with the use of administrative resources, administrative restrictions on political parties or political prosecutions and investigations of opposition figures or opposition parties.

Now, if you look at the situation in Moldova leading up to the elections in 2009, it leads to a couple of observations. First of all, the ruling party, the PCRM, or Party of Communists, has considerable popular support, and partisans or supporters of this party really don't need to engage in some of the chicanery and administrative juggling in order to promote electoral success of the party.

The party does have a base, so why do this if you want to have free and fair elections?

The other thing is that some of the opposition's problems are of their own making. The opposition, broad right, right center opposition consistently draws over 40 percent of the electorate in Moldova. The problem is, this is split among some 10 to 15 opposition parties where every political leader wishes to be king of his little faction rather than a part of a broad coalition within the rules that would have a chance of electoral success, considerable representation in parliament and perhaps even control. It remains -- it was a problem in the 1990s, it remains a problem late into this decade in Moldova. The opposition does have legitimate complaints about the status of the playing field, rules of the game, but they also have to stop shooting themselves in the foot if they want to be successful.

Overall, I'd say, what we from outside really should encourage is for the U.S., E.U., OSCE, Council of Europe and other international organizations and bodies that engage in electoral monitoring, in human rights monitoring, should remain very active and communicate early to all participants in the Moldovan electoral process, that irrespective of who wins, we expect a clean election, and this is the best way to ensure continued and broad support.

On human rights, in general, we've heard things -- I second what I've heard about difficulties with freedom of expression, in particular, broadcasting is long since of the authorities in Moldova have had the benefit of the good advice of the Council of Europe, E.U., OSCE, and in many respects having to do with public broadcasting, they failed to listen.

Anti-trafficking, this has been a big disappointment. Now, Moldova has done enough recently to get themselves raised back from **tier** three up to **tier** two, but since I began working with the Moldovan government in 1999, 2000 to help them draft legislation against **trafficking in persons**, and more needs to be done on this. It's a problem on both sides of the river. It's sort of been, sort of, like squeezing balloons. First, the traffic went toward Western Europe and the Balkans. As the international community and authorities got a handle on that, it moved toward the east and south. But it's something where clearly the authorities can and should, must do much more.

Corruption and the judicial system is still a big problem, despite a decade and a half of promises of reform from many administrations and work with many international organizations. Some things have been done but not as much has been done as needs to be. And until this is tackled, it's corrosive of trust of citizens in government, and it prevents effective reform in many other areas.

On the economy and business climate, it's a patchy picture here. Moldova has gotten recently good remarks from the IMF and World Bank and is doing a number of things correct in their economy. However, the web of economic reforms is still patchy, and there are problems with implementation, especially in things that are important to the creation of a

favorable business and investment climate and allowing small businesses to pop up, especially outside of the capital, and this needs to be implemented.

Given some of these difficulties, you saw Fitch where it recently downgraded the Moldovan economic outlook from positive to stable, because there are some fundamental weaknesses behind this good picture. The biggest one is that there is not enough domestic jobs, enough domestic business, enough domestic investment being created. The figure I had is about 33 percent of the Moldovan GDP comes from remittances from Moldovans who work abroad. The figure, according to the Moldovan press recently, hit \$1 billion submitted back to Moldova in remittances for 2008. That's before the end of the year, so it's going to be well over \$1 billion.

It's good to have the money coming in, but it's not stable. What if the people stop sending money home? What if their families go out to join them? The problem is getting someone to change this and put the Moldovan economy on a more stable basis, because the money comes back to Moldova, people use it for consumption, which means that Moldova has a highly unfavorable trade balance. The current account is highly disbalanced but offset by the remittances.

But the people pay taxes in Moldova so the government budget is more than filled, and so you go to either the executive branch or the legislative branch and they say, "What's the problem? We have a surplus in the government budget this year, and as far as out as we can see if it stays the same. If it doesn't stay the same, the economic foundations could be worrisome."

Overall, looking at Moldova, much has been done that is good, and a lot needs to be encouraged. Things need to be corrected, to be sure, but this is by no means -- by no means we wish to paint a dismal picture. What I would recommend, as an individual, simply for my own country, is, first of all, to provide continued and consistent high-level engagement and support with conditionality. I think the Millennium Challenge Account has been a good approach, it's been useful. Other elements of support and conditionality have been useful, and we can see positive results from this. In particular, in Transdnistria, there needs to be sustained, high-level attention. This is not something that can come up in a meeting every once in a while, then we forget about it and low-level -- working-level people deal with it and don't get any attention.

This is an important question for some of our interlocutors, and, therefore, it needs to be an attention that gets consistent -- or an issue that gets consistent attention from us at a level that can communicate authoritatively and take decisions.

Most particularly, I would advocate, including this issue, regularly in high-level U.S.-Russian Federation dialogues. It's an important issue to Moscow, and we will not influence what Moscow thinks about it unless we raise it with Moscow at an appropriate level and conduct a dialogue at that level. Otherwise, we won't be taken seriously.

Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity. BOND: Thank you so much, Dr. Hill.

I'm going to open it up to questions now, but I'd like to start by putting a question to our panelists.

It seems to me from what you said that it's going to be extraordinarily important to have an election this spring that shows the support of the Moldovan people for the government and the elected officials and strengthens their hand in dealing with the Transdnistria problem, as well as advancing reforms.

Dr. Hill mentioned monitoring, election monitoring, long and short term, as a way to influence the outcome of those elections so that they're free and fair. Do you have other ideas on things the United States, Europe, multilateral organizations, like the OSCE, can do to help assure that free and fair outcome?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: Definitely, the election from March 2009 will be a moment of truth for our democratic system, but I would like to remind you that since the beginning of our period of independent existence, Moldova always had a very good record concerning the organization of free and, more or less, fair elections and criticism from the international observers. I've been focused mostly on the use of administrative state power resources, which is, basically, we understand that this is raising awareness but since the beginning of the '90s.

So we always have been, as I mentioned, monitored (inaudible) special missions sent to Moldova by the OSCE, by the Council of Europe, by the European Union, even by commonwealths of independent states. It always has been monitored very, very closely.

Definitely, this is already a part of Moldova. Even despite we are in transition, this is a part of our democratic culture. Moldovans are a civil society, one of the most maybe success story. I think it was the creation in 2005 of association of

civil society organizations that are taking -- well, ensuring this kind of monitoring, not only the capital but all over Europe -- sorry, Sigmund Freud (inaudible)-- all over Moldova.

So from that point of view, I think everything will be OK. We understand how important. We are scrutinized very closely. The European (inaudible) of Moldova depends on the quality of democracy, and this is not political wrestling, this is a reality, and this is understood politically, responsible presenting of political class that has made really, really a big test for Moldova.

I have a feeling that we'll have already some changes in (inaudible) to conflict settlement even earlier, and we did not exclude that (inaudible) in December. That meeting will be kind of benchmark, it is a benchmark for Russian diplomacy in trying just to make some efforts in using the current situation as an argument in the dialogue with the best, but I will not collaborate too much on this topic. We'll see. Initiatives that we do, we are not inclined to any concession anymore.

This is a problem of the future of Moldovan state. The future of real sovereignty and independence. We'll see what Russian Federation will propose, and a package approach is conceded as the main element of our strategy. But definitely take good democracy and efficient democracy can help us to solve our (inaudible) conflict.

Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you.

MR. LUPAN: Indeed, the 2009 elections are important in the view of the future of Moldova, because that is what the European Union actually said, that we will support Moldova, but we want to see free and fair elections. This is an important element for our future support as a country.

I think that we should look -- and we are looking as the civil society and some experts from the civil society -- are looking at the events of 2009 from the perspective -- not from that perspective of negative problems that are existing, on which I have focused on parts, but from the perspective of the future of the country, independent of which political party wins the elections, this is the important thing.

The important thing is that these elections should be free and fair, and then we will speak about the developments, and then we can speak about the proper developments. This is a first step now that is necessary. The problem that we see here is that for the moment there are no sufficient signs that these will be free and fair elections, and these will be changed. And what and who can do for Moldova, what can be done for Moldova and who can do it?

Speaking about monitoring, the long-term monitoring of the OSCE starts one month ahead of elections, if I'm right, if I still remember from my previous OSCE -- two months, all right -- from my previous OSCE experience. Because I was also working for the OSCE myself and monitored the elections in several countries.

Two months is not enough. Two months is not enough, because it is not a matter of time ahead of the elections, it's a matter of preparations for the elections at the beginning of the campaign, and the campaign will not start two months ahead of the elections. It will be well-prepared to have a lot -- but there is one positive thing that we can and should look at.

There is an OIC mission in Moldova that is actually already monitoring the situation. There is an E.U. delegation in Moldova that is already monitoring the reforms and the elections. And these organisms, in conjunction with monitoring by the civil society and political parties, can be supported, you know, to monitor the pre- electoral campaign, on one hand.

On the other hand, what E.U. can do for Moldova, and why I am focusing that much on the E.U., because, actually, as I said before, the reforms that are stipulated by the E.U. are the democratic reforms that Moldova needs. And we want to become a member of the E.U.

The E.U. can support Moldova through a decision to start a negotiation process on the new agreement, and the U.S. can help Moldova in its bilateral discussions with E.U. on that matter.

What is important here, however, as I said, is to have the necessary conditionality. When Moldova -- if Moldova wants to receive such a support, then it still should implement a number of reforms, and they should be done in good faith.

This is the role that U.S. can play in its relations with the E.U. and in its relations with Moldova, particularly, the U.S. can clearly state that there is -- hopefully, there is -- and I feel there is -- there is a support for Moldova, but this support

needs to be seen. There should be a feedback from Moldova as well. One should be a player, one should be a democratic player, one should show that we are a group of the same countries, that we believe in the same values as the E.U. and U.S. in democratic values. And that has to be proven. Although, of course, it is difficult for Moldova to progress on its path to democracy, and it is indeed a matter of time, and it is indeed -- nobody expects Moldova overnight to become a country but we do tend to better ourselves, and this is the message that the civil society is trying to send. And in this respect, the E.U. and the U.S. can help, and the OSCE already is helping us in the sense that it already monitors the elections.

What can be done by these organizations for countries is that it can start to, sort of, support this for the monitoring of the elections already from now, and also it should work closely with the government on the matters that are not considered to be sufficiently democratic.

MR. HILL: I would just like to add that in my experience in working with the authorities in Moldova, including the present ones in this area, is that they do desire to meet their international commitments and international norms. They also want to win the election. The key is early involvement, engagement and feedback in the area from missions that are on the ground, because the problems arise, generally, in the campaign. Election day everything will look good, but it's the conditions of the campaign which are the primary concern and where the engagement can be most effective. And I've found it can be effective, because my interlocutors were very often influenced, I thought positively, by international feedback.

MR. BOND: OK. Thank you for all of that.

One remark and then I'm going to open it to the floor to questions, and I'm going to encourage people to come forward, use a microphone here, state your name and affiliation and pose a question to our speakers.

But my comment is the dependence on remittances is not -- is a problem that other countries share. I know in Latin American, in a couple of cases, the countries have set up investment funds so that their foreign workers can actually invest in the funds as well as send money back to their families, which will be consumed. It's a way of saving for them, and it's a way of encouraging investment in the home country. I don't know if Moldova's considered that.

Now, if we have people who would like to pose a question? Please?

VLAD SPANU: My name is Vlad Spanu, and I'm the president of the Moldova Foundation here in Washington. And my question is regarding the topic of today's discussion, "Where Moldova Goes, East or West?"

So my organization, along with other organization partnerships, partnered and organized two events on post-elections Moldova. We did it (inaudible); in 2005, after the parliamentary elections; in 2007, after the local elections.

Among the conclusion of experts I brought from Moldova, from the United States was one important statement. Moldova does conduct the free and fair elections on election day, and I think the speakers and Ambassador Hill actually mentioned. But the big problem is before the elections. During this month, there are -- the state institutions prevent the competition, both the parties and for independent media.

So the question is this to all speakers: Why Moldova behaves this way? If it wants to join the democratic society, the democratic family, if all Moldova wants to play both ways, to be a semi-authoritarian country within the CIS and at the same time to declare itself a democratic country and be part of the European Union. So it's very difficult to play this way.

So my question is, what way Moldova really wants to go? The current comments are it really wants to go to join the West or to stay outside of Western family. Thank you.

AMB. CHIRTOACA: To tell the truth, I was not really very happy with the topic of our discussion but just right, OK to just to stay open about it. There's no doubt about this, no question about the strategic orientation of Moldova. It's the problem how to address the threat of Transdniestra, the Russian intervention in the different area of Soviet space and this is a problem of Moldova specificity.

Moldova is still, let's say, trapped and looking endless transition. The end of transition landed in Europe, and this is, again, I would like to state it, repeat it here, again, model of development, it's a functional democracy, efficient governance, freedom of mass media, rule of law and the (inaudible) judiciary system place a great, great values and principles. The problem is, at the institutional level, Moldova needs new capacity, (inaudible), strange people, educated people just to ensure the efficiency of functions of this democratic mechanism.

(inaudible), and I think this is nothing more than speculations concerning their orientation as a foreign policy and long, long-term strategy of my country. It reminds me a little bit Mr. Lupan saying, "What we have to do political parties and vibrant single society organization to move Moldova in the right place.

Moldova is not Milosevic Serbia with non-government organizations. Please get back to the natural functions. Please educate people, provide society with a clear vision, have more analytical and systemic approach. Do not make speculations, because we need professionals with clear strategies, and you can contribute in a very direct way unless you would like to be political fighters. Please organize 20 non-service political formations and struggle for democracy. If you'd like to be struggle for democracy, be a patriot outside Moldova and be freedom fighter inside Moldova. I think this is the best formula to be efficient and to help our country, which is still in an extraordinarily difficult situation, even now. Thank you.

MR. LUPAN: The problem that we are facing now, as a country, is that we have this situation when the attitude of the government is changing according to its preferences on the international (inaudible), according to its international relations. The relations of Moldova should not -- not in the past but especially not in the future -- should not be those factors that should be influenced, the democratic development inside the country. These are the things that are clear.

I think that specificity is often quoted by many countries when they fail to implement certain reforms or to take certain steps. Specificity of each country is not in failing to implement certain reforms but to implement them in a different way, (inaudible).

I think this issue is where Moldova goes, East or West, was very much speculated in recent years, coming again to the matter of geopolitical determinants, the fact that if we have better relations with Russia, then we should give Russia what Russia wants. The E.U. is a richer area, and we should go there, and that is why we want to be an E.U. member.

I think these sort of issues are now already going away and should be going away. I think that we should be moving to the West, and I think that the point is that if it comes to the political and geopolitical determinants, we can see that relations with Russia are not exactly progressing in the way they were planned. So that's why Moldova will be moving to West, and this is something encouraging.

But as I said again, it should not be a matter of international relations. It should be a matter of political will of the people. And that (inaudible), indeed, was already expressed in 2005 when both parties signed a joint paper on the European integration. I think this is the only way for the moment, at least. I think this is the only way we should look at it. The problems of relations with other countries, indeed, appear, and that's the role of all of us to correct our course in such a way as to ensure that European integration.

MR. HILL: I think Ambassador Chirtoaca has given a good enumeration of the standards and values that go into what is perceived as European or, generally, broader European integration or orientation. Clearly, my experience is that most Moldovans that I had dealings with were broadly oriented toward becoming a part of the larger European community, specifically the European Union.

The problem is juxtaposing this with countries to the east or to the north, because I found on a personal level relatively little hostility among Moldovans to having good relations on a personal level with either Ukraine or the Russian Federation, although they might object to policies.

But I think it's very important to focus on these and focus on what you mean by east or west or European and non-European. I'm reminded by some of the very emotional debates of 2002, 2003 when representatives of various organizations said, "No, we want a European solution to the Transdnistran problem, we don't want federalization." Well, my German colleagues were very puzzled to what respect a federation is now the European phenomenon. I mean, it was quite clear that what the people meant is they didn't want a certain kind of federation that left the country in a non-viable state. And so it's good to be very clear what you're talking about.

So I come back to that basic set of values is I think broadly shared by most of the Moldovan public, and given a chance to work at it freely, that's the direction that Moldova will go. BOND: I'd just note, before this session, I was doing some reading on Moldova, and on the 23rd of September, an association of sociologists and demographers, so-called Vox-Populi, took a referendum on Moldova's future, and 63 percent of the respondents said that they supported Moldova's eventual entry into the European Union. Only 12 percent of the country were against it.

Please, further questions? Any further questions from the audience? Please.

JONAS ROLETT: My name is Jonas Rolett from the Open Society institute.

You know, one of the things that is evident whenever there's a discussion of Moldova is that it lives in, kind of, a rough neighborhood, and a lot of issues which we've been discussing today relate directly, I think, to trying to survive in that zone.

I wanted to ask a little bit, given that there is consensus among the speakers about the direction of Moldova, a little bit about Western instruments that can, sort of, assist, push, pull Moldova in its stated direction. We know, of course, that there's the prospect, at least, of E.U. membership, and there are lots of instruments that the European Union has at its disposal to, sort of, promote reform and to assist Moldova, generally, to move in that direction. I'm wondering a little bit about, since we're here in Washington, what instruments the U.S. might have, particularly on issues related to energy, democratic consolidation, support within the spheres of international diplomacy, et cetera. Thank you.

MR. BOND: Dr. Hill, you might want to address OSCE in particular in that, in terms of how we could use the OSCE.

MR. HILL: Well, everybody turns -- OK, sure thing -- everybody turns to the American on the panel.

We've mentioned the Millennium Challenge Account, which is a way in which the current administration in Washington has found to address providing assistance based upon conditionality and rewarding performance. That is one area.

One other area that has been, I think, recently both Washington and the embassy have done is to make efforts to treat Moldova as a whole country and to try to find ways without providing any basis for legal recognition of the Transdnestr entity to provide assistance to people throughout the country, including on the left bank, which has been a way -- to do it in a way that is reinforcing of the idea that this is one country, all of the population should benefit from -- and should see -- that the population on the left bank should see benefits from association with the broader outside community.

In terms of the OSCE, I mean, I could exhaust the rest of the time with recommendations, but with the OSCE and other international bodies, the first thing is for the U.S. to provide personnel and involvement, both financing and personnel. Unfortunately, recently, the United States has been understandably preoccupied with the Middle East and South Asia, and it's been to the great detriment of our involvement with organizations that work on the ground, not only in Moldova but elsewhere through a broad swathe of Eurasia. And this is invaluable. Organizations on the ground provide direct contact, direct information, daily day-to-day back and forth with officials, both support and feedback when they have something not terribly supportive to provide.

Yes, given the current economic situation, not only in the U.S. but worldwide, it's not a great time -- it's never a great time to suggest that one needs to reverse -- instead of declining contributions, raise them. But one needs to keep in mind -- from the U.S. needs to keep in mind the great necessity of maintaining American support and American personnel in these international operations that go out on the ground and provide a direct and less structured contact with governments, civil society and people, less structured contact than you can get formally by doing it through formal, accredited, national diplomatic missions.

That's the very short list. I mean, there's undoubtedly more that I could cite.

MR. LUPAN: Just a very brief mention. As I mentioned before, one of the main (inaudible) for Moldova and for the future of Moldova is a matter of accession to the European Union. That agreement that Moldova is supposed to sign with new agreement going beyond the partnership and cooperation agreement, this is something that Moldova really wants. This is the governmental position, but it is also the position of the civil society that issued a statement on these matters now in August with relation to the events in Georgia.

This is one of the things which I have mentioned before. There is need for Moldova to receive positive signals that it will receive -- it will be treated as a European country. It will receive more attention, but it should be also conditional on reforms. And these reforms should be encouraged and supported.

When we think about the involvement of the U.S., we, indeed, can speak about the involvement with the government and with preparation of the government or, let's say, training of the governmental officials for those tasks that they need to fulfill. Because as the ambassador mentioned, there is a lack of capacity within the government, not only within the government but also within the civil society there is lack of capacities, because both are representing Moldova. Moldova, unfortunately, is underdeveloped, and that's why we cannot develop neither one nor another.

What I can add is that the civil society, at least, has some capacity, some limited capacity. It is coming out with policies and recommendations. This has been done on 23rd of September with another opinion of the experts with regard to the Transdnestr problem. This was done in August when the civil society experts came out with their opinion on the

events in Georgia and the impact on Moldova. They have called the government to cooperate on -- eventually on a study for the Moldovans' future security. These are the methods that, unfortunately, cannot be done without support.

The training and the preparations, good advice would be sometimes very helpful. With regard to energy worldwide, as I mentioned, there is a slight chance, but it does exist, that in winter Moldova could face energy cuts, particularly in gas. I don't know what would be the best solution for this problem, if it will happen at all. Last time, Moldova was supplied gas from Ukraine. I'm not sure this will happen this time. If it happens, Moldova needs to be prepared for contingencies, and in this respect perhaps we should look at other options and you're asking, look at other options to support Moldova in energy field through its neighbors, through Ukraine, through eventually Romania, although relations with Romania are not great.

But this probably can be U.S. support, this probably can be European support for Moldova, and, therefore, it might be under certain circumstances accepted even if it comes through Romania.

And I think that one of the real instruments that already exists in the field of democracy but encourages Moldova and that makes Moldova move ahead with all sorts of reforms is the Council of Europe. I think this instrument should be used continuously for further monitoring and, of course, advice for Moldova with regard to those reforms that I have mentioned that are necessary for Moldova. And OSCE here, as well, has necessary instruments. U.S. is present in this organization, in OSCE, I mean. It can support such projects for Moldova, as Moldova would need.

AMB. CHIRTOACA: I would just briefly about the conditionality as one of the tools and driving force behind democratic reforms in the transitional countries. Definitely, there is a big difference between central European countries. I mean, (inaudible) Baltic for Baltic's union and Bulgaria, Romania. They've been promised a clear (inaudible) for new integration, which is not the case of Moldova.

I agree with the idea, we are negotiating now, so since '98 we have partnership and cooperation agreements with E.U., just as right that we conceded to sign another association and civilization agreement, and maybe and definitely for this negotiation we'll start after the 2009 new elections. That's why, again, this is so important to mention it.

And it's not (inaudible) of E.U. conditionality, so-called Copenhagen criteria, words because, again, the integration of Moldova's pursuit as a national idea with a large commitment, with reliable polls, even sociological polls, in terms of (inaudible) more than 70 percent of population. We have much more modest indicators (inaudible) around one set of population in favor with (inaudible). This is all about to be neutral, to have a constitutional (inaudible) of public policy and debate inside the society. We are dependent on natural gas 100 percent. This is our national security concern. I do not have very negative perception of winter problems. I do not think that there will be difficulties in the relationship with Ukraine and Russia ally provoked a couple of years ago. They, sort of, (inaudible) policy of Moscow.

Anyway, we have to be justified, and this is a very good sign, so we have good relations with Azerbaijan corporations, and we are looking at a good terminal. We invite the MCC American corporation to take part in the reconstruction of well terminal on (inaudible) to develop the infrastructure. It's all about MCC complex strategy. It's reconstruction of infrastructure roads, qualitative (inaudible) on public health, and we consider that here in the United States of America plays a great role, because this is roughly \$300 million to \$350 million will be granted to local and American corporations, and this is an economic and business platform for further development for some more, different involvement, and this is an (inaudible) for attracting investments and to ensure there are growing economic, stable, growing, economic development of my country.

And, of course, Transdnistria, this is a permanent, open and transparent dialogue with the Department of State with other bodies that are involved in a way (inaudible) in a frozen conflict. That means I can assure you this is the biggest part of our job (inaudible) diplomats (inaudible) in Washington, D.C.

We understand that (inaudible) limited capacity for small countries. It has a clear geopolitical dimension, has a clear strategic (inaudible) who are witnessing the emerging new security world in Europe, and, of course, we would like to move closer to more stable zone, and we'd like to use this moment of opportunity, but, again, it's still very risky.

Of course, we need assistance, partnership and five plus two exactly for U.S. (inaudible) of European Union, especially after Nicolas Sarkozy mediation in Georgia crisis. This is a new fact that gives new dynamics, and we would like to use them in the most positive and constructive way just to get closer to the Transdnistria conflicts (inaudible). Thank you.

MR. BOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador.

I'd like to turn the floor over to John Finerty, who is -- and deserves the credit for organizing this session today and has done all the work to put this program together.

JOHN FINERTY: Thank you. I'll try to be brief here.

I was interested in something Ambassador Hill mentioned about the, sort of, business interests in the left bank of Transdnistria being more conciliatory, and I think this had a lot to do with E.U. borders, just the mission there and cutting down on some of the black marketing things like this. And some of us on the staff (inaudible).

It seems to me, though, that if you have the right coalition of forces where Russia decided for one reason or another to go along with the settlement, to get out of the way of a settlement, and if the suggestion is that your government has made, Mr. Ambassador, concessions, if you will, to resolve this situation, that could be done.

I don't have in front of me the legislation that goes back to 2005 on the principles of the Transdnistria situation. It seems to me, though, there is little there that would -- it leaves too much space for the folks who operate in Transdnistria.

Would that legislation have to be changed?

AMB. CHIRTOACA: This time I will start and we'll go right to the left.

No, the legislation will not be changed. We consider it will provoke or destabilize the situation, and this legislation has been voted on the basis large consensus among all the political parties in our parliament. Nobody will revise or give back or just put under the impression it's basic, but this is the basic principles. So the problem is flexibility, and there's always a certain degree of flexibility will be thin interpretation.

But this is a package of (inaudible). We are speaking about a large autonomy of Transdnistria region populated mostly by ethnic Moldovans, and the rest of the Russian-speaking -- but the biggest minority is the Ukrainian-speaking minority and then Bulgarian and Russian. So there is no basis for any kind of other approach. But this is a negotiated status -- special status of the region all about. That's why this is a main element I mentioned in my presentation of the future negotiations.

Regarding the OSCE (inaudible) left bank (inaudible), this is a (inaudible) all a perception of a confidence -- consolidating the future confidence measures. And when Transdnistria business, this is the kind of (inaudible) in eastern part of Moldova. So we'll be involved in (inaudible) projects financed by MCC. It was involved in the United States government. This is (inaudible) create and form new channels of communication. And the E.U. result of that is supportive. The E.U. would like also an opinion and would like also just to assist financially and to take part in this project and communication.

(inaudible) before all these events. Now, this is a little bit -- well, it's a different situation, but these principles remain as the basic elements of our conflict settlement. LUPAN: With business interests in 2005 law, hypothetically speaking, indeed, they do not contradict each other, in my personal opinion. The point is that this law clearly states that it was for certain business interests. What does it actually mean by that? It means that what Moldova already started to implement, the return of the Transdnistrian enterprise under its control within the economics has yielded some posted results in the sense that there is less, at least, speculation about what and who does in Transdnistrian region and with business interests. They have been reduced.

There is a certain reduction of illegal business in Transdnistria, and that is the point. The point is, legally or illegally, legal or illegal business. It does not block, basically, the development of business. That's what we should aim for, and I think this is the point where we should come and we are coming to the development of business in Moldova, as a whole. The development of business in Moldova as a whole should set some standards that would allow for both Moldovan and Transdnistrian business to develop freely without harm and actually promote business, because that would be, of course, helpful for the whole country, and it would provide more taxes and better incomes and so on and more tax.

MR. HILL: OK. I told the Moldovan government in 2005, when they were considering the law, that I thought it restricted their flexibility in negotiating unduly, and I still think that, but it's not a fatal restriction. And, you know, laws can be amended if situations change and if circumstances change.

Business on the left bank, I didn't say the businessmen were good guys. I did say they were interested in the Western European, North American market and had been more successful in left bank -- or right bank, excuse me, western Moldovan enterprises, which are still oriented largely toward the Russian and Ukrainian market. But the point here is that

the interest of many of the entrepreneurs on the left bank is pointing toward being able to conduct commerce on the greater European market, and this offers an opportunity for creating conditions that would encourage them to integrate politically into a Moldovan community.

As a matter of fact, following the 2005 law, the negotiations and the package, all significant Transdnierstran enterprises have registered as economic agents of the Republic of Moldova. They receive Moldovan seal stamps, documentation for trade with the European Union. They even receive preferences, E.U. preferences operating as economic agents of the Republic of Moldova. Integration here on the economic side has proceeded far in advance of any political integration within the country.

What worries the businessmen, what is right now the -- they don't trust the political institutions in Moldova, and what has been given by Moldovan authorities, they say, "Well, the Moldovan authorities could take away again with the stroke of a pen," and they want a political guarantee and some sort of political system or autonomy or something that guarantees their ability to defend these preferences. And that's, basically, in very, very blunt terms what one of the most fundamental issues in the negotiations. There are others. My whole point in this was, though, that there is an element on the left bank that actually is favorably inclined toward integration in Moldova, and the Moldovan government has been at times very skillful in using this phenomenon, and it's a phenomenon that I would encourage, both all to use because it's a way of narrowing the differences between the two banks rather than concentrating on what divides them. And there are other things in the historical memory that prove divisive.

I know we're reaching the end. I'd like to say one more thing, just to get back to the assistance and what outsiders can do and other things. We can give all sorts of advice as to what various authorities in Moldova, whether in Chisinau or Tiraspol, should do.

The thing that strikes me, though -- something worth keeping in mind, because I'm not sure I have the ultimate answer to it -- is when you give advice, then someone locally has to carry it out. And if what you have in the country is a population composed of elderly people in villages, pensioners and their grandchildren, with the adult working population working abroad and sending money back, you have the ultimate capacity problem, and it's one that I've seen increasingly and consistently going on in Moldova.

And one of the things, whether authorities in Moldova or those that help from outside, need constantly to keep in mind is a way of encouraging the development of businesses, industries and jobs in Moldova that attract and keep talented young and middle-aged people in the country that provides the basic capacity base for doing all of the things that the country can do. It's not something that can be solved quickly, and it's not something that can be attacked directly through a single program, but it runs now as an undercurrent that affects, at least in my estimation and my experience in the country, it affects almost all initiatives that either domestic authorities or international bodies in other countries involved from the outside have to deal with is simply not that the people aren't talented but there just aren't enough of them, because too many are working abroad because there aren't the opportunities at home.

Thanks very much.

MR. BOND: I mean, it's sort of circular, but by integrating into Europe and meeting conditions of European integration, you will create an environment in which people (inaudible). But that's the direction the country obviously has to go.

Well, we are out of time, and I want to thank our speakers and their participation today. Also thank our audience for posing questions.

And all of this will be transcribed and available on our Web site in about 48 hours, I'm told, on our Helsinki Commission Web site. Thank you very much.

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19 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Bahrain News Agency

September 18, 2008 Thursday 12:00 AM EST**AL BALOOSHI MEETS THAI WOMEN UNION PRESIDENT****LENGTH:** 282 words

MANAMA, SEPT 18 (BNA)-- MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DR FATIMA AL BALOOSHI RECEIVED YESTERDAY THAILANDS WOMEN UNION PRESIDENT.

Al balushi affirmed that the kingdom of bahrain continues to work towards reinforcing ideals of human rights and respecting it, along with combating aspects of violations to these rights. this she said was being undertaken through cooperation with various international efforts exerted towards that. moreover, al balushi also discussed the latest report issued by the us state department on combating **human trafficking** placing bahrain in **tier 2** which exerts great efforts in this field. this she said proved the new transformation in the kingdom in light of the democratic progress which is aimed at reinforcing human rights supported by his majesty hamad bin isa al khalifas reforms. al balushi said that the kingdom had established specialised national bodies and organisation to follow up on this issues from all aspects that include political, security and psychological for those effected by it. she said that these organisations set up specialized programs for such a phenomena which includes representatives from civil society organisations. al balushi stated that dar al aman was opened to shelter women and children who are victims of psychological, physical and social abuse whether they were bahrainis or not. on her part the thai women union president lauded the steps taken by the kingdom of bahrain in this field especially with the opening of dar al aman which caters for the needs of those women and children who are abused. she said that such efforts reflected the kingdoms interest in combating **human trafficking** and protecting human rights. hs/18-sep-2008 18:46

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20 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

September 10, 2008

Rights Panel Draws Attention to Abuses of Foreign Labour in Kuwait

BYLINE: Sara Hassan

SECTION: In Brief

LENGTH: 387 words

The Kuwaiti National Assembly's human-rights committee has called for an emergency debate to deal with the abuse of foreign workers throughout the emirate. Among the many abuses of workers by employers and labour contractors documented by the committee in its preliminary report submitted to the assembly on Monday (8 September) were visa trading, excessively low wages, non-payment of wages, sub-standard working conditions, overworking employees, black-mailing employees with threats of dismissal and deportation, and the holding onto of workers' passports. The committee's report blamed the government for its failure to properly monitor labour conditions and enforce existing laws and regulations which could have stopped some of the abuses.

In particular, the report pointed out that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour had failed in its responsibility for ensuring that employers paid the wages of their workers on a regular basis and provided their employees with appropriate working conditions. The committee has called for the urgent implementation of a series of measures to secure the rights of workers, salaries, working hours, and appropriate time off. Long-term solutions to Kuwait's humanitarian problems would include the revision of several laws, an independent body of labour and a public shareholding company to recruit foreign employees fairly and legally. The worker abuses cited in the committee's provisional report mainly apply to blue-collar foreign labourers, such as those in the construction sector. In contrast, most white-collar workers are relatively well treated, and have very comfortable--and in some cases, affluent--lives.

Significance: The human-rights committee's provisional report claims that widespread abuses of large segments of foreign workers in Kuwait contribute to antisocial behaviour and other crime, such as drug trafficking. Furthermore, the report points out that the mistreatment of foreign workers has tarnished Kuwait's image abroad, citing in particular the criticisms of the country in the U.S. State Department's **Human Trafficking** Report, which places Kuwait among countries in its lowest category ("**Tier** 3"). However, given the antagonistic relationship between the government and the National Assembly, it is doubtful that there will be any rapid remedial actions.

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21 of 445 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

August 29, 2008 Friday

ISRAEL: MIGRANT WORKERS HOTLINE BATTLES SEX TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Mona Alami**LENGTH:** 1015 words**DATELINE:** JERUSALEM, Aug 29 2008

Israel continues to be a major destination for women trafficked into the sex industry. It is also a site where many migrants from developing countries endure intense labor exploitation.

Romm Lewkowicz, a spokesman from Israel's Hotline for Migrant Workers, said "Israel was only upgraded to **Tier 2** last year," referring to the U.S. State Department's 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** report.

The State Department divides countries into three tiers. Tier 1 is for countries that have successfully implemented measures to control trafficking; most Western countries fall into this category. Tier 2 is for countries that are trying to eradicate this modern day slavery but still fail to meet the necessary standards. Tier 3 is reserved for countries that have not addressed the issue at the most basic level.

In 2006 Israel was on the U.S. State Department's Watch List for people trafficking.

"This position falls between Tier 2 and Tier 3. The U.S. applies economic sanctions to those countries which fall into Tier 3, but as we have a strong economic relationship with the U.S., Israel was given a warning and placed in a slightly higher category," Lewkowicz said.

The Israeli government has also faced sharp criticism from the U.S. for its binding work visa policy, which effectively binds foreign migrants to the employer stated on their visa. The migrants come mostly from developing countries and former Soviet Eastern bloc countries in order to work in construction, home care and agriculture.

"The issuance of these visas is subject to the workers staying with the same employer stated on the visa, and if this condition is broken, then the migrant worker is deemed illegal and liable for deportation without having a chance to fight the case in court," Sigal Rosen said.

This has encouraged unscrupulous employers to withhold payment and extort employees, knowing they can always replace them and not be penalized.

One of the more notorious cases was the Turks for Tanks deal of 2002. According to the deal, the Israeli military industry (Ta'as) upgraded about 200 tanks for Turkey for \$687 million, in one of the country's biggest arms export deals. As part of the agreement, 800 Turkish workers were granted permits to work in construction in Israel, after being placed through the Turkish employment agency Yilmazlar.

One of Yilmazlar's contractors, Shaheen Yelmaz, arrived in Israel in 2006, dreaming of helping his father pay off his mounting debts after being promised a good job in Israel for \$1,400 a month -- a fortune by Turkey's standards where unemployment is high.

On arrival, his dream job turned into a nightmare when his passport and mobile phone were taken away, and he and other Turkish workers were accommodated in squalid conditions.

"We were not allowed to leave the premises in the evenings, and were only allowed out on our day off. And we were not paid for the first three months," Yelmaz said.

The Turkish embassy was unwilling to intervene because of the lucrative deal with Israel.

Yelmaz and his fellow contractors, most of them with little education, were coerced into signing blank documents before leaving Turkey. The documents virtually ensured their dependency on Yilmazlar.

"We were also told by our Israeli employer that if we were unhappy we could leave. The police would then arrest us as illegals and we would be deported," Yelmaz said.

Following a number of similar cases, the Hotline and other Israeli human rights organizations petitioned the Israeli High Court. The court acknowledged the inequity of the system but ruled that Yilmazlar's contract with the Israeli defense industry was unique, and the company's contract with Israel was limited.

However, the court did rule in 2006 that Israel's binding visa policy in general was illegal, and ordered the state to establish an alternative. Rosen said they are still waiting for a final response from the state.

Yelmaz was subsequently deported to Turkey, \$15,000 in debt, and Israel's contract with Yilmazlar was renewed.

"While the situation of indentured laborers remains serious, the [sex] trade trafficking has improved somewhat," Lewcowicz said.

"Since the U.S. State Department put Israel on its Watch List in 2006, the number of women trafficked to Israel has declined, and it is now against the law to traffic in women.

"Furthermore, the government now grants prostitutes a one-year rehabilitation visa. However, the bureaucracy involved means the granting of these visas is often problematic," Lewcowicz said.

But new problems have arisen. "Israel is no longer solely an importer of prostitutes but has become an exporter of them too. Last year we discovered a new business where Israeli women were being trafficked to the U.K. and Ireland to work in the sex industry," he said.

Prostitution has also gone underground in Israel. "Before it was openly done on the streets. Now many of the players have resorted to working from private apartments, following a police and government crackdown on the trafficking," Lewcowicz said.

According to the Jerusalem-based Task Force on Human Trafficking, approximately 1,000 of the estimated 10,000 prostitutes in Israel are minors. Immigrants from the ex-Soviet bloc countries, involved in the Russian mafia, manage about 20 percent of the trade, while the remainder are Israelis, Lewcowicz said.

A Global Terrorism Analysis report published by the Washington-based The Jamestown Foundation states that many of the trafficked women are smuggled in from Egypt's Sinai by Bedouins who have also been involved in arms smuggling. The industry has proved very lucrative for the human traffickers, with each woman sold in Israel bringing in anywhere between \$50,000 to \$100,000.

But the state also earns a tidy profit from the white slave trade, according to Hotline.

Service providers, such as taxi drivers transporting prostitutes, lawyers who represent the clients and landlords who rent out their premises as brothels, all pay income tax, and this ultimately arrives in the state's coffers. In some cases, corrupt police officers have also lined their pockets through bribery.

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22 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Mercury (South Africa)

August 28, 2008 Thursday
e1 Edition

SA on human trafficking red list

BYLINE: Graeme Hosken**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 330 words

South Africa's lack of legislation to deal with **human trafficking** has seen the country being placed on a United States **watch list**.

This was revealed during the release of the US state department's annual Trafficking in People report for 2008.

The report is a worldwide account of efforts by governments to combat human trafficking and includes countries of origin, transit and destination.

The report came as the Thai government yesterday donated more R14 000 to two Pretoria non-governmental organisations that assist women who have either been trafficked to, from or through South Africa.

The South African government recently announced it was drafting a Bill that would allow authorities to prosecute offenders for smuggling people.

South Africa has been placed on a "special watch list" along with 40 other countries that should receive special scrutiny.

The number of countries on the special watch list has increased from 32 in the 2007 report.

Countries in the report are placed on one of three levels.

The position is based on the extent of a government's actions in combating trafficking and it sees the US state department evaluating whether governments comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Governments that fully comply are placed in tier one, while those that make significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in tier two.

Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in tier three.

The Thai ambassador, Domdej Bunnag, said the trafficking of between 200 and 300 women to South Africa every year was of serious concern.

"Evidence shows there is a steady increase in the number of Thai women being trafficked into South Africa, especially to Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban," he said.

"Other alarming increases include the number of men being trafficked to South Africa on the pretence of being given work in the construction industry ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup."

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23 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Pretoria News (South Africa)

August 28, 2008 Thursday
e1 Edition

Trafficking:SA placed on watch list

BYLINE: Graeme Hosken**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 2**LENGTH:** 527 words

South Africa's lack of **human trafficking** legislation has seen the country being placed on a US **watch list**.

This was revealed during the release of the US State Department's annual Trafficking in People report for 2008.

The report, which covers the period of April 2007 to March 2008, is a worldwide account on efforts by governments to combat severe forms of human trafficking and includes countries of origin, transit and destination.

The report was published as the Thai government yesterday donated over R14 000 to two Pretoria NGOs which assist women who have been trafficked to, from or through SA.

The donations and the report come weeks after the South African government announced that it was drafting a bill which would allow authorities to prosecute offenders for smuggling people for various forms of exploitation.

The US State Department's report has seen South Africa being placed on a "Special Watch List" along with 40 other countries which should receive special scrutiny.

The number of countries on this list have increased from 32 in the 2007 Report. The report states that regardless of placement, which is not permanent, every country, including the US, should do more to counter human trafficking.

Countries in the report are placed on to one of the three levels.

The placement is based on the extent of a government's actions in combating trafficking and sees the US State Department evaluating whether governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

Governments that fully comply are placed in Tier 1, while those that make significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in Tier 2. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in Tier 3. The "Special Watch List" is between Tier 2 and Tier 3 - and this is where South Africa has been placed.

The TVPA created the Special Watch List for countries where the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is either significant or increasing significantly; there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking from the previous year; or, where the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Domedej Bunnag, Royal Thai Embassy ambassador, said the trafficking of between 200 to 300 women to South Africa every year was of serious concern.

He said: "Evidence shows that there is a steady increase in the number of Thai women being trafficked into South Africa especially to Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban. Other alarming increases include the number of men being trafficked to South Africa on the pretence of being given work in the construction industry ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup," he said.

Highlighting the recent arrest of four suspected Thai traffickers by South African and Thai police, Bunnag said the upcoming signing of a memorandum of understanding between South Africa and Thailand would go far in preventing human trafficking between the two countries.

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24 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

August 27, 2008 Wednesday 7:12 PM TST

Interior Ministry holds anti-human trafficking seminar

BYLINE: Rachel Chan

LENGTH: 465 words

DATELINE: Taipei, Aug. 27

The Interior Ministry opened a two-day international anti-human trafficking seminar Wednesday with the goal of consolidating a campaign against human trafficking by establishing a comprehensive government system.

"Anti-human trafficking is not only work that takes long term efforts but is also a challenge that requires international cooperation and attention," said Deputy Interior Minister Chien Tai-lang, who is also acting director-general of the National Immigration Agency.

He made the remarks in his opening speech at the seminar, titled the "2008 Anti-Human Trafficking International Workshop," which took place at the National Taiwan University Hospital International Convention Center in Taipei.

Noting that Taiwan has been listed as a **Tier 2** country for the second straight year by the United States in its annual anti-**human trafficking** report, Chien said the ministry has completed a draft proposal on anti-**human trafficking** to be submitted to the Executive Yuan at the end of August and that it is expected to be enacted by the Legislative Yuan in its next session.

He added that the government is determined to fight human trafficking, evidenced by the "anti-human trafficking project" launched by the Executive Yuan in November 2006, an inter-governmental agency task force on anti-human trafficking that was established in 2007, and a chapter on anti-human trafficking that was added to the immigration law.

"I hope that Taiwan will be upgraded to a **Tier 1** country because of these efforts on anti-**human trafficking**," Chien said.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008 (TIF 2008), released by the U.S. Department of State June 6, places Taiwan on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries in terms of **human trafficking**, the same level it was ranked at last year.

The TIF 2008 describes Taiwan as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Taiwan is also a source of women trafficked to Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S., according to the report.

Participants in the international seminar include officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Customs Bureau. Among them are Tatum S. King, posted in Hong Kong, Katerina Karousos from Washington, D.C. and Gabriel Gonzalez from Florida.

Other participants are representatives from the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation, the Taiwan End Children Prostitution Association, prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice and Sandy Yeh, an associate professor of the Central Police University.

During the two-day seminar, they will exchange views on how to effectively tackle human trafficking and drug trafficking and Yeh, representing non-government organizations, will present an essay titled "The State of Taiwan's Anti-human Trafficking and the Role of NGOs."

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25 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

August 22, 2008 Friday

Drive vs illegal human trade strengthened

BYLINE: Emilia Narni J. David

SECTION: Pg. S1/10

LENGTH: 460 words

An intensified campaign against human trafficking was launched early this week by a nongovernmental organization with the support of the United States embassy.

Human trafficking refers to the illegal trade of humans, mostly children and women, and forcing them to work either as sex slaves or child laborers.

With nearly 2.3 million forced into "modern slavery" annually, human trafficking has become the third largest illegal cross-border crime, behind drug trafficking and illegal arms trade.

The campaign launch was led by the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. (VFFI).

The Philippines is considered as a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. According to the US State Department, the victims are brought to Cote d' Ivoire, Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia, among others. The victims number hundreds of thousands.

The Philippines has been put on the second **tier** of the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The classification meant the country is complying only with the minimum standards set by the US on the protection and prevention of human trafficking.

The minimum standard includes imposing punishment to deter trafficking and sustained efforts by the government to eliminate trafficking.

In response to improving the anti-human trafficking campaign record, the Philippines enacted into law Republic Act 9208 also known as the Anti- trafficking of Persons Act 2003. There has so far been 11 convictions on trafficking.

A further downgrade to the third tier will result in the loss of non- humanitarian, non-trade assistance from the US such as development programs and educational exchange programs.

"Human trafficking is a global problem," US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney said at the launch. "It is modern-day slavery and victims rarely have a voice."

Cecil Flores-Oebanda, VFFI president and executive director, noted a "massive exploitation of safe migration."

The VFFI works with other sectors to provide halfway houses for trafficking victims. The Philippine Ports Authority is building halfway houses in ports where rescued victims are hosted until they can fully reintegrate into society.

According to the International Labor Office, victims often cope with reintegration problems since their families expected them to provide money.

In the same event, Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking said that the campaign against human trafficking had no budget.

Despite the predicament, Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez vowed that the Office of the Ombudsman will continue to probe and prosecute any public officials found guilty of colluding with traffickers.

"There is no reason why we cannot win the war against trafficking in this lifetime," said Mr. Blancaflor.

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26 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

August 16, 2008

Fact Sheets: The Facts About Human Trafficking For Forced Labor

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 1298 words

Fact Sheets: The Facts About Human Trafficking For Forced Labor Fri, 15 Aug 2008 14:48:21 -0500

Fact Sheet Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Washington, DC June 3, 2008

The Facts About Human Trafficking For Forced Labor

"There's a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life—an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished. Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others. And governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery."

-President George W. Bush before the UN General Assembly, September 2003

A Victim's Story Rajila, age 30, left her home in India to work in Saudi Arabia based on promises of a good salary and free housing from a company that supplies laborers for hospitals. But what seemed like a dream opportunity turned out to be a nightmare. Rajila, together with other foreign women, was forced to work 12-hour shifts, six days a week. She was never paid. The "free" housing was excruciatingly confining, and, when the women returned from work, they were locked in their rooms. Once a week they were escorted to the local market to purchase groceries and other necessities. She and other Muslim laborers from India were not allowed to practice their faith in local mosques. Rajila left Saudi Arabia taking with her no accumulated salary from three and a half years of uninterrupted work.¹

What is Human Trafficking" Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. Every year, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders; millions more are enslaved in their own countries. The common denominator in all trafficking scenarios is the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for commercial sex or for the purpose of subjecting a victim to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or forced labor. The use of force or coercion can be direct and violent, or psychological.

The Causes of Labor Trafficking Most instances of forced labor occur as unscrupulous recruiters and employers take advantage of gaps in law enforcement to exploit vulnerable workers. These workers are made more vulnerable to forced labor practices because of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, political conflict, and cultural acceptance of forced labor. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable, but individuals are also often forced into labor in their own countries.

Bonded Labor One form of force or coercion is the use of a bond, or debt, to keep a person in subjugation. This is referred to in law and policy as "bonded labor" or "debt bondage." It is criminalized under U.S. law and included as a form of exploitation related to trafficking in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Many workers around the world fall victim to debt bondage when they assume an initial debt as part of the terms of employment; others inherit debt in more traditional systems of bonded labor. Traditional bonded labor in South Asia enslaves huge numbers of people in this way from generation to generation; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) estimate that the number of bonded laborers in India alone ranges from 20 million to 65 million.

Involuntary Servitude People are trapped in involuntary servitude when they fear that serious physical harm or legal coercion, such as deportation, would result from an attempt to escape their conditions. Victims are often economic migrants and low-skilled laborers who are trafficked from less developed communities to more prosperous and developed

places. Many victims experience physical and verbal abuse, breach of an employment contract, and may perceive themselves to be in captivity. Too often, they are.

Involuntary Domestic Servitude Domestic workers may be trapped in servitude through the use of force or coercion, such as physical (including sexual) or emotional abuse. Children are particularly vulnerable to domestic servitude in private homes, which is often unregulated by public authorities. In some wealthier countries of East Asia and the Persian Gulf, there is great demand for domestic servants, who are frequently forced into conditions of involuntary domestic servitude.

Child Labor Most international organizations and national laws legally allow older children to engage in light work. However, the worst forms of child labor are being targeted for eradication by nations around the globe. Among these hazardous types are the sale and trafficking of children for bonded and forced labor, and the forced conscription of children into armed conflict. In this brutal practice, national armies and rebel militias illegally recruit—sometimes through abduction or force—male and female children as combatants, porters, spies, domestics, and sex slaves.

What Consequences Do Victims Face? Victims of trafficking for forced labor are modern-day slaves. They experience permanent physical and psychological harm, isolation from their families and communities, reduced opportunities for personal development, and restricted movement. Victims are often wary of law enforcement and psychologically dependent on their traffickers. Child victims are denied access to education, which reinforces the cycle of illiteracy and poverty that facilitates their exploitation.

What is the United States Doing to Combat Human Trafficking for Forced Labor?

* The 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the 2003 and 2005 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts mandate U.S. Government efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

* The Department of State issues an annual Trafficking in Persons Report that assesses foreign government actions to combat trafficking, including protecting the victims of forced labor and punishing their exploiters. The 2008 **Trafficking in Persons** Report includes a number of countries on **Tier 3** for their lack of efforts to address forced labor in their countries.

* These countries include Algeria, Burma, Kuwait, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Syria.

* The Trade and Development Act of 2000 mandates efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including the trafficking of children and forced child labor, as a criterion for countries receiving trade benefits.

* The Department of Labor (DOL) maintains a list of products that are believed to have been made using forced child labor and produces an annual report on how countries are combating the worst forms of child labor.

* In Fiscal Year 2007 alone, the United States Government spent more than \$79 million to assist governments and NGOs on anti-trafficking efforts. More than 70 percent of that amount focused at least in part on labor trafficking.

Funded programs include:

* A partnership between the Department of State and International Justice Mission to utilize local laws and law enforcement to rescue victims of forced labor in India.

* A USAID project in Uganda that provides direct support to several organizations that shelter children who were exploited for labor purposes or are at risk for exploitation.

* A collaboration between the Department of Labor and the International Labor Organization to improve El Salvador's capacity to enforce laws against exploitative child labor and protect victims of trafficking.

* A Department of Health and Human Services program that supports efforts by the Phoenix, AZ chapter of the International Rescue Committee to reach out to victims of forced labor in the Latino community.

1 Human Rights Watch. *Bad Dreams: Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia*. July 2004. <http://hrw.org/mideast/saudi/labor>

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27 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times (Philippines)

August 11, 2008 Monday

US-trained cops lead PNP's drive versus human trafficking

BYLINE: By Maricel V. Cruz, Reporter

LENGTH: 377 words

Forty-three police personnel have completed a United States-sponsored training on law enforcement operations against human trafficking conducted by the Philippine National Police Training Service in partnership with the U.S. International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program ICITAP.

This developed as PNP Chief Director General Avelino Razon Jr. underscored the need for the national police to address issue on human trafficking through proper training of policemen.

"Trafficking in persons is among the top law enforcement issues that the PNP is addressing through proper training of police investigators, community relations officers and beat patrol officers," Razon said.

Police Director German Doria, PNP director for Human Resource and Doctrine Development (DHRDD), said ICITAP provided a combination of technical assistance and training intended to support the institutionalization of "PNP's Transformation Plan." by designing and delivering a comprehensive police assistance program.

"ICITAP also assists in developing a plan for the model police station concept; hopefully, we can fully implement this concept throughout the country," Doria said.

The ICITAP is facilitated by its manager, Richard Miller.

The national police's Transformation Plan includes Model Police Training, which is divided into two tiers. The first tier consists of Instructor Development, Community Policing, Basic or First Line Supervision, Ethics, Human Rights, Crime Scene Investigation and Civil Disturbance Management.

Tier two of the training involves Crimes Against Women and Children, **Trafficking in Persons**, Terrorism Overview, Mid-Level Management, Internal Affairs, Basic Criminal Investigations and Media Relations.

Tier one was conducted for Marikina, Quezon, Baguio, Boracay, Kalibo, Puerto Princesa, Zamboanga, Marawi and Sorsogon stations. The Maritime Group and the PNP Training Service were also included. The training was concluded in June 2008 while tier two of the training is expected to conclude in December.

At present, ICITAP has three projects including the training for ten model police stations throughout the Philippines, a boat project and training for the Maritime Group and basic and advanced training for PNP officers in Jolo, Sulu.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper



Global News Bites

28 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

August 6, 2008

Bill to Punish Worker Abuse Introduced in Kuwait

BYLINE: Rehab Al Mahfudh**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 280 words

Kuwait is looking to introduce punishments for the abuse of foreign labour as a result of increased criticism from the United States and violent protests by mostly Bangladeshi workers, which erupted last week. Head of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Ali al-Baghli, stated that there was a good chance that the bill would pass; the bill still needs to be approved by Kuwait's parliament, its government, and the ruling emir. The bill, which was introduced by the Kuwaiti parliament's human-rights committee, sets a jail term of 15 years for offences which include forced labour, and abusing workers, according to Reuters. In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIPS) published in June, the U.S. State Department placed Kuwait in the bottom "tier 3" ranking of global efforts to tackle **human trafficking**. Kuwait witnessed violent protests last week from Asian workers demanding better pay and improved working conditions. As a result, the Kuwaiti government agreed to set a minimum wage (see **Kuwait: 5 August 2008**). Furthermore, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Faisel Al-Hajji, warned that the government would take strict actions against any company which fails to comply with the government's new regulations, which will include taking legal action against the company and freezing its recruitment files.

Significance: Kuwait's current labour laws fail to grant expatriate workers adequate legal protection or ensure their basic rights, such as fair compensation and an abuse-free working environment. Wide-scale abuse triggered massive protests by Asian workers in Kuwait which turned violent, and resulted in the arrest and deportation of hundreds of people last week.

LOAD-DATE: August 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

29 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Kuwait Times

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

July 23, 2008 Wednesday

Rights body slams rampant visa trading in Kuwait

BYLINE: Ahmad Al-Khaled, Kuwait Times

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 787 words

Jul. 23--KUWAIT -- The Head of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights Ali Al-Baghli spoke out yesterday against the deterioration of human rights in Kuwait. He was particularly referring to the pervasive illegal trade in visas, which he said is carried out by all segments of the Kuwaiti society. "Some members of parliament, government workers and members of the ruling family are all visa traders," he charged.

Cleaning workers contracted by a private company to work at the Ministry of Health went on a strike three days ago followed by gas station attendants who staged a strike on Monday. The two incidents are the most recent in a string of walkouts staged over the past year by the state's low-paid expat laborers. "This is a red line and a last shout to resolve the issue," Al-Baghli said. "We are all witnessing protests by laborers who do not get their salaries even though their salaries are minuscule and that is

due to the greed of some Kuwaitis," he added. "These companies trade in human beings," Al-Baghli said, making sure not to blame all Kuwaitis for the greed of some corrupt Kuwaiti embezzlers and unscrupulous businesses.

Al-Baghli lay blame on the government and MPs for Kuwait's recent drop to **Tier 3** on the US list of countries not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**. "There is a lack of response from government entities such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as well as the Ministry of Interior and the National Assembly...the parliament does not take human rights seriously," he lamented. "We have not seen any productive action by the parliament to stop these injustices against workers.

Al-Baghli noted that some MPs had gone so far as to accuse some of their colleagues in parliament of being party to labor abuses. The Human Rights Society called upon the Cabinet and the Assembly to change the government's contract bidding laws which are loosely arranged and not monitored. "There should be a minimum wage adhered to for workers in these companies and a mechanism to check on companies to make certain they are paying their workers. Their contracts stipulate salaries at KD 60 per month while i

n reality workers get paid KD 20. The rest goes in the pockets of the companies and influential individuals who protect the companies," said Al-Baghli, who called for a minimum wage to start at KD 80 to 100.

Al-Baghli pointed out towards the hesitancy on the part of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Bader Al-Duwaila to meet with the society. "We requested a meeting with the minister in writing on the 10th of June but he has not yet met with us and now they are saying he is out of the country," said Al-Baghli, who noted that the group had previously met with the previous minister of social affairs and labor who gave the group all of ten minutes to state their grievances over the state of human and labor righ

ts in Kuwait. "We will meet with the prime minister so he can help us solve the issue," he said.

Speaking out against the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's newly-announced nine guidelines to establishing NGOs in Kuwait, Al-Baghli said: "The Kuwaiti constitution's 43rd amendment gives us the right to establish NGOs and un-

ions." He urged Kuwaitis to reject the guidelines, saying, "The Kuwait Human Rights Society calls on all NGOs and the civil society to stand against these rules and reject them because they are unconstitutional, illegal and irrational.

He cited the guideline requiring a one-year probationary period for NGOs as an example of the irrationality of the rules. Additionally, he cited the rule which does not allow membership in more than one NGO. "I am a lawyer by profession and am a member of the Lawyers Society. By this rule I cannot be a member of the Human Rights Society as well, and this is unreasonable," Al-Baghli said, adding flatly: "With these guidelines there will be no new NGOs in Kuwait.

Putting the guidelines in a historical context, Al-Baghli said, "NGOs have withstood other viscous campaigns. In the 1980s during the unconstitutional dissolution of parliament, they dissolved some NGOs and forced some to appoint boards handpicked by the government rather than allowing organizations to elect representatives." Calling the new guidelines 'unreasonable', he said, "We should reject them because there is no excuse for them.

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30 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Latina Viva

July 23, 2008 Wednesday 6:55 AM EST

Report on Slavery Today

LENGTH: 252 words

Jul. 23, 2008 (delivered by Newstex) -- © Every year the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons puts out a report on human trafficking in order to raise awareness on this modern form of slavery. Part of the report sorts international governments according to how much their efforts conform to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Now this is a US law, not an international law, but tracking this is one way the US tries to raise awareness on the topic, recognize the efforts of other countries, and encourage other governments to do more. Countries are classified in four . "Tier 1 countries aren't perfect, but they meet what are called the minimum standards for combating human trafficking in the U.S. law that governs how we prepare the report." -Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons The only Tier 1 country in Latin America is Colombia.

That's it. All other Latin American nations are in Tier 2. The ambassador mentions significant improvement in Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil. As for the US, it does not situate itself in the tier system, but does report to congress and make records public on domestic performance in fighting this heinous abuse. Human Trafficking is the third largest global , and Latin America, while not the most vulnerable, is still a major source for this market that buys and sells men, women, and children. It's worth and increasing our understanding. Newstex ID: CREA-0054-26859793

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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31 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Channel NewsAsia

July 21, 2008 Monday 4:14 PM GMT

Singapore rejects US assessment of its record on human trafficking

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS

LENGTH: 509 words

SINGAPORE: Singapore has rejected the US State Department's assessment that Singapore does not meet the "minimum standards" of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000. It described the assessment as "unjustified."

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said Singapore's laws are tough but fair and its approach to crime has been uncompromising. This applies as much to human trafficking as it does to any other crime.

Mr Wong made these points in his response to a written Parliamentary question from MP for Marine Parade GRC Dr Fatimah Lateef.

Dr Lateef had asked how Singapore views the **Tier 2** placement the US State Department had given the republic, alongside Thailand and Cambodia, in its 2008 **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

Mr Wong said Singapore's approach to human trafficking is not different from how it deals with crime in general.

Prostitution by anyone under 18 years of age is illegal. Also illegal is child sex tourism and the organisation or promotion of tours overseas for child sex. The penalties for all these offences are stiff.

Turning to another key focus of the report was Singapore's treatment of foreign domestic workers (FDW) working here.

Mr Wong pointed out that every FDW enters Singapore voluntarily via proper channels and is issued with a work permit. They should, therefore, not be included in a report on human trafficking.

Even so, Singapore has many measures in place to protect FDWs against exploitation. For instance, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) conducts random interviews with FDWs working for the first time in Singapore during their initial months of employment.

This means there are ample opportunities for a FDW to contact the authorities if she is forced, deceived or coerced into employment against her will before and after she starts work.

Mr Wong also pointed out that the number of substantiated FDW abuse cases handled by the Police fell from 157 cases in 1997 to 68 cases in 2007, in spite of an increasing FDW population.

From 2004 to 2007, MOM successfully prosecuted a total of 13 errant employers for failing to pay wages due to their FDWs. Five of them were eventually jailed.

Stressing that instances of FDW abuse are not widespread, Mr Wong said the frequency of abuse should be seen in the context of the total number of FDWs in Singapore, which is some 180,000 as of 2007.

He said reports of isolated cases of abuse should not obscure the fact that the majority of foreign workers in Singapore are reasonably well-treated.

Summing up, Mr Wong said: "Singapore has often been criticised for being too tough in law enforcement. To be criticised instead for being too soft in the US State Department's TIP Report is strange indeed.

"Our Police will continue to work against trafficking as they do against all crimes. They are answerable to the Singapore people who will judge how they perform.

"In this regard, it is fortunate that the public at least is better informed and has a better understanding of the realities on the ground and can separate fair fact from unfair conjecture."

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32 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Taxindiaonline News

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JULY 17, 2008

Anti-Smuggling Conclave: Customs honchos discuss everything except human trafficking!

By Shailendra Kumar, Editor

LAST Friday, the CBEC top brass and the honchos of its anti-smuggling formations across the country deplaned in hordes at Ahmedabad. Purpose - CBEC Chairman wanted to have an overview of Cross-border National Security issues and the preparedness of the Indian Customs to the emerging challenges. Laudable indeed! One normally does not get to see such brain-straining conclaves in Customs and Excise unless some international organisation organises a meet in India to touch upon these sensitive issues. The CBEC bosses in the past have been known for their obsessive involvement in just the transfer-related functionality of the Board. But here is a new young crop of thinkers who deserve kudos for taking a day off the beaten track of routine works and deliberate on future challenges and a realistic roadmap for the Customs.

Nice, lucid and informative presentations were made by a large assortment of officers. And the topics which were elaborated on ranged from our porous borders with Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh and a vast coastline and riverine border with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Smuggling through legal routes - ports, airports and land customs stations - were also highlighted. The tools like risk management system and NIDB were praised for their efficacies. Joint Sea Patrol (JSP) system being followed in Maharashtra and Gujarat with the Navy, Coast Guard and State Police was also discussed. A close coordination with other key agencies working on borders like BSF and IB was re-emphasised. The need for modern logistical support was looked into. DRI focussed on some of the key areas like FICN, drugs and arms smuggling and also talked about some of the milestones of its achievements. True, DRI has of late grown in its stature because of its consistently remarkable seizures and impressive varieties of the cases, proving to be useful inputs for other enforcement agencies.

One of the important issues which emerged and discussed at length was the lacklustre existence of Customs (Preventive) structures. Although they exist but they exist merely to exist! They do not command fear among smuggling syndicates nor respect among other agencies which do expect vital inputs from them. The need for a complete revamp of these formations was acknowledged by all but a few and one may see these changes coming into effect before the present Chairman retires next year.

Member (Customs) hammered the much talked about issue of scanning of transshipment cargo for security reasons. The prevailing practice is that once the goods land at Nhava Sheva, they are simply shipped to the respective ICDs where they are examined or scanned before out of charge is given. What happens on way to the ICDs is not known or much feared for the nuisance potential of a bad cargo. Thus, Member (Cus) suggestion was well taken by many of the officers.

What TIOL would like to suggest here is that it would be more ideal if the Customs creates a separate cell for freight intelligence and the same can be shared with various formations and other agencies. Let it be a focussed domain of expertise and let the officers develop skills and also suggest modern measures to be adopted to ensure that only safe cargo could reach our ICDs. Let's recall a series of blasts at Delhi ICD a couple of years back when war junks were imported as iron scraps and some of the dying grenades had created scary noise! Such a unit can also work on different methods of sealing such containers and ensuring that they are not substituted on their way.

The JSP concept is another area where I would like to draw the attention of the policy makers. When it has been tangibly successful in Maharashtra and Gujarat what stops the CBEC from introducing the same for other coastline down south. India shares very sensitive borders with Sri Lanka. LTTE is one terrorist outfit which also aspires to control the maritime border. A good deal of smuggling of drugs, arms and other goods also takes place in this area. Therefore, it is important that the CBEC takes up the issue with the States along this coastline and put in place a modern JSP module.

Another area where the CBEC and the Ministry of Home may like to focus is the long stretch between the jurisdiction of West Bengal Preventive and the Vizag Customs. A major maritime border with Bangladesh is unprotected. It offers a risk-free avenue to organised smuggling syndicates and India needs to plug this hole.

Interestingly, the HR aspect was also discussed at length. But what is more interesting is that it was discussed without having the Member (P & V) present there. Therefore, it was an exercise in futility as the Member (P) would only get a written inputs rather than facing difficult queries from many querists. The staffing of preventive outfits has become a major issue in the past few months. The Member(P) appears to be having an outdated impression about the role of preventive outfits and that is why a quick analysis of the recent transfer orders reveals that he has left many posts of these formations unfilled. For instance, more than a dozen posts of AD in DRI's far-flung formations, the cutting-edge, have been left unfilled. Similarly, many Customs (Preventive) formations are understaffed or in many cases if somebody has been posted, the officers have not been relieved for joining there. Here the blame must be shared by the Member (Customs) also as he being directly accountable for their performance should have taken up the cudgels on their behalf. But he seems to be least sensitised about such ground-level issues of his field formations. Or, I heard somebody saying he is 'over-sensitised'!

Let me now move to some of the major tracks which this high-profile conclave should have discussed and shown vision in tune with a 21st century roadmap for the Customs. When I first heard of such a meet being organised, my expectations had gone up and I also thought that the CBEC honchos would certainly touch upon the issue of legal and illegal trade in human beings. Customs being a border management organisation does witness legal trade in skilled and unskilled labour. It rather witnesses illegal trade in much larger magnitude. But since it does not have any jurisdiction it keeps quiet. In view of the recent developments like the USA putting India on **watch list** for inflated **human trafficking** and the UN Study indicating serious scaling up this problem in India, this conclave should have at least called for merger of immigration department with the Customs. This would help the airport customs to keep an effective eye on the changing patterns of immigration trade. India being the second largest labour surplus country would see more scaling up of labour in the coming decades, and Customs can have much larger role to play in making it a licit export. I remember the Customs earlier used to have a 'Visa Desk' to keep a watch on profiles of passengers to curb drug smuggling. But this system was discontinued for reasons not known to many.

Let's take a look at this trade. Smuggling of people across national borders has become a lucrative illegal activity, as well as the extremely murky side, people-trafficking, especially of women who are enslaved typically as prostitutes. In the recent years it has become a highly organised crime. Worldwide, about 10 lakh people are trafficked across borders each year. A major chunk is accounted by women and children. More than a lakh people are trafficked from India as well. As many as 30,000 Nepalese are trafficked into India. The same number comes from Bangladesh. In fact India has emerged as a transit country not only for drugs but also human trafficking as these 'human goods' are transported to much lucrative destinations in the West and Middle East. Once can imagine the kind of money involved in this trade from one recent case in which one Member of Parliament was found involved in this racket.

Keeping in mind the growing magnitude of human trafficking India needs to legislatively and administratively gear up to meet this international challenge. This is one crime which earns bags of bad name for India's growing stature as a modern and tech-savvy economy. It is being put on watch list by many European countries and our Govt does need to get hurriedly sensitised about it. The domestic trafficking issue should be left to the police to handle, and cross-border trafficking jurisdiction should come to the Customs which is administratively and intelligence-wise better equipped to handle and manage our borders. I hope our top national security advisors would pay adequate attention to this issue before it becomes a full-blown HIV!

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33 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Radio Free Europe

July 7, 2008

Weak Laws, Energy Wealth, Contribute To Rise In Sex Trade

BYLINE: Radu Busneag, Khadija Ismaylova

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 1597 words

Oksana, a young Moldovan woman, begins her story in a depressingly familiar way.

"I was friends with one girl and she offered me a job as a house painter in Moscow. I was 18 years old and I agreed because she was my best friend, my childhood friend," she says, her voice low and listless. "When we arrived in Moscow, I saw a pimp give her 15,000 rubles and a passport saying, 'Thank you for the human goods.' I said, 'What?' She said, 'Sorry about that, Oksana.' She sold me."

Like thousands of women throughout the former Soviet Union confronted by grinding poverty and bleak futures, Oksana's leap of faith landed her in the worst hell imaginable -- betrayed by a close acquaintance and sold into a violent, helpless life as a sex slave in the Russian capital.

"I spent one year there," Oksana continues. "I was humiliated, baited with dogs; my legs are still bruised. My veins were cut, I was forced to swallow stones, I was threatened with guns by clients because I refused to do certain things. I was beaten to a pulp; they treated me horribly. I lost 20 or 25 kilograms. A year later, one man helped me, he gave me \$200, gave me some clothes, helped me as much as he could. He said, 'Run as fast as you can and don't look back.' I lived on the street for three years after that because I was scared. I was scared of everybody."

Nearly five years later, Oksana is out of harm and back in Moldova. But the impact of her experience will never leave her. Her message to young Moldovan women seeking employment abroad is both sad and knowing: "Girls, trust no one."

Follow The Money

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that as many as 12.3 million people worldwide have been sold into modern-day slavery -- men, women, and children forced into labor and sexual servitude against their will and with little hope of recourse.

Some 80 percent of cross-border trafficking victims are women and girls sold into the commercial sex trade. Trafficking routes traditionally follow economic trends, and for many years, women from the former Soviet Union were sold and shuttled to places like Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Western Europe, and the United States.

Now, however, the rising tide of energy wealth within the Commonwealth of Independent States has forged new slavery routes, with Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan as their prime destinations.

Eva Biaudet, the special representative in fighting human trafficking for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), told journalists during a recent visit to Baku that the rapid economic growth in oil-rich Azerbaijan was translating into higher numbers of minors, foreign laborers, and sex workers trafficked into the country -- particularly from Central Asia.

"In this kind of economic situation there's always a dark side," says Biaudet. "It's our experience that in this kind of construction boom, trafficking in human beings can also be very easy for traffickers in labor exploitation. There's so much need for workers that they can bring them from China or from neighboring countries."

Above The Law?

For organizations like the OSCE, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations, a perennial challenge is urging local governments to accept an active role in stemming trafficking networks and punishing ringleaders rather than their victims. For now, it is often the trafficked person who is the first to be arrested or otherwise punished in trafficking cases.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, introducing this year's State Department trafficking report in June, said that although more countries are addressing sex trafficking through prosecution and convictions, "the petty tyrants who exploit their laborers rarely receive serious punishment. We see this as a serious shortcoming."

In some trafficking cases, a reluctance to pursue traffickers is interpreted as evidence of government involvement. Sevil is a Baku woman who spent eight horrifying months as an enslaved sex worker in Istanbul -- once forced, on her birthday, to service 60 clients. She says her Azerbaijani trafficker, a woman, had routinely boasted of close ties to officials in Azerbaijan's government.

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'Enormous Farce'

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But experts like Alovzat Aliyev, the director of the Baku-based Center for Legal Assistance to Migrants, says as many as 60 percent of people arrested on trafficking charges are set free or given light punishments with no jail time -- despite a 5- to 15-year minimum sentence outlined in the country's criminal code.

Since 2004, all of Azerbaijan's antitrafficking efforts are coordinated by the Interior Ministry -- a situation that Aliyev says is inefficient at best, and criminal at worst.

"There's no effect, because all of the different parts -- the department for combating trafficking, the national coordinator, the victims' shelter -- are subordinated to a single ministry," Aliyev says. "This situation paves the way for corruption. Tasks should be distributed. Other ministries should be involved in combating trafficking, and there should be cooperation with NGOs."

In the first five months of 2008, criminal cases were opened against 45 trafficking suspects in Azerbaijan. Biauudet of the OSCE has expressed concern that most of those arrested are women and not those controlling the massive wealth and power backing the criminal rings. Aliyev alleges that criminal sweeps purposely avoid the most powerful clientele of sex-trafficking rings.

"There hasn't been a single case where a government official has been arrested for trafficking," he says. "It means that this enormous farce has been created to protect the officials who are the patrons of this slavery business, rather than to combat human trafficking."

The Price Of Inaction

Some countries, however, are beginning to feel the consequences of government inaction on trafficking. Moldova in June earned the dubious distinction of becoming the only European country to be added to a trafficking blacklist compiled by the U.S. State Department.

In its annual survey of 170 countries, the State Department dropped Moldova to a **Tier 3** rating, its lowest category in terms of government efforts to fight **human trafficking**. The report says the demotion reflects Chisinau's "failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high-profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking."

The new designation means that the United States may decide to withhold certain types of aid and impose sanctions unless Moldova takes steps to improve official steps against trafficking.

Michael Horowitz, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Hudson Institute think tank and a key figure in U.S. antitrafficking efforts, was behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which passed in 2000 and set the stage for the State Department's three-tier rating system.

Horowitz says the mechanism has proved effective because it makes a direct cause-and-effect link between antitrafficking efforts by local governments and U.S. policy affecting those governments.

"The power of the rating system has really changed government significantly," says Horowitz. "Because if you're in Tier 3, you're in a confrontation with the United States, where we suspend all cultural exchange funds, you lose nonhumanitarian aid, we vote against you for any access to the World Bank or the IMF, if the country is complicit in either sex trafficking or forced-labor trafficking. Countries now understand that relations with America are significantly contingent on what they do on this trafficking issue."

'The Great Issue Of The 21st Century'

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Despite receiving more than 1,000 calls a year from trafficking victims, Alistratova says her group has almost no money with which to help women seeking an escape from the sex trade.

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34 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Radio Free Europe

July 7, 2008

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BYLINE: Radu Benea, Khadija Ismaylova

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 1597 words

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"I spent one year there," Oksana continues. "I was humiliated, baited with dogs; my legs are still bruised. My veins were cut, I was forced to swallow stones, I was threatened with guns by clients because I refused to do certain things. I was beaten to a pulp; they treated me horribly. I lost 20 or 25 kilograms. A year later, one man helped me, he gave me \$200, gave me some clothes, helped me as much as he could. He said, 'Run as fast as you can and don't look back.' I lived on the street for three years after that because I was scared. I was scared of everybody."

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States News Service

July 7, 2008 Monday

WEAK LAWS, ENERGY WEALTH, CONTRIBUTE TO RISE IN SEX TRADE

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1583 words

DATELINE: PRAGUE, Czech Republic

The following information was released by Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty:

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But experts like Alovzat Aliyev, the director of the Baku-based Center for Legal Assistance to Migrants, says as many as 60 percent of people arrested on trafficking charges are set free or given light punishments with no jail time -- despite a 5- to 15-year minimum sentence outlined in the country's criminal code.

Since 2004, all of Azerbaijan's antitrafficking efforts are coordinated by the Interior Ministry -- a situation that Aliyev says is inefficient at best, and criminal at worst.

"There's no effect, because all of the different parts -- the department for combating trafficking, the national coordinator, the victims' shelter -- are subordinated to a single ministry," Aliyev says. "This situation paves the way for corruption. Tasks should be distributed. Other ministries should be involved in combating trafficking, and there should be cooperation with NGOs."

In the first five months of 2008, criminal cases were opened against 45 trafficking suspects in Azerbaijan. Biaudet of the OSCE has expressed concern that most of those arrested are women and not those controlling the massive wealth and power backing the criminal rings. Aliyev alleges that criminal sweeps purposely avoid the most powerful clientele of sex-trafficking rings.

"There hasn't been a single case where a government official has been arrested for trafficking," he says. "It means that this enormous farce has been created to protect the officials who are the patrons of this slavery business, rather than to combat human trafficking."

The Price Of Inaction

Some countries, however, are beginning to feel the consequences of government inaction on trafficking. Moldova in June earned the dubious distinction of becoming the only European country to be added to a trafficking blacklist compiled by the U.S. State Department.

In its annual survey of 170 countries, the State Department dropped Moldova to a **Tier 3** rating, its lowest category in terms of government efforts to fight **human trafficking**. The report says the demotion reflects Chisinau's "failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high-profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking."

The new designation means that the United States may decide to withhold certain types of aid and impose sanctions unless Moldova takes steps to improve official steps against trafficking.

Michael Horowitz, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Hudson Institute think tank and a key figure in U.S. antitrafficking efforts, was behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which passed in 2000 and set the stage for the State Department's three-tier rating system.

Horowitz says the mechanism has proved effective because it makes a direct cause-and-effect link between antitrafficking efforts by local governments and U.S. policy affecting those governments.

"The power of the rating system has really changed government significantly," says Horowitz. "Because if you're in Tier 3, you're in a confrontation with the United States, where we suspend all cultural exchange funds, you lose nonhumanitarian aid, we vote against you for any access to the World Bank or the IMF, if the country is complicit in either sex trafficking or forced-labor trafficking. Countries now understand that relations with America are significantly contingent on what they do on this trafficking issue."

'The Great Issue Of The 21st Century'

On the local end of the antitrafficking battle are a network of NGOs who often say they get little in the way of government or global support. Oksana Alistratova heads a victims' protection NGO in Moldova's breakaway region of Transdnister, whose unresolved political status has made operations easy for sophisticated criminal rings trafficking drugs, weapons, and humans.

Despite receiving more than 1,000 calls a year from trafficking victims, Alistratova says her group has almost no money with which to help women seeking an escape from the sex trade.

"Our organization at present doesn't have the resources to build a center. We don't have a single center for victims in Transdnister," says Alistratova. "We even wanted to do it in our office -- to make at least one room where a person could get some rest or wait while we resolve some problems, or find them temporary housing. But that's a little dangerous. We don't always know what these people are tangled up in. Sometimes, as we know perfectly well, people lie and act like trafficking victims when they're actually traffickers themselves."

Since starting her work in 2006, Alistratova has secured the safe return of 30 women. Her organization helps them find housing, psychological counseling, and work. It's an uphill battle, however, and one that critics say needs far greater coordination and political will on all levels. "The great issue of the 21st century," says Michael Horowitz, "is the emancipation and empowerment of women."

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

36 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 27, 2008 Friday 7:39 PM TST

NGOs, government agencies discuss anti-human trafficking law

BYLINE: Emmanuelle Tzeng @

LENGTH: 449 words

DATELINE: Taipei, June 27

The first hearing on the possible enactment of an anti-human trafficking law was held at the Legislative Yuan Friday, with a view to addressing the problem of human trafficking in Taiwan and guaranteeing the rights of victims.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008, released earlier this month by the United States Department of State, listed Taiwan as a "**Tier 2**" country, describing it as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

According to the report, Taiwan is also a source of women trafficked to Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

@The hearing, held by Kuomintang legislator Wu Yu-sheng, gathered an alliance of 11 non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies, as well as a representative of a group of lawyers who drafted a non-governmental version of an anti-human trafficking law.

In late 2007, the Executive Yuan announced a plan of action to tackle human trafficking in Taiwan, to protect victims and punish perpetrators.

However, it requires special legislation in order to attain these goals, one of participants at the hearing stated.

"A specialized law is needed to precisely define the meaning of human trafficking, formulate punishments that can deter criminals, and to protect both foreigners and nationals," said Cynthia Kao, executive director of the Taipei Womens Rescue Foundation, during the hearing.

With this in mind, the non-governmental alliance presented a draft anti-human trafficking law that covers crimes of sexual and forced labor exploitations and organ harvesting.

The National Immigration Agency will also present its own version of the draft law in the near future.

Other hearings on the possible enactment of the law will be held during the next few months, and the discussions on the draft bills will be given priority in the Legislative Yuan's Internal Affairs Committee, Wu said.

@Taiwan was ranked among the "**Tier 1**" countries in the U.S. report from 2001 to 2004, which indicated that the country had fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**. However, it was downgraded to "Tier 2" in 2005, and placed on the "Tier 2 Watch List" in 2006, partly because foreign workers' rights in Taiwan are not fully protected by the Labor Standards Law.

@The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or the use of force or other forms of coercion. The U.N. also includes in its definition of human trafficking the use of abduction, fraud, deception and the abuse of power to recruit or transfer people for the purpose of exploitation.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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37 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

June 25, 2008

U.S. Human-Trafficking Report Condemned by Gulf States

BYLINE: Sara Hassan**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 229 words

States from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have protested over a new U.S. report on human trafficking within which they are accused of being slow to clamp down on the problem. The report issued by the State Department kept Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman on a **blacklist** of countries which have failed to deal with **human trafficking** within the borders; however, the report claimed that substantial progress had been made in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. GCC foreign ministers who met in Saudi Arabia last week called on the U.S. State Department "to revise its unfriendly policy" towards member countries, saying that information had been manipulated for "political ends" according to Agence France-Presse (AFP). Senior advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Mark Logan, called the performance of several nations in the Gulf a "matter of concern and disappointment".

Significance: Questions relating to human trafficking and the protection of rights have been a sensitive issue in Gulf-U.S. relations and have been the subject of previous diplomatic discord. The new report, which is mandated by an act of Congress, claims that the four blacklisted countries have failed international reporting standards and that some immigrants continue to face conditions of "involuntary servitude" and even sexual exploitation within the individual nations.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

38 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

June 18, 2008

House Vietnam Caucus, Vietnamese Leaders to Press for Human Rights Reforms Ahead of Prime Minister Visit

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 540 words

June 18, 2008

Contact: Ryan Goodwin (202) 225-3765

House Vietnam Caucus, Vietnamese Leaders to Press for Human Rights Reforms Ahead of Prime Minister Visit

WHO: Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Vietnam Caucus Co-chair

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Vietnam Caucus Co-chair

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Vietnam Caucus Co-chair

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations

Vietnamese Groups

Boat People SOS

Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam

International Committee for Freedom

**others to be added

WHEN: Thursday, June 19, 2008

10:30 AM

WHERE: Cannon Terrace

(alongside Cannon House Office Building)

BACKGROUND:

In advance of the expected visit of Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, the bipartisan House Vietnam Caucus, along with several Vietnamese community leaders will hold a "need to reform" press conference to highlight the horrific human rights abuses in Vietnam. The members will also call upon President Bush to make human rights a focal point of the agenda in the meetings with the Vietnam Prime Minister. "Massive human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Vietnam will not be forgotten, overlooked or trivialized. We will continue to highlight these abuses-which are ongoing today-in an attempt to offer encouragement, solidarity and hope to the victims and pressure the government to reform," said Vietnam Caucus Co-Chair, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ).

"The Vietnam Human Rights Act which will help to promote democracy, religious freedom and human rights reforms is supported by leading Vietnamese human rights groups and has already overwhelmingly passed the House. The Government of Vietnam can make the legislation unnecessary by simply providing fundamental human rights protections to its own citizens," said Rep. Smith, the author of the legislation. Specifically, Smith's bill (HR 3096), which passed the House last September would prohibit increased U.S. non-humanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam unless there is verifiable evidence that the Vietnamese Government has made substantial progress toward the release of its

political and religious prisoners, respecting the right to freedom of religion, returning properties, allowing free and open access to refugee programs, respecting the human rights of members of all ethnic minority groups, and taking appropriate steps to end trafficking in persons. Smith's legislation also authorizes \$4 million over two years for organizations and individuals that promote human rights in Vietnam, authorizes over \$10 million to help stop the Vietnamese Government's jamming of Radio Free Asia, and requires the State Department to issue an annual report on the progress of human rights reform in Vietnam.

The press conference will also focus on Vietnam's horrendous record of human trafficking. In the most recent **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by the State Department earlier this month, Vietnam is designated as a "**Tier 2**" country of concern and a primary source country for women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. "Vietnam has an egregious record of abuse, both in sex and labor trafficking and they do little to protect the victim or prosecute the criminal," said Smith.

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39 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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40 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2008

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41 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 16, 2008 Monday

Human trafficking

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. 15**LENGTH:** 423 words

SLAVERY WAS one form of human bondage that most people thought had ended with its abolition in Britain and the US in the 19th century. In the 21st century, however, it has assumed a new guise. Modern-day slavery involves the trafficking of men, women and children to work as forced labour in factories, farms and brothels. Earlier this month the US State Department published its annual human trafficking report, now regarded as the most comprehensive review of how 170 countries are tackling the problem. It makes depressing reading.

The report placed Ireland in the second of three performance tiers, based on an assessment of its record in prosecuting offenders, in protecting victims and in preventing abuses. This means the Government has failed to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. In the 19th century Daniel O'Connell was at the forefront of the campaign to abolish slavery. Today Ireland is a far more affluent country and its recent economic success has been underpinned by immigrant labour. But its low rating on this global human trafficking index is a national embarrassment.

There are, however, some mitigating factors. During the time the rating review was undertaken, Ireland had no comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation in place. It now has. On June 7th, the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, which makes trafficking of adults and children for labour or sexual exploitation illegal, came into effect. In addition, a bill to give greater protection to victims of trafficking, which the Oireachtas is debating, has been given legal effect on a temporary basis. Although not perfect, these measures should go some way towards better equipping Ireland to meet the human trafficking challenge.

Ireland's human trafficking crimes may well be seen as small in a global context. But they should be a cause of major concern. Academic studies have concluded that between 2000 and 2006, 76 victims of trafficking were brought here for sexual exploitation, though this figure is widely believed to be an underestimate. Another study estimates that between July 2005 and December 2007, there were some 46 cases of suspected labour trafficking. The lack of adequate legislation has greatly reduced the State's capacity to curb **human trafficking**, with no prosecutions or convictions reported for 2007. But with new legislation in place, it is critically important that Ireland secures a return to the top **tier** of countries in countering **human trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

42 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 16, 2008 Monday

Curbing human trafficking: S'pore falls short, says US; Despite Penal Code changes, Republic has not fully met international norms

BYLINE: Arlina Arshad

LENGTH: 586 words

SINGAPORE still falls short of international standards to fight human trafficking, despite recently amending the Penal Code so those who sexually exploit minors overseas - as well as child-sex tour organisers and promoters - can be jailed.

Based on the US State Department's annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report released recently, Singapore is among 70 nations placed in 'Tier 2', alongside countries like Cambodia and Thailand.

Those in this **tier** do not fully comply with minimum international standards of protecting migrant workers from conditions of forced labour or other forms of **trafficking in persons**, even if they are making 'significant efforts' to do so.

This year, the report acknowledged Singapore's 'significant efforts' to criminalise trafficking, notably the Penal Code changes in February.

But the country fell short because it did not prosecute or convict any trafficking offenders during this period.

The report also noted that Singapore lacks measures to protect trafficking victims, including maids subjected to forced labour conditions.

Of the 28 human-trafficking reports investigated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 27 were dropped due to lack of substantiating evidence, the report noted. One is still under investigation.

The ministry disputed these cases cited by the report, saying they were 'disputes of various natures' but not trafficking offences. It could not provide further details.

The report also said 130 people were arrested for pimping and abetting vice offences, and 15 pimps and 30 vice-abettors were prosecuted for living on the earnings of prostitutes or operating brothels, or both.

But the ministry spokesman said the instances of women being duped into vice were 'few and far between'.

'None of the prostitutes were found to be forced or lured into prostitution under false pretences, constituting trafficking in persons' offences,' she said.

'The misperception that lack of prosecution arising from the reported cases was due to ineffective enforcement must be corrected.'

The US State Department's report evaluates countries' efforts in fighting the trafficking of people forced into servitude or the sex trade every year.

It includes countries deemed to have a 'significant' number of victims, or at least 100, and they are put into four levels - Tiers 1 and 2, a Tier 2 Special Watchlist, and the blacklisted ones in Tier 3.

A total of 154 countries were rated this year, based on research conducted between April last year and this March.

Singapore has been in Tier 2 since the report's 2001 launch, except in 2003, when it was excluded, and 2006, when it made it to Tier 1.

Activists say the problem lies with Singapore's narrow definition of 'trafficking'.

Women who may have been brought here under false pretences and then forced to work as prostitutes or abused labourers, for example, often end up classified as immigration offenders, not victims.

'It means that the traffickers get away with the crime and the victims of trafficking risk being prosecuted,' said Ms Constance Singam, president of the Association of Women for Action and Research.

And as far as maids are concerned, United Nations Development Fund for Women Singapore president Saleemah Ismail said maids are also reluctant to seek legal recourse as complainants have to remain in Singapore, without any source of income, for the entire duration of the case.

'These migrant domestic workers are often the only breadwinners back home...For many, it is a cost they cannot afford,' she said.

arlina@sph.com.sg

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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43 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 16, 2008 Monday

More Filipinas turn to embassy

LENGTH: 299 words

THE number of Filipinas turning to their embassy claiming they were lured here with promises of good jobs but ended up working as prostitutes has shot up in the last few years.

The Philippine Embassy's First Secretary and Consul Neal Imperial said there were 212 cases last year, 125 cases in 2006, and 59 in 2005. This year's cases are still being compiled.

Of the 212 cases last year, only three women filed police reports resulting in convictions. None of the convictions were for human trafficking.

Singapore's Home Affairs Ministry has maintained in the past that the existence of vice activities does not mean that there is human trafficking in Singapore.

The police have a dedicated unit that looks into vice issues, including trafficking of women for commercial sexual exploitation.

Mr Imperial said the numbers, though, may just be the tip of the iceberg as many may not have come forward for fear of being viewed as violators of immigration or labour laws, rather than victims. They also do not want to be stuck here without work while the cases are in court.

On its part, the Philippines, itself a **Tier 2** country like Singapore, was also chastised in the US State Department's annual **Trafficking In Persons** Report for demonstrating 'weak efforts to prosecute trafficking cases and convict trafficking offenders'.

The report noted some of the problems actually start in the Philippines.

A 'significant number' of Filipinos are subjected to conditions of 'involuntary servitude' or trafficked abroad for commercial sexual exploitation to countries.

Said Mr Imperial: 'Human trafficking is a scourge that has no place in this day and age. We hope to strengthen our cooperation with the Singapore Government to stop this transnational crime and prevent more women...from being exploited.'

ARLINA ARSHAD

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

44 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 15, 2008 Sunday

Illegal rallies not the way, says Syed Hamid

BYLINE: Lee Shi-Ian

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 286 words

KUALA LUMPUR: The opposition was warned not to politicise the fuel price hike through illegal gatherings which can worsen the situation and threaten public order.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the hike in oil prices was a global issue and the government was finding ways to reduce the impact on the people.

"Organising gatherings without a permit is an offence and police are empowered to take action," Syed Hamid said on about Friday's illegal rally in Kampung Baru.

Several thousand people marched more than a kilometre from the Kampung Baru mosque to the Pas headquarters in Jalan Raja Laut to protest the fuel price hike.

"These rallies are not only illegal but it causes traffic congestion and disrupts businesses in the area.

"At the same time, it causes alarm among the tourists," Syed Hamid said, after attending the police family day celebrations at Taman Titiwangsa yesterday.

"This in turn affects the country's economy. Those who wish to organise gatherings and rallies should apply for a permit.

"Demonstrations and rallies will not solve the problem."

On the global assessment by "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008" where Malaysia had been placed on the **Tier 2** Special **Watch List** of countries, he said this reflected the government's commitment in battling **human trafficking**.

The report was released by the United States Department of State and Malaysia is among 40 countries that have been placed on the Tier 2 Special Watch List.

These countries are under scrutiny for sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion, and the treatment of migrant labour subjected to "involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery".

Malaysia's record had improved as in the 2007 report it was in Tier 3.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

45 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 14, 2008 Saturday**TO STEM HUMAN TRAFFICKING, GOVT BANS FOREIGNERS WORKING AS CLUB HOSTESSES, MASSEURS****LENGTH:** 297 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 14

In its battle against human trafficking in the country, the government will disallow applications to employ foreigners as club hostesses and masseurs.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the move was to make Malaysia free of human trafficking which inadvertently, led to women working as prostitutes and guest relations officers.

He said the government's surveillance and action in that matter was very effective, with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007.

"Malaysia is now second among 40 countries listed in the Special **Watch List** of the United States Department of State, which have succeeded in reducing **human trafficking** activities," Syed Hamid told reporters after officiating the Royal Malaysian Police Family Day at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa here today.

On the influx of Africans who make the country a transit point for drug distribution and 'black money' activities, he said those found involved in crime were imprisoned while those without travel documents were deported.

He said that while some entered the country as students, others married locals with a view to using them as couriers to smuggle drugs overseas.

"We have made some arrests. Some (Africans) were imprisoned and others sent to their country of origin. We have also rescued some women," said Syed Hamid, adding that his ministry had asked other countries to station Malaysian narcotics officers at specific places for surveillance and inspection.

"Yesterday, I announced the possibility of our cooperation with other countries to station our narcotics offices in their countries," he said. Syed Hamid said there were foreign missions here, which had special officers for narcotics.

"We want to ensure that our country is safe from drug smuggling and that foreigners coming here feel safe," he stressed.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

46 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Jordan Times (Amman)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

June 12, 2008 Thursday

Government to respond to report on trafficking in persons

BYLINE: Hani Hazaimeh, Jordan Times, Amman**SECTION:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 676 words

Jun. 12--AMMAN -- The government is preparing an official response to a US State Department report on trafficking, which placed Jordan on the Tier 2 Watch List, a Labour Ministry official told The Jordan Times on Sunday.

The eighth annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008", issued last week, said the Kingdom was put on the **watch list** for its "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons** over the previous year, particularly in the area of law enforcement against trafficking for forced labour".

"National labour laws do not apply to domestic or agriculture workers, including allegations of physical and sexual abuse," the report indicated.

But a union official said the government has made substantial amendments to the Labour Law, which is currently being examined by Parliament.

Although the proposed draft does not fully meet the union's ambition, President of the General Trade Union of Workers in Textile, Garment and Clothing Fathallah Emrani said it addresses several loopholes in the previous version.

"The draft entitles expatriate workers to subscribe to local unions as well as allow QIZ employers to establish their own syndicates," Emrani told The Jordan Times.

Criticising the mechanism of collecting information on which the report was based, Emrani said they were not contacted by anyone while the report was being compiled.

The union is closest to the workers and keeps close supervision on their conditions, taking action whenever the rights of expatriate labourers are violated, he noted.

The report said there were continuing reports of abusive conditions in some QIZ factories, "but the number decreased from the preceding year".

Emrani noted that the union managed to solve 2,994 disputes between QIZ workers and their employers in 2007, adding that they had signed 14 agreements with QIZ employers to enhance transportation, medical coverage and food for their employees.

The report noted that although the government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking... it is making significant efforts to do so".

It noted that authorities resolved 77 per cent of the 2,479 complaints lodged through the National Human Rights Centre hotline, including some for conditions of forced labour, but pointed out that "the government did not provide evidence of any prosecution, conviction or jail sentences for forced labour of domestic workers".

The report also indicated that "through training of labour inspectors, almost all QIZ workers are reportedly in possession of their passports, and the number and severity of violations of workers' rights decreased substantially".

Referring to the case of 176 Vietnamese workers who complained that their employer forced them to work 14-18 hours per day, withheld their passports, and did not give them their promised wages, the report said the government returned their passports and assisted workers who wished to be repatriated to return home.

The report also criticised other countries like China, Russia, India and Egypt for failing to take adequate steps to address trafficking.

Four Arab countries were listed on Tier 3 for failing to take adequate steps to end the transportation of mainly women and children for forced labour, indentured servitude and sex.

"The 170-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern-day form of slavery. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons," according to the US State Department website.

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LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ACC-NO: 20080612-JT-TRAFFICKING-HUMAN-20080612

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: JT

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47 of 445 DOCUMENTS

ARMINFO News Agency

June 10, 2008 Tuesday

US Department of State: The Government of Armenia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking

LENGTH: 169 words**DATELINE:** Yerevanm June 10. ArmInfo.

"The Government of Armenia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking ", says the Annual Report by the US Department of State "2008 **Trafficking in Persons Armenia**" (**TIER 2 Watch List**). "The Government of Armenia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Armenia is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for a fourth consecutive year because its efforts to increase compliance with the minimum standards were assessed based on its commitments to undertake future actions over the coming year, particularly in the areas of improving victim protection and assistance. While the government elevated anti-trafficking responsibilities to the Ministerial level, adopted a new National Action Plan, and drafted a National Referral Mechanism, it has yet to show tangible progress in identifying and protecting victims or in tackling trafficking complicity of government officials," the Report says.

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

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48 of 445 DOCUMENTS



June 9, 2008 Monday

Girl, 12, in care after trafficking investigation

SECTION: IRELAND

LENGTH: 395 words

The Nigerian girl was discovered by gardaí when they carried out a search at a house in west Dublin last Thursday.

It is understood the girl does not have parents in Ireland and was taken into custody under the Immigration Act. The minor has been handed over to the HSE, which has placed the girl into care.

A Garda source said the circumstances of how she arrived in the country would be investigated.

The search was one of a number of raids carried out by the gardaí as part of an operation led by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Two men were arrested in Co Antrim on Thursday, one of whom was charged on Friday with facilitating unlawful immigration.

A spokesman for the PSNI said: "The charges relate to a proactive operation by the Police Service of Northern Ireland organised crime department, assisted by An Garda Síochána National Immigration Bureau, against organised immigration crime."

He said: "The 51-year-old man and a man aged in his late 30s were arrested by police during the search of two houses in the Lisburn area on Thursday morning. The latter has been released pending a report to the PPS (Public Prosecution Service).

He said that a number of searches were carried out by gardaí in counties Louth, Dublin, Meath and Kildare. The PSNI spokesman said that a 12-year-old Nigerian girl was discovered in Castleknock.

"It should be noted that the charges do not relate to this specific discovery, although the searches were carried out as part of the Police Service of Northern Ireland investigation."

Speaking yesterday, a Garda spokesman confirmed a 12-year-old Nigerian was found in the search: "She was discovered in a house in Castleknock and is now in the care of the HSE."

He said she was taken into care as a result of the operation into human trafficking, but was not saying she had been trafficked into the country.

The man charged in Northern Ireland is due to appear in court again tomorrow.

The operation comes as a US government report, published last week, named, for the first time, Ireland as a destination country for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** annual report, placed the republic in the second of three "tiers", suggesting the Government was not complying with minimum standards for the elimination of the crime, but was making efforts to do so.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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49 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 8, 2008 Sunday

Kenya; Human Trade Record Better - Report

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 406 words

The US state department has removed Kenya from its "**watch list**", saying that the country last year made progress in fighting widespread **human trafficking** for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The US state department says in a new report that Kenya's improved performance has resulted in its grade being raised one notch in the department's annual global survey of trafficking in humans.

In 2007, Kenya was placed on a US "watch list" of countries in which the most severe forms of trafficking are said to be rampant or significantly increasing.

"The government of Kenya does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the 2008 survey says.

"However, it is making significant efforts to do so. Kenya's anti-trafficking efforts improved markedly over the reporting period, particularly through greater investigations of suspected trafficking cases."

Public officials

But corruption among law enforcement agencies and other public officials continues to hinder efforts to bring traffickers to justice, the report says. "Some anti-trafficking activists made credible claims that, in certain areas, police officers were complicit in trafficking activities," it adds.

Kenya continues to be a "source, transit and destination" country for trafficked men, women and children, the state department points out. It says Kenyan children are trafficked within the country as forced labourers and for "commercial sexual exploitation, including involvement in the coastal sex tourism industry."

The report describes child sex tourism at the coast as "rampant," with up to 15,000 girls involved.

Children from Uganda, Somalia and other African countries are also being brought against their will to Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu and Nakuru, the report adds.

"Most trafficked girls are coerced into working as barmaids, where they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, or are forced directly into prostitution," according to the state department. Kenyan women and girls are, meanwhile, trafficked to the Middle East, other African countries, Europe and North America for "enslavement in massage parlours and brothels" and for other forms of exploitation, the report says.

It cites the case of "Lucy," a Kenyan woman who met a German tourist in his late 1960s at a beach resort. Through "presents and pampering," he convinced her to visit him in Germany where he took away her passport and forced her into prostitution.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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50 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

June 8, 2008 Sunday 5:51 AM EST

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

LENGTH: 395 words

DATELINE: Guwahati

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

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

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

51 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Sunday Times (Australia)

June 8, 2008 Sunday
1 Edition**A-G toughens on human trade****SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 2**LENGTH:** 277 words

INTERIM Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum says **human trafficking** is an issue that needs to be dealt with following the US State Department annual trafficking persons report that listed Fiji among the **tier**-three nations.

According to the report, the political and economic crisis following the 2006 coup and inadequate funding provided to police and the Immigration Department paved an intolerable state of trafficking in the country.

The report also cited that the Government was not doing enough under the law to prosecute and convict offenders.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said human trafficking was a matter that should have been addressed sometime ago.

"Fundamentally, we can address the issue of human trafficking by way of appropriate legislation in place and also by way of having proper policing mechanism in place.

"This obviously requires resources and there are a number of matters that need to be addressed in as far as priority is concerned by the Government and this is one of them and we will get to it.

"In as far as countries that are concerned about human trafficking and have the resource to assist, we welcome their assistance.

"Shunning us because simply it wasn't done in the past is not a positive way to deal with the situation. Take for example, we are now signatories to the UN Convention Against Corruption, we are getting assistance and it is on its way and we appreciate the assistance of the agencies or those that have agreed to help."

Similarly, in human trafficking, Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said if there are countries willing to help Fiji with resources, the Government welcomed them.

He said human trafficking was an area of concern to the Government.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** TRN

52 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Sunday Times (Australia)

June 8, 2008 Sunday
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53 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** TRN

54 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 7, 2008 Saturday

Guyanese minister denies number of people trafficked "significant"

LENGTH: 725 words

Text of report by Guyana Chronicle website on 6 June

[Report: "Manickchand: Guyana shouldn't be on US trafficking-in-persons radar"]

Guyana should not be on the US State Department's radar when it comes to trafficking in persons (TIP) as there are no "significant" numbers of persons being trafficked in this country, according to Minister of Human Services & Social Security, Priya Manickchand.

Stabroek News contacted the minister for her initial reaction to the recent US report on TIP which has for the second consecutive year placed Guyana on their Tier 2 Watch List.

In a brief comment the minister said that Guyana should not even be in that **tier** and while the report says that official reports of **human trafficking** may be limited, it said "most trafficking appears to take place in remote mining camps in the country's interior."

However, Minister Manickchand said that while Guyana may be facing other problems, such as it pertains to labour, the country does not have any TIP problems that warrants being focused on by the US report.

The report knocked Guyana for its limited progress in law enforcement efforts against traffickers over the last year. It was pointed out that while the government prohibits all forms of trafficking through its comprehensive Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, which became law in 2005, it is yet to "produce an anti-trafficking conviction under this 2005 law." The report stated that in June 2007, the government initiated six trafficking investigations, which is level with the number of investigations reported for 2006.

"There were no government efforts to investigate or address labour trafficking crimes, despite NGO reports of exploitation and abuse in the nation's mining and timber camps." And it said the prosecution of most trafficking cases is done by untrained police officers and the cases are routinely adjourned or dismissed.

Stabroek News attempted to get a comment from Minister of Home Affairs Clement Rohee about these concerns but when a call was placed to his office his secretary stated that while he was in office he was unavailable. This reporter was asked to leave a name and a detailed message along with a telephone number and a promise was made to get the message to the minister and have him return the call. A call was not returned.

Meanwhile the report recommended that the country increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence trafficking offenders. Also the government should confront trafficking complicity by public officials; utilize proactive police strategies such as brothel raids to rescue victims from trafficking situations; provide greater victim assistance; and expand anti-trafficking training for police and magistrates.

According to the report Guyana is a "source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour." It said that Amerindian girls are trafficked to brothels near the mining camps and to coastal areas for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. "Young Amerindian men are exploited under forced labour conditions in mining and logging camps. Some women and girls trafficked into brothels in the interior are from northern Brazil.

Reporting from other nations suggest that Guyanese women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation to neighbouring countries such as Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Suriname, Venezuela, and that Guyanese men and boys are subject to labour exploitation in construction and agriculture in these same countries," the report said.

Further, the report said that the government has sustained a modest level of victim assistance during the reporting period.

"The government operates no shelters for trafficking victims, but it included limited funding for anti-trafficking NGOs in its 2008 budget," the report said.

The country was commended for its sensitisation programme on the issue. And government's increased prevention efforts during the reporting period was mentioned as according to the report senior government officials "publicly condemned human trafficking, and the government conducted a widespread educational and awareness-raising campaign, which reached more than 50 communities and 5,000 citizens across the country."

Source: Guyana Chronicle website, Georgetown, in English 6 Jun 08

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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55 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Irish Times

June 7, 2008 Saturday

US trafficking report critical of State efforts

BYLINE: RUADHÍN Mac CORMAIC, Migration Correspondent

SECTION: IRELAND; Other Stories; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 445 words

A US STATE Department report into human trafficking has for the first time named Ireland as a destination country for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The latest annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, which is regarded as the most comprehensive global compendium of trafficking trends, places the Republic in the second of three "**tiers**", indicating that the Government is not complying with minimum standards for the elimination of the crime but is making significant effort to do so.

While previous editions referred to trafficking to Ireland only as a "potential problem", the 2008 report states: "Ireland is a destination country for women, men and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour."

The report coincides with the coming into force today of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008. This makes the trafficking of adults and children for labour or sexual exploitation illegal under Irish law for the first time and criminalises the use of services of victims of trafficking.

Due to the clandestine nature of the trade and the absence until now of a specific offence, it has not been possible to estimate the numbers of people trafficked into Ireland. Ruhama, a group that works with prostituted women, has reported significant numbers of cases in the past seven years.

The report notes that while Irish officials have shown "considerable political will" in the drafting of new anti-trafficking legislation, "key deficiencies in the areas of prosecution, protection and prevention remain".

The report recommends formal policies and procedures to ensure victims are given protection and assistance and a visible "demand-reduction" campaign in Ireland.

The Government has sought to address victim protection since the report was researched, with provisions in the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill, making its way through the Oireachtas. However, support groups insist those provisions must go further.

While welcoming the new trafficking law, Gerardine Rowley of Ruhama said: "The Government has not yet dealt adequately with victim protection and assistance."

Colm O'Gorman, executive director of Amnesty International Irish Section, said the level of protection proposed remained "weak and conditional". While the 45-day recovery and reflection period to victims was welcome, he questioned the Bill's stipulation that any extension is dependent on co-operation with the Garda.

The Department of Justice said the report was out of date and its reservations had been overtaken by events, but its reference to Ireland's significant efforts to combat trafficking was appreciated.

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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June 7, 2008 Saturday

Ireland a target for human traffickers

SECTION: IRELAND

LENGTH: 261 words

As the Government's anti-trafficking legislation comes into effect today, the US Government's global assessment of the problem shows Ireland's efforts are no longer considered sufficient.

In 2006, the US State Department's **trafficking in persons** (TIP) report named Ireland in the first **tier** of countries for its efforts in fighting the illegal transportation of vulnerable people.

However, in its 2008 report, Ireland falls into the second tier.

The TIP report claimed women from Eastern Europe, Nigeria and other parts of Africa, South America and Asia have been trafficked into Ireland for forced prostitution. People have also been trafficked for forced labour.

The US State Department says Ireland does not fully comply with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking.

It says Ireland's prosecution efforts were hampered by a lack of comprehensive legislation during the rating period and claims that was why there were no prosecutions for the offence in 2007.

The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, which comes into force today, creates separate offences including, trafficking in children for the purpose of their labour or sexual exploitation or the removal of their organs and trafficking in adults for their sexual or labour exploitation or the removal of their organs.

Ruhama, which works with women in prostitution, welcomed the portrayal of Ireland's efforts in combating human trafficking in the TIP Report as well as the US Government's call for Ireland to fully comply with minimum standards by enacting comprehensive anti trafficking legislation.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

57 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 6, 2008 Friday

Taiwan vows to step up anti-human trafficking efforts

LENGTH: 246 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Sofia Wu]

Taipei, June 5 (CNA) - The National Immigration Agency (NIA) will cooperate with other government institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs) to upgrade the efficacy of its anti-human trafficking efforts, an official said Thursday.

The NIA official made the remarks after the US Department of State released an annual report on **trafficking in persons** a day earlier, in which Taiwan was placed for the second consecutive year on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries for **human trafficking**, noting that Taiwan authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

Pointing out that prevention of human trafficking involves many complex operations, the official said cross-department coordination as well as assistance from NGOs and other private associations are necessary to effectively combat trafficking in humans.

To upgrade operational efficiency, the official said, the immigration law has been updated to include a special chapter on prevention of human trafficking and protection of those who have fallen victim to such criminal actions.

Starting this year, the official said the Executive Yuan will launch a three-year project aimed at building shelters for victims of human trafficking deals and commissioning NGOs to help those victims.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1603 gmt 5 Jun 08

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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58 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 6, 2008 Friday 11:53 PM TST

CLA to set up 24-hour hot line for disgruntled migrant workers**BYLINE:** Sofia Wu**LENGTH:** 254 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 6

The Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) will set up a round-the-clock hot line next year to offer counseling for disgruntled migrant workers around the country, a CLA official said Friday.

Chen Yi-min, director of the CLA's Vocational Training Bureau, revealed the plan after the U.S. Department of State released an annual report on **human trafficking**, titled "The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008" Wednesday, which, for the second consecutive year, kept Taiwan on the "**Tier 2**" list of countries that it deems should do more to prevent **human trafficking** for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

According to Chen, all of the country's 25 city and county governments have offered free hot line services for foreign laborers. But all of those phone services operate only during office hours.

"We are planning to set up a round-the-clock hot line patterned after the one for domestic violence victims that has only three numbers and is easy to remember," Chen said, adding that the new service is expected to be in place early next year and will provide better protection for migrant workers.

Chen said that although the U.S. report identifies several flaws in Taiwan's prevention of human trafficking and protection of foreign laborers, it also recognizes Taiwan's continued efforts to improve services for them.

Among the services lauded in the report were free telephone services at Taoyuan and Kaohsiung international airports, Taiwan's two main gateways, as well as coordinating with 11 NGOs to shelter human trafficking victims.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

59 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 6, 2008 Friday 9:40 PM TST

Group warns of increase in teenage males in sex trade

BYLINE: Flor Wang**LENGTH:** 251 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 6

The number of teenage boys in Taiwan engaged in the sex trade has increased at an alarming rate, the Garden of Hope Foundation warned Friday.

Citing police statistics, Cheng Min-ching, a senior researcher at the foundation, reported that teenage males were involved in some 30 percent of the total sex trade cases in Taiwan uncovered by law enforcement officers last year, up from one percent in 1999.

Cheng attributed the rise in male teenagers selling sex to the widespread use of the Internet.

Most of the policemen were able to detain teenage male prostitutes by disguising themselves as clients and "fishing" for them on the Internet, Cheng said.

The researcher believed, however, that the teenage male and female prostitutes are actually the victims and should be protected, and argued that law enforcement authorities, rather than going after the patrons who are the real offenders, were arresting the victims.

The way Taiwan's laws deal with prostitutes and their patrons has for the first time sparked attention in the United States, she said, which observed that many women from Southeast Asian countries are sold to Taiwan and forced into prostitution here.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008 (TIP 2008) , released Wednesday by the U.S. Department of State, kept Taiwan on the same "**Tier 2**" list of countries for **human trafficking** that it was on last year.

The report describes Taiwan as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

60 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 6, 2008 Friday 4:45 PM TST

NGO urges government to step up anti-human trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Rachel Chan**LENGTH:** 584 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 6

In response to a human trafficking report released by the United States, a Taipei-based non-government organization urged the government Friday to upgrade the efficacy of its anti-human trafficking efforts.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2008 (TIP 2008) released Wednesday by the U.S. Department of State places Taiwan on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries for **human trafficking**, the same level it held last year.

It describes Taiwan as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Taiwan is also a source of women trafficked to Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S., according to the report.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Association, founded in 2007 by 11 NGOs, said in a news conference Friday that the report indicates that there is still a lot to be done by the Taiwanese government to prevent human trafficking and to protect the rights of the victims.

It made four recommendations: to pass and implement a comprehensive anti-trafficking law as soon as possible; to apply the Labor Standards Law to foreign workers employed as private nursing caregivers or domestic helpers, who are especially vulnerable to labor exploitation; to strengthen communication among government agencies and enhance international cooperation; and to collaborate with local NGOs.

"To combat sex and labor exploitation, we strongly urge the government to prioritize the passage of the anti-human trafficking law," said Sandy Yeh, president of the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation -- one of the organizers of the Anti-Human Trafficking Association.

She noted that although Taiwan has formal victim identification procedures and provides training in these procedures, immigration officers, police, prosecutors and other law enforcement authorities still often classify victims of human trafficking as illegal immigrants or runaway foreign workers with illegal laborer status, and consequently many trafficking victims are detained, prosecuted, fined or jailed, and ultimately deported.

"In order to help the trafficking victims and bring the human traffickers to justice, we have to identify victims using a broad definition and increase penalties for human trafficking significantly," Yeh said.

The TIP 2008 report says that the majority of victims are treated simply as illegal immigrants or illegal laborers and housed in formal, long-term detention facilities that are sometimes plagued by overcrowding and poor sanitation.

Regina Fuchs, a German sociologist working in Taiwan, said it is precisely the exploitation, the failure to enforce laws protecting the rights of workers and the restricted mobility of legal laborers that has caused the notorious increase in the number of runaways and illegal workers in recent years.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," she said. "The government must take immediate steps to confront and resolve these issues."

Lee Li-feng, secretary-general of the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes Taiwan (ECPAT Taiwan), said the TIP 2008 report points out for the first time the problem that even though

Taiwan has an extraterritorial law criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children by Taiwanese traveling abroad, it did not take other steps during the reporting year to reduce demand for child sex tourism.

"The government, especially the Tourism Bureau, should step up its campaign of public service announcements to combat child sex trafficking and tourism," she said.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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61 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 6, 2008 Friday 11:03 AM TST

Immigration agency vows to step up anti-human trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Sofia Wu**LENGTH:** 222 words

(repeat)

Taipei, June 5 (CNA) The National Immigration Agency (NIA) will cooperate with other government institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs) to upgrade the efficacy of its anti-human trafficking efforts, an official said Thursday.

The NIA official made the remarks after the U.S. Department of State released an annual report on **trafficking in persons** a day earlier, in which Taiwan was placed for the second consecutive year on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries for **human trafficking**, noting that Taiwan authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

Pointing out that prevention of human trafficking involves many complex operations, the official said cross-department coordination as well as assistance from NGOs and other private associations are necessary to effectively combat trafficking in humans.

To upgrade operational efficiency, the official said, the immigration law has been updated to include a special chapter on prevention of human trafficking and protection of those who have fallen victim to such criminal actions.

Starting this year, the official said the Executive Yuan will launch a three-year project aimed at building shelters for victims of human trafficking deals and commissioning NGOs to help those victims.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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62 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 6, 2008 Friday 4:22 PM EST

Lanka trying to eliminate trafficking: US report

BYLINE: Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

LENGTH: 487 words

DATELINE: Colombo

Colombo, June 6 -- Sri Lanka has been placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** of a US report for failing to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** over the previous year, particularly in the area of law enforcement.

The US Trafficking in Persons Report released by the State department on Wednesday said that the government had failed to arrest, prosecute, or convict any person for trafficking offences and continued to punish some victims of trafficking for crimes committed as a result of being trafficked.

At the same time, Sri Lanka protected some victims of trafficking, including Sri Lankan nationals trafficked abroad and it also appointed a focal point on trafficking in persons in July, who convenes a monthly anti-trafficking working group to develop and coordinate anti-trafficking policy, the report said.

The 2008 report, released by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, covers more countries than ever -- 170 total. It is the most comprehensive global compendium of human trafficking trends and efforts by foreign governments to eliminate this crime. And as required by Congress, the Trafficking in Persons Report examines both labour slavery and sex trafficking.

"The Government of Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report noted.

The US report urges Sri Lanka to significantly improve record of prosecutions, convictions, and sentences; institute a formal procedure to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable groups, such as women arrested for prostitution; ensure that victims of trafficking are not arrested, punished or automatically deported for acts committed as a result of being trafficked; and further train law enforcement officers on victim identification and protection.

The report says Sri Lanka is a source and destination country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of involuntary servitude and commercial sexual exploitation. Sri Lankan men and women migrate willingly to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and South Korea to work as construction workers, domestic servants, or garment factory workers.

It also says that the LTTE continued to recruit, sometimes forcibly, children for use as soldiers in areas outside of the Sri Lankan government's control adding that even government security forces may also be complicit in letting a pro-government paramilitary organisation recruit, sometimes forcibly, child soldiers. The report says of particular concern are ongoing reports that women arrested on suspicion of being trafficked into Sri Lanka for the purpose of sexual exploitation were asked to pay fines in exchange for release from prison and were usually deported thereafter.

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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63 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Fiji Times (Australia)

June 6, 2008 Friday
1 Edition**Fiji on human trafficking watch list****SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 213 words

FIJI has failed to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, according to the US State Department Eighth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report released yesterday.

The report cited the political and economic crisis that followed the 2006 coup coupled by the inadequate funding given to the Fiji Police Force and the Immigration Department paved an intolerable state of trafficking in the country.

This situation was aggravated by the laxity of authorities to arrest, prosecute and convict trafficking offenders.

The report also noted that there was no proactive system adopted by police and law enforcement agencies to identify victims of human trafficking.

The report recommended that the Fiji Government work with international organisations and civil society to fight to commercial exploitation of children and also train law enforcers to identify and protect victims.

Fiji, which was on the Tier Two watch list last year was relegated to Tier 3 in the latest survey.

Immigration director Viliame Naupoto said he would need time to read the report. He is attending a workshop on People Smuggling and Human Trafficking in Malaysia.

Defence, National Security and Immigration Minister Ratu Epeli Ganilau preferred to comment after reading the report.

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

64 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** FIJ

65 of 445 DOCUMENTS



ABC Premium News (Australia)

June 5, 2008 Thursday 3:20 PM AEST

Fiji, PNG on child trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: Radio Australia's Campbell Cooney

LENGTH: 201 words

Fiji and Papua New Guinea have been added to a United States blacklist of countries trafficking in people.

The '**Tier 3' blacklist** is contained in the US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** report.

The report analyses efforts in 170 countries to combat trafficking for forced labour, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

The report claims Fiji is a source country for children trafficked for sexual exploitation and a destination for women from China and India for forced labour and exploitation.

It also claims Papua New Guinea is the destination for women and children from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and China for sexual exploitation in cities, towns and isolated logging and mining camps.

Remaining on the 'Tier 3' list are Sudan, Syria, Algeria, Iran, Burma and Cuba, while Malaysia and Bahrain have been removed.

In introducing the report, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said human trafficking deprived people of their human rights and dignity and "bankrolls the growth of organised crime".

"The petty tyrants who exploit their labourers rarely receive serious punishment," she said.

"We and our allies must remember that a robust law enforcement response is essential."

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

66 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 5, 2008 Thursday 2:30 PM GMT

US says Cambodia needs to more to fight trafficking

LENGTH: 282 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH, June 5 2008

The United States said Thursday that Cambodia still needs to do more to fight human trafficking, even though an annual State Department report said the nation had made progress.

The United States this year upgraded Cambodia to **Tier 2** on its yearly **human trafficking** report, after the country increased law enforcement and passed new legislation to crack down on the crime.

Cambodia, which has a reputation as a haven for sex offenders, had ranked below the second tier since 2004 -- raising the risk that Washington could impose sanctions or other punitive measures.

US embassy charge d'affaires Piper Campbell told a press conference that trafficking remains a problem here.

"Trafficking in Cambodia is indeed still prevalent. It's obvious in combating human trafficking that you have to take a multi-dimensional approach that involves education, legislation, law enforcement and also support for victims," he said.

However, some victims claim that they have suffered abuse under the new anti-trafficking legislation.

Chan Dina, head of the Cambodian Prostitute's Union (CPU) which represents about 300 sex workers, said prostitutes have been robbed, beaten and raped by police since a crackdown on brothels began in March.

"The closures abuse the rights of sex workers. They do not want to work the sex industry, but they are destitute, that is why they have decided to do so," Chan Dina told AFP Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng told reporters at the press conference that prostitutes abused by police should come forward.

"We ask that they provide evidence to us," Sar Kheng said.

Some 300 prostitutes rallied Wednesday to protest the police abuse amid Cambodia's human trafficking campaign.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

67 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 5, 2008 Thursday 11:53 PM TST

Immigration agency vows to step up anti-human trafficking efforts

BYLINE: Sofia Wu**LENGTH:** 217 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 5

The National Immigration Agency (NIA) will cooperate with other government institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs) to upgrade the efficacy of its anti-human trafficking efforts, an official said Thursday.

The NIA official made the remarks after the U.S. Department of State released an annual report on **trafficking in persons** a day earlier, in which Taiwan was placed for the second consecutive year on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries for **human trafficking**, noting that Taiwan authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

Pointing out that prevention of human trafficking involves many complex operations, the official said cross-department coordination as well as assistance from NGOs and other private associations are necessary to effectively combat trafficking in humans.

To upgrade operational efficiency, the official said, the immigration law has been updated to include a special chapter on prevention of human trafficking and protection of those who have fallen victim to such criminal actions.

Starting this year, the official said the Executive Yuan will launch a three-year project aimed at building shelters for victims of human trafficking deals and commissioning NGOs to help those victims.

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68 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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69 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 5, 2008 Thursday 1:02 PM TST

Taiwan remains on U.S. 'Tier 2' list for human trafficking

BYLINE: Chiehyu Lin and Y.F. Low

LENGTH: 472 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 4

For the second consecutive year, the United States has placed Taiwan on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries for **human trafficking**, noting that Taiwan authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

The Trafficking in Persons Report 2008 released Wednesday by the U.S. Department of State describes Taiwan as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

Taiwan is also a source of women trafficked to Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the report says.

"Many foreign workers remain vulnerable to trafficking because legal protections, oversight by authorities and enforcement efforts are inadequate," it states.

The report recommends that Taiwan pass and implement a comprehensive anti-trafficking law prohibiting and punishing all severe forms of trafficking and extend full Labor Standard Law protections to all categories of foreign workers, including domestic helpers and caregivers.

The report also suggests that Taiwan fully implement a recent Immigration Law amendment to extend its protections to trafficking victims and ensure that law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and judges consistently follow formal trafficking victim identification procedures to prevent the prosecution of trafficking victims.

Taiwan should establish procedures for referring victims to shelters, improve incentives for victims to assist in the prosecution of traffickers, and increase police efforts to investigate trafficking crimes and to identify trafficking victims, the report says.

In addition, Taiwan should launch a campaign to discourage child sex tourism by people from Taiwan and improve cooperation with the governments of labor source countries, the report recommends.

The 2008 report rates 170 countries and regions and places them on three lists, based primarily on the extent of government action to combat trafficking.

Governments that fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** are placed on the "**Tier 1**" list, while those that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in "**Tier 2**."

Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed on the "Tier 3" list and may be subject to certain sanctions.

Taiwan was ranked among the "Tier 1" countries from 2001 to 2004, but was downgraded to "Tier 2" in 2005.

In 2006, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**. The U.S. government removed Taiwan from the watch list and ranked it among "Tier 2" countries again in 2007 in view of the country's significant efforts to tackle the problem.

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70 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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71 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

June 5, 2008 Thursday 1:02 PM EST

India on US human trafficking watch list for fifth year

BYLINE: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

LENGTH: 812 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 5 -- The US has placed India on its second worst category of **human trafficking watch list** for the fifth year in a row for allegedly failing to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat the problem.

"India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation," an annual US State Department report released Wednesday said, placing New Delhi on the Tier-2 Watch List.

"The government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, it is making significant efforts to do so," said the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report released by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Despite the reported extent of the trafficking crisis in India, government authorities made uneven efforts to prosecute traffickers and protect trafficking victims," it said, suggesting: "Internal forced labour may constitute India's largest trafficking problem."

Rice said the goal of the report covering 170 countries "is to shine a light on recent accomplishments and encourage governments in their resolve to confront those who prey on the weakest and most vulnerable members of society".

"Together, we are confident that this modern, growing abolitionist movement will continue to rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those from whom so much has been taken," she said.

Denying a reporter's suggestion that India and China had not been moved to the worst **Tier 3** as the US was trying to forge economic ties with them, Mark Lagon, director of the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** said: "With respect to India and China, these are both very serious cases."

"We're quite blunt in the report. Frankly, we're quite blunt in our extensive diplomatic dialogue with these countries," he said noting: "There are some positive developments in each."

"India has made efforts on the child labour front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labour Minister Oscar Fernandes joined in a raid." Lagon said. "But India still doesn't recognise bonded labour as human trafficking. It has weak anti-corruption efforts and prosecutions are too few."

Asked if in view of this, he felt comfortable that both India and China are still on Tier-2 Watch List, he said: "Indeed, indeed."

The report said India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Nepali children are also trafficked to India for forced labour in circus shows.

Indian women are trafficked to the Middle East for commercial sexual exploitation, the report said. There are also victims of labour trafficking among the thousands of Indians who migrate willingly every year to the Middle East, Europe, and the US for work as domestic servants and low-skilled labourers.

Men and women from Bangladesh and Nepal are trafficked through India for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation in the Middle East. Indian nationals travel to Nepal and within the country for child sex tourism.

In India itself, men, women, and children are held in debt bondage and face forced labour working in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories, the report said.

While no comprehensive study of forced and bonded labour has been completed, NGOs estimate this problem affects 20 to 65 million Indians, it said. Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

Children are subjected to forced labour as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agriculture workers, and have been used as armed combatants by some terrorist and insurgent groups, it said.

Describing lack of punishment of traffickers as "a critical challenge", the report recommended an expansion of central and state government law enforcement capacity to conduct intrastate law enforcement activities against trafficking.

India's efforts to protect victims of trafficking varied from state to state, but remained inadequate in many places during the year, the report said.

Calling India's efforts aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons as "inadequate", the report said: "The government did not report new or significant prevention efforts addressing the prominent domestic problems of trafficking of adults for purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation."

It also did not report any efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts, the State Department report said. Similarly, the government failed to take any steps to raise awareness of trafficking for nationals travelling to known child sex tourism destinations within the country. India has not ratified the 2000 UN Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Protocol.

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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72 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 5, 2008 Thursday 11:35 AM GMT**Cambodia on Tier 2 in 2008 human trafficking: U.S. report****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 356 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH June 5

The United States released its annual report Thursday on 2008 **trafficking in persons** and placed Cambodia on the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

The report, released by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, said Cambodia had made some improvements and increased engagement in combating the continued, serious problem of trafficking in persons.

The report recommends Cambodia continue implementation of anti-trafficking legislation and improve the number of prosecutions and convictions among others.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng said he welcomed the report and hoped Cambodia will not fall back in its classification to Tier 3 or Tier 4, instead, he said Cambodia will catch Tier 1 in the future.

In a separate 2008 TIP Report, released by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on Wednesday, it said Cambodia is a source and destination country for trafficked persons.

"Women and girls are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to Thailand and Malaysia. Some Cambodian women who migrated to Taiwan as the result of brokered international marriages were subsequently trafficked for prostitution," it said.

"Sex trafficking of women and girls, including ethnic Vietnamese, occurs within the country, from rural areas to the urban areas of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville," the report added.

"Cambodia is a destination for Vietnamese women and girls trafficked for prostitution. Cambodia is also a destination country for foreign child sex tourists, with increasing reports of Asian men traveling to Cambodia in order to have sex with underage virgin girls," it said.

Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" are classified as Tier 1.

And countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards, are classified as Tier 2, whereas countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

73 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 5, 2008 Thursday

Israel's human-trafficking record little improved - US

BYLINE: RUTH EGLASH**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 599 words

Israel has failed to adequately punish the perpetrators of international human trafficking and must significantly increase its law enforcement and victim protection services if it is to improve its status in the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Person's Report, according to the document's 2008 version, which was released on Wednesday.

"Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the report reads, and subsequently has remained in the second level, or Tier 2, along with 69 other countries - including Lebanon, Yemen, Ethiopia and Thailand.

However, while Israel failed to reach the desired Tier 1, the report does say that the government is making significant efforts against trafficking - such as increased convictions for sex trafficking offenses and a campaign to prevent incidences of slavery.

The Trafficking in Person's Report is the most comprehensive worldwide study on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons and its assessments are based on material collected from local government and nongovernment organizations. When it was first compiled in 2000, Israel was placed in the lowest category. Since then Israel's status has improved due to new legislation and the willingness of the authorities to recognize the problem.

"Though the [Israeli] government prepared some indictments for forced labor, it did not criminally prosecute or convict any employer or recruitment agent for labor trafficking," the 2008 report reads. "In addition, the government still does not provide forced labor victims with adequate protection services, such as appropriate shelter, or medical and psychological assistance."

The State Department recommends that Israel "significantly increases its efforts against forced labor, including prosecutions, convictions and sentences for practices such as unlawful withholding of passports and charging fraudulent recruitment fees; significantly increase prosecutions and punishments of internal trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation; and extend comprehensive protection services to victims of forced labor."

"The report clearly shows Israel's central problem in its approach to combating trafficking," said Romm Lewkowicz, spokesman of the Hotline for Migrant Workers, a grass-roots organization that provides assistance to thousands of foreign workers living in Israel. "While legislation is clearly progressing there is still little awareness and prevention."

He also highlighted the fairly new phenomenon of Israeli women being trafficked abroad for commercial sexual exploitation, which is referred to in the State Department report. According to the report, there have been cases of Israeli women being taken to Canada, Ireland and England.

"One of the main problems is that the authorities are busy chasing the classic trafficking cases," Lewkowicz said, "when in fact the new and more common form of trafficking involves forced labor, the trafficking of Chinese women for prostitution and forcing Israeli women to go abroad."

The Isha L'Isha-Haifa Feminist Center, which is extremely active in combating **human trafficking** and contributed to the 2008 **Trafficking in Person's** Report, believes that another barrier to Israel reaching **Tier 1** status is the "inactivity of the Interior Ministry."

The NGO's anti-trafficking project coordinator, Rita Chaikin, said Wednesday that the ministry refused to provide adequate assistance to female victims of trafficking, such as visas to stay here for rehabilitation services and, in some more extreme cases, citizenship.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2011

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: THE US State Department recommends that Israel 'significantly increase prosecutions and punishments of internal trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation' (Credit: Israel Sun)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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74 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Kazakhstan General Newswire

June 5, 2008 Thursday 1:06 PM MSK**Kazakhstan making significant efforts to eliminate trafficking, U.S. Department of State****LENGTH:** 243 words**DATELINE:** Astana June 5

U.S. Department of State praised efforts of Kazakhstan to eliminate human trafficking.

According to the press release from the U.S. embassy in Kazakhstan, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice releasing the 8th Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report said that Kazakhstan has been placed on a **Tier 2 "Watch List"** in 2007.

The fact demonstrates that Kazakhstan has made efforts to eradicate problems associated with human trafficking, according to the press release.

According to the press release, "Kazakhstan demonstrated increasing efforts to combat trafficking over the previous year, specifically by improving efforts to convict and sentence traffickers to time in prison."

"The number of 154 traffickers convicted in 2007 significantly increased, and the majority of convicted traffickers served adequate sentences in prison. The government also took steps to address government officials' complicity in trafficking. Kazakhstan allocated nearly \$35,000 for victim assistance during 2007," according to the press release.

Kazakhstan is recommended to "continue efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict, and punish government officials complicit in trafficking; continue efforts to ensure that convicted trafficking offenders are punished adequately through time in prison; provide some financial assistance for existing trafficking shelters; increase the number of victims referred to NGOs for assistance by government officials," according to the press release.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** 0000000113

75 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Radio Free Europe

June 5, 2008

U.S.: Human-Trafficking Report Finds Key Criminals Often Go Unpunished

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 1015 words

The U.S. State Department has issued its annual report on human trafficking in 170 countries, citing Iran and Moldova as among those with the worst records of fighting the problem.

helps determine whether the United States imposes sanctions or other punishments on countries that are seen as not doing enough to fight the practice. The report puts countries in one of three levels, or "tiers," that represent how well the United States views such efforts: Tier 1 for those doing a good job, down to Tier 3 for those doing an unacceptable job.

Virtually all of the nations of Eastern, Central, and Southeastern Europe are in Tier 2, while Russia and Tajikistan are on the so-called "watch list" of Tier-2 countries because they could slip to Tier 3. Uzbekistan is among four countries that have moved up. It used to be designated as a Tier-3 country, and now is on the Tier-2 "watch list." Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are in Tier 2, except for Turkmenistan, which is listed as a "special case" because of the lack of information from the country.

Georgia is classified as Tier 1, while Armenia and Azerbaijan are on Tier-2 "watch lists."

Afghanistan is classified as Tier 2.

Iraq and Kosovo are listed as "special cases" due to their political transitions.

On May 29, the UN issued a report declaring that the rate of crimes against people and property in the Balkans has improved to the point that the Balkans are considered safer than Western Europe. But the State Department report says human trafficking remains a problem in the Balkans, particularly in Moldova.

"Moldova fell to **Tier 3** for the first time, reflecting its government's failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption, as reflected in the handling of several high-profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking," said Mark Lagon, the State Department's senior adviser on **trafficking in persons**. "This failure created a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall."

May Lose Financial Assistance

Lagon said the State Department hopes the new government in Moldova will root out corrupt officials, improve the country's weak law enforcement, and make other efforts to protect victims of human trafficking.

Until then, Moldova -- along with Fiji and Papua New Guinea -- may lose some U.S. financial assistance that isn't involved in trade or humanitarian aid.

In releasing the report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice noted that since the United States began issuing the annual reports in 2000, an increasing number of governments around the world have given greater attention to the problem of human trafficking.

"Today -- because of our efforts, the efforts of our allies, and reports like the one we are releasing today -- there is much greater global awareness about the brutality of human trafficking," she said. "Globally, human trafficking is a multidimensional threat. It deprives people of their human rights and dignity, it increases global health risks, it bankrolls the growth of organized crime, and it undermines the rule of law."

But Rice said the more governments delve into the problem, the more trouble they find. Certainly, she said, traffickers have always found ways to kidnap and transport people for labor and prostitution, and there's never been a shortage of victims in regions such as Southeastern Europe, India, China, and the Philippines.

But Rice said that even in countries where such practices are uncovered, the people responsible for this 21st-century slavery too often go free.

"For the first time, in this year's report we closely examined prosecution data and made a disturbing discovery," Rice said. "Although more countries are addressing sex trafficking through prosecution and convictions, the petty tyrants who exploit their laborers rarely receive serious punishment. We see this as a serious shortcoming, and as we move our efforts forward, we and our allies must remember that a robust law enforcement response is essential."

NGOs Not Properly Trained

What's equally disturbing is that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) -- which frequently offer the first refuge for victims who manage to escape the traffickers -- aren't trained or otherwise equipped to handle the victims.

Lagon said that last winter he met two young Romanian women at a shelter in Bucharest for survivors of sex trafficking in Western Europe. They finally escaped to the care of an NGO in the West, then were repatriated to the Bucharest shelter. But Lagon said that once the two women were back in their native country, one was eventually found to have an advanced case of tuberculosis, and the other was suffering from severe syphilis.

"Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were repatriated? The time loss made their conditions immensely worse," Lagon said. "Despite increased attention by law enforcement to sex trafficking, we are not seeing -- as the findings of this report [show] -- significant victim protection and victim services provided. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to help significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized must be restored to their full humanity."

Lagon said the purpose of the report is to diagnose the problem of human trafficking and, from year to year, to track progress -- or lack thereof -- in combating it. In compiling the report, he said, he's highlighted five trends in worldwide human trafficking that need special attention by governments.

"Weak prosecution of labor-trafficking offenses. Secondly, weak trafficking-victim protection. Third, forced labor creeping into new growth industries. Fourth, domestic servitude, and luckily problems there are gaining recognition," Lagon said. "And fifth, closing a window of vulnerability for migrant workers is an imperative."

But Lagon said the thread that unites these five trends is something even more disturbing -- the demand for slave laborers and sex workers.

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

JOURNAL-CODE: RF

76 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 5, 2008 Thursday

2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED, UKRAINE RATED TIER TWO**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 404 words**DATELINE:** KIEV, Ukraine

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

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report at the State Department in Washington DC on Wednesday, June 4. As directed by the U.S. Congress, the State Department prepares reports for all countries in the world. The goal of these reports is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery.

The current report lists Ukraine as a Tier 2 country. This is because although the Government of Ukraine is making significant efforts to eliminate trafficking, it still does not fully comply with the minimum standards.

The report determines that Ukraine is making modest but tangible progress in improving the punishment of convicted traffickers, prosecuting labor trafficking, training the judiciary and carrying out prevention activities. For example, the Interior Ministry reported that the number of prosecutions for labor trafficking increased from three in 2006 to 23 in 2007.

The report also mentions that although local governments have made some progress on victim assistance, there was little evidence of efforts to curb trafficking complicity of government officials and of concrete steps to protect and assist trafficking victims at the national level.

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

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

The complete text of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report can be found in English at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008. The chapter on Ukraine can be found in Ukrainian at ky-iv.usembassy.gov/files/080604_TIP_Report_2008_Ukraine_Ukr.html

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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77 of 445 DOCUMENTS

UNI (United News of India)

June 5, 2008 Thursday 2:48 PM EST

INDIA ON US WATCHLIST FOR FAILURE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING: REPT**BYLINE:** Report from UNI brought to you by HT Syndication.**LENGTH:** 368 words**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, June 5 -- The Bush Administration has placed India on its '**Tier 2 Watchlist**' for the fifth consecutive year for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **human trafficking** in the last one year.

US anti-trafficking director Mark Lagon said yesterday that India made some progress but remained on the watch list because of its failure to recognise bonded labour as a form of trafficking.

"The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," said the US State Department's annual report on human trafficking which was released here yesterday.

"Despite the reported extent of the trafficking crisis in India," it pointed out, "government authorities made uneven efforts to prosecute traffickers and protect trafficking victims."

The report wants India to expand central and state government law enforcement capacity to conduct intrastate law enforcement activities against trafficking.

It also wants India to consider expanding the central Ministry of Home Affairs 'nodal cell' on trafficking to coordinate law enforcement efforts to investigate and arrest traffickers who cross state and national lines and significantly increase law enforcement efforts to punish labour trafficking offenders.

The 2008 report rated the anti-trafficking performance of 153 countries around the world and 14 were placed in the lowest category, Tier Three, which made them subject to possible US sanctions.

Some major US allies, including Saudi Arabia were put in Tier Three for the fourth consecutive year, along with fellow Arab states Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Algeria.

Burma, Cuba, Iran, Sudan and North Korea - all countries whose human rights records have been subject to strong US criticism, were also listed in Tier Three while Moldova, Fiji and Papua-New Guinea were added to the category for the first time.

US intelligence estimated that some 800,000 people were trafficked across international borders each year, 80 per cent of them women, and that millions more were exploited within their home countries.

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LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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78 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 11:03 PM EST

CAMBODIA PLACED ON **TIER 2** IN 2008 **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS** REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 469 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Cambodia's **Tier 2** placement in the eighth annual Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>) Report is an improvement over last year's **Tier Two Watch List** designation. This ranking reflects the Cambodian government's increased engagement in combating the continued, serious problem of trafficking in persons.

U.S. Embassy Charg  d'Affaires Piper A. W. Campbell and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H.E. Sar Kheng discussed Cambodia's 2008 TIP Report **tier** ranking at a press conference on June 5. Charg  Campbell stated, "I commend Prime Minister Hun Sen, His Excellency Sar Kheng as the Head of the National Task Force on **Human Trafficking**, and everyone else involved with the Royal Government of Cambodia's efforts to combat **human trafficking** for their achievements over the past year. These achievements would not have been possible without a strong commitment at the highest levels of the government, and we look forward to continued joint work addressing this serious problem."

Over the past year, Cambodia has created a national anti-trafficking task force to improve the interagency response to trafficking and coordination with civil society, increased law enforcement action against traffickers and complicit officials, issued a comprehensive anti-trafficking in persons law, and undertaken prevention activities. High-level government officials have strongly supported anti-trafficking efforts, including by publicly promoting a "zero tolerance" policy for officials profiting from or colluding in trafficking in persons.

While noting improvements in Cambodia's anti-trafficking efforts, the report recommended that the country continue implementation of anti-trafficking legislation; significantly improve the number of prosecutions, convictions, and punishments of trafficking offenders; and make greater efforts to prosecute, convict, and criminally punish public officials complicit in trafficking.

The 170-country Trafficking in Persons Report, which is mandated by the U.S. Congress and is released annually at this time of year, is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The United States estimates that each year, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, which does not include millions trafficked within their own countries. Human trafficking victims can be subjected to labor exploitation or sexual exploitation, or both.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2008 TIP Report on Wednesday, June 4 in a public event in Washington, D.C.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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79 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 1:36 PM EST

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 261 words**DATELINE:** TASHKENT, Uzbekistan

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On June 4, the U.S. Department of State released the eighth annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The 170-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, or modern day slavery. The United States estimates that each year approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders. This number does not include millions trafficked within their own country. The report's findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

Uzbekistan has taken concrete steps to counter **trafficking in persons** this year, as demonstrated by its progress from **tier** three classification last year to **tier** two **watch list** classification in this year's report. The government passed legislation that seeks not only to prevent and combat this type of exploitation, but also to protect and assist those who have been victims of human trafficking. Uzbekistan has adopted two International Labor Organization conventions relating to defining and preventing child labor. Further, its efforts to increase awareness through media campaigns and conferences demonstrate a growing commitment to addressing trafficking.

The Trafficking in Persons Report is mandated by the U.S. Congress and serves as the primary diplomatic tool for combating human trafficking around the world. The full text of the report is available on the State Department's website: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

80 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 5:06 AM EST

MOLDOVA LISTED ON **TIER 3** IN 2008 **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS** REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 744 words

DATELINE: CHISINAU, Moldova

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On June 4 at 10:00 a.m. EDT, the United States Secretary of State released the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The Report is an invaluable tool in drawing the world's attention to the existence of modern-day slavery. U.S. law, the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit a report on the state of global efforts to combat trafficking to the U.S. Congress each year.

The goal of this report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against human trafficking. There is evidence of trafficking in human beings in every country around the world, including the United States. Men, women, and children are held in domestic servitude, exploited for commercial sex, forcibly recruited as child soldiers, or abused in factories and sweatshops. These forms of human trafficking are, in fact, modern-day slavery.

Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

Moldova is classified as **Tier 3** in the 2008 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report. This ranking results from the fact that the Government of Moldova does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and did not make significant efforts to do so during the reporting period.

Moldova is a major source and, to a lesser extent, a transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. It is estimated that slightly more than one percent of the approximately 750,000 Moldovans working abroad are trafficking victims.

While the new government has shown increased commitment to address this problem, it was insufficient to make up for inadequate action in the remainder of the March 2007-March 2008 reporting period. Of particular concern was the lack of follow-up on cases of alleged complicity of government officials in trafficking in persons, which was a concern cited in the 2007 Report.

The U.S. recognizes that Moldova has taken some positive steps to combat trafficking in persons during the past year. The government has increased the number of trafficking investigations, and hired social workers to focus on vulnerable populations. A pilot program to refer trafficking victims to protective services continues to develop.

While Moldova demonstrated progress on these fronts, the U.S. Secretary of State has determined that Moldova neither complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, as set forth in U.S. law, nor has made significant efforts to comply with those standards during the March 2007 to March 2008 reporting period. In addition to the lack of visible follow-up on allegations of government officials' complicity in trafficking in persons, the report notes that the government's measures to protect trafficking victims were insufficient. The government has not de-

veloped proactive measures to identify victims, nor provided funding to NGOs for victim assistance during the reporting period.

Within 90 days of the release of the **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the U.S. President must transmit to the U.S. Congress the President's determination with respect to countries on **Tier 3**. Such countries, including Moldova, could face restrictions on the receipt of USG assistance, including a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact and negative USG votes on international financial institution (IFI) assistance.

During the next two months, the U.S. Government will work with the Government of Moldova to promote improvements in Moldova's response to trafficking in persons. Moldova's actions during the next 60 days, in particular Moldova's efforts to address the issue of alleged complicity of government officials, will be re-assessed. If the Government of Moldova undertakes significant actions against trafficking during this time frame, Moldova could be determined to have made significant efforts to combat trafficking (as defined in the TVPA law).

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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81 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 4:59 AM EST

REDUCING DEMAND IS KEY TO CURBING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, U.S. SAYS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 908 words

DATELINE: MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

The demand for cheap labor and sexual services must be addressed to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery, say U.S. officials.

At a June 4 briefing for the release of the State Department's eighth annual Trafficking In Persons Report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the 2008 report, for the first time, examines prosecution data.

She cited one "disturbing discovery" in particular: "Although more countries are addressing sex trafficking through prosecution and convictions, the petty tyrants who exploit their laborers rarely receive serious punishment. We see this as a serious shortcoming, and as we move our efforts forward, we and our allies must remember that a robust law enforcement response is essential. "

Ambassador Mark Lagon, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the 2008 report also focuses on forced labor, a form of trafficking in persons.

Lagon recounted instances of workers imprisoned in factories under brutal conditions that could be categorized only as forced labor. Evidence of forced labor is especially strong in Thailand's shrimp-processing industry, he said, and in charcoal production and on sugar plantations in Brazil.

In addition to slave labor in factories, many trafficking victims find themselves enslaved as domestic servants. Lagon said the government of the Philippines has taken steps to prevent workers from accepting domestic employment in certain countries where such enslavement is prevalent. Lagon called on more governments around the world to exercise stronger political will to prevent trafficking.

Lagon said the 2008 report takes a close look at the factors that create demand and at the recruiters of trafficked victims. Such recruiters often establish fees for finding "work" for their "clients" that are so onerous the result is debt bondage. Debt bondage is a form of enslavement in which workers find they never can pay off their debts to win their freedom or the right to keep their wages.

The ambassador also called for more services for the treatment and rehabilitation of the formerly enslaved. "We must restore humanity to those who have been dehumanized," he said.

The 2008 report evaluates the efforts of 170 countries to combat human trafficking. The report aims to raise awareness of the scourge of modern slavery and to encourage countries to take action to prevent it.

The report places countries in "**tiers**" based on an assessment of the government's compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as explained in the U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Protection Act of 2000. **Tier 2** and **Tier 3** countries have moderate to severe challenges in controlling trafficking. Another category, "Tier 2 Watch List," indicates countries in danger of falling to the bottom Tier 3.

Lagon said that in the 2008 report, Madagascar moved to Tier 1 - the best of the ratings - by demonstrating the ability to take effective anti-trafficking steps with minimal resources. Moldova, however, fell to Tier 3. Both previously had been classified in Tier 2.

China and India remain on the Tier 2 Watch List. China, he said, has made insufficient efforts to combat trafficking, especially in regards to North Korean women who are trafficked into China as "wives" or prostitutes. Those North Koreans unlucky enough to be returned by authorities to North Korea routinely are punished by the North Korean regime, he said.

In contrast, India has made more efforts to protect children who become victims of trafficking, but the government still does not recognize bonded labor as a form of slavery, Lagon said.

TRAFFICKING A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM

According to U.S. estimates, some 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year. That number does not include the millions of people trafficked within their own countries.

Trafficking is a problem in the United States as well, where an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the country each year. A separate report on trafficking problems inside the United States is produced each year.

U.S. efforts to combat trafficking involve partnerships with other countries, international and nongovernmental organizations. In fiscal year 2007, the U.S. government spent approximately \$79 million to fund 180 anti-trafficking projects in about 90 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States has funded more than \$528 million for anti-trafficking projects worldwide.

Even though the problem of human trafficking is severe, the outlook is not entirely gloomy. According to Rice, in recent years there has been "a hopeful global movement uniting civil society, governments, and international organizations" to abolish human trafficking.

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice, and to say that freedom and security are non-negotiable demands of human dignity," she said.

"Together I believe this movement of governments, civil society, and brave individuals of conscience can rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those who have been treated as less than human."

The full text of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site. See also U.S. Government Efforts to Fight Demand Fueling Human Trafficking and The Facts About Human Trafficking for Forced Labor also on the State Department Web site.

LOAD-DATE: December 7, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

82 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 3:23 AM EST

2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED, UKRAINE RATED TIER TWO

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 109 words

DATELINE: KIEV, Ukraine

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report at the State Department in Washington DC on Wednesday, June 4. As directed by the U.S. Congress, the State Department prepares reports for all countries in the world. The goal of these reports is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery.

The current report lists Ukraine as a Tier 2 country. This is because although the Government of Ukraine is making significant efforts to eliminate trafficking, it still does not fully comply with the minimum standards.

LOAD-DATE: November 23, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

83 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2008 Thursday 3:05 AM EST

KAZAKHSTAN: OFFICIAL RELEASE OF EIGHTH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 279 words

DATELINE: ALMATY, Kazakhstan

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the official release of the eighth annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This report, compiled by the United States Department of State in 170 countries, is the world's most comprehensive report on the efforts to combat severe forms of human trafficking. Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

This year, Secretary Rice announced that Kazakhstan has been upgraded to **Tier 2** from the **Tier 2 Watch List**. This reflects Kazakhstan's positive steps to eradicate the scourge of **human trafficking**. Kazakhstan has improved its efforts to convict and sentence traffickers. In 2007, Kazakh authorities convicted nineteen traffickers who are currently serving between three and twelve years in prison. Kazakhstan has also taken steps to investigate and convict government officials complicit in trafficking, and it allocated nearly \$35,000 for victim assistance in 2007.

Sadly, the United States estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year, and that millions are trafficked within their own countries. These trafficking victims are often subjected to labor exploitation, sexual exploitation, or both. While Kazakhstan has done much to address this international problem, it still can improve in prosecuting traffickers, and especially in assisting and protecting victims. The United States Government is committed to working with our partners in Kazakhstan to make further strides towards ending this criminal activity that afflicts the entire world.

LOAD-DATE: July 30, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

84 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday

United States, Canada and Africa; Reducing Demand is Key to Curbing Human Trafficking, U.S. Says

BYLINE: America.gov

LENGTH: 871 words

A Filipina woman holds the high school ID of her missing daughter who had been recruited for domestic work abroad. She cited one "disturbing discovery" in particular: "Although more countries are addressing sex trafficking through prosecution and convictions, the petty tyrants who exploit their laborers rarely receive serious punishment. We see this as a serious shortcoming, and as we move our efforts forward, we and our allies must remember that a robust law enforcement response is essential. "

Ambassador Mark Lagon, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the 2008 report also focuses on forced labor, a form of trafficking in persons.

Lagon recounted instances of workers imprisoned in factories under brutal conditions that could be categorized only as forced labor. Evidence of forced labor is especially strong in Thailand's shrimp-processing industry, he said, and in charcoal production and on sugar plantations in Brazil.

In addition to slave labor in factories, many trafficking victims find themselves enslaved as domestic servants. Lagon said the government of the Philippines has taken steps to prevent workers from accepting domestic employment in certain countries where such enslavement is prevalent. Lagon called on more governments around the world to exercise stronger political will to prevent trafficking.

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The 2008 report evaluates the efforts of 170 countries to combat human trafficking. The report aims to raise awareness of the scourge of modern slavery and to encourage countries to take action to prevent it.

The report places countries in "**tiers**" based on an assessment of the government's compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as explained in the U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Protection Act of 2000. **Tier 2** and **Tier 3** countries have moderate to severe challenges in controlling trafficking. Another category, "Tier 2 Watch List," indicates countries in danger of falling to the bottom Tier 3.

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U.S. efforts to combat trafficking involve partnerships with other countries, international and nongovernmental organizations. In fiscal year 2007, the U.S. government spent approximately \$79 million to fund 180 anti-trafficking projects in about 90 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States has funded more than \$528 million for anti-trafficking projects worldwide.

Even though the problem of human trafficking is severe, the outlook is not entirely gloomy. According to Rice, in recent years there has been "a hopeful global movement uniting civil society, governments, and international organizations" to abolish human trafficking.

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice, and to say that freedom and security are non-negotiable demands of human dignity," she said.

"Together I believe this movement of governments, civil society, and brave individuals of conscience can rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those who have been treated as less than human."

A transcript of Rice's remarks is available on America.gov.

The full text of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site. See also U.S. Government Efforts to Fight Demand Fueling Human Trafficking and The Facts About Human Trafficking for Forced Labor also on the State Department Web site.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

85 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 4:19 PM GMT

US keeps Gulf allies on trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: Lachlan Carmichael**LENGTH:** 736 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 4 2008

The United States on Wednesday kept Gulf Arab allies Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia on a blacklist of countries trafficking in people, but removed ally Bahrain and trading partner Malaysia.

Fiji, Moldova and Papua New Guinea were added to the blacklist contained in the annual report which analyzed efforts in 170 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

Also remaining on the "**Tier 3**" **blacklist** are Sudan, Syria, Algeria, Iran, Myanmar, and Cuba, according to the State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" for 2008.

Bahrain and Malaysia as well as Venezuela, Uzbekistan and Equatorial Guinea were all elevated from the blacklist last year to the "Tier 2" watch list this year, according to the congressionally-mandated report.

In introducing the report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said human trafficking "deprives people of their human rights and dignity" and "bankrolls the growth of organized crime and it undermines the rule of law."

The 14 countries on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Countries that receive no such assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for government officials to participate in educational and cultural exchange programs.

"Fiji is a source country for children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and a destination country for a small number of women from the People's Republic of China and India trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," it said

"Moldova is a major source, and to a lesser extent, a transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation," it added.

"Papua New Guinea is a country of destination for women and children from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the People's Republic of China, trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation to brothels in the capital and at isolated logging and mining camps," it said.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar admit men and women from Asian countries -- such as Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Indonesia -- and African countries like Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia to work as domestic servants or other low-skilled laborers.

Many subsequently "face conditions of involuntary servitude," the report said adding that to a lesser extent, they are forced into prostitution.

The report also cast a spotlight on several countries in the Middle East.

"For the last four years, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been the matter of great concern and disappointment," said Mark Lagon, Rice's senior advisor on the human trafficking problem.

Saudi Arabia is on "Tier 3," which lists the worse trafficking offenders, for the fourth time.

"As an update, I am happy to report that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continued to make significant improvements, notably the United Arab Emirates," Lagon told reporters. "It is a model in the region."

The report said Sudan is "a source country for men, women, and children trafficked internally for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation."

Syria is a "destination and transit country for women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor," the report said.

"A significant number of women and children in the large and expanding Iraqi refugee community in Syria are reportedly forced into commercial sexual exploitation by Iraqi gangs or, in some cases, their families," it said.

"Algeria is a transit country for men and women trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude," the report said.

"Iran is a source, transit, and destination for women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. Iranian women are trafficked internally for the purpose of forced prostitution and forced marriages to settle debts," it said.

Cuba meanwhile is mainly a "source country for women and children trafficked within the country for the purpose of commercial exploitation," with some families pushing their children into prostitution to increase income.

Myanmar is a "source country for women, children and men trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial exploitation."

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

86 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 2:43 PM GMT
Correction Appended

US keeps Mideast allies on trafficking blacklist, removes Malaysia

LENGTH: 196 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 4 2008

The United States on Wednesday kept Middle East allies Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia on a blacklist of countries trafficking in people, but removed ally Bahrain and trading partner Malaysia.

Fiji, Moldova and Papua New Guinea were added to the 2008 **blacklist** of the State Department annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," which analyzed efforts in more than 150 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

Also remaining on the "**Tier** 3" list for another year as the worst offenders in **human trafficking** were Sudan, Syria, Algeria, Iran, Myanmar, and Cuba, according to the Congressionally-mandated report.

US Gulf Arab ally Bahrain and trading partner Malaysia as well as Venezuela, Uzbekistan and Equatorial Guinea were all elevated from the blacklist last year to the "Tier 2" watch list this year.

Countries on the blacklist could face sanctions, including the withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Countries that receive no such assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for government officials to participate in educational and cultural exchange programs.

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CORRECTION: ATTENTION - CORRECTS to remove Bahrain from countries still on blacklist in lead. Here is a corrected repetition: ///

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Federal News Service

June 4, 2008 Wednesday

**SPECIAL STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ON THE RELEASE OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT);
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SPECIAL STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ON THE RELEASE OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT) LOCATION: WASHINGTON, DC DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Good morning. Secretary Rice has aptly summarized why the U.S. Government is dedicated to ending human trafficking, a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude, exploited for commercial sex, coerced into work in factories and sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers.

These are forms of human trafficking. They are, in fact, forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims vary widely. According to the U.S. intelligence community, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. About 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors. These figures do not include millions who are trafficked for purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within national borders as well.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool: The Annual Trafficking In Persons Report, which allows us to diagnose the problem and track progress. This year's report covers 170 countries: 153 are assessed and ranked into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; another 17 countries are considered special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, we have several essential objectives addressed. To summarize: the country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, to protect victims and to prevent the crime; to initiate bilateral engagement, ongoing year-round in terms of action plans for combating trafficking in persons developed on the basis of each country assessment; to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and to hold poor performers to account; and finally, to inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates. As a function of the information collected in compiling this document, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago, when, for example, we started taking a closer look at forced labor practices.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly these personal stories of anguish that motivate contemporary abolitionists in dealing with contemporary slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn. She had been recruited to work in a shrimp processing sector of a neighboring country to Burma, together with 800 other Burmese men, women and children. Desperate to leave her country, Aye Aye Wynn described her horror to me at find-

ing herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of a jungle, prevented from leaving or calling family by phone, or even eating decently. She and her Burmese brethren weren't even paid.

Aye Aye and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and beaten. They were chained to poles in the middle of the courtyard of the factory compound and they were deprived of food and water. Aye Aye's hair was shaved as a tool of humiliation before the other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye was rescued, and the good news is that the national police raid saved her and her compatriots. Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as mere administrative matters or regulatory offenses rather than despicable crimes.

In this year's TIP Report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking or labor trafficking prosecutions. You'll find that on page 37 of the report. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions are convictions. Roughly 10 percent of them relate to labor trafficking offenses as compared to prosecutions and convictions related to sex trafficking offenses.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention must be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past. One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand shrimp processing and that sector. But in other cases, in Brazil, some charcoal is produced by forced labor and some of that charcoal may be used to produce pig iron. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities were found on sugarcane plantations.

Also of concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials themselves. All governments must act to ensure that cheap and efficient production of export goods does not come at the expense of the very dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

Last winter, in a Bucharest shelter for sex trafficking survivors, I met two young Romanian women, Anca and Silvia. They had been trafficked separately to Western Europe and wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated from there back home. Both women had the clear look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. Just a few days after we met in Romania, the NGO caring for them discovered that Anca had advanced TB and that Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were repatriated? The time lost made their conditions immensely worse.

Despite increased attention by law enforcement to sex trafficking, we are not seeing, as the findings of this report, significant improvement in victim protection and victim services provided. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to help significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized must be restored to their full humanity.

This report focuses on a number of vulnerable groups. They include North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers in general, and foreign domestic workers. One of the most common and desperate faces of modern day slavery is the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. One of the highest profile cases in the U.S. this year involved two Indonesian maids who were trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as exploited for their labor.

We're beginning to see, however, glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular destination country because of the extremely high number of Filipino maids who were regularly escaping from the confines of abusive employers and seeking shelter in the Philippines Embassy. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the government to confront exploitation. Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters and brokers who facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and outright force and coercion, they need to be prosecuted and punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've identified countries where foreign workers are exploited to force, fraud, and coercion, and have placed some of these countries on the lowest tier of the report, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters, some of whom are licensed by the state, and who often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by fraudulent offers of employment and then excessive recruitment fees that later translate into debt bondage.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through the predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomena, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by both labor source and labor destination governments. These strategies are enumerated on page 16 and 17 of the report's introduction.

I've highlighted five trends: weak prosecution of labor trafficking offenses; secondly, weak trafficking victim protection; third, forced labor creeping into new growth industries; fourth, domestic servitude, and luckily, the problems there are gaining recognition; and fifth, closing a window of vulnerability for migrant workers as an imperative.

But running through this report, in fact, running through much of the U.S. Government's anti-trafficking work is a new focus, encouraged by Congress, on the factors that create demand for labor and sexual exploitation. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they are tainted by slave labor. Without confronting this demand, we cannot end slavery today.

Demand is also pulling victims into sex and labor trafficking, but it's not being adequately addressed. As for demand for sex trafficking, it can be seen in the form of males seeking to buy brides from less developed communities with the intent of abusing and exploiting these women, or men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, or men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. Demand for slave labor is seen broadly in the race to the bottom for cheap labor to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP Report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for the assessment of each. Moving up to Tier 1, for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti- trafficking progress can be achieved with will, despite minimal resources. It's emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries.

Meanwhile, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time, reflecting its government's failure to tackle trafficking related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking. This failure created a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. Now, we're hopeful that the newly appointed government in Moldova will take significant steps to address complicity by government officials and, furthermore, to improve law enforcement and victim protection efforts. We'll be engaging with them for that.

Among the news items here, Mexico has moved up to Tier 2, because of important developments over the reporting year, including a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds appropriated by the legislature in Mexico for victim shelters, a demonstrably committed attorney general, and unified efforts of some superb civil society actors. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and evidence of a new political will that promises to yield even further improvement in this coming year.

For the last four years, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. Saudi Arabia, for example, is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time. As an update, I'm happy to report that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continue to make significant improvements; notably the United Arab Emirates as a model in the region.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two countries with huge populations and unique trafficking profiles: China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. While there have been prosecutions of perpetrators of human trafficking and a national action plan was launched, there are insufficient efforts to protect Chinese and foreign victims of trafficking. In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, these North Koreans seek refuge in China. But many are preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as "wives" - with quotation marks around wives - or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they'd often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment. The victims are punished rather than cared for.

India has made efforts on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined in a raid. But India still doesn't recognize bonded labor as human trafficking. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

To conclude, as we continue to shed light on emerging global trends for trafficking in persons, we're steadfast in our support to countries who are willing to partner with us in this global fight. Just as the transatlantic slave trade was abolished 200 years ago, slavery today can be abolished again. Let's remain committed to act as a voice for the many voice-

less victims of human trafficking: an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and action.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to state how much good work I've seen throughout the year since I last stood here a year ago. And I want to tell you how much I personally appreciate the increasing cooperation of our allies, governments, NGOs, church organizations, and private citizens around the world who are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and to help victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

I'd welcome your questions.

Q You spoke a little bit about slave labor camps that have been uncovered in China. Have you found that any products destined for the Olympic Games have been tainted by slave labor, to use your word? And then I had a question - a follow-up thing on Venezuela. They appear to have actually improved this year.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm. First of all, any time that there's a major sporting event, whether it be, you know, World Cup soccer or the biggest of all, the Olympics, one has to be concerned about the massive construction work possibly being subject to human trafficking exploitation and a spike in commercial sexual exploitation.

With respect to China, I actually would say we have to look at the general situation of human rights that we're - the world is called upon to look at as the Olympic Games are coming together. It's 19 years ago today that the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. And there's a lot of focus on human rights, in general, in China as the Olympics are about to occur.

But we need to recognize that there is a problem of human trafficking that's not specific to the Olympics occurring, but the Olympics brings attention to. There has been examples of people caught in slavery in brick kilns and, in fact, resold to other kilns by government officials who are corrupt, been a case recently documented of children who were trafficked to Guangdong Province and were involved in the worst forms of child labor, having been brought from Dongguan. There's credible evidence of Uighurs, who are moved from --

Q I'm sorry, of who?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Of Uighur Muslims who have moved from Xinjiang to other parts of China. And most notably, as I emphasized in my opening remarks, North Koreans are subject to re-victimization, because they flee a country in which they face repression and an economic chaos caused by their own government. And whether as bought wives or as workers in the Northeast of China, they have been subject to human trafficking and the worst kind of leverage that could be held over their head, the threat that they'd be sent back to North Korea only to be punished severely by their government.

Q But specifically, has there been anything that you can point to that would indicate that the Olympic Games has actually increased the number of people in forced labor or - because there's a need for more product, et cetera, et cetera?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: As I don't have tangible evidence, I don't want to overreach. But any time that there's a substantial building boom and construction, and a vulnerability to massive prostitution designed to service people from abroad, there's a possibility. But I would direct you to thinking about the longstanding vulnerability to human trafficking in China. China is not only a government that does not protect the liberties of its people, but it manifestly is a government that doesn't protect its own citizens and foreign nationals from human trafficking.

Q And on Venezuela?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah. Venezuela has actually moved up this year. And I hope it's a tribute to the objectivity of our report. We don't sit in the upper levels of this building and decide which countries are generally human rights abusers or with whom we have problematic relationships, and then determine that they get a lousy ranking in this report. Venezuela has taken some steps: passing a law to prohibit internal trafficking of women and girls, opening up some investigations of human trafficking. There remain problems, including limited victim services and no shelters for victims. So it's a mixed bag. But truth be told, they don't belong in the lowest category any longer.

Q Speaking about the objectivity of the report, there are special cases where you don't have enough information. But Iran is on the Tier 3, and you don't have any embassy in Iran, any relations with Iran for 30 years. So how - on what do you base your information -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, we - just as Iran is included in the Annual Human Rights Report and is a serious case to examine, we feel that Iran needs to be assessed with a ranking in this report. Yes, it's a limitation that we have only so

much information. But that's a limitation more based on the closed nature of the Iranian Government than the lack of diplomatic representation of the United States.

I want to say that we try to be very serious about getting evidence.

Truthfully, we prod other governments quite hard to give us evidence and data. Congress requires us to tell them about investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, as well as numbers of trafficking victims found and helped. And we insist on having a baseline as best we can. There are some limits on the information that we got from the Government of Iran. But the picture is pretty clear, one of serious human trafficking.

Elise.

Q Can you talk a little bit more about the idea that slave labor is fueling some of these booming industries in these developing countries and the idea that the United States is increasing trade with these countries? We're relying on some of the products that are fueling these industries. And how much demand is fueling it and whether there should be stricter, kind of, I guess what you say, export controls or import controls on these types of things?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's been the law --

Q I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Okay, we'll come back to you. It's been a law for 78 years under the 1938 Tariff and Trade Act that products of slave labor are not permitted into the country. It's a matter of implementation. We need to identify those products that are indeed produced by slave labor. My colleagues at ICE, at DHS, are eager and energetic in their efforts internationally to try and run that down.

We don't want to suggest that all imports from a country are tainted by slave labor when there is evidence of some. I myself have seen in Thailand those who were subjected to slave labor conditions in the shrimp processing sector. That doesn't mean all shrimp that comes into the United States from Thailand is tainted, but there's a distinct possibility; it's something we need to look out for.

We need to think about growing trends. I'll call attention to the profile of Brazil, which is doing a good deal proactively to rescue victims of forced labor, even calling them by the name they deserve, slaves, based on commitment by President Lula. But as it says right here in the report, approximately half of the nearly 6,000 men freed from slave labor in 2007 were found exploited on plantations growing sugarcane for the production of ethanol - a growing trend.

We need to pay attention to this, and there is consumer power, the best kind of market force, to ask the Q Are supply chains clean?

Q I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: One quick follow-up?

Q It kind of follows up on that. But China and India, you said that they've been on the Tier 2 Watch List for the last four - for the last four years. And you say that, you know, it's not based on who we have a bad relationship with that we give them a bad grade, but what about the countries that we're trying to have a good relationship with, we have a growing economic relationship with? I mean, how come neither one of those countries has made it to Tier 3? My understanding is there's been a lot of debate within the Administration about whether they should be listed.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The Tier 2 Watch List should not be a permanent status. It's - I think it was designed by Congress to highlight - there's some countries in Tier 2 that are in danger of potentially ending up on Tier 3. You know, there are some countries that just deserve to be in this new category that was created between Tier 2 and Tier 3. It's my judgment that Russia, for instance, really doesn't belong in Tier 2 and it really doesn't belong in Tier 3. This is the right call.

With respect to India and China, these are both very serious cases. We're quite blunt in the report. Frankly, we're quite blunt in our extensive diplomatic dialogue with these countries. There are some positive developments in each. In India, there's been an effort to focus on rescuing victims both in sex trafficking and in child labor, but as far as prosecutions across the board, as far as fighting corruption as a facilitator of human trafficking and in particular a recognition that bonded labor is extensive and a human trafficking problem, it remains a serious situation.

Q So you feel comfortable that they're still on Tier 2 Watch List?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Indeed, indeed. And with respect to China, while they have made some progress in law enforcement on a national action plan, there remain a number of problems that I've enumerated earlier that deserve serious attention.

Sir.

Q Can you elaborate more on the Arab states? You've talked about progress in UAE and Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia is still in the Tier 3. Are you considering imposing sanctions on Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, all countries that are on Tier 3, according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the year 2000 that created the office I direct and mandated the report, all countries in Tier 3 are subject to sanctions. The sanctions cannot be limitations on trade promotion assistance or humanitarian - purely humanitarian assistance.

Every year, approximately the 1st of September, a decision is made by the U.S. Government about whether to subject the countries under Tier 3 to full sanctions, or to use a full or partial waiver. And considerations are made about whether we're going to advance our diplomacy with countries to actually get them to change on human trafficking, and our general national interests are taken into account.

And there are a number of times where we try and use this as a surgical tool, where, for instance, we feel that we could get cultural exchanges or democracy programs funded if we have a partial waiver. But I must say that I think we've gotten the attention of a number of the Persian Gulf states, and I think even more than the blunt words of the United States or potential sanctions, as a model that one sees in the region of the United Arab Emirates dealing with the problem of children as jockeys and then putting in place a law on human trafficking that it's now using to prosecute sex traffickers and (inaudible) victims.

But you know, these countries care about the rankings. You know, I've seen the diplomats and officials of these countries in their capitals and here in Washington, and the prospect of moving up from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List and a reassessment that occurs in August for the Tier 3 countries, and the prospect of moving up in each year is something they very much care about.

Q Yes, I'd like to return to Mexico for a moment.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm.

Q You had commended Mexico on improving its efforts in human trafficking and you emphasized that one way to solve this problem that's very important is to make sure that governments prosecute - or make arrests, prosecute and convict people for these crimes. I've been reporting on the State Department's non-natural death report for 2005- 2007, specifically the 128 homicides that have taken place in Mexico, and I have been unable to get information on exactly that from the State Department; in other words, the arrest, prosecution and conviction. Is it just trafficking that they follow up on, not - why wouldn't homicides or other events in sort of -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: A lot of violent crime, particularly connected to organized crime both in drugs and human trafficking, that persists in Mexico. It's by no means a rosy situation in terms of law enforcement. I can't speak specifically to that information, although I can try and help get that for you. But in Mexico, it's the step of will that's being shown, and the legislative branch and the executive branch coming together to pass a comprehensive law and some appearance that they intend to use that law. Because that is the key here. We see states that move up when they pass a comprehensive law, and then sometimes we see they don't implement those laws. On some of those first steps I've been very impressed. The Attorney General Medina Mora, who has appointed Guadalupe Morfin as his point woman on human trafficking, I've spent some time with her at a U.N. conference on human trafficking, consulting about how she'll attack this problem. I'm delighted to see the Mexican authorities are going to use appropriations from their legislature to take some mansions seized from drug traffickers and turn them into shelters for human trafficking victims.

In the back.

Q On Cuba, please. What are you doing on the situation of trafficking in Cuba, and what are you doing about (inaudible) under Raul Castro regime?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, there continues to be a problem for human trafficking in Cuba. Earlier, I was asked a question about Iran. This is also a situation in which the government is not exactly forthcoming to the United States about data. There are some efforts to raise awareness in Cuba for women who might fall into sex trafficking, and there are some efforts that the Cubans make in combination with British NGOs to try and deal with children who are, you

know, sexually exploited. But in general, there seems to be denial and weak victim assistance, when it comes to human trafficking. One hopes there'll be change in Cuba, but I don't see evidence to date that the modest transition that has taken place politically in Cuba has changed the situation markedly.

Sir.

Q Yes. You said the Saudis are on Tier 3 since the beginning - the establishing of the report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: They've been on Tier 3 for four years, is it? Yeah, about four years now.

Q You have been establishing the reports since the eight years. This is the eighth year, right?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Correct.

Q And the Saudis are in Tier 3 since the beginning?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: And the Saudis - I can - and by the way, a helpful addition to the report last year was a tracking chart. And in the profile of every country, it indicates every ranking it has received since the beginning. Saudi Arabia was Tier 3, 2001 and 2002. It came up to Tier 2, when there was no Tier 2 Watch List, both in 2003 and 2004. And since 2005, it has remained on Tier 3.

Q And why -- sorry.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Go ahead. Were you going to ask me about the situation in Saudi Arabia?

Q No, I'm asking why, in your opinion, the U.S. is not succeeding in convincing the Saudis to do some improvements? I mean --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think there's a desperate need for women and foreigners, migrant laborers to be treated as human beings in full in Saudi Arabia, and that is part of the distinct problem there and in a number of the Gulf states. One case is really striking to me, the case of Nour Miyatis, an Indonesian domestic servant, a maid, who was grossly abused in Saudi Arabia. For four years, she's been pursuing legal proceedings, not going home to Indonesia, but sticking it out. She's trying to stick up for her rights under international law. And she had recently her case thrown out in Saudi Arabia. This is a woman who was locked for over a month in a closet by her employer. Her employer refused to treat her medical condition. She got gangrene in her fingers and toes and they had to be amputated. It's pretty obvious.

Q Loss of her limbs?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah, yeah. All fingers and toes. It's emblematic. But there are a number of problems both of labor trafficking and victimization of women as well. But I hope to visit Saudi Arabia in the coming months and engage all the more.

Q Yeah, but why you are not succeeding, like you are succeeding in - with the Emirates? Why with the Saudis you are not --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think it's principally a question of political will on their part, but I'll do mine in terms of serious, quiet dialogue.

Sir.

Q What are the countries that there are currently sanctions against and what are the nature of those sanctions as a result of this?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, of the Tier 3 countries from last year -- and my staff can help me recall all of them, if I miss some -- some of the countries that have full-scale sanctions include Burma, Cuba. There was actually, in the case of Iran and North Korea, partial sanctions so that some exchange programs or cultural programs or democracy-related assistance would not be blocked. A number of the countries had sanctions waived, from Malaysia that was on **Tier 3** last year, has moved up to the **Tier 2 Watch List**, to this year, a number of countries again on **Tier 3**. Last year, a number of the Persian Gulf states, because of strategic relationships we have with governments and wanting to sustain dialogue on **human trafficking** and not having the door shut, had full waivers, based on a decision by the President of the United States.

Sir.

Q Regarding North Korean victims in northeastern China, Chinese Government (inaudible) seems to be -- provide the traffickers with the - what kind of leverage, as you said. So what special steps do you think is required?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think one - one important place to start is for the Chinese authorities to see what they believe their moral and legal obligations are under migration treaties and human rights for the way they treat those who come to China. They're treated legally in China -- that is to say, North Koreans who come there - as illegal economic migrants and are sent home. And this creates a double problem. For those who want to victimize North Koreans who come to China, all they have to do is threaten that we're going to, you know, turn you over to the authorities and you're going to get sent home. And so those victims find themselves coerced into doing, you know, the worst of things, including women who ostensibly have been bought and brought into marriage but, in fact, are sex slaves. But moreover, when they do get sent home, they are, you know, truly victimized; I mean, you're a victim leaving North Korea, you're victimized in human trafficking and then victimized and sent home. That's a pretty gory situation. It demands the attention of the international community.

Anyone else?

I just want to say a word, if I can, about the effort that comes together before this report. It's a momentous effort. We have tried - worked hard to get this annual report to come out at the same time as a report on U.S. efforts at home that the Department of Justice pulls together. So we can answer the Q Do you grade yourselves? Just yesterday, a report was delivered to Congress and it's in synch with this, so that when we produce CD-ROMs for international distribution, there will be an assessment of what the United States is doing, including a self-critical set of recommendations.

This report would never come together without a team of reports officers who travel the globe and do their very best to get the most serious empirical data. That team is led by Mark Taylor. Much of the creativity of this report in raising themes is shaped by Mark Taylor and that team. And I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan, our senior coordinator for public affairs who helped shape this report and it becoming, as I've learned going to U.N. meetings, a tremendous source of international public awareness. There is nothing like this report. This is not crowing; it's just a fact. There is no NGO report and there is no U.N. report on human trafficking that makes this kind of assessment, and this has become more and more enlightening each year. I commend it to you. Thanks.

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**STATE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS CENTER BRIEFING (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT);
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TATE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS CENTER BRIEFING (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT)
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT BRIEFER: MARK LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE LOCATION: THE FOREIGN PRESS CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C. TIME: 1:00 P.M. EDT DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

MODERATOR: All right. Thanks, everyone. Welcome to the Foreign Press Center this afternoon. It's our pleasure to host today the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador Mark Lagon. He's going to make a brief statement about the 2008 TIP report and then we're going to have time for your questions and answers. So without further delay, let me introduce Ambassador Lagon.

MR. LAGON: Thank you very much. Good afternoon and thank you all for coming. As you know, this morning, Secretary Rice released the Department's Annual Trafficking In Persons Report. We highlight heroes in each year's report who are - play a key role in combating human trafficking.

And one of the heroes this year, Anas Anas, is a reporter with an independent newspaper who was responsible for breaking two major trafficking rings in the capital city of his country, Ghana, in Accra during the reporting season for this report. Anas Anas worked undercover for eight months exposing the trafficking ring's methods of transportation and the identities of immigration officials who were accepting bribes in return for overlooking fake visas and passports in a trafficking scheme. His undercover work allowed him to collect key evidence that could be used by police to prosecute the traffickers. He displayed great courage as a reporter. In so doing, he's able to act as a voice for the voiceless.

So each of you, I'd note, in your capacity as journalists are uniquely positioned to help raise public awareness about this most pressing injustice of human trafficking that affects the lives of millions globally. So I'm particularly delighted that you're here today.

In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude. They're exploited for commercial sex and coerced in work and factories and in sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers. These are forms of human trafficking, but more aptly put, these are forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims worldwide vary widely. But according to the U.S. Government, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Eighty percent of them are female. Some one-half of them are minors. And these figures don't include the millions more who are trafficked for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within the national borders of countries.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool in the form of the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report that allows us to diagnose the problem and to track progress in confronting it. This year's report covers 170 countries in the world, a new high. 153 were

assessed and ranked at Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and - or Tier 3. Another 17 countries are designated special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, there's several essential objectives. To summarize: country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent the crime in the first place. Also, to initiate bilateral engagement with other countries that is ongoing year-round in the form of action plans we developed with other countries for combating trafficking based on the country assessment and the report. Another goal is to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and, frankly speaking, to hold poor performers accountable. Finally, we seek to inspire with, you know, greater determination, creativity and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates.

As a function of the information collected in compiling the report, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago when we began taking a closer look at forced labor practices in addition to sex trafficking.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly personal stories that help motivate those who work today to abolish modern-day slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn, who had been recruited to work in the shrimp processing industry in a neighboring country. Together with some 800 other Burmese men, women and children, she was recruited. She was desperate to leave her tortured country. And she described to me the horror at finding herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of the jungle, prevented from leaving, prevented from calling family members by phone, even prevented from eating decently. These workers were not even paid.

Aye Aye Wynn and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and they were beaten. They were chained to poles in the courtyard of the factory compound, deprived of food and water. Aye Aye Wynn, a vibrant young woman with a beautiful head of hair, tells how that head of hair was completely shorn off as a way of humiliating her before other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye Wynn was rescued. And the good news is that a national police raid saved her and her compatriots.

Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as administrative or regulatory offenses rather than crimes. In this year's TIP report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking and labor trafficking prosecutions. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions and convictions, roughly 10 percent of them, relate to labor trafficking offenses as opposed to sex trafficking offenses. That information, those statistics are on page 37 of the report.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention has to be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past.

One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand's shrimp processing sector. In Brazil, some charcoal produced in -- by forced labor finds its way into pig iron for export. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities over the last year were found on sugar cane plantations as well. Also of deep concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials. All governments must act to ensure that the cheap and efficient production of export goods doesn't come at the expense of the basic dignity and rights of citizens.

Another trend: the weak protection of sex trafficking victims. Last winter in Bucharest, I met in a shelter two young Romanian women, sex trafficking survivors, Anca and Silvia.

They'd been trafficked separately to Western Europe and they wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated back home. Both women clearly had the look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. And later when I returned to the United States, I learned from the NGO caring for them that they discovered that Anca had advanced TB and Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were even repatriated to Romania? Time lost made their conditions worse.

Despite increased attention on law enforcement for sex trafficking, we don't see significant improvement in victim protection and services provided worldwide. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to have significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized have to be restored to their full humanity. We've highlighted in the

report a number of vulnerable groups: North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers, in particular, and foreign domestic workers.

One of the most common and desperate faces of modern-day slavery is that of the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. And truth be told, one of the highest profiled cases in the United States this year involved two Indonesian maids trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as for their labor.

We're beginning to see glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular East Asian country because there are an extremely high number of Filipina maids who escape regularly from the confines of abusive employers, only to seek shelter in the Embassy of the Philippines. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the Government of the Philippines to confront exploitation.

Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters or brokers facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and sometimes outright force and coercion. And they must be prosecuted, they must be punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've also identified countries where foreign workers are exploited through force, fraud and coercion. And we've placed a number of these countries on the lowest tier, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters. Some of those recruiters are licensed by the state, such as in Vietnam, and they often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by using fraudulent offers, offers of employment that are bogus. And they levy excessive recruitment fees on people desperate for a better life, which translate into debt bondage in the end.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through a predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomenon, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by labor source and labor destination governments. I really want to highlight this for you. On pages 16 and 17 of the report are these strategies for fighting the - closing the window of vulnerability for migrant laborers.

So there are a number of themes here. A couple of them that I'd highlight are the fact that labor trafficking is not seeing enough punishment of the perpetrators and sex trafficking shows a situation of an emphasis on law enforcement and immigration approaches, but a failure to follow through on helping the victims, to find those victims, and to restore their dignity.

Running through the report overall, one sees a seam. And indeed, it's a seam in all of the U.S. Government's work on human trafficking, including the \$530 million the United States has contributed to international anti-trafficking efforts over the last seven years. And that seam is the demand for labor trafficking and for sex trafficking. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they're tainted by slave labor. Without confronting demand, we can't end slavery today. Demand is pulling victims into sex trafficking and labor trafficking and it's not being adequately addressed. In the area of sex trafficking, demand can be seen in the form of males buying brides from less developed communities, with intent of abusing them or exploiting them, of men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, and of men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. And in the area of slave labor demand is seen in the race to the bottom for cheap labor and the ability to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for how we've assessed each.

In Africa, moving up to Tier 1 for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with political will even absent substantial economic resources. Madagascar emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries. On the other hand, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time. It reflected its government's failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption. It's seen in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials. That failure to deal with corruption was a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. We're hopeful the newly appointed government will take significant steps to address complicity, and while they're at it improve law enforcement and victim protection.

An important development is that Mexico has moved up to Tier 2. It is an assessment based on the enactment of a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds being appropriated by Mexico's legislature for victim shelters, a commitment of Attorney General Medina Mora, and unified efforts by superb civil society actors, many of whom I've met with in three parts of Mexico and two trips I've made over the last year. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and are

evidence of a new political will to grapple with human trafficking. And I'm quiet hopeful that Mexico will continue to further improve in the coming year.

For at least four years now, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. And in particular, Saudi Arabia is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time in a row.

As an update, I'd like to report on one success story that is a model for the region: the United Arab Emirates, which, for the second year in a row, was upgraded this year to **Tier 2** based on having passed the first comprehensive law in **human trafficking** in the region last year, and now using that law to go after perpetrators of sex trafficking, and to outfit victim shelters.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two particular countries that are larger populace and with unique situations in human trafficking, and that's China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. On the upside, there were prosecutions of perpetrators and a national action plan launched by the government of China. But overall, there were insufficient efforts to protect both Chinese and foreign nationals from being victims of trafficking.

In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, they seek refuge in China. But many are then preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as wives or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment; that is, in effect, punishment of the victim.

India has made some efforts that are positive on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined a raid recently. However, India still doesn't recognize the degree to which bonded labor as a substantial human trafficking problem in its country. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

So in conclusion, we continue to shed light on global trends that are emerging. And importantly, we are steadfast in an offer to nations that wish to partner with us to fight human trafficking. It's some 200 years since the transatlantic slave trade was abolished, and I think we can take tangible steps further to abolishing the slavery that exists today. We need to remain committed to be the voice for the voiceless, for the advocate - I mean, the advocates for the prostituted woman or child, for the exploited domestic worker, for the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention. It demands our action.

I do want to emphasize that I appreciate the increasing cooperation I see from our allies, from governments, from NGOs, from church organizations, and private citizens. They are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and real strides to deal with the immediate, moral imperative of helping victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

And before I take some questions, I just want to note that the work of the report is by no means the work of one person. We have a broad team. The team of officers who are specialists on regions of the world is here with us. If you have follow-up questions after this, they'd be quite willing to talk and share their expertise. But led by Mark Taylor, the section of our Office on Reports and Political Affairs pours themselves into this report to produce the most credible, solid, substantiated, objective assessment of human trafficking in the world. And there is nothing like it. This is not in modesty; there is no NGO report, there is no U.N. report that covers the human trafficking scene in every country like this.

I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan of our public outreach section for her leadership in making this a public awareness document for the world, not just a report to Congress.

So I welcome your questions.

MODERATOR: Thanks very much. If you have questions, please remember to state your name and media organization and wait for the microphone. Here in the front.

Q Thank you. Sonia Schott with Radio Valera in Venezuela. I have three ones. The first one, why is the United States not included in the same report? The second one is regarding the law enforcement that is up to the foreign governments to provide you with the information, so how reliable is this source, considering you mentioned corruption at the beginning of your remarks. And the third one is on Venezuela. Venezuela is Tier 2 Watch List -

MR. LAGON: It's moved up.

Q Yeah. So is this good news for Venezuela, or what that means? Could you please elaborate a little bit more on that? Thank you.

MR. LAGON: I would have to say these are all three superb questions, but they all deserve time.

So, first, I'm glad you asked about the United States assessing itself. First of all, starting last year and again this year, there is a profile of the United States in this report that matches those of other countries that looks at what the United States is doing to prosecute the exploiters, to protect the victims, and to prevent the problem in the first place.

Now, we don't give ourselves a tier assessment, but one thing that I think is important is that we have started giving to Congress and making available to the public an annual self-assessment of the United States that doesn't just tell the good news, but that identifies areas for improvement. Just yesterday, this annual report was sent to Congress. This is last year's and we'll have available very soon the one for this year. As we circulate our international report around the world on CD-ROM, we will put that assessment of the United States on it.

I think it's deeply important that the United States be accountable for what it's doing to fight the problem at home, and we've done quite a bit. I know this because I chair our interagency committee on our domestic and international efforts. But I will be very frank about those areas for improvement, but I commend to you that report that lays out some recommendations.

Now, on law enforcement data, Congress directs us to ask for very specific information about investigations, about prosecutions, about convictions and about sentences. And we tussle with our friends around the world to ask them for information. And I reassure them, as I have with diplomats here in the United States and with government officials in capitals around the world, that we don't just ask for that data so that we can write a critical report. To have comprehensive data of how you are doing in attacking the problem of human trafficking is a sign of a government having a dedicated effort and seeing this as a specific crime. That data is not perfect. It's gotten better each and every year. There are countries that don't share data with us or share it imperfectly, from China to Iran to Cuba.

But we do believe that the kind of data on prosecutions and convictions that's through the report and that is collected together on page 37 with totals, that's where we've learned that only one-tenth of the prosecutions and convictions are in the area of labor trafficking, that those are the best compiled data that we've had to date and it's based on a very serious effort by U.S. diplomats.

Now, with respect to Venezuela, it's been upgraded. There has been some improvement. And this report is designed to be objective. We do not sit in the State Department and decide which countries we have broad criticisms on human rights for or that we have difficult and tense relationships with, and then just punish those that that's the case.

There are manifold problems of political pluralism and human rights in Venezuela, but truth be told, there have been some modest but real improvements in Venezuela that merit **Tier 2 Watch List** ranking, not a highly complimentary ranking but an improved one, including strengthening the statutory framework to fight **human trafficking**, notably for those who are internally trafficked within the country. There have been some investigations into human trafficking that have been opened in Caracas and increased police work at airports and border points. However, victims' services are limited and there are no dedicated trafficking in persons shelters. So there's good and there's bad, but there is evidence of modest improvement, and we try and tell it like it is.

MODERATOR: I think we have an additional question from New York, if you'd please state your name and media organization and ask your question.

Q Yes, my name is Diego Senior. I work with Caracol Radio for Colombia. It's basically the same question regarding about Venezuela, but for Colombia. Can you elaborate more about the things that you need to be improved, not only in our country in Colombia but in the rest of Latin America, maybe mentioning specific cases in order to - well, according to your report?

MR. LAGON: It's a very good question. Colombia is an exemplar within Latin America. Is it **Tier 1**. **Tier 1** countries aren't perfect, but they meet what are called the minimum standards for combating **human trafficking** in the U.S. law that governs how we prepare the report. There are strong law enforcement efforts, sustained prosecution efforts in Colombia, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and an effort to count how - count and track how prosecutions are going with a database. There's cooperation with foreign governments to fight human trafficking. For victim protection, the Colombian Government has been increasing funding for NGOs.

There are some areas of improvement that are needed, particularly the need for a formal mechanism to identify human trafficking victims among vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations are people in prostitution or people who are in migrant labor sectors. So that's the picture. Not perfect, but an exemplar.

Through the region, one sees both the problem of sex trafficking and the problem of forced labor. I guess I'd like to emphasize in the region one big case, Brazil. There is reason for some praise. President Lula has identified by name the problem as it is, slavery, in Brazil. And Brazil identifies companies that have not taken steps to improve their accountability of their supply chains. However, there remains a significant problem, particularly in the area of forced labor, in the sector in which charcoal is used to make pig iron for export. And notably, the situation in Brazil is captured by the success of rescuing 5,800 people in slave labor, and yet - and we learned that half of those are in the sugarcane plantations for the purpose of ethanol. So in the growing sector of biofuels, clearly, there's a forced labor effort. And there's a problem one sees in Brazil, and that is that of those cases of 5,800 victims, there is no associated criminal prosecutions for a single trafficker associated with those freed slaves.

MODERATOR: Other questions? Any final questions from New York? No other questions.

MR. LAGON: Happy to make myself available over the next couple of days if you have follow-up questions or your colleagues do.

MODERATOR: Well, then thank you very much. Thank you, Ambassador.

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89 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 4, 2008 Wednesday

Israel's rating in human trafficking 'not improving'. State Department to issue report today. Gal-On bill would ban sex-industry advertising

BYLINE: RUTH EGLASH**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 474 words

No significant change is expected in the evaluation of Israel in the US State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report, due to be released on Wednesday, according to local nongovernment anti-trafficking activists.

Israel was listed as a '**Tier 2**' country and its efforts to prevent international **human trafficking** were noted in last year's annual report, which is the most comprehensive worldwide study on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons**.

However, Israel was still labeled as not "fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

While the Jewish state's status will most likely not regress to the lower placement of previous years - in 2006 Israel appeared on the Tier 2 Watch List, one level before the US would impose sanctions, local anti-trafficking group Isha L'Isha-Haifa Feminist Center said Israel still has a long way to go to reach the desired Tier 1.

"Israel's path to the top is blocked by the inactivity of the Interior Ministry and its humiliating treatment of victims who have managed to escape the cycle of human trafficking," Rita Chaikin, anti-trafficking project coordinator at Isha L'Isha-Haifa Feminist Center, told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday.

"The Interior Ministry continues to create problems by refusing to provide female victims of trafficking with the appropriate shelter," she said, adding that the ministry decides whether victims are eligible to enter the state shelters, which provide them with crucial rehabilitation services and protection from those who facilitate trafficking rings.

Chaikin said most of the women brought here to work in the sex industry were not Israeli citizens and therefore were not eligible for services such as medical insurance. They should be given visas and, in some cases, citizenship, she said.

Some of these women give birth in Israel, and even they are not provided with visas, she said.

A spokeswoman said the Interior Ministry had clear regulations and procedures on how to deal with women who had escaped from trafficking operations, which are published on its Web site.

Yahel Ash Kurlander, Isha L'Isha's spokeswoman, said Israel would most likely remain in the same category as last year due to the efforts of individuals such as the government appointed coordinator in the battle against trafficking, Rachel Gershoni, and MK Zehava Gal-On, chairwoman of the Knesset Subcommittee on Trafficking in Women.

On Tuesday, Gal-On's committee met to discuss the status of proposed legislation aimed at curtailing the 'virtual sex industry,' which in many cases advertises prostitution services from women who have been trafficked to Israel. The bill would ban all media, including promotional pamphlets and 'business cards,' from advertising prostitution services and people with access to the sex industry.

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

GRAPHIC: Photo: ISRAEL IS expected to remain in **Tier 2** in the US State Department's 2008 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, meaning it does not meet the minimum standards but is making significant efforts. (Credit: Illustrative photo by Diego Giudice/Bloomberg)

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90 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 4, 2008 Wednesday

BRIEFING ON RELEASE OF EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 5623 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Good morning. Secretary Rice has aptly summarized why the U.S. Government is dedicated to ending human trafficking, a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude, exploited for commercial sex, coerced into work in factories and sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers.

These are forms of human trafficking. They are, in fact, forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims vary widely. According to the U.S. intelligence community, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. About 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors. These figures do not include millions who are trafficked for purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within national borders as well.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress' direction, a comprehensive tool: The Annual Trafficking In Persons Report, which allows us to diagnose the problem and track progress. This year's report covers 170 countries: 153 are assessed and ranked into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; another 17 countries are considered special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, we have several essential objectives addressed. To summarize: the country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, to protect victims and to prevent the crime; to initiate bilateral engagement, ongoing year-round in terms of action plans for combating trafficking in persons developed on the basis of each country assessment; to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and to hold poor performers to account; and finally, to inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates. As a function of the information collected in compiling this document, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago, when, for example, we started taking a closer look at forced labor practices.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly these personal stories of anguish that motivate contemporary abolitionists in dealing with contemporary slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn. She had been recruited to work in a shrimp processing sector of a neighboring country to Burma, together with 800 other Burmese men, women and children. Desperate to leave her country, Aye Aye Wynn described her horror to me at finding herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of a jungle, prevented from leaving or calling family by phone, or even eating decently. She and her Burmese brethren weren't even paid.

Aye Aye and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and beaten. They were chained to poles in the middle of the courtyard of the factory compound and they were deprived of food and water. Aye Aye's hair was shaved as a tool of humiliation before the other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye was rescued, and the good news is that the national police raid saved her and her compatriots. Around the world, gross ex-

amples of forced labor are commonly treated as mere administrative matters or regulatory offenses rather than despicable crimes.

In this year's TIP Report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking or labor trafficking prosecutions. You will find that on page 37 of the report. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions are convictions. Roughly 10 percent of them relate to labor trafficking offenses as compared to prosecutions and convictions related to sex trafficking offenses.

If we are to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention must be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past. One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand's shrimp processing and that sector. But in other cases, in Brazil, some charcoal is produced by forced labor and some of that charcoal may be used to produce pig iron. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities were found on sugarcane plantations.

Also of concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials themselves. All governments must act to ensure that cheap and efficient production of export goods does not come at the expense of the very dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

Last winter, in a Bucharest shelter for sex trafficking survivors, I met two young Romanian women, Anca and Silvia. They had been trafficked separately to Western Europe and wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated from there back home. Both women had the clear look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. Just a few days after we met in Romania, the NGO caring for them discovered that Anca had advanced TB and that Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were repatriated? The time lost made their conditions immensely worse.

Despite increased attention by law enforcement to sex trafficking, we are not seeing, as the findings of this report, significant improvement in victim protection and victim services provided. This trend has to be reversed or we will never be able to help significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized must be restored to their full humanity.

This report focuses on a number of vulnerable groups. They include North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers in general, and foreign domestic workers. One of the most common and desperate faces of modern day slavery is the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. One of the highest profile cases in the U.S. this year involved two Indonesian maids who were trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as exploited for their labor.

We are beginning to see, however, glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular destination country because of the extremely high number of Filipino maids who were regularly escaping from the confines of abusive employers and seeking shelter in the Philippines Embassy. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the government to confront exploitation. Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters and brokers who facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and outright force and coercion, they need to be prosecuted and punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we have identified countries where foreign workers are exploited by force, fraud, and coercion, and have placed some of these countries on the lowest tier of the report, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters, some of whom are licensed by the state, and who often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by fraudulent offers of employment and then excessive recruitment fees that later translate into debt bondage.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We have seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through the predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomenon, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by both labor source and labor destination governments. These strategies are enumerated on page 16 and 17 of the report's introduction.

I have highlighted five trends: weak prosecution of labor trafficking offenses; secondly, weak trafficking victim protection; third, forced labor creeping into new growth industries; fourth, domestic servitude, and luckily, the problems there are gaining recognition; and fifth, closing a window of vulnerability for migrant workers as an imperative.

But running through this report, in fact, running through much of the U.S. Government's anti-trafficking work is a new focus, encouraged by Congress, on the factors that create demand for labor and sexual exploitation. Increasingly, we are scrutinizing products to see if they are tainted by slave labor. Without confronting this demand, we cannot end slavery today.

Demand is also pulling victims into sex and labor trafficking, but it's not being adequately addressed. As for demand for sex trafficking, it can be seen in the form of males seeking to buy brides from less developed communities with the intent of abusing and exploiting these women, or men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, or men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. Demand for slave labor is seen broadly in the race to the bottom for cheap labor to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP Report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for the assessment of each. Moving up to Tier 1, for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with will, despite minimal resources. It emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries.

Meanwhile, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time, reflecting its government's failure to tackle trafficking related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking. This failure created a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. Now, we are hopeful that the newly appointed government in Moldova will take significant steps to address complicity by government officials and, furthermore, to improve law enforcement and victim protection efforts. We will be engaging with them for that.

Among the news items here, Mexico has moved up to Tier 2, because of important developments over the reporting year, including a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds appropriated by the legislature in Mexico for victim shelters, a demonstrably committed attorney general, and unified efforts of some superb civil society actors. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and evidence of a new political will that promises to yield even further improvement in this coming year.

For the last four years, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. Saudi Arabia, for example, is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time. As an update, I am happy to report that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continue to make significant improvements; notably the United Arab Emirates as a model in the region.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two countries with huge populations and unique trafficking profiles: China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. While there have been prosecutions of perpetrators of human trafficking and a national action plan was launched, there are insufficient efforts to protect Chinese and foreign victims of trafficking. In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, these North Koreans seek refuge in China. But many are preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as "wives" with quotation marks around wives or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment. The victims are punished rather than cared for.

India has made efforts on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined in a raid. But India still doesn't recognize bonded labor as human trafficking. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

To conclude, as we continue to shed light on emerging global trends for trafficking in persons, we are steadfast in our support to countries who are willing to partner with us in this global fight. Just as the transatlantic slave trade was abolished 200 years ago, slavery today can be abolished again. Let's remain committed to act as a voice for the many voiceless victims of human trafficking: an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and action.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to state how much good work I have seen throughout the year since I last stood here a year ago. And I want to tell you how much I personally appreciate the increasing cooperation of our allies, govern-

ments, NGOs, church organizations, and private citizens around the world who are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and to help victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

I'd welcome your questions.

QUESTION: You spoke a little bit about slave labor camps that have been uncovered in China. Have you found that any products destined for the Olympic Games have been tainted by slave labor, to use your word? And then I had a question about a follow-up thing on Venezuela. They appear to have actually improved this year.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm. First of all, any time that there's a major sporting event, whether it be, you know, World Cup soccer or the biggest of all, the Olympics, one has to be concerned about the massive construction work possibly being subject to human trafficking exploitation and a spike in commercial sexual exploitation.

With respect to China, I actually would say we have to look at the general situation of human rights that we're in the world is called upon to look at as the Olympic Games are coming together. It's 19 years ago today that the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. And there's a lot of focus on human rights, in general, in China as the Olympics are about to occur.

But we need to recognize that there is a problem of human trafficking that's not specific to the Olympics occurring, but the Olympics brings attention to. There has been examples of people caught in slavery in brick kilns and, in fact, resold to other kilns by government officials who are corrupt, been a case recently documented of children who were trafficked to Guangdong Province and were involved in the worst forms of child labor, having been brought from Dongguan. There's credible evidence of Uighurs, who are moved from --

QUESTION: I am sorry, of who?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Of Uighur Muslims who have moved from Xinjiang to other parts of China. And most notably, as I emphasized in my opening remarks, North Koreans are subject to re-victimization, because they flee a country in which they face repression and an economic chaos caused by their own government. And whether as bought wives or as workers in the Northeast of China, they have been subject to human trafficking and the worst kind of leverage that could be held over their head, the threat that they'd be sent back to North Korea only to be punished severely by their government.

QUESTION: But specifically, has there been anything that you can point to that would indicate that the Olympic Games has actually increased the number of people in forced labor or about because there's a need for more product, et cetera, et cetera?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: As I don't have tangible evidence, I don't want to overreach. But any time that there's a substantial building boom and construction, and a vulnerability to massive prostitution designed to service people from abroad, there's a possibility. But I would direct you to thinking about the longstanding vulnerability to human trafficking in China. China is not only a government that does not protect the liberties of its people, but it manifestly is a government that doesn't protect its own citizens and foreign nationals from human trafficking.

QUESTION: And on Venezuela?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah. Venezuela has actually moved up this year. And I hope it's a tribute to the objectivity of our report. We don't sit in the upper levels of this building and decide which countries are generally human rights abusers or with whom we have problematic relationships, and then determine that they get a lousy ranking in this report. Venezuela has taken some steps: passing a law to prohibit internal trafficking of women and girls, opening up some investigations of human trafficking. There remain problems, including limited victim services and no shelters for victims. So it's a mixed bag. But truth be told, they don't belong in the lowest category any longer.

QUESTION: Speaking about the objectivity of the report, there are special cases where you don't have enough information. But Iran is on the Tier 3, and you don't have any embassy in Iran, any relations with Iran for 30 years. So how about on what do you base your information about?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, we about just as Iran is included in the Annual Human Rights Report and is a serious case to examine, we feel that Iran needs to be assessed with a ranking in this report. Yes, it's a limitation that we have only so much information. But that's a limitation more based on the closed nature of the Iranian Government than the lack of diplomatic representation of the United States.

I want to say that we try to be very serious about getting evidence. Truthfully, we prod other governments quite hard to give us evidence and data. Congress requires us to tell them about investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, as well as numbers of trafficking victims found and helped. And we insist on having a baseline as best we can. There are some limits on the information that we got from the Government of Iran. But the picture is pretty clear, one of serious human trafficking.

Elise.

QUESTION: Can you talk a little bit more about the idea that slave labor is fueling some of these booming industries in these developing countries and the idea that the United States is increasing trade with these countries? We are relying on some of the products that are fueling these industries. And how much demand is fueling it and whether there should be stricter, kind of, I guess what you say, export controls or import controls on these types of things?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's been the law --

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Okay, we'll come back to you. It's been a law for 78 years under the 1938 Tariff and Trade Act that products of slave labor are not permitted into the country. It's a matter of implementation. We need to identify those products that are indeed produced by slave labor. My colleagues at ICE, at DHS, are eager and energetic in their efforts internationally to try and run that down.

We don't want to suggest that all imports from a country are tainted by slave labor when there is evidence of some. I myself have seen in Thailand those who were subjected to slave labor conditions in the shrimp processing sector. That doesn't mean all shrimp that comes into the United States from Thailand is tainted, but there's a distinct possibility; it's something we need to look out for.

We need to think about growing trends. I'll call attention to the profile of Brazil, which is doing a good deal proactively to rescue victims of forced labor, even calling them by the name they deserve, slaves, based on commitment by President Lula. But as it says right here in the report, approximately half of the nearly 6,000 men freed from slave labor in 2007 were found exploited on plantations growing sugarcane for the production of ethanol -- a growing trend.

We need to pay attention to this, and there is consumer power, the best kind of market force, to ask the question: Are supply chains clean?

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: One quick follow-up?

QUESTION: It kind of follows up on that. But China and India, you said that they've been on the Tier 2 Watch List for the last four years. And you say that, you know, it's not based on who we have a bad relationship with that we give them a bad grade, but what about the countries that we are trying to have a good relationship with, we have a growing economic relationship with? I mean, how come neither one of those countries has made it to Tier 3? My understanding is there's been a lot of debate within the Administration about whether they should be listed.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The Tier 2 Watch List should not be a permanent status. It's -- I think it was designed by Congress to highlight -- there's some countries in Tier 2 that are in danger of potentially ending up on Tier 3. You know, there are some countries that just deserve to be in this new category that was created between Tier 2 and Tier 3. It's my judgment that Russia, for instance, really doesn't belong in Tier 2 and it really doesn't belong in Tier 3. This is the right call.

With respect to India and China, these are both very serious cases. We are quite blunt in the report. Frankly, we are quite blunt in our extensive diplomatic dialogue with these countries. There are some positive developments in each. In India, there's been an effort to focus on rescuing victims both in sex trafficking and in child labor, but as far as prosecutions across the board, as far as fighting corruption as a facilitator of human trafficking and in particular a recognition that bonded labor is extensive and a human trafficking problem, it remains a serious situation.

QUESTION: So you feel comfortable that they are still on Tier 2 Watch List?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Indeed, indeed. And with respect to China, while they have made some progress in law enforcement on a national action plan, there remain a number of problems that I've enumerated earlier that deserve serious attention.

Sir.

QUESTION: Can you elaborate more on the Arab states? You've talked about progress in UAE and Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia is still in the Tier 3. Are you considering imposing sanctions on Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, all countries that are on Tier 3, according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the year 2000 that created the office I direct and mandated the report, all countries in Tier 3 are subject to sanctions. The sanctions cannot be limitations on trade promotion assistance or humanitarian assistance purely humanitarian assistance.

Every year, approximately the 1st of September, a decision is made by the U.S. Government about whether to subject the countries under Tier 3 to full sanctions, or to use a full or partial waiver. And considerations are made about whether we're going to advance our diplomacy with countries to actually get them to change on human trafficking, and our general national interests are taken into account.

And there are a number of times where we try and use this as a surgical tool, where, for instance, we feel that we could get cultural exchanges or democracy programs funded if we have a partial waiver. But I must say that I think we've gotten the attention of a number of the Persian Gulf states, and I think even more than the blunt words of the United States or potential sanctions, as a model that one sees in the region of the United Arab Emirates dealing with the problem of children as jockeys and then putting in place a law on human trafficking that it's now using to prosecute sex traffickers and (inaudible) victims.

But you know, these countries care about the rankings. You know, I've seen the diplomats and officials of these countries in their capitals and here in Washington, and the prospect of moving up from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List and a reassessment that occurs in August for the Tier 3 countries, and the prospect of moving up in each year is something they very much care about.

QUESTION: Yes, I'd like to return to Mexico for a moment.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: You had commended Mexico on improving its efforts in human trafficking and you emphasized that one way to solve this problem that's very important is to make sure that governments prosecute or make arrests, prosecute and convict people for these crimes. I've been reporting on the State Department's non-natural death report for 2005-2007, specifically the 128 homicides that have taken place in Mexico, and I have been unable to get information on exactly that from the State Department; in other words, the arrest, prosecution and conviction. Is it just trafficking that they follow up on, not why wouldn't homicides or other events in sort of a

AMBASSADOR LAGON: A lot of violent crime, particularly connected to organized crime both in drugs and human trafficking, that persists in Mexico. It's by no means a rosy situation in terms of law enforcement. I can't speak specifically to that information, although I can try and help get that for you. But in Mexico, it's the step of will that's being shown, and the legislative branch and the executive branch coming together to pass a comprehensive law and some appearance that they intend to use that law. Because that is the key here. We see states that move up when they pass a comprehensive law, and then sometimes we see they don't implement those laws. On some of those first steps I've been very impressed. The Attorney General Medina Mora, who has appointed Guadalupe Morfin as his point woman on human trafficking, I've spent some time with her at a UN conference on human trafficking, consulting about how she'll attack this problem. I am delighted to see the Mexican authorities are going to use appropriations from their legislature to take some mansions seized from drug traffickers and turn them into shelters for human trafficking victims.

In the back.

QUESTION: On Cuba, please. What are you doing on the situation of trafficking in Cuba, and what are you doing about (inaudible) under Raul Castro regime?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, there continues to be a problem for human trafficking in Cuba. Earlier, I was asked a question about Iran. This is also a situation in which the government is not exactly forthcoming to the United States about data. There are some efforts to raise awareness in Cuba for women who might fall into sex trafficking, and there are some efforts that the Cubans make in combination with British NGOs to try and deal with children who are, you know, sexually exploited. But in general, there seems to be denial and weak victim assistance, when it comes to human trafficking. One hopes there'll be change in Cuba, but I don't see evidence to date that the modest transition that has taken place politically in Cuba has changed the situation markedly.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes. You said the Saudis are on Tier 3 since the beginning a" the establishing of the report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: They've been on Tier 3 for four years, is it? Yeah, about four years now.

QUESTION: You have been establishing the reports since the eight years. This is the eighth year, right?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Correct.

QUESTION: And the Saudis are in Tier 3 since the beginning?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: And the Saudis a" I can a" and by the way, a helpful addition to the report last year was a tracking chart. And in the profile of every country, it indicates every ranking it has received since the beginning. Saudi Arabia was Tier 3, 2001 and 2002. It came up to Tier 2, when there was no Tier 2 Watch List, both in 2003 and 2004. And since 2005, it has remained on Tier 3.

QUESTION: And why -- sorry.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Go ahead. Were you going to ask me about the situation in Saudi Arabia?

QUESTION: No, I am asking why, in your opinion, the U.S. is not succeeding in convincing the Saudis to do some improvements? I mean --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think there's a desperate need for women and foreigners, migrant laborers to be treated as human beings in full in Saudi Arabia, and that is part of the distinct problem there and in a number of the Gulf states. One case is really striking to me, the case of Nour Miyatis, an Indonesian domestic servant, a maid, who was grossly abused in Saudi Arabia. For four years, she's been pursuing legal proceedings, not going home to Indonesia, but sticking it out. She's trying to stick up for her rights under international law. And she had recently her case thrown out in Saudi Arabia. This is a woman who was locked for over a month in a closet by her employer. Her employer refused to treat her medical condition. She got gangrene in her fingers and toes and they had to be amputated. It's pretty obvious.

QUESTION: Loss of her limbs?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah, yeah. All fingers and toes. It's emblematic. But there are a number of problems both of labor trafficking and victimization of women as well. But I hope to visit Saudi Arabia in the coming months and engage all the more.

QUESTION: Yeah, but why you are not succeeding, like you are succeeding in a" with the Emirates? Why with the Saudis you are not --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think it's principally a question of political will on their part, but I'll do mine in terms of serious, quiet dialogue.

Sir.

QUESTION: What are the countries that there are currently sanctions against and what are the nature of those sanctions as a result of this?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, of the Tier 3 countries from last year -- and my staff can help me recall all of them, if I miss some -- some of the countries that have full-scale sanctions include Burma, Cuba. There was actually, in the case of Iran and North Korea, partial sanctions so that some exchange programs or cultural programs or democracy-related assistance would not be blocked. A number of the countries had sanctions waived, from Malaysia that was on **Tier 3** last year, has moved up to the **Tier 2 Watch List**, to this year, a number of countries again on **Tier 3**. Last year, a number of the Persian Gulf states, because of strategic relationships we have with governments and wanting to sustain dialogue on **human trafficking** and not having the door shut, had full waivers, based on a decision by the President of the United States.

Sir.

QUESTION: Regarding North Korean victims in northeastern China, Chinese Government (inaudible) seems to be -- provide the traffickers with the a" what kind of leverage, as you said. So what special steps do you think is required?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think one a" one important place to start is for the Chinese authorities to see what they believe their moral and legal obligations are under migration treaties and human rights for the way they treat those

who come to China. They are treated legally in China -- that is to say, North Koreans who come there as illegal economic migrants and are sent home. And this creates a double problem. For those who want to victimize North Koreans who come to China, all they have to do is threaten that we are going to, you know, turn you over to the authorities and you are going to get sent home. And so those victims find themselves coerced into doing, you know, the worst of things, including women who ostensibly have been bought and brought into marriage but, in fact, are sex slaves. But moreover, when they do get sent home, they are, you know, truly victimized; I mean, you are a victim leaving North Korea, you are victimized in human trafficking and then victimized and sent home. That's a pretty gory situation. It demands the attention of the international community.

Anyone else?

I just want to say a word, if I can, about the effort that comes together before this report. It's a momentous effort. We have tried as hard as we can to get this annual report to come out at the same time as a report on U.S. efforts at home that the Department of Justice pulls together. So we can answer the question: Do you grade yourselves? Just yesterday, a report was delivered to Congress and it's in synch with this, so that when we produce CD-ROMs for international distribution, there will be an assessment of what the United States is doing, including a self-critical set of recommendations.

This report would never come together without a team of reports officers who travel the globe and do their very best to get the most serious empirical data. That team is led by Mark Taylor. Much of the creativity of this report in raising themes is shaped by Mark Taylor and that team. And I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan, our senior coordinator for public affairs who helped shape this report and it becoming, as I have learned going to UN meetings, a tremendous source of international public awareness. There is nothing like this report. This is not crowing; it's just a fact. There is no NGO report and there is no UN report on human trafficking that makes this kind of assessment, and this has become more and more enlightening each year. I commend it to you. Thanks.

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MODERATOR: All right. Thanks, everyone. Welcome to the Foreign Press Center this afternoon. It's our pleasure to host today the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador Mark Lagon. He's going to make a brief statement about the 2008 TIP report and then we're going to have time for your questions and answers. So without further delay, let me introduce Ambassador Lagon.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much. Good afternoon and thank you all for coming. As you know, this morning, Secretary Rice released the Department's Annual Trafficking In Persons Report. We highlight heroes in each year's report who are - play a key role in combating human trafficking.

And one of the heroes this year, Anas Anas, is a reporter with an independent newspaper who was responsible for breaking two major trafficking rings in the capital city of his country, Ghana, in Accra during the reporting season for this report. Anas Anas worked undercover for eight months exposing the trafficking ring's methods of transportation and the identities of immigration officials who were accepting bribes in return for overlooking fake visas and passports in a trafficking scheme. His undercover work allowed him to collect key evidence that could be used by police to prosecute the traffickers. He displayed great courage as a reporter. In so doing, he's able to act as a voice for the voiceless.

So each of you, I'd note, in your capacity as journalists are uniquely positioned to help raise public awareness about this most pressing injustice of human trafficking that affects the lives of millions globally. So I'm particularly delighted that you're here today.

In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude. They're exploited for commercial sex and coerced in work and factories and in sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers. These are forms of human trafficking, but more aptly put, these are forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims worldwide vary widely. But according to the U.S. Government, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Eighty percent of them are female. Some one-half of them are minors. And these figures don't include the millions more who are trafficked for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within the national borders of countries.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool in the form of the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report that allows us to diagnose the problem and to track progress in confronting it. This year's report covers 170 countries in the world, a new high. 153 were assessed and ranked at Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and - or Tier 3. Another 17 countries are designated special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, there's several essential objectives. To summarize: country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent the crime in the first place. Also, to initiate bilateral engagement with other countries that is ongoing year-round in the form of action plans we developed with other countries for combating trafficking based on the country assessment and the report. Another goal is to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and,

frankly speaking, to hold poor performers accountable. Finally, we seek to inspire with, you know, greater determination, creativity and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates.

As a function of the information collected in compiling the report, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago when we began taking a closer look at forced labor practices in addition to sex trafficking.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly personal stories that help motivate those who work today to abolish modern-day slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn, who had been recruited to work in the shrimp processing industry in a neighboring country. Together with some 800 other Burmese men, women and children, she was recruited. She was desperate to leave her tortured country. And she described to me the horror at finding herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of the jungle, prevented from leaving, prevented from calling family members by phone, even prevented from eating decently. These workers were not even paid.

Aye Aye Wynn and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and they were beaten. They were chained to poles in the courtyard of the factory compound, deprived of food and water. Aye Aye Wynn, a vibrant young woman with a beautiful head of hair, tells how that head of hair was completely shorn off as a way of humiliating her before other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye Wynn was rescued. And the good news is that a national police raid saved her and her compatriots.

Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as administrative or regulatory offenses rather than crimes. In this year's TIP report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking and labor trafficking prosecutions. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions and convictions, roughly 10 percent of them, relate to labor trafficking offenses as opposed to sex trafficking offenses. That information, those statistics are on page 37 of the report.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention has to be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past.

One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand's shrimp processing sector. In Brazil, some charcoal produced in -- by forced labor finds its way into pig iron for export. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities over the last year were found on sugar cane plantations as well. Also of deep concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials. All governments must act to ensure that the cheap and efficient production of export goods doesn't come at the expense of the basic dignity and rights of citizens.

Another trend: the weak protection of sex trafficking victims. Last winter in Bucharest, I met in a shelter two young Romanian women, sex trafficking survivors, Anca and Silvia. They'd been trafficked separately to Western Europe and they wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated back home. Both women clearly had the look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. And later when I returned to the United States, I learned from the NGO caring for them that they discovered that Anca had advanced TB and Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were even repatriated to Romania? Time lost made their conditions worse.

Despite increased attention on law enforcement for sex trafficking, we don't see significant improvement in victim protection and services provided worldwide. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to have significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized have to be restored to their full humanity. We've highlighted in the report a number of vulnerable groups: North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers, in particular, and foreign domestic workers.

One of the most common and desperate faces of modern-day slavery is that of the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. And truth be told, one of the highest profiled cases in the United States this year involved two Indonesian maids trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as for their labor.

We're beginning to see glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular East Asian country because there are an extremely high number of Filipina maids

who escape regularly from the confines of abusive employers, only to seek shelter in the Embassy of the Philippines. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the Government of the Philippines to confront exploitation.

Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters or brokers facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and sometimes outright force and coercion. And they must be prosecuted, they must be punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've also identified countries where foreign workers are exploited through force, fraud and coercion. And we've placed a number of these countries on the lowest tier, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters. Some of those recruiters are licensed by the state, such as in Vietnam, and they often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by using fraudulent offers, offers of employment that are bogus. And they levy excessive recruitment fees on people desperate for a better life, which translate into debt bondage in the end.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through a predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomenon, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by labor source and labor destination governments. I really want to highlight this for you. On pages 16 and 17 of the report are these strategies for fighting the - closing the window of vulnerability for migrant laborers.

So there are a number of themes here. A couple of them that I'd highlight are the fact that labor trafficking is not seeing enough punishment of the perpetrators and sex trafficking shows a situation of an emphasis on law enforcement and immigration approaches, but a failure to follow through on helping the victims, to find those victims, and to restore their dignity.

Running through the report overall, one sees a seam. And indeed, it's a seam in all of the U.S. Government's work on human trafficking, including the \$530 million the United States has contributed to international anti-trafficking efforts over the last seven years. And that seam is the demand for labor trafficking and for sex trafficking. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they're tainted by slave labor. Without confronting demand, we can't end slavery today. Demand is pulling victims into sex trafficking and labor trafficking and it's not being adequately addressed. In the area of sex trafficking, demand can be seen in the form of males buying brides from less developed communities, with intent of abusing them or exploiting them, of men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, and of men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. And in the area of slave labor demand is seen in the race to the bottom for cheap labor and the ability to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for how we've assessed each.

In Africa, moving up to Tier 1 for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with political will even absent substantial economic resources. Madagascar emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries. On the other hand, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time. It reflected its government's failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption. It's seen in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials. That failure to deal with corruption was a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. We're hopeful the newly appointed government will take significant steps to address complicity, and while they're at it improve law enforcement and victim protection.

An important development is that Mexico has moved up to Tier 2. It is an assessment based on the enactment of a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds being appropriated by Mexico's legislature for victim shelters, a commitment of Attorney General Medina Mora, and unified efforts by superb civil society actors, many of whom I've met with in three parts of Mexico and two trips I've made over the last year. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and are evidence of a new political will to grapple with human trafficking. And I'm quiet hopeful that Mexico will continue to further improve in the coming year.

For at least four years now, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. And in particular, Saudi Arabia is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time in a row.

As an update, I'd like to report on one success story that is a model for the region: the United Arab Emirates, which, for the second year in a row, was upgraded this year to **Tier 2** based on having passed the first comprehensive law in **human trafficking** in the region last year, and now using that law to go after perpetrators of sex trafficking, and to outfit victim shelters.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two particular countries that are larger populace and with unique situations in human trafficking, and that's China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. On the upside, there were prosecutions of perpetrators and a national action plan launched by the government of China. But overall, there were insufficient efforts to protect both Chinese and foreign nationals from being victims of trafficking.

In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, they seek refuge in China. But many are then preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as wives or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment; that is, in effect, punishment of the victim.

India has made some efforts that are positive on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined a raid recently. However, India still doesn't recognize the degree to which bonded labor as a substantial human trafficking problem in its country. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

So in conclusion, we continue to shed light on global trends that are emerging. And importantly, we are steadfast in an offer to nations that wish to partner with us to fight human trafficking. It's some 200 years since the transatlantic slave trade was abolished, and I think we can take tangible steps further to abolishing the slavery that exists today. We need to remain committed to be the voice for the voiceless, for the advocate - I mean, the advocates for the prostituted woman or child, for the exploited domestic worker, for the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention. It demands our action.

I do want to emphasize that I appreciate the increasing cooperation I see from our allies, from governments, from NGOs, from church organizations, and private citizens. They are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and real strides to deal with the immediate, moral imperative of helping victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

And before I take some questions, I just want to note that the work of the report is by no means the work of one person. We have a broad team. The team of officers who are specialists on regions of the world is here with us. If you have follow-up questions after this, they'd be quite willing to talk and share their expertise. But led by Mark Taylor, the section of our Office on Reports and Political Affairs pours themselves into this report to produce the most credible, solid, substantiated, objective assessment of human trafficking in the world. And there is nothing like it. This is not in modesty; there is no NGO report, there is no UN report that covers the human trafficking scene in every country like this.

I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan of our public outreach section for her leadership in making this a public awareness document for the world, not just a report to Congress.

So I welcome your questions.

MODERATOR: Thanks very much. If you have questions, please remember to state your name and media organization and wait for the microphone. Here in the front.

QUESTION: Thank you. Sonia Schott with Radio Valera in Venezuela. I have three ones. The first one, why is the United States not included in the same report? The second one is regarding the law enforcement that is up to the foreign governments to provide you with the information, so how reliable is this source, considering you mentioned corruption at the beginning of your remarks. And the third one is on Venezuela. Venezuela is Tier 2 Watch List -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's moved up.

QUESTION: Yeah. So is this good news for Venezuela, or what that means? Could you please elaborate a little bit more on that? Thank you.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: I would have to say these are all three superb questions, but they all deserve time.

So, first, I'm glad you asked about the United States assessing itself. First of all, starting last year and again this year, there is a profile of the United States in this report that matches those of other countries that looks at what the United States is doing to prosecute the exploiters, to protect the victims, and to prevent the problem in the first place.

Now, we don't give ourselves a tier assessment, but one thing that I think is important is that we have started giving to Congress and making available to the public an annual self-assessment of the United States that doesn't just tell the good news, but that identifies areas for improvement. Just yesterday, this annual report was sent to Congress. This is

last year's and we'll have available very soon the one for this year. As we circulate our international report around the world on CD-ROM, we will put that assessment of the United States on it.

I think it's deeply important that the United States be accountable for what it's doing to fight the problem at home, and we've done quite a bit. I know this because I chair our interagency committee on our domestic and international efforts. But I will be very frank about those areas for improvement, but I commend to you that report that lays out some recommendations.

Now, on law enforcement data, Congress directs us to ask for very specific information about investigations, about prosecutions, about convictions and about sentences. And we tussle with our friends around the world to ask them for information. And I reassure them, as I have with diplomats here in the United States and with government officials in capitals around the world, that we don't just ask for that data so that we can write a critical report. To have comprehensive data of how you are doing in attacking the problem of human trafficking is a sign of a government having a dedicated effort and seeing this as a specific crime. That data is not perfect. It's gotten better each and every year. There are countries that don't share data with us or share it imperfectly, from China to Iran to Cuba.

But we do believe that the kind of data on prosecutions and convictions that's through the report and that is collected together on page 37 with totals, that's where we've learned that only one-tenth of the prosecutions and convictions are in the area of labor trafficking, that those are the best compiled data that we've had to date and it's based on a very serious effort by U.S. diplomats.

Now, with respect to Venezuela, it's been upgraded. There has been some improvement. And this report is designed to be objective. We do not sit in the State Department and decide which countries we have broad criticisms on human rights for or that we have difficult and tense relationships with, and then just punish those that that's the case.

There are manifold problems of political pluralism and human rights in Venezuela, but truth be told, there have been some modest but real improvements in Venezuela that merit **Tier 2 Watch List** ranking, not a highly complimentary ranking but an improved one, including strengthening the statutory framework to fight **human trafficking**, notably for those who are internally trafficked within the country. There have been some investigations into human trafficking that have been opened in Caracas and increased police work at airports and border points. However, victims' services are limited and there are no dedicated trafficking in persons shelters. So there's good and there's bad, but there is evidence of modest improvement, and we try and tell it like it is.

MODERATOR: I think we have an additional question from New York, if you'd please state your name and media organization and ask your question.

QUESTION: Yes, my name is Diego Senior. I work with Caracol Radio for Colombia. It's basically the same question regarding about Venezuela, but for Colombia. Can you elaborate more about the things that you need to be improved, not only in our country in Colombia but in the rest of Latin America, maybe mentioning specific cases in order to - well, according to your report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's a very good question. Colombia is an exemplar within Latin America. Is it **Tier 1**. **Tier 1** countries aren't perfect, but they meet what are called the minimum standards for combating **human trafficking** in the U.S. law that governs how we prepare the report. There are strong law enforcement efforts, sustained prosecution efforts in Colombia, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and an effort to count how - count and track how prosecutions are going with a database. There's cooperation with foreign governments to fight human trafficking. For victim protection, the Colombian Government has been increasing funding for NGOs.

There are some areas of improvement that are needed, particularly the need for a formal mechanism to identify human trafficking victims among vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations are people in prostitution or people who are in migrant labor sectors. So that's the picture. Not perfect, but an exemplar.

Through the region, one sees both the problem of sex trafficking and the problem of forced labor. I guess I'd like to emphasize in the region one big case, Brazil. There is reason for some praise. President Lula has identified by name the problem as it is, slavery, in Brazil. And Brazil identifies companies that have not taken steps to improve their accountability of their supply chains. However, there remains a significant problem, particularly in the area of forced labor, in the sector in which charcoal is used to make pig iron for export. And notably, the situation in Brazil is captured by the success of rescuing 5,800 people in slave labor, and yet - and we learned that half of those are in the sugarcane plantations for the purpose of ethanol. So in the growing sector of biofuels, clearly, there's a forced labor effort. And there's a

problem one sees in Brazil, and that is that of those cases of 5,800 victims, there is no associated criminal prosecutions for a single trafficker associated with those freed slaves.

MODERATOR: Other questions? Any final questions from New York? No other questions.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Happy to make myself available over the next couple of days if you have follow-up questions or your colleagues do.

MODERATOR: Well, then thank you very much. Thank you, Ambassador.

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92 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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Briefing on the Release of the Eighth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Washington, DC

June 4, 2008

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Good morning. Secretary Rice has aptly summarized why the U.S. Government is dedicated to ending human trafficking, a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude, exploited for commercial sex, coerced into work in factories and sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers.

These are forms of human trafficking. They are, in fact, forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims vary widely. According to the U.S. intelligence community, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. About 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors. These figures do not include millions who are trafficked for purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within national borders as well.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool: The Annual Trafficking In Persons Report, which allows us to diagnose the problem and track progress. This year's report covers 170 countries: 153 are assessed and ranked into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; another 17 countries are considered special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, we have several essential objectives addressed. To summarize: the country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, to protect victims and to prevent the crime; to initiate bilateral engagement, ongoing year-round in terms of action plans for combating trafficking in persons developed on the basis of each country assessment; to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and to hold poor performers to account; and finally, to inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates. As a function of the information collected in compiling this document, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago, when, for example, we started taking a closer look at forced labor practices.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly these personal stories of anguish that motivate contemporary abolitionists in dealing with contemporary slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn. She had been recruited to work in a shrimp processing sector of a neighboring country to Burma, together with 800 other Burmese men, women and children. Desperate to leave her country, Aye Aye Wynn described her horror to me at find-

ing herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of a jungle, prevented from leaving or calling family by phone, or even eating decently. She and her Burmese brethren weren't even paid.

Aye Aye and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and beaten. They were chained to poles in the middle of the courtyard of the factory compound and they were deprived of food and water. Aye Aye's hair was shaved as a tool of humiliation before the other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye was rescued, and the good news is that the national police raid saved her and her compatriots. Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as mere administrative matters or regulatory offenses rather than despicable crimes.

In this year's TIP Report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking or labor trafficking prosecutions. You'll find that on page 37 of the report. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions are convictions. Roughly 10 percent of them relate to labor trafficking offenses as compared to prosecutions and convictions related to sex trafficking offenses.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention must be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past. One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand shrimp processing and that sector. But in other cases, in Brazil, some charcoal is produced by forced labor and some of that charcoal may be used to produce pig iron. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities were found on sugarcane plantations.

Also of concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials themselves. All governments must act to ensure that cheap and efficient production of export goods does not come at the expense of the very dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

Last winter, in a Bucharest shelter for sex trafficking survivors, I met two young Romanian women, Anca and Silvia. They had been trafficked separately to Western Europe and wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated from there back home. Both women had the clear look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. Just a few days after we met in Romania, the NGO caring for them discovered that Anca had advanced TB and that Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were repatriated? The time lost made their conditions immensely worse.

Despite increased attention by law enforcement to sex trafficking, we are not seeing, as the findings of this report, significant improvement in victim protection and victim services provided. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to help significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized must be restored to their full humanity.

This report focuses on a number of vulnerable groups. They include North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers in general, and foreign domestic workers. One of the most common and desperate faces of modern day slavery is the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. One of the highest profile cases in the U.S. this year involved two Indonesian maids who were trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as exploited for their labor.

We're beginning to see, however, glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular destination country because of the extremely high number of Filipino maids who were regularly escaping from the confines of abusive employers and seeking shelter in the Philippines Embassy. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the government to confront exploitation. Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters and brokers who facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and outright force and coercion, they need to be prosecuted and punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've identified countries where foreign workers are exploited to force, fraud, and coercion, and have placed some of these countries on the lowest tier of the report, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters, some of whom are licensed by the state, and who often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by fraudulent offers of employment and then excessive recruitment fees that later translate into debt bondage.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through the predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomena, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by both labor source and labor destination governments. These strategies are enumerated on page 16 and 17 of the report's introduction.

I've highlighted five trends: weak prosecution of labor trafficking offenses; secondly, weak trafficking victim protection; third, forced labor creeping into new growth industries; fourth, domestic servitude, and luckily, the problems there are gaining recognition; and fifth, closing a window of vulnerability for migrant workers as an imperative.

But running through this report, in fact, running through much of the U.S. Government's anti-trafficking work is a new focus, encouraged by Congress, on the factors that create demand for labor and sexual exploitation. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they are tainted by slave labor. Without confronting this demand, we cannot end slavery today.

Demand is also pulling victims into sex and labor trafficking, but it's not being adequately addressed. As for demand for sex trafficking, it can be seen in the form of males seeking to buy brides from less developed communities with the intent of abusing and exploiting these women, or men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, or men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. Demand for slave labor is seen broadly in the race to the bottom for cheap labor to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP Report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for the assessment of each. Moving up to Tier 1, for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with will, despite minimal resources. It's emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries.

Meanwhile, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time, reflecting its government's failure to tackle trafficking related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking. This failure created a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. Now, we're hopeful that the newly appointed government in Moldova will take significant steps to address complicity by government officials and, furthermore, to improve law enforcement and victim protection efforts. We'll be engaging with them for that.

Among the news items here, Mexico has moved up to Tier 2, because of important developments over the reporting year, including a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds appropriated by the legislature in Mexico for victim shelters, a demonstrably committed attorney general, and unified efforts of some superb civil society actors. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and evidence of a new political will that promises to yield even further improvement in this coming year.

For the last four years, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. Saudi Arabia, for example, is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time. As an update, I'm happy to report that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continue to make significant improvements; notably the United Arab Emirates as a model in the region.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two countries with huge populations and unique trafficking profiles: China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. While there have been prosecutions of perpetrators of human trafficking and a national action plan was launched, there are insufficient efforts to protect Chinese and foreign victims of trafficking. In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, these North Koreans seek refuge in China. But many are preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as "wives" - with quotation marks around wives - or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they'd often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment. The victims are punished rather than cared for.

India has made efforts on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined in a raid. But India still doesn't recognize bonded labor as human trafficking. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

To conclude, as we continue to shed light on emerging global trends for trafficking in persons, we're steadfast in our support to countries who are willing to partner with us in this global fight. Just as the transatlantic slave trade was abolished 200 years ago, slavery today can be abolished again. Let's remain committed to act as a voice for the many voice-

less victims of human trafficking: an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and action.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to state how much good work I've seen throughout the year since I last stood here a year ago. And I want to tell you how much I personally appreciate the increasing cooperation of our allies, governments, NGOs, church organizations, and private citizens around the world who are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and to help victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

I'd welcome your questions.

QUESTION: You spoke a little bit about slave labor camps that have been uncovered in China. Have you found that any products destined for the Olympic Games have been tainted by slave labor, to use your word" And then I had a question - a follow-up thing on Venezuela. They appear to have actually improved this year.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm. First of all, any time that there's a major sporting event, whether it be, you know, World Cup soccer or the biggest of all, the Olympics, one has to be concerned about the massive construction work possibly being subject to human trafficking exploitation and a spike in commercial sexual exploitation.

With respect to China, I actually would say we have to look at the general situation of human rights that we're - the world is called upon to look at as the Olympic Games are coming together. It's 19 years ago today that the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. And there's a lot of focus on human rights, in general, in China as the Olympics are about to occur.

But we need to recognize that there is a problem of human trafficking that's not specific to the Olympics occurring, but the Olympics brings attention to. There has been examples of people caught in slavery in brick kilns and, in fact, resold to other kilns by government officials who are corrupt, been a case recently documented of children who were trafficked to Guangdong Province and were involved in the worst forms of child labor, having been brought from Dongguan. There's credible evidence of Uighurs, who are moved from --

QUESTION: I'm sorry, of who?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Of Uighur Muslims who have moved from Xinjiang to other parts of China. And most notably, as I emphasized in my opening remarks, North Koreans are subject to re-victimization, because they flee a country in which they face repression and an economic chaos caused by their own government. And whether as bought wives or as workers in the Northeast of China, they have been subject to human trafficking and the worst kind of leverage that could be held over their head, the threat that they'd be sent back to North Korea only to be punished severely by their government.

QUESTION: But specifically, has there been anything that you can point to that would indicate that the Olympic Games has actually increased the number of people in forced labor or - because there's a need for more product, et cetera, et cetera?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: As I don't have tangible evidence, I don't want to overreach. But any time that there's a substantial building boom and construction, and a vulnerability to massive prostitution designed to service people from abroad, there's a possibility. But I would direct you to thinking about the longstanding vulnerability to human trafficking in China. China is not only a government that does not protect the liberties of its people, but it manifestly is a government that doesn't protect its own citizens and foreign nationals from human trafficking.

QUESTION: And on Venezuela?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah. Venezuela has actually moved up this year. And I hope it's a tribute to the objectivity of our report. We don't sit in the upper levels of this building and decide which countries are generally human rights abusers or with whom we have problematic relationships, and then determine that they get a lousy ranking in this report. Venezuela has taken some steps: passing a law to prohibit internal trafficking of women and girls, opening up some investigations of human trafficking. There remain problems, including limited victim services and no shelters for victims. So it's a mixed bag. But truth be told, they don't belong in the lowest category any longer.

QUESTION: Speaking about the objectivity of the report, there are special cases where you don't have enough information. But Iran is on the Tier 3, and you don't have any embassy in Iran, any relations with Iran for 30 years. So how - on what do you base your information -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, we - just as Iran is included in the Annual Human Rights Report and is a serious case to examine, we feel that Iran needs to be assessed with a ranking in this report. Yes, it's a limitation that we have only so much information. But that's a limitation more based on the closed nature of the Iranian Government than the lack of diplomatic representation of the United States.

I want to say that we try to be very serious about getting evidence. Truthfully, we prod other governments quite hard to give us evidence and data. Congress requires us to tell them about investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, as well as numbers of trafficking victims found and helped. And we insist on having a baseline as best we can. There are some limits on the information that we got from the Government of Iran. But the picture is pretty clear, one of serious human trafficking.

Elise.

QUESTION: Can you talk a little bit more about the idea that slave labor is fueling some of these booming industries in these developing countries and the idea that the United States is increasing trade with these countries" We're relying on some of the products that are fueling these industries. And how much demand is fueling it and whether there should be stricter, kind of, I guess what you say, export controls or import controls on these types of things?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's been the law --

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Okay, we'll come back to you. It's been a law for 78 years under the 1938 Tariff and Trade Act that products of slave labor are not permitted into the country. It's a matter of implementation. We need to identify those products that are indeed produced by slave labor. My colleagues at ICE, at DHS, are eager and energetic in their efforts internationally to try and run that down.

We don't want to suggest that all imports from a country are tainted by slave labor when there is evidence of some. I myself have seen in Thailand those who were subjected to slave labor conditions in the shrimp processing sector. That doesn't mean all shrimp that comes into the United States from Thailand is tainted, but there's a distinct possibility; it's something we need to look out for.

We need to think about growing trends. I'll call attention to the profile of Brazil, which is doing a good deal proactively to rescue victims of forced labor, even calling them by the name they deserve, slaves, based on commitment by President Lula. But as it says right here in the report, approximately half of the nearly 6,000 men freed from slave labor in 2007 were found exploited on plantations growing sugarcane for the production of ethanol - a growing trend.

We need to pay attention to this, and there is consumer power, the best kind of market force, to ask the question: Are supply chains clean?

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: One quick follow-up?

QUESTION: It kind of follows up on that. But China and India, you said that they've been on the Tier 2 Watch List for the last four - for the last four years. And you say that, you know, it's not based on who we have a bad relationship with that we give them a bad grade, but what about the countries that we're trying to have a good relationship with, we have a growing economic relationship with" I mean, how come neither one of those countries has made it to Tier 3? My understanding is there's been a lot of debate within the Administration about whether they should be listed.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The Tier 2 Watch List should not be a permanent status. It's - I think it was designed by Congress to highlight - there's some countries in Tier 2 that are in danger of potentially ending up on Tier 3. You know, there are some countries that just deserve to be in this new category that was created between Tier 2 and Tier 3. It's my judgment that Russia, for instance, really doesn't belong in Tier 2 and it really doesn't belong in Tier 3. This is the right call.

With respect to India and China, these are both very serious cases. We're quite blunt in the report. Frankly, we're quite blunt in our extensive diplomatic dialogue with these countries. There are some positive developments in each. In India, there's been an effort to focus on rescuing victims both in sex trafficking and in child labor, but as far as prosecutions across the board, as far as fighting corruption as a facilitator of human trafficking and in particular a recognition that bonded labor is extensive and a human trafficking problem, it remains a serious situation.

QUESTION: So you feel comfortable that they're still on Tier 2 Watch List?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Indeed, indeed. And with respect to China, while they have made some progress in law enforcement on a national action plan, there remain a number of problems that I've enumerated earlier that deserve serious attention.

Sir.

QUESTION: Can you elaborate more on the Arab states? You've talked about progress in UAE and Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia is still in the Tier 3. Are you considering imposing sanctions on Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, all countries that are on Tier 3, according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the year 2000 that created the office I direct and mandated the report, all countries in Tier 3 are subject to sanctions. The sanctions cannot be limitations on trade promotion assistance or humanitarian - purely humanitarian assistance.

Every year, approximately the 1st of September, a decision is made by the U.S. Government about whether to subject the countries under Tier 3 to full sanctions, or to use a full or partial waiver. And considerations are made about whether we're going to advance our diplomacy with countries to actually get them to change on human trafficking, and our general national interests are taken into account.

And there are a number of times where we try and use this as a surgical tool, where, for instance, we feel that we could get cultural exchanges or democracy programs funded if we have a partial waiver. But I must say that I think we've gotten the attention of a number of the Persian Gulf states, and I think even more than the blunt words of the United States or potential sanctions, as a model that one sees in the region of the United Arab Emirates dealing with the problem of children as jockeys and then putting in place a law on human trafficking that it's now using to prosecute sex traffickers and (inaudible) victims.

But you know, these countries care about the rankings. You know, I've seen the diplomats and officials of these countries in their capitals and here in Washington, and the prospect of moving up from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List and a reassessment that occurs in August for the Tier 3 countries, and the prospect of moving up in each year is something they very much care about.

QUESTION: Yes, I'd like to return to Mexico for a moment.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: You had commended Mexico on improving its efforts in human trafficking and you emphasized that one way to solve this problem that's very important is to make sure that governments prosecute - or make arrests, prosecute and convict people for these crimes. I've been reporting on the State Department's non-natural death report for 2005-2007, specifically the 128 homicides that have taken place in Mexico, and I have been unable to get information on exactly that from the State Department; in other words, the arrest, prosecution and conviction. Is it just trafficking that they follow up on, not - why wouldn't homicides or other events in sort of -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: A lot of violent crime, particularly connected to organized crime both in drugs and human trafficking, that persists in Mexico. It's by no means a rosy situation in terms of law enforcement. I can't speak specifically to that information, although I can try and help get that for you. But in Mexico, it's the step of will that's being shown, and the legislative branch and the executive branch coming together to pass a comprehensive law and some appearance that they intend to use that law. Because that is the key here. We see states that move up when they pass a comprehensive law, and then sometimes we see they don't implement those laws. On some of those first steps I've been very impressed. The Attorney General Medina Mora, who has appointed Guadalupe Morfin as his point woman on human trafficking, I've spent some time with her at a UN conference on human trafficking, consulting about how she'll attack this problem. I'm delighted to see the Mexican authorities are going to use appropriations from their legislature to take some mansions seized from drug traffickers and turn them into shelters for human trafficking victims.

In the back.

QUESTION: On Cuba, please. What are you doing on the situation of trafficking in Cuba, and what are you doing about (inaudible) under Raul Castro regime?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, there continues to be a problem for human trafficking in Cuba. Earlier, I was asked a question about Iran. This is also a situation in which the government is not exactly forthcoming to the United States about data. There are some efforts to raise awareness in Cuba for women who might fall into sex trafficking, and there

are some efforts that the Cubans make in combination with British NGOs to try and deal with children who are, you know, sexually exploited. But in general, there seems to be denial and weak victim assistance, when it comes to human trafficking. One hopes there'll be change in Cuba, but I don't see evidence to date that the modest transition that has taken place politically in Cuba has changed the situation markedly.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes. You said the Saudis are on Tier 3 since the beginning - the establishing of the report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: They've been on Tier 3 for four years, is it? Yeah, about four years now.

QUESTION: You have been establishing the reports since the eight years. This is the eighth year, right?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Correct.

QUESTION: And the Saudis are in Tier 3 since the beginning?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: And the Saudis - I can - and by the way, a helpful addition to the report last year was a tracking chart. And in the profile of every country, it indicates every ranking it has received since the beginning. Saudi Arabia was Tier 3, 2001 and 2002. It came up to Tier 2, when there was no Tier 2 Watch List, both in 2003 and 2004. And since 2005, it has remained on Tier 3.

QUESTION: And why -- sorry.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Go ahead. Were you going to ask me about the situation in Saudi Arabia?

QUESTION: No, I'm asking why, in your opinion, the U.S. is not succeeding in convincing the Saudis to do some improvements" I mean --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think there's a desperate need for women and foreigners, migrant laborers to be treated as human beings in full in Saudi Arabia, and that is part of the distinct problem there and in a number of the Gulf states. One case is really striking to me, the case of Nour Miyatis, an Indonesian domestic servant, a maid, who was grossly abused in Saudi Arabia. For four years, she's been pursuing legal proceedings, not going home to Indonesia, but sticking it out. She's trying to stick up for her rights under international law. And she had recently her case thrown out in Saudi Arabia. This is a woman who was locked for over a month in a closet by her employer. Her employer refused to treat her medical condition. She got gangrene in her fingers and toes and they had to be amputated. It's pretty obvious.

QUESTION: Loss of her limbs?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah, yeah. All fingers and toes. It's emblematic. But there are a number of problems both of labor trafficking and victimization of women as well. But I hope to visit Saudi Arabia in the coming months and engage all the more.

QUESTION: Yeah, but why you are not succeeding, like you are succeeding in - with the Emirates" Why with the Saudis you are not --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think it's principally a question of political will on their part, but I'll do mine in terms of serious, quiet dialogue.

Sir.

QUESTION: What are the countries that there are currently sanctions against and what are the nature of those sanctions as a result of this?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, of the Tier 3 countries from last year -- and my staff can help me recall all of them, if I miss some -- some of the countries that have full-scale sanctions include Burma, Cuba. There was actually, in the case of Iran and North Korea, partial sanctions so that some exchange programs or cultural programs or democracy-related assistance would not be blocked. A number of the countries had sanctions waived, from Malaysia that was on **Tier 3** last year, has moved up to the **Tier 2 Watch List**, to this year, a number of countries again on **Tier 3**. Last year, a number of the Persian Gulf states, because of strategic relationships we have with governments and wanting to sustain dialogue on **human trafficking** and not having the door shut, had full waivers, based on a decision by the President of the United States.

Sir.

QUESTION: Regarding North Korean victims in northeastern China, Chinese Government (inaudible) seems to be -- provide the traffickers with the - what kind of leverage, as you said. So what special steps do you think is required?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think one - one important place to start is for the Chinese authorities to see what they believe their moral and legal obligations are under migration treaties and human rights for the way they treat those who come to China. They're treated legally in China -- that is to say, North Koreans who come there - as illegal economic migrants and are sent home. And this creates a double problem. For those who want to victimize North Koreans who come to China, all they have to do is threaten that we're going to, you know, turn you over to the authorities and you're going to get sent home. And so those victims find themselves coerced into doing, you know, the worst of things, including women who ostensibly have been bought and brought into marriage but, in fact, are sex slaves. But moreover, when they do get sent home, they are, you know, truly victimized; I mean, you're a victim leaving North Korea, you're victimized in human trafficking and then victimized and sent home. That's a pretty gory situation. It demands the attention of the international community.

Anyone else?

I just want to say a word, if I can, about the effort that comes together before this report. It's a momentous effort. We have tried - worked hard to get this annual report to come out at the same time as a report on U.S. efforts at home that the Department of Justice pulls together. So we can answer the question: Do you grade yourselves" Just yesterday, a report was delivered to Congress and it's in synch with this, so that when we produce CD-ROMs for international distribution, there will be an assessment of what the United States is doing, including a self-critical set of recommendations.

This report would never come together without a team of reports officers who travel the globe and do their very best to get the most serious empirical data. That team is led by Mark Taylor. Much of the creativity of this report in raising themes is shaped by Mark Taylor and that team. And I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan, our senior coordinator for public affairs who helped shape this report and it becoming, as I've learned going to UN meetings, a tremendous source of international public awareness. There is nothing like this report. This is not crowing; it's just a fact. There is no NGO report and there is no UN report on human trafficking that makes this kind of assessment, and this has become more and more enlightening each year. I commend it to you. Thanks.

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93 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 4, 2008

Reducing Demand Is Key To Curbing Human Trafficking, U.S. Says; Forced labor gets special focus in the 2008 report on modern-day slavery

BYLINE: Jane Morse, Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM AMERICA.COM AND THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 912 words

Washington -- The demand for cheap labor and sexual services must be addressed to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery, say U.S. officials.

At a June 4 briefing for the release of the State Department's eighth annual Trafficking In Persons Report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the 2008 report, for the first time, examines prosecution data.

She cited one "disturbing discovery" in particular: "Although more countries are addressing sex trafficking through prosecution and convictions, the petty tyrants who exploit their laborers rarely receive serious punishment. We see this as a serious shortcoming, and as we move our efforts forward, we and our allies must remember that a robust law enforcement response is essential."

Ambassador Mark Lagon, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the 2008 report also focuses on forced labor, a form of trafficking in persons.

Lagon recounted instances of workers imprisoned in factories under brutal conditions that could be categorized only as forced labor. Evidence of forced labor is especially strong in Thailand's shrimp-processing industry, he said, and in charcoal production and on sugar plantations in Brazil.

In addition to slave labor in factories, many trafficking victims find themselves enslaved as domestic servants. Lagon said the government of the Philippines has taken steps to prevent workers from accepting domestic employment in certain countries where such enslavement is prevalent. Lagon called on more governments around the world to exercise stronger political will to prevent trafficking.

Lagon said the 2008 report takes a close look at the factors that create demand and at the recruiters of trafficked victims. Such recruiters often establish fees for finding "work" for their "clients" that are so onerous the result is debt bondage. Debt bondage is a form of enslavement in which workers find they never can pay off their debts to win their freedom or the right to keep their wages.

The ambassador also called for more services for the treatment and rehabilitation of the formerly enslaved. "We must restore humanity to those who have been dehumanized," he said.

The 2008 report evaluates the efforts of 170 countries to combat human trafficking. The report aims to raise awareness of the scourge of modern slavery and to encourage countries to take action to prevent it.

The report places countries in "**tiers**" based on an assessment of the government's compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as explained in the U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Protection Act of 2000. **Tier 2** and **Tier 3** countries have moderate to severe challenges in controlling trafficking. Another category, "Tier 2 Watch List," indicates countries in danger of falling to the bottom Tier 3.

Lagon said that in the 2008 report, Madagascar moved to Tier 1 -- the best of the ratings -- by demonstrating the ability to take effective anti-trafficking steps with minimal resources. Moldova, however, fell to Tier 3. Both previously had been classified in Tier 2.

China and India remain on the Tier 2 Watch List. China, he said, has made insufficient efforts to combat trafficking, especially in regards to North Korean women who are trafficked into China as "wives" or prostitutes. Those North Koreans unlucky enough to be returned by authorities to North Korea routinely are punished by the North Korean regime, he said.

In contrast, India has made more efforts to protect children who become victims of trafficking, but the government still does not recognize bonded labor as a form of slavery, Lagon said.

TRAFFICKING A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM

According to U.S. estimates, some 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year. That number does not include the millions of people trafficked within their own countries.

Trafficking is a problem in the United States as well, where an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the country each year. A separate report on trafficking problems inside the United States is produced each year.

U.S. efforts to combat trafficking involve partnerships with other countries, international and nongovernmental organizations. In fiscal year 2007, the U.S. government spent approximately \$79 million to fund 180 anti-trafficking projects in about 90 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States has funded more than \$528 million for anti-trafficking projects worldwide.

Even though the problem of human trafficking is severe, the outlook is not entirely gloomy. According to Rice, in recent years there has been "a hopeful global movement uniting civil society, governments, and international organizations" to abolish human trafficking.

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice, and to say that freedom and security are non-negotiable demands of human dignity," she said.

"Together I believe this movement of governments, civil society, and brave individuals of conscience can rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those who have been treated as less than human."

A transcript of Rice's remarks is available on America.gov.

The full text of the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site. See also U.S. Government Efforts to Fight Demand Fueling Human Trafficking and The Facts About Human Trafficking for Forced Labor also on the State Department Web site.

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94 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

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AMBASSADOR LAGON SPEAKS ON RELEASE OF EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 5650 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons:

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Good morning. Secretary Rice has aptly summarized why the U.S. Government is dedicated to ending human trafficking, a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude, exploited for commercial sex, coerced into work in factories and sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers.

These are forms of human trafficking. They are, in fact, forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims vary widely. According to the U.S. intelligence community, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. About 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors. These figures do not include millions who are trafficked for purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within national borders as well.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool: The Annual Trafficking In Persons Report, which allows us to diagnose the problem and track progress. This year's report covers 170 countries: 153 are assessed and ranked into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3; another 17 countries are considered special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, we have several essential objectives addressed. To summarize: the country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, to protect victims and to prevent the crime; to initiate bilateral engagement, ongoing year-round in terms of action plans for combating trafficking in persons developed on the basis of each country assessment; to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and to hold poor performers to account; and finally, to inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates. As a function of the information collected in compiling this document, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago, when, for example, we started taking a closer look at forced labor practices.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly these personal stories of anguish that motivate contemporary abolitionists in dealing with contemporary slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn. She had been recruited to work in a shrimp processing sector of a neighboring country to Burma, together with 800 other Burmese men, women and children. Desperate to leave her country, Aye Aye Wynn described her horror to me at finding herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of a jungle, prevented from leaving or calling family by phone, or even eating decently. She and her Burmese brethren weren't even paid.

Aye Aye and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and beaten. They were chained to poles in the middle of the courtyard of the factory compound and they were deprived of food and water. Aye Aye's hair was shaved as a tool of humiliation before the other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye was rescued, and the good news is that the national police raid saved her and her compatriots. Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as mere administrative matters or regulatory offenses rather than despicable crimes.

In this year's TIP Report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking or labor trafficking prosecutions. You'll find that on page 37 of the report. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions are convictions. Roughly 10 percent of them relate to labor trafficking offenses as compared to prosecutions and convictions related to sex trafficking offenses.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention must be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past. One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand shrimp processing and that sector. But in other cases, in Brazil, some charcoal is produced by forced labor and some of that charcoal may be used to produce pig iron. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities were found on sugarcane plantations.

Also of concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials themselves. All governments must act to ensure that cheap and efficient production of export goods does not come at the expense of the very dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

Last winter, in a Bucharest shelter for sex trafficking survivors, I met two young Romanian women, Anca and Silvia. They had been trafficked separately to Western Europe and wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated from there back home. Both women had the clear look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. Just a few days after we met in Romania, the NGO caring for them discovered that Anca had advanced TB and that Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were repatriated? The time lost made their conditions immensely worse.

Despite increased attention by law enforcement to sex trafficking, we are not seeing, as the findings of this report, significant improvement in victim protection and victim services provided. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to help significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized must be restored to their full humanity.

This report focuses on a number of vulnerable groups. They include North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers in general, and foreign domestic workers. One of the most common and desperate faces of modern day slavery is the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. One of the highest profile cases in the U.S. this year involved two Indonesian maids who were trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as exploited for their labor.

We're beginning to see, however, glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular destination country because of the extremely high number of Filipino maids who were regularly escaping from the confines of abusive employers and seeking shelter in the Philippines Embassy. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the government to confront exploitation. Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters and brokers who facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and outright force and coercion, they need to be prosecuted and punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've identified countries where foreign workers are exploited to force, fraud, and coercion, and have placed some of these countries on the lowest tier of the report, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters, some of whom are licensed by the state, and who often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by fraudulent offers of employment and then excessive recruitment fees that later translate into debt bondage.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through the predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomena, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken

by both labor source and labor destination governments. These strategies are enumerated on page 16 and 17 of the report's introduction.

I've highlighted five trends: weak prosecution of labor trafficking offenses; secondly, weak trafficking victim protection; third, forced labor creeping into new growth industries; fourth, domestic servitude, and luckily, the problems there are gaining recognition; and fifth, closing a window of vulnerability for migrant workers as an imperative.

But running through this report, in fact, running through much of the U.S. Government's anti-trafficking work is a new focus, encouraged by Congress, on the factors that create demand for labor and sexual exploitation. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they are tainted by slave labor. Without confronting this demand, we cannot end slavery today.

Demand is also pulling victims into sex and labor trafficking, but it's not being adequately addressed. As for demand for sex trafficking, it can be seen in the form of males seeking to buy brides from less developed communities with the intent of abusing and exploiting these women, or men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, or men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. Demand for slave labor is seen broadly in the race to the bottom for cheap labor to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP Report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for the assessment of each. Moving up to Tier 1, for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with will, despite minimal resources. It's emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries.

Meanwhile, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time, reflecting its government's failure to tackle trafficking related corruption as reflected in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials in trafficking. This failure created a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. Now, we're hopeful that the newly appointed government in Moldova will take significant steps to address complicity by government officials and, furthermore, to improve law enforcement and victim protection efforts. We'll be engaging with them for that.

Among the news items here, Mexico has moved up to Tier 2, because of important developments over the reporting year, including a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds appropriated by the legislature in Mexico for victim shelters, a demonstrably committed attorney general, and unified efforts of some superb civil society actors. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and evidence of a new political will that promises to yield even further improvement in this coming year.

For the last four years, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. Saudi Arabia, for example, is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time. As an update, I'm happy to report that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continue to make significant improvements; notably the United Arab Emirates as a model in the region.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two countries with huge populations and unique trafficking profiles: China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. While there have been prosecutions of perpetrators of human trafficking and a national action plan was launched, there are insufficient efforts to protect Chinese and foreign victims of trafficking. In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, these North Koreans seek refuge in China. But many are preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as "wives" - with quotation marks around wives - or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they'd often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment. The victims are punished rather than cared for.

India has made efforts on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined in a raid. But India still doesn't recognize bonded labor as human trafficking. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

To conclude, as we continue to shed light on emerging global trends for trafficking in persons, we're steadfast in our support to countries who are willing to partner with us in this global fight. Just as the transatlantic slave trade was abolished 200 years ago, slavery today can be abolished again. Let's remain committed to act as a voice for the many voiceless victims of human trafficking: an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and action.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to state how much good work I've seen throughout the year since I last stood here a year ago. And I want to tell you how much I personally appreciate the increasing cooperation of our allies, governments, NGOs, church organizations, and private citizens around the world who are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and to help victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

I'd welcome your questions.

QUESTION: You spoke a little bit about slave labor camps that have been uncovered in China. Have you found that any products destined for the Olympic Games have been tainted by slave labor, to use your word? And then I had a question - a follow-up thing on Venezuela. They appear to have actually improved this year.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm. First of all, any time that there's a major sporting event, whether it be, you know, World Cup soccer or the biggest of all, the Olympics, one has to be concerned about the massive construction work possibly being subject to human trafficking exploitation and a spike in commercial sexual exploitation.

With respect to China, I actually would say we have to look at the general situation of human rights that we're - the world is called upon to look at as the Olympic Games are coming together. It's 19 years ago today that the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. And there's a lot of focus on human rights, in general, in China as the Olympics are about to occur.

But we need to recognize that there is a problem of human trafficking that's not specific to the Olympics occurring, but the Olympics brings attention to. There has been examples of people caught in slavery in brick kilns and, in fact, resold to other kilns by government officials who are corrupt, been a case recently documented of children who were trafficked to Guangdong Province and were involved in the worst forms of child labor, having been brought from Dongguan. There's credible evidence of Uighurs, who are moved from -

QUESTION: I'm sorry, of who?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Of Uighur Muslims who have moved from Xinjiang to other parts of China. And most notably, as I emphasized in my opening remarks, North Koreans are subject to re-victimization, because they flee a country in which they face repression and an economic chaos caused by their own government. And whether as bought wives or as workers in the Northeast of China, they have been subject to human trafficking and the worst kind of leverage that could be held over their head, the threat that they'd be sent back to North Korea only to be punished severely by their government.

QUESTION: But specifically, has there been anything that you can point to that would indicate that the Olympic Games has actually increased the number of people in forced labor or - because there's a need for more product, et cetera, et cetera?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: As I don't have tangible evidence, I don't want to overreach. But any time that there's a substantial building boom and construction, and a vulnerability to massive prostitution designed to service people from abroad, there's a possibility. But I would direct you to thinking about the longstanding vulnerability to human trafficking in China. China is not only a government that does not protect the liberties of its people, but it manifestly is a government that doesn't protect its own citizens and foreign nationals from human trafficking.

QUESTION: And on Venezuela?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah. Venezuela has actually moved up this year. And I hope it's a tribute to the objectivity of our report. We don't sit in the upper levels of this building and decide which countries are generally human rights abusers or with whom we have problematic relationships, and then determine that they get a lousy ranking in this report. Venezuela has taken some steps: passing a law to prohibit internal trafficking of women and girls, opening up some investigations of human trafficking. There remain problems, including limited victim services and no shelters for victims. So it's a mixed bag. But truth be told, they don't belong in the lowest category any longer.

QUESTION: Speaking about the objectivity of the report, there are special cases where you don't have enough information. But Iran is on the Tier 3, and you don't have any embassy in Iran, any relations with Iran for 30 years. So how - on what do you base your information -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, we - just as Iran is included in the Annual Human Rights Report and is a serious case to examine, we feel that Iran needs to be assessed with a ranking in this report. Yes, it's a limitation that we have only so

much information. But that's a limitation more based on the closed nature of the Iranian Government than the lack of diplomatic representation of the United States.

I want to say that we try to be very serious about getting evidence. Truthfully, we prod other governments quite hard to give us evidence and data. Congress requires us to tell them about investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, as well as numbers of trafficking victims found and helped. And we insist on having a baseline as best we can. There are some limits on the information that we got from the Government of Iran. But the picture is pretty clear, one of serious human trafficking.

Elise.

QUESTION: Can you talk a little bit more about the idea that slave labor is fueling some of these booming industries in these developing countries and the idea that the United States is increasing trade with these countries? We're relying on some of the products that are fueling these industries. And how much demand is fueling it and whether there should be stricter, kind of, I guess what you say, export controls or import controls on these types of things?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's been the law -

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Okay, we'll come back to you. It's been a law for 78 years under the 1938 Tariff and Trade Act that products of slave labor are not permitted into the country. It's a matter of implementation. We need to identify those products that are indeed produced by slave labor. My colleagues at ICE, at DHS, are eager and energetic in their efforts internationally to try and run that down.

We don't want to suggest that all imports from a country are tainted by slave labor when there is evidence of some. I myself have seen in Thailand those who were subjected to slave labor conditions in the shrimp processing sector. That doesn't mean all shrimp that comes into the United States from Thailand is tainted, but there's a distinct possibility; it's something we need to look out for.

We need to think about growing trends. I'll call attention to the profile of Brazil, which is doing a good deal proactively to rescue victims of forced labor, even calling them by the name they deserve, slaves, based on commitment by President Lula. But as it says right here in the report, approximately half of the nearly 6,000 men freed from slave labor in 2007 were found exploited on plantations growing sugarcane for the production of ethanol - a growing trend.

We need to pay attention to this, and there is consumer power, the best kind of market force, to ask the question: Are supply chains clean?

QUESTION: I have one other question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: One quick follow-up?

QUESTION: It kind of follows up on that. But China and India, you said that they've been on the Tier 2 Watch List for the last four - for the last four years. And you say that, you know, it's not based on who we have a bad relationship with that we give them a bad grade, but what about the countries that we're trying to have a good relationship with, we have a growing economic relationship with? I mean, how come neither one of those countries has made it to Tier 3? My understanding is there's been a lot of debate within the Administration about whether they should be listed.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The Tier 2 Watch List should not be a permanent status. It's - I think it was designed by Congress to highlight - there's some countries in Tier 2 that are in danger of potentially ending up on Tier 3. You know, there are some countries that just deserve to be in this new category that was created between Tier 2 and Tier 3. It's my judgment that Russia, for instance, really doesn't belong in Tier 2 and it really doesn't belong in Tier 3. This is the right call.

With respect to India and China, these are both very serious cases. We're quite blunt in the report. Frankly, we're quite blunt in our extensive diplomatic dialogue with these countries. There are some positive developments in each. In India, there's been an effort to focus on rescuing victims both in sex trafficking and in child labor, but as far as prosecutions across the board, as far as fighting corruption as a facilitator of human trafficking and in particular a recognition that bonded labor is extensive and a human trafficking problem, it remains a serious situation.

QUESTION: So you feel comfortable that they're still on Tier 2 Watch List?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Indeed, indeed. And with respect to China, while they have made some progress in law enforcement on a national action plan, there remain a number of problems that I've enumerated earlier that deserve serious attention.

Sir.

QUESTION: Can you elaborate more on the Arab states? You've talked about progress in UAE and Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia is still in the Tier 3. Are you considering imposing sanctions on Saudi Arabia?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, all countries that are on Tier 3, according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the year 2000 that created the office I direct and mandated the report, all countries in Tier 3 are subject to sanctions. The sanctions cannot be limitations on trade promotion assistance or humanitarian - purely humanitarian assistance.

Every year, approximately the 1st of September, a decision is made by the U.S. Government about whether to subject the countries under Tier 3 to full sanctions, or to use a full or partial waiver. And considerations are made about whether we're going to advance our diplomacy with countries to actually get them to change on human trafficking, and our general national interests are taken into account.

And there are a number of times where we try and use this as a surgical tool, where, for instance, we feel that we could get cultural exchanges or democracy programs funded if we have a partial waiver. But I must say that I think we've gotten the attention of a number of the Persian Gulf states, and I think even more than the blunt words of the United States or potential sanctions, as a model that one sees in the region of the United Arab Emirates dealing with the problem of children as jockeys and then putting in place a law on human trafficking that it's now using to prosecute sex traffickers and (inaudible) victims.

But you know, these countries care about the rankings. You know, I've seen the diplomats and officials of these countries in their capitals and here in Washington, and the prospect of moving up from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List and a reassessment that occurs in August for the Tier 3 countries, and the prospect of moving up in each year is something they very much care about.

QUESTION: Yes, I'd like to return to Mexico for a moment.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: You had commended Mexico on improving its efforts in human trafficking and you emphasized that one way to solve this problem that's very important is to make sure that governments prosecute - or make arrests, prosecute and convict people for these crimes. I've been reporting on the State Department's non-natural death report for 2005-2007, specifically the 128 homicides that have taken place in Mexico, and I have been unable to get information on exactly that from the State Department; in other words, the arrest, prosecution and conviction. Is it just trafficking that they follow up on, not - why wouldn't homicides or other events in sort of -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: A lot of violent crime, particularly connected to organized crime both in drugs and human trafficking, that persists in Mexico. It's by no means a rosy situation in terms of law enforcement. I can't speak specifically to that information, although I can try and help get that for you. But in Mexico, it's the step of will that's being shown, and the legislative branch and the executive branch coming together to pass a comprehensive law and some appearance that they intend to use that law. Because that is the key here. We see states that move up when they pass a comprehensive law, and then sometimes we see they don't implement those laws. On some of those first steps I've been very impressed. The Attorney General Medina Mora, who has appointed Guadalupe Morfin as his point woman on human trafficking, I've spent some time with her at a UN conference on human trafficking, consulting about how she'll attack this problem. I'm delighted to see the Mexican authorities are going to use appropriations from their legislature to take some mansions seized from drug traffickers and turn them into shelters for human trafficking victims.

In the back.

QUESTION: On Cuba, please. What are you doing on the situation of trafficking in Cuba, and what are you doing about (inaudible) under Raul Castro regime?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, there continues to be a problem for human trafficking in Cuba. Earlier, I was asked a question about Iran. This is also a situation in which the government is not exactly forthcoming to the United States about data. There are some efforts to raise awareness in Cuba for women who might fall into sex trafficking, and there are some efforts that the Cubans make in combination with British NGOs to try and deal with children who are, you

know, sexually exploited. But in general, there seems to be denial and weak victim assistance, when it comes to human trafficking. One hopes there'll be change in Cuba, but I don't see evidence to date that the modest transition that has taken place politically in Cuba has changed the situation markedly.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes. You said the Saudis are on Tier 3 since the beginning - the establishing of the report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: They've been on Tier 3 for four years, is it? Yeah, about four years now.

QUESTION: You have been establishing the reports since the eight years. This is the eighth year, right?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Correct.

QUESTION: And the Saudis are in Tier 3 since the beginning?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: And the Saudis - I can - and by the way, a helpful addition to the report last year was a tracking chart. And in the profile of every country, it indicates every ranking it has received since the beginning. Saudi Arabia was Tier 3, 2001 and 2002. It came up to Tier 2, when there was no Tier 2 Watch List, both in 2003 and 2004. And since 2005, it has remained on Tier 3.

QUESTION: And why - sorry.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Go ahead. Were you going to ask me about the situation in Saudi Arabia?

QUESTION: No, I'm asking why, in your opinion, the U.S. is not succeeding in convincing the Saudis to do some improvements? I mean -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think there's a desperate need for women and foreigners, migrant laborers to be treated as human beings in full in Saudi Arabia, and that is part of the distinct problem there and in a number of the Gulf states. One case is really striking to me, the case of Nour Miyatis, an Indonesian domestic servant, a maid, who was grossly abused in Saudi Arabia. For four years, she's been pursuing legal proceedings, not going home to Indonesia, but sticking it out. She's trying to stick up for her rights under international law. And she had recently her case thrown out in Saudi Arabia. This is a woman who was locked for over a month in a closet by her employer. Her employer refused to treat her medical condition. She got gangrene in her fingers and toes and they had to be amputated. It's pretty obvious.

QUESTION: Loss of her limbs?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Yeah, yeah. All fingers and toes. It's emblematic. But there are a number of problems both of labor trafficking and victimization of women as well. But I hope to visit Saudi Arabia in the coming months and engage all the more.

QUESTION: Yeah, but why you are not succeeding, like you are succeeding in - with the Emirates? Why with the Saudis you are not -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think it's principally a question of political will on their part, but I'll do mine in terms of serious, quiet dialogue.

Sir.

QUESTION: What are the countries that there are currently sanctions against and what are the nature of those sanctions as a result of this?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, of the Tier 3 countries from last year - and my staff can help me recall all of them, if I miss some - some of the countries that have full-scale sanctions include Burma, Cuba. There was actually, in the case of Iran and North Korea, partial sanctions so that some exchange programs or cultural programs or democracy-related assistance would not be blocked. A number of the countries had sanctions waived, from Malaysia that was on **Tier 3** last year, has moved up to the **Tier 2 Watch List**, to this year, a number of countries again on **Tier 3**. Last year, a number of the Persian Gulf states, because of strategic relationships we have with governments and wanting to sustain dialogue on **human trafficking** and not having the door shut, had full waivers, based on a decision by the President of the United States.

Sir.

QUESTION: Regarding North Korean victims in northeastern China, Chinese Government (inaudible) seems to be - provide the traffickers with the - what kind of leverage, as you said. So what special steps do you think is required?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, I think one - one important place to start is for the Chinese authorities to see what they believe their moral and legal obligations are under migration treaties and human rights for the way they treat those who come to China. They're treated legally in China - that is to say, North Koreans who come there - as illegal economic migrants and are sent home. And this creates a double problem. For those who want to victimize North Koreans who come to China, all they have to do is threaten that we're going to, you know, turn you over to the authorities and you're going to get sent home. And so those victims find themselves coerced into doing, you know, the worst of things, including women who ostensibly have been bought and brought into marriage but, in fact, are sex slaves. But moreover, when they do get sent home, they are, you know, truly victimized; I mean, you're a victim leaving North Korea, you're victimized in human trafficking and then victimized and sent home. That's a pretty gory situation. It demands the attention of the international community.

Anyone else?

I just want to say a word, if I can, about the effort that comes together before this report. It's a momentous effort. We have tried - worked hard to get this annual report to come out at the same time as a report on U.S. efforts at home that the Department of Justice pulls together. So we can answer the question: Do you grade yourselves? Just yesterday, a report was delivered to Congress and it's in synch with this, so that when we produce CD-ROMs for international distribution, there will be an assessment of what the United States is doing, including a self-critical set of recommendations.

This report would never come together without a team of reports officers who travel the globe and do their very best to get the most serious empirical data. That team is led by Mark Taylor. Much of the creativity of this report in raising themes is shaped by Mark Taylor and that team. And I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan, our senior coordinator for public affairs who helped shape this report and it becoming, as I've learned going to UN meetings, a tremendous source of international public awareness. There is nothing like this report. This is not crowing; it's just a fact. There is no NGO report and there is no UN report on human trafficking that makes this kind of assessment, and this has become more and more enlightening each year. I commend it to you. Thanks.

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95 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 12:58 PM EST

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 1349 words

DATELINE: TIRANA, Albania

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

The goal of this Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

The Special Watch List consists of Tier Two countries determined: (1) not to have made "increasing efforts" over the past year; (2) to have avoided Tier 3 status based on commitments of anti-trafficking reforms over the next year, or (3) to have a very significant number of trafficking victims or a significantly increasing victim population.

ALBANIA (Tier 2 Watch List)

Albania is a source country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor; it is no longer considered a major country of transit. Albanian victims are trafficked to Greece, Italy, Macedonia, and Kosovo with many trafficked onward to West European countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the Netherlands. Children were also trafficked to Greece for begging and other forms of child labor. Approximately half of all Albanian trafficking victims are under age 18. Internal sex trafficking of women and children is on the rise.

The Government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The Government of Albania is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons** over the past year, particularly in the area of victim protection. The government did not appropriately identify trafficking victims during 2007. It has also not demonstrated it is vigorously investigating or prosecuting complicit officials.

Recommendation for Albania: Vigorously investigate and prosecute human trafficking offenses as well as law enforcement officials' complicity in trafficking, and convict and sentence persons responsible for such acts; enhance training of law enforcement officials within the anti-trafficking sector; ensure full implementation of the national mechanism for referring victims to service providers; increase funding for victim assistance and protection services; draft and implement a new national action plan with participation from local anti-trafficking NGOs; provide anti-trafficking training for peacekeeping troops.

Prosecution

The Government of Albania did not provide convincing evidence of progress in law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking during 2007. Albania criminally prohibits sex and labor trafficking through its penal code, which prescribes penalties of five to 15 years' imprisonment. These penalties are sufficiently stringent and exceed those prescribed for rape. In 2007, Albania prosecuted 49 alleged traffickers and convicted seven human trafficking offenders. Seven of the prosecutions were for child labor trafficking. The sentences for convicted traffickers were appropriately

severe, ranging from five years' imprisonment with fines to 16 years' imprisonment with fines. It is unknown if the government prosecuted and convicted additional traffickers under other statutes because the government does not separate crime statistics by trafficking offences. During the reporting period, regional anti-trafficking police units remained poorly trained and ill-equipped to effectively address human trafficking due to inadequate resources, the influence of corruption, and high turnover of police recruits. The government discontinued anti-trafficking training for new and continuing police officers, although training for judges and magistrates continued. Between June and July 2007, the government fired approximately 20 percent of its specialized and highly trained anti-trafficking police officers as part of an overall police restructuring effort. In three separate cases, the Ministry of Interior arrested 12 police officers accused of human trafficking in 2007, including six officers with direct responsibility for anti-trafficking at the border. Prosecutions of these cases and several other cases from the last reporting period remain ongoing.

Protection

The Government of Albania failed to consistently sustain efforts to identify, refer, protect and reintegrate victims of trafficking during 2007. The government's ability to fund protection and assistance services was limited; however, it operated one victim care shelter in Tirana. The government provided sporadic in-kind assistance to four additional NGO-managed shelters, such as the use of government buildings and land. In July 2007, all five shelters signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the shelters. In a change during this reporting period, there was an overall decline in the number of victims identified due to inappropriate application of the national referral mechanism for several months by anti-trafficking police. In 2007 the government identified only 13 women and seven children as victims of trafficking during the reporting period, a 25 percent decline over the 25 victims of trafficking reported by the government in the 2006 reporting period. According to both the government and other observers, authorities identified as victims only those who proactively identified themselves as such. At the same time, however, NGO shelters reported 146 victims of trafficking during the reporting year. Victims are not jailed or fined for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their being trafficked. The Albanian witness protection program is available for victims of trafficking who participate in prosecutions; however, evidence suggests that the system is ineffective for victims of trafficking. In 2007 one young woman was re-trafficked to Greece by her trafficker's brothers following her testimony that put him in prison. Child victims, many of whom were trafficked by their parents, were more often returned to their parents than placed in protective custody.

Prevention

The Government of Albania implemented several anti-trafficking prevention activities but allowed its national anti-trafficking action plan to expire. The Ministry of Interior took over funding of the national toll-free, 24-hour hotline for victims and potential victims of trafficking from the UN Office for Drugs and Crime and IOM in November 2007. The Ministry of Education includes in its high school curriculum awareness of the dangers of trafficking. The government continued implementation of an anti-speedboat law, outlawing virtually all water crafts along the Albanian coast and leading to a significant drop in trafficking in persons to Italy, most of which has been accomplished in the past by boat. During the reporting period, communication between the government and NGOs improved following a period of strained relations. The national anti-trafficking coordinator and the police director general held meetings with NGOs that led to improved communication between government and NGOs by January 2008, particularly at the border crossing points. As of March 2008, the government had not distributed a draft 2008-2010 national anti-trafficking action plan for comment to international partners and NGOs. The government did not provide evidence that it makes efforts to prevent its peacekeeping troops deployed abroad from engaging in trafficking or exploiting trafficking victims. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism produced banners that are being posted at 15 border crossing points to discourage child sex tourism and alert border-crossers that sexual relations with children is a crime in Albania.

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96 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 11:50 AM EST

KENYA SHOWS MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN RESPONDING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 1785 words

DATELINE: NAIROBI, Kenya

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Today, Wednesday, June 4, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice publicly launched the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

The TIP report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. It is intended to raise awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

Kenya's ranking improved this year from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2 because of its increasing efforts to combat TIP. Tier 2 consists of countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. **Watch List** countries require special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims or failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**.

Kenya remains a source, destination and transit country for trafficking victims but is making significant efforts to address the problem. It still has no specific, comprehensive law against TIP, which has made it difficult for the justice system to investigate and prosecute traffickers and assist victims. The Children's Department, now transferred to the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, is leading the National Steering Committee of government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations to draft a national strategy and action plan against TIP.

Since 2005, the Department of State has awarded grants of almost \$800,000 to Kenyan NGOs for anti-trafficking programs in Kenya to implement awareness and law enforcement training and victims' assistance and child protection programs. The Report assigns countries to one of three tiers depending on how they meet the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking." Tier 1 countries meet those standards. Tier 2 countries not fully complying with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to meet them. Tier 3 countries are rated as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so.

There is also a Tier Two Watch List consisting of Tier Two countries that have a significant number of trafficking victims, have a significantly increasing victim population or have failed to make efforts to manage the issue over the past year.

Attached is the Kenya chapter of the TIP report, embargoed until 5:00 p.m. Nairobi time.

Final Text of Kenya's country narrative in the 2008 TIP Report:

KENYA (TIER 2)

Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Kenyan children are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude, street vending, agricultural labor, herding, barmaids, and commercial sexual exploitation, including involvement in the coastal sex tourism industry. Kenyan men, women, and children are trafficked to the Middle East, other African nations, Europe, and North America for domestic servitude, enslavement in massage parlors and brothels, and forced manual labor, including

in the construction industry. Employment agencies facilitate and profit from the trafficking of Kenyan nationals to Middle Eastern nations, notably Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E., and Lebanon, as well as Germany. Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani women reportedly transit Nairobi en route to exploitation in Europe's commercial sex trade. Brothels and massage parlors in Nairobi employ foreign women, some of whom are likely trafficked. Children are trafficked from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Somalia to Kenyan towns, including Kisumu, Nakuru, Nairobi, and Mombasa. Most trafficked girls are coerced to work as barmaids, where they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, or are forced directly into prostitution.

The Government of Kenya does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Kenya's anti-trafficking efforts improved markedly over the reporting period, particularly through greater investigations of suspected trafficking cases.

Recommendations for Kenya: Pass, enact, and implement the draft comprehensive anti-trafficking law; provide additional awareness training to levels of government, particularly law enforcement officials, on trafficking crimes; increase efforts to prosecute and convict trafficking offenders; establish an official process for law enforcement officials to refer trafficking victims for assistance; and institute trafficking awareness training for diplomats posted overseas.

Prosecution

The government failed to punish acts of trafficking during the reporting period, but demonstrated significantly increased law enforcement activity throughout the reporting period. Kenya does not prohibit all forms of trafficking, though it criminalizes the trafficking of children and adults for sexual exploitation through its Sexual Offenses Act, enacted in July 2006, which prescribes penalties that are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those for rape; however, the law is not yet widely used by prosecutors. The Employment Act of 2007 outlaws forced labor and contains additional statutes relevant to labor trafficking. In September 2007, relevant government agencies provided comments on a draft comprehensive human trafficking bill to the Attorney General's office, which continues to work with NGOs to further refine the bill.

Police opened investigations into a number of significant cases during the reporting period, including the suspected trafficking of children by two school teachers in Kirinyaga District. In October 2007, police in Malindi arrested an Italian national on suspicion of human trafficking, facilitating child prostitution, and drug trafficking. Upon the conclusion of a separate police investigation, two women were charged with child defilement and child prostitution after luring a 14-year old girl to their home and forcing her into prostitution. Two children trafficked to Tanzania for forced labor were rescued by Kenyan officials and placed in a children's home; the investigation is ongoing as police believe the perpetrators are harboring an additional 40 children and six adults in forced labor. Six people in Bomet and Nandi Districts of Rift Valley Province were charged with the sale and trafficking of children. The Police Commissioner worked with Interpol to investigate the suspected trafficking of a Kenyan girl to The Netherlands and four children to Ireland. The Ministry of Home Affairs began, for the first time, collecting information on trafficking cases from the police, media, foreign governments, and UNODC. Corruption among law enforcement authorities and other public officials hampered efforts to bring traffickers to justice. Some anti-trafficking activists made credible claims that, in certain areas, police officials were complicit in trafficking activities.

Protection

The government made efforts during the reporting period to improve protective services provided to trafficking victims. Kenyan officials removed 14 children from situations of trafficking in Nandi and placed them in a children's home. The government referred two additional trafficking victims to IOM for assistance during the reporting period, and ensured the well-being of a number of other victims. City Council Social Services Departments in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu operated shelters to rehabilitate street children vulnerable to forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation; the government provided services to children exploited in the commercial sex industry at these facilities. In partnership with an NGO, the Ministry of Home Affairs provided and refurbished a building to house a toll-free hotline that enables children and adults to report cases of child trafficking, labor, and abuse. Staff members were hired and trained to serve as counselors and refer callers to government and NGO service providers. In June 2007, the Department of Home Affairs, Children's Services Unit hired an additional 180 Chief Children's Officers; during the reporting period, several children's officers posted throughout the country were involved in trafficking investigations and provided counseling and follow-up to child trafficking victims. Fifteen newly appointed Kenyan ambassadors received a first-ever briefing on human trafficking at Kenya's Foreign Service Institute; preparations are underway for a comprehensive briefing from the Ministries of Labor and Home Affairs and IOM for mid-grade and junior officers on their responsibilities in assisting Kenyan victims abroad. The government encourages victims, assistance in the investigation and prosecution of traf-

ficking crimes, and ensures that they are not inappropriately incarcerated or otherwise penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. The government does not, however, provide legal alternatives to the removal of victims to countries where they would face hardship or retribution.

Prevention

The Government of Kenya made significant progress in publicly highlighting the dangers of human trafficking and taking steps to combat it during the reporting period. On numerous occasions, senior government officials, including the Vice President, spoke publicly about trafficking and attended many awareness-raising events, including the Day of the African Child in June. The Kenyan media, especially the government-owned Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, regularly reported cases of suspected human trafficking. In July 2007, the government established the National Steering Committee to Combat Human Trafficking under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its Sub-Committee appointed to draft a national action plan received two days of training from IOM, after which it convened three drafting sessions and presented an initial outline of the plan in October. Officers from the Ministries of Youth and Labor received anti-trafficking training at IOM workshops in November and December 2007. In July 2007, the Malindi District Commission established and chaired a district-level committee on child sex tourism. In June 2007, a German national was arrested and charged with sexually exploiting two trafficked children from Nyanza at Likoni Children's Home. There were no reports of the Kenyan government's efforts to provide anti-trafficking training for its troops before deployment on international peacekeeping missions.

The text of the TVPA and amendments can be found on website www.state.gov/g/tip.

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97 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 11:32 AM EST

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER BRIEFING ON 2008 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 4151 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State issued the following foreign press center briefing:

1:00 P.M. EDT

MODERATOR: All right. Thanks, everyone. Welcome to the Foreign Press Center this afternoon. It's our pleasure to host today the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador Mark Lagon. He's going to make a brief statement about the 2008 TIP report and then we're going to have time for your questions and answers. So without further delay, let me introduce Ambassador Lagon.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Thank you very much. Good afternoon and thank you all for coming. As you know, this morning, Secretary Rice released the Department's Annual Trafficking In Persons Report. We highlight heroes in each year's report who are - play a key role in combating human trafficking.

And one of the heroes this year, Anas Anas, is a reporter with an independent newspaper who was responsible for breaking two major trafficking rings in the capital city of his country, Ghana, in Accra during the reporting season for this report. Anas Anas worked undercover for eight months exposing the trafficking ring's methods of transportation and the identities of immigration officials who were accepting bribes in return for overlooking fake visas and passports in a trafficking scheme. His undercover work allowed him to collect key evidence that could be used by police to prosecute the traffickers. He displayed great courage as a reporter. In so doing, he's able to act as a voice for the voiceless.

So each of you, I'd note, in your capacity as journalists are uniquely positioned to help raise public awareness about this most pressing injustice of human trafficking that affects the lives of millions globally. So I'm particularly delighted that you're here today.

In virtually every country around the world, including the United States, men, women and children are held in domestic servitude. They're exploited for commercial sex and coerced in work and factories and in sweatshops. In some, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers. These are forms of human trafficking, but more aptly put, these are forms of modern-day slavery. Estimates of the number of victims worldwide vary widely. But according to the U.S. Government, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Eighty percent of them are female. Some one-half of them are minors. And these figures don't include the millions more who are trafficked for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation within the national borders of countries.

What's unique about our policy goal of eradicating modern-day slavery is that we have, very much at Congress's direction, a comprehensive tool in the form of the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report that allows us to diagnose the problem and to track progress in confronting it. This year's report covers 170 countries in the world, a new high. 153 were assessed and ranked at Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and - or Tier 3. Another 17 countries are designated special cases, often because we lack sufficient information to assess whether a significant number of trafficking victims exist in those countries.

In the 2008 TIP Report, as mandated by Congress, there's several essential objectives. To summarize: country-specific information regarding what foreign governments are doing to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent the

crime in the first place. Also, to initiate bilateral engagement with other countries that is ongoing year-round in the form of action plans we developed with other countries for combating trafficking based on the country assessment and the report. Another goal is to assess patterns and trends in human trafficking in order to confront it more intelligently and, frankly speaking, to hold poor performers accountable. Finally, we seek to inspire with, you know, greater determination, creativity and cooperation among governments and anti-trafficking advocates.

As a function of the information collected in compiling the report, we know far more today than we did eight years ago with the first edition, or even three years ago when we began taking a closer look at forced labor practices in addition to sex trafficking.

Let me discuss some of the key trends which emerged in the course of compiling this year's report. Every trend is best exemplified by an individual tragedy because it's truly personal stories that help motivate those who work today to abolish modern-day slavery. Last summer, I met a young Burmese woman, Aye Aye Wynn, who had been recruited to work in the shrimp processing industry in a neighboring country. Together with some 800 other Burmese men, women and children, she was recruited. She was desperate to leave her tortured country. And she described to me the horror at finding herself locked in a factory compound in the middle of the jungle, prevented from leaving, prevented from calling family members by phone, even prevented from eating decently. These workers were not even paid.

Aye Aye Wynn and two others tried to escape. They were hunted down and they were beaten. They were chained to poles in the courtyard of the factory compound, deprived of food and water. Aye Aye Wynn, a vibrant young woman with a beautiful head of hair, tells how that head of hair was completely shorn off as a way of humiliating her before other workers. This wasn't a workplace. It was a forced labor camp. Thankfully, Aye Aye Wynn was rescued. And the good news is that a national police raid saved her and her compatriots.

Around the world, gross examples of forced labor are commonly treated as administrative or regulatory offenses rather than crimes. In this year's TIP report, for the first time, we broke down global and regional law enforcement data to examine progress in sex trafficking and labor trafficking prosecutions. These statistics indicate that only a very small percentage of human trafficking prosecutions and convictions, roughly 10 percent of them, relate to labor trafficking offenses as opposed to sex trafficking offenses. That information, those statistics are on page 37 of the report.

If we're to end the terrible reality of slave labor, all responsible countries must join forces to hold those guilty of this crime accountable. More attention has to be paid to labor trafficking in order to make the stories of vulnerable people like Aye Aye Wynn a part of our past.

One example of an industry in which we are concerned over reports of significant forced labor is Thailand's shrimp processing sector. In Brazil, some charcoal produced in - by forced labor finds its way into pig iron for export. Over half of the 5,800 slaves rescued by Brazilian authorities over the last year were found on sugar cane plantations as well. Also of deep concern is China, where several slave labor scandals have recently been uncovered. Some of the cases reportedly involve the complicity of Chinese law enforcement officials. All governments must act to ensure that the cheap and efficient production of export goods doesn't come at the expense of the basic dignity and rights of citizens.

Another trend: the weak protection of sex trafficking victims. Last winter in Bucharest, I met in a shelter two young Romanian women, sex trafficking survivors, Anca and Silvia. They'd been trafficked separately to Western Europe and they wound up together in a shelter and they were repatriated back home. Both women clearly had the look of traumatized people. They clung to each other. And later when I returned to the United States, I learned from the NGO caring for them that they discovered that Anca had advanced TB and Silvia had severe syphilis. Why weren't these women given proper medical attention before they were even repatriated to Romania? Time lost made their conditions worse.

Despite increased attention on law enforcement for sex trafficking, we don't see significant improvement in victim protection and services provided worldwide. This trend has to be reversed or we'll never be able to have significant numbers of victims become survivors. The dehumanized have to be restored to their full humanity. We've highlighted in the report a number of vulnerable groups: North Koreans in China, Burmese in Thailand, stateless people, low-skilled migrant workers, in particular, and foreign domestic workers.

One of the most common and desperate faces of modern-day slavery is that of the domestic servant, locked and abused in a private home or apartment, cut off from the rest of the world. And truth be told, one of the highest profiled cases in the United States this year involved two Indonesian maids trapped in a nightmare in a mansion in Long Island, New York. Victims of involuntary domestic servitude are often exploited sexually as well as for their labor.

We're beginning to see glimmers of recognition among governments that this is an extraordinarily vulnerable population. For instance, the Philippines is a major source of female domestic workers. It recently decided to impose a ban on new maids going to one particular East Asian country because there are an extremely high number of Filipina maids who escape regularly from the confines of abusive employers, only to seek shelter in the Embassy of the Philippines. This development signifies a growing resolve on the part of the Government of the Philippines to confront exploitation.

Governments must start treating this form of slavery as a serious crime. Labor recruiters or brokers facilitate trafficking through deceitful work offers, contract fraud, and sometimes outright force and coercion. And they must be prosecuted, they must be punished with jail sentences.

In past reports, we've also identified countries where foreign workers are exploited through force, fraud and coercion. And we've placed a number of these countries on the lowest tier, Tier 3. This year's report sheds more light on recruiters. Some of those recruiters are licensed by the state, such as in Vietnam, and they often start the chain of trafficking in these labor source countries by using fraudulent offers, offers of employment that are bogus. And they levy excessive recruitment fees on people desperate for a better life, which translate into debt bondage in the end.

Vietnam and Indonesia are key labor source countries in this regard. We've seen specific cases of workers from each of these countries trapped into trafficking schemes abroad through a predatory practice of labor recruiters in their own countries. To address this new phenomenon, the report includes recommendations for preventive steps that can be taken by labor source and labor destination governments. I really want to highlight this for you. On pages 16 and 17 of the report are these strategies for fighting the - closing the window of vulnerability for migrant laborers.

So there are a number of themes here. A couple of them that I'd highlight are the fact that labor trafficking is not seeing enough punishment of the perpetrators and sex trafficking shows a situation of an emphasis on law enforcement and immigration approaches, but a failure to follow through on helping the victims, to find those victims, and to restore their dignity.

Running through the report overall, one sees a seam. And indeed, it's a seam in all of the U.S. Government's work on human trafficking, including the \$530 million the United States has contributed to international anti-trafficking efforts over the last seven years. And that seam is the demand for labor trafficking and for sex trafficking. Increasingly, we're scrutinizing products to see if they're tainted by slave labor. Without confronting demand, we can't end slavery today. Demand is pulling victims into sex trafficking and labor trafficking and it's not being adequately addressed. In the area of sex trafficking, demand can be seen in the form of males buying brides from less developed communities, with intent of abusing them or exploiting them, of men traveling abroad to buy children for sex, and of men exploiting women, prostituted by pimps. And in the area of slave labor demand is seen in the race to the bottom for cheap labor and the ability to produce cheaper export goods.

Since the TIP report is organized around the performance of individual countries, let me highlight a few strong and weak performers and the rationale for how we've assessed each.

In Africa, moving up to Tier 1 for the first time, Madagascar proved this year that anti-trafficking progress can be achieved with political will even absent substantial economic resources. Madagascar emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries. On the other hand, Moldova fell to Tier 3 for the first time. It reflected its government's failure to tackle trafficking-related corruption. It's seen in the handling of several high profile cases of complicity by government officials. That failure to deal with corruption was a significant impediment to the government's ability to fight trafficking overall. We're hopeful the newly appointed government will take significant steps to address complicity, and while they're at it improve law enforcement and victim protection.

An important development is that Mexico has moved up to Tier 2. It is an assessment based on the enactment of a comprehensive new anti-trafficking law, funds being appropriated by Mexico's legislature for victim shelters, a commitment of Attorney General Medina Mora, and unified efforts by superb civil society actors, many of whom I've met with in three parts of Mexico and two trips I've made over the last year. Such developments are rays of hope in Mexico and are evidence of a new political will to grapple with human trafficking. And I'm quiet hopeful that Mexico will continue to further improve in the coming year.

For at least four years now, the weak performance of several nations in the Persian Gulf has been a matter of great concern and disappointment. And in particular, Saudi Arabia is ranked Tier 3 for the fourth time in a row.

As an update, I'd like to report on one success story that is a model for the region: the United Arab Emirates, which, for the second year in a row, was upgraded this year to **Tier 2** based on having passed the first comprehensive law in hu-

man trafficking in the region last year, and now using that law to go after perpetrators of sex trafficking, and to outfit victim shelters.

No briefing on human trafficking would be complete without raising the situation in two particular countries that are larger populace and with unique situations in human trafficking, and that's China and India. China has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years. On the upside, there were prosecutions of perpetrators and a national action plan launched by the government of China. But overall, there were insufficient efforts to protect both Chinese and foreign nationals from being victims of trafficking.

In China, women and girls from North Korea are particularly at risk. Fleeing the repressive regime in their homeland, as well as poor social and economic conditions, they seek refuge in China. But many are then preyed upon by Chinese traffickers who sell them into sexual servitude as wives or into prostitution. When Chinese authorities find these trafficking victims, they often send them back to North Korea where they face harsh punishment; that is, in effect, punishment of the victim.

India has made some efforts that are positive on the child labor front, rescuing victims. In fact, Indian Labor Minister Oscar Fernandes joined a raid recently. However, India still doesn't recognize the degree to which bonded labor is a substantial human trafficking problem in its country. It has weak anticorruption efforts and prosecutions are too few.

So in conclusion, we continue to shed light on global trends that are emerging. And importantly, we are steadfast in an offer to nations that wish to partner with us to fight human trafficking. It's some 200 years since the transatlantic slave trade was abolished, and I think we can take tangible steps further to abolishing the slavery that exists today. We need to remain committed to be the voice for the voiceless, for the advocate - I mean, the advocates for the prostituted woman or child, for the exploited domestic worker, for the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention. It demands our action.

I do want to emphasize that I appreciate the increasing cooperation I see from our allies, from governments, from NGOs, from church organizations, and private citizens. They are making real strides to prevent trafficking in persons and real strides to deal with the immediate, moral imperative of helping victims reclaim their lives and self respect.

And before I take some questions, I just want to note that the work of the report is by no means the work of one person. We have a broad team. The team of officers who are specialists on regions of the world is here with us. If you have follow-up questions after this, they'd be quite willing to talk and share their expertise. But led by Mark Taylor, the section of our Office on Reports and Political Affairs pours themselves into this report to produce the most credible, solid, substantiated, objective assessment of human trafficking in the world. And there is nothing like it. This is not in modesty; there is no NGO report, there is no UN report that covers the human trafficking scene in every country like this.

I also want to thank Eleanor Gaetan of our public outreach section for her leadership in making this a public awareness document for the world, not just a report to Congress.

So I welcome your questions.

MODERATOR: Thanks very much. If you have questions, please remember to state your name and media organization and wait for the microphone. Here in the front.

QUESTION: Thank you. Sonia Schott with Radio Valera in Venezuela. I have three ones. The first one, why is the United States not included in the same report? The second one is regarding the law enforcement that is up to the foreign governments to provide you with the information, so how reliable is this source, considering you mentioned corruption at the beginning of your remarks. And the third one is on Venezuela. Venezuela is Tier 2 Watch List -

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's moved up.

QUESTION: Yeah. So is this good news for Venezuela, or what that means? Could you please elaborate a little bit more on that? Thank you.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: I would have to say these are all three superb questions, but they all deserve time.

So, first, I'm glad you asked about the United States assessing itself. First of all, starting last year and again this year, there is a profile of the United States in this report that matches those of other countries that looks at what the United States is doing to prosecute the exploiters, to protect the victims, and to prevent the problem in the first place.

Now, we don't give ourselves a tier assessment, but one thing that I think is important is that we have started giving to Congress and making available to the public an annual self-assessment of the United States that doesn't just tell the good news, but that identifies areas for improvement. Just yesterday, this annual report was sent to Congress. This is last year's and we'll have available very soon the one for this year. As we circulate our international report around the world on CD-ROM, we will put that assessment of the United States on it.

I think it's deeply important that the United States be accountable for what it's doing to fight the problem at home, and we've done quite a bit. I know this because I chair our interagency committee on our domestic and international efforts. But I will be very frank about those areas for improvement, but I commend to you that report that lays out some recommendations.

Now, on law enforcement data, Congress directs us to ask for very specific information about investigations, about prosecutions, about convictions and about sentences. And we tussle with our friends around the world to ask them for information. And I reassure them, as I have with diplomats here in the United States and with government officials in capitals around the world, that we don't just ask for that data so that we can write a critical report. To have comprehensive data of how you are doing in attacking the problem of human trafficking is a sign of a government having a dedicated effort and seeing this as a specific crime. That data is not perfect. It's gotten better each and every year. There are countries that don't share data with us or share it imperfectly, from China to Iran to Cuba.

But we do believe that the kind of data on prosecutions and convictions that's through the report and that is collected together on page 37 with totals, that's where we've learned that only one-tenth of the prosecutions and convictions are in the area of labor trafficking, that those are the best compiled data that we've had to date and it's based on a very serious effort by U.S. diplomats.

Now, with respect to Venezuela, it's been upgraded. There has been some improvement. And this report is designed to be objective. We do not sit in the State Department and decide which countries we have broad criticisms on human rights for or that we have difficult and tense relationships with, and then just punish those that that's the case.

There are manifold problems of political pluralism and human rights in Venezuela, but truth be told, there have been some modest but real improvements in Venezuela that merit **Tier 2 Watch List** ranking, not a highly complimentary ranking but an improved one, including strengthening the statutory framework to fight **human trafficking**, notably for those who are internally trafficked within the country. There have been some investigations into human trafficking that have been opened in Caracas and increased police work at airports and border points. However, victims' services are limited and there are no dedicated trafficking in persons shelters. So there's good and there's bad, but there is evidence of modest improvement, and we try and tell it like it is.

MODERATOR: I think we have an additional question from New York, if you'd please state your name and media organization and ask your question.

QUESTION: Yes, my name is Diego Senior. I work with Caracol Radio for Colombia. It's basically the same question regarding about Venezuela, but for Colombia. Can you elaborate more about the things that you need to be improved, not only in our country in Colombia but in the rest of Latin America, maybe mentioning specific cases in order to - well, according to your report?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's a very good question. Colombia is an exemplar within Latin America. Is it **Tier 1**. **Tier 1** countries aren't perfect, but they meet what are called the minimum standards for combating **human trafficking** in the U.S. law that governs how we prepare the report. There are strong law enforcement efforts, sustained prosecution efforts in Colombia, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and an effort to count how - count and track how prosecutions are going with a database. There's cooperation with foreign governments to fight human trafficking. For victim protection, the Colombian Government has been increasing funding for NGOs.

There are some areas of improvement that are needed, particularly the need for a formal mechanism to identify human trafficking victims among vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations are people in prostitution or people who are in migrant labor sectors. So that's the picture. Not perfect, but an exemplar.

Through the region, one sees both the problem of sex trafficking and the problem of forced labor. I guess I'd like to emphasize in the region one big case, Brazil. There is reason for some praise. President Lula has identified by name the problem as it is, slavery, in Brazil. And Brazil identifies companies that have not taken steps to improve their accountability of their supply chains. However, there remains a significant problem, particularly in the area of forced labor, in the sector in which charcoal is used to make pig iron for export. And notably, the situation in Brazil is captured by the

success of rescuing 5,800 people in slave labor, and yet - and we learned that half of those are in the sugarcane plantations for the purpose of ethanol. So in the growing sector of biofuels, clearly, there's a forced labor effort. And there's a problem one sees in Brazil, and that is that of those cases of 5,800 victims, there is no associated criminal prosecutions for a single trafficker associated with those freed slaves.

MODERATOR: Other questions? Any final questions from New York? No other questions.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Happy to make myself available over the next couple of days if you have follow-up questions or your colleagues do.

MODERATOR: Well, then thank you very much. Thank you, Ambassador.

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98 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 9:26 AM EST**AMBASSADOR TEFFT'S STATEMENT ON GLOBAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2008****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 370 words**DATELINE:** TBILISI, Georgia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Today the United States Government released the 2008 Global Trafficking in Persons Report. This year Georgia has again achieved **Tier 1** status, due to sustained, significant effort that the Government of Georgia has made in the global fight against **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP). In the past year, the Government of Georgia recorded numerous accomplishments in combating trafficking, with noteworthy successes achieved through the following mechanisms:

Enforcing the comprehensive law against trafficking that was enacted in 2006. This law prescribes penalties up to 20 years imprisonment for convicted traffickers. Enacting a new law that punishes those who exploit the services of a trafficking victim. Further strengthening protection and assistance to victims of trafficking crimes, using the national victim referral program, and establishing a second trafficking victims' shelter to serve the Capital and eastern Georgia. Continuing implementation of the National Action Plan for 2007-2008 to increase public awareness about trafficking and promote its prevention. Training numerous Georgian soldiers and military personnel on TIP, prior to their deployments overseas, in order to serve in multi-national peacekeeping efforts. We congratulate the Government of Georgia, Parliament, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on this designation, which acknowledges the positive steps the Government has taken to eradicate this scourge which preys on men, women and children from Georgia and other nations.

In order to build on the momentum generated by these recent acts, we encourage the Government of Georgia to continue efforts to prosecute traffickers by furthering opportunities for law enforcement cooperation with regional governments, enhance procedures to identify, protect, and assist victims through the national referral system, and continue public outreach program on the dangers of TIP to the regions.

As always, the United States is eager to cooperate with the Government and NGOs on these points, and we look forward to our continued partnership in the fight against Trafficking in Persons.

Ambassador John F. Tefft United States Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia.

LOAD-DATE: December 7, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

99 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 3:37 AM EST**RELEASE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 276 words**DATELINE:** SKOPJE, Macedonia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Today the State Department released the 2008 **Trafficking in Persons**(TIP) Report, which covers the period from March 2007 to March 2008. The report evaluates over 150 countries around the world and ranks them as **Tier 1**, **Tier 2**, **Tier 2 Watch List** or **Tier 3** countries, depending on the countries' compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Objective criteria are used to evaluate each country on its merits. The entire report is available online at www.state.gov/g/tip and the section regarding Macedonia can be found on the Embassy website (TIP Report on Macedonia).

This year's report designates Macedonia as a Tier 1 country, meaning the government fully complied with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking during the reporting period. The report specifically cites the government's improved capacity to identify, protect and provide service to victims. It also recognizes aggressive prosecution of trafficking cases and new TIP related criminal categories with stricter penalties.

The report recommends additional efforts in victim protection and assistance, specifically calling for further funding for shelters and nongovernmental organizations providing victim services. In addition, it encourages the Government of Macedonia to continue with the vigorous prosecution of traffickers using newly approved legislation and to expand demand reduction campaigns to educate clients of the sex trade about the horrendous crime of trafficking.

Text of Special Briefing by Secretary Rice and Ambassador Lagon:
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2008/06/105561.htm>.

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

100 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 1:50 AM EST

AMBASSADOR TEFFT ISSUES STATEMENT ON GLOBAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2008

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 369 words**DATELINE:** TBILISI, Georgia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following statement:

Today the United States Government released the 2008 Global Trafficking in Persons Report. This year Georgia has again achieved **Tier 1** status, due to sustained, significant effort that the Government of Georgia has made in the global fight against **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP). In the past year, the Government of Georgia recorded numerous accomplishments in combating trafficking, with noteworthy successes achieved through the following mechanisms:

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As always, the United States is eager to cooperate with the Government and NGOs on these points, and we look forward to our continued partnership in the fight against Trafficking in Persons.

Ambassador John F. Tefft United States Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia

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101 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

May 25, 2008 Sunday

Laying down the law

BYLINE: P. Selvarani**SECTION:** ; Spotlight; LOCAL; Pg. 32**LENGTH:** 2299 words

AMERICAN international **human trafficking** specialist Dr Mohamed Mattar discusses Malaysia's **Tier 3** status with P. SELVARANI and the enactment of the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Act 2007.

Q: How did Malaysia end up being listed in **Tier 3** in the US State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2006" and cited as among the "worst offenders".

A: The report (covering 149 countries, 16 on Tier 3) says Malaysia does not have a specific anti-trafficking law; shelter for victims of trafficking; and that it still follows a deportation immigration policy as opposed to giving victims right to stay.

I think the information there was all accurate at that time.

The purpose of the US report is to engage the governments. Constructive engagement. It is not about imposing sanctions. If you take a look at the history of sanctions since the passage of the TVPA (Trafficking Victims Protection Act), nothing really in terms of serious convictions was imposed.

That is not the purpose of the US report. The purpose is to assist the country.

You go to a country and ask, "Do you have a law?" If there is no law, okay, I'm going to help you to draft a law. You go to another country, you ask "Do you have training for enforcement officials?" No, then okay, I am going to help you with training.

And that's what the law (TVPA) talks about. The law talks about the United States assisting foreign countries in drafting laws, in training and taking all the necessary measures to protect victims of trafficking.

Having said that, you have to look at the US report in the context of reporting on the international level, US level and domestic level.

At the international level, this government is required to submit reports to the United Nations, every five years under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) .

Article 35 of the CRC says "do not traffick children". Same thing under Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I looked at your last report in 2004, at what you said about Article 6.

And I took a look at what the UN committee told you. The UN committee told you exactly what the Americans told you, "Where is your anti-trafficking law? Where are the protective measures, including shelters?"

If you look at the UN and US response to the problem here, it talks about the same thing. That's why I am raising the issue, because there have been some comments that it's not a fair report.

On the domestic level here, the new law (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007) establishes a council. One of the functions of the council is to gather information on trafficking.

If you ask me how is it here in Malaysia, I would not know. So the law says let us know what is going on, let's identify the problem and see the scope of the problem.

So the council will study the problem, look into statistics, make phone calls to all the agencies and ministries and ask them what they are doing. And then have your own report. And you are doing it with the UN.

But UN reports are general. I am talking about a specific report on trafficking. This is something Malaysia should be looking into, especially after the passage of the law. And it is a good law.

Q: How best should we implement the law?

A: Start with the shelters. The law talks about a place of refuge. My understanding from the meeting with the Women Family and Community Development Ministry recently (at the end of January) is that it has established two shelters - one for children, one for women.

So, it's time to open the shelters. How are you going to give effect to the law when you don't have shelters? The law says do not deport victims. If they should stay, let them stay and the law says let them stay for three months.

Another thing you should do is to train those responsible for implementing the law.

The law talks about not punishing the victim. Under the provision which says "immunity from liability", a victim of trafficking shall not be punished even if she commits a violation of the law, as long as the violation is a direct result of trafficking.

How are you going to do that? You have to train the immigration officers, otherwise they will arrest the victims and deport them.

The law establishes a council. That council is the key for the success of the law. The law says the council shall draft an action plan to combat trafficking.

The action plan is going to talk about specific measures with specific deadlines, with specific functions for every agency.

I was impressed by the fact that the law says an action plan. It does not only say "okay, we look into policies, we advise the government on policies".

Another important area is the maid trade. Domestic service by itself does not constitute a form of trafficking but if it entails an element of exploitation, it becomes a form of trafficking.

How? If you have a maid coming in from the Philippines, and you take her passport away from her the moment she arrives, you are denying her freedom.

Malaysian immigration officers tell me the law does not allow you to keep the passport. But it happens in reality. How are you going to inspect the household?

If you have workers in a factory, the labour laws allow inspections to make sure that the workers work in a safe and sound environment. But how are you going to inspect working conditions for maids? You have to have good regulations that ensure the protection of maids.

I understand that you will have maids who will run away, who steal. But if one, 10, 100 run away, it's no reason for you to deny every maid her freedom of movement.

It's good the new trafficking law has a definition of trafficking that is very wide, wider than the UN protocol. It says every time you exploit someone, that would be trafficking regardless of the form of exploitation.

The tools are there now. It's a matter of going through the law and making sure that all the provisions are applied.

Q: Malaysia has been categorised as a Tier 3 country. Does it mean that countries labelled otherwise do not have a problem?

A: Trafficking is a global problem. You see it in Italy, a Tier 1 country, you see it in Malaysia which is on Tier 3. The (US) report is not concerned with the scope of the problem as much as it is concerned with the government's efforts to combat the problem.

This is a point that people sometimes don't understand. All these countries on Tier 1 have problems. Italy has problems but it also has excellent legislation and measures to protect the victims. The report (looks at) seven (aspects) - prevention, protection, prosecution, extradition, co-operation, borders and immigration policies, and corruption.

Q: What was discussed during your meeting with Malaysian immigration officials?

A: Immigration officers should be trained. It's important because they are the first persons who come in contact with trafficking victims.

I was happy that they are going to include something on trafficking in their training programme. They have to have training so that officers understand the difference between smuggling and trafficking, the difference between a victim of trafficking and who should be deported.

They showed a willingness to develop executive regulations, guidelines on how to treat victims of trafficking as opposed to alien smuggling, criminals and so on.

Q: And your meeting with the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry?

A: They talked about the shelters but there's a matter of security. That is a valid point. If you are going to open a shelter, you need police protection because sometimes we are talking about organised crime. The ministry is putting the pieces together to make sure they are safe.

Sometimes you go to a country and the government officials you meet start by saying, "We don't really have a problem." I didn't see that in Malaysia.

Government officials here recognise that there is a problem and they are doing something about it. I found the political will and I found eagerness to put that law in force.

Q: How do you view the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007?

A: It's a very good law. The Inter-Parliamentarian Union has asked me to write a handbook for parliamentarians on trafficking, basically about best practices.

Before I came here, I took a look at every law, including the Malaysian law. My handbook will have a reference to Clause 16 and 17 of the Malaysian law, where it says the past sexual behaviour of a victim of trafficking shall not be admissible.

That is protection. That's what we are talking about in terms of procedure. It allows the voices of victims to be heard and not to deny them that because of their past behaviour.

The other provision which is good is the consent provision. Consent is irrelevant in all cases of trafficking. I like that very much.

Some laws require you to prove force or coercion. In this country, you don't. And it makes sense because every victim of trafficking is vulnerable. And, if a victim initially consents to be recruited to come to Malaysia, no one can argue that the victim will consent to exploitation. The laws covers that.

I also like something about the Malaysian law that is new - the Witness Protection clause, protection of informers. To encourage victims to come forward and testify, you want to make sure they are protected.

This is especially important especially when you are dealing with organised crime.

Q: What was the outcome of your meeting with some Malaysian NGOs?

A: I judge a law good or bad by the presence of NGOs. The Malaysian law says three NGOs will be represented in the council. The NGOs are not part of the inter-agency task force but the task force shall consult these NGOs.

This is in compliance with international standards. It is an international obligation upon the state to co-operate with NGOs. The law makes the role of NGOs significant, central in the application of the law.

Q: How about the trafficking of children?

A: The Malaysian law is aware that there are cases of trafficking children. The law says the penalty for trafficking adults is 15 years in prison. If you are trafficking a child, it is 20.

Child trafficking for the purpose of labour can be a problem. Make sure that you are not recruiting labour under the age of 18.

That's why I was encouraged by the fact that the law says if you are going to recruit a child, exploit a child (for labour, sex), we are going to enhance the penalty.

Q: What is the trend in human trafficking now?

A: Human trafficking is on the rise as it is a very profitable business. You can recycle the "commodity" many times. We believe that trafficking in persons is the third profitable business of organised crime, after arms and drugs.

The other is corruption. If you talk about organised trafficking, you need a government official who is willing to take the file and facilitate the applicant.

All these laws that we have (helped) put around the world, they are all new. It will take some time to put more traffickers behind bars.

Prosecution of cases of trafficking should increase. As long as you are not prosecuting, it will happen again and again.

Traffickers are always a step ahead of all of us. There is a new trend now (by traffickers) to send the victim back to her home country to bring back new victims. If she doesn't come back, they will kill her over there.

We are talking now about more forms and methods of trafficking.

That is why we tell Malaysia with the number of foreign workers that you have, the law was imperative.

Q: How do you define human trafficking?

A: Human trafficking is defined in just one word - exploitation. In December 2000, the United Nations introduced the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The protocol supplements the UN convention against transnational organised crime.

Before this, we had other conventions that prohibited trafficking, for example under the CRC Article 35 prohibits trafficking of children, and CEDAW Article 6 prohibits trafficking in women.

Up till 2000, we really did not have an international definition. The protocol came in Article 3 and said if you transfer a person, transport a person, recruit a person, receive a person, harbour a person - these are the five acts - for the purpose of exploitation, that would be considered trafficking.

And Article 3 defines exploitation to include seven forms - exploitation of prostitution of others, other forms of sexual exploitation, servitude, forced labour or services, slavery, acts similar to slavery and removal of human organs.

This is how we define trafficking now. Traditionally, when people talk about trafficking, they right away think about prostitution. Trafficking may take other forms.

THE US Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, which provides tools for the United States to combat trafficking in persons, both at home and abroad.

One of the key components of the law is the creation of the Trafficking in Persons Report, an annual report assessing the government response in each country. Countries in the annual report are rated in tiers, based on government efforts to combat trafficking:

Tier 1: Countries that fully comply with the act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Tier 2: Countries do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Tier 2 Watch List: Countries require special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims; failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**; or an assessment as **Tier 2** based on commitments to take action over the next year.

Tier 3: Countries neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a significant effort to come into compliance. Countries in this tier are subject to potential non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions.

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102 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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**COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS MEETING;
SUBJECT: SLAVERY AND SUPPLY CHAINS: WHAT BUSINESSES CAN
DO TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING;
SPEAKER: MARK LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND
COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE;
PRESIDER: DIANA TAYLOR, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WOLFENSOHN &
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COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS MEETING SUBJECT: SLAVERY AND SUPPLY CHAINS: WHAT BUSINESSES CAN DO TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING SPEAKER: MARK LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESIDER: DIANA TAYLOR, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WOLFENSOHN & COMPANY LOCATION: COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK TIME: 8:00 A.M. EDT DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008

MS. TAYLOR: Morning, everybody. Good morning.

First we'll go through the administrative matters. Participants -- welcome to today's Council on Foreign Relations meeting. Participants around the nation and the world are viewing this meeting via webcast on the council's website, so please completely turn off, not just put on vibrate, your cell phones, BlackBerrys and all wireless devices to avoid interference with the sound system. And I would like to remind the audience that this meeting is on the record. So with that, let's get into the meat of it.

Our esteemed president of the Council on Foreign Relations, Richard Haass, probably put it best when he said human trafficking cuts across many of the most pressing issues of our time, such as immigration, global health, peacekeeping operations, and the illegal trade in weapons and narcotics. It's only beginning to get the attention that it deserves at the highest policy levels.

No one knows for sure what the scope of the problem is. Estimates range anywhere from 4 million to 27 million people -- men, women, children; enforced labor, bonded labor, child labor; in brothels, homes, fields and factories across the world. According to the U.S. government, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders every year -- which, of course, does not include the millions trafficked domestically within their own countries.

Those who are trafficked are the most vulnerable in society -- the poor, those without options, those who have no other choices. According to the Trafficking in Persons Report of 2007, approximately 80 percent of those trafficked across national borders are women and girls, and 50 percent of those are minors. And when women are trafficked, you can be assured they're going to be into situations of sexual exploitation. The public health issues around this are monumental.

Anyway, so here to talk to us about these issues, and specifically slavery and supply chains, is Ambassador Lagon. Thank you so much, Mr. Ambassador, for coming. And we look forward to your remarks.

MR. LAGON: Thank you for a super introduction, Diana. I thank you for taking the time for presiding today.

It's a delight to be with you at the Council on Foreign Relations, where I've been a term member and a permanent member and an international affairs fellow. It's nice to be back, having presented my work at one time as an international affairs fellow right here.

I'd like to thank my friend and former boss from Secretary of State Powell's policy planning staff, Richard Haass, for his invitation to address you this morning on a matter of utmost importance, combatting human trafficking -- or properly thought of, modern-day slavery.

Before we open things up for a real discussion, which is what's really important here, I hope to delve into the issue of trafficking for purposes of forced labor -- that area of human trafficking in particular -- and explore ways in which those in the private sector can work in partnership with those of us in government to confront this massive human rights challenge. Our success in confronting exploitation and coercion in the context of labor and supply chains will be found in our ability to work in partnerships.

As Secretary of State Rice has said, the solutions to the challenges of the 21st century are not going to be met by government alone. They come from all sectors of American society working together. Further, the secretary has stated we value business as a powerful partner in promoting accountable, non-corrupt government, the rule of law and transparency that attracts trade and investment. For that reason, included in the criteria of the annual Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence, known as the ACE awards, is an emphasis on exemplary employment practices and provisions for a safe and healthy workforce.

Human trafficking is a dehumanizing crime that literally turns people into mere commodities. Globalization need not, in my mind, turn people into mere commodities. It's not an inexorable truth that happens. And we can do something about it.

But absent vigilance and a proactive effort, the era of globalization has witnessed not only sex trafficking but also slave labor. Goods enter the global marketplace while consumers have little or no knowledge of the supply chains and work conditions that resulted in their production. It's problematic for both the consumer and businesses, which are increasingly faced with the challenge of ensuring that complex supply chains aren't tainted by forced labor.

But American businesses are steadily moving to address this challenge in a quest to be socially responsible corporate citizens.

Let me give you an example. Last fall, Gap withdrew a line of embroidered blouses and ordered an internal investigation after news reports revealed apparent child labor abuses in a Delhi sweat shop. One child, Jivaj, from West Bengal, described his experience with these words: "Our hours are hard, and violence is used against us if we don't work hard enough. This is a big order for abroad; they keep telling us that. I was so tired I felt sick."

In the aftermath of these revelations, Gap publicly reiterated unequivocal opposition to such abusive child labor practices. In a tangible public-private partnership, Gap is now collaborating with the Global March Against Child Labor to establish an independent monitoring system for future production of its products and to examine industry-wide solutions to child labor issues. While Gap's response was swift, the frenzied media attention presents a nightmare scenario for even the best public relations specialist in the business.

More importantly, it gives us a glimpse of the nightmare scenario of a different sort, that of labor trafficking. As more labor is outsourced to developing-country markets, there's a greater likelihood that forced labor may occur with corporate headquarters possessing little or no knowledge before it's too late. Multiple layers of contractors, of subcontractors and a production chain present major challenges for accountability. Gap, for example, reportedly has 90 people located around the world whose job is to ensure compliance with their code of vendor conduct, and yet they still had the problem that they faced.

When I was lucky enough to lead the U.S. delegation to the U.N.'s Vienna forum on fighting trafficking last February, I met with the Gap's vice president for social responsibility. He spoke to me of the need to look at other issues besides the very important one of environmental issues, which he noted were the primary focus of many corporate social responsibility offices. I think that's right.

More recently, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity released a report that alleged labor violations in some operations in the shrimp processing sector in Thailand and Bangladesh.

The most egregious of the violations included forced labor, child labor abuses, and debt bondage. These acute cases of which I'm speaking are not only wage and hour disputes, not only health and safety violations but are indeed forms of human trafficking under the law and under international law.

While the Solidarity Center report was not the State Department report, the findings are consistent with anecdotal accounts of abuses in the sector which my office has received.

Just Monday, I met with the National Fisheries Institute, who initiated a meeting in light of the Solidarity Center report. Because their membership is keenly interested in working conditions at plants from which they purchase products, they recognize -- the National Fisheries Institute and the businesses within that coalition -- that such matters are important not only to my office but to the American consumer. Importantly, they're uniquely positioned to bring about change, which is what really matters, change in situations where forced labor and trafficking have been identified.

Before further exploring the opportunities for the private sector in the area of combating slave labor, I'd like to give you a little better sense of the scope of work of my office and trends we've been seeing globally in this realm.

The U.S. government has confronted human trafficking on a multitude of levels. In late 2000, the Congress passed and the president signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This legislation authorized the creation of the office that I now direct and mandated the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which, by the way, this year is set to be released in just three weeks. That annual TIP Report is a prime tool for diplomatic engagement and international awareness, that kind of international awareness that's necessary for key efforts at prevention of the problem in the first place.

The bill institutionalized a cabinet-level task force chaired by the secretary of State to improve coordination and implementation of our anti-trafficking effort. I'm involved in the coordination of both domestic and international policy in fighting human trafficking -- be happy to speak to that in the discussion.

The reauthorization of the legislation in the year 2005 gives added attention to labor trafficking distinct from sex trafficking by requiring that the U.S. Department of Labor develop and make available to the public a list of goods from countries that the Department of Labor has reason to believe are produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards.

The list is anticipated to be published next year, though there may be an interim report to Congress before then.

The list of products will serve as an awareness-raising tool to U.S. enforcement agencies, for the public, for governments, for NGOs, and ultimately, importantly, for the businesses community itself. The list is also consistent with U.S. government efforts to deny specific items produced in part or wholly by forced labor from getting access to the U.S. market. It's been the law since 1930.

Last year our Tracking in Persons Report shed light on the alarming trend of trafficking for forced labor purposes, including particularly through the use of debt to keep people in conditions of involuntary servitude. Debt is increasingly employed by traffickers as an instrument of coercion, especially for migrant laborers seeking a better life from developing countries.

In many regions of the world, such workers are required to pay extremely high commissions to local recruiters in order to secure a job abroad. The exorbitant commissions can be grossly disproportionate to the services rendered by the recruiter. In some instances, they amount to six months, or a full year, of the worker's actual pay once abroad. To pay the fees, workers either become indebted to the recruiter or take out formal or informal loans in their country of origin with the expectation of payment based on future wages earned abroad.

In many instances, workers arrive at the destination country as migrant workers, only to discover that they've been deceived by fraudulent representations of the recruiter as to the wages they can expect to earn in the new jobs. Moreover, the high debt that they've incurred makes them vulnerable to further exploitation by unscrupulous employers, particularly in destination countries where the enforcement of labor laws is weak and complaints of forced labor are likely to go unheeded.

Many multinational producers of goods have come to rely on low labor costs in their supply chains. As we better understand the processes which allow human trafficking to flourish, it becomes clear that it's not enough to simply monitor the conditions in supply chains. To get at the root of this problem, businesses must begin to ask how the workers arrived in the first place. The implications for companies, as for purchasers, are very real.

To get at the root of this problem, businesses must begin to ask how the workers arrived in their first place. The implications for companies, as the purchasers are very real.

Demand is of course also a factor in labor trafficking. Denying products made with forced labor access to markets is one key measure, that will ultimately reduce the incentive to exploit slave labor and encourage ethical business behavior.

There have been prominent allegations, concerning a wide range of products that have been potentially polluted, by forced labor in their supply chain, including cotton from Uzbekistan, apparel from India, shrimp from Thailand and Bangladesh and steel derived of Brazilian pig iron.

I believe consumers will increasingly demand, through their own benign market force -- that is to say, what they purchase -- they will demand that products be free of slave labor. If consumers have decided whether or not to buy a brand of tuna, based on whether dolphins are harmed in the catching of the tuna, they'll surely ask more and more over time if human beings are harmed in the production of imported products, particularly if the human beings are harmed by forced labor, by veritable enslavement.

Fortunately the news is not at all entirely bad. There are challenges, but there has also been marked progress. Some businesses are taking an active role in attempting to cleanse production chains of forced labor.

A promising example of such a voluntary effort is indeed the move by the pig iron producers of Brazil. The Charcoal Citizens Institute has established an effort to monitor the pig iron production chain for evidence of force labor. They're also notable corporate actors for using their individual expertise, their corporate strengths, their core competencies to counter trafficking and affect change.

This effort benefits the victims but it also benefits the companies, in that it builds trust and legitimacy, often garnering positive publicity, and earns support of increasingly socially conscious buyers and investors.

At a conference, hosted by Coca-Cola in Atlanta, on corporate social responsibility efforts to fight forced labor, where I was pleased to give the luncheon address, a top corporate manager at Hewlett-Packard talked about doing an investigation in Southeast Asia of a factory that HP was about to use.

Against the wishes of the factory's owners, their auditors insisted on seeing the residential facilities on factory grounds where the workers were housed. They found documents withheld, a common indicator of human trafficking. The workers were enduring forced overtime and no more than 15-minute breaks per day, not even enough to get to the commissary and back.

When the audit team informed the company that the site did not comply with the company's zero-tolerance rules against forced labor, they realized that they were helping nix a contract worth many millions of dollars. But the company took their recommendation to cancel the contract until conditions were changed.

And another example. LexisNexis is going beyond ensuring that they're not purchasing products from corporations and foreign governments that turn a blind eye towards human trafficking. In fact, they're supporting one of the leading anti-trafficking NGOs in Asia. At home, LexisNexis plans to develop a database of social service providers to assist the anti-trafficking NGO that manages the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and its hotline for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A business is providing a core competency to a leading anti- trafficking NGO which, as the most nimble actor, is staffing the hotline and resource center for a government entity. That's a marvelous picture of cooperative partnership. LexisNexis also plans to provide the same NGO with advanced LexisNexis products which allow them to research trafficking tips, better locate trafficking victims and determine linkages between trafficking rings.

And there are other notable initiatives undertaken by those in the private sector to combat human trafficking, which I'd be happy to talk about in our discussion, but our time is limited.

Let me conclude with a larger thought. Our message must be unambiguous and clear. Both the public and private sector have zero tolerance for labor trafficking of any kind. The unprecedented movement of labor and capital in chains of production of exportable goods promises enormous advances for the world, reaching many people.

But without rule of law, and without good corporate citizenship, it can lead to modern-day slavery.

I'm hopeful that we'll continue to see increased partnership with the private sector and civil society so that we might extend the manifold positive gains of globalization and curb the extreme forms of exploitation that I've been describing today. The field is wide open for opportunities and I'm really eager to help build partnerships with you.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to discussion. (Applause.)

MS. TAYLOR: Since I'm the moderator, I got the first question. (Laughs.)

Okay. Thank you so much and it's very -- it's good to know that there's a department within the State Department that's so involved in this issue.

During your remarks, you talked about the demand side of this problem. And it sounds very nice that people are going to buy products based on whether or not there's been human trafficking involved and wouldn't buy products where there wasn't, which brings up the question of how do they know whether there's been human trafficking involved and also the question of people -- especially when economies are going south -- are looking at buying the cheapest product as opposed to the product that has, you know, all these green things. They have a limited amount of money.

And so how do you answer that and the corporation that says, well, you know, these people wouldn't have jobs at all if it weren't for what we're doing for them? How would you --

MR. LAGON: You raise a really important point. I traveled to West Africa and looked at the sector of cocoa production, in which there's a good amount of child labor and, within it, some of the worst forms of child labor. So the question arises, if you were trying to clean up a form of human trafficking, the worst forms of child labor in a place like Cote d'Ivoire, do you have collateral damage against a bunch of people who are impoverished who might desperately need the work? Do you create disruptive effects on the sector?

You know, I think we need to take great care because, of course, government regulation and economic sanctions are a blunt instrument and you don't want to suggest that an entire sector is dirty. This Department of Labor report that I discussed, it will not mention specific companies, but it will mention countries from which imports come that may be tainted by slave labor.

This is tricky business. What happens for a company that isn't mentioned, but they export, I mean, they import something that's in the same sector?

I think we need to use the carrots rather than the stick. I think that we need to see companies feel that they can certify themselves, that they have clean supply chains, and try and communicate that as something, in addition to price, that would attract consumers.

But this is a problem that we need to get our head around. And I think we need some of the know-how from the business community, not just the money of the business community, to solve the problem.

MS. TAYLOR: So we were talking before. There was sort of a code that was put together by ECPAT, I believe that it's called, and I don't know what the acronym is. But basically it says to companies, what they can do within their companies, to figure out what's happening and combat trafficking in persons in the hospitality industry; training employees to know what the signs are that somebody is being exploited within their environs.

And I think that there is one U.S. company, that's signed up for this, and it's Carlson, which happens to be run by a woman.

Can you --

MR. LAGON: That helps, by the way.

MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

Can you explain a little bit what's going on in this country, and what our corporations are doing along these lines? And why wouldn't more corporations have signed up for this code?

MR. LAGON: Yeah. Let me talk about the specific area that you asked about. This talk that I gave focused on the forced labor side of human trafficking. But this code of conduct has more to do with sex trafficking.

In particular, there's a, you know, horrifying form of sex trafficking, which is that when minors are pulled into prostitution, when they're exploited sexually. And those who are in the hospitality sector -- travel, tourism, hotels -- have a role

to play to prevent this kind of grim phenomenon of child sex tourists, those who travel abroad looking for an opportunity to exploit children in prostitution.

Some great leaders in a partnership, ECPAT, which is a leading organization about child sexual exploitation being eradicated, the queen of Sweden, Carlson group, you cite, have come together pushing for a code of conduct.

Not enough actors abroad or at home have signed the code. Hundreds have.

I've actually travelled to coastal Kenya and to Cape Town, South Africa, and talked to hotel and hospitality industry people about fighting child sex tourism, and the larger hotels signing the code and then helping the smaller operation hotels also do it.

But you know, as I've talked to you about before, there's a perception on the part of industry -- oh, the discussion of human trafficking is kind of a downer. You don't -- you know, you don't want to include something in our in-flight magazine because it's not going to put people in the mood for travel if we're talking about child sex tourism. The fact is that there is a keen interest for business to demonstrate that it's on the right side of a moral issue. You can't expect businesses to do something that may require time and money if there isn't an interest as well as an ethical aim. And so I think the reputation of businesses of being clean is important.

You rightly note that it is women who play a leading-edge role. I was, you know, enormously impressed by the head of the Cape Town, South Africa, tourism association, who seems to be a human rights advocate. And she is determined that when Cape Town hosts the 2010 World Cup games, that it doesn't become an orgy of sexual exploitation in the form of human trafficking.

MS. TAYLOR: So let's get a little bit to the sexual exploitation side of this. There has been a heated debate among NGOs and women's organizations around prostitution and how it should be treated. Everyone has agreed that trafficking, slavery is wrong, and that smuggling people across borders for use as sex slaves is wrong, and forced labor is criminal and should be prosecuted. However, there is this debate over prostitution. Some activists say that routing it out will close the market for sex slaves. Others say that efforts to end trafficking should be concentrated on the underlying causes of that trafficking, which (is in general ?) the economic, social and political reasons that people end up in the hands of traffickers in the first place. Could you comment on the two sides of that issue?

MR. LAGON: You bet. I think there is -- this is a debate that often has too much heat and not enough light.

But I would like to explain the premise of the U.S. government. We believe that legalized prostitution helps create an enabling environment for the deeper problem of sex trafficking. People of decent, you know, moral standing believe that the more practical thing to do is to bring prostitution out into the open, regulate it, allow unionization.

It's my view and it's, in fact, been, you know, policy of the U.S. government for about six years that prostitution is a driver for sex trafficking and that it's dehumanizing and degrading by nature. And I see an inspiring coalition of people who range across the political spectrum who have been trying to raise awareness about that idea, from feminists on the left with Equality Now or the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women to the Christian conservative groups on the right.

I want to just go right at a question about whether there is a "witch hunt" to prevent funding to go to any NGOs who had the, quote, "wrong position" on prostitution. The actual policy of the U.S. government is to not give funding to NGOs to fight human trafficking if they are active proponents of legalized prostitution because of that enabling environment. An organization that has a neutral position is, you know, welcome to get money and frequently does. I've been involved in making decisions over and over again on grants. The question is whether a group is actively promoting the legalization of prostitution.

And I'd be -- I expect further questions, and I'd welcome it. But I think it shouldn't be a hot moralistic debate, a breast-beating one, but a question of practicality, of what's the best way to squeeze out the problem. And that's the way I look at it.

MS. TAYLOR: Let's talk about the best way to squeeze out the problem for a second here in the United States. If you go on Craigslist and you look under erotic services, there are thousands and thousands of entries there in every region of the United States.

What do you do about that? And the travel magazines and travel companies are saying, you know, have this great trip to whatever place it is and, you know, you're guaranteed to score. And how do you -- I mean, that's here in this country.

MR. LAGON: Well, this is very pertinent to the question of corporate social responsibility and how we can bring to bear the strengths in the business community to fight something. By the way, something that's really commendable is an effort by an NGO coalition, National Organization of Women and Coalition Against Trafficking Women, right here in New York, to try and get ads in the back of New York Magazine, that were very explicit about commercial sex, out of the magazine.

Craigslist has ads for sexual services. And it's not entirely clear that the individuals who have ads up, who are sort of -- you know, I will come meet you at a place to be determined, it's not in a brothel, but it's, you know, a place you'll -- the service will be delivered -- it's not clear that they're all adults. It's quite ambiguous. Some of them are under 18. Craigslist has taken a good step by putting up a disclaimer that suggests that they don't know whether the women involved are adults; but that's small potatoes. They need to go farther. That's one of the reasons why, on a trip to San Francisco on Friday, I'm going to be meeting with Craigslist.

Information technology has been, in fact, a driver of sex trafficking and sex tourism. Here's where you can go travel to use people as commodities, many of whom are sex trafficking victims. But information technology can also be an important tool for building awareness, for law enforcement tools, and we need to, instead of trying to deny the ways in which information technology fuels the problem, use it as a tool to fight the problem.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

And with that, I'd like to open it up to the audience.

Yes, in the back? And actually, if you could stand up, take the microphone, state your name and your affiliation and then your question, that would be great. Thank you.

Q Hello. My name is James Tunkey, and I'm the CEO of a company called I-OnAsia. I have an investigator's background. And I have a comment and a question for you.

My comment is that the corporate social responsibility industry is big business, and it's really driven by a fear of lining up in front of Congress or on the cover of Time magazine.

What do you say to heads of corporate responsibility inside of companies who believe that hiring an audit firm to go out for them and do audits is all that they need to do, and who don't -- who rely on very open public audits to do this work. It appears to me that there are many out there who think that's all that they need to do, and I would go further and say that it seems to me that there's a number of a real perverse incentives in this whole racket. It seems to me that people who are providing the audits really are in many ways a public relations protection racket and the audits themselves are so open that they don't actually achieve their goals. How would you respond to that?

MR. LAGON: That's a great question. I wouldn't say that audits are a problem. I wouldn't reject them. I think it's great to try and build accountability, but I don't think they're enough. And I think, you know, the way to establish in the minds of business leaders that it's worthwhile to go farther, to establish that your supply chain is clean or to proactively fight human trafficking. You know, LexisNexis has done even more than I've described. I mean, it's underwritten a fantastic foundation in Cambodia, the Somaly Mam Foundation, fighting human trafficking.

I think the way to convince businesses to do that is for there to be exemplars. And I see my role is not to affect regulation and squeezing businesses and things that may have collateral damage, but -- nor to necessarily point the finger at bad actors and, you know, hope that consumers somehow, you know, pursue boycotts, but rather to raise up examples of those who are going farther than audits, that see that there's an interest in showing that they're better corporate citizens, to do something specifically aimed at helping fight human trafficking.

You know, business is in a position often not just to prove that it's not part of the problem but indeed to be part of the solution.

Poverty and desperation are drivers of human trafficking but without corruption and criminal behavior you wouldn't have people sucked into this situation. A company can help find victims. It can help that longer-term rehabilitation, retraining. It can help be a partner to governments in the developing world to develop rule of law to fight the problem. And while they're at it -- while they're cleaning up corruption and problems of rule of law they'll probably make a more benign environment in those developing countries in which to profit.

MS. TAYLOR: Isobel.

Q Hi, Isobel Coleman with the Council on Foreign Relations. Could you talk a little bit about the TIP Report which is coming out next month and the inevitable policy jockeying that goes on on the rating of countries? Traditionally, in years past, several Middle Eastern countries which are key allies of the United States have been named and given bad ratings in the TIP Report.

Could you talk about how -- behind the scenes, how those countries sort of jockey for a better rating or not and the role of corporations in influencing any of that decision and how the policy decisions are worked through interagency both within the State Department and with other governmental organizations?

MR. LAGON: Great question, and I welcome it.

I mean, our principal tool that our office has is the production of this international report. It is used for leverage with governments because it is the single one of the multiple human rights reports that has grades for countries, four different grades they can get. Countries complain because it's an irritant on our relationship but many are deeply interested in how they can get higher rankings and it becomes a form of leverage.

It's also a great tool for raising awareness around the world about the problems of sex trafficking and forced labor.

Each year, embassies come in with information they've garnered from governments and NGOs about the phenomenon of human trafficking and what governments are doing to fight it around the world. It comes out in early June each year. In the meantime, there's a process of my office writing the narrative about prosecutions against the bad guys, protection of victims and efforts at prevention, particularly through public awareness in each country. And we propose a ranking level.

Within the State Department we have a debate about whether that ranking level is right. Often the regional specialists who deal with the larger relationship with countries -- Brazil, Russia, India, you name it -- will argue about the broader context of what is possible in terms of the capacity of a country, other issues that we're dealing with. I will not deny the larger context is taken into account. It goes up to the most senior level of our department on some of these -- some friendly disputes about the rankings.

I'd say -- you asked about the role of the business community. I've seen precious little lobbying by businesses that we should go easy on a country. I've actually been surprised by that. It's almost been nonexistent in my experience.

But governments themselves go through elaborate campaigns as the report is being put together in the spring to talk. I've suddenly become a much more popular person in the spring for meetings.

There have a number of Persian Gulf states on the lowest tier of the report and they deserved it. I've got to say that in a number of Persian Gulf states to be a woman or to be a migrant laborer is a situation in which you're going to be treated as less than human. If you're a woman migrant laborer, you're really in a vulnerable position to not be accorded full human dignity.

But the report has gotten the attention of those governments and we've had some key successes in countries like the United Arab Emirates, which has improved. It's eliminated or tried to eliminate the phenomenon of camel jockeys, children who are migrants who are forced to be camel jockeys. It's tried to clean up a kind of boisterous -- a Dubai commercial sex scene.

And you know, we have tried to leverage change, including last year Kuwait knew that they might be raised from the lowest **tier** in a short term reassessment in September if they finally opened a shelter for victims of **human trafficking** that they'd been promising to do for four years.

And they did, which is a way of saying that our report does nudge people. And it appears as a carrot as well as a stick.

Q Hi. I'm Kate Hunt, the U.N. representative of CARE International, a humanitarian development organization. I know this isn't the key theme of your discussion. But there have been a lot of references to the root causes in the supply chain.

And I'm wondering if you could tell us a bit how you integrate your work with anti-poverty programs that provide particularly education opportunities for kids. Because that we find, in all of our studies, to be a major driver of children into labor.

MR. LAGON: I'm very glad you asked that, and there are many layers of it.

Let me start by saying, there's a lot of discussion about how poverty is the driver for human trafficking. And as I alluded to earlier, I think it's important that we realize how it is a driver, but that there are catalysts that go along with it -- lack of rule of law, corruption, frankly sadistic people who are willing to abuse people. Poverty alone is not the problem.

I think we'd be best off if we target certain areas of development work that really would have more fruit borne in fighting human trafficking. Clearly we need to create greater economic prosperity and opportunities worldwide, so that people aren't so desperate that they might believe a recruiter when they say, you're going to a wonderful job in another country if you just give me this exorbitant fee.

But I think targeting things like what you cite, in particular the education of girls, is essential. You know, I'm very fond of a program I was exposed to, as a Capitol Hill staffer and as an official on U.N. policy at the State Department before this job, of, you know, the Dole-McGovern program, funded for the Food and Agricultural Organization, of feeding girls in schools.

Which in traditional societies around the developing world, in which girls are typically not sent to school, when parents, when a father is shown, well maybe another mouth will be fed, they end up sending a girl to school. And that ends up being the lowest rungs of a ladder for a life of opportunity.

I think to diminish the vulnerability of a women, to both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, education is a really important thing. And so that's one area in particular.

As we try and develop our programs on -- we're quite involved, in my office, in giving grants to NGOs and international organizations, from UNICEF to the International Organization for Migration, to fight human trafficking.

We've increasingly, in the interagency group that I chair, built a coordination mechanism so that we talk about the foreign assistance given by my office, by the Population and Refugee Bureau of the State Department, by the Agency for International Development and by the Department of Labor. So the left hand knows what the right hand is doing and we make self-conscious decisions about who's spending what on child labor, on sex trafficking, on various things so we have complementary programs. And then from that context, we discuss the larger development agenda and where human trafficking fits in. I'd say there the leadership of Henrietta Fore succeeding Randy Tobias has really led us in the direction of vast improvement on coordination.

Q (Name and affiliation inaudible.) I'm looking for the numbers, what's happened in terms of human trafficking. Has it increased significantly over the years, or have we just discovered them more now we've got the ability to have cell phones, the Internet to tell these stories around from various countries? Or do you have an increase because of the ease with which you can have traffic, you know, transport around the world, both with supplies and also with, you know, certainly sex? So where does it go? Is it worse now or better now than it was 10 years ago?

MR. LAGON: Good question. I think that some elements of globalization are making it worse. This is a problem that we have some good estimates cited by our -- Diana, about -- we think there are about 800,000 victims each year, U.S. government estimate, although it's across borders, and millions more within countries like Russia, Brazil, India, who never cross borders. That's an important thing to know.

Trafficking in persons -- or human trafficking, a little easier way of putting it -- connotes that the movement or the smuggling of the person is the key thing. It's not. There's a reason why slavery is a better expression, not just because it, you know, gets the moral adrenaline going. What's distinctive by the legal definition of human trafficking -- under U.S. law and a U.N. treaty -- is the control and the level of exploitation. And so it's not just the crossing of borders.

We're trying to get a better sense of the scale of the problem.

But one thing I caution is that we not spend so much of our resources making sure we have the perfect global number when we can learn about more discrete patterns of human trafficking. If we can learn about the flow of people from South Asia to the Persian Gulf or if we can learn about particular phenomenon, it's a better focus of the U.S. government effort on getting data.

Q Alice Tepper Marlin, Social Accountability International. Thank you for that excellent presentation.

MR. LAGON: Thanks for coming.

Q I wanted to ask you -- in addition to talking about codes specifically on this one issue, to speak a bit more about broader corporate codes because there are hundreds of companies that have incorporated forced labor prohibitions into

their own codes or joined multi-stakeholder organizations -- SAI, FLA, Ethical Trading Initiative -- whose codes include provisions against forced labor.

I think for this group it would be useful to look at any corporate code that your company may have and see whether the forced labor provisions in it are adequate and complete including items like possession of documents and to point out that the Department of Labor, Department of State and USAID have been active in supporting all of those groups.

And speak a little bit about what they do beyond auditing, going into integrated scorecards and development activities to help suppliers exporting to the U.S. to improve conditions and prevent child labor.

And one other thing -- it's a bit -- long question. But it's a very interesting policy issue. And that's the relationship between sugarcane in Brazil, one more sector, in addition to those you mentioned, in which child -- in which forced labor is endemic, and because of the relationship to the ethanol issue, makes for a rather complicated policy decision --

MR. LAGON: Yeah.

Q -- not only on labor but on energy that we'd very much appreciate your addressing. Thank you.

MR. LAGON: Let me start with the last. That's something that we were looking at in this upcoming report.

We have a lot of difficult energy decisions we need to face about dependence on oil. And so we're confronted with an interesting moral dilemma if you see that there seems to be not just exploitative labor practices, but the most acute exploitative labor practices -- slave labor -- that may be related to ethanol, in Brazil. And this is something we need to get at. And I hope we'll be talking about it more when we unveil our annual report on June the 4th. So I'm glad you asked that.

With regard to codes, a few things I'd say. And I won't present myself as the world's expert on codes. But there are lots of codes. I had a consciousness-raising experience when I went to this conference hosted by Coca-Cola in Atlanta on forced labor and how CSR could confront it, about, you know, the view of business is, oh, my goodness, there are all these codes and, you know, the venn diagram of them is all these crosscutting, overlapping circles. But I think it's important that codes that exist incorporate, you know, the issues that I'm raising.

Again, I want to present myself not as an office that dictates regulations, but that's a resource, and I hope will be a resource over the years for things that ought to be included in codes.

Now, if you want to look for a source that's not the State Department and not the U.S. government, I would highly commend principles that have been put out by the International Labor Organization, that's tried to form a business alliance against forced labor. And it has 10 principles that are quite good for trying to close the window of vulnerability, particularly in the area of migrant laborers becoming forced laborer human trafficking victims. And I commend those principles to you. There's a reason that they're going to be in the next annual report.

MS. TAYLOR: I just want to bring it back just quickly to the current administration's policy. The Bush administration's been accused of conflating sort of the two issues of trafficking and prostitution. In other words, their attitude seems to be that if you are a prostitute, you have been trafficked. How can these two issues be differentiated to help serve the best interests of those who have been trafficked against their will for multiple labor purposes versus those who engage in prostitution of their own accord?

MR. LAGON: This is a subtle issue. I have to say, you know, that on a conceptual level, you need to stop for a moment and think, when a woman or a girl is sold as a sex commodity, sometimes it's hard to draw lines between good prostitution and bad prostitution.

And I think that the degree of voluntarism becomes murky.

I'm sponsoring research by Harvard scholars around the world to ask the question of when people are drawn into the world of prostitution because under our law and as an international norm, there's a sense that a minor really doesn't have that voluntarism. And I think -- you know, there was a recent study that just indicated that in the sex industry in Chicago, the average age of entering it is a little over 16. So it's worth looking at.

Again, I try and offer a subtle position on this, not a direct equation, prostitution equals sex trafficking. But think of the situation as a world of prostitution and a sex industry driven by the demand of men seeking to use females -- as there is a demand, where do pimps turn to to boost the supply to meet that demand? They turn to foreign sources and they turn to those who are under 18. And so I think there is a clear connection.

And what I'd urge is those who have fought over this issue -- and I know people who share my premise have been just as involved in making this an issue of heat rather than light -- let's think about this. We all agree that the women or girls who are in a situation of prostitution ought not to be ostracized, ought not to be punished. We need to think about the customers who create the demand and we need to think about the exploiters. And perhaps we may have some disagreements of just how much an overlap there is between prostitution and sex trafficking, but that's a common approach. The most important thing is we ought not to punish those who are in prostitution. That's something we can agree on and that can help to find a way of moving forward, I hope.

MS. TAYLOR: I think you had your hand up before.

Q Thank you, Diana.

My name is Adam Green. I'm with the U.S. Council for International Business, and we organized the forum at Coca-Cola that Mark has been referencing.

A quick comment, then a question.

The comment was, at the forum -- it follows on the question you just raised -- it became clear that to engage the business community in a lot of these efforts, we really need to unpack the different issues and separate human trafficking from migration, from forced labor, from child labor, prostitution. And the forum really tried to focus specifically on forced labor, and even in that carve out things that aren't forced labor like mandatory overtime and things like that, and be very specific and only look at forced labor, because all these issues are -- are very different and you need a very different solution and engage in different ways to get there.

The question is, how -- what programs have you seen that effectively bring different factors together to resolve an issue? One of the -- one of the things we've struggled with is if industry tries to come in and solve forced labor on its own, it will really not work, because even in the pig iron example you had, it's the charcoal camps that feed the pig iron industry, and as companies dug back down into that supply chain they discovered that the local authorities knew full well where the camps were, which ones were good, which ones were bad. And after spending a lot of time and a lot of effort to discover this, find that locally it's all well known and a functioning part of the local economy. And so you end up hitting a brick wall, which is the lack of political will at the local level and corruption.

So are there areas where you've seen different actors come together to try to solve something collectively?

MR. LAGON: It's a great question. It's good to see you again.

You know, I'm terribly interested in ways that government works with civil society organizations. An important third actor besides government and business are civil society groups that can help the victims, help identify the problems. Often government around the world are allergic to NGOs and civil society organizations. And not just in dictatorial governments; let's face it, in a Japan, in an India, in a Mexico, there's an underdeveloped comfort with government working with NGOs. That's one thing that I think has been quite helpful.

I'm -- well, look, I mentioned the shrimp processing sector in Thailand. I've seen it myself. I mean, I've seen the Burmese migrant victims of forced labor with my own eyes in a shelter outside of Bangkok.

Let's look at a case recently of improvement. There was a raid in September 2006 of a forced labor camp in the shrimp sector. It -- a labor-oriented NGO pulled labor inspectors from the Thai government into an effort to have a raid. The raid happened.

Only the women who were among the victims were treated as victims. The men were deported. The law enforcement was an ancillary actor. There was no punishment for months and months. And the people ran the factory and the factory was never closed.

In March of this year, however, because of a developed dialogue between government, NGOs, business and within government -- importantly, law enforcement with labor inspectors -- there was a raid of another factory in the shrimp processing sector, but this time the men were treated as victims as well as the women. There was a closer cooperation of law enforcement with labor inspectors and prospects for accountability. And so those are some lessons I'd draw.

You asked me an important question. I just want to leave you with some idea of what human trafficking is. I mentioned before the word "trafficking" might connote movement when the real thing is the exploitation and control. You're right that we need to unpack what we're talking about.

I do not want to be ever accused of suggesting that cheap labor, petty exploitation, not paying full, you know, wages, is by nature human trafficking or forced labor. However, I do want to say something so people understand. Human trafficking includes forced labor. The worst forms of child labor and particularly forced labor are human trafficking. So when we're talking about forced labor it's one of the forms of human trafficking. It's wholly subsumed within human trafficking.

So while we should unpack that, please understand -- don't say, "Well, that's not a human trafficking problem. That's forced labor." It happens to be both.

Q Thank you.

Q (Name inaudible) -- New York Life International. It seems that the successes have been very episodic and that really the root solution is getting countries to either enforce or change their national labor laws. Speaking about the BRIC economies, what have you seen happen recently and what do you think we can expect to see happen over the next let's say 10 years?

MR. LAGON: I'll talk about a couple of the BRIC economies. Yes, the first step is to get a law on the books that establishes that human trafficking is a serious crime and in particular labor trafficking. Something we see around the world, however, is a problem of implementation.

In the annual report, there's a pattern over the years of a country rising up in the tier ranking because it's passed a law, and then a couple of years later it drops down because it hasn't implemented the law. We're seeing that there is a problem of countries not convicting those who are responsible for forced labor.

Let me just give you a thumbnail sketch of India and Brazil, since you mentioned the BRIC countries.

In India, there are three kinds of human trafficking: sex trafficking, child labor and bonded labor. There has been success, some real progress in India on helping victims, victim protection, working with NGOs in the area of sex trafficking and child labor. There's been rather limited success in holding the exploiters to account in all three of those areas of human trafficking. And noteworthy, despite laws on the books in India about bonded labor from the 1970s, it's an area of rather limited recognition of the problem, or action.

In Brazil, it's a really interesting mixed bag. This is a government in which the president, Lula, has said specifically that slavery is a problem, and it's a hot word in the history of Brazil. To connect today's forced labor with the legacies of slavery is really quite a striking thing on the part of Lula. They even have a "dirty list" of companies that have not cleaned up their supply chains and are held up, you know, in an ostracizing fashion.

Victims of human trafficking have been rescued by the thousands. And yet the problem remains law enforcement. The punishment for those who are responsible for forced labor has been minimal for some of the very reasons you mentioned, which is local authorities and local business wanting to smooth out the problem and not have anything more than a fine or a suspended sentence. That's a reason for more action.

Do you have any --

MS. TAYLOR: Oh. Do you have to -- do you have time for one more question?

MR. LAGON: The boss says -- (makes sound). (Laughter.)

MS. TAYLOR: No? Okay.

Thank you very much.

MR. LAGON: I'm delighted to spend time here. Thank you.

MS. TAYLOR: It was great. Thank you. (Applause.)

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103 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

May 13, 2008 Tuesday 5:42 AM GMT

Malaysian accused of luring Thai women into sex work is first charged for human trafficking

BYLINE: By JULIA ZAPPEI, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 333 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

A Malaysian man who allegedly lured two Thai women into the country to become sex workers became the first person charged under a tough new law against human trafficking, a lawyer said Tuesday.

Ee Chin Kai pleaded innocent in a court in southern Malaysia on Monday to two charges of bringing in the 27-year-old women and exploiting them to work as prostitutes, said Ee's lawyer, Noordin Hussin.

If convicted, Ee faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine for each charge under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act that came into effect last year.

"This one could be a test" of the new law, Noordin said.

The court scheduled a hearing for Sept. 17 and released Ee on bail.

Ee was arrested in March while the women were allegedly staying with him, Noordin said.

Human rights groups have long lobbied for Malaysia to punish human traffickers, many of whom previously escaped prosecution because there was no specific law to use against them.

The U.S. State Department, in its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released last June, downgraded Malaysia from a **watch list** to a **blacklist** "for its failure to show satisfactory progress in combating **trafficking in persons.**"

Malaysian officials have said the new law could resolve such complaints by encouraging police, immigration departments and other authorities to pursue, prosecute and convict alleged human traffickers.

Aegile Fernandez, a representative of Malaysian labor rights group Tenaganita, said the charge against Ee was a "plus point for Malaysia" and voiced hopes that there would be successful prosecutions in the near future.

Fernandez estimated that tens of thousands of people are trafficked into Malaysia each year. Most come from other Southeast Asian countries and end up in forced labor in the sex industry or in plantations, factories or other menial work.

According to police statistics, nearly 400 foreign women were rescued "from vice" between 2004 and 2006, but activists say there are many more victims because the sex industry is so lucrative.

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104 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

May 8, 2008 Thursday 1:10 AM GMT

US asks Asia to impose stiff punishment on labor traffickers

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran

LENGTH: 618 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 7 2008

The United States called on Asian governments Wednesday to slap stiff penalties on labor traffickers, some of whom it said were exploiting loopholes in bilateral agreements in the region.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's senior advisor on the human trafficking problem said smugglers in the region deserved "potent penalties" rather than "mere slaps on the wrist" under agreements aimed at managing rising workers' migration in the region.

"I would emphasize the need for those who are subject to labor trafficking, to forced labor to be granted justice in the form of the traffickers being punished not just through receiving suspended sentences or fines but serious penalties," Mark Lagon, the US envoy to combat human trafficking, told AFP.

The United Nations suggests that prescribed sentences should be at least three to four years for human traffickers.

"But if you look, precious few people in Asia or frankly in the world are receiving serious punishments for that half of human trafficking, which is forced labor -- the other half being sex trafficking," he said after speaking at an American Society of International Law forum.

He said his office, which **blacklists** nations considered the worst offenders of **human trafficking** every year, had noticed a rise in the number of reported cases of labor trafficking.

Some of the cases "are occurring within the context of otherwise legal transnational labor migration, which is itself on the rise," he said.

Lagon said "very few, if any," of agreements forged by governments, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, contained provisions explicitly protecting migrant workers from conditions of forced labor or other forms of trafficking in persons.

He said labor destination governments should consider steps to ensure that recruited workers were not victims of "fraudulent work offers" or "conditions of debt bondage" while labor source governments should "prohibit and punish" any such exploitation.

On the human trafficking issue in East Asia, he said there were "serious problems there and we are trying to act as the partner with governments in the region to fight this."

In Vietnam, for example, the problem of labor recruitment being vulnerable to human trafficking is "compounded by the fact that labor recruiters have a direct connection to the government," he said.

North Korea, Myanmar and Malaysia are the three East Asian nations included in the State Department **human trafficking blacklist** last year.

Unlike North Korea and Myanmar, which have been on the list for years, Malaysia was a surprise inclusion last year for failure to show "satisfactory" progress in areas such as punishing acts of trafficking and protecting migrant workers from "involuntary servitude."

Lagon said Washington wanted to hold talks on the issue with the Malaysian government.

"We are encouraged by Malaysia passing a law on human trafficking and I think we want to work more with Malaysia to have a dialogue about more assiduous steps that the government can take, because there are Malaysians who migrate and, importantly, people who migrate to Malaysia who end up victimized."

On China, he cited issues such as child labor, the "relocation apparently through manipulation and force" of Uighur Muslim women from the Xinjiang region as well as the "victimization" of North Korean refugees.

In India, there are "substantial problems" of sex trafficking, child labor and bonded labor, he said.

"While there had been some real efforts at victim protection in the areas of sex trafficking and child labor, efforts at enforcement, punishment of the traffickers have lagged and recognition of the breadth of bonded labor continues to be an area of omission by India," he said.

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105 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

May 7, 2008 Wednesday 12:29 PM EST

AMBASSADOR LAGON COMMENTS ON CLOSING WINDOW OF VULNERABILITY

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 4863 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

It is good to be here this afternoon at the American Society of International Law-an organization whose work I have long admired.

Today, I plan to focus my talk on migrants and their vulnerability to becoming human trafficking victims. This phenomenon is not that of cheap labor or petty exploitation. I am talking about the acute but all too frequent cases of veritable enslavement. Its victims should be no less accorded basic human dignity than any other people. It is these universal principles of dignity and decency which, while not law in and of themselves, have historically informed our understanding of basic human rights from the Declaration of Independence to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The President and Secretary Rice have called these principles "the non-negotiable demands of human dignity." It is this fundamental respect for human dignity that has inspired both domestic and international legal efforts to combat trafficking in persons, a phenomenon to which migrant workers are particularly vulnerable.

Human trafficking is the slavery of our time. Exactly two hundred years ago Britain and the United States formally outlawed the transatlantic slave trade, and a few decades thereafter the practice of slavery was expunged from North America as well (with a heavy dose of justice enforced by the British navy and of bloodshed in the American Civil War). History is repeating itself by producing a reprehensible by-product of globalization that is today's analog to the transatlantic slave trade.

According to the U.S. State Department there are today 175 million migrant workers in the world, some of whom are susceptible to being lured into the trap of slave labor and sex trafficking. While the impetus for migration varies, more and more countries are economically dependent on the export of human capital and the promised income, or remittances generated for the source country. In today's global economy there are manifold and diverse contributing factors including poverty, lack of job opportunities, political instability and in some cases repression....all of which compel people to leave their homes, and the life that they know, sometimes spurred on by the false promises of malicious manipulators.

In order to understand the true horror of this exploitation it is important that we have a clear picture of the nature of human trafficking, or more plainly put, modern day slavery. It is a horror with which I am intimately acquainted having traveled the world in my capacity as Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, meeting numerous victims, each with tragic stories unique to them as individuals but with common threads running throughout of recruitment, coercion, deception and ultimately an acute form of exploitation where they lose control of their lives.

Human trafficking is a dehumanizing crime which turns people into mere commodities. According to the U.S. intelligence community, of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually, 80 percent of victims are female, and up to 50 percent are minors. Every day, all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor,

exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories and forced into prostitution. In many cases they are raped, beaten, starved and brutalized. This figure does not account for the many millions more trafficked within their own countries - because under U.S. law and international law "trafficking in persons" is not necessarily defined by crossing international borders but by qualitative elements of exploitation and control.

My office is presently in the midst of writing our flagship publication, the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report which ranks countries around the globe into **tiers** for their efforts to eliminate **human trafficking**. While there are certain elements of the Report that are consistent year after year-the report is ultimately organic not static. We gather input from embassy posts, non-governmental organizations, activists, foreign governments, academics and the media to inform our findings. The timeliness of the data allows us to be on the cutting edge of emerging trends and new realities in the field-of which the plight of some migrant workers figures prominently.

In the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report, we noted several disturbing global trends which speak directly to this issue-these are trends which we will explore further in our 2008 report set to be released in June of this year. One of these is use of debt, employed by traffickers, as a tool of coercion. In both labor and sexual exploitation, debt is increasingly used to keep people in servitude.

The very factors that push migrants to leave their countries are often the same factors which make some of them vulnerable to the exploitation of slavery when they arrive in a new destination- where people of ill intent seek to take advantage of them. For example, millions of Burmese, facing bleak economic conditions and the prospect of forced labor at home, have had to flee their homes and villages, usually without legal documents. The International Labor Organization considers Burma to harbor a significant share of the estimated 2.2 million victims of state-imposed forced labor globally. Burma's repression bleeds out into the surrounding region for as Harvard University professor Stanley Hoffmann wrote in the book *Duties Beyond Borders* in 1981, and it is no less true today, "There is no way of isolating oneself from the effects of gross violations abroad: they breed refugees, exiles and dissidents..."¹ The grim situation in Burma serves to drive desperate people from their homes often in irregular migration patterns.

Allow me to introduce you to one Burmese woman who I met shortly after starting in this job. Aye Aye Win was a young woman in search of work beyond her own tortured country. A recruiter painted a beautiful picture of work in a neighboring country. Aye Aye assumed substantial debt to cover up-front costs required by the recruiter for this job placement. Together with some 800 Burmese migrants, many children, Aye Aye was "placed" in a shrimp farming and processing factory. But it wasn't a job. It was a prison camp. The isolated 10-acre factory was surrounded by steel walls, 15 feet tall with barbed wire fencing, located in the middle of a coconut plantation far from roads. Workers weren't allowed to leave and were forbidden phone contact with anyone outside. They lived in run-down wooden huts, with hardly enough to eat.

Aye Aye tried to escape with three other women. But factory guards caught them and dragged them back to the camp. They were punished as an example to others, tied to poles in the middle of the courtyard, and refused food or water. Aye Aye told me how her now beautiful hair was shaved off as another form of punishment to stigmatize her. And how she was beaten for trying to flee.

This is forced labor. This is trafficking in human beings. This is modern day slavery.

The ILO estimates that at any given time more than 12 million men, women, and children are "deceived or coerced into forced and bonded labor, involuntary servitude, and sexual slavery." In countries where desperation leads people to migrate, it is easy for human traffickers and recruiters to market a dream, or a lie, to vulnerable men, women and children like Aye Aye Win.

Before we proceed, it is important to clear up any misunderstanding that may exist about the difference between the issues of human trafficking and human smuggling. Human smuggling is the illicit transfer of someone across sovereign borders, often with the consent of the person being smuggled. Human trafficking, by contrast, involves a defining element of gross exploitation and control over an individual. As recognized in both U.S. and international law, human trafficking victims either do not consent to their situations, or if they initially consent, later become victims of force, fraud or coercion. The ongoing exploitation of the trafficking victims generates illicit profits. Once we understand that migrants who are victims of human trafficking are just that-victims- the sooner we will have a proper perspective, which looks beyond simply law enforcement mechanisms, for grappling with how to confront this challenge.

National laws and policy, bilateral accords, and international instruments are among the legal mechanisms available to close the windows of vulnerability of migrants to enslavement.

The United States is Party to a number of international treaties pertinent to the severe victimization of migrants which constitutes human trafficking, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which explicitly says, "No one shall be held in slavery; slavery and the slave-trade in all their forms shall be prohibited. No one shall be held in servitude. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labor."

We are a Party to the Slavery Convention as well as its Supplementary Convention which addresses "Practices Similar to Slavery" including the sort that some migrants are subjected to. These instruments require parties to, "prevent compulsory or forced labor from developing into conditions analogous to slavery...and provides for the complete abolition of debt bondage and serfdom..." The U.S. also belongs to two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One protocol-on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography-provides Parties with detailed requirements to end the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and addresses ways children become victims of commercial sexual exploitation as a form of human trafficking. The other protocol addresses children in armed conflict-with forced child recruitment, often by means of abduction, constituting a unique and severe form of human trafficking involving the exploitation of minors in conflict zones. I'll join a delegation in Geneva later this month to present the U.S. record implementing these two important protocols to a U.N. monitoring body of experts.

Of perhaps greatest significance, the United States is party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Among other provisions, this Protocol, requires parties to criminalize all trafficking in persons, including trafficking for purposes of forced labor or services.

Notwithstanding such international agreements, however, my office has noticed in recent years a rise in the number of reported cases of labor trafficking, some of which are occurring within the context of otherwise legal transnational labor migration, which is itself on the rise.

Let me provide one example featured in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report which my office produces: A contract labor agency in Bangladesh advertised work at a garment factory in Jordan. The ad promised a 3-year contract, \$425 per month, 8 hour workdays, 6 days a week, paid overtime, free accommodations, free medical care, free food, and no advance fees. Instead, upon arrival, workers (who had been obliged to pay exorbitant recruitment fees in Bangladesh) had their passports confiscated, were confined to miserable conditions, and prevented from leaving the factory. Months passed without pay, food was inadequate, and sick workers were tortured. While the Government of Bangladesh has taken some steps to crack down on illegal and abusive recruiters, clearly more needs to be done.

In some regions of the world, particularly Asia and the Middle East, a number of governments have entered into bilateral agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in order to encourage and formally manage the flow of migrant workers from one country to another. To date, however, very few if any of such agreements contain provisions explicitly protecting the workers in question from conditions of forced labor or other forms of trafficking in persons.

We are encouraging source and destination governments in these regions to collaborate in confronting the problem of labor trafficking, including, where appropriate, through incorporation in their bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding specific measures to prevent trafficking in persons.

We are also encouraging governments participating in existing multilateral initiatives such as the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue to collaborate with the ILO, in light of its mandate regarding the elimination of forced or compulsory labor, as an integral participant. Mark Taylor, Senior Coordinator for Reports and Political Affairs in my office, who has helped immensely to form my thinking on human trafficking in the area of migrant labor, took part in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue whereby Asian labor sending countries were able to share experiences and best practices on overseas employment.

Future bilateral agreements and MOUs regarding migrant labor should be negotiated in a transparent fashion, should be conducted in a transparent fashion, with participation of civil society and associations representing workers and employers, as appropriate. Such agreements should be made publicly accessible, and explicitly protect workers from conditions of forced labor and trafficking in persons.

Labor destination governments should consider steps to ensure that workers recruited for work in their countries are not the victims of fraudulent work offers or conditions of debt bondage. The activities and practices of local recruitment agencies should be monitored, and such agencies should be criminally accountable for acts of force, fraud and coercion committed against foreign workers. All criminals responsible for human trafficking deserve potent penalties rather than suspended sentences or fines worthy of only petty infractions or other mere slaps on the wrist.

Labor source governments should prohibit and punish the exploitation of migrant workers by labor recruiters who recruit workers through fraudulent offers of work conditions, or who impose fees that lead to situations of debt bondage. Source country governments should ensure that labor recruiters are properly vetted, licensed, and monitored, and should increase efforts to raise awareness of risk associated with labor recruitment and migration.

Too often, people are enticed into fraudulent offers of work abroad that require a steep payment up front for the services of a labor agency arranging the job or a payment that goes straight to the future employer. To pay such fees, workers in poorer countries either become indebted to the recruiter, or take out a formal or informal loan in their country of origin, with the expectation of payment based on future wages earned abroad. In many instances, worker expectations and repayment terms are based on exaggerated and false representations by recruiters as to wages they can expect to earn in their new jobs.

Once at the overseas worksite, however, such high levels of indebtedness can make workers vulnerable to further exploitation by unscrupulous employers. Such employers use this information as leverage to subject workers to terms much less favorable than promised at the time of recruitment (e.g. more hours, less pay, and harsher conditions) - including in some instances, conditions that amount to debt bondage.

The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons calls on governments to protect victims of trafficking within their respective territories, which includes foreign migrants. For purposes of the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, one important component of victim protection that my office considers is whether foreign victims of trafficking are provided with legal alternatives to deportation to countries where they face hardship or retribution. Within the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), the legislation which created my office, also created the T Visa which allows trafficking victims to remain in the United States and assist federal authorities in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, thereby giving victims a place of refuge in the aftermath of severe exploitation. This applies even to individuals who may have originally come here without proper documentation, if it is clear that they were recruited or transported through force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of modern day slavery.

From 2001 through January 2008 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted approximately 2,000 T visas to trafficking victims and their families, allowing them to remain in the United States. Additionally, human trafficking survivors from as many as 77 countries have been certified to receive certain U.S. federally-funded or administered benefits.

While this victim-centered approach is laudable and something that we encourage foreign governments to implement, there is still room for us to improve at home. Many trafficking victims do not know that this form of relief exists. Greater government efforts need to be made to educate this highly vulnerable group of victims as to what protections are available to them. Otherwise, like in so many countries, victims hidden in the shadows of complex, insidious manipulation will be afraid to come forward and seek help - afraid to be treated themselves as criminals and illegal aliens, to be treated as what Kevin Bales, President of Free the Slaves, calls "disposable people".

The plight of exploited migrants, some of whom are susceptible to human trafficking, often becomes enmeshed in our own domestic debate on immigration. Regardless of where one falls on that particular issue, we should be able to agree that as a nation which holds dear the plight of the "huddled masses" depicted in Emma Lazarus' iconic poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty, that those who arrive on our shores only to experience victimization in the form of human trafficking, deserve proper care befitting our great nation, the global leader in the abolitionist movement to eradicate those in labor slavery and sex slavery.

It is important that labor destination governments encourage workers to report alleged cases of veritable forced labor to law enforcement authorities and institute measures to ensure a worker can leave an abusive employer and seek legal redress without fear of automatic detention and deportation. In short, destination countries should take steps to make migrant workers aware of their rights. These efforts may be more effective where there are incentives for workers, such as provision of shelter, medical care, free legal aid with translation services, the ability to work while awaiting resolution of investigations, and avenues for victims to claim and obtain restitution and attention to their safety against possible retribution for their having filed a complaint.

In many Gulf states, which rely heavily on foreign migrant labor, individuals working as domestic servants, often migrant women, are particularly vulnerable to acute sexual and labor exploitation. They labor in low-paying, poorly regulated sectors. In many such countries, to be a woman or a migrant often means less than equal treatment under the law and in practice. But to be a woman migrant leaves you in a particularly unenviable position.

So-called "sponsorship laws" prevalent throughout the Gulf have in practice been abused in too many cases by unscrupulous employers, who leverage the migrant worker to do whatever they demand or else run the risk of deportation due to alleged breach of contract, and the withholding of pay. Take Nour Miyati, an Indonesian woman who sought a brighter future for her nine-year old daughter. She worked as a domestic for four years in a Middle East state. She was treated fairly and was able to send money back home so that her daughter could stay in school. Then her fate took a turn under a new employer who confined her to his house, denied her pay, and tortured her. Injuries she suffered to her hands and feet resulted in gangrene that required the amputation of her fingers and toes.

Tragically Nour was twice victimized. Despite having escaped these horrific circumstances, she was arrested for 'running away' under the country's sponsorship laws and was not accorded proper status as a victim of trafficking. Workers such as Nour may escape abuse in private homes or work sites only to be denied an exit permit to leave the country. Labor destination countries should have procedures in place to ensure that foreign workers are screened for evidence of trafficking prior to being removed for lack of legal immigration status. Training law enforcement officials and immigration officers on victim identification, or the deployment of trained victim identification specialists, are among the measures destination countries should consider in order to improve their ability to identify trafficking victims.

It is our responsibility to accord status to migrants as rights-holding humans in full. In my work leading the U.S. anti-human trafficking office I urge governments in the Gulf and elsewhere to limit the power of recruiters and sponsors and strengthen the human rights of foreign workers, often viewed as sub-human. I delivered this message in Oman, Bahrain, UAE and Kuwait earlier this year.

Trafficking of migrant women is particularly relevant in the realm of commercial sexual exploitation. As migration becomes increasingly feminized more migrant women are at risk of being trafficked into prostitution. Thirty-year-old Mara migrated from Ukraine, leaving behind her husband and two children, to take a housekeeping job in Italy. Recruiters from an employment agency promised her a high salary. But once there, she was taken to a brothel where the owner said he had purchased her for several hundred dollars. He said she owed him money for the plane ticket. For nine months, Mara was controlled by this trafficker, who beat her when she refused a client. If a man complained about her, the brothel owner increased her debt. Mara was freed only when the Italian police raided the brothel. Charged with prostitution (blamed as the victim), she was deported to Ukraine.

Clinical evidence documents that many people used in prostitution want to escape. They are often beaten, raped, and terrorized. Many of those trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation exhibit signs of post-traumatic stress disorder on the same scale as combat veterans or victims of dictatorships' terror, according to Dr. Melissa Farley in field research published in the *Journal of Trauma Studies* in 2003. Research conducted by the International Organization for Migration found that, "Almost 100 per cent of the trafficking victims returning to Moldova who were forced into prostitution manifest various forms of post traumatic disorders, depression, anxiety and mental illness. In Ukraine, of the 249 trafficking victims assisted by IOM, 185 women had psychological problems and 59 women were reported to have psychiatric disorders."²

We must not fall into the trap of believing that more "management" in the realm of prostitution is what is necessary. Quite the contrary. Official U.S. policy since December 2002 has recognized that prostitution is inherently harmful and dehumanizing and contributes to the phenomenon of human trafficking. A few years ago, the U.S. Government offered a resolution at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women that highlighted this link and called on countries to take steps to confront the demand for commercial sex but we still have not gotten far enough in addressing the demand which fuels the victimization of women, including migrant women.

As I have already noted, abuses of migrants do not simply involve far off lands. Allow me to share a story a bit closer to home. Molina, a 30-year-old Mexican, was held against her will and forced to work in a factory in Southern California, making dresses from 5:30 in the morning until 11 at night, seven days a week. She was not allowed to take a shower or leave the factory, at night sharing a small bed with another woman. She received one meal of beans and rice a day. If she didn't sew fast enough, her boss would pull her hair, pinch and slap her. The factory doors were locked during the day and at night a watchman prevented her from leaving. "If we wouldn't do what she [her boss] said, she told us somebody who we love would pay the consequences," says Molina. Fortunately, Molina qualified for a T Visa under U.S. law and she now works as a security guard in Los Angeles; she's completed English classes and is working toward her GED.

I chair the interagency Senior Policy Operating Group on human trafficking. To elicit cooperation from other nations, they need to see that we acknowledge having the same problem here in the U.S. as Molina's story illustrates, and that we are willing to share lessons learned as well as talk about areas where there is room for improvement. I work closely with

domestic agencies to show other nations we are not just delivering diplomatic demands to change but rather are deeply committed to change ourselves. Several U.S. agencies' officials did so this past February at the UN Vienna Forum on Human Trafficking, where I had the privilege to lead the U.S. delegation.

I close with this story of Molina in the hopes of reminding us that in an age of globalization, and the tremendous benefits that international migration brings, we can not be blind to the dark side of this global economy-for it is in these shadows that an actual trade in human beings is permitted to flourish. Whether it is an Indonesian migrant worker trapped in factory in the Middle East, or an Eastern European prostituted girl held captive in a brothel in Western Europe, or a young North Korean bride forcibly married to a Chinese man-these are the faces of modern day slavery. These are migrants. They have intrinsic value every bit as much as any other fellow human being. They have become ensnared in forced labor and human trafficking and they demand our attention, they cry out for justice, they yearn for dignity.

Governments, both at the domestic level and through international cooperation, must work to improve protection for those migrants who are victims of trafficking as well as respect for their human rights, -ensuring they are not treated as non-people. As I have argued here today, most of these arrangements need not take the form of new treaties and multi-lateral institutions. As Anne-Marie Slaughter has argued in *A New World Order*, "In this context, a world order based on government networks, working alongside and even in place of more traditional international institutions, holds great potential."

When I was trained as a political scientist (not as a lawyer) I was exposed to the jurisprudential school, which while old fashioned, is the construct we need to figure out how to bring public law to bear to end the enslavement of some of the world's migrants. Spearheaded by Myres McDougal of the country's leading intellectual Law School, Yale University the so-called New Haven approach emerged. He worked closely with the social scientist Harold Lasswell, both very focused on value systems. In 1959, McDougal and Lasswell wrote, "Our overriding aim is to clarify and aid in the implementation of a universal order of human dignity." To decrease migrants' vulnerabilities to human trafficking, we indeed need to fashion tools in public law and also in less formal arrangements which self-consciously seek to serve the New Haven school of international law called "human dignity."

Most important of any of the existing instruments in accomplishing this end is the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, a state-of-the-art UN instrument completed shortly after our own domestic law passed. That Protocol should be the touchstone, even more than ILO conventions or migration agreements, when the problem is indeed the special calamitous horror of human trafficking. Even more important than ratifying the Protocol is implementing it. And even more important than enacting laws consonant with the Protocol is vigorously enforcing those laws.

I have tried to sketch for you some needed arrangements for that "world order of human dignity" McDougal wrote of fifty years ago and Slaughter has more recently. Some of them are more formal, such as the U.N. Protocol on Human Trafficking, and some less formal, such as MOUs between certain source and destination countries of migration. Yet make no mistake, the common denominator of these arrangements remains promoting human dignity.

1 Hoffmann, Stanley, *Duties Beyond Borders: On the Limits and Possibilities of Ethical International Politics* (Syracuse University Press, June 1981) 111.

2 International Organization for Migration: the Migration Agency, Particularly Vulnerable Migrants, April 3, 2008 <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/610>

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2008

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106 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal Grant Opportunities

April 15, 2008**US Agency for International Development;
Sustainable Interventions to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SUSTAIN)**

SECTION: OTHER

LENGTH: 270 words

TITLE: Sustainable Interventions to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SUSTAIN)

DESCRIPTION: The overall objective of this three-year program is to support USG **Trafficking in Persons** Strategy (TIP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), specifically helping BiH to remain a **Tier 2** country and, if possible, to progress to a **Tier 1** country. The program will help to strengthen the capacity of BiH's Government to combat TIP and to implement the country's National Action Plan. This objective will be accomplished through the following prevention and protection interventions:

- 1) Insertion of trafficking prevention education in schools
- 2) Support for victim assistance
- 3) Support to the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan of Action

This program will support, wherever possible, interventions that are by their nature self-sustaining.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Cooperative Agreement

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: 168-08-09

POSTED DATE: 20080415

ORIGINAL DUE DATE FOR APPLICATION: 05272008

CURRENT DUE DATE FOR APPLICATION:

ARCHIVE DATE:

FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE: Cooperative Agreement

CATEGORY OF FUNDING ACTIVITY: Other

CATEGORY INFORMATION: Sustainable Interventions to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SUSTAIN)

EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS: 1

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: 855000

AWARD CEILING: 855000

AWARD FLOOR: 855000

CFDA NUMBER: 98.001

COST SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENT: N

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: 99

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY: Not Available

AGENCY NAME: US Agency for International Development

OFFICE: Hungary USAID-Budapest

CONTACT: Ashraf Soos

Contracting Specialist

Phone 06304754698

LOAD-DATE: April 17, 2008

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JOURNAL-CODE: FG

107 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

April 2, 2008 Wednesday 3:43 AM EST

GUINEA FEELS EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 525 words

DATELINE: CONAKRY, Guinea

The U.S. Agency for International Development issued the following press release:

An elderly man from a remote area of Guinea broke into tears when he related how he was powerless to assist an orphan boy taken from his family and sent to a gold mine where he was forced to work from dusk till dawn. In Upper Guinea a mother explained that her daughter left home one day and never returned, apparently suffering a fate similar to other children in the village. These cases are not isolated incidents, but form a disturbing pattern of trafficking in persons that targets young children and even babies.

The **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report ranks countries worldwide on a **tier** system based on their compliance with minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**. The four categories, indicating incrementally increasing levels of trafficking, include Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3.

Guinea was recently upgraded to Tier 2 watch list, reflecting deepening concern and drawing special worldwide attention to the problem.

Along the border of Guinea authorities reported 52 cases of trafficked young boys and girls between one and 15 years old. Young children are trafficked for sexual exploitation, illegal adoptions, and cheap labor, particularly in the mining sector. In Guinea, the majority of trafficked children are taken to Conakry for work. The trafficking usually involves an intermediary who promises the parents to educate the child or help the child find work then sells the child into virtual slavery.

Guinea also serves as a transit country for international trafficking. UNICEF has identified a variety of trafficking operations including cross-border trafficking networks that transport young girls from Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso to Nigeria, or from neighboring countries to Conakry for domestic or sexual work. Some children are transported to Europe, and some trafficking involves individuals who wish to immigrate illegally to other countries.

The two-year USAID project, Strengthening Communities against Trafficking and Exploitation (SCATE), is active in Guinea and Mali.

In this initiative, Save the Children program works to reinforce the capacity of village members, community councils, and government authorities face the threat of trafficking through training and legal reform. The effort also aims to alert authorities, particularly immigrations officials at the border, to detect trafficking in persons.

To help young trafficking victims readjust once they have been returned to their families, vocational training centers strive to provide children with useful skills. The program has met with success.

The USAID anti-trafficking program in Guinea yielded impressive results in 2007. Eleven 11 districts covered by a USAID-sponsored Save the Children project took part in the education and child protection assistance plan.

The 2008 report from Save the Children's indicates that 350 parenting association and management committees have been reinforced. Over 200 teachers have been trained in protection/education, and more than 3000 children sensitized to the dangers of human trafficking.

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108 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 25, 2008 Tuesday 10:38 AM EST

DIRECTOR LAGON SPEAKS AT PROMISING PRACTICES AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS SYMPOSIUM

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 2560 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

As Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, I'd like to thank you for coming to today's symposium on Promising Practices and Public Private Partnerships in the fight against modern day slavery. I know you've had a busy morning, filled with compelling speakers, and my hope is that the break-out sessions that will commence later this afternoon will provide you with the opportunity to look toward the critical stage of implementing that which you've heard discussed thus far.

I am delighted to be able to join you for a bit this afternoon after having been sequestered away in my office reading through countless country narratives for my office's flagship publication, the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which ranks countries around the globe into **tiers** for their efforts implement the three "P" approach for the elimination of **human trafficking**: Prosecution, Protection and Prevention.

This Congressionally mandated report is due to be released in June. It is our prime tool for diplomatic engagement and international awareness needed to achieve prevention. The report was included in the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act--legislation which created the office I direct. That Act also institutionalized a cabinet-level taskforce, chaired by Secretary of State Rice, to improve coordination and implementation of our anti-trafficking efforts. Combating modern day slavery is unquestionably a high priority for the United States Government.

My office has grown from a staff of six in 2001, including I should note Amy O'Neill Richard--a real pioneer of this movement--to a staff today nearly thirty. Included in that number are several staff members whose portfolios would be of significant interest to many of you. Amy focuses on combating child sex tourism which includes partnering with many in the tourism and hospitality industry to raise awareness and elicit pledges of active support. She also works tirelessly to elevate public private partnerships and corporate social responsibility, following the leadership of Secretary Rice, who aptly noted that, "The solutions to the challenges of the 21st century are not going to be met by government alone. They come from all sectors of American society working together." Our office believes that success in confronting exploitation, abuse and coercion endemic in human trafficking will be found in our ability to work toward that end in partnership with substantial players outside of government.

Recently too, I recruited a former U.S. ambassador, Steve Steiner, to join our team focusing specifically on labor slavery and the mechanics of supply chains. We also have a dedicated Outreach Team which collaborates daily with faith-based and philanthropic communities. I mention these various components of our office as they may not be generally well-known, but they are a testament to institutionalizing at the working level our will to look outside of government--including to the corporate sphere--to further abolitionist efforts.

The field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has expanded over the last several decades with over 3,000 corporations having signed the UN Global Compact committing themselves to its ten universal principles focused on human rights, labor, the environment, and anti-corruption. Non-governmental organizations with a mission of promoting CSR have been created. College and universities have added courses on CSR, and some have even launched Centers for Cor-

porate Citizenship. Religious organizations have promoted faith-based investing. Websites and online resource guides have been established to enable the public to research corporate philanthropic donations or to view information on companies' CSR activities. Symposiums, workshops, and conferences on CSR have promoted consultancy services and explored the latest trends in CSR. Many of you here are exemplars in your field and pioneers in expanding the borders of the CSR world. You have exhibited leadership and forward-thinking in the arena of combating human trafficking.

Just last week my office hosted a 2-day symposium which brought together leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs), many of whom we fund, to explore promising practices in the realm of victim aftercare. We have come to realize that NGOs, faith-based groups and now some businesses are advancing the anti-trafficking cause, but the lessons they have learned along the way are not well known within the broader abolitionist community. This reality was in part the impetus for today's gathering.

For example, we sought to invite participants from the same fields such that you could inform each other's work. It is our hope that if there is someone from the travel and tourism industry who has signed the Code of Conduct that they would be able to collaborate with colleagues from the same industry and dialogue about how they got to that point, what sorts of concerns or questions they had along the way and how they advanced the issue within their corporation. We recognize that you can speak to one another from within the context of your shared fields with far greater credibility than any government official can.

But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, it is important to understand the scope and the nature of the challenge we face--as this will ultimately be what informs our collective work. Human trafficking is a dehumanizing crime which turns people into mere commodities. While we recognize the merits of globalization, there is a dark side that fuels not only sex trafficking but also slave labor. Trafficking rings ensnare and exploit victims in prostitution, sweatshop labor, and domestic servitude, subjecting them to violence, rape, battery and cruelty. Individuals who sought to make a better life for themselves are exploited by traffickers who view them as highly profitable, low risk, expendable commodities.

Large and small companies have started to pay attention to the issue of human trafficking, specifically as it relates to labor practices. Goods enter the global market place while consumers have little or no knowledge of the supply chains and work conditions that resulted in their production. This is problematic for both the consumer and businesses which are increasingly faced with the challenge of ensuring that complex supply chains are untainted by forced labor.

A recent example highlights the difficulty: Last fall, Gap withdrew a line of embroidered blouses and ordered an internal investigation after media reports revealed apparent child labor abuses in a Delhi sweatshop. One child, Jivaj, from West Bengal described his experience: "Our hours are hard and violence is used against us if we don't work hard enough. This is a big order for abroad, they keep telling us that...I was so tired I felt sick."

Gap has publicly pledged opposition to such child labor practices and now reports a partnership with the Global March Against Child Labor to establish an independent monitoring system for future production of its products, and to examine industry-wide solutions to child labor issues. It is our hope that this reflects a trend whereby more American businesses will actively move to address human rights challenges in a proactive way in their quest to be socially responsible corporate citizens. But those of you who are gathered here today don't need convincing that clean supply chains must be a priority for any business. We are looking beyond this important effort to deeper partnerships in the name abolishing contemporary slavery.

Several weeks ago I returned from a 2 week trip to three regions of Africa. In Mombasa, Kenya and Cape Town, South Africa I met with the hotel and tourism industry leaders about expanding efforts to reduce the presence of sex tourists. With the World Cup on the horizon, South Africa is working to develop comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, and it's tourism community is rapidly building anti-sex tourism initiatives into Cape Town's planning and visitor strategy for 2010, when sex tourism is expected to boom. I met with a compelling woman who is working to ensuring that her home city is free of child sex tourism. Mariette du Toit-Helmbold, the chief executive officer of Cape Town Tourism, with over 2,300 tourism and related industry members, has promised to sign a code of conduct, establish ethical policies, raise awareness among her members and give all visitors information about sex tourism. She captured the nature of the challenge and how they plan to confront it when she said, "Unconfirmed reports say that Cape Town rates among the top 10 sex tourism destinations. Here you can order anything from an uncut diamond, fresh sushi and a 10 year old boy delivered to your door in less than 20 minutes...Our message must be very clear. Cape Town welcomes the world to our beautiful destination, but visitors who engage in sexual exploitation of women and children are not welcome."

The efforts of Ms. Du Toit-Helmbold are indicative of a trend I have noted in my travels around the world. Whether in human resources or extractive sectors or high technology industries, the commitment to CSR in the area of human traf-

ficking ultimately rests with individual champions who steer his or her company in this direction--ranging from CEOs to middle-level management to line officers personally investing themselves.

Allow me to share with you a few more examples of what I mean. A top corporate manager at Hewlett-Packard talked about doing an investigation in Southeast Asia of a factory HP was about to use. Against the wishes of the factory's owners, their auditors insisted on seeing residential facilities on factory grounds where workers were housed. They found men and women whose documents were withheld (a common indicator of human trafficking). The workers were enduring forced overtime work and no more than 15 minute breaks per day (which was not enough time to get to the commissary and back). When the audit team informed the company that the site did not comply with the company's zero tolerance rules against forced labor, they realized they were helping nix a contract worth many millions. But the company took their recommendation to cancel the contract until conditions were changed.

Another example is Columbia Gem House which became the first jewelry industry company committed to fair trade practices including refusing to employ child or slave labor, and prohibiting business practices such as demanding workers work grueling hours for grossly low pay. In poor, isolated regions where mining is a mainstay, people are vulnerable to labor schemes that promise good wages or education, but deliver abuse instead. To address this problem in the broadest way, Columbia Gem House, under the leadership of their President Eric Braunwart, made extensive human capital investments around the mines where gems are born--starting a school for children vulnerable to exploitative labor schemes, providing housing for teachers, financing a hospital, drilling wells, and committing to a 30% local ownership plan. Some of these investments, like the school, were explicitly trafficking prevention measures. Others, which sought to strengthen the community and generate sustainable economic development, created an atmosphere whereby families were less susceptible to "too good to be true" schemes by prospective traffickers. Not only were Columbia Gem Houses' activities good for the communities where they were operating, they were good for the company as well which experienced a 5-15% increase in the wholesale value of the gems. The investments allowed Columbia to increase production by about ten times at an estimated 10-20% increased cost.

This example proves that corporate engagement in one of the U.S. Government's top human rights priorities can benefit the corporate bottom line. It's an excellent example of how human trafficking is an issue gradually making its way onto the menu of issues addressed by corporate social responsibility programs.

Eric Braunwart created an example of corporate engagement to end human trafficking--on a continent where trafficking of children into forced labor is heart-breakingly common. After surveying U.S. consumers, I am convinced that, increasingly, consumers will not only support such policies but will demand fair trade practices from companies they patronize.

One final example is a gentleman who I met at the recent UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking gathering in Vienna. In 1996, a Swiss businessman made a commitment to assist victims of human trafficking Cambodia through the creation of three viable victim-assistance enterprises in Phnom Penh: a soy milk factory, a high-end silk design and manufacturing company, and a catering business that serves meals to garment factory workers. He did so with the financial support and backing from the State Department and International Finance Corporation, based on his business model of trying social programs with commercially viable business activities. More than a decade later, his organization, Hagar International, has empowered thousands of trafficking survivors and "at-risk" women with counseling, literacy training, and vocational skills. Hagar silks and handbags are now sold around the globe, further raising awareness as each item has a tag with information about human trafficking.

We know that different industries have unique and invaluable corporate strengths to contribute. As a starting point, I hope that each of the businesses represented here today will ensure that you have a code of ethical conduct, centered on zero tolerance for trafficking in persons, any form of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and forced labor. Such policies should be well publicized within the organization and--of paramount importance--distributed to all contractors and suppliers. I urge you, if you are not already doing so, to train your staff, including auditors, human resource and compliance officers, to recognize, monitor and report on human trafficking.

The anti-human trafficking movement is burgeoning in international organizations, non-government organizations, and the public as evidenced by the steady stream of movies, documentary films, TV magazine pieces, newspaper editorials. Taking such steps can only win kudos. I intend to call attention to good corporate citizens, to raise you up as exemplars for others.

I appeal to you on the diplomatic front as well. Many of you represent multinational companies. Do not underestimate the power of your "economic voice" in letting foreign business and political leaders know that your company cares about human trafficking and chooses to do business in countries where strong anti-trafficking policies are in place.

Our message must be unambiguous and clear: both the public and private sector have zero tolerance for human trafficking of any kind. I hope today's symposium paves the way for increased partnership with the private sector-- partnerships that come in all shapes and sizes such that any company can contribute tangibly to not just mitigating but eradicating modern-day slavery. I am happy to take your questions.

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109 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 16, 2008 Sunday

RAHALL STATEMENT: FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 755 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources:

U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, delivered the following statement today at a full Committee oversight hearing today on "Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade."

Testifying before the Committee were Claudia McMurray, Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science, U.S. Department of State; John Seller, Senior Officer, Office of the Secretary General, CITES Secretariat; Benito Perez, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Steven Galster, Director of Field Operations, Wildlife Alliance; John Hart, Scientific Director, Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba Project; William Clark, Illegal Wildlife Trade Expert; William Mortiz, Safari Club International Foundation; and Peter Pueschel, Illegal Wildlife Trade Program Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources

Oversight hearing on

"Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade"

March 5, 2008

"The Committee is meeting today to receive testimony on a disturbingly real and growing challenge the illegal trade of wildlife and the role it may be playing in financing and fostering dangerous, violent elements around the globe including those engaged in terrorism.

"For many years, illegal weapons and illegal drugs have been the commodities of choice to some of the globe's most brazen underworld figures, even spawning the term "narco-terrorism."

"Yet the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention, is an increasing concern and may be on the rise. As a result, illegal wildlife trafficking poses a risk, not just to the survival of God's creatures but also to the safety and stability of our world and the American people.

"This, then, is the wildlife version of blood diamonds.

"I felt this was an important topic for investigation by this Committee. In preparation for this hearing, the Congressional Research Service at my request has examined the threats that the international illegal trade in wildlife pose today. That report is eye-opening, both in what it has uncovered and in what it was not able to thoroughly discern.

"For example, CRS found that wildlife trade now ranks in the upper **tier** of the world's most lucrative illicit economies, behind only illegal drugs and possibly **human trafficking** and arms trafficking.

"CRS also found that many of the same criminal entities that deal in arms and drugs - including organized criminals - are hawking wildlife as well. It discovered that poachers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, often using the same tactics and the same complex, secretive distribution networks frequented by sinister criminal organizations.

"And CRS notes that pricey endangered wildlife often serves as a type of untraceable currency in the underworld money-laundering system.

"Particularly disconcerting is the anecdotal evidence linking terrorist activity to illegal wildlife trade. Given that the industry thrives in many countries also vulnerable to fostering terrorism - those with a weak capacity to govern, poor law enforcement, high government corruption, and porous borders - this anecdotal evidence deserves sober consideration.

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"The brutal maiming and killing of animals is certainly a grave issue, but when the beneficiaries of that trade are using these funds to corrupt, injure and exploit human beings, it is our duty to act.

"Today's hearing is a jumping off point. Here we seek to gain enlightenment about the menace of illegal wildlife trade in today's reality.

"And we hope to receive advice about how we might better address it.

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LOAD-DATE: March 17, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

110 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

March 14, 2008 Friday 11:48 AM GMT

Arabs urged to step up fight against human trafficking

BYLINE: Faisal Baatout**LENGTH:** 499 words**DATELINE:** DOHA, March 14 2008

A conference in Qatar on human trafficking has urged Arab states to step up the fight against the scourge, seen as widespread in the oil-rich Gulf region.

Delegates called for an agreement within the framework of the Arab League "to combat human trafficking in all its forms," according to a statement issued at the close of the conference late on Thursday.

They urged the Riyadh-based secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to take the lead in boosting "coordination and cooperation among member states to enhance measures to fight human trafficking."

The two-day conference was organised by Qatar and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, jurists and human rights organisations.

Delegates called for "a network to exchange information and expertise on combating human trafficking under the supervision of the Arab League," and the inclusion in school and university curricula of material on fighting the phenomenon.

Five of the six GCC member states -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia -- are on a US blacklist of countries trafficking in people.

GCC countries, which also include the United Arab Emirates, are close allies of the United States.

International human rights groups have also highlighted the problem of human trafficking in the Gulf area, which hosts more than 13 million expatriates, many of them unskilled and low-paid Asian workers vulnerable to abuse.

The US State Department **human trafficking** report in 2006 upgraded the UAE from the "**Tier 3**" of worst offenders to "**Tier 2 Watch List**" comprising countries making "significant" efforts to deal with the problem.

The UAE maintained its rank in the 2007 edition of the report, but Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar were downgraded to Tier 3, joining oil powerhouse Saudi Arabia.

Three other Arab countries -- Algeria, Sudan and Syria -- are on the list of worst offenders.

Qatar-based Muslim scholar Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi told the conference human trafficking was banned under Islam. He slammed companies that bring in "migrant workers, give them a bare minimum of wages and pen them up like sheep" in crammed rooms as living quarters.

Nihal Fahmi, of the regional office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said annual profits from human trafficking come second to gains from drug trafficking, at 31 billion dollars.

She said the UN estimates that around 27 million of the world's people live in a state of servitude, with "around 100,000 women and children victims of sexual exploitation."

According to other UN estimates, around 2.5 million people -- 80 percent of them women and children -- are being trafficked around the world at any given time for such purposes as forced labour, sexual exploitation, the removal of organs and body parts, forced marriages, child adoption and begging.

The estimates also put annual global profits from trafficked forced labour at 31.6 billion dollars.

LOAD-DATE: March 15, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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111 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

March 12, 2008 Wednesday 3:22 PM GMT

Arab schools urged to teach ills of human trafficking

LENGTH: 339 words**DATELINE:** DOHA, March 12 2008

Qatar proposed on Wednesday that Arab countries introduce material on the fight against human trafficking into their school curriculums in order to raise awareness of the scourge.

"The issue of human trafficking must figure in modern curriculums in order to raise awareness and ensure a secure future for our societies," the secretary general of Qatar's Higher Family Council, Abdullah bin Nasser al-Khalifa, told the opening session of a conference on human trafficking.

Mariam al-Maliki, who coordinates the drive to combat human trafficking in the gas-rich Gulf state, said the campaign had been made more pressing by "the big economic and social changes experienced by Gulf societies," in particular population growth and the growing need for expatriate labour.

The two-day conference is organised by Qatar and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The United States and international human rights groups have highlighted the problem of human trafficking in the oil-rich Gulf states, home to more than 13 million expatriates, many of them unskilled and low-paid Asian workers vulnerable to abuse.

The US State Department **human trafficking** report in 2006 upgraded the United Arab Emirates from the "**Tier 3**" of worst offenders to "**Tier 2 Watch List**" comprising countries which are making "significant" efforts to deal with the problem.

The UAE maintained its rank in the 2007 edition of the report, but other Gulf countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar -- were downgraded to Tier 3, joining Saudi Arabia.

According to UN estimates, around 2.5 million people -- 80 percent of them women and children -- are being trafficked around the world at any given time for purposes such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, the removal of organs and body parts, forced marriages, child adoption and begging.

Global annual profits from the exploitation of trafficked forced labour are estimated at 31.6 billion dollars.

fb-tm/lg/kir

LOAD-DATE: March 13, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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112 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

March 5, 2008

Two U.S. Nationals Arrested in Cambodia on Murder and Sexual Abuse Charges

BYLINE: Chietigj Bajpae**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 180 words

Two U.S. nationals have been arrested in separate cases of sexual abuse and murder. Yesterday police arrested an American man in the capital Phnom Penh for sexually abusing two girls, including a Vietnamese girl. Meanwhile, another American national was charged yesterday for the murder of his Vietnamese girlfriend in Phnom Penh. He was arrested on 22 February.

Significance: Cambodia is attempting to shed its reputation as a haven for paedophiles. The government has arrested or deported numerous foreigners for child sex crimes since 2003. In 2006 the U.S. State Department *Trafficking in Persons Report* upgraded Cambodia to the **Tier 2 "Watch List"** for making efforts to meet minimal standards after it was downgraded to the **Tier 3** category the previous year for being a "source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour". Nonetheless, the country's lax legal and law enforcement system, endemic corruption and high levels of poverty have continued to fuel child trafficking and prostitution.

LOAD-DATE: March 5, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

113 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 5, 2008 Wednesday**STATEMENT OF U.S. REP. NICK J. RAHALL, II CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OVERSIGHT HEARING ON "POACHING AMERICAN SECURITY: IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE"****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 581 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources:

"The Committee is meeting today to receive testimony on a disturbingly real and growing challenge the illegal trade of wildlife and the role it may be playing in financing and fostering dangerous, violent elements around the globe including those engaged in terrorism.

"For many years, illegal weapons and illegal drugs have been the commodities of choice to some of the globe's most brazen underworld figures, even spawning the term "narco-terrorism."

"Yet the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention, is an increasing concern and may be on the rise. As a result, illegal wildlife trafficking poses a risk, not just to the survival of God's creatures but also to the safety and stability of our world and the American people.

"This, then, is the wildlife version of blood diamonds.

"I felt this was an important topic for investigation by this Committee. In preparation for this hearing, the Congressional Research Service at my request has examined the threats that the international illegal trade in wildlife pose today. That report is eye-opening, both in what it has uncovered and in what it was not able to thoroughly discern.

"For example, CRS found that wildlife trade now ranks in the upper **tier** of the world's most lucrative illicit economies, behind only illegal drugs and possibly **human trafficking** and arms trafficking.

"CRS also found that many of the same criminal entities that deal in arms and drugs - including organized criminals - are hawking wildlife as well. It discovered that poachers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, often using the same tactics and the same complex, secretive distribution networks frequented by sinister criminal organizations.

"And CRS notes that pricey endangered wildlife often serves as a type of untraceable currency in the underworld money-laundering system.

"Particularly disconcerting is the anecdotal evidence linking terrorist activity to illegal wildlife trade. Given that the industry thrives in many countries also vulnerable to fostering terrorism - those with a weak capacity to govern, poor law enforcement, high government corruption, and porous borders - this anecdotal evidence deserves sober consideration.

"Unfortunately, due to the clandestine nature of illegal trafficking in wildlife, it is exceedingly difficult to know the breadth of this sinister trade or the extent to which it may be supporting terrorist organizations.

"But that fact - in and of itself - and the dense interconnections among numerous dark-world activities are enough to convince me that this Committee, the Congress as a whole, and the rest of the U.S. government ought to be taking a

close look at the lucrative illegal wildlife trade and the role that rare and endangered species may be playing in underwriting those groups that wish to do our Nation harm.

"The brutal maiming and killing of animals is certainly a grave issue, but when the beneficiaries of that trade are using these funds to corrupt, injure and exploit human beings, it is our duty to act.

"Today's hearing is a jumping off point. Here we seek to gain enlightenment about the menace of illegal wildlife trade in today's reality.

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LOAD-DATE: March 17, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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114 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 5, 2008 Wednesday 8:12 AM EST**REP. RAHALL ISSUES STATEMENT ON 'POACHING AMERICAN SECURITY: IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE'****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 607 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The House Natural Resources Committee issued the following statement from a full committee hearing:

Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources

Oversight hearing on

"Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade"

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LOAD-DATE: May 18, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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115 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 5, 2008 Wednesday 12:23 AM EST

REP. RAHALL ISSUES STATEMENT ON FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 765 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The House Natural Resources Committee issued the following statement:

U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, delivered the following statement today at a full Committee oversight hearing today on "Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade."

Testifying before the Committee were Claudia McMurray, Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science, U.S. Department of State; John Seller, Senior Officer, Office of the Secretary General, CITES Secretariat; Benito Perez, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Steven Galster, Director of Field Operations, Wildlife Alliance; John Hart, Scientific Director, Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba Project; William Clark, Illegal Wildlife Trade Expert; William Mortiz, Safari Club International Foundation; and Peter Pueschel, Illegal Wildlife Trade Program Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources

Oversight hearing on

"Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade"

March 5, 2008

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Contact: Allyson Groff, 202/226-9019.

LOAD-DATE: March 30, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

116 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

March 4, 2008

Speeches: A Struggle for Survival: Trafficking of North Korean Women

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 1226 words

Speeches: A Struggle for Survival: Trafficking of North Korean Women Mon, 3 Mar 2008 22:00:00 -0600

A Struggle for Survival: Trafficking of North Korean Women

Mark P. Lagon, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Remarks at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Washington, DC March 3, 2008

I would like to begin by thanking the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for hosting this morning's discussion and also thank Bob Hathaway, a former colleague on the Hill, for the kind introduction and for putting together this forum on a very important issue: the exploitation and trafficking of North Koreans, specifically women and girls.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a source country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, and for the fifth consecutive year has been placed in **Tier 3**, the lowest **tier**, in our annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report because it is making no discernible efforts to combat the trafficking of its citizens.

It has been well-documented, and publicized, that the dire conditions in North Korea include a severe shortage of food, a lack of basic freedoms, and a system of political repression which includes a network of government-operated prison camps, where as many as 200,000 prisoners are subjected to reeducation and slave-like conditions. The circumstances in the DPRK lead many North Koreans to seek a way out across the border into Northeast China where tens of thousands of North Koreans may reside illegally, of whom it is estimated that more than half are women.

Commonly, North Korean women and children voluntarily cross the border into China, but some of these individuals, after they enter the P.R.C. in a vulnerable, undocumented status, are then sold into prostitution, marriage, or forced labor. The trend of North Korean women trafficked into and within China for forced marriage is well-documented by NGOs and international organizations. Sometimes North Korean women are lured out of North Korea with the promise of a "better life" as waitresses or factory workers, and then are forced into prostitution in brothels, or exploitative labor arrangements.

A potential factor, among others, in the trafficking of brides is the gender imbalance caused by China's one-child policy. There is, in short, a demographic man surplus relative to marriageable women. All agree that the two governments are not doing enough to prevent or punish the practice of forced marriage. NGOs and international organizations find it difficult to work independently in the PRC, so little assistance reaches this vulnerable group of DPRK women who have crossed into China.

North Koreans crossing the border are extremely vulnerable to trafficking given their illegal status in China and their inability to return home. A core principle of an effective anti-trafficking strategy is the protection of victims. The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons calls on governments to protect foreign victims of trafficking, including legal alternatives to deportation to countries where they face hardship or retribution. Greater government efforts need to be made to protect this highly vulnerable group of victims.

Unfortunately, China classifies North Korean refugees as "economic migrants" and forcibly returns some to the DPRK where they may face severe punishment, including in some cases execution. The PRC stands by this policy; however, the U.S. consistently urges China to treat North Korean asylum seekers in line with international agreements to which it

is a signatory. China's poor transparency and the political sensitivity of the issue hamper our efforts to effectively advocate for change on this issue.

Some steps to address the problem are being taken in China. The International Labor Organization (ILO) recently began a new project to work closely with the China Enterprise Confederation to educate entrepreneurs, owners, and managers of various enterprises that in the past have been linked to trafficking, such as hotels, karaoke bars, restaurants, bars, and massage parlors. The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) and non-governmental organizations have a number of ongoing prevention and education projects in affected provinces. In the past five years, with assistance from UNICEF and international non-governmental organizations, China has established transfer, training and recovery centers for trafficking victims in four provinces and has assisted more than 1,000 trafficked women and children. ACWF works closely with law enforcement agencies and border officials to raise their awareness of the problem of trafficking.

China has also engaged the U.S. government and international and non-governmental organizations to work on other anti-trafficking initiatives, and has made progress. China hosted a Children's Forum in Beijing, a joint project sponsored by the ILO and organized by the ACWF that brought child representatives from across the country to discuss measures to prevent vulnerable youth from being trafficked and to increase protection and prevention. Provincial public security officials have traveled to the U.S. to learn about how multiple sectors of U.S. society - federal and state law enforcement and courts and civil society - protect victims, whether in the U.S. legally or illegally - and prosecute traffickers.

It will be interesting to see if these officers are indeed affected and that there is an impact, but the United States is offering its experience on seeing that trafficking victims are indeed treated as victims, not criminals or illegal aliens to be deported. MTV's special, regionally-tailored anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, funded by the US government, was broadcast nationwide and received state media coverage.

Most notably, in December 2007, the PRC agreed upon the China National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children. The Plan of Action has been developed in order to: effectively prevent and severely combat the criminal activities of trafficking in women and children; actively provide assistance and give appropriate aftercare to rescued women and children; and earnestly safeguard the legal rights and interests of women and children.

With sustained efforts to combat TIP and improvements in their identification and treatment of victims, and transparency in criminal law enforcement, China could be a constructive partner in the region on this issue.

While much of the world's attention regarding North Korea is rightly focused on the Six-Party talks, the goal of which is verifiable denuclearization of North Korea and even the visit of the New York Philharmonic to Pyongyang last week, we must not ignore the tragic circumstance of thousands of trafficked North Korean men, women, and children.

As Secretary Rice has said, "We are major proponents of the North Korean people." We seek to help those who are vulnerable to human trafficking in North Korea and when they flee North Korea. At the heart of the U.S. Government's victim-centered approach to ending human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity - a desire not only to rescue people, but restore their dignity. Our hope is to foster regional cooperation to end this violation against human dignity, and to abolish modern-day slavery.

LOAD-DATE: March 4, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

JOURNAL-CODE: STD

117 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

March 3, 2008 Monday

**REMARKS BY MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT);
SUBJECT: A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL: TRAFFICKING OF NORTH KOREAN WOMEN;
LOCATION: WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS, WASHINGTON, DC**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

LENGTH: 1224 words

REMARKS BY MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT) SUBJECT: A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL: TRAFFICKING OF NORTH KOREAN WOMEN LOCATION: WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS, WASHINGTON, DC DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008

MR. LAGON: I would like to begin by thanking the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for hosting this morning's discussion and also thank Bob Hathaway, a former colleague on the Hill, for the kind introduction and for putting together this forum on a very important issue: the exploitation and trafficking of North Koreans, specifically women and girls.

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Commonly, North Korean women and children voluntarily cross the border into China, but some of these individuals, after they enter the P.R.C. in a vulnerable, undocumented status, are then sold into prostitution, marriage, or forced labor. The trend of North Korean women trafficked into and within China for forced marriage is well-documented by NGOs and international organizations. Sometimes North Korean women are lured out of North Korea with the promise of a "better life" as waitresses or factory workers, and then are forced into prostitution in brothels, or exploitative labor arrangements.

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North Koreans crossing the border are extremely vulnerable to trafficking given their illegal status in China and their inability to return home. A core principle of an effective anti-trafficking strategy is the protection of victims. The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons calls on governments to protect foreign victims of trafficking, including legal alternatives to deportation to countries where they face hardship or retribution. Greater government efforts need to be made to protect this highly vulnerable group of victims.

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LOAD-DATE: March 5, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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118 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 3, 2008 Monday

A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL: TRAFFICKING OF NORTH KOREAN WOMEN

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1184 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

MARK LAGON: I would like to begin by thanking the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for hosting this morning' discussion and also thank Bob Hathaway, a former colleague on the Hill, for the kind introduction and for putting together this forum on a very important issue: the exploitation and trafficking of North Koreans, specifically women and girls.

The Democratic People' Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a source country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, and for the fifth consecutive year has been placed in **Tier 3**, the lowest **tier**, in our annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report because it is making no discernible efforts to combat the trafficking of its citizens.

It has been well-documented, and publicized, that the dire conditions in North Korea include a severe shortage of food , a lack of basic freedoms, and a system of political repression which includes a network of government-operated prison camps, where as many as 200,000 prisoners are subjected to reeducation and slave-like conditions. The circumstances in the DPRK lead many North Koreans to seek a way out across the border into Northeast China where tens of thousands of North Koreans may reside illegally, of whom it is estimated that more than half are women.

Commonly, North Korean women and children voluntarily cross the border into China, but some of these individuals, after they enter the P.R.C. in a vulnerable, undocumented status, are then sold into prostitution, marriage, or forced labor. The trend of North Korean women trafficked into and within China for forced marriage is well-documented by NGOs and international organizations. Sometimes North Korean women are lured out of North Korea with the promise of a better life as waitresses or factory workers, and then are forced into prostitution in brothels, or exploitative labor arrangements.

A potential factor, among others, in the trafficking of brides is the gender imbalance caused by China' one-child policy. There is, in short, a demographic man surplus relative to marriageable women. All agree that the two governments are not doing enough to prevent or punish the practice of forced marriage. NGOs and international organizations find it difficult to work independently in the PRC, so little assistance reaches this vulnerable group of DPRK women who have crossed into China.

North Koreans crossing the border are extremely vulnerable to trafficking given their illegal status in China and their inability to return home. A core principle of an effective anti-trafficking strategy is the protection of victims. The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons calls on governments to protect foreign victims of trafficking, including legal alternatives to deportation to countries where they face hardship or retribution. Greater government efforts need to be made to protect this highly vulnerable group of victims.

Unfortunately, China classifies North Korean refugees as economic migrants and forcibly returns some to the DPRK where they may face severe punishment, including in some cases execution. The PRC stands by this policy; however, the U.S. consistently urges China to treat North Korean asylum seekers in line with international agreements to which it

is a signatory. China' poor transparency and the political sensitivity of the issue hamper our efforts to effectively advocate for change on this issue.

Some steps to address the problem are being taken in China. The International Labor Organization (ILO) recently began a new project to work closely with the China Enterprise Confederation to educate entrepreneurs, owners, and managers of various enterprises that in the past have been linked to trafficking, such as hotels, karaoke bars, restaurants, bars, and massage parlors. The All-China Women' Federation (ACWF) and non-governmental organizations have a number of ongoing prevention and education projects in affected provinces. In the past five years, with assistance from UNICEF and international non-governmental organizations, China has established transfer, training and recovery centers for trafficking victims in four provinces and has assisted more than 1,000 trafficked women and children. ACWF works closely with law enforcement agencies and border officials to raise their awareness of the problem of trafficking.

China has also engaged the U.S. government and international and non-governmental organizations to work on other anti-trafficking initiatives, and has made progress. China hosted a Children's Forum in Beijing, a joint project sponsored by the ILO and organized by the ACWF that brought child representatives from across the country to discuss measures to prevent vulnerable youth from being trafficked and to increase protection and prevention. Provincial public security officials have traveled to the U.S. to learn about how multiple sectors of U.S. society a" federal and state law enforcement and courts and civil society a" protect victims, whether in the U.S. legally or illegally a" and prosecute traffickers.

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As Secretary Rice has said, We are major proponents of the North Korean people. We seek to help those who are vulnerable to human trafficking in North Korea and when they flee North Korea. At the heart of the U.S. Government' victim-centered approach to ending human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity a" a desire not only to rescue people, but restore their dignity. Our hope is to foster regional cooperation to end this violation against human dignity, and to abolish modern-day slavery.

LOAD-DATE: March 5, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

119 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 3, 2008 Monday 11:40 AM EST

DIRECTOR LAGON SPEAKS AT WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 1208 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Remarks at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars:

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Commonly, North Korean women and children voluntarily cross the border into China, but some of these individuals, after they enter the P.R.C. in a vulnerable, undocumented status, are then sold into prostitution, marriage, or forced labor. The trend of North Korean women trafficked into and within China for forced marriage is well-documented by NGOs and international organizations. Sometimes North Korean women are lured out of North Korea with the promise of a "better life" as waitresses or factory workers, and then are forced into prostitution in brothels, or exploitative labor arrangements.

A potential factor, among others, in the trafficking of brides is the gender imbalance caused by China's one-child policy. There is, in short, a demographic man surplus relative to marriageable women. All agree that the two governments are not doing enough to prevent or punish the practice of forced marriage. NGOs and international organizations find it difficult to work independently in the PRC, so little assistance reaches this vulnerable group of DPRK women who have crossed into China.

North Koreans crossing the border are extremely vulnerable to trafficking given their illegal status in China and their inability to return home. A core principle of an effective anti-trafficking strategy is the protection of victims. The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons calls on governments to protect foreign victims of trafficking, including legal alternatives to deportation to countries where they face hardship or retribution. Greater government efforts need to be made to protect this highly vulnerable group of victims.

Unfortunately, China classifies North Korean refugees as "economic migrants" and forcibly returns some to the DPRK where they may face severe punishment, including in some cases execution. The PRC stands by this policy; however, the U.S. consistently urges China to treat North Korean asylum seekers in line with international agreements to which it is a signatory. China's poor transparency and the political sensitivity of the issue hamper our efforts to effectively advocate for change on this issue.

Some steps to address the problem are being taken in China. The International Labor Organization (ILO) recently began a new project to work closely with the China Enterprise Confederation to educate entrepreneurs, owners, and managers of various enterprises that in the past have been linked to trafficking, such as hotels, karaoke bars, restaurants, bars, and massage parlors. The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) and non-governmental organizations have a number of ongoing prevention and education projects in affected provinces. In the past five years, with assistance from UNICEF and international non-governmental organizations, China has established transfer, training and recovery centers for trafficking victims in four provinces and has assisted more than 1,000 trafficked women and children. ACWF works closely with law enforcement agencies and border officials to raise their awareness of the problem of trafficking.

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LOAD-DATE: March 30, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

120 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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March 3, 2008 Monday

MARK P. LAGON DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

LENGTH: 1228 words**SPEAKER:**

MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

DIRECTOR LAGON DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS, AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT

MARCH 3, 2008

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DIRECTOR,
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END

LOAD-DATE: March 4, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[-] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

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121 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 27, 2008 Wednesday 10:56 AM GMT

UAE to open shelters for victims of human trafficking

LENGTH: 331 words**DATELINE:** DUBAI, Feb 27 2008

The United Arab Emirates will set up shelters for victims of human trafficking, a regional problem highlighted by the United States and international rights groups, the local press reported on Wednesday.

The centres will provide shelter, health care and social support to women and child victims and will operate under the umbrella of the UAE Red Crescent Authority, the English-language Gulf News said.

"(The UAE) strongly supports international efforts to fight human trafficking," Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al-Nahayan, also chairman of the Red Crescent Authority, was quoted as saying.

In 2006, the oil-rich UAE introduced stiff penalties including life sentences to combat human trafficking.

And in July last year, two Indian nationals were jailed for 15 years in the first punishment under the legislation aimed at cleaning up the Gulf state's human rights record. Several more suspects have since gone on trial on human trafficking charges.

The US State Department **human trafficking** report in 2006 upgraded the UAE from the "**Tier 3**" of worst offenders to "**Tier 2 Watch List**" comprising countries which are making "significant" efforts to deal with the problem.

But it described the UAE as "a destination country for men, women and children trafficked from South and East Asia, eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East for involuntary servitude and for sexual exploitation," saying the government was not doing enough to combat either.

The UAE maintained its rank in the 2007 edition of the report, while other Gulf Arab countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar -- were downgraded to Tier 3, joining Saudi Arabia.

In 2005, the UAE banned the use of children as camel jockeys and has funded the repatriation of child jockeys to their home countries in Asia and Africa as well as their rehabilitation.

Hundreds of thousands of foreigners work in the UAE, where expatriates make up nearly 85 percent of the 5.6-million population, according to a recent unofficial study.

LOAD-DATE: February 28, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

122 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

February 26, 2008 Tuesday

Indonesian paper: ASEAN cooperation needed to combat human trafficking

LENGTH: 808 words

Excerpt from report in English by influential Indonesian newspaper The Jakarta Post English-language website on 25 February

The writer is an Indonesian diplomat. The article represents her personal view. She can be reached at rossyverona91@yahoo.com

In Indonesia sex trafficking will remain a threat to the community. It is estimated that 130 women from North Sumatra were traded and later sent to Malaysia between July 2006 and January 2008. North Sumatra Police have recently placed four victims in their early 20s from Bandung and West Java -Reni, 25, Leni, 24, Rina, 25, and Elsa, 20 -under protective custody. They were traded as prostitutes by organized crime syndicates (The Jakarta Post, 21 Feb, 2008).

Child trafficking is also on the rise in Indonesia. The Ministry for Women's Empowerment, at a three-day workshop on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Bali in 2006, revealed Indonesian authorities were battling a growing trend in child trafficking. Unfortunately, efforts to rescue children and babies in trafficking cases were ambiguous. Eight hundred-and-eighty babies have been sold abroad with only 25 babies saved.

Indonesia has enacted the national plan of action to combat human trafficking -Presidential Decree No 88/2002 -and has established a task force to lead anti-trafficking efforts. It has also passed laws and regulations including the protection of the victims of trafficking and the prevention of criminal activities, namely Law No 13/2006 on witness and victim protection and Law No 21/2007 on anti-trafficking.

To properly address human trafficking, apart from strengthening preventive measures at national levels, countries must involve themselves in bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

Human trafficking in ASEAN bears relations to human rights and migrant worker issues. As a regional security issue, these were discussed and coordinated closely under the framework of ASEAN cooperation to combat transnational crimes. ASEAN is also determined to establish national and regional focal points on human trafficking and to provide data on the development of national efforts to combat human trafficking.

Without accurate and reliable data, the majority of trafficking cases will stay undiscovered and it will be too difficult for ASEAN authorities to effectively combat trafficking issues and at the same time provide adequate protection and assistance to victims.

It has been more than three years since the signing of the ASEAN declaration against trafficking, yet ASEAN still lacks relevant and reliable data on trafficking and not all countries in ASEAN have established a national focal point on human trafficking or enacted anti-trafficking laws.

Until now, five member countries of ASEAN have passed anti-trafficking laws: the Philippines, 2003; Brunei Darussalam, 2004; Burma, 2005; Indonesia, 2007; and Cambodia, 2007.

Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines have enacted national plans of action, while Burma has established a national task force. Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, and Brunei Darussalam have not yet endorsed specific national plans of action.

While ASEAN and the UN strive to improve their data on **human trafficking**, the United States released a report on **human trafficking** on 12 June, 2007. Indonesia was placed in '**Tier 2**' together with Laos, the Philippines, Singapore,

Thailand and Vietnam. Cambodia was placed in 'Tier 2 Watch List', while Malaysia and Burma were placed in 'Tier 3'. Brunei Darussalam did not appear in the report.

The US report also indicated Indonesia was a source, transit and destination country for women, children and men trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

UNICEF estimates 100,000 women and children in Indonesia are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation, allegedly to Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Hong Kong and the Middle East.

Indonesia has realised successful efforts in combating human trafficking will require more resources and engagement not only in the framework of ASEAN but also at bilateral levels, particularly with two neighbouring countries, Singapore and Malaysia, seen as potential 'destinations'.

The role of the security sector, in particular law enforcement agencies, in combating human trafficking issues is critical. In addition, specific programmes to strengthen cooperation between police, immigration, border patrol, armed forces and customs officials among ASEAN member countries should also be given priority.

National public awareness programmes should also be developed further by utilising media, NGOs and the private sector.

In the end, the issue of human trafficking needs to be well managed before it becomes the source of tension between ASEAN states. [passage omitted]

Source: The Jakarta Post website, Jakarta, in English 25 Feb 08

LOAD-DATE: February 26, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

123 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

February 15, 2008 Friday 4:16 PM GMT**BYLINE:** By VERONIKA OLEKSYN, Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 650 words**DATELINE:** VIENNA Austria

The United Arab Emirates, on a U.S. **watch list** for its shortcomings in fighting **human trafficking**, is committed to combatting the crime and is actively doing so, a senior government official said Friday.

"I don't think the stigma is in having a human trafficking problem. The stigma is not doing anything about it," Anwar Gargash, minister for federal affairs, told The Associated Press.

Gargash, who is also the chairman of the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, was speaking on the sidelines of the Vienna Forum to fight Human Trafficking, a gathering of experts, legislators, law enforcement teams, business leaders, non-governmental organizations and victims.

"The UAE is committed and is doing something about it," he said.

The Emirates is among several Persian Gulf countries that have been criticized by human rights groups for not doing enough to counter exploitative conditions for foreign laborers who've been drawn to the oil-rich region's booming economies.

A Human Rights Watch report in November singled out the plight of housemaids in the Gulf, who it said worked long hours without medical care and for little pay and were sometimes subjected to violence. Workers' passports were seized by employers and there were few protections for them under national labor laws, the report said.

The Vienna forum, which wrapped up Friday, was convened by the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, which was launched with the help of a \$15US million grant from the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi on behalf of the UAE.

"The \$15 million ... comes from an interest in the UAE to tackle human trafficking," Gargash said.

"We understand that human trafficking cannot be tackled purely nationally that it's actually a transnational crime and needs to be also dealt with (through) transnational cooperation," he said.

Still, the UAE has not ratified a U.N. protocol on human trafficking. And in June, for the second consecutive year, it was placed on a **watch list** by the U.S. State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" for failing to take meaningful steps to address the problem of foreign workers subjected to involuntary servitude and of women trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The report put the UAE and other countries on the "Tier 2 Watch list," warning them that without improvements they could be moved to a "Tier 3," making them subject to sanctions.

The report said the government did not demonstrate vigorous law enforcement or victim protection efforts, adding that it should dedicate resources for the prosecution of trafficking crimes, encourage victims to testify against suspected traffickers and give them alternatives to detention and deportation.

Gargash said the UAE tries to look at such reports objectively but added it was important to realize that "good work" was being done.

"We don't think that these reports are able to accurately assess our commitment and our work on the ground, but we respect criticism and some of the points that are being brought up," he said.

In his speech to forum participants, Gargash outlined the UAE's four-point action plan focused on legislation, enforcement, victim support and an intention to pursue and build on bilateral and international cooperation.

"In May 2007, the UAE ratified the United Nations Conventions Against Transnational Organized Crime, which includes provisions for international cooperation in anti-human trafficking efforts," Gargash told participants. "Further, the government is actively considering ratifying the Palermo Trafficking in Persons Protocol of 2000," he added.

Mark Lagon, the State Department's anti-human trafficking official, acknowledged that the UAE has taken some "tangible steps to improve."

"It's the first government in the Persian Gulf to enact a comprehensive anti-trafficking law," Lagon told the AP.

On the Net:

Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking: <http://www.ungift.org/>

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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124 of 445 DOCUMENTS

University Wire

February 14, 2008 Thursday

NYU questioned on human rights

BYLINE: By Ariel Siegel, Washington Square News; **SOURCE:** NYU

LENGTH: 414 words

DATELINE: NEW YORK

Duncan Meisel wants to know what NYU is hiding.

The Gallatin junior is a member of Students Creating Radical Change, a group that calls for the university to disclose information.

Meisel, as well as many other students, is asking questions about NYU Abu Dhabi, and he says it's harder than it should be to find answers.

Wednesday night, the Office of LGBT Student Affairs hosted a forum for conversation on NYU's human rights responsibilities on their satellite campuses in other countries.

As soon as the floor opened for questions, Meisel raised his hand. He unfurled a bright yellow banner, covered with questions that students feel are not being addressed about Abu Dhabi. Questions included: How will NYU protect worker's rights? Who is paying for this? How much? Who made the decision to build in Abu Dhabi, and why weren't students included in that decision? Why Abu Dhabi and not somewhere else in the Middle East?

Other audience members had questions for the panel, too. The topics included the LGBT community, migrant laborers, financial aid and intellectual freedom.

Mariet Westermann, the vice chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi, said that many of the misconceptions about Abu Dhabi are caused by UAE law, alluding to legislation outlawing homosexuality.

"Universities, especially American universities, ought to help their community engage and go places and try to do mutually adaptive work of trying to learn to live with one another in complicated places," Westermann said.

Westermann said that Abu Dhabi's willingness to engage with NYU shows the possibility of future discourse and change.

But some students weren't satisfied with that answer.

"They're trying to keep the appearance of an effort up; we have received no good answers, only bureaucratic spatter," CAS senior Colin Dillon said.

LGBT issues in Abu Dhabi have been at the forefront of discussion since NYU first announced its intention to build a campus in Abu Dhabi last October.

Migrant labor was also a topic of discussion. Migrant workers make up 90 percent of the UAE's workforce, according to Human Rights Watch. Kerwin Kaye, a doctoral candidate in American Studies, said that the UAE's labor issues were a concern, noting that the U.S. State Department has put the country on a **watch list** for **human trafficking**.

The panel also included Lyle Ashton Harris, a professor of art and education, and Sofian Merabet, director of graduate studies in the near eastern studies program.

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LOAD-DATE: February 14, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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125 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

February 14, 2008 Thursday 6:33 PM GMT**US says India needs to battle bonded labor, prosecute exploiters****BYLINE:** By VERONIKA OLEKSYN, Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 330 words**DATELINE:** VIENNA Austria

India is helping victims of sex trafficking and child labor but needs to take action against bonded labor and do more to prosecute exploiters, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

Mark Lagon, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said he traveled to India in September and the country deserved some credit for assisting victims.

"But as far as the prosecution of the exploiters, the sex traffickers, the exploiters of children and labor India needs to do more. And I believe that India needs to recognize openly and take action on the question of bonded labor," he said, referring to the use of debts to subjugate workers.

Lagon spoke to The Associated Press on the sidelines of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in the Austrian capital.

On Wednesday, he met informally with Oscar Fernandes, India's labor minister. Lagon, referring to India as a "proud democracy," described the discussion as productive and forthright.

"The United States and India are allies. Friends talk to each other about their problems," he said, noting that he thought India had made "some modest progress."

In June, for the fourth consecutive year, India was warned in the State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" that it could be added to a **blacklist** of countries not meeting minimum standards in fighting what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

The report put India and 31 other countries on its "Tier 2 watch list," warning them that without improvements they could be demoted to a "Tier 3," making them subject to sanctions.

The report cited estimates that tens of millions of Indians were subjected to forced labor and said sex trafficking also continues to be common. Following the release, the State Department came under criticism for failing to blacklist India for persistently landing on the watch list.

"This report has had results; it has prompted countries to look at themselves and take action," Lagon said.

LOAD-DATE: February 15, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

126 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

February 13, 2008 Wednesday 11:32 PM GMT**Human trafficking is slavery and must be battled, celebrities and UN official say****BYLINE:** By VERONIKA OLEKSYN, Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 860 words**DATELINE:** VIENNA Austria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the Net:

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

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

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

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

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

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127 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

February 12, 2008 Tuesday

US Eased Sanctions on North Korea in 2007

LENGTH: 349 words

By Yoon Won-sup

Staff Reporter

The United States eased some of its sanctions on North Korea last year, according to a U.S. government broadcaster Tuesday.

The Voice of America (VOA) said that U.S. President George W. Bush approved the lifting of some sanctions imposed on Pyongyang under an act governing human trafficking in mid-October, 2007. Washington notified the North of the decision.

The State Department designated North Korea as one of the worst states involved in human trafficking, and the act prevented the United States from offering any aid except humanitarian assistance.

But the easing allowed Washington to provide assistance in educational and cultural exchanges to the extent that the aid doesn't damage its national interest.

This is the first time for the United States to lift any sanctions on North Korea since the communist country first appeared on its **blacklist** for **human trafficking** in 2003.

An official of the State Department said the rare measure came in order to improve ties and expand exchange with North Korea.

"Though Washington wants to expand exchanges in various fields with Pyongyang, in reality, all the efforts are affected by the results of the six-party talks," the official said on condition of anonymity. "The lifting of sanctions indicates the U.S. intention to open its doors for more exchanges and better relations with North Korea."

In a report on human trafficking in 2007, the State Department said prostitution and forced labor often take place in North Korea and human trafficking of female North Korean defectors also exists in China.

The department classified North Korea as the third-worst nation in the world in terms of human trafficking because Pyongyang hasn't made any effort to improve the situation.

Meanwhile, Vitit Muntarbhorn, the U.N. special rapporteur said last month that North Korea has shown no improvement in its human rights record including human trafficking and still systematically tortures its citizens.

Muntarbhorn condemned North Korea's practice of public executions, inhumane prison conditions, and oppression of dissidents.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

128 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

February 2, 2008 Saturday

Hanoi's help sought to track local link to human trafficking

BYLINE: Lee Shi-Ian**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 19**LENGTH:** 431 words

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian and Vietnamese police will work closely together to find out whether local criminal gangs are working with human trafficking rings there to smuggle Vietnamese women into Malaysia as prostitutes.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Ismail Omar was commenting yesterday on an Agence France Presse (AFP) report which stated that four people had been arrested in Hanoi for human trafficking.

The international news wire reported that scores of young women from the poverty-stricken Mekong Delta were promised well-paid work as waitresses in Malaysia.

The ring would organise their passports and flight tickets, and then force them into prostitution. If they refused, they were locked up, beaten and starved, according to the report.

Ismail said police were waiting for the full facts on whether or not local gangs were working with human trafficking rings in Vietnam.

"Human trafficking involves both local and foreign crime syndicates. It is a very lucrative business, and police are determined to stamp it out," he said.

"Our Criminal Investigation Department and Interpol are investigating these syndicates, and liaising with their counterparts abroad."

According to a United Nations report, human trafficking is the second largest illegal trade after drugs worldwide, with about 2.5 million victims at any one time. Criminal gangs earn an estimated \$10US billion (RM35 billion) from human trafficking each year.

Last year, a United States State Department report on global efforts to combat **human trafficking** "downgraded" Malaysia from **Tier 2** to **Tier 3**. It joined 16 other countries said to be making no "significant effort to comply with minimum standards".

Due to the rise in human trafficking, the government has approved the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act 2007, which gives enforcement agencies the power to arrest, prosecute and convict offenders and makes provision to provide support to the victims.

Statistics released by government agencies and by non-governmental organisations reveal that many of the foreign prostitutes working in Malaysia are from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, China, Cambodia and Uzbekistan.

Federal CID figures show that most of the prostitutes detained are from Indonesia, followed by China, Thailand and the Philippines.

The number of foreign prostitutes held has increased on average 20 to 25 per cent per year from 2000 to last year.

Most were lured by agents of trafficking rings who promised them jobs as maids, or work in the food industry and factories.

There have also been cases of Malaysian women trafficked abroad.

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129 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Cape Times (South Africa)

January 30, 2008 Wednesday
e1 Edition

US Report puts SA on 'watch list'

BYLINE: COURTNEY BROOKS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 554 words

SOUTH Africa is in danger of falling into the category of countries with the grimmest human trafficking record, according to a 2007 report released by the US government.

The report places countries in three **tiers**, all of which have a significant **human trafficking** problem, said Mark Lagon, US ambassador and director of the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, which released the report.

Countries in the first tier are making significant efforts to combat the problem and have the tools to do so. Countries in the second tier are also making significant efforts but are lacking the tools.

Countries on the tier 2 "watch list", which South Africa is on for the third consecutive year, lack the tools to deal with the problem and are also not making sufficient efforts. These countries are in danger of falling into the tier 3 category, comprised of countries that are making minimal efforts to combat the problem.

Lagon is visiting authorities in Cape Town and Johannesburg, advocating the creation of a comprehensive law devoted to prosecuting perpetrators of human trafficking and protecting the victims.

South Africa currently has two human trafficking laws; the Children's Bill, which is not yet operational although it was passed in June 2006, and the Sexual Offences Bill, which specifically prohibits the sexual exploitation of women.

South Africa needs a law which will address both sexual exploitation and forced labour, and will protect men, women and children alike, Lagon said - but for now authorities must take advantage of the laws that the country does have in place.

Lagon will also be advising on training judges to prosecute the perpetrators fully with the current laws, training police to recognise the crimes and how to deal with them, and creating more social services and NGOs.

Another purpose of the trip is to learn how the US can support South Africa in stopping human trafficking, Lagon said.

South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Forced labour and sex trafficking are both serious issues, he said.

Young girls are often trafficked from within South Africa, typically from rural areas to cities, to become domestic workers or prostitutes. Young men are often trafficked from rural areas as well and used for manual labour.

Women and girls are also trafficked from other African countries to South Africa, and sometimes onward to Europe, Lagon said.

South Africa attracts migrants looking for better lives, who are often taken advantage of.

Women from other countries such as Thailand, China, and eastern Europe are also trafficked to South Africa for sexual exploitation. They are often offered a job in return for a substantial fee and when they find out that the "job" involves prostitution they are already deeply indebted and are afraid to leave.

Sexual tourism might spike during the 2010 World Cup, Lagon said. He met the CEO of Cape Town Tourism, Mariette du Toit-Helmbold, to discuss how to raise awareness of the issue and educate people on what to do when they suspect someone is being sexually exploited.

"Having legal instruments in place and the Children's Bill operational will be very important (in 2010)," he said.

Lagon, who is spending four days in South Africa, also visited Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, and Kenya.

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130 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Pretoria News (South Africa)

January 30, 2008 Wednesday
e1 Edition

US report: slave trade on rise in SA

BYLINE: COURTNEY BROOKS**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 459 words

South Africa is in danger of becoming one of the worst countries in the world as regards human trafficking, according to a 2007 report released by the United States government.

The report places countries in three **tiers**, all of which have a significant **human trafficking** problem, said Mark Lagon, US ambassador and director of the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, which released the report.

Countries in the first tier are making significant efforts to combat the problem, and have the tools to do so. Countries in the second tier are also making significant efforts but lack the tools.

Countries on the second tier "watch list", which South Africa is on for the third consecutive year, lack the tools to deal with the problem and are also not making sufficient efforts. These countries are in danger of falling into the third tier, comprising countries that are making minimal efforts to combat the problem.

Lagon is visiting authorities in Cape Town and Johannesburg, advocating the creation of a comprehensive law devoted to prosecuting perpetrators of human trafficking and protecting the victims. South Africa currently has two human trafficking laws: the Children's Bill, which is not yet operational although it was passed in June 2006, and the Sexual Offenses Bill, which specifically prohibits the sexual exploitation of women.

South Africa needs a law which will address both sexual exploitation and forced labour, and will protect men, women and children alike, Lagon said, but for now authorities must take advantage of the laws that the country does have in place.

"South Africa has so often been the trailblazer on legal instruments in Africa. Hopefully they will be a trendsetter," Lagon said.

Lagon will also advise on training judges to prosecute the perpetrators fully with the current laws, training police to recognise the crimes and how to deal with them, and creating more social services and NGOs.

South Africa was a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Forced labour and sex trafficking were both serious issues, he said.

Young girls were often trafficked from within South Africa, typically from rural areas to cities, to become domestic workers or prostitutes.

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Women and girls were also trafficked from other African countries to South Africa, and sometimes onward to Europe, Lagon said.

Women from other countries, such as Thailand, China, and Eastern European countries, were also trafficked to South Africa for sexual exploitation.

Sexual tourism might spike during the 2010 World Cup, Lagon said.

"Having legal instruments in place, and the Children's Bill operational, will be very important (in 2010)," he said.

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131 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

January 24, 2008 Thursday

Uganda; Sh855m to Fight Human Trafficking

BYLINE: New Vision**LENGTH:** 206 words

THE U.S. government has offered Uganda \$500,000 (sh855m) to fight human trafficking. The funds were channelled through the International Criminal Investigations Training Assistance Programme under the Department of Justice.

Community affairs Police chief Asan Kasingye said the money would facilitate the training of Police officers to stem the vice.

Starting next month, the training will involve investigating, reporting, data management and prevention of human trafficking.

"It will help us work with the international community to curb human trafficking," he added.

Over 500 Police officers will benefit from the training to be carried out at Kibuli in Kampala and Masindi in western Uganda.

"Initially, 50 Police officers will undergo training before the programme rolls out," Kasingye said.

Staff from the gender ministry, immigration and the Director of Public Prosecution's office will also participate in the project.

Last year, the U.S. placed Uganda on its **watch list** of countries dogged by **human trafficking**.

According to the 2007 U.S. **trafficking in Persons** Report, Uganda falls in "**Tier 2**", which refers to countries that do not meet the standards of combating **human trafficking** but are making significant efforts to ensure compliance.

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132 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

January 15, 2008 Tuesday

Nigeria; Trafficked Children - 'We Are Human, Not Commodities'

BYLINE: This Day**LENGTH:** 2616 words

For millions of children under various forms of modern day slavery, life, definitely, could have been better if there was a genuine determination to end the menace.

Olaolu Olusina writes that from Ekorì in South-south, Nigeria to the coast of Yeji on the Volta Lake in Ghana, trafficked children are suffering the same fate

An unusual scene played out at the Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano, Nigeria some years ago. A young boy caused a stir when he refused to board an aircraft heading for London. Poor soul! He had never come close to an aircraft, not to talk of boarding one. His blunt refusal aroused the curiosity of immigration officials who were watching the drama. They eventually discovered that the "village boy" was a victim of child trafficking. He was promptly rescued from his abductors and taken back to his village in South-east Nigeria.

Shinny, as he is called, is 12 but slaves under the tropical sun in one of the pig farms scattered around the villages off the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway in South-west Nigeria. When this reporter sought to know where he came from, a dry smile was what he could offer. Upon further inquiries, however, he said in pidgin English: "I come from Akwa Ibom." Not satisfied with his defensive tactics, a further probe immediately gave him out. "I be from Calabar...", he said as he tried to parry further questions about his family background with the stuff one hears everyday from such kids.

In Ekorì, a rural community in Yakurr local government area of Cross River State in South-south, Nigeria, this reporter was faced with the stark realities of child trafficking. A once vibrant farming community is being depleted daily by the activities of modern day slave merchants and their collaborators. A generation of youths; the community's strength and future, now faces the threat of going into extinction. Ekorì is believed to be the headquarters of a thriving trade in kid slaves and a hotbed for child trafficking.

Ofem Ubangha is from Ekorì. He told this reporter that returnee slave kids usually return from the cocoa farms in South-west Nigeria about mid-December. "They always return from Ondo as from December 15, and the villagers welcome them with thundering shouts of Ondo-he! Ondo-he! Ondo-he! (meaning Ondo people have come) as trucks conveying them enter the village in droves," he said.

It was gathered that from December 10, every year, few of these kid slaves that have finished their contracts, or have been released by their masters, start returning home in trucks, with the attendant dangers to their lives while on transit. "Onward movement takes place in January and between January 3 and 10 of a particular year, about 30 trailers conveyed these children from Ekorì to destinations in Ondo, Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ekiti and Lagos States. Few of them are also ferried into neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to work in plantations and farms," said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It will recalled that few years ago, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) carried the story of one Felicia, an African (Nigerian) girl who was abducted into slave labour. She was being ferried from London to Italy when she smartly escaped from her abductors at the Heathrow Airport by disappearing into the toilet where she later asked for help. If Felicia was lucky to have escaped unhurt, 'Boy Adam' was not in any way.

His story should still be fresh in the memory of those that followed the case. When his remains were found dumped in River Thames in the United Kingdom. The London Metropolitan Police that investigated the murder discovered,

through a forensic report, that he was a victim of child trafficking and that his murder had some ritual dimensions more so as his head was severed and taken away before his remains were dumped into the river. Further tests carried on his remains led the Metropolitan Police to Benin City as the boy is believed to have come from Edo State in Nigeria.

Human trafficking, no doubt, has become the current social issue of the time. The startling revelation of the frightening dimension the menace is assuming makes it even more worrisome. And just like HIV/AIDS, it crosses local, national and international borders. Every year, some 600-800 million modern day slaves are trafficked internationally. Human trafficking, according to the United States' Department of State, is the third most lucrative business in the world, after drugs and trading of arms, with an estimated annual earning of \$5-\$7 billion. The United Nations also estimates that about 706,000 to four million women and children are trafficked every year. Out of this figure, 50 per cent are children, with some as young as six years.

Vision Media, an American organisation, reports that poverty is the factor in the global economy that leads to suffering. "Those toiling under the horrendous conditions of abject slavery cannot be viewed simply as victims of unfortunate circumstances in the melee of world trade and commerce," says Bill Butler, writer for Vision Media. "Modern day slavery must be acknowledged for the social issue it is; the result of a crime perpetrated by cruel and greedy individuals and criminal enterprises lacking in compassion for other people's suffering."

It was therefore not a surprise as this reporter watched in awe as Emelia Oguuah, filled with compassion, almost burst into tears on a live discussion programme on a Ghanaian television station recently. A mother, of course, with the milk of human kindness flowing in her, the Deputy Director, African Centre for Human Development, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), could not hold back her emotions as she narrated the ordeals that young boys and girls, victims of child trafficking and forced labour, go through on a daily basis.

"Imagine an eight year old boy rearing about 150 cattle! He gets bitten by snakes, have dementia, his growth is stunted and retarded, he suffers all forms of deprivation," she said. "The Kayayes (female porters) at Tudu and Tema stations are sexually abused on a daily basis in order to get protection." Oguuah said that in such situation, "generations of children are born on the streets, raised on the streets and are going to die on the streets," adding, "we are building wasted generations."

Eric Appiah Okrah who works with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as the coordinator for the international programme on Eradication of Child Labour (IPEC) in Ghana also painted a gloomy and more frightening picture of the menace. Speaking on the same programme as Oguuah, Okrah disclosed that in Kokrobite, a settlement on the outskirts of Accra, a kid slave said he knew that some of them (kid slaves) were actually used for rituals. According to Okrah, a Togolese trafficker arrested in Ghana, in fact, confessed that his first victim, a young boy obtained from Ghana, was used for ritual by his father back in Togo.

The ILO official said when about 100 slave children working with fishermen on the coast of Yeji on the Volta Lake were rescued by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in September 2003, and returned to their families, "it was discovered that these kids, as young as three-and-a-half years were being used as baits to catch fish by the slave masters who deliberately drown them on the river."

The case on the Volta Lake is pathetic; it is indeed one that has continued to generate the attention of the international community. And quite in line with trends in modern day slavery, where traffickers seek vulnerability in their intended victims, they also seek environments in which they can exploit victims with minimal threat of the victims' escape or law enforcement action. On the Volta Lake, quite a number of children find themselves confined and work under terrible conditions with no means of escape or help as the case may be.

Many of the unfortunate kids are subjected to beatings, deprived of food and water, and enough sleep. They are exposed to highly unsanitary conditions and infectious diseases as they are forced to perform life-threatening work in unsafe conditions without pay. One can then understand the emotional outburst of Oguuah and Okrah as they made a passionate case for the protection of the rights of the Ghanaian child.

It is however interesting that with all these developments, the US Department of State's 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report still classifies Ghana as a **Tier two** country; a country with an improvement on her anti-trafficking efforts. According to the report, "trafficking within the country is more prevalent than transnational trafficking, with majority of victims being children (boys and girls) engaging in forced labour in the fishing industry, agriculture and mines."

Observers are, however, not convinced that Ghana is doing enough. Prior to the IOM's intervention, the country had no law to prosecute traffickers. And in spite of her leading role in the sub-region, the country is yet to ratify the 2000 UN

Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Though the country made an effort with its 2005 Human Trafficking Act that prescribes a minimum penalty of five years' imprisonment for all forms of trafficking, there is no maximum penalty for the offence. It is however gratifying to note that Ghana obtained its first conviction in February 2005 as a trafficker got a six-year jail term under the 2005 law. The 17-member Human Trafficking Board is also awaiting presidential approval.

And just as the countdown to the African Cup of Nations football competition, tagged Ghana 2008, begins, the Ghanaian government has been called upon to put adequate measures in place to prevent human traffickers from having their way. This followed the disclosure by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service and some organisations that some people have perfected plans to recruit children for prostitution during the games.

The secret association of commercial sex workers in Accra and Takoradi had earlier expressed concern, though for selfish reasons, about media reports of invasion of prostitutes from neighbouring Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire in the run up to the African Cup of Nations tournament.

Bright Appiah, an activist with the Children Right International, an NGO also said he had information from Kumasi that some "underground agents" have been paid to recruit sex workers, with children as some of their targets. Speaking at a two-day workshop organised by the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and sponsored by the British High Commission at Senchi near Akosombo in the country's Eastern region recently, Appiah said as the security agencies beefed up their watchdog role in host cities and surrounding towns of Ghana 2008, tournament, children could also be protected if government imposed a curfew on children during the tournament. While this may appear a sincere suggestion, observers are not in any way in support of this as it will definitely be an infringement of the rights of the child to free movement.

International sporting events, no doubt, have become fertile ground for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children. The case of Ghana 2008 cannot, therefore, be an exception, say observers of the development. Adu Poku, director general of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service confirmed this as well. "The international sporting events have become a fertile ground for human trafficking for sexual exploitation, the documented patterns of frequent trafficking of children for forced prostitution during World Cups and others as well as the increase of recruitment of children for prostitution in South Africa for the upcoming World Cup create a dire picture. We need to fight it to ensure zero tolerance for human trafficking," said the Ghana CID boss.

Tatiana Kotlyarenko, executive director of Enslavement Prevention Alliance West Africa, however, put the challenge at hand in proper perspective. "In South Africa, there are media reports of how street children as young as nine years old are being lured and prepared for prostitution for World Cup 2010," she said, even as she warned: "With no preventive measures in place and relatively easy border crossings for other ECOWAS members prior to, and during, the CAN 2008, it is highly probable that thousands of women and children will be trafficked into Ghana for the purposes of exploitation, as well as recruited internally."

The ECOWAS Commission estimates that not less than 300,000 children have fallen victim to trafficking in the sub-region, citing an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report. The sub-regional body already has a protocol among member states that makes trafficking an offence. Member states are currently being encouraged to embark on reform of national laws with a view to harmonising them with international and regional conventions and protocol on trafficking in Persons.

Organisations around the world are also expressing sincere and serious concerns about the problem of human trafficking into the Southern African region in the run up to the World Cup 2010. The need to adequately prepare for the upcoming World Cup was one of the topics on the agenda at a conference held by the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) in Bangkok, Thailand last November.

The situation in Nigeria is not in any way better, though the country is also classified as a Tier 2 country by the 2007 TIP Report of the US State's Department. Nigeria, according to the report, remains a major source country for women trafficked to Europe and a transit and destination country for trafficked children to and from other parts of Africa.

Collateral Damages, a new report by the GAATW, which examines anti-trafficking measures and their impact on human rights of trafficked people in eight countries across the globe, however describes Nigeria's 2005 anti-trafficking act as a step in the right direction. It nonetheless notes that the act has many loopholes and shortfalls, which it says may be "the result of acting too quickly." Victoria Nwogu, author of the Nigerian chapter in the report said "the act essentially reproduces the UN Trafficking Protocol, without effectively adapting it to the local context. Some of the points of the Protocol are inappropriate for Nigeria and so the Act, in some places, misses its mark."

It would be recalled that following the endorsement of the UN Protocol on Trafficking In Persons, Nigeria went ahead to promulgate the 2003 Trafficking In Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was created in August 2003, with Carol Ndaguba as the executive secretary. The 2005 amendment to the Child Rights Act also increases penalties for traffickers and their collaborators.

Though sentences imposed have been inadequate, NAPTIP has continued to make commendable efforts as the country reported 81 trafficking investigations, 23 prosecutions and three convictions in 2006. The national action plan against trafficking developed in 2006 is also awaiting presidential approval.

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children came into force in 2003. It defines human trafficking as, "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, or abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

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133 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

January 14, 2008 Monday

Antihuman trafficking efforts can improve

BYLINE: Darwin T. Wee

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 473 words

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The government's program to combat human trafficking has been moving well, United States Ambassador Kristie A Kenney said at the weekend.

But the Philippines has yet to improve its status on the US government's **watch list - from tier 2 to tier 1** - that will indicate significant strides in combating **human trafficking**.

"It's hard to say... this is a kind of crime that you got to keep working on it," Ms. Kenney said when pressed for comment at the weekend if the Philippines's status could be upgraded in the near term.

She said the Philippines is seriously addressing the problem. "The Philippines is making an important stride and we want to continue that here."

Ms. Kenney was here on Friday as special guest in the inauguration of a P3-million halfway house or Bahay Silungan sa Daungan, a temporary shelter for human trafficking victims.

She said the US government has given P40 million to the Philippines in 2007 and the country will likely get another similar grant financing this year.

"You can never stop and say well we have done enough and that's it. This is a sort of crime that all of us [should help and solve]," the US diplomat said.

The setting up of the shelter house was a joint effort of the Philippine Ports Authority's Zamboanga office and the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. a nongovernmental organization that has been working to combat human trafficking for the last 16 years.

Justice department records showed 248 human trafficking-related complaints had been filed from 2003 to 2006. Of these, only eight convictions were reported since the law took effect in 2003.

The most recent conviction was on March 27, 2007 in this city when a local court sentenced a human trafficker life imprisonment with a fine of P6 million.

That conviction was the second time in Zamboanga City, said City Prosecutor Ricardo C. Cabaron.

The first conviction was in 2005 when three persons were proven to be involved in trafficking a Filipino woman in Sabah, Malaysia.

In this city alone, there are more than five pending cases in court, said Darlene R. Pajarito, third assistant prosecutor, who handles human trafficking cases.

Mindanao reportedly has the highest cases of human trafficking in the three groups of islands with more than 50% of the total cases, said Visayan Forum Foundation.

Arthur E. Necesito, head of the foundation's Mindanao bureau, said 1,449 victims were documented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development from 2003 to 2006, of which 40% were minors and more than 50% were women and children.

Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, foundation president, attributed the large number of cases to poverty, unstable peace and order, and low awareness on human trafficking.

She said the ports agency and the foundation are setting up at least two more halfway houses in Iloilo City and Surigao del Norte this year.

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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134 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 10, 2008 Thursday

CORNYN STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

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

The following information was released by Texas Senator John Cornyn:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

135 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

January 10, 2008 Thursday 12:16 AM EST

SEN. CORNYN ISSUES STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 736 words**DATELINE:** COLLEGE STATION

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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136 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

January 9, 2008 Wednesday 4:29 PM GMT

Bahrain passes human trafficking law ahead of Bush visit

LENGTH: 244 words**DATELINE:** MANAMA, Jan 9 2008

Bahrain moved to crack down Wednesday on human trafficking as the Gulf state prepared to host US President George W. Bush, whose administration has accused Manama of trafficking in people.

King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa promulgated the law combating human trafficking which provides for imprisonment and fines for perpetrators, the official BNA news agency reported.

The law is designed to stop the illegal movement of people across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labour.

A national committee to combat human trafficking and protect its victims is to be established under the provisions of the new law, BNA said.

Convicted traffickers are liable to unspecified prison terms and fines ranging from two thousand to 10,000 dinars (5,300 to nearly 27,000 dollars), with tougher penalties for non-Bahrainis.

King Hamad published the law three days before Bush arrives in Bahrain, a close US ally that is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, as part of a Middle East tour he began in Israel on Wednesday.

Manama angrily rejected US accusations last June that it was not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**, after the State Department added Bahrain and regional allies Kuwait, Oman and Qatar to its **blacklist** of countries for the crime.

It accused the Gulf countries of mistreating foreign workers, which they heavily rely on.

Countries on the blacklist are liable for sanctions, including the withholding by of US foreign aid.

LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

137 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

January 4, 2008 Friday

Congo-Kinshasa; Representative Smith Reinforces U.S. Support of Kivus Peace Conference

BYLINE: United States Congress

LENGTH: 825 words

U.S. Rep Chris Smith arrived here Thursday launching a four-day human rights mission that will focus on combating human trafficking, child soldiers and sexual violence while at the same time underscoring US commitment to critical peace negotiations due to convene on January 7, 2008.

The DRC and the success of its young democracy is a top priority within US foreign policy, said Smith, who is Ranking Member on the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health and a Senior Member of the full House Foreign Affairs Committee. The ongoing conflict in the eastern area of the country severely threatens the newly-elected government. If the new leaders cannot deliver the benefits of democracy namely citizen protection, accountable government and respect for human rights the county could easily fall back into the devastating wars that took the lives of more than 4 million people over the decade leading up to the 2006 parliamentary elections, said Smith.

The Congolese people want and deserve a working democracy. The US has both a humanitarian and a national security interest in helping them attain stability and security in this critical region of Africa. I m here to reinforce American support for the peace conference and emphasize our long-term commitment to securing universal human rights as the most effective means to obtaining a genuine and lasting peace.

The US is expected to play a significant role in the January 7th conference scheduled to take place in the North Kivu provincial capital of Goma where insurgent fighting has intensified after the 2006 elections. Rebel forces as well as the government military have recently committed some of the worst human rights abuses in the world in this region of Congo. UN peacekeepers in the region have also come under fire for sexually abusing and trafficking Congolese women and young girls in 2004. As Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, Smith convened a hearing on the sex trafficking abuse issue in Congo and he remains concerned that the UN must continue to aggressively to address this abuse.

To my dismay and anger I have learned on this mission that the UN is planning on cutting back and downgrading their investigative effort to combat human trafficking by UN personnel, Smith said. That is unacceptable and I will be working to restore the anti-trafficking investigative positions here in Congo.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Congo (MUNUC Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en Republique Democratique du Congo) is the largest and most expensive UN peacekeeping operation in history. Smith said. US contributions to the effort top \$300 million per year and we have a deep and abiding responsibility to ensure that those sent to establish peace do not become the abuser, exploiting the young girls, they are sent to protect.

Hundreds of political leaders, parliamentarians, religious leaders and tribal leaders will come together here in Goma next week in an attempt to end the conflict and enable the people of the DRC to move forward with their democracy. The US is a willing international partner and we will continue to work with the new government leadership as it seeks a nation-wide peace and transparent governance for the Congolese people.

Smith, the author of the nation s first anti-trafficking law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (P.L. 106-386) and its two subsequent reauthorizations, noted that, The DRC government must do more to combat trafficking and the use of child soldiers in the current conflict. In the latest **Trafficking in Persons** Report produced by the US State Department in June, the DRC is listed as a **Tier 2** country and is a source country for men, women, and chil-

dren trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation with the majority of known trafficking occurring within the unstable eastern provinces.

The most recent reauthorization bill, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (HR 3887) of which Smith is the lead Republican, passed the House of Representatives last month by a vote of 405-2. This most recent bill includes a prohibition on U.S. military assistance to foreign governments that recruit or use child soldiers. Congressman Smith introduced similar legislation, the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2006 (HR 5966) in the 109th Congress.

While in Congo, Smith will also be advancing US support for global health initiatives in the region.

In addition to security, health matters constitute our most important development effort in Congo, said Smith. The public health system here is near collapse and many preventable infectious diseases are prevalent, notably malaria, HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis. US expertise and money are desperately needed especially in the areas of pediatric care to help reduce suffering and save lives.

LOAD-DATE: January 4, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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138 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

January 4, 2008 Friday 4:58 AM EST

REP. SMITH HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION TO CONGO REINFORCES US SUPPORT OF CRITICAL KIVUS PEACE CONFERENCE

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 842 words**DATELINE:** GOMA, Congo

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following news release:

U.S. Rep Chris Smith arrived here Thursday launching a four-day human rights mission that will focus on combating human trafficking, child soldiers and sexual violence while at the same time underscoring US commitment to critical peace negotiations due to convene on January 7, 2008.

"The DRC and the success of its young democracy is a top priority within US foreign policy," said Smith, who is Ranking Member on the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health and a Senior Member of the full House Foreign Affairs Committee. "The ongoing conflict in the eastern area of the country severely threatens the newly-elected government. If the new leaders cannot deliver the benefits of democracy--namely citizen protection, accountable government and respect for human rights--the county could easily fall back into the devastating wars that took the lives of more than 4 million people over the decade leading up to the 2006 parliamentary elections," said Smith.

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Contact: Ryan Goodwin, 202/225-3765.

LOAD-DATE: January 8, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

139 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

December 20, 2007 Thursday

Uganda; Masiko Tables Bill On Human Trafficking

BYLINE: New Vision**LENGTH:** 303 words

RUKUNGIRI Woman MP Winifred Masiko (NRM) has tabled a Bill that seeks to prevent human trafficking. "The Bill seeks to prosecute traffickers and protect victims," she told Parliament on Tuesday.

Masiko said the majority of the victims are women and children. According to the Bill, the offenders will either be jailed, fined or their operations wound up.

Edward Ssekandi, the Speaker of Parliament, said a parliamentary committee would study the Bill.

Damalie Lwanga, the assistant director of public prosecutions, said Uganda had no specific law on human trafficking although it seeks to prevent and punish the offenders.

She said forms of human trafficking included prostitution, early or forced marriages, child labour, illegal adoption, human sacrifice and slavery.

The US has placed Uganda on its **watch-list** of countries dogged by **human trafficking**.

According to the 2007 U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Report, Uganda falls in '**Tier 2**', which refers to countries that do not meet the minimum standards of combating **human trafficking** but are making significant efforts to ensure compliance.

The report said 7,000 to 12,000 children in the country were victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Of these, about 28% were assisted by third parties such as taxi drivers, bar and brothel owners.

It said the cross-border trade between Uganda and the DR Congo had increased commercial sexual exploitation in Arua district.

Also commercial sexual exploitation was occurring internally in the country, where victims are moved from rural areas to urban centres like Kampala.

People involved in human trafficking were individuals operating on their own, small trafficking groups, militia groups and large criminal syndicates, it added.

The victims are coerced, deceived, kidnapped, sold by their families or separated from their families.

LOAD-DATE: December 21, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

140 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Africa - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

December 18, 2007 Tuesday

US puts Uganda in human trafficking watch list

LENGTH: 342 words

Text of report by Joyce Namutebi entitled "US monitors Uganda on human trafficking" published by Ugandan newspaper The New Vision website on 18 December

The US has placed Uganda on its **watch-list** of countries dogged by **human trafficking**. According to the 2007 US **Trafficking In Persons** Report, Uganda falls in "**Tier 2**", which refers to countries that do not meet minimum standards of combating **human trafficking** but are making significant efforts to ensure compliance.

Although Uganda is a source, transit and a destination for trafficking in persons, it does not have a specific law addressing the phenomenon, revealed Rogers Kasirye, the executive director of Uganda Youth Development Link.

Kasirye told a consultative workshop organized by the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association at Ridar Hotel in Seeta, Mukono yesterday that Uganda had not ratified the Palermo Protocol on fighting trafficking although it signed it in 2000.

Parliament recently allowed the chairperson of the Women MPs, Winnie Masiko, to move a private members' bill on human trafficking. Kasirye said although there was scanty information on the actual numbers of persons trafficked; boys were trafficked as early as 10 years and girls at 15 years.

Women and girls are more vulnerable because of their gender roles, he added. He noted that internal trafficking was the highest form, with children brought to Kampala and Mukono from Karamoja, Kisoro, Rakai, Lyantonde, Mbarara, Masaka, Fort Portal, Luwero, Bugerere and Kayunga. The victims, he said, are taken by the traffickers to work as sex slaves in lodges, do manual labour and dance in bars.

Others are taken for marriage, sacrifice, cross-border trade, while others end up as street children. On cross-border trafficking, Kasirye noted that Ugandan children were being exchanged for guns and medicine in Kenya.

The women legislators had invited selected male counterparts to sensitize them on the subject, with a view to seeking their support when the bill is debated.

Source: The New Vision website, Kampala, in English 18 Dec 07

LOAD-DATE: December 18, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

141 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

December 17, 2007 Monday

Uganda; U.S. Monitors Country On Human Trafficking

BYLINE: New Vision**LENGTH:** 307 words

THE U.S. has placed Uganda on its **watchlist** of countries dogged by **human trafficking**. According to the 2007 U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Report, Uganda falls in "**Tier 2**", which refers to countries that do not meet minimum standards of combating **human trafficking** but are making significant efforts to ensure compliance.

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LOAD-DATE: December 18, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

142 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

November 20, 2007, Tuesday

Israel still falls short over human trafficking problem. US Ambassador Jones warns Knesset of growing danger

BYLINE: Ruth Eglash

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 772 words

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of slave labor and prostitution is a serious threat to Israel's national security US Ambassador to Israel Richard Jones told a joint session of the Knesset Committee for Foreign Workers and the Subcommittee on the Trafficking in Women Monday.

"Once the channels of trafficking humans have been established then they can easily be used to smuggle drugs arms and even terrorists into the country Jones warned those gathered at the meeting, including representatives of the Justice, Interior, Welfare and Social Services ministries, as well as law enforcement officials and non- governmental organizations.

Jones presented the committee with the findings of the US State Department's 2007 annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP), which was published in June. Israel was placed in the **Tier 2** category of countries who have made efforts to combat trafficking in human beings but have yet to fully comply with the minimum requirements of the US State Department.

Israel's standing slightly improved on the previous year, when it was placed on the report's Tier 2 Watch List, which is just one level higher than the lowest - countries that completely refuse to comply with the State Department's requirements.

Israel's elevation to **Tier 2** and off of the **watch list** was due in part to legislation passed in the Knesset last October, which broadened the definition of **human trafficking** and outlined stiffer punishments for those caught trafficking humans, explained Jones. However, Israel needed to make a greater effort to actually prosecute the perpetrators and increase awareness among the victims of their rights, he added.

Israel has made significant progress in combating trafficking into the country but there are still many steps that can and should be taken to improve the situation Jones said, adding that he hoped by the time of next year's report Israel would be elevated to the optimum Tier 1 status.

I believe that Israel not only has to make every effort to reach Tier 1 by next year it actually has no choice but to make it there MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), chair of the Foreign Workers Committee, told The Jerusalem Post following the meeting. I think that with all the pressure from politicians interested in this subject we have a good chance of getting there."

Jones pointed to the appointment in June 2006 of Rachel Gershuni Israel's inter-office liaison on trafficking in persons as another step in the right direction.

A lawyer by training Gershuni presented to the committee some of the efforts initiated over the past year including an agreement with Thailand to ensure basic conditions for workers arriving here. She also said that her department would use the TIP report to evaluate activities in other countries around the world including leveraging private companies to combat trafficking. Israel's national airline carrier El Al is one example of a company that could be utilized to disseminate information to foreign workers coming into Israel said Gershuni.

Among other activities to be put in motion in the coming months Gershuni described the establishment of safe houses countrywide for foreign workers and prostitutes who fall victim to trafficking or slave labor conditions and increased legal assistance for those victims to prosecute their former employees.

Another issue that was raised in the meeting was the handing out of visas to victims of trafficking who want to stay in Israel following their ordeal.

MK Zehava Gal-On (Meretz) head of the Subcommittee on the Trafficking of Women said a firm policy should be established by the Interior Ministry to issue visas to all foreign nationals that have been enslaved in Israel either for purposes of labor or prostitution. Currently the ministry assesses each case individually and hands out visas as a humanitarian gesture.

A representative of the Interior Ministry's Population Registry said When it has been determined the person is a victim we usually do not have a problem handing out the required visas. Our staff has started to undergo training to identify such victims.

"Trafficking in humans is not only a threat to our national borders Gal-On said. Fortitude is also measured by how a country protects its weakest people."

Jones ended the meeting by calling on all governmental bodies and NGOs to work together to eliminate trafficking completely from our society.

"Just as traffickers use networks to transfer people around the world so do governments need to establish networks to prevent or eliminate such exploitation he said.

LOAD-DATE: December 4, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS will lead to drugs arms and even terrorist smuggling US Ambassador to Israel Richard Jones said yesterday at the Knesset. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

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143 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

November 19, 2007 Monday

Nigeria; Human Trafficking - a View From Edo State

BYLINE: Daily Trust

LENGTH: 2526 words

Annually, some 800,000 persons, made up mainly of women and children, are trafficked across national borders.

Recently, Edo state hosted journalists and experts for a two day anti human trafficking workshop organised by the National agency for the prohibition of traffic in persons (NAPTIP), where the role the media could play in combating trafficking in persons was discussed.

This city was possibly chosen as the venue for this workshop, because Edo state has been labelled as the most endemic state known for human trafficking.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Annually, about 600,000 to 800,000 people mostly women and children are trafficked across national borders, which does not count millions trafficked within their own countries.

In a few cases, physical force is used, and in other cases, false promises are made regarding job opportunities or marriages in foreign countries to entrap victims.

In general terms, human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat which deprives people of their rights and freedom. Not only is it a global health risk, it also fuels the growth of organized crime.

Human trafficking I must say has a devastating impact on individual victims, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, and even death. The impact of human trafficking however goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the safety and security of all nations it touches.

The phenomenon of human trafficking in Nigeria has become multi dimensional and multi faceted to the extent that anybody could fall a victim and no one is safe. Besides prostitution, marriage, and forced labour, some of these victims are used for rituals, begging and even for organ transplantation or money laundering. While most trafficking into the commercial sex trade involves young adult women, minors including some children under 16 are also exploited. For example, recent research from Armenia notes a high demand for girls from the age of 15 in some of the Gulf States (the most common destination countries for those trafficked from Central Asia); where after this age girls are considered adults. The majority of customers for child sex in every country are local men, but the presence of foreign tourists, businessmen, and even peacekeeping forces has been cited as a contributory factor.

Surprisingly, even the solemn Muslim pilgrimage has been turned to an avenue for trafficking, by some unscrupulous persons. Hussaina Ibrahim and Idris Aminu were both charged for trafficking from Kano to Saudi Arabia, organizing illegal foreign travels and debt bondage. Their victims were promised good jobs in Saudi Arabia, but were later introduced to prostitution. Hussaina was sentenced to three years while Idris who worked with a traveling agency was sentenced to two years for being an aid to a trafficker.

Nigeria isn't the only country haunted with problems of human trafficking, neither are the effects of such acts suffered by Nigerians alone. Statistics show that every year, out of one to two million trafficked victims who are mostly women and children, but increasingly men and boys as well, a great percentage is taken to Italy while the few others are taken to the United States, Saudi Arabia, Macedonia and India. The most shocking revelation however is that over 40 percent of these victims are under the age of consent.

In Nigeria today, particularly Edo state, human trafficking has become the order of the day it has become an organised crime which has Lawyers, herbalists, corrupt Immigration and police officers all involved in the process.

Sometimes you realise that these traffickers are well connected in embassies in various countries, and could get their victims into trouble, if along the way they refuse to cooperate.

While lots of people blame poverty or culture as a basis for human trafficking in Nigeria, NAPTIP says other causes of the outrageous rate of human trafficking in the country are ignorance, desperation, and the promotion and commercialization of sex by the European Union (EU).

Speaking on the first day of the workshop, the director investigation and monitoring (NAPTIP) Alh. Muhammad Babandede, said that various factors influence child trafficking in Nigeria and the West African Sub-region but the singular and most important excuse and contributory feature however, include poverty and desperation.

According to him, in all countries concerned a large proportion of the population live below the poverty line. However, poverty alone does not explain the prevalence of child trafficking in Nigeria. Most people heavily involved in human trafficking do not necessarily have the most social indicator for poverty, nor possess the worst cases of poverty.

Thus, it is right to say that inadequate educational opportunity, lack of vocational and economic opportunities for the youth in rural areas, institutional lapses, greed and peer group influence among other things amount to desperation and are contributory factors.

Alhaji Babandede added that most victims of human trafficking are lured into believing that a greener pasture awaits them where they will be taken to. Ignorant as most of them are, they eagerly jump to the offer without confiding in anyone. This according to him can be avoided through sensitisation and enlightenment workshops.

"Traffickers prey on the ignorance, self worth and vulnerability of victims. They often promise their victims employment as hair dressers or sales girls, while others are told great jobs in offices and exquisite accommodation, await them on arrival.

A typical and natural counterweight to this is information and education resource. The special role of the media in education, information, and mobilization of the citizenry for development, strategically places them as a strong ally of the Agency."

The first trafficker who was jailed is 51 year old lady. She had procured some girls from Uromi in Edo state with a promise of securing jobs for them in Spain. She took them to Spain and introduced them into prostitution. However she was caught and sentenced to a 36 months jail term which she has served.

These days human trafficking in Nigeria has become an organised crime, Lawyers, herbalists, bankers, corrupt Immigration and police officers are all involved in the process.

"Trafficking in persons is often aided by official corruption in countries of origin, transit and destination, thereby threatening the rule of law; It is unfortunate that law enforcement agents in whom the populace place their trust do not make things easier. Sometimes, law enforcement officers become part of the syndicate."

A few years ago in Bosnia, Human Rights Watch found evidences of visa and immigration officials visiting brothels for free sexual services, in exchange for ignoring the doctored documents produced by traffickers to facilitate transport through the country. While some law enforcement agencies are major participants in the act of human trafficking, a great number of others aren't. In December 2003 for example, NAPTIP in conjunction with the Nigerian Immigration Service and UNICEF Nigeria repatriated a total number of 169 children who were engaged in exploitative activities in Nigeria back to the Republic of Benin.

On the 9th of March, 2005 police in Lagos stopped a refrigerated truck containing 64 children. The children were from Edati Local Government in Niger, Ebonyi, Edo States and Edu Local Govt. in Kwara State. They were apparently being taken to Lagos to work as house helps. Through the collaborative efforts of stake holders such as UNICEF, the French Embassy, Local NGO's and the government of the two affected states, NAPTIP successfully rehabilitated the children and reunited them with their families. The children were trained in vocational skills along with their parents while some others were enrolled in schools.

From its inception up till March 31st 2007, nine hundred and sixty-two (962) victims have passed through the Agency. One hundred and eighteen (118) of them have been rehabilitated, while five hundred and thirty-nine (539) victims are awaiting rehabilitation. Seven hundred and ten (710) of them are female victims and two hundred and fifty-two (252) of

them are male victims. The age range of the 55% of the victims is between eighteen to twenty-eight years, 35% of them are between 1 day and seventeen years. The remaining 10% of them are above the age of twenty-eight years.

"We are happy to say that nineteen (19) out of the one hundred and eighteen (118) victims under rehabilitation, have been enrolled in various schools across the country. In addition, the statistics at the disposal of the agency reveal that 45% of the victims are infected with one form of sickness or the other. Presently, nine of them tested HIV positive while two of them suffer from psychiatric cases. In addition, 5% of the female victims were pregnant and some delivered their babies under the care of NAPITIP. As at December 2006, seven babies are under the care of NAPITIP."

Also speaking at the workshop, Head media and communication, (NAPITIP), Mr. Arinze Orakwue, spoke basically from the European Union (EU) point of view. According to Orakwue, the EU is a major promoter of human trafficking, mainly because in their countries commercial sex has been legalized, and since most girls who are trafficked to Europe are introduced to prostitution, it is only natural that they see prostitution as a normal means of lively hood.

"It is disgusting to think that those who indulge in commercial sex in these countries pay tax to the government. It has been made a normal business and the most annoying thing is that these girls who sleep with an average of 10 men in a day, mostly do not use the money for their personal use, rather they give it to their traffickers until they are able to buy their freedom."

Another painful thing according to Orakwue is that by the time these victims succeed in paying for their freedom, most of their traffickers end up selling them out to the authorities over there. They are picked up without any of their belongings or even a dime and deported to their countries.

"These victims are being used from the beginning to the end, once they are deported; their traffickers often end up automatically inheriting everything that belonged to them."

He adds that these days, even the boys are being used to promote commercial sex. Most of them are paid for playing a great role as pimps. An increased understanding of trafficking has exposed the underbelly of the sex industry: and the brutality and viciousness of many pimps and brothel owners.

However, in relation to child pornography and child prostitution which is fast becoming rampant, research has shown that these forms of sexual abuse are more widespread than previously thought. They are not the preserve of 'paedophiles' but may be linked to both sexual abuse in the family and to prostitute and pornography use more generally. Research has also shown an emergence of sex tourism routes within Europe, with a number of cities emerging as places where male and female minors are exploited. A recent report from Italy links sex tourism and trafficking through 'sex cruises' between the mainland and Sardinia and Elba. Most victims often find themselves in these cities and even if some of them attempt to run away they end up being caught or even killed by their traffickers.

Often, people complain that the victims do not press charges when they find out they have in fact fallen victim to human trafficking, but Orakwue explains why the victims should not be blamed for refusing to press charges.

"The victim can in no way press charges without identification or proper and valid documents which they do not have; more so, these traffickers are well connected, they work with the corrupt immigration and sometimes the police, all they need do is make a phone call."

Research has shown that Non governmental organisations (NGO's) have played a crucial role in promoting the issue of sexual exploitation and in developing innovative responses. The NGO sector has focused on direct support for children, young people and Human beings in general. With Barnardos in the UK developing innovative work enabling girls to exit prostitution, Save the Children Norway continuing efforts against child pornography, a range of NGOs in the Balkans establishing shelters for victims of trafficking and NAPITIP in Nigeria.

Jane Osagie, Edo state coordinator of the International reproductive rights research action group said that sometimes parents of these victims are mainly to be blamed. According to her, despite all enlightenment campaigns, most of these parents force or pressurise their children to go abroad, they even encourage them to be trafficked.

She added that in some situations these parents give their children the impression that the NGO's that campaign against human trafficking, do not want to see them become something better in the future.

"We are not saying they should not travel, but if they have to they should do it legally; sometimes in the process of being trafficked, some of these kids die; parents should preserve their children so they would become worthy in this life."

Osagie added that parents must be enlightened that money isn't everything, and poverty isn't lunacy.

"We should not have value for money from just anywhere, rather than engage in trafficking or use our children to make money, let us learn to work hard and become something in future."

Osagie also appealed to the government to embark on infrastructural development to ensure that all citizens live a comfortable live.

"If our social amenities are properly looked into and everyone is comfortable, no one would think of leaving the country talk more of being trafficked."

She appealed to the victims to try to cooperate with Law enforcement agencies so that trafficking in persons will be combated.

"Our greatest challenges are the victims; some of them feel that their dreams have been shattered because they were rescued: and since they have been programmed by their traffickers to lie some of them never give the information you want to know."

For NAPTIP this is also one big challenge they often face but this does not stop them from doing their job effectively. They say:

The child is our first priority Not the needs of the family Not the child's story Not the evidence Not the needs of the court Not the needs of the police

In 2001 Nigeria was categorized in **tier 2** of the **Trafficking in Persons** Country List, compiled by the United States government and the Transparency International. This **tier** lists states that do not meet minimum standards of combating **human trafficking** but are recognized to be making efforts to do so. Other African countries in this category include Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Uganda.

There is no doubt that NAPTIP and other child trafficking agencies are doing a great job, but they can do better with the cooperation and dedication of law enforcement agencies and the Nigerian populace in general.

The trip to Edo State was sponsored by NAPTIP.

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144 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

November 16, 2007 Friday

OPENING REMARKS AT BIDDER'S CONFERENCE

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 1211 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

MARK LAGON: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) first annual Bidder's Conference. We plan to make this an annual event. In looking around this room I see many familiar faces who have long partnered with G/TIP on one of the great issues of our day--the fight to abolish human trafficking. Many of you are key allies both in the policy arena, specifically of late on the reauthorization of Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as well as invaluable partners on the ground. You reflect the diversity of the movement that coalesced around this issue?service providers and human rights NGOs, faith-based and feminist organizations, left and right on the political spectrum. Some of you have long been in the trenches, while others are newer to the fight. We appreciate each of you and applaud your efforts. The success of our own work hinges on close collaboration with the NGO community.

As many of you already know the TIP office, which I have the privilege of leading, has four primary functions: writing the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool used to engage foreign governments; increasing public awareness; working diplomatically with foreign governments to encourage progress in combating trafficking; and of course, managing anti-trafficking funds. These four functions compliment each other--it is critical to note for the purposes of our discussion today that the annual report and the management of anti-trafficking funds are inextricably linked.

Before beginning a discussion of funding levels and priorities, let's briefly discuss the scope of the problem--that which drives the projects you implement and the programs we fund. Around the world there has been a real paradigm shift in awareness about human trafficking, and a sensitivity that victims are just that--victims, not criminals or illegal aliens. There is a growing refusal to accept enslavement as an inevitable product of poverty or human viciousness. It is not just poverty and desperation that make human trafficking possible, but also the extreme greed and sadism of the exploiters and the catalyst of corruption.

The U.S. Government (USG) estimates that approximately 800,000 people are trafficked internationally each year; millions are enslaved in their own countries. People are coerced into bonded labor, exploited in domestic servitude, and enslaved in agricultural work and in factories. Victims of sex trafficking and slave labor include foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, women and men, and children and adults. Human trafficking is a jargon term. Trafficking as a word makes some think it is chiefly about moving people across borders. It is NOT. Trafficking chiefly involves extreme exploitation and control, both physical and psychological. A few weeks ago I met a 24 year old woman from Nepal who worked as a domestic servant in Kuwait. She'd been beaten and had numerous bite marks all over her arms and back form a sadistic woman who felt impunity to treat her as NO human should be treated. She was, simply, a slave in her employer's house. This is inhuman, and it must be abolished.

Seated here in the comfort of the U.S. State Department we must be ever mindful of the individual faces of human trafficking--lest we forget that policy decisions and funding priorities have real life implications. As we've learned more about this form of modern-day slavery, the U.S.--both government and civil society--has quickly moved into global leadership. We advocate for tougher prosecution of criminals, greater support for victims, and stronger warning messages to prevent innocent men, women and children from being lured into exploitation schemes. In the last five years,

over 100 countries have passed new laws or amended existing law to toughen penalties for human trafficking. But much remains to be done.

The annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which is released in June, examines what countries are doing on three fronts--protection, prosecution, and prevention. The report ranks 151 countries and territories. Extensive analysis based on criteria laid out by Congress in the original TVPA goes into the assignment of countries into **Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3**. The report is an authoritative assessment of global trends in **human trafficking** and it serves to draw the world's attention to the existence of modern-day slavery. One of the trends discerned in field reporting for the 2006 and 2007 Trafficking in Persons Reports is the use of debt as a tool of coercion in both forced labor and sex trafficking. We also noted in the annual report a lack of progress on rule of law which can be traced to official corruption and complicity in the exploitation, on the one hand, and indifference on the other. Desperate migrant laborers are vulnerable to force, fraud and coercion--omnipresent tactics used by traffickers in cases of labor slavery--in a climate of official indifference where this crime is, typically, not criminalized, but considered a civil, regulatory offense.

Importantly from a programming perspective, the report not only identifies trends, but it represents a guide for how U.S. Government foreign assistance should be prioritized to assist governments to respond more effectively--to address those substantive trends and countries of particular concern. Our leadership on human trafficking is not purely rhetorical or even diplomatic as important as both may be. The USG has spent over \$449 million dollars for international anti-TIP programs since FY 2001. In FY 2006 alone we obligated approximately \$74 million to fund 54 programs in about 70 countries. G/TIP's funds are centrally managed which allow for a tailored response to a smaller number of recently designated priority countries identified in the TIP Report. G/TIP funds are used primarily, although not exclusively to assist Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, with a specific focus on deficiencies identified in the annual TIP report and subsequent interim reports. Six countries have been on the Tier 2 Watch List for three or more consecutive years. Several countries struggle to combat trafficking with limited resources and, while they meet the minimum requirements for the TIP Report assessment, they would benefit from assistance and additional expertise in this difficult fight.

Our funding decisions are particularly informed by (1) the severity and scope of the trafficking problem in a particular country, (2) the country's lack of financial resources and (3) the political will on the part of the country's national and local governments. We seek to fund projects in the short term, generally 18 to 36 months, which create an environment conducive to systemic change. Today's conference will allow you to hear from and engage with the dedicated program staff that work in G/TIP. Their passion for this issue and commitment to this cause is matched only by your own. At the heart of U.S. Government efforts to end human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity--a desire not only to rescue people, but restore their dignity. You are our partners in this endeavor.

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145 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 31, 2007

CHRC Briefing: Trafficking in China

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 392 words

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Briefing:

Trafficking in China

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Room: 2255 Rayburn

With the 2008 Olympics growing closer, the People's Republic of China and its abysmal human rights record remain under international scrutiny. Among the most serious and pressing human rights issues in China is that of trafficking of women and children. Recently, the State Department's 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report placed China on the **Tier 2 Watch list** for the third year in a row because of Beijing's failure to address trafficking that results in involuntary servitude and to provide comprehensive services to trafficking victims.

The Chinese government does not fully comply with minimum standards to address trafficking; however, it has taken steps towards combating the situation, such as developing a National Plan of Action on Anti-trafficking and creating a joint panel of 21 different ministries to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts and to increase cooperation with neighboring countries. China remains a major source, transit point and destination country for trafficked persons. The majority of trafficking in China is internal, and targets women and children for forced sexual and labor purposes. The International Labor Organization estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 persons are trafficked internally each year, 90% of whom are women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation. As China's one child-policies have contributed to an ever widening gender gap, some experts predict that the male-female imbalance in certain areas may have already contributed to the trafficking of girls and women as "brides."

To discuss these important issues, we welcome as expert witnesses:

Panel One:

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, State Department

Panel Two:

Rebiya Kadeer, President, Uyghur American Association

T. Kumar, Advocacy Director, Asia and Pacific, Amnesty International USA

Tom Malinowski, Washington Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch

We look forward to seeing you at this important briefing. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Burns (Rep. Lantos) at 202-225-3531 or Hillary Hosford (Rep. Wolf) at 202-225-5136. For media inquiries, please call Lynne Weil at 202-225-5021.

Sincerely,

TOM LANTOS, M.C. FRANK R. WOLF, M.C.

Co-Chair, CHRC Co-Chair, CHCR

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

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146 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 30, 2007

CHRC Briefing: Trafficking in China

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 392 words

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147 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

October 26, 2007

Ambassador Lagon Discusses How To Combat Human Trafficking; USINFO Webchat transcript, October 18

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 6357 words

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP), discussed strategies to help fight modern-day slavery around the world in an October 18 USINFO Webchat.

Following is the transcript:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Bureau of International Information Programs, USINFO Webchat Transcript, ,

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons: Protecting Victims, Prosecuting Traffickers

Guest: Ambassador Mark Lagon, Date: October 18, 2007, Time: 2:00 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT)

Webchat Moderator: Welcome! We will begin shortly. We do see your questions coming in. Thank you.

Learn more about the work of "G/TIP" at: www.state.gov/g/tip

The 2007 Trafficking Report is available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>

Ambassador Lagon's biography is available at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/84924.htm>

Ambassador Mark Lagon: I direct the State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons.

The U.S. government estimates about 800,000 people are trafficked internationally across borders each year, and millions more are victims of human trafficking within the borders of countries. Every day, all over the world people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold to prostitution, exploited to domestic servitude, sweat shops, factories, and unlawfully recruited to be child soldiers.

Estimates vary widely, but we believe 80% of those trafficked are females. Up to half are children, minors.

There's obese degradation and violation that occurs when someone is bought and sold into sex traffic and labor, but grave global public health implications as well. Trafficking and the spread of global HIV AIDS are linked. People in prostitution have a high incidence of AIDS. For example, HIV AIDS prevalence among people studied from Nepal and prosecuted in India was 38% of those trafficked. The rate of those who had HIV AIDS exceeded 60% among those prostituted at a young age, under 15. Think of that, the exploitation, violence and add on to that a horrible public health risk.

Sex trafficking, sexual servitude, brokered messenger, child sex tourism, largely effect women and children as the chief victims. Human trafficking exists everywhere, in the United States as well.

We are trying to do our best to have a victim-centered approach. They are being treated like criminals, illegal aliens. We need to find them, help with rehabilitation, and help them into lives to be productive in society. It's a bleak picture in some respects, but there's reason for hope over the last several years, in part because the United States has been encouraging other countries, creating laws to target trafficking, and strengthening laws.

My secretary, Secretary Rice, (--inaudible) the fight to end human trafficking, to have a partner in the United States. We want to work with all other nations in the world to fight this problem we have here at home.

It's good for us to have this conversation today. As it happens the President of the United States has come out with an annual determination about the countries we rate as the most serious cases of human trafficking in the world. Some of them are urged to take greater steps by receiving economic sanctions. We also made assessments about improvements that occurred in some countries. I encourage you to look at the website of our office, www.state.gov/G/tip, and I look forward to taking your questions now that we can have this dialogue.

Question [Rajerisoa Voahanginirina]: To Ambassador Lagon: good afternoon Sir, I am Ms Rajerisoa Voahanginirina: I am wondering if it is possible to know the causes/origins of human trafficking. I am not sure if technological development have something to do with the spread of human trafficking? Thanks a lot.

Answer [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One of the participants has asked a good question about the cause and origins of human trafficking, wondering whether technological development has led to the spread of human trafficking.

You know, one might think of human trafficking as one of the worst forms of globalization, because people are turned into commodities, bought and sold. But it's not the necessary product of globalization. It's right to say poverty helps create human trafficking, but it's not poverty alone. It's not the poverty that drives people in desperate situations to either sex trafficking or slave labor as fates. It's usually poverty plus criminals; criminals who would recruit those vulnerable people, who look for a better life, and get them caught in work situations whether sexual servitude or as construction workers, maids. That's a necessary factor too. Also, not just poverty, it is corruption. Without police, judges, immigration officials who help the traffickers do their evil you wouldn't have this problem being as substantial as it is.

Q [IRC Cairo]: How we can combat trafficking in women in the Middle East?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: You know, I have recently traveled to both India and to four countries in the Gulf, Oman, Bahrain, United Arab Emirate and Kuwait. India, a lot of those trafficked into the Gulf, come from South Asia and India. There's a problem of a mindset when women, migrants are not seen as having full rights. I was delighted to hear the Ministry of Manpower and Labor of Oman say he considered himself not laboring for the citizens of Oman, but the (--inaudible).

I met with a number of maids, domestic workers in Kuwait, saw appalling examples of how maids from Nepal, and from Indonesia, elsewhere, were made to work nearly around the clock for seven-day as a week, beaten, raped, I even met a woman who I understood had bite marks all over her body because her employer thought that it was okay, there was impunity for treating someone that way.

The solution, in the Middle East and every where, law that's treat human trafficking as a serious crime with punishments serious for the exploiter, and enforcing those laws, then some steps to try and change mindsets, where women and children are considered less than human.

Q [Hefler]: "To Ambassador Lagon: good morning Sir. I am Hefler a library patron in Antananarivo Madagascar: Do you really believe that it is possible to suppress human trafficking? So far what Thomas Hobbes said "man is a wolf for other man" seems to be valid. It is inseparable with man's character to abuse others. I would say that a universal morality code will help to fight that trafficking but is it possible? If education is considered to be the efficient solution many nations have already tried to do so, and it is often those who are knowledgeable about it that break the law."

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One of our participants, basically asks about the problem of evil, whether in a situation when man is a wolf for another man, you can't change their behavior, whether in fact we'll be able to do anything fundamentally to fight human trafficking. I welcome this question from a library patron in Madagascar.

We do need to start with laws that identify that human traffic is a specific problem, and that holds the exploiter to account. Whether it's the recruiter, maybe a shark, metaphor of shark, someone who tries to get someone to come work in a field that sounds like it's going to be a better life for them, but it turns out to be one of the most gross forms of exploitation, whether it's in sexual servitude or in agricultural work or as domestic servant. We need to hold those people to account with strong laws, and those laws have to be thoroughly enforced by police who look for the problem and go after those responsible. So there is a possibility through deterring the worst form of exploitation, through serious punishments, not just a small fine for a labor infraction, but something serious.

I will give you an example. I traveled not so long ago to Thailand. I met with Burmese who are come, to look for better work, ended up recruited to work in a factory, processing shrimp in the seafood industry. The factory turned out to be, in fact, a work camp, a labor camp where she was confined within 15-foot walls. She tried to escape, was caught, beaten in front of her fellow workers, had her head of hair shaved off. This kind of problem didn't lead to the factory being

permanently closed, and has not yet led to the punishment of those responsible. There has to be a serious punishment, then we have the hope of deterring this kind of immoral behavior.

Q [Hefler]: Are you working with the United Nations and other countries especially the developing countries where we find a lot of human trafficking? What actions have you done so far to combat human trafficking and how do you assess the results? I am curious to have guidance on the different on going techniques/methods to combat human trafficking? Thanks a lot.

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: Our same participant asks another question, whether we are working with the United Nations, other countries, developed countries especially, where we find a lot of trafficking.

The United States puts out an annual report on human trafficking around the world. We offer an assessment. The most important thing is the United States work in partnership with other countries, not judging, but in fact offering a helping hand. Where we see a significant problem in human trafficking. Where we see a will on the part of governments and society to make a difference, and to work on better prosecuting those responsible, protecting victims, and preventing the problem in the first place through public awareness. We are willing to fund programs that help train law enforcement, create victim shelters, help integrating with society.

The UN, I must say, is following the United States' lead. The United States passed legislation seven years ago to fight human trafficking, creating the office I now head; we have since then been trying to raise public awareness internationally about the program. The UN is trying to start a public initiative to fight trafficking, which we hope will add a multi-lateral effort to fight trafficking on the ground.

That effort of the UN will be most useful if we not only have conferences to raise awareness about the problem, but in fact have practical ways, the way the UN does best, to share training with law enforcement, to identify the problem, be able to spot victims, and assist countries in being able to give the kind of protection to victims of human trafficking that there is.

Moderator: The 2007 Trafficking Report is available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>

Q [USMI Rome]: From Sr. Eugenia Bonetti and a conference of women religious addressing the issue in Rome -- what is the United States suggesting be done to control the trafficking that takes place on the internet? And what thoughts do you have about the role of women religious (nuns) in the fight against trafficking in persons. And what thoughts do you have about addressing demand. Thank you for the support of our conference in Rome.

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: We have a question from Sister Eugenia Bonetti at a conference addressing the issue in Rome. What's the United State's suggestion to control the trafficking taking place on the Internet. What thoughts do you have for the role of women who are in religious orders?

These are two really good questions that I welcome. On the one hand, it's important to know that sex trafficking doesn't just occur in brothels. In fact, the Internet is a device used by traffickers to put people up for sale, actually not on the auction block, but to be rented, really, for use, for sexual exploitation over and over again.

It's one of the reasons we are working in partnership with the Microsoft company, to try and use their technology to assist law enforcement to be able to go after the traffickers who use the Internet, because in fact, it is a necessary product of the existence of the sex industry on the Internet, that we need to do our best to fight it. It doesn't have to be the result of the information age and technology, that people are relegated to sexual exploitation. It's a very good thing the Microsoft company is putting its money where its mouth is to assist law enforcement in various places around the world.

Q [USMI Rome]: From the Rome conference again: As religious women working directly with prostituted/trafficked people, we see little attention or focus on demand from sex buyers being addressed by governments. What specifically does your office recommend to address the growing demand?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: The other question asked by the participant in Rome, the role nuns and religious orders can play.

I have seen, myself, in Bombay, wonderful examples of nuns running a shelter that gives the greatest support to young girls who are either Indian citizens or from neighboring South Asian states. Girls who had been caught in the web of child prostitution, I have seen them in school, I've seen them in their residences, the love given by those nuns is remarkable. They've done a good job receiving support from others besides the United States government, in the business

community and elsewhere. Faith-based organizations have played a tremendous role in preventing human trafficking, a reason we will organize a conference this spring, in 2008, to share lessons, best practices, about how faith-based organizations have done a great deal to combat human trafficking, chiefly by helping victims.

Q [USMI Rome]: And what thoughts do you have about addressing demand. Thank you for the support of our conference in Rome.

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: We have another question from the same participants in the Rome conference on human trafficking. They ask why there's so little attention or focus on the demand from sex buyers being addressed by governments, what specifically would our office do with regard to demand.

The United States feels strongly that the demand for commercial sexual exploitation is the driver that we have to address in dealing with sex trafficking. If there were not demand for the purchase of women and girls, boys for that matter, for commercial sexual exploitation there would be no sex trafficking. Legal prostitution is not the answer to the problem. For regulation, mitigation, it is in fact part of problem. We have to address amendments.

One reason the Congress asked us to look in our next annual report on human trafficking at steps being taken by governments to reduce the demand for sex trafficking. I will say demand is important for all kinds of trafficking. In that part of human trafficking that's slave labor we should also look for the demand for products that may be produced by slave labor. We need to create incentive for those who would allow supply chains, to make sure they clean that up, not just for humanitarian interests, but self-interest.

Q [Mamy Raelison]: What kind of program aiming at restoring a human dignity to those who suffered from human trafficking is now under way? And how do you think of involving health care professionals (medical doctors, nurses, social workers, security forces--)? It seems obvious that those who have a specialty or a special competency in dealing with psychological disorders are among the much needed human resources.

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: We have a question from a participant, has to do with restoring human dignity to those who have suffered from human trafficking, asking in particular how to involve healthcare professionals, like medical doctors, nurses, social workers, security forces.

Let me tell you an example of what we do in the United States. One of my roles in addition to working on the international efforts to reduce this modern-day slavery, I chair an agency, domestic agencies, as well as international in the United States government. Recently I went to a meeting at a medium sized city, Nashville, Tennessee, and I saw how my colleagues in its health ministry were rolling out an effort to cooperate with local healthcare providers, faith-based and humanitarian groups. It was a campaign to rescue, restore victims of human trafficking, whether sex traffic or migrant workers abused. The whole campaign was designed to teach and train those who work in emergency rooms, social workers and others to look for the signs of people that might not just be in a difficult situation, but in fact be in those extreme circumstances of exploitation and control, to look beneath the surface.

That's the kind of effort that I try and share some experience with in the United States, with other countries, because our main goal in a victim-centered approach is to rescue those victims of human trafficking and to go forward, and try to rehabilitate them, and reintegrate them into society, either in the country where they are working, or in their home country, so they can become full and whole human beings again, to restore their dignity, because human trafficking through the control and violence it involves is something that robs basic human dignity from people.

Q [Solofo]: Dear Sir, Hi! my name is Solofo, from Madagascar. I am very interested in this subject, it means that the US government makes values the Human Right Thank you in advance for allowing me to take part in this topic. Would you tell me some reasons why some people make it?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One of our questioners, Solofo from Madagascar, asks why some people get caught in human trafficking. Let me describe the general pattern we find over and over again to be the case.

You will find that people who are in an economic situation that's pretty desperate in a country, they're looking for a better life, and a recruiter working for an employment agency will offer them some sort of better existence. They will say "I will get you to another country with decent work, decent hours, and decent conditions. You need to give me a large fee to get you there and to place you in that job."

That fee puts the victim in debt, so that when they arrive in the country and they find out the work is not so wonderful, and they might be in enforced prostitution or in a situation of involuntary servitude, they can't leave because they are so heavily in debt. In fact the debt is often designed to never be repaid. It's compounded by the fact they are afraid to go to

the police because they were led to believe by employers they will be treated like criminals, they're going to get detained. In fact, they may well be said to have broken the terms of their employment and hence deported back to their home country.

That is how people get caught. They often think that they're doing something that's going to lead to a better life. That's why the young woman I met, who was recruited in Burma, and went to Thailand, thought she would have a better life and found herself in the hell she was beaten for trying to run away from a slave labor factory.

Now, our questioner [Solofo] comes from Madagascar, and I should say something about the situation in Madagascar.

In our own tier system of rankings of countries, which is Tier 1, Tier 2, the Tier-2 Watch List and Tier 3, Madagascar is tier 2. It has some situation of commercial sexual exploitation, and the exploitation of domestic labor working in the mining sector. As for its own law, it's not an adequate law for dealing with human trafficking working on a comprehensive law. There's been some progress on prosecutions, convictions, in the last year for the first time for the human traffickers. As far as protecting victims goes in Madagascar, there has been some rescue of victims and education for people about the problem, particularly note worthy has been an outstanding public awareness campaign about the problem.

Q [Solofo]: Would you tell us where is the most country in which traffic is increased?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One questioner, one participant in our discussion here asked this question: Would you tell us what's the country where traffic has increased the most.

Well, I guess the best thing to focus on is where the epicenter of human trafficking is, and that's in India, not just because of the size of population, the problem that exists. India is a very impressive exemplar of democracy and development. It's a valued partner of the United States. We're developing a strong alliance with India. And yet there remains a significant problem of human trafficking in India. Let me tell you a little about what I found in a visit to India in September.

There are three kinds of human trafficking one sees in India. One sees sex trafficking, particularly disturbing, I saw victims of child prostitution in Bombay. We see child labor, and you see bonded labor. As far as sex trafficking and child labor goes, the government of India is taking significant steps, working with non-government organizations to try to find victims and help them. As far as prosecutions of those responsible for sex trafficking and child labor, there hasn't been as strong effort, particularly as cases have not put forward investigations to prosecutions for actual convictions in the slow-moving courts in it India.

There are fast-track courts in India for things like fighting narcotics and counter-terrorism and national security threats. I don't see why there couldn't be fast track courts for human trafficking. The scale of the problem in India is caused by the third kind of trafficking, bonded labor. While a law was passed in 1976 making bonded labor illegal, particularly with the legacy of the lowest castes, the so-called untouchables being caught in per pet perpetual forced labor. There remain millions of people in India who continue in brick kilns, stalls, to work in bonded labor, and that's where the largest problem exists and there continues to be some denial about the extent of the problem, an unwillingness to urge state and local authorities to take steps necessary to deal with that.

Q [HANS]: Which types of projects, coming from NGOs, with what limits in amount and duration, would GTIP approve?

We have a question from Hans, a participant regarding Argentina. In particular, there was a question about what types of projects coming from NGOs would be supported by the United States government to fight human trafficking? What's the deadline for presenting projects for funding through our office that I head, and who do the proposals get presented to?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: We solicit proposals from NGOs to be involved in all sorts of aspects of human trafficking; training law enforcement, building shelters, helping victims, rehabilitation, and public awareness. The way to look for how to apply for that grant money is to look at the website of my office, www.state.gov/G/tip.

Or secondly, you can look at the overall website of the U.S. government on its grant solicitations, www.grants.gov. Also, in the country that you are in you can look at the website of the U.S. embassy, and the solicitation of grants related to fight human trafficking will be there. We will put out the solicitation within the next few weeks for the next fiscal year in which we will make those kinds of grants. The United States, just in the last fiscal year has made, devoted some \$74 million to projects around the world to support the fight against modern-day slavery.

I should say a word about Argentina since the questioner is from Argentina. Argentina received a tier 2 watch list rating in the last annual report. In fact, one of our questioners has asked whether Argentina is tending towards a tier three rating next year, the lowest rating in the annual report. We are troubled by the tier 2 watch list ranking, but I think there's cause to think Argentina doesn't find itself on a trend to slide downward, if it works with the international community. We see a pattern of moderate levels of sex trafficking, both as a source country for internal trafficking, and as a destination country of those trafficked into Argentina.

There's also some examples of forced labor, where Argentina is a destination country for people from other countries, such as Bolivia and Peru. The need to pass a comprehensive law identifying human trafficking as a specific problem.

Prosecutions are important, not just having a strong law. Our hope is that they will -- there will be more evidence of prosecution and convictions. Those should also include efforts in law enforcement to deal with those officials who are complicit in trafficking as well.

Q [Noor]: What is the situation in Algeria as concerns trafficking of persons in 2007?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: Algeria is on Tier Three, I should say, this year, the lowest category. It was last year on the Tier 2 Watch List.

It's the scene of transit of sub-Saharan Africans. The anti-trafficking law is inadequate in the country because it doesn't prohibit all forms of human trafficking. Prosecutions have been anemic in Algeria. We need to work with our Algerian counterparts to help them develop formal mechanisms to criminalize all forms of trafficking. On protection of victims there is a great need in Algeria for formal identification, formal mechanisms for finding those victims of trafficking. As I've said earlier, victims of trafficking don't come forward, they are afraid of being treated as aliens, criminals, dirty. Today there haven't been public awareness campaigns. [Algeria] is one of those governments that the president's determination about the lowest ranking countries addresses today.

Youth Crime Watch Of South Africa: Sir, My name is Samuel from South Africa, I am working for youth Crime Watch of south Africa, what we have notice about human trafficking is most of the victims are unemployed and lack of skills, what is US government doing to help Africa countries to create job, also I want to what kind of funding that NGOs in crime preventing can apply for from your office.

Q: One of our questioners today, a participant in the web chat, is from South Africa. This questioner asks: Should there be means of getting people to acquire skills, so that they can be self-supporting?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: It's important to look at how we can help people not be vulnerable to trafficking, and then if they are trafficked, to help them. Again, I said that poverty is a cause of human trafficking, but with it, it's necessary to have criminal intent to coerce, to fool, to control victims of trafficking. And also with poverty, corruption becomes an important variable in trapping people in slave situations. There are immigration officials who cooperate with traffickers, with police and judges who are part of the problem by being bribed.

When we have a situation of poverty there is some vulnerability that people, desperate, look for a better situation. The United States supported the millennium challenge corporation initiative, which in addition to our existing foreign assistance which we are sustaining, we have added a new program, which identifies those countries that have been governing justly, reforming economically, investing in their people through education, social programs and healthcare programs. We are trying to create an incentive for those governments who put in place governance and policies of sustainable market-based growth. That helps fight a context in which people might be trafficked.

We also really think it's important that when you find a victim of human trafficking you not only give the social care and the psychological counseling they need, but help equip them have lives that are worthwhile. This is why we really admire the group Hagar particularly, in Cambodia. (inaudible) The Hagar program, which the United States supports with its funding, is designed to support self-sufficiency, they can lead productive lives whether they stay in the country where they are found as victims of trafficking or repatriated to their original country.

Q [Webchat Participant]: Dear sir, in State Department's yearly report is assigned "tier" level. Can you please explain what this means? And for so-called low tier, what actions US will take?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One of the questions that we received from a chat participant is, "Is the State Department's yearly report assigning tiers by a clear means, and what actions will the United States take if a government has a low rating. Our annual report is based on assessment of the situation of **human trafficking**, all countries in the world, where we can find incidence of a clear number of trafficking cases from March of one year through February of the next

year. About three months later, in June, our annual report comes out. It has four **tier** rankings. Let me tell you basically what those four tier rankings mean.

Tier 1 countries are countries that have a problem with human trafficking but are taking significant steps, that the government has shown significant commitment to fighting trafficking.

Tier 2 countries have a significant problem with **human trafficking**, and hasn't successfully dealt with or mitigated, but there's a strong effort by the governments in a **tier 2** country to address the problem.

Tier 2 watch list countries are countries that are in danger of sliding in the direction of not addressing **human trafficking**. They are governments that have a serious problem with human trafficking, but have not demonstrated a great deal of will in dealing with it.

And ultimately **tier 3** countries, the lowest category, are where there's a serious problem of **human trafficking** and the government has very little will to deal with it. **Tier 2 watch list** countries are in danger of sliding into the lowest category, hence the name **watch list**.

The presidential determination coming out just today [October 18, 2007], about countries on tier 3, determines if any of the 16 countries that were on tier 3 in the report that came out in June deserve to be reassessed upward after intensive diplomacy and reexamination. And whether any of these countries under the trafficking victims protection act (-- inaudible) deserve economic sanctions. In all of these cases, the United States tries to assess the situation of whether a country addresses prosecutions of those who are responsible for human trafficking, protection of victims, and preventions through public awareness.

We call these the three P's. Prosecution, Protection, Prevention. In all cases of the report the United States tries to offer recommendations about how we might work together to strengthen our efforts in all three Ps. In the report you will find, if you look it up on the web or get a hard copy of the report, you will find a listing for the United States that comes before all the other countries that we assess, and we look at the records of the United States in fighting human trafficking on all the same three Ps. Prosecution, protection and prevention.

The United States doesn't have a perfect record. We are trying to improve our own efforts to fight human trafficking. In fact, our own attorney general, the head of our ministry of justice as it were, puts out an annual report about our efforts at home because we feel we owe it to ourselves and the world to assess our own efforts at the same time as we assess others.

Q [USMI Rome]: Poverty and corruption have been identified as root causes of trafficking in developing countries. What is the United States doing to assist developing countries in fighting corruption?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: We have another question from a participant in Rome. The question is, "Poverty and corruption are identified as root causes of trafficking, in developing countries. What's the United States doing to assist developing countries in fighting corruption?"

I have been talking a great deal in my short tenure about the connection between good governance and fighting human trafficking. Not only is it important to hold traffickers to account by serious punishments as a matter of justice, and to treat women, workers, migrants, minorities, people in prostitution, as being every much as deserving of rights as anybody else. But we need to fight corruption. We are involved in training programs around the world to let police know that there are certain standards, not only do they need to look for victims of human trafficking, but indeed, they can't be part of the problem by supplementing their income, as it's generously worded by some, by receiving bribes from the traffickers. If they are part of the problem they are in fact seriously morally reprehensible.

But our Bureau of International Narcotic and Law Enforcement affairs is involved in training programs and indeed in efforts, funding the UN's office of drug and crime to fight corruption. It's one of the reasons why we were so happy at the successful negotiation of the international convention on corruption, which the United States ratified and became a part a few months ago.

Q [Salazar]: What do you think about the TIP situation in Mexico?

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: Salazar, one of our participants, asked about the situation in Mexico.

Earlier in my tenure I visited Mexico City and other parts of Mexico, a substantial interest to the United States as a neighbor of ours. For four consecutive years Mexico has been in the **tier 2 watch list**. The situation for **human trafficking** is as follows: Mainly there's an internal flow of victims of child sexual exploitation. There are some people who

come from Mexico to the United States to exploit child labor in the United States. It's also a destination for some who are under desperate economic situations in Central America to look for a better life in Mexico and find themselves caught in slave labor and sexual labor situations.

There's also a very interesting problem of child sex tourism, predators from the United States, Canada and Europe and elsewhere, come to vacation resort spots to take advantage of children in prostitution. This is one reason we highlight the work of Lydia Cacho, one of our heroes on fighting human trafficking, cited in our 2007 trafficking in persons report.

Lydia runs a shelter in Cancun where women, girls who have been victimized by sex tourists, predators, who come, look to take advantage of those who are weak and desperate. That shelter is incredibly impressive; not only helps those trafficking victims, but some of these women in prostitution are young mothers. It educates them. Lydia dared to speak out about the situation, and suggested corrupt officials were part of the problem, that they looked the other way, supported a situation of promoting child sex tourism as a business. She was arrested, roughed up by police, and she took her case to the Supreme Court of Mexico, saying that she was improperly treated, brutalized by the police. Why? To shut her up. She won her case at the Supreme Court.

She's a hero as a journalist who calls attention to the problem of child sex tourism. The United States has tried to take responsibility for those who go to Cancun, Costa Rica, Cambodia, or wherever who want to take advantage of children as child sex tourists. We now hold people responsible for their criminal acts off U.S. soil so when they come back to U.S. soil they will be thoroughly held to account. But Americans aren't the only problem. Canadians, Europeans, Latin Americas, Asians around the world are child sex tourists. The most vulnerable people you can see are children in prostitution. Unfortunately, this is a problem in Mexico.

Q [Solofo]: why are you interested in this subject?

Thanks a lot for answering my questions!

your sincerely

A [Ambassador Mark Lagon]: One of our participants asked how I got interested in the subject, and I wanted to tell you a little about my story, but also how the United States sees its role.

I worked as a staff person in our legislature at the Senate Foreign Relations committee. I played a small part in the development of the legislation in the United States to fight human trafficking, and the legislation that created the office I now head. I am lucky enough in serving on some roles at the State Department on human rights and United Nations affairs to be considered for this job. The office I played a small part in creating I get to head in combating human trafficking. The United States is very eager to not only fight the problem as one of the great moral callings of our day, because human dignity is robbed from people in human trafficking. It's really proper to think of it as a modern-day form of slavery, given the kind of control, exploitation it involves. We are not just interested in the moral cause. We are interested in practical solutions. We really want to work with governments on developing laws that fight human trafficking, on developing ways to find the victims, to look below the surface, just as we are trying to do at home, on finding those who may be grossly exploited but afraid to come forward because they think they will be treated as criminals, as illegal aliens, a classic case of blaming the victim.

The United States sees itself as a partner of other countries. We not only offer a sermon about what our suggestions are for improving the records in other countries for dealing with human trafficking, but we try to offer suggestions, we try to offer some examples of what we've done, to try to bring together people to share examples, why we plan to bring together a faith-based organization this spring to share best practices for using funding to bring together people from throughout Latin America, to talk to each other about ways to help prevent people from being trafficked when they are migrants.

We want to be a partner, and that's how we see our role. I am delighted you have shown the interest in joining this conversation today. We welcome you, checking in with our website. Thanks for spending the time you did. I am sorry I couldn't answer all your questions, but I made an effort to answer questions from all over the world. Thank you very much.

Webchat Moderator: We wish to thank Ambassador Mark Lagon for joining us today.

A full transcript of today's chat will be available at our USINFO Webchat Station:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>.

(end transcript)

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148 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

October 24, 2007 Wednesday 4:20 AM EST

ANTI-TRAFFICKING COMMISSION LAUNCHES WORK IN NEW OFFICES

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 312 words**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan

The U.S. Agency for International Development issued the following mission press release:

Antoaneta Vassileva, Executive Secretary of the National Anti-trafficking Commission (left), Boris Velchev, Prosecutor General, and Daniel Valtchev, Deputy Prime Minister (right) address journalists. On October 23, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings celebrated the opening of its new office on Dimitrov Boulevard with a press conference and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was part of the ten-day initiative "Human Traffic: Time for Action" connected to the European Day for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The premises of the National Commission were renovated with the assistance of USAID and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The opening was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Daniel Valtchev, Prosecutor General Boris Velchev, U.S. Ambassador John Beyrle, Executive Secretary of the National Commission Antoaneta Vassileva and IOM Chief of Mission Ilyana Derilova.

In addition to funding renovation and furnishing of the Commission's new office space in the amount of 96,000 leva (approximately \$70,000), USAID and IOM assisted the National Commission in developing its action plan for 2007, which the Council of Ministers adopted in September. They will also support the Commission in its implementation of a public awareness campaign, development of a communications strategy, and in the establishment of local anti-trafficking commissions. The U.S. State Department annual **trafficking in persons** report currently identifies Bulgaria as a **Tier 2** country, meaning that the Government of Bulgaria does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.

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149 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

October 18, 2007

Lantos statement on human trafficking**SECTION:** U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 832 words

October 18, 2007

Verbatim, as delivered

Opening statement by Chairman Lantos at hearing, International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking, the subject of our hearing today, is the world's fastest-growing international organized crime.

It is also one of the most profitable, generating between 12 and 17 billion dollars per year. There are only two other illicit businesses, the trade in drugs and the trade in weapons, which are more lucrative.

The European Union has designated today, October 18, as "Anti-Trafficking Day," and I commend our friends in the EU for their exemplary efforts to advance the cause of human rights. This step reflects the international consensus on the need to end this tragic abuse.

Every year, according to the International Labor Organization, traffickers move between 700,000 and 2 million women and children across international boundaries, mainly for the purpose of serving the sex trade.

But it doesn't stop there: An almost equal number of men, women and children are trafficked each year for the purpose of forced labor in slave-like working conditions. In our own country, forced laborers have turned up most often in agriculture, domestic service, sweatshops and in restaurants and hotels.

But what I have been giving you here are just numbers. To get a true sense of the personal calamity that results from human trafficking -- and how huge a problem it is -- one needs to look no further than the major newspapers on virtually every continent.

Newswatch of Nigeria recently documented that children in that country are being trafficked to work on plantation farms just as they were 200 years ago. In a chilling reminder of the horrors of the slave trade, Newswatch reports that Nigerian children are being trafficked by boats to other countries and when pursued by law enforcement, thrown overboard just to destroy the evidence.

Today we will hear from a witness who will tell us of her own experiences right here in America with another form of modern-day slavery.

For the past seven years, under the leadership of our colleague, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, this committee has worked tirelessly to combat human trafficking. During that time, we have seen a substantial growth in international awareness and in international cooperation. We have also seen commendable efforts in this area on the part of our own Department of State, the United Nations and some countries around the globe.

Unfortunately, it seems that we are not keeping up with the problem.

In this year's Trafficking-in-Persons Report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shows a significant increase in the number of countries that are failing to make any effort at all to combat human trafficking. There are now 16 countries in this category, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Equatorial Guinea, all of them pressing for better relations with the United States.

Now to explain what this categorization means, in the Trafficking-in-Persons Report, nations are rated on the basis of their efforts to combat trafficking. The highest rating -- Tier 1 -- goes to countries that fully comply with the best international standards, while the lowest rating -- Tier 3 -- goes to those countries that do not comply and who are making no effort to do so.

The President is more than a month late in issuing his determinations as to what countries are in the various tiers. While I will withhold judgment until I see the President's judgment, I am very much concerned that the Administration will waive sanctions or move countries out of Tier 3 without any real commitments by those countries to make progress in this area. Such decisions would make it clear that we are not prepared to apply the same standards uniformly.

We cannot restore our moral leadership around the world, which has been so battered in recent years, if we are not willing to deal frankly with friendly countries.

Later today I will be introducing legislation with Mr. Smith and Mr. Conyers designed to address some of the problems spelled out in the 2007 Trafficking-in-Persons Report. The key items in our new legislation will be the following:

We will require a comprehensive analysis of trafficking data to help us understand better where victims are actually going and how to free them.

We will provide more help for countries to inspect locations where forced labor occurs, to register vulnerable populations and to provide more protection to foreign workers.

We will ensure that US assistance programs are both transparent and effective.

We will urge the Administration to work with our friends to reach agreements between labor exporters and labor importers so that vulnerable workers have more, rather than less protection,

And finally we will address the tragic subject of child soldiers.

I earnestly hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

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150 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

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But it doesn't stop there: An almost equal number of men, women and children are trafficked each year for the purpose of forced labor in slave-like working conditions. In our own country, forced laborers have turned up most often in agriculture, domestic service, sweatshops and in restaurants and hotels.

But what I have been giving you here are just numbers. To get a true sense of the personal calamity that results from human trafficking -- and how huge a problem it is -- one needs to look no further than the major newspapers on virtually every continent.

Newswatch of Nigeria recently documented that children in that country are being trafficked to work on plantation farms just as they were 200 years ago. In a chilling reminder of the horrors of the slave trade, Newswatch reports that Nigerian children are being trafficked by boats to other countries and when pursued by law enforcement, thrown overboard just to destroy the evidence.

Today we will hear from a witness who will tell us of her own experiences right here in America with another form of modern-day slavery.

For the past seven years, under the leadership of our colleague, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, this committee has worked tirelessly to combat human trafficking. During that time, we have seen a substantial growth in international awareness and in international cooperation. We have also seen commendable efforts in this area on the part of our own Department of State, the United Nations and some countries around the globe.

Unfortunately, it seems that we are not keeping up with the problem.

In this year's Trafficking-in-Persons Report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shows a significant increase in the number of countries that are failing to make any effort at all to combat human trafficking. There are now 16 countries in

this category, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Equatorial Guinea, all of them pressing for better relations with the United States.

Now to explain what this categorization means, in the Trafficking-in-Persons Report, nations are rated on the basis of their efforts to combat trafficking. The highest rating -- Tier 1 -- goes to countries that fully comply with the best international standards, while the lowest rating -- Tier 3 -- goes to those countries that do not comply and who are making no effort to do so.

The President is more than a month late in issuing his determinations as to what countries are in the various tiers. While I will withhold judgment until I see the President's judgment, I am very much concerned that the Administration will waive sanctions or move countries out of Tier 3 without any real commitments by those countries to make progress in this area. Such decisions would make it clear that we are not prepared to apply the same standards uniformly.

We cannot restore our moral leadership around the world, which has been so battered in recent years, if we are not willing to deal frankly with friendly countries.

Later today I will be introducing legislation with Mr. Smith and Mr. Conyers designed to address some of the problems spelled out in the 2007 Trafficking-in-Persons Report. The key items in our new legislation will be the following:

We will require a comprehensive analysis of trafficking data to help us understand better where victims are actually going and how to free them.

We will provide more help for countries to inspect locations where forced labor occurs, to register vulnerable populations and to provide more protection to foreign workers.

We will ensure that US assistance programs are both transparent and effective.

We will urge the Administration to work with our friends to reach agreements between labor exporters and labor importers so that vulnerable workers have more, rather than less protection,

And finally we will address the tragic subject of child soldiers.

I earnestly hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

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States News Service

October 18, 2007 Thursday**PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 7104 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination with Respect to Foreign Governments' Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons

Consistent with section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Division A of Public Law 106?386), as amended, (the "Act"), I hereby:

Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, with respect to Burma, Syria, and Venezuela not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2008, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;

Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act, with respect to Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Iran not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2008, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;

Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(3) of the Act, concerning the determination of the Secretary of State with respect to Equatorial Guinea and Kuwait.

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Algeria, that provision to Algeria of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described

in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Bahrain, that provision to Bahrain of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to DPRK, that funding for educational and cultural exchange programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act that are aimed at improving U.S.-DPRK relations would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Iran, that funding for educational and cultural exchange programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act that include educators and municipal leaders would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Malaysia, that provision to Malaysia of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Oman, that provision to Oman of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Qatar, that provision to Qatar of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Saudi Arabia, that provision to Saudi Arabia of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Sudan, that provision to Sudan of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Syria, for all programs, projects, or activities of assistance for victims of trafficking in persons or to combat such trafficking, that provision to Syria of the assistance described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act for such programs, projects, or activities would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Uzbekistan, that provision to Uzbekistan of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Venezuela, for all programs, projects, or activities of assistance for victims of trafficking in persons or to combat such trafficking, or for strengthening democracy or good governance, or for public diplomacy, that provision to Venezuela of the assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act for such programs, projects, or activities would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;

Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, that assistance to Venezuela described in section 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act that:

(1) is a regional program, project, or activity under which the total benefit to Venezuela does not exceed 10 percent of the total value of such program, project, or activity; or

(2) has as its primary objective the addressing of basic human needs, as defined by the Department of the Treasury with respect to other, existing legislative mandates concerning U.S. participation in the multilateral development banks; or

(3) is complementary to or has similar policy objectives to programs being implemented bilaterally by the United States Government; or

(4) has as its primary objective the improvement of the country's legal system, including in areas that impact the country's ability to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases or otherwise improve implementation of a country's anti-trafficking policy, regulations, or legislation; or

(5) is engaging a government, international organization, or civil society organization, and that seeks as its primary objective(s) to: (a) increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons crimes; (b) increase protection for victims of trafficking through better screening, identification, rescue/removal, aftercare (shelter, counseling) training and reintegration; or (c) expand prevention efforts through education and awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of trafficking or training and economic empowerment of populations clearly at risk of falling victim to trafficking would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The certification required by section 110(e) of the Act is provided herewith.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this determination to the Congress, and to publish it in the Federal Register.

GEORGE W. BUSH

MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION CONSISTENT WITH THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000, REGARDING DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO "TIER 3" COUNTRIES

The President has made determinations regarding the sixteen countries placed on **Tier 3** of the State Department's 2007 annual Report on **Trafficking in Persons**. The President has determined to sanction Burma, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, Syria, and Venezuela. The United States will not provide funding for participation by officials or employees of the governments of Cuba, the DPRK, or Iran in educational and cultural exchange programs until such government complies with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or makes significant efforts to do so. The United States will not provide certain non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance to the governments of Burma, Syria, or Venezuela until such government complies with the Act's minimum standards to combat trafficking or makes significant efforts to do so. Furthermore, the President determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of certain assistance to the governments of the

DPRK, Iran, Syria, and Venezuela would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. The President also determined, consistent with the Act's waiver authority, that provision of all bilateral and multilateral assistance to Algeria, Bahrain, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan that otherwise would have been cut off would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The determinations also indicate the Secretary of State's subsequent compliance determinations regarding Equatorial Guinea and Kuwait. It is significant that two of the sixteen Tier 3 countries took actions that averted the need for the President to make a determination regarding sanctions and waivers. Information highlighted in the Trafficking in Persons report and the possibility of sanctions, in conjunction with our diplomatic efforts, encouraged these countries' governments to take important measures against trafficking.

Section 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act interferes with the President's authority to direct foreign affairs. We, therefore, interpret it as precatory. Nonetheless, it is the policy of the United States that, consistent with the provisions of the Act, the U.S. Executive Director of each multilateral development bank, as defined in the Act, and of the International Monetary Fund will vote against, and use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to the governments of Burma, Cuba, DPRK, Iran, Syria, and Venezuela (with specific exceptions for Venezuela) for Fiscal Year 2008, until such a government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act.

Explanations of the President's determinations regarding each of the 16 countries follow.

Equatorial Guinea

On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of Equatorial Guinea since March 2007, the Secretary of State has determined that the Government of Equatorial Guinea does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. This is the standard for placement on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The Secretary of State has placed Equatorial Guinea on the Special Watch List because the determination that the Government of Equatorial Guinea is making significant efforts is based, in part, on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

In June 2007, the Government of Equatorial Guinea was presented with an action plan by the State Department that outlined steps to combat trafficking. Since that time, it has accomplished each of the items in the Department's action plan or made commitments to take additional future steps over the next year, thus demonstrating "significant efforts." These efforts include:

Prosecution

The government has pledged to train police to identify and arrest traffickers and rescue trafficking victims in the coming year. Authorities began to inspect public establishments to enforce laws against forced child labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The government penalized market sellers for child labor exploitation by confiscating their goods. The Ministry of National Security distributed a circular to all police stations to heighten awareness of trafficking.

Protection

The government entered into discussions with nongovernmental organizations about partnerships to provide care to trafficking victims. The Ministry of National Security distributed a circular to all police stations advising officers on appropriate responses to trafficking victims. The government renewed pledges to construct victim shelters and to conduct a nationwide census to identify foreign children living in Equatorial Guinea without their parents.

Prevention

The government posted anti-trafficking billboards in Malabo and Bata. It informed the public through newspaper announcements and radio and television broadcasts that authorities had begun to inspect public establishments to enforce laws against forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

Kuwait

On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of Kuwait since March 2007, the Secretary of State has determined that the Government of Kuwait does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. This is the standard for placement on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

The Secretary of State has placed Kuwait on the Special Watch List because the determination that the Government of Kuwait is making significant efforts is based, in part, on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

In June 2007, the Government of Kuwait was presented with an action plan by the State Department that outlined steps to combat trafficking. Since that time, it has accomplished each of the items in the Department's action plan or made commitments to take additional future steps over the next year, thus demonstrating "significant efforts." These efforts include:

Prosecution

The government has pledged to enact already fully drafted anti-trafficking legislation. The government has pledged to provide evidence of increased prosecutions, convictions and sentences.

Protection

The government in September 2007 opened a shelter for trafficking victims and pledged to continue developing a fully operational shelter freely accessible to trafficking victims.

Prevention

The government pledged to provide technical training to law enforcement, attorneys, and judges on investigating and prosecution trafficking cases and victim identification.

Algeria

The Government of Algeria does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Algeria, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Algeria has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of trafficking of men, women, and children both within and through Algeria. The government did not prosecute any individuals for trafficking offenses, and did not train law enforcement or judicial officials on anti-trafficking measures. The government does not offer protective services to victims and did not institute a victim identification procedure to prevent the punishment or summary deportation of trafficking victims. The Government of Algeria also has not developed a public awareness campaign or other trafficking prevention programs. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Algeria, however, is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Algeria in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative, and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : Approximately \$700,000 in International Military Education and Training funding would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Development assis-

tance of approximately \$1.165 million would have also been subject to sanction. Sanctioning this aid would have removed a United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Algeria.

Bahrain

The Government of Bahrain does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Bahrain, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Bahrain has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude and commercial sexual exploitation in which many foreign domestic workers and women are found in Bahrain. The government offers protective services to victims through a shelter; it has recently lifted some of the restrictions on access to this shelter. Nonetheless, the government has not instituted a victim identification procedure to prevent the punishment or summary deportation of trafficking victims. The Government of Bahrain's record of prosecuting trafficking offenses remains poor. The Government of Bahrain also has not developed a public awareness campaign or other trafficking prevention programs. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Bahrain is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Bahrain in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : A projected two billion dollars in foreign military sales to Bahrain would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Development assistance of \$1.1 million would have also been subject to sanction. Sanctioning this aid and MEPI programs would have removed a United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Bahrain.

Burma

The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Burma.

Justification : The Burmese military remains directly involved in forced labor and there are reports that some children have been involuntarily conscripted into the Burmese Army for the purpose of forced labor. Although the Burmese Government has taken increased steps to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, the significant state-sanctioned use of internal forced labor, especially by the military, continues.

Impact of Sanctions : The United States does not provide direct assistance to the Government of Burma. In fiscal year 2007, the Government of Burma received \$1 million in U.S. assistance through the United Nations World Health and Food and Agriculture Organizations for avian influenza preparedness and response. The United States Government provides humanitarian assistance along the Thai-Burma border through various nongovernmental organizations, supports democracy activities both inside and outside the country, and supports the provision of services to those with or at-risk of HIV/AIDS. The United States also has supported a nongovernmental organization working in Burma to assist victims of trafficking repatriated from Thailand.

Existing sanctions on Burma include a ban on new investment, bilateral assistance, and arms sales, and imposition of travel restrictions against senior Burmese officials and their immediate relatives. Executive Order 13310, issued in part in implementation of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, imposes additional measures including a ban on imports of Burmese products, a ban on the exportation of financial services to Burma, and a freeze on the assets of four entities -- the State Peace and Development Council, the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, and the Myanmar Economic Bank -- as well as the assets of individuals determined to be senior officials of the Burmese regime, the State Peace and Development Council, or the Union Solidarity and Development Association. The import ban was renewed in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Cuba

The Government of Cuba does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Cuba.

Justification : The Government of Cuba continues to dismiss as politically motivated criticism of its failure to address trafficking. Cuba's state-sponsored tourism industry tacitly promotes the prostitution of children and is a draw for foreign sex tourists. The government has avoided developing a strategy to address the problem, and has no discernable

anti-trafficking law enforcement, victim protection, or prevention policies. Moreover, there was no observed progress in punishing traffickers during the last year.

Impact of Sanctions : The Government of Cuba is already subject to an extensive economic embargo tied to Cuba's poor record on, among other things, democracy, human rights and economic reform. No Cuban government officials or employees participate in current or planned United States Government-funded educational or cultural exchange programs. The United States Government does not offer economic assistance to the Government of Cuba and will not allow any significant new investment in Cuba by U.S. companies until democratic and economic reforms are instituted. While the embargo-related sanctions will remain in place until there are fundamental political and economic reforms in Cuba, sanctioning Cuba for activities related to trafficking in persons expresses clear U.S. disapproval of the Cuban Government's acceptance, if not endorsement, of such activities. The United States Government supports non-governmental entities under Section 109 of the LIBERTAD Act of 1996, and sanctions against Cuba do not apply to activities under that section.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The Government of the DPRK does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction the DPRK. The President has also determined that provision of funding for educational and cultural exchange programs that are aimed at improving U.S.-DPRK relations would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of the DPRK is making no effort to address trafficking in persons. The government does not recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes forced labor conditions and other forms of severe punishment on its prisoners, including North Koreans forcibly returned from China. Further, conditions in the DPRK drive many North Koreans to seek a way out of the country, putting them at risk of becoming trafficking victims. Women who enter northern China from the DPRK may be sold as brides and trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. Although other U.S. measures against North Korea are in place, the President's determination indicates the strong U.S. disapproval of the DPRK Government's failure to address trafficking in persons.

Impact of Sanctions : The imposition of partial sanctions will further the national interest of the United States by allowing educational and cultural exchange programs that are aimed at improving U.S.-DPRK relations.

Iran

The Government of Iran does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Iran. The President has also determined that provision of funding for educational and cultural exchange programs that include educators and municipal leaders would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Iran continues to dismiss criticism of its inadequate anti-trafficking efforts while continuing to punish -- often severely, including beatings, imprisonment, and execution -- victims of trafficking. Specifically, children who have been trafficked in Iran's illegal commercial sex trade have been punished as adulterers by Iran's Islamic courts; some have been executed. The government has avoided developing a comprehensive strategy to address Iran's human trafficking problem.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as it will allow certain types of individuals who are influential in Iranian society -- educators and municipal leaders -- to learn about and be exposed to the United States and its people.

Impact of Sanctions : The Government of Iran is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism. The United States Government does not provide economic assistance to the Government of Iran. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for educational and cultural programs that involve the participation of individuals who in some cases may be affiliated with the government.

Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Malaysia, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Malaysia has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problems of trafficking of foreign nationals to its country for sexual and labor exploitation. The government has not improved its poor anti-trafficking law enforcement record or shown an effort to identify and protect victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor. It did not fulfill a long-standing pledge to open a much-needed shelter for foreign victims of trafficking or to fund nongovernmental organizations to provide victim protection services. Although the government drafted, passed, and enacted an anti-trafficking law in July 2007, it does not appear to offer adequate victim protections and there are no discernable plans for its implementation. The government continues to incarcerate and summarily deport foreign victims, and the new law will not curb this practice. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Malaysia is in the national interest because it will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : Approximately \$24 million in counter-terrorism assistance; \$35 million in Foreign Military Sales; \$920,000 in International Military Education and Training funds; up to \$1 million in Peacekeeping Operations funds under the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI); and up to \$1 million in Foreign Military Financing as part of the East Asia and the Pacific Bureau's regional maritime program would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of allowing for the uninterrupted continuation of important military-to-military security cooperation programs and to allow for military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror.

Oman

The Government of Oman does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Oman, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Oman has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers and laborers are found in Oman. The government has not demonstrated a commitment to punishing trafficking offenses; Oman rarely prosecutes trafficking offenses despite laws that could be used to do so. The government also has not instituted victim identification procedures capable of preventing the punishment or deportation of trafficking victims and currently offers no protection services to identified victims. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Oman is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Oman in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : Over \$10.1 million in Foreign Military Financing; \$23 million in projected foreign military sales; and \$1.5 million in International Military Education and Training funding to Oman would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Oman.

Qatar

The Government of Qatar does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Qatar, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Qatar has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers are found in Qatar. The government offers protective services to victims through a shelter. Nonetheless, the government has not instituted a victim identification procedure to prevent the punishment of trafficking victims, and victims are believed to be among those detained indefinitely in deportation centers. Qatar continues to provide training to government officials through seminars and conferences, and has committed to paying for comprehensive law enforcement training over the next year. However, the Government of Qatar's record of prosecuting trafficking offenses remains poor; the government did not report any prosecutions of those suspected of trafficking crimes. Qatar also has not developed a public awareness campaign or other trafficking prevention programs. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Qatar is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Qatar in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : Approximately \$15,000 in International Military Education and Training funds would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest in order to advance goals of

the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

The Government of Saudi Arabia does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive all sanctions against Saudi Arabia, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Saudi Arabia has not taken sufficient steps to address the significant problem of involuntary servitude in which many foreign domestic workers and laborers are found in Saudi Arabia, but has committed to work with the U.S. Government on this problem through a constructive dialogue. The government offers only a small, if growing, number of services for these victims of trafficking -- who are among millions of South and Southeast Asian workers brought to the Kingdom -- and prosecutes few of those suspected of trafficking crimes. The government has ample resources to address Saudi Arabia's trafficking problems, but has only recently begun to show an interest in tackling this serious human rights issue. The granting of a full waiver of sanctions against Saudi Arabia is in the national interest because it will allow us to continue democracy programs in Saudi Arabia in support of the President's Freedom Agenda through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and will permit continued security cooperation to effectively prosecute the Global War on Terror.

Impact of Sanctions : Twenty billion dollars in projected foreign military sales to Saudi Arabia and \$15,000 in International Military Education and Training funding would have been restricted by sanctions under the Act. A full waiver has been granted in the national interest of providing these military sales in order to advance goals of the Global War on Terror and U.S. commercial interests. Sanctioning MEPI programs would have removed a key United States Government tool in promoting democratic reform and human rights in Saudi Arabia.

Sudan

The Government of Sudan does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive sanctions against Sudan, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : Since March 2007, the Government of Sudan has made no progress in rescuing and reintegrating victims of trafficking into their communities of origin, resulting in thousands of people continuing to remain in prolonged situations of forced labor and sexual exploitation. It also made no effort to address the trafficking of women for domestic servitude within and through the country. The government, however, made limited progress in demobilizing and reintegrating children associated with armed groups, assisting in the reunification of 24 children with their families in May.

A full waiver of sanctions is in the U.S. national interest as it will allow the funding of programs to, among other things, enhance security within the country and carry out additional reconstruction projects in Southern Sudan.

Impact of Sanctions : Comprehensive sanctions against Sudan are already in place, including those imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, those related to its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and several other sanctions. Applying additional sanctions would have precluded an estimated \$41.8 million in assistance to bolster security within the country and further the reconstruction of Southern Sudan.

The end of the 21-year civil war in Sudan, as marked by the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army on January 9, 2005, signaled a new era for Sudan. The United States is working with the parties to implement the peace agreement and bring about democratic transformation in Sudan. Now that the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army have signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), we have the opportunity to make lasting contributions to resolve the crisis in Darfur. Under the CPA, we intend to implement a wide variety of programs to restore effective governance and allow economic growth in the South and other conflict areas. These would likely include, but not be limited to, programs aimed at restoring a functioning judicial system and other elements necessary for the return to the rule of law and security, a functioning legislature, elements of a market economy, mitigating conflict, and ensuring security. Efforts in Darfur are even more vital now that the DPA has been signed because we must develop programs similar to those in the South, such as the development of democracy and a functional civil society. Bilateral programs and projects in both of these areas, in conjunction with other countries and international institutions, are currently underway. The President's action will allow these important efforts to continue as appropriate.

Syria

The Government of Syria does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Syria. The President has also determined that provision of certain bilateral assistance for anti-trafficking activities in Syria would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Syria has not made significant efforts to address its trafficking in persons problem since the release of the June Report. The government made no efforts to develop an anti-trafficking policy, increase identification of trafficking victims or prosecutions of traffickers, or raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking. Although the government began drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, Syria reported no law enforcement efforts to punish trafficking offenses this year. In addition, the government did not offer protection services to victims of trafficking, and appears to have arrested or prosecuted some victims for prostitution or immigration violations.

A partial waiver of sanctions is in the national interest by precluding most forms of assistance but allowing funding for anti-trafficking programs.

Impact of Sanctions : The Government of Syria is already subject to economic sanctions due to, among other things, its support for international terrorism. The partial waiver will allow the provision of funding for anti-trafficking programs.

Uzbekistan

The Government of Uzbekistan does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to waive sanctions against Uzbekistan, consistent with the provisions of the Act, in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Uzbekistan has yet to focus serious attention or devote significant resources to its substantial trafficking problem. The government failed to amend its criminal code that currently ensures nearly all convicted traffickers receive amnesty and thus serve no time in prison. Furthermore, the government did not adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, did not approve a national plan of action on trafficking, provided minimal assistance to the country's two trafficking shelters, and the interagency anti-trafficking working group continues to lack legal status. The Government of Uzbekistan has yet to act to address these deficiencies and make these significant efforts. The government's inaction indicates a severe lack of commitment to seriously address trafficking in persons.

A full waiver of sanctions is in the national interest as it will allow the funding of programs in Uzbekistan to, among other things, combat trafficking in persons, address HIV/AIDS and other disease prevention by strengthening laboratory systems, enhance avian influenza preparedness, promote democracy, improve border security, enhance counternarcotics efforts, and support agricultural sector productivity by land and water management.

Impact of Sanctions : Sanctions would have precluded an estimated \$8.5 million in assistance to the government of Uzbekistan.

Venezuela

The Government of Venezuela does not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance. The President has determined to sanction Venezuela. The President has also determined that provision of certain bilateral and multilateral assistance designed to strengthen anti-trafficking, democracy, good governance, and public diplomacy programs in Venezuela would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

Justification : The Government of Venezuela has not yet dedicated serious attention or significant resources to confronting a growing human trafficking problem in the region. During the past year, the Government carried out no discernable anti-trafficking law enforcement activities or efforts to protect and shelter trafficking victims. Political events in the country have contributed to this lack of action, and the provision of limited assistance, including to strengthen the democratic process in Venezuela will serve to promote stable and legitimate leadership that will, it is hoped, make significant efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Impact of Sanctions : The imposition of partial sanctions will further the national interest of the United States by precluding most forms of assistance, but allowing certain other assistance. A partial waiver allows important U.S. assistance programs in Venezuela to continue at a critical time for Venezuelan democracy. Specifically, the United States Agency for International Development will continue programs that support civil society, political party building, na-

tional dialogue and public diplomacy in Venezuela. These programs are implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc., the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute, among others, and are open to all political parties in Venezuela, including the pro-government Fifth Republican Movement.

Venezuela is already subject to a number of legal restrictions that preclude most forms of assistance to the Government of Venezuela.

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152 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

October 18, 2007 Thursday 1:12 AM EST**REP. ROS-LEHTINEN ISSUES STATEMENT ON 'INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: TAKING ACTION TO ELIMINATE MODERN DAY SLAVERY'****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 853 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following opening statement from a committee hearing:

Opening Remarks of Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen at Hearing,

"International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery":

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening today's hearing on this critically important issue.

Modern-day trafficking in persons is a heinous crime against human dignity, and a key source of income for international criminal enterprises.

Somewhere around eight-hundred-thousand people are trafficked across international borders every year. Of that number, it is estimated that 80 percent are women, and half are children.

These figures do not include the millions of people who are trafficked within countries, and the mere numbers do not convey the horrors and human tragedies that lay behind them.

In Iran, children are trafficked into sexual slavery, and forced into involuntary servitude as beggars and day laborers.

Iranian girls are trafficked into Pakistan and numerous other countries where they are sexually exploited.

In Syria, women trafficked from South and Southeast Asia are forced to work as domestic servants, and women from Eastern Europe and Iraq are forced into prostitution.

In our Hemisphere, Cuba has been shamefully promoted as a destination for sexual tourism that exploits large numbers of Cuban girls and boys, some as young as 12.

The Government of Venezuela has not made any anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts in the past year, even though women and children trafficked from numerous countries are exploited for sex and forced labor within Venezuela.

As noted in House Concurrent Resolution 234, recently introduced by Mr. Royce and which I am proud to have co-sponsored, up to 90 percent of North Korean refugee women fall prey to traffickers in China who sell the refugees into sexual slavery.

In Burma, the failed and abusive policies of the ruling military junta are substantially responsible for that country's heartbreaking trafficking problems, which have subjected countless Burmese to forced labor and prostitution.

I am proud of the leading role that the House and this Committee, and especially our Chairman, have played in moving the fight against human trafficking from a "non-issue" to a priority of the United States Government.

I especially want to commend the leadership of my good friend from New Jersey, Mr. Smith, the author of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which became law years ago.

I was pleased to cosponsor the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act introduced by Mr. Smith this past January.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that you are drafting a new reauthorization bill and I look forward to working with you and all our colleagues in the days ahead to achieve a measure that enjoys broad bipartisan support.

Thankfully, there have been small signs of progress, as more countries adopt anti-trafficking legislation and make genuine efforts to prosecute and convict traffickers.

But the problems remain widespread.

The number of countries listed in **Tier 3**, the most problematic category in the State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, has increased since last year - from 12 to 16.

I have questions about the wisdom of the so-called Tier 2 "Watch List," which was not part of the original statutory framework.

Although being placed on the "Watch List" is supposed to be a warning to problem countries that they are about to slip to Tier 3, it is hard to take those warnings seriously when countries like China, and Russia sit on the "Watch List" year after year after year, without further consequences.

The Watch List must not become a way of avoiding difficult decisions.

In addition, as pointed out in recent GAO reports, there is room for improvement in the coordination and monitoring of U.S.-funded anti-trafficking efforts abroad.

So, I look forward to hearing from the expert witnesses before us today.

I regret that the Administration was not invited to participate at today's hearing, which would have enriched our discussion.

As with the human rights reports hearing in March of this year, I believe we would only benefit from following the longstanding precedent of having the Administration roll-out the Congressionally-mandated annual report before engaging the expertise of private witnesses.

Turning to our private panel, I want to note how fortunate I am to have in my own district an institution so fundamentally committed to the fight against human trafficking.

The St. Thomas University School of Law and its Human Rights Institute have been active both on the policy side - as a motivating force behind the 2005 "Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking" - and on the personal side, providing services to victims of trafficking in South Florida.

I am honored to join the Chairman in welcoming the President of the University and Chairman of its Human Rights Institute, Monsignor Franklyn Casale, to the Committee today.

I thank all of the witnesses for being here, and look forward to your testimony.

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153 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 11, 2007 Thursday

Bangladesh Home Ministry makes effort to bring back women trafficked abroad

LENGTH: 722 words

Text of report by Shawkat Osman Rochi headlined "Home Ministry's initiative to rescue trafficked women: most of them forced into prostitution" published by Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Star website on 11 October

Organized gangs are forcing most of the women trafficked out of Bangladesh into prostitution in different countries. The trafficked women are being involved in the inhuman jobs in the Philippines, Japan, UAE, Jordan, and many other countries. Many women from Bangladesh are arrested by police in these countries and are now in prison. Trafficked women from Bangladesh have found place in Kolkata Presidency Jail and in government and private shelter houses in different countries. The Bangladesh Home Ministry has received this sort of sensational information. A powerful quarter is using various tactics to traffic women out of Bangladesh by land, sea and air. This quarter traffics women mainly by alluring them with the promise of fat-salaried jobs abroad.

The Home Ministry has taken the initiative to rescue and bring back the trafficked women. It, however, does not have complete information about how many are working as sex-workers, and how many are in prison. The ministry has decided to send "search letters" to the concerned countries to verify the identification before going for the rescue of the trafficked women. The letters will be sent to the Bangladesh embassies in those countries through the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Investigations revealed that women and children are trafficked out more during winter - from January to March - every year when the sea and rivers remain relatively calm. The organized trafficking gangs find the river and sea routes are safer for women and child trafficking compared to land and air routes. During this period of the year, the traffickers try to smuggle out more women and children using engine boats and ships. The Home Ministry is also concerned over this issue. The Coast Guard and the Rapid Action Battalion [RAB] have been asked to be on "red alert" to check human trafficking through the river and sea routes. The intelligence unit of the RAB is providing total assistance to the Coast Guard in this regard.

According to the statistics of the Home Ministry, the number of women and child trafficking is now less than before. In August last year, 11 cases were filed for trafficking 11 women and children, 10 of whom were rescued. Investigations of 12 cases, including some filed earlier, have been completed in the meantime, and three of the cases were disposed off. The human traffickers, involved in those cases, were arrested. It is being alleged that though field-level traffickers are being arrested, the main people behind these incidents remain safe. The United States in the meantime has appreciated Bangladesh for its success in checking women and child trafficking. According to the US report on **human trafficking** [TIP report], Bangladesh has been moved from **tier-3** to **tier-2** in this field. For being in tier-3, Bangladesh remained in the US watch-list for a long time. Bangladesh was included in the tier-2 group as recognition for fulfilling six conditions set by the United States to check women and child trafficking. The measures taken by the Bangladesh Government in checking women and child trafficking were praised in the TIP report of the US Department of State. Prior to this, the US on 14 June, 2004 gave Bangladesh an ultimatum to check women and child trafficking. If Bangladesh failed, conditions like possible imposition of economic and other sanctions were mentioned in the ultimatum. In the meantime, to check women and child trafficking, an inter-ministerial committee headed by the home secretary has been formed, an inter-ministerial committee led by joint secretary (political) of the Home Ministry has been set up to monitor progress of the trafficking cases, and a monitoring cell has been established at the police headquarters. Besides, district committees led by the deputy commissioners have been formed in all districts of the country. Special checking has been initiated at the international border posts and airports to check women and child trafficking. A national policy has been formulated for massive campaign and creating awareness to check the trafficking.

Source: The Daily Star website, Dhaka, in English 11 Oct 07

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154 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

October 1, 2007 Monday

New law on trafficking

BYLINE: The Nation**LENGTH:** 953 words

It's no secret Thailand is a notorious hub of human trafficking. A new proposed law aims to combat the problem, but sceptical social workers fear it may have a limited impact if corruption and dark influences behind the human trade are not effectively dealt with.

After hanging in limbo for almost one year while the country has been ruled by a military-installed government, a draft law to allow prosecution of all forms of human trafficking and provide greater protection and compensation to the victims of trafficking here is now being considered by the National Legislative Assembly.

The bill, when passed, will be Thailand's first comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation. It will outlaw all forms of trafficking and also provide protection to male victims of trafficking.

The bill was drafted in response to calls made by the United Nations and other international organisations for help to suppress human trafficking.

Suwaree Jaiharn, of the Ministry of Social Development and Social Security's Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children, said the National Assembly was supposed to pass the draft very soon.

She hoped enactment of the law would send a clear message to the international community that Thailand was sincere in trying to combat all forms of human trafficking, not only sexual exploitation.

While the country already has laws passed in 1997 - the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act - to provide penalties for sex trafficking, international groups have said this was not enough. The "old" law did not combat labour trafficking and did not provide protection for male victims, most of whom are trafficked into forced labour.

Currently, when children and women victims of trafficking are rescued by Thai authorities they are simply transferred to one of seven shelters for trafficking victims run by Thai government. But most boys or male victims are deported as illegal migrants.

While recognising that Thailand has provided impressive protection to foreign victims of sex trafficking found here, the United States' **Trafficking in Persons** Report this year has kept Thailand on its trafficking **watchlist's Tier 2** level. This means the country is making significant efforts to address the problem but does not yet fully comply with minimum standards. Not having a law to combat trafficking for labour exploitation was stated as a main reason Thailand was put on the US government's Tier 2 list.

Year after year Thailand is named as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Each year Thai women and girls are trafficked to Australia, Bahrain, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa, European countries, Canada and the US for sexual exploitation. Meanwhile women, including those from Russia and Uzbekistan, are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation here. Some foreign women transit across the southern border to Malaysia for the same purpose.

At the same time, men, women, aged people and children from Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam are trafficked into Thailand for forced labour and to work as beggars.

The Cambodian government recently revealed statistics that showed about 10,000 Cambodians - mostly women and children - are smuggled into Thailand each year and forced to work as beggars. But each coin dropped into a cup held by a pitiful child or parent on our sidewalks doesn't always go to improve their life, as givers might expect. Often, it goes to pockets of crime syndicates that forced them to beg in the Land of Smiles.

The conscience of Thais has enabled street begging to become a lucrative human trafficking business, as beggars can earn up to Bt800-1,000 a day.

According to Suwaree, from the Anti-Trafficking Bureau, another business - aside from the sex industry - is forcing trafficked children to sell candy, flowers, and tissue paper at night time.

There is also trafficking of Thais within the country. Eaklak Loomchomkhae, head of the Centre for Missing Persons and Anti-trafficking, an non-government group set up to help search for missing people, said many Thai men were trafficked into commercial fishing operations beyond Thai waters. And that some fishing boats only come ashore every five years.

"Given that some have to work hard on board, nobody wants to do that work. So the boat owners have to try every means to recruit labourers and a popular way to do that is trafficking," he said.

Eaklak said regional bus terminals were places where crime syndicates trafficked Thai men into the fishing industry. He said many men and male teenagers had been drugged unconscious while waiting for buses at terminals - then woke up to find themselves on a fishing boat in the middle of an ocean.

"They have no way to escape, and must work in a boat until the time it goes ashore."

Eaklak said that over the past four years his centre had helped rescue 19 men trafficked to work on fishing boats.

He believed the number of men trafficked to work on fishing boats must be in the thousands. That estimate, he said, was based on the number of fishing boats operating beyond Thai waters - more than 1,000 - and the fact each has about 30-40 workers.

Eaklak said trafficking within Thailand to exploit workers existed not because there was no law against it, but because corrupt influential figures were involved in trafficking. He said the country already had a law to control labour on fishing boats, however its implementation was crippled by corrupt state officials, who allowed these operations to exist.

He demanded the government not only prosecute human traffickers, but protect the victims - and stop the corruption behind the trafficking.

Pennapa Hongthong

The Nation

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155 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

September 14, 2007 Friday

2007 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 985 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Good Morning. I'm Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, or, the "TIP" office. I'm so sorry that I can't be with you today. This week, I'm in the Persian Gulf visiting several countries assessed in our annual TIP Report as not being strong enough in the global fight to end sex trafficking and slave labor.

One of my primary functions as Ambassador-at-Large on Human Trafficking is to urge other governments to work in concert with the United States to end modern-day slavery. The office I lead compiles the world's most authoritative assessment of trends in human trafficking. The annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report famously ranks countries into **tiers**, **Tier 1** being the most committed countries, doing the most; **Tier 3**, not at all.

We spearhead diplomacy to gain better cooperation with foreign governments to fight TIP. We manage anti-trafficking funds: In Fiscal Year 2006 the U.S. Government spent about \$74 million to fund 154 projects in about 70 countries. And we try to increase public awareness of this grotesque crime against human rights, global health, and international security through our Report and otherwise.

I have another legally-mandated role here at home: I chair the Senior Policy Operating Group, or SPOG, which coordinates the inter-agency work we are all doing to fight trafficking: at the Department of Justice, Labor, Defense, USAID, together, some 10 departments and agencies.

In our diplomatic efforts with foreign governments, we can't just deliver lectures; we must show that the U.S. is working on this problem too. I always talk about how, here at home, we're grappling with issues of victim identification, rescue, police training, judicial sensitivity, the myriad elements of this complex phenomenon.

So, your essential work tackling human trafficking connects directly with the U.S. Government's mission around the world. Slavery exists everywhere in the world. It exists in the United States. As leaders in the global effort to end human trafficking, the United States must show through deeds, not just words, how committed we are to this fight.

In the Persian Gulf, where I have spent the last week, one of the major challenges is to prevent the victimization of immigrants who work as domestics. What we do at home to prevent the abuse of domestic workers is important as we push other governments. Like helping Rose from Cameroon. She was promised education in the U.S. and a babysitting job, but instead she was locked in her sponsor's home and forced to work day and night.

[Video segment from Free the Slaves film, Dreams Die Hard, begins]

NARRATOR: Rose was just 14 when she was tricked into leaving her family in Africa. Another Cameroonian family offered her an American education and a babysitting job.

ROSE ODINE: When I got here, it actually didn't happen the way I was told.

NARRATOR: She worked punishing hours. She was beaten. She was never paid, and she never went to school.

LOUIS ENTONGWE: She began to tell me these things on the phone. I was so stunned. I mean, it was such an outrageous story.

ROSE ODINE: I tried to make sure that everything is right so I won't get yell [sic] or get beaten up.

NARRATOR: Beaten and alone, Rose had nowhere to turn.

ROSE ODINE: I would sit all by myself and just think about things I could do with my sisters. And how we used to play together. And I would just, just cry cause I missed them. And I would just cry hoping that one day, I would get to see them again.

I used to live right in there. And I ran away from here.

NARRATOR: One cold day, two and a half years after she arrived, Rose just couldn't take it anymore.

ROSE ODINE: It was like my blood pressure was rising and my head was like pumping inside. So I had no shoes on, no jacket, I didn't think of anything.

NARRATOR: Rose opened the door and began to run. She stopping running in this parking lot.

[Video segment ends]

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Rose escaped to a parking lot with nothing. She couldn't help herself beyond that brave act. A concerned citizen, then law enforcement, social service providers, victim witness advocates, and others had to step in to help restore her dignity and rights.

Because the essential core of our legislation is the "victim-centered approach," and we are, in real time, creating models that can be emulated abroad. The models we create for other countries include certain fundamentals:

The notion that passing a comprehensive law is not enough because implementation and enforcement are mission critical. The principle of accountability, holding exploiters to account as a basic tenet of governing justly, pursuing: investigations, prosecutions, convictions, serious sentences commensurate with the severity of the crime.

Viewing victims as victims, not criminals, illegal aliens, or disposable people; and the T-Visa certainly demonstrates U.S. dedication to this principle. Promoting task forces that bring together different government, law enforcement and civil society actors. Promoting Government-NGO collaboration as embodied by the HHS "Rescue and Restore program."

The Trafficking Victim's Protection Act has always been about foreign national and U.S. citizen victims. The drafters of this brilliant law understood that the United States is not immune from human trafficking. Victims of sex trafficking and slave labor are women and men, children and adults, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens. Our recognition of this reality strengthens the U.S. voice abroad, and increases my ability to accomplish our international anti-trafficking agenda.

Thank you for doing everything you can to rescue victims, restore them to safety, and jail the criminals who are enslaving our sisters, brothers, and children. Thank you, for advancing this cause around the world as you lead by example.

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156 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 19, 2007 Sunday

Nigeria; Trafficked Persons - How Promises of Gold, Silver End in Subjugation

BYLINE: This Day**LENGTH:** 2442 words

They are expected to journey into Eldorado where they will not lack. But if the trip into this fantasy island does not consume them, they end up enduring harsher lifestyles, away from the promises of milk and honey. Authorities on the trafficking of persons maintain that head or tail, the victims are losers. Godwin Haruna, who encountered them recently, writes

The scenario usually painted before unsuspecting victims are tantalising enough. Good employment where they would earn hard currency with which they would turn around the fortunes of their families back home. Good living standards where power is constant and taps run. Limitless opportunities to further their education, should they decide to go to school and such other fanciful tales that bears no relationship with reality. Welcome to the unpleasant world of trafficked persons in Nigeria.

Trafficking has many manifestations in the country, but the most practiced variants are in the form of prostitution, forced labour, marriage, for begging, for rituals and for organ transplantation or laundering. By the time the victims realise the futility of the promises made to them at recruitment, it would have been too late for them to rediscover themselves. They would have lost everything including, but not limited to their self-esteem, possessions and even their lives. The evils of this obnoxious trade are manifold and it has the potential of distorting a country's culture if left unchecked.

Perhaps, that explains why the Nigerian government established an agency a few years ago - The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) - solely dedicated to checkmating trafficking in human persons. The agency has not rested on its oars in its efforts to reduce the incidence of human trafficking both within and outside the country. As part of this strategy, NAPTIP collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently to organise a sensitization seminar for media practitioners in Benin, Edo State.

Speaking on the occasion through Alhaji Mohammed Babandede, director of investigation of the agency, Mrs. Carol Ndaguba, executive secretary, noted that Nigeria has been dubbed as a source, transit and destination country. She said before NAPTIP, the country was placed at **Tier 2 watch list** in the annual world **trafficking in persons** report by the United States Department of State. She added that the situation has considerably improved

According to Ndaguba: "Traffickers prey on the ignorance, self worth and vulnerability of victims. A typical and natural counterweight to this is information and education resource, a special endowment of the Fourth Estate of the Realm. The special role of the media in education, information, and mobilization of the citizenry for development, strategically places them as a strong ally of the Agency".

She said trafficking is a global problem, which ranks third to drugs and arms trafficking. "In the West African Sub-region and Nigeria, trafficking in persons has already become a pervasive crime. The crime preys primarily on the woman and children who are believed to be the most vulnerable group. It is equally established that men are trafficked particularly into forced labour and for body organ laundering but the emphasis placed on women and children is informed by the awareness that the group constitute the predominant target for traffickers", she said.

She stated that the phenomenon of human trafficking in Nigeria has become multi dimensional, multi sectional and multi faceted to the extent that anybody could fall a victim and no one is safe.

She said the singular and most important excuse and contributory feature that encourage trafficking is poverty and desperation. However, she quickly added that poverty alone does not explain the prevalence of child trafficking in Nigeria since most people involved in human trafficking do not necessarily have the most social indicator for poverty nor possess the worst cases of poverty.

The executive secretary stated that research carried out by NAPTIP in conjunction with UNICEF in 2004, showed that child trafficking was found to be very endemic in several states especially Akwa Ibom, Ebonyi, Imo, Kaduna and Cross River States. Since then, many more states are becoming endemic in the phenomenon of child trafficking.

She said the issue had been addressed by government by domesticating the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, which culminated in The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003.

According to her, in December 2003, NAPTIP in conjunction with the Nigerian Immigration Service and UNICEF Nigeria repatriated a total number of 169 children who were engaged in exploitative activities in Nigeria back to the Republic of Benin.

Also in 2005, police in Lagos stopped a refrigerated truck containing 64 children. The children were from Edati Local Government in Niger, Ebonyi, Edo States and Edu Local Govt. in Kwara State. They were apparently being taken to Lagos to work as house helps.

According to her, from inception up till March 31 this year, 962 victims have passed through the Agency. 118 of them have been rehabilitated, while 539 victims are awaiting rehabilitation. 710 of them are female victims while 252 are males.

"The Agency has a documentary programme on the story of victims of human trafficking. It is a real life experience of trafficked victims, their trauma, and psychological depression and how they were eventually rescued by NAPTIP and given a new lease of life. We have radio jingles in English and local languages, newspaper adverts, bill boards in strategic locations, posters, fliers, newsletters, car stickers, etc to inform people about the menace of child trafficking and we have been recording remarkable success in this regard", Ndaguba stated.

She said against the background of a cumbersome criminal trial, the drive to bring traffickers to justice has been very steadfast and unrelenting. She stated that to be able to secure a conviction, the Agency must prove its cases beyond reasonable doubts. "One of the major problems we face is getting the trafficked children to testify against their traffickers who are sometimes close relatives and their benefactors. Despite the tedious and long legal process we face in court, the Agency has succeeded in securing the conviction of 12 traffickers who are currently serving different jail terms in various prisons across the country. We also have over 50 cases undergoing trial in different High Courts", she stated.

She commended the various tiers of government, which created the enabling legal frameworks and environment in their respective states that would enable children in their states to enjoy a higher quality of life through the passing of the Child Rights Act (CRA).

According to her, the objective of the CRA is to restore the dignity and rights of the Nigerian Child. She said any state government that does not accept to pass the CRA may be inadvertently encouraging conditions and factors that promote child abuse, child labour and child trafficking in Nigeria.

"The tragedy of child trafficking is compounded by the fact that they are powerless, voiceless, and ignorant of the rights incapable of selling effective assistance from law enforcement institution", she added.

The preventive measures she suggested include, making education compulsory and accessible to all juveniles, government poverty alleviation schemes must be accessible to women and youths in the villages and operators of the scheme should design products that address and meet the peculiar demands of women in the hinterland.

She said in the amended Act, a specific provision was also enacted against owners of brothels who keep in their brothels young girls of fewer than 18 years. The penalty for offenders is severe sentences of 14 years.

She said NAPTIP would begin to pursue a programme of action to review the laws setting up Motherless Babies homes in a short while and other homes, in order to reduce the gory and horrendous tales of baby trafficking, sales, abductions and ritual killings that go on in the name of adoption in Nigeria.

Also speaking in a presentation, Babandede described various crime models as those organised within the country, international and trans-national organised crimes. He said the mission of fighting crime is to prevent and control it, rescue the victim, arrest and prosecute suspect, dismantle/disrupt organised criminal groups and seize their assets.

Babandede disclosed that the approach of the Agency is using the 'Golden Rule' in its investigation and prosecution. It states: "Within the limits of the law, to seize everything that may constitute evidence - if in doubt, seize it, it can always be given

back later but if left behind first time, it may not still be there by the time its evidential significance has been realised".

He said detectives are continually being trained in financial investigations, criminal prosecution and confiscation.

He revealed that one of their greatest challenges is the challenge posed by the victim of trafficking, who would not testify against his principal for fear of the secret oaths usually administered to them.

"When you disrupt traffickers' activities before exploitation - you are an enemy, when you rescue at the 'verge of freedom' - you are a spoiler, when victim is in danger - you have to change style or even discontinue. The victim is your priority - especially a child", he added.

He said they follow strictly the doctrine of the child since he is the first priority. "Not the needs of the family. Not the child's "story". Not the evidence. Not the needs of the courts. Not the needs of the police, child protection, attorney's, etc. The child is our first priority", Babandede stated.

He said victims, especially for labour purposes have parental consent and in such situations, they counsel the parents. Although this, he said becomes difficult if victims had signed contracts or swore to oaths of secrecy. He said they had raided a shrine at some point in order to demystify the pressures and fears they put on victims.

The director of investigation stated that if the case being investigated is external trafficking help should come from there. He said criminals cross borders with ease but law enforcement cannot do that to investigate. He said globalization has brought more opportunity to crime than policing! He added that national sovereignty was a challenge to effective use of Interpol, MLA, Multilateral & Bilateral opportunities. However, he advised the sharing of intelligence, conduct of joint and simultaneous investigation.

According to him: "The logic is simple: so long as trans-national criminal organisations capitalise on global processes to structure their operations in ways that limit the effectiveness of initiatives by any single nation, the response needs to be extensive in scope, multinational in form and, to the extent possible, global in reach.

"To relinquish some of the formalities of sovereignty means to restore the rule of law, taking into account existing realities, in order to 'nullify the advantages that criminals derive from operating across borders and to reduce, circumvent or transcend the frictions that hamper international law enforcement".

Babandede's panacea to effective policing and investigation is going 'glocal" which he said is interactive globalisation, acting in ways that are "indigenous-yet-globally-aware". He concluded that commitment and honesty is the key to an investigator's success - a challenge we must all address. He added that since trafficking in persons is a major human right violation, they try to integrate human rights in their investigation and that partnering with the West has challenged them to be modern and proactive.

Also speaking, Mr. Obi Agusiobo of the legal department of the agency noted that Nigerian statutes have always contained provisions dealing with trafficking in persons offences though those provisions were lamely enforced and prosecuted.

"Trafficking in persons globally has assumed a new dimension which is radically different from the brute approach of slave dealers. It has changed to a subtle but equally dangerous method of organised recruitment that is less visible. It is against this background, that the United Nations adopted an International Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children to deal with the sophistication of the traffickers", he stated.

Agusiobo explained the Act extensively and the penalties outlined for persons engaged in human trafficking. He said the Act established for NAP TIP a Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund, where all proceeds of the sale of assets and properties of traffickers are paid into.

Also speaking in an interview, Mrs. Funke Abiodun, head of the Benin zonal office of NAPTIP said the incidence of trafficking has reduced considerably since the Agency came on board. "Before people used to go abroad blatantly, but now you hard find one until you see a deportee or when stopped at the border post. This means that they are aware of the existence of the agency and the criminality of their action", she said.

Abiodun said the scenario before the potential victims is that they want to go and better their lot because of the poverty in the country, so that is what has constantly driven them. He said the next phase would be to sensitise the pastors who appear to encourage some of them through their preaching.

She said 290 have passed through the centre and 72 have been reintegrated, euphemism for sending to schools or learning a vocation. He advised parents to cut their coat according to their cloth in order to get their priorities right.

In an interview, Ms. Jane Osagie, Edo State coordinator of an NGO said trafficking in girls debases womanhood and must be discouraged. She praised the government for enacting the laws on trafficking and added that there should be enforced. Osagie also contended that the government should put together better infrastructures and providing the enabling environment for businesses to thrive. She stated that the same attention that was devoted to issues of HIV/AIDS should be given to trafficking in persons.

Mr. Arinze Orakwue, head of media and communication of the Agency counseled journalists to constantly beam their searchlight on the ignoble trade in order to stop it. He said even with paucity of funds, the Agency has done so much in the last few years to reduce trafficking in persons in the country.

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157 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

August 3, 2007 Friday 3:04 PM EST

India to strengthen human trafficking laws: Patil

BYLINE: Report from the Asian News International brought to you by the Hindustan Times

LENGTH: 400 words

DATELINE: New Delhi

New Delhi, Aug. 3 -- Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Friday said that the human trafficking problem in country is no bigger than it is in other nations, and added that the government is seriously thinking about tackling the problem by giving more teeth to existing laws.

Admitting that the issue did exist in India, Patil said the problem required thoughtful tackling.

"Yes, there is a problem of this kind in India. There is no denying (this fact). But to think that it is bigger than what it is in other countries is not correct. If you take into consideration the number of human beings in India and compare with the cases that are taking place, even if one case is taking place that should not be acceptable. And yet if you look at this problem from a correct perspective, we will be able to form a correct opinion," Patil said in his address at a National Consultation on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in New Delhi.

According to the US State Department, South Asia accounts for second highest number of victims of trafficking. India was among 32 countries on US' **Watch List**, 2006 of countries involved in **human trafficking**.

"We come across many difficulties, many problems, and that is why it becomes necessary for us to examine the existing laws and find out how the amendments have to be made and introduced in the existing statutes. This process should continue and the Government of India will definitely be able to tackle this issue in this manner," he said.

Travel rackets thrives in India, mainly in the states of Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, where human smuggling has been described as an organized crime.

The travel agents thrives on the clamour of desperate Indians to go abroad for lifestyles they know can never afford in the villages and small towns back home.

Hundreds of thousands of women and girls in India are kidnapped, sold, coerced or trafficked for sex in a highly organised, yet illicit trade which is the world's third most lucrative after arms and drugs.

Almost 6,000 cases of trafficking were registered in 2005, but activists say the real number is much higher and on the rise.

According to the International Labour Organisation, 2.45 million people worldwide are exploited and treated like slaves every year, and another 1.2 million people are trafficked.

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158 of 445 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

August 2007

U.S. Releases 2007 Human Trafficking ReportA. U.S. Releases 2007 Human Trafficking Report

BYLINE: Jed Borod n1

n1 Jed Borod is the Assistant Editor of the International Enforcement Law Reporter.

SECTION: HUMAN TRAFFICKINGVI. HUMAN TRAFFICKING; Vol. 23, No. 8

LENGTH: 861 words

On June 12, 2007, the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons released the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report), designed to rank members of the international community on compliance with a set of anti-human trafficking standards. This year's report made a number of notable changes to the rankings, including the addition of a number of Middle Eastern countries to and the removal of Laos, Belize, and Zimbabwe from the Tier 3 "worst offenders" list. n2 As in years past, many listed countries immediately challenged the report, attacking its methodology, relevance, and political bias.

n2 Nora Boustany, Allies Cited for **Human Trafficking**, Washington Post, June 13, 2007. Countries are ranked from **Tier 1**, the best, to **Tier 3**, the worst. For background on past reports, including a discussion of the TIP methodology, see Jed Borod, U.S. Releases Sixth Annual Human Trafficking Report, Targeted Countries Dispute Findings, 22 Int'l Enforcement L. Rep. 321 (August 2006).

Speaking at the release of the report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that "human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable members of society" but noted that she has "noticed a greater desire by [U.S.] partners to fight this crime and protect its victims." n3 Ambassador Mark Lagon, Senior Advisor on **Trafficking in Persons**, called U.S. anti-trafficking efforts "a commitment to human dignity," and estimated that 800,000 people are trafficked internationally each year. n4 Lagon also singled out countries in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, saying that "it's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress are on **Tier 3**." n5

n3 Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Remarks at the Release of the Seventh Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (June 12, 2007).

n4 Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Remarks at the Release of the Seventh Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (June 12, 2007).

n5 Id.

A range of countries including China and Malta criticized the report. A spokesman for the Maltese government expressed "strong objections to the contents of the report, particularly to the fact that the arrival of illegal immigrants is being confused with the trafficking of persons for prostitution purposes," and claimed that "repeated efforts to explain the Maltese situation to the State Department were ignored." n6 The Chinese government reacted angrily to the report's criticism of the country's handling of North Korean refugees, arguing that "illegal trespassers came to China for economic reasons, and ? were not victims." n7 The TIP report also noted widespread use of forced labor in China, including children and disabled slave workers. n8

n6 Rosanne Zammit, Malta objects to US report on human trafficking, Times of Malta, June 18, 2007.

n7 China questions US human trafficking report, Xinhua/China Daily, June 19, 2007.

n8 Gordon Fairclough, Slave-Labor Charges Could Leave Black Eye for China, Wall Street Journal, June 19, 2007.

A coalition of Irish non-governmental organizations took the opposite tact, arguing that the report failed to adequately account for human trafficking in Ireland and as a result was "littered with inaccuracies." n9 Many listed countries, including Kenya and the United Arab Emirates, pledged to improve their anti-trafficking efforts. n10

n9 NGOs challenge US Govt report on human trafficking, Belfast Telegraph, June 18, 2007.

n10 Dylan Bowman, Professional review of UAE trafficking, ArabianBusiness, June 18, 2007.

Charges of political bias continue to dog the report. The Tier 3 list includes Cuba, Iran, and North Korea, countries with whom the U.S. has increasingly hostile diplomatic relations. n11 China and India, two countries with whom the U.S. has worked to improve ties, remained in the intermediate Tier 2 watch list. The categorization of India allegedly prompted discontent in Congress and within the Department of State. Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) claimed that the report was "too soft on China and India," while a source in the State Department told CNN that India's ranking led to "heated debate between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte." n12

n11 Boustany, supra.

n12 Boustany, supra. See also India escapes U.S. list of worst human traffickers, CNN, June 19, 2007. According to unnamed NGOs cited in CNN's report, India may have "as many as 65 million forced laborers."

The 2007 TIP Report shows the U.S.'s strong commitment to anti-trafficking efforts, which the Bush administration has prioritized. However, the report has fallen victim to a number of common criticisms leveled on unilateral U.S. efforts in the field, particularly accusations that it is not objective or reflects U.S. political biases. With the continuing controversy over U.S. human rights policy in other arenas, particularly the war on terror, the TIP Report may not enjoy the impact it would otherwise have.

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159 of 445 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

July 27, 2007 Friday

Voiceless victims

BYLINE: The brick kiln scandal has highlighted how poverty and ignorance support human trafficking, writes Liz Gooch

SECTION: FEATURES; Behind the News; Pg. 14

LENGTH: 1612 words

Sitting in a police station in a small rural town in Ecuador, Mark and Jan Rodgers waited patiently to interview the local police chief.

The husband and wife team, American academics who specialised in human trafficking, had come to investigate how the dangerous combination of widespread poverty and a lack of awareness had created a fertile hunting ground for traffickers.

As they waited, three families came in one by one to report their daughters missing. Each story was disturbingly similar: the girls, all middle-school students, had not returned home from school. The police casually dismissed the families, suggesting the girls were teenage runaways.

"That was in one afternoon alone," Professor Mark Rodgers said. "We were flipping out, like, come on, wake up!"

They may have worked in trafficking hot spots such as Latvia and Romania, but the lack of awareness or indifference to one of the world's most profitable illegal activities continues to dismay the Rodgers.

Trading in humans is one of the world's oldest businesses, dating back to ancient times. Frequently referred to as modern-day slavery, human trafficking may officially be illegal in most parts of the world but the practice of buying and selling people for sexual or labour exploitation is thriving.

The CIA estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked across national borders every year. That figure does not include the millions trafficked within their home countries, such as the slaves recently found working in atrocious conditions in brick kilns in Shanxi province. The discovery of the kiln slaves, some of them children, has revealed the dark underbelly of forced labour on the mainland, where dire poverty leaves rural villagers vulnerable to abuse.

No country seems immune from the scourge of human trafficking, whether its citizens are innocent victims or consumers unknowingly providing the demand for the trade.

About three-quarters of victims were forced into commercial sex work and there was a growing trend for traffickers to target children, said Professor Rodgers, dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University in Illinois, who was in Hong Kong last week to outline the problem at the International Consortium for Social Development at Polytechnic University. "What we are seeing worldwide is a younger and younger group of girls and boys coming into this trade," he said.

Professor Rodgers said interviews with men who paid for sex revealed there was a perception that they would be protected from getting HIV if they used younger girls. "This is fuelling the desire to have 12-, 13-, 14-year-olds," he said.

Professor Rodgers, who had run public awareness programmes in several countries with his wife Jan,

a clinical assistant professor at Dominican University, found recruiters in Latvia often waited at airports and train and bus stations, ready to pounce on girls from rural areas coming to the city in search of work. Often their pursuit of a bet-

ter life ended in sexual servitude in countries such as Germany, Spain, Britain, Norway and the US. Even if the girls and their captors were found, it was often the victims who bore the brunt of the law.

"When they caught traffickers in Latvia they sometimes sentenced them to 30 days in jail. They didn't think it was a serious crime," Professor Rodgers said.

The mainland is recognised as a major player in international human trafficking. Unicef, the children's rights body, predicts that if current trends continue, China may soon become Asia's trafficking hub; the US State Department's 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** report, released last month, puts the mainland on the **Tier Two watch list** for the third consecutive year, indicating it deserves special scrutiny.

While the mainland had increased efforts to prevent trafficking, the report found it had failed to improve victim protection services or address trafficking for involuntary servitude. It found women were often lured through false promises of legitimate employment only to be forced into sex work in Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and Japan.

Women and children were trafficked into the mainland from Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia and Vietnam for forced labour, marriage and prostitution.

The report includes the story of "Haniel", a North Korean woman who was a victim of forced marriage: "I was sold to be the wife of a 47-year-old Chinese man ... My husband would hit me and say: 'Do you have any idea how much I paid for you?' I am not the only North Korean woman in this area. As I was talking to some of the others, we came to realise we have been sold into this kind of marriage."

Despite the many countries linked to China's trafficking industry, the report concluded domestic trafficking remained the most significant problem, with at least 10,000 victims annually. Beijing is expected to finalise its National Plan of Action against Trafficking by the end of the year.

While the men and children enslaved in Shanxi's brick kilns dominated recent headlines, rural women remained most at risk, said Lulu Zhang, a research student at Beijing's Renmin University, who also spoke at the Hong Kong conference.

Ms Zhang, who worked for Unicef for three years, said poor education and few job opportunities meant rural women were the most vulnerable. The mainland's patchy development, which led to an enormous economic gap between rural and urban areas, made poor villages a target for traffickers.

"Most women are trafficked from poor and undeveloped districts to developed coastal areas and the plains region. Because of economic development in the coastal regions, more women are trafficked to these districts," Ms Zhang said.

While many women were sold as wives to men in the wealthier districts in the 1990s, she said this trend had declined in recent years. "Trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation is increasing," she said.

Law enforcement efforts were often directed at fighting organised crime, but Ms Zhang said women were nearly always trafficked through social networks, by relatives and acquaintances.

The Rodgers said educating all involved, from police, judges and prosecutors to social workers, teachers and psychologists was essential.

"Without co-operation in the groups, the traffickers are 20 years ahead of us," Professor Rodgers said.

When the couple ran the public awareness programme in Latvia, they found it had the greatest impact on judges. "They said 'we thought this was just a girl who was a prostitute. We didn't realise she was forced into this'," he said.

Attitudes are gradually changing. The Latvian government has developed a national action plan, convictions have soared, and a trafficker was recently sentenced to more than 20 years in jail.

The Rodgers, now on a study tour of Beijing, Xian and Guilin, would like to bring their education programme to Hong Kong and the mainland. Professor Rodgers said the mainland's gender imbalance, created by the traditional preference for boys, could lead to greater demand for women.

When the couple were in Ecuador, Professor Jan Rodgers was shocked to hear of teachers recruiting students and traffickers staking out libraries, ready to swoop after parents dropped off their children.

She recalled working with a group of 14-year-old girls in Ecuador, who had either escaped or been released by their captors after falling pregnant. "They claimed they had been trafficked as early as 11. They'd been in the sex industry for three years already," she said.

In order to rescue victims, authorities needed to target places where traffickers would allow the women to go, such as hospital emergency rooms, hairdressers and beauty salons.

Professor Jan Rodgers said countries often focused on rescuing victims but effort was also needed to reintegrate them back into society. Victims were often repeatedly traumatised by numerous interviews and were at risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder and long-term depression.

"They could be serving 20 to 30 men per day. In India, we heard it's even higher, it could be 30 or 40 ... what will these women be like if they escape?", Professor Rodgers said.

Professor Jan Rodgers urged governments to devote more money to helping victims recover and said they needed at least six months of treatment, including counselling, medical treatment, housing and job training.

The US State Department report said the mainland's protection services remained temporary and failed to adequately address victims' needs. It cites Yunnan province as an example of where victims of commercial sexual exploitation were not offered psychological assistance and were generally sent home after a few days.

While human trafficking was not a new phenomenon, the cost of buying a slave had fallen dramatically, said David Androff, a doctoral student at the University of California, Berkeley, who presented his research at the conference.

Mr Androff said investigations by abolitionist groups who had tried to buy slaves from coffee plantations in West Africa had revealed they could be bought for as little as \$30US. Some records showed people sold in America's south during the slave trade would have cost the equivalent of \$1US,000.

"Slaves are a lot cheaper today and I think that reflects the population boom, looking at it from a supply and demand perspective," he said.

Mr Androff said the factors influencing who was more likely to be forced into slavery had also changed. "I think race and ethnicity may play less of a role than they did in the past. It looks as if economic vulnerability is a major factor."

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GRAPHIC: Credit: Illustration: Terry Pontikos

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

160 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Documents and Publications

July 24, 2007

Helsinki Commissioners Call on President to Impose Sanctions on Governments Failing to Combat Human Trafficking

SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS**LENGTH:** 845 words

July 24, 2007

Send Letter Expressing Concern Over China and India's Exclusion From List of Offending Countries

(Washington, DC) Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) and Co-Chairman Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), along with Helsinki Commissioners Representatives Robert Aderholt (R-AL), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY), and Hilda Solis (D-CA) sent the following letter to President George W. Bush urging him to impose sanctions upon governments who fail to adopt adequate measures to combat human trafficking. More specifically, the letter expresses concern over the exclusion of India and China from the Tier Three list of offending countries, although it is widely acknowledged that they are among the most egregious violators of human anti-trafficking conventions. In this respect, the Commissioners also noted the need for improvements among various OSCE member states, including the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The Commissioners point out in their letter to the President that if the aim of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TPVA) of 2000 is to prevent human trafficking, protect victims of human trafficking, and to punish traffickers, it must not employ different standards for designating countries that fail to take adequate steps to combat human trafficking. Such a course will lead to a lack of confidence and integrity in anti-trafficking efforts.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires that the State Department report annually to Congress on the status of foreign governments' efforts to combat the trafficking of human persons. The report is intended to raise awareness globally of this issue in hopes that the international community will take the necessary actions possible to counter all forms of human trafficking. The report rates 164 countries in all and covers the period from April 2006 to March 2007. Currently, the report is under review by the President with a final decision on sanctions expected in September. For more information, please visit www.state.gov. (Please find below a copy of the letter)

July 24, 2007

The President

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to fully exercise the authority granted under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 to impose sanctions upon governments that fail to adopt adequate measures to combat human trafficking. In doing so, we also urge you to apply sanctions under TVPA through a credible and transparent process.

In this respect, we wish to express our concern regarding the exclusion of India and China from the Tier Three list of offending countries, although it is widely acknowledged that they are among the most egregious violators of human anti-trafficking conventions. It has come to our attention that India and China were not included among countries that

have failed to implement significant anti-trafficking measures out of concern that their inclusion may adversely affect bilateral relations with these countries.

India has languished on the Tier Two Watch List since the 2004 report despite receiving some of the largest amounts of U.S. anti-trafficking assistance. Similarly, China has been on Tier Two Watch List since the 2005 report. The Tier Two Watch List carries no strong penalties for government inaction, making it counterproductive to allow countries to remain on the Watch List indefinitely.

We are also mindful that several OSCE participating States, including the Russian Federation, have repeatedly appeared on the **Tier Two Watch List** and deserve additional attention and engagement with the aim of strengthening their laws, policies and practices to combat **human trafficking**. Additionally, we note that Ukraine, a major source, transit, and destination country has been added this year in the absence of demonstrable progress in strengthening anti-trafficking efforts.

If the aims of the TVPA to prevent human trafficking, protect victims of human trafficking, and punish traffickers are to be optimally realized, we cannot employ different standards for designating countries that fail to take adequate steps to combat human trafficking. Such a course will lead to a lack of confidence and integrity in our anti-trafficking efforts.

We hope that you will give this issue the attention it requires in order to ensure that U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking are carried out in a comprehensive and impartial manner.

###

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, is a U.S. Government agency that monitors progress in the implementation of the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The Commission consists of nine members from the United States Senate, nine from the House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense and Commerce.

Lale M. Mamaux

Communications Director

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

(U.S. Helsinki Commission)

234 Ford House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

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161 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

July 20, 2007 Friday 10:05 PM TST**GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP AID FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS****BYLINE:** Flor Wang**LENGTH:** 203 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, July 20

In order to display Taiwan's efforts to curb cross-border human trafficking, the Cabinet has passed a three-year program and earmarked \$390NT million in budget to step up aid for such victims, Executive Yuan officials said Friday.

According to the officials, the National Immigration Agency under the Ministry of the Interior and the Council of Labor Affairs will be in charge of implementing the program.

Some \$200NT million of the funds will be used to set up 18 communities to extend humanitarian care and legal assistance for foreign victims, while the rest of the money will be allocated for anti-trafficking educational programs and repatriation operations, they explained.

The Executive Yuan approved a human trafficking prevention program in November last year in the hope of integrating the resources of various government agencies to crack down on international human traffickers.

Premier Chang Chun-hsiung has reiterated the government's goal of further improving Taiwan's performance in this regard after Taiwan was upgraded in the U.S. 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released in June, in which Taiwan was removed from the nations on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" and placed instead on the list of "**Tier 2**" nations.

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162 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

July 19, 2007 Thursday

REGIONAL COOPERATION NEEDED TO CHECK HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 483 words

KUCHING, July 19 (Bernama) - Close regional multi-agencies cooperation and cross-border networking are needed to combat human trafficking, which has proven to be a difficult task for most countries.

United States (US) Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme, Deputy Senior Law Enforcement Advisor Robert C Barlow said even with law enforcement, such efforts could not promise to be obstacle-free in tackling the problems.

"It is very difficult to tackle human trafficking due to the nature of the crime. However, it is not impossible. Countries need to establish and develop relationship, cooperation, and networking among the multi-agencies and non-governmental organization (NGOs) to stop human trafficking in the region.

"Good investigation techniques with effective multi-national approaches are very important too... Certainly it (tackling human trafficking) will go on for years," he told reporters here today.

Later, he attended a seminar on "Improving Operational Cross-Border Cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in Tackling Human Being Trafficking", organized by the French Embassy, American Embassy and United National Office on Drugs and Crime.

Barlow, a retired police commander, said human trafficking between Malaysia and Indonesia was a serious problem as three out of 10 Indonesians entering the country were exploited.

"Generally, about 700,000 to 800,000 people trafficked to Malaysia are run by well-organized and multi-national crime gangs which move to countries where the law enforcement is weak.

"It is a very serious problem in Malaysia and Indonesia as it generates more revenue than narcotic sales," he said.

Barlow said in many cases, traffickers, through employment agencies, recruited girls and women from regions where there was high unemployment and the people were generally poor under false pretenses.

"Victims from poor background are lured with false promises of high paying jobs and better life, but then they were forced into prostitution upon their arrival in the country.

"They were charged exorbitant fees leading to debt bondage. This is the start of their exploitation. They may have returned to their respective countries physically, sexually or psychologically abused," he said.

Barlow said only a small number of Malaysian women and girls were trafficked for sexual purposes and the number was very small in comparison to the number of foreign nationals coming into the country.

Barlow described the Malaysian government's move in tabling the Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2007 Bill as a huge step in combating the human trafficking problems.

Malaysia was placed on **Tier 2** of the **Watch List** of the United States Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report last year, as it failed to make significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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163 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

July 18, 2007 Wednesday

Model ordinance for local governments to curb rampant human trafficking

BYLINE: Darwin T. Wee

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 661 words

Zamboanga City - The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) led by the Justice department is crafting a local law that will serve as "model ordinance" for local government units to curb human trafficking.

Trafficking is the recruitment, transport and transfer of persons with or without their consent or knowledge within or across national borders by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, including abduction, fraud, deception and abuse of power.

Deana P. Perez, senior state prosecutor of the Justice department and head of the IACAT secretariat, said the model ordinance will strengthen and empower Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

The model ordinance, to be released in August, is part of the council's action plan against trafficking that covers the years 2004 to 2010.

"There is a need to get the participation of the local government units to help us prevent the emergence of human trafficking activity in most part of the country," Ms. Perez told BusinessWorld.

Under the law, the council, which is composed of various government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, was created with the primary task of coordinating, monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

"Our responsibility is to mobilize communities into action to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons at the community level, and these include the encouragement to formulate local issuances/ordinances and policies on trafficking; and mobilize and strengthen committees, councils at the local level," she said.

Justice department records showed that 248 human trafficking-related complaints had been filed from 2003 to 2006.

Of these, only eight convictions were reported since the law took effect on 2003.

The most recent conviction here was on March 27, wherein the local court sentenced a trafficker to life imprisonment with a fine of P6 million.

The recent conviction was the second time around in Zamboanga City, said city prosecutor Ricardo C. Cabaron. The first conviction happened on 2005, after three persons were proven to be involved in trafficking a Filipino woman in Sabah, Malaysia.

Ms. Perez said local legislators can either adopt the entire model ordinance or amend some of its provisions.

"The bottom line here is to push our local lawmakers down from municipalities, cities and provinces to have their own version of the national law and be aware of their responsibilities in curbing modern-day slavery."

Based on their monitoring, only Quezon City has a local version of the human trafficking act. Mindanao reportedly has the highest cases of human trafficking in the three groups of islands with more than 50% of the total cases, said Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. a nongovernmental organization that has been working on this concern in the last 15 years.

Arthur E. Necesito, head of the foundation's Mindanao bureau said 1,449 trafficked victims were recorded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development from 2003 to 2006, of which 40% were minors and more than 50% were women and children.

The United States' Department of State has placed the Philippines under a Tier 2 placement - a ranking based on efforts to combat trafficking - after it failed to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking.

A **Tier 3** ranking will mean financial sanctions for the blacklisted nation, according to a representative of the Asia Foundation, one of the leading funding agencies in the country that supports anti-**human trafficking** drive.

"If we will not continue to perform well, especially the 'lull' movement of conviction, the Philippines will be likely to get the score of Tier 3," said Gio Garcia, coordinator of the Visayan Forum Foundation.

The Philippines is one of the signatories of various international treaties and pacts with regards to anti-human trafficking, Ms. Perez said, and having low performance will be subjected to sanctions stated on the agreement.

LOAD-DATE: July 17, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

164 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

July 12, 2007 Thursday 2:24 AM EST**REP. SMITH ISSUES STATEMENT ON IMPACT OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT ON GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION IN AFRICA****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 934 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The House Foreign Affairs Committee issued the following statement from a subcommittee hearing:

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health

"Beyond Oil and Gas: Africa Growth and Opportunity Act's Benefits to Africa"

Statement by Rep. Christopher H. Smith

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This law provides duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market for certain goods from designated countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was based on the Congressional finding that it is in the mutual interest of the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development on the Continent. The criteria for beneficiary countries include evidence of progress toward a market-based economy, rule of law, economic policies to reduce poverty and promote economic growth, a system to combat corruption and bribery, and protection of internationally recognized worker and human rights.

The recent report from the U.S. Trade Representative to Congress contains some impressive information about AGOA's impact. Since it was enacted in 2000, trade between the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa has increased 143 percent, and AGOA has played an important role in this increase. In 2006, over 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA-eligible countries entered the United States duty-free. U.S. imports from AGOA countries totaled \$44.2 billion in 2006, which was an increase of 16 percent over the previous year.

It is disappointing, however, that most of this increase in 2006 was due to oil, and non-oil trade increased by only 7 percent after having declined a precipitous 16 percent in 2005. Non-oil AGOA trade constituted only \$3.2 billion of the total. These latter statistics indicate a need for greater attention to the non-oil potential on the Continent. We will hear testimony today about the need to expand U.S. trade with Sub-Sahara Africa beyond oil, textiles and apparel, and I will be interested in and supportive of ideas that will further this objective.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations that I chaired held a hearing on a five-year assessment of the Act in October 2005, which included two witnesses who we will be hearing from again today: Ms. Florizelle Liser and Mr. Steve Hayes. One of the issues that I raised at that hearing was the protection of labor and other human rights in AGOA-eligible countries. Ms. Liser testified at the time that AGOA was having a positive impact on worker and human rights, and she provided examples of reforms that had been undertaken by beneficiary countries which included the prevention of child trafficking and addressed the worst forms of child labor.

It is important that this issue be examined, particularly in light of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report that was released by the State Department last month. It contains a "Tier 2 Watch List" of countries that have a serious trafficking problem and that do not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. These countries will be the sub-

ject of particular scrutiny by the State Department's Trafficking Office during the coming year to ascertain whether they are making sufficient efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

It is disturbing that eight countries on the Tier 2 Watch List are AGOA beneficiaries, and that each of these countries are cited in the TIP report for child and/or forced labor concerns. Sexual exploitation, particularly of children, as cited in some of these reports would also be relevant in the AGOA context as gross violations of international human rights standards. In addition to the other human rights assessments that are legislatively mandated as part of the AGOA eligibility process, one would expect the **tier** placement for **trafficking in persons** to be a critical consideration. I hope Ms. Liser will address what kind of collaboration takes place between the US Trade Representative and the State Department Trafficking in Persons office on this issue.

While questions may be raised concerning the relation between AGOA and improvement in human rights, it does seem that the Act together with the Millennium Challenge Account is providing an impetus for other advances. The World Bank is reporting that corruption in Africa is declining, stating that even some of the poorest countries have made "significant progress" in improving governance and fighting corruption over the past decade. This trend is certainly attributable to a significant extent to the eligibility requirements for both of these U.S. initiatives.

AGOA and the MCA are also addressing infrastructure and technical capacity that are essential for long-term development, but which are arguably not receiving sufficient emphasis from other assistance sources. As I indicated earlier and in our recent hearing on the MCA, Congress needs to look at ways to improve and strengthen these benefits in both pieces of legislation.

And finally, one should not minimize the good will and positive bi-lateral relationships in Africa that are being reinforced through AGOA and the MCA, together with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This latter consideration, though intangible, is critical if the United States is to maintain and strengthen its presence in this region of the world that is becoming increasingly important for our own national security and global peace and prosperity.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Contact:

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

165 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
 Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

Saudi rights official criticizes US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 1277 words

Text of report by London-based newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat website on 8 July

[Report by Huda al-Salih: "Human Rights Commission [HRC] Says US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report Includes Mistakes, Lacks Objectivity; HRC Head Al-Sudayri: Saudi Law Bans Trafficking in Persons on Basis of Ethics and Religion"]

Saudi Arabia has denied the accusations included in a report that was issued by the US State Department on Saudi efforts to combat trafficking in persons. The US State Department placed Saudi Arabia on the bottom Tier 3 list.

In the first official government response to the US State Department's Seventh Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, Turki al-Sudayri, chairman of the Saudi [government-run] Human Rights Commission [HRC], stressed that "the report, which seeks to diagnose violations of the law on trafficking in persons, includes several mistakes, in addition to erroneous ideas and conceptions."

Saudi Arabia is listed as **Tier 3** (the bottom of the list) in the Seventh US report for the third year in a row and is accused of "failing to meet the minimum US standards for the elimination of trafficking" and of "failing to make significant efforts to improve its record in this regard." The report places Saudi Arabia on the bottom **tier** together with the states of the world that have the worst record in terms of their efforts to eliminate **trafficking in persons**, trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, and the slave trade.

Al-Sudayri explained that "the Trafficking in Persons Report overlooks Saudi efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly now that Saudi Arabia has formed a permanent committee that includes within its membership the HRC as well as other ministries to study international reports and all the information they provide, to verify such information, and to shed light on any mistakes if they exist." He said that "the aforementioned report also ignores the Saudi cabinet's approval of the two UN protocols against trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime, in addition to Saudi Arabia's willingness to issue regulations against human trafficking." He added: "This is not to mention the special annex to the new Labour Law that regulates domestic labour and that was prepared by the Ministry of Labour."

The HRC chairman noted that "the permanent committee's recommendation to draw up a comprehensive national plan to confront and deal with the phenomenon of trafficking in persons has been approved by the HRC, in accordance with Article 1 of the HRC bylaw. This is in addition to the intensification of the awareness campaigns to raise awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons - these campaigns have been launched by the Ministry of Culture and Information; the Ministry for Islamic Affairs, Endowment, Da'wah [preaching], and Guidance; the HRC; and other parties." He called on the international parties that prepare human rights reports "to cooperate with local sides before issuing and drawing up such reports, because of the important role that local parties may play in clarifying some delicate and sensitive aspects, thus giving these reports objectivity and accuracy."

In his response on behalf of the Saudi Human Rights Commission to the US Trafficking in Persons Report, Al-Sudayri said that "the standards mentioned in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act [TVPA] cannot be met without appreciating the differences between regions, peoples, and cultures; this is an issue that was approved and bolstered by UN rules and regulations."

The chairman of the government-run Human Rights Commission said that "in commenting on the Seventh Trafficking in Persons Report, some media and human rights bodies around the world have noted that the report is influenced by an individual view, is generalized to a certain extent, and presents preconceived judgments." He added that "many parts of

the report rely on preconceived ideas that lack accuracy, particularly given that the report does not mention any specific incidents or cases to which one can refer and which one can verify to determine any defects that may exist in terms of prosecution, protection, or procedures."

In an accurate clarification of the confusion raised in the US Seventh Trafficking in Persons Report, on the basis of which a number of Arabian Gulf states - including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman - are facing the threat of sanctions, particularly the cancellation of US aid, for "involuntary servitude and commercial sexual exploitation," Al-Sudayri stressed that "the report denies the existence of a Saudi legal framework that bans trafficking in persons, thus ignoring international agreements and pacts that are considered part of the kingdom's laws and legislations in accordance with the kingdom's basic law." He added that "locally approved laws ban human trafficking, whether in workers or children from both genders, based on solid ethical and religious bases. This is in addition to the fact that approved Saudi laws and regulations incriminate traffickers in persons." Concerning protecting expatriate workers, preventing their exploitation, securing their rights, and ensuring their safety from harm, Al-Sudayri said: "We are operating under the [new] Labour Law, which prohibits trading in visas by putting in place rules and regulations that set conditions for granting visas to any citizen or business owner and regulate the process of granting licenses to private recruitment offices." He added that the "new Labour Law protects the rights of expatriate workers and does not differentiate between Saudi and expatriate workers in terms of rights and duties."

The HRC criticized the Seventh Trafficking in Persons Report because "it does not take into consideration the nature of the groups of people entering Saudi Arabia." The HRC issued a report in which it classified arrivals into several categories, including those who enter the country for tourist or business purposes. The report says that "these people come to Saudi Arabia of their own free will. The second group includes pilgrims and those who come to perform the small pilgrimage. These people are granted entry visas to perform these rituals. However, some of them remain in Saudi Arabia until they are traced and deported to their countries by the Saudi authorities, which in many cases pay their deportation costs. As for the third group, it includes expatriate workers who come to work in Saudi Arabia after signing contracts of their own free will. This category is a very big one and these people are granted official entry visas into Saudi Arabia. However, some workers enter the country by illegal means and might be victims of organized gangs in their countries that take advantage of their need to work abroad." The Saudi HRC report also says that "there remains a small group of people who illegally enter Saudi territory from neighbouring states or from the Horn of Africa."

Concerning the practices carried out by citizens against domestic workers, including physical or other kinds of abuse within the framework of trafficking in persons, the HRC pointed out that "the perpetrators of such acts are subject to punishment under Saudi law." As for the incidents that might take place between workers and their bosses, the HRC said that "labour committees exist in Saudi regions as well as homes belonging to the Ministry of Social Affairs that shelter domestic workers who are subjected to any kind of abuse until their cases are resolved. The official parties also give temporary licenses to those involved, until such cases are closed."

Source: Al-Sharq al-Awsat website, London, in Arabic 8 Jul 07

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

166 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

SAUDI ARABIA REJECTS HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

LENGTH: 496 words

DATELINE: DUBAI July 10

Saudi Arabia has dismissed accusations of human trafficking, describing the recent US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2007 as "inconsistent," English daily Gulf News reported a human rights activist as saying.

Chairman of the official Saudi Human Rights Commission (HRC) Turki Bin Khalid Al Sudairy said that the US State Department report ignored the efforts being exerted by Saudi Arabia in combating human trafficking, particularly after the formation of a permanent official committee to study international reports and respond to them.

The US State Department report, released last month accused Saudi Arabia and a host of other countries, including Malaysia, of being among the worst countries in combating human trafficking.

The report placed Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and 14 other countries under the **tier 3** ranking of countries that failed to meet minimum US standards on combating **human trafficking** or making significant efforts to improve their record.

Malaysia has also rebutted the listing, which it said was unjustified.

In a statement issued in Riyadh, Al Sudairy said that the report failed to take into account the Saudi Cabinet's approval of the United Nations protocols on human trafficking and transnational organised crime.

He pointed out that the HRC had adopted a comprehensive national plan to address cases of human trafficking, but did not elaborate.

He appealed to international organisations that prepare human rights reports to cooperate with local bodies before publishing these reports.

"Comments coming from all over the world described the US State Department seventh report on human trafficking as being influenced by personal viewpoints and included generalisations and stereotypes that lack accuracy," he was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Al Sudairy said that Saudi Arabia banned human trafficking, whether the victims are workers or children of both sexes, and added that human trafficking is considered a crime in the kingdom.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had said that Malaysia had taken serious measures to curb human trafficking and the government had drafted a bill on human trafficking that would impose severe penalties on the perpetrators of the crime.

Foreign minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, in describing the listing as unjustified, had said that no single country could act as an investigator, prosecutor and judge against another.

Countries placed under the third tier are subjected to possible sanctions, including the loss of U.S. aid and U.S. support for World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans.

Other countries placed under this tier are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

The first **tier** includes countries which comply with the minimum US standards in respect of **human trafficking** while the second **tier** covers countries that make intensive efforts to comply with these standards.

LOAD-DATE: July 11, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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167 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

July 5, 2007 Thursday 7:43 PM TST

U.S. OFFICIAL ADDRESSES TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Chris Wang

LENGTH: 391 words

DATELINE: Taipei, July 5

The Taiwan government's efforts to combat human trafficking have been recognized and the U.S. welcomes the more proactive and concrete actions being taken in the coming year, a visiting U.S. State Department official said Thursday.

"Taiwan faces a multi-dimensional threat in the trafficking of persons, in part by virtue of its progress in creating a free and prosperous society. Once primarily a source of trafficked persons, Taiwan is now largely a destination," said Mark Taylor, Senior Coordinator for Trafficking in Persons.

Taiwan was classified as a "**Tier 2**" country in the 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by the U.S. State Department in June 12, upgraded from a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" country in 2006.

The positive actions of the Taiwanese government were largely responsible for its removal from the watch list, Taylor said, noting that an inter-ministerial task force has been set up, and a comprehensive plan of action drafted and enacted. Revisions of Taiwan's laws, aimed at dealing effectively with all modern forms of slavery, are being drafted, passed by the Legislative Yuan, and implemented by Taiwanese authorities.

"This preliminary progress, however, needs to be accompanied by even greater efforts to protect exploited migrant laborers and foreign women who have come to Taiwan legally or illegally, as wives or workers, but who have ended up in slave-like conditions," said Taylor.

Debt that contract migrant workers owe to recruitment agencies or brokers is often overlooked, resulting in substantial debts that agencies or employers use as a tool to enforce what effectively amounts to involuntary servitude, Taylor noted.

Taylor encouraged the Taiwanese government to be proactive in identifying victims and traffickers, and offering victims clear legal and financial incentives to come forward and cooperate with law enforcement officials.

For Taiwan to move up to "Tier 1," Taylor said it should have more victims identified, more criminals prosecuted, and make improvements on the legislative front. Equally important will be providing victim with both governmental and non-government organization (NGO) services.

Taylor, who is on the last leg of his Asian visit, is scheduled to meet with officials from the Ministry of Interior, legislators and representatives of local NGOs before returning Washington July 7.

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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168 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

July 5, 2007 Thursday 12:49 PM GMT

Cambodian women rescued from sexual slavery in Malaysia return home

BYLINE: By SOPHENG CHEANG, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 397 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH Cambodia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the Net:

U.S. State Department report on human trafficking:

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

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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169 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 30, 2007 Saturday

Maids in Singapore not spared ill treatment

BYLINE: Geoff Milne

LENGTH: 313 words

MR JOHN McBeth writes a good expose of the appalling treatment of Indonesian maids working overseas ('A problem that's cast aside'; ST, June 25). However, I wonder why Singapore completely escaped his attention.

Since I came to live in Singapore almost a year ago, I have been surprised and shocked at the number of reported instances of maids dying or suffering serious injury as a result of falling from windows, and cases of serious maid abuse, including beatings and starvation.

The Singapore Government is 'baffled' by the latest US **Human Trafficking** Report rating, which downgrades Singapore from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2**. I am not.

One of the things singled out in the report is the treatment of domestic servants who are 'subjected to exploitation and unacceptable working conditions' in Singapore. The report states that a small number of foreign maids face seriously abusive labour conditions that amount to involuntary servitude. Well, a small number is too many for a country that claims to be 'First World'.

The Government may be putting some laws in place to try to improve this, but results are what count. All the legislation in the world would not necessarily prevent abuse. The punishment meted out to the perpetrators is minimal.

ST reported, after a recent incident of yet another maid falling from a window, that an employer who knowingly puts a maid in danger or lets a maid put herself in harm's way can be jailed for up to three months, fined up to \$250, and be barred from hiring maids. Is that all the value we place on the life of a maid? No wonder there have been more than 100 workplace maid deaths over the past seven years.

While not suggesting that abuse is as widespread or extreme here as in Malaysia or Saudi Arabia (both on the bottom **Tier 3** list of the **Human Trafficking** Report), surely it should not be ignored by Mr McBeth in an article in The Straits Times.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

170 of 445 DOCUMENTS

South China Morning Post

June 29, 2007 Friday

Matchmakers targeted in trafficking of women

BYLINE: Baradan Kuppusamy in Kuala Lumpur

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 502 words

Human traffickers in Malaysia are using personal matchmaking companies as fronts for smuggling tens of thousands of women into prostitution and forced labour.

Last year an estimated 350,000 women were brought in as potential wives by matchmaking companies that have mushroomed across the country in recent years. But only 7,519 of these predominantly Chinese, Vietnamese and Filipina women actually married Malaysian men.

"What happened to the rest of the women?" opposition lawmaker Chong Eng asked in parliament. "Where they are now?"

The government admitted the vast majority of the women were probably victims of human trafficking and are either in the country or already trafficked abroad.

"Many matchmaking companies are really fronts for international human trafficking syndicates to bring in Asian women for purposes of exploitation," said Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, the minister for women, family and community development.

"The syndicates are sophisticated and are now setting up bogus matchmaking companies to bring the women from poverty-stricken backgrounds," she told parliament, in urging for a new law to oversee and control the activities of matchmaking companies.

However, human rights activists said the political will was lacking to act against trafficking in women even if a new law was passed.

"Nearly every rural town has matchmaking companies. Some are genuine while others are fronts for trafficking women," said Irene Fernandez, executive director of Tenaganita, a human rights NGO.

She said the women enter as tourists and are forced to work illegally as maids, "guest relations officers" in bars and restaurants, and as sex workers.

"Many are also 'shipped' out to other countries like Singapore, Japan and Europe to work in the entertainment industry," Ms Fernandez said. One matchmaking company calling itself Ever Love Enterprise, about 160km north of Kuala Lumpur, yesterday denied they were involved in trafficking women.

"Our success rate is only about 10 per cent. Most of the girls reject our clients because they are quite old," said Anthony Lim, who said he is an owner-manager.

A stinging report this month by the US State Department named Malaysia as a major transit centre for trafficked Asian women.

"Malaysia has the economic clout and the infrastructure to curb **human trafficking** but it is doing little," the report said, putting the country in its **Tier** Three of worst offenders, along with North Korea, Iran and Syria."

From January to May this year, 183,000 people entered the country as "tourists" using the 30-day arrival visa but immigration authorities said 60 per cent of them overstayed.

"We think many of these 'tourists' are trafficked women brought in by matchmaking companies and are now either working here or they have disappeared abroad," Ms Fernandez said. "They were never intended to be life partners for Malaysian men."

Mismatched

Ratio of women brought into Malaysia by matchmaking agencies who actually marry, according to government figures:
2%

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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171 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2007 Thursday 10:26 AM GMT**Indonesia must enforce new anti-trafficking law: activist****LENGTH:** 328 words**DATELINE:** JAKARTA, June 28 2007

Indonesia must enforce a new law on **human trafficking** or risk falling back to the bottom of a US **watchlist**, a top activist warned Thursday.

Under the tough new law people traffickers face up to 15 years' imprisonment or life in jail if a death results.

Its passage saw Indonesia removed from a Tier 2 watchlist in an annual report by the US State Department earlier this month, which assesses efforts in 164 countries to combat trafficking.

"Indonesia was listed as Tier 3 (the lowest) in 2001, then was promoted the next year after the country made a national action plan, then it was relegated back to the Tier 2 watchlist last year," said Wahyu Susilo, one of nine people named in the report as a "hero" for their efforts to fight trafficking.

The report warned that despite the passage of the law, "the extent of Indonesia's non-compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking remains considerable."

"If Indonesia fails to implement the law on the crime of **human trafficking**, it could slip back to the **Tier 3** list," Susilo, who works for the Migrant Care organisation which helps migrant workers, told a panel discussion here.

Susilo said people trafficking was closely linked with corrupt government bodies. For instance, he said, most Indonesian migrant workers in the Middle East held fraudulent documents.

"There is a village in Sukabumi, West Java with a population of not more than 8,500 people -- but passports originating from that village reach about 15,000 per month," he told the discussion.

Robert Barlow, visiting from the US Department of Justice to run a police training programme, said it was difficult to get an exact number of victims, but around 30 percent of those leaving for work would fall prey to traffickers.

He said police needed to understand the nature of the crime and work for the trust of victims, who mostly go to charities now for protection.

"Many of them do not see a crime being committed in front of them," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

172 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 26, 2007 Tuesday

Panel joins anti-crime war

BYLINE: V. Vasudevan; Anis Ibrahim; R.S. Kamini

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 14

LENGTH: 404 words

A PARLIAMENTARY panel has joined the fight against the growing incidence of crime in urban areas.

It is trying to find a long-term solution with pro-active measures.

As a first step, the Parliamentary Human Rights Caucus is holding public hearings in Johor Baru, Petaling Jaya and Bukit Mertajam to collect feedback from the public.

The hearing in Johor Baru is scheduled for July 8, Petaling Jaya for July 11 and Bukit Mertajam for July 15.

The venues will be announced later.

The caucus' chairman, Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, said everyone was welcomed to give their input at the hearing.

"The police are also welcome. We want to hear all sides of the story. Let's work together to find a solution to this problem," he said in the lobby of Parliament House yesterday.

He said Petaling Jaya was picked to gather information about the crime scene in the Klang Valley and Bukit Mertajam for Penang.

Nazri said the caucus was aware that the government had taken steps to arrest the rising incidence of crime in Johor, but it was not happy with the way the issue was being tackled.

Last week, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced that the cabinet had decided that an additional 400 policemen would be deployed in Johor Baru as soon as possible.

The cabinet also decided to despatch 200 patrol cars to the state and set up three new police districts in Johor Baru.

"What is happening now is more reactive than pro-active. We want a permanent long-term solution. That is why we are holding these public hearings," Nazri said.

He urged the public to come forward and speak up.

The findings of the caucus will be forwarded to the police and the government.

The caucus is also seeking a meeting with the US ambassador to discuss his government's decision to downgrade Malaysia to **tier three** on its **watch list** for **human trafficking**.

"We want to find out what exactly is the problem and the reasons for the decision."

Nazri suggested that there may be other reasons for the American decision.

"While we have enacted legislation to fight human trafficking, it doesn't mean everything is resolved.

"The reality on the ground may be different," he added.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the US State Department gave Malaysia and 16 other nations **Tier-3** status in its 236-page survey of global efforts to combat trafficking in people, who were allegedly sold into the sex trade, made to do manual labour or mistreated as domestic help.

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Dewan Rakyat

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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173 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 22, 2007 Friday

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

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 749 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by Texas Senator John Cornyn:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

from being exploited by these activities, prohibit the operation of sex tours, assist state and local enforcement of laws prohibiting commercial sexual activities, and reduce trafficking in persons.

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

174 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 22, 2007 Friday 1:05 AM EST

SENATE PASSES SENS. CORNYN, FEINSTEIN RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 680 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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175 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 19, 2007 Tuesday

Chinese spokesman says US human trafficking report "unreasonable"

LENGTH: 400 words

Text of report by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

[By reporters Tan Jingjing and Ma Wenbo: "Foreign Ministry Spokesman: Criticism of the US State Department 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report on China 'Unreasonable'"]

Beijing, 19 Jun (Xinhua) - At a regular news conference on 19 June, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said that the Chinese Government has carried out fruitful cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations in cracking down on trafficking in persons and illegal immigration and the criticism of the US State Department 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report on China is "unreasonable." [mei you dao li]

A reporter asked: Recently, the US State Department issued the 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which puts China on the **Tier 2 Watch List** as in the last two reports and criticizes China for its ways to handle illegal Korean immigrants. What is China's reaction to this?

Qin Gang said the Chinese Government has attached great importance to protecting the rights and interests of Chinese citizens and cracking down on acts of abducting and trafficking women and children. Through unremitting efforts, acts of abduction and human trafficking within China have gradually decreased and very great achievements have been made in the work to crack down on trafficking in persons. China has also actively participated in international law-enforcement cooperation and has carried out fruitful cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations in cracking down on trafficking in persons and illegal immigration. We hope the US Government can look at this fact objectively and impartially.

Qin Gang said that as we all know, the reason for Koreans to illegally enter China is an economic one and they are not the so-called "refugees." The Chinese Government has always handled relevant issues according to its domestic law, the international law and the humanitarian principle and the international community has universally spoken positively of it. The US Government's criticism on China is unreasonable.

Trafficking in persons and illegal immigration are common issues facing the whole world and they need the joint efforts of the international community. China will continue to make efforts to strengthen international cooperation in this area.

Source: Xinhua news agency domestic service, Beijing, in Chinese 1035 gmt 19 Jun 07

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

176 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 19, 2007 Tuesday

KIT SIANG URGES GOVT TO RATIFY UN PROTOCOL ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 294 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 19

Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang has called on the government to ratify and adopt the United Nations' 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The protocol also supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

"We have not ratified it and I think it is time that we ratify it and be prepared to be held up to international scrutiny," Lim told Bernama here today.

He said human trafficking was presently confined to sexual slavery and forced labour.

The government, he said, also needed to prove that the US **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2007, which had put Malaysia in the **Tier 3** ranking, was unfounded if there was no basis to the report.

Lim felt that the government must come clean on the matter and explain in Parliament with all the facts.

Last year Malaysia was placed in Tier 2.

Published by the US State Department last week, the report had lumped Malaysia with countries such as Myanmar, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Sudan.

Tier 3 classifies countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so in the **human trafficking** issues.

The report called on Malaysia to demonstrate stronger political will against forced labour and sex trafficking.

But last week Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi refuted the claim that Malaysia was not doing enough to curb the problem.

Malaysia passed a bill on human trafficking last month that would impose severe penalties on perpetrators of the crime.

Meanwhile, Lim also disclosed that the Parliamentary Human Rights Caucus would meet on Monday to discuss, among others, the **Tier 3** ranking on the **human trafficking** issue as well as crime in Johor.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

177 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 19, 2007 Tuesday 8:00 AM EST

China questions U.S. human trafficking report

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 281 words**DATELINE:** BEIJING

China on Tuesday urged the United States to have an objective and fair assessment of its anti-trafficking efforts and refused U.S. criticism on the country's treatment of illegal trespassers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"The U.S. accusation (of China on its treatment of North Korean illegal migrants) is groundless," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang at a regular press conference.

The U.S. State Department last week issued an annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report", listing China in **Tier 2 Watch list** for the third year and criticizing it on treatment of DPRK illegal trespassers.

Qin said it is known to all that the DPRK illegal trespassers came to China for economic reasons, and they were not "victims".

The Chinese government has all along treated such illegal migrants in accordance with the domestic and international laws and humanitarian principles, which has been widely appreciated by the international community, he said.

Qin added that the Chinese government has paid much attention to protecting its citizens' rights and cracking down on women and children trafficking, and has made great progress in this regard through unremitting efforts.

China has also participated in international cooperation on fighting human trafficking and illegal migration, and made remarkable achievements, he said.

"We hope the U.S. government would have an objective and fair review of all this," he said.

The spokesman noted that human trafficking and illegal migration are common problems facing the whole world, and China will continue to participate in international cooperation in this area.

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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178 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Jiji Press Ticker Service

June 18, 2007 Monday 3:45 PM JST

U.S. Anti-Human Trafficking Director to Visit Japan in July

LENGTH: 281 words**DATELINE:** Washington, June 18

Mark Lagon, director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. State Department, said in a recent interview with Jiji Press that he will visit Japan for three days from July 1 to discuss anti-human trafficking measures.

Lagon is slated to meet with senior officials of the Japanese government, including from the Foreign and Justice Ministries, to talk about plans to work together to improve Japan's record on human trafficking.

The U.S. State Department recently released its 2007 report on human trafficking and forced labor.

In the report, the department placed Japan on **Tier 2**, the second highest of four levels of compliance with minimum standards for efforts to combat **human trafficking**, due partly to prostitution involving women from China and South-east Asian countries.

During his stay in Japan, Lagon is expected to call on Japan to strengthen its efforts for improvement on such issues.

Even though Japan's Justice Ministry say that the number of foreign human trafficking victims has decreased, Lagon said, "We really do not believe there are fewer victims of human trafficking in Japan" and suggested that there might be "less vigorous attempts to find them."

In the interview, Lagon also expressed strong concerns over human trafficking involving North Koreans. He said, "What's really troubling is those North Korean who fled a horrendous life in North Korea and (are) caught in trafficking."

He added that North Korean seeking refuge in China are "treated as subhuman" there.

"Now for the Olympics, Beijing Olympics are an occasion for the world to look at the human rights record of China and they should look too at the problem of human trafficking."

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

179 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 18, 2007 Monday

Washington wants to be feared, not loved

BYLINE: Deva Mohd Ridzam

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 26

LENGTH: 1115 words

THE relegation of Malaysia to **Tier 3** of the TiP list by the United States is unjustified and uncalled for, especially in light on the passage of the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Bill recently, writes DEVA MOHD RIDZAM.

For Washington to completely disregard the many changes that have taken and continue to take place in Malaysia is both surprising and strange.

Relegating Malaysia to **Tier 3** in the State Department's Annual Report on **Trafficking in Persons** (TiP in American parlance) is not only absurd but also a cheap shot.

The US listing amounts to labelling both Malaysians and their government as guilty of human trafficking. This is unjustified and uncalled for. Malaysians recognise that TiP is a soft transnational crime that affects societies. They also know that it is an insidious and complex problem due to the nexus between TiP and other forms of transnational crime.

Malaysians further realise the danger of neglecting this problem since it would impact on our national security, unity and social harmony as much as on our international image and prestige. This explains why our parliament last month passed the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill.

Unlike George W. Bush's America, Malaysia believes in the rule of law both at home and abroad. How else can a country be deemed responsible if it does otherwise. We need the legal sanction to deal with this menace to society.

"Rule by law" is a Bush administration speciality. It wants other countries to act domestically and internationally without legal cover so long as their actions conform to its neo-conservative aims.

Why has Washington suddenly turned on a longstanding friend? Unlike other countries in Asia and elsewhere, Malaysia has never officially been anti-American.

As friends, Malaysia at times disagrees with US policies without being disagreeable. Moreover, the administration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has, in fact, returned to a more traditional and measured style of government and foreign policy.

The rulers in Washington do not like straight-talking, honest, warm-hearted and friendly countries. Bush and his neo-conservatives want only "obedient followers" in the form of "deputy sheriffs", "corporals" and "poodles". This is part and parcel of their grand strategy for global domination.

To establish this hegemony, they need to rewrite international law where America can act with impunity with one standard for itself and another for the rest of the world. This is the kind of master-slave relationship in the global order that the US seeks to create.

One is again reminded of Edmund Burke's famous phrase "a great empire and little minds go ill together". This description aptly describes what is really happening today to this hyperpower, once a great nation that led the world in establishing international rule of law through global institutions and international agreements founded on justice, co-operation and peace.

Today, the US finds itself in a quandary of its own making in the pursuit of a flawed global vision.

The Bush administration is beginning to realise that its vision of a unipolar world with American military superiority is fast losing its grip on world affairs. American hegemony is being challenged in all corners of the globe. All this is due to a potent combination of incompetence, arrogance and militarism.

In simple terms, the US administration is indeed behaving like a blinded boxer in a rapidly changing global geo-political environment. Because of this, it is unable to distinguish between friends and foes. Even Malaysia is being hit below the belt by this blindness.

How quickly the American neo-conservatives have forgotten that human trafficking was indeed their creation. The sex trade, including paedophilia, the recruitment of child soldiers, the growing of opium in the Golden Triangle and drug trafficking, to mention but a few, are legacies of their militarism in Southeast Asia.

The TiP 2007 report is thus a politically-motivated document. The description of Malaysia in it could very well apply to a great many countries in this region and elsewhere.

The passage of Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill was in fact communicated to the State Department. Despite having knowledge of this significant legal milestone, the Bush administration deliberately disregarded it.

Washington wants to show the world that those in Tier 3 are not the best of friends with the US. And these countries should now bend backwards to curry its favour and do its bidding.

By its very nature as a transnational crime, TiP eradication requires bilateral, regional, even plurilateral and international co-operation. Indeed, these offer the most effective ways of guiding the international community and protecting the interests of all countries, including those of the United States.

The US can do two sensible things: First, put money where its mouth is and, second, help Malaysia and other countries to implement their laws by encouraging source countries to control the trafficking of such persons.

Malaysia on its part would also have to take clear, sustained and unambiguous steps towards stamping out this scourge. This should include strict enforcement of the provisions of the Act without ifs and buts. In fact, Malaysia should take the high moral ground on this and deal severely with those who engage in the flesh trade and other abuses.

It would appear that there is little the US can do in this regard and, for that matter, in other areas as well, for the simple reason that American power, position and prestige are at an all-time low. The US suffers from international illegitimacy and loss of moral authority.

Unfortunately, Bush still believes that because he is commander-in-chief of the most powerful country in the world, he can place himself above international law and trample on the sovereignty of other nations.

This is what is called American exceptionalism - that the US is different from and better than others and that it alone can do what it wants and get away with it. It even includes a blatant and wanton disregard for major international agreements, including the Geneva Conventions.

Recent examples are Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib and the practice of extraordinary rendition (exporting suspects in secret to undisclosed locations where they may be subject to torture).

The TiP 2007 Report, as previous ones, quite conveniently does not include the US. There is no narrative about the US condoning human trafficking within its borders and in its wider neighbourhood.

Surely, the US needs help, and this help can come from the international community, including Malaysia, if only the US shows more humility and is not blinded by arrogance and power.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

180 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 18, 2007 Monday**Provide figures of how many `slaves' were sold****BYLINE:** A.M. Noran**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 29**LENGTH:** 162 words

THE United States is at it again. It has decided to be the moral policeman of the world.

It boggles the mind that they think they still have the right to measure the moral standards of other nations after Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib.

They are so smug in their righteousness.

So Malaysia now is placed at **Tier 3** as a **human trafficking** offender.

Since they are condemning the whole nation for the indiscretion of a few individuals, why don't they provide us with the statistics of how many "slaves" the Human Resources Ministry has sold to date and to which countries.

Don't keep us Malaysians in the dark.

We want to know what our government has been doing all this while.

I have just returned from Vietnam and visited the Cu Chi Tunnels area as well as the War Remnants Museum.

I think Americans should visit that museum and see what their country did in the past against the Vietnamese who were just defending their country and fighting for survival.

A.M. NORAN

Subang Jaya, Selangor

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Letter**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

181 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 17, 2007 Sunday 7:22 AM GMT

Myanmar denounces US human trafficking report

LENGTH: 255 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, June 17 2007

Military-run Myanmar on Sunday denounced the US annual report on human trafficking, which blacklisted the country as one of the world's worst offenders for the seventh year, state-run media reported.

The US State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released last week listed Myanmar in **Tier 3**, meaning it is one of the worst offenders along with 15 other nations including North Korea, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

"Although the stated aim of the US is to eradicate trafficking in persons, internationally, the report lacks objectivity," the New Light of Myanmar newspaper said, quoting a statement from the foreign ministry.

The ministry rejected its status as a Tier 3 nation, insisting it had taken action against about 400 traffickers in 2006.

"Despite these persistent efforts, which the report itself duly noted, the State Department has failed to promote Myanmar's status from Tier 3 again this year," the report quoted the ministry as saying.

The US report said that women and children from Myanmar were trafficked to Thailand, China, Bangladesh, Malaysia, South Korea and Macau "for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced labour".

It noted some progress against sex trafficking, but said Myanmar continued to take little action against official or military-sanctioned forced labour.

The United States and the European Union have imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar to protest human rights abuses, lack of progress in the return to democracy, and the ongoing detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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182 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Emirates News Agency

June 17, 2007 Sunday 12:58 PM EST

Human Trafficking Panel reviews UAE status in TIP tier

LENGTH: 225 words

Human Trafficking Panel reviews UAE status in TIP tier

Abu Dhabi, June 17th, 2007 (WAM) -- National Committee on Human Trafficking discussed today in its second meeting a host of issues related to trafficking in persons with emphasis on the 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report issued by the US State Department..

Presided over by Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for FNC Affairs, the meeting reviewed measures the UAE should take to improve its status in the TIP tier watch list..

The committee also approved a memorandum on coordination of visits to the country by foreign delegations for talks with UAE trafficking concerned authorities..

The UAE Red Crescent gave a presentation on the social aspect dealing with victims of human trafficking crime and its programme for support of those victims..

Dr. Gargash stressed the vital importance of raising the standard of awareness among state entities about the human trafficking through holding of specialized seminars..

"The trafficking in persons crime is a world epidemic and all countries should rally together to combat it," he affirmed..

He noted that the benchmark for success lies in combating the phenomenon rather than its severity..

More focus, he added, is needed in regard to social dimension of the phenomenon especially that deals with trafficker and victim..

WAM/TF 20 17 CCCCQQ

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

JOURNAL-CODE: WAM

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183 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 17, 2007 Sunday 8:29 AM GMT

Myanmar criticizes U.S. human trafficking report

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 185 words**DATELINE:** YANGON June 17

Myanmar has criticized a recent U.S. government report which placed Myanmar on a list of countries failing to control human trafficking, state-run newspapers reported Sunday.

The newspapers quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying the Myanmar government "totally rejects" the placement of Myanmar in **Tier-3** of the U.S. State Department report as it "lacks objectivity and does not fully reflect Myanmar's concerted efforts against **human trafficking**."

The State Department released the seventh annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report on Tuesday, placing Myanmar in the **Tier-3** category, a classification reserved for countries with the worst **human trafficking** records.

The State Department report said the country did not fully comply with the minimum standards required for fighting trafficking and was not making any significant effort to do so.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the Myanmar government has been tackling the menace of trafficking in persons as a national duty and in cooperation with U.N. agencies.

Myanmar police identified more than 400 traffickers in 191 cases last year, the statement added.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

184 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 17, 2007 Sunday 3:45 AM EST

VOA NEWS: BURMA REJECTS U.S. HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 145 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Voice of America issued the following story:

Burma is rejecting the latest U.S. report on human trafficking, which blacklisted the country as one of the world's worst offenders for a seventh consecutive year.

Burma's state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper quoted a foreign ministry official as saying the annual report lacks objectivity and does not fully reflect Burma's efforts against human trafficking.

The U.S. State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" listed Burma in **tier** three, meaning it is one of the world's worst offenders, along with North Korea and Sudan.

Burma's foreign ministry, however, said that it had taken action against around 400 traffickers in 2006.

The United States and the European Union have imposed economic sanctions on Burma to protests human rights abuses and the lack of democratic progress in the military-run country.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

185 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 17, 2007 Sunday 11:00 PM EST

Myanmar rejects U.S. report on anti-human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 308 words

DATELINE: YANGON

The Myanmar government has rejected a United States report on the country's anti-**human trafficking** efforts, blaming the U.S for failing to promote Myanmar status from **tier-3** again this year.

A Myanmar Foreign Ministry's statement, quoted by Sunday's official newspaper the New Light of Myanmar, said the sixth annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" of the U.S. Department of State released this month lacks objectivity and does not fully reflect the country's concerted efforts against human trafficking.

The U.S. annual report on the issue is a compendium of situation in selected countries.

However, the U.S. report recognized the progress made by Myanmar throughout 2006, admitting that Myanmar police force identified over 400 traffickers in 191 cases during the year and that information sharing with the international organizations had improved with regard to prosecution, the statement said.

Dealing with protection, the U.S. report also admitted that Myanmar provides temporary shelters to repatriated trafficking victims at eight vocational training centers and the victims have a right to file civil suits and seek legal action against the traffickers, the statement noted.

Relating to prevention, the statement blamed the U.S. report for only stating that the Myanmar government has marginally increased its efforts to prevent human trafficking, failing to faithfully reflect the true situation though the government is relentlessly fighting the complex problem.

The statement agreed with the U.S. report that Myanmar conducted about 8,000 educational sessions for women across the country and education through various media.

The statement held that Myanmar is cooperating with UN agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations in tackling the menace of human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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186 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 16, 2007 Saturday

M'SIA TAKES STRINGENT MEASURES TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 229 words**DATELINE:** KOTA KINABALU June 16

Malaysia is among countries that take stringent measures to check human trafficking, said Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohd Najib Abdul Aziz.

In fact, he added, Malaysia had not only taken continuous but more stringent measures against the crime compared to many other countries.

"We have been taking stern action against the offenders as provided by the existing laws and now the government has formulated a law on human trafficking."

Mohd Najib said Malaysia also had close cooperation with other countries in combating the crime.

"So, we do not understand how the United States had placed Malaysia in the (lowest) category," he told reporters after witnessing the passing-out parade of the Series 1/2004 Universiti Malaysia Sabah undergraduates police volunteer corps here today.

On Tuesday, the US State Department in Washington issued its "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" which states that Malaysia is among 16 countries relegated to **Tier-3** status, the lowest, for not doing enough to curb the problem.

However, on Thursday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi refuted the claim, saying that Malaysia had taken the necessary measures, including tabling the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill 2007, to be passed by parliament at its next sitting beginning this Monday.

The Bill, among others, provides for heavy penalties against those convicted of the crime.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

187 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 16, 2007 Saturday

Govt 'baffled' by US human trafficking rating; Ministry surprised by move to downgrade S'pore

BYLINE: Radha Basu

LENGTH: 631 words

A UNITED States government report on how countries deal with human trafficking has downgraded Singapore a notch this year - a move the Government here has termed 'baffling'.

The US Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** (Tip) Report ranks 164 countries in three broad **tiers** based on their records in combating situations where poor, vulnerable people are forced or tricked into labour or sexual slavery overseas.

'The Singapore Government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however it is making significant efforts to do so,' the report said, while pushing Singapore from Tier 1 to Tier 2.

The report was released in Washington by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday.

Tier 1 lists countries that have basic legal safeguards in place to prevent such crimes, Tier 2 lists countries that are making efforts to put laws in place to combat trafficking, while Tier 3 names the worst offenders.

With the exception of South Korea and Hong Kong, most Tier 1 countries are developed Western nations.

Expressing surprise at Singapore's Tier 2 listing, a Ministry of Home Affairs spokesman told The Straits Times that the trafficking situation here had 'remained stable over the past few years'.

'The US report has not satisfactorily explained how it arrived at its conclusion,' the spokesman added.

While the report did not elaborate on exactly what 'minimum standards' the Government did not comply with, The Straits Times understands they could pertain to laws that would criminalise all forms of trafficking.

Referring to current gaps in laws here, the report urged the Singapore Parliament to approve proposed amendments that would criminalise paid sex with anyone below 18, prosecute Singaporeans seeking child sex overseas and make promoting child-sex tours a criminal offence.

Moves to ensure exactly this are already afoot. In March last year, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee had announced that Singapore would soon change its Penal Code to protect those below 18 from commercial sex.

The announcement may have prompted the US Department of State to swiftly upgrade Singapore from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in last year's report.

The fact that the changes are yet to be enacted could have prompted the US to knock Singapore back down into Tier 2, said civil society groups that combat trafficking.

President of women's rights group Unifem Singapore Saleemah Ismail pointed out that more than a year had lapsed since Associate Professor Ho's announcement, but the changes were yet to be enacted.

'Singapore is known for its efficiency so what's causing the delay?' she said.

'This is a First World country with First World infrastructure. It's about time we have First World laws for everyone as well.'

While acknowledging that such law changes took time to craft, women's rights advocate Braema Mathi too noted that speedy enactment and implementation were especially important when it came to protecting children.

Ms Mathi heads the trafficking of children committee at the Association of Women for Action and Research (Aware).

Referring to proposed laws to crack down on Singaporean child-sex predators who preyed overseas, she said:

'The faster we can get protection and punitive measures, the better it will be for these innocent child victims.'

The MHA says the proposed Penal Code amendments will happen later this year.

The spokesman added: 'We view the problem of human trafficking seriously and we have taken action to deal firmly with trafficking in persons. Singapore is mindful of the fact that, as an open society, it is not insulated from developments in the region and the world, whether these are problems of forced prostitution, sexual abuse of minors, drug trafficking or terrorism.'

radhab@sph.com.sg

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

188 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 16, 2007 Saturday 3:36 AM GMT

Myanmar says US human trafficking report disappointing

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 285 words**DATELINE:** YANGON Myanmar

Myanmar is disappointed that the United States has described the country in a report as a major center for human trafficking, a senior official said, adding that the charge was politically motivated.

"The report is politically motivated, unfair and biased. It is very disappointing as the U.S. has deliberately turned a blind eye to our achievements and our determination in the fight against human trafficking," police Col. Sit Aye, head of the department of transnational crime, told The Associated Press on Friday.

In an annual global report released Wednesday, the U.S. State Department placed Myanmar in **Tier 3**, the worst category for **human trafficking**, saying it had not fully complied with the minimum standards for fighting trafficking and was not making significant efforts to do so.

Myanmar adopted a National Plan of Action in 1997 to fight human trafficking and introduced an anti-human trafficking law in September 2005 that imposes a maximum penalty of death, he said. The law also calls for victims of trafficking to be protected and aided.

"The U.S. report is unjust and very unsatisfactory. The report belittled not only our efforts but also undermined the activities of other agencies working with Myanmar to tackle human trafficking," Sit Aye said.

He said that due to cooperation between Myanmar and neighboring countries, 270 people involved in human trafficking had been arrested and prosecuted between September 2005 and April 2007, while 428 trafficking victims, mostly women, had been rescued.

The U.S. has imposed economic and political sanctions against Myanmar's military government because of its poor human rights record and failure to hand over power to a democratically elected government.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

189 of 445 DOCUMENTS

IPS (Latin America)

June 15, 2007 Friday

United States names Malaysia as a human trafficking and bonded labour source; RIGHTS-MALAYSIA: Human Trafficking Charges Stick - Activists

BYLINE: Baradan Kuppusamy**LENGTH:** 1058 words

Predictably, Malaysia reacted with horror at the classification, accusing the U.S. state department of behaving as the uninvited judge, jury and prosecutor; without just cause. 'It's all false, not true. We reject it,' said foreign minister Syed Hamid Albar.

But opposition lawmakers and human rights activists who had long campaigned inside and outside the country against human trafficking said the report's conclusions are true and verifiable. 'It is a damning report, it is a major black mark on Malaysia's already tarnished human record. It tells a lot about our treatment of migrant workers and victims of trafficking,' said Teresa Kok, opposition lawmaker.

'No matter how hard it is to swallow we must accept the report's conclusion and work to clean up our record,' Kok, a campaigner for women's rights and migrant worker issues, told IPS in an interview. 'We have nearly two million migrant workers in the country and many are really trafficked persons. They live and work in virtual servitude. We are at least a decade late in respecting their human rights.'

'Our awareness and response to this heinous crime is shamefully low,' she added.

Parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang has asked the government to table a ministerial statement in parliament next week explaining its 'abysmal handling' of the rights of migrant workers and trafficked persons.

'But if the government genuinely feels it is wronged by the U.S. report then it should explain in parliament giving all the details how it was wronged and rebut the U.S. State Department's findings,' Lim told IPS.

'It is not enough to brush aside the report. The inclusion of Malaysia as a Tier 3 offender is a serious matter with repercussions. It must not be taken lightly,' Lim said. 'Our lawmakers will want to know how we fell this low.'

The report titled '**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2006' put Malaysia and a dozen other countries like Burma, Iran, North Korea and Syria among other countries in the **Tier 3** of 'worst offenders'.

The 236-page report launched by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington last week charged Malaysia, which has nearly two million migrant workers both documented and undocumented, with doing little to combat human trafficking.

Rice cited 'disturbing evidence' that prosecution of human trafficking cases had levelled off across the globe. In countries with major human trafficking problems, 'only a couple' of traffickers were brought to justice, she was quoted as saying in the media. 'This cannot and must not be tolerated.'

Reflecting conditions in Malaysia and elsewhere Rice said weak law rendered foreign workers vulnerable to abuse in both private homes and work sites. The report noted that Malaysia had tabled in parliament a tough anti-human trafficking law but, despite that, has 'failed to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.'

Malaysia has not punished acts of trafficking, provided adequate shelters and social services to victims, and protected migrant workers from involuntary servitude. The government did not establish a government-run shelter for foreign trafficking victims that it had announced publicly in 2004, the report said.

Without procedures for the identification of victims, the government continued to treat some trafficking victims as illegal immigrants, and arrest, incarcerate, and deport them, the report said, adding, that as a regional economic leader approaching developed nation status Malaysia has the resources and government infrastructure to do far more in addressing the issue of trafficking in persons.

The Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle Malaysia's significant forced labour and sex trafficking problems, the report said in a damning lengthy section on Malaysia.

Last year, Malaysia was in the **'Tier 2 watch list'** with other countries that are making little significant effort to comply with international standards to protect victims of **human trafficking**.

"It was a warning," said Agile Fernandez, migrant worker programme coordinator with Tenaganita, a prominent rights group.

Perhaps in anticipation of the **Tier 3** listing, Malaysia had rushed through in parliament last month a tough new **Anti-Human Trafficking** bill that metes out up to 20 years in prison for traffickers, provides shelter for trafficked children and women and treat trafficked persons not as illegal immigrants but as victims needing help and support.

The bill protects victims and severely punishes people who trafficked, harboured or profited from the offence.

Most female trafficked victims are from neighbouring countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines and many end up as sex slaves or bonded labour. Malaysia is also a transit centre for these women, who are forced into vice in third countries, especially Europe.

NGOs like Tenaganita are hoping the report would spur the government to improve conditions, rectify shortcomings and get out of the denial syndrome. They lay the blame on corruption. Official corruption is at the core of the problem...it's the evil that is fuelling trafficking here, said Fernandez of Tenaganita.

This is why trafficking is rampant and why prosecution of offenders is few and far, she told IPS. Trafficking syndicates regularly bribe officials to close an eye.

Fernandez also said the problem is compounded by low awareness among the public and officials on human rights of migrant workers and trafficked persons. There is apathy and ignorance. There is a use-and-discard mentality and culture, she said. There are no permanent policies, everything is ad hoc and very reactive.

Opposition lawmakers and rights activists have long argued that a comprehensive law on workers covering every aspect that respects their human rights would help reduce trafficking, exploitation and modern day slave conditions.

The government must find the political will to see that the new anti-trafficking bill (now tabled in parliament) is made a law and strictly enforced, Fernandez said. © 2007 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Wire

190 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 15, 2007 Friday

Work in progress

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 26**LENGTH:** 434 words

MALAYSIA's relegation to "**Tier 3**" of the US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** report stings on two fronts. First, where it is valid. It is not as though this country's government is turning a blind eye to a very real problem, which has steadily worsened over the five decades of Malaysia's independence in tandem with steady economic development. Where once people fled across borders to escape poverty or persecution in struggling neighbouring countries - the "push" factor - now they end up the victims of international human trafficking rings due to the "pull" of prospective prosperity in a relatively thriving economy.

Just as hundreds of foreign citizens may end up sold into domestic or sexual slavery here, so, too, may Malaysian citizens find themselves in the same predicament in other countries, such as the 19 Malaysian women rescued from brothels in Britain a year ago. Perhaps a million people worldwide are the victims of **human trafficking** every year, caught in a RM40 billion international criminal network affecting practically all countries, not just the 17 now listed as "**Tier 3**" nations "not doing enough" against the crime.

But the nationwide outrage evoked by cases such as that of Indian national R. Ganesh, abused to wretched death, galvanises public opinion and official concern, serves as a caution to monitors and enforcement authorities, and accelerates the passage into legislation of ever-more stringent measures against such abuse. All the more so when Ganesh's tragic fate, in particular, drove home the point that the plight of such victims here is not due to official neglect but the tyranny of psychotic individuals.

With the Anti-**Trafficking in Persons** Bill now passed by parliament, Malaysia had hoped its **Tier 2** ("watch-listed") ranking on this odious roster would be relieved. Instead, with the ink hardly dry on the bill, this country has been relegated further. Hence, the second barb of the State Department's assessment: Where it is not valid. Malaysia is hardly sitting on its hands in this matter. In the past year, policies and procedures with respect to trafficked persons have been clarified, revamped and strengthened. Multilateral systems have been installed involving half-a-dozen ministries as well as the enforcement agencies, judicial and legal services and non-governmental organisations. The political will exists to combat human trafficking, firmly buttressed by public opinion. The US State Department should consider itself advised to address not just the weaknesses it perceives but, more pertinently, what's being done to rectify them.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Editorial**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

191 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 15, 2007 Friday

US report unfair, says Shahrizat

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 484 words

KUALA LUMPUR: The classification of Malaysia as a **Tier-3 human trafficking** offender by the US government is unfair and unreasonable, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said yesterday.

The annual US State Department report had singled out her ministry for not doing enough to help victims of human trafficking.

"We are very disappointed with the report as it is inaccurate and does not reflect Malaysia's continuous effort in combating human trafficking," Shahrizat said in a press statement.

Shahrizat said the government, especially her ministry, had taken steps to address the issue since 2005.

These measures included drafting the anti-trafficking legislation, training enforcement officers and setting up shelters for trafficking victims.

Shahrizat pointed out that the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill 2007 was passed by parliament in May 24 giving enforcement officials new powers to pursue, prosecute and convict offenders.

The new legislation also provides protection and support for victims of trafficking.

Her ministry is also collaborating with the US embassy in Malaysia in conducting training workshops for law enforcement officers in handling trafficking victims.

The report said that the Malaysian government needed to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle forced labour and sex trafficking problems.

The Tier-3 status means Malaysia may be subject to certain sanctions by the US such as withholding non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance.

The sanctions could also result in opposition from the US in terms of assistance from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Other countries included in the Tier-3 list were Bahrain, Kuwait, Equatorial Guinea, Oman and Qatar.

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) also criticised the report, saying Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons' legislation was evidence of progress from the highest level of the government in combating human trafficking and protecting human rights.

Suhakam commissioner Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam disagreed with the allegation that there was a weakness in enforcement of the laws concerning the issue.

However, he said, some of the laws had to be amended for greater effectiveness.

"Additionally, we need co-operation from non-governmental organisations, government agencies and other instruments in neighbouring countries to curb this organised trans-national crime."

Siva Subramaniam also called for the ratification of the "United Nations protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons", especially women and children.

The plan should incorporate prevention and awareness programmes, a mechanism to identify, protect, care and support victims, and training for enforcement groups.

"The prevention and awareness programmes must involve the public, refugees and immigrants," he added.

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192 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 15, 2007 Friday 5:56 AM GMT

Malaysia aims to enforce anti-human trafficking law by year-end

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 340 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

Malaysia will start enforcing a new law to fight human trafficking later this year, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Friday, as he slammed the U.S. for blacklisting the country for allegedly not doing enough about the problem.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia was disappointed when Washington lumped it together with 15 other countries including Cuba, Myanmar, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria in a **blacklist** in its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report."

He criticized the U.S. for acting as "investigator, prosecutor and judge," saying the report didn't take into account Malaysia's efforts to fight the crime including a new law that is expected to be passed by parliament this month.

He told reporters he expected it to go into effect before end of the year.

"As far as we are concerned, Malaysia is a country that does not encourage trafficking in persons," he said. "We will have the necessary enforcement to prevent the use of Malaysia as a point of transit and trafficking in persons."

The Star newspaper said the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill carries a penalty of up to 20 years' jail and a fine of up to 500,000 ringgit (\$142US,857; euro104,286) for human traffickers, while providing protection to victims.

Foreign ministry officials confirmed the details but couldn't comment further.

In its 2006 report, the U.S. State Department on Tuesday downgraded Malaysia from a **watch list** to a **blacklist** "for its failure to show satisfactory progress in combating **trafficking in persons**."

It cited the Malaysian government's failure to prosecute and punish traffickers, to provide adequate shelters and services to victims, and to protect migrant workers from involuntary servitude.

Malaysia and the other countries on the blacklist face possible sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of about 800,000 people across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

About 80 percent of the victims are female and up to half of them children, and most are seeking to escape poverty.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

193 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 15, 2007 Friday 7:19 PM GMT

Myanmar says US human trafficking report disappointing

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 283 words**DATELINE:** YANGON Myanmar

A senior Myanmar law enforcement official said Friday he was disappointed that the United States described his country as a major human trafficking center, saying the charge was politically motivated.

In an annual global report released Wednesday, the U.S. State Department placed Myanmar in **Tier 3**, the worst category for **human trafficking**, saying it had not fully complied with the minimum standards for fighting trafficking and was not making significant efforts to do so.

"The report is politically motivated, unfair and biased. It is very disappointing as the U.S. has deliberately turned a blind eye to our achievements and our determination in the fight against human trafficking," police Col. Sit Aye, head of the department of transnational crime, told The Associated Press.

Myanmar adopted a National Plan of Action in 1997 to fight human trafficking and introduced an anti-human trafficking law in September 2005 that imposes a maximum penalty of death, he said. The law also calls for victims of trafficking to be protected and aided.

"The U.S. report is unjust and very unsatisfactory. The report belittled not only our efforts but also undermined the activities of other agencies working with Myanmar to tackle human trafficking," Sit Aye said.

He said that due to cooperation between Myanmar and neighboring countries, 270 people involved in human trafficking had been arrested and prosecuted between September 2005 and April 2007, while 428 trafficking victims, mostly women, had been rescued.

The U.S. imposes economic and political sanctions against Myanmar's military government because of its poor human rights record and failure to hand over power to a democratically elected government.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

194 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 14, 2007 Thursday

South Africa; U.S. Lauds Morocco's Efforts Against Human Trafficking

BYLINE: BuaNews**LENGTH:** 233 words

The United States' Department of State has commended Morocco's efforts in complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

In its annual report on the subject released on Tuesday, the department placed Morocco in the **Tier 1** group among the countries which comply with the standards of the fight against **human trafficking**.

It cited, as part of Morocco's efforts in the field, the prosecution of people accused of the trafficking of children and the public awareness campaign to educate Moroccans about the rights of child domestic servants.

It also praised the "National Plan of Action for Children for 2006-2015" worked out by the Moroccan government "to protect children from mistreatment, violence, and exploitation by creating child protection units around the country".

The report noted the dismantling of more than 350 trafficking rings and the progress Morocco made to protect victims of trafficking over the last year, as well as the kingdom's co-operation with international agencies to train officials posted in destination or transit countries on trafficking victim identification and victim sensitivity.

As for immigration, the report said: "The government also continued to collaborate with the governments of Spain and Italy, as well as other EU countries, to prevent the illegal migration and trafficking of sub-Saharan Africans, Asians, and Moroccans to Europe."

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

195 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 14, 2007 Thursday 8:13 PM GMT

Guyana accuses US of worst forms of human trafficking

LENGTH: 300 words**DATELINE:** GEORGETOWN, June 14 2007

Guyana Thursday accused the United States of double standards over human rights, saying Washington was guilty of the worst forms of people trafficking from Central America.

"We can't manufacture prosecutions and charges to satisfy the US government and if the US is being judged on the same standards as we are being judged, they'd be on tier three, the worst tier," President Bharrat Jagdeo said.

He alleged that hundreds of teenaged girls were being trafficked from Central America into "slavery" in the US, adding that the administration of President George W. Bush was peddling "double standards."

In its annual Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report released on Tuesday, the US State Department praised Guyana for efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and its continued public awareness campaigns.

But the State Department kept the country on the **Tier 2 watchlist** "for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons** over the past year, particularly in terms of convicting and sentencing human traffickers for their crimes."

It urged Guyana to "aggressively investigate and arrest suspected traffickers, and make every effort to move their cases through the criminal justice system."

Despite passing a law to combat human trafficking last year, Guyana has so far failed to obtain a single anti-trafficking conviction, the report said.

Six criminal cases were opened against alleged traffickers in 2006: two cases were dismissed, and four are pending, representing a modest increase from 2005, when three prosecutions were initiated.

The annual US report analyzes efforts in about 164 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

Sixteen countries are on its top Tier 3 blacklist of the world's worst offenders.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

196 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 14, 2007 Thursday 7:24 AM GMT

Malaysia vows severe punishment for human trafficking

LENGTH: 288 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 2007

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday promised severe punishment for human traffickers after the country's inclusion on a US blacklist of countries engaged in smuggling people.

Malaysia has been placed on Washington's "Tier 3" list of worst offenders, joining Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan, but Abdullah said Malaysia was already working to stamp out the practice.

"We are against human trafficking. Certainly, human trafficking is a crime and that has to be stopped," Abdullah told reporters.

A landmark anti-trafficking bill is currently working its way through parliament, the prime minister said. The legislation would introduce a 20-year jail sentence for offenders as well as stiff fines.

The new bill would grant greater powers to the police, immigration and other authorities to pursue, prosecute and convict human traffickers, while better protecting victims.

"The penalty, or the punishment will be severe. We do whatever we can, but because it is not enough ... that is why we decided that the bill has become necessary," he said.

Malaysia, a key US trading partner, was added Tuesday to the **blacklist** included in the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report."

It failed to show "satisfactory progress" in areas such as punishing acts of trafficking, providing adequate shelters and social services to victims, and protecting migrant workers from involuntary servitude, the report said.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar Wednesday acknowledged that under existing law in Malaysia, there is no distinction made between trafficked persons and illegal immigrants.

However, he criticised Malaysia's inclusion on the list and refuted claims it was not doing enough to tackle the problem.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

197 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Australian (Australia)

June 14, 2007 Thursday
All-round Country Edition

Minister raps US over visa criticism

BYLINE: Jamie Walker**SECTION:** LOCAL; Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 503 words

FEDERAL Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews publicly rebuked the US State Department yesterday, describing as "ill-informed" its finding that Australia's temporary skilled migrant program could be linked to illegal labour trafficking.

A furious Mr Andrews said the Government rejected absolutely the call for Australia to devote more resources to investigating allegations that its section 457 visas were being used to exploit foreign workers.

The criticism, though veiled, was contained in the department's latest report on the flourishing international trade in sex slaves and underpaid labourers.

Although it found that Australia had contributed significant resources to combating the problem in Southeast Asia, the US singled out allegations that guest workers were being exploited on 457 visas, which are popular with businesses that are short of skilled domestic labour.

"The Australian Government should devote more resources to addressing allegations of labour trafficking, including in connection with its 457 worker visa program," the US report said.

Describing the comments as puzzling, Mr Andrews's office said last night it was the first concern US authorities had expressed over the visas.

"There is no basis for this recommendation whatsoever," Mr Andrews said. "Unfortunately, the US State Department appears to be ill-informed in respect to the purpose of the 457 visa and the obligations placed on employers who use the scheme."

The ALP seized on the finding last night. Opposition immigration spokesman Tony Burke described it as seriously embarrassing to the Government.

"The United States is one of our closest friends and allies," Mr Burke said. "They don't criticise Australian employment conditions lightly."

In May, the federal Government boosted funding by \$85.3million for the 457 visa program, which allows skilled workers to enter the country for a limited time to take jobs that can't be filled locally.

Mr Andrews said all allegations of non-compliance by employers were investigated by his department or the Workplace Ombudsman. In addition, the Government had upgraded penalties for employers who breached the terms of the visas. This extended to employers who failed to pay a minimum salary level or who imported workers to fill unskilled job vacancies.

Despite the findings, Australia is still ranked in the State Department's top tier of countries to comply with US benchmarks to eliminate people-trafficking.

Although Australia was a destination for some women from east Asia and eastern Europe who were trafficked for sex, most had travelled here voluntarily to work in brothels.

Malaysia and the US's Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar were added to the blacklist of countries trafficking in people. Algeria and Guinea were also added to the **blacklist** of the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report. They joined Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela in the dreaded "**Tier 3**" list as the worst offenders of **human-trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Additional reporting: AFP

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: AUS

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198 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 14, 2007 Thursday

Caribbean countries placed on US trafficking in persons report

LENGTH: 809 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website on 14 June

Washington: The United States Department of State has placed four Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries in **Tier 2** of its latest report on **Trafficking in Persons**, with Guyana being placed on the Special **Watch List**.

The report placed Belize, Jamaica and Suriname in Tier 2, which means that they are "making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards".

But, with Guyana on the Tier 2 Special Watch List, it means that the country will receive "special scrutiny," the State Department said.

The department places each country, included in its annual report, on one of three lists.

"This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking, rather than the size of the problem, important though that is," it added.

Governments that fully comply are placed in Tier 1. Those making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in Tier 2. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards, and are not making significant efforts to do so, are placed in Tier 3.

The State Department said the Special Watch List criteria are considered and, when applicable, Tier 2 countries are placed on the Tier 2 Watch List.

In its report, the State Department said Guyana is "principally a source country for men, women, and children trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour."

It said most trafficking takes place in remote mining camps in the country's interior, stating that Amerindian girls from the interior also are trafficked to coastal areas for sexual exploitation, and young Amerindian men are exploited under forced labour conditions in timber camps.

The report said, in some instances, victims are abducted, and that Guyanese women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation to neighbouring countries, such as Suriname, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Brazil, and the United States.

"The Government of Guyana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the State Department said. "However, it is making significant efforts to do so."

It urged the government to "aggressively investigate and arrest suspected traffickers, and make every effort to move their cases through the criminal justice system."

In addition, it called on the Bharrat Jagdeo administration to expand training for judges and magistrates who handle trafficking cases, especially in remote areas, where the bulk of trafficking occurs.

The State Department said Belize is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

It added that Central American women and children are trafficked to Belize for prostitution.

The State Department called on the Belize government to take more steps in advancing its anti-trafficking goals, urging that it should also consider increasing penalties for sex trafficking, and increase law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers.

Turning to Jamaica, it said the country is "principally a source country for women and children trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour."

A majority of victims are Jamaican women and girls, and increasingly boys, who are trafficked from rural to urban and tourist areas for sexual exploitation, it added.

The report said the Government of Jamaica does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but noted that it is "making significant efforts to do so."

The State Department says Suriname is "principally a transit and destination country for women and children trafficked trans-nationally for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation."

It said Suriname is also a "source country" for underage Surinamese girls, and increasingly boys, trafficked internally for sexual exploitation.

It said foreign girls and women are trafficked from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Colombia to Suriname for "commercial sexual exploitation," noting that some transit Suriname en route to Europe.

The report added that Chinese nationals transiting Suriname risk debt bondage to migrant smugglers; men are exploited in forced labour and women in commercial sexual exploitation.

It said Haitians, migrating illegally through Suriname, are also vulnerable to forced labour exploitation in the country.

"The government investigated and prosecuted some suspected traffickers, and worked on improving victim assistance," the report said, urging the government to "intensify its efforts to identify, convict, and punish traffickers, including any public officials connected to such activity."

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1650 gmt 14 Jun 07

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

199 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 14, 2007 Thursday 10:48 AM TST

AIT URGES TAIWAN TO DEAL BETTER WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** Chris Wang**LENGTH:** 310 words

(repeat)

Taipei June 13 (CNA) Taiwan's efforts to combat human trafficking have been recognized but it must demonstrate greater political will in dealing with the problem, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said Wednesday in a statement after the release of the U.S. State Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

For 2007, Taiwan is classified as a "**Tier 2**" country and has been removed from a U.S. **watch list** because of its significant efforts to eliminate trafficking, the AIT said, adding that the most notable achievements are "the development of Taiwan's first comprehensive plan of action that covers all forms of **human trafficking**, plus the formation of an inter-ministerial committee to implement the plan in coordination with non-governmental organizations."

It pointed out, however, that trafficking victims should be granted formal protection, including access to justice, in order to obtain compensation from those who have exploited them, while victims should also have the right to work while awaiting the outcome of court cases.

It called for the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) to stop addressing instances of involuntary servitude with administrative penalties. Instead, it should refer such cases for criminal investigation and possible prosecution. It also said the Taiwan authorities should do more to eliminate the ability of labor brokers and employers to deport workers against their will.

Taiwan was placed on the list of "Tier 1" countries in the 2003 and 2004 reports but was downgraded to "Tier 2" in the 2005 report. In 2006, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

AIT said it will continue to increase public awareness of the suffering caused by trafficking by working with Taiwan officials and non-government organizations.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

200 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Global Insight

June 14, 2007

GCC Countries Placed on U.S. Trafficking List

BYLINE: Anoushka Marashlian**SECTION:** In Brief**LENGTH:** 201 words

The U.S. State Department's 2007 annual report on **human trafficking** assigns Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar **Tier Three** status for failing to stop **human trafficking** predominantly of those women and minors employed as domestic labourers. The report criticises the sponsorship laws in Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, which give employers powers over domestic workers, who are often subjected to abuse at the hands of their employers. Saudi Arabia retained its negative Tier Three Status and was criticised for failing to implement the necessary reforms aimed at offering domestic workers greater protection. The United Arab Emirates also has a serious drug-trafficking problem, although U.A.E. officials are thought to be making more concerted efforts to address this problem, which has exposed it to international scrutiny. The United Arab Emirates was placed on a Tier Two watch list.

Significance: Despite being named and shamed in the 2007 annual report on human trafficking, there is concern that U.S. regional allies such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain will continue to ignore the findings of the report, confident that the United States lacks the appetite to tackle this cause more forcefully.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

201 of 445 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

June 14, 2007 Thursday

HUMAN RIGHTS: U.S. REPORT LISTS MALAYSIA AS 'WORST OFFENDER'

BYLINE: Baradan Kuppusamy

LENGTH: 1088 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 14 2007

Malaysian politicians have reacted with horror at the United States' decision to include the country on a list of "worst offenders" in the realms of human trafficking, bonded labor, child prostitution and the sex trade.

Other countries on the list include Burma, North Korea and Iran.

Malaysian leaders have lashed back, accusing the U.S. state department of behaving as the uninvited "judge, jury and prosecutor" without just cause. "It's all false, not true. We reject it," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said.

But opposition lawmakers and human rights activists who have long campaigned inside and outside the country against human trafficking said the report's conclusions are true and verifiable. "It is a damning report -- it is a major black mark on Malaysia's already tarnished human record. It tells a lot about our treatment of migrant workers and victims of trafficking," said Teresa Kok, an opposition lawmaker.

"No matter how hard it is to swallow, we must accept the report's conclusion and work to clean up our record," said Kok, a campaigner for the rights of women and migrant workers. "We have nearly 2 million migrant workers in the country and many are really trafficked persons. They live and work in virtual servitude. We are at least a decade late in respecting their human rights."

"Our awareness and response to this heinous crime is shamefully low," she added.

Parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang has asked the government to consider issuing a ministerial statement in parliament next week explaining its "abysmal handling" of the rights of migrant workers and trafficked persons.

"But if the government genuinely feels it is wronged by the U.S. report, then it should explain in parliament, giving all the details how it was wronged, and rebut the U.S. State Department's findings," Lim said.

"It is not enough to brush aside the report. The inclusion of Malaysia as a Tier 3 offender is a serious matter with repercussions. It must not be taken lightly," Lim said. "Our lawmakers will want to know how we fell this low."

The report, titled "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2006," put Malaysia and a dozen other countries such as Burma, Iran, North Korea and Syria among other countries in the **Tier 3** of "worst offenders."

The 236-page report, which was released by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington last week, accused the Malaysian government of doing little to combat human trafficking. Nearly 2 million migrant workers, both documented and undocumented, are presently in Malaysia.

Rice cited "disturbing evidence" that prosecution of human trafficking cases had leveled off across the globe. In countries with major human trafficking problems, "only a couple" of traffickers were brought to justice," she was quoted as saying in the media. "This cannot and must not be tolerated."

Reflecting on conditions in Malaysia and elsewhere, Rice said weak laws have rendered foreign workers vulnerable to abuse in both private homes and work sites. The report noted that the Malaysian parliament had introduced a tough anti-

human trafficking law to its agenda but that it has nevertheless "failed to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so."

Malaysia has neither punished acts of trafficking, nor provided adequate shelters and social services to victims, according to the report. Furthermore it has allegedly failed to protect migrant workers from involuntary servitude.

"The government did not establish a government-run shelter for foreign trafficking victims that it had announced publicly in 2004," the report said.

"Without procedures for the identification of victims, the government continued to treat some trafficking victims as illegal immigrants, and arrest, incarcerate and deport them," the report said. As a regional economic leader approaching developed-nation status, Malaysia has the resources and government infrastructure to do far more in addressing the issue of trafficking in persons, it said.

"The Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle Malaysia's significant forced-labor and sex-trafficking problems," the report said in a damning lengthy section on Malaysia.

Last year, Malaysia was in the '**Tier 2 watch list**' with other countries that are making little significant effort to comply with international standards to protect victims of **human trafficking**.

"It was a warning," said Agile Fernandez, a migrant worker program coordinator with Tenaganita, a prominent rights group.

Perhaps in anticipation of the **Tier 3** listing, Malaysia had rushed through in parliament last month a tough new Anti-**Human Trafficking** bill that metes out up to 20 years in prison for traffickers, provides shelter for trafficked children and women, and treats trafficked persons not as illegal immigrants but as victims needing help and support.

The bill protects victims and severely punishes the people responsible for trafficking them. People who harbor victims or profit from the offence would also be punished under the proposed law.

Most female trafficked victims are from neighboring countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines, and many end up as sex slaves or victims of bonded labor. Malaysia is also a transit center for these women, who are forced into vice trades in third countries, especially countries in Europe.

Members of NGOs such as Tenaganita are hoping the report will spur the government to improve conditions, rectify shortcomings and get out of the "denial syndrome." They lay the blame on corruption. "Official corruption is at the core of the problem ... it's the evil that is fueling trafficking here," Fernandez said.

"This is why trafficking is rampant and why prosecution of offenders is few and far," she added. "Trafficking syndicates regularly bribe officials to close an eye."

Fernandez said the problem is compounded by low awareness among the public and officials regarding the human rights of migrant workers and trafficked persons. "There is apathy and ignorance. There is a use-and-discard mentality and culture," she said. "There are no permanent policies: Everything is ad hoc and very reactive."

Opposition lawmakers and rights activists have long argued that a comprehensive law on workers' human rights would help reduce trafficking, exploitation and modern day slave conditions.

"The government must find the political will to see that the new anti-trafficking bill is made a law and strictly enforced," Fernandez said.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

202 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 14, 2007 Thursday 8:24 AM GMT

Malaysia dismisses U.S. report on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 331 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR June 14

Malaysia dismissed Thursday a U.S. State Department report that lumped the country together with North Korea for dismal records in preventing human trafficking.

"We have already sent a bill to Parliament and the bill contains provision including punishments, which are very severe," Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters. "We do whatever we can."

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill that was tabled to the lower house of Parliament in April carries a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine of up to 500,000 ringgit (\$147,059).

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar slammed the U.S. report as being one-sided, according to the Star daily.

"I don't know how they can come up with the report. We can't react to something that does not take into account what we are doing," he was quoted as saying.

"We are only answerable to our electorate and we protect the sovereignty of the country. This is not even a report compiled by the United Nations. No single country can act as the investigator, prosecutor and judge against another," he said.

In the U.S. State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released Tuesday in Washington, Malaysia's ranking fell from **Tier 2** to **Tier 3**, a bottom ranking that lumped it together with a group of 15 other countries including North Korea, Cuba, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria.

Being in Tier 3 exposes Malaysia to possible U.S. economic sanctions.

According to the report, Malaysia "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so."

Malaysia's booming economy attracts thousands of migrant workers from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, China and Myanmar but according to the report, they often ended up being "subjected to conditions of forced labor as domestic workers or in agricultural, construction or industrial sectors."

Women who were promised jobs as domestic workers are frequently forced into prostitution instead, the report claims.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

203 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 14, 2007 Thursday

SERIOUS MEASURES TAKEN TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SAYS PM

LENGTH: 318 words**DATELINE:** PETALING JAYA June 14

Malaysia has taken serious measures to curb human trafficking, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The prime minister said the government had drafted a Bill on human trafficking that would impose severe penalties on the perpetrators of the crime.

He said the Bill had been sent to Parliament and hoped it would be passed in the next sitting of the Dewan Rakyat.

"Human trafficking is a crime that has to be stopped," he told reporters when asked on a US State Department report listing Malaysia as among offenders of human trafficking.

The "**Trafficking in Person** Report" gave Malaysia and 16 other countries a **Tier-3** status, listing the countries as offenders of **human trafficking**.

The report said the Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle Malaysia's significant forced labour and sex trafficking problems.

Visibly upset over the report, Abdullah said: "I am not sure about the report...I do not intend to make any other statement, all I am saying is that we have sent a bill to parliament.

"We will do whatever we can to curb human trafficking and that is why we decided to have that bill," said Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister.

Earlier, Abdullah opened the Kuala Lumpur-OIC Health Ministerial Conference 2007.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday Malaysia had been moving in the right direction in ensuring the security of foreigners.

The minister said there must be a clear distinction between human trafficking and illegal immigrants.

On Malaysia's move to take the lead in efforts to produce halal vaccines for Islamic countries, Abdullah said Malaysia did not intend to be the leader in the field as other OIC member states are also equally capable.

"We are taking the lead now not because we want to be the leader but because we are well-placed to conduct R&D (research and development) and to promote halal vaccines," he added.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

204 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 14, 2007 Thursday

NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS KEY IN BATTLE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 555 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

By Eric Green

USINFO Staff Writer

Many nations are working hand-in-hand with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to combat global trafficking in persons, says Mark Lagon, the State Department's new director of anti-trafficking issues.

Speaking June 13, Lagon said governments that are partners with NGOs have shown concrete gains in the global human trafficking fight, as documented in the State Department's new report on the issue. Lagon praised NGOs as the eyes and ears for monitoring trafficking abuses worldwide.

Lagon briefed representatives from about 90 NGOs on the State Department's report, released June 12. He said Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Peru and Taiwan are striking examples of countries committed to the rule of law and pluralism that are working with NGOs, rather than leaving the work of trafficking victim assistance to NGOs. (See related article.)

The seven nations' cooperation with NGOs is reflected in an improved anti-trafficking effort in 2006 as compared to 2005. The department's report advanced those countries from a **Tier 2 watch list** that signifies a failure to address trafficking problems to a higher **Tier 2** category for a significant commitment against trafficking, said Lagon, whose formal title is director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat **Human Trafficking in Persons**.

NGOs at the briefing included the Washington-based Free the Slaves, which has produced three documentaries concerning labor trafficking in the United States and India. U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide are arranging screenings for foreign audiences of those documentaries, along with several other films that vividly display the evils of trafficking in persons, which has been termed the modern-day equivalent of slavery. (See related article.)

Also represented at the briefing was the Ricky Martin Foundation. The State Department named Martin, who founded the NGO, as one of its "heroes acting to end modern-day slavery" in its 2005 Trafficking in Persons report. The department said the famous singer was lending a powerful voice to vulnerable children who are unable to speak for themselves" and "reaching tens of millions of people around the world." (See related article.)

Another group at the briefing was the Polaris Project, whose success in fighting human trafficking demonstrates the effective partnerships that can be built between NGOs and government. (See related article.)

Lagon told the NGOs that the department's 2007 report is dedicated to Ko Maung, who along with 30 other Burmese, died at sea pursuing a dream of earning enough money to return to Burma and build a house for his children. Lagon said Ko Maung died from hard labor and starvation after being forced to remain at sea for years while being denied pay.

The 2007 report reiterated Lagon's praise for the groups worldwide who heard Ko Maung's voice of agony and are working against those who rely on this despicable trade in 'disposable' humans.

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

More information on U.S. policies to combat human trafficking is available on the State Department Web site.

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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205 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 14, 2007

Nongovernmental Groups Key in Battle Against Human Trafficking; State's Lagon praises partnerships between private groups, governments

BYLINE: Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 538 words

Washington -- Many nations are working "hand-in-hand" with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to combat global trafficking in persons, says Mark Lagon, the State Department's new director of anti-trafficking issues.

Speaking June 13, Lagon said governments that are partners with NGOs have shown concrete gains in the global human trafficking fight, as documented in the State Department's new report on the issue. Lagon praised NGOs as the "eyes and ears" for monitoring trafficking abuses worldwide.

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The seven nations' cooperation with NGOs is reflected in an improved anti-trafficking effort in 2006 as compared to 2005. The department's report advanced those countries from a **Tier 2 "watch list"** that signifies a failure to address trafficking problems to a higher **Tier 2** category for a "significant" commitment against trafficking, said Lagon, whose formal title is director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat **Human Trafficking in Persons**.

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The 2007 report reiterated Lagon's praise for the groups worldwide who heard Ko Maung's "voice of agony" and are working against those who "rely on this despicable trade in 'disposable' humans."

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

More information on U.S. policies to combat human trafficking is available on the State Department Web site.

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

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206 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 14, 2007 Thursday

US human trafficking rating misleading, says KL

BYLINE: Chow Kum Hor, Malaysia Correspondent

SECTION: ASIA - MALAYSIA

LENGTH: 455 words

KUALA LUMPUR - THE Malaysian government yesterday described as 'misleading' a US report which ranks the country among the worst in human smuggling offences.

'We cannot react to something that does not take into account what we have done,' Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar was quoted as saying by the online version of The Star newspaper.

He said Kuala Lumpur had taken adequate steps to protect its migrant workers, and added: 'No single country can act as investigator, prosecutor and judge against another.'

But Datuk Seri Syed Hamid also said Malaysia would not lodge a formal protest with Washington.

Human Resources Minister Fong Chan Onn said Malaysia may have a sizeable migrant worker population, but this does not mean that they are all victims of trafficking.

The United States State Department released its report on Trafficking in Persons on Tuesday.

It lumped Malaysia with countries such as Myanmar, Sudan, North Korea and Iran in the lowest 'Tier 3', which means that these countries 'do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so'.

Last year, Malaysia was in the '**Tier 2 watch list**', with other countries that are making significant efforts to comply with international standards to protect victims of **human trafficking**.

This year, there are 15 other countries in 'Tier 3', four more than last year. Singapore, which was in 'Tier 1' last year, is now listed under 'Tier 2' for 'not fully complying with international standards'.

In the report, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called human trafficking a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities.

Datuk Fong told The Straits Times that the Malaysian government was making efforts to fight human trafficking.

Last month, Parliament passed the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill, which sets a jail sentence of up to 20 years and fines of up to RM500,000 (\$222S,000) for offenders.

A spokesman for Tenaganita, a local support group for women and migrant workers, was surprised by Malaysia's downgrade.

'I had expected Malaysia to stay in the **Tier 2 watch list**, but obviously, we are among the worst of the lot,' said Ms Aegile Fernandez, Tenaganita's anti-**trafficking in persons** programme coordinator.

She told The Straits Times that the government needed to stamp out corruption, alleging that some syndicates were getting away scot-free by bribing officials.

She added that the government has to 'summon the political will' to see that the new law is implemented properly.

Most victims of human trafficking in Malaysia are from neighbouring countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Malaysia is the transit centre for these women, who are forced into vice in third countries.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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207 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 14, 2007 Thursday 9:40 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS KEY IN BATTLE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 631 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Eric Green

USINFO Staff Writer

Many nations are working "hand-in-hand" with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to combat global trafficking in persons, says Mark Lagon, the State Department's new director of anti-trafficking issues.

Speaking June 13, Lagon said governments that are partners with NGOs have shown concrete gains in the global human trafficking fight, as documented in the State Department's new report on the issue. Lagon praised NGOs as the "eyes and ears" for monitoring trafficking abuses worldwide.

Lagon briefed representatives from about 90 NGOs on the State Department's report, released June 12. He said Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Peru and Taiwan are "striking examples" of countries committed to the "rule of law" and "pluralism" that are working with NGOs, rather "than leaving the work" of trafficking victim assistance to NGOs. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=June&x=20070605161941bcrcleaw0.5122492>.)

The seven nations' cooperation with NGOs is reflected in an improved anti-trafficking effort in 2006 as compared to 2005. The department's report advanced those countries from a **Tier 2 "watch list"** that signifies a failure to address trafficking problems to a higher **Tier 1** category for a "significant" commitment against trafficking, said Lagon, whose formal title is director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat **Human Trafficking in Persons**.

NGOs at the briefing included the Washington-based Free the Slaves, which has produced three documentaries concerning labor trafficking in the United States and India. U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide are arranging screenings for foreign audiences of those documentaries, along with several other films that vividly display the evils of trafficking in persons, which has been termed the modern-day equivalent of slavery. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=June&x=20070608130830X1eneerg0.3753168>.)

Also represented at the briefing was the Ricky Martin Foundation. The State Department named Martin, who founded the NGO, as one of its "heroes acting to end modern-day slavery" in its 2005 Trafficking in Persons report. The department said the famous singer was "lending a powerful voice to vulnerable children who are unable to speak for themselves" and "reaching tens of millions of people around the world." (See related article: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking/heroes_of_trafficking.html.)

Another group at the briefing was the Polaris Project, whose success in fighting human trafficking demonstrates the effective partnerships that can be built between NGOs and government. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=June&x=20070611180629adynned0.5134394>.)

Lagon told the NGOs that the department's 2007 report is dedicated to Ko Maung, who along with 30 other Burmese, died at sea pursuing a dream of earning enough money to return to Burma and build a house for his children. Lagon said Ko Maung died from hard labor and starvation after being forced to remain at sea for years while being denied pay.

The 2007 report reiterated Lagon's praise for the groups worldwide who heard Ko Maung's "voice of agony" and are working against those who "rely on this despicable trade in 'disposable' humans."

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report:
http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking/traffick_report.html.

More information on U.S. policies to combat human trafficking is available on the State Department Web site.

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208 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The West Australian (Perth)

June 14, 2007 Thursday
METRO

US links skill visa to sex slaves

BYLINE: RHIANNA KING; CANBERRA**SECTION:** GENERAL; Pg. 6**LENGTH:** 406 words

Sexual exploitation, debt bondage and slavery of migrants in Australia was a worrying consequence of the 457 skilled worker scheme, the US State Department claimed yesterday in a report into human trafficking.

The claims have been vehemently denied by Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews, who accused the US of being ill informed of the 457s, a temporary visa used by employers to hire skilled migrants and which the Commonwealth purports to have helped alleviate the skills shortage.

In its 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the US State Department ranked Australia as a **Tier** One country - meaning it fully complied with US minimum standards to eliminate trafficking.

But it said Australia was a destination country for some women from Asia and Eastern Europe, who travelled to Australia to work in both legal and illegal brothels and who were "trafficked for the purpose of commercial and sexual exploitation".

"There were several reports of men and women from India, the Peoples Republic of China and South Korea migrating to Australia temporarily for work whose labour conditions amounted to slavery, debt bondage and involuntary servitude," it read.

"The Australian Government should devote more attention and resources to addressing allegations of labour trafficking, including in connection with its 457 visa program."

According to the report, there were six sex trafficking and two labour trafficking cases before the courts.

Shadow immigration minister Tony Burke said the Government was in denial about 457s, which were continually exploited by some employers.

"The worst thing about these sorts of abuses have been that theyve been legal," he said. "It is seriously embarrassing for Australia to be subjected to the report that has come out today from the US State Department. The US is one of our closest friends and allies. They dont criticise Australian employment conditions lightly."

Labor has been a vocal opponent of the Governments handling of the scheme, claiming it left employees open to serious abuse.

Mr Andrews said the US State Department was ill informed.

"The Australian Government is pleased to have been acknowledged as a leading nation in the battle to eliminate people smuggling, however we reject absolutely the ill-informed comments regarding the temporary skilled 457 visa class," he said.

"The (457 visa) assists employers to fill vacancies in their business and helps ensure that Australias economy remains strong."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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209 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 14, 2007 Thursday 12:00 PM EST**Malaysia raps U.S. report on human trafficking****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 234 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia Thursday rapped a U. S. report that classified Malaysia as "**Tier 3**" in **human trafficking**, saying it was unfair and unreasonable.

Malaysian Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil strongly criticized the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report in a statement issued here.

"We are very disappointed with the report as it is inaccurate and does not reflect Malaysia's continuous efforts in combating human trafficking," Shahrizat said.

The Malaysian government has undertaken preparatory steps to address the issue since 2005 involving various ministries and agencies, Shahrizat said.

The Malaysian Parliament passed the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill 2007 on May 24 this year to provide law enforcement officials with new powers to pursue, prosecute and convict offenders, she said.

"The new legislation also provides protection and support for trafficked victims," she said.

Shahrizat stressed that her ministry is setting up two shelter homes for trafficked women and children, which are expected to be ready by the end of this month to provide services such as crisis counseling and rehabilitation.

She noted that the Malaysian government views human trafficking as one of the most serious threats to human rights and human security and will continue to take comprehensive measures to combat human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

210 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 14, 2007 Thursday 5:06 AM GMT

Reports: Malaysia rejects US human trafficking blacklist

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 354 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

Malaysia has dismissed as one-sided a U.S. report saying the Malaysian government is not doing enough to fight human trafficking, newspapers reported Thursday.

The Star and the New Straits Times quoted Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar as saying the U.S. State Department's report failed to consider the country's efforts to protect foreign workers.

"I don't know how they can come up with that report. We can't react to something that does not take into account what we are doing. It is unfortunate that they pass judgment on us," The Star quoted Syed Hamid as saying.

"No single country can act as the investigator, prosecutor and judge against another," Syed Hamid said in the report.

A ministry spokeswoman reached by phone said she could not confirm the comments. Calls to request an interview with Syed Hamid were not immediately answered.

In its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," the U.S. State Department downgraded Malaysia from a **watch list to the blacklist** "for its failure to show satisfactory progress in combating **trafficking in persons.**"

The report cited the Malaysian government's failure to prosecute and punish traffickers, to provide adequate shelters and services to victims and to protect its migrant workers from involuntary servitude.

Fifteen other countries were included on the blacklist, which makes them subject to sanctions.

Tenaganita, a local nonprofit organization, agreed that Malaysia did not adequately protect foreign migrants and domestic workers, upon which the country relies heavily for menial work.

"In reality we really haven't done very much. We still have a very far way to go," said Aegile Fernandez, coordinator of Tenaganita's program to combat human trafficking.

"We don't have a good, open, transparent foreign workers bill," she said.

Malaysia tabled a bill to fight human trafficking the country's first on the issue in its parliament in April. The legislature's approval of the bill is considered a formality.

The government has said the bill will make it easier for police, immigration departments and other authorities to pursue, prosecute and convict alleged human traffickers.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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211 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 14, 2007 Thursday 9:15 AM GMT

Malaysia vows to fight human trafficking, dismisses US blacklist

BYLINE: By SEAN YOONG, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 453 words

DATELINE: KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

Malaysia's leader promised on Thursday to do everything possible to fight human trafficking, after the U.S. blacklisted the country for allegedly not doing enough about the problem.

"Certainly human trafficking is a crime, and that has to be stopped. We will do whatever we can" to halt it, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters.

Abdullah said that the government has drafted a bill on fighting human trafficking, and that Parliament is debating it. Approval of the bill as a law is considered a formality.

Abdullah said the bill contains provisions "including punishments, which are very severe." He said authorities hope it will reduce any human trafficking in Malaysia.

The government has not released details of proposed punishments, but said the new law would make it easier for police, immigration departments and other authorities to pursue, prosecute and convict alleged human traffickers.

In its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," the U.S. State Department on Tuesday downgraded Malaysia from a **watch list** to a **blacklist** "for its failure to show satisfactory progress in combating **trafficking in persons**."

The report cited the Malaysian government's failure to prosecute and punish traffickers, to provide adequate shelters and services to victims, and to protect migrant workers from involuntary servitude.

Malaysia is among 16 countries on the U.S. list, which subjects them to possible sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of about 800,000 people across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

About 80 percent of the victims are female and up to half of them children, and most are seeking to escape poverty.

Malaysia's Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said in a statement Thursday that putting Malaysia in the blacklist was "unfair and unreasonable."

"We are very disappointed with the report as it is inaccurate and does not reflect Malaysia's continuous efforts in combating human trafficking," Shahrizat said.

Besides pushing for the new legislation, the ministry expects to open two shelters for trafficked women and children by the end of the month, the statement said.

The ministry, together with the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia, has also run a workshop to train law enforcement officers how to deal with victims of trafficking, it said.

Tenaganita, a local nonprofit organization, agreed that Malaysia did not adequately protect foreign migrants and domestic workers, upon which the country relies heavily for menial work.

"In reality we really haven't done very much. We still have a very far way to go," said Aegile Fernandez, coordinator of Tenaganita's program to combat human trafficking.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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212 of 445 DOCUMENTS

AAP Newsfeed

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 2:00 PM AEST

Fed: Andrews rejects US concerns on 457 visas

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

LENGTH: 409 words

DATELINE: CANBERRA June 13

The federal government today flatly rejected US concerns about labour trafficking through the controversial 457 visa program to import workers to fill skill shortages in Australia.

Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said the US State Department unfortunately appeared to be ill-informed about the purpose of the 457 visa or the obligations placed on employers using the scheme.

"The Australian government rejects outright a recommendation by the US State Department regarding allegations of labour trafficking in connection with the temporary skilled 457 visa," he said in a statement.

He said there was no basis whatsoever for this recommendation, contained in the US State Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In its report on global human trafficking released in the US overnight, the State Department placed Australia in the top tier of nations taking firm action against people trafficking.

But it warned Australia it needed to pay more attention to allegations of labour trafficking under the 457 visa scheme.

Mr Andrews said due to a strong economy and unemployment at a 32-year low, some Australian industries were experiencing a temporary shortage of skilled workers.

He said the 457 temporary skilled visa program assisted employers to fill vacancies with workers from abroad.

"If there is any allegation of an employer not complying with the law these claims can and should be reported to the Workplace Ombudsman. This is exactly the same process that applies to all workplaces," he said.

"The Department of Immigration and Citizenship also investigates any allegations made against employers."

Mr Andrews said the government recently announced stronger penalties for employers who failed to pay minimum salaries or used skilled workers in unskilled jobs.

The government also announced that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship would gain stronger powers to enforce employer compliance with the 457 visa program.

He said the government was pleased to have again been ranked as a tier one country, fully complying with US minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

He said the State Department report was generally very positive about Australia's stance on trafficking.

"The Australian government remains committed to combating the insidious

crime of **trafficking in persons** - committing a further \$38.3 million in the last budget, bringing funding since 2003 to \$58 million," he said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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213 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 1:24 AM GMT

US lumps Middle East allies, Malaysia on trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran

LENGTH: 663 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 12 2007

US Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as key trading partner Malaysia were added Tuesday to a Washington blacklist of countries trafficking in people.

Algeria and Guinea were the other additions to the **blacklist** of the US State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," which analyzed efforts in about 164 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

The seven countries, all of whom were on a special **watch list** last year, join Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela in the dreaded "**Tier 3**" list as the worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

Being on the blacklist, they could face sanctions, including the withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Countries that receive no such foreign assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for participation by government officials in educational and cultural exchange programs.

Launching the 236-page report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cited "disturbing evidence" that prosecution of human trafficking cases had leveled off across the globe.

In countries with major human trafficking problems, "only a couple" of traffickers were brought to justice," she said. "This cannot and must not be tolerated."

US government research shows 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, about 80 percent of them women and girls and up to half minors, the State Department said.

The majority of transnational victims are females trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, it said.

The wealthy Middle East nations added to the blacklist this year were largely accused of mistreating foreign workers, which they heavily rely on.

"It is especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking resources to make significant progress are on **Tier 3**, for example Saudi Arabia for the third consecutive year," said Mark Lagon, Rice's senior advisor on the **human trafficking** problem.

He said weak foreign workers' sponsorship laws in these countries made the guests "vulnerable" to abuse in both private homes and work sites. Some victims who reported abuses were instead "held hostage," sometimes for years, in police centers.

Malaysia was cited for "failure to show satisfactory progress" in areas such as punishing acts of trafficking, providing adequate shelters and social services to victims and protecting migrant workers from involuntary servitude, the report said.

"The Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle ... significant forced labor and sex trafficking problems," it said.

India, which has the world's worst **human trafficking** problem and been on a **watch list** for the fourth consecutive year with Russia and Mexico, received a specific warning that it could be relegated further to the black list if it failed to contain the problem.

"The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking," Lagon said, warning the Indian government that "reassessment is a distinct possibility."

China, Armenia and South Africa were on the watchlist for the third consecutive year.

Singapore, which had been in the Tier 1 list, was relegated to Tier 2 this year. It "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the report said.

The Singaporean parliament was urged to approve proposed amendments that would criminalize prostitution involving minors, extend extra-territorial jurisdiction over Singaporean citizens involved in sexual services from minors overseas, and make promoting child sex tours a criminal offense.

Sri Lanka was placed on the watchlist for "its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking."

Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Taiwan, Peru and Jamaica made "significant efforts" to combat the trafficking problem and have been removed from the watchlist, officials said.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

214 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

US report "raises concerns" over trafficking of North Koreans

LENGTH: 619 words

Text of report in English by South Korean news agency Yonhap

[Updated version: rewording headline, adding more detail; "US Report Raises Concerns About NK Workers Hired Abroad" - Yonhap headline]

WASHINGTON, June 12 (Yonhap) - An annual US report on human trafficking released Tuesday again raised concerns that North Koreans sent to work overseas are subject to harsh conditions and deprived of basic freedoms.

On South Korea, the US pressed the government to better regulate marriage brokers who match foreign women with Korean husbands.

The State Department report, "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2007," categorizes countries between **Tier 1**, meaning governments that fully comply with minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, and **Tier 3**, for governments that refuse to do so.

South Korea was placed in Tier 1, and North Korea in Tier 3.

The report pointed to a "less common form of trafficking" in North Korea, where women and girls are being lured out of the country by the promise of jobs and freedom.

But the victims are forced into prostitution, marriage, or exploitive labour arrangements once they are in China, which shares North Korea's border, it said.

The North Korean government recruits its citizens to work overseas at foreign firms, and while there is no evidence of force or fraud in the recruitment process, reports indicate that some of them are placed in harsh conditions, it said.

Russia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Libya, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, Angola, Mongolia, Kuwait, Yemen, Iraq and China are believed to be hiring North Korean workers under contract with Pyongyang, according to the report.

North Korea does not recognize trafficking victims and makes no protection or assistance efforts, it said, and the government actually contributes to the problem through the operation of labour prison camps where thousands of people live in "slave-like conditions."

South Korea was cited as a primary source country for the trafficking of women internally and to the US, Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Western Europe. Women from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, China, the Philippines, Thailand and other southeastern Asian countries are trafficked to South Korea, said the report.

South Korean men are a "significant source of demand" for child sex tourism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, the report pointed out, and while there are laws in place allowing their prosecution, there typically are no legal actions taken against them.

Seoul has increased cooperation with Washington against the sex trafficking of South Korean women to the US, but it fell comparatively short in regulating labour trafficking of foreigners, the report said.

"The South Korean government should take steps to ensure that the new employment placement system of labour recruitment offers greater protection to foreign workers by investigating and prosecuting cases of forced labour among migrant workers," it said.

The report carried a photograph of a South Korean roadside billboard advertising an "international marriage specialist" promising Vietnamese brides who will not run away. The ad shows that women from less developed East Asian nations are presented as commodities, a practice also common in Taiwan, Japan and Malaysia, it said.

The number of international marriages tripled in South Korea in the last five years, most of the brides from Southeast Asia and Mongolia, the report said.

"While South Korea has set up a programme of action to assist foreign brides, there have been fewer actions thus far to curtail or better regulate the activities of exploitative South Korean marriage brokers," it said.

Source: Yonhap news agency, Seoul, in English 1825 gmt 12 Jun 07

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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215 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 10:24 PM TST

AIT URGES TAIWAN TO DEAL BETTER WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** Chris Wang**LENGTH:** 305 words**DATELINE:** Taipei June 13

Taiwan's efforts to combat human trafficking have been recognized but it must demonstrate greater political will in dealing with the problem, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said Wednesday in a statement after the release of the U.S. State Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

For 2007, Taiwan is classified as a "**Tier 2**" country and has been removed from a U.S. **watch list** because of its significant efforts to eliminate trafficking, the AIT said, adding that the most notable achievements are "the development of Taiwan's first comprehensive plan of action that covers all forms of **human trafficking**, plus the formation of an inter-ministerial committee to implement the plan in coordination with non-governmental organizations."

It pointed out, however, that trafficking victims should be granted formal protection, including access to justice, in order to obtain compensation from those who have exploited them, while victims should also have the right to work while awaiting the outcome of court cases.

It called for the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) to stop addressing instances of involuntary servitude with administrative penalties. Instead, it should refer such cases for criminal investigation and possible prosecution. It also said the Taiwan authorities should do more to eliminate the ability of labor brokers and employers to deport workers against their will.

Taiwan was placed on the list of "Tier 1" countries in the 2003 and 2004 reports but was downgraded to "Tier 2" in the 2005 report. In 2006, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

AIT said it will continue to increase public awareness of the suffering caused by trafficking by working with Taiwan officials and non-government organizations.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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216 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 3:27 PM TST

PREMIER PLEDGES TO STEP UP EFFORTS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Y.F. Low

LENGTH: 316 words

DATELINE: Taipei, June 13

Premier Chang Chun-hsiung pledged Wednesday that the government will step up its efforts to combat **human trafficking**, following the country's removal from a U.S. **watch list** for the trafficking problem.

Making the remarks during a weekly Cabinet meeting, Chang said the fact that the United States has removed Taiwan from the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" indicates that the United States has noticed the country's hard work in fighting **human trafficking** over the past year.

However, Taiwan must not be complacent about the achievement, Chang said, adding that it is the Cabinet's goal in the coming year to continue to work to have Taiwan's ranking upgraded to "Tier 1."

In the **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2007 released by the U.S. Department of State Tuesday, Taiwan has been reinstated on the list of "**Tier 2**" countries because while the island's trafficking problems remain daunting, Taiwan authorities showed clear progress in addressing trafficking for both sexual and labor exploitation over the past year.

Taiwan was placed on the list of "Tier 1" countries in the 2003 and 2004 reports but was downgraded to "Tier 2" in the 2005 report.

In the 2006 report, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Chang instructed the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) to meet with concerned authorities to review and improve the government's measures against human trafficking.

Chang said the MOI should cooperate with the Ministry of Justice to work out a law on the prevention of human trafficking.

Also, to prevent the exploitation of foreign workers, the Council of Labor Affairs should review its policy toward foreign workers, such as the method in which foreign workers are imported into the country, the restrictions faced by foreign workers in changing employers and the penalties for law-breaking employers, Chang said.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

217 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 12:38 PM TST

TAIWAN REMOVED FROM U.S. WATCH LIST FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: Chieh-yu Lin and Y.F. Low

LENGTH: 613 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 12

The United States has removed Taiwan from a **watch list** for **human trafficking** in view of the country's "significant efforts" to tackle the problem over the past year, according to an annual report released Tuesday by the U.S. Department of State.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2007 places Taiwan on a list of "**Tier 2**" countries, noting that Taiwan is primarily a destination for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

"While the island's trafficking problems remain daunting, Taiwan authorities over the last year showed clear progress in addressing trafficking for both sexual and labor exploitation," the report says.

However, the report continues, much more remains to be done to bring Taiwan into compliance with the minimum standards, with Taiwan authorities needing to demonstrate greater political will in dealing with the trafficking problem.

The report urges Taiwan to grant victims of trafficking formal protection, including access to justice in order to obtain compensation from their traffickers or exploitative employers and the right to work while awaiting court cases.

It suggests that the Council on Labor Affairs stop addressing acts of involuntary servitude with administrative penalties and instead refer these serious crimes to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for criminal investigation and, if warranted, prosecution.

Also, Taiwan authorities should do more to eliminate the ability of labor brokers and employers to deport workers involuntarily, the report says.

The 2007 report rates 141 countries and regions and places them in three lists, based primarily on the extent of government action to combat trafficking.

While governments that fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are placed in "Tier 1," governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in "Tier 2."

Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in "Tier 3" and may be subject to certain sanctions.

Taiwan was ranked among the list of "Tier 1" countries in the 2003 and 2004 reports but was downgraded to "Tier 2" in the 2005 report.

In the 2006 report, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Addressing a news conference on the release of the 2007 report Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the Department of State has brought global attention to the problem of human trafficking by making an assessment of the problem annually since 2001.

"Millions more people know about human trafficking today than when the first report was issued in 2001, and we hope that this greater awareness translate into greater prevention," Rice said.

Mark P. Lagon, a senior advisor on trafficking in persons at the Department of States, called a raid in Taiwan last week a "real success story" that demonstrated a "welcome new attitude."

In the case, Taiwan worked closely with U.S. law enforcement authorities to break up a cross-border trafficking ring, arresting 12 people suspected of trafficking women to the United States and other countries where they were exploited in the sex and pornography industry.

Lagon said countries that have established credentials in good governance and rule of law, such as Taiwan, are more likely to move quickly in protecting victims of trafficking and bringing exploiters to justice.

In contrast, China, where there is a lack of rule of law, has resisted joining the international community in upholding universal anti-trafficking standards, he said.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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218 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 4:00 PM EST

US warns India over 'world's largest human trafficking problem'

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service

LENGTH: 873 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 13 -- The US has warned India to act swiftly on what it called the "world's largest human trafficking problem" involving hundreds of thousands of victims of sexual exploitation and millions of bonded labourers or face sanctions.

An annual US State Department report on **human trafficking** released by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Tuesday placed India for the fourth year in a row on a "**Tier 2 watch list**" for showing signs of failing to make improvements in tackling this "modern-day slavery".

India was not downgraded to the worst **Tier 3**, despite the fact that the world's "largest democracy" has the "world's largest problem of **human trafficking**," said Mark Lagon, director of Office to Monitor and Combat **Human Trafficking in Persons** briefing media on the 236-page report.

The US, he said, needs to "engage in a very serious dialogue with India" on the South Asian nation's trafficking problem, since the countries are "two serious democracies" with a "developing alliance" in areas ranging from counter-terrorism to civilian nuclear cooperation.

The US-India relationship is such, said Lagon, that the "level of communication between our two governments" can "stand some serious, frank talk about a problem like bonded labour or sex trafficking".

"Tier 2 Watch list should be a warning. Unfortunately, too many major countries on Tier 2 Watch List have ignored this warning, year after year," he said naming China, Russia, Mexico, and South Africa among 31 other countries in this category.

"Tier 2 Watch list is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil. We stand ready to cooperate with these nations and support any efforts they make to end this travesty within their borders," he added.

But Lagon suggested that a dialogue could lead to a reassessment of India. "...what's required is that in the context of our overall diplomacy with them, talking about all sorts of serious issues, great power of politics, counter-terrorism, civilian nuclear cooperation and so on, that this has to have high level emphasis as well as a serious problem, but in modesty.

"You know, the United States is not only in a position to point fingers. We need to say we had our legacy of slavery, we had our legacy of segregation, we had our legacy of discrimination," he said explaining why India had not been downgraded despite its poor record.

"Serious democracies have evolved, but we need to ramp up that effort. With a serious sense on the part of the Indian government that, you know, reassessment is a distinct possibility," Lagon added.

While alleging that the Government of India "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking", the report acknowledged that "it is making significant efforts to do so".

One of the "heroes" highlighted in the report is Kailash Satyarthi of the Indian NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) who prompted the rescue of 92 Bengali children enslaved in goldsmith and jewellery factories in New Delhi.

Sharing what he called an example that typifies the confluence of officials' complicity in trafficking and indifference in the face of heroism to end modern-day slavery, Lagon related how these children were forced to eat, sleep, and labour in workshops, 10 to a room.

"Dangerous chemicals were used for making gold ornaments in the same rooms that they were kept 24 hours a day. Most of the children were under the age of 14. According to the children, many were physically and sexually abused.

"Just days after this rescue, which didn't result in any arrests in India, the factory owners, managers, and their thugs showed up at BBA's shelter with iron rods, sticks, and bricks. They tried to recapture the children. Shelter staff were injured. When police finally responded, no one was arrested.

"The connections and clout of these traffickers were enough, apparently, to thwart justice," he said suggesting there is no national anti-trafficking effort, no recognition of bonded labour on an official level, and poor efforts against sex trafficking in India.

The report also recalled the services of Vipula Kadri, the founder and national director of Save the Children India, an organisation that works towards preventing the abuse and exploitation of children.

It had brought together representatives from government, law enforcement, civil society, Bollywood celebrities, media, and private industry to raise awareness about trafficking of women and girls into commercial sexual exploitation in India.

The report, mandated by the US Congress, places 24 countries in "**Tier 1**" - those doing the best job of controlling **human trafficking**, 75 others including Pakistan and Thailand in an intermediate **Tier 2** and 16 countries in the bottom **Tier 3**.

The report also catalogues US' own trafficking problem, including women and girls who migrate to the US and become prostitutes. An unknown number of US citizens and legal residents are also trafficked within the United States, primarily for sexual servitude and forced labour, the report says but does not assign it a tier rating.

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LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

219 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Jiji Press Ticker Service

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 9:11 AM JST**U.S. Keeps Japan Off Human Trafficking Watch List****LENGTH:** 151 words**DATELINE:** Washington, June 12

The United States has kept Japan off its list of countries requiring special watch for human trafficking records, a U.S. Department of State report showed Tuesday.

Japan was placed on **Tier 2**, the second highest among the four levels of compliance with the minimum standards for efforts to combat **human trafficking, the Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2007 said.

"The Government of Japan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said.

"Japan showed modest progress in advancing its anti-trafficking reforms over the past year," the report said.

Japan remained off the special watch list for Tier 2 countries for the third straight year after being put on the list in the 2004 report.

The lowest level of Tier 3 listed 16 countries including North Korea, Myanmar and Iran. China was on the Tier 2 Watch List.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

220 of 445 DOCUMENTS

MediaNet Press Release Wire

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 1:30 PM AEST

US State Department Report Recommendation on 457 Visas Rejected

LENGTH: 581 words

The Australian Government rejects outright a recommendation by the US State Department (US State Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report) regarding 'allegations of labor trafficking' in connection with the temporary skilled 457 visa.

There is no basis for this recommendation whatsoever.

Unfortunately the US State Department appears to be ill informed in respect to the purpose of the 457 visa and the obligations placed on employers who use the scheme.

Due to a strong economy and unemployment at a 32 year low, some Australian industries are experiencing a temporary shortage of skilled workers.

The 457 temporary skilled visa assists employers to fill vacancies in their business and helps ensure that Australia's economy remains strong.

If there is any allegation of an employer not complying with the law these claims can and should be reported to the Workplace Ombudsman, this is exactly the same process that applies to all workplaces.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship also investigates any allegations made against employers.

In addition to current arrangements to ensure the integrity of our temporary skilled migration programme, the Australian Government recently announced that stronger penalties will apply to any employer who does not comply with the law. These offences will relate to such matters as failure to pay the minimum salary level and using workers in unskilled jobs.

Skill shortages and record low unemployment across Australia is creating a higher demand for skilled workers to come and work in Australian businesses on a 457 visa.

In response to the increased levels of employees in workplaces on these visas the Australian Government recently announced that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship will be given stronger powers to enforce employer compliance with the 457 visa programme and additional powers for the Workplace Ombudsman.

The Australian Government is pleased to have again been ranked as a '**Tier One**' country (US State Department's 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** Report), this means that Australia has been assessed as fully complying with US minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking).

The Report is generally very positive about Australia's stance on trafficking.

The report notes that Australia has strengthened its domestic trafficking laws, increased penalties for trafficking in children, increased penalties for employers exploiting workers in conditions for forced sexual servitude or slavery.

The Australian Government has recently announced funding for two additional Senior Migration Officer (Trafficking) positions to be placed in Beijing and Manila.

These positions will augment the existing position in Bangkok which has a keen focus on vetting the visa caseload for fraud leading to trafficking and provides significant resources to support anti-trafficking efforts throughout Southeast Asia, law enforcement training, victim assistance and prevention of trafficking activities.

The Australian Government remains committed to combating the insidious crime of trafficking in persons - committing a further \$38.3 million in the last budget,

bringing funding since 2003 to \$58 million.

The Australian Government is pleased to have been acknowledged as a leading nation in the battle to eliminate people-smuggling, however we reject absolutely the ill informed comments regarding the temporary skilled 457 visa class.

Media enquiries: Kate Walshe 0421 588 794

SOURCE: Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

NNNN

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

221 of 445 DOCUMENTS

NBC News Transcripts

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

SHOW: Today 7:00 AM EST NBC

State Department releases **blacklist of countries not doing enough to stop **human trafficking****

ANCHORS: ANN CURRY

LENGTH: 55 words

ANN CURRY, anchor:

The State Department has released a new **blacklist** of countries that it says have not done enough to stop **human trafficking**, and on this list, allies of the US in the Middle East, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, along with Saudi Arabia. Secretary of State Rice calls human trafficking modern-day slavery.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Newscast

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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222 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Ottawa Citizen

June 13, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition**United States. Mideast allies listed as human traffickers****BYLINE:** CanWest News Service**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. A11**LENGTH:** 100 words

U.S. Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as key trading partner Malaysia were added yesterday to a Washington blacklist of countries trafficking in people. Algeria and Guinea were the other additions to the **blacklist** of the U.S. State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which analysed efforts in about 164 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes. The seven countries, all of which were on a watch list last year, join Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** News**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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223 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Radio Free Europe

June 13, 2007

World: U.S. Report Decries 'Modern-Day Slavery'

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 981 words

June 13, 2007 (RFE/RL) -- Seventeen-year-old Maryam traveled from Kazakhstan to Russia to work as a shop assistant. A man paid her parents \$300 and forged her passport so she could work.

When she arrived in Russia, armed guards kept Maryam locked in a cell with barred windows, where she was forced to work as a prostitute. Mara, a 30-year-old mother with a husband and two children, left Ukraine to work as a housekeeper in Italy, after employment recruiters had promised her a high salary.

When she arrived, Mara was taken to a brothel owned by a man who said he had purchased her for several hundred dollars. She was beaten if she refused a client.

These are two of the individual stories included in the U.S. State Department's "Trafficking In Persons Report 2007." The report was released in Washington on June 12 by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"We are helping to lead a global movement, not just to confront this crime, but to abolish it," Rice said. "More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is -- a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

Fighting Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the sale of people across international borders for forced prostitution or labor.

Some 80 percent of trafficking victims are female, and up to half are children.

"Every day, all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold in prostitution, exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories, and captured to serve unlawfully as child soldiers," said Ambassador Mark Lagon, the director of the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in presenting the report on June 12.

"Estimates of the number vary widely," he added. "According to U.S. government estimates, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and about 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors."

The State Department's report classifies 164 countries into four categories of compliance with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The worst category, Tier 3, includes nations that are seen as not complying and not making any significant efforts to do so.

A total of 16 states are listed as Tier-3 countries, including Iran, Uzbekistan, and North Korea. Also joining the worst offenders this year are U.S. allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. "It's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress are on Tier 3," Lagon said. "For instance, Saudi Arabia is on Tier 3 for the third year. These are countries in that region that rely extensively on foreign migrant laborers."

Lagon said Tier-3 countries can be sanctioned if they do not take "serious antislavery action" in the next 90 days.

Room For Improvement

Tier-2 states do not fully comply but are seen as making significant efforts to do so, which this year include Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, and Turkey.

Many women are lured abroad and forced into prostitution (AFP file photo)A "Tier-2 Watch List" of nations deserve special attention, usually because of poor antitrafficking records for numerous consecutive years. This year, these countries include Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, too many major countries on the Tier-2 Watch List have ignored this warning year after year," Lagon said. "India, Mexico, and Russia are on the Tier-2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year. Armenia, China, and South Africa are on Tier-2 Watch List for a third consecutive year."

Tier-1 countries are seen as fully complying with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act. In the 2007 report, Tier-1 states include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, and, for the first time, Georgia.

"Georgia's performance is particularly notable, considering it's the only **Tier-1** country in a region struggling to strengthen rule of law," Lagon told reporters on June 12. "Georgia has shown an admirable political commitment to confronting **human trafficking**. Its improvement includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where exploiters turn women and girls into mere commodities with their bodies for sale."

U.S. Judged As Well

As for the United States itself, Lagon said the State Department estimates some 14,500 to 17,500 people per year are trafficked across the U.S. border.

So where does the State Department place the United States on its list? Lagon said the United States is "not perfect," but has not been assigned a tier rating. While the United States is not included in the individual country analyses, he said, the State Department report does contain a summary of the United States' record.

"It is very important that the United States be seen as a partner and that we have a problem at home. We are not just standing with our arms folded, judging others, because this is a transnational problem," Lagon said.

"There's serious trafficking in persons into the United States from East Asia, from Latin America, from Europe, and there's trafficking within the United States," he continued. "And we're ready to be judged because we offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery."

The report says Iraq was in "political transition" during the reporting period and was not included.

Turkmenistan also is not listed because it says available information was insufficient to substantiate a significant number of victims in the country.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

224 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

INDONESIA RECEIVES 'TIER 2' RANKING IN NEW U.S. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 642 words

DATELINE: JAKARTA, Indonesia

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

Indonesia was classified as **Tier 2** in the 2007 U.S. Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, released in Washington, D.C. on June 12, marking an improvement over Indonesia's **Tier 2 Watch List** in 2006.

"The 2007 TIP Report for Indonesia credits Indonesia for passing a strong anti-trafficking law, for improvement in law enforcement and for continued good efforts to raise public awareness of the issue," said U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires John Heffern, adding, "However, the report also notes the great magnitude of the trafficking problem in Indonesia and some difficult issues which still need to be overcome, including trafficking-related complicity by public officials and the need to provide greater protection to migrant workers at risk of trafficking."

"The fact that Indonesia's status has improved from **Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2** is testimony to the political will by the Indonesian government to fight **human trafficking**," Heffern explained. "The U.S. Government will continue to support Indonesia by funding programs to help Indonesia to prevent trafficking, rescue victims, and in law enforcement efforts."

The U.S. Government has provided over \$20US million dollars over the past four years to assist Indonesia to fight trafficking.

The TIP Report noted, "The Government of Indonesia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. In April 2007, Indonesia's President signed into law a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill that provides law enforcement authorities the power to investigate all forms of trafficking. The new law incorporates all major elements suggested by civil society and the international community, including definitions of debt bondage, labor exploitation, sexual exploitation, and transnational and internal trafficking. Success will depend on the political will of senior law enforcement officials to use the law and on the quick drafting of the law's implementing regulations."

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as amended, requires the Secretary of State to submit this TIP Report by June 1 of each year. The goal of this report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1.

The text of the TVPA and amendments can be found on website www.state.gov/g/tip. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

The TVPA also requires the Secretary of State to provide a "Special Watch List" to Congress later in the year. Anti-trafficking efforts of the countries on this list are to be evaluated again in an Interim Assessment that the Secretary of State must provide to Congress by February 1 of each year.

In addition to tracking countries that move up in "tier" ratings -- from 3 to 2 or from 2 to 1 -- the Special Watch List also effectively established a new, fourth tier -- Tier Two Watch List. This tier consists of Tier Two countries determined: (1) not to have made "increasing efforts" over the past year; (2) to have avoided Tier 3 status based on commitments of anti-trafficking reforms over the next year, or (3) to have a very significant number of trafficking victims or a significantly increasing victim population.

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225 of 445 DOCUMENTS



UPI

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 7:57 AM EST

U.S. allies may see sanctions over slavery

LENGTH: 177 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 13

The Bush administration has 16 countries, including six Muslim allies, on its latest **blacklist** for policy on **human trafficking** and the slave trade.

In a 236-page report issued Tuesday in Washington by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the administration ranked 164 countries on their performance in combating human trafficking but didn't include its own performance in the review.

Allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar for the first time were given the worst ranking, known as Tier 3, along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia. Saudi Arabia appeared on the Tier 3 list for the third straight year.

The other worst offenders were identified as Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

The countries could face sanctions after a three-month grace period when U.S. President George Bush reviews them individually, the State Department said.

Rice said major improvements had been seen in the seventh annual review in countries such as Georgia, Hungary Slovenia, Israel, Taiwan, Indonesia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Jamaica.

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226 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 7:02 AM EST

INDONESIA RECEIVES 'TIER 2' RANKING IN NEW U.S. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 642 words

DATELINE: JAKARTA, Indonesia

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227 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 2:50 AM EST

NEW ZEALAND 'DEMONSTRATES SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING'

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 471 words

DATELINE: WELLINGTON, New Zealand

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

An U.S. Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** Report has given New Zealand a **Tier 1** placing and has acknowledged the New Zealand government's sustained efforts to prevent trafficking. (See attached background on tier levels.) "We hope that the report will prove helpful to everyone working to stop the sexual exploitation of women and children-that is what is designed to accomplish. The report uses assessments of individual nations to illustrate the all-pervasive nature of this global problem," said U.S. Ambassador Bill McCormick.

The narrative of this year's report notes that the New Zealand Government is putting in place a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons in general and any trafficking of women and children that may occur in New Zealand's decriminalized sex trade in particular.

"We are looking forward to the public discourse about this issue as the New Zealand Government's action plan is rolled out. The report recognizes the importance of the plan to building public understanding and support for the investigative, prevention, and enforcement activities of the government," said Ambassador McCormick.

The report also acknowledges the New Zealand Government's substantial support for organizations working with vulnerable populations, including organizations that work with potential trafficking victims.

For example, it welcomes New Zealand's active participation in many regional and international efforts to prevent, monitor, and control trafficking, including funding protection programs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and the UN Inter-Agency Project (UNIAP) on trafficking in the Mekong sub-region.

"This is a global problem and the only way any of us can make progress is by all of us working together- governments, NGOs and the general public all have a valuable role to play," added the Ambassador.

The entire Trafficking in Persons Report will be available on-line at www.state.gov/g/tip shortly after the Secretary Rice's June 12 release.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit this Report each year.

Countries evaluated in this Report are assigned to one of three tiers.

Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking, nor making significant efforts to do so, are classified as Tier 3.

Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2.

Countries assessed as meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking are classified as Tier 1.

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228 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 1:25 AM EST

NIGERIA REMAINS IN TIER TWO RATING BUT CITED ON EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 319 words

DATELINE: ABUJA, Nigeria

The U.S. Diplomatic Mission issued the following press release:

The Sixth annual Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report was released on Tuesday, June 12. Nigeria is categorized in the report as **Tier 2**, the same as in 2006. The report said Nigeria is making significant efforts, but does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The report also observed that the Nigerian Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) continued to host quarterly trafficking stakeholder forums for government, NGO, international organization and donor representatives.

The report also disclosed that the Government of Nigeria demonstrated solid efforts to raise awareness about trafficking during the reporting period, but to improve its response to trafficking, Nigeria should: increase convictions of trafficking offenders; provide improved care for trafficking victims; offer expanded legal alternatives to the removal of foreign victims to countries where they face hardship or retribution; and ensure that the rights of foreign victims are respected.

In 2006, Nigeria developed a national action plan against trafficking, which awaits presidential approval. Follow this link for the full report: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

Nigeria's Esohe Aghatise, Founding Director, Iroko Association was mentioned in the U.S. Department of State's 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report as among the heroes trying to end modern day slavery. Activist Esohe Aghatise's NGO provides assistance to women and girls trafficked to Italy from Nigeria. The Iroko Association provides transitional housing and child care, counseling; legal advocacy, immigration and economic assistance, vocational training and employment placement for women and girls trafficked and prosecuted in Italy. Read Full story: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82801.htm>.

LOAD-DATE: July 8, 2007

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

229 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 13, 2007 Wednesday 12:55 AM GMT

U.S. adds 7 nations, including Mideast allies, to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 977 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration has put some crucial Middle East allies on its blacklist of countries that have not stopped trafficking in people, what the administration describes as the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

Countries on the list are subject to sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of 800,000 people, 80 percent of them female and up to half children, across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade in the latest listing, published Tuesday, were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Sixteen states in all four more than in 2006 were given so-called "Tier 3" status in the 236-page survey of global efforts to combat trafficking in people, many of whom are seeking to escape poverty in Eastern Europe or South and Southeast Asia and are sold into the commercial sex trade, manual labor or mistreated as domestics.

Despite seven additions this year, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "more and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice and to say that freedom and security are nonnegotiable demands of human dignity, and to say ... 'No one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave,'" she told reporters.

Countries with "Tier 3" ranking "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

Three countries that had been placed on "Tier 3" in 2006 Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were promoted to "Tier 2" this year for improving their records, according to the report. "Tier 2" countries are those that do not fully comply with minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

The recognition is rare U.S. praise for Zimbabwe, long singled out by Washington for harsh criticism on its overall human rights record, a point noted by Rice's specialist on the trafficking issue, Mark Lagon.

"Our relationship with the government is in a very critical state on other grounds, but the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding, Zimbabwe has actually taken some tangible steps," he said.

Still, such lobbying has had far from a universal effect.

The seven newcomers to "Tier 3" were all demoted from "Tier 2 watch list" status, which now includes 32 countries, including India, Mexico and Russia, that have been cited for poor anti-trafficking records for numerous consecutive years.

Some in Congress lamented that some nations on the watch list have not been demoted to "Tier 3."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency a creeping complacency to park offending countries in the watch list rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms," said New Jersey Republican Rep. Chris Smith.

But Lagon denied the charge.

"The 'Tier 2 watch list' is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil," Lagon said, describing India as "the world's largest democracy (with) the world's largest problem."

Most of this year's additions to "Tier 3" are Muslim or predominantly Muslim nations, many of which have the means to enforce foreign workers' rights and anti-trafficking laws.

"It is especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East ... are on 'Tier 3'," Lagon said.

Bahrain, the Persian Gulf home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, was cited for failing to crack down on human traffickers who are bringing in men, women and children for forced labor or commercial sex work, the report says.

"Bahrain made no discernible progress in preventing trafficking this year," it said, noting that laws aimed at protecting foreign workers, largely from South and Southeast Asia, are not enforced and that authorities are not seriously investigating alleged widespread abuse.

Oil-rich Kuwait "made modest progress in preventing trafficking in persons this year," the report said, but added that "Kuwaiti efforts to improve its protection of victims of human trafficking had little effect."

Oman was cited for not applying and enforcing existing laws against human trafficking as well as failing to distribute pamphlets aimed at educating foreign workers about their rights, it said.

Qatar, long accused by the United States of ignoring the plight of child camel jockeys, was demoted to "**Tier 3**" for not enacting legislation to outlaw all forms of **human trafficking** and for producing only two convictions among numerous cases of alleged abuse of domestic servants, according to the report.

The complete list of "Tier 3" countries in this year's report: Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela are regularly accused by Washington of failing to protect human rights and are often cited in State Department reports for their lack of respect for press and religious freedoms.

But Malaysia made its first appearance on "Tier 3" for its failure to protect and identify victims of trafficking, many of them Indonesian domestics.

The report noted with approval Vietnam's high-profile arrest, prosecution and conviction last year of British glam rock star Gary Glitter on charges of committing sexual acts with two underage girls.

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230 of 445 DOCUMENTS

AFX International Focus

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 3:28 PM GMT

US puts Middle East allies on human trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 331 words

WASHINGTON (Thomson Financial) - The US' Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as Malaysia were added today to a Washington blacklist of countries trafficking in people, the State Department said.

Algeria and Guinea were the other additions to the **blacklist** of the State Department's annual '**Trafficking in Persons Report**,' which analysed efforts in about 150 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

The seven countries, all of which were on a special **watch list** last year, join Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela in the dreaded '**Tier 3**' list as the worst offenders in **human trafficking**.

Being on the blacklist, they could face sanctions, including withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Countries that receive no such foreign assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for participation by government officials in educational and cultural exchange programs.

'Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our day,' Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in the 236-page report.

'Together with our allies and friends, we will continue our efforts to bring this cruel practice to an end,' she said.

US government research shows 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, about 80 pct of them women and girls and up to half of them minors, the State Department said.

The majority of victims are females trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, it said.

Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were removed from the blacklist this year.

Singapore, which had been in the Tier 1 list, was relegated to Tier 2 this year.

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AFX - Asia

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233 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 10:29 PM GMT

US lumps Middle East allies on **human trafficking blacklist**

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran

LENGTH: 648 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 12 2007

US Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as Malaysia were added Tuesday to a Washington blacklist of countries trafficking in people, the State Department said.

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Launching the 236-page report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cited "disturbing evidence" that prosecution of human trafficking cases had levelled off across the globe.

In countries with major human trafficking problems, "only a couple" of traffickers were brought to justice, she said. "This cannot and must not be tolerated."

"Human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable members of society -- most often innocent women and children, exploiting and abusing them and profiting from their suffering," she said.

US government research shows 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, about 80 percent of them women and girls and up to half minors, the State Department said.

The majority of transnational victims are females trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, it said.

The wealthy Middle East nations added to the blacklist this year were largely accused of mistreating foreign workers, which they heavily rely on.

"It is especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking resources to make significant progress are on **Tier 3**, for example Saudi Arabia for the third consecutive year," said Mark Lagon, Rice's senior advisor on the **human trafficking** problem.

He said weak foreign workers' sponsorship laws in these countries made the guests "vulnerable" to abuse in both private homes and worksites. Some of the victims who reported their abuse were instead "held hostage," sometimes for years, in police centers.

A key trend in trafficking cases, especially those linked to labor and sexual exploitation, is illegal debt, investigations show.

It is "increasingly used to keep people in servitude," Lagon said. "This debt is used by traffickers as an instrument of coercion."

He dismissed suggestions that politics played a part in categorizing nations facing trafficking problems, citing Zimbabwe, which has a blemished human rights record, as an example.

"The facts are that through our prodding, Zimbabwe has taken some tangible steps (to contain **human trafficking**) and moved up from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2**," Lagon said.

India, which has the world's worst **human trafficking** problem and been on a **watchlist** for the fourth consecutive year with Russia and Mexico, received a specific warning by the State Department that it could be relegated further to the **blacklist** if it failed to contain the problem.

"The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking," Lagon said, warning the Indian government that "reassessment is a distinct possibility."

China, Armenia and South Africa were on the watchlist for the third consecutive year.

Singapore, which had been in the Tier 1 list, was relegated to Tier 2 this year.

Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Taiwan, Peru and Jamaica made "significant efforts" to combat the trafficking problem and have been removed from the watchlist, officials said.

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234 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 2:04 PM GMT

US lumps Middle East allies in **human trafficking blacklist**

LENGTH: 281 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 12 2007

US Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as Malaysia were added Tuesday to a Washington blacklist of countries trafficking in people, the State Department said.

Algeria and Guinea were the other additions to the **blacklist** of the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**," which analyzed efforts in about 150 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

The seven countries, all of whom were on a special **watch list** last year, join Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela in the dreaded "**Tier 3**" list as the worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

Being in the blacklist, they could face sanctions, including withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Countries that receive no such foreign assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for participation by government officials in educational and cultural exchange programs.

"Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our day," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in the 236-page report.

"Together with our allies and friends, we will continue our efforts to bring this cruel practice to an end," she said.

US government research shows 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, about 80 percent of them women and girls and up to half minors, the State Department said.

The majority of transnational victims are females trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, it said.

Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were removed from the blacklist this year.

Singapore, which had been in the Tier 1 list, was relegated to Tier 2 this year.

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235 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 8:08 PM GMT

U.S. adds 7 nations, including Mideast allies, to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 970 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist** for failing to halt what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

Countries on the list are subject to sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of some 800,000 people, 80 percent of them female and up to half of them children, across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Sixteen states in all four more than in 2006 were given so-called "Tier 3" status in the 236-page survey of global efforts to combat trafficking in people, many of whom are seeking to escape poverty in Eastern Europe, South and Southeast Asia and are sold into the commercial sex trade, manual labor or mistreated as domestics.

Despite the additions, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "more and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice and to say that freedom and security are nonnegotiable demands of human dignity, and to say ... 'No one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave,'" she told reporters.

Countries with "Tier 3" ranking "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

Three countries that had been placed on "Tier 3" in 2006 Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were promoted to "Tier 2" this year for improving their records, according to the report. "Tier 2" countries are those that do not fully comply with minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

The recognition is rare U.S. praise for Zimbabwe, long singled out by Washington for harsh criticism on its overall human rights record, a point noted by Rice's pointman on the trafficking issue, Mark Lagon.

"Our relationship with the government is in a very critical state on other grounds but the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding, Zimbabwe has actually taken some tangible steps," he said.

Still, such lobbying has had far from a universal effect.

The seven newcomers to "Tier 3" were all demoted from "Tier 2 watchlist" status, which now covers 32 countries, including India, Mexico and Russia, that have been cited for poor anti-trafficking records for numerous consecutive years.

Some in Congress lamented that some nations on the watchlist have not been demoted to "Tier 3."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency a creeping complacency to park offending countries in the watchlist rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms," said New Jersey Republican Rep. Chris Smith.

But Lagon denied the charge.

"The 'Tier 2 watchlist' is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil," Lagon said, describing India as "the world's largest democracy (with) the world's largest problem."

Most of this year's additions to "Tier 3" are Muslim or predominantly Muslim nations, many of which have the means to enforce foreign workers' rights and anti-trafficking laws.

"It is especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East ... are on 'Tier 3'," Lagon said.

Bahrain, the Persian Gulf home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, was cited for failing to crack down on human traffickers who are bringing in men, women and children for forced labor or commercial sex work, the report says.

"Bahrain made no discernible progress in preventing trafficking this year," it said, noting that laws aimed at protecting foreign workers, largely from South and Southeast Asia, are not enforced and that authorities are not seriously investigating alleged widespread abuse.

Oil-rich Kuwait "made modest progress in preventing trafficking in persons this year," the report said, but added that "Kuwaiti efforts to improve its protection of victims of human trafficking had little effect."

Oman was cited for not applying and enforcing existing laws against human trafficking as well failing to distribute pamphlets aimed at educating foreign workers about their rights, it said.

Qatar, long accused by the United States of ignoring the plight of child camel jockeys, was demoted to "**Tier 3**" for not enacting legislation to outlaw all forms of **human trafficking** and for producing only two convictions among numerous cases of alleged abuse of domestic servants, according to the report.

The complete list of "Tier 3" countries in this year's report: Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela are regularly accused by Washington of failing to protect human rights and are often cited in State Department reports for their lack of respect for press and religious freedoms.

But Malaysia made its first appearance on "Tier 3" for its failure to protect and identify victims of trafficking, many of them Indonesian domestics.

The report noted with approval Vietnam's high-profile arrest, prosecution and conviction last year of British glam rock star Gary Glitter on charges of committing sexual acts with two underage girls.

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236 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Associated Press

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 10:42 PM GMT

India left off U.S. blacklist despite 'world's largest problem of human trafficking'

SECTION: BUSINESS NEWS**LENGTH:** 259 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The United States says that India has the world's largest human trafficking problem.

For the fourth consecutive year, India was warned that it could be added to a blacklist of countries deemed not meeting minimum standards in fighting what the U.S. called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

The report put India and 31 other countries on its "Tier 2 watch list" status, warning that without improvements it could be demoted to a "Tier 3," making it subject to sanctions.

The report cited estimates that tens of millions of Indians were subjected to forced labor and said sex trafficking also continues to be common.

"The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking," said the department's specialist on the trafficking issue, Mark Lagon.

The report said India had taken some steps to deal with sex trafficking, but the government failed to take any significant action against bonded labor. Following the release, the State Department came under criticism for failing to blacklist India for persistently landing on the watch list.

"The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking," said Republican Rep. Chris Smith. "Yet India remains on the watch list instead of being on Tier 3."

Lagon acknowledged that the broader relationship with the U.S. ally was taken into account.

"I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries any time we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking," he said.

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238 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

US State Department report "raises concerns" over North Korean migrant workers

LENGTH: 274 words

Text of report in English by South Korean news agency Yonhap

["US Report Raises Concerns About NK Workers Hired Abroad" - Yonhap headline]

WASHINGTON, June 12 (Yonhap) - An annual US report on human trafficking released Tuesday again raised concerns that North Koreans sent to work overseas are subject to harsh conditions and deprived of basic freedoms.

On South Korea, the US pressed the government to better regulate marriage brokers who match foreign women with Korean husbands.

Entitled "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2007," the US State Department-issued report categorizes countries between **Tier** 1, meaning governments that fully comply with minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, and **Tier** 3, for governments who refuse to do so.

South Korea was placed in Tier 1, and North Korea in Tier 3.

The report pointed to a "less common form of trafficking" in North Korea, where women and girls are being lured out of the country by the promise of jobs and freedom.

But the victims are forced into prostitution, marriage, or exploitive labour arrangements once they are in China, which shares North Korea's border, it said.

The North Korean government recruits its citizens to work overseas at foreign firms, and while there is no evidence of force or fraud in the recruitment process, reports indicate that some of them are put into harsh conditions, it said.

Russia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Libya, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, Angola, Mongolia, Kuwait, Yemen, Iraq and China are believed to be hiring North Korean workers under contract with Pyongyang, according to the report.

Source: Yonhap news agency, Seoul, in English 1508 gmt 12 Jun 07

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239 of 445 DOCUMENTS

CQ Federal Department and Agency Documents
REGULATORY INTELLIGENCE DATA

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

RELEASE OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT**LENGTH:** 4981 words**CONTACT:** 202-647-2492

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you, Secretary Rice, and good morning. I'd like to offer an overview of what's in the report and then after a few minutes, welcome your questions. It's an honor to succeed Ambassador John Miller as director of an extraordinary office dedicated to ending a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. Human trafficking or trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery.

At the heart of U.S. efforts to end human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity. Every day, all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold in prostitution, exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories, and captured to serve unlawfully as child soldiers. Estimates of the number vary widely. According to U.S. Government estimates, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and about 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors.

And these figures do not include millions who are trafficked into labor and sexual slavery within national borders. Stomach-wrenching individual stories, however, tell more than the aggregate numbers and these are the people who motivate everyone active in the movement to abolish human trafficking.

Let me tell you about one victim. At age 22, Ko Maung left Burma with his new bride to find work in a neighboring country. He took a job on a fishing boat for two years because he was promised good money, \$70 per month. But that boat stayed at sea for three years and the workers were fed only fish and rice. Not getting enough vitamins, they began to starve. They were denied medical care or passage home. The good job turned out to be a floating death camp. One by one, the men began to perish, including Ko Maung. His body was dumped overboard. So were the exhausted, malnourished bodies of 29 other modern-day slaves.

60 fishermen who survived weren't paid at all. Police refused to prosecute the employer since there are no bodies to prove a crime. In a climate of official indifference with forced labor violations typically not criminalized, desperate, migrant laborers are especially vulnerable to forced fraud and coercion, the fundamental markers of human trafficking. This seventh annual Trafficking In Persons report is dedicated to Ko Maung and to his grieving family.

The structure of the report and the purpose are focused largely on drawing the world's attention on the existence of modern-day slavery and the desperate need to eliminate it in the same way that the world ended the African slave trade more than a century ago. Human trafficking plagues every country in one way or another, including the United States. The report covers 164 countries and territories, comprising some 85 percent of the world. It ranks 151 countries and territories where there have been some 100 cases of human trafficking that were documented. It spells out what countries are doing on prosecution, prevention and protection and what more can be done together between the United States and other countries on all three fronts.

The U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations. The process of diplomatic engagement bilaterally to mitigate the problems documented in the report goes on throughout the year, not just in this season that I'm talking to you now. Our sources of information for this report include U.S. Embassies, NGOs worldwide, brave activists fighting human trafficking, foreign law enforcement officers and staff visits. Extensive analysis based on criteria laid out by Congress in the law goes into the assignment of countries into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3.

A country falls into **Tier 3** if its government is not making a significant effort to combat **human trafficking**. A Tier 3 country can be sanctioned if it doesn't take seriously antislavery action in the next 90 days. Sadly, this year the list of countries on Tier 3 has grown to -- due to a lack of effort by these governments to combat this serious transnational crime. There are a total of 16 countries on Tier 3, seven of which dropped down to Tier 3 this year: Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

It's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress are on Tier 3. For instance, Saudi Arabia is on Tier 3 for the third year. These are countries in that region that rely extensively on foreign migrant laborers. Practices such as sponsorship laws create conditions that make guest workers especially vulnerable to trafficking in the region.

Sponsorship laws give employers extensive personal authority over workers, allowing them to control movement and legal status. These -- there are cases of workers escaping abuse in private homes or work sites. They flee to local police. But if their sponsor denies them an exit permit to leave the country, the exploited workers are effectively held hostage in a shelter or a police detention center, sometimes for years. The power given to sponsors over foreign workers should be limited and counterbalanced with rights for workers to seek legal redress and governments in destination countries should be more active in protecting workers.

Now 32 countries are on the Tier 2 Watch List, the same number as last year. The Tier 2 Watch List should be a warning. Unfortunately, too many major countries on the Tier 2 Watch List have ignored this warning year after year. India, Mexico, and Russia are on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year. Armenia, China, and South Africa are on Tier 2 Watch List for a third consecutive year. For all Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, the United States outlines a short-term action plan through which to spur bilateral commitment and specific steps to improve the situation. Tier 2 Watch List is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil. We stand ready to cooperate with these nations and support any efforts they make to end this travesty within their borders.

On a positive note, 10 governments ranked on Tier 2 Watch List last September when the President made final determinations on tier status moved up to Tier 2 on this report: Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Taiwan, Peru, Jamaica, they're among these moving up to Tier 2 based on significant new efforts. Belize moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in one year. The Government of Brazil renewed its commitment to confronting slave labor in the Amazon with a number of new measures. The Government of Indonesia enacted a sweeping counter-trafficking law providing protection for all victims including migrant laborers who are fraudulently recruited from overseas work, but fall into trafficking as a trap.

Last week, a raid in Taiwan, a real success story, demonstrated a welcome new attitude. Working closely with U.S. law enforcement, Taiwan broke up a cross-border trafficking ring, arresting 12 people suspected of trafficking women to the United States and other countries where they were exploited in prostitution and pornography. Countries that have established credentials in good governments and rule of law are more likely to move quickly in protecting victims of trafficking and handing down justice to exploiters.

For example, while China resisted joining the international community in upholding universal anti-trafficking standards, given a lack of rule of law, Taiwan's vibrant civil society and democratic character have helped it adopt significant reforms over the past year. On Tier 1, three countries appear for the first time this year: Georgia, Hungary, and Slovenia. Georgia's performance is particularly notable, considering it's the only Tier 1 country in a region struggling to strengthen rule of law. Georgia has shown an admirable political commitment to confronting human trafficking. Its improvement includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where exploiters turn women and girls into mere commodities with their bodies for sale.

Young girls and unsuspecting women are often lured or kidnapped or sold into an omnivorous sex industry. The length between prostitution and sex trafficking is indisputable. That's why we must move with more creativity and commitment to deal with the demand for victims. Prostitution is not a victimless crime. It ruins lives from Mexico to Malta, from Tel Aviv to Tokyo, from Albany, New York to Abuja, Nigeria. Sexual servitude is particularly grotesque in human trafficking. The report is interspersed with stories of survivors who have been aided by U.S. programs that demonstrate our commitment to rescue and rehabilitate innocent victims.

Let me tell you briefly about some trends that we see highlighted in the 2007 report. Use of debt, first of all, as a tool of coercion and secondly, stalled progress in strengthening rule of law. First, in both labor and sexual exploitation, illegal or illegitimate debt is increasingly used to keep people in servitude. This debt is used by traffickers as an instrument of

coercion. How does this work? People are enticed into fraudulent offers of work abroad that require a steep payment up front for the services of a labor agency arranging the job or a payment that goes straight to the future employer.

To pay the fee, workers often borrow money from relatives and friends or they mortgage property. Sometimes, additional debt is added at the place of employment: inflated fees for supposed costs of room and board or equipment. Sometimes, new, unexpected transportation fees are added. The debt becomes exorbitant on purpose, yet workers are trapped into trying to pay it off for years. This debt is as effective as overt force in keeping them in bondage, yet it's invisible and often overlooked by criminal investigators. In trafficking for prostitution, we're increasingly aware of debt being used to coerce and control victims. Daily fees charged by brothel owners for rent, food, drugs, even condoms create an inescapable financial burden that amounts to debt bondage, a form of human trafficking.

A second trend, second theme; the 2007 TIP report reflects our overall sense that progress on the critical front of rule of law appears to have stalled. Democracy and rule of law are crucial to fighting human trafficking. And fighting trafficking conversely is crucial to the future of democracy worldwide, since trafficking is one of the most brutal ways to silence women, half of humankind worldwide. This lack of progress on rule of law can be traced to official corruption and complicity on the one hand and indifference on the other. These passive and active factors perpetuate abuse despite increased public awareness and despite extraordinary bravery on the part of activists and NGOs around the world.

It hurts my heart to share with you this very recent example that typifies the confluence of officials' complicity in trafficking and indifference in the face of heroism to end modern-day slavery. One of the heroes highlighted in this year's report, Kailash Satyarthi of the Indian NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan or BBA, prompted the rescue of 92 Bengali children enslaved in goldsmith and jewelry factories in India's capital city of New Delhi. The children were forced to eat, sleep, and labor in workshops, 10 to a room. Dangerous chemicals were used for making gold ornaments in the same rooms that they were kept 24 hours a day. Most of the children were under the age of 14. According to the children, many were physically and sexually abused.

Just days after this rescue which didn't result in any arrests in India, the factory owners, managers, and their thugs showed up at BBA's shelter with iron rods, sticks, and bricks. They tried to recapture the children. Shelter staff were injured. When police finally responded, no one was arrested. The connections and clout of these traffickers were enough, apparently, to thwart justice. India has the world's largest labor trafficking problem with hundreds of thousands of sex trafficking victims and millions of bonded laborers including forced child laborers. In India, there is no national anti-trafficking effort, no recognition of bonded labor on an official level, and poor efforts against sex trafficking. The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking.

The goal of this report is not to punish. It's to stimulate government action in concert with the United States to end modern-day slavery and to celebrate the heroism of those who are working to help spare victims from pain. The report identifies anti-trafficking heroes from around the world and commendable practices. Individuals and local initiatives can make a difference in leading path-breaking efforts to protect victims, increase global awareness, and protect and prosecute criminals. On pages 38-41 of the report, you see some of these inspirational examples, and I'd urge you to read that part of the report carefully.

The United States is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities and to fight against trafficking in persons within our own borders as well. We have a problem at home which we're confronting forcefully, and we're working to be a partner to those abroad, including through substantial and frankly compassionate funding. In fiscal year 2006, we contributed more than \$74 million abroad, funding 154 international projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States Government has funded more than \$448 million to fight human trafficking.

This report is not just an assessment and a judgment about nations, but a blueprint about the sorts of things the United States can help other countries do programmatically. Modern slavery has met with a powerful movement, seeking its abolition in the 21st century, assuming the mantles of William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler.

I want to thank you for your support. Thank you for joining us here; taking the time. By broadcasting this tragic but true story of trafficking in persons, you help prevent a widespread crime against human dignity and help give victims hope for escape. I welcome your questions and I'd ask you when you ask a question, to identify yourself and your media organization.

QUESTION: Anne Gearan from the Associated Press. You mentioned repeat offenders, Saudi Arabia and India, also strategic U.S. allies. Do you think those countries regard their positions with the United States as inviolable, and thus they don't have to take you seriously?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: They shouldn't. We make clear in our high-level dialogues with them that this isn't a tertiary or secondary issue. I was just speaking with the Secretary this morning about how we talked to some of these important partners of ours on some fronts and make sure that we engage in them in diplomacy so that there isn't just a burst of activity after this report comes out on my part, but in fact a regular dialogue through the year with those countries.

Of course, in the case of some that you mention, the problem of trafficking in persons is part of a larger problem of rule of law and a pattern of certain ethnic groups and foreign workers being seen as less than human. This is the crux of the human trafficking problem. When someone -- a woman, a child, someone from another ethnic group or cast -- is seen as not worthy of concern -- they're only a foreign worker, they're only a woman -- that's a horrifying situation. And as part of a larger effort with these countries, we're trying to affect change.

Elise.

QUESTION: Elise Labott with CNN. Just to follow-up on the case of India that's been on the Tier 2 Watch List for four years, could you talk about the decision not to put India on the list this year? It's a quite extensive description of the problem, and you yourself just detailed horrible conditions for up to 65 million bonded laborers in India.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Like many countries that are on the **Tier 2 Watch List**, there is a very severe problem with **human trafficking** in India. The more time we spend on this report in modesty, the more we learn about problems of labor trafficking, of bonded labor. And in this report we see reflected more and more detail about an endemic problem in India. We need to engage in a very serious dialogue with India, with them having the sense that they will be reassessed about their tier level and how their record is changing, like all Tier 2 Watch List countries. That includes an offer of partnership because two serious democracies who have a developing alliance. The relationship, the level of communication between our two governments is such that it can stand some serious frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking. And we're going to lay out working with them, a kind of action plan for steps forward on this before the reassessment.

QUESTION: If I can just follow up.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Sure.

QUESTION: Haven't you already done that in the case of India? I mean, haven't you already had an action plan for them and --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: We have. And what's required is that in the context of our overall diplomacy with them, talking about all sorts of serious issues, great power of politics, counterterrorism, civilian nuclear cooperation and so on, that this has to have high level emphasis as well as a serious problem, but in modesty. You know, the United States is not only in a position to point fingers. We need to say we had our legacy of slavery, we had our legacy of segregation, we had our legacy of discrimination. Serious democracies have evolved, but we need to ramp up that effort. With a serious sense on the part of the Indian Government that, you know, reassessment is a distinct possibility.

QUESTION: It's not something that was a political determination.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: No. Look, there are many different variables that are taken into account in everything we do at the State Department. I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries any time we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking. But look at the report -- Zimbabwe, it has a situation on political opposition being repressed and our relationship with the government in a very critical state on other grounds. But the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding Zimbabwe has taken some tangible steps and it's actually moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2. So there are, you know, efforts, very strong efforts to make an objective assessment based on criteria laid out in the law and I played a small part in the passage of the law in the year 2000 and so I know a little bit about those criteria.

QUESTION: Arshad Mohammed with Reuters. You've pointed out that a number of the new countries in Tier 3 are relatively wealthy near eastern countries, significant oil exporters that do not lack for resources. There are also a number of them U.S. allies -- Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Algeria. What, to your mind, explains the fact that these countries which were not previously in this lowest category of not even meeting the minimal standards should have slid down this year? And secondly, on Saudi Arabia, it is clearly not very sensitive to the kinds of sanctions that could be imposed in terms of the withholding of certain U.S. assistance or withholding of U.S. support in the international financial institutions. And given that it's been in the lowest category for three years in a row, it's not been too sensitive to the shame factor of being exposed through the report.

Do you wish you had -- and I know you've only been at this a little while, but do you wish you had stronger statutory tools to try to influence behavior, one; and two, can you think of anything else you can do to try to get countries that have been serially in the lowest category to do more?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: That's a great question. I'd say on balance that the tools provided by the Trafficking and Victims Protection Act and our friends on Capitol Hill are quite good. This is a unique example of the human rights reports that we have in different areas generally on countries, the ones on religious freedom and so on, because the tier ranking is much more refined. It's associated with producing action plans for the two lowest rungs for steps that need to be taken, potential sanctions, grace periods for nations to take steps so that they might be either boosted up the scale of tiers or find themselves sliding down. So on balance, it's actually one of the more refined tools that's been given to us in terms of sanctions and reports.

In fact, now for the third time the legislation is going to be reauthorized this year, and I think Capitol Hill will think about refinements, you know, of such things, including, you know, how long states can stay on the Tier Two Watch List among other things.

As far as the region, what we found as a general pattern in this report is an endemic problem of the way foreign workers are treated in the Persian Gulf, in Middle Eastern states. There is a recruitment pattern of people, unsuspecting people who are offered jobs as secretaries, as maids; they end up being sex slaves or put into domestic servitude in an involuntary way. That's seen throughout the region and it seems to be an increasingly acute problem.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes. Charlie Wolfson from CBS. You mentioned the figure of 800,000 worldwide as an estimate. Do you have an estimate of the number of people trafficked across the U.S. border?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Well, an estimate that we work off is approximately 14,500 to 17,500 per year. I'll say something about statistics. We wish we had better statistics. It would be helpful to know how much of a dent in the problem we're making. But I do think that with the resources that we have to fight the traffickers, to help the victims, we want to make sure that we don't spend a great deal of money on the statistical study when some of those resources could be used to build a victims shelter or to train law enforcement officers in other countries or figure out how to prevent officials in other countries from deciding to get their palms greased in corruption and allow trafficking to occur.

QUESTION: Hi. I'm Libby Leist from NBC. I wanted to ask about Iraq and can you talk a little bit about why it's designated a special case? And also how concerned are you about forced labor inside that country, including at facilities run by the U.S. or projects being built by the United States?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: A serious question and one that we're very seized with. I mean, there are a number of cases in the report that are designated as special cases. They tend to be either a case in which the requisite number of cases of trafficking, 100 cases, haven't been easy to document. And so the government in question isn't rated or it's a case of a government that is facing enormous turbulence, like Liberia last year, Haiti at times. And you know, let's speak the truth about Iraq, there is a very turbulent situation with strife among ethnic groups and caused by terrorists.

While we're pleased that democratic elections have taken place and that rule of law is being slowly rooted into place, you know, it's the conclusion of the U.S. Government that it's -- you know, it should be a special case in terms of rating it. We however are very serious about talking about the problem of trafficking in Iraq.

In a situation in which there is a conflict, open-armed conflict, this is a place where people can be vulnerable. And so when you talk about the actual possibility of trafficking in persons, I'd like to say that, you know, my office has a role I think vested in it by Congress of being a kind of conscience in the U.S. Government about trafficking in persons so that we don't look aside when we have strategic purposes and not look at trafficking in persons.

There were media reports in October of 2005 about questionable labor practices by defense subcontractors. There appeared to be cases of foreign workers who had their passports withheld and were not getting the kind of pay that they'd been promised quickly in February of 2006. And the Defense Department did a study on the ground -- inspector general study -- and shortly thereafter in May 2006 rules were put in place so that only licensed recruiting companies could be used by subcontractors, passports couldn't be taken away and that all workers would be given a signed contract in their own native language and in English.

More recently, there have been allegations about a Kuwaiti company involved in the construction site of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Our office received a number of credible reports in late 2006 and we insisted on the State Department

launching through its Office of the Inspector General an examination of this. And we didn't -- rightly didn't play a part in the writing of that report since the Inspector General is independent. With the help of Defense Department investigators, they've looked into indicators of trafficking, we will continue at the office I lead to ask questions about that.

QUESTION: Is that OIG report --

AMBASSADOR LAGON: I'm sorry.

QUESTION: Is that OIG report public?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: It is. Yeah, it's on the website.

Sir.

QUESTION: Lambros Papanтониου, Greek correspondent. Ambassador Lagon, what Greece and Cyprus should be done ready to transfer to Watch List number 1 like the United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Canada, Australia and some other countries of your choice?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: I'm sorry. What?

QUESTION: What Greece and Cyprus should be done to transfer from the list, number two to one?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: What needs to be done?

QUESTION: Mm-hmm.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The -- in the cases of Greece and Cyprus, they're clearly governments that have substantial rule of law and substantial resources, unlike developing countries. And we intend to continue working with both of them on how to move forward.

As far as Greece goes, its anti-trafficking laws are adequate, but it's -- in particular, its identification of victims of trafficking are rather weak. Shelters are underused. So what we need to do is work on going further and helping Greece actually hold traffickers to account and convict them, and to more systematically identify victims because what we found here at home is that having a victim-centered approach -- so that people are not treated like illegal aliens or criminals, but in fact victims with rights -- as essential.

As far as Cyprus goes, again, there's a pretty strong case that there's capacity on the part of the Government of Cyprus. But there is a big problem of Cyprus being a destination for sex trafficking of Eastern European women. There is a tilt in the anti-trafficking law towards -- focused on sex trafficking but not on death bondage. One thing in the sex trafficking area that would be very helpful is if Cyprus abolished the so-called artiste visa where people come, lured into being dancers -- exotic dancers and you know what that ends up being.

QUESTION: In which category you are placing the United States of America since you told us earlier that is included in this process?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: The United States of America is not perfect, and we haven't assigned it a tier rating. But unlike some other human rights reports, it's actually addressed here. You'll find a summary of the U.S. record along the same lines of what it's doing on protecting victims, preventing trafficking through public awareness and prosecution. Also, annually, the Department of Justice puts out a report on everything that's being done by the United States Government on trafficking in persons. And we in our office try and make sure that the world sees that report.

It is very important that the United States be seen as a partner and that we have a problem at home. We are not just standing with our arms folded, judging others, because this is a transnational problem. There's serious trafficking in persons into the United States from East Asia, from Latin America, from Europe, and there's trafficking within the United States. And we're ready to be judged because we offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery.

MODERATOR: Okay, this will be the last question.

AMBASSADOR LAGON: Okay.

QUESTION: Kirit Radia with ABC News. I had a question about Syria, to follow up on the Iraq question that Libby asked. Your report talks about sexual exploitation of Iraqis in Syria. How many of those does your office believe are refugees?

AMBASSADOR LAGON: I don't know off the top of my head what the number is. I could get back to you on that. We take seriously the problem of Iraqi refugees and the vulnerability that they have. That's one of the reasons why Under Secretary Dobriansky has led an effort and -- Department of State to deal with Iraqi refugees in concert with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. But it is indeed possible that those who have fled from Iraq are vulnerable, and it's the responsibility of not just the United States but the international community to deal with that in Syria. The problem in Syria though is that you have some of these endemic issues of how foreign workers are treated and mistreated, plus a particularly closed and insensitive government.

After this session, let me say that Mark Taylor, who heads the section of our office that prepares this report, and Eleanor Gaetan, who is our Senior Coordinator for Public Affairs, will be on hand to provide background on the report; the level of detail if you want to go into it further afterward. And I'd welcome hearing from you over the next few days and weeks because I'm here to help promote public awareness, not just engage in diplomacy.

Thank you for taking the time with me.

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REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE AT RELEASE OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT FOLLOWED BY A BRIEFING WITH MARK P. LAGON, DIRECTOR, STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; LOCATION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING ROOM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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SEC. RICE: Thank you all for coming. I'd like to thank Ambassador Mark Lagon, who just 12 days ago assumed his duties as director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. And it's my pleasure to be here today to release that report.

Human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable members of society -- most often innocent women and children -- exploiting and abusing them, and profiting from their suffering. The president's dedication to defending human dignity and advancing human freedom worldwide is at the center of our foreign policy, and as a result, we have made combating human trafficking a prominent and deeply felt commitment for the United States government.

In my travels, I have noticed a greater desire by our partners to fight this crime and protect its victims. And across the globe, the United States is building new partnerships to rescue and shelter the victims. We are helping to lead a global movement not just to confront this crime, but to abolish it. More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is -- a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world.

Much of the growing desire to fight this crime is due in no small part to our annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The report's purpose is to raise awareness, to highlight best practices and to inspire governments to take action against trafficking.

I am pleased that this year's report covers more countries than ever before, 164 in total.

When we first began tackling this issue several years ago, the idea of human trafficking was akin to a global family secret. It was known but not often discussed publicly. I am proud that our office, in just a few short years, has brought global attention to this problem. Millions more people know about human trafficking today than when the first report was issued in 2001, and we hope that this greater awareness translates into greater prevention.

Yet despite some successes, there have also been setbacks. You will see disturbing evidence in this report that prosecutions have leveled off everywhere. In some cases, there are countries with major human trafficking problems, but only a couple of traffickers have been brought to justice. This cannot and must not be tolerated.

Despite these serious concerns, much in this year's report should give us hope. For example, Georgia, Hungary, Slovenia and Israel have all made major improvements, as have Taiwan and countries like Indonesia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Jamaica.

Wherever we encounter human trafficking, the United States stands ready to work with our partners around the world to right this wrong. We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice, and to say that freedom and security are non-negotiable demands of human dignity, and to say, as President Bush has, no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave.

Thank you, and now I'll turn the podium over to Mark, our ambassador at large and the director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking in Persons. Mark. And congratulations. Welcome aboard.

MR. LAGON: (Off mike.)

SEC. RICE: Great.

MR. LAGON: It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you, Secretary Rice, and good morning. I'd like to offer an overview of what's in the report and then, after a few minutes, welcome your questions.

It's an honor to succeed Ambassador John Miller as director of an extraordinary office dedicated to ending a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. Human trafficking or trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery.

At the heart of U.S. efforts to end human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity. Every day all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold in prostitution, exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories and captured to serve unlawfully as child soldiers. Estimates of the number vary widely. According to U.S. government estimates, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and about 80 percent of them are female; up to half are minors. And these figures do not include millions who are trafficked into labor and sexual slavery within national borders.

Stomach-wrenching individual stories, however, tell more than the aggregate numbers, and these are the people who motivate everyone active in the movement to abolish human trafficking.

Let me tell you about one victim. At age 22, Koman (ph) left Burma with his new bride to find work in a neighboring country. He took a job on a fishing boat for two years because he was promised good money -- \$70 per month. But that boat stayed at sea for three years, and the workers were fed only fish and rice. Not getting enough vitamins, they began to starve. They were denied medical care or passage home. The good job turned out to be a floating death camp. One by one, the men began to perish, including Koman (ph). His body was dumped overboard; so were the exhausted, malnourished bodies of 29 other modern-day slaves. Sixty fishermen who survived weren't paid at all. Police refused to prosecute the employer since there were no bodies to prove a crime.

In a climate of official indifference, with forced labor violations typically not criminalized, desperate migrant laborers are especially vulnerable to force, fraud and coercion, the fundamental markers of human trafficking. This seventh annual Trafficking in Persons Report is dedicated to Koman (ph) and to his grieving family.

The structure of the report and the purpose are focused largely on drawing the world's attention on the existence of modern-day slavery and the desperate need to eliminate it in the same way that the world ended the African slave trade more than a century ago. Human trafficking plagues every country in one way or another, including the United States.

The report covers 164 countries and territories, comprising some 85 percent of the world. It ranks 151 countries and territories, where there have been some hundred cases of human trafficking that were documented. It spells out what countries are doing on prosecution, prevention and protection, and what more can be done together between the United States and other countries on all three fronts.

The U.S. government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations. The process of diplomatic engagement bilaterally, to mitigate the problems documented in the report, goes on throughout the year, not just in this season that I'm talking to you now. Our sources of information for this report include U.S. embassies, NGOs worldwide, brave activists fighting human trafficking, foreign law enforcement officers and staff visits. Extensive analysis based on criteria laid out by Congress in the law goes into the assignment of countries into tier one, tier two, tier two watch list and tier three.

A country falls into **tier** three if its government is not making a significant effort to combat **human trafficking**. A tier three country can be sanctioned if it doesn't take seriously anti-slavery action in the next 90 days. Sadly, this year the

list of countries on tier three has grown, due to a lack of effort by these governments to combat this serious transnational crime. There are a total of 16 countries on tier three, seven of which drop down to tier three this year -- Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

It's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries, in the Near East, that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress, are on tier three. For instance, Saudi Arabia is on tier three for the third year. These are countries in that region that rely extensively on foreign migrant laborers.

Practices such as sponsorship laws create conditions that make guest workers especially vulnerable to trafficking in the region.

Sponsorship laws give employers extensive personal authority over workers, allowing them to control movement and legal status. There are cases of workers escaping abuse in private homes or work sites; they flee to local police, but if their sponsor denies them an exit permit to leave the country, the exploited worker is effectively held hostage in a shelter or a police detention center, sometimes for years. The power given to sponsors over foreign workers should be limited and counterbalanced with rights for workers to seek legal redress. And governments in destination countries should be more active in protecting workers.

Now, 32 countries are on the Tier 2 Watch List -- the same number as last year. The Tier 2 Watch List should be a warning. Unfortunately, too many major countries on the Tier 2 Watch List have ignored this warning year after year. India, Mexico and Russia are on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year. Armenia, China and South Africa are on Tier 2 Watch List for a third consecutive year.

For all Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, the United States outlines a short-term action plan through which to spur bilateral commitment and specific steps to improve the situation. Tier 2 Watch List is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil. We stand ready to cooperate with these nations and support any efforts they make to end this travesty within their borders.

On a positive note, 10 governments ranked on Tier 2 Watch List last September, when the president made final determinations on tier status, moved up to Tier 2 on this report: Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Taiwan, Peru, Jamaica -- they're among these moving up to Tier 2 based on significant new efforts. Belize moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in one year. The government of Brazil renewed its commitment confronting slave labor in the Amazon with a number of new measures. The government of Indonesia enacted a sweeping counter- trafficking law providing protection for all victims, including migrant laborers who are fraudulently recruited from overseas work but fall into trafficking as a trap.

Last week, a raid in Taiwan -- a real success story -- demonstrated a welcome new attitude. Working closely with U.S. law enforcement, Taiwan broke up a cross-border trafficking ring, arresting 12 people suspected of trafficking women to the United States and other countries where they were exploited in prostitution and pornography.

Countries that have established credentials in good governments and rule of law are more likely to move quickly in protecting victims of trafficking and handing down justice to exploiters. For example, while China resisted joining the international community in upholding universal anti-trafficking standards given a lack of rule of law, Taiwan's vibrant civil society and democratic character have helped it adopt significant reforms over the past year.

On Tier 1, three countries appear for the first time this year -- Georgia, Hungary and Slovenia. Georgia's performance is particularly notable considering it's the only Tier 1 country in a region struggling to strengthen rule of law. Georgia has shown admirable political commitment confronting human trafficking. Its improvement includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade where exploiters turn women and girls into mere commodities with their bodies for sale.

Young girls and unsuspecting women are often lured or kidnapped or sold into an omnivorous sex industry. The link between prostitution and sex trafficking is indisputable. That's why we must move with more creativity and commitment to deal with the demand for victims.

Prostitution is not a victimless crime. It ruins lives from Mexico to Malta, from Tel Aviv to Tokyo, from Albany, New York to Abuja, Nigeria. Sexual servitude is particularly grotesque in human trafficking. The report is interspersed with stories of survivors who've been aided by U.S. programs to demonstrate our commitment to rescue and rehabilitate innocent victims.

Let me tell you briefly about some trends that we see highlighted in the 2007 report. Use of debt, first of all, as a tool of coercion and secondly, stalled progress in strengthening rule of law.

First, in both labor and sexual exploitation, illegal or illegitimate debt is increasingly used to keep people in servitude. This debt is used by traffickers as an instrument of coercion. How does this work? People are enticed into fraudulent offers of work abroad that require a steep payment up front for the services of a labor agency arranging the job or a payment that goes straight to the future employer. To pay the fee, workers often borrow money from relatives and friends or they mortgage property.

Sometimes additional debt is added at the place of employment -- inflated fees, supposed costs of room and board or equipment. Sometimes new unexpected transportation fees are added. The debt becomes exorbitant on purpose; yet workers are trapped into trying to pay it off for years. This debt is as effective as overt force in keeping them in bondage; yet it's invisible and often overlooked by criminal investigators.

In trafficking for prostitution, we're increasingly aware of debt being used to coerce and control victims. Daily fees charged by brothel owners for rent, food, drugs, even condoms, create an inescapable financial burden that amounts to debt bondage, a form of human trafficking.

Second trend, second theme: The 2007 TIP Report reflects our overall sense that progress on the critical front of rule of law appears to have stalled. Democracy and rule of law are crucial to fighting human trafficking, and fighting trafficking, conversely, is crucial to the future of democracy worldwide.

Since trafficking is one of the most brutal ways to silence women, half of humankind, worldwide, this lack of progress on rule of law can be traced to official corruption and complicity, on the one hand, and indifference, on the other. These passive and active factors perpetuate abuse, despite increased public awareness and despite extraordinary bravery on the part of activists and NGOs around the world.

It hurts my heart to share with you this very recent example that typifies the confluence of officials' complicity in trafficking and indifference in the face of heroism to end modern-day slavery. One of the heroes highlighted in this year's report, Kailash Satyarthi of the Indian NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, or BBA, prompted the rescue of 92 Bengali children enslaved in goldsmith and jewelry factories in India's capital city of New Delhi. The children were forced to eat, sleep and labor in workshops, 10 to a room. Dangerous chemicals were used for making gold ornaments in the same rooms that they were kept 24 hours a day. Most of the children were under the age of 14. According to the children, many were physically and sexually abused.

Just days after this rescue, which didn't result in any arrests in India, the factory owners, managers and their thugs showed up at BBA's shelters with iron rods, sticks and bricks. They tried to recapture the children. Shelter staff were injured. When police finally responded, no one was arrested. The connections and clout of these traffickers were enough, apparently, to thwart justice.

India has the world's largest labor trafficking problem, with hundreds of thousands of sex trafficking victims and millions of bonded laborers, including forced child laborers.

In India there's no national anti-trafficking effort, no recognition of bonded labor on an official level, and poor efforts against sex trafficking. The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking.

The goal of this report is not to punish. It's to stimulate government action, in concert with the United States, to end modern-day slavery and to celebrate the heroism of those who are working to help spare victims from pain. The report identifies anti-trafficking heroes from around the world and commendable practices. Individuals and local initiatives can make a difference in leading path-breaking efforts to protect victims, increase global awareness and protect -- and prosecute criminals.

On pages 38 through 41 of the report, you see some of these inspirational examples. And I'd urge you to read that part of the report carefully.

The United States is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons within our own borders as well. We have a problem at home, which we're confronting forcefully, and we're working to be a partner to those abroad, including through substantial and, frankly, compassionate funding. In fiscal year 2006, we contributed more than \$74 million abroad funding 154 international projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States government has funded more than \$448 million to fight human trafficking. This report is not just an assessment and a judgment about nations, but a blueprint about the sorts of things the United States can help other countries do programmatically.

Modern slavery has met with a powerful movement seeking its abolition in the 21st century, assuming the mantles of William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler. I want to thank you for your support. Thank you for joining us here, taking the time. By broadcasting this tragic but true story of trafficking in persons, you help prevent a widespread crime against human dignity and help give victims hope for escape.

I welcome your questions, and I'd ask you, when you ask a question, to identify yourself and your media organization.

Q I'm Anne Gearan from the Associated Press. You mentioned repeat offenders Saudi Arabia and India, also strategic U.S. allies. Do you think those countries regard their positions with the United States as inviolable and thus they don't have to take you seriously?

MR. LAGON: They shouldn't. We make clear in our high-level dialogues with them that this isn't a tertiary or a secondary issue. I was just speaking with the secretary this morning about how we talk to some of these important partners of ours on some fronts and make sure that we engage in them and diplomacy so that there isn't just a burst of activity after this report comes out on my part, but in fact a regular dialogue through the year with those countries.

Of course, in the case of some that you mention, the problem of trafficking in persons is part of a larger problem of rule of law and a pattern of certain ethnic groups and foreign workers being seen as less than human.

This is the crux of the human trafficking problem, when someone, a woman, a child, someone from another ethnic group or cast is seen as not worthy of concern; they're only a foreign worker, they're only a woman. That's a horrifying situation, and as part of a larger effort with these countries, we're trying to effect change.

Elise.

Q Elise Labott with CNN. Just to follow up on the case of India, it's been on the Tier 2 Watch List for four years. Could you talk about the decision not to put India on the list this year? It's a quite extensive description of the problem, and you yourself just detailed horrible conditions for up to 65 million bonded laborers in India.

MR. LAGON: Like many countries that are on the **Tier 2 Watch List**, there is a very severe problem with **human trafficking** in India. The more time we spend on this report in modesty, the more we learn about problems of labor trafficking, of bonded labor. And in this report, we see reflected more and more detail about an endemic problem in India.

We need to engage in a very serious dialogue with India, with them having the sense that they will be reassessed about their tier level and how their record is changing, like all Tier 2 Watch List countries. That includes an offer of partnership as two serious democracies who have a developing alliance. The relationship, the level of communication between our two governments is such that it can stand some serious, frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking, and we're going to lay out, working with them, a kind of action plan for steps forward on this before the reassessment.

Q If I can just follow up.

MR. LAGON: Sure.

Q Haven't you already done that in the case of India? I mean, haven't you already had an action plan for them and --

MR. LAGON: We have. And what's required is that in the context of our overall diplomacy with them, talking about all sorts of serious issues -- Great Power Politics, counterterrorism, civilian nuclear cooperation and so on -- that this has to have high-level emphasis as well as a serious problem, but in modesty. You know, the United States is not only in a position to point fingers. We need to say we had our legacy of slavery, we had our legacy of segregation, we had our legacy of discrimination.

Serious democracies evolve. But we need to ramp up that effort.

With a serious sense on the part of the Indian government, you know, reassessment is a distinct possibility.

Q You're not saying it was a political determination?

MR. LAGON: No. Look, there are many different variables that are taken into account in everything we do at the State Department. I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries anytime we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking.

But look at the report. Zimbabwe -- it has a situation on political opposition being repressed and our relationship with the government in a very critical state on other grounds. But the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding, Zimbabwe has taken some tangible steps, and it's actually moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

So there are efforts, very strong efforts, to make an objective assessment based on criteria laid out in the law. And I played a small part in the passage of the law in the year 2000, so I know a little bit about those criteria.

Q Arshad Mohammed with Reuters. You pointed out that a number of the new countries in Tier 3 are relatively wealthy Near Eastern countries, significant oil exporters that do not lack for resources. They're also, a number of them, U.S. allies -- Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Algeria. What, to your mind, explains the fact that these countries, which were not previously in this lowest category of not even meeting the minimal standards, should have slid down this year?

And secondly, on Saudi Arabia, it is clearly not very sensitive to the kinds of sanctions that could be imposed in terms of the withholding of certain U.S. assistance or withholding of U.S. support in the international financial institutions. And given that it's been in the lowest category for three years in a row, it's not been too sensitive to the shame factor of being exposed through the report. Do you wish you had -- I know you've only been at this a little while, but do you wish you had stronger statutory tools to try to influence behavior, one. And two, can you think of anything else you can do to try to get countries that have been serially in the lowest category to do more?

MR. LAGON: That's a great question. I'd say on balance that the tools provided by the trafficking victims protection act by our friends on Capitol Hill are quite good. This is a unique example of the human reports that we have in different areas generally on countries, the ones on religious freedom and so on.

Because the tier ranking is much more refined, it's associated with producing action plans for the two lowest rungs, for steps that need to be taken, potential sanctions, grace periods for nations to take steps, so that they might be either boosted up the scale of tiers or find themselves sliding down.

So on balance it's actually one of the more refined tools that's been given to us in terms of sanctions and reports. In fact, now for the third time, the legislation is going to be reauthorized this year. And I think Capitol Hill will think about refinements, you know, of such things, including, you know, how long states can stay on the tier two watch list, among other things.

As far as the region, what we found as a general pattern in this report is an endemic problem of a way foreign workers are treated in the Persian Gulf, in Middle Eastern states. There's a recruitment pattern of people, unsuspecting people who are offered jobs as secretaries, as maids. They end up being sex slaves or put into domestic servitude in an involuntary way. That's seen throughout the region, and it seems to be an increasingly acute problem.

Q Yes, Charlie Wolfson from CBS.

You mentioned the figure of 800,000 worldwide as an estimate. Do you have an estimate of the number of people trafficked across the U.S. border?

MR. LAGON: Well, an estimate that we work off is approximately 14,500 to 17,500 per year.

I'll say something about statistics. We wish we had better statistics. It would be helpful to know how much of a dent in the problem we're making. But I do think that with the resources that we have to fight the traffickers, to help the victims, we ought to make sure that we don't spend a great deal of money on the statistical study when some of those resources could be used to build a victims shelter or to train law enforcement officers in other countries or figure out how to prevent officials in other countries from deciding to get their palms greased in corruption and allow trafficking to occur.

Q Hi, Libby Leist from NBC.

I wanted to ask about Iraq. And can you talk a little bit about why it's designated a special case? And also, how concerned are you about forced labor inside that country, including at facilities run by the U.S. or projects being built by the United States?

MR. LAGON: A serious question, and one that we're very seized with. I mean, there are a number of cases in the report that are designated as special cases. They tend to be either a case in which the requisite number of cases of trafficking, 100 cases, haven't been easy to document and so the government in question isn't rated, or it's a case of a government that is facing enormous turbulence, like Liberia last year, Haiti at times.

And, you know, let's speak the truth about Iraq. There is a very turbulent situation with strife among ethnic groups and caused by terrorists. While we're pleased that democratic elections have taken place and that rule of law is being slowly rooted into place, it's the conclusion of the U.S. government that it should be a special case in terms of rating it.

We, however, are very serious about talking about the problem of trafficking in Iraq. In a situation in which there is a conflict, open, armed conflict, this is a place where people can be vulnerable. And so when you talk about the actual possibility of trafficking in persons, I'd like to say that my office has a role, I think, vested in it by Congress of being a kind of conscience in the U.S. government about trafficking in persons, so that we don't look aside when we have strategic purposes and not look at trafficking in persons.

There were media reports in October of 2005 about questionable labor practices by defense subcontractors. There appeared to be cases of foreign workers who had their passports withheld and were not getting the kind of pay that they'd been promised. Quickly, in February of 2006, the Defense Department did a study on the ground, an inspector general study, and shortly thereafter, in May 2006, rules were put in place so that only licensed recruiting companies could be used by subcontractors, passports couldn't be taken away, and that all workers would be given a signed contract in their own native language and in English.

More recently there have been allegations about a Kuwaiti company involved in the construction site of the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. Our office received a number of credible reports in late 2006, and we insisted on the State Department launching, through its Office of the Inspector General, an examination of this. And we didn't -- rightly didn't play a part in the writing of that report, since the inspector general is independent. With the help of Defense Department investigators, they've looked into indicators of trafficking. We will continue at the office I lead to ask questions about that.

Q Is that report public?

MR. LAGOS: What's that?

Q Is that OIG report public?

MR. LAGOS: It is, yeah. It's on the website.

Sir?

Q Lambros Papantoniou, Greek correspondent. Ambassador Lagon, what Greece and Cyprus should be done in order to transfer to watch list number one, like the United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Canada, Australia and some other countries of your choice?

MR. LAGON: I'm sorry. What --

Q What -- Greece and Cyprus -- should be done to transfer them from the list number two to one?

MR. LAGON: What needs to be done?

Q Mm-hmm. (Affirmative.)

MR. LAGON: The --

Q (Off mike.)

MR. LAGON: In the case of Greece and Cyprus, they're clearly governments that have substantial rule of law and substantial resources, unlike developing countries, and we intend to continue working with both of them on how to move forward.

As far as Greece goes, its anti-trafficking laws are adequate, but its -- in particular its identification of victims of trafficking are rather weak. Shelters are underused. So what we need to do is work on going further in helping Greece actually hold traffickers to account and convict them and to more systematically identify victims, because what we've found here at home is that having a victim-centered approach, so that people are not treated like illegal aliens or criminals but in fact victims with rights, is essential.

As far as Cyprus goes, again, there's a pretty strong case that there's capacity on the part of the government of Cyprus, but there is a big problem of Cyprus being a destination for sex trafficking of Eastern European women. There is a tilt in the anti-trafficking law towards focus on sex trafficking but not on death bondage.

One thing in the sex trafficking area that would be very helpful is if Cyprus abolished the so-called "artiste" visa, where people come, are lured into being dancers, exotic dancers, and you know what that ends up being.

Q In which category you are placing the United States of America, since you told us earlier that it is included in this process?

MR. LAGON: The United States of America is not perfect, and we haven't assigned it a tier rating. But unlike some other human rights reports, it's actually addressed here. You'll find a summary of the U.S. record along the same lines of what it's doing on protecting victims, preventing trafficking through public awareness and prosecution.

Also, annually the Department of Justice puts out a report on everything that's being done by the United States government on trafficking in persons, and we in our office try and make sure that the world sees that report. It is very important that the United States be seen as a partner and that we have a problem at home; we are not just standing with our arms folded judging others, because this is a transnational problem. There's serious trafficking in persons into the United States from East Asia, from Latin America, from Europe, and there's trafficking within the United States.

And we're ready to be judged, because we offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery.

MR. : This will be the last question.

MR. LAGON: Okay.

Q Kirit Radia with ABC News. I had a question about Syria, to follow up on the Iraq question that Libby asked. Your report talks about sexual exploitation of Iraqis in Syria. How many of those does your office believe are refugees?

MR. LAGON: I don't know off the top of my head what the number is. I could get back to you on that.

We take seriously the problem of Iraqi refugees and the vulnerability that they have. That's one of the reasons why Undersecretary Dobriansky has led an effort in the Department of State to deal with Iraqi refugees, in concert with the U.N. high commissioner for Refugees. But it is indeed possible that those who have fled from Iraq are vulnerable, and that the responsibility is not just the United States but the international community to deal with that in Syria. The problem in Syria, though, is that you have some of these endemic issues of how foreign workers are treated and mistreated, plus a particularly closed and insensitive government.

After this session, let me say that Mark Taylor, who heads the section of our office that prepares this report, and Eleanor Gaetan, who is our senior coordinator for Public Affairs, will be on hand to provide background on the report, a level of detail, if you want to go into it further afterwards. And I'd welcome hearing from you over the next few days and weeks. Because I'm here to help promote public awareness, not just engage in diplomacy. Thank you for taking the time with me.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

241 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 7:47 PM GMT

U.S. raps N. Korea, China in human trafficking report

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 375 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON June 12

The United States again criticized North Korea and China for their inaction in the face of human trafficking within and across their borders in an annual report released Tuesday.

Washington also added Malaysia to the **Tier 3** category of the State Department's seventh annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, a classification reserved for countries with the worst **human trafficking** records.

"More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is -- a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters upon the release of the report, which covers about 150 nations.

In its third year as a Tier 2 country, Japan also received criticism for its ongoing trafficking of men, women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. Despite Tokyo's continued efforts to tackle anti-trafficking, the report said "progress appeared to slow" over the past year.

North Korea made no strides out of its Tier 3 category. The report criticized Pyongyang for providing labor overseas, under which North Korean workers are placed "in harsh conditions," and for not acknowledging that trafficking exists.

China remained on the Tier 2 Watch List, the second worst classification. Criticism of the country in the report also stemmed in part from the treatment of North Korean refugees who have crossed over into China.

Domestic trafficking remains the most significant problem in China, with an estimated minimum of 10,000 to 20,000 people trafficked within China each year, of whom 90 percent are women and children, according to the report.

Malaysia joined for the first time regularly blacklisted nations like North Korea along with Cuba, Iran, Myanmar and Syria for failing to protect and identify victims of trafficking, many of whom are Indonesian domestics.

"The Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle Malaysia's significant forced labor and sex trafficking problems," the report said.

The **Tier 3** classification, in which North Korea finds itself, covers countries that make no attempt to address **human trafficking** and are subject to U.S. sanctions. Tier 2 Watch List nations such as China are considered very close to Tier 3 states.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

242 of 445 DOCUMENTS

PR Newswire US

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 4:49 PM GMT

Smith Warns of Creeping Complacency in Response to the 2007 Trafficking Report; India in Focus

LENGTH: 574 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON June 12

WASHINGTON, June 12 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Congressman Chris Smith (R- NJ), the author of the nation's historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent expansions of the law, today warned that the US State Department's annual report on human trafficking reveals a "creeping complacency that must be nipped in the bud since the thugs who traffic in human beings never grow tired of exploiting women and children for profit, they have to be hunted down and prosecuted."

Smith said, "The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is a tool created by my law to allow us to quantify and assess what countries are doing when it comes to combating the trafficking of women and children." He went on, "When the facts show a country is failing to fight human trafficking the law requires us to take action, pressure friend and foe alike to protect it's women and children and throw the traffickers in jail."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency -- a creeping complacency -- to park offending countries in the Watch List rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms."

"When used appropriately, the **Watch List**, can send a clear warning and enable negligent countries to make specific reforms within a reasonable period of time. It is not intended to be an anteroom where countries can hide and never take sufficient action to address **human trafficking**."

"There are 32 countries on the Watch List, some for the third or fourth year in a row," Smith said. "This report indicates a failure to realize the real purpose and benefit of the Watch List."

Smith specifically cited India as an example of an egregious offending country that has been retained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year even though the report lists numerous areas where there has been a "lack of any significant federal action."

"Whatever India has said or done to idle itself on the Watch List, its overall record is overwhelmed by a trifecta of abuse," Smith said.

"The report states that India serves as a source, destination and transit country for victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," Smith said. "The report concedes that India's trafficking problem is estimated in the millions, with 90 percent of India's sex trafficking being internal -- many underage girls forced into legal prostitution."

"Bottom-line," Smith said, "The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking. It says there is a lack of any significant federal government action to address bonded labor and that efforts to combat child labor are uneven. And the TIP report points out that India failed to take significant measures to prosecute or punish government official involved in trafficking-related corruption."

"Yet India remains on the Watch List instead of being on Tier 3," Smith said.

"After six months of vacancy, we now have a new Ambassador at the US Trafficking in Persons Office, Ambassador Mark Lagon. I look forward to working with Ambassador Lagon and am confident that like his predecessor, John Miller, he will use the tools provided in the law to most effectively combat trafficking and provide assistance and protection to the victims."

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SOURCE Office of U.S. Rep. Chris Smith

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243 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCREASING, RICE SAYS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 839 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

U.S. efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in persons are paying off, and now millions more people know about the global problem, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In introducing the State Department's seventh annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 12, Rice said human trafficking until recently was akin to a global family secret. It was known but not often discussed publicly.

Rice said that in her travels around the world, she has noticed a greater desire by our partners to fight this crime and protect its victims. The United States, she said, is helping to lead a global movement not just to confront this crime, but to abolish it. More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is -- a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world.

Mark Lagon, the new director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking in Persons, said in detailing the 236-page report that Georgia merited special praise in its trafficking efforts. That nation, he said, has shown admirable political commitment to confront the problem. Georgia's improvement, Lagon said, includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where employers turn them into mere commodities, with their bodies for sale.

The report, mandated by the U.S. Congress, grouped Georgia for the first time with what is called the **Tier 1** countries -- those doing the best job of controlling **human trafficking**, prosecuting those involved, and supporting and assisting trafficking victims. Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic are also newcomers to the Tier 1 group.

The report lists 75 countries in an intermediate Tier 2 group -- those that are demonstrating a significant commitment to address their trafficking problems but have not yet achieved international standards -- while 32 countries are on a Tier 2 watch list for having shown signs of failing to make improvements. The report places 16 countries in the bottom Tier 3 -- those governments that have shown no commitment to meeting international standards.

Lagon said that the list of countries in the Tier 3 group has grown to 16, compared to 12 from the previous year, due to a lack of effort by these nations to combat trafficking. Countries new to the Tier 3 group are Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

Lagon said India stayed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the fourth straight year and was not downgraded to **Tier 3**, despite the fact that the world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of **human trafficking**. The United States, he said, needs to engage in a very serious dialogue with India on the South Asian nation's trafficking problem, since the countries are two serious democracies with a developing alliance.

The U.S.-India relationship is such, said Lagon, that the level of communication between our two governments can stand some serious, frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking.

One country that fell off the Tier 1 list was Ireland, placed instead in a group called Special Cases. The report said the presence of foreign women in prostitution and a growing migrant labor population raise concerns about a potential traf-

ficking problem in Ireland. Other special cases are the Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei, Haiti, Iraq, Kiribati, Lesotho, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, Swaziland, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

The report does not exempt the United States from a cataloguing of its own trafficking problem, including women and girls who migrate to America and become prostitutes. An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are also trafficked within the United States, primarily for sexual servitude and forced labor, the report says.

While the United States is not assigned a tier rating, Lagon said America stands ready to be judged on the problem. He stressed that the United States should be seen as an ally against trafficking.

In fiscal year 2006, the United States contributed more than \$74 million abroad to fund 154 international anti-trafficking projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, Lagon said, the U.S. government has funded more than \$448 million to fight a problem in which an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Some 80 percent of that total is female, and up to half are minors. (See related article.)

The United States is not just standing with our arms folded, judging others, because trafficking is a transnational problem, Lagon said. We offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery.

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Rice's remarks, Lagon's remarks and more information about human trafficking are on the State Department Web site.

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

By Eric Green

USINFO Staff Writer

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244 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

SMITH WARNS OF CREEPING COMPLACENCY IN RESPONSE TO 2007 TRAFFICKING REPORT

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 556 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of Missouri Rep. Chris Smith:

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), the author of the nation's historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent expansions of the law, today warned that the US State Department's annual report on human trafficking reveals a "creeping complacency that must be nipped in the bud since the thugs who traffic in human beings never grow tired of exploiting women and children for profit, they have to be hunted down and prosecuted."

Smith said, "The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is a tool created by my law to allow us to quantify and assess what countries are doing when it comes to combating the trafficking of women and children." He went on, "When the facts show a country is failing to fight human trafficking the law requires us to take action, pressure friend and foe alike to protect it's women and children and throw the traffickers in jail."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency a creeping complacency to park offending countries in the Watch List rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms."

"When used appropriately, the **Watch List**, can send a clear warning and enable negligent countries to make specific reforms within a reasonable period of time. It is not intended to be an anteroom where countries can hide and never take sufficient action to address **human trafficking**."

"There are 32 countries on the Watch List, some for the third or fourth year in a row," Smith said. "This report indicates a failure to realize the real purpose and benefit of the Watch List."

Smith specifically cited India as an example of an egregious offending country that has been retained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year even though the report lists numerous areas where there has been a "lack of any significant federal action."

"Whatever India has said or done to idle itself on the Watch List, its overall record is overwhelmed by a trifecta of abuse," Smith said.

"The report states that India serves as a source, destination and transit country for victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," Smith said. "The report concedes that India's trafficking problem is estimated in the millions, with 90 percent of India's sex trafficking being internal many underage girls forced into legal prostitution."

"Bottom-line," Smith said, "The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking. It says there is a lack of any significant federal government action to address bonded labor and that efforts to combat child labor are uneven. And the TIP report points out that India failed to take significant measures to prosecute or punish government official involved in trafficking-related corruption."

"Yet India remains on the Watch List instead of being on Tier 3," Smith said.

"After six months of vacancy, we now have new Ambassador at the US Trafficking in Persons Office, Ambassador Mark Lagon. I look forward to working with Ambassador Lagon and am confident that like his predecessor, John Miller, he will use the tools provided in the law to most effectively combat trafficking and provide assistance and protection to the victims."

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245 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

2007 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED, UKRAINE ON WATCH LIST

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 470 words

DATELINE: KIEV, Ukraine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2007

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246 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

REP. MALONEY: STATE DEPT HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT SHOWS SOME PROGRESS BEING MADE, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 428 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the office of New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney:

Following the U.S. State Department's release of its 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/index.htm>) today, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) expressed concern that too many countries still are not doing enough to combat human trafficking. Maloney is a co-chair of the congressional Human Trafficking Caucus.

Last year's report indicated that in 2005, foreign governments reported 4,766 trafficking convictions. This year's report shows that for 2006, that number dropped to 3,160. The report also states that the number of prosecutions dropped from 6,618 in 2005 to 5,808 in 2006. Additionally, 21 countries implemented some form of anti-trafficking policies in 2006.

The report rates countries on a three tier scale, with those in the bottom tier becoming subject to sanctions. Maloney is highly concerned that Russia, Mexico and India for the fourth consecutive year remain on the Tier 2 watch list, meaning they are in danger of sinking to the level at which sanctions would be imposed.

"While I am pleased that the TIP report notes positive efforts being made in some countries and singles out heroes around the world who are fighting to end human trafficking, the report once again shows us how far we have to go," said Maloney. "I am troubled that the number of reported prosecutions and convictions decreased in 2006. It is important that we protect the victims who have been trafficked, and punish the predators who exploit them."

Along with Representative Deborah Pryce, Congresswoman Maloney helped author the "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act," which targets the demand side of trafficking, and was incorporated into the "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005."

Background

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the State Department is required to produce an annual report that reviews recent trends in **human trafficking** and places countries on a four **tier** scale based on their commitment to anti-trafficking policies.

The State Department estimates that approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and millions more are trafficked within their own countries. Most of the victims are women and children. Each year an estimated 14,500 people enter the United States through trafficking rings. Experts say human trafficking is a \$10 billion dollar worldwide industry and sex trafficking is the third largest and fastest growing crime ring in history.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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247 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 12, 2007

Public Awareness of Human Trafficking Increasing, Rice Says; New Trafficking in Persons Report gives Georgia special praise

BYLINE: Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 826 words

Washington -- U.S. efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in persons are paying off, and now millions more people know about the global problem, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In introducing the State Department's seventh annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 12, Rice said human trafficking until recently was "akin to a global family secret. It was known but not often discussed publicly."

Rice said that in her travels around the world, she has noticed "a greater desire by our partners to fight this crime and protect its victims." The United States, she said, is helping to lead a global movement "not just to confront this crime, but to abolish it. More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is -- a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

Mark Lagon, the new director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking in Persons, said in detailing the 236-page report that Georgia merited special praise in its trafficking efforts. That nation, he said, has shown "admirable political commitment" to confront the problem. Georgia's improvement, Lagon said, includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where employers turn them into "mere commodities, with their bodies for sale."

The report, mandated by the U.S. Congress, grouped Georgia for the first time with what is called the "**Tier 1**" countries -- those doing the best job of controlling **human trafficking**, prosecuting those involved, and supporting and assisting trafficking victims. Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic are also newcomers to the Tier 1 group.

The report lists 75 countries in an intermediate Tier 2 group -- those that are demonstrating a "significant" commitment to address their trafficking problems but have not yet achieved international standards -- while 32 countries are on a Tier 2 "watch list" for having shown signs of failing to make improvements. The report places 16 countries in the bottom Tier 3 -- those governments that have shown no commitment to meeting international standards.

Lagon said that the list of countries in the Tier 3 group has grown to 16, compared to 12 from the previous year, "due to a lack of effort" by these nations to combat trafficking. Countries new to the Tier 3 group are Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

Lagon said India stayed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the fourth straight year and was not downgraded to **Tier 3**, despite the fact that the world's "largest democracy" has the "world's largest problem of **human trafficking**." The United States, he said, needs to "engage in a very serious dialogue with India" on the South Asian nation's trafficking problem, since the countries are "two serious democracies" with a "developing alliance."

The U.S.-India relationship is such, said Lagon, that the "level of communication between our two governments" can "stand some serious, frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking."

One country that fell off the Tier 1 list was Ireland, placed instead in a group called "Special Cases." The report said the presence of "foreign women in prostitution and a growing migrant labor population raise concerns about a potential

trafficking problem" in Ireland. Other special cases are the Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei, Haiti, Iraq, Kiribati, Lesotho, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, Swaziland, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

The report does not exempt the United States from a cataloguing of its own trafficking problem, including women and girls who migrate to America and become prostitutes. An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are also trafficked within the United States, primarily for sexual servitude and forced labor, the report says.

While the United States is not assigned a tier rating, Lagon said America stands "ready to be judged" on the problem. He stressed that the United States should be seen as an ally against trafficking.

In fiscal year 2006, the United States contributed more than \$74 million abroad to fund 154 international anti-trafficking projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, Lagon said, the U.S. government has funded more than \$448 million to fight a problem in which an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Some 80 percent of that total is female, and up to half are minors. (See related article.)

The United States is "not just standing with our arms folded, judging others," because trafficking is a "transnational problem," Lagon said. "We offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery."

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Rice's remarks, Lagon's remarks and more information about human trafficking are on the State Department Web site.

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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248 of 445 DOCUMENTS

St. Paul Pioneer Press (Minnesota)

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

Kurds open to peace talks

BYLINE: Pioneer Press

SECTION: NATIONAL

LENGTH: 885 words

ANKARA, Turkey - Kurdish separatist rebels Tuesday declared a "unilateral cease-fire" in attacks against Turkey and said they were ready for peace negotiations, but the group maintained the right to defend itself. The statement came as the Turkish military has been building up its forces along the border with Iraq, threatening to stage a major incursion to pursue Kurdish rebels at their bases. Such an operation could ignite a wider conflict involving Iraqi Kurds, and draw in the United States. The Turkish government had no immediate response to the statement by the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as the PKK. The guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey for more than two decades. Pakistan coach's death not foul play

KINGSTON, Jamaica - In an embarrassing reversal, Jamaican police said Tuesday that Pakistan's cricket coach died of natural causes and was not strangled following his team's surprise World Cup loss this spring. Officials closed the homicide investigation into the death of Bob Woolmer after getting opinions from three independent pathologists from Britain, South Africa and Canada and reviewing a toxicology report, Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas told a news conference. Thomas did not reveal what they believe caused the death of the 58-year-old coach, saying that would be up to Jamaica's coroner. Woolmer was found unconscious March 18 in his hotel room in Kingston a day after his heavily favored team was eliminated from the World Cup in a humiliating loss to Ireland. Human trafficking list gets new nations

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist** for failing to halt what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery." Countries on the list are subject to sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of some 800,000 people, 80 percent of them female and up to half of them children, across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor. Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria. China defends its food exports

BEIJING - China played down international concerns about tainted food exports on Tuesday, saying the problems were not as bad as reported and displaying seized counterfeit products to show authorities were enforcing safety protections. To make its case, the government organized a rare visit by more than 100 foreign and domestic reporters to a food safety lab and storehouse where bogus goods from chewing gum to soy sauce were stacked on shelves and arrayed in rows. Adults tie up boy in hot car, police say

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Investigators found a crying 6-year-old boy tied up in a sweltering car at a suburban restaurant after employees reported seeing a man take the child outside and return without him to finish eating. Police believe the boy, whose name was not released, was tied up for about 30 minutes while the outside temperature was in the 80s Saturday in Ringgold, Ga., about 13 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Sgt. John Gass said Tuesday. The boy's mother, Rachel Gilchrist, 35, and her companion, Raymond Minchew, 61, both of Sandy Springs, Ga., were arrested Saturday and charged with cruelty to children and concealing a weapon. Police found a handgun in the car, parked outside a Cracker Barrel restaurant. The boy was placed in state protective custody. Medical worker admits molestations

SAN DIEGO - A former respiratory therapist pleaded guilty Tuesday to molesting young, brain-damaged patients at the hospital where he worked for 25 years. Wayne Albert Bleyle, 55, admitted to eight counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child and four counts of exhibiting a minor in pornography. Under a plea agreement, Bleyle would serve 45 years and

eight months in prison. Bleye worked at Rady Children's Hospital. A judge denied bail and set sentencing for July 25. Iran to decide on charging Americans

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran's judiciary said Tuesday it will decide within days whether to indict or free four Iranian-Americans charged with endangering national security in a case that has heightened bitterness between the rival nations. The announcement came as Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, warned that the United States would "regret" its detention of five Iranian officials by U.S. forces in Iraq, which has angered Tehran for months. In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack repeated U.S. calls for the Americans to be released and again rejected any link between them and the five Iranian detainees. Detainee's May death investigated

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - The U.S. military is investigating how guards failed to prevent the death last month of a Guantanamo Bay detainee, an apparent suicide in one of the most closely monitored detention camps for suspected al-Qaida and Taliban members, the top commander said Tuesday. Abdul Rahman Maadha al-Amry, a Saudi who had insisted he was only a Taliban foot soldier, died at the U.S. military base in southeastern Cuba on May 30. The military has refused to describe how he died.

- Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2007

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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249 of 445 DOCUMENTS



UPI

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 3:21 PM EST

U.S. blasts Mideast on human trafficking

LENGTH: 217 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 12

Human trafficking remains a grave problem worldwide, particularly in the Middle East, according to the United States.

In its latest annual report released Tuesday on what the U.S. State Department has called "modern-day slavery," the United States said that countries like Saudi Arabia that rely heavily on foreign migrant workers have laws that make laborers particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Other countries on the worst-offenders list include Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, as well as Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia.

State reported that there are about 800,000 people trafficked across borders each year, with about 80 percent of them being female, while half of them are minors.

"It's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress are on **Tier 3**," said Mark Lagon, senior adviser on **trafficking in persons** at State. **Tier 3** consists of nations that are the worst-ranked among the 164 countries surveyed, of which a total of 16 countries made the list this year. "A country falls into **Tier 3** if its government is not making a significant effort to combat **human trafficking**. A Tier 3 country can be sanctioned if it doesn't take seriously antislavery action in the next 90 days," Lagon said.

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250 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 11:09 PM EST

CAMBODIA REMAINS ON TIER 2 WATCH LIST IN 2007 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 707 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On Tuesday, 12 June 2007, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the State Department's 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report. For the second consecutive year, Cambodia is placed on Tier 2 Watch List. While the Cambodian Government took nascent steps to address trafficking-related corruption, the government must expand these efforts to prosecute and convict officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking. Although some senior level government officials are committed to anti-trafficking efforts, reports of public officials' complicity in trafficking limited the government's success in combating trafficking. The government also failed to pass a much-needed comprehensive anti-trafficking law that has been in the drafting process for the past seven years.

Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Cambodian women and children are trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia for sexual exploitation and forced labor in factories or as domestic servants, while Cambodian men are trafficked for forced labor in the agriculture, fishing, and construction sectors in these countries. Cambodian children are trafficked to Vietnam and Thailand for forced begging. Cambodia is a transit and destination country for the trafficking of Vietnamese and Chinese women and children for sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking of women and children occurs within Cambodia's borders, from rural areas to cities such as Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville. The Government of Cambodia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.

To improve its Tier ranking, Cambodia should pass and enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation and expand efforts to prosecute and convict officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking.

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as amended, requires the Secretary of State to submit this report each year. The 164-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat trafficking in persons. The goal of the report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards, are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3.

The TVPA also requires the Secretary of State to provide a "Special Watch List" of countries to be evaluated again in an Interim Assessment that the Secretary must provide to Congress by February 1 of each year. In addition to tracking countries that move up in "tier" ratings - from 3 to 2 or from 2 to 1 - the Special Watch List also effectively established a new, fourth tier - Tier Two Watch List. This tier consists of Tier Two countries determined: (1) not to have made "increasing efforts" over the past year; (2) to have avoided Tier 3 status based on commitments of anti-trafficking reforms

over the next year, or (3) to have a very significant number of trafficking victims or a significantly increasing victim population.

The Royal Government of Cambodia made significant efforts in 2006 to move from a Tier Three rating to the Tier Two Watch List. While this rating is maintained for 2007, the U.S. Embassy looks forward to working further with the Cambodian government in the upcoming year to achieve the necessary legislative and judicial steps to see Cambodia move solidly into Tier Two, and eventually Tier One, status.

The entire TIP Report as well as the text of the TVPA and amendments are available on-line at www.state.gov/g/tip.

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251 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 9:48 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: SECRETARY RICE SAYS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCREASING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 867 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Eric Green

USINFO Staff Writer

U.S. efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in persons are paying off, and now millions more people know about the global problem, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In introducing the State Department's seventh annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 12, Rice said human trafficking until recently was "akin to a global family secret. It was known but not often discussed publicly."

Rice said that in her travels around the world, she has noticed "a greater desire by our partners to fight this crime and protect its victims." The United States, she said, is helping to lead a global movement "not just to confront this crime, but to abolish it. More and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is - a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

Mark Lagon, the new director of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking in Persons, said in detailing the 236-page report that Georgia merited special praise in its trafficking efforts. That nation, he said, has shown "admirable political commitment" to confront the problem. Georgia's improvement, Lagon said, includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where employers turn them into "mere commodities, with their bodies for sale."

The report, mandated by the U.S. Congress, grouped Georgia for the first time with what is called the "**Tier 1**" countries - those doing the best job of controlling **human trafficking**, prosecuting those involved, and supporting and assisting trafficking victims. Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic are also newcomers to the Tier 1 group.

The report lists 75 countries in an intermediate Tier 2 group - those that are demonstrating a "significant" commitment to address their trafficking problems but have not yet achieved international standards - while 32 countries are on a Tier 2 "watch list" for having shown signs of failing to make improvements. The report places 16 countries in the bottom Tier 3 - those governments that have shown no commitment to meeting international standards.

Lagon said that the list of countries in the Tier 3 group has grown to 16, compared to 12 from the previous year, "due to a lack of effort" by these nations to combat trafficking. Countries new to the Tier 3 group are Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

Lagon said India stayed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the fourth straight year and was not downgraded to **Tier 3**, despite the fact that the world's "largest democracy" has the "world's largest problem of **human trafficking**." The United States, he said, needs to "engage in a very serious dialogue with India" on the South Asian nation's trafficking problem, since the countries are "two serious democracies" with a "developing alliance."

The U.S.-India relationship is such, said Lagon, that the "level of communication between our two governments" can "stand some serious, frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking."

One country that fell off the Tier I list was Ireland, placed instead in a group called "Special Cases." The report said the presence of "foreign women in prostitution and a growing migrant labor population raise concerns about a potential trafficking problem" in Ireland. Other special cases are the Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei, Haiti, Iraq, Kiribati, Lesotho, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, Swaziland, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

The report does not exempt the United States from a cataloguing of its own trafficking problem, including women and girls who migrate to America and become prostitutes. An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are also trafficked within the United States, primarily for sexual servitude and forced labor, the report says.

While the United States is not assigned a tier rating, Lagon said America stands "ready to be judged" on the problem. He stressed that the United States should be seen as an ally against trafficking.

In fiscal year 2006, the United States contributed more than \$74 million abroad to fund 154 international anti-trafficking projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, Lagon said, the U.S. government has funded more than \$448 million to fight a problem in which an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Some 80 percent of that total is female, and up to half are minors. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=June&x=20070608130830X1eneerg0.3753168.>)

The United States is "not just standing with our arms folded, judging others," because trafficking is a "transnational problem," Lagon said. "We offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery."

For additional information, see 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking/traffick_report.html.

Rice's remarks, Lagon's remarks and more information about human trafficking are on the State Department Web site.

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252 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 9:37 PM EST

2007 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED, UKRAINE ON WATCH LIST

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 470 words

DATELINE: KIEV, Ukraine

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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253 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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June 12, 2007 Tuesday 12:49 PM EST

Smith Warns of Creeping Complacency in Response to the 2007 Trafficking Report

SECTION: POLITICAL EDITORS

LENGTH: 565 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 12

Congressman Chris Smith (R- NJ), the author of the nation's historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent expansions of the law, today warned that the US State Department's annual report on human trafficking reveals a "creeping complacency that must be nipped in the bud since the thugs who traffic in human beings never grow tired of exploiting women and children for profit, they have to be hunted down and prosecuted."

Smith said, "The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is a tool created by my law to allow us to quantify and assess what countries are doing when it comes to combating the trafficking of women and children." He went on, "When the facts show a country is failing to fight human trafficking the law requires us to take action, pressure friend and foe alike to protect it's women and children and throw the traffickers in jail."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency -- a creeping complacency -- to park offending countries in the Watch List rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms."

"When used appropriately, the **Watch List**, can send a clear warning and enable negligent countries to make specific reforms within a reasonable period of time. It is not intended to be an anteroom where countries can hide and never take sufficient action to address **human trafficking**."

"There are 32 countries on the Watch List, some for the third or fourth year in a row," Smith said. "This report indicates a failure to realize the real purpose and benefit of the Watch List."

Smith specifically cited India as an example of an egregious offending country that has been retained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year even though the report lists numerous areas where there has been a "lack of any significant federal action."

"Whatever India has said or done to idle itself on the Watch List, its overall record is overwhelmed by a trifecta of abuse," Smith said.

"The report states that India serves as a source, destination and transit country for victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," Smith said. "The report concedes that India's trafficking problem is estimated in the millions, with 90 percent of India's sex trafficking being internal -- many underage girls forced into legal prostitution."

"Bottom-line," Smith said, "The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking. It says there is a lack of any significant federal government action to address bonded labor and that efforts to combat child labor are uneven. And the TIP report points out that India failed to take significant measures to prosecute or punish government official involved in trafficking-related corruption."

"Yet India remains on the Watch List instead of being on Tier 3," Smith said.

"After six months of vacancy, we now have a new Ambassador at the US Trafficking in Persons Office, Ambassador Mark Lagon. I look forward to working with Ambassador Lagon and am confident that like his predecessor, John Miller, he will use the tools provided in the law to most effectively combat trafficking and provide assistance and protection to the victims."

SOURCE Office of U.S. Rep. Chris Smith

Contact: Patrick J. Creamer of the Office of U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, +1-202-225-3765

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254 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 5:59 AM EST

GEORGIA OBTAINS TIER 1 STATUS THANKS TO STRONG EFFORT IN FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 267 words**DATELINE:** TBILISI, Georgia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On Tuesday, June 12, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, released the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report. In her opening remarks, Secretary Rice said "Despite serious challenges, this year's report should give us hope. For example, Georgia, Hungary, Slovenia and Israel have all made major improvements, as have Taiwan and countries like Indonesia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Jamaica."

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. The report also raises awareness, highlights best practices and inspires governments to take action against trafficking. The 2007 report covers 164 countries.

An excerpt from Georgia's country report reads: "The Government of Georgia fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Over the past year, the government made considerable progress in the prosecution and punishment of traffickers, protection and assistance for victims, and prevention of trafficking. Georgia developed and implemented a victim-centered national referral mechanism, provided a building for the country's first trafficking victims' shelter, dedicated on-going funding for victim assistance, passed comprehensive trafficking legislation, aggressively prosecuted and toughened penalties for traffickers, and initiated multiple proactive prevention programs."

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255 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 4:59 AM EST

REP. MALONEY: STATE DEPT HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT SHOWS SOME PROGRESS BEING MADE, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 435 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y. (14th CD), issued the following news release:

Following the U.S. State Department's release of its 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/index.htm>) today, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) expressed concern that too many countries still are not doing enough to combat human trafficking. Maloney is a co-chair of the congressional Human Trafficking Caucus.

Last year's report indicated that in 2005, foreign governments reported 4,766 trafficking convictions. This year's report shows that for 2006, that number dropped to 3,160. The report also states that the number of prosecutions dropped from 6,618 in 2005 to 5,808 in 2006. Additionally, 21 countries implemented some form of anti-trafficking policies in 2006.

The report rates countries on a three tier scale, with those in the bottom tier becoming subject to sanctions. Maloney is highly concerned that Russia, Mexico and India for the fourth consecutive year remain on the Tier 2 watch list, meaning they are in danger of sinking to the level at which sanctions would be imposed.

"While I am pleased that the TIP report notes positive efforts being made in some countries and singles out heroes around the world who are fighting to end human trafficking, the report once again shows us how far we have to go," said Maloney. "I am troubled that the number of reported prosecutions and convictions decreased in 2006. It is important that we protect the victims who have been trafficked, and punish the predators who exploit them."

Along with Representative Deborah Pryce, Congresswoman Maloney helped author the "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act," which targets the demand side of trafficking, and was incorporated into the "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005."

Background

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the State Department is required to produce an annual report that reviews recent trends in **human trafficking** and places countries on a four **tier** scale based on their commitment to anti-trafficking policies.

The State Department estimates that approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and millions more are trafficked within their own countries. Most of the victims are women and children. Each year an estimated 14,500 people enter the United States through trafficking rings. Experts say human trafficking is a \$10 billion dollar worldwide industry and sex trafficking is the third largest and fastest growing crime ring in history.

Contact: Meghan O'Shaughnessy, 202/225-7944.

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256 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 4:28 AM EST

REP. SMITH WARNS OF CREEPING COMPLACENCY IN RESPONSE TO 2007 TRAFFICKING REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 564 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following news release:

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), the author of the nation's historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent expansions of the law, today warned that the US State Department's annual report on human trafficking reveals a "creeping complacency that must be nipped in the bud since the thugs who traffic in human beings never grow tired of exploiting women and children for profit, they have to be hunted down and prosecuted."

Smith said, "The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is a tool created by my law to allow us to quantify and assess what countries are doing when it comes to combating the trafficking of women and children." He went on, "When the facts show a country is failing to fight human trafficking the law requires us to take action, pressure friend and foe alike to protect it's women and children and throw the traffickers in jail."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency-a creeping complacency-to park offending countries in the Watch List rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms."

"When used appropriately, the **Watch List**, can send a clear warning and enable negligent countries to make specific reforms within a reasonable period of time. It is not intended to be an anteroom where countries can hide and never take sufficient action to address **human trafficking**."

"There are 32 countries on the Watch List, some for the third or fourth year in a row," Smith said. "This report indicates a failure to realize the real purpose and benefit of the Watch List."

Smith specifically cited India as an example of an egregious offending country that has been retained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year even though the report lists numerous areas where there has been a "lack of any significant federal action."

"Whatever India has said or done to idle itself on the Watch List, its overall record is overwhelmed by a trifecta of abuse," Smith said.

"The report states that India serves as a source, destination and transit country for victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation," Smith said. "The report concedes that India's trafficking problem is estimated in the millions, with 90 percent of India's sex trafficking being internal-many underage girls forced into legal prostitution."

"Bottom-line," Smith said, "The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking. It says there is a lack of any significant federal government action to address bonded labor and that efforts to combat child labor are uneven. And the TIP report points out that India failed to take significant measures to prosecute or punish government official involved in trafficking-related corruption."

"Yet India remains on the Watch List instead of being on Tier 3," Smith said.

"After six months of vacancy, we now have new Ambassador at the US Trafficking in Persons Office, Ambassador Mark Lagon. I look forward to working with Ambassador Lagon and am confident that like his predecessor, John Miller, he will use the tools provided in the law to most effectively combat trafficking and provide assistance and protection to the victims."

Contact: Patrick Creamer, 202/225-3765.

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257 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The White House Bulletin

June 12, 2007 Tuesday**State Department Adds Seven Countries To Human-Trafficking Blacklist****SECTION:** IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN**LENGTH:** 143 words

The State Department announced today that seven countries have been added to its **human trafficking blacklist**. In its annual "Trafficking In Persons Report," State added Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Malaysia to the list of countries subject to possible sanctions for not doing enough to stem the flow of women and children sex slaves as well as other forced laborers. Sixteen countries in all were listed as "Tier 3" nations, meaning they "do not fully comply with the minimum standards [to fight trafficking] and are not making significant efforts to do so." The others are: Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. There were four more Tier 3 countries than a year ago, as three countries were moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2 for improving their records: Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe.

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258 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 12:30 PM EST

U.S. blacklists more countries for human trafficking**SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 135 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. State Department issued Tuesday its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," adding seven countries to its **blacklist** of countries allegedly involving **human trafficking**.

The latest blacklisted countries include U.S. Middle East allies Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, as well as Malaysia, Algeria and Equatorial Guinea.

Prior to the announcement, the State Department has put Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela on its **human trafficking blacklist**.

Under American laws, the blacklist countries could face sanctions, including withholding by the United States of non-humanitarian, non-trade related foreign aid.

Of all the blacklisted countries, many have time and again rejected the U.S. charges.

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259 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 11:33 PM GMT

India left off U.S. blacklist despite 'world's largest problem of human trafficking'

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 270 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The United States says that India has the world's largest human trafficking problem.

For the fourth consecutive year, India was warned in the U.S. State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" that it could be added to a **blacklist** of countries deemed not meeting minimum standards in fighting what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

The report put India and 31 other countries on its "Tier 2 watch list" status, warning them that without improvements they could be demoted to a "Tier 3," making them subject to sanctions.

The report cited estimates that tens of millions of Indians were subjected to forced labor and said sex trafficking also continues to be common.

"The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking," said the department's specialist on the trafficking issue, Mark Lagon.

The report said India had taken some steps to deal with sex trafficking, but the government failed to take any significant action against bonded labor. Following the release, the State Department came under criticism for failing to blacklist India for persistently landing on the watch list.

"The TIP reports says India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking," said Republican Rep. Chris Smith. "Yet India remains on the watch list instead of being on Tier 3."

Lagon acknowledged that the broader relationship with the U.S. ally was taken into account.

"I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries any time we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking," he said.

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260 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 2:14 PM GMT

U.S. adds seven nations, including Mideast allies, to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 440 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist**, making them subject to possible sanctions for not doing enough to halt the flow of woman and child sex slaves as well as laborers and domestic workers.

Among the new countries getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia, join perennial offenders like Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Sixteen states in all four more than in 2006 were given so-called "**Tier 3**" status in the 236-page survey of global efforts to combat the scourge of **human trafficking** that covers sex workers, forced child labor, child soldiers, involuntary and bonded servitude.

The ranking means they "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

Three countries placed on "Tier 3" in 2006 Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were promoted to "Tier 2" this year for improving their records, according to the report.

Bahrain, the Gulf home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, was cited for failing to crack down on human traffickers who are bringing in men, women and children for forced labor or commercial sex work, the report says.

"Bahrain made no discernable progress in preventing trafficking this year," it said, noting that laws aimed at protecting foreign workers, many from South and Southeast Asia, are not enforced and that authorities are not seriously investigating alleged widespread abuses.

Oil-rich Kuwait "made modest progress in preventing trafficking in persons this year," the report said, but added that "Kuwaiti efforts to improve its protection of victims of human trafficking had little effect."

Oman was cited for not applying and enforce existing laws against human trafficking as well failing to distribute pamphlets aimed at educating foreign workers about their rights, it said.

Qatar, long accused by the United States of ignoring the plight of child camel jockeys, was demoted from "**Tier 2**" to "**Tier 3**" this year for not enacting legislation to outlaw all forms of **human trafficking** and producing only two convictions among numerous cases of alleged abuse of domestic servants, according to the report.

The complete list of "Tier 3" countries identified in this year's report is: Algeria, Bahrain, Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

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261 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 8:09 PM GMT

U.S. adds 7 nations, including Mideast allies, to human trafficking blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 976 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist** for failing to halt what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

Countries on the list are subject to possible sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of some 800,000 people, 80 percent of them female and up to half of them children, across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Sixteen states in all four more than in 2006 were given so-called "Tier 3" status in the 236-page survey of global efforts to combat trafficking in people, many of whom are seeking to escape poverty in Eastern Europe, South and Southeast Asia and are sold into the commercial sex trade, manual labor or mistreated as domestics.

Despite the additions, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "more and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice and to say that freedom and security are nonnegotiable demands of human dignity, and to say ... 'No one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave,'" she told reporters.

Countries with "Tier 3" ranking "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

Three countries that had been placed on "Tier 3" in 2006 Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were promoted to "Tier 2" this year for improving their records, according to the report. "Tier 2" countries are those that do not fully comply with minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so.

The recognition is rare U.S. praise for Zimbabwe, long singled out by Washington for harsh criticism on its overall human rights record, a point noted by Rice's pointman on the trafficking issue, Mark Lagon.

"Our relationship with the government is in a very critical state on other grounds but the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding, Zimbabwe has actually taken some tangible steps," he said.

Still, such lobbying has had far from a universal effect.

The seven newcomers to "Tier 3" were all demoted from "Tier 2 watchlist" status, which now covers 32 countries, including India, Mexico and Russia, that have been cited for poor anti-trafficking records for numerous consecutive years.

Some in Congress lamented that some nations on the watchlist have not been demoted to "Tier 3."

"What jumps off the pages of this report is that there is a growing tendency a creeping complacency to park offending countries in the watchlist rather than identify them as egregious Tier 3 offenders in need of immediate and massive reforms," said Republican Rep. Chris Smith.

But Lagon denied the charge.

"The 'Tier 2 watchlist' is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil," Lagon said, describing India as "the world's largest democracy (with) the world's largest problem."

Most of this year's additions to "Tier 3" are Muslim or predominantly Muslim nations, many of which have the means to enforce foreign workers' rights and anti-trafficking laws.

"It is especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East ... are on 'Tier 3'," Lagon said.

Bahrain, the Gulf home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, was cited for failing to crack down on human traffickers who are bringing in men, women and children for forced labor or commercial sex work, the report says.

"Bahrain made no discernible progress in preventing trafficking this year," it said, noting that laws aimed at protecting foreign workers, largely from South and Southeast Asia, are not enforced and that authorities are not seriously investigating alleged widespread abuse.

Oil-rich Kuwait "made modest progress in preventing trafficking in persons this year," the report said, but added that "Kuwaiti efforts to improve its protection of victims of human trafficking had little effect."

Oman was cited for not applying and enforcing existing laws against human trafficking as well failing to distribute pamphlets aimed at educating foreign workers about their rights, it said.

Qatar, long accused by the United States of ignoring the plight of child camel jockeys, was demoted to "**Tier 3**" for not enacting legislation to outlaw all forms of **human trafficking** and for producing only two convictions among numerous cases of alleged abuse of domestic servants, according to the report.

The complete list of "Tier 3" countries in this year's report is: Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela are regularly accused by Washington of failing to protect human rights and are often cited in State Department reports for their lack of respect for press and religious freedoms.

But Malaysia made its first appearance on "Tier 3" for its failure to protect and identify victims of trafficking, many of them Indonesian domestics.

In a small bright spot in Southeast Asia, the report noted with approval Vietnam's high-profile arrest, prosecution and conviction last year of British glam rock star Gary Glitter on charges of committing sexual acts with two underage girls.

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262 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 11:31 PM GMT

Malaysia added to US human trafficking blacklist**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 130 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The United States has blacklisted Malaysia as among the countries with the worst human trafficking problems.

In its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," the U.S. State Department downgraded Malaysia to the **blacklist** from a **watch list**, citing its failure to tackle the problem.

"Malaysia is placed on **Tier 2** for its failure to show satisfactory progress in combating **trafficking in persons**," the report said, referring to the departments designation for the **blacklist**. Blacklisted countries are subject to sanctions. The report cited the Malaysian governments failure to prosecute and punish traffickers, to provide adequate shelters and services to victims, and to protect its migrant workers from involuntary servitude. Fifteen other countries were included on the blacklist.

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263 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 2:12 PM GMT

Seven Nations Go on Trafficking Blacklist

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 447 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist**.

Countries going on this list are subject to possible sanctions for not doing enough to halt the flow of women and child sex slaves as well as laborers and domestic workers.

Among the new countries getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia, join perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Sixteen states in all four more than in 2006 were given so-called "**Tier 3**" status in the 236-page survey of global efforts to combat the scourge of **human trafficking** that covers sex workers, forced child labor, child soldiers, involuntary and bonded servitude.

The ranking means they "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

Three countries that had been placed on "Tier 3" in 2006 Belize, Laos and Zimbabwe were promoted to "Tier 2" this year for improving their records, according to the report.

Bahrain, the Persian Gulf home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, was cited for failing to crack down on human traffickers who are bringing in men, women and children for forced labor or commercial sex work, the report says.

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Qatar, long accused by the United States of ignoring the plight of child camel jockeys, was demoted from "**Tier 2**" to "**Tier 3**" this year for not enacting legislation to outlaw all forms of **human trafficking** and for producing only two convictions among numerous cases of alleged abuse of domestic servants, according to the report.

The complete list of "Tier 3" countries identified in this year's report is: Algeria, Bahrain, Myanmar, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

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264 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 3:41 PM GMT

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BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 899 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Tuesday added seven nations, including several key U.S. allies in the Middle East, to its **human trafficking blacklist** for failing to halt what it called the scourge of "modern-day slavery."

Countries on the list are subject to possible sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of some 800,000 people, 80 percent of them female and more than half of them children, across international borders for the sex trade and other forms of forced and indentured labor.

Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

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Despite the additions, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "more and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is a modern-day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world."

"We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice and to say that freedom and security are nonnegotiable demands of human dignity, and to say ... 'No one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave,'" she told reporters.

Countries with "Tier 3" ranking "do not fully comply with the minimum standards (to fight trafficking) and are not making significant efforts to do so," which makes them eligible for U.S. economic sanctions.

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But Malaysia made its first appearance on "Tier 3" for its failure to protect and identify victims of trafficking, many of them Indonesian domestics.

"The Malaysian government needs to demonstrate stronger political will to tackle Malaysia's significant forced labor and sex trafficking problems," the report said.

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Associated Press Online

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 8:08 PM GMT

Seven Nations Added to Trafficking List

BYLINE: By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 970 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, which along with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined for the first time perennial offenders like Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

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But Lagon denied the charge.

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266 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

June 12, 2007 Tuesday 8:12 PM GMT

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SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

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267 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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June 12, 2007 Tuesday

AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON HOLDS A STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING ON THE ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

LENGTH: 5031 words**SPEAKER:**

AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

AMBASSADOR LAGON HOLDS A STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING ON THE ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, AS RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT

JUNE 12, 2007

SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON,
SECRETARY RICE'S SENIOR ADVISER ON TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS

LAGON: It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you, Secretary Rice, and good morning. I'd like to offer an overview of what's in the report and then after a few minutes, welcome your questions. It's an honor to succeed Ambassador John Miller as director of an extraordinary office dedicated to ending a deeply dehumanizing form of exploitation. Human trafficking or trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery.

At the heart of U.S. efforts to end human trafficking is a commitment to human dignity. Every day, all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold in prostitution, exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories, and captured to serve unlawfully as child soldiers. Estimates of the number vary widely. According to U.S. Government estimates, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and about 80 percent of them are female. Up to half are minors.

And these figures do not include millions who are trafficked into labor and sexual slavery within national borders. Stomach-wrenching individual stories, however, tell more than the aggregate numbers and these are the people who motivate everyone active in the movement to abolish human trafficking.

Let me tell you about one victim. At age 22, Ko Maung left Burma with his new bride to find work in a neighboring country. He took a job on a fishing boat for two years because he was promised good money, \$70 per month. But that boat stayed at sea for three years and the workers were fed only fish and rice. Not getting enough vitamins, they began to starve. They were denied medical care or passage home. The good job turned out to be a floating death camp. One by one, the men began to perish, including Ko Maung. His body was dumped overboard. So were the exhausted, malnourished bodies of 29 other modern-day slaves.

60 fishermen who survived weren't paid at all. Police refused to prosecute the employer since there are no bodies to prove a crime. In a climate of official indifference with forced labor violations typically not criminalized, desperate, migrant laborers are especially vulnerable to forced fraud and coercion, the fundamental markers of human trafficking. This seventh annual Trafficking In Persons report is dedicated to Ko Maung and to his grieving family.

The structure of the report and the purpose are focused largely on drawing the world's attention on the existence of modern-day slavery and the desperate need to eliminate it in the same way that the world ended the African slave trade more than a century ago. Human trafficking plagues every country in one way or another, including the United States. The report covers 164 countries and territories, comprising some 85 percent of the world. It ranks 151 countries and territories where there have been some 100 cases of human trafficking that were documented. It spells out what countries are doing on prosecution, prevention and protection and what more can be done together between the United States and other countries on all three fronts.

The U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations. The process of diplomatic engagement bilaterally to mitigate the problems documented in the report goes on throughout the year, not just in this season that I'm talking to you now. Our sources of information for this report include U.S. Embassies, NGOs worldwide, brave activists fighting human trafficking, foreign law enforcement officers and staff visits. Extensive analysis based on criteria laid out by Congress in the law goes into the assignment of countries into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3.

A country falls into **Tier 3** if its government is not making a significant effort to combat **human trafficking**. A Tier 3 country can be sanctioned if it doesn't take seriously antislavery action in the next 90 days. Sadly, this year the list of countries on Tier 3 has grown to -- due to a lack of effort by these governments to combat this serious transnational crime. There are a total of 16 countries on Tier 3, seven of which dropped down to Tier 3 this year: Algeria, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

It's especially disappointing that so many wealthy countries in the Near East that aren't lacking adequate resources to make significant progress are on Tier 3. For instance, Saudi Arabia is on Tier 3 for the third year. These are countries in that region that rely extensively on foreign migrant laborers. Practices such as sponsorship laws create conditions that make guest workers especially vulnerable to trafficking in the region.

Sponsorship laws give employers extensive personal authority over workers, allowing them to control movement and legal status. These -- there are cases of workers escaping abuse in private homes or work sites. They flee to local police. But if their sponsor denies them an exit permit to leave the country, the exploited workers are effectively held hostage in a shelter or a police detention center, sometimes for years. The power given to sponsors over foreign workers should be limited and counterbalanced with rights for workers to seek legal redress and governments in destination countries should be more active in protecting workers.

Now 32 countries are on the Tier 2 Watch List, the same number as last year. The Tier 2 Watch List should be a warning. Unfortunately, too many major countries on the Tier 2 Watch List have ignored this warning year after year. India, Mexico, and Russia are on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year. Armenia, China, and South Africa are on Tier 2 Watch List for a third consecutive year. For all Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, the United States outlines a short-term action plan through which to spur bilateral commitment and specific steps to improve the situation. Tier 2 Watch List is not supposed to become a parking lot for governments lacking the will or interest to stop exploitation and enslavement on their soil. We stand ready to cooperate with these nations and support any efforts they make to end this travesty within their borders.

On a positive note, 10 governments ranked on Tier 2 Watch List last September when the President made final determinations on tier status moved up to Tier 2 on this report: Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Taiwan, Peru, Jamaica, they're among these moving up to Tier 2 based on significant new efforts. Belize moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in one year. The Government of Brazil renewed its commitment to confronting slave labor in the Amazon with a number of new measures. The Government of Indonesia enacted a sweeping counter-trafficking law providing protection for all victims including migrant laborers who are fraudulently recruited from overseas work, but fall into trafficking as a trap.

Last week, a raid in Taiwan, a real success story, demonstrated a welcome new attitude. Working closely with U.S. law enforcement, Taiwan broke up a cross-border trafficking ring, arresting 12 people suspected of trafficking women to the United States and other countries where they were exploited in prostitution and pornography. Countries that have established credentials in good governments and rule of law are more likely to move quickly in protecting victims of trafficking and handing down justice to exploiters.

For example, while China resisted joining the international community in upholding universal anti-trafficking standards, given a lack of rule of law, Taiwan's vibrant civil society and democratic character have helped it adopt significant reforms over the past year. On Tier 1, three countries appear for the first time this year: Georgia, Hungary, and Slovenia. Georgia's performance is particularly notable, considering it's the only Tier 1 country in a region struggling to strengthen rule of law. Georgia has shown an admirable political commitment to confronting human trafficking. Its improvement includes efforts to prevent girls and women from being lured into the global sex trade, where exploiters turn women and girls into mere commodities with their bodies for sale.

Young girls and unsuspecting women are often lured or kidnapped or sold into an omnivorous sex industry. The length between prostitution and sex trafficking is indisputable. That's why we must move with more creativity and commitment to deal with the demand for victims. Prostitution is not a victimless crime. It ruins lives from Mexico to Malta, from Tel Aviv to Tokyo, from Albany, New York to Abuja, Nigeria. Sexual servitude is particularly grotesque in human trafficking. The report is interspersed with stories of survivors who have been aided by U.S. programs that demonstrate our commitment to rescue and rehabilitate innocent victims.

Let me tell you briefly about some trends that we see highlighted in the 2007 report. Use of debt, first of all, as a tool of coercion and secondly, stalled progress in strengthening rule of law. First, in both labor and sexual exploitation, illegal or illegitimate debt is increasingly used to keep people in servitude. This debt is used by traffickers as an instrument of coercion. How does this work? People are enticed into fraudulent offers of work abroad that require a steep payment up front for the services of a labor agency arranging the job or a payment that goes straight to the future employer.

To pay the fee, workers often borrow money from relatives and friends or they mortgage property. Sometimes, additional debt is added at the place of employment: inflated fees for supposed costs of room and board or equipment. Sometimes, new, unexpected transportation fees are added. The debt becomes exorbitant on purpose, yet workers are trapped into trying to pay it off for years. This debt is as effective as overt force in keeping them in bondage, yet it's invisible and often overlooked by criminal investigators. In trafficking for prostitution, we're increasingly aware of debt being used to coerce and control victims. Daily fees charged by brothel owners for rent, food, drugs, even condoms create an inescapable financial burden that amounts to debt bondage, a form of human trafficking.

A second trend, second theme; the 2007 TIP report reflects our overall sense that progress on the critical front of rule of law appears to have stalled. Democracy and rule of law are crucial to fighting human trafficking. And fighting trafficking conversely is crucial to the future of democracy worldwide, since trafficking is one of the most brutal ways to silence women, half of humankind worldwide. This lack of progress on rule of law can be traced to official corruption and complicity on the one hand and indifference on the other. These passive and active factors perpetuate abuse despite increased public awareness and despite extraordinary bravery on the part of activists and NGOs around the world.

It hurts my heart to share with you this very recent example that typifies the confluence of officials' complicity in trafficking and indifference in the face of heroism to end modern-day slavery. One of the heroes highlighted in this year's report, Kailash Satyarthi of the Indian NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan or BBA, prompted the rescue of 92 Bengali children enslaved in goldsmith and jewelry factories in India's capital city of New Delhi. The children were forced to eat, sleep, and labor in workshops, 10 to a room. Dangerous chemicals were used for making gold ornaments in the same rooms that they were kept 24 hours a day. Most of the children were under the age of 14. According to the children, many were physically and sexually abused.

Just days after this rescue which didn't result in any arrests in India, the factory owners, managers, and their thugs showed up at BBA's shelter with iron rods, sticks, and bricks. They tried to recapture the children. Shelter staff were injured. When police finally responded, no one was arrested. The connections and clout of these traffickers were enough, apparently, to thwart justice. India has the world's largest labor trafficking problem with hundreds of thousands of sex trafficking victims and millions of bonded laborers including forced child laborers. In India, there is no national anti-trafficking effort, no recognition of bonded labor on an official level, and poor efforts against sex trafficking. The world's largest democracy has the world's largest problem of human trafficking.

The goal of this report is not to punish. It's to stimulate government action in concert with the United States to end modern-day slavery and to celebrate the heroism of those who are working to help spare victims from pain. The report identifies anti-trafficking heroes from around the world and commendable practices. Individuals and local initiatives can make a difference in leading path-breaking efforts to protect victims, increase global awareness, and protect and prosecute criminals. On pages 38-41 of the report, you see some of these inspirational examples, and I'd urge you to read that part of the report carefully.

The United States is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities and to fight against trafficking in persons within our own borders as well. We have a problem at home which we're confronting forcefully, and we're working to be a partner to those abroad, including through substantial and frankly compassionate funding. In fiscal year 2006, we contributed more than \$74 million abroad, funding 154 international projects in 70 countries. Since fiscal year 2001, the United States Government has funded more than \$448 million to fight human trafficking.

This report is not just an assessment and a judgment about nations, but a blueprint about the sorts of things the United States can help other countries do programmatically. Modern slavery has met with a powerful movement, seeking its abolition in the 21st century, assuming the mantles of William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler.

I want to thank you for your support. Thank you for joining us here; taking the time. By broadcasting this tragic but true story of trafficking in persons, you help prevent a widespread crime against human dignity and help give victims hope for escape. I welcome your questions and I'd ask you when you ask a question, to identify yourself and your media organization.

QUESTION: Anne Gearan from the Associated Press. You mentioned repeat offenders, Saudi Arabia and India, also strategic U.S. allies. Do you think those countries regard their positions with the United States as inviolable, and thus they don't have to take you seriously?

LAGON: They shouldn't. We make clear in our high-level dialogues with them that this isn't a tertiary or secondary issue. I was just speaking with the Secretary this morning about how we talked to some of these important partners of ours on some fronts and make sure that we engage in them in diplomacy so that there isn't just a burst of activity after this report comes out on my part, but in fact a regular dialogue through the year with those countries.

Of course, in the case of some that you mention, the problem of trafficking in persons is part of a larger problem of rule of law and a pattern of certain ethnic groups and foreign workers being seen as less than human. This is the crux of the human trafficking problem. When someone -- a woman, a child, someone from another ethnic group or cast -- is seen as not worthy of concern -- they're only a foreign worker, they're only a woman -- that's a horrifying situation. And as part of a larger effort with these countries, we're trying to affect change.

Elise.

QUESTION: Elise Labott with CNN. Just to follow-up on the case of India that's been on the Tier 2 Watch List for four years, could you talk about the decision not to put India on the list this year? It's a quite extensive description of the problem, and you yourself just detailed horrible conditions for up to 65 million bonded laborers in India.

LAGON: Like many countries that are on the **Tier 2 Watch List**, there is a very severe problem with **human trafficking** in India. The more time we spend on this report in modesty, the more we learn about problems of labor trafficking, of bonded labor. And in this report we see reflected more and more detail about an endemic problem in India. We need to engage in a very serious dialogue with India, with them having the sense that they will be reassessed about their tier level and how their record is changing, like all Tier 2 Watch List countries. That includes an offer of partnership because two serious democracies who have a developing alliance. The relationship, the level of communication between our two governments is such that it can stand some serious frank talk about a problem like bonded labor or sex trafficking. And we're going to lay out working with them, a kind of action plan for steps forward on this before the reassessment.

QUESTION: If I can just follow up.

LAGON: Sure.

QUESTION: Haven't you already done that in the case of India? I mean, haven't you already had an action plan for them and --

LAGON: We have. And what's required is that in the context of our overall diplomacy with them, talking about all sorts of serious issues, great power of politics, counterterrorism, civilian nuclear cooperation and so on, that this has to have high level emphasis as well as a serious problem, but in modesty. You know, the United States is not only in a position to point fingers. We need to say we had our legacy of slavery, we had our legacy of segregation, we had our legacy of discrimination. Serious democracies have evolved, but we need to ramp up that effort. With a serious sense on the part of the Indian Government that, you know, reassessment is a distinct possibility.

QUESTION: It's not something that was a political determination.

LAGON: No. Look, there are many different variables that are taken into account in everything we do at the State Department. I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries any time we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking. But look at the report -- Zimbabwe, it has a situation on political opposition being repressed and our relationship with the government in a very critical state on other grounds. But the facts are that through our leveraging and through our prodding Zimbabwe has taken some tangible steps and it's actually moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2. So there are, you know, efforts, very strong efforts to make an objective assessment based on criteria laid out in the law and I played a small part in the passage of the law in the year 2000 and so I know a little bit about those criteria.

QUESTION: Arshad Mohammed with Reuters. You've pointed out that a number of the new countries in Tier 3 are relatively wealthy near eastern countries, significant oil exporters that do not lack for resources. There are also a number of them U.S. allies -- Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Algeria. What, to your mind, explains the fact that these countries which were not previously in this lowest category of not even meeting the minimal standards should have slid down this year? And secondly, on Saudi Arabia, it is clearly not very sensitive to the kinds of sanctions that could be imposed in terms of the withholding of certain U.S. assistance or withholding of U.S. support in the international financial institutions. And given that it's been in the lowest category for three years in a row, it's not been too sensitive to the shame factor of being exposed through the report.

Do you wish you had -- and I know you've only been at this a little while, but do you wish you had stronger statutory tools to try to influence behavior, one; and two, can you think of anything else you can do to try to get countries that have been serially in the lowest category to do more?

LAGON: That's a great question. I'd say on balance that the tools provided by the Trafficking and Victims Protection Act and our friends on Capitol Hill are quite good. This is a unique example of the human rights reports that we have in different areas generally on countries, the ones on religious freedom and so on, because the tier ranking is much more refined. It's associated with producing action plans for the two lowest rungs for steps that need to be taken, potential sanctions, grace periods for nations to take steps so that they might be either boosted up the scale of tiers or find themselves sliding down. So on balance, it's actually one of the more refined tools that's been given to us in terms of sanctions and reports.

In fact, now for the third time the legislation is going to be reauthorized this year, and I think Capitol Hill will think about refinements, you know, of such things, including, you know, how long states can stay on the Tier Two Watch List among other things.

As far as the region, what we found as a general pattern in this report is an endemic problem of the way foreign workers are treated in the Persian Gulf, in Middle Eastern states. There is a recruitment pattern of people, unsuspecting people who are offered jobs as secretaries, as maids; they end up being sex slaves or put into domestic servitude in an involuntary way. That's seen throughout the region and it seems to be an increasingly acute problem.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes. Charlie Wolfson from CBS. You mentioned the figure of 800,000 worldwide as an estimate. Do you have an estimate of the number of people trafficked across the U.S. border?

LAGON: Well, an estimate that we work off is approximately 14,500 to 17,500 per year. I'll say something about statistics. We wish we had better statistics. It would be helpful to know how much of a dent in the problem we're making. But I do think that with the resources that we have to fight the traffickers, to help the victims, we want to make sure that we don't spend a great deal of money on the statistical study when some of those resources could be used to build a victims shelter or to train law enforcement officers in other countries or figure out how to prevent officials in other countries from deciding to get their palms greased in corruption and allow trafficking to occur.

QUESTION: Hi. I'm Libby Leist from NBC. I wanted to ask about Iraq and can you talk a little bit about why it's designated a special case? And also how concerned are you about forced labor inside that country, including at facilities run by the U.S. or projects being built by the United States?

LAGON: A serious question and one that we're very seized with. I mean, there are a number of cases in the report that are designated as special cases. They tend to be either a case in which the requisite number of cases of trafficking, 100 cases, haven't been easy to document. And so the government in question isn't rated or it's a case of a government that is facing enormous turbulence, like Liberia last year, Haiti at times. And you know, let's speak the truth about Iraq, there is a very turbulent situation with strife among ethnic groups and caused by terrorists.

While we're pleased that democratic elections have taken place and that rule of law is being slowly rooted into place, you know, it's the conclusion of the U.S. Government that it's -- you know, it should be a special case in terms of rating it. We however are very serious about talking about the problem of trafficking in Iraq.

In a situation in which there is a conflict, open-armed conflict, this is a place where people can be vulnerable. And so when you talk about the actual possibility of trafficking in persons, I'd like to say that, you know, my office has a role I think vested in it by Congress of being a kind of conscience in the U.S. Government about trafficking in persons so that we don't look aside when we have strategic purposes and not look at trafficking in persons.

There were media reports in October of 2005 about questionable labor practices by defense subcontractors. There appeared to be cases of foreign workers who had their passports withheld and were not getting the kind of pay that they'd been promised quickly in February of 2006. And the Defense Department did a study on the ground -- inspector general study -- and shortly thereafter in May 2006 rules were put in place so that only licensed recruiting companies could be used by subcontractors, passports couldn't be taken away and that all workers would be given a signed contract in their own native language and in English.

More recently, there have been allegations about a Kuwaiti company involved in the construction site of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Our office received a number of credible reports in late 2006 and we insisted on the State Department launching through its Office of the Inspector General an examination of this. And we didn't -- rightly didn't play a part in the writing of that report since the Inspector General is independent. With the help of Defense Department investigators, they've looked into indicators of trafficking, we will continue at the office I lead to ask questions about that.

QUESTION: Is that OIG report --

LAGON: I'm sorry.

QUESTION: Is that OIG report public?

LAGON: It is. Yeah, it's on the Web site.

Sir.

QUESTION: Lambros Papantoniou, Greek correspondent. Ambassador Lagon, what Greece and Cyprus should be done ready to transfer to Watch List number 1 like the United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Canada, Australia and some other countries of your choice?

LAGON: I'm sorry. What?

QUESTION: What Greece and Cyprus should be done to transfer from the list, number two to one?

LAGON: What needs to be done?

QUESTION: Mm-hmm.

LAGON: The -- in the cases of Greece and Cyprus, they're clearly governments that have substantial rule of law and substantial resources, unlike developing countries. And we intend to continue working with both of them on how to move forward.

As far as Greece goes, its anti-trafficking laws are adequate, but it's -- in particular, its identification of victims of trafficking are rather weak. Shelters are underused. So what we need to do is work on going further and helping Greece actually hold traffickers to account and convict them, and to more systematically identify victims because what we found here at home is that having a victim-centered approach -- so that people are not treated like illegal aliens or criminals, but in fact victims with rights -- as essential.

As far as Cyprus goes, again, there's a pretty strong case that there's capacity on the part of the Government of Cyprus. But there is a big problem of Cyprus being a destination for sex trafficking of Eastern European women. There is a tilt in the anti-trafficking law towards -- focused on sex trafficking but not on death bondage. One thing in the sex trafficking area that would be very helpful is if Cyprus abolished the so-called artiste visa where people come, lured into being dancers -- exotic dancers and you know what that ends up being.

QUESTION: In which category you are placing the United States of America since you told us earlier that is included in this process?

LAGON: The United States of America is not perfect, and we haven't assigned it a tier rating. But unlike some other human rights reports, it's actually addressed here. You'll find a summary of the U.S. record along the same lines of what it's doing on protecting victims, preventing trafficking through public awareness and prosecution. Also, annually, the Department of Justice puts out a report on everything that's being done by the United States Government on trafficking in persons. And we in our office try and make sure that the world sees that report.

It is very important that the United States be seen as a partner and that we have a problem at home. We are not just standing with our arms folded, judging others, because this is a transnational problem. There's serious trafficking in persons into the United States from East Asia, from Latin America, from Europe, and there's trafficking within the United States. And we're ready to be judged because we offer our hand as a partner to try and solve this problem of modern-day slavery.

MODERATOR: OK, this will be the last question.

LAGON: OK.

QUESTION: Kirit Radia with ABC News. I had a question about Syria, to follow up on the Iraq question that Libby asked. Your report talks about sexual exploitation of Iraqis in Syria. How many of those does your office believe are refugees?

LAGON: I don't know off the top of my head what the number is. I could get back to you on that. We take seriously the problem of Iraqi refugees and the vulnerability that they have. That's one of the reasons why Under Secretary Dobriansky has led an effort and -- Department of State to deal with Iraqi refugees in concert with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. But it is indeed possible that those who have fled from Iraq are vulnerable, and it's the responsibility of not just the United States but the international community to deal with that in Syria. The problem in Syria though is that you have some of these endemic issues of how foreign workers are treated and mistreated, plus a particularly closed and insensitive government.

After this session, let me say that Mark Taylor, who heads the section of our office that prepares this report, and Eleanor Gaetan, who is our Senior Coordinator for Public Affairs, will be on hand to provide background on the report; the level of detail if you want to go into it further afterward. And I'd welcome hearing from you over the next few days and weeks because I'm here to help promote public awareness, not just engage in diplomacy.

Thank you for taking the time with me.

END

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: NEWS BRIEFING

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

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268 of 445 DOCUMENTS



June 12, 2007 Tuesday 2:21 AM EST

India escapes U.S. list of worst human traffickers

SECTION: U.S.

LENGTH: 698 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

India, which advocacy groups say may have as many as 65 million forced laborers, was spared the worst ranking on the State Department's new list of nations where humans are bought and sold.

Countries not doing enough to combat human trafficking could face sanctions if they don't take steps to improve.

The annual Trafficking in Persons report, released Tuesday, says that as many as 800,000 people -- largely women and children -- are trafficked across borders each year. Many are forced into prostitution, sweatshops, domestic labor, farming and child armies.

U.S. officials told CNN the question of India's ranking caused a heated debate between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.

Negroponte wanted India listed as a Tier 3 country, or worst offender. Rice overruled him out of concern about alienating the Indian government. India is on the Tier 2 watch list.

Rice agreed to undertake a special evaluation of India in six months, and then take action if India does not make improvements.

Mark Lagon, ambassador at large for the State Department's Trafficking in Persons office, said Tuesday that "many different variables" played into the decision.

"I would be perpetuating a fraud to say that we don't look at multiple factors in our relationship with countries any time we take a step on a particular issue like human trafficking," he said.

Worst offenders could face penalties

The United States added Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar and Bahrain to Tier 3 as countries that are destinations for trafficking victims who are exposed to sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Saudi Arabia, a nation considered friendly toward the United States, also is a Tier 3 country.

The State Department also lists Burma, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Venezuela as Tier 3 countries, defined as those "whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards" set by American law and "are not making significant efforts to do so."

These countries have 90 days to take additional steps to combat trafficking or face penalties. Penalties could take the form of sanctions, including withholding of non-humanitarian and non-trade-related U.S. assistance and U.S. opposition to assistance through international financial institutions.

President Bush can waive sanctions if he deems it in the United States' interest.

The Bush administration has increased attention to the trafficking problem in recent years as a part of its focus on promoting democracy and human rights as the cornerstone of Bush's foreign policy agenda, specifically in the Middle East.

The United States, however, is not immune to the problem. The State Department estimates 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.

Trafficking victims rescued in the United States are eligible for a special visa and help getting their passports back from their traffickers.

Other countries on the watch list

The United States put several countries on notice that they risk being put on the **Tier 3** list if they fail to take adequate steps to combat **human trafficking**. China, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Mexico, the Philippines and Russia were among 32 on a Tier 2 watch list, and under U.S. law will receive special scrutiny and be subject to an interim assessment before next year's report.

India was put on the watch list for the fourth year in a row "for its failure to show increasing efforts to tackle India's large and multidimensional problem," according to the report.

The report found while the Indian government was making significant efforts to combat trafficking, it "did not recognize the country's huge population of bonded laborers," which advocacy groups estimate to range from 20 million to 65 million.

The report also found efforts by Indian law enforcement agencies to punish traffickers "uneven and largely inadequate."

Rahul Chhabra, spokesman for the Indian Embassy in Washington, told CNN that the Indian government is reviewing the report.

The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 mandated the State Department report as a way of combating human trafficking around the world and punishing those responsible.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

269 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 11, 2007 Monday

Taiwan minister praises police crackdown on human trafficking

LENGTH: 323 words

Text of report in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

[By Deborah Kuo]

Taipei, June 11 (CNA) - Anti-human trafficking police have done commendable jobs over the past few months in cracking down on human smuggling rings, Minister of the Interior Lee Yi-yang said Monday.

Following a China Times daily report earlier that day that Taiwan has been on a global **human trafficking blacklist** since the beginning of this year, Lee said law enforcement agencies, including the National Police Administration, have cracked down on 80 **human trafficking** cases involving 626 "snakeheads" or smugglers, ring operators and illegal brokers in the first five months of this year.

The figure represents a 16-fold increase over the figure posted for the same period of 2006, Lee said, describing the China Times report as "groundless." In a written statement, Lee said the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) has maintained coordination operations with local governments of the 24 cities and counties around the country with regard to anti-human trafficking efforts.

So far, 11 victims from outside Taiwan have been given temporary accommodation in shelters operated by private organizations with the assistance of local governments, Lee said.

Meanwhile, he added, a total of 1,585 foreign workers who have fallen victim to illegal labour brokers have been put up at 13 foreign laborers' halfway homes around the country.

Lee said the MOI has been overseeing the implementation of 52 measures to prevent human trafficking, track down traffickers and protect victims since Nov. 8, 2006, when the administration announced a supra-ministerial anti-human trafficking plan.

He added that in its 2007 global human trafficking report released in January, the US State Department also confirmed that the Taiwan authorities have made some progress in efforts to crack down on human trafficking.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1224 gmt 11 Jun 07

LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

270 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 11, 2007 Monday 8:17 PM TST**POLICE EFFICIENT IN CRACKING DOWN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING:
MOI****BYLINE:** Deborah Kuo**LENGTH:** 293 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 11

Anti-human trafficking police have done commendable jobs over the past few months in cracking down on human smuggling rings, Minister of the Interior Lee Yi-yang said Monday.

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LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

271 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Times (London)

May 19, 2007, Saturday

Gangbusters identify 1,600 crime bosses

BYLINE: Stewart Tandler Crime Correspondent

SECTION: HOME NEWS; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 629 words

* £ 5.3bn laundered yearly, says report

* Agency fails on recovery targets

Britain's gangbusters have identified a top **tier** of 1,600 underworld bosses at the core of a multibillion-pound black economy fuelled by drugs, **human trafficking** and fraud.

Senior officers in the new Serious Organised Crime Agency say that the majority are Britons and many still operate in Britain rather than working from bases abroad. They include members of the Adams family in London and Turkish drug clans.

As Soca issued its first annual report yesterday, investigators said that 160 crime bosses were already at the centre of operations, that arrests had been made and more investigations would begin. The report shows that the bosses head an underworld in which contract killings and kidnaps to settle debts are regular occurrences. Soca officers and police prevented 35 murders last year and worked on 335 abductions.

The crime bosses are getting rich. According to the report, the Home Office estimates that more than £ 5.3 billion a year is being laundered from crime and that £ 3.3 billion of the total is being smuggled out of the country.

Soca is currently working on Operation Snowblade with investigators in the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Spain, Australia and the United States to attack a laundering network moving millions in drugs money. There have already been 40 arrests, including 22 in Britain, and there are 15 investigations under way.

Investigators have also seized 151 guns and one operation with Dutch police yielded rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles in the Netherlands.

Sir Stephen Lander, the former Director-General of MI5 and now the chairman of Soca, said that intelligence analysts had begun with 80,000 crime-boss files passed on by units merged into the agency. They found a great deal of duplication and suspects who were dead or already in prison. The number was whittled down to 29,000 and then sifted.

Sir Stephen said that the 1,600 were a starting point and not likely to be the final total. They include significant figures who have worked from the shadows in the past and have never been identified as main players.

Bill Hughes, the director-general of Soca, said that many of the kidnappings were "bad on bad", where criminals had tried to settle bad debts by kidnapping the debtor and demanding the cash from friends or family.

Last year there were 395 cases, compared with 334 in 2005 and just 23 in 1996. The numbers rose slowly in the 1990s and have escalated since 2000.

The agency was formed after Tony Blair grew increasingly concerned at the rise of the drug trade and the inability of the police to tackle it.

Soca officers said yesterday that the agency's operations last year had led to the seizure of 73 tonnes of cocaine, worth £ 3 billion, bound for Britain and the rest of Europe. The drugs equal a fifth of the European market and many of the seizures were made by the Royal Navy.

Soca, which has a budget of £ 400 million and 4,400 staff, has been criticised for being secretive, for unhappiness among staff and having few targets. The report shows that Soca failed to reach any of five targets on asset recovery, the only numerical targets it is set, but the report also said that the cases had been inherited from the National Crime Squad.

Defending the agency, Sir Stephen said that it incorporated four national units and its performance was based not on ordinary targets but a drive towards harm-reduction. He said that the agency did not want to set itself in competition with other units, and that the agency was involved in a marathon, not a sprint.

Mr Hughes said that the creation of the agency had been complicated, but that the first annual staff turnover of 3.9 per cent was good for the public service, and that morale was high.

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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272 of 445 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

May 10, 2007 Thursday

Human trafficking bill to exclude whipping

BYLINE: V. Vasudevan; Anis Ibrahim

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 16

LENGTH: 405 words

PROPOSALS that those involved in the trafficking of women and children should be whipped will not be written into the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz said whipping was inconsistent with the United Nations protocol on human trafficking.

"The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (Untoc), does not recognise whipping as a penalty against traffickers," he said.

"Whipping is also inconsistent with the current worldwide trend against corporal punishment."

Earlier, MPs including Tan Ah Eng (BN-Gelang Patah) and Datuk Mohd Said Yusof (BN-Jasin) had recommended that whipping be included as a punishment for human traffickers on the ground that a jail term and a fine were not deterrent enough.

Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) also suggested that traffickers be jailed for life, in addition to whipping.

Nazri said penalties stipulated in the bill were sufficient.

"Other countries with anti-trafficking laws only have prison sentences and fines, and such laws are considered adequate by the United Nations.

"Jail terms for Western anti-trafficking laws range from two to 10 years," he added.

The bill, which came up for its second reading yesterday, provides for prison sentences ranging from three to 20 years with either an alternative or additional penalty of a fine of between RM50,000 and RM500,000.

In his opening speech, Nazri said a report by Amnesty International in 2004 revealed that about 700,000 people were trafficked every year while the United States' Department of State estimated that about 600,000 to 800,000 individuals were victims of cross-border trafficking every year.

"Most of those trafficked are women and children. Human trafficking is estimated to rake in as much as \$10US billion (RM34.03 billion) every year.

"On the annual report on **human trafficking** released on June 5, 2006, by the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, of the US Department of State, Malaysia is listed on the '**Tier-2 Watch List**'," he said.

The listing was because Malaysia was seen as not serious in its efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly because there were no specific and comprehensive domestic laws.

"With the bill, the government is confident Malaysia is ready to deal with the problem," he added.

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273 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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**HEARING OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE;
SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF LT. GENERAL DELL L. DAILEY, USA, TO
BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM; AND THE NOMINA-
TION OF MARK P. LOGAN TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MON-
ITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS;
CHAired BY: SENATOR BILL NELSON (D-FL);
LOCATION: 419 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON,
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SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING

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IN PERSONS CHAIRED BY: SENATOR BILL NELSON (D-FL) LOCATION: 419 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE
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SEN. NELSON: Good afternoon. We have an important nomination hearing for two key positions of ambassadorial rank: General Dell Dailey to serve as coordinator for counterterrorism, and Mark Lagon to direct the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

And I want to welcome both of you.

Senator Brownback had planned to be with us to introduce Dr. Lagon, but, as you can imagine, he is in Kansas right now with the president. And he has given a statement and we will put that in the record. And Senator Lugar also has a statement which will be placed in the record. And Senator Reed is on his way, and when he gets here, we'll have him make his statement.

The National Counterterrorism Center has reported an estimated 14,338 incidents of terrorism global-wide in '06. The incidents were up 91 percent in Iraq, and in Afghanistan up 53 percent last year.

General Dailey, you have agreed to serve in a critically important post. Your 36-year Army career, most recently as the director of Special Operations at MacDill, qualifies you uniquely to address what has been called a global counterinsurgency. Your efforts will be essential as we seek to combat what has become transnational crime, terrorist financing, and many other threats to our national security. Your diplomatic challenge will be to win over partners in this fight.

In the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, which was released by the White House last fall, the long-term solution for winning the war on terror is the advancement of human freedom and human dignity through effective democracy. So you're going to have your hands full to marshal all the resources at your disposal to protect, secure, and win the support of at-risk populations, in addition to targeting violent extremist networks, as well as individual terrorists. And I would recommend that along the way you talk to a former commander of Central Command -- well, there have been a bunch of those former commanders of Central Command, each of which has expertise, that you might want to talk to, in addition to the commanders that you have now served under: General Abizaid as well as also the present new com-

mander. Now who -- did you serve under the new commander? He just took over. Or have you been at the Special Operations Command?

GEN. DAILEY: Sir, I've been in the Special Operations Command throughout that time period.

SEN. NELSON: Okay, you've been with General Brown.

GEN. DAILEY: Yes, sir.

SEN. NELSON: Okay. Well, you've had some good mentoring there, and so you've got a lot of that good background.

Now, Mark Lagon has been asked to manage an unwieldy but critically important effort to fight modern-day slavery. The State Department estimates that somewhere between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Of all the trafficking victims, 80 percent are women and girls. Minor children make up as much as 50 percent of those that are forced, coerced and defrauded into indentured servitude and the worst kinds of sexual exploitation.

And so in monitoring and reporting on human trafficking worldwide, the United States needs to advocate for those whose voices are often voiceless. And with your background in international organizations and your knowledge of the opportunities of leveraging multilateral diplomacy, you will have a good perspective to bring to our efforts to assist people who have been trafficked and to work to try to lessen this threat to human rights worldwide.

I -- just on a personal note, I can tell you that I get a lecture from my wife about once a week about trying to use my position to try to help, and so I'm bringing you some intense personal -- (laughter) -- admonition as well as encouragement.

We look forward to a thorough discussion on your plans, so let me just turn it over to you, General. And we will take a time-out when Senator Reed gets here and let him go ahead and make his statement. But if you will, General.

GEN. DAILEY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this committee present and absent, it's a pleasure to come before you as --

SEN. NELSON: Let me stop you right here, because he just walked in.

SEN. JACK REED (D-RI): Excuse me. (Laughter.)

SEN. NELSON: Okay, Senator. We've just gone through the preliminaries, and the general was just literally starting his first sentence.

SEN. REED: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to be here today and to have an opportunity to introduce Lieutenant General Dell Dailey. We were both fortunate to be members of the class of 1971 at West Point, and we're joined by many of our classmates here today.

And Dell has outshined all of us in his dedication and his service to the country. He's an extraordinary leader. He has commanded at every level of the Army.

And he's just completed extraordinarily important responsibilities in the Special Operations Command. But he's more than a commander, he is a soldier's soldier, and I get that information from my classmates who have served with them and everyone who's known him. This nation owes a great debt to him personally and to those soldiers and Marines and Air Force and Navy personnel that he's lead.

He is superbly suited for this task. He is anything but a theoretician when it comes to the war on terror. He is readily engaged and involved. And also, he brings not only competence, but he brings great character to this task. He and his wife have raised a wonderful family. He's joined today by his sister who's here, and he has those values which are the heart and soul of this country.

But a final point I'd like to make is that I think he has a rare insight into what we all do and should do because he appreciates, more than many people I know, that ultimately our decisions here in Washington are played out by countless soldiers and sailors and Marines and air men across the globe. And ultimately, I believe that they'll work so hard and so effectively because he wants to match their courage with wisdom, and I'm just honored to be here and to recommend Lieutenant General Dell Dailey to this committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SEN. NELSON: Thank you, Senator Reed. That's quite a testimony, and it's a special club that you have coming from the military academy. And I'll just tell you a little success story.

You know, each of us get one slot for each of the academies -- West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force and the Marines. For some reason I ended up getting two slots this year. We nominate on the basis of merit, not politics, and that's because we have an academy selection committee made up of prominent Floridians, some of whom are graduates of the academies, that go through and go through all the nominations, go through all of the applications, interview them and make the selections; so that when I nominate 10 for one slot, the remaining nine are so good that the academy will usually go around and try to figure out how to get the other nine in.

For some reason this year I had two slots instead of one slot.

I ended up getting 19 out of 20 into West Point this year.

SEN. REED: Mr. Chairman, that's a testimony to your talent and -- (laughter) --

SEN. NELSON: No, it's testimony to the talent of that academy selection committee!

SEN. REED: My only hope is that they played football in Florida. (Laughter.)

SEN. NELSON: No, between the Florida Gators -- the Florida State Seminoles and the Miami Hurricanes, they already got all that talent.

SEN. REED: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and please excuse me. Thanks.

SEN. NELSON: All right.

General Dailey, thank you.

GEN. DAILEY: Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee, it's a pleasure to come before you as the president's nominee as the coordinator for counterterrorism, and to work on the greatest challenge the United States has before it: international terrorism.

I'd like to thank the president and Secretary Rice for the confidence they have shown in me by nominating me for this important position.

SEN. NELSON: Is your family with you?

GEN. DAILEY: Unfortunately, my family cannot be present today.

SEN. NELSON: Okay.

GEN. DAILEY: My oldest boy, Dell Jr., is a second lieutenant at Fort Benning, Georgia. My other two boys, David and Drey (sp), are going through their final exams at the University of Florida. My two daughters, Allison (sp) and Natalie, are with my wife, Mary, at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, and they, too, are tied up with end-of-the-year school activities.

However, in their stead I have chosen four close friends who I've known upwards of 40 years. They are Mr. Tom Mantle (sp), Mr. Mike Mahaffey (sp), Mr. Phil Delivoir (sp) and Mr. Wes Walters.

SEN. NELSON: Why don't you all stand? Thank you for coming.

GEN. DAILEY: All are retired senior officers from the United States Army.

My sister, Denise, and my brother-in-law, Mr. Rick Bruns (sp), are here today also.

SEN. NELSON: Please stand. Thank you for coming.

GEN. DAILEY: Mr. Chairman, terrorism is a plague with roots reaching back hundreds maybe thousands of years. Globalization and the rapid advances in international communications have allowed terrorists to achieve a level of sophistication and maturity far beyond anything we've seen in the past. As a result, the use of terrorism or terrorist threats has become a tool of disaffected peoples who see it as an effective means to bring worldwide attention to the sources of their grievances.

Aside from the wanton destruction it inflicts on civilians, the threat from terrorism is threefold. First, terrorists use sophisticated modern technology, mainly the Internet, to enhance propaganda, recruiting and fundraising, amongst other

things. Second, the ideology used by terrorist leaders, such as bin Laden and Zawahiri, is uncompromising. It seeks to replace resolution of differences through dialogue with destruction, and the use of violence against civilians to impose political ends. Faced with this extreme threat, we ourselves cannot compromise. Finally, there's an increasing threat that foreign terrorist organizations are actively working to acquire weapons of mass destruction and the materials required to develop them. We have no reason to believe that they would be reluctant to use such weapons if they succeed in acquiring them. This is the greatest threat facing our security today.

The strategy to tackle the terrorist threat can be divided into short term and long term. Over the short term, we must continue our efforts to protect the homeland; to capture, detain and kill terrorist leaders. We must eliminate the safe havens where terrorists recruit, organize, plan, train, coalesce, rest, propagandize, and claim turf as a symbol of legitimacy. The Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Justice and members of the intelligence community lead us in these efforts.

However, over the long term, we will only win the war on terror if we eliminate the underlying conditions that terrorists exploit. The State Department, with support from the other interagencies, leads in this effort.

To eliminate the terrorist enemy, we must use all elements of statecraft -- diplomacy, economic power, intelligence, law enforcement and the military. Working to build capacity with our partner nations, who have the political will but lack resources or know-how, is vital to this effort. We also must work with our many partners around the world to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system.

Most importantly our interagency team must organize itself for a long, well-resourced and well-planned effort. Our short-term efforts merely buy us time to accomplish our long-term, long-standing goal. This is not a vision that can be attained rapidly or in an on-again, off-again manner. It will require ongoing interagency, international activity led by the United States.

However, time is on our side. We've had five years of aggressive activity in the kinetic, lethal or short-term area. Through cooperation and sharing information with our allies, the international community has killed or captured many terrorists. Cooperative international efforts have produced genuine security improvements, particularly in securing borders and transportation, enhancing document security, disrupting terrorist financing and restricting the movement of terrorists. While we continue these efforts and adapt our efforts to change we have forced al Qaeda to make, we will also be increasing focus in this second phase of our vision, using all the elements of statecraft to undermine and erode popular support for the terrorists.

Additionally we will continue to enhance the Regional Strategic Initiative started by my predecessor, Ambassador Crumpton. We will examine additional regions that can benefit from the RSI approach, which allows us to work with ambassadors and interagency representatives in key regions of terrorist activity to assess the threat and devise collaborative strategies, action plans and policy. Secretary Rice's innovative transformational diplomacy program will also help us to meet our needs, particularly in positioning our people and creating synergy within the department.

Tying all this together will require an aggressive communications outreach to both domestic and foreign audiences. This will include significant interaction with media and non-governmental organizations. The challenge for the coordinator for Counterterrorism is great but not insurmountable. With the talented people in all of our government agencies, the strength of this great nation and aggressive interaction with our partner nations, we will bring this scourge or international terrorism to ultimate defeat.

Sir, I thank you for the opportunity for this hearing, and look forward to the question-and-answer session to follow.

SEN. NELSON: And if you would, introduce members of your family or friends that are here.

MR. LAGON: Happily. I have with me my mother, Zofi Lagon (sp), my wife, Susan Lagon (sp) and my daughter, Elena Lagon (sp).

SEN. NELSON: We are glad to have you. Thanks for coming.

MR. LAGON: I ask, Mr. Chairman, that my prepared testimony be submitted for the record while I make briefer remarks now.

SEN. NELSON: It is.

MR. LAGON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing, and members of the committee. And I'd also like to thank Chairman Biden for considering my nomination. I had the pleasure of working with Senator Biden while on the Foreign Relations Committee staff, and the partnership on the Helms-Biden legislation on the U.N. was a memorable experience.

I appreciate the confidence President Bush and Secretary Rice have placed in me through this nomination to lead the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

A year ago in The New York Times Nicholas Kristof wrote, "This is for my money one of the most effective units in the U.S. government." Former Ambassador John Miller played a large part in that success. Throughout my own career, I've sought opportunities to promote human rights. As the son of two immigrants who fled Poland at the outset of World War II, I recognized that having such opportunities to work on human rights rights are a blessing. One of those immigrants, my mother, is here today.

Around the world people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold into prostitution, captured to serve as child soldiers. The United States has emerged as the global leader calling attention to the ongoing existence of this slavery, thanks to the bipartisan support of Congress and tools it provided through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I played a small part in crafting as a committee staffer. Over the last two years, the State Department has placed special emphasis on trafficking for labor exploitation -- foreign guest workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude, dehumanized domestic servants, victims trafficked within their own country.

Intelligence estimates found that about two-thirds of transnational trafficking is for commercial sexual exploitation. One of the most horrifying realities is the young age of so many victims of sex trafficking. In India, the average age of girls entering the commercial sex trade is 14. Prostitution is an inexorable magnet for trafficking. That's why the President's Interagency Task Force, chaired by the secretary of State, urges a focus on reducing demand.

Programmatically, the Trafficking in Persons Office currently manages 124 open grants totaling nearly \$23 million. An additional 80 grants totaling \$16.5 million are expected to be awarded by the end of the fiscal year. Examples include creation of village vigilance groups in Benin to prevent child trafficking, support for victim shelters for at-risk street young in Nicaragua, and training police, judges and prosecutors in Indonesia.

The office's seventh annual Trafficking in Persons Report is scheduled for release in June, and it will include ratings of 151 foreign governments. The goal of the report is not to push, but to stimulate action. In every Tier 1 or Tier 2 watch list case, the United States outlines a mini-action plan to spur bilateral commitment working together on behalf of victims.

Let me share three areas in which I'd be proactive if I'm confirmed. As U.N. specialist, I hope to use my comparative advantage to work multilaterally, as you referred to, Mr. Chairman, from steering an emerging U.N. initiative on anti-trafficking, to making sure that peacekeepers don't add to human suffering by enabling trafficking.

Secondly, I currently work with Undersecretary Karen Hughes as the public diplomacy deputy assistant secretary of my bureau.

I think there's a huge opportunity for public diplomacy on this issue to convince other governments to cooperate with us, to raise public awareness, but moreover, to highlight U.S. leadership and compassion. That's a message that needs to be better delivered today.

Finally, the ambassador-at-large chairs the interagency's senior policy operating group. I hope to work with domestic agencies to show other nations that we're not just hectoring them to change, but we're deeply committed to change ourselves.

Trafficking in persons is nothing less than modern-day slavery. It must be abolished. The exploited need to be treated -- should be treated as victims to be helped, not criminals. The exploiters must be stigmatized and prosecuted and the criminal networks eliminated. A broad movement of faith-based groups, feminists, brave individuals and NGOs have closed ranks to do so, and it would be a great honor to work with them, if I were confirmed.

And I'd welcome your questions.

SEN. NELSON: And by the way, Dr. Lagon, I would recommend to you that you study the life of British Parliamentarian William Wilberforce in the late 1700s and early 1800s, who if there's ever been an example of one person taking on the economic established order of the day, it was like he took on today's Fortune 500, and it took him 20 years as a

member of Parliament, 20 years, but he finally abolished the English slave trade. And he's an example of what one person that is determined can do, and what he did was he changed the course of history of the world.

Senator Casey.

SEN. ROBERT CASEY (D-PA): Thank you very much. Senator Nelson, we appreciate you calling this hearing, and I have to say, I'm appreciative at three levels. One is that we're dealing with such important matters today, grave matters to human life. Secondly and much less importantly, we don't have enough subcommittee hearings in the Senate, and I'm grateful for this opportunity. And thirdly, because I was relatively on time, I was able to jump ahead of Senator Feingold. (Laughter.) He outranks me by several years, and the way it works in Foreign Relations is you go to your seat and you wait until your number comes up, but I jumped ahead. So as long as Senator Feingold doesn't mind and as long as Senator Nelson won't tell anyone, we'll keep it a big secret. (Laughter.)

No, I'm grateful. And, General and Doctor, thank you for your testimony today but in the larger sense for your service to date but for your future service. We can't -- it's hard to come up with two more important topics than stopping terrorism or mitigating the effects of it as best we can and stopping human trafficking, so you're both doing very noble -- and it's not an overstatement to say heroic work, and we appreciate that.

I guess I want to just direct my first question to you, General. And I was, like a lot of us, when we're tracking the developments in the news about the war in Iraq and in a broader sense the more global war that we have against terrorists -- and I was struck, as we all were, by the 2006 country reports on terrorism, the numbers going up obviously. But according to the last number, in 2006, more than 14,000 incidents of terrorism occurred, a rise of more than 3,000 attacks over 2005. You know this data better than I do.

I'm just curious -- because you've been looking at this for a long time and you've got direct experience -- how helpful do you find that kind of annual report -- helpful or not? And then if it is, I want to follow up on it.

GEN. DAILEY: It is mandated by law, Mr. Senator, for us to render that report, and it allows us to take a very, very specific look. The parameters of the definition of terrorism is also defined by Congress. So it allows a(n) objective, finite look over the year timeframe with a specific definition.

Unfortunately, it doesn't cover all the other things that may be taking place in counterterrorism. It just looks at the final end of number of instances and number of fatalities. There's a lot of other activities that take place that affect terrorism that can give you a more holistic approach.

Benjamin Disraeli, the prime minister from the United Kingdom, had said that you've got "lies, darn lies and statistics." We have to be careful that these statistics don't end up forming too much of our opinion taken solely as numbers.

So we think it's helpful. It's a good start. It allows us to define at least trends that are taking place. But specificity -- we probably should stay away from it.

We have baselined it from '05 to '06. We think that's the right direction to go. And in the scheme of things, it's a tool, but it's not the only tool.

SEN. CASEY: Anything you can draw from today -- from this year's totals, meaning -- the reports from this year, meaning 2006 totals?

GEN. DAILEY: A 25 percent increase in incidents with a 40 percent increase in fatalities, a majority of those being in the Middle East area tied to Afghanistan or Iraq. Unfortunately, that might skew our numbers.

It's tough to discern sectarian, it's tough to get raw counterterrorism.

I think what we do need to understand is that terrorism is still a problem. It's not getting better, although we're doing as much as we can with both international and our own team. And we probably need to use that as probably the single baseline of where we're at.

SEN. CASEY: If you exclude from that total, just for purposes of discussion, not for any other purpose, but if you take out the data that pertains to Iraq and Afghanistan, anything just above that part of that data that you can -- anything that's significant in terms of the rise of the intensity or the scope or anything you can draw from that?

GEN. DAILEY: Senator, I was not prepared to discuss that report in too much detail. I would have to get back to you with a --

SEN. CASEY: Yeah, if you're able to submit something for the record, that would be great.

GEN. DAILEY: Okay.

SEN. CASEY: And I'm only half kidding when I say that you have a lot -- you're demonstrating a lot of valor just by taking, upon confirmation, the title of "coordinator," which means, by definition, you have to work with other governmental agencies, which is in Washington pretty risky business. But I'm sure you can handle it.

What do you see in terms of that part of your assignment, upon confirmation, that -- do you think that's going to be particularly difficult? Or do you think there's already a system in place for agencies to cooperate and to integrate their responsibilities with regard to counterterrorism?

GEN. DAILEY: If confirmed, the essence of this position is coordination. It's a low-budget organization, it is a low-number organization. I have the pleasure of working directly with -- to the secretary as my immediate boss. So coordination is the key to the position, and we focus that coordination with established processes already in place, coordination inside our own department -- State; inside the interagency, in concert with the National Center for Counterterrorism, and also the National Security System. But then also internationally through multinational organizations and bilateral organizations. The last aspect, international, is probably the one that's least structured, more personal-based versus process-based, and the one that will probably take the most of my focus.

SEN. CASEY: Well, I want to conclude -- and I have a question for the Doctor as well. But I want to conclude just with a statement on page three of your testimony, to commend you for this statement, among others, but the one that jumped out at me was the sentence which reads, quote, "To eliminate the terrorist enemy, we must use all elements of statecraft -- diplomacy, economic power, intelligence, law enforcement, and military."

And unfortunately, I think in too many discussions in this town it's only the military aspect or use of force aspect that people focus on. So I appreciate the breadth of your understanding of this.

I'm short on time. But, Doctor, I wanted to ask you a question as it pertains to the difficult job that you're seeking. And we really appreciate you pursuing this.

(Audio break) -- based upon your experience -- and I know you've worked before with the United Nations -- if you could outline for us any and all concrete steps that the United Nations, particularly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have undertaken to stem this, to stem sexual exploitation by peacekeeping forces in the U.N., as horrific and as contradictory as that sounds.

MR. LAGON: That's a tremendous question. I think it's one of the most horrifying things I've seen on the job at the International Organization Bureau -- that, you know, peacekeepers, whose job should be to diminish harm to other people, would actually extend suffering.

The revelations about the mission in the Congo were devastating.

The -- under Secretary-General Annan, steps were taken, and they're being continued under the new secretary-general, Ban Ki-Moon, to -- at the headquarters, at the mother ship, put in place policies in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that establish that there -- you know, that there have to be standards for peacekeepers and that if peacekeepers are found to be engaging in sexual abuse, they need to be sent back to the troop-contributing nation.

But the problem is impunity at home. When there continues to be a logic that "boys will be boys," soldiers will go to prostitutes, and this phenomenon of a magnet for trafficking being created by troops persists, it has to be addressed by the troop-contributing nations. At some point, the member states in the U.N. must insist that there be some sort of consequence, that a nation must discipline its own soldiers. And that's the trick.

If confirmed, I would begin by talking to the officials in the U.N. to continue the course that they have begun to input reforms. But you do need to talk to the governments where the troops are deployed and, most importantly, to the governments that send those troops, to change that attitude.

SEN. CASEY: Well, I thank you for that. And I think it's critically important for this committee -- I mean, the committee -- the Foreign Relations Committee overall -- to keep an eye on this, and I hope you'll upon confirmation be assisting us in doing that. It's a tremendous and disturbing contradiction, and I think it's important that we keep an eye on it, along with -- of course, along with the administration.

Thank you.

MR. LAGON: Pledge to do that.

SEN. CASEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SEN. NELSON: Senator Feingold.

SEN. RUSSELL FEINGOLD (D-WI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Senator Casey, I want you to know I'm so delighted that you're in the Senate and particularly on this committee, that you're more than welcome to occasionally bump me. (Laughter.)

It's good to have you here.

SEN. CASEY: Thank you.

SEN. FEINGOLD: I congratulate each of you in your nominations. Each of you have committed your lives to serving in government and to advancing and coordinating American foreign and counterterrorism policies during some very difficult times. So thank you to both you. Thanks to both of you for your service.

You both have very impressive credentials, and while this committee hearing is not long enough to delve into each of your backgrounds in detail, I wanted to note how valuable each of your contributions is to America's foreign policy, both at home and abroad.

General Dailey, thank you for coming to see me last week. I enjoyed talking with you. I'm glad that we have a chance to hear from both you and how you'll approach your new assignments, including coordination with international organizations, regional partners and the interagency process. If you are confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you. I hope you will look to the Senate as a resource and to this committee as a source of support and guidance during your tenure.

Dr. Lagon, just a question for you. There have been several global initiatives to address the issue of human trafficking and slavery, including the recently launched global initiative to fight human trafficking, coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as Humanity United's newly formed coalition involving many NGOs. Those global initiatives attempt to raise public awareness by -- while advancing policy and legislation globally.

Can you share with me your thoughts on where these initiatives have been most effective?

MR. LAGON: This issue was born of a coalition of people on left and right working together to raise awareness, because the first step for attacking the problem of human trafficking has been for elites and publics to understand that it's there. That was true back in 2000 when the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act came out, and Senator Brownback and Senator Wellstone, representing, you know, a broad array of views on the part of activists, came together. And so too internationally the idea that this problem really represents modern-day form of slavery has taken root.

Director General Costa of the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime has recognized that the very idea that Chairman Nelson has raised about William Wilberforce and the need to launch an effort to abolish this problem is very relevant. In fact, they're going to try and use the 200th anniversary of Wilberforce's effort to abolish slavery to do that.

We need to make sure that in fact that U.N. effort does the most to advance the cause. I think it's an interesting idea to create a trust fund, as that U.N. office has proposed, where private partners could involve themselves in the project in funding it. It should not only be governments. There have been very interesting opportunities for private actors to involve themselves, whether it be people in the airline or tourism industry who have worked as partners with the Office of Trafficking in Persons to deal with child sex tourism, or efforts emerging of Microsoft working in India, with the massive problems of forced labor and sex trafficking that are there.

NGO efforts, though, I'd say even more than U.N. efforts, are where the great energy lies. That's one of the reasons why, for instance, the Trafficking in Persons Office funds NGOs that are involved in such efforts -- for instance, the Free the Slaves NGO in India in efforts to try and combat child labor.

SEN. FEINGOLD: Thank you, Doctor.

General, the United States has been working with African Union, AU, member states in regional focal points for counterterrorism, including the AU's African Center for Studying Research on Terrorism, which was inaugurated in October 2004, and the Committee on Intelligence and Security Services in Africa, which was established at the January 2006 AU summit. These are important regional hubs to help guide strategic cross-border counterterrorism efforts on the Af-

rican continent. Do you believe they are receiving the funding and support and attention that they need to thrive? And if confirmed, what future collaboration do you envision between the United States government and these regional counterterrorism think tanks, such as the two that I just mentioned.

GEN. DAILEY: Senator, thanks for that question. It's a very good one.

I think the president's budget, as broken down for the State Department and State CT, was very helpful in resourcing activity focused on those two coordination centers. But for State CT and the coordinator, myself, I see a very aggressive program for multilateral organizations and then functional counterterrorism centers, like the two you just mentioned, to thrive and work with together. We want to combine them into our Regional Strategic Initiative, where we can couple connection with the international population and connection with our respective embassies in the Regional Security Initiative groups. I think they're essential. I think they're a key network with the leaders of those respective partner nations, and would work very diligently to increase our contact with them and make them as successful as we can.

SEN. FEINGOLD: Thank you, General.

I've long been concerned that our counterterrorism efforts, with specific regard to the safe haven in Somalia, have not been effective, because we lack a comprehensive long-term interagency strategy. What is the role of the State CT in developing this strategy and its implementation? And if you're confirmed, how would State Counterterrorism go about developing a long-term vision for a stable, terrorist-free Somalia? And how would you translate that vision into short and long-term policies?

GEN. DAILEY: Sir, I think the focus on Somalia, as previously an ungoverned area, comes out of our State Department with a policy that is threefold.

First of all, using the transitional federal government and internationally identified and supported government, we'd like them to go through some steps or some means to reconcile with their population in an attempt to put into place a stable government that fits the needs of all the people in Somalia.

The second thing that's important is making sure that there is security and stability in the area, which includes combating terrorism.

And then the third is addressing the humanitarian needs and responding to that.

Those three steps are all the policy of State Department and I believe the U.S. government at this point, and we will use those inside the coordinator's office to be our guidelines.

Somalia is watched by Ethiopia. It's watched by Kenya. It's -- countries right there -- they want to see Somalia succeed, so right off from the very beginning, we're going to have bilateral support for success.

And then with -- inside the African Union, like you said, and other multilateral organizations, capitalizing on their focus on Somalia will be another step that we will use.

SEN. FEINGOLD: Well, I agree with you, that Kenya and Ethiopia have a strong interest in this. But we have to be heavily involved ourselves. It's very important to us, as you obviously understand.

Finally, what points of collaboration do you see for the relative roles of U.S. military action, military assistance and nonmilitary assistance in the war against international terrorism? And what does this mean for the interagency process you'll be coordinating?

GEN. DAILEY: The military has a huge source of nonlethal, nonkinetic resources that Department of State and the other agencies, I think, can rely on to be successful in that portion of the war on terror that gets to the hearts and minds of the people. Civil affairs operations, public diplomacy -- right now the Special Operations organizations have about 15 or 20 teams that help in public diplomacy that work specifically for the ambassadors in the embassies. That's just a small snapshot of what the military can bring to the table.

I think, because of my experience with the military, I'm in a unique position to capture some of those resources for State Department or other agency missions or goals and make it appear and actually be a team interagency effort, which might have gone uncaptured without someone knowing the capability of the military.

SEN. FEINGOLD: Thank you very much, General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SEN. NELSON: Thank you, Senator Feingold.

General, you face a daunting task, because of the human tendency to build up walls between each of these agencies. There are innumerable agencies of the federal government and departments that are involved in counterterrorism.

How do you have the entree to be able to chip away at those walls so that you can be a coordinator?

GEN. DAILEY: Senator, thanks for that question also, because it does go to the heart of the previous question of the coordinator's position. First of all, I'm a personal friend of many of them -- Mike Diandria (ph) CIA, Fran Townsend at the National Security Council, and Juan Zarate at the Counterterrorism Security Group. So I have a little bit of a professional and personal connection with some of the team leaders of the stovepipes you just mentioned.

But there's a heck of a strong team in the coordinator's office, approximately 80 folks being well led right now, well educated, and darn good staffers. And they can out-staff a lot of organizations by speed and knowledge. I intend to use that skill, that capability they have to allow us to come to the table well-informed and with speed to attempt to get the positions of the foreign policy raised to a higher level of importance.

So my staff, the personal relationship, and also just the understanding of how the stovepipes have to be attacked on a regular basis, with congeniality and teamwork and with the goal of the success of the United States government in counterterrorism.

SEN. NELSON: In addition to the walls between agencies -- as you have described it, the stovepipes -- there's the human problem of communication at different levels of the federal, the state and the local governments, information that should be shared up and down but of which there is enormous frustration at the state and local level on the sharing of information from the federal level. Talk to us about that.

GEN. DAILEY: Sir, as you know, in my role I'll be doing the majority of my efforts on the international basis except for several selected things. We would work with DHS, a brand-new department in the executive branch, for them to go through their internal counterterrorism-type efforts. We will assist them. We'll provide technical information, knowledge of the threat, tactics, techniques, procedures, foreign financing of the threat. Our position would be that we would work as best we could with DHS as it worked within the continental United States. We would also provide appropriate guidance for the Department of Justice and other departments that have a counterterrorism needed flavor for their dealings with the state and local governments.

SEN. NELSON: Understandably you are dealing in the international arena, but it's incumbent upon us who are in touch with our people back home to let you know that a terrorist strike in Somalia is one thing, but a terrorist strike here is another.

And so often the eyes and ears that will first get some indication, unless the FBI has infiltrated a particular group, may well be that local law enforcement agency. And there needs to be that communication.

So I want to share that frustration on the part of state and local government with you because you're going to be running in these councils where you're going to be interacting with the FBI from time to time, and the DEA, and the secretary of Homeland Security, and so forth, the head of Northern Command -- you're going to be interfacing with all of these people, and that's a message that constantly needs to be made.

Tell me, no doubt you have been familiar with some of the writings of General Zinni, former commander of Central Command, about how we ought to approach the issue of terrorism and what we should approach -- how should we approach it. I'd love to have you make some comment about General Zinni's ideas.

GEN. DAILEY: Sir, I haven't read any of his most recent products or his public statements. I do know that he had great frustration when we engaged into the Iraq war. His war plans were far more robust than General Franks' were, and he articulated that in a public forum.

Although I have a relationship with him, a personal relationship with him, and have spoken with him probably two or three times a year on accidental encounters, I am not familiar with any of his recent writings. I suspect, though, that he focuses very strongly on the indirect, non-lethal, non-kinetic; go after those things that allow the terrorists to exploit, and try and resolve those: political injustice, economic deprivation, crime and corruption -- all those underlying causes that allow a terrorist organization, particularly al Qaeda, to fester and grow from a regional to a global. He is that open-minded and that divisionary, so I assume that's what he's talking about. But specifically, I can't get any further than that, sir.

SEN. NELSON: Well, that's exactly what he says. What do you think about that?

GEN. DAILEY: It's the absolute solution. Our kinetic, lethal solutions are just there to buy us time, and it's been, frankly, pretty good over the past four or five years. Just in the past 12 months, I've seen 60-plus individuals captured or detained or killed around the world who are taking away the leadership from the enemy. That is buying us time to organize the rest of the world, either through the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1373 or 1267, or any of the other 13 Geneva Conventions and protocols that allow us to organize the world in counterterrorism. It allows us to buy time for our multilateral organizations -- the G-8, NATO, OAS, APEC, ASEAN -- to also focus on counterterrorism, to build tools to prevent people from moving from one country to another, to shut down their finances.

Those five years have been invaluable to us to actually go after the system to prevent them from exploiting those terrorist desires. I think we're going in the right direction, and I think General Zinni would, to some extent, say the same thing.

SEN. NELSON: Doctor, what countries do you think are the worst offenders of human trafficking?

MR. LAGON: Well, the Office of **Trafficking in Persons**, given a mandate of Congress, has to come up with that answer every year by identifying the countries that are in **Tier 3**. And there are also countries that are in danger of spilling into **Tier 3**, which are identified as the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

There are different countries of different sizes. You can say that the problem of trafficking is substantial in a country because of its population, both because of population and because of the substantive character of what's going on.

India is particularly an issue we need to focus on. We need to use this time that the United States has developed a partnership with India on strategic issues to use those more and more robust lines of communication to have a frank discussion with them about both sex trafficking and forced labor, things that are ground in parts of their culture, including caste. We, ourselves, had to work on our legacy of slavery and segregation and building civil rights. And we should have a civil but firm dialogue with our partner about that.

But there are countries around the world, some of whom we think of as the category of rogue states and acute human rights abusers -- the Cubas, the Irans -- who have serious trafficking problems. There are other countries that have had partial sanctions placed on them that are not the most hardened human rights abusers -- Cambodia, for instance. And we try and identify, as the U.S. government, which are the most acute.

The job of the office I hope to head, if confirmed, is every year to create a blueprint in the form of this annual report, to indicate those countries that are the priorities. And that shows where we should channel resources, so that in the inter-agency role of this office, we can make sure that grants that are going from the Department of State, AID, rule of law training programs from the Department of Justice, and so on, are focused on where it's needed.

The touchstones are to see where the need is greatest to grapple with the human trafficking problem and that the will is there on the part of the government, but the capacity is missing.

SEN. NELSON: Well, take, for example -- you mentioned Cambodia. Now, what can the United States government do with the government of Cambodia in order for them to take positive action against this kind of trafficking?

MR. LAGON: Well, let me answer it in a couple of ways on Cambodia.

One, you use the annual rating system as a way to incentivize. You know, when I used to work at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for Senator Helms, one of the things I worked on was economic sanctions. And economic sanctions can be a blunt instrument at times. But one thing that we've learned from the legislation giving tools to the executive branch is that the threat of sanctions focuses the mind of other governments. And through the Tier 2 watch lists and through a grace period given by governments to work on an action plan with the United States, they can avert sanctions by working with us. That's one avenue.

Another avenue is seen by programs that have been pursued by AID. Both in Cambodia and, as it happens, in Ecuador, AID is creating pilot programs for shelters for victims. And that's one thing we can do, is not only talk with the government about how to improve their law enforcement or improve their law, but we need to have a victim-centered approach. That's something we're trying to do at home as well.

SEN. NELSON: The grouping Tier 3, the worst -- do you expect that group to get larger?

MR. LAGON: Well, the U.S. government takes very seriously trying to use objective standards and consistency. There are problems in the world. As I understand it, as the current annual report is being prepared for release next month, while its results are embargoed and still, you know, at the finalizing stage, there have been some trends that have appeared. And we see that there has been some real effort by governments to focus on victim assistance and to work with NGOs.

But we see a trend of declining prosecutions and convictions, and a real rule-of-law problem: corruption, officials in governments complicit in trafficking, allowing it to happen, allowing the migration part to happen and allowing the exploitation part to happen. And that trend may produce a number of new Tier 3 nations on the list.

SEN. NELSON: Well, the two of you will have two exceptionally important positions in the government of the United States, and I wish you well. What we will try to do is to speed this confirmation process so that you all can get on with it. I don't know of any hang-ups and I don't anticipate any, and we will try to get it done just as quickly as possible, so that you all can get to your post.

We're going to continue to leave the record open for a few days -- I would say until the close of business on Friday -- for anyone who wants to submit information with regard to these two nominations. Thank you all for your public service, and thank you for your continued public service. The meeting is adjourned.

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274 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

May 9, 2007 Wednesday**M'SIA A POTENTIAL HOTSPOT FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING****LENGTH:** 210 words**DATELINE:** KUALA LUMPUR May 9

Malaysia has the potential to become a hotspot for human trafficking in view of its robust economy, and for this reason, it needs a specific and comprehensive law to keep the problem in check.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said the government felt that such a law would complement existing ones on anti-trafficking in humans.

He said this when tabling the Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2007 Bill at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Mohamed Nazri said if the bill was passed, those who committed the crime could be jailed up to 20 years and fined.

The United States, he said, had placed Malaysia in its **Tier-2 Watch List** because the country was seen as not having comprehensive laws to combat **human trafficking**.

However, he said the move was inappropriate as Malaysia had taken many proactive steps to address the problem.

A government report from the United States showed that between 600,000 to 800,000 people, most of them women and children, had been sold across borders with the syndicates involved raking in \$10US billion a year.

Mohamed Nazri said police statistics showed that 6,484 foreign prostitutes were arrested in 2005 while 3,245 foreigners were arrested until July last year.

The Dewan Rakyat sitting resumes tomorrow.

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

275 of 445 DOCUMENTS

International Law Update

May 2007**United States adds new Middle East nations to human trafficking blacklist****SECTION:** Vol. 13, No. 5**LENGTH:** 232 words

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has newly placed four Middle East allies on its blacklist of countries that have not tried hard enough to prevent trafficking in people. Listed nations are subject to sanctions for not doing enough to stop the yearly flow of 800,000 human beings, across international borders for the commercial sex trade and other types of coerced and indentured labor. Of these unfortunates, 8 out of 10 are female and almost 5 out of 10 are children. Many of these victims are trying to escape poverty in either Eastern Europe or in South and Southeast Asia. Among U.S. friends getting a failing grade in the latest listing, were Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. For the first time, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea and Malaysia joined regular offenders such as Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria in the DOS's 236 page document called the "Trafficking in Persons Report" (TPR), published annually. The TPR downgraded 16 states in all 33% more than in 2006 into so called "Tier 3" status. Despite the new additions, Secretary of State Rice said "more and more countries are coming to see human trafficking for what it is a modern day form of slavery that devastates families and communities around the world." **Citation:** The Associated Press (online), Washington, D.C., Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 00:55:01Z (byline of Matthew Lee, AP Writer).

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276 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

April 17, 2007 Tuesday

Manila's war on human trafficking faces hurdles

BYLINE: Alastair McIndoe, Philippines Correspondent

LENGTH: 1110 words

A NEIGHBOUR introduced 25-year-old Maricel Matubis from the small town of San Pedro near Manila to a recruiter offering work in Malaysia as an entertainer in a karaoke bar.

Her husband, a jeepney driver, was reluctant to let her go at first. Mrs Matubis was waiting for her work permit to come through for a shop assistant's job in Kuwait.

But lured by a salary of 25,000 pesos (\$800S) a month - no mean wage here - and promises that she would only be entertaining customers, she accepted the offer.

Twelve days later, Mrs Matubis and four other hard-up young women hired by the same recruiter boarded a ferry in the southern port of Zamboanga for Sandakan, the second largest city in Sabah.

About 20 women, mostly Filipinos, worked at the VIP Pub in Sandakan. To Mrs Matubis, it seemed a decent enough place, though she had to hand over her passport to the owner, known to the staff as 'Boss Michael'.

The next morning, she was brought to a room in the bar. There she faced a man in his late 30s, waiting to have sex with her.

'You start work,' she was told by one of the Malaysian bar workers.

For the next six weeks, fearing a beating or worse unless she complied, Mrs Matubis had sex with at least one customer a day, and sometimes as many as three.

She was paid no wages, and was on 24-hour call.

It is not clear how the Malaysian authorities intervened, but Mrs Matubis and the four women trafficked with her were deported back to the Philippines.

Hundreds of young women from impoverished rural villages and shanty towns across the Philippines are tricked every year into prostitution here and abroad by criminal syndicates promising respectable, well-paid jobs.

Mrs Matubis and the four other women were sent to Sandakan nearly two years ago. What makes their case so unusual is that they had the satisfaction of seeing their Filipino recruiter hauled to trial in Zamboanga.

On March 27, Rosie Ociel was sentenced to life imprisonment - a minimum 20 years here - and given a hefty fine. Court records revealed the extent of Mrs Matubis' ordeal.

Ociel, 34, is one of a handful of criminals convicted under a 2003 anti-trafficking law.

Campaigners and concerned governments want to see more traffickers behind bars to discourage a rampant trade of persons here.

'The Philippines was the first country in Asean to pass a law against the trafficking in persons patterned on the United Nations' (UN) law on transnational crime,' said Mr Severino Gana, the head of the Justice Department's Task Force on the Trafficking in Persons.

'We're doing a lot of prevention projects, like training prosecutors and educating law enforcers.'

But he acknowledges that the international community wants to see more trafficking convictions here.

There have been only eight under the 2003 law, most involving sexual exploitation. There was one conviction in 2004, then six in 2005, but none last year despite 26 cases being filed in court. Ociel was 2007's first conviction.

The Philippines was put on the United States' trafficking watch list in 2005 for failing to convict more traffickers.

It came off that list last year, and is now ranked a **Tier 2** country in the US State Department's '**Trafficking In Persons**' report. This means the Philippines does not fully comply with minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to do so.

The main thrust of efforts is in improving the evidence-gathering skills of the police investigating trafficking cases.

'A lot (of cases) are dismissed by our prosecutors because of insufficient evidence filed by law enforcers,' said Mr Gana.

After starting with only 15 prosecutors specialising in anti-trafficking cases, there are now nearly 100 working in courts across the archipelago.

Getting practically any case through the legal meatgrinder is tough. There is a huge backlog in the lower courts - around 800,000 cases in 2004; and a third of courts in rural areas have no judges, a legacy of poor pay.

'Trafficking cases are filed but getting to court is another matter,' said Ms Dolores Alforte, executive director for the Philippines of Ecpat, which campaigns against the sexual exploitation of children.

'Threats and offers of money are regularly used by the trafficking syndicates to get victims to drop charges.'

For Father Shay Cullen, a Catholic missionary from Ireland who has spent over 20 years tracking down paedophiles in the Philippines, efforts to stop all forms of trafficking are retarded by institutional obstacles and public indifference.

'Prosecutors of the highest quality are needed, who won't throw a case for a bribe,' he said.

'People need to be educated on the rights of women to change attitudes in this macho society - and more women need to work in anti-trafficking enforcement.'

Modern-day slavery has many guises in the Philippines, not just sexual exploitation

Through illegal debt bondage, entire families are forced to work as farm labourers, shackled to loans that are almost impossible to repay.

In the cities, girls from impoverished families toil as maids to pay off family debts - and are easy prey for syndicates seeking 'entertainers' to work overseas.

Coming up with an estimate of how many people are trafficked in the Philippines is next to impossible, given the underground nature of the crime.

Across Asia, the International Labour Organization reckons 1.4 million people are victims of trafficking.

According to official estimates, over 600,000 Filipinos are working in Asia without proper papers, and about half of them are in Malaysia.

Sabah shares a highly porous border with the southern Philippines, and Zamboanga has long been the 'backdoor' out of the Philippines.

In the three years to 2006, Philippine authorities handled 1,149 victims of trafficking in various forms. Over 80 per cent were women, two-thirds of the total were aged under 17.

Like other non-governmental organisation workers helping trafficking victims, Virlanie Foundation founder Dominique Lemay believes many poor families suspect that the recruiter's offer of a decent job is a charade.

'I feel the most important things for these families is money, and then they close their eyes,' said Mr Lemay, who runs 13 shelters in Manila for street children.

The government plans to step up information campaigns to make vulnerable individuals aware that the honeyed offer of illegal recruiters can end in disaster, as it did for Mrs Matubis.

She was promised no recruitment fees, free air tickets and assurances of a work permit in Malaysia.

Said Mr Gana: 'Once the victims are transported, most are sold to prostitution dens and they begin to incur sky-rocketing debts, leaving them no choice but to go out and render sexual services.'

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277 of 445 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

March 26, 2007 Monday

STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 4477 words

Statement of Martina E. Vandenberg Attorney Jenner & Block LLP

Committee on Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law

March 26, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

It is an honor to testify before you today on a grave violation of human rights, trafficking in persons.

My name is Martina Vandenberg, and I am an attorney in private practice with the firm of Jenner & Block. I am the author of two reports on trafficking in persons: *Hopes Betrayed: Trafficking in Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution*, published by Human Rights Watch, and *Trafficking of Women to Israel for Forced Prostitution*, published by the Israel Women's Network. I also represent trafficking victims pro bono in civil suits against their traffickers here in the United States.

I would like to thank Senator Durbin and the members of the Subcommittee for convening this hearing. The panel today provides a rare opportunity to identify gaps in the United States government's implementation of international human rights norms in the area of trafficking in persons.

Traffickers often flourish because they operate in zones of lawlessness and impunity. Over the past decade, Congress, the executive branch, and non-governmental organizations have worked together to develop innovative criminal and civil remedies to assist victims and bring traffickers to justice. But gaps do still exist, and traffickers continue to operate with impunity within these lacunae.

I would like to focus this afternoon on three concrete trafficking cases that illustrate these gaps. I will begin with the human rights norms -- the substantive international law on trafficking. I will then turn to the case studies: one in Iraq, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one right here in the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

I. International Law

Trafficking in persons is a gruesome human rights violation, which traps men, women, and children in debt bondage, forced labor, and forced prostitution. Article 3(a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, defines trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of force or any other means, for the purpose of exploitation.¹ The Protocol, while fundamentally an international crime control cooperation treaty, nevertheless includes protections for victims of trafficking. The inclusion of these provisions merely reflects that states have a duty to protect and provide remedies to victims who have suffered violations of their most fundamental human rights. Specifically, the Protocol presses states to provide appropriate shelter for victims; counseling and information in a language the victim can understand; medical, psychological, and material assistance; witness protection; and the possibility of obtaining compensation.

Research by Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations has shown that historically, states have treated victims of trafficking as illegal migrants, criminals, or both, often detaining them, prosecuting them, and then summarily deporting them. Protection of victims, and the creation of visa regimes to permit victims to remain legally in countries of destination, is a fairly recent phenomenon. And while the model adopted by the international community has tended to focus largely on law enforcement measures, some countries, including the United States, have opted for a victim-centered approach. It would be too far a stretch to characterize this as a "rights-based" approach, unfortunately.

Obtaining a special trafficking victim visa, or T-visa, in the United States still requires cooperation with law enforcement. But the steps that have been taken do go some distance toward eliminating what Ann Jordan, director of the Global Rights Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons and one of the leading experts on trafficking in persons, once dubbed "the disposable witness syndrome." Victims cannot be used, and then abandoned. Victims must be viewed as individuals with human rights, and not as mere tools for states to obtain trafficking convictions in order to avoid landing on the State Department **Trafficking In Persons** report's tier III. At a minimum, victims must have witness protection, without which they cannot safely testify against those who perpetrated these crimes. This is particularly true in light of the crucial role played by official corruption, both in countries of origin and countries of destination. Without protections and services for victims, impunity for traffickers will remain the rule.

I offer these case studies to illustrate the gaps in the United States' own legal regime, in the hope that these gaps can be plugged with legislation or enhanced political will.

II. Impunity for Trafficking of Persons into Iraq for Forced Labor

On August 19, 2004, insurgents kidnapped twelve Nepalese men traveling on the road from Amman to Baghdad. All twelve were executed on August 31, 2004. An intrepid Chicago Tribune reporter, Cam Simpson, launched an investigation into the events leading up to their abduction and deaths. The Chicago Tribune series, "Pipeline to Peril," uncovered a trafficking network stretching from the remote mountains of Katmandu to U.S. military bases in Iraq. The chain began with recruiters in the men's villages, who promised the workers lucrative jobs in five-star hotels in Jordan. In exchange for facilitating these job opportunities, the recruiters demanded upfront payments amounting to nearly one year's wages for an average Nepali. The Nepalese men's families borrowed heavily to advance the funds, in some cases mortgaging the family farm.

The recruiters delivered the men to a Jordanian company in Amman, which demanded additional payment for placement services. The company held the men in apartments and did not provide the promised jobs in Jordanian luxury hotels. Instead, the Nepalese workers found themselves transferred into the hands of yet another Jordanian company, which provided their transportation into Iraq in an unguarded convoy. Upon arrival in Iraq, the traffickers intended to hand the workers off to a third Jordanian company, a subcontractor to Kellogg, Brown, & Root (KBR). Insurgents killed the Nepalese workers before they began their employment with the KBR subcontractor.

The meticulously researched Chicago Tribune series did not constitute the first allegation of trafficking for forced labor in U.S. military bases in Iraq. Indeed, at a joint issues forum cohosted by the House Armed Services Committee and the Helsinki Commission in September 2004, Senator Clinton questioned the Department of Defense Inspector General about a story in The Washington Post reporting labor violations against third country nationals in Iraq.

In the wake of the Chicago Tribune series, the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of the Inspector General launched an investigation. On April 14, 2006, in a memorandum to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Thomas Gimble, the Principal Deputy DoD Inspector General, reported that he "found no reason to question the sequence or accuracy of events outlined in the Chicago Tribune articles published October 9 and 10, 2005." The memorandum also confirmed that "[s]ome of the Nepalese [men] clearly felt they had been deceived about their place of employment (Iraq versus Jordan)."

But, troublingly, the memorandum concluded that "while it would appear that some foreign-based companies are using false pretenses to provide laborers to KBR/Halliburton subcontractors in Iraq, we must note that none of the allegations in the Chicago Tribune articles are against U.S. persons or U.S. contractors." There is no indication that the DoD Inspector General delved into the issue of criminal complicity by U.S. persons or contractors. Indeed, there is no hint of any investigation whatsoever into involvement by U.S. contractors in a criminal conspiracy. Instead, the DoD conflated criminal and civil law principles, finding that "[t]here are no privities of contract between DoD and the foreign companies allegedly guilty of these trafficking practices; therefore, the U.S. has no jurisdiction over the persons or the offenses."

This statement is simply incorrect as a matter of law. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the United States does have criminal jurisdiction over felonies committed abroad by U.S. DoD contractors. Congressman John McHugh questioned Gimble on precisely this issue in a joint hearing convened by the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel in June 2006.⁸ Gimble's responses point to a level of superficiality in both the DoD Inspector General's analysis and investigation. Responding to Congressman McHugh's question on why the U.S. government did not attempt a criminal prosecution under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000 (MEJA), Gimble stated:

[T]here [were] no clauses in the contract, and these were not U.S. contracts. So we didn't think we had the authority to go down into those. So far as prosecution, that probably should go back into the local -- the Iraqi government should be the one prosecuting the murders on that.

The issue, however, was not the prosecution of the killings, but the criminal prosecution of the underlying trafficking offenses. And on that issue, the DoD Inspector General's analysis was inadequate for two reasons. First, while these twelve Nepalese workers did not make it to the U.S. base in Iraq, between 35,000 and 48,000 third country nationals did. It is clear that some fraction of that work force suffered the same trafficking abuses as the twelve Nepalese men who died. Colonel Boyles, formerly of Joint Contracting Command Iraq, testified at the June 2006 hearing that he had to force contractors to comply with General Casey's order to return passports to third country nationals by May 1, 2006. Boyles told the members of Congress present at the joint hearing that gaining compliance from contractors withholding third country nationals' passports was "like pulling teeth." And while the DoD Inspector General apparently interviewed 850 third country nationals in Iraq, no one from the Department of Defense at the joint hearing answered a fundamental question posed by Congressman Chris Smith. Congressman Smith asked, "the real question is, was there any knowledge that American contractors or members of the military had knowledge of the trafficking that was taking place by the sub-contractors?" That question, the key to a criminal prosecution, remains unanswered.

The lack of an investigation into that question reflects a problem identified by Dr. Sarah Mendelson of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in her report, *Barracks and Brothels*. Dr. Mendelson observed the Inspector General's formal investigation in 2003 into complicity of DoD personnel in the Balkans, and concluded that the investigation was "superficial and pro forma." She wrote: "Had DoD personnel followed the leads they were given, they would have found evidence of civilian contractor complicity in human trafficking."

They did not pursue those leads, nor did they meet with non- governmental organizations or trafficking victims.

And even if the IG had asked the right questions and pursued all available leads in 2003, that institutional memory is gone. All of the IG staff members who have conducted trafficking investigations, save one, have left the office.

So what is the bottom line? Impunity. After an expose in a major U.S. newspaper, a DoD Inspector General investigation confirming the trafficking allegations, and a congressional hearing, not a single contractor has been terminated, and not a single criminal prosecution is underway. Indeed, it appears that many of the subcontractors implicated in the scandal continue to enjoy DoD subcontracts in Iraq. The U.S. military, after the issuance of General Casey's order, seems to have declared victory. I see no evidence that would support such a claim.

So let me tell you, in the inimitable words of Paul Harvey, the rest of the story. Through the efforts of the Chicago Tribune reporter, Cam Simpson, the families of the murdered Nepalese trafficking victims found pro bono counsel in the United States. The attorneys filed for a death benefit under the Defense Base Act, which requires all contractors and subcontractors to carry insurance for their employees who perform work overseas. The Department of Labor processed the claims quickly, and attempted to facilitate the insurer's payment of death benefits to the families in Nepal. The insurer, however, has refused to pay the families. Three years after the trafficking and brutal murders of these workers, their families have yet to receive any compensation whatsoever from the United States.

In January 2006, Ambassador Miller of the State Department Trafficking in Persons Office told the Chicago Tribune "Our view is that the U.S. contractor has to take responsibility." But three years later, no one has taken responsibility. Three years later, the victims' families remain strapped by the original debts they incurred to send their relatives abroad.

This impunity is just business as usual for the Department of Defense on trafficking issues.

Take the case of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

III. Impunity for Contractors and Trafficking in Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution.

The case of trafficking into post-conflict Bosnia & Herzegovina is the poster child for impunity for U.S. defense contractors. Deputy Principal Inspector General Thomas Gimble, testifying in June 2006 about the lack of prosecutions in Iraq, stated: It's kind of the same thing, as you recall, back in the Bosnia issue where they had the prostitution ring back in 2002 that we had reported. . . . We referred that back to the local jurisdictions over there, and I'm not sure whether they ever investigated or prosecuted or not. . . ."

There was neither an investigation, nor a single prosecution. Nor was this a simple "prostitution ring." In a three-year investigation I conducted for Human Rights Watch, researchers uncovered at least eight cases of U.S. personnel who

allegedly bought trafficked women and girls. Despite these purchases of human beings as chattel, no prosecutions occurred in Bosnia or the United States. In four of the cases, the individuals were State Department contractors, and beyond the reach of MEJA. In the other four cases, the contractors were whisked out of the country before local Bosnian law enforcement could intervene. Even if the local authorities had wanted to prosecute the Americans, which they did not, it would have been impossible to do so. The alleged perpetrators had fled.

The allegations came to light after two whistleblowers, one a State Department contractor serving as an International Police Task Force officer with the United Nations Mission in Bosnia & Herzegovina, and the second a DoD contractor serving at Eagle Base, came forward. Both whistleblowers were then fired by their employer, DynCorp.

In all, Ben Johnston, the DoD whistleblower, identified eight DynCorp employees who allegedly admitted to him that they had purchased women and girls from brothels in 1999 and 2000. Some had used the women for sexual services and as domestic servants in their local housing units. A U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command investigation confirmed some of the allegations, and several DynCorp employees were repatriated as a result of the investigation.

Kathryn Bolkovac, the Department of State contractor who raised public allegations of trafficking, did so after one of her fellow American police officers confessed that he had purchased a woman and her passport from a local brothel. In testimony before Congress in 2002, Robert Gifford of the State Department Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs testified that six U.S. police officers had been sent home from Bosnia and Herzegovina for "sexual misconduct."

In separate lawsuits for wrongful termination, the two whistleblowers accused the company of retaliating against them for reporting that their colleagues had purchased women and girls from brothels and nightclubs. The alleged purchasers confessed and returned to the United States. They were not prosecuted.

The trafficking victims in Bosnia & Herzegovina, most of whom hailed from Ukraine, Romania, and Moldova, never anticipated that they would be forced into prostitution in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Promised lucrative jobs in Europe in the entertainment, service, or sex industries, the women and girls instead found themselves trapped in debt bondage, stripped of their passports, and forced to provide sexual services to truck drivers, local police officers, and peacekeepers alike. Corrupt Bosnian police officers colluded with traffickers and brothel owners to prevent the women's escape.

Again, as in Iraq, the DoD Inspector General confirmed that the allegations of trafficking were credible. In a report on Bosnia and Kosovo, published in December 2003, the IG concluded that the information the inspectors were able to collect in the field "suggests that DoD contractor employees may have more than a limited role in human trafficking. We were unable to gather more evidence of it precisely because there are no requirements and no procedures in place compelling contractors to gather such information regarding their employees or to report it to U.S. military authorities."

This lack of transparency, which continues four years later, guarantees impunity for contractors who engage in trafficking.

IV. Civil Remedies for Trafficking Victims, Including Domestic Workers Trafficked into the United States by Diplomats.

On January 18, 2007, the ACLU Women's Rights Project filed a complaint in federal court in the District of Columbia. Three Indian women plaintiffs brought the suit against a Kuwaiti military attache and the Embassy of Kuwait in Washington, D.C. for trafficking the women into forced labor in violation of 18 U.S.C. S. 1590. The plaintiffs, who had been "forced to work as domestic employees and childcare providers against their will," rooted their complaint in part on the civil remedies authorized under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA), 18 U.S.C. S. 1595. They brought additional claims for relief under the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Fair Labor Standards Act, contract theory, fraud, false imprisonment, assault, and battery. According to the complaint, the plaintiffs toiled seven days a week, sixteen to nineteen hours per day, and received less than fifty cents per hour. Until they escaped by running to a neighbor's house, the women alleged, the diplomat and his wife threatened them, refused to allow them to leave the house, subjected them to slavery-like conditions, and physically abused one of the women on numerous occasions.

I raise this case for three reasons. First, it is likely that the defendants will raise a defense of diplomatic immunity, as numerous defendants have done in the past in the face of similar suits by domestic workers. Should that immunity be allowed to shield the defendants from these allegations of slavery-like practices, they will enjoy complete impunity. The federal district court, should defendants prevail on an immunity claim, would dismiss the civil suit, leaving these victims without any remedy.

Second, these victims, counter-intuitively, are among the lucky ones: they have lawyers. Most do not. The need for legal services for trafficking victims in the United States is revealed by the dearth of civil trafficking cases brought in U.S. federal courts since the creation of the civil right of action in the TVPRA (2003). The Attorney General reported to Congress that between 2001 and the end of 2005 the U.S. government charged 248 defendants with trafficking offenses and convicted 140.22 And although 841 victims have received trafficking victim certifications and letters of eligibility from the Department of Health and Human Services in the same time period, trafficking victims brought fewer than twenty civil trafficking suits under 18 U.S.C. S. 1595. And although the U.S. government has achieved restitution for victims in criminal cases under the mandatory restitution provision, 18 U.S.C. S. 1593, it is unclear how often victims actually receive any of those funds.

Finally, I raise this case because those trafficked into domestic servitude in the United States, and particularly those trafficked by diplomats, are among the most invisible trafficking victims in our country. And yet, as Colbert King pointed out in an op ed published in The Washington Post, enslavement of domestic workers by diplomats occurs within just a few miles of the White House.

And, more often than not, the diplomats enjoy impunity.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the eternal words of the philosopher Nikolai G. Chernyshevsky, "what is to be done?" On the Department of Defense contractor front, I would propose the following concrete reforms:

-- Conduct thorough investigations and, where appropriate, bring indictments for trafficking into forced labor or forced prostitution by contractors and military personnel serving abroad. The Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act has been used only twice to bring prosecutions in the United States. Neither of those cases has involved allegations of trafficking. Without investigations by trained personnel, and without protections for victims, contractors will continue to enjoy impunity in the face of credible trafficking allegations. With zero prosecutions, zero tolerance has zero credibility.

-- Create an extension of the T-visa regime to permit victims trafficked by contractors or military personnel abroad to come to the United States to testify, and to remain in the United States as holders of T-visas. At the present time, victims trafficked by a U.S. contractor or military personnel abroad cannot enter the United States to testify and obtain benefits as trafficking victims. If the U.S. is to attempt prosecutions in such cases, the victims of these crimes must be brought into the United States and afforded the same protections and benefits as victims trafficked into the United States.

-- Amend the UCMJ to explicitly criminalize trafficking in persons. The 2005 amendment to the Manual for Courts-Martial only criminalizes "patronizing a prostitute." It is necessary to add a provision explicitly criminalizing all forms of trafficking, particularly trafficking for forced labor.

-- Mandate that the Attorney General's Report on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons include a report card on Department of Defense Activities. The Department of Defense has been woefully absent from this annual report card. The DoD's implementation of the zero tolerance policy must be held up to public scrutiny. The report should include the amount of funding budgeted for trafficking in persons activities. The DoD budget currently has no line item dedicated to combating human trafficking. In addition, the report to Congress should include data on debarments, terminations, and other adverse contracting outcomes related to trafficking, as authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (DFARS) anti-trafficking provisions.

-- Train Military criminal investigators and prosecutors to use existing provisions in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Manual for Courts-Martial, and the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act to identify and prosecute human trafficking cases. The House Armed Services Committee Report for the FY07 DOD Authorization Act (H.R. 5122; Report 109-452, pp. 316-317) mandates that the Department of Defense carry out this training.

-- Ensure that the Department of Defense focuses on all forms of human trafficking, and not just trafficking for forced prostitution. The Department of Defense has evidenced a tendency to conflate prostitution with trafficking. Training modules designed for dissemination among soldiers focus almost entirely on reducing demand for sexual services, ignoring the need to provide training on trafficking for forced labor. This myopic approach is particularly problematic in light of the allegations raised in the Chicago Tribune series.

-- Investigate the lack of compensation for the executed Nepalese victims of trafficking under the Defense Base Act.

On the civil remedies front, I would recommend the following:

-- Request a GAO study into the incidence and prevalence of trafficking by diplomats in the United States. Such a study would include interviews with trafficking victims, their civil attorneys and case workers, and the relevant Department of State and Department of Justice personnel. Questions would include how many cases have been registered by the Department of State, and how many investigations launched by the Department of Justice.

-- Increase funding for legal services to trafficking victims to pursue civil remedies and enforce criminal restitution orders. Despite efforts by the private bar to train civil attorneys to undertake these cases on a pro bono basis, service providers form the core of legal representation for victims. Even when service provider staff attorneys farm cases out for pro bono representation, they must still monitor and supervise the cases. Increasing funding to support staff attorney positions is vital.

-- Mandate that the Attorney General's Report on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons include a report card on trafficking victims' access to civil remedies, as well as the U.S. government response to trafficking by diplomats. The current report makes absolutely no mention of trafficking by diplomats. Nor does the report currently track the use of 18 U.S.C. S. 1595 or collection rates under the mandatory restitution provisions of S. 1593. These items should be added to the report to Congress.

In closing, I can only point to the theme running through my remarks today: impunity. Ultimately, holding traffickers accountable for these horrible human rights violations can only be done when their victims are safe, secure, and able to rebuild their lives. By focusing on the human rights and fundamental needs of the victims, we can close off the zones of impunity in which the traffickers thrive.

Again, thank you for inviting me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have concerning the issues raised here today.

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: SENATE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

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AFFILIATION: JENNER & BLOCK LLP

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US Fed News

March 26, 2007 Monday 6:42 AM EST

JENNER & BLOCK ATTORNEY VANDENBERG TESTIFIES ON LEGAL OPTIONS TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 5450 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The Senate Judiciary Committee issued the following testimony:

Prepared Statement of Martina E. Vandenberg, J.D. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights "Legal Options to Stop Human Trafficking"

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

It is an honor to testify before you today on a grave violation of human rights, trafficking in persons. My name is Martina Vandenberg, and I am an attorney in private practice with the firm of Jenner & Block. I am the author of two reports on trafficking in persons: *Hopes Betrayed: Trafficking in Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution*, published by Human Rights Watch, and *Trafficking of Women to Israel for Forced Prostitution*, published by the Israel Women's Network. I also represent trafficking victims pro bono in civil suits against their traffickers here in the United States.

I would like to thank Senator Durbin and the members of the Subcommittee for convening this hearing. The panel today provides a rare opportunity to identify gaps in the United States government's implementation of international human rights norms in the area of trafficking in persons.

Traffickers often flourish because they operate in zones of lawlessness and impunity. Over the past decade, Congress, the executive branch, and non-governmental organizations have worked together to develop innovative criminal and civil remedies to assist victims and bring traffickers to justice. But gaps do still exist, and traffickers continue to operate with impunity within these lacunae.

I would like to focus this afternoon on three concrete trafficking cases that illustrate these gaps. I will begin with the human rights norms -- the substantive international law on trafficking. I will then turn to the case studies: one in Iraq, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one right here in the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

I. International Law

Trafficking in persons is a gruesome human rights violation, which traps men, women, and children in debt bondage, forced labor, and forced prostitution. Article 3(a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, defines trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of force or any other means, for the purpose of exploitation.¹ The Protocol, while fundamentally an international crime control cooperation treaty, nevertheless includes protections for victims of trafficking. The inclusion of these provisions merely reflects that states have a duty to protect and provide remedies to victims who have suffered violations of their most fundamental human rights.² Specifically, the Protocol presses states to provide appropriate shelter for victims; counseling and information in a language the victim can understand; medical, psychological, and material assistance; witness protection; and the possibility of obtaining compensation.³

Research by Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations has shown that historically, states have treated victims of trafficking as illegal migrants, criminals, or both, often detaining them, prosecuting them, and then summari-

ly deporting them. Protection of victims, and the creation of visa regimes to permit victims to remain legally in countries of destination, is a fairly recent phenomenon. And while the model adopted by the international community has tended to focus largely on law enforcement measures, some countries, including the United States, have opted for a victim-centered approach. It would be too far a stretch to characterize this as a "rights-based" approach, unfortunately.

Obtaining a special trafficking victim visa, or T-visa, in the United States still requires cooperation with law enforcement. But the steps that have been taken do go some distance toward eliminating what Ann Jordan, director of the Global Rights Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons and one of the leading experts on trafficking in persons, once dubbed "the disposable witness syndrome." Victims cannot be used, and then abandoned. Victims must be viewed as individuals with human rights, and not as mere tools for states to obtain trafficking convictions in order to avoid landing on the State Department **Trafficking In Persons** report's tier III. At a minimum, victims must have witness protection, without which they cannot safely testify against those who perpetrated these crimes. This is particularly true in light of the crucial role played by official corruption, both in countries of origin and countries of destination. Without protections and services for victims, impunity for traffickers will remain the rule.

I offer these case studies to illustrate the gaps in the United States' own legal regime, in the hope that these gaps can be plugged with legislation or enhanced political will.

II. Impunity for Trafficking of Persons into Iraq for Forced Labor

On August 19, 2004, insurgents kidnapped twelve Nepalese men traveling on the road from Amman to Baghdad. All twelve were executed on August 31, 2004. An intrepid Chicago Tribune reporter, Cam Simpson, launched an investigation into the events leading up to their abduction and deaths. The Chicago Tribune series, "Pipeline to Peril," uncovered a trafficking network stretching from the remote mountains of Katmandu to U.S. military bases in Iraq.⁴ The chain began with recruiters in the men's villages, who promised the workers lucrative jobs in five-star hotels in Jordan. In exchange for facilitating these job opportunities, the recruiters demanded upfront payments amounting to nearly one year's wages for an average Nepali. The Nepalese men's families borrowed heavily to advance the funds, in some cases mortgaging the family farm.

The recruiters delivered the men to a Jordanian company in Amman, which demanded additional payment for placement services. The company held the men in apartments and did not provide the promised jobs in Jordanian luxury hotels. Instead, the Nepalese workers found themselves transferred into the hands of yet another Jordanian company, which provided their transportation into Iraq in an unguarded convoy. Upon arrival in Iraq, the traffickers intended to hand the workers off to a third Jordanian company, a subcontractor to Kellogg, Brown, & Root (KBR). Insurgents killed the Nepalese workers before they began their employment with the KBR subcontractor.

The meticulously researched Chicago Tribune series did not constitute the first allegation of trafficking for forced labor in U.S. military bases in Iraq. Indeed, at a joint issues forum cohosted by the House Armed Services Committee and the Helsinki Commission in September 2004, Senator Clinton questioned the Department of Defense Inspector General about a story in The Washington Post reporting labor violations against third country nationals in Iraq.⁵

In the wake of the Chicago Tribune series, the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of the Inspector General launched an investigation. On April 14, 2006, in a memorandum to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Thomas Gimble, the Principal Deputy DoD Inspector General, reported that he "found no reason to question the sequence or accuracy of events outlined in the Chicago Tribune articles published October 9 and 10, 2005." The memorandum also confirmed that "[s]ome of the Nepalese [men] clearly felt they had been deceived about their place of employment (Iraq versus Jordan)."⁶

But, troublingly, the memorandum concluded that "while it would appear that some foreign-based companies are using false pretenses to provide laborers to KBR/Halliburton subcontractors in Iraq, we must note that none of the allegations in the Chicago Tribune articles are against U.S. persons or U.S. contractors." There is no indication that the DoD Inspector General delved into the issue of criminal complicity by U.S. persons or contractors. Indeed, there is no hint of any investigation whatsoever into involvement by U.S. contractors in a criminal conspiracy. Instead, the DoD conflated criminal and civil law principles, finding that "[t]here are no privities of contract between DoD and the foreign companies allegedly guilty of these trafficking practices; therefore, the U.S. has no jurisdiction over the persons or the offenses."⁷

This statement is simply incorrect as a matter of law. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the United States does have criminal jurisdiction over felonies committed abroad by U.S. DoD contractors. Congressman John McHugh questioned Gimble on precisely this issue in a joint hearing convened by the House Armed Services

Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel in June 2006.⁸ Gimble's responses point to a level of superficiality in both the DoD Inspector General's analysis and investigation. Responding to Congressman McHugh's question on why the U.S. government did not attempt a criminal prosecution under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000 (MEJA), Gimble stated:

[T]here [were] no clauses in the contract, and these were not U.S. contracts. So we didn't think we had the authority to go down into those. So far as prosecution, that probably should go back into the local - the Iraqi government should be the one prosecuting the murders on that.⁹

The issue, however, was not the prosecution of the killings, but the criminal prosecution of the underlying trafficking offenses. And on that issue, the DoD Inspector General's analysis was inadequate for two reasons. First, while these twelve Nepalese workers did not make it to the U.S. base in Iraq, between 35,000 and 48,000 third country nationals did. It is clear that some fraction of that work force suffered the same trafficking abuses as the twelve Nepalese men who died. Colonel Boyles, formerly of Joint Contracting Command Iraq, testified at the June 2006 hearing that he had to force contractors to comply with General Casey's order to return passports to third country nationals by May 1, 2006.¹⁰ Boyles told the members of Congress present at the joint hearing that gaining compliance from contractors withholding third country nationals' passports was "like pulling teeth."¹¹ And while the DoD Inspector General apparently interviewed 850 third country nationals in Iraq, no one from the Department of Defense at the joint hearing answered a fundamental question posed by Congressman Chris Smith. Congressman Smith asked, "the real question is, was there any knowledge that American contractors or members of the military had knowledge of the trafficking that was taking place by the subcontractors?"¹² That question, the key to a criminal prosecution, remains unanswered.

The lack of an investigation into that question reflects a problem identified by Dr. Sarah Mendelson of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in her report, *Barracks and Brothels*. Dr. Mendelson observed the Inspector General's formal investigation in 2003 into complicity of DoD personnel in the Balkans, and concluded that the investigation was "superficial and pro forma." She wrote: "Had DoD personnel followed the leads they were given, they would have found evidence of civilian contractor complicity in human trafficking." They did not pursue those leads, nor did they meet with non-governmental organizations or trafficking victims.¹³

And even if the IG had asked the right questions and pursued all available leads in 2003, that institutional memory is gone. All of the IG staff members who have conducted trafficking investigations, save one, have left the office.

So what is the bottom line? Impunity. After an exposé in a major U.S. newspaper, a DoD Inspector General investigation confirming the trafficking allegations, and a congressional hearing, not a single contractor has been terminated, and not a single criminal prosecution is underway. Indeed, it appears that many of the subcontractors implicated in the scandal continue to enjoy DoD subcontracts in Iraq. The U.S. military, after the issuance of General Casey's order, seems to have declared victory. I see no evidence that would support such a claim.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution.

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in 2002 that we had reported?. We referred that back to the local jurisdictions over there, and I'm not sure whether they ever investigated or prosecuted or not?"

There was neither an investigation, nor a single prosecution. Nor was this a simple "prostitution ring." In a three-year investigation I conducted for Human Rights Watch, researchers uncovered at least eight cases of U.S. personnel who allegedly bought trafficked women and girls.¹⁶ Despite these purchases of human beings as chattel, no prosecutions occurred in Bosnia or the United States. In four of the cases, the individuals were State Department contractors, and beyond the reach of MEJA. In the other four cases, the contractors were whisked out of the country before local Bosnian law enforcement could intervene. Even if the local authorities had wanted to prosecute the Americans, which they did not, it would have been impossible to do so. The alleged perpetrators had fled.¹⁷

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V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the eternal words of the philosopher Nikolai G. Chernyshevsky, "what is to be done?" On the Department of Defense contractor front, I would propose the following concrete reforms:

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*Create an extension of the T-visa regime to permit victims trafficked by contractors or military personnel abroad to come to the United States to testify, and to remain in the United States as holders of T-visas. At the present time, victims trafficked by a U.S. contractor or military personnel abroad cannot enter the United States to testify and obtain benefits as trafficking victims. If the U.S. is to attempt prosecutions in such cases, the victims of these crimes must be brought into the United States and afforded the same protections and benefits as victims trafficked into the United States.

*Amend the UCMJ to explicitly criminalize trafficking in persons. The 2005 amendment to the Manual for Courts-Martial only criminalizes "patronizing a prostitute."²⁷ It is necessary to add a provision explicitly criminalizing all forms of trafficking, particularly trafficking for forced labor.²⁸

*Mandate that the Attorney General's Report on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons include a report card on Department of Defense Activities. The Department of Defense has been woefully absent from this annual report card. The DoD's implementation of the zero tolerance policy must be held up to public scrutiny. The report should include the amount of funding budgeted for trafficking in persons activities. The DoD budget currently has no line item dedicated to combating human trafficking. In addition, the report to Congress should include data on debarments, terminations, and other adverse contracting outcomes related to trafficking, as authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (DFARS) anti-trafficking provisions.²⁹

*Train Military criminal investigators and prosecutors to use existing provisions in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Manual for Courts-Martial, and the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act to identify and prosecute human trafficking cases. The House Armed Services Committee Report for the FY07 DOD Authorization Act (H.R. 5122; Report 109-452, pp. 316-317) mandates that the Department of Defense carry out this training.

*Ensure that the Department of Defense focuses on all forms of human trafficking, and not just trafficking for forced prostitution. The Department of Defense has evidenced a tendency to conflate prostitution with trafficking. Training modules designed for dissemination among soldiers focus almost entirely on reducing demand for sexual services, ignoring the need to provide training on trafficking for forced labor. This myopic approach is particularly problematic in light of the allegations raised in the Chicago Tribune series.

*Investigate the lack of compensation for the executed Nepalese victims of trafficking under the Defense Base Act.

On the civil remedies front, I would recommend the following:

*Request a GAO study into the incidence and prevalence of trafficking by diplomats in the United States. Such a study would include interviews with trafficking victims, their civil attorneys and case workers, and the relevant Department of State and Department of Justice personnel. Questions would include how many cases have been registered by the Department of State, and how many investigations launched by the Department of Justice.

*Increase funding for legal services to trafficking victims to pursue civil remedies and enforce criminal restitution orders. Despite efforts by the private bar to train civil attorneys to undertake these cases on a pro bono basis, service providers form the core of legal representation for victims. Even when service provider staff attorneys farm cases out for pro bono representation, they must still monitor and supervise the cases. Increasing funding to support staff attorney positions is vital.

*Mandate that the Attorney General's Report on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons include a report card on trafficking victims' access to civil remedies, as well as the U.S. government response to trafficking by diplomats. The current report makes absolutely no mention of trafficking by diplomats. Nor does the report currently track the use of 18 U.S.C. § 1595 or collection rates under the mandatory restitution provisions of § 1593. These items should be added to the report to Congress.

In closing, I can only point to the theme running through my remarks today: impunity. Ultimately, holding traffickers accountable for these horrible human rights violations can only be done when their victims are safe, secure, and able to rebuild their lives. By focusing on the human rights and fundamental needs of the victims, we can close off the zones of impunity in which the traffickers thrive.

Again, thank you for inviting me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have concerning the issues raised here today.

1 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, G.A. Res. 55/25, annex II, U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/25 (November 2, 2000) [also referred to as the Palermo Protocol]. The Trafficking Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, G.A. Res. 55/25, annex I, U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/25 (November 2, 2000). The Trafficking Protocol, to which the United States became a state party on December 3, 2005, entered into force on December 25, 2003.

2 For a full discussion of the Protocol and trafficking prevention generally, see Janie Chuang, "Beyond a Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy," *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, Vol. 13, Issue 1 (Winter 2006). See also Global Rights, *The Complete Annotated Guide to the U.N. Trafficking Protocol*, available at http://www.globalrights.org/site/DocServer/Annotated_Protocol.pdf?docID=2723 (accessed March 22, 2007).

3 Trafficking Protocol, Article 6.

4 Cam Simpson, "Pipeline to Peril," *The Chicago Tribune*, October 9-10, 2005, available at http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/specials/chi-nepal-specialpackage,1,3634847.special?coll=chi_newsspecialshed (accessed March 22, 2007)

5 Ariana Eunjung Cha, "Iraq: Many Foreign Laborers Receive Inferior Pay, Food and Shelter," *The Washington Post*, July 1, 2004. At a joint issue forum held on September 21, 2004, Senator Clinton asked, "[T]his past July and August, there were press reports indicating that subcontractors on DoD subcontracts may have kept Indian laborers in debt bondage?to the Inspector General, will you be considering labor trafficking and debt bondage issues as well as sex trafficking in your inspection process?" "Enforcing U.S. Policies Against Trafficking in Persons: How is the Military Doing?" 108th Congress, 2nd Session, Issue Forum Jointly Convened by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the House Armed Services Committee, September 21, 2004, p. 20.

6 Memorandum to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness from Thomas Gimble, Principal Deputy DoD Inspector General, April 14, 2006.

7 Id.

8 "Implementation of Zero-Tolerance for Human Trafficking," 109th Congress, Second Session, House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel Subcommittee Joint Hearing with the House International Relations Committee, Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations Subcommittee on Human Trafficking, June 21, 2006.

9 Id. at 18.

10 MNF-I FRAGO 06-188 (April 2006).

11 Id. at 23.

12 Id. at 36.

13 Sarah E. Mendelson, *Barracks & Brothels: Peacekeepers and Human Trafficking in the Balkans*, CSIS, February 2005, p. ix.

14 According to the Chicago Tribune, each family received approximately \$14,000 from the Nepalese government. Cam Simpson, "Into a War Zone, on a Deadly Road," Chicago Tribune, October 10, 2005.

15 Cam Simpson, "U.S. to Probe Claims of Human Trafficking: Tribune Series on Iraq Abuses Sparked Action," The Chicago Tribune, January 19, 2006.

16 Human Rights Watch documented these cases through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the Department of State, interviews with U.N. and U.S. government personnel, review of U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command incident reports from Bosnia & Herzegovina, and interviews with two U.S. contractor whistleblowers.

17 For a full account of the trafficking allegations in Bosnia & Herzegovina, see Human Rights Watch, *Hopes Betrayed: Trafficking in Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution*, Vol. 14, No. 9(D), p. 66 (November 2002) (available at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/bosnia/>).

18 Testimony of Ben Johnston, "The U.N. and the Sex Slave Trade in Bosnia; Isolated Case or Larger Problem in the U.N. System?" Hearing before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, 107th Congress, April 24, 2002, Serial no. 107 85, available at http://commdocs.house.gov/committees/intlrel/hfa78948.000/hfa78948_of.htm.

19 Testimony of Robert Gifford, "The U.N. and the Sex Slave Trade in Bosnia; Isolated Case or Larger Problem in the U.N. System?"

20 Office of the Inspector General, "Assessment of DoD Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons: Phase II Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo," December 8, 2003, p. 25.

21 *Sabbithi v. Al Saleh*, No. 07-cv-00115 (D.D.C. January 18, 2007).

22 Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Fiscal Year 2005, June 2006, at 16.

23 Id. at 6.

24 Author interview with Daniel Werner, Legal Director, Workers' Rights Law Center of New York, Inc., March 22, 2007. Jennifer Nam, a Columbia Law School student, has compiled a list of fourteen cases filed between December 2004 and January 2007.

25 Colbert I. King, *The Slaves in Our Midst*, December 23, 2006, available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2006/12/22/AR2006122201019.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns (accessed March 22, 2007).

26 See *Tabion v. Mufti*, 73 F.3d 535 (4th Cir. 1996) (holding that the Vienna Convention barred suit by live in domestic employee against a diplomat and his wife). See also Human Rights Watch, *Hidden in the Home: Abuse of Domestic*

Workers with Special Visas, Vol. 13, No. 2 (G), June 2001, available at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/usadom/> (accessed March 22, 2007).

27 E.O. 13387, signed October 14, 2005.

28 Legal guidance is also required for application of the UCMJ to civilians and contractors in contingency operations, as mandated in the Defense Authorization Act of 2007. PL 109-364.

29 DFARS Case 2004-D017 (October 26, 2006); FAR Case 2005-012 (April 19, 2006).

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2007

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279 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

March 14, 2007 Wednesday**BYLINE:** By James Morrison, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; EMBASSY ROW; A17**LENGTH:** 653 words

Modern slavery

The global market for human beings for cheap labor or sex slaves is one of the top money-making rackets for organized crime, Greece's foreign minister told a congressional hearing yesterday.

"Few of us are aware of the shocking reality that human trafficking is the third largest source of revenue for organized crime after arms trade and drug trafficking," Dora Bakoyannis said in a message read to the Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus.

"Indeed, human trafficking is a global problem growing at alarming rates. .. Simply stated, it constitutes a threat to the basic principles and values of our society. .. It is an egregious abuse of human life which cannot be tolerated by any person or government."

Mrs. Bakoyannis, whose message was read by Greek Ambassador Alexandros P. Mallias, said her government has worked with other countries in efforts to protect the victims of human trafficking and provide them with assistance.

"We are proud to note that this has yielded noteworthy results," she said. "Yet more remains to be done. We have a common duty to prevent those who view others as a commodity which can be easily sold to the highest bidder."

The Greek Embassy and Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies co-sponsored the briefing, chaired by Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, New York Democrat and co-chairman of the caucus.

The caucus also heard a report on Greece's efforts to fight the black market in modern slavery from Panagiotis Panouris, secretary-general of the Greek Justice Ministry and chairman of the Hellenic Inter-Ministerial Committee on Trafficking in Persons.

In the State Department's latest report on **human trafficking**, Greece is listed as a "**Tier 2**" country, a category that includes nations that are working to bring their laws into compliance with the U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

The worst offenders, the "Tier 3" nations, include: Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Lobby envy

As the Rev. Jesse Jackson says, they throw stones only at the trees with fruit in them. The powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) thinks it knows why it has been the focus of a slew of such attacks in recent days: jealousy.

Correspondent David R. Sands reports that, at the annual Washington policy conference this week, AIPAC Executive Director Howard Kohr told more than 6,000 delegates that critics of the pro-Israel lobby are reviving "old libels our ancestors heard in different lands, at different times" about the loyalties of America's Jews.

A pair of top researchers from Harvard and the University of Chicago issued a scathing report on AIPAC's malign influence on U.S. foreign policy, and former President Jimmy Carter was no less critical in his new Middle East book accusing Israel of pursuing a policy of "apartheid" against the Palestinians.

With turmoil in Iraq and Iran, a summer war with Lebanon and continuing problems with the Palestinians, Mr. Kohr conceded it was a "dangerous moment" for Israel and her supporters. But he said the new criticisms of AIPAC's influence are, in fact, the "voice of frustration."

"Frustration because we are winning the war of ideas," he said. "Frustration because American friends of Israel have the will, resolve and strength to be heard. Frustration because the relationship between America and Israel is strong and growing stronger."

He added, "Our detractors are frustrated by our success, and the only response to them must be continued success."

The slings and arrows aimed at AIPAC did not discourage Washington's power elite from turning out once again for the group's annual get-together. Vice President Dick Cheney, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni all addressed the gathering.

* Call Embassy Row at 202/636-3297, fax 202/832-7278 or e-mail jmorrison@washingtontimes.com.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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280 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

March 7, 2007 Wednesday 1:44 PM EST

The stark reality of human trafficking in Philippines

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service**LENGTH:** 747 words**DATELINE:** Manila

Manila, March 7 -- The modus operandi is almost always the same: sweet-talking recruiters entice parents to allow their young daughters to leave the provinces and work in Manila as domestic helps with promises of huge salaries.

Once the girls arrive in Manila, the story turns sour with many of them ending up as prostitutes. Worse, they are "trained" for "export" to other countries as far as the Middle East.

"Trafficking in the Philippines has two faces - one is for local consumption and the other for abroad," said Cecilia Flores Oebanda, president of Visayan Forum Foundation, an NGO working for the welfare of migrants.

"Women are first recruited to Manila. They are taught how to undress, they are bleached, beautified, then initiated into the sex trade with foreigners as their first customers.

"That's what they call on-the-job training while their papers are fixed for travel abroad," said Oebanda.

As the government and NGOs step up the fight against human trafficking, the lure of a better life, abject poverty and the government's labour export policy still fuel the modern-day slavery. It leads to tens of thousands of Filipinos, mostly women and children, being trafficked every year.

Due to its continued notoriety as a source, transit and destination country for trafficked persons, the Philippines has remained on the US State Department's **Tier 2** list of countries that do not fully comply with international standards against **human trafficking** but are making significant progress to fight the problem.

Oebanda said the Philippine government's continued deployment of Filipino workers as domestic helps around the world exposed women and children to the dangers of trafficking.

She noted that even Filipinos with overseas work permits could end up being trafficked.

"Some of them secure work permits, but is their job really the work that they asked the permit for?" she asked. "We are worried and alarmed that our major source of income is people that we send out as migrants. We lack protective mechanisms and this adds to the vulnerability of people."

Oebanda said recruiters often prey on young women - usually school dropouts looking for jobs.

Gladys, 19, left her home province of Surigao del Norte in the southern Philippines for the central city of Cebu in the hopes of finding a job to help her poor family.

She was recruited by a relative to work as a domestic help but ended up as a waitress in a nightclub frequented by foreign tourists in a red-light district in Cebu.

"I wanted to experience life in a city and how it is like to have a job. I also thought it would be a great help to my parents," said Gladys.

Dressed in skimpy attires every night, she often received indecent proposals from customers who grabbed and touched her without her consent while serving drinks or food.

For three months, the advances escalated, and she feared she would end up like other girls in the bar who not only worked as waitresses but also danced half-naked and offered sexual services.

Unable to stand the exploitation, she approached Visayan Forum and asked for help. She is now undergoing computer training to help her achieve her goal of becoming a teacher.

Other girls are not as lucky as Gladys. In some cases, Visayan Forum has rescued young women locked up in rooms and forced to have sex with as many as 20 men every night.

Even women working as domestic helps also sometimes face sexual abuse from their male bosses.

Elena was only 15 when her parents traded her for 500 pesos (\$10) to a recruitment agency in the southern province of Misamis Oriental.

In one of her jobs as domestic helper, Elena was raped repeatedly by her male employer when his wife went on vacation to the US. The abuse continued until she was let go by the couple and returned to the recruitment agency.

"When I asked for help from my recruiter, I was merely told that since I was no longer a virgin, I might as well become a sex worker," she told Visayan Forum. "I was so furious, I escaped, not knowing where I'd end up."

While most of those rescued were grateful for the help, Oebanda said some of the victims had been so hardened by their ordeal that they got angry at social workers like her.

"They see us as getting in their way, that we're taking away their jobs and opportunities," she said. "Some of them even vandalise our shelters. But eventually they appreciate it."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

281 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

February 23, 2007 Friday**SOME GROUPS INVOLVED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS TRACED OUT: INTERIOR SECRETARY****LENGTH:** 161 words

ISLAMABAD, February 23: Home secretary Syed Kamal Shah has said certain groups involved in suicide attacks in the country have been traced out and government is planning to initiate action against them. He said this while addressing inaugural session of 4-day workshop on human trafficking and later talking to the journalists here Friday.

He announced that red alert will be kept in place following the suicide attacks as the information have been received that more incidents of suicide bombing can take place.

He reiterated government was taking measures on top priority basis to improve law and order situation in the country to avert any untoward incident in the future. **Human trafficking** has scaled down due to effective steps taken by the government, he said adding country's name has been deleted from Tear to **watch list** too. Government has devised strategy to curb **human trafficking**, he told. Interagency task force has been set up in FIA, he added.

LOAD-DATE: May 17, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Acts of Terror**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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282 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

February 21, 2007 Wednesday

Jamaica cabinet approves contract for passenger processing system

LENGTH: 362 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Jamaica government has approved a US\$4.5m contract for the supply and implementation of a common user Passenger Processing System (PPS) for the Norman Manley International Airport. Information and Development Minister, Donald Buchanan said that the system would be supplied by SETA, an international provider of communications and information technology solutions to the transport industry. "The system will provide the means for the Norman Manley International Airport to operate on a new model, which will have a 100 per cent shared system environment, using airport owned and maintained common user passenger processing system, and a common use distribution information network.

"This contrasts with the traditional preparatory airport tenant operating relations, which have existed up to now and which will be discontinued," he added. Buchanan said that the system has been benchmarked against international standards, and would greatly facilitate passengers and other users of the Airport. Meanwhile, Cabinet has received a report from the Human Resource Council on the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. Buchanan, speaking to reporters at the end of the weekly Cabinet meeting, said the report would be submitted to the United Nations and the United States Congress for study and action. "One of the anticipated outcomes of the filing of this report with the United States Congress, is that Jamaica, which is now placed in **Tier** Two in terms of the compliance with the US minimum standards in this area of **trafficking in persons**, will be changed to **Tier** One, which is when you are in compliance with all of the minimum standards of the United States," Buchanan said. Recently, both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed the Trafficking in Persons Bill, which provide for the prevention of human trafficking, especially of women and girls, and punish those involved in such acts.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 2010 gmt 20 Feb 07

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283 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

February 9, 2007 Friday

Ghana; Ghana's Human Trafficking Record Worsens

BYLINE: Public Agenda

LENGTH: 878 words

Ghana has slumped to **Tier 2** of the State Department of America's rating of countries with respect to their efforts at combating **Trafficking in Persons** (TIPs), despite promulgating the **Human Trafficking** Law (Act 694) in 2005.

Indications are that, in the 2006/2007 edition which is expected to be released in the middle of the year, the State Department will still rate Ghana in Tier 2; regardless of the ongoing sensitization of the Ghanaian populace on the provisions of Act 694, the building of institutional structures and the various capacity building workshops being organized for security personnel.

The development sharply contrasts with what used to pertain in 2004 when, even without a legal framework for combating TIP, except for a bill before the Legislature, Ghana featured prominently in Tier 1 of the State Department's rating.

Reasons to be advanced for Ghana's Tier 2 rating, Public Agenda has learnt, will include the lack of enforcement of the law - there is indeed a law but no prosecution or conviction has taken place.

The matter came to light at the just ended series of workshops organized in Accra by the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for Security Agencies, Policymakers, Judiciary/Legal groups and members of the general public.

What dropping from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2** simply means is that Ghana is not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**. Thus, the country's reputation in international circles as a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking has been reaffirmed, some analysts have pointed out in various interviews with this paper.

According to many of them, the situation is not good for the country's image, at least in the eyes of the United States of America, which itself, is conspicuously missing from the rating.

"Placing Ghana in Tier 2 will not be fair to our efforts," an analyst observed.

Like his colleagues, this analyst argued that until 2000, the issue of TIPs was fairly new to Ghanaians in view of our cultural and traditional practices. However, since then things have changed with the promulgation of the law against human trafficking, as well as, many other regulations, all aimed at enhancing human rights standards.

Speaking to Public Agenda on Tuesday on the issue, the National Programme Coordinator of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mr. Matthew Dally, noted that prosecutions are hindered by people's unwillingness to give evidence because most of the time cases involve relations. He said TIPs in Ghana is a complex crime, which involves a lot of individuals and groups all through the chain - supply to exploitation.

Mr. Dally explained that many of these cases involve closely related individuals in the sense that, under our cultural and traditional practices, a family may have genuinely given away their children to another family that is well-to-do to assist in catering for them, but sometimes the latter may abuse that goodwill. In such a case it would be difficult for the first family to testify against the latter one.

He therefore called for close attention to be paid to the matter, stressing that it is imperative "to distinguish between fosterage and TIPs."

TIP is ranked as the third most profitable organized crime in the world, after drugs and arms. In West Africa, TIPs is considered as a severe problem in a third of the sub-region, while in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, it is recognized as a problem in roughly one in three countries, the 2003 UNICEF report says.

It is also estimated that in West Africa, between 200,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked each year. In Ghana, statistics are inconclusive. But the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Survey report of 2003 estimated that 20% of Ghanaian children were engaged in child labour and that most child labour situations are linked to internal trafficking.

Various reports have suggested that recruitments are mainly carried out in the northern part of the country, from where victims are transported to the south to work on cocoa farms, small-scale mining and as domestic servants. Other reports, suggest that almost all of the people, especially children who are trafficked to Yeji and other fishing communities along the Volta Lake are recruited from the Central and Western regions.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC), which has been tasked to lead the implementation of Act 694 acknowledges the enormity of the problem, and says "the crime is especially pernicious, in that it preys primarily on the most vulnerable - women, children, the poorest and the least educated."

In a statement delivered on her behalf at the LRC - ILO series, the sector Minister, Hon Hajia Alima Mahama catalogued a number of initiatives being undertaken to tackle the menace. "A comprehensive programme for the dissemination of the Human Trafficking Law 2005 is also ongoing. This includes the dissemination of the Law to identified 'sending' and 'receiving' communities in the country. The target groups include the security agencies, chiefs, queen mothers, District Assemblies and opinion leaders in communities concerned."

The Minister however, decried the less than favourable responsiveness from community members, and the general public at large.

LOAD-DATE: February 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

284 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

January 27, 2007 Saturday

Jamaica senate passes bill to punish persons involved in human trafficking

LENGTH: 290 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

285 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Bangor Daily News (Maine)

January 25, 2007 Thursday
All Editions

Human trafficking a family business?; Wife of current suspect was jailed in '05

BYLINE: JUDY HARRISON OF THE NEWS STAFF**SECTION:** Pg. B1**LENGTH:** 306 words

One of the three Canadian men arrested Sunday near the Maine border with two Guyanese nationals and charged with human trafficking has been in court before - when his wife was sentenced for a similar crime in federal court in Bangor.

Byron Murray, 56, John Wayne Richardson, 47, and his son John Jason Richardson, 20, all of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, were arrested Sunday night near a train trestle that crosses the St. Croix River from Monhannes, New Brunswick, to Baileyville, Maine.

Murray stood behind his wife in October 2005 in U.S. District Court in Bangor when she was sentenced to 132 days in jail, or time served, for alien smuggling.

At the sentencing of Savita Singh-Murray, 40, of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, U.S. District Judge John Woodcock raised the question of whether the woman had been involved in human trafficking when she tried to smuggle three illegal aliens from her former homeland, Guyana, into the U.S. at the Calais border crossing in the summer of 2005.

Guyana is a former British colony on the northern coast of South America bordered by Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south, and Suriname to the east.

The judge sternly admonished Singh-Murray for her involvement with what he suspected was a plot to bring young women into the country to be forced to work as prostitutes. Woodcock said that Guyana is on an international **human trafficking watch list**.

Fifteen months later, her husband and two other men have been charged with attempting to smuggle two people into the U.S. The three were released on bail Tuesday after an appearance in Provincial Court in St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

The men face maximum sentences of 10 years in prison.

The two Guyanese nationals, Deoranie Ramkissoon and a 17-year-old boy, believed to be the woman's son, were being held Wednesday by the Canada Border Services Agency.

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

286 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

January 23, 2007 Tuesday 1:59 PM EST

India on US 'special watch list' for human trafficking

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service**LENGTH:** 722 words**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, Jan 23 -- India figures among 39 countries placed on a US "special watch list" of nations deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts under a 2003 US law.

The government of India has made some progress in combating its significant problem of human trafficking since the release of a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report for 2006, the state department said while releasing an interim assessment of these countries for 2007.

However, the government still needs to go further in designating and empowering a national agency or office, specifically tasked with carrying out an effective law enforcement response to trafficking crimes committed throughout India, it said.

Some of these countries could be downgraded to the lowest "Tier 3" - countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards under US Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003 - in the upcoming June 2007 TIP report if their anti-trafficking efforts this year are determined to be inadequate, it warned.

Besides India, the 2007 interim assessment covers Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

On India, the interim assessment said that despite estimates of a significant debt bondage situation in the country, New Delhi reported no arrests, prosecutions, or convictions of employers using bonded labour. Similarly, it did not provide evidence of any rescues of bonded labour victims.

India, however, did make moderate progress on addressing child labour between September and November. Delhi Police rescued 140 children working in zari factories and rice mills, but it is unclear how these children have been rehabilitated.

In October, the government also enacted a ban on the employment of children in domestic work or the hospitality industry with penalties including three months to two years incarceration and the possibility of fines, it noted.

Referring to India's anti-trafficking efforts, the interim report said that in September 2006, the Indian government responded to the need for a central anti-trafficking law enforcement effort by creating a two-person federal "nodal cell" responsible for collecting and analysing data of state-level law enforcement efforts.

The cell is responsible for identifying problem areas and analysing the circumstances creating these areas and monitoring action taken by state governments for combating trafficking in these areas. It is also to organise coordination meetings with nodal police officers of the states.

The government has provided significant in-kind contributions to a two-year programme by the US government funded United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. The programme focuses on raising the awareness of police and prosecutors on the problem of trafficking and to build their capacity to investigate and prosecute people involved with trafficking, it said.

But law enforcement activity to combat human trafficking remains confined to the state level and continues to be relatively low in comparison to the estimated extent of the situation.

However, in June, two former state ministers in Jammu and Kashmir were arrested for trafficking in minor girls for commercial sexual exploitation, along with other senior government officials. Two traffickers in Delhi were also convicted and sentenced to three and seven years in prison, and another was arrested in August, it said.

In November 2006, the parliamentary committee returned the amendments to the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act to the ministry of women and child development for revision.

The committee asked the ministry to clarify language, provide a clearer delineation between criminals and victims, prioritise programmes and resources for expanded rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, and recommended passage of the bill with those changes, the interim report noted.

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287 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

January 22, 2007 Monday

Jamaica and Belize remain on US people-trafficking list

LENGTH: 618 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website on 22 January

Washington: Jamaica and Belize are two Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries still included in the United States "Special **Watch List**" for **trafficking in persons** for 2007.

The US State Department in its interim assessment of 39 countries worldwide say the two Caricom states warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the US Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003.

The "Special **Watch List**" includes countries that have a very significant **human trafficking** problem, have not shown increased efforts over the last year, or were upgraded in the most recent annual report, the State Department said in a statement released over the weekend.

The State Department said while the Jamaica government has shown "modest progress" in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report, it is yet to demonstrate "concrete" improvements in the areas of prosecuting and convicting trafficking crimes and protecting victims.

"Since April 2006, Jamaican police have raided 27 nightclubs for evidence of trafficking, resulting in the rescue of nine trafficking victims, three of which were between the ages of 13 and 17," the report said.

"Victim protection efforts, however, remain ad hoc and the government has yet to develop or implement a formalised referral system to increase victim identification and prevent the inadvertent prosecution or deportation of victims," it added.

The report said in October 2006, Jamaica established a special committee to review procedures for the granting of work permits, and suspended the granting of work permits for nightclub dancers, which have been used to facilitate some trafficking, but pointed out that requests for dancer permits submitted by hotels, however, are still being granted.

"Despite recent law enforcement progress, Jamaica still has much work to undertake to fully combat trafficking, including vigorously prosecuting and convicting," it said.

The report, however, said Belize, while still on the list, has made "significant progress" in addressing the problem.

It said the government has, since the release of the 2006 Report, increased its law enforcement efforts and arrested two traffickers, advanced "nascent initiatives" to provide care to victims, and continued public awareness efforts.

"In addition, the government Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee conducted trafficking training for key police officers," the report said.

"With support from the Government of Belize, the tourism industry and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) launched a code of conduct against trafficking for the industry," it said, noting that as of late August 2006, 25 tourism businesses had signed onto the code.

"In addition, the government submitted a proposal to the Inter-American Development Bank for funding to develop and strengthen victim protection protocols," the report added, revealing that the bank has approved the funding, and the Belizean government expects that programming will begin in early 2007.

Besides Jamaica and Belize, the 2007 Interim Assessment covers Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt and Equatorial Guinea.

Others are Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1430 gmt 22 Jan 07

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288 of 445 DOCUMENTS



M2 Presswire

January 22, 2007

US DEPT OF STATE: Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments

LENGTH: 380 words

M2 PRESSWIRE-JANUARY 22, 2007-US DEPT OF STATE: Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments ©1994-2007 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Today, the State Department released the Interim Assessment of 39 countries on the "Special Watch List" for the current year.

The "Special Watch List" consists of countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003. The "Special **Watch List**" includes countries that have a very significant **human trafficking** problem, have not shown increased efforts over the last year, or were upgraded in the most recent annual report.

Some countries on the "Special **Watch List**" could be downgraded to **Tier 3** in the upcoming June 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report if their anti-trafficking efforts this year are determined to be inadequate. The Interim Assessment looks at the efforts of these foreign governments to combat **human trafficking** and provides guidance on how to avoid a **Tier 3** ranking. The Interim Assessment is posted on the State Department's Web site:
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/78948.htm>.

The 2007 Interim Assessment covers: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China (PRC), Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

Seven countries are included because they moved up one tier in 2006. Belize and Laos moved from the Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List in September as the result of a Presidential Determination. Ecuador moved up from Tier 3 in the 2005 TIP Report to Tier 2 in the 2006 TIP Report. Finland, Malawi, Singapore, and Switzerland moved up from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in the same period. The remaining 32 countries were placed in the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 TIP Report.

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289 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 22, 2007 Monday

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS NATIONS' ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRESS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 648 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Many countries have made progress in implementing anti-trafficking goals cited in the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report, but some nations need to make greater efforts, according to the department's assessment of 39 countries' anti-trafficking programs.

The State Department January 19 released its **Trafficking in Persons** Interim Assessment of nations on the department's special **watch list**. That list includes countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003.

On the list are countries that have significant human-trafficking problems, have not increased efforts over the last year to stop trafficking, or whose efforts were judged as declining in the most recent State Department report. The interim assessment reviews progress made by these countries between May and November 2006.

Among the 39 countries in the interim assessment, Algeria was reported as having not made any progress, while Djibouti, Mauritania, Togo, Malaysia, Egypt, Libya, Qatar, Argentina, Brazil and Peru were reported to have made modest, limited, inadequate or minimal improvements in combating trafficking in persons.

Improved performance was reported for Cambodia, China, Israel, Belize and Bolivia.

THE TIER SYSTEM

Legally mandated to be compiled annually, the June 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report reviewed anti-trafficking efforts in 149 countries and concluded that about 800,000 persons were coerced into human-trafficking schemes over the last year.

The report placed nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, prosecute those involved and support and assist victims of these crimes. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards.

The Tier 2 Watch List includes countries that show signs of digressing to Tier 3, which is the lowest level. Governments that are not complying with minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so receive a Tier 3 ranking. (See related article.)

The 39 countries on the special watch list are countries that either had moved to a higher tier in the 2006 report, were ranked on Tier 2 in the 2006 report but had failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking from the previous year, were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or had a significant or significantly increased number of trafficking victims.

The interim assessment gauges anti-trafficking progresses, particularly of countries that might be in danger of becoming Tier 3 nations in the June 2007 report. The assessment provides guidance on how to avoid this ranking.

MOTIVATING CHANGE

The assessment said many countries continue to make improvements, even the Tier 1 nations. In Malawi, the government continued to prosecute traffickers and conducted training for police officers to learn how to help prevent and stop trafficking. New legislation in Switzerland is helping provide more assistance to trafficking victims. In Singapore, the government implemented new measures aimed at addressing abuses of foreign domestic workers.

However, the assessment said, some countries' efforts to fight trafficking have been inadequate. Even though the government of Djibouti has taken a few steps, like shutting down bars where child prostitution may have occurred, more work is needed. In Malaysia, a 2004 commitment to opening a shelter for trafficking victims remains unfulfilled. Peru also has made some progress, but has shown little effort to implement the recommendations in the 2006 State Department report.

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290 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

January 22, 2007

U.S. State Department Reviews Nations' Anti-trafficking Progress; Assessment of 39 nations shows some countries need to do more

BYLINE: Michelle Austein, USINFO Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 678 words

Washington -- Many countries have made progress in implementing anti-trafficking goals cited in the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report, but some nations need to make greater efforts, according to the department's assessment of 39 countries' anti-trafficking programs.

The State Department January 19 released its **Trafficking in Persons** Interim Assessment of nations on the department's special **watch list**. That list includes countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003.

On the list are countries that have significant human-trafficking problems, have not increased efforts over the last year to stop trafficking, or whose efforts were judged as declining in the most recent State Department report. The interim assessment reviews progress made by these countries between May and November 2006.

Among the 39 countries in the interim assessment, Algeria was reported as having not made any progress, while Djibouti, Mauritania, Togo, Malaysia, Egypt, Libya, Qatar, Argentina, Brazil and Peru were reported to have made "modest," "limited," "inadequate" or "minimal" improvements in combating trafficking in persons.

Improved performance was reported for Cambodia, China, Israel, Belize and Bolivia.

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The report placed nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, prosecute those involved and support and assist victims of these crimes. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards.

The Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of digressing to Tier 3, which is the lowest level. Governments that are not complying with minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so receive a Tier 3 ranking. (See related article.)

The 39 countries on the special watch list are countries that either had moved to a higher tier in the 2006 report, were ranked on Tier 2 in the 2006 report but had failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking from the previous year, were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or had a significant or significantly increased number of trafficking victims.

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However, the assessment said, some countries' efforts to fight trafficking have been inadequate. Even though the government of Djibouti has taken a few steps, like shutting down bars where child prostitution may have occurred, more work is needed. In Malaysia, a 2004 commitment to opening a shelter for trafficking victims remains unfulfilled. Peru also has made some progress, but has shown little effort to implement the recommendations in the 2006 State Department report.

The full text of the interim assessment is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information, see Human Trafficking.

(USINFO is produced by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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291 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

January 22, 2007 Monday 9:17 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS NATIONS' ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRESS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 709 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Michelle Austein

USINFO Staff Writer

Many countries have made progress in implementing anti-trafficking goals cited in the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report, but some nations need to make greater efforts, according to the department's assessment of 39 countries' anti-trafficking programs.

The State Department January 19 released its **Trafficking in Persons** Interim Assessment of nations on the department's special **watch list**. That list includes countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003.

On the list are countries that have significant human-trafficking problems, have not increased efforts over the last year to stop trafficking, or whose efforts were judged as declining in the most recent State Department report. The interim assessment reviews progress made by these countries between May and November 2006.

Among the 39 countries in the interim assessment, Algeria was reported as having not made any progress, while Djibouti, Mauritania, Togo, Malaysia, Egypt, Libya, Qatar, Argentina, Brazil and Peru were reported to have made "modest," "limited," "inadequate" or "minimal" improvements in combating trafficking in persons.

Improved performance was reported for Cambodia, China, Israel, Belize and Bolivia.

THE TIER SYSTEM

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The report placed nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, prosecute those involved and support and assist victims of these crimes. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address -their problems but have not yet achieved international standards.

The Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of digressing to Tier 3, which is the lowest level. Governments that are not complying with minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so receive a Tier 3 ranking. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/05-20237.html>.)

The 39 countries on the special watch list are countries that either had moved to a higher tier in the 2006 report, were ranked on Tier 2 in the 2006 report but had failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking from the previous year, were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or had a significant or significantly increased number of trafficking victims.

The interim assessment gauges anti-trafficking progresses, particularly of countries that might be in danger of becoming Tier 3 nations in the June 2007 report. The assessment provides guidance on how to avoid this ranking.

MOTIVATING CHANGE

The assessment said many countries continue to make improvements, even the Tier 1 nations. In Malawi, the government continued to prosecute traffickers and conducted training for police officers to learn how to help prevent and stop trafficking. New legislation in Switzerland is helping provide more assistance to trafficking victims. In Singapore, the government implemented new measures aimed at addressing abuses of foreign domestic workers.

However, the assessment said, some countries' efforts to fight trafficking have been inadequate. Even though the government of Djibouti has taken a few steps, like shutting down bars where child prostitution may have occurred, more work is needed. In Malaysia, a 2004 commitment to opening a shelter for trafficking victims remains unfulfilled. Peru also has made some progress, but has shown little effort to implement the recommendations in the 2006 State Department report.

The full text of the interim assessment is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information, see Human Trafficking: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html.

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292 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

January 20, 2007 Saturday 5:51 PM TST

TAIWAN MAKES 'MODERATE PROGRESS' IN FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: U.S.

BYLINE: Jorge Liu and Y.F. Low

LENGTH: 457 words

DATELINE: Washington, Jan. 20

Taiwan has made "moderate progress" in combating **human trafficking** over the past six months since it was put on the Special **Watch List** for the problem, according to an interim assessment released Friday by the U.S. State Department.

The interim assessment evaluates the performance of 39 countries placed on the Special **Watch List** in the department's 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report published last June.

The department said some of the countries could be further downgraded in the 2007 TIP Report to be published in June if their anti-trafficking efforts this year are determined to be inadequate.

In the 2006 report, Taiwan was placed on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts over the past year to address **human trafficking**, particularly the serious level of forced labor and sexual servitude among legally migrating Southeast Asian contract workers and brides.

According to the 2007 Interim Assessment, the Taiwan authorities failed to prosecute any offenses of trafficking for forced labor or domestic servitude, despite evidence of a significant trafficking problem among the 350,000 Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Filipino workers in Taiwan.

Also, it said the Taiwan authorities failed to make progress in developing a system to identify and protect foreign workers who have been subjected to conditions of forced labor or involuntary servitude.

However, it mentioned significant improvements made by the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) in its policies and regulations governing the terms and conditions of work for foreign laborers in Taiwan.

These include bilateral agreements reached with Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to allow foreign domestic workers to apply directly to the CLA for work instead of going through Taiwan labor brokerage agencies that are known for exploitative practices, the report said.

Meanwhile, in an effort to prevent trafficking of Southeast Asian women through fraudulent marriages, the Interior Ministry banned the registration of new international marriage firms based in Taiwan and strengthened regulations and monitoring of existing firms, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tightened the screening of Southeast Asian women applying for visas as "brides" of Taiwan men, the report said.

Besides Taiwan, the other 38 countries evaluated in the interim assessment are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

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293 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 19, 2007 Friday**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: INTERIM ASSESSMENTS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 328 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Today, the State Department released the Interim Assessment of 39 countries on the "Special Watch List" for the current year. The "Special Watch List" consists of countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPA) of 2003. The "Special **Watch List**" includes countries that have a very significant **human trafficking** problem, have not shown increased efforts over the last year, or were upgraded in the most recent annual report.

Some countries on the "Special **Watch List**" could be downgraded to **Tier 3** in the upcoming June 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report if their anti-trafficking efforts this year are determined to be inadequate. The Interim Assessment looks at the efforts of these foreign governments to combat **human trafficking** and provides guidance on how to avoid a **Tier 3** ranking. The Interim Assessment is posted on the State Department's Web site: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/78948.htm>.

The 2007 Interim Assessment covers: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China (PRC), Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

Seven countries are included because they moved up one tier in 2006. Belize and Laos moved from the Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List in September as the result of a Presidential Determination. Ecuador moved up from Tier 3 in the 2005 TIP Report to Tier 2 in the 2006 TIP Report. Finland, Malawi, Singapore, and Switzerland moved up from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in the same period. The remaining 32 countries were placed in the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 TIP Report.

LOAD-DATE: January 24, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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294 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

January 19, 2007**Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments****SECTION:** STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES**LENGTH:** 340 words

Media Note

Office of the Spokesman

Washington, DC

January 19, 2007

Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments

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2007/042

Released on January 19, 2007

LOAD-DATE: January 22, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Report

295 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

January 19, 2007**Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments****SECTION:** STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES**LENGTH:** 340 words

Media Note

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2007/042

Released on January 19, 2007

LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Report

296 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

January 19, 2007**Trafficking in Persons: Interim Assessments****SECTION:** STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES**LENGTH:** 340 words

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2007/042

Released on January 19, 2007

LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Report

297 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

January 19, 2007 Friday 8:53 PM EST**STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES INTERIM ASSESSMENT OF 39 COUNTRIES ON 'SPECIAL WATCH LIST'****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 329 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State issued the following press release:

Today, the State Department released the Interim Assessment of 39 countries on the "Special Watch List" for the current year. The "Special Watch List" consists of countries deemed to warrant special scrutiny of their anti-trafficking efforts, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003. The "Special **Watch List**" includes countries that have a very significant **human trafficking** problem, have not shown increased efforts over the last year, or were upgraded in the most recent annual report.

Some countries on the "Special **Watch List**" could be downgraded to **Tier 3** in the upcoming June 2007 **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report if their anti-trafficking efforts this year are determined to be inadequate. The Interim Assessment looks at the efforts of these foreign governments to combat **human trafficking** and provides guidance on how to avoid a **Tier 3** ranking. The Interim Assessment is posted on the State Department's Web site: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/78948.htm>.

The 2007 Interim Assessment covers: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China (PRC), Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

Seven countries are included because they moved up one tier in 2006. Belize and Laos moved from the Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List in September as the result of a Presidential Determination. Ecuador moved up from Tier 3 in the 2005 TIP Report to Tier 2 in the 2006 TIP Report. Finland, Malawi, Singapore, and Switzerland moved up from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in the same period. The remaining 32 countries were placed in the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 TIP Report.

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298 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INTERIM ASSESSMENT

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The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following report:

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President in December 2003, requires the Department of State to submit to the Congress an Interim Assessment of the progress made in combating **trafficking in persons** (TIP) by those countries placed on the Special **Watch List** in September 2006. The evaluation period covers the six months since the release of the June 2006 annual report.

This year, 39 countries are on the Special Watch List. These countries either (1) had moved up a tier in the 2006 TIP Report over the last year's Report, or (2) were ranked on Tier 2 in the 2006 TIP Report, but (a) had failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat TIP from the previous year, (b) were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or (c) had a significant or significantly increasing number of trafficking victims. Thirty-four of the 39 countries on the Special Watch List are in the second category-ranked as Tier 2 Watch List-including two countries initially ranked as Tier 3 in the June 2006 TIP Report, but reassessed as Tier 2 Watch List countries by the State Department in September 2006 (Belize and Laos). Attached to this Interim Assessment is an overview of the tier process.

In most cases, the Interim Assessment is intended to serve as a tool by which to gauge the anti trafficking progress of countries which may be in danger of slipping a tier in the upcoming June 2007 TIP Report and to give them guidance on how to avoid a Tier 3 ranking. It is a tightly focused progress report, assessing the concrete actions a government has taken to address the key deficiencies highlighted in the June 2006 TIP Report. The Interim Assessment covers actions undertaken between the beginning of May-the cutoff for data covered in the June TIP Report-and November. Readers are requested to refer back to the annual TIP Report for an analysis of large scale efforts and a description of the trafficking problem in each particular country.

Tier Process

The Department placed each of the countries included on the 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report into one of the three lists, described here as **tiers**, mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended (TVPA). This placement reflects an evaluation of a government's actions to combat trafficking. The Department first evaluates whether the government fully complies with the TVPRA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Countries whose governments do so are placed in Tier 1. For other countries, the Department considers whether their governments made significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. Countries whose governments are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in Tier 2. Those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in Tier 3. Finally, the Special Watch List criteria are considered and, if applicable, Tier 2 countries are placed on the Tier 2 Special Watch List.

The Tiers

Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Act's minimum standards.

Tier 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Special Watch List: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and:

- a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is increasing significantly; or
- b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or
- c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Tier 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

As required by the TVPA, in making **tier** determinations between **Tiers 2** and **3**, the Department considers the overall extent of **human trafficking** in the country; the extent of government noncompliance with the minimum standards, particularly the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking; and what reasonable measures the government would have to take to come into compliance with the minimum standards within the government's resources and capabilities.

AFRICA

Central African Republic

The Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) has begun to make modest progress toward combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The government has drafted anti-trafficking legislation, established liaisons with NGOs with the capacity to care for trafficking victims, and developed plans to increase public awareness of trafficking and establish a government focal point to address the problem.

The government plans to submit to the National Assembly in early December 2006 draft legislation prohibiting all forms of trafficking in persons. Also related to law enforcement efforts, the government entered into a multilateral regional accord against trafficking in July 2006 and a bilateral agreement with Cameroon to combat transnational crime, including trafficking in persons, in August 2006.

Awareness of trafficking in persons problems among government officials and the public is minimal and there are no NGOs that provide services specifically to trafficking victims. However, the government has provided training to some NGOs providing care to street children and other children in distress, many or some of whom are likely trafficking victims. Some of these organizations are also part of an NGO network coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Ministries of Social Affairs and Justice have pledged to take steps to increase public awareness of trafficking by early 2007. These two ministries plan on establishing a national inter-ministerial committee to combat TIP by the end of February 2007. The CAR also has developed a plan of action to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including child sex trafficking.

Djibouti

The Government of Djibouti took initial but inadequate steps to begin combating human trafficking after the release of the 2006 Report. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Djibouti's designated focal point on human trafficking, appointed the Director of its Legal Department to be responsible for coordinating the Djiboutian government's anti-trafficking response. The Police Vice Squad reportedly continued to close bars where child prostitution may have been occurring; specifics regarding these closures or resulting prosecutions are not known. The Ministry of Communications requested U.S. assistance in acquiring appropriate articles or other awareness raising materials on human trafficking to publish in local newspapers.

Equatorial Guinea

The Government of Equatorial Guinea made some modest progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. Although the government investigated and resolved at least nine trafficking cases, educated law enforcement officials, and referred foreign victims to diplomatic officials, it once again failed to arrest, prosecute, or convict traffickers under its 2004 law or under other TIP-related criminal statutes.

The government conducted at least 6 anti-trafficking sensitization workshops for police, prosecutors, and judges and immigration officials. In addition, Equatorial Guinea (EG) initiated meetings with the international community to re-

quest technical assistance to develop a trafficking training program for Equato-Guinean law enforcement officials. In July 2006, EG also adopted the regional West and Central African Multilateral Agreement and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The government referred foreign child trafficking victims it discovered to diplomatic missions of the victim's country in at least nine instances over the last six months. Beyond these referrals, the government did not provide direct care to trafficking victims or coordinate with NGOs or international organizations to provide such care.

The government collaborated with UNICEF, Cameroon, and Gabon to conduct an assessment of transnational trafficking. The government also launched an information campaign about trafficking by placing UNICEF-financed posters in the streets of Malabo about the national action plan against trafficking in persons.

Kenya

The Government of Kenya made some progress in its efforts to combat trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report, but more needs to be done. A lack of awareness of human trafficking issues among law enforcement officials continued to undermine the ability of police to properly identify and track trafficking cases. In August 2006, two police officers in Trans-Nzoia were suspended from duty for allegedly helping a suspected member of a child trafficking syndicate escape from custody. However, the officers subsequently were reinstated to active duty pending disciplinary action from Police Headquarters, which has yet to be meted out. The suspect subsequently was re-arrested trying to transport an allegedly abducted Kenyan child to Uganda.

Police reportedly also investigated trafficking cases in the coastal and Rift Valley regions; no further information regarding resulting arrests or prosecutions was made available. The Kenya Police Service was unable to report a single concrete action taken by the Human Trafficking Unit in the past year. However, in June 2006, the Tourism Minister personally led police and other government officials on a raid of a Mombasa resort hotel suspected of hosting children in prostitution; two young girls were removed from the premises. In November 2006, the Mombasa District Commissioner provided participants at a trafficking awareness seminar with a telephone hotline number to use to report suspected cases of trafficking.

A draft comprehensive anti-trafficking bill was presented by NGOs to the Attorney General's Office in May 2006. It is anticipated that the bill will be submitted during the next session of Parliament, which is expected to begin in March 2007. The Vice President presided over the December 19 launch of a research report on child sex tourism and commercial sexual exploitation of children on the coast conducted by Children's Affairs and a UNICEF-selected international expert. The launch may encourage smaller hotels and other tourism sector firms to join hotels in other parts of the coast that have already signed on to implement the industry code to prevent child sex tourism. The launch also should serve to increase awareness of the problem of human trafficking on the coast. In response to the study's findings, steps to address human trafficking were incorporated into the Ministry's annual work plan.

In early December, relevant government ministries, including the Office of the President, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, Labor, Gender and Youth, the Attorney General, Culture and Tourism, and Immigration, took up the issue of TIP and agreed that Home Affairs would lead a TIP policy steering committee and a task force to draft a National TIP Action Plan. As a result of the increased availability of training opportunities, the Kenyan media, especially the government-owned Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, noticeably improved the quantity and quality of its coverage of suspected human trafficking cases, contributing to greater awareness of the problem of human trafficking throughout the country.

Malawi

Since achieving **Tier 1** status in the 2006 Report, the Government of Malawi has continued to make progress in combating **human trafficking**. The government prosecuted and convicted 10 traffickers since April 2006 using relevant labor and kidnapping laws; the majority of these cases involved trafficking of children for agricultural labor and cattle herding. In October, a Malawian court sentenced a Mozambican national to six years imprisonment after he pled guilty to attempting to sell two youths to businessmen. Other traffickers were required to pay fines; however, some who claimed ignorance of the law were merely warned and released. In August 2006, the Malawi Police Service conducted a two-day child protection orientation for district police commanders and a two-week training of trainers for 16 child protection officers from the police community.

The Ministry of Labor continued to inspect and monitor labor practices on both tobacco and tea estates, as well as in other sectors. It conducted six sensitization workshops for tobacco and tea estate owners on Malawi's labor code, em-

phasizing child labor prohibitions. Forty additional labor inspectors were hired, and 18 more are currently being recruited. In August, the ministry conducted a workshop for district labor officers to educate them on the roles of the judiciary, NGOs, police, and labor officers in addressing child trafficking.

A recently opened government-operated drop-in center in Lilongwe is providing approximately 50 victims of trafficking and sexual violence with counseling, medical care, legal assistance, shelter, food, and vocational training. Additional centers planned for the southern and northern regions of the country have not opened due to supply shortages.

Mauritania

The Government of Mauritania has made insufficient progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The government has failed to arrest, prosecute, or convict trafficking offenders or individuals subjecting others to traditional slavery or related practices. Mauritania also neglected to provide care to two child domestic servants who were part of a high-profile criminal investigation in 2005. However, the government has taken limited steps to protect children from prostitution and harmful labor practices, and it has provided anti-poverty programs to former female slaves and domestic workers.

Although Mauritania has never enforced its anti-slavery or anti-trafficking laws, the government is in the process of establishing a Children's Police Brigade to enforce a January 2006 ordinance against child prostitution and harmful child labor practices. In June, August, and September 2006, the government trained law enforcement officials in three cities to enforce the ordinance.

With financing from the African Development Bank, the government provided six months of literacy training to 5,000 women in a program targeting former female slaves, many of whom are likely domestic workers. In collaboration with a private bank and UNICEF, the government continued to conduct micro-credit programs for domestic workers and former female slaves. Although the government continues to operate care centers for "talibe" boys, reports indicate that the centers operate below capacity despite apparent need.

In September 2006, the government organized a workshop for civil society and law enforcement officials on combating trafficking. The government also produced an anti-trafficking action plan in October 2006.

South Africa

The Government of South Africa made some progress in addressing anti-trafficking concerns since the release of the 2006 Report. In June 2006, President Mbeki signed the Children's Act, which specifically criminalizes child trafficking. The Department of Social Development is expected to release the necessary implementing regulations for the law to be enforced in early 2007. The government's growing anti-trafficking commitment was constrained in some cases by the requirements of its own processes, particularly in the area of enacting new laws. To elicit further feedback on its draft comprehensive anti-trafficking bill, the South African Law Reform Commission conducted six workshops throughout the country for investigators, prosecutors, and civic organizations; the bill is slated for submission to the Minister of Justice in mid-2007. In November, the Sexual Offenses Bill, which would prohibit the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, was sent from the parliamentary committee to Parliament for consideration.

In November, the trial of the "Ranch Club" sex trafficking case resumed after months of attempts by the alleged trafficker to have the charges dismissed. Despite anecdotal information in the press, data on judicial proceedings against additional suspected traffickers remained unavailable. In August 2006, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) sponsored a two-day seminar on prosecuting human trafficking cases in the South African context for provincial prosecutors and chief prosecutors from other African countries. This seminar resulted in agreement to a number of short-term actions, including the subsequent formation of a new NPA Rapid TIP Response Team, which has focused its initial efforts on identifying priority cases in the country for prosecution. Thirty-one members of the South African Police Service's Organized Crime Unit in Gauteng Province received training from International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the role of organized criminal groups in the trafficking of women and children. IOM subsequently received requests from the Scorpions, the Department of Home Affairs, and the Cape Town and Johannesburg airport authorities to receive this training.

In October, police officers from South Africa, Mozambique, and Swaziland met to discuss cross-border trafficking, including trafficking in persons, and agreed that more must be done in this area. According to an August 2006 press release from the Department of Labor, the Governments of South Africa and Zimbabwe agreed in January to issue legal work permits for cross-border agricultural laborers, believing that the regularization of transient agricultural workers between the two countries will minimize the use of children for such activities.

Government efforts to raise public awareness remained sporadic while civil society and private sector efforts increased. In August, the Women's Parliament conducted a two-day meeting focusing on human trafficking. The Department of Labor funded a national radio campaign on child labor that ran during the annual "16 days of activism against violence to women and children" campaign.

Togo

The Government of Togo has made insufficient progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. Overall law enforcement efforts remained weak, though the government took some increased steps to provide care to trafficking victims.

The government reported that Togolese police arrested some traffickers over the last six months; however, officials have not provided data on the number of such arrests. Moreover, the government has not commenced legal proceedings against 16 traffickers arrested in 2005. Togo's draft Child Code of Laws, with strengthened provisions against child trafficking, remains at the National Assembly with no fixed date for a vote. Although the government has not provided officials with training about trafficking, Togolese police and gendarme have participated in training offered by international organizations and NGOs.

Police worked with Ministry of Social Welfare representatives in providing care to trafficking victims identified at Lome's airport and at Togo's borders. In addition, representatives of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion of Trafficking Victims in each of Togo's prefectures continued to work with local civil society leaders in educating communities about trafficking and in caring for victims. Government officials assisted International Labor Organization (ILO) representatives in establishing a network of over 300 local rural anti-trafficking committees.

EUROPE

Armenia

The Government of Armenia made some progress in its efforts to combat trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report; however, key deficiencies in the government's anti-trafficking response have yet to be addressed. In July 2006 the government enacted a statute to clarify its trafficking law and strengthen the accompanying penalties, and NGO-run shelters assisted more trafficking victims during the last six months. The government, however, neither developed nor implemented a national referral policy. It also did not aggressively sentence traffickers under its trafficking statute and it failed to investigate vigorously ongoing allegations of corruption and prosecute officials for complicity in trafficking.

The Government of Armenia took some steps to increase awareness on victim identification by assisting in the publication of an IOM manual for Armenian consular officers stationed abroad, and it worked with a local NGO to publish a manual for its health and social workers. While the number of victims assisted by NGO shelters in Armenia almost doubled over the previous year, the rate of law enforcement referrals to these shelters remains low; out of 23 victims assisted since March 1, 2006, about one-third were referred by the government. In July 2006, the government enacted a new statute to ensure that traffickers in Armenia are convicted under trafficking statutes rather than less serious pimping statutes, which carry lower penalties. Since March 2006, the government investigated 14 trafficking cases, resulting in six convictions. All six traffickers received sentences between four and five years; the government utilized its old trafficking statute, which carries penalties lighter than those in the new trafficking statute, under a grandfathering clause because the crimes occurred before enactment of the new statute. Although the government has yet to prosecute any acts of trafficking-related complicity, in December 2006 it restructured its anti-trafficking unit in response to ongoing allegations of high-level corruption.

Cyprus

The Government of Cyprus has shown some progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report, but efforts in key areas remain inadequate. It has yet to implement critical anti-trafficking reforms it pledged to undertake in May 2005. Although the government recently demonstrated a strong willingness to increase its efforts, this has yet to translate into significant, concrete improvements in victim protection, adequate punishment for traffickers, and raising public awareness about trafficking in Cyprus.

The Government of Cyprus increased prosecutions and convictions under anti-trafficking statutes. Police statistics show that 40 cases were being prosecuted as of mid-December 2006, with an additional 17 cases being investigated for possible prosecution. Of the 40 prosecutions, three resulted in acquittals, two resulted in suspended sentences, and four

concluded in convictions with prison sentences ranging from four to nine months. Thirty-one are still being tried. Additionally, Cypriot police have assisted 12 Interpol and 10 Europol international trafficking investigations.

The government has yet to enact the new anti-trafficking law, promised for some time, though a draft bill has been forwarded to the Attorney General for final review. This draft bill does not abolish "artiste"-specific classifications for granting visas into Cyprus. Moreover, the government has yet to open a long-promised anti-trafficking shelter, though the Council of Ministers has approved the use of a specific building and the hiring of staff.

To raise internal awareness about trafficking, Cypriot police, in November 2006, conducted two seminars to educate law enforcement officers. Also, the police prepared anti-trafficking fliers aimed at tackling local demand, which will be distributed during community policing activities. The 2007 police budget specifically includes funding for this printing. The government has not yet developed or conducted a large-scale demand reduction campaign, promised since May 2005.

The Council of Ministers approved but has yet to finalize and implement an internal government handbook to help identify victims and direct the actions of ministries and services in dealing with trafficking cases.

Finland

The Government of Finland continued to make progress in its efforts to combat trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The government successfully prosecuted its first case under Finland's new anti-trafficking statute. It also increased efforts to identify and combat labor trafficking, provided temporary residency to all identified suspected trafficking victims, demonstrated considerable regional leadership in connection with Finland's EU Presidency, and passed a law criminalizing the intentional purchase of sexual services from trafficking victims.

The Finnish government's anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts showed progress as the government successfully prosecuted one case involving eight Finnish and Estonian sex traffickers under the 2005 anti-trafficking statute. Each trafficker was sentenced to a prison term of 27 months to five years - penalties substantially higher than those prescribed under laws used to prosecute sex trafficking crimes before 2005. Finnish authorities also increased efforts to target labor trafficking during the reporting period. A report commissioned by the Labor Ministry and released in May 2006 determined that labor trafficking was present in the construction, restaurant, and hospitality industries. In September and October, authorities arrested suspects in several cases involving the use of forced labor in various Asian restaurants. Additional investigations are underway.

The government sustained its efforts to assist foreign trafficking victims and, by early 2006, the previous practice of deporting possible trafficking victims was suspended. Currently, all persons identified as suspected victims are allowed to remain in the country for up to one year on a temporary residency permit. Victims may apply for subsequent extensions.

Finland assumed the EU Presidency on July 1 and has made combating trafficking in persons a high priority for the EU. During Finland's EU Presidency, it hosted in October 2006 a conference on child victim identification and interview issues, bringing together more than 100 working-level law enforcement, social worker, and NGO personnel throughout the EU.

In June, Parliament passed legislation that criminalizes the purchase of all sexual services from trafficking victims. The government views this as a positive step toward demand reduction.

Russia

The Government of Russia made some progress in its efforts to combat trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The federal government publicly announced it will provide some funding to three anti-trafficking NGOs beginning in early 2007 and regional and local governments provided in kind and financial support to some anti-trafficking NGOs; however, it appears the majority of aid to NGOs providing victim assistance, public awareness efforts, and government training was provided by international donors. Law enforcement officials and prosecutors participated in victim referral and anti-trafficking training, and cooperation between local government officials and NGOs appeared to improve. The Primorskiy Krai government in August began discussing the creation of two much-needed trafficking shelters in Vladivostok, although substantive measures to allocate funding and establish the shelters have not yet been taken. Russian law enforcement continues to investigate and prosecute human trafficking and demonstrated progress on collecting trafficking investigation statistics. Comprehensive data on prosecutions, convictions, and efforts to prosecute trafficking-related complicity and official corruption were not available.

The Russian government demonstrated mixed progress in its efforts to provide victim assistance. It reached agreements with NGOs governing cooperation with law enforcement to address human trafficking victim assistance in two cities; formal agreements between police and NGOs concerning victim assistance and protection now exist in four cities. While the majority of NGOs do not yet receive funding from the government, several local and regional governments did provide some financial and in-kind support to anti-trafficking NGOs for rehabilitation and outreach services. The governor of the Primorskiy Krai region funded and sponsored an international anti-trafficking conference in August 2006. The government reports that it has now fully implemented and funded a witness protection program, although some local authorities report they have not yet received financial assistance for witness protection from the national government. While Russia's witness protection program was used to protect and assist some trafficking victims, the vast majority of trafficking victims have not yet been assisted by the program.

Switzerland

Since its upgrade to **Tier One** in the 2006 Report, the Government of Switzerland has made some progress in combating **trafficking in persons**. Key victim assistance legislation was approved and now awaits enactment and some progress was made to collect nationwide anti-trafficking data. Data for 2006 on the number of convicted traffickers serving time in prison was unavailable at the time this assessment was published. Efforts to enact a domestic demand-reduction public awareness campaign were limited.

On September 24, the new Federal Law on Foreigners was approved in a national referendum vote and will be fully implemented by January 1, 2008. The new law improves the process of granting potential trafficking victims a stay of deportation and provides for residency status or the assisted return of victims and witnesses to their countries of origin.

In 2005, seventy-three percent of convicted traffickers received suspended sentences and thus served no time in prison. Data for 2006 on the number of convicted traffickers who received suspended sentences and those who served time in prison was not yet available; thus it is unknown whether there has been any improvement in the adequacy of Swiss punishment for trafficking crimes.

Domestic prevention efforts remained limited and the government has yet to conduct a widespread domestic public awareness or demand-reduction campaign. There has been increased discussion at both the national and local level about potential awareness campaigns during the 2008 European Soccer Cup. Although government plans for a 2008 Euro Cup awareness campaign have not yet been formalized, a government funded NGO has begun its preparations. The government financially supported a comic strip project of the Council of Europe to raise awareness among students. The government also published an anti-trafficking teaching manual. The comic strip and manual are available on the Council of Europe website.

The new Federal Law on Foreigners will require the Federal Office of Migration to record at the national level the number of temporary residency permits granted to trafficking victims. In April 2006, the National Conference of Cantonal Justice Ministers appointed a project team with a mandate to gather and harmonize national law enforcement statistics, including statistics on human trafficking by 2010.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Cambodia

The Government of Cambodia made significant progress in combating trafficking in persons problem since the release of the 2006 Report. The National Police reported that as of September 2006, 58 traffickers and pimps had been turned over to the judiciary for prosecution. At least 34 convictions were handed down, with sentences ranging from 3 to 24 years. A comprehensive draft anti-trafficking bill was found to be incompatible with the draft penal code in late 2006 and is being modified. Police statistics indicate that as of October 2006, 32 establishments offering trafficking victims for sale have been closed.

Cambodia has modestly increased efforts to combat trafficking-related corruption, although punishment of offenders with appropriate prison sentences remains uneven. In August 2006, three police officers of the Ministry of Interior's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Department were convicted of trafficking-related corruption. However, only one of the three was imprisoned, one officer remains at large, and the other remains in his position. The National Police reported three additional arrests of low-ranking military officers for trafficking-related crimes during 2006.

China

The Government of China increased efforts to combat trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. Since June, China's law enforcement bodies undertook numerous actions throughout the country that resulted in the reported rescue of at least 234 trafficked women and children, the arrest of five suspected traffickers, and the conviction of six traffickers.

The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) reports that trafficking victims returning from abroad are not punished or fined, but acknowledges that border officials are not able to systematically identify trafficking victims from among Chinese citizens who travel abroad illegally. The All China Women's Federation (ACWF), a government-affiliated organization, has on occasion successfully coordinated with Chinese immigration authorities to cancel the "illegal immigration" fines of up to \$250 and 15-day detentions imposed on Chinese victims returning from abroad, but can only do so on an ad hoc basis. The ACWF continued a program launched in 2005 to train border officials to identify signs of trafficking; additional training will take place in early 2007.

In September, the government signed an agreement with the International Organization for Migration to set up an office in Beijing to work on migration issues, including labor and other trafficking. Chinese authorities, including border police, the Public Security Bureau's (PSB) Entry/Exit Division, and the Labor Bureau, received training on trafficking issues affecting areas along China's borders with Vietnam and Burma.

The ACWF and several NGOs provide hotline and legal services to victims throughout the country. Additional shelters dedicated to victims of trafficking have been opened since June 2006: in December, the ACWF, in partnership with local and provincial government authorities and the ILO, opened a shelter for trafficked women and children in Mingguang City, the first such shelter in Anhui Province. In November, authorities in Zhejiang, Jiangsu Province opened a shelter for victims of labor trafficking. The project, coordinated with the ILO, not only provides a shelter, but offers education, training, and legal and employment assistance. In Wuxi, another region of Jiangsu, the United Nations provided assistance in the October/November opening of a "Home for Migrant Women," a shelter that provides anti-trafficking training, as well as opportunities for women to learn about local labor law and take classes to improve work skills. In Guangxi, the ACWF worked with UNICEF to improve services provided in a shelter for Chinese and foreign victims of trafficking that opened in February.

China's anti-trafficking laws do not yet fully conform with international standards. The current definition of trafficking is limited to the abducting, kidnapping, buying, fetching, sending, or transferring of a woman or child for the purpose of selling that victim, and does not cover the broad range of forms, methods, and purposes of trafficking found in the definition of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Protocol). While trafficking of children under the age of 18 is a crime, penalties for trafficking children between the ages of 14 and 18 are not as severe as for trafficking children under the age of 14. Moreover, Chinese law does not automatically consider anyone under 18 years old involved in commercial sexual exploitation to be a victim of trafficking, despite international standards that establish this definition. Victims of labor trafficking also remain unprotected by China's current definition of trafficking, although many victims do have recourse under other legislation, such as the Labor Law and various provisions of the Criminal Code.

To address continuing deficiencies, China has prepared an anti-trafficking National Plan of Action. The Plan will be rolled out as part of China's commitment to the Greater Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, which China will host next spring. The government, through its state-controlled media, gave wide coverage to training sessions in Beijing, Nanning, and Kunming that were designed to highlight trafficking issues and encourage print and broadcast journalists to cover stories from a victims' perspective. Other public outreach programs include a campaign by the Sichuan PSB targeting major labor markets, with informational posters, public service announcements on large television screens in the markets, and the distribution of pamphlets explaining legal protections, resource information, and hotline numbers.

Indonesia

The Government of Indonesia has made modest progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The National Police trafficking unit reported that as of October 2006, 90 suspects in 24 cases were under investigation for trafficking crimes involving 437 victims; this is an increase from the 82 suspects in 12 cases investigated for trafficking crimes involving 143 victims in all of 2005. Police submitted 23 trafficking cases for prosecution through October 2006. The Attorney General's Office is currently prosecuting 24 cases. As of November 2006 there were 18 convictions handed down by courts in 2006, with an average sentence of 4 years imprisonment.

The Ministry of Manpower has done little to enforce existing labor laws that would protect workers against internal and external trafficking, allowing some employment agencies to traffic workers for debt bondage. There is a lack of awareness about the trafficking problems associated with Indonesian girls and women who migrate abroad and are subjected to domestic servitude or Indonesian children employed as domestic workers within Indonesia. An agreement signed between the Indonesian and Malaysian governments in May 2006 governing the employment of Indonesian domestic workers in Malaysia contains provisions inconsistent with international anti-trafficking standards, such as lack of protection of the right of a migrant worker to keep custody of his or her passport.

Indonesia increased efforts to combat trafficking-related corruption. In September 2006 the Anti-Corruption Court sentenced a former Indonesian consul general in Malaysia to 20 months in jail for charging illegal fees to process immigration documents. A local government official was arrested by police and remains in custody for issuing false documents used by traffickers. A number of investigations of suspected complicit senior officials were started since May 2006, but precise data is not available.

Laos

The Government of Laos made modest progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The Lao Women's Union (LWU), with the assistance of UNICEF, disseminated information on the law throughout the country among citizens and government officials. The Lao Women's Union in mid-2006 conducted trafficking-related training for governors, vice governors, prosecutors, police commanders, presidents, and vice presidents of provincial courts across the country. In addition, the LWU held separate seminars for police officers on trafficking legislation and victim protection in several provinces. The government in July 2006 provided immigration officers with training intended to end the practice of fining, taxing, or otherwise confiscating money from returning migrants and trafficking victims.

The Lao Anti-People's Trafficking Unit arrested a woman in August 2006 and charged her with trafficking, and in late October authorities arrested a group of three people that were subsequently charged with human trafficking. Laos did not provide any information regarding efforts to combat trafficking-related corruption through increased criminal investigations or prosecution of officials involved in trafficking.

Macau

The authorities in Macau showed slight progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The authorities have yet to recognize the serious problem of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation found within the territory's substantial international sex trade; this is reflected in a lack of significant steps taken to prosecute trafficking crimes and to find and protect victims of trafficking. However, the government recently reported ten cases of trafficking in persons, involving 17 women brought to Macau under false pretenses and four cases of abuse of prostitutes during the first half of 2006.

Macau authorities have not yet recognized, nor taken steps to draft legislation to address certain important gaps in the territory's laws related to trafficking. The Macau government, however, has recognized deficiencies in the laws relating to the welfare of women and children and is now reviewing applicable laws and covenants with an aim toward revising them in a coherent way. Moreover, there were no reports of authorities using laws that criminalize activities related to trafficking to prosecute traffickers and their accomplices, despite press, NGO, and foreign government reports of organized crime and human trafficking in Macau.

Macau continued to lack any significant protections for victims of trafficking. There remains no shelter or counseling resources dedicated to trafficking victims and local authorities made no discernable moves to address this deficiency. Macau law enforcement officials, despite some training on trafficking in persons, did not show any significant efforts to identify victims of trafficking among the foreign women in prostitution arrested for immigration violations or other violations.

Efforts to raise public awareness of the threat of trafficking in persons were absent, and the authorities of the Macau Special Administrative Region did not initiate any policy discussions that would lead to a policy and action plan for dealing with trafficking in the territory.

Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia has made minimal progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. A commitment made in 2004 to open a shelter for trafficking victims remains unfulfilled. The government

has yet to produce a clear policy or structure for dealing with trafficking; it has not acted on a draft anti-trafficking plan of action developed late in 2004 by Malaysia's Human Rights Commission with USG-funded technical assistance. Individual ministries within the government appear committed to taking steps to address trafficking but they lack the direction or political leadership necessary for a coordinated and effective approach.

The Malaysian government announced in December that it is drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill with plans to submit the bill to parliament in March 2007. There have been few efforts to use Malaysia's existing laws to prosecute trafficking in persons crimes. Police and immigration officials at the working level showed recognition of the trafficking problem and a desire to address it, yet they remained stymied by a lack of high-level Malaysian government political commitment and concomitant devotion of resources towards the problem.

The Malaysian government undertook no significant steps to improve the treatment of foreign trafficking victims in Malaysia. Most of these victims continued to be treated as violators of immigration laws and were incarcerated in jails or immigration detention centers pending removal. Others were allowed to seek refuge in a shelter run by their home government's embassy or consulate in Malaysia while they awaited deportation. The government continued to round up migrant workers who had run away from their Malaysian employers and deported them as violators of Malaysian immigration law without screening them to identify and provide care for victims of trafficking. A commitment by Malaysian government officials to support a shelter with services for trafficking victims remained unfulfilled.

Singapore

Since its upgrade to **Tier One** in the 2006 Report, the Government of Singapore has made further progress in combating **trafficking in persons**.

The Ministry of Manpower instituted a number of new measures aimed at addressing working conditions and abuses of foreign domestic workers. In September 2006, employment agencies' accreditation bodies introduced a new standard contract for employers of foreign domestics that guarantees at least one day off per month or additional pay. In October 2006, the Ministry ordered that foreign domestics may demand direct deposit of their salaries into their bank accounts. Also in October, the Ministry started a newsletter that is mailed directly to foreign domestic workers. The newsletter, provided in several languages, includes information on their rights and responsibilities, as well as on the importance of workplace safety. The government continued to prosecute abusive employers of foreign domestics. In October 2006, an employer was sentenced to 9 months in prison for scolding her maid and beating her.

The Government of Singapore continued to work with NGOs and foreign embassies to ensure that victims of sexual exploitation are provided shelter, counseling, health care, and physical security. Responding to the recent news and public outcry over Vietnamese brides being brought to Singapore to find husbands, an inter-agency working group on marriage brokers set up in early 2006 continues to consult with broker agencies, but has yet to issue recommendations to improve the way they conduct business and prevent potential trafficking.

The Ministry of Manpower launched a new program of randomly interviewing foreign domestic workers to evaluate their working conditions, including possible forced labor or involuntary servitude, and to reinforce knowledge of their rights, responsibilities, and safety. The Singapore government, however, has yet to implement a systematic screening of at-risk populations such as migrant workers and foreign women in prostitution in order to identify and care for victims of trafficking.

Taiwan

Taiwan authorities have made modest progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. In November, Taiwan authorities issued an Action Plan that opens a dialogue with civil society and created a multi-agency task force to be headed by a specially appointed cabinet-level minister. The Taiwan authorities reported an increased number of cases submitted for prosecution in 2006 that are related to trafficking in persons, though it is not known how many involve actual trafficking crimes. Prosecutions and convictions through October 2006 for child sexual abuse, including trafficking offenses, decreased to 98 from 150 during the same timeframe in 2005, but conviction rates increased by twelve percent. Taiwan authorities, however, failed to prosecute any offenses of trafficking for forced labor or domestic servitude despite evidence of a significant trafficking problem among the 350,000 Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Filipino workers in Taiwan.

Taiwan authorities did not make progress in developing a system to identify and protect foreign workers who have been subjected to conditions of forced labor or involuntary servitude. A few NGOs are the only source of protection and legal aid for foreign victims of trafficking who have fled from abusive Taiwan employers. Taiwan labor brokers report-

edly continued to deport involuntarily foreign workers who complained about abusive conditions, preventing any opportunity for the worker to press criminal charges of forced labor. Nevertheless, the Council for Labor Affairs made significant improvements in its policies and regulations governing the terms and conditions of work for foreign laborers in Taiwan, including bilateral agreements reached with Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, to allow foreign domestic workers to apply directly to the Taiwan Council for Labor Affairs for work, rather than going through Taiwan labor brokerage agencies that are known for exploitative practices. To encourage foreign workers to cooperate with time-consuming trafficking investigations and prosecutions, Taiwan authorities ceased the practice of deducting the time required to complete a trafficking case from the authorized work period in Taiwan. Punishment for employers who exploit foreign laborers and use forced labor, however, remain administrative (fines), and thus inadequate to deter additional trafficking crimes.

To prevent trafficking of Southeast Asian women through fraudulent marriages - which has become a significant problem in Taiwan - the Ministry of Interior banned the registration of new international marriage firms based in Taiwan and strengthened regulations and monitoring of existing firms. Steps taken by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to tighten the screening of Southeast Asian women applying for visas as "brides" of Taiwan men has led to a marked decrease in the number of spousal visas issued.

NEAR EAST

Algeria

The Government of Algeria has not reported progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. The government did not develop or implement a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons. It continues to treat trafficking victims as illegal migrants. The government operates three centers for illegal migrants and victims of trafficking, but does not have a formal mechanism to identify trafficking victims systematically and refer them to protective services. As such, trafficking victims risk detention and deportation.

Algerian law includes anti-trafficking in persons punishments of fines ranging between \$414-\$1,414 or prison sentences of 2 to 6 months. Media and NGO reports indicate that investigations and arrests have occurred, but the government has not provided information about them. The Gendarmerie Nationale established an institute of criminology in early 2006 to improve coordination of law enforcement activities against trafficking in persons.

The Government of Algeria has not instituted a public awareness campaign highlighting the rights and obligations of expatriate workers, and the consequences of abusing such workers. The government has not reported any steps to combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation to or through Algeria.

Bahrain

The Government of Bahrain made uneven progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. In November, the government opened a shelter capable of accommodating 60-80 trafficking victims, and offering medical, psychological, and legal care. Victims have access to library and recreational facilities, as well as skills training while they await repatriation. Victims can only enter the shelter by police referral, and for reasons of security, they are only permitted to leave the premises for official business purposes. The shelter receives only female victims of trafficking.

Bahrain has yet to pass or enact comprehensive anti-trafficking draft legislation that was written in March 2006, but the newly elected parliament is expected to take it up in the new legislative session. Bahrain reports using other statutes to prosecute trafficking crimes, but it is unclear how many of these cases actually involve trafficking. Current legislation is inadequate to prosecute trafficking crimes, particularly those committed against domestic workers and laborers in the construction industry who face conditions of involuntary servitude.

The Government of Bahrain has not formalized victim identification procedures to distinguish trafficking victims from prostitutes and illegal migrants. Currently, victims of trafficking are arrested for prostitution or for violating immigration laws and are jailed or detained until prosecuted or deported, without being offered victim protection services. Victims are still expected to identify themselves as victims of trafficking to the police before receiving entry to the new government-sponsored shelter, but they are often discouraged from doing so for fear of arrest and/or deportation.

Egypt

The Government of Egypt has made minimal progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. In October, Egypt took steps to form an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the government's anti-trafficking operations, but the committee has not yet been formally established.

Since the release of the June 2006 Report, the Government of Egypt has not provided evidence of new criminal investigations or prosecutions of trafficking offenses under existing statutes. Egypt similarly failed to improve its system of formal identification of trafficking victims. Border officials interdict foreigners who are illegally traveling to Israel and turn them over to their embassies for repatriation rather than jailing them, but the government still has not given any indication that it interviews them for evidence of trafficking, thereby undermining potential victims' ability to participate in criminal investigations or trials against their traffickers. The Government of Egypt also has not assessed the level of trafficking of children for household and agricultural work, nor has it instituted a public awareness campaign to educate employers on the consequences of participating in trafficking of children for this purpose.

Israel

The Government of Israel made noticeable progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. In October, the government amended its existing anti-trafficking statute that criminalizes trafficking in persons. The amendment expanded the previous definition of trafficking that had been limited to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation to include forced labor and slavery, among other offenses. Penalties under this law include imprisonment of up to 16 years for most trafficking offenses, which can be increased to 20 years in jail if the crime was committed against a minor. Notably, the amendment also permits the government to confiscate traffickers' assets to fund a victim compensation program.

The Government of Israel did not report any prosecutions for trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation under existing laws, including bans on related activities such as withholding workers' passports and charging recruitment fees, practices local NGOs report are common. The government, however, continued its prosecution of cases of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation; since June 2006, it reportedly brought 27 new trafficking cases to court.

Expanding on previous legal aid services provided to victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, the Government of Israel launched a two-year pilot program to offer legal aid to all victims of trafficking. Under this program, victims of labor trafficking have access to legal resources and victims in general do not have to meet economic criteria to receive this assistance. In addition, courts are now authorized to hear cases in closed courtrooms to prevent publication of details identifying the victims, thereby protecting them from retribution from their traffickers and ensuring their privacy.

In May 2006, the Government officially appointed a national coordinator from the Ministry of Justice to manage Israel's anti-trafficking strategy and inter-ministerial cooperation.

Kuwait

The Government of Kuwait has made limited progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. Although the government ratified the UN Protocol on combating TIP last year, giving the protocol the force of law in Kuwait, it still has not passed a national law providing implementation guidelines for the Protocol's provisions. Therefore, it is not clear what penalties traffickers would receive if prosecuted in Kuwaiti courts using the Protocol. Though there is high-level interest in combating TIP, the Government does not have a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons. Although the government provided some statistics for prosecutions and convictions of offenses related to trafficking, it is unclear how many, if any, involve trafficking.

There have been increased local media reports of women forced into commercial sexual exploitation. The Government asserts that it screens those arrested for prostitution to identify victims who have been coerced into the commercial sex trade, but it has provided no evidence of a systematic victim identification procedure in place in police stations or detention centers where arrested prostitutes are detained. Similarly, Kuwait lacks a system to identify trafficking victims among foreign workers arrested and deported for running away from their employers. Subsequently, it is believed that many victims of involuntary servitude are deported before having the opportunity to file a complaint against their employer. The Government of Kuwait also has not improved physical protection services to trafficking victims; a shelter was proposed by the interagency committee on expatriate worker affairs, but so far no shelter has been established to protect victims and provide them with medical, psychological, and other rehabilitative services.

In October 2006, the Government of Kuwait implemented a standardized contract for domestic workers outlining their rights, including work hours, wages, and their right to retain their passports. The government claims that foreign work-

ers will not be issued a visa to enter Kuwait for domestic work until the Kuwaiti embassy in their country validates this standardized contract. It remains unclear, however, how the terms of the contract will be enforced once workers are in Kuwait.

Since July 2006, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared to implement the Government of Kuwait's National Awareness Raising Project for Domestic Workers. The ministry conducted surveys to assess the needs of domestic workers, as well as the concerns of employers and manpower agencies. The Government of Kuwait plans to officially launch a public awareness project in January to educate workers and employers on their rights and obligations.

Libya

The Government of Libya has made minimal progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. In April, the Government of Libya formally permitted the opening of a Tripoli office of the IOM, which will work on trafficking issues. With financial assistance from the Governments of Italy and Libya, IOM in September 2006 conducted a technical workshop for 70 police officials and representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Prime Minister's office. Although the workshop focused primarily on international immigration law, some attention was given to issues of migrants' rights and best practices related to the repatriation and reintegration of stranded migrants, many of whom fall victim to trafficking.

Nonetheless, the Government of Libya took no steps to institute a formal mechanism to identify trafficking victims, particularly among foreigners detained and deported for illegal migration and those arrested for prostitution. Libya also did not improve its protection services for identified victims. The government has not taken steps to develop a national plan of action on trafficking in persons, which would focus Libya's anti-trafficking strategy.

Libya has similarly failed to report any criminal investigations or prosecutions of suspected traffickers despite reports of widespread confiscation of workers' passports and non-payment of wages for long periods of time, indicators of potential trafficking. Although corruption among customs and border officials is believed to be widespread and possibly used to facilitate trafficking, the Government of Libya has provided no evidence of efforts to combat this problem. In addition, no public awareness program exists to highlight the rights and obligations of employers and workers or to raise general awareness about trafficking in persons.

Oman

The Government of Oman has taken some steps to combat trafficking in persons but made minimal progress since the release of the 2006 report. In July, the Sultan issued Royal Decree 74/2006 prohibiting the use of forced labor and establishing prison terms and fines as possible penalties for violations. However, the law stipulates that the prison sentences available under this decree are not mandatory and cannot exceed one month and thus provide inadequate protection to workers. The Minister of Manpower issued an administrative circular in November 2006 that prohibits employers from withholding workers' passports without consent. Although this administrative measure is legally enforceable, the Ministry failed to articulate how this regulation would be enforced and what criminal penalties violators might receive.

Oman, however, has provided no evidence that it has developed a national plan of action to combat trafficking, or a system of protective services for victims. Similarly, the government did not offer statistics on the number of investigations or prosecutions of trafficking offenses. The Government also did not supply evidence of steps to institute a formal procedure to identify trafficking victims from among the thousands of individuals deported every year.

Qatar

The Government of Qatar made limited progress in combating trafficking in persons since the release of the 2006 Report. Although the government provided information on 24 prosecutions purportedly related to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, the traffickers were charged under anti-prostitution statutes. Two Qataris were convicted of abusing a foreign domestic worker and sentenced to 5 years in prison. Similarly, the Government of Qatar has not instituted a formal mechanism to identify trafficking victims, particularly among the population of foreign workers detained and deported for running away from their sponsors.

The Government of Qatar has drafted, but not passed, amendments to its sponsorship regulations to protect the rights of foreign workers. Current regulations have the effect of restricting workers' movements and facilitating the detention and deportation of foreign workers, some of whom may be victims of involuntary servitude. Absent effective proce-

dures for victim identification, it is believed that many victims of trafficking are deported without access to criminal justice and employers subsequently remain unpunished.

The Qatari government has drafted an anti-trafficking law that is being circulated to relevant agencies for comment. The government expects the draft law's review to be completed by the end of 2006, but it is unclear when the law will be enacted. The director of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs also noted that a new law specifically addressing domestic workers is also being drafted; however, domestic workers remain unprotected by general labor laws.

Restrictions on trafficking victims' access to a shelter opened by the government last year have been removed; police or government agency referral is no longer required. Victims may refer themselves via the government-run hotline or in person. The government has widely publicized the existence of the shelter and the hotlines in local newspapers, on TV (local and regional), and via brochures, posters, and leaflets. Although victims may still fear arrest and deportation if they contact police, the shelter has accommodated 20 cases attributed to trafficking in persons. The National Trafficking in Persons Office has assisted victims by providing: work, transfer of sponsorship, health care, financial support, lodging, legal assistance, and repatriation. The Government of Qatar has not provided statistics on how many additional victims may have contacted the government-run hotlines and how their cases were resolved.

Trafficking in persons training has been incorporated into basic training at the police academy and the National Trafficking in Persons Office conducted a five-day workshop for law enforcement and security officers in August. Representatives also trained immigration officers during the opening of the Doha Asian Games to assist them in identifying potential trafficking victims as they entered the country.

The rest of the document can be viewed at <http://>

LOAD-DATE: January 23, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

299 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

January 17, 2007 Wednesday

Gambia; Gambia Makes More Progress in Monitoring Human Trafficking

BYLINE: The Daily Observer**LENGTH:** 232 words

The Gambia government has positively stepped up its activities in the monitoring and combating of **human trafficking**, thus resulting in the reassessment in 2006 to a higher level of **Tier 2** from **Tier 2 watch list** by the United States Department of State Office to monitor and combat **trafficking in persons**, a Department of State official with direct knowledge to monitor and combat **trafficking in persons**, told this reporter.

The Gambia was reassessed and taken from the watch list. It could be recalled that the government passed, in 2005, a child trafficking act and started to draft a comprehensive trafficking law that prohibits trafficking in adults.

The government did even better in opening a shelter in Banjul that can accommodate 48 persons and establish a hotline. They also established a hotline for reporting trafficking crimes and information centre for victims.

Cracking down on nine cases of trafficking in persons, the government with Child Protection Alliance (CPA-an NGO umbrella group) conducted sensitisation programmes.

Prior to the reassessment, The Gambia has a weak law enforcement and victim's protection efforts towards **trafficking in persons** that resulted in the placement to **Tier 2 watch list**-a designation of ranking for countries that are in danger of slipping down to the third **Tier**, a position that can lead to non-trade and non-humanitarian sanctions on a country.

LOAD-DATE: January 18, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

300 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

January 4, 2007 Thursday

Nigeria; 32 Foreigners On Immigration Watch List

BYLINE: Vanguard**LENGTH:** 266 words

Thirty-Two foreigners are on the **watch list** of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) over suspicion of involvement in acts of terrorism, **human trafficking**, among others.

A document obtained from the Nigerian Immigration Service also revealed that 31 other foreigners who were earlier repatriated or deported from Nigeria would no longer be welcome in the country.

Another document from the Department of Citizenship and Business in the Ministry of Internal Affairs further revealed that 908 expatriates were stopped from working in Nigeria in 2006.

"The total number of foreigners stop listed or watch listed stands at 31 and 32 respectively. On the other hand, 12 Nigerian youths were intercepted at exit points, attempting to leave the country and were handed over to NAPTIP for necessary action," the document said, adding: "During the period under review, a number of cases were investigated, illegal aliens that constitute security risk were deported or repatriated while apprehended passport and visa racketeers were charged to court.

An informed source told Vanguard of the likelihood of the 32 foreigners being on the watch list of all relevant agencies, which may be involved in the investigation of the activities of the affected foreigners.

The Department of Citizenship and Business on the other hand said it revoked 908 working permits of expatriates, out of 7,807 in Nigeria.

It said 2,652 expatriate quotas were approved last years, which fetched N26.38 million in revenue, while the total revenue earned from expatriate quota administration and enforcement stood at N136.41 million in 2006.

LOAD-DATE: January 4, 2007**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

301 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Mercury News

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

December 12, 2006 Tuesday

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

BYLINE: K. Oanh Ha, Mercury News

SECTION: A; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1187 words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I left my family without a dollar," she said through tears. "My life is destroyed. I can't go back to Vietnam with nothing. I have to take my chances and stay."

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED www.taiwanact.net

Contact K. Oanh Ha at kha@mercurynews.com or (408) 278-3457.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I left my family without a dollar," she said through tears. "My life is destroyed. I can't go back to Vietnam with nothing. I have to take my chances and stay."

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED www.taiwanact.net

Contact K. Oanh Ha at kha@mercurynews.com or (408) 278-3457.

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303 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

December 8, 2006 Friday 9:14 PM TST

LEGISLATION CRITICAL TO STOP TAIWAN'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING: U.S.

BYLINE: Chris Wang**LENGTH:** 360 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Dec. 8

Anti-trafficking legislation is desperately needed if Taiwan is to prevent its human trafficking problem from worsening, Taiwan and U.S. officials said Friday in a video conference.

Taiwan was listed on the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 U.S. Trafficking in People Report published in June, primarily because it failed to show increased efforts in fighting trafficking during the past year, said James Husky, chief of the political section at the American Institute in Taiwan Taipei Office.

Human trafficking is seen as the modern-day slavery, which is very different from slavery in the past, said Washington-based John Miller, Director of U.S. State Department's Office of Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP), in the conference that gathered public prosecutors, officials and law enforcers from Taipei and Kaohsiung.

About 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year, which does not count millions trafficked within their own countries, said Miller, whose office coordinates the U.S. efforts in the global fight against modern-day slavery, including forced labor and sex exploitation.

Being listed on the **Tier 2 Watch List** means Taiwan does not comply with the minimum standards and requires special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims and a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **human trafficking**.

Miller said the "Three Ps" principle -- prevention, protection and prosecution -- should be used when dealing with trafficking issues.

The national action plan to fight trafficking, which was initiated by the Executive Yuan, was a great first step for Taiwan, said Mark Taylor, Senior Coordinator for Reports of G/TIP.

Legislation makes sure the traffickers will be punished, but the implementation of the law is equally important as well, Taylor noted.

Public prosecutors and officials from Taipei and Kaohsiung mentioned the difficulties under the current system to define trafficking cases and identify victims.

"If a person ends up losing his freedom, it's a trafficking case," Miller said, adding that government agencies should also work with non-government organizations.

LOAD-DATE: December 8, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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304 of 445 DOCUMENTS

**November** 24, 2006 Friday

Stepping down: John Miller looks over papers at the airport in Seattle in June 2005. Miller has traveled the world and met thousands of survivors of ...

BYLINE: Les Blumenthal, McClatchy Newspapers**SECTION:** C; Pg. 2**LENGTH:** 1347 words

Stepping down: John Miller looks over papers at the airport in Seattle in June 2005. Miller has traveled the world and met thousands of survivors of 21st-century slavery since becoming head of the U.S. State Department's office dealing with human trafficking in 2002. He is now stepping down from that role.

Battle against human trafficking to continue

He met her in a Starbucks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While the story she told was gut-wrenching, it wasn't unlike those he'd heard countless times over the past four years.

Nour Miyati, an Indonesian woman in her 20s, had come to Saudi Arabia to work as a domestic servant. But her dream of supporting her family back home turned into a nightmare. Her employers abused and tortured her. She lost fingers and toes to gangrene when the wounds from her beatings went untreated and festered. When she finally escaped and sought justice in a Saudi court, she was sentenced to 79 lashes.

"It was heart-rending," John Miller said of his meeting with Miyati.

A tall, lanky former congressman from Washington state, Miller has traveled the world as the head of the State Department's office to monitor and combat human trafficking. But after visiting 50 countries since 2002, pleading his case with crown princes and prime ministers and meeting, by his count, more than 1,000 survivors of 21st-century slavery, Miller is moving on.

"It's been rewarding and I think we have made a difference," Miller said in an interview. "But I'm worn down, and after four years it is time for a change."

As he leaves to take a job as a professor at George Washington University, Miller said the human trafficking problem can be overwhelming. There are no easy answers or quick fixes, and even the blunt threats of diplomacy, such as withholding aid or imposing sanctions, can be ineffective.

Mostly female: Every year, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders, according to the State Department. About 80 percent of them are women and girls. Up to half are minors. Most of them are victims of sex trafficking, winding up as prostitutes in countries ranging from the Dominican Republic to the Netherlands to Japan. Others are forced to become beggars, child soldiers or camel jockeys. Still others are forced to work in sweatshops 20 hours a day or are trapped in involuntary servitude as construction or domestic workers.

After four years of listening to victims' heart-rending stories, Miller is hard to shock.

He recalled meeting an 11-year-old who worked in an embroidery factory in Southeast Asia whose owner poured acid on her and shot her. He met a man in India who was an indentured servant at a brick mill because his grandfather had borrowed 20 or 30 rupees years ago and the family had been unable to repay the debt. In Amsterdam, he met a Czech woman who was forced into prostitution after being told she'd never see her 2-year-old daughter again if she didn't cooperate.

"Intellectually you know this has been with us since the pharaohs," Miller said. "But when you see it, when you meet with the survivors, it hits you - it's human greed that leads to this type of abuse."

No country unaffected: When it comes to human trafficking, no country is clean, including the United States. Every year, about 17,500 people are smuggled across U.S. borders into slavery, Miller said.

"Are we doing enough?" Miller said. "No. No country is doing enough."

Each year, the State Department is required to submit a report to Congress on what other countries are doing to eliminate human trafficking. This year, the report assessed the efforts of 149 countries. Twelve of them, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, were identified as Tier 3 countries that don't comply with minimum standards and aren't making significant steps to comply. Another 32 countries were on a watch list.

Under U.S. law, the federal government can withhold non-humanitarian aid from the worst offenders. In addition, these countries can face U.S. opposition to assistance from such international financial institutions as the World Bank. But such steps are rarely taken and, in most cases, the threats are toothless. Most Tier 3 countries don't receive U.S. aid or international financial assistance.

Signs of progress: Though there's no way to know whether the number of human trafficking victims has peaked, Miller said there are signs of progress. More than 80 countries have passed anti-trafficking laws in the past two years. This year, there'll be an estimated 4,700 convictions in trafficking cases. Two or three years ago, there were several hundred. The number of shelters for victims is growing, as is public awareness.

But even as the international community is struggling to control current levels of human trafficking, a new threat is looming - the worldwide migration of an estimated 120 million workers spurred on by globalization and the proliferation of free-trade agreements. It's an area ripe for worker abuse.

The State Department called it the latest "trafficking phenomenon" as migrant workers are flooding rapidly developing countries in Asia and the Near East, attracted by low-skilled construction, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic jobs.

Critics say the proliferation of free-trade agreements has helped fuel this mass migration of workers as businesses in such countries as Jordan try to cash in on trade with the United States.

The National Labor Committee, which investigates labor abuses around the world, said in a recent report that the number of textile factories in Jordan has increased rapidly since the United States signed a free-trade agreement with that country. The report found substandard conditions in 25 of Jordan's roughly 100 textile manufacturing sites. The migrant workers at these factories, many from Bangladesh, face abusive conditions, the report said.

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Uzbekistan

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PHOTOS (from MCT Photo Service, 202-383-6099): SLAVERY

BC-SLAVERY:WA

Les Blumenthal

McClatchy**Newspapers**

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305 of 445 DOCUMENTS

CONTRA COSTA TIMESFound on BayArea.com
Contra Costa Times (California)**November** 24, 2006 Friday**Tackling human trafficking can be overwhelming;
Former congressman is moving on after serving as head of State Department of-
fice that monitors crisis****BYLINE:** Les Blumenthal, McCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU**SECTION:** Pg. F4**LENGTH:** 960 words

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306 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Herald News (Passaic County, NJ)

November 24, 2006 Friday
All Editions

Slavery still around; Most victims women and girls

BYLINE: By LES BLUMENTHAL, McClatchy Newspapers, Wire Services**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. A04**LENGTH:** 1238 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON -- He met her in a Starbucks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While the story she told was gut-wrenching, it wasn't unlike those he'd heard countless times over the past four years.

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Job took its toll

As he leaves to take a job as a professor at George Washington University, Miller said the human trafficking problem can be overwhelming. There are no easy answers or quick fixes, and even the blunt threats of diplomacy, such as withholding aid or imposing sanctions, can be ineffective.

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Servitude also exists in U.S.

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Threats not carried out

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Free trade fuels problem

But even as the international community is struggling to control current levels of human trafficking, a new threat is looming -- the worldwide migration of an estimated 120 million workers spurred on by globalization and the proliferation of free-trade agreements. It's an area ripe for worker abuse.

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307 of 445 DOCUMENTS

>KNIGHT RIDDER>
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

November 23, 2006 Thursday**Battle against human trafficking to continue as diplomat moves on****BYLINE:** Les Blumenthal, McClatchy Newspapers**SECTION:** W**LENGTH:** 1272 words

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308 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune News Service

November 22, 2006 Wednesday

Battle against human trafficking to continue as diplomat moves on

BYLINE: By Les Blumenthal, McClatchy Newspapers

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 1311 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON _ He met her in a Starbucks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While the story she told was gut-wrenching, it wasn't unlike those he'd heard countless times over the past four years.

Nour Miyati, an Indonesian woman in her 20s, had come to Saudi Arabia to work as a domestic servant. But her dream of supporting her family back home turned into a nightmare. Her employers abused and tortured her. She lost fingers and toes to gangrene when the wounds from her beatings went untreated and festered. When she finally escaped and sought justice in a Saudi court, she was sentenced to 79 lashes.

"It was heart-rending," John Miller said of his meeting with Miyati.

A tall, lanky, former congressman from Washington state, Miller has traveled the world as the head of the State Department's office to monitor and combat human trafficking. But after visiting 50 countries since 2002, pleading his case with crown princes and prime ministers and meeting, by his count, more than 1,000 survivors of 21st-century slavery, Miller is moving on.

"It's been rewarding and I think we have made a difference," Miller said in an interview. "But I'm worn down, and after four years it is time for a change."

As he leaves to take a job as a professor at George Washington University, Miller said the human trafficking problem can be overwhelming. There are no easy answers or quick fixes, and even the blunt threats of diplomacy, such as withholding aid or imposing sanctions, can be ineffective.

Every year, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders, according to the State Department. About 80 percent of them are women and girls. Up to half are minors. Most of them are victims of sex trafficking, winding up as prostitutes in countries ranging from the Dominican Republic to the Netherlands to Japan. Others are forced to become beggars, child soldiers or camel jockeys. Still others are forced to work in sweatshops 20 hours a day or are trapped in involuntary servitude as construction or domestic workers.

After four years of listening to victims' heart-rending stories, Miller is hard to shock.

He recalled meeting an 11-year-old who worked in an embroidery factory in Southeast Asia whose owner poured acid on her and shot her. He met a man in India who was an indentured servant at a brick mill because his grandfather had borrowed 20 or 30 rupees years ago and the family had been unable to repay the debt. In Amsterdam, he met a Czech woman who was forced into prostitution after being told she'd never see her 2-year-old daughter again if she didn't cooperate.

"Intellectually you know this has been with us since the pharaohs," Miller said. "But when you see it, when you meet with the survivors, it hits you _ it's human greed that leads to this type of abuse."

When it come to human trafficking, no country is clean, including the United States. Every year, about 17,500 people are smuggled across U.S. borders into slavery, Miller said.

"Are we doing enough?" Miller said. "No. No country is doing enough."

Each year, the State Department is required to submit a report to Congress on what other countries are doing to eliminate human trafficking. This year, the report assessed the efforts of 149 countries. Twelve of them, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, were identified as Tier 3 countries that don't comply with minimum standards and aren't making significant steps to comply. Another 32 countries were on a watch list.

Under U.S. law, the federal government can withhold non-humanitarian aid from the worst offenders. In addition, these countries can face U.S. opposition to assistance from such international financial institutions as the World Bank. But such steps are rarely taken and, in most cases, the threats are toothless. Most Tier 3 countries don't receive U.S. aid or international financial assistance.

Though there's no way to know whether the number of human trafficking victims has peaked, Miller said there are signs of progress. More than 80 countries have passed anti-trafficking laws in the past two years. This year, there'll be an estimated 4,700 convictions in trafficking cases. Two or three years ago there were several hundred. The number of shelters for victims is growing, as is public awareness.

But even as the international community is struggling to control current levels of human trafficking, a new threat is looming _ the worldwide migration of an estimated 120 million workers spurred on by globalization and the proliferation of free-trade agreements. It's an area ripe for worker abuse.

The State Department called it the latest "trafficking phenomenon" as migrant workers are flooding rapidly development countries in Asia and the Near East, attracted by low-skilled construction, manufacturing, agriculture and domestic jobs.

Critics say the proliferation of free-trade agreements has helped fuel this mass migration of workers as businesses in such countries as Jordan try to cash in on trade with the United States.

The National Labor Committee, which investigates labor abuses around the world, said in a recent report that the number of textile factories in Jordan has increased rapidly since the United States signed a free-trade agreement with that country. The report found substandard conditions in 25 of Jordan's roughly 100 textile manufacturing sites. The migrant workers at these factories, many from Bangladesh, face abusive conditions, the report said.

"It's clear there is a huge amount of trafficking all over the world, and we suspect a lot of them (migrant workers) are headed to countries with which we have or may eventually have free-trade agreements," said Charles Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee.

Kernaghan and others say Congress should refuse to approve a pending free-trade agreement with Oman unless strict labor protections are added. Oman is on the State Department's **human trafficking watch list**.

Kernaghan said when he met with Miller to discuss the situation in Jordan he expected to find an office filled with "political hacks" toeing the free-trade line.

"But they took it seriously," he said. "Miller struck me as a person of integrity and goodwill. He struck me as the real thing, and it's too bad he is leaving."

Miller said that when he raised the issue with the Jordanians, they promised changes.

"They don't want to lose the free-trade agreement," he said.

Miller, a one-time television commentator in Seattle, said when he took the State Department post he knew human trafficking was a major problem. He was a member of the House International Relations Committee while serving in Congress from 1985 to 1993.

"But I didn't know the personal side," he said.

Stories like those of Nour Miyati trouble him, especially the sentence she received. The Saudi court ordered no punishment for her male owner, 35 lashes for her female owner and 79 lashes for Miyati because of disloyalty, he said.

Miller said he raised Miyati's case in a meeting with the Saudi crown prince, and her sentence was reversed. Though Miyati plans to return home to Indonesia eventually, she remains in Saudi Arabia pursuing her case.

"She's still fighting," Miller said. "She is an amazing and courageous person."

Here is a list of **Tier 3** countries, or those with the worst records on **human trafficking**, as compiled by the State Department:

Belize

Burma

Cuba

Iran

Laos

North Korea

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Syria

Uzbekistan

Venezuela

Zimbabwe

The complete State Department report on human trafficking can be found at:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>

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309 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

November 20, 2006 Monday 2:27 PM EST

What the scribes didn't write about Vietnam

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service

LENGTH: 782 words

DATELINE: Hanoi

Hanoi, Nov 20 -- Most of the 2,000-plus international journalists who were here to cover the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit probably missed the real story of Vietnam: a nation going through an internal crisis.

While Vietnam is being lauded as an emerging economic tiger of Asia, behind that image is an array of chronic social and environmental problems seemingly impossible to resolve, according to New America Media.

Since the war ended in 1975, the country's population has more than doubled from 35 million to 84 million. Nearly two out of three Vietnamese are too young to have any direct memory of the Vietnam War. What they do have is a new longing for the west and its stuff.

Materialism is the new ideology. These days everyone needs a cell phone, a motorcycle, and if they can afford it, a flat screen TV and a laptop. Many would do anything to own new toys.

When Vietnam emerged from the Cold War, the forces of globalisation quickly swept through. The result is a country whose Confucian practices - modesty, frugality, respect - have been thrown out of the window, especially in urban areas.

Part of the cultural revolution taking place is a sexual one. Once known for its modesty and traditional practices, the abortion rate is around 1.5 million a year with many unwanted teenage pregnancies.

Statistics estimate that in only four years, a million people will be infected with HIV. Prostitution is rampant, with some NGOs estimating that there are more than 300,000 sex workers in the country. Many women are being trafficked overseas.

Vietnam accounts for 10 percent of women and children trafficking worldwide. According to UNICEF and Vietnam's Ministry of Justice as well as other groups, as many as 400,000 Vietnamese women and children have been trafficked overseas. It is a conservative estimate and doesn't account for mail-order brides - women sent to Taiwan and Korea to work in brothels.

According to the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: **Trafficking in Persons** Report" released last year by the US State Department, Vietnam was classified as a "**tier two**" country, meaning that the government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking".

For some, most worrying is the ongoing environmental degradation. In Vietnam, the word 'moi-truong' - environment - is still not a familiar one, let alone the term 'sustainable development'. While foreign journalists love to cover the old Agent Orange story, the real environment disaster for the country is how population pressure is causing the depletion of forests and pushing the ecosystem to the brink.

One out of three Vietnamese depend solely on forest and forest products for their living and the number is rising steadily, according to the United Nations Development Programme. Whereas the Vietnam War destroyed close to five million acres of forestland, 10 times that amount has been destroyed since.

Vietnam also experiences terrible floods each year that kill thousands, because there are far fewer trees in the central mountains and hills to absorb the monsoons.

As Vietnam's forests shrink, some of the world's rare species now face extinction, including three of the world's 10 mammals only recently discovered, the green peacock, the Java rhino, the barking deer, the Asian elephant and the rare Sao La ox. There is a lack of public awareness for the need for environmental protection, so conservation practices are rare and government policies ineffective.

Vietnam boasts a 7.5 percent GNP growth, second fastest to China. Economic development needs natural resources, but no one seems to have an answer as to what to do when the forests are gone. Economic progress does not create what the country needs - a civil society in which citizens can fully participate, steering the course of their collective future. This is only possible with real political reform, a multiparty system with true freedom of expression, something the Communist Party staunchly denies its population.

To prepare for the economic meeting, Hanoi was cleaned up for weeks. Protesting peasants and the homeless were packed off to a camp far outside Hanoi. Soldiers patrolled all quarters, especially the homes of well-known political dissidents under house arrests.

Hoang Minh Chinh, Le Hong Ha, Nguyen Thanh Giang, Pham Que Duong, Hoang Tien, Nguyen Khac Toan, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, Nguyen Phuong Anh, Bach Ngoc Duong, Le Chi Quang are men and women of conscience and sorely needed to participate in discussions on Vietnam's future.

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310 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

November 15, 2006 Wednesday 5:50 PM TST

GOVERNMENT MUST ENFORCE AUTHORITY IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

BYLINE: Lilian Wu**LENGTH:** 214 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, Nov. 15

Premier Su Tseng-chang said Wednesday that the government should enforce its authority in preventing human trafficking after it was rated as not fully complying with trafficking victim protection measures set forth by the U.S. State Department.

The premier made the remarks after Vice Interior Minister Chien Tai-lan reported on an action plan on human trafficking prevention at a meeting of the Executive Yuan.

With the U.S. State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2006 listing Taiwan on **Tier 2** out of four **tiers**, the same as last year, Chien said the ministry will review current regulations, integrate government agencies in carrying out strategies for protection of trafficking victims, **human trafficking** prevention and indictments of traffickers.

Taiwan will also promote its efforts in human trafficking prevention in the international community, Chien said.

The premier said that as a nation which attaches importance to human rights, Taiwan has to make more efforts in this regard.

Countries on Tier 2 are those that have made significant efforts to comply with standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), but have not reached full compliance.

Taiwan was listed as Tier 1 in 2004, meaning that it used to be in compliance with TVPA standards.

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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311 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Emirates News Agency

November 11, 2006 Saturday 5:48 AM EST

UAE new tough law to help fight

LENGTH: 552 words

UAE new tough law to help fight all other forms of human trafficking: report Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Nov. 11th, 2006 (WAM)---The UAE new tough federal law on combating crimes of human trafficking which was issued by President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan will help the UAE authorities fight all forms of this crime, reported a local UAE daily newspaper..

Exploring reaction to the new civilized step taken by the UAE government to ban all forms of human exploitation on its territories, , a report by the Dubai-based Gulf News quoted Dubai Police Chief Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim as saying "the UAE has succeeded in stopping the practice of employing children as camel jockeys and with the help of this law it will effectively combat other forms of human trafficking"..

"The law (which) will deter organized international gangs who attempt to harm this country will bridge the gap in the UAE's legislations, which may have been exploited by these gangs", said the law enforcement official..

Former UN official Dr. Ushari Khalil said "the law which slaps stiff penalties against traffickers ranging from one year to life in prison and fines from Dh20,000 up to Dh1 million, criminalizes severe forms of servitude (and therefore) will address trafficking in domestic servants in the UAE." Khalil, a former UN trainer on combating trafficking, warned that thousands of people in the country could be traffickers without them knowing it.

"They are not aware that the way they treat their domestic servants such as denying them communication with others, toying with their salaries, as well as the illegal tricks employed by labour companies constitute servitude," noted Khalil..

"Thousands of such persons should know today that they risk life imprisonment, particularly because almost all domestic servants are females," he said..

The new Anti-human trafficking law states that life-imprisonment term is to be handed down to anyone implicated in human trafficking if the victim is a female, a child or handicapped..

The law incriminates all forms of exploitation of humans and organised groups that intentionally commit these crimes. It incriminates organised groups that, through pre-meditation, commit these crimes, with the option of life imprisonment if the victim is a female, a child, handicapped or if the crime is perpetrated by those in a position of trust, such as relatives or public officials..

The Passage of this law and treating victims of **human trafficking** in accordance with international standards should serve to remove the UAE from the American **Tier Two 'Watch List'** country", he added..

The Sixth Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report upgraded the UAE to a **Tier Two 'Watch List'** country, or a country that is vulnerable to losing ground on its human rights record..

The new law "is in keeping with the UAE's constitution and international conventions signed by the country", Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Al Rohn, a professor of law at the UAE University was quoted by the paper..

Al Rokn who is also a human rights activist said "many human traffickers are never caught because their victims are too scared to go to authorities (and the new federal) law will encourage victims to report their tormentors to the authorities, which will also help rehabilitate these victims." WAM- MMYS 13 07 CCCCQQ

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312 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
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November 5, 2006 Sunday

US special envoy warns Indonesia on human trafficking

LENGTH: 219 words

Text of report by Mustafa Moses in English by Indonesian newspaper Tempo website on 5 November

Jakarta: US Special Envoy for Human Trafficking John R. Miller has admonished the government for not seriously handling human trafficking. "He (John R. Miller) was surprised why Indonesia's complaints on trafficking were very few," Assistant Deputy of Child Protection and Human Trafficking at the Department of Women's Empowerment Soepalarto Soedibjo told Tempo Friday (3 November).

Miller metaphorically mentioned the problem as a mountain of ice phenomenon [as received - a literal translation of the Indonesian for "the tip of the iceberg"]. He suspected that the number of human trafficking cases in Indonesia that were not handled were very high.

According to the report from the institution that Miller led, Indonesia is ranked as a cautious **Tier 2**: a level for a country with exploding cases of **human trafficking**.

However, he said, human trafficking cases were not handled well. As for this year, according to Soepalarto, there were around 100 complaints to police. This was a decline compared to reports in 2002 which reached 800. Miller has asked that the government cooperate with members of the House of Representatives (DPR). None of the invited was present.

Source: Tempo website, Jakarta, in English 5 Nov 06

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313 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Foreign Affairs

November 2006 - December 2006

The New Global Slave Trade

BYLINE: Ethan B. Kapstein

SECTION: Pg. 103 Vol. 85 No. 6

LENGTH: 4456 words

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

When most people think about slavery -- if they think about it at all -- they probably assume that it was eliminated during the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, this is far from the truth. Slavery and the global slave trade continue to thrive to this day; in fact, it is likely that more people are being trafficked across borders against their will now than at any point in the past.

This human stain is not just a minor blot on the rich tapestry of international commerce. It is a product of the same political, technological, and economic forces that have fueled globalization. Just as the brutal facts of the Atlantic slave trade ultimately led to a reexamination of U.S. history -- U.S. historiography until the 1960s had been largely celebratory -- so must growing awareness of the modern slave trade spark a recognition of the flaws in our contemporary economic and governmental arrangements. The current system offers too many incentives to criminals and outlaw states to market humans and promises too little in the way of sanctions.

Contemporary slavery typically involves women and children being forced into servitude through violence and deprivation. Disturbingly, the advanced industrial states have failed to take much action to address the issue. The problem is one of political will, not capability, for the rich countries of the world have at their disposal numerous instruments that, if their leaders had the courage to use them, could greatly curtail the global slave trade. Just as the British government (after much prodding by its subjects) once used the Royal Navy to stamp out the problem, today's great powers must bring their economic and military might to bear on this most crucial of undertakings.

After all, ending slavery is not simply a moral crusade, as compelling as the moral case may be. There are also important self-interested reasons why the West should lead a charge to eliminate this practice. The fact of the matter is that the same people who engage in human trafficking also contribute to the deepening criminalization of the world economy overall, often operating in close association with corrupt officials around the world. By allowing slavery to go unpunished, states unwittingly erode the foundations of the international economic system, which requires that governments be capable of enforcing bilateral and multilateral agreements and the rule of law.

Tragically, although the strongest states have the greatest capacity to suppress the slave trade, they have not done so, and key opportunities for action have been lost. The European Union (EU), for example, should have used accession talks with potential new members to pressure them into limiting the trafficking of their female citizens to the West. Meanwhile, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice may have made some bold pronouncements about eliminating slavery, but the U.S. administration is so focused on the war on terror that Bush and Rice rarely press matters such as slavery at meetings with relevant governments.

Such a shortsighted approach is dangerous not just for the people who end up as slaves around the world but for anyone with a stake in the future of globalization. The costs of inaction are rising; already, they are too high to bear.

TRAFFIC

The modern global slave trade generally involves the use of deception and coercion to induce victims to cross national borders in search of new jobs; once the target has arrived in a foreign country, he or she (and it is usually a she) is then

forced into some form of labor bondage. Although hard figures are difficult to come by, in June 2006, the U.S. government estimated that some 600,000-800,000 people were subjected to such treatment each year. This number does not include the many millions of people who are held as forced laborers within their home countries, such as in India and Myanmar. When those individuals are taken into account, the total number of people estimated to be living in some form of forced servitude around the world (according to the International Labor Organization) grows to 12 million. Whatever the exact number is, it seems almost certain that the modern global slave trade is larger in absolute terms than the Atlantic slave trade in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was.

Approximately 80 percent of today's slaves on the global market are female, and up to 50 percent are under the age of 18. According to the United Nations (UN), these victims span the globe, being trafficked "from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries." Most of the slaves come from countries such as Albania, Belarus, China, Romania, Russia, and Thailand, while the most frequent destinations for traffickers are in Asia, followed by the advanced industrial states of western Europe and North America and a number of states in the Middle East (including Israel). The slave trade is also a major problem in Africa -- where children are often forced to serve as soldiers -- but relatively little is known about the traffic in this region.

Once slaves arrive at their destinations, they typically are forced to serve one of several functions. Approximately 43 percent of those in the global market are used for sex, while another 32 percent are forced into other forms of unpaid labor, working as domestic servants, construction workers, or, occasionally (in the case of very young boys), as camel jockeys in the Persian Gulf states. The rest are pressed into both sexual and economic services. Governments and international agencies differ about these precise figures, since it is somewhat easier to calculate the numbers of persons forced into sexual servitude than it is to figure out how many are forced into bonded labor. Indeed, the number of men who are trapped as indentured laborers is likely underreported.

What all slaves have in common is that they are forced to work. Slavers typically recruit poor people in poor countries by promising them good jobs in distant places. A recruiter will then offer a victim a generous loan -- at an exorbitant interest rate -- to help with travel arrangements, papers, and locating a job in the new community. On arrival, the promised job never materializes, and thus the large debt -- up to several thousand dollars -- can never be repaid. The victim is then stripped of all travel documents, given a false identity, and forced into a job. He or she -- and his or her family -- are threatened with disfigurement or death should the slave try to alert the authorities or escape. If they are paid at all, slaves get the bare minimum required for survival.

As the persistence of the slave trade suggests, it is a profitable activity. The UN estimates that human traffickers earn around \$10 billion per year and that the average sale price for a slave is around \$12,500. Since operating costs (for transportation and false documents) are estimated to be approximately \$3,000 for each slave, slavers can earn nearly \$10,000 per victim. It is worth noting that the cost of a slave today is far less than what African slaves once fetched in the antebellum United States -- a difference owing in part to cheap modern transportation.

As a result of the low entry costs of the modern slave trade, the business is dominated by numerous criminal gangs instead of one large mafia. These gangs are mainly from Asia, eastern Europe, and Latin America; the authorities do not know whether they are part of larger syndicates or are specialists in human trafficking. Besides easy profits, the slave trade offers another advantage to criminals: the risks of arrest are low and the penalties are relatively light. In the United States, for example, drug traffickers generally face much stiffer sentences than do those who traffic in humans.

In order to thrive, the slave trade requires the direct or indirect involvement of national governments, at both the source and the destination. Since profits are high, slavers have plenty of money to pay off government officials and local police. In certain countries, these criminal links go to the very top. For example, in a September 2005 memorandum to Secretary of State Rice, titled "Presidential Determination With Respect to Foreign Governments' Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons," President Bush stated that the Cambodian government had "failed to address the trafficking complicity of senior law enforcement officials" in that country and that the Myanmar military was "directly involved in forced labor." Bush also singled out a number of other governments -- including those of Ecuador, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela -- for failing to "show a serious commitment" or to devote "sufficient attention" to stopping human trafficking in their countries. If ordinary criminals are rarely punished for dealing in slaves, high-level officials in such places enjoy even more impunity.

A CONVENTIONAL APPROACH

Ever since the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade, slavery has been recognized as the most abhorrent violation of a person's liberty. The practice runs counter to the entire modern history of human rights. Indeed, one of the UN's first

acts after its establishment was to pass the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, which the General Assembly approved in 1949. That convention updated international agreements from 1904 and 1910 on the "suppression of the white slave traffic." Although it dealt largely with prostitution, the 1949 treaty was far more ambitious in certain respects than anything that has been proposed in more recent times. In fact, the convention's blanket condemnation of all forms of prostitution and brothels looks almost quaint by today's standards, given the number of governments (such as, most famously, that of the Netherlands) that have since legalized the sex trade.

The most authoritative modern international agreement aimed at the slave trade is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was approved by the UN General Assembly in 2000 after the G-8 (the group of leading industrial countries) declared its support for such an undertaking earlier that year. This agreement, which supplemented the UN's Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, reflected a growing awareness among world leaders of the role of organized crime in global commerce. Unlike earlier slavery treaties, the protocol does not mention prostitution; instead, it aims to serve as the "universal instrument that addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons."

The most difficult issue faced by the diplomats who negotiated the treaty was how to define "human trafficking" in the first place. The confusion stemmed from the fact that it is often difficult to distinguish workers -- even sex workers -- who voluntarily take large loans at high interest rates in order to work abroad from those who are coerced into doing so and end up in bonded servitude. Separating the two groups requires establishing a clear definition of "deception" and "coercion" -- no mean feat.

Reflecting the work of a committee, Article 3 of the protocol defines "human trafficking" awkwardly as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

It is not hard to see why governments that have signed the protocol have found it hard to incorporate this definition into their criminal codes. In 2000, the United States took the lead by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton and reauthorized and strengthened by Bush in 2003. The TVPA, which is widely regarded as a model for other countries, establishes a more precise definition of what constitutes human trafficking, imposes stronger penalties than had previously existed, and allocates funds for compensation to the victims of human trafficking and for cooperation efforts with foreign countries.

The TVPA also requires the State Department to issue an annual Trafficking in Persons Report that, among other things, classifies countries according to their efforts to halt the slave trade. There are now 32 countries on the State Department's "Tier 2 watch list," a list of those governments that are making efforts to comply with antislavery treaties but in whose countries compliance is still weak, [see footnote 1] and another 12 on the "Tier 3" list, a list of those governments that are making little effort to halt the slave trade.[see footnote 2]

Since the passage of the TVPA, the United States has charged 189 individuals with sex trafficking, up from only 34 during the five years before the law went into effect. Federal prosecutors have won 109 convictions in these cases, up from 20 in the preceding period. Sentences have ranged from 16 months to 23 years. The U.S. government has also charged 59 defendants with labor trafficking (two major cases involved 24 of these individuals). These cases led to, among other things, the first-ever extradition of Mexican citizens to the United States to face labor-trafficking charges.

As a result of the TVPA, the United States has been much more successful in cracking down on slave traders than have most other countries. For example, according to the UN, in 2003 Lithuania prosecuted 24 traffickers but convicted only 8 of them, and Ukraine prosecuted 59 but convicted only 11. Among those countries that provide figures, only the Netherlands has a better record than the United States of prosecuting those involved with the slave trade.

Despite these accomplishments, the TVPA is far from perfect. For one thing, law enforcement officers have complained that it is difficult to implement. One California police officer who was interviewed about the legislation reported that in one of his cases "half the 30 men arrested ... were deported instead of prosecuted" for their crimes. Another major problem that prosecutors face is how to get victims of human trafficking, who fear the repercussions for themselves and their families, to testify against their oppressors.

The TVPA has also failed to help the U.S. government make much of a dent in the global slave trade, for several reasons. To begin with, the available data suggest that only a relatively few slaves enter the United States each year. The

Justice Department reported in 2006 that about 17,500 persons are trafficked into the country annually; in the late 1990s, the CIA put the figure at about 50,000. Even if one accepts the higher figure, this still means that the vast majority of slaves are traded outside the United States.

Yet most other governments have not made combating the slave trade as high a priority as Washington has. This includes many western European governments, which (with a few notable exceptions, such as in Sweden and the Netherlands) have done little to stop the flow of slaves from the East. As a result, ever-increasing numbers of young women and girls are being forced to work the streets of France, Germany, and Italy. This is despite the fact that Europe has numerous nongovernmental organizations and media outlets concerned with the issue. Outside Europe, where such forces play a much smaller role, the situation is even worse. In Thailand, for example, traders who bring in Myanmar women for prostitution are rarely prosecuted. In Russia, government officials show little concern over the plight of young women trafficked into or out of their country. And in the Persian Gulf, the use of slaves for prostitution, domestic service, and camel jockeying remains widespread even though it has been illegal since the 1960s.

Although the United States has sought to cooperate with foreign governments in combating the slave trade, it has rarely punished a country for failing to act against human trafficking. It is probably no coincidence that the lists of noncompliant states include important oil producers (such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), key allies in Washington's war on terror (such as Uzbekistan), and great powers (such as China, India, and Russia). Under U.S. law, the president has the authority to impose economic sanctions on states that fail to combat the slave trade by blocking foreign aid and military assistance. Unfortunately, this is rarely a useful tool, since most of the countries in question either do not receive U.S. aid or are of such compelling importance to national security that the president is unwilling to crack down on them. The Bush administration, like its European counterparts, seems to feel that a few slaves should not be allowed to get in the way of high politics.

Instead, Washington and its allies in the industrial world have taken the position that rather than target governments, they should focus their efforts on the demand and supply sides of the slavery problem. But Western countries disagree about what those steps should be. And even if they could reach some sort of consensus, such measures would be insufficient. The slave trade will only come to an end when a few key states muster the will to use force to liberate the victims.

AT THE SOURCE

Such a claim may sound needlessly provocative. It certainly flies in the face of statements made by many European officials who argue that it would suffice to tackle the demand side of slavery by legalizing prostitution in the industrial world, which would supposedly reduce human trafficking by curbing the demand for slaves, or who argue that the supply side should be addressed by promoting economic development and growth in poor countries. It also runs counter to statements by UN officials, who generally focus on the need to strengthen the 2000 protocol -- for example, by educating police officers and prosecutors about its content.

The problem is that none of these measures will work. The demand-side approach has already been tried -- most famously by the Netherlands, which legalized prostitution in October 2000. The Dutch government has explicitly stated that its legalization of sex work was meant to facilitate "action against sexual violence and abuse and human trafficking." The idea was that once brothels were permitted and regulated, the police would be better able "to pick up signs of human trafficking" and prevent it.

But the Dutch strategy has not achieved much. Sex slaves have continued to enter the black market, providing their services at lower prices than those charged by prostitutes in the officially sanctioned red-light district. The slaves work in areas such as railroad stations and on those streets that are off-limits to legal prostitutes, and they attract clients who are too poor to pay official prices. The police, meanwhile, have proved no more able than in the past to stop such practices.

Interestingly, Sweden -- a country usually known for its relaxed attitudes toward sexuality -- has taken the opposite tack, criminalizing the buying of sex. Since 1999, when this new law was introduced, some 750 men in Sweden have been charged with seeking to purchase the services of a prostitute, a crime punishable by up to six months in jail. The Swedish government claims that this policy has greatly reduced the number of prostitutes working the country's streets -- although it is possible that the law has merely driven Sweden's prostitutes and their clients deeper underground.

Other countries have followed Sweden's lead to varying degrees, especially penalizing those who prey on underage sex workers. Some states have even extended their laws to acts committed by their citizens while abroad. France, for example, has played a leading role in prosecuting "sex tourists," who seek pleasure in countries such as Thailand. The effects of such policies have yet to be measured sufficiently, but even if laws criminalizing the buying of sex could make a dent

in the trafficking of humans into the industrial world -- changing the demand side of the equation -- they would remain half measures given the number of people traded into slavery each year. For example, all the prosecutions in the United States to date have only led to the release of a few hundred victims of slavery. More action is therefore also needed on the supply side.

Many policymakers have suggested that promoting economic growth in developing countries should be the next step, since this would supposedly eliminate slavery by providing potential victims with an alternative. But economic growth alone will not stop this plague, at least not anytime soon. It will take a huge amount of progress before citizens of the developing world stop being tempted by the prospect of a good job in a rich country. And it is far from clear how such progress should be achieved; it would certainly be unrealistic to expect the industrial world to provide enough aid to make up the difference itself.

It is also important to remember that slavery today seems to thrive in some parts of the world because of economic growth, not despite it. In the Middle East, for example, the demand for young camel jockeys has increased as more people have gained the means to bet on races and as the stakes have increased. In fact, the history of slavery provides little evidence to suggest that economic growth could help end it anywhere.

Rather than seek complicated and distant solutions, governments should focus on a few concrete actions that could have a real impact on human trafficking in the short run. An excellent way to start would be with the naming and shaming of traders and the governments that support them. The United States has already gone further than any other country in this direction with its annual Trafficking in Persons Report. But few people seem aware of the document, and the Bush administration -- and the mass media -- should do much more to publicize its findings. Reputation matters in today's global economy, and a reputation for harboring criminals is something no state wants.

Naming and shaming can also work in other parts of the globe. For example, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has recently started putting pressure on Myanmar both through quiet diplomacy and through drawing greater public attention to the Myanmar government's dismal human rights record. This policy seems to be working; even military juntas want respect, and Myanmar's leaders seem to recognize that since they rely heavily on tourism for their supply of foreign currency, bad press in foreign papers could inflict real material damage on their country.

Next, wealthy states need to do a better job of confronting countries on the State Department's **Tier 2** and **Tier 3** lists, imposing economic sanctions on them if they do not act to ban **human trafficking**. The EU should put pressure on accession candidates, such as Bulgaria and Romania, and on member states, such as Latvia and Portugal, that allow slavery to continue or take inadequate measures to stop it. After all, the EU sometimes exacts penalties on member states that fail to meet their commitments in many other areas, such as industrial policy; surely, there is an even stronger case to be made where slavery is involved. For its part, the United States must not allow its focus on the war on terrorism to distract it from acting on this issue. Washington has allowed too many states -- especially oil producers, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia -- to get away with too much for too long. Under the TVPA, the United States already has the authority to impose economic sanctions on states that fail to act against the slave trade. The Bush administration should also remember that governments that allow this scourge to thrive are unlikely to be reliable allies when it comes to other problems that concern the United States.

To complement sanctions, Western states should also empower their police, intelligence, and military forces to act much more aggressively against those who traffic in humans. Just as force was ultimately needed to halt the slave trade in the nineteenth century, so will force be necessary in some cases today. Current international treaties on slavery do not authorize the use of force against slavers, but bilateral agreements should be strengthened to allow such measures. The TVPA already provides funds to support international cooperation against slavery. When it is next reauthorized by Congress, in 2007, lawmakers should add provisions explicitly stating that such cooperation should extend to military and intelligence forces.

It is worth remembering that in the nineteenth century many people argued that slavery would end "naturally" once the practice was no longer economically profitable. But historians now agree that since slavery remained extremely profitable until the day it was abolished, such an end was unlikely ever to come. If this was true in the past, it is even more true today, since the costs associated with the slave trade have shrunk so dramatically. As long as slavers continue to face only mild penalties from a handful of countries -- and none from the rest -- they can be expected to continue their work, undermining in the process the legal and ethical foundations of the global economy. If the United States and some of its European partners wish to halt modern slavery, they will have to use their power to do so, just as the Royal Navy halted the Atlantic slave trade on the high seas in the nineteenth century. There is no "natural" end to slavery in sight, and any productive policy must start by recognizing that fact.

The time has come to tackle the slave trade once and for all, in the interest of not only the people most directly affected but the broader public as well. As usual when it comes to politics, Abraham Lincoln said it best: "In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free." Halt the global slave trade today, and all citizens of the world will benefit. Allow the practice to continue, and all will ultimately suffer.

[Footnote 1] The list comprises Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Macau, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

[Footnote 2] The list comprises Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

LOAD-DATE: November 29, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Essay

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

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314 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal Grant Opportunities

October 27, 2006

Department of State; International Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND TRAINING/LAW, JUSTICE AND LEGAL SERVICES/HOUSING/FOOD AND NUTRITION/HEALTH

LENGTH: 343 words

TITLE: International Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons

DESCRIPTION: OVERVIEW: G/TIP invites U.S. non-profit/non-governmental organizations to submit anti-**trafficking in persons** concept papers for protection programs in Africa, with a focus on **Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3** countries that have demonstrated a political will to eradicate trafficking. Innovative proposals from other regions will be given full consideration. BACKGROUND: The mission of G/TIP is to nurture a 21st Century abolitionist movement against slavery by prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing trafficking in persons. PROPOSAL FOCUS AND GUIDELINES: Programs can include, for example: training initiatives on the identification and administration of effective services to trafficking victims; development of service models to meet the short- and long-term needs of trafficking victims; development of collaborative relationships between service providers and law enforcement, to build a sustainable, holistic approach to combating trafficking and assisting victims. Applicants can request up to \$300,000 to support programming for 12-24 months. Concept papers must be submitted via grants.gov no later than 11:59pm, EST, on December 1, 2006.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Cooperative Agreement, Grant

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: GTIP-07-AW-001-102706

POSTED DATE: 20061027

ORIGINAL DUE DATE FOR APPLICATION: 12012006

CURRENT DUE DATE FOR APPLICATION:

ARCHIVE DATE: 12312006

FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE: Cooperative Agreement, Grant

CATEGORY OF FUNDING ACTIVITY: Education/Employment, Labor and Training/Law, Justice and Legal Services/Housing/Food and Nutrition/Health

CATEGORY INFORMATION: Not Available

EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS: 5

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: 1500000

AWARD CEILING: 300000

AWARD FLOOR: None

CFDA NUMBER: 00.000

COST SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENT: N

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: 12

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY: Not Available

AGENCY NAME: Department of State

OFFICE: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person

CONTACT: Amy LeMar-Meredith

Program Analyst

Phone 202-312-9650

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

315 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

October 2, 2006 Monday**PAK NO MORE STAYS ON WATCH LIST WITH REGARD TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING: SHERPAO****LENGTH:** 213 words

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao has said FIA has played vital role for prevention of human trafficking and elimination of terrorism, which has been appreciated by UK and US as well. He said this while presiding over a meeting on a briefing given by FIA here Monday. Minister of state for interior, Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal Warriach, home secretary Syed Kamal Shah, additional home secretary Qamar Ul Zaman, director general FIA, Tariq Pervez and other senior officials of interior ministry and FIA were also present on the occasion.

Sherpao held Pakistan was no more on the **watch list** in terms of **human trafficking** as per US congress report. On the other hand, India is still there. " We have evolved a national action program with regard to eradication of human smuggling, which is not in place in other neighbouring countries. We have also set up International Task Force," he pointed out.

Interior Minister told competent officers have been inducted in FIA on merit basis to reactivate and revitalize the organizations. Government will provide all the resources to improve the performance of FIA. Earlier FIA director general Tariq Pervez highlighted performance of organization and apprised the interior minister of the ongoing and future plans of the agency.

LOAD-DATE: December 6, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Trafficking/Smuggling**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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316 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

September 27, 2006 Wednesday

Sierra Leone; US \$100,000 Grant to Fight Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Concord Times

LENGTH: 319 words

United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Thomas Hull and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative, Geerte Cappelaere Tuesday signed a \$ 100,000 grant to fight Trafficking In Persons (TIP).

The ceremony took place at the United States Embassy, Walpole Street, Freetown.

Ambassador Hull said Sierra Leone has made great progress in recognizing and combating trafficking in persons.

He said the country is rated favourable in the US States Department's annual trafficking in persons report. The country has moved from tier 3- lowest ranking to tier2- watch list.

"Much of the credit for Sierra Leone's improved **tier** placement goes to the government for passing the Anti-**trafficking in Persons** Act," he stated and mentioned that the law does not only define trafficking as a crime but also established the TIP taskforce to oversee the work of government.

He said one of the challenges is that many Sierra Leoneans do not understand the risks associated with sending their children away from the village who end up as easy prey to traffickers.

He pointed out that trafficking cannot be addressed without addressing poverty and that many parents cannot afford to send their children to school.

"Trafficking victims are forced, lied to or coerced into their situations," he highlighted adding that victims of trafficking still rely on the goodwill of police and ministry officials.

The Ambassador stated that the grant would help UNICEF to support the government and people of Sierra Leone in combating trafficking in persons through prevention, protection, prosecution, response, and regular monitoring.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Crime Service, Kadi Fakondo disclosed that a woman is presently serving 5 years jail term for trafficking in persons.

"Human trafficking in Sierra Leone is a big time organized crime," she said adding that training on trafficking for police recruits is on course.

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

317 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

September 22, 2006 Friday 11:09 AM EST

Human trade monitor

BYLINE: Hindustan Times**LENGTH:** 218 words**DATELINE:** NEW DELHI, India

NEW DELHI, India, Sep 22 -- The government on Friday moved to tighten the grip on human trafficking at a federal level, setting in motion an institutionalised mechanism to keep track of trends of trafficking in the states and nudging them into action.

The Union home ministry held its first meeting with nodal officers of states tasked with coordinating efforts on human trafficking in the states on Friday. Nineteen states and three Union territories have appointed nodal officers at the Centre's instance.

The Centre had started a cell in the home ministry to monitor **human trafficking** in July this year after the US placed India in **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year. This led to fears that unless the Centre took a lead in this issue, there was a real risk that India could slip to the **Tier 3** category, which would invoke sanctions under US law.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report noted that India had failed to show evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking, lacked a national law enforcement response to any form of trafficking.

A government official said the states were told at the meeting to hold similar monitoring and assessment meetings at the district level and sensitise police officers.

The Hindustan Times is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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318 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Balochistan Times (AsiaNet)

September 19, 2006 Tuesday

PAK FULLY COGNIZANT TO CHALLENGE OF HUMAN SMUGGLING: WARRIACH

LENGTH: 553 words

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with United Kingdom (UK) and the relations between the two countries remained cordial and have continued to grow over the years. Ch Zafar Iqbal Warriach, Minister of State for Interior while talking to a British delegation headed by Liam Byrne, Minister of State for Nationality, Citizenship and Immigration, UK who called on him in Ministry of Interior here Tuesday, stated this. Syed Kamal Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Mark Lyall Grant British High Commissioner were also present in the meeting.

The minister of State for Interior said that Pakistan has come a long way in fighting the menace of terrorism. Even before 9/11, Pakistan remained victim of terrorism in one form or the other. He said that the 9/11 episodes gave a new fillip to this menace and hence terrorism emerged a major challenge to humanity in this century. He said that the government of Pakistan has reinvigorated its undoubted resolve to root out extremism from the country because we are fully conscious of its adverse effects on our development and stability. He said that government is earnestly manifesting its policy in letter and spirit. When the Pakistan indicated a total policy commitment, which was out of conviction and not compulsion.

He said that the government and the people of Pakistan are grateful for the assistance provided by the United Kingdom in the wake of earthquake in Pakistan. The prompt rescue and relief efforts by the British contingent were a great help for the disaster stricken people of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has dual nationality agreement with UK and we have agreed to sign the Prisoners Exchange Treaty.

He said that government of Pakistan is fully cognizant of the challenge and the magnitude of the problem of human smuggling/trafficking and has prepared a comprehensive and all-encompassing strategy to address the entire spectrum of the problem ranging from the root causes to protection and rehabilitation of victims. He said that due to proactive steps taken by the government, Pakistan has now been elevated in US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report and placed at **Tier-2**.

He said that UK immigration authorities has shifted Pakistan from High Risk to Low Risk country and acknowledged that the reduction in Inadequately Documented Arrivals in massive which is massive and welcome improvement. He said that in view of cordial relationship with UK, British business have been facilitated visa up to 05 years within hours to the British Businessmen on Production of requisite documents. He said that Pakistan has very safe, secure and conducive environment for foreign investment and lot of foreign investors and leading companies are coming to invest in Pakistan.

He said that present government of General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has put the country on the way of progress and prosperity. Mr Liam Byrne, Minister of State for Nationality citizenship and Immigration, UK appreciated the policies of government of Pakistan especially Pakistan's role in war against terrorism. He said that United Kingdom and Pakistan had a long history of friendly relationship and the British Pakistanis were playing a crucial and important role in further commenting this bond of friendship.

LOAD-DATE: September 21, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Interior Department

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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319 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Frontier Star

September 13, 2006 Wednesday

UN REPORT REGARDING PAKISTAN IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING BASE- LESS, SENATE TOLD

LENGTH: 184 words

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was told on Wednesday that Government of Pakistan has rejected the report of United Nation regarding Pakistan not doing enough to stop human smuggling. State Interior Minister Zafar Iqbal Warriach told Senate on Wednesday that Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Interior Ministry has taken meaningful steps to stop human trafficking in the country and the government has strongly rejected the UN report in this regard.

British High Commissioner in Pakistan himself lauded the role of FIA for stopping human smuggling and United State has deleted Pakistan's name from its **watch list**, he added Zafar Iqbal Warriach further said report of United Nation regarding Pakistan for not doing enough to stop **human trafficking** is baseless.

He said Pakistan has taken all steps to stop human smuggling due to which reservations of British and US in this regard has been removed. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Nasser Khan told Upper House a particular lobby is working against Pakistan and several Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and European Countries are trying to defame Pakistan.

LOAD-DATE: December 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: United Nations; Trafficking/Smuggling; International Relations

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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320 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 18, 2006 Friday

Nigeria; Evils of Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Daily Champion**LENGTH:** 1400 words

CLARA, 13, was picked up by her aunty having agreed with her parents that she would work as a house-help somewhere in Lagos on a salary of N7,000 and this money was to be sent to her parents in the village.

Unknown to Clara and her relatives, the aunt, who is involved in human trafficking, was to hand her over to syndicate. By the arrangement of her aunt, whose plans were to be disclosed to her relatives, Clara would continue her voyage to an undisclosed destination as soon as she arrived.

As agreed, Clara was handed over in exchange for money, part of which was sent to her parents as salary for two years. Soon after the deal was sealed, Clara began her journey to Italy where she was forced into prostitution.

Her story typifies the known pattern in all human trafficking cases: First, persons are recruited (most often young girls and children) and they are transferred to a destination country (most Western Europe) where they are sexually exploited. In the event that this exploitation is foiled, they can then be rescued as victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and then most probably repatriated to their countries of origin.

Therefore, Clara's gory experience is replicated in many young girls who have fallen prey to believable stories of fantastic offers of employment and the good life away from the poverty and drudgery of every day living in their villages. As development around the country shows, many girls within her age bracket have been victims of similar gimmicks.

Those involved in the illegal trade conduct it in a seemingly decent manner and ease that their victims do not suspect any foul play. They get the support of family members of their victims under the pretext that they aimed to upgrade the financial status of such impoverished homes. Most often the act is perpetrated by someone known to the victim or her family.

Oftentimes too, the victims are coerced, tricked, lured or outright forced out of the country with promise of a very bright future in the destination country which always turns out to be a fluke. Stories from repatriated victims revealed that some of them were made to swear before priests in shrines where their public hair, finger nails are cut for keeps, to make them pliant. A regional project launched in 2003 by the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) found in a succinct Nigerian case study that although trafficking of persons from Nigeria involved both Nigerian and nationals of other countries; it appeared that the human trafficking activities that take place in Nigeria are conducted entirely by Nigerian citizens. "Those involved include recruiting agents (such as Clara's aunt), native doctors (voodoo priests) who often perform ceremonies to control the victims, lawyers who draw up debt bondage agreements, estate agents who help to launder trafficking proceeds through real estate transactions and travel touts and agents who provide the necessary travel documents and arrangements. Generally, foreign nationals work as temporary guides across borders or provide shelters and safe houses along the routes of harbour victims traveling by land."

This seemingly innocuous transaction has taken such dimensions that Nigeria today has been dubbed an endemic country in the trafficking of human beings. In a Citation Index drawn up by UNODC, Nigeria ranks as "very high" as an origin country, and together with Cote D'Ivoire and South Africa, they are frequently cited as destinations for victims trafficked from African countries, bringing with it negative portrayals and odium internationally.

NAPTIP

Perhaps, this propelled government to enact the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003, which also created the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP).

Nigeria is the first African country to enact such a law and establish a specific agency to implement it. Since its establishment, NAPTIP, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, international agencies, the Italian and Belgian governments, have started working seriously towards reducing the incidence of this illicit phenomenon. According to NAPTIP, an estimated 4.5 million persons are trafficked internationally, while about 10,000 are trafficked from Nigeria annually.

Before now, many people never knew that Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Forced Labour (FL) constituted an offence. Reactions hitherto have vacillated between ignorance and indifference.

Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mrs. Caroline Ndaguba says it has been difficult obtaining accurate statistics on the trafficking situation in Africa because of the nature of the illicit trade. Quoting a recent UNICEF report on the phenomenon, she says that four per cent of repatriated victims of international trafficking in Nigeria are children. The female/male ratio is seven to three.

Explaining further, she said: "46 per cent are engaged in prostitution domestic labour (21 per cent), forced labour (5 per cent) and entertainment (8 per cent). "Internal trafficking in Nigeria was also reported to be forced labour (32 per cent), domestic labour (31 per cent) and prostitution (30 per cent)."

Inadequate as the statistics may be, Ndaguba says they illustrate the magnitude of human trafficking in Nigeria and efforts that need to be made to combat the illicit trade. The Agency's interventions have been in prosecuting traffickers, rehabilitating victims, collaborating with nations and agencies to fight the scourge and generally creating awareness in the public about this new menace.

So far, she says, NAPTIP has secured the conviction of three traffickers in Benin City and Kano, while 14 other court cases have reached advanced stages of prosecution.

Memoranda

Due to the transnational nature of human trafficking, she said that NAPTIP has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with traffickers' destination and endemic countries such as Britain, Italy, Republic of Benin and Spain.

Specifically, the MoU with the Republic of Benin, which shares a common border with Nigeria, entails joint investigation and prosecution of cases, sensitization as well as repatriation of victims. It was signed because the nation is an important source country for many children drafted into child labour.

The MoU with destination countries for sexual exploitation such as Britain and Italy are, however, different. In the case of Italy, in particular, the understanding deals with an agreement on the re-administration illegal immigrants.

A NAPTIP source says the MoUs already signed are pilots as the Agency plans to sign similar MoUs with all neighbouring African countries and destination countries in order to facilitate investigation and prosecution.

Since it remains a source, transit and destination country, Nigeria had been promoted from the 2nd **Tier Watch list** to 2nd **Tier** List in the global rating of **human trafficking** in endemic nations. The grading recognizes the level of effort put in by countries of fight TIP and CL.

In the case of Nigeria, it recognizes her efforts in the areas of investigation, prosecution of traffickers, public enlightenment and rehabilitation of victims."This promotion is important to us because it has removed us from the threat of possible sanctions by the U.S. Government. This means that US government can give us assistance directly without passing through the Congress," Ndaguba said.

Nonetheless, ILO Chief Technical Adviser on the Programme Against Trafficking in West Africa (PATWA), Dr. Patience Idemudia, says in order to properly wage the war against the phenomenon, there is need for an appropriate policy to link anti-trafficking to development and poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria.

She holds the view that no better vehicle can fulfill such objective, than a National Plan of Action on TIP and FL. The Plan will specifically signpost actions to be taken against TIP and FL.

A recent validation workshop for the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour recommended a multifaceted plan of action for an effective effort at combating TIP and FL.

Through studies it conducted, ILO-PATWA has built a network of actors with the aim of raising awareness on migration related risks, provide concrete alternatives for vulnerable groups, rehabilitate victims and returnees, as well as monitor migration trends room communities in Nigeria.

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

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321 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

August 15, 2006 Tuesday 2:32 AM GMT

Credibility of US report on human trafficking questioned

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran**LENGTH:** 514 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Aug 14 2006

The credibility of an annual US report that blacklisted countries linked to human trafficking has been questioned in a Congressional probe that called the report inconsistent and incomplete.

The report by the State Department analyzes the issue in about 150 countries and ranks them by their efforts to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

But the explanations for ranking decisions in the annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" "are incomplete" and "not used consistently to develop antitrafficking programs," said the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, in a damning study released Monday.

While the annual report raised the risk of sanctions against governments that did not comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, it "does not comprehensively describe compliance with the standards," the study said.

This "lessen(s) the reports credibility and usefulness as a diplomatic tool," it said.

"Further, incomplete country narratives reduce the reports utility as a guide to help focus US government resources on antitrafficking programming priorities," it added.

In the latest report released in June, the State Department listed Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Sudan, Cuba, Myanmar, Iran, Syria, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Laos and Belize in the so-called **Tier 3** worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

They could face sanctions if they do not take immediate measures within 90 days.

Many Asian governments had come under criticism in the report for not doing enough to stem trafficking.

The US government estimated in the report that 600,000 to 800,000 people were trafficked across international borders annually.

However, the congressional probe said "such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable."

"The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data and numerical discrepancies," it said.

The study also said that country data "are not available, reliable, or comparable" and highlighted "a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking."

It urged Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to ensure that the report "clearly documents the rationale and support for tier rankings and improve the reports usefulness for programming by making the narratives more comprehensive."

It suggested a trafficking data and research unit to serve as an interagency focal point charged with developing an overall research strategy, collecting and analyzing data, and directing research.

US lawmakers who called for the probe expressed concern over the government flaws.

"I am deeply concerned about the stark deficiencies highlighted by this report," said James Sensenbrenner, the Republican chairman of the House of Representatives judiciary committee.

He suggested that the administration allow a clearinghouse managed jointly by the State, Homeland Security and Justice Departments to prepare the estimate of trafficking victims.

The task is undertaken at present by the intelligence community.

pp/kd

LOAD-DATE: August 15, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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322 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 15, 2006 Tuesday 11:25 PM EST

WOMEN'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE URGES PHILIPPINES TO SPEED UP LEGISLATION AIMED AT ERASING STEREOTYPES, COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALES

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 5278 words**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations issued the following press release:

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women today urged the Government of the Philippines to speed up the passage of legislation needed to erase sexual stereotypes and to combat violence against women as it considered the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the predominantly Roman Catholic country that faces one of the highest population growth rates in Asia.

Expert members of the Committee also urged the Philippine delegation to move on more than a dozen pieces of pending legislation, including the Magna Carta for Women, now in the final stages of review in the House of Representatives, the passage of which would bring the country into alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It would commit the State to recognize, affirm and intensify its efforts to guarantee the rights and fundamental freedoms of women, especially those in marginalized sectors. Once a similar bill was filed in the Philippine Senate, the two would eventually become the country's Gender Equality Law.

Committee Chairperson Hanna Beate Sch?pp-Schilling said more legislation was needed in addition to laws approved over the past decade. They included the anti-rape law of 1997, which expanded rape from being a crime against chastity to a crime against a person; the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, which created policies and penalties to stop trafficking in persons; and the Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, which tried to protect women and children from physical, psychological and economic abuses in the context of marital, dating or common-law relationships.

Country representatives said the Philippine Government was working diligently to revise codes and laws that were incompatible with the Convention and which discriminated against women.

During the discussion, experts focused on Government policies covering a wide range of issues from family planning to overseas workers to divorce. Ethelyn P. Nieto, Under-Secretary in the Department of Health, the lead agency for family planning, said the Government's goal was for Filipinos of all ages to enjoy the benefits of responsible reproductive health services by 2015. The Government had not banned any artificial family planning methods and wished couples to have access to all means they needed to plan their families.

In the few locations where artificial contraceptive methods were banned, national hospitals continued to provide information about all types of family planning, she said. And concerning the legal status of abortion, the Government upheld the Constitutional provision safeguarding the life of the unborn child and mother. It was not moving to abolish the law that made abortion a crime subject to penalties.

The Committee will meet again at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 15 August, to consider the fourth periodic report of Chile.

Background

The Committee had before it the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Philippines (documents CEDAW/C/PHI/5-6) on that country's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women covering the period between December 1995 and December 2003.

Part I contains responses to the concluding comments and recommendations made by the Committee with respect to the fourth report submitted in December 1995. Part II contains information on the political, social and economic climate in the Philippines, including updates on the situation of women. Part III provides specific information regarding implementation of articles 1 to 16 of the Convention.

According to the report, the National Statistics Office estimates that the country's population totalled 81.1 million in 2003, up from 76.5 million in 2000, and grew by about 2.36 per cent annually, one of the highest rates in Asia. Women made up 49.6 per cent of the population in 1995 and 2000. The country has 111 linguistic, cultural and ethnic groups and about 80 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic.

The report notes that, while the country has made significant efforts to mobilize an increasing number of Government and non-governmental institutions towards a more gender-responsive society, many challenges lie ahead. One area that requires more work is massive poverty and inequality in the ownership of economic resources. More effective poverty-alleviation strategies are needed to help poor women in both urban and rural areas, including those working in the informal sector without basic support systems such as social security and health insurance.

As noted in the section of article 6 regarding the exploitation of women, the impact of crime on women and children, as well as the Government's war against rebel forces and terrorist organizations, require immediate and serious attention. Women should be involved in peacebuilding and the rehabilitation of their communities. Civilians displaced from their homes due to armed conflict suffer in evacuation centres owing to poor living conditions, malnutrition and illness. Violence against women persists and the number of reported crimes increased between 2000 and 2002 before declining to 7,805 in 2003, a figure 13 per cent lower than that for the preceding year.

Many women who leave the country as entertainers, fiancées of foreign nationals, service workers, tourists or undocumented workers fall victim to organized crime syndicates, the report states. Their undocumented or illegal status has kept them outside the protection of laws and from 1992 to December 2002; the Philippine Foreign Service establishment recorded 1,084 cases of human trafficking. Reported data are very low.

To combat the trafficking of women and children, the Government approved the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, which defines trafficking in persons as a crime and sets penalties for various types of offences, the report says. The stiffest sanctions, life imprisonment and a fine of up to 5 million Philippine pesos, are reserved for any person found guilty in various situations: if the trafficked person was a child, the trafficked person died or contracted HIV/AIDS; the offender was related to the child or a member of a law enforcement unit.

The Government began designing a national strategy to prevent trafficking in women and children after an alarming number of cases surfaced in 1996, according to the report. These measures included the creation in 2000 of an Executive Council to coordinate the activities of all pertinent agencies, and of the Philippine Centre on Transnational Crime (PCTC) in 1999. The latter includes a database that Government agencies share for information on criminals, arrests and convictions for transnational crimes, including trafficking in persons, illegal recruitment, intermarriages and overseas employment.

Concerning articles 7 and 8 on women's political and public life, the report notes the country's lack of a critical mass of women in top-level and decision-making positions. Their low representation in these positions is linked to the need for more effective measures to eliminate the gender biases still evident among women and those who recommend and approve appointments. It is also related to the need to train women for decision-making posts; to encourage women voters to elect men and women who support women's empowerment and gender equality; and to sustain the political agenda and parties of women.

The report notes that, although the country has a woman President for the second time in Philippine history, there have been no significant changes in other elective positions. For example, in 2001, as in 1998, no more than 20 per cent of the electoral candidates were women and the proportion of them who won election remained at 20 per cent or less. In the legislature, the share of women in the Senate dropped to 9 per cent in 2001, or 3 women out of 23, a drop from 17 per cent in 1995. In the House of Representatives, the trend was reversed and women's share of seats increased from 9 per cent in 1995 to 16 per cent of the 205-member chamber.

On the other hand, by the end of 2003, 5 out of 19 Cabinet department secretaries were women, the report points out. And as of September 2003, four, or 27 per cent, of the country's 15 Supreme Court justices were women; 12, or 25 per cent, of 47 justices on the Court of Appeals were women; and three, or 27 per cent, of 11 justices on the Sandiganbayan, which handles graft and corruption cases involving Government officials, were women.

And regarding women in the diplomatic service, in September 2002, women headed 22 of the 80 Philippine embassies and consulates around the world, or 28 per cent. Twelve of these held the rank of Ambassador and 10 that of Consul-General. In November 2003, only 17 out of a total of 61, or 28 per cent, of ambassadors and *chargés d'affaires* were female. Ten of the 19 consuls, or 53 per cent, were women.

Introduction of Report

The Philippine delegation was headed by Esperanza I. Cabral, Secretary for Social Welfare and Development, and also included Myrna T. Yao, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; Bayani S. Mercado, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations; Ethelyn P. Nieto, Under-Secretary, Department of Health; Luzviminda

G. Padilla, Under-Secretary, Labour and Employment; Amaryllis T. Torres, Commissioner, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; Evelyn S. Dunuan, Commissioner; Emmeline L. Verzosa, Executive Director, National Commission; Marie Yvette L. Banzon, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Philippines; Aurora Javate de Dios, non-governmental organization representative and CEDAW expert; Feliz V. de Leon, Jr., AttachÉ, Permanent Mission of the Philippines; and Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing, Permanent Mission of the Philippines.

Introducing the report, Ms. CABRAL, Secretary for Social Welfare and Development, said the country had seen substantial gains from the Government's gender mainstreaming policy. Laws, policies, executive and administrative orders in national Government, as well as local ordinances that worked for gender quality had all provided the mandates to develop programmes that could effectively close the gaps in the benefits and opportunities enjoyed by women and men. The Framework Plan for Women served as the gender equality framework of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's present Government. The promotion of women's human rights was a key component of the Plan, as was the promotion of women's economic empowerment and gender-responsive governance.

Regarding article 6, she said landmark legislation for dealing with violence against women and human trafficking had been successfully promulgated and the Convention could now be cited as a reference in cases filed under those laws. Due to the legislation's initial progress in combating **trafficking in persons**, the Philippines had been removed from the United States Department of State's **watch list** of countries with severe incidences of **human trafficking**. In the past year, the courts had convicted seven individuals on trafficking offences and sentenced four to life in prison. Sixty-seven offenders had been charged and 31 prosecuted for violations of the law.

Turning to the fight against poverty, she said it was the focus of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and the Government aimed to create 1.4 million to 1.6 million jobs annually. The promotion and development of small businesses was viewed as a critical strategy to spur economic growth.

Regarding traditional sex roles, she said they had been difficult to break in the area of reproductive health rights and family planning remained largely a female responsibility. The number of male spouses using contraceptives remained low. Family planning and population policy revolved around the "four pillars" of responsible parenthood, birth spacing, respect for life and informed choice. Responsibility for providing reproductive health information and services had been devolved to local government, which may choose to implement aspects of the Responsible Parenthood Programme or ignore it totally.

She noted that the Philippines had made progress in disseminating information on the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

Interactive Dialogue

Committee experts started the discussion with questions and comments on a range of issues under the Convention, including discrimination, policy measures, guarantees of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, special measures, sex-role stereotyping and prejudice.

Experts asked if there was a time frame for repealing discriminatory laws and sought details on procedures to ensure that all relevant national laws complied with the various articles of the Convention. They also expressed concern over

the apparent lack of robust State machinery to guarantee, monitor and evaluate the Convention's consistent application, and asked the delegation to elaborate on Government follow-up efforts.

One expert asked about the membership of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights and its role in drafting the country report, while others questioned the delegation about the rights of Muslim women and the application of sharia law.

A country representative said in response that section 14 of the Philippine Constitution's article 2 guaranteed equal rights for men and women and that there were several national laws that prohibited discrimination against women. The anti-rape law, Family Code and other laws had been amended to expand protections for women. Several pro-women bills, such as the Magna Carta for Women, which included a definition of discrimination, were before Congress. The Magna Carta was currently pending passage in the lower house of Congress and once passed and certified by the President, would be sent to the Senate for approval, probably by the end of 2006.

Another country representative noted efforts to implement the Convention through the enactment of national laws and jurisprudence. For example, the national telephone company and Banco Central of the Philippines had referred to the Convention when addressing discrimination against married women in the workplace. However, measures were needed for the proper implementation of anti-discrimination laws.

In relation to the treatment of Muslim women, a delegate said the Philippine Code of Muslim Personal Laws was perceived as having certain discriminatory provisions. For example, it permitted arranged marriages, marriage for girls under the age of 18 and polygamy, whereby men were allowed up to four wives. A balance must be struck between adherence to the Convention and respect for the cultural sensitivities of the large Muslim population. The Government had consulted non-governmental organizations, Muslim groups and women's leaders to bridge that gap. Sharia courts had indeed been remiss in addressing discrimination against women, many of whom had filed divorce cases but had not been able to recover their dowries. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the Justice Department were working with sharia courts to address such concerns.

Regarding institutional gender mainstreaming, another delegate said that, since 1986, the National Commission had been conducting capacity-building for civil servants and government bureaucrats at the national and regional levels. In 2004, the Government had circulated memos mandating capacity-building at the regional and local levels in line with the Convention. All government agencies were supposed to earmark at least 5 per cent of their budgets for gender-equality projects. The National Commission was pushing for agencies to increase that percentage and results-based monitoring systems had been set up to track progress.

The delegate said that, in terms of compiling sex-disaggregated data, the National Commission had asked the National Statistics Coordinating Board to provide such data when possible, despite the higher cost of doing so. All data-gathering agencies -- including those charged with education, health, social welfare and labour -- had been asked to disaggregate data in accordance with the Beijing Platform of Action.

Another country representative added that the National Commission did not work directly with women, but rather conducted policy analysis and provided technical assistance for Congress, as well as monitoring evaluation and gender budgeting. It was moving towards gender auditing. The Secretary for Social Welfare and Development had 12 sectoral representatives for gender mainstreaming, including in such areas as academia, labour, agriculture, media, culture and the arts. Those representatives were appointed by the President and worked on a non-paid, voluntary basis.

As for the Philippine Commission on Human Rights, another delegate said it was an independent, constitutional body with investigatory powers that had recently created a women's centre. It was hearing cases on human rights violations against women.

Experts touched on a range of issues including responsibility for implementing the policies of the Commission; when Parliament would adopt the Magna Carta; the present administration's commitment to the status of women; and budgeting for gender equality measures.

They also sought to know about the powers of Commissioners and their ability to influence Cabinet members on the status of women, and whether the Magna Carta would help provide protection for prostitutes. One expert raised the use of temporary special measures as a vehicle to get women into decision-making positions at the national and local levels and to change the perception of women. Was the Magna Carta a mandated temporary special measure?

A country representative said the Commission was not under the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Rather, the Department provided an oversight role for the Commission, which was under the Office of the President from where it operated more effectively. Under the Magna Carta bill, the Commission would operate in the same manner and its Chairperson would assume Cabinet rank. The Commission had about 65 permanent staff members.

Regarding the administration's priorities, the country representative said they were mainly economic. While women's issues were important, the Philippines also faced such challenges as globalization and terrorism. The President had shown her support for women's issues through the Magna Carta bill.

Another country representative said the delay in passing certain laws was due to the patriarchal attitudes among many policymakers. There was a need to boost the representation of women in politics in order to strengthen policies of concern to them. There were serious problems concerning the portrayal of women by the media and the lack of women in business and politics.

Regarding article 4 and temporary special measures, a country representative said the Philippine Constitution had no prohibition against them and did not view such measures as discriminatory. The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 was the primary Government agency for indigenous cultures and communities. The passage of the Magna Carta bill would help institutionalize women's rights.

Regarding the elimination of sexual stereotypes, experts sought information about how the Government linked violence with the continuation of sexual stereotypes; the anti-rape law and its provisions regarding marital rape; and concrete data about the anti-trafficking law, such as the number of women rescued. Other questions focused on attitudes surrounding teenage pregnancy and research on the men responsible.

A country representative said the changing of sexual stereotypes must be linked with their contribution to sexual violence against women, adding with respect to rape that it was one of the highest indicators of crime against women. In addition, incest had been recorded as rape. There had been reports on incest and the issue had been out in the open, but there was still a cloud of secrecy surrounding it which must be addressed. The Government must deepen its research on violence against women.

Women's groups were pushing for anti-prostitution in the next few years, she said, adding that obstacles to its passage were the same as those hindering any gender-equality legislation. Such bills had a low priority. Regarding the anti-trafficking law, there had been seven convictions and three persons had been sentenced to life imprisonment. There had been 186 trafficking cases before the Justice Department in 2005.

Concerning women's representation in judicial posts, several experts noted that the Philippines had only five women judges and asked whether there was a quota system to ensure equal representation. How were judges recruited?

Ms. CABRAL, Secretary for Social Welfare and Development, said there were no separate congressional seats for women and that, while the ratio of women to men in the judiciary was not satisfactory, the balance was improving.

Another delegate noted that the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and other concerned sectors had proposed the formation of a selection committee that would start to scout women candidates for judicial posts. There were few vacant judgeships since judges were allowed to serve until they reached age 70. The President had worked with the sharia courts to select women nominees as there were several vacancies for judges in those courts.

The Philippine Judicial Academy was providing gender sensitivity training to a branch of the Supreme Court, another delegate noted. Last year, the Supreme Court and the National Commission had created a gender justice award to recognize justices who had a critical understanding of women's issues.

Another country representative noted that, if approved, the Women's Empowerment Act would require that all major political parties sitting on municipal and provincial boards reserve one third of their seats for women.

Turning to follow-up questions, a delegate inquired about rescue and rehabilitation programmes for women who had been prostitutes or victims of trafficking.

A delegate said in response that 137 victims of trafficking, rape and violence, mainly women and children, had been rescued during 25 rescue operations between 2003 and 2005. Officials had made 57 arrests for trafficking crimes out of 169 cases received. The Department of Social Welfare and Development provided immediate assistance to survivors, operating 19 crisis centres nationwide, as well as 16 shelters offering psychosocial support, legal assistance and job

training. The National Commission had partnered with religious non-governmental organizations in that regard through an anti-trafficking and anti-prostitution network, but the Government did not fund such civil-society endeavours.

Regarding education, one expert asked whether there were special measures in place to ensure that minorities and women in rural areas had access to the educational system, including scholarships. Other questions focused on what measures were in place to reduce sexual stereotypes in the education system.

Concerning unemployment, one expert asked whether the Government's measures would reduce unemployment among women, which had stood at 8.5 per cent in 1997 and risen to 12.4 per cent in 2004. Would new Government measures reduce the unemployment rate and provide information about training opportunities and access to credit and the social security system?

Turning to articles 11 and 12, which cover issues of employment and health, experts asked about labour conditions; pay and benefits for female home workers; Government approaches to end abuse of and discrimination against female migrant workers, including bilateral agreements with other nations; and the high pay gap between men and women.

Experts also expressed concern over the Philippines' high maternal mortality rate and the fact that women, rather than their male partners, were chiefly responsible for family planning. They asked about measures to prevent abortion and natural family planning programmes.

In response, a country delegate said overseas employment would continue to be an option for Filipino workers. Migrant workers were covered by protective measures from recruitment until they returned home. Only licensed recruitment agencies were allowed to hire migrant workers and all work contracts must be verified by the Labour AttachÉ for compliance with labour codes. All job orders by foreign employers must register with the Philippine administrative authority. Philippine overseas labour offices were staffed with 230 personnel throughout Asia. They provided social services and acted in many cases as halfway houses for workers in stressful conditions. To enhance protection for Filipino migrant workers, the Government had signed memorandums of understanding on migrant workers' rights with other countries, including Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Northern Mariana Islands, India, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Another delegate said the President was promoting microcredit and microfinance for women-owned and women-operated businesses to bolster entrepreneurship among women, particularly those in poor rural areas. The National Federation of Homeworkers, which was recognized by the United Nations and assisted by the International Labour Organization, had successfully lobbied for passage of a law granting informal workers the right to social security, including maternity leave pay.

A country representative said the Government respected the right of women to choose their type of work and if they wanted an overseas job it would provide them with all available protection. As a protective mechanism for women heading overseas, the Government offered free employment seminars that provided information about overseas destinations and what to expect. A woman could not leave the country without attending a pre-departure orientation seminar that included information about foreign cultures.

Regarding overseas migrants, the Department of Labour and Employment provided services for Filipino women working overseas no matter where they resided. The problem was that the Government did not always know where overseas workers lived and whether they needed help. Another delegate said the Government's long-term strategy for those women was to expand the Philippine economy and increase job opportunities at home.

Concerning reproductive health, a country representative said the Department of Health was the Government's lead agency in that area and its goal was for Filipinos of all ages to enjoy the benefits of responsible reproductive health services by 2015. The Government had a number of administrative orders spelling out its reproductive health policies on such issues as safe motherhood and the prevention and management of abortion, as well as guidelines on contraception.

The Government had the responsibility to provide information so that couples could make informed choices as they reached their family goals, she said. It had not banned any artificial family planning methods and wished couples to have access to whatever methods they needed to ensure the recommended spacing of three years between children. The Government used the help of non-governmental organizations, as well as public and private partnerships, to achieve those goals.

She stressed that the Government promoted natural and artificial family planning services and the Population Commission was attached to the Health Department. In the few areas where artificial contraceptive methods had been banned,

national hospitals had continued to provide information about all types of family planning. The rhythm method was regarded as a natural means of family planning.

And concerning the legal status of abortion, the Government upheld the constitutional provision safeguarding the life of the unborn child, as well as the mother, she said. While no measures were being taken to abolish the law making abortion a crime, no one, including girls, had gone to jail for violating that law.

One expert asked why the Government did not modify the Penal Code if women were not prosecuted for abortion. Another expert asked how the Government could expect women to use only natural family planning methods in a patriarchal society where most women had difficulty negotiating their right to refuse sex.

Turning to articles 13 and 14, on economic and social benefits and rural women, experts asked about the ability of those women to access land titles and credit. They also sought to know about the effectiveness of Government programmes to assist women in poor rural areas and to help indigenous groups.

In response, a country representative said that, thanks to the lobbying efforts of women's groups and women in academia, many women had been given land transfers whereas, in the past, land-transfer certificates had been given only to men. Still, women were sometimes reluctant to have their names on land and property titles. More advocacy efforts were needed in that regard.

Another delegate said the Arroyo Administration had core asset-reform programmes and that credit programmes had benefited some 618,000 women in the trade sector, more than 46,000 in the livestock sector, over 36,000 in services and more than 12,000 in agriculture. The number of microfinance-programmes beneficiaries in the country's 30 poorest provinces had risen from 86,000 people in 2004 to 100,400 in 2005. \$3.75 million in funding had been provided for rural improvement projects.

Another delegate said that, as of 30 June, 44 certificates of ancestral domain titles had been issued to indigenous cultural communities.

The experts then sought clarification on issues of divorce, including whether it was truly an option, the grounds for annulling a marriage and the custody of children. Other questions touched on measures to build stronger family courts and repeal discriminatory codes; what the Government was doing to deal with local laws that were incompatible with the Convention; and efforts to discourage underage marriage.

A delegate said the Government was working diligently to revise codes that were not compatible with the Convention and that discriminated against women. Another delegate said divorce was not legal and the marriage contract could only be terminated by petition for annulment on grounds provided in the Family Code. The annulment would declare the marriage void from the beginning. Another option would be a legal separation, in which case the couple would remain married in name. Courts could grant legal separation and annulment as long as the reasons were grounded in law. The family courts had been revived in 1997 and 79 of them around the country were handling a backlog of cases. That had prompted the Supreme Court to set up a mobile court based in Manila, which showed that more women were asserting their rights.

In concluding remarks, Ms. CABRAL said the meeting had been very productive and that the experts' comments and questions would be brought to the relevant Philippine authorities for serious consideration.

HANNA BEATE SCH?PP-SCHILLING, expert from Germany and the Committee Chairperson, said that one concern that had become clear during the meeting was the need to expedite the legislative process. In addition, the seventh report of the Philippines was already due this year and it was to be hoped that it would be submitted in a timely manner.

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323 of 445 DOCUMENTS



August 15, 2006 Tuesday 12:35 PM EST

Government Accountability Office Report Finds Improvements Needed to Enhance U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 726 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Aug. 15

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released today finds that the U.S. government's efforts to combat **human trafficking** need: (1) a coordinated strategy to combat **trafficking in persons** abroad; (2) established performance measures or conducted evaluations of U.S. programs to combat **human trafficking** in foreign countries; (3) improved estimates of the number of trafficking victims or better analysis of **human trafficking**-related data that already resides within government agencies; and (4) more narrative to explain why the specific "country **tier** rankings" were assigned.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.), who requested this GAO report along with House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), said, "I am deeply concerned about the stark deficiencies highlighted by this report. I believe the report clearly illustrates the need for the President to move the preparation of the estimate of victims out of the intelligence community and assign it instead to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC). The HSTC is a joint State, Homeland Security, and Justice clearinghouse for all relevant human trafficking information, so it should be able to accurately estimate the scale of human trafficking. The HSTC can also assist in improving the reliability of the country tier rankings."

Hyde stated, "The exploitation, mostly of women and children, into the commercial sex industry and the trafficking of men, women, boys and girls into forced labor on farms, in factories and domestic servitude is an offense to the dignity of human life. The congressionally mandated Trafficking in Persons Report has increased global awareness and prompted more anti-trafficking efforts. With each year, Congress will, no doubt, expect to see ever increasing improvements in both data gathering and program efficiency."

Human trafficking occurs worldwide where people are bought, sold and held in slave-like conditions. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) requires the federal government to promote international programs to ensure punishment of traffickers, to protect their victims and to prevent trafficking.

The State Department publishes an annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which includes a ranking of countries into **tiers** based upon an assessment of foreign governments' compliance with the four minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking** set by the TVPA. Three of the standards address whether the countries' laws prohibit severe forms of trafficking and proscribe penalties for trafficking crimes, while the fourth standard is applied to assess actual efforts by the respective government to enforce the laws and eliminate trafficking.

What GAO Found:

The GAO report, titled "Human Trafficking, Better Data, Strategy and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-Trafficking Efforts Abroad," recommends that the government improve information on trafficking, develop and implement a strategy which clarifies agencies' roles and responsibilities and establish a way to gauge results abroad, and clearly document the rationale and support for country rankings.

The U.S. government needs a coordinated strategy to combat trafficking in persons abroad. The U. S. government must measure the performance of its programs to combat trafficking and, consequently, evaluate which programs are effective. Its coordination mechanisms ought to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities for federal or international agencies, identify needs, or leverage activities to achieve greater results.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report is intended to serve as a guide, but agencies managing overseas programs must use this diagnostic tool to identify and correct deficiencies. The report's country assessments must clearly explain how the Department of State assessed each country against anti-trafficking standards. The absence of detailed explanations lessens the ability to bring about reform.

The U.S. government estimates that almost 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, but because of deficiencies in analysis and data gaps, the GAO finds that this estimate likely understates the extent of human trafficking.

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

Contact: Kirsti T. Garlock of House International Relations Committee, 202-225-5021

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324 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

August 14, 2006 Monday 9:26 PM GMT

Credibility of US human trafficking report questioned

LENGTH: 341 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Aug 14 2006

The credibility of an annual US report that blacklisted countries linked to human trafficking has been questioned in a Congressional probe that called the report inconsistent and incomplete.

The report by the State Department analyzes the issue in about 150 countries and ranks them by their efforts to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

But the explanations for ranking decisions in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report "are incomplete" and "not used consistently to develop antitrafficking programs," said the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, in a damning study released Monday.

While the annual report raised the risk of sanctions against governments that did not comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, it "does not comprehensively describe compliance with the standards," the study said.

This "lessen(s) the reports credibility and usefulness as a diplomatic tool," it said.

"Further, incomplete country narratives reduce the reports utility as a guide to help focus US government resources on antitrafficking programming priorities," it added.

In the latest report released in June, the State Department listed Belize, Cuba, Iran, Laos Myanmar, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe on the so-called "**Tier 3**" of worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

They could face sanctions if they do not take immediate measures within 90 days.

The US government estimated in the report that 600,000 to 800,000 people were trafficked across international borders annually.

However, the Congressional probe said "such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable."

"The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data, and numerical discrepancies," it said.

The study also said that country data "are not available, reliable or comparable" and highlighted "a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking."

pp/kd

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325 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 14, 2006 Monday 2:42 AM EST

GAO REPORT FINDS IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S.'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 743 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following press release:

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released today finds that the U.S. government's efforts to combat **human trafficking** need: (1) a coordinated strategy to combat **trafficking in persons** abroad; (2) established performance measures or conducted evaluations of U.S. programs to combat **human trafficking** in foreign countries; (3) improved estimates of the number of trafficking victims or better analysis of **human trafficking**-related data that already resides within government agencies; and (4) more narrative to explain why the specific "country **tier** rankings" were assigned.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), who requested this GAO report along with House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), said, "I am deeply concerned about the stark deficiencies highlighted by this report. I believe the report clearly illustrates the need for the President to move the preparation of the estimate of victims out of the intelligence community and assign it instead to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC). The HSTC is a joint State, Homeland Security, and Justice Clearinghouse for all relevant human trafficking information, so it should be able to accurately estimate the scale of human trafficking. The HSTC can also assist in improving the reliability of the country tier rankings."

Chairman Hyde stated, "The exploitation, mostly of women and children, into the commercial sex industry and the trafficking of men, women, boys and girls into forced labor on farms, in factories and domestic servitude is an offense to the dignity of human life. The congressionally mandated Trafficking in Persons Report has increased global awareness and prompted more antitrafficking efforts. With each year Congress will, no doubt, expect to see ever increasing improvements in both data gathering and program efficiency."

Human trafficking occurs worldwide where people are bought, sold, and held in slave-like conditions. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) requires the federal government to promote international programs to ensure punishment of traffickers, to protect their victims, and to prevent trafficking.

The State Department publishes an annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which includes a ranking of countries into **tiers** based upon an assessment of foreign governments' compliance with the four minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking** set by the TVPA. Three of the standards address whether the countries' laws prohibit severe forms of trafficking and proscribe penalties for trafficking crimes, while the fourth standard is applied to assess actual efforts by the respective government to enforce the laws and eliminate trafficking.

WHAT GAO FOUND:

* The GAO report, titled "Human Trafficking, Better Data, Strategy and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Antitrafficking Efforts Abroad," recommends that the government improve information on trafficking, develop and implement a strategy which clarifies agencies' roles and responsibilities and establish a way to gauge results abroad, and clearly document the rationale and support for country rankings.

* The U.S. government needs a coordinated strategy to combat trafficking in persons abroad. The U. S. government must measure the performance of its programs to combat trafficking and, consequently, evaluate which programs are effective.

* The U.S. government's coordination mechanisms ought to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities for federal or international agencies, identify needs, or leverage activities to achieve greater results.

* The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report is intended to serve as a guide, but agencies managing overseas programs must use this diagnostic tool to identify and correct deficiencies. The report's country assessments must clearly explain how the Department of State assessed each country against antitrafficking standards. The absence of detailed explanations lessens the ability to bring about reform.

* The U.S. government estimates up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, but because of deficiencies in analysis and data gaps, the GAO finds that estimate likely understates the extent of human trafficking.

Contact: Jeff Lungren and Terry Shawn, 202/225-2492.

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326 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 13, 2006 Sunday

GAO REPORT FINDS IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S. EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 725 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. House Committee on International Relations:

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released today finds that the U.S. Government's efforts to combat **human trafficking** need: (1) a coordinated strategy to combat **trafficking in persons** abroad; (2) established performance measures or conducted evaluations of U.S. programs to combat **human trafficking** in foreign countries; (3) improved estimates of the number of trafficking victims or better analysis of **human trafficking**-related data that already resides within government agencies; and (4) more narrative to explain why the specific "country **tier** rankings" were assigned.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI), who requested this GAO report along with House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), said, "I am deeply concerned about the stark deficiencies highlighted by this report. I believe the report clearly illustrates the need for the President to move the preparation of the estimate of victims out of the intelligence community and assign it instead to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC). The HSTC is a joint State, Homeland Security, and Justice clearinghouse for all relevant human trafficking information, so it should be able to accurately estimate the scale of human trafficking. The HSTC can also assist in improving the reliability of the country tier rankings."

Chairman Hyde stated, "The exploitation, mostly of women and children, into the commercial sex industry and the trafficking of men, women, boys and girls into forced labor on farms, in factories and domestic servitude is an offense to the dignity of human life. The congressionally mandated Trafficking in Persons Report has increased global awareness and prompted more anti-trafficking efforts. With each year, Congress will, no doubt, expect to see ever increasing improvements in both data gathering and program efficiency."

Human trafficking occurs worldwide where people are bought, sold, and held in slave-like conditions. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) requires the federal government to promote international programs to ensure punishment of traffickers, to protect their victims, and to prevent trafficking.

The State Department publishes an annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which includes a ranking of countries into **tiers** based upon an assessment of foreign governments' compliance with the four minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking** set by the TVPA. Three of the standards address whether the countries' laws prohibit severe forms of trafficking and proscribe penalties for trafficking crimes, while the fourth standard is applied to assess actual efforts by the respective government to enforce the laws and eliminate trafficking.

What GAO Found:

The GAO report, entitled "Human Trafficking, Better Data, Strategy and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-Trafficking Efforts Abroad," recommends that the government improve information on trafficking, develop and implement a strategy which clarifies agencies' roles and responsibilities and establish a way to gauge results abroad, and clearly document the rationale and support for country rankings.

The U.S. Government needs a coordinated strategy to combat trafficking in persons abroad. The U. S. Government must measure the performance of its programs to combat trafficking and, consequently, evaluate which programs are effective. Its coordination mechanisms ought to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities for federal or international agencies, identify needs, or leverage activities to achieve greater results.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report is intended to serve as a guide, but agencies managing overseas programs must use this diagnostic tool to identify and correct deficiencies. The report's country assessments must clearly explain how the Department of State assessed each country against anti-trafficking standards. The absence of detailed explanations lessens the ability to bring about reform.

The U.S. Government estimates that almost 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, but because of deficiencies in analysis and data gaps, the GAO finds that this estimate likely understates the extent of human trafficking.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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327 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 13, 2006 Sunday 2:30 AM EST

GAO REPORT FINDS IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S. EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 731 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The chairman of the House International Relations Committee, issued the following press release:

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328 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

August 8, 2006 Tuesday 12:50 PM GMT

Pakistan seeks access to nearly 100 prisoners in Iran

LENGTH: 175 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD, Aug 8 2006

Pakistan said Tuesday it was trying gain consular access to some 94 Pakistanis held by neighbouring Iran, mostly for violating immigration laws.

Many were arrested more than a year ago while trying to go to European countries in search of work, interior ministry secretary Syed Kamal Shah told a press conference.

Shah said he held talks with senior Iranian officials in Tehran last week and they assured him they would take the necessary steps to grant access to the prisoners.

Islamabad also handed over the names of some 10 Pakistani human smugglers living in Iran and Tehran had pledged not to allow any "terrorists" to shelter on its territory, Shah said.

Pakistan is trying to crush a sporadic insurgency by tribal rebels in its southwestern Baluchistan province bordering Iran. The tribesmen share the same Baluch ethnicity as many in southeastern Iran.

Pakistan is also regarded as a major hub for **human trafficking** but was removed from a **watch list** last year by the United States, which said it had made significant progress in curbing the problem.

LOAD-DATE: August 9, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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329 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

August 8, 2006 Tuesday

NO TERRORISM THREAT ON I-DAY: SHERPAO FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

LENGTH: 919 words

KARACHI - Federal Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao disclosed on Tuesday that a terrorist who killed prominent Shia cleric Allama Hassan Turrabi in Karachi was Myanmar national and not citizen of Bangladeshi, who had been living in Pakistan since long. Talking to newsmen in Karachi, Sherpao said all seven culprits involved in the killing of Allama Hassan Turrabi had been arrested and now the agencies were trying to trace out the mastermind of this suicide bombing. To a question about reports of possible terrorism on Independence Day, the minister said there was no threat of such attack on Independence Day and the law enforcement agencies had been put on high.

To another question, he said the law enforcement agencies were keeping close watch on the activities of defunct religious organisations. He pointed out that the government was taking concrete steps to eliminate the masterminds of suicide bomb attacks. Lauding the efforts of Pakistan Coast Guards, he said that despite limited resource their performance was remarkable. The Cost Guards had caught more than 1,000 human traffickers during raids in various parts of the country and recovered more than 8,000 kilograms of drugs last year.

He said that Pakistan was on the **watch-list** of the US due to **human trafficking** but due to the efforts of Pakistan Coast Guards, Washington had deleted Pakistan's name from the **watch-list** of human smuggling. Agencies add: Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said that extremism was a continuous threat to Pakistan as it was linked with terrorism. Aftab Sherpao said while use of drugs and its smuggling was causing grave harm to the society; terrorism and extremism were threatening the freedom of the country and its ideological frontiers.

He reminded that President General Pervez Musharraf had repeatedly drawn the nation's attention towards the threat that extremism was a real danger to Pakistan and was like a cancer, which would eat into the very fabric of the country. He reiterated that the government would eliminate terrorism and extremism from the country, adding that ban had been imposed on unnecessary use of loudspeakers in mosques and other places of worship. A complete ban had been imposed on publication of literature based on religious hatred and sectarianism, he added.

He said extremism and terrorism were destroying the image of Pakistan and added, "the government is taking steps to combat the terrorism in the country." "We all will have to fight against extremism, sectarianism, terrorism and the menace like drugs," he said. The security and secret agencies had gained some "vital successes" in that regard and some "important" accused had been arrested.

He said foreign hands might be involved in the suicide attack on Turrabi. He said that the security agencies had detected a network, which was planning to carry out terrorist attacks after the assassination of Allama Hassan Turrabi in the city and made arrests in this connection. Despite limited resources, PCG was playing great role to combat anti-state activities including smuggling of drugs and arms and illegal immigration, he said.

He also praised PCG's relief activities in earthquake-hit areas. He said the government was well aware of the problems of civil armed forces and trying to resolve them. He said the ministry had issued directives for financial support of those who had lost their lives or sustained injuries while performing their duty.

The minister said the PCG was acknowledged in the country as an important and appreciative force, which had been assigned with the basic objective of surveillance at the coasts and counter the anti-state elements. He noted that despite limited resources and odd conditions, its officers and jawans had carried out vigorous action against anti-state elements and frustrated their nefarious designs.

He announced the government would construct a proper training area and a sports complex for PCG. He also announced that 500 more soldiers would be recruited in the current year to strengthen PCG. "We have received funds for the recruitment of 100 personnel," he said. The arrest of over 900 involved in human trafficking spoke of the high standard performance of this force, the Interior Minister said.

Later, Interior Minister Sherpao inaugurated the construction work of parade ground and family quarters for the PCG staff. He informed that Rs 30 million have been sanctioned for construction of family quarters while Rs 3 million arranged out of total Rs 8.7 million for cementing of parade ground. On the occasion, the minister announced that in the training wing, a proper training area and a grand sports complex would be constructed.

The award winning recruits included Zakaullah Nadeem, Mohammed Azad, Tahir Manzoor, Amir Hussain, Sayar Mohammed, Mohammed Ikram and Shah Nawaz while Tipu Company was declared the champion company of the year. Earlier, in his welcome address, Director General PCG Brigadier Firzooq Attaullah gave details of one-year performance of the force and said the PCG had recovered 8,518 kg narcotics, 26,512 bottles of liquor and a huge quantity of illegal arms besides arresting 30 accused involved in these activities.

He said the PCG also seized five boats, 20 vehicles and 34 camels used in smuggling of drugs and illegal arms. He said the PCG was also taking strong steps to control human trafficking and had arrested 1,108 illegal immigrants from Pak-Iran and other boarders adding that out of them 46 per cent were foreigners involved in this activity.

LOAD-DATE: December 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Acts of Terror; Domestic Politics

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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330 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 3, 2006 Thursday

Taiwan unveils measures to improve treatment of foreign workers

LENGTH: 371 words

Text of report by Sofia Wu, carried in English by Taiwanese Central News Agency website

Taipei, 3 August: The Council of Labour Affairs (CLA) unveiled an explanatory note Thursday [3 August] explaining its determination, stance and strategies to improve treatment of foreign contract workers.

The note will be referred to the United States and major migrant labourer-exporting countries via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek their understanding of Taiwan's efforts to rein in human trafficking and improve management and care of foreign contract workers.

The explanatory paper is a response to a damning US State Department report issued in early June that placed Taiwan on a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for allegedly not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking** and forced labour and sexual exploitation of migrant workers.

According to the CLA note, a government review system will be installed to better protect migrant workers. Under the new system, local governments will be authorized to verify the legality of early annulment of contracts between employers and migrant workers and to ensure the annulment is not disputed.

The CLA's Bureau of Employment and Vocational Training said that the proposed review system will be easy to implement and free of red tape. Three days before the repatriation of the migrant worker after the invalidation of his or her contract, city or county government social workers will interview the migrant worker first by phone to see if there is any labour-management dispute or whether the migrant worker is being forced to return home. If there is any suspicion, the social worker will visit the foreign worker in person. If any labour-management dispute is found, the employer will not be allowed to recruit a new migrant worker to fill the job vacancy.

In its explanatory paper, the CLA also said it will revise the law regarding manpower brokering fee collection standards and forge a "reward" system to screen out bad or poorly managed manpower agencies. Moreover, the CLA said it will step up random checks on the management of foreign workers and their general living conditions.

Source: Central News Agency website, Taipei, in English 1447 gmt 3 Aug 06

LOAD-DATE: August 4, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

331 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

August 3, 2006 Thursday 10:37 PM TST

CLA UNVEILS MEASURES TO IMPROVE TREATMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

BYLINE: Sofia Wu

LENGTH: 339 words

DATELINE: Taipei, Aug. 3

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

332 of 445 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

August 2006

U.S. Releases Sixth Annual Human Trafficking Report, Targeted Countries Dispute Findings

A. U.S. Releases Sixth Annual Human Trafficking Report, Targeted Countries Dispute Findings

BYLINE: Jed Borod n1

n1 Jed Borod is the Assistant Editor of the International Enforcement Law Reporter. He holds a degree in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIII. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS; Vol. 22, No. 8

LENGTH: 1051 words

On June 5, 2006, the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons released the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. This year's report notes general international progress against human trafficking, but cautions that some countries praised in the 2005 report have lost ground. The report also singles out a number of Western hemisphere countries Cuba, Venezuela, and Belize as particularly deficient, prompting criticism of the perceived politicization of the report.

Speaking at a press conference announcing the 2006 report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called human trafficking a modern form of slavery and noted that its harsh reality stuns even the hardest of hearts. n2

n2 Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Remarks at the Release of the Sixth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (June 5, 2006) (transcript available online at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/67551.htm>).

Ambassador John Miller, Director of the Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, echoed Rice's remarks, saying that while this year we look at some more general indicators, we see the start I say the start of progress, he was concerned that a number of countries have fallen to lower categories in 2006. n3

n3 Briefing by Ambassador John R. Miller, Ambassador at Large for International Slavery, on Release of the Sixth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (June 5, 2006) (transcript available online at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/67559.htm>).

As part of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the U.S. Department of State releases a Trafficking in Persons Report each year. n4

n4 In January 2006, President Bush signed a related piece of legislation, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), into law. The TVPRA includes additional funds targeting prostitution and sexual exploitation.

This year's report estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people were victims of trafficking during the reporting period, reflecting little change from the 2005 report. n5

n5 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report June 2006 (2006) 6. This figure remains controversial among non-governmental organizations that study human trafficking; for more information, see Jed Borod, U.S. Releases Fifth Annual Human Trafficking Report, Criticizes Persian Gulf Allies, 21 Int'l Enforcement L. Rep. 337 (August 2005).

Of this number, 80 percent are female, and up to half are minors. n6

n6 Id.

The 2006 report also makes reference to people trafficked for forced labor within their borders, citing a U.N. estimate that 12.3 million people are engaged in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude at any given time. n7

n7 Id.

With respect to the financial impact of trafficking, the 2006 report estimates that trafficking generates **\$9.5 billion annually for transnational organized crime groups.** n8

n8 TIP Report, 13.

Continuing the rankings metric established by the TVPA, the 2006 report uses a three tier system. Countries that follow the TVPA protocol to eliminate trafficking are placed on Tier 1; countries that take some anti trafficking action but fail to meet the minimum TVPA protocol are placed on Tier 2; and countries that fail to meet the minimum protocol and do not make any substantive anti trafficking efforts are placed on Tier 3.

The 2006 TIP Report designates 12 Tier 3 countries: Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe. n9

n9 TIP Report, 46.

Conversely, a group of countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Columbia, and Ecuador are noted for anti-trafficking best practices. n10

n10 TIP Report, 34.

This year s report has faced criticism from diplomats, foreign governments, and NGOs. Governments ranging from the Bahamas to Saudi Arabia have challenged the report, while some critics have suggested that the Tier 3 rankings are politically motivated. n11

n11 For example, see Quincy Parker, Immigration Officials Call Human Trafficking Report Exaggerated, The Bahama Journal, June 19, 2006.

On the second point, for example, the Government of Belize has asserted that the U.S. report arbitrarily uses a one-to-three rating system ? that can have negative economic and political consequences and suggested that Belize s ranking is tied to its support of Cuba and Venezuela. n12

n12 Rickey Singh, U.S. report upsets Belize PM, The Nation (Barbados), June 16, 2006.

Questioning U.S. legitimacy on human rights issues, Belizean Prime Minister Said Musa angrily stated that those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgment on us. n13

n13 Id.

Conversely, some NGOs and advocacy groups believe the 2006 report does not go far enough. One media report notes that strategically important nations including India, Mexico, Russia, and China, escaped the roll call despite evidence in the report of growing problems. n14

n14 Cam Simpson, U.S. taxpayers financed human trafficking, report says, Chicago Tribune, June 5, 2006.

U.S. advocacy groups have also suggested that Germany be downgraded from Tier 1 due to sexual trafficking concerns surrounding the 2006 World Cup tournament. Interestingly, one page of the 2006 report is devoted to the U.S. Department of Defense s (DOD) response to allegations of human trafficking by DOD subcontractors in Iraq. The report, which lauds the DOD s action against subcontractors trafficking laborers from South Asia, suggests some U.S. sensitivity to international criticism on this issue. n15

n15 TIP Report, 19.

Although political considerations undoubtedly factor into its tier rankings, the 2006 TIP Report remains a valuable tool for government officials and practitioners involved in the fight against human trafficking and transnational organized crime. The overall trend of the report appears to be positive, and the best practices offer concrete examples of solutions that governments can implement with respect to their own trafficking issues.

LOAD-DATE: August 9, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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333 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

July 31, 2006 Monday 9:56 AM EST

Government gets tough on immoral trafficking

BYLINE: Report from the Asian News International brought to you by the Hindustan Times

LENGTH: 331 words

DATELINE: New Delhi

New Delhi, July 31 -- Taking a tough stance on immoral trafficking, the Centre has decided to amend the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 to make it more stringent for traffickers and brothel keepers to prevent trafficking and sale of girls for sexual exploitation.

Informing the Rajya Sabha about this, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Renuka Chowdhury further said the government has also drawn up Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

"The Plan of Action consists of action points such as Prevention of Trafficking and Awareness Generation etc. The State Governments have been requested to implement the Plan," Chowdhury said.

According to official sources, following the amendments, Sections 8 and 20 of the existing law may not feature anymore in it. Section 8 provides for punishment for those seducing or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution while Section 20 relates to removal of a commercial sex worker from any place.

However, experts feel that the proposed amendments, which are aimed more at avoiding sanctions by the US than combating human trafficking, may have some serious impact on the livelihoods of about 10.5 million commercial sex workers in the country.

The Centre's decision to amend the law had come in the wake of a decision by the US State Department to include India among 33 countries in a **tier II watch list** for evaluating the efforts made by these countries to curb **human trafficking**.

In an interim report released in February, the U.S. State Department had warned that sanctions might be imposed on India if it slips to tier III status as only 'limited progress' was made by the country in curbing trafficking.

Earlier, the Central Social Welfare Board had listed Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh as the high-supply zones of women in prostitution.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

334 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 30, 2006 Sunday

Israel, US discuss combating "labour, sex trafficking"

LENGTH: 479 words

Text of report by Ruth Eglash headlined "Government, NGOs still find time to fight against human trafficking", carried in English by Israeli newspaper The Jerusalem Post website on 30 July

Despite the current war on the home front, government officials and representatives of the US Embassy and the US State Department took time out of their busy schedules last week to discuss practical recommendations for how to address sex trafficking and labour trafficking in the country.

Those present at the convention included US Ambassador to Israel Richard Jones, Senior Coordinator for International Programmes at the US State Department Dr Jane Nady Sigmon, Israel's newly-appointed Inter-office liaison on trafficking in persons Rochelle Gershuni, MK Zehava Galon, MK Gideon Sa'ar, head of the Jewish law department at the Justice Ministry Dr Michael Vigoda and members of several non-government organizations.

Following opening speeches, participants broke into working groups to make recommendations on what the country should be doing in the fields of protection prevention and prosecution.

Among the challenges identified was the lack of accurate cross-border information available to government and NGOs, which has been worsened by the situation in Lebanon and Gaza. The estimates about the scope of the problem vary wildly. In labour trafficking, NGOs estimate that there are more than 15,000 victims in the country, while government officers say there are only isolated incidences. In the area of sex trafficking, NGOs say there are thousands of victims, while the government claims only hundreds.

"The real problem is the lack of intelligence," commented Yedida Wolf, Co-Director of the Task Force on Human Trafficking (TFHT), a project of the non-profit organization ATZUM and law firm Kabir-Nevo-Keidar.

"In order to comprehend the scope of the problem, the government will have to invest resources in gathering intelligence and initiating investigations. Only then can we know what we are dealing with and how best to address it," Wolf said.

She added that some of the suggestions made at the symposium - such as the eventual creation of a national agency to combat trafficking in persons and mandatory restitution payments to victims in the context of criminal proceedings - were very promising for the future.

"It is important to recognize that this problem is not unique to Israel," Wolf continued. "Human trafficking is a scourge in every country in the world. Indeed, in the region, Israel is one of the more progressive actors in combating this phenomenon, but more can and must be done."

In April, Israel was labelled as a top destination country for **human trafficking** in a UN report and in June, the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report placed Israel in the **Tier Two (watch list)** category.

Source: The Jerusalem Post website, Jerusalem, in English 30 Jul 06

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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335 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

July 30, 2006, Sunday

Gov't NGOs still find time to fight against human trafficking

BYLINE: Ruth Eglash

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 440 words

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LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

336 of 445 DOCUMENTS

GAO Reports

July 18, 2006

RPT-NUMBER: GAO-06-825

BETTER DATA, STRATEGY, AND REPORTING NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S. ANTITRAFFICKING EFFORTS ABROAD

SECTION: GAO REPORT

LENGTH: 14193 words

GAO-06-825

Human Trafficking: Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Antitrafficking Efforts Abroad July 18, 2006 Statement of Thomas Melito, Director International Affairs and Trade

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner, Jr. Chairman Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde Chairman Committee on International Relations House of Representatives

Human trafficking is a worldwide form of exploitation in which men, women, and children are bought, sold, and held against their will in slave-like conditions. People are trafficked and forced to work in the commercial sex trade, sweatshops, agricultural settings, domestic service, and other types of servitude. In addition to the tremendous personal damage suffered by individual trafficking victims, this global crime has broad societal repercussions. It fuels criminal networks, imposes public health costs, and erodes government authority. Since the mid-1990s, the United States has played a leading role in putting human trafficking on the international community's agenda. In 2000, Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) to combat trafficking in persons and established the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (Interagency Task Force). Congress reauthorized this Act in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPA 2003) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPA 2005). This legislation requires the Secretary of State to report to Congress annually on foreign governments' compliance with minimum U.S. standards for the elimination of trafficking. Since 2001, the U.S. government has provided about \$375 million¹ in antitrafficking assistance to foreign governments and nongovernmental organizations to help eliminate human trafficking.

This review is part of a larger body of work that you requested.² To review the status of U.S. international efforts to combat trafficking in persons, we examined (1) estimates of the extent of global trafficking in persons, (2) the U.S. government's strategy for combating trafficking in persons abroad, and (3) the Department of State's (State) process for evaluating foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts.

To address these objectives, we reviewed pertinent State, Justice, Labor, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and U.S. Agency for International Development planning, funding, and program documents for international human trafficking. We discussed U.S. international trafficking efforts with officials from these departments, along with knowledgeable officials from international and nongovernmental organizations. We conducted an extensive analysis of the global trafficking databases developed and maintained by the U.S. government, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labor Organization, and the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).³ We also analyzed the country narratives in State's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report to determine how it assesses compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, as laid out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. We conducted our review from September 2005 to May 2006 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Results in Brief

The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders annually; however such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable. The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data, and numerical discrepancies. For example, the U.S. government's estimate was developed by one person who did not document all of his work, so the estimate may not be replicable, casting doubt on its reliability. Moreover, the quality of existing country level data varies due to limited availability, reliability, and comparability. There is also a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking. The U.S. government has not yet established an effective mechanism for estimating the number of victims or for conducting ongoing analysis of trafficking related data that resides within various government agencies.

More than 5 years after the passage of the landmark antitrafficking law, the U.S. government has not developed a coordinated strategy to combat trafficking in persons abroad, as called for in a presidential directive, or evaluated its programs to determine whether projects are achieving the desired outcomes. Task forces and other coordinating mechanisms have been established to coordinate U.S. government efforts abroad; the focus of these mechanisms is to avoid duplication of effort and ensure compliance with U.S. government policy. However, the process does not include a systematic approach for agencies to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities in relation to each other, identify needs, and target ways to complement each others' activities to achieve greater results. In addition, the Interagency Task Force has not established performance measures or conducted evaluations to measure the impact of the U.S. government's antitrafficking programs abroad. The lack of a coordinated strategy and evaluation plan prevents the U.S. government from determining the effectiveness of its efforts to combat human trafficking abroad or to adjust its assistance to better meet needs.

The Department of State annually assesses foreign governments' compliance with U.S. minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons, but State's explanations for its ranking decisions are incomplete, and the report is not used consistently to develop governmentwide antitrafficking programs. Each year since 2001, State has issued the **Trafficking in Persons** Report that ranks foreign governments into one of three categories, or **tiers**, depending on their efforts to comply with the minimum standards and criteria established in U.S. legislation. This report has increased global awareness of human trafficking, encouraged action by governments who failed to comply with the minimum standards, and raised the risk of sanctions against governments who did not make significant efforts to comply with these standards. However, some of the minimum standards are subjective, and the report does not comprehensively explain how they were applied, lessening the report's credibility and hampering its usefulness as a diplomatic tool. For example, country narratives for most countries in the top category (tier 1) failed to clearly explain compliance with the second minimum standard, regarding prescribed penalties for sex trafficking crimes, established in the TVPA. The report is also intended to serve as a guide to antitrafficking programming priorities overseas, but agencies do not systematically link programs with reported deficiencies.

To improve U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking abroad, we are making several recommendations. To improve information on global trafficking that could be used to effectively target resources and programs, we are recommending that the Chair of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons work closely with relevant agencies in researching a mechanism to develop a reliable global trafficking estimate.

We are also recommending that the Chair develop and implement a strategy that would delineate agency roles and responsibilities and mechanisms for integrating activities; and determine priorities, measurable goals, time frames, performance measures, and a methodology to gauge results. Finally, to improve the credibility of State's annual report on **trafficking in persons**, we are recommending that the Secretary of State clearly document the rationale and support for **tier** rankings and improve the report's usefulness for antitrafficking programming.

In commenting on a draft of this report, State generally agreed with our recommendations. In response to agencies' technical comments, we clarified our second recommendation to state that agencies' roles and responsibilities should be delineated in relation to each other, consistent with our report findings. The U.S. government agency that prepares the trafficking estimate fundamentally concurs with our characterization of the U.S. global estimate of trafficking flows.

Background

Human trafficking occurs worldwide and often involves transnational criminal organizations, violations of labor and immigration codes, and government corruption. Although their circumstances vary, fraud, force, or coercion typically distinguishes trafficking victims from people who are smuggled. Moreover, most trafficking cases follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions, and then exploited in the destination country.⁴

People may also be trafficked internally, that is, within the borders of their own country.

Trafficking victims include agricultural workers who are brought into the United States, held in crowded unsanitary conditions, threatened with violence if they attempt to leave, and kept under constant surveillance; child camel jockeys in Dubai who are starved to keep their weight down; Indonesian women who may be drawn to a domestic service job in another country, are not paid for their work and are without the resources to return home; child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Thailand; and child soldiers in Uganda.

During the 1990s, the U.S. government began drawing attention to the problem of human trafficking before various international forums and gatherings. In 1998, a presidential memorandum⁵ called on U.S. government agencies to combat the problem through prevention of trafficking, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. This approach came to be known as "the three p's" - prevention, protection, and prosecution.

In 2000, Congress enacted TVPA⁶ and reauthorized and amended the act twice.⁷ The act defines victims of severe forms of trafficking as those persons subject to (1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such acts is under age 18 or (2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. The TVPA does not specify movement across international boundaries as a condition of trafficking; it does not require the transportation of victims from one locale to another. Under the TVPA, an alien, who is identified as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in the United States and meets additional conditions, is eligible for special benefits and services.

The TVPA, as amended, provides a framework for current U.S. antitrafficking efforts. It addresses the prevention of trafficking, protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, and the prosecution and punishment of traffickers. The TVPA also laid out minimum standards for eliminating trafficking to be used in the Secretary of State's annual assessment of foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts. It authorized U.S. foreign assistance for efforts designed to meet these standards and established sanctions--withholding nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related assistance--that could be applied against governments of countries not in compliance with the standards and not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.⁸

Responsibility for implementing U.S. government antitrafficking efforts domestically and abroad is shared by the Departments of State, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Homeland Security (DHS), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Each agency addresses one or more of the three prongs of the U.S. antitrafficking approach. Some agencies have more responsibility for implementing international trafficking efforts than others. Figure 1 shows agencies and task forces with responsibilities for antitrafficking efforts.

The government has also created several coordinating mechanisms for these antitrafficking efforts, as shown in figure 1. The TVPA directed the President to establish the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, comprised of various agency heads and chaired by the Secretary of State, to coordinate the implementation of the act, among other activities. Furthermore, the TVPA authorized the Secretary of State to create the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (Trafficking Office) to provide assistance to the task force.

Subsequently, TVPA 2003 established the Senior Policy Operating Group, which addresses interagency policy, program, and planning issues regarding TVPA implementation. The TVPA 2003 directed the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to serve as chair of the group. In addition, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004,⁹ passed in December 2004, established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center to be jointly run by the Departments of State, Justice and DHS. This center houses several agency data systems to collect and disseminate information to build a comprehensive picture of certain transnational issues, including, among other things, human trafficking.

Since 2001, the U.S. government has obligated approximately \$375 million for international projects to combat trafficking in persons. For example, in fiscal year 2005, the U.S. government supported more than 265 international antitrafficking programs in about 100 countries. State, Labor, and USAID are the three largest providers of international assistance to target trafficking (see table 1).

During an address to the U.N. General Assembly in September 2003, the President declared trafficking in persons a humanitarian crisis and announced that the U.S. government was committing \$50 million to support organizations active in combating sex trafficking, sex tourism, and the rescue of women and children. In 2004, eight priority countries for the initiative were identified--Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. The initiative was centered on developing the capacity of each country to rescue women and children, to provide emer-

agency shelters, medical treatment, rehabilitation services, vocational training, and reintegration services, and to conduct law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.

Estimates of Global Human Trafficking Are Questionable, and U.S. Data Collection Efforts Are Fragmented

Existing estimates of the scale of trafficking at the global level are questionable, and improvements in data collection have not yet been implemented. The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data and numerical discrepancies. For example, the U.S. government's estimate was developed by one person who did not document all of his work, so the estimate may not be replicable, casting doubt on its reliability. Moreover, country data are generally not available, reliable or comparable. There is also a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking. The U.S. government has not yet established an effective mechanism for estimating the number of victims or for conducting ongoing analysis of trafficking related data that resides within various government agencies. While trafficking data collection in the United States is fragmented, the database created by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides a useful systematic profile of victims and traffickers across countries.

Accuracy of Estimates in Doubt Because of Methodological Weaknesses, Gaps in Data, and Numerical Discrepancies

The U.S. government and three international organizations gather data on human trafficking, but methodological weaknesses affect the accuracy of their information. Efforts to develop accurate trafficking estimates are further frustrated by the lack of country level data. Finally, there is a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking.

Methodological Weaknesses Cast Doubt on U.S. and International Estimates

The U.S. government and three international organizations have gathered data on global human trafficking. However, these organizations face methodological weaknesses and institutional constraints that cast doubt on the accuracy of the collected data.

The four organizations with databases on global trafficking in persons are the U.S. government, International Labor Organization (ILO), IOM,¹⁰ and UNODC. The U.S. government and ILO estimate the number of victims worldwide, IOM collects data on victims it assists in the countries where it has a presence, and UNODC traces the major international trafficking routes of the victims. The databases provide information on different aspects of human trafficking since each organization analyzes the problem based on its own mandate. For example, IOM looks at trafficking from a migration and rights point of view¹¹ and ILO from the point of view of forced labor.

Despite the fact that the databases use different methodologies for data collection and analysis and have various limitations, some common themes emerge. For example, the largest percentage of estimated victims is trafficked for sexual exploitation. In addition, women constitute the majority of estimated victims. However, the estimated percentage of victims that are children ranges from 13 to 50 percent. Table 2 describes the victim profiles that emerge from the data.

U.S. Data Methodological weaknesses and limitations cast doubt on the U.S. estimate of global trafficking flows. We identified several important limitations:

-- Estimate not entirely replicable. The U.S. government agency that prepares the trafficking estimate is part of the intelligence community, which makes its estimation methodology opaque and inaccessible.

During a trafficking workshop in November 2005, the government agency provided a one-page overview of its methodology, which allowed for only a very limited peer review by the workshop participants. In addition, the U.S. government's methodology involves interpreting, classifying, and analyzing data, which was performed by one person who did not document all of his work. Thus the estimate may not be replicable, which raises doubts about its reliability.

-- Estimate based on unreliable estimates of others. The biggest methodological challenge in calculating an accurate number of global trafficking victims is how to transition from reported to unreported victims. The U.S. government does not directly estimate the number of unreported victims but relies on the estimates of others, adjusting them through a complex statistical process. It essentially averages the various aggregate estimates of reported and unreported trafficking victims published by NGOs, governments, and international organizations, estimates that themselves are not reliable or comparable due to different definitions, methodologies, data sources, and data validation procedures. Moreover, the methodologies used to develop these estimates are generally not published and available for professional scrutiny.¹²

-- Internal trafficking data not included. The U.S. government does not collect data on internal trafficking, which could be a significant problem in countries such as India, where forced labor is reportedly widespread.

According to the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report, many nations may be overlooking internal trafficking or forms of labor trafficking in their national legislations. In particular, what is often absent is involuntary servitude, a form of severe trafficking. The report also noted that the TVPA specifically includes involuntary servitude in the U.S. definition of severe forms of trafficking.

Nonetheless, the U.S. government estimate does not account for it, because it only collects data on offenses that cross national borders.

-- Estimate not suitable for analysis over time. The U.S. government methodology provides an estimate of trafficking flows for a 1-year period and cannot be used to analyze trafficking over time to determine whether it is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same. Therefore, the estimate cannot help in targeting resources and evaluating program effectiveness.

International Data

Methodological weaknesses also raise questions about the accuracy of trafficking information from international organizations. For example, UNODC's methodology attempts to identify global trafficking flows across international borders. It tracks and totals the number of different source institutions that have reported a country having a trafficking incident.

However, whether the trafficking incident involved 5 or 500 victims is irrelevant for UNODC's methodology. In addition, by classifying countries in five categories based on the frequency of reporting, UNODC might rank a country very high as, say, a destination country, due to the country's heightened public awareness, transparency and recognition of trafficking as a serious crime. Alternatively, ILO's methodology provides a global estimate of trafficking victims. However, it attempts to overcome the gap between reported and unreported victims using an extrapolation that is based on assumptions and observations that have not been rigorously tested and validated. Moreover, global databases are based on data sources drawn from reports from a limited number of countries or restricted geographically to specific countries. For example, IOM's data only come from countries where IOM has a presence, which are primarily countries of origin, and the organization is constrained by issues related to the confidentiality of victim assistance. Finally, although the three organizations are trying to collaborate in the area of data collection and research, they are having difficulty in mobilizing the necessary resources for their efforts. Therefore, this fragmentary approach prevents the development of a comprehensive and accurate view of global trafficking. (See app. II for additional information about the different methodologies, analytical assumptions, data validation, and data sources used by the international organizations and the U.S. government.)

Reliable and Comparable Country Data Do Not Exist

The quality of existing country level data varies due to limited availability, reliability, and comparability. Table 3 summarizes the main limitations of trafficking data, identified in our review of literature on human trafficking.

The availability of data is limited by several factors. Trafficking victims are a hidden population because trafficking is a clandestine activity, similar to illegal migration and labor exploitation.

This limits the amount of data available on victims and makes it difficult to estimate the number of unreported victims. Trafficking victims are often in a precarious position and may be unwilling or unable to report to, or seek help from, relevant authorities. Moreover, HHS reported that victims live daily with inhumane treatment, physical and mental abuse, and threats to themselves or their families back home. Victims of human trafficking may fear or distrust the government and police because they are afraid of being deported or because they come from countries where law enforcement is corrupt and feared. In such circumstances, reporting to the police or seeking help elsewhere requires courage and knowledge of local conditions, which the victims simply might not have.

In addition, some governments give low priority to human trafficking violations and do not systematically collect data on victims. In most countries where trafficking data are gathered, women and children are seen as victims of trafficking, and men are predominantly seen as migrant workers, reflecting a gender bias in existing information. Men are also perceived as victims of labor exploitation that may not be seen as a crime but rather as an issue for trade unions and labor regulators. Thus, data collection and applied research often miss the broader dimensions of trafficking for labor exploitation. For example, the demand for cheap labor, domestic service, slavery, and child labor have not been sufficiently investigated as factors affecting the scale of human trafficking.

The reliability of existing data is also questionable. In developing countries, which are usually countries of origin, capacity for data collection and analysis is often inadequate. In countries of destination, human trafficking convictions are often based on victim testimony. Moreover, estimates of trafficking are extrapolated from samples of reported cases, which are not random. Therefore, it is difficult to determine how representative those cases are of the general population of all human trafficking victims and what biases have been introduced.

Data quality is further constrained by limited data comparability. Countries and organizations define trafficking differently. A practice that is considered trafficking in one country may be considered culturally and historically acceptable in another country. For example, in West African countries, people, in particular children, commonly move within and across borders in search of work and are placed in homes as domestic servants or on farms and plantations as laborers. Due to economic deprivation and an abundant supply of children from poor families, a child may be sold by his or her parents based on promises for job training and good education or may be placed with a creditor as reimbursement.

The incompatibility of definitions for data collection is exacerbated by the intermingling of trafficking, smuggling, and illegal migration in official statistics. Countries have used different definitions regarding the scope and means of trafficking; the activities involved, such as recruitment, harboring, transportation and receipt of victims; the purpose; the need for movement across borders; and the consent of victims. For example, there are discrepancies in the collection of data on sex trafficking. Under the TVPA, participation of children under the age of 18 in commercial sex is a severe form of trafficking. However, some countries define children as people under the age of 16 and, according to U.S. government officials, this difference has implications for how countries collect data on children engaged in commercial sex.

Finally, data are often program and institution specific and focus on the needs of individual agencies. Estimates may be developed for the purpose of advocacy. For example, some NGOs record all victims based on the first contact made with them regardless of whether they subsequently meet the criteria for receiving assistance such as legal counsel, shelter, financial support, or support during a trial, while others record only those who receive assistance. Data are also collected for operational purposes within criminal justice systems, and individual authorities use their own definitions and classifications.

Significant Difference Exists between Numbers of Estimated and Observed Victims

There is significant discrepancy between the number of estimated victims and the number of observed victims, which include officially reported, certified, registered and assisted victims. For example, the U.S. government estimated that the number of people trafficked into the United States ranged from 14,500 to 17,500 in 2003.¹³ Despite concerted U.S. government efforts to locate and protect victims, the government certified fewer than 900 victims in the United States during the 4 1/2 years between March 2001 and September 2005.¹⁴ The June 2006 Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons for Fiscal Year 2005 indicates that the 14,500 to 17,500 figure may be overstated because it was an early attempt to quantify a hidden problem. The number of certified victims may not reflect the total number of victims identified. For example, some alien victims need not seek certification because they can remain in the United States through family connections. The Justice Department indicates that further research is under way to determine a more accurate figure based on more advanced methodologies and a more complete understanding of the nature of trafficking. Similarly, the U.S. government estimated that a total of 600,000 to 800,000 people were trafficked across transnational borders worldwide annually. Yet, since 1999, fewer than 8,000 victims in 26 countries have received IOM assistance.

Organizations may also publish estimates that incorrectly characterize the data reported by others. For example,¹⁵ in a 2001 report a Cambodian nongovernmental organization states that there were 80,000 to 100,000 trafficked women and children nationwide. However, this statement is based on a report which discusses 80,000 to 100,000 sex workers in the country, who may or may not be trafficking victims. Moreover, the latter report uses two other sources that did not corroborate this estimate. Several factors could explain the differences between the numbers of observed and estimated victims, but it is unclear the extent to which any single factor accounts for the differences. For example, the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report cited cases in which victims reported by law enforcement were deported before they reached an assistance agency. In addition, agencies may not make sufficient efforts in identifying and helping victims or may have constraints imposed by certain assistance requirements. Victims assisted by IOM missions are those willing to go back to their country of origin. However, if there are other opportunities available in the country of destination, such as receiving a residence permit, victims may not be willing to accept IOM assistance. In the United States, one requirement of receiving official certification is that victims of human trafficking must be willing to assist with the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. According to an HHS official, this requirement may work to limit the number of rec-

orded victims. Given the weaknesses in data and methods, it also cannot be dismissed that the estimates may overstate the magnitude of human trafficking.

Trafficking Data Collection in the United States Is Fragmented While IOM's Is Systematic

The U.S. government has not yet established an effective mechanism for estimating the number of victims or for conducting ongoing analysis of trafficking related data that resides within various government agencies.

The TVPA 2005, passed in January 2006, called on the President, through various agencies, to conduct research into the development of an effective mechanism for quantifying the number of victims of trafficking on a national, regional, and international basis. Since 2005, the U.S. government has funded a project to develop a transparent methodology for estimating the number of men, women, and children trafficked into the United States for purposes of sex or labor trafficking. To date, the modeling has been limited to 10 countries of origin--Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti, and Cuba--and one arrival point in the United States--the southwest border. The firm developing this methodology is in the early stages of this effort and plans to continue to refine and test its methodology. Thus, it is too early to assess this methodology. The U.S. government also recently funded an outside contractor to improve future global trafficking estimates. To date, the U.S. government has funded few projects to improve estimates of trafficking on a regional or international basis.

In addition, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center¹⁶ to serve, among other responsibilities, as a clearinghouse for all relevant information and to convert it into tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence to combat trafficking in persons. The Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center collects trafficking information from U.S. government agencies and sends this information to other agencies that have an interest in it for law enforcement purposes. Center officials stated that they receive and collate trafficking information from federal government agencies. However, officials stated that they do not systematically analyze the trafficking information they receive and lack the human and financial resources to do so. In addition, we identified eight entities within the federal government that possess some information related to domestic and international trafficking. The Justice Department alone has four different offices that possess domestic trafficking information. None of the federal agencies systematically shares their international data with the others, and no agency analyzes the existing data to help inform international program and resource allocation decisions. (See app. III for information on the type of trafficking data available within agencies.)

Furthermore, based upon our analysis of agency data sets, we found that federal agencies do not have data collection programs that could share information or include common data fields. As a result, it is difficult to use existing agency trafficking data to compile a profile of trafficking victims. In previous work, we have reported that it is good practice for agencies to establish compatible policies, procedures, standards, and data systems to enable them to operate across agency boundaries.¹⁷ Although some information exists, agencies were unable to provide an account of the age, gender, type of exploitation suffered, and origin and destination of trafficking victims into the United States. Moreover, some agencies with law enforcement missions were generally unwilling to share demographic trafficking data with us and would release statistics for law enforcement purposes only. The U.S. National Central Bureau was able to extract limited profile information from its case management system.

While the information on trafficking victims collected by U.S. agencies is fragmented, the database created by IOM allows for the development of a useful, in-depth profile of traffickers and their victims across 26 countries.

Although IOM's data are limited to countries where IOM provides direct assistance to trafficking victims, has a short history of about 7 years, and may not be easily generalizable, it is the only one of the four databases that contains data directly obtained from victims. Drawing from more than 7,000 cases, it includes information about the victims' socio-economic profile, movement, exploitation, abuse, and duration of trafficking.

Moreover, the database tracks victims from the time they first requested IOM assistance, through their receipt of assistance, to their subsequent return home. Importantly, it also tracks whether victims were subsequently re-trafficked. These factors provide information that could assist U.S. efforts to compile better data on trafficking victims.

As shown in figure 2, the victims IOM assisted often were enticed by traffickers' promise of a job, most believed they would be working in various legitimate professions, and were subjected to physical violence.

In addition, based on cases with available data on the duration of the trafficking episode, the average duration of stay in the destination country before seeking help from IOM is more than 2 years. Most of the sexual exploitation victims worked 7 days a week and retained a small fraction of their earnings. Moreover, about 54 percent of the victims paid a

debt to the recruiter, transporter and/or other exploiters, and about 52 percent knew they were sold to other traffickers at some stage of the trafficking process.

The database also contains information about the recruiters' and traffickers' networks, nationality, and relationship to victims. It thus provides insights into the traffickers and the mechanisms traffickers used to identify and manipulate their victims. For example, in 77 percent of the cases, contact with the recruiter was initiated based on a personal relationship. Moreover, the correlation between the nationality of the recruiter and that of the victim was very high (0.92). Trafficking networks may have a complex organization, with the recruiter being only one part of the whole system. The organization may involve investors, transporters, corrupt public officials, informers, guides, debt collectors, and money launderers. The extent of information on victims and traffickers in the database improves the overall understanding of the broader dimensions of trafficking.

Lack of Strategy and Performance Measures Prevents U.S. Government from Determining Overall Program Effectiveness Abroad

While federal agencies have undertaken activities to combat trafficking in persons, the U.S. government has not developed a coordinated strategy to combat human trafficking abroad, as called for in a presidential directive.

The U.S. government has established an interagency task force and working group on human trafficking, which have focused on complying with U.S. policy on prostitution and avoiding duplication of effort, but they have not focused on developing and implementing a systematic way for agencies to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities in relation to each other, and identify targets of greatest need and leverage overseas activities to achieve greater results. In addition, governmentwide task forces have not developed measurable goals and associated indicators to evaluate the overall effectiveness of efforts to combat trafficking abroad or outlined an evaluation plan to gauge results, making the U.S. government unable to determine the effectiveness of its efforts abroad or to adjust its assistance to better meet needs.

U.S. Government Has No Overall Strategic Framework to Combat Human Trafficking Abroad

Although the U.S. government established an interagency task force and working group in 2002 to coordinate U.S. agencies' antitrafficking activities,¹⁸ as required by legislation, it has not developed a coordinated strategy to combat trafficking in persons abroad, as called for by a presidential directive.¹⁹ The directive further stated that strong coordination among agencies working on domestic and foreign policy is crucial and that departments and agencies shall coordinate U.S. foreign assistance programs to combat trafficking in persons. In addition, our previous work on issues that are national in scope and cut across agency jurisdictions has shown that a strategic framework can be useful in guiding agency resource and policy decisions.²⁰ Furthermore, our previous work has shown that lack of a coordinated strategy creates the risk of overlap and fragmentation that may result in wasting scarce funds and limiting program effectiveness.²¹ [18The working group was first established as the Senior Policy Advisory Group in 2002, according to the Department of State, and became the Senior Policy Operating Group as mandated in TVPA 2003.

Despite the presidential directive that requires the Senior Policy Operating Group (the Group) to develop a coordinated strategy to combat human trafficking, agency officials acknowledged that there is no coordinated government strategy for efforts abroad. One senior agency official stated that her agency uses the three-pronged approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution as guidance. However, officials agreed that a strategic plan could help improve understanding and coordination among agencies. In addition, of the six government agencies that conduct antitrafficking programs abroad, only two--State's Trafficking Office and USAID--provided us with strategy-type documents that specifically addressed trafficking abroad and included a majority of the characteristics that we have identified in previous work as necessary to implement a national strategy. Both agencies' documents, at least partially, address the six characteristics we identified. However, neither agency's documents clarified roles in relation to other agencies or established clear and strategic performance measures to gauge results and evaluate effectiveness.

Coordination Efforts Focused on Avoiding Duplication Abroad, Not on Leveraging Resources to Maximize Impact

As required by TVPA 2003, the U.S. government has established the Group to coordinate the activities of federal agencies regarding policies involving international human trafficking; but, although the coordination efforts have focused on compliance with U.S. policy on prostitution and avoiding duplication of effort, the efforts do not include a focus on developing and implementing a systematic way for agencies to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities in relation to each other and to identify targets of greatest need and leverage activities to achieve greater results. The presidential directive calls on agencies to work together through the Group to address coordination, sharing of information, and marshalling of law enforcement resources.

According to participating agency officials, the Group--through the work of its various subcommittees--served as a forum for agency officials to discuss trafficking policy and programs. The Group also instituted a grants funding notification system that requires agencies to notify members about each antitrafficking grant program that an agency is considering awarding.

According to the Group's guidance, agencies can offer comments on potential duplication, partnership opportunities, and whether a proposed project or grantees comply with the U.S. government policy on prostitution.²² Information provided to the Group for notification includes the name of the recipient, location, short description of the project, and the proposed amount. Members can comment on a grant, but they do not provide approval; the awarding agency makes the final decision about whether to award the grant. According to agency officials, the formal notification process takes place after the awarding agency has held its own grants panel and has chosen its final grants, making it too late for other agencies' comments to have a significant impact on the grant.

According to officials knowledgeable with the Group's actions, it has not developed or implemented a systematic way for agencies to identify priorities and target efforts abroad to complement each others' activities to achieve greater results than if the agencies were acting alone.²³ The presidential directive required agencies to submit plans to implement the provisions in the directive. Agencies submitted these plans. Our review of these plans found that, for the most part, they provide information summarizing ongoing activities, but officials from several agencies were unable to explain if, or to what extent, they used them to target resources and coordinate activities. One Trafficking Office official stated that the office never used its implementation plan; however, the official further stated that the office is in the process of updating it to make it more applicable.

The U.S. Government Does Not Have a Plan to Evaluate Its Overall Antitrafficking Efforts Abroad

Despite the mandate to evaluate progress, the Interagency Task Force has not developed a plan to evaluate overall U.S. government efforts to combat trafficking abroad. In TVPA 2000, Congress called upon the Interagency Task Force to measure and evaluate the progress of the United States and other countries in preventing trafficking, protecting and providing assistance to victims, and prosecuting traffickers. However, the Task Force has not developed an evaluation plan or established governmentwide performance measures against which the U.S. government can evaluate the overall impact of its international antitrafficking efforts.²⁴ In previous work, we have reported that monitoring and evaluating efforts can help key decision makers within agencies, as well as clients and stakeholders, identify areas for improvement.²⁵ Further, in its 2005 annual assessment of U.S. government activities to combat human trafficking, the Department of Justice recommended that the U.S. government begin measuring the impact of its antitrafficking activities. Although the project-level documentation that we reviewed from agencies, such as USAID and the Department of Labor, included measures to track activities on specific projects, officials stated that USAID's agency-level aggregate indicators are intended as a way of communicating agency outputs, not as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of programs. In addition, according to the 2005 State Department Inspector General report, State's Trafficking Office needs to better identify relevant, objective, and clear performance indicators to compare progress in combating trafficking from year to year. Officials from State's Trafficking Office recognized the need to establish mechanisms to evaluate grant effectiveness. However, officials stated that the office lacks the personnel to monitor and evaluate programs in the field and that it relies on U.S. embassy personnel to assist in project monitoring. In early 2006, the Trafficking Office adopted a monitoring and evaluation tool to assist embassy personnel in monitoring its antitrafficking programs, but it is too soon to assess its impact.

Our review of the Department of State documentation and discussions with agency officials found little evidence of the impact of various antitrafficking efforts. For example, the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report asserts that legalized or tolerated prostitution nearly always increases the number of women and children trafficked into commercial sex slavery, but does not cite any supporting evidence. However, apart from a 2005 European Parliament sponsored study²⁶ on the link between national legislation on prostitution and the trafficking of women and children, we found few studies that comprehensively addressed this issue. In addition, the State Inspector General report noted that some embassies and academics questioned the credentials of the organizations and findings of the research that the Trafficking Office funded. The Inspector General recommended that the Trafficking Office submit research proposals and reports to a rigorous peer review to improve oversight of research efforts. In addition, according to agency officials in Washington, D.C. and in the field, there is little or no evidence to indicate the extent to which different types of efforts--such as prosecuting traffickers, abolishing prostitution, increasing viable economic opportunities, or sheltering and reintegrating victims--impact the level of trafficking or the extent to which rescued victims are being re trafficked.

Department of State's Annual Report Ranks Foreign Governments' Antitrafficking Efforts but Has Limited Credibility and Does Not Consistently Influence Antitrafficking Programs

As required by the TVPA, the Department of State issues an annual report that analyzes and ranks foreign governments' compliance with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons. This report has increased global awareness about trafficking in persons, encouraged action by some governments who failed to comply with the minimum standards, and raised the threat of sanctions against governments who did not make significant efforts to comply with these standards. The Department of State includes explanations of the rankings in the report, though they are not required under the TVPA. However, the report's explanations for these ranking decisions are incomplete, and agencies do not consistently use the report to influence antitrafficking programs. Information about whether a country has a significant number of trafficking victims may be unavailable or unreliable, making the justification for some countries' inclusion in the report debatable. Moreover, in justifying the tier rankings for these countries, State does not comprehensively describe foreign governments' compliance with the standards, many of which are subjective. This lessens the report's credibility and hampers its usefulness as a diplomatic tool. In addition, incomplete country narratives reduce the report's utility as a guide to help focus U.S. government resources on antitrafficking programming priorities.

Department of State's Annual Report Assesses Foreign Governments' Efforts to Eliminate Trafficking

Each year since 2001, State has published the congressionally mandated **Trafficking in Persons** Report, ranking countries into a category, or **tier**, based on the Secretary of State's assessment of foreign governments' compliance with four minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**, as established in the TVPA. These standards reflect the U.S. government's antitrafficking strategy of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing trafficking. The first three standards deal with countries' efforts to prohibit severe forms of trafficking and prescribe penalties for trafficking crimes, while the fourth standard relates to government efforts to eliminate trafficking.²⁷ The TVPA instructed the Secretary of State to place countries that are origin, transit, or destination countries for a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking in one of three tiers. In 2003, State added a fourth category, the tier 2 watch list, consisting of tier 2 countries that require special scrutiny in the coming year (see fig. 3). Governments of countries placed in tier 3 may be subject to sanctions by the United States.

In addition to the rankings, each **Trafficking in Persons** Report contains country narratives intended to provide the basis for each country's **tier** placement. Although the narratives are not required by the TVPA, they state the scope and nature of the trafficking problem, explain the reasons for the country's inclusion in the report, and describe the government's efforts to combat trafficking and comply with the minimum standards contained in U.S. legislation. For countries placed in the lowest two tiers, State develops country action plans to help guide governments in improving their antitrafficking efforts.

Trafficking in Persons Report Has Raised Global Awareness about Human Trafficking

The Trafficking in Persons Report has raised global awareness about human trafficking and spurred some governments that had failed to comply with the minimum standards to adopt antitrafficking measures. According to U.S. government and international organization officials and representatives of trafficking victim advocacy groups, this is due to the combination of a public assessment of foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts and potential economic consequences for those that fail to meet minimum standards and do not make an effort to do so.

U.S. government officials cited a number of cases in which foreign governments improved their antitrafficking efforts in response to their tier placements. For example, State and USAID officials cited the case of Jamaica, a source country for child trafficking into the sex trade, which was placed on tier 3 in the 2005 report. The country narrative noted deficiencies in Jamaica's antitrafficking measures and reported that the government was not making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards. Jamaica failed to investigate, prosecute, or convict any traffickers during the previous year, despite the passage of a law to protect minors. In response, the Jamaican government created an antitrafficking unit within its police force and conducted raids that led to nine trafficking-related arrests.

In addition, the 2004 report placed Japan on the tier 2 watch list, and the country narrative noted that Japan is a destination country for large numbers of foreign women and children who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. It highlighted weaknesses in Japan's law enforcement efforts.

For example, the lack of scrutiny of Japan's entertainer visas reportedly allowed traffickers to use them to bring victims into the country. The country narrative also mentioned Japan's failure to comply with minimum standards for protecting victims, deporting foreign trafficking victims as undocumented aliens who had committed a crime by entering the coun-

try illegally. According to State officials and the 2005 report, the Japanese government responded to the report's criticisms by tightening the issuance of entertainer visas and ceasing the criminal treatment of trafficking victims.

Governments of countries placed on tier 3 that do not implement the recommendations in the country action plan may be subject to sanctions or other penalties. The United States, for example, may oppose assistance for the country from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.²⁸ Since 2003, full or partial sanctions have been applied to eight countries,²⁹ most of which were already under sanctions from the United States.

Limitations in the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report Affect Its Credibility as a Diplomatic Tool

According to the presidential directive and the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report, the annual report is intended as a tool to help the United States engage foreign governments in fighting human trafficking.

According to U.S. government officials, the report's effectiveness as a diplomatic tool for discussing human trafficking with foreign governments depends on its credibility. The country narratives used as the basis for ranking decisions should provide clear and comprehensive assessments of foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts and demonstrate consistent application of the standards. Our analysis of the 2005 report found limitations in the country narratives, and State officials in the Regional Bureaus expressed concerns that these limitations detract from the report's credibility and usefulness. These include some countries' inclusion in the report based on unreliable data, incomplete explanations of compliance with the minimum standards by some of the highest-ranked countries, and country narratives that did not clearly indicate how governments complied with certain standards and criteria. We also found criticisms of the process for resolving disputes about country inclusion and tier rankings.

Some Countries' Inclusion in the Report Based on Unreliable Data

The TVPA requires State to rank the antitrafficking efforts of governments of countries that are sources, transit points, or destinations for a "significant number" of victims of severe forms of trafficking. Since 2001, State has used a threshold of 100 victims to determine whether or not to include a country in the Trafficking in Persons Report.³⁰ However, as discussed earlier in this report, reliable estimates of the number of trafficking victims are generally not available. For example, according to State officials, one country was included in the report because a junior political officer stated that at least 300 trafficking victims were in the country and that the government's efforts to combat trafficking should be assessed. According to these officials, this statement was based on the political officer's informal survey of brothels in that country. Since then, other embassy officials, including the ambassador, have argued that the country does not have a significant number of victims, but it continues to appear in the report. In addition, State officials cited Estonia as a country that was included in the report based on an IOM official's informal estimate of more than 100 victims. State officials said that a subsequent embassy-funded study of trafficking in Estonia found that the country had around 100 confirmed victims in a 4-year period, but internal discussions have not led to the removal of Estonia from the Trafficking in Persons Report. However, the country narrative for Estonia in the 2005 report was modified from previous years to state that Estonia is a source and transit country for a "small number" of trafficking victims.

Our review of country narratives in the 2005 report revealed some cases in which it was not clear how the situations used to justify the country's inclusion in the report constituted severe forms of trafficking under U.S. law. For example, the country narratives for Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore described cases in which human smugglers abandoned people, domestic workers were abused by their employers, and foreign women engaged in prostitution. The narratives either did not clearly establish whether the situation involved victims of severe forms of trafficking or failed to provide enough information about the magnitude of the problem to convey the sense that the number of victims had reached 100 people.

According to State officials, inclusion of human rights abuses or labor issues in the description of foreign countries' human trafficking problem can damage the report's credibility with foreign governments. Some State officials have suggested abandoning the threshold of 100 victims and including all countries in the report.

Unclear Threshold for Meeting Standard on Prescribed Punishment

Our analysis of the 2005 report found that many narratives did not clearly state whether and how the government met the minimum standard regarding stringency of punishment for severe forms of trafficking (see app. I for a description of the methodology used to analyze the 2005 report). This standard requires that prescribed penalties for severe forms of trafficking be sufficiently stringent to deter such trafficking and that they reflect the heinous nature of the offense. The Trafficking Office has not defined a threshold for what constitutes "sufficiently stringent" punishment. Our analysis showed that in over one-third of cases, the 2005 report's country narratives did not characterize the prescribed penalties

as sufficiently stringent. Moreover, in many cases the narratives do not state whether or not the government met this minimum standard. State officials agreed that this subjectivity makes it difficult for reports staff and foreign governments to know what constitutes compliance, negatively affecting the report's credibility and utility as a diplomatic tool.

Narratives for Highest-Ranked Countries Did Not Fully Explain Their Placement

Our analysis of the 2005 report found that many country narratives do not provide a comprehensive assessment of foreign governments' compliance with the minimum standards, resulting in incomplete explanations for tier placements. Although the 2005 report discusses the importance of imposing strict penalties on traffickers, we found that only 2 of the 24 tier 1 country narratives clearly explained compliance with the second minimum standard established in the TVPA, which, among other things, calls for governments to prescribe punishment for sex trafficking that is commensurate with that for grave crimes such as forcible sexual assault.

The narratives for 17 (71 percent) of the tier 1 countries provided information on penalties for sex trafficking but did not compare these with the governments' penalties for other grave crimes. Five (21 percent) tier 1 countries did not mention whether the governments complied with this standard at all.

Our analysis of the tier 1 country narratives in the 2005 report also showed that, while most explained how these governments fully met the core criteria for the fourth minimum standard, related to government efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking, some did not. A senior official at the Trafficking Office confirmed this finding. We found that country narratives for 11 (46 percent) of the 24 tier 1 countries raised concerns about the governments' compliance with key parts of core criteria used to determine if the government is making a serious and sustained effort to eliminate severe forms of trafficking. However, the narratives failed to explain whether and how the governments' success in meeting the other core criteria outweighed these deficiencies and justified their placement in tier 1.

For example, the 2005 report described France, a tier 1 country, as a destination for thousands of trafficked women and children. Although the report states that the French government fully complied with the minimum standards, our analysis of the narrative found that the first three standards were not mentioned. Furthermore, the narrative also discussed the French government's failure to comply with the criterion on protecting trafficking victims, one of the key objectives of U.S. antitrafficking legislation. The narrative discusses a French law, which harmed trafficking victims by arresting, jailing, and fining them. Senior officials at the Trafficking Office are concerned about France's lack of compliance with the victim protection criterion. The narrative, however, did not balance the discussion of these deficiencies by explaining how the government's compliance with the other core criteria allowed it to meet the fourth minimum standard and thus be placed in tier 1.

Similarly, the country narratives for two tier 1 countries stated that the governments were not taking steps to combat official corruption, which the 2004 report highlights as a major impediment to antitrafficking efforts. For example, the narrative for Nepal, a source country for women and children trafficked to India and the Middle East, states that the government fully complied with the minimum standards. However, the narrative noted that the government has not taken action against immigration officials, police and judges suspected of benefiting from trafficking-related graft and corruption, and it did not explain how the deficiency in this core criteria was outweighed by Nepal's efforts with other core criteria.

Internal Process for Resolving Disagreements Lacks Credibility

According to State officials, there are a considerable number of disagreements within State about the initial tier placements proposed by the Trafficking Office. These disagreements are not surprising, given that the Trafficking Office focuses exclusively on antitrafficking efforts while the Regional Bureaus manage bilateral relations, which comprise a wide range of issues. However, it is important that the process for resolving these conflicts be credible. Some disagreements on tier rankings are resolved in meetings between the Trafficking Office and the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of the Regional Bureaus, but most are elevated to the undersecretary level. A few disagreements are even referred to the Secretary of State for resolution. According to State officials, some disputes are worked out by clarifying misunderstandings or providing additional information. Although Trafficking Office staff said that these discussions are constructive, staff in State's Regional Bureaus said that many disagreements over tier rankings are resolved by a process of "horsetrading," whereby the Trafficking Office agrees to raise some countries' tier rankings in exchange for lowering others. In these cases, political considerations may take precedence over a neutral assessment of foreign governments' compliance with minimum standards to combat trafficking. Senior officials at the Trafficking Office acknowledged that political considerations sometimes come into play when making the tier ranking decisions.

Trafficking in Persons Report Is Not Used to Prioritize Programs or Target Resources

The Trafficking Office's implementation plan and the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report states that the report should be used as a guide to target resources to prosecution, protection, and prevention programs. However, we found that U.S. government agencies do not systematically link the programs they fund to combat trafficking overseas with the tier rankings or the deficiencies that are identified in the report's country narratives. For example, U.S. agencies did not use the report when they selected high-priority countries to participate in the 2-year \$50 million Presidential Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Moreover, we found that many of the country narratives describing deficiencies in foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts were incomplete, making it difficult to use them to guide programming.

U.S. Government Lacks Mechanism to Link Its Overseas Programs to Deficiencies Identified In Trafficking in Persons Report

Officials from State's Trafficking Office acknowledged that the management processes and staff responsible for producing the report are not linked with those managing overseas assistance programs. State's Inspector General reported in November 2005 that the lack of synchronization between the Trafficking Office's grants cycle (January and February) and reporting cycle (June) makes it difficult to address the shortcomings identified in the report and the countries' programming needs. In addition, most of the State requests for grant proposals that we reviewed were generic in scope and were not tailored to address a specific problem or priority. For example, one request for proposal was directed broadly at prevention and protection programs in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. In addition, officials from State's regional bureaus said that most of their requests for grant proposals are sent to all the embassies in their region and are not targeted to those countries on lower tiers.

However, officials from one regional bureau stated that they sent a request for grant proposals dealing with law enforcement issues only to those countries on the tier 2 watch list to ensure the programs were targeted where they were most needed.

The presidential directive stated that agencies are to develop a consensus on the highest priority countries to receive antitrafficking assistance through interagency consultation and in consultation with U.S. missions overseas. The Trafficking Office's implementation plan called for using the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report as a guide to target assistance, with priority to countries ranked in the lowest **tiers** and assistance to only those **tier 1** and **2** countries with limited resources and whose governments showed a clear commitment to combat trafficking. In fiscal year 2005, the U.S. government obligated about \$96 million to support more than 265 international antitrafficking programs in about 100 countries. Only one-fourth of this money went to countries ranked in the lowest two tiers (see fig. 4).

Through the Senior Policy Operating Group, in January 2004 agencies selected eight countries to target their efforts for the presidential initiative to combat **trafficking in persons**; however, documentation of the decision-making process does not mention use of the **Trafficking in Persons** Report's **tier** rankings or country narratives to affect this selection.

Officials from the Trafficking Office and the documents we reviewed stated that the Group selected countries based on several factors, including anticipated host government commitment and the ability to start implementation in a short time frame. The eight countries selected were ranked in **tier 2** in the 2003 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, suggesting that their governments showed some commitment to combating trafficking by making efforts to comply with the minimum standards and criteria outlined in the TVPA. However, it was not clear how the Group applied the criteria in selecting the countries. For example, host government commitment to combat trafficking did not necessarily translate into a willingness to receive U.S. assistance. The Department of State cables indicate that the governments in Brazil and India did not support U.S. efforts to fund antitrafficking programs under the presidential initiative. In addition, despite an emphasis on selecting countries in which the United States could start implementation in a short time frame, agreements necessary to conduct law enforcement projects were not in place in Brazil and Mexico, causing these initiatives to be delayed. Also, according to an agency official and documents we reviewed, Tanzania was included because a senior official had just traveled there and thought trafficking might be a problem.

Incomplete Assessments of Foreign Governments' Antitrafficking Deficiencies

The country narratives' incomplete assessments of deficiencies in foreign governments' efforts to combat trafficking diminish the Trafficking in Persons Report's utility as a programming guide. Our analysis of the 2005 report found that many country narratives failed to include information on the governments' compliance with some standards and core criteria, making it difficult for U.S. government officials to use the report as a programming guide. For example, all narratives for countries in the lowest two tiers contained some discussion of government efforts to protect trafficking victims. However, we found that 80 percent failed to mention key aspects of the victim protection criterion, including whether victims were encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement, whether the government provided legal alterna-

tives to deportation, and whether victims were protected from inappropriate treatment as criminals (see fig. 5). In addition, 92 percent of country narratives for tier 2 countries, which receive the largest share of U.S. government antitrafficking funds, did not mention compliance with certain standards and criteria.³¹

Conclusion

The United States has placed trafficking on the international agenda and has spurred governments and organizations into action through its funding of international programs and the publication of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Additionally, the development of a victim-centered approach based upon prevention, protection, and prosecution programs has provided an operational framework for both governments and practitioners in the field. However, more than 5 years since the passage of the TVPA, the U.S. government lacks fundamental information on the nature and extent of the global trafficking problem and an overall strategy for agencies to target their programs and resources abroad.

As the United States and other countries work to identify victims of trafficking, the scope of the global trafficking problem remains unknown in terms of overall numbers within countries of origin; victims' gender, age, and type of exploitation suffered; and the profile and methods of the perpetrators. The United States has provided about \$375 million in antitrafficking assistance since 2001 for projects in about 100 countries.

However, the lack of an overall government strategy which ties together and leverages the program expertise and resources of agencies with the knowledge of victims' identity and location, raises questions about whether antitrafficking activities are targeted where they are most needed. Furthermore, little evaluation research has been conducted to determine which international antitrafficking activities are working or how best to tailor them to meet specific needs.

The fight against human trafficking will almost certainly require years of effort and the continued monitoring of governments' actions. To enhance its usefulness as a diplomatic tool, the narratives and country rankings in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report must be viewed as credible by governments and informed human rights and country observers. However, the report does not comprehensively or clearly describe how decisions about tier rankings were reached. Moreover, problems identified in the report provide the means to better identify program needs and allocate resources, but agencies have not linked their activities to identified deficiencies.

Recommendations for Executive Action

To improve efforts to combat trafficking in persons abroad, we recommend that the Secretary of State, in her capacity as Chair of the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, consider the following actions:

1. Work closely with relevant agencies as they implement U.S. law calling for research into the creation of an effective mechanism to develop a global estimate of trafficking. This could include assigning a trafficking data and research unit to serve as an interagency focal point charged with developing an overall research strategy, collecting and analyzing data, and directing research.
2. In conjunction with relevant agencies, develop and implement a strategic approach that would delineate agency roles and responsibilities in relation to each other, strengthen mechanisms for integrating activities, and determine priorities, measurable goals, time frames, performance measures, and a methodology to gauge results.
3. To improve the credibility of State's annual report on **trafficking in persons**, we recommend that the Secretary of State ensure that the report clearly documents the rationale and support for **tier** rankings and improve the report's usefulness for programming by making the narratives more comprehensive.

Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We requested comments on a draft of this report from the Secretaries of State, Justice, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor; the Administrator of USAID; the U.S. government agency that prepares the trafficking estimate; and cognizant officials at the ILO, IOM, and UNODC, or their designees. We received written comments from State, which are reprinted in appendix V along with our responses to specific points.

State generally agreed with our recommendations. State agreed with our first recommendation to work closely with relevant agencies as they implement U.S. law calling for research into the creation of an effective mechanism to develop a global estimate of trafficking and provided detailed suggestions for areas of future research that are consistent with our findings. Regarding our second recommendation that the Secretary of State develop and implement a strategic approach, State recognized the need for better performance measures and enhanced interagency coordination while also stating that roles and responsibilities have been established. In response, we clarified our recommendation to state that agen-

cies' roles and responsibilities should be delineated in relation to each other, consistent with our report findings. In response to our third recommendation, State said that while its annual Trafficking in Persons Report can improve, it has become a much richer, more useful product since first published in 2001. State also said our report includes some useful recommendations that the department will explore integrating with ongoing efforts in light of available resources. In addition, State commented that its 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report offers a greater and more consistent examination of the minimum standards as they apply to each country. We conducted a selective review of 26 tier 1 country narratives in the 2006 report and found that many of the concerns we cited in our report remain. For example, none of the tier 1 country narratives clearly explained whether or not the government complied with the second minimum standard established in the TVPA, which, among other things, calls for governments to prescribe punishment for sex trafficking that is commensurate with that for grave crimes such as forcible sexual assault.

In oral comments, the U.S. government agency that prepares the trafficking estimate fundamentally concurs with our characterization of the U.S. global estimate of trafficking flows. The agency stated that it has sought to improve upon the 2004 estimate's accuracy and utility through working with an outside contractor with the intention of thoroughly documenting and vetting a methodology, as well as preparing detailed recommendations for improving future estimates. According to the agency, many of this contractor's initial recommendations have been in-line with those delineated in our report. Despite these efforts and the inherent difficulty of preparing estimates of hidden populations, the agency agreed with our overall findings-- particularly with the idea that housing the estimate in the intelligence community makes it opaque and inaccessible. The agency stated that it believes that other U.S. government agencies are best positioned to produce the global trafficking estimate in the future, because they have access to the same unclassified data, would be better able to vet the methodology, and could provide additional information to allow for a closer link between international and domestic human trafficking flow estimates.

State, Justice, Labor, USAID, the U.S. government agency that prepared the trafficking estimate, and the ILO, IOM, and UNODC submitted technical comments which we have incorporated into this report as appropriate.

As agreed with your office, unless you publicly announce the contents of this report earlier, we plan no further distribution until 30 days from the report date. At that time, we will send copies of this report to the Secretaries of State, Justice, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor; the Administrator of USAID; the U.S. government agency that prepares the trafficking estimate; ILO; IOM; and UNODC; and interested congressional committees. Copies of this report will also be made available to other interested parties on request. In addition, this report will be made available at no charge on the GAO Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-9601. Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. GAO staff who made major contributions to this report are listed in appendix VI.

Thomas Melito, Director

International Affairs and Trade

Footnotes:

1This amount includes over \$150 million from the Department of Labor, which was unable to break out funding amounts that specifically addressed trafficking but include funding amounts for activities that either have trafficking as a central focus, one component of a larger project linked to trafficking, or as an issue within the overall context of the project.

2We have also initiated a review of U.S. efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons, and will soon begin a review of multilateral organizations' antitrafficking efforts.

3The International Organization for Migration is a multilateral organization that works with migrants and governments to respond to migration challenges. The International Labor Organization is a United Nations agency that promotes human and labor rights. UNODC assists member states in fighting illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism.

4UNODC. Trafficking in Persons Global Patterns. (April 2006).

5Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, the Director of the United States Information Agency on ``Steps to Combat Violence against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls`` (Mar. 11, 1998).

6Pub. L. No. 106-386.

7TVPA 2003 (Pub. L. No. 108-193) and TVPA 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-164).

8The United States is also a signatory to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, G.A. res. 55/25, annex II, 55 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 60, U.N. Doc. A/45/49 (Vol. I) (2001), which entered into force on December 25, 2003. The United States ratified the protocol on December 3, 2005.

9Pub. L. No. 108-458.

10IOM's database was funded in part by State's Trafficking Office.

11The database is primarily a social service and protection case management tool.

12Because of concerns with the reliability and credibility of aggregate data, ILO chose not to use such data in developing its global trafficking estimate.

132004 Trafficking in Persons Report, Department of State.

14Adult aliens are eligible for certification; victims under age 18 do not need to be certified to receive benefits. To be certified, the alien must be willing to assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking. Also, the alien's presence in the United States must be required to ensure prosecution of traffickers in persons or the alien must have made application for a T visa.

15As reported in a USAID report.

16Pub. L. No. 108-458. The Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center is a joint State, DHS, and Justice operation.

17GAO, Results-oriented Government: Practices that Can Help Enhance and Sustain Collaboration among Federal Agencies, GAO-06-15 (Washington, D.C.: Oct. 21, 2005).

19National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD) 22, signed on December 16, 2002.

20We identified six desirable characteristics to include in a national strategy: (1) purpose, scope, and methodology; (2) problem definition and risk assessment; (3) goals, subordinate objectives, activities, and performance measures; (4) resources, investments, and risk management; (5) organizational roles, responsibilities, and coordination; and (6) integration and implementation. See GAO, Combating Terrorism: Evaluation of Selected Characteristics in National Strategies Related to Terrorism, GAO-04-408T (Washington, D.C.: Feb. 3, 2004), and Prescription Drugs: Strategic Framework Would Promote Accountability and Enhance Efforts to Enforce the Prohibitions on Personal Importation, GAO-05-372 (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 8, 2005).

21GAO-04-408T.

22The TVPA 2003 added the provision that no funds made available to carry out the TVPA as amended may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. In addition, no funds made available to carry out the TVPA, as amended, may be used to implement any program that targets victims of severe forms of trafficking through any organization that has not stated in a grant application or agreement that it does not promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. National Security Presidential Directive 22, signed on December 16, 2002, states that U.S. policy opposes prostitution and prostitution-related activities, such as pimping, pandering, or maintaining brothels, as contributing to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. The U.S. government's position is that these activities should not be regulated as a legitimate form of work for any human being.

23In previous work, we broadly defined collaboration as any joint activity intended to produce more public value than could be produced when the organizations act alone. GAO-06-15.

24In previous work on desirable characteristics of a national strategy, we have found that identifying priorities, milestones, and performance measures, usually developed in conjunction with a strategic framework, can help agencies achieve results, and enable more effective oversight and accountability. See GAO-04-408T.

25GAO-06-15.

26The study concluded that a country's legal position on prostitution was not the only factor that influences the number of women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and that a final evaluation of the legislative model and the im-

26 The number of victims should be based on a wider, more reliable and comparable set of data. Transcrime, Study on National Legislation on Prostitution and the Trafficking in Women and Children, a report prepared for the European Parliament, August 2005.

27 The fourth standard provides 10 indicia that can be used to assess these efforts. According to the Trafficking Office, it focuses on 5 of the 10 as core criteria: (1) prosecution of traffickers, (2) prosecution of corrupt government officials who contribute to trafficking, (3) protection of victims, (4) prevention of trafficking, and (5) demonstrated progress in combating trafficking from year to year (see app. IV).

28 In 2001, we assessed whether the Treasury Department was able to influence operations at the International Monetary Fund (Fund) in a direction that would be consistent with U.S. policies. We found that it was difficult to attribute Fund operations to any one member because the Fund generally operates on a consensus decision-making basis. GAO, International Monetary Fund: Efforts to Advance U.S. Policies at the Fund, GAO-01-214 (Washington, D.C.: Jan. 23, 2001).

29 In 2003, the President decided to impose full sanctions on Burma, Cuba, and North Korea and partial sanctions on Liberia and Sudan. In 2004, full sanctions were again imposed on Burma, Cuba, and North Korea and partial sanctions on Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, and Venezuela. In 2005, full sanctions were imposed on Burma, Cuba, and North Korea and partial sanctions on Cambodia and Venezuela.

30 The threshold of 100 victims is not legislatively mandated.

31 Our finding that 92 percent of tier 2 narratives did not mention compliance with certain standards and criteria is based on a random probability sample and is surrounded by a 95 percent confidence interval that extends from 82 percent to 95 percent.

LOAD-DATE: August 15, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

REQUESTOR: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Other

337 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

July 12, 2006, Wednesday

Israel Arabs join to fight white slavery

BYLINE: Ruth Eglash

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 581 words

Experts from the Middle East and North Africa met last week at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna to prepare an action plan to stamp out the growing problems of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The three-day symposium - the first of its kind - brought together representatives from Israel Lebanon Egypt Syria Bahrain UAE Yemen and Malta.

"This is the first meeting ever held to discuss a regional action plan for the Middle East/North Africa region Muhammad Adul-Aziz of the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime said. We consider this meeting to be an important step forward. The proposed plan of action will provide member states with a framework for their future efforts to fight smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings."

A UN report in April said Israel was a top destination country for trafficking in human beings and the US State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report published in June placed Israel in the **Tier 2 (Watch List)** category of countries whose governments do not fully comply with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act but are making significant efforts to do so.

"In the Middle East/North Africa region exchange of information is complicated by heightened security concerns and tense diplomatic relations said Israel's representative at the meeting Yedida Wolfe. She is co-director of the Task Force on Human Trafficking - a project of the nonprofit organization ATZUM (Justice Works) and law firm Kabir-Nevo-Keidar.

If there is a consensus on one thing that is the need for bilateral cooperation to combat trafficking. Last week's meeting was a breakthrough in establishing personal cross-border contacts to help fight modern slavery Wolfe said.

She said the action plan created at the meeting focused on three areas: prevention which includes changes in legislature increased policing on national borders and raising awareness; protection of the victims and providing them with access to services that will help them break away from traffickers; and increased prosecution of those facilitating the crimes.

Wolfe said the UN plan required the endorsement of the states involved. This was the next step in implementing the program she said.

I have high hopes that this meeting will form the basis of continued discussions said Wolfe. We really needed the UN to step in; some of the countries do not even publicly recognize trafficking as a problem."

Wolfe said one of the biggest problems for Israel was that the government relied solely on nongovernmental bodies for information and action.

"We've been petitioning the government to appoint one person in the establishment to deal with these issues said Wolfe. So far there is no one."

The meeting is meant to be followed up by a high-level political conference in the spring of 2007 aimed at bringing together all the international stakeholders to endorse the plan.

According to a report released in 2005 by the Knesset Subcommittee on Trafficking in Women between 3 0 and 5 0 women had been smuggled into Israel over the previous four years to work as prostitutes.

According to the report the women who were mostly from the former Soviet Union were sold at public auction for as much as \$ 10 0 and forced to work up to 18 hours a day. On average the women received only three percent of the money they earned from prostitution and many were raped and beaten. Most of the women had been smuggled over the Egyptian border.

LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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338 of 445 DOCUMENTS

**World Markets
Research Centre**

Global Insight

July 10, 2006

Government of U.A.E. Approves Tough Law on Human Trafficking; Penalties Against Labour Law Violators

BYLINE: Anoushka Marashlian**LENGTH:** 354 words

A U.A.E. government committee, chaired by Justice Minister Mohammed al Daheri, yesterday (9 July) approved a draft law which imposes strict penalties against **human trafficking**, reports the U.A.E. daily Gulf News. The legislation will now be submitted to review by the cabinet and is expected to be passed into law before the year's end. The U.S. State Department's annual human traffic report 2006 acknowledged notable advances by U.A.E. authorities in improving its **human trafficking** record, although it still remains on a **watch list** of problem countries. The U.A.E.'s reputation as a location for human trafficking and other smuggling operations was raised by opponents of a deal that would have given Dubai Ports World (DPW), a U.A.E.-owned shipping company, some managerial rights over key U.S. ports; DPW aborted the American wing of its operations in response to the controversy (see U.A.E.: 10 March 2006:). Meanwhile, U.A.E. Labour Minister Ali al-Kaabi this weekend also announced that firms violating a ban on outdoor work between the hours 12.30pm to 3pm, when temperatures can reach over 50 degrees Celsius, will be fined and temporarily denied new work permits. The U.A.E.'s labour record has long been a source of international concern and came under heightened scrutiny following violent riots in March 2006 at the Burj Dubai site, touted to become the world's tallest building; the damage caused during the Burj Dubai riots was estimated in excess of US\$1 million. (see U.A.E.: 24 March 2006:). Significance: U.A.E. authorities are proving more responsive to longstanding international criticism of its labour record and are also moving to amend the U.A.E.'s reputation as a human trafficker. Although the steps being taken by the U.A.E. leadership are encouraging, the crucial test, where the U.A.E. has previously been lacking is the implementation stage; some prominent business elites with established ties have previously been allowed to violate labour laws with impunity and it remains to be seen whether they will be affected by the stricter penalties included in this latest law.

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISHCopyright 2006 World Markets Research Limited;
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339 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 6, 2006 Thursday

Nigeria; Human Trafficking: Nigeria No Longer On Watch List - Naptip

BYLINE: This Day

LENGTH: 345 words

Executive Secretary, National Agency for the Prohibition of **Trafficking in Persons** and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), Mrs Carol Ndaguba, yesterday said Nigeria is no longer on the United States government critical **watch list (Tier Two Watch List)** of countries with static **human trafficking** record.

This, she said, follows concrete efforts by the agency, with the support of the Federal Government among other stakeholders to tackle the menace head long.

Ndaguba said this yesterday while briefing journalists ahead of the Joint ECOWAS/Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Conference of Regional Ministers on Trafficking in Persons scheduled to begin today.

She said before the constitution of NAPTIP, Nigeria was on the Tier Two Watch list, adding that though the Agency was hopeful that next year, Nigeria would be put on the tier one list, efforts are still on to ensure improvement on some of the Agency's achievements.

Ndaguba said Nigeria was the first country in Africa to set up a full agency to address the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, while research has shown that ignorance, poverty and greed all combine to fuel trafficking in persons.

On the objective of the regional conference, Ndaguba said it was designed to provide a uniform level of ratification and implementation of international instruments against trafficking.

She said no single country could win the war against traffickers, because of the cross border nature of the trade.

Mr Pierre Ferry, UNICEF Regional Protection Officer, urged participating states to ensure commitment to and adoption of recommendations at the workshop.

.He said central and western countries in Africa must stand up to the challenges posed by human trafficking, since traffickers readily use their borders to carry out the nefarious trade.

Among those in attendance were, Mr Pierre Athomo Ndong, Adviser on Child Protection and Section, Mr Pierre Ferry, Regional Protection Officer, UNICEF, Ms Jean Nyalendo, Advisor of the Minister for labour of Gabon, and Mr Lee Swepston, Senior Advisor, Human Right, ILO.

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

340 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 6, 2006 Thursday

Nigeria; Human Trafficking - NAPTIP Prosecutes 120 Cases

BYLINE: Daily Champion

LENGTH: 265 words

A head of today's first Ministerial Regional Conference on Trafficking in persons, National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), yesterday said it has successfully prosecuted over 120 cases with seven traffickers serving various jail terms in the country.

Executive secretary of NAPTIP, Mrs Carol Ndaguba, who disclosed this to newsmen in Abuja, explained that the nation's porous borders were responsible for the crime.

According to her 25, cases involving human traffickers are pending in courts, while the agency was investigating 89 other cases.

She said as a result of successes achieved by NAPTIP, United States (US) Department of State elevated the country from a temporal to full second **tier** level in its yearly global **human trafficking** report.

She explained that at the on-going joint ECOWAS / ECCAS conference of ministers taking place in Abuja, experts from the ECOWAS secretariat, UNICEF, NAPTIP, International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Office on Drug Control (UNODC), United States Department and several other international and local bodies would evolve effective strategies to combat the crime. UNICEF's Regional Adviser for Child Protection, Pierre Ferry, however, lamented huge social, health and economic problems associated with human trafficking.

He said "the illicit trade is rooted in historical, social and cultural context."

According to him, human trafficking is a transnational crime that impinges on human rights, stressing need for concerted efforts among regional and national agencies to fight the scourge.

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newsletter

341 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 23, 2006 Friday

Zimbabwe; Govt Rapped for Making Citizens Prone to Trafficking

BYLINE: Zimbabwe Independent**LENGTH:** 405 words

THE United States has castigated government for making its own people vulnerable to human trafficking through its globally condemned Operation Murambatsvina, a State Department 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report reveals.

Zimbabwe was last year classified under Tier 2, a watch list of countries "assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards". According to the latest report released on June 5 by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Zimbabwe has since dipped into the lowest classification of countries said to have an appalling **human trafficking** record in **Tier 3** alongside Sudan.

"Zimbabwe showed little political will to address its trafficking problem during the past year," the report says. "Zimbabwean children are trafficked internally for forced agricultural labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Trafficked women and girls are lured out of the country by false job or scholarship promises."

The report cites government's urban slum clearance blitz, which left more than 700 000 people homeless, as having exposed children to human trafficking vulnerability.

"Government placed many of its citizens at increased risk for exploitation as a result of Operation Murambatsvina. Tens of thousands of people remain homeless in the wake of the operation, which demolished ostensibly illegal homes and businesses. An estimated 223 000 children were affected and left vulnerable to trafficking."

Trafficking in human beings is the criminal commercial trade in human beings, who are subjected to involuntary acts such as begging, sexual exploitation or unfree labour. It also involves a process of using physical force, fraud, deception, or other forms of coercion and intimidation to obtain, recruit, harbour and transport people.

The United States annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report is a comprehensive report covering 158 countries analysing their efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons or modern-day slavery. Governments that meet the standards for elimination of trafficking established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards but making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 2.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Harare this week unveiled a \$18US 000 grant to the Girl Child Network in Zimbabwe to help with its Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Campaign.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

342 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

June 23, 2006 Friday

PAK NO MORE ON US WATCH LIST

LENGTH: 473 words

ISLAMABAD: Due to the effective measures taken by the FIA to eliminate **human trafficking**, Pakistan has been taken out of the American **Watch list**, the Additional Director General FIA Tariq Khosa told The Nation. The FIA has arrested 1006 human traffickers Tariq Khosa said during the year 2005 whereas 300 were arrested in 2004, he said. The US Secretary of state in her report has acknowledged the efforts of Pakistan in curbing human trafficking.

FIA also arrested a notorious Hundi Hawala agent Raheel Butt resident of Gujarat. He was involved in transferring money to Iran, Turkey, Greece and other European countries on behalf of 15 human traffickers involved in this heinous crime. In follow up to these arrests, FIA convicted 1125 culprits during the year 2005, while 585 convictions were made in 2004. 3926 cases were finalized against human smugglers during the year 2005, whereas 239 were finalized during the year 2004. 595 proclaimed offenders were arrested during the year 2005, whereas 281 during the year 2004.

Khosa said, "An anti-trafficking unit has been established in all five-investigation zones of the FIA, these units handled the cases of human trafficking with special reference to women and children." In October 2002, the government passed a law that criminalizes all aspect of trafficking, from recruitment and transporting to receiving a person. It is the first law of such kind in Pakistan. Three passport circles at Turbat, Taftan and Gwadar have been set up in Balochistan to prevent and prosecute human traffickers involved in trafficking from Pakistan to Iran through unfrequented routes.

While talking about the establishment of Inter Agency Task Force he said, "On 23rd September 2005 the interior ministry established the Task Force, which deals with Federal and Provisional Intelligence enforcement agencies." IATF intercepted 2436 illegal immigrants attempting to cross Pak-Iran border for destinations of European countries, out of which 1318 were by FIA. Deportation from Iran dropped by 45%, 3712 were deported from Oman during the 1st half of 2005, whereas 2005 have been deported from Iran so far.

Mark Lyall Grant, the British High Commissioner also appreciated FIA's efforts in a letter written to interior minister in March 2006. Deportation on forged documents decreased to 179 during the year 2005, as compared to 267 in the year 2004; hence, a decrease of 33% was seen in this area. While offloading on forged documents increased to 554 during the year 2005 as compared to 267 in the previous tear, there is a significant rise of 107%.

Increase in offloading and decrease in deportation on forged documents saved Pakistan from heavy fines. Fine on PIA alone decreased by 152%. Raja Abdul Ghaffar of Gujrat who had sent more than 6000 Pakistanis to Greece via unfrequented routes was also arrested.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trafficking/Smuggling

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper



Global News Bites

343 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

June 23, 2006 Friday

Pak no more on US watch list

SECTION: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 471 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD June 23

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LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

344 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 20, 2006 Tuesday 6:42 AM GMT

Myanmar rejects US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 259 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, June 20 2006

Myanmar on Tuesday rejected a US report that branded the military-ruled country as among the world's worst offenders for trafficking in humans.

A State Department report this month accused the junta of direct involvement in trafficking people for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

"The military junta's economic mismanagement, human rights abuses, and its policy of using forced labor are driving factors behind Burma's large trafficking problem," it said.

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, rejected the report, saying it was making efforts to combat human trafficking.

The US report "once again unjustifiably classified Myanmar in the list of countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts in combating trafficking in persons," the foreign ministry said in the official New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

Myanmar would continue to fight human trafficking "regardless of negative views and responses from those who blindly refuse to recognize the ongoing commendable efforts," it said.

The US report said people from Myanmar were mainly trafficked to Bangladesh, China, Malaysia and Thailand for sexual exploitation, domestic service and forced labor.

Myanmar was listed along with North Korea and Laos in the State Department's "**Tier 3**" list of worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

Countries in the blacklist could face sanctions if they do not take immediate measures within 90 days.

But Myanmar is already under US sanctions to pressure it to make democratic reforms and to improve its human rights record.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

345 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

June 17, 2006 Saturday
Final Edition

Canada's Complicity in Human Trafficking: CRIME I The federal visa program for exotic dancers provides an opening for agents of a modern day slave trade

BYLINE: Daphne Bramham, Vancouver Sun

SECTION: WEEKEND REVIEW; Daphne Bramham; Pg. C5

LENGTH: 1080 words

If there's one labour shortage that the Canadian government won't tolerate, it's not having enough strippers.

The apparent need for strippers is so great that, despite a promise by the Liberal government in December 2004 to cancel the special temporary visa program for exotic dancers, Immigration Canada is still issuing them.

The only difference is that Immigration Canada now does a case-by-case confirmation that applicants have a signed contract and a promise from a strip-club operator that their airfare to and from Canada will be paid.

It's led to a reduction in the number of permits issued. Fewer than 10 visas were issued last year and only 60 visas were extended, a sharp decline from a high of 478 permits in 2003 and 366 extensions in 2004.

But among those few issued permits last year was Mark Kraynak, a 29-year-old college sophomore from Pennsylvania. Kraynak, a decorated soldier for his tour of duty in Iraq, died under unusual circumstances on Aug. 22, 2005. His body, along with that of another stripper, 20-year-old Steven Wright from California, was found on a ledge in a quarry outside Laval, Que.

The pair -- along with four other Americans -- had been working at a gay club in Toronto called Remington's. All were under contract to French Connection Francaise, a "modelling" agency.

Kraynak and Wright had gone to Montreal with FCF's owner Stephan Sirard. The night they died, they had been partying at an after-hours club in Laval, and initially police believed the two had fled to avoid paying a \$35 taxi fare. But both had more than that amount in cash when their bodies were found. Police have yet to determine how the two men ended up dead in a quarry.

Kraynak and Wright died on the day that they were supposed to return to the United States.

After their deaths, Sirard announced that he was going to release a pornographic film starring Kraynak, with the proceeds going to benefit the two men's families. Janice Kraynak -- Mark's mother -- was outraged. Wright's mother said she'd take the money.

This isn't the first time Sirard has released pornographic videos after the star has died.

Just months before Kraynak and Wright died, Sirard released a porn film starring Canadian Natel King. Twenty-three-year-old King (who used the name Taylor Summers) was murdered, her body found in a ravine in Pennsylvania in March 2004. Photographer Anthony Frederick was later convicted.

Sirard offered the proceeds from King's film to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, where King had been a volunteer. The hospital declined. Unlike the Canadian government, the hospital didn't want to be associated with porn purveyors.

Yet these are the kinds of business people that Canada is helping with the stripper program.

Strangely, Canada is deemed by the U.S. government to be on the top **tier** of countries when it comes to the fight against **human trafficking** and sexual exploitation even though the Americans are aware of and critical of the stripper permits.

The U.S. State Department's most recent report on how countries deal with human trafficking mentions the stripper permits have decreased substantially since 2004 and notes that Canada now hands out brochures to incoming strippers telling them of their rights and listing contact numbers for support organizations.

Last year, the U.S. report described the stripper permit as "a type of program that has been abused and exploited by traffickers in many other countries." And in 2004, the Americans said Canada was no better than countries like Albania, Cambodia, Nigeria, Angola and Japan when it came to preventing and prosecuting human trafficking.

In that report, Vancouver was described as a hot spot with thousands of migrants -- aided by organized crime syndicates -- arriving and then disappearing into brothels and karaoke bars both here and in the United States.

Gregory Carlin, executive director of the Irish Anti-Trafficking Coalition, can't believe that Canada is among the best in the world based on its anti-trafficking measures. He's been lobbying for years to have the stripper program cancelled, and particularly since the deaths of Kraynak and Wright.

He's sent dozens of letters to Canadian officials saying that "under no circumstances should any permits be issue to any agency with a general modelling and exotic dancing or pornographic portfolio."

That the Americans rank Canada so highly, Carlin says, is "quite remarkable."

A Calgary-based, non-governmental organization whose goal is alleviating the suffering of people who have been trafficked and bringing offenders to justice, is just one of many that opposes the stripper permits agrees.

"We have strongly opposed the famed and dubious 'stripper visas'," says Shuvaloy Majumdar, executive director of The Future Group. "This is usually a front to permit traffickers to pose as legitimate business people, when instead they are participating as agents of the modern-day slave trade."

And while Canada continues to help strip-joint owners, the NGO says it does little to help victims who are trafficked into Canada and the sex trade.

In its recent study of eight western nations' treatment of victims of trafficking, The Future Group gave Canada the only failing grade.

"Canada has systematically failed to comply with its international obligations under the [United Nations] Trafficking Protocol," it said, adding: "Canada's record of dealing with trafficking victims is an international embarrassment and contrary to best practises."

This is particularly so because Canada was the first to have ratified the United Nations protocol on trafficking in May 2002.

With few exceptions, The Future Group says victims of human trafficking are routinely detained as illegal migrants and frequently deported. Some have even faced criminal charges for prostitution.

Up until the report's release in May, Future Group said Canada's only accomplishments were to produce a pamphlet, a poster and "host a conference or two."

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg responded immediately to the criticism. Victims now are issued 120-day temporary visas, are eligible for health services and are not charged any processing fees.

It was a good first step. But there is a lot more to be done beyond posters and pamphlets.

His next step should be to cancel the stripper permit program. It would be cheap and easy plus it would send a message out that Canada isn't interested in exploiting and endangering foreigners by easing their entry to the sex trade.

dbrahamham@png.canwest.com

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC:

Photo: Mark Mraz, Getty Images; (Canada's Complicity in Human Trafficking);

Photo: Courtesy of Montreal Police Department; The bodies of Steve Wright (left) and Mark Kraynak were found in a quarry.

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Column; Crime

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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346 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 16, 2006 Friday

GOVERNOR SIGNS FOUR BILLS DEALING WITH SAFETY

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 876 words**DATELINE:** Juneau

The following information was released by the Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski:

Governor Frank H. Murkowski today signed four bills into law dealing with the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission, human and sex trafficking, offenses against unborn children and victim's rights.

HB 83, co-sponsored by Kodiak Representative Gabrielle Ledoux, extends the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission's charter through June 30, 2012 and changes the make-up to include three representatives from local government in separate seismically active regions.

"Alaska needs the expertise provided by the members of the Seismic Hazards Safety Commission," Murkowski said. "Alaska's place on the Pacific Rim and unfortunate history with seismic disasters like the 1964 earthquake place added importance on ensuring we are properly prepared through sound analysis and advice we receive from this commission."

The bill also increases the number of members from nine to 11 and allows members term lengths to be staggered.

"I'm pleased my administration has had the honor of appointing three members to the commission from Representative Ledoux's district," Murkowski said.

The governor approved the appointment of Dean Maxwell of Palmer to a four year term, replacing Michael Wilkinson of Anchorage, who did not request re-appointment.

The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission was formed to recommend goals and priorities for seismic hazard mitigation for the public and private sectors. The commission is made up of state officials from the University of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and a host of local, state and federal agencies.

SB 12, sponsored by Anchorage Senator Fred Dyson, addresses human trafficking and purchasing products from countries that do not protect against human trafficking. - more - The bill creates two new crimes which prohibit human trafficking, which includes compelling or inducing persons to come to the state to engage in sexual conduct, adult entertainment, or labor through force or threat. The bill also prohibits a person from promoting or selling travel that uses commercial sexual conduct as an enticement for travel.

SB 12 also prohibits all three branches of state government from purchasing products from a person who has a headquarters in a country listed by the United States Secretary of State as a Tier 3 country. **Tier** 3 countries are those that are considered not to meet the minimum standards in protecting victims of **human trafficking**.

"We must send a strong message to those who try to enslave others for these deplorable purposes," Murkowski said. "Human trafficking is a growing threat, not only in Alaska, but across the globe. My administration values public safety above all others and by signing this bill I hope the message of no tolerance' is heard loud and clear.

"SB 12 will significantly alter the state's procurement code," Murkowski said. "Now, the Legislature, court system and Executive Branch must terminate financial relationships with organizations that are headquartered in countries considered by the State Department to be below minimum standards.

"It is merely not enough to take a stand against enslavement," Murkowski said. "We must give our public safety and court officials a tool to enforce it."

SB 134, sponsored by Anchorage Senator Con Bunde, creates a new sexual assault and sexual abuse pilot program in the Office of Victim's Rights.

"Unfortunately, sexual assault and sexual abuse are on the rise in Alaska," Murkowski said. "This bill is simply a natural extension of the Office of Victim's Rights abilities and provides victims with a voice in how the office monitors their investigations."

The bill grants attorneys in the office with powers for tracking victim's cases for negligence in the reported investigations and assisting the victims if negligence is found, instituting a pilot program for cases beginning after July 10, 2006. Under current state law victims have no recourse or say in how justice agencies handle investigations or allow advocates to argue or assist on their behalf.

SB 134 tasks the Office of Victim's Rights with reporting the findings of the pilot project to the Legislature no later than September 30, 2008 and may include recommendations for legislative action.

SB 20, also sponsored by Sen. Dyson, creates several new crimes that prohibit causing harm to unborn children. It adopts three levels of homicide of an unborn child: murder, manslaughter, and criminally negligent homicide. These new crimes are similar to homicide offenses against persons. SB 20 also adopts two degrees of assault on an unborn child, which are similar to assault in the first and second degrees.

- more - "Unborn children deserve the same legal protection as live born persons," Murkowski said. "This bill broadens the Alaska Criminal Code by granting rights to those who need them the most.

"Science has proven that any harm done to a mother carrying an unborn child endangers that child," Murkowski said. "And it would be beyond reproach to deny them the same protections we do to those who carry them into life."

The bill defines "unborn child" as a member of the species Homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

347 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US States News

June 16, 2006 Friday 8:36 PM EST

GOV. MURKOWSKI SIGNS FOUR SAFETY BILLS

BYLINE: US States News**LENGTH:** 878 words**DATELINE:** JUNEAU, Alaska

Gov. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, issued the following news release:

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The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission was formed to recommend goals and priorities for seismic hazard mitigation for the public and private sectors. The commission is made up of state officials from the University of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and a host of local, state and federal agencies.

SB 12, sponsored by Anchorage Senator Fred Dyson, addresses human trafficking and purchasing products from countries that do not protect against human trafficking. The bill creates two new crimes which prohibit human trafficking, which includes compelling or inducing persons to come to the state to engage in sexual conduct, adult entertainment, or labor through force or threat. The bill also prohibits a person from promoting or selling travel that uses commercial sexual conduct as an enticement for travel.

SB 12 also prohibits all three branches of state government from purchasing products from a person who has a headquarters in a country listed by the United States Secretary of State as a Tier 3 country. **Tier 3** countries are those that are considered not to meet the minimum standards in protecting victims of **human trafficking**.

"We must send a strong message to those who try to enslave others for these deplorable purposes," Murkowski said. "Human trafficking is a growing threat, not only in Alaska, but across the globe. My administration values public safety above all others and by signing this bill I hope the message of 'no tolerance' is heard loud and clear.

"SB 12 will significantly alter the state's procurement code," Murkowski said. "Now, the Legislature, court system and Executive Branch must terminate financial relationships with organizations that are headquartered in countries considered by the State Department to be below minimum standards.

"It is merely not enough to take a stand against enslavement," Murkowski said. "We must give our public safety and court officials a tool to enforce it."

SB 134, sponsored by Anchorage Senator Con Bunde, creates a new sexual assault and sexual abuse pilot program in the Office of Victim's Rights.

"Unfortunately, sexual assault and sexual abuse are on the rise in Alaska," Murkowski said. "This bill is simply a natural extension of the Office of Victim's Rights abilities and provides victims with a voice in how the office monitors their investigations."

The bill grants attorneys in the office with powers for tracking victim's cases for negligence in the reported investigations and assisting the victims if negligence is found, instituting a pilot program for cases beginning after July 10, 2006. Under current state law victims have no recourse or say in how justice agencies handle investigations or allow advocates to argue or assist on their behalf.

SB 134 tasks the Office of Victim's Rights with reporting the findings of the pilot project to the Legislature no later than September 30, 2008 and may include recommendations for legislative action.

SB 20, also sponsored by Sen. Dyson, creates several new crimes that prohibit causing harm to unborn children. It adopts three levels of homicide of an unborn child: murder, manslaughter, and criminally negligent homicide. These new crimes are similar to homicide offenses against persons. SB 20 also adopts two degrees of assault on an unborn child, which are similar to assault in the first and second degrees.

"Unborn children deserve the same legal protection as live born persons," Murkowski said. "This bill broadens the Alaska Criminal Code by granting rights to those who need them the most.

"Science has proven that any harm done to a mother carrying an unborn child endangers that child," Murkowski said. "And it would be beyond reproach to deny them the same protections we do to those who carry them into life."

The bill defines "unborn child" as a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.

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348 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

June 15, 2006 Thursday
All Editions

Horrors of human trafficking; Congress hears women sold into forced labor or sex

BYLINE: By HERB JACKSON, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, North Jersey Media Group

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 808 words

Irina Veselykh thought she'd be able to pay off her alcoholic husband's debts. Masha Gnezdilova was excited by the chance to learn other languages and see another country.

But the high-paying jobs waiting tables and cleaning houses that lured them from Russia to Germany were a mirage. Instead, the women were forced to work as prostitutes by pimps who took their passports, beat them, sold them to other pimps, and threatened to injure relatives back in Russia if they escaped.

The two eventually did escape back to Russia, however, and were able to tell their tales -- echoes of which have been heard in North Jersey recently -- at a Congressional hearing Wednesday organized by Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J.

"An estimated 17,000 foreign citizens are trafficked into the U.S. each year with more than 600,000 bought, sold or smuggled across other international borders -- all to be exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation," said Smith, chairman of the House human rights subcommittee and author of three bills enacted since 2000 to fight human trafficking.

The hearing focused on global issues, and included horror stories from Africa and Asia told by actress Julia Ormond, goodwill ambassador for the abolition of slavery and human trafficking for the United Nations. She described meeting victims as young as 5 years old, and one 12-year-old girl who was seven months pregnant.

"There are clients who seek HIV assurances who pay large sums so they are assured they are provided with virgins. These girls are then raped repeatedly and then sold off," Ormond said.

But human trafficking is not only happening overseas.

Last month, a federal investigation run out of Newark led to the arrest of more than 60 people for smuggling Mexican women to work as prostitutes in brothels from Union City to Virginia. Last July, federal authorities charged a Cliffside Park woman and nine partners with smuggling 30 women and girls from Honduras to Hudson County, where they were forced to work as virtual slaves in bars in Union City and Guttenberg.

Smith said in an interview there is growing anecdotal evidence that American girls who run away from home are being preyed upon.

"These traffickers spot them at the mall with their eagle eyes, rape them, drug them, beat them and threaten them, and it doesn't take long before they're being carted to Atlantic City for boxing matches and to other venues where large numbers of guys congregate," Smith said. He noted that a bill he drafted that President Bush signed in January includes \$50 million in grants to local law enforcement to combat such crimes.

During Wednesday's hearing, Smith praised the efforts by Chris Christie, the U.S. attorney for New Jersey, to make fighting human trafficking a priority, and questioned a State Department witness about how much pressure other nations are applying.

Earlier this month, the State Department's "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" listed 12 nations as "**Tier 3**," having the worst records on **human trafficking**, including Belize and Venezuela in the Western Hemisphere and Saudi Arabia, the United States' ally in the Middle East. Another 32 nations are on a **Tier 2 "watch list."**

Referring to the Russian victims' testimony, Smith wondered openly how many more women are facing their fate right now as Germany, a Tier 1 country which has legalized prostitution, hosts the World Cup soccer tournament.

"World Cup matches have become a catalyst and magnet for sex trafficking into Germany," Smith said. He noted that over the weekend, Agence France Press reported that police in Latvia arrested a man suspected of selling at least six women to German brothels for 400 euros, or about \$500, each.

"I am aware that the German government is supporting public awareness efforts regarding trafficking," Smith said.

"This is a somewhat absurd effort given that the legalized prostitution infrastructure is gearing up to expand its capacity during the World Cup and there is every reason to believe that the 'new recruits' will be trafficked women and girls. I see this as flagrant state complicity."

A statement issued by the German Embassy said that fighting trafficking has always been a high priority, and police have stepped up efforts to combat it during the World Cup.

Veselykh said she had little faith in police, since they had been working with her pimps. After she escaped into the Netherlands using a fake Lithuanian passport her captors had gotten for her to show German authorities, she spent five months in a Dutch jail for entering the country with forged documents.

"I provided all the information I knew about the traffickers but instead I became a perpetrator and was arrested and put in jail," she said. "The people who involved me in that situation are still free and continue to traffic women under government cover."

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2006

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GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO, GETTY IMAGES - Actress Julia Ormond, goodwill ambassador for the U.N., with Rep. Christopher Smith as she described victims of human trafficking.

PHOTO, ASSOCIATED PRESS - "There are clients who ... pay large sums so they are assured they are provided with virgins," Julia Ormond told a House panel. She said she met a 5-year-old victim and a 12-year-old who was pregnant.

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349 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 15, 2006 Thursday 10:34 AM GMT

Microsoft awards \$1US million in grants to six Asian countries to fight human trafficking

BYLINE: By TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 340 words

DATELINE: MANILA Philippines

Microsoft Corp. has awarded over \$1US million (euro800,000) in grants to organizations in six Asian countries to provide computer skills in a bid to protect people most vulnerable to human trafficking, the software giant said Thursday.

The "Unlimited Potential" grants against human trafficking were distributed in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Lori Forman, Microsoft Asia's community affairs director, said in a telephone interview.

"We believe that technology can help reduce part of Asia's human trafficking tragedy," she said.

The program aims to help human trafficking victims and those vulnerable to offers of money from traffickers who would sell them into forced labor or sexual slavery to gain computer skills needed to get jobs.

Microsoft wants to "reach out both to those who are vulnerable to trafficking in a prevention mode, and also to those who have been victims of trafficking in reintegration efforts," Forman said.

Forman said the NGOs from the six selected countries will spinoff the program, benefiting 130 community technology learning centers that will train about 100,000 people in the region over the next three years, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam.

Cambodia, Indonesia and India are included in the U.S. State Department **watch list** of countries with high or significantly increasing rates of **human trafficking**, and which have failed to combat the problem.

The Philippines and Thailand belong to the tier of countries one notch higher, whose governments do not fully comply with international standards but are exerting significant efforts to meet them. Singapore has a good record but is host to a large community of migrant workers.

Microsoft is contributing a total of \$9US.2 million (euro7.32 million) this year to help Asian countries battle human trafficking, cyber crimes, child exploitation, and improve computer skills for better chances of employment, Forman said.

On the Net:

Microsoft Unlimited Potential Program: <http://www.microsoft.com/citizenship>

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350 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

June 14, 2006 Wednesday

HEARING OF THE AFRICA, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE SUBJECT: MODERN DAY SLAVERY: SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, FORCED LABOR, AND SEX TRAFFICKING AT THE WORLD CUP

CHAired BY: REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ)

WITNESSES: JULIA ORMOND, GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME;

JOHN MILLER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

PANEL II: SHARON COHN, VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION;

MASHA GNEZDILOVA, RUSSIAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM;

IRINA VESELYKH, RUSSIAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM;

CHARLES KERNAGHAN, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE

LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING

LENGTH: 25538 words

REP. CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ): Before we begin the hearing, first of all I want to welcome all of you to this hearing on human trafficking.

As you know, we have Julia Ormond, who is the United Nations Special Ambassador, Goodwill Ambassador for Human Trafficking and Slavery, who has traveled around the world, has been to most recently has been to India. She has also been to Ghana, and to other places, raising this modern-day slavery where men and women are coerced -- or by

force, fraud or coercion, are either sex-trafficked or find themselves in bonded labor or some other condition that is the equivalent of slavery.

She has done a magnificent job and is just really coming out of the blocks in terms of her work. We invited her here to be at our hearing today, with Ambassador John Miller, who heads up the Trafficking In Persons office, because we in the United States have tried in the last six years to make a major push through prevention, prosecution of traffickers and protection of the women, to do all humanly possible, mutually reinforcing policies to protect and to prosecute, like I said, those who engage in this heinous practice.

Very briefly by way of background, my name is Chris Smith. I chair the Africa Global Human Rights International Operations Committee. I am the author of the three Trafficking Victims Protections Act -- the 2000 Act, the 2003 Act and the 2005 Act -- the results of an enormous amount of bipartisanship and really, it is the Congress at its best. We were able to come together and put together a comprehensive strategy. For the '05 Act we will be spending some \$361 million over two years on this effort to rescue women -- mostly women and children from the traffickers.

But I would like to ask Julia Ormond if she would say a word, and then John very briefly, and then we will get to the hearing and maybe answer a question or two.

Ambassador.

MS. JULIA ORMOND: Hi. I would basically like to thank Representative Chris Smith and also the United Nations for giving me this role and this opportunity to speak against trafficking and slavery. I believe this is one of the most heinous problems that we face in the world today. It is a far bigger problem than I realized when I was first asked to do it, and it's something that I have become increasingly passionate about, and I think we're faced with a time where, instead of continuing to be overwhelmed about it, with systemic change we can make great strides against it, and I thank you for the opportunity.

REP. SMITH: John.

MR. JOHN MILLER: Thank you, Julia Ormond, for taking the lead on this issue. And Congressman Smith, you have been there from the beginning. Every year, we discover more and more about this horrendous challenge that affects every country in the world, including the United States of America. But if you look at convictions of traffickers worldwide, and you look at the new shelters being set up for trafficking victims and the countries passing anti-trafficking legislation, just brought out in our current report, there are signs that we're starting to make progress. And what I think everybody is here about is how do we nurture and generate a 21st century abolitionist movement to end modern-day slavery?

REP. SMITH: A question or two? If not, we'll get straight to the hearing. Thank you so much, and please do stay for -- you'll hear some very, very -- I think -- riveting testimony, starting with Ambassador Ormond and with others who will be testifying, including two victims who have made their way from Russia to be with us here today, as well as some internationally-recognized experts on human trafficking. So thank you for being here.

Good morning, everyone. Today's proceeding will begin first as a briefing, and then we'll proceed to an actual hearing. Just protocol dictates that when we have a representative from the United Nations, that it be technically called a briefing. We've done this in the past, it has worked extremely well, and I do want to again thank Ambassador Ormond for being here and for the United Nations for playing this constructive role as they are doing so well on the issue of human trafficking.

Good morning, the subcommittee will hear expert testimony today concerning the scourge of human trafficking -- modern-day slavery. As indeed many people know by now, the United States government estimates that between 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are brought and sold across international borders each year, and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each and every year.

And now we know well that many American girls and young woman, many of whom start out as runaways, are bought, sold, abused and raped through the United States. To combat -- I would just note parenthetically -- to combat the exploitation of American girls, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005 not only requires the Attorney General to conduct prevalent studies of sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts in the U.S. but the new law requires both

the secretary of Health and Human Services and the attorney general to prepare reports on best practices to reduce demand.

For the first time, the new law also authorizes \$20 million for HHS grants programs for U.S. victims, \$10 million for long-term residential treatment facilities, and provides \$50 million for a new grants program for state and local law enforcement. In the past, we have focused primarily on international trafficking. Since the enactment of this law, we're refocusing -- not losing the focus on the international side, but realizing we have our own internal trafficking problem that must be ended.

Today's hearing will focus on the findings of the State Department's sixth Annual Trafficking In Persons Report, with a focus on progress made and on the significant challenges ahead.

The committee is indeed privileged to have as our special guest Julia Ormond, in her capacity as the U.N. Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking. Ms. Ormond has traveled to Ghana, India, Cambodia and Thailand to raise awareness about the horrors of human trafficking.

Ms. Ormond has been a leader on a number of humanitarian issues, including AIDS and refugee issues. She is the founding chair of Film Aid International, and is well known for her film roles in numerous movies, including "Legends of the Fall", "Sabrina", "First Knight" -- which is my favorite -- "Barbara of Siberia", "Iron-Jawed Angels" and many, many others. Ms. Ormond is also the executive producer of a 1996 Emmy-award winning documentary called "A Calling of the Ghosts", a story about two women in Bosnia caught in war, where rape was as much an every-day weapon as bullets and bombs. We are extremely honored and privileged to have her here with us today.

This is also the second of a two-part series of hearings on sex trafficking in connection with the World Cup Soccer Championship.

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, the traffickers who use and abuse human beings as commodities to be bought and sold must be tracked down, their nefarious operations crushed and the individuals who commit their heinous crimes sent to jail for a long, long time.

All profits derived from selling women and children into slavery must be seized and put to good use, like providing some semblance of restitution to the victims, or for the construction of shelters. The TIP report itself, as most of us know by now, is mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 which was signed in October of 2000. In 2003 we sponsored the expansion of that Act, and as I indicated earlier, on January 10th, President Bush signed into law still another bill that expands significantly the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

These pieces of legislation have created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, the trafficking of foreign nationals in the United States, and the domestic trafficking of our own citizens. As a result, the U.S. has become a leader in addressing this human rights violation, whilst simultaneously encouraging other governments to do the same.

Since taking office, the Bush administration has devoted more than \$40 million to combat trafficking in more than 149 countries. The new law authorizes an additional \$361 million, over two years, to expand those efforts. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking.

With 4,700 convictions worldwide this year alone, the heinous crime of trafficking is at long last being punished, but still more needs to be done. In the last two years alone, convictions have topped 7,700, because a significant portion of U.S. foreign assistance is now contingent on whether a nation is making basic minimum standards specifically prescribed by the three TPVAs to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers. Forty-one countries in the last year alone have passed tough new laws to end this modern-day slavery. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

I want to applaud Ambassador John Miller for keeping trafficking in the forefront of our human rights agenda, and for the progress that we are making. I also welcome the emphasis on forced labor in this year's report. Forced labor in which people are enslaved and exploited for purposes of labor often within their own countries is infrequently mentioned, but affects anywhere from 4 (million) to 27 million people worldwide. In places such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Brazil, Jordan, Kuwait and Taiwan, all ranked as either Tier 3 or on the Tier 2 Watch List in this year's report, foreign migrant workers or those in -- these countries own citizens are trapped and held in slave-like working conditions. Not

only must the victims be freed and properly compensated, their employers must be held responsible, and forced labor punished for the heinous crime that it is.

While the TIP report is good, the best yet I would submit, having read from cover to cover each and every one of them, and studied it, I am nevertheless disappointed that the State Department has failed to place India on Tier 3 with other governments which are not making significant anti-trafficking efforts. Millions of men, women and children, predominantly from India's Dalit caste are in debt bondage, and face involuntary servitude in brick kilns, rice mills and zari embroidery factories.

India's placement on **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption, reeks of political considerations with the Department of State overriding the facts about **human trafficking**. The Watch List, I would submit, was created by my legislation to send a clear warning and enable egregious offenders to make specific reforms. It is not a place to hide our friends who fail to make real improvements.

It is also deeply troubling that while some countries not only turn a blind eye to trafficking, others embrace inhumane policies that actually facilitate or encourage the very crime they profess to abhor. Athletes and fans, as we all know, gathering in Germany for one of the premier worldwide sporting events of our day, the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which opened last Friday -- and many of us have already watched a number of those games on ESPN over the weekend -- over the course of one month at 12 venues throughout Germany, national soccer teams will be competing, and as we know, it is a scatter-sited competition. Millions of fans will join in the festivities.

For most soccer fans like myself, this quadrennial event is the showcase of world-class athleticism and teamwork, but looming in its shadow is the very real threat that the World Cup matches have become a catalyst and a magnet for sex-trafficking into Germany. Those that work with victims report that trafficking for the so-called sex industry often heightens during major sports events. In Germany, the problem is exacerbated by the legalization of prostitution.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, in a June 8th interview, observed that in Germany, many women are forced into prostitution. Quote, "This is a fundamental human rights violation," he said. Women have become market commodities which can be bought and they cost less than a ticket for a football match.

For the last year, the German government has prepared for the World Cup, coordinating security efforts with all neighboring countries, and attending to a myriad of details associated with such international events. Traffickers have also worked overtime to exploit this opportunity to improve their illicit revenues through the expected rise in demand in the so-called sex industry.

Sadly, this is not idle speculation. AFP reported over the weekend that police in Latvia arrested a man suspected of selling at least six women to German brothels. Latvian and German police collaborated in a month-long investigation, in which the suspect allegedly paid his friend 100 euros for each woman found. He, in turn, was paid 400 euros per woman by the German brothel.

We will hear testimony today from two women who have traveled from Russia to tell us about their horrific experiences being trafficked in Germany. Ms Masha Gnezdilova and Ms. Irina Veselykh were deceived by offers of non-existent jobs in Germany, their passports seized, being raped, and forced to work as prostitutes controlled by the Russian (media ?).

I will just point out parenthetically as well that during the February meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly -- and I serve as head of delegation -- I raised this issue with our German counterparts and raised it in the plenary session and was met with an enormous amount of derision by some of the members of parliament who thought that we were -- we should not be raising these kinds of issues. I would point out that, of approximately (400 ?) prostitutes in Germany, it is estimated that 75 percent of those who are abused in these houses of prostitution are foreigners, and many of those same women are raped, and they are just cruelly mistreated, and if they could, they would leave.

Add to that the approximately 40,000 -- that's one estimate -- that is expected to have been brought in by force, fraud or coercion, trafficked to part of the houses of prostitutions' offering. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the State Department gave Germany a Tier 1 rating again this year, and frankly, I think that missed the mark as well, and I know that I have raised that with Ambassador Miller on a number of occasions. Maybe he will speak to that during his testimony.

Let me just conclude by saying that one other area that we have -- this committee and I personally have spent a lot of time on -- we've had two hearings of our committee so far on the U.N. complicity -- U.N. peacekeepers' complicity in trafficking and the abuse of young girls, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I want to say that we heard from Jane Holl Lute, who came down from the United Nations, and we know that others within the U.N. system are trying extremely hard to excise this blight. As she said, that the blue helmets when she testified, have become black and blue, and she is determined to rid all forms of trafficking and exploitation from the United States, as are many others within the U.N. system, and that's something -- whether it be military deployments under the NATO, U.S. or any other banner, trafficking in that context needs to be stopped.

I want to applaud President Bush. In 2002, he issued an executive order that calls for zero tolerance within the United States military with regards to trafficking, and the uniform code of military justice recently has been reformed to include even prostitution as an actual offence. And hopefully that will lead to fewer women being treated -- by either U.S. servicemen or by any nation, because we do need to lead by example.

I'd like to now turn to my friend and colleague, Tom Tancredo for any opening comments he might have. Tom?

REP. THOMAS TANDREDO (R-CO): (Off mike.)

REP. SMITH: No? Okay. Thank you.

And again, I've already briefly introduced Ambassador Julia Ormond, but just let me say how delighted this committee is to have her as our witness today, to provide insights from her trips, and the work the United Nations is doing, and she, personally, on behalf of the victims of human trafficking.

Ambassador Ormond, the floor is yours.

MS. ORMOND: (Off mike.) Is that better? Yeah.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee and staff, good morning. On behalf of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, and its Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa, who unfortunately could not join me here today, I thank you very warmly for convening this hearing.

As the U.N.'s Goodwill Ambassador to combat human trafficking and slavery, I recently, as you said, had the opportunity to visit Ghana, India, Cambodia and Thailand. I am deeply grateful to all parties for the opportunity to testify this morning about my insights and observations during those travels. I'm going to give an abbreviated version of the written testimony -- I just wanted to say that.

Honorable members of Congress, we applaud your outstanding efforts to combat modern-day slavery, your passage of the landmark Victims of Trafficking and Violent Protection law and subsequent legislation, and are grateful to the United States government for providing in 2005 alone, over 25 million (dollars) in voluntary contributions for UNODC's work, of which over \$2 million were allocated for our anti-human trafficking efforts.

I have learnt that in the realm of trafficking, the solutions lie in finding culturally-appropriate answers that reflect not only a country's present circumstance, but specifically embrace that culture's history and, often, our intertwined history. On my recent trip to India, I learnt about the different range of debt bondage, and how it keys into trafficking and modern-day slavery. Debt bondage in India exists in different levels, and as opposed to debt, it is illegal. Culturally, however, even in its severest form, the practice often is not regarded as slavery.

Thankfully, India is now enjoying enormous economic expansion, overcoming the aftermath, for instance, of British Colonial Policy which has hugely contributed to India's current challenges and relationship to trafficking and modern-day slavery.

The 2000 U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime contains the Anti-Trafficking Protocol which lays out a holistic strategy referred to as the Three Ps: prevention, protection and prosecution. And to this list, I would like to add my own fourth P: prioritization. Of course, I am on a learning curve as the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador. However, in a short amount of time, one crucial reality has become clear to me: governments and only governments are uniquely situated to reverse the course of trafficking. Thousands of extraordinary NGOs -- non-governmental organizations -- are providing incredibly effective rehabilitation for the victims, and while they can be supportive, they cannot attack the problems at source in the same way the governments can; especially the United States.

We know that trafficking involves millions of people, and produces billions of dollars rivaling the drug trade. We also know that criminals are shifting from the trafficking of weapons and drugs, into the trafficking of people -- especially children -- because it is easy to get away with, and because unless we prioritize, the traffickers will profit.

While we commit to the eradication of global poverty, the lack of economic opportunity and lack of free education worldwide remain key contributory factors. For example, in recent years, Thailand has made great strides to offer and sustain girls' education, which greatly has reduced the number of Thai girls falling victim to trafficking. However, the hill tribes in Thailand remain especially vulnerable, due to an inability to speak Thai which hugely impacts their educational options.

Today we shall hear a testimony from Masha and Irina, two Russian women, who themselves were victims of trafficking. I commend them for their courage and I thank them for being here today. They stand with many women globally who believe that they are departing for better opportunities and promises of decent salaries as household help, waitresses or teachers and, instead, they end up forced into prostitution.

Part of my role is to talk to these victims, when they are willing, about their experiences. In Cambodia and Thailand, I spoke with many such women, children and men, the vast majority of whom had specifically been trafficked into forced prostitution. The conversations are always painful, and I'm still learning. I believe though that it's important to appreciate the level of abuse that virtually always goes hand-in-hand with being trafficked. The reality is that not everyone survives this ordeal. These people are often functionally invisible. They lack either birth records through lack of birth registration, or citizenship, or they lack legal status in a country.

Not surprisingly, invisible people are incredibly disposable. Victims and survivors and NGOs ask that I carry their message to others that may be in a position to effect change.

I've met with many girls and women from many shelters, some girls so young it was just hard to comprehend their fate -- girls as young as five, seven and 12, who'd been victims of rape, then sold into prostitution.

There is a specific phenomena in this era of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Clients seeking HIV-negative assurances will pay large sums to buy very young girls who are promised to be virginal. Over the period of a week, these girls are raped repeatedly by their client. The girls then are returned to the brothel, only to be taken to clinics where they are sewn up and sold again. This cycle can be repeated as many as eight or nine times before the girl enters the life of forced prostitution.

Other girls talked of being chained by their relatives in order to force them to enter marriage or prostitution. Some NGOs in one Asian country reported that it's common for girls to be electrocuted, drugged, beaten -- with or without instruments. One girl lost a finger for supposedly not satisfying a client. It's common to be stripped naked and caged with snakes and insects such as scorpions and millipedes, placed not just in the cage with them, but into their mouths and private parts as punishment. These girls often die from the stings and bites.

I believe it is worth reminding ourselves that this is what is termed as "force and coercion" in the Protocol Against Trafficking in Persons, and it's worth our absorbing that reality for the individuals concerned.

Sexual abuse is often present in many different types of trafficking. One of the last girls I met with in India had been trafficked into domestic service. She is 12. She is the victim of rape by five different men. She is seven-months' pregnant.

Trafficking is not just women and girls; there are many male victims too. In Thailand, I spoke with a boy who'd been trafficked into the fishing industry. He escaped by spending two days floating at sea on a barrel before, luckily, being rescued. In India, I met with boys who were trafficked into the carpet loom industry; one particular boy who had been enslaved for 10 years, since he was five years old. He showed me scars from beatings with implements from when he had tried to escape. He told of having a cut finger placed in boiling water in place of proper medical treatment.

In Ghana, I recently visited Yeji, and worked with a local non-governmental organization called Apple which investigates the child slavery around Lake Volta and the fishing villages. Children -- some as young as four years old -- are made to dive in dangerous and extremely cold water to untangle nets. They are beaten with oars when they surface for breath, and then they are forced to dive again.

One recalled intense memories of his nose bleeding because he was forced to dive deeper and deeper. Another described how he would calm the fish by placing his fingers in their eye sockets and pressing, and how you had to avoid

getting your fingers trapped in the gills of the fish or the fish could overpower you and may drown you. When I asked him how big the fish were, his arms spread wide. I think we need to imagine that life.

Someone said to me that if people aren't finding evidence of trafficking, then they're not looking. It's everywhere, and it affects us all. But this is not yet another global problem that cannot be solved. I don't want anyone to leave believing that there are no solutions. There are fantastic models out there, and they are working.

Business communities and NGOs are stepping up to take responsibility. The Cocoa Protocol put together by Free the Slaves demonstrates the cocoa industry's commitment to bringing slave-free labor practices to the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Microsoft's initiative of worldwide training for police on computer-facilitated crimes against children is another excellent initiative.

Close to 1,000 children have been released from Lake Volta. In Cambodia, an NGO called Hagar provides such a fabulously comprehensive approach, showing that rehabilitated victims can take on skills training and work in profitable businesses -- from design to catering to soy product manufacturing -- to such a successful degree that they now sell some of their products in Neiman Marcus. Hagar also helped an 11-year-old girl stand before a judge and send her trafficker to prison for 17 years.

Nothing is more moving to me than the resilience and spiritual strength shown by victims. Those girls who suffered mercilessly have been helped to re-find their voices and joyfully sing about walking into the light. The terrifyingly young girls whose virginity was repeatedly stripped from them have found the dignity and grace to sing of the flowering that is our passage to womanhood.

We as men and women must do everything in our power to support the shelter's work and make it the safety net for victims, not rely on the victims to deliver the solution of piecemeal prosecution. The media has played a phenomenal role in bringing this issue to the public's attention. So often issues don't get traction because politicians feel that the public hasn't shown that it cares enough, but the media have ensured that the public knows about this issue, and the public definitely cares.

We must appreciate that while modern-day slavery and trafficking is a global issue, it is also in our backyard. We must make trafficking a priority, we must focus on solutions, and we must allocate the resources needed to achieve the vision allowed by the anti-trafficking protocol.

Together, we can all achieve these goals, strategically and financially, and to that end, I look forward to working with you all. Thank you, and I will be glad to answer any questions.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Ambassador, for that very eloquent statement, and for the written submission -- without objection, which will be made a part of the record, which went into even more detail, and I frankly, wish you had taken the time to do it all, because it is filled with riveting cases, individual examples that -- some of which you began to cite orally, so thank you so much for your leadership. I do have a couple of questions.

I know that you visited Cambodia. Cambodia is one of those countries that the **Trafficking in Persons** report has moved off the **Tier 3** egregious violator list to **Tier 2 Watch List** and the point is made in the monologue in the report that during the last year, the Cambodian government stepped up efforts to arrest, prosecute and convict traffickers, that the Cambodian Government made clear progress in its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. It did provide -- and this is a negative -- only limited assistance to victims, and they made modest efforts to promote awareness on the prevention side.

And I was wondering if you might share some additional insights that you had with regards to Cambodia?

It would appear after being tone-deaf in previous years, the Cambodian authorities are finally getting it, and I think your visit probably helped spur them along.

MS. ORMOND: Thank you. I would definitely say that the sense from Cambodia was that they had definitely made progress. There was movement. But from the NGOs, the feeling was that it really needed to step up, that it needed to continue on that path.

My own experience of Cambodia was, I think, a reflection of 40 years of civil war, and a particularly violent form of trafficking.

A particular focus was asked from the NGOs for the children, and to specifically do something about the children and their rape incidences that I talked about. So yes, they have moved forward, but they need to do a great deal more.

REP. SMITH: Okay. Let me just raise another country that has the serious problem as a source country, and that is Russia. And I say this -- we have with us today Dr. Juliette Engel who is the founder of Miramed, and has done an enormous amount of work in rescuing young girls in Russia, and has helped us with our witnesses today, and she herself testified at our hearing just a few months ago. I'll never -- you know, one of the things that your goodwill ambassador position, I think, can do is help wake up member states of the United Nations, that they have a problem.

I mean, our embassies are trying to do it, other parliamentarians with whom I've met with and my colleagues have met with, we raise it every time we have a dialog with them. And I'll never forget in 1999, I was at a parliamentary assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and I offered a resolution on human trafficking, and was met with such utter disbelief by the Russian delegation, the Ukrainians and others. One year later at a parliamentary assembly -- similar venue in terms of debate on issues -- they joined in and were on board, so to speak, having seen in the short of a year.

One of the things that Dr. Engel has done so well is to bring witnesses forward so -- not only to help them obviously get their lives back together and to rescue them, but also to help us and others really know the human face of a trafficked woman.

I remember in '99 my wife Marie and I and members of our staff, meeting with woman, who had been trafficked, for about three hours as they told their stories, and there wasn't a dry eye among any of us, and that became the mobilizing -- you know, it became a priority, or other P for me and for others as we met with those trafficked women. And I'm wondering how you might be able to bring that message to the diplomats in New York? You know, they deal with a lot of issues. You know, Iran is on the docket. There are so many issues.

But this issue is tearing the heart out of women, especially women, each and every day, causing new victims every day. And as we all know after the sale of drugs, the trafficking of women is either second or third in terms of a money-maker for organized crime.

So maybe you might want to speak to that, whether or not at the U.N. itself you're able to reach out to diplomats. And secondly, if you do make a trip to Russia, I would hope that you would visit Miramed and the good work of the Angel Coalition in Moscow and throughout Russia.

MS. ORMOND: I would be happy to explore anything with the U.N. in terms of approaching diplomats. We actually did start with a trip to Russia prior to the ceremony that made me the goodwill ambassador. I believe that every -- in my experience, every member state has its own level of denial or understanding of how their own specific culture makes certain people vulnerable to trafficking.

I have a particular soft spot for Russia because I've worked there many times, and I feel that a great deal can be done in terms of public service announcements and educating people, but I know that on one of the occasions that -- one of the times that I worked there, a survey was being done in the 1990s that asked Russian children what they wanted to be when they grew up, and 60 percent of 14-year-old boys said they wanted to be hard-currency taxi drivers, and 60 percent of 14-year-old girls said they wanted to become hard-currency prostitutes. And I think that it's a real reflection of the economic instability that Russians faced in terms of how people were desperate for an out.

But I think what has happened is that has been -- that has changed over time to people wanting valid work and being duped into being trafficked.

REP. SMITH: Okay. You know, I would hope -- and you are probably already doing this -- that you and your office will avail themselves of the good reporting that is done by our missions -- the U.S. missions abroad -- because part of the data collection that goes into the TIP report, all of which obviously does not end up on the pages of the report itself, might be very useful and that kind of collaboration could expand, because I know that you put out your own report just a few months ago --

MS. ORMOND: Yes.

REP. SMITH: -- which I think was a very, very good effort as well.

Let me just finally ask the question with regards to -- you made the point that "functionally invisible people are disposable." Boy, that is a very powerful phrase. You also point out and make mention that the lack of language skills often prevents victims from escaping their abuse. Would you spend a moment or two speaking about the educational issues; particularly of the girl child, which certainly is one of the ways, we know that micro-credit lending and all of that is helpful as they're a little older. It would seem to me that the earlier we start with education, the better.

MS. ORMOND: In particular with the hill tribes, one of the things that I encountered was that there are some 30 different languages within the hill tribes, so you need more than 30 teachers to go to the hill tribes and teach, and for the Thai government, they have a huge drop-out rate. When they take somebody from the hill tribe and they educate them in Thai, that person has incredible pressure on them to then drop out of teaching and go and take other work, say in Bangkok.

But what I also did discover is that within the shelters, the young girls who have gone through the experience of being rescued and being rehabilitated are very keen to become advocates and to go on to take on the role -- relate very much to the women who are working in the centers. And I believe it would be possible with education of them to take the girls who were the victims of trafficking, educate them in Thai, and have them become teachers and advocates who have a much greater sense of their need to be there, who could teach the hillside for instance, Thai.

What I find from the trips is that if you can look at it from a culturally-appropriate perspective, maybe you can help them not dishonor their culture, but maintain their culture, but still find a solution.

If I may, in India, one of the things that keys into India's problems is the dowry system, and mothers or fathers who fall into debt because they have to produce a dowry for their daughters. And I think rather than trying to change that cultural system, it's for us to find a way to provide a different loan system.

REP. SMITH: You mentioned in your testimony that many victims suffer from the Battered-wife Syndrome. Could you elaborate on that a bit and if you also could speak to your trip to Ghana, which -- I have read about it, but if you could just share that with the subcommittee?

MS. ORMOND: Absolutely. Battered-wife syndrome and the Stockholm syndrome, these are syndromes where somebody who has been a victim, who has been traumatized, are so traumatized that they don't easily acknowledge or sometimes don't recognize the level of trauma that they've been under. They don't -- they have a different relationship to abuse. They don't always behave in a way that we might expect a victim to behave.

I think we can maybe all relate to it in terms of the playground bully. You may have had the experience where you fulfill the playground bully's desires rather than constantly fight them. I think women who have been put in these situations are -- they sometimes take months to actually acknowledge, either to the police or to shelters, that they have even been a trafficking victim, because it disables their ability to recognize it.

I have also talked to victims in California who, for instance, have gone to testify but haven't spoken out in defense of their case, because they're not ready yet as a victim. So what the NGOs are dealing with is giving people -- allowing people to have a safe space within the shelter to get over those things emotionally. For a lot of the children, the first step that they take is to just learn how to play again, and what is regarded as a first sign that somebody is recovering, is for them to smile.

REP. SMITH: Let me just (inquire ?) before yielding to my colleague Tom Tancredo. The \$2 million that you did mention -- what kind of programs does your organization actually engage in, besides the good work that you do?

MS. ORMOND: They are involved in shelters. They are -- there are different offices of the U.N. that cover trafficking. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime is the custodian of the Protocol, but it intersects with many different offices, with Refugees, with UNICEF, to name but a few -- a couple.

They are also working on education. There was one particular program that I was very enthusiastic about that I discovered in Asia, which is somebody who is working on computer-based training developing a program that could be extremely effective in teaching not just police, but border patrol, bank, all sorts of different people, from customs to all these other people who intersect essentially with traffickers, and who could intervene. And that is something that the UNODC is very keen on in terms of the educational aspect.

We -- the UNODC also focuses on public service announcements and doing radio public service announcements to educate people on trafficking, educate the public and take a preventative -- preventative start. Those are just a couple of examples.

REP. SMITH: I do have one additional question. Is there more -- especially given your leadership on Film Aid, is there more that you believe Hollywood might be able to do to bring this issue -- I mean, Lifetimes for example, did an excellent mini-series a few months back, that they have run several times since, that really nailed it when it came to exactly what -- as much as anyone can emphasize and portray in film -- what actually happens during the force, the fraud and the coercion of a trafficked women. It was very well done, and I'm wondering if there are some suggestions you might

have? It seems to me that public service announcements and using that medium is a way, whether it's through radio or television, to get the message out, as well as through print ads, but is there some recommendations you might have?

MS. ORMOND: Definitely. There is a certain clout that I think people in Hollywood have in terms of getting media attention and getting public attention, but I also think that Hollywood can take a role in terms of if we can rally people to speak to people's own culture.

For instance, in India, I would love to try and have people in Hollywood try and approach people in Bollywood and say, can we work together with you to do something similar with Bollywood, or find who are the culturally-appropriate people who can encourage something internal.

I think that helps take the sting out of it being a message coming in from the outside, and I think that's very important in terms of the solutions having a future and being sustainable.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Mr. Tancredo?

REP. TANCREDO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Almost as an aside, I just was thinking as the Chairman was talking about the various trips he has taken and the one on which I was able to accompany him. We were in Russia, and I remember an incredibly stirring discussion about the degree to which local orphanages were being used by the traffickers and by the people who ran the orphanages. I mean, they were simply like marketplaces, and a bus would pull up and a number of children would be sold and got taken on the bus and taken away. And I wonder -- again, almost as an aside -- just to the question that the Chairman was asking about Russia in particular, has that particular aspect of this phenomena ebbed, or is it still a major problem?

MS. ORMOND: It was something that did come up in my trip to Russia, but I think it was more from the perspective of they were struggling with how to regulate adoption from outside, and deal with trafficking, which I think keyed into keeping children in orphanages. It's not something that I know a great deal about, but I would be really happy to go back to the UNODC and have -- and follow up with a better response.

REP. TANCREDO: Yeah. I mean it was particularly diabolical. The situation was so horrible. I mean, these people were -- I mean, it was a marketplace. That's all I can say. And the people that ran the orphanages were selling their charges -- selling these children -- and literally, buses would pull up, children would be put on the buses, taken away, and never to be seen again. It was just incredible.

I really only have one question about your testimony. In terms of the NGOs that you mentioned and the success stories that we were certainly happy to hear about, I wondered if you could tell us, is there a template that you see there? Is there an NGO or are there NGOs using a particular process to deal with this issue that we should highlight?

Should there be in this report, for instance, a listing of the most successful processes, the most successful interventions and the NGOs that are responsible for them so that perhaps we could emulate them and/or at least highlight them?

MS. ORMOND: Definitely. Hagar is one particular NGO that I mentioned that I think has a fantastic program.

There are many other NGOs, in particular in Thailand and -- and in Cambodia that I visited that are doing fantastic work. And pulling everything together -- people who are taking a holistic approach I think are having the most impact in providing sustainability for either victims or their families, or even in Ghana, the NGO that I worked with was doing fabulous work with traffickers.

I think there are cases that I have seen in -- especially in areas of extreme poverty where a certain amount of empathy that is afforded the traffickers and giving them an out, giving the traffickers themselves skills training so that they have an alternative as well. I encountered families who, frankly the moral dilemma they face is kind of a Sophie's Choice. They have four children. They have -- one way out for them is either to traffic one of their children -- to sell one of their children -- or to traffic a child into their family to work for them.

Those are the kind of moral dilemmas that I guess we don't necessarily face ourselves here, but having an enormous amount of patience in terms of dealing with the situation, revisiting villages again and again and again, seems to me something that is also -- makes it more sustainable.

Absolutely, in any report, we need to acknowledge the solutions that are working. I think that's crucial in terms of then expanding -- expanding those solutions and finding out what -- what does it -- what is the solution, what does it distill down to, what does it come down to in terms of the key contributory factors that make it sustainable.

REP. TANCREDO: Yes. Well, I think that would be really an important thing for us to think about, Mr. Chairman, in terms of encouragement and there are -- it is not to suggest that there are not a lot of people in the business, in the NGO business, who are not -- I mean, they are certainly doing it for the right reason, I don't doubt that, and -- but I think many -- it's been my experience also in working with some that they are floundering themselves looking for ways to deal with it and perhaps something that we could compile would give them that ability, and it would also give people who want to contribute some sort of, you know, list, if you will, of the ones that do a better job and I think should be rewarded by it.

MS. ORMOND: Absolutely. The NGOs that I have met with are crying out for more -- more direct communication with government -- with government in particular, and whether that be their own government or governments in other countries.

I think one of the -- globalization is clearly one of -- this is the dark side of globalization and I think we have to look at it in terms of everybody working together, different governments working with NGOs in different countries and working together to bring, maybe, pressure on their own local government, national government.

REP. TANCREDO: And just as a very last point, as we talk about the movement of children, especially orphans, we have to remember even in our own history there were times when things happened that, for reasons of economics and a variety of other things, that -- well that perhaps make us more sensitive to this whole thing, but there was such a thing in the late 1800s as an orphan train that used to go across the United States. It used to start out in New York and move across to the west.

My wife's grandmother was a person on that -- an orphan train that left New York and was actually picked off the train by a farmer in Montana. People would line up. You know, they would stop at various places, these kids would get off. Farmers would come up and say, yes, that one, and that one, and that one, take them away and off the train would go. And my wife's grandmother ended up in Montana in that process. I mean, that was just an interesting background, I guess, for us to think about.

MS. ORMOND: I do think that there was a phenomena that I encountered, particularly in Cambodia, and it was -- this is anecdotal, it's not something that I have concrete evidence of, but there is a belief that there is a certain amount of adoption of HIV/AIDS orphans going on, and then that child is brought up in the belief that it's a sibling or part of the family and then at a certain point when they are sold they realize that maybe they weren't. And the NGOs are sort of discovering, well maybe this actually wasn't that person's child at all. And they go back and talk to the families and find that it was maybe a different circumstance.

REP. TANCREDO: Well, anyway, thank you very much for your work, Mrs. Ormond.

MS. ORMOND: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Ambassador Watson?

REP. DIANE E. WATSON (D-CA): (Off mike.)

REP. SMITH: Okay.

Now, a final question. In 1984 I traveled with Jim Grant, the great leader of UNICEF who is probably the father of a Child Survival Revolution to El Salvador and saw first-hand how important it was that faith-based organizations -- in this case it was the Catholic Church -- how important they were in making it possible to get the immunizations and to just disseminate the message very quickly and to get the immunization out to upwards of 200,000 kids.

It was incredible. Eleanor Neggy (ph) and I, and some other members of our staff, my wife and I, were recently in Uganda and saw the great work that churches were doing on the AIDS issue.

Everywhere I and many of my colleagues go, and I am the special rep. for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on Trafficking. In addition to meeting with NGOs that are not religiously based, because I think they have an important role to play, and government leaders, and the media, I always try to meet with religiously-based organizations and I have been amazed at the network that exists out there that can be utilized to get a prevention message out from the pulpit, or from the mosque, or from the synagogue, and also to provide shelters.

Eleanor and I were recently in Peru and saw these young Peruvian girls in Lima, who we've asked the TIP office to provide some funding for and I hope they will, but there were these young girls who are learning computer skills, sewing skills -- a vast array of skills -- under the auspices of nuns that were running that shelter.

So I was just wondering, as ambassador for trafficking if you look to meet with religious leaders when you do travel so as to bring them further into the prioritization which, I agree, I'm going to start using four Ps now. I think that's an excellent point. We don't make it a priority. So if you could?

MS. ORMOND: For myself, yes, I would be happy to meet with anybody in society and, absolutely, religious leaders in terms of dealing with this issue. I think they can have a great deal of influence. Yes.

REP. SMITH: It's been my experience, and I won't belabor the point, that they have passion, they have concern for the vulnerable and the weakest, but they also have an infrastructure that's second to none and they always have an audience virtually every weekend regardless of the denomination. So it seems to me that that's one way of reaching masses amounts of people.

But I think they need to be made aware that they have a role to play. So I just respectfully submit that that's something that all of us should be doing more of.

MS. ORMOND: Yes. I mean, I think not only in terms of the infrastructure in terms of shelters, but also their reach and outreach to the business community and to civil society could be useful.

REP. SMITH: Yes, sure. Anything else you would like to add?

MS. ORMOND: I would only add that it would be great if the -- if we could work with the United States government, if the U.N. could work with the United States government to put pressure on other countries to sign and ratify the trafficking protocol, which is the first step to their finding and working on internal legislation.

REP. SMITH: Excellent point.

Thank you, Ambassador Ormond, for your testimony, for your leadership, for bringing a message that is so often overlooked and neglected, especially by governments. You are doing an enormous -- an extraordinary job, and I know that all of us on both sides of the aisle deeply appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you going forward.

MS. ORMOND: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Thank you so much.

I would like to now -- this now moves from being a briefing to a hearing, and the hearing will come to order and I would like to invite to the witness table Ambassador John Miller, who is director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and senior adviser to Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice on human trafficking.

From 1985 to '93, Ambassador Miller served in the United States House of Representatives from the State of Washington. Prior to this he was active in State and municipal government serving as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington.

It is a privilege to have you back, Mr. Ambassador. The floor is yours.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is good to be here with you, Congressman Tancredo, and Congresswoman Watson who we've been at many meeting together.

Mr. Chairman, you've asked me to come and testify about this report. Of course, this report is here because you, years ago when people were only dimly aware of the scourge of modern day slavery, you took the lead in sponsoring the anti-trafficking victim protections legislation and you have continued to lead the way. And we thank you for that.

I have a copy of my written statement for the record and if there is no objection then I will try to talk a little more informally.

This is the sixth annual report. It recognizes that the challenge of modern day slavery exists in every country of the world, including the United States of America. We all have what we call a human trafficking problem. The goal of the report -- I think this was the goal that you and Congress intended. The goal is to spotlight modern day slavery, the work

that's being done, the tricks of the slave masters, and to encourage action to throw the traffickers in jail and help the victims.

Now, there are many ways this can be done, and it's not just from evaluating countries. As you know, in our report we have victims' stories, and this report is dedicated -- her picture is on the next to last page -- to a woman from Indonesia, Nour Miyati. Nour Miyati, of course, represents millions who have been held in slavery. She came from Indonesia seeking a better life in the Near East, to work as a domestic to send money back to her family.

I met her at a café in Riad. She had fallen prey to owners who not only worked her 15, 18 hours a day and gave her no pay and no time off, but abused her, beat her. But she was a valuable, quote, commodity, and so when they saw she was sick they took her to the hospital for, quote, repairs, unquote, and at that time it was discovered she had gangrene. In this picture you can see several of her toes and fingers have been amputated.

The case came to light because of that hospital visit, and through a lawyer supplied by the Indonesian Embassy, she has been fighting that case. An initial court case sentenced her, not the perpetrators -- sentenced her -- to 79 lashes. That, I am pleased to report, after a visit to Saudi Arabia, that has been reversed. But Nour Miyati stands for so many other victims in this world.

In addition in this report, as you'll see on page 34, we highlight best practices of countries because we're trying to give positive examples. We give examples from Senegal to Iraq to Romania, and I think, Congressman Tancredo, you hit on this when you said NGOs need to know what's working. This is an initial effort to highlight some efforts. We're going to try to do more on our website which NGOs around the world look at to say, here, this is working here, this is working there.

And then we have a trafficking in persons heroes section. Last year -- Ambassador Ormond has just mentioned Hagar in Cambodia. Last year one of our heroes was the head of Hagar. We have eight or nine heroes this year. Of course there are thousands of heroes but we mention a few.

Now, getting on to the evaluations of countries, we do rank 149 countries that have in the order of 100 victims or more. There are a few countries that still aren't in here. Generally that's because we couldn't get enough information. I believe there's a trafficking problem in every country in the world. There are still a few countries we haven't gotten enough information, and there are some countries that there was not an effective government to be rated.

The sources we use are embassies, NGOs, varying activists, foreign governments, our own visits, the news media. The standards we apply are the standards that you all have set out in the law. Sometimes we're criticized by foreign governments, sometimes we're even criticized by those that look at the report, the standards get criticized. Well, maybe they're too subjective, or whatever. I think they're pretty good standards that you have laid out, and we try to apply those standards, and they're pretty darn detailed.

As I said, the goal is not to punish, it's to bring about action. This year we placed a new emphasis, or more emphasis I should say, on forced labor, along with sex trafficking.

You will see sections on bonded labor. I was personally out in India meeting with victims of bonded labor just a couple of months ago. It's a wide-spread practice in certain parts of the world where generations are held at the same rice mill and brick kiln, as you've mentioned. We do have more emphasis on this. Some countries' governments got lower ratings this year because of inattention to forced labor.

One thing I'd like to highlight, there's a misconception in parts of the world, on the issue of commercial sex, not just under our law but under the U.N. protocol, any child under the age of 18 that's being used for a commercial sex act is considered a victim of trafficking, and this is something we really have to keep in mind.

Now, if you compare this year's report and last year, you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, in your introductory remarks looking around the world that there has been the start of progress. Almost a 50 percent increase in convictions of traffickers world-wide up to 4700. Many more shelters for victims set up. As you said, 41 countries passing anti-trafficking in persons laws and, not surprisingly, reflecting that, there has been a slight increase overall in the ratings. And you'll see that a significant number of the countries that were on Tier 3 last year moved up to Tier 2 Watch List, and a significant number that were on Tier 2 watch list moved up to Tier 2. However, there were also numbers of countries moving down from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3.

I think this Congress very wisely in the revision, I believe it was in 2003, said in effect, we don't want the status quo here. We want to see appreciable progress, increasing efforts, and that's what we've asked for countries.

There are some examples of individual countries doing well. I mean Ecuador that was Tier 3, our first lady jumped into this effort and suddenly there is more investigations underway and a new law. You see United Arab Emirates, it got a lot of criticism last year, and deservedly so, but since being put in Tier 3 have freed almost 7,000 child camel jockeys and working with UNICEF have sheltered them and helped get them back to their original countries. It doesn't mean the problem is solved but it does mean there has been some progress. Jamaica, Greece -- some other examples of countries that have moved down.

However -- there is always a however, right -- you still find questions about the efforts of many major countries. We still have our friend and ally, Saudi Arabia, on Tier 3, and if you look at Tier 2 Watch List, which is -- could be interpreted as a watch list, a warning list, a worry list, there are several countries that you mentioned that have been there before are still there -- Mexico, Russia, India, China -- and some new countries on that list, Tier 2 Watch List, such as Malaysia and Brazil.

So that shows the challenge that we face. Nonetheless -- nonetheless -- in part because of the news media around the world that has increased its coverage; in part because of the attention that the Congress of the United States and our president, whenever he speaks, gives to this issue, I think we are seeing a growing momentum. I think more and more people becoming part of a 21st century abolitionist movement.

I have made enough general comments. Why don't I yield to your specific questions.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Ambassador Miller.

Let me just begin. Immediately, the day before, Chancellor Merkle visited the White House and President Bush, I convened a hearing that focused on the issue of trafficking in Germany as it relates especially to the World Cup which was then several weeks away. At the time we had asked the State Department to provide a witness or two, and regrettably they chose not to.

But I think at least the message was heard at Foggy Bottom that there's a great deal of concern on Capitol Hill about -- and I know you share it, you raised it when the TIP Report was released and I certainly applaud you for that -- with regards to the specter of women from Slavic countries and from Russia, from many countries, being trafficked into Germany for prostitution purposes -- forced prostitution. And our hearing, and all that preceded it, was an appeal to the German government to realize that when you turn women into commodities by legalizing prostitution, women get hurt, they are exploited.

The studies indicate, as you know, Mr. Ambassador, that women who are in prostitution by huge numbers want to get out but feel there is no way out. Seventy-five percent and more would like to leave. Upwards of 80 percent plus are raped, and many of the women who end up in prostitution have some dysfunction that along their life line that led to their finding themselves in that terrible situation -- whether it be an incest or a rape early in their lives, often as a young girl. So there is an acting out that's extremely unhealthy that then is exploited.

So those who, you know, sing the praises of the Happy Hooker, I think, have not looked into the misery that women who have been -- find themselves in prostitution. And the line of demarcation, I would respectfully submit, between prostitution that seemingly is voluntarily and those who are the result of force, fraud and coercion -- trafficking -- is very often very thin and very -- almost obscure in many cases, and you might want to speak to that.

But my question is, knowing that all of this was about to happen, and I know the German government took some remedial efforts to try to prevent it, has the United States, whether it be foreign service officers or others in our mission in Germany, have we beefed up our efforts to chronicle and report on what is happening during the World Cup? Are there any U.S. assets deployed, FBI, or any others, in this regard, knowing that this huge influx is likely to be occurring as we speak?

MR. MILLER: Well, our office has had extensive communication with our embassy in Bonn on this issue. We have -- we are asking for information; we expect to be getting information.

I have personally met with the German ambassador here on this issue to express the concern and, in a way, we were just -- we were seconding a concern that had already been raised throughout Europe. As you know, Mr. Chairman, there was a meeting of the European Parliament in which delegates from 15 or 20 countries raised the concern that with the World Cup and with the expectation that thousands of women might be coming for commercial sex that there would be many trafficking victims.

And so I think the German government has not only heard from us, they've heard from the government of Sweden, they've heard from many other governments on this issue. They have stated -- the government of Germany has stated that they have added additional hotlines, they've increased police training, they've increased the number of police, they have stepped up information activities, etcetera. But what will happen at this point I don't know.

REP. SMITH: Let me ask you, Mr. Ambassador, I noticed in the TIP Report and, again, I think this is the best one, and I commend you and your staff -- it is filled with more information, the reporting seems to be getting better with each succeeding year and this one appears to be the best, at least from my point of view -- but I did note that positive movement. There were 28 countries that moved in the right direction and 23 countries that moved in the negative direction.

Do you know what accounts for that? Are there specific countries that you, you know, might want to speak to that would -- for instance, the Czech Republic; we know that there is a problem associated with the North Koreans -- could you perhaps elaborate on what you think is happening here?

I also want to commend you for having initiated coverage on some new countries, some eight countries that heretofore had not been covered by the TIP Report, and three of them have found their way on the watch list. So certainly they are -- it's necessary that they be covered by this report.

MR. MILLER: First of all, I want to associate myself with the remarks you made as a prelude to your previous question on the link between prostitution and sex trafficking. I do think the evidence is overwhelming.

Now, on your last question, I think this 28 countries up, 23 countries down overall is probably, as near as we can tell, an accurate reflection of the progress in the world. There is movement in the right direction because of the indicators you and I discussed.

But as I said, the law -- the law says make appreciable progress, increasing efforts, and, for example, you mentioned the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic has done some good things.

They have done some good things to combat sex trafficking; they've done some good things on victim protection and prosecution. They dipped from Tier 1 to Tier 2 for a couple of reasons.

First of all, the sentences that they were giving to traffickers, the majority of the sentences were suspended or probationary sentences. And as you know, and you're a lawyer, you ask for punishment that deters.

The second reason, and maybe even more important, we did give more attention to forced labor in this report. This followed on the provision that you and your colleagues put in the last re-authorization. In the Czech Republic, while we found numerous prosecutions for sex trafficking, we did not find that for labor trafficking, and not only our information but international organization reporting showed increased labor trafficking. In addition, there were several factories in the Czech Republic operating with North Korean labor, and while the Czech Republic did investigate -- there were no interviews, private interviews, that we could tell with the workers, it appeared that the money went to an agency of the North Korean government. It appeared that the workers did not have freedom. And while I don't doubt that their conditions are better than in North Korea, in our mind there was a great concern that this was still slavery.

So, for those reasons, despite many good things the Czech Republic did, they dipped from 1 to 2, but we're working with the Czech Republic. We expect the Czech Republic to move in some of these areas and we hope -- we hope -- they will be back in Tier 1 next year.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, one of the things that we -- when we did the '03 Act, we put an emphasis on not only conditions but jail sentences and -- because the belief was that countries could create a ruse of prosecutorial activity when really nothing was really happening other than some indictments. And I'm wondering if you have seen in the reporting that more traffickers are actually going to prison and going to prison with sentences that are commensurate with the crime.

When we originally did the 2000 Act, as you know so well, we put up to life imprisonment for this grave act of trafficking because we believed this is the equivalent of rape and therefore should be treated as such. And the fact of the matter is that prosecutors, U.S. attorneys including my own in New Jersey, Christopher Christie, has been able to secure a number of significant convictions and long prison sentences as a direct result of that. He has made it a priority, again using that fourth P. Hopefully other U.S. attorneys have done so as well.

But in other countries are you finding that people are doing real time?

MR. MILLER: I think speaking broadly sentences are getting tougher and more people are going to jail. I mean we've seen that in the United States in the last four or five years, but the Curretto (ph) brothers up in New York just went to jail for 50 years a-piece. And I think that's true in the world but there are, in general, I would say, sentences around the world -- it's a generalization -- are lighter than here. There are certainly many countries, even in the so-called developed areas -- referring to Europe -- where the sentences, as I mentioned -- too many of the sentences are probationary or conditional.

So I think we have to keep pushing on this. People have to realize that what we're talking here -- this word "trafficking", it's almost antiseptic. It's like a -- it is a euphemism. I mean it stands not only for modern day slavery, it stands for a combination of kidnapping -- it often stands for a combination of kidnapping, beatings, imprisonment, and often rape.

Well, all of those crimes individually in a lot of countries would bring really tough sentences. So we have an education task ahead of us.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, one of the issues we've pressed for years is that internal trafficking and trafficking across national borders is really a distinction without a difference, and it reminds me of the difference between a IDP and a refugee. If they're sitting in a camp, if they're displaced, going across a State line, it doesn't matter much to their plight.

I note that this year's report does include some extensive coverage on, and reporting on, internal trafficking and I'm wondering what role that played in the assignment of the tier rankings and whether or not India might rise to the top now of a Tier 3 country because of their internal trafficking for both sex practices and exploitation, as well as labor.

MR. MILLER: No question that internal trafficking is a major factor in India and as to be considered. As you read our narrative in India where there's a lot of emphasis on that, India has done some positive things in the sex trafficking area. They weren't very good about supplying information on arrests and convictions this year, but anecdotally we know there is some evidence there and they're considering changes in their law that are positive. Of course they have a tremendously vibrant NGO community.

But when you talk about internal trafficking, and you talk about bonded labor, it's almost all internal. I visited with the bonded laborers in South India that had survived and been freed, people that had been working several generations to pay off a debt the grandfather incurred maybe 50 years ago, and I would have to say that while India has a good law on the subject, they can even provide compensation for survivors, it is very hard -- I could not find any evidence of a trafficker or so-called owner being punished for holding victims in these conditions in India.

And I'd say there's a -- to put it charitably, there's a divided view in India on this issue. I found NGOs, even some State governments, the National Human Rights Commission, the ILO -- all of these groups are saying this is a huge problem. It could affect 10 to 40 million people. It's largely tied to the caste system.

The federal government feels it's a very small problem, at least the officials in the Ministry of Labor. We're hoping, working with the government of India, that we will get more attention and more focus on this area during the coming year.

REP. SMITH: Just a couple of final questions, then I have about a dozen I would like to submit for the record and ask you to respond, Charles Kernaghan in his testimony -- and I would just note that the last time that we had him as a witness was when he brought forth some very powerful testimony on what was happening in Central America and the Kathy Lee Gifford situation, and that's the first time I had met him, so we're glad to have him back -- but he makes the point that upwards of 10,000 foreign laborers have been trafficked to garment factories in Jordan's free trade zone.

And I'm wondering, since Jordan is a Tier 2 country, shouldn't that have at least triggered them to becoming a Tier 3, or at least a watch list country?

MR. MILLER: Well, this report that Mr. Kernaghan and the National Labor Council did was a stunning report. When it arrived in our office, I called and we had a meeting.

It arrived after all the ratings had been gone through this whole process. We held up the printing to include a reference to this report. So Jordan's rating, I cannot say, is affected by the report. However, the Jordanian government should be well aware of the impact the report has had.

I have personally talked with the DCM of the Jordanian embassy. I have personally emailed our ambassador in Jordan on this. My office is trying to set up a meeting with Jordan's ambassador here. We take this very seriously, very seriously, because the report -- the reason it was so interesting to me, this report does not just allege poor working conditions. That can be a concern obviously to all. But our office is concerned about slavery. That's the mandate you gave us. And the report in its charges about removal of passports, confinement of workers, keeping them from leaving facilities, beatings, etcetera, illegal recruitment fees -- these are all indicators not just of poor working conditions which they undoubtedly are, these are indicators that add up to meeting the trafficking in persons definition in our law.

So we will be pursuing this issue with the government of Jordan, and I have to say the initial response from the government of Jordan has been an open and positive one. But we'll see. There are some specific cases we're pursuing, and maybe Mr. Kernaghan will get into those cases in his testimony.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Let me just ask on military deployments finally. As you know, the United Nations has under Prince Zaid have come up with a very good list of actionable items that they hopefully will implement. NATO has done likewise. The United States government is doing the same with our armed forces. How would you rate those efforts?

I would just note parenthetically that when we were doing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005, we wanted to create a special office within the Department of Defense with the rank of an assistant secretary to work on this issue and got an enormous amount of push-back, so much so that it's not in the bill, as anyone who would read it would know.

We have gotten a commitment that combatant commanders will have somebody on their staff that deals with the trafficking issue and we're waiting, hopefully, that that will materialize. But what has been your office's -- what would be your sense as to how well they're cooperating on the trafficking issue and on the -- obviously on the prostitution issue?

And also the 2005 passed DOD, U.S. AID, and the DOD, to create an action plan for vulnerable populations. So that when a tsunami hits or in a conflict-stricken area, there will be a protocol as to how we should act, aid workers should act, so that trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable people, sex trade or labor, is mitigated. How has that -- is that planned -- is that part of the law being implemented? Are they working with you on that?

MR. MILLER: Okay. Let me answer in reverse order and start with the question I cannot answer. Always good to admit you can't answer a question. I will get back to you on your last question on the status of that plan.

But your other questions I do want to answer. I think you even started out on the international organizations because in this law -- in the law you just passed -- you asked -- not only was it asked for additional emphasis on forced labor, you asked us for the first time to evaluate international organizations, which we did. It's in the back of the report. I forget the page. And so there is an evaluation of the U.N. peacekeepers, OSCE and NATO.

NATO and the OSCE I will skip over because I think they're doing reasonably well. The U.N. peacekeepers is another situation. I think you're all familiar that over the past year there has been what could be called -- it's called by some a sex for food scandal -- numerous allegations of trafficking and child rape by U.N. peacekeepers -- and the U.N., to its credit, sent an investigator out, Prince Zaid of Jordan, and of course he came back with a report, a very -- I think a very fair, well done report. The punch line was, and I'm paraphrasing here, Mr. Secretary General, the United Nations commendably has a zero tolerance on trafficking policy. Unfortunately there's zero compliance with zero tolerance.

Now, since then, the U.N. -- the wheels are spinning there. Ambassador Bolton has attempted to highlight the issue. He held a hearing on this at the Security Council. I would have to say that while there has been increased attention and an increased number of speeches, I don't know that on the ground the discipline and training is yet taking place. The United Nations is dealing with 103 troop contributing countries and the United Nations has a bureaucracy that, as far as I can tell, makes our bureaucracy look streamlined which is never -- I never thought I'd say that as a member of Congress -- and so, hopefully, there will be some progress. We've got to keep pushing. We really have to keep pushing.

Now, on to the Department of Defense. I think the Department of Defense -- of course we can all go into the past. We can all say, oh, this wasn't done years ago, or, months ago, or the military of all countries in the world including the United States has been related trafficking and may still be related to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

However, from my perspective, as ambassador-at-large on slavery, and chairing a senior policy operating group, I think the U.S. Department of Defense has taken some very significant actions. And I would say that they are probably the leading military in the world -- maybe Sweden is up there with them, but they are, if not the leading, one of the leading militaries in the world when it comes to combating trafficking.

You mentioned the change in the military code of justice. First they had a zero tolerance on trafficking policy. Then they changed -- because we talked with them and we said, how can the soldier tell whether, at a commercial sexual establishment, that the person is a victim or not? So then they changed that. You cannot patronize. Then they instituted training for all troops. This training has gone into effect for most of the troops as far as we can tell. Obviously we want to see that every one of America's military gets training and that.

Then, beyond that, there was a serious story in the Chicago Tribune, as you're familiar with, last fall -- or maybe it was last December, I can't remember -- talking about trafficking from Nepal into Iraq. The story was about Nepalese who were deceived in Nepal, thought they were going to get jobs in five star hotels in Jordan; got sent off to Jordan, then were sent into Iraq. They were killed in Iraq on the way to what was supposed to be their job.

Well, the Defense Department did a thorough investigation and, to their credit, in April the commandant, General Casey, put out a memorandum that sets out some very good guidelines for contractors starting with that they must see that the workers have control of their own passports and holding the American contractors responsible, even though they're subcontractors down the line. In addition, they have a regulation in the works that's very technical but I understand will enable them to really hold contractors more responsible.

So I would say they're taking steps in the right direction. Everybody -- my office, Defense, every government in the world -- can take more steps.

REP. SMITH: Before I yield to Mr. Tancredo, I think your office and Ambassador Ormond's office, do you work together? Is there a collaboration?

And I think her statement that fundamentally invisible people are disposable people is a phrase that we all need to, I think, repeat over and over again. If they're out of sight they can be exploited in a heinous way. But do you work with her office?

MR. MILLER: We have. In fact -- I don't know if she's still here but -- yes, there you are.

In her first weeks in office she was kind enough to come down and pay me a visit, and we discussed the issue and we looked forward to cooperating with her in her efforts. We want to cooperate with everybody, and I'm just delighted that the Ambassador is taking the lead for UNODC on this.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Tancredo.

REP. TANCREDO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the report under "India", I notice that there is nothing mentioned about the Dalits and the effect of that particular phenomena inside India on the caste system -- or, at least, if it was in there, I just missed it -- and how that affects, especially, the trafficking in internal laborers.

Is it something that you think needs to be highlighted? And, I mean, I certainly do. Do you think it's something that we can have any effect on, I suppose? There's been an awful lot done lately, an awful lot said about Dalits and their plight being brought to the attention of the world. I just would have hoped that perhaps it would have found a place in here. And, again, I just read it quickly and I perhaps missed it.

MR. MILLER: Yes. Well, if it's not mentioned -- and I can't remember and it's a long report, so you may be right -- but if it's not mentioned, it certainly should be. My own -- I think, if you talk with Indian observers, Indian NGO's, you will consistently be told that, yes, a majority of the bonded labor victims, the overwhelming majority are of the lowest caste, including Dalits. And so -- they're certainly not of the upper castes -- so there's obviously some link there.

I don't -- I'm not enough of an expert on the caste system in Indian to comment in more detail, but when you have slavery, attitudes are involved.

It may be -- it may be attitudes relating to caste or social standing; it may be attitudes towards foreigners. In a lot of countries that is involved. It may be attitudes towards gender; that's involved in a lot of countries. I mean, there are so many of these factors that come into play. So, we'll look more at that issue in the coming year, Congressman, that you've raised.

REP. TANCREDO: I'd appreciate it. I know that there are laws that have been passed by the Indian government to try and address it, but like many laws of this nature, they are not enforced, and that's why if we talk about it in the report, it may bring pressure on them to do exactly that. That's why I bring it up.

MR. MILLER: I think, if you all get a chance to visit India, to raise this issue -- I think the Indian government -- we get a variety of reactions from governments around the world to our report; some are positive; some are mildly negative; some express disappointment. I think it's fair to say the Indian government did not receive this report with glee. And I think -- I would think we want to be constructive. We want to engage. India is our friend; they're an ally; they're a large democracy; they have a rising middle-class, rising technology, great NGO community -- all these things. And we really do want to work with them on the modern day slavery issue.

REP. TANCREDO: Well, the complexity of the situation is enormous. We had -- at my request and because the chairman was gracious enough to acquiesce -- we had a hearing not too long ago on this specific subject, on the Dalits and their plight, and it is -- you just can't believe -- you just can't imagine how difficult it is to try to address it because there's such a combination of factors; not just cultural, but, of course, religious, historical, economic. And you feel oftentimes quite impotent to try and address any one of those, let alone all the rest of them, to try to make them -- but in a report of this nature it does seem to me that some mention of that situation is necessary.

And the last question I have of you -- and it's probably one we should address to the next panel too, if I'm -- I don't know if I'll be able to be here for that -- you talked about the effort in Germany, of which you were aware, to try and deal with what they knew was going to be a sort of an onslaught of sex trafficking as a result of the World Cup, and the things that you mentioned focused entirely on what I would say was the supply side of the equation, but nothing on the demand side of the equation. And this is, of course, a problem over and over again -- is that we have a tendency to -- you know, because -- for a variety of reasons.

It may be easier to actually identify the prostitute, the trafficker and that, but if we go after -- if some governments will go after the demand side, do something about the people who are purchasing the services, in some way. And in our last hearing, we talked about this, too, and I asked the NGO's if they had any plans. If they were going to go on the streets, for instance; if they were going to take pictures of the guys who were coming in to, you know, purchase the services, and publish them; something like that. Do something to try and reduce the demand side.

MR. MILLER: Well, I absolutely agree with you. The president's task force on trafficking, chaired by the secretary of state, has made demand a top issue. It's not just the supply issue; it is a demand issue. There is a market out there that is driving this, and it is important to keep that in mind. Your recent legislation attempted to address this in the United States by giving the attorney general authority to give grants to encourage prosecutions on the demand side, education on the demand side.

You take a country like Germany. Germany has -- and this has been the basis of their ratings in the report -- Germany has programs on prosecution protection victims, dealing with trafficking victims once they're found or whatever, that meet, to a large extent, the minimum standards. The issue in a country like Germany is, yes, but if you have -- if you are furthering a sex trade that serves as a magnet for trafficking victims from around the world, you run the risk of being in the position of reducing trafficking, on the one hand, and raising trafficking, on the other.

I think the Congress -- in your recent legislation, you attempted to take note of this. You added a criteria for our report, Congressman, that specifically mentions demand. However, as our law department noted -- the State Department Law Department -- that provision does not go into effect till 2008. It was not in effect in this report.

REP. TANCREDO: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Tancredo.

Ambassador Miller, we again will provide or give you a number of questions, for the sake of time, on specific countries, if you could get back to us as soon as possible, that would be great.

MR. MILLER: Absolutely. And I owe you an answer on one question that I couldn't answer. And thank you again for taking the time to hold this hearing. You have some outstanding witnesses coming up from Russia, from all over, and so I look forward to listening to them.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Ambassador, thank you so much.

We now will turn to our next panel, and we will provide, for the record, more extensive resumes, but in the interests of time, I'll introduce our witnesses very briefly. We'll first begin with Ms. Sharon Cohn, who serves as vice president of interventions for the International Justice Mission. Until October of 2001, Ms. Cohn was an associate with Arnold &

Porter in Washington, D.C. Previously, Ms. Cohn served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Richard Williams, Eastern District of Virginia.

We will then hear from Ms. Masha Gnezdilova, who was born into an upper-class Russian household and studied law and worked as an attorney in special -- inspector for five years. Ms. Gnezdilova was the victim of a trafficking in early 1997, when she was coerced into entering Germany with false promises of legitimate employment. There, she was met by pimps and other traffickers who forced her into prostitution. She escaped back to Russia two months later and has since been working with the Angel Coalition.

We then hear from Irina Veselykh, who was educated as a construction engineer and worked as a supervising financial manager charged with final approval of large construction budgets. She later worked as a senior accountant at a hospital. She was victimized by traffickers when she searched for legitimate work abroad. She was met in Germany by pimps and others who attempted to force her into prostitution, and was later brought to the Netherlands. She spent time in Dutch prisons for failing to pay a fine relating to using a fake passport forced upon her by her traffickers, and eventually escaped back to Russia with the help of the Angel Coalition.

And, finally, we'll hear from Mr. Charles Kernaghan, who has served since 1990 as director of the National Labor Committee. Under Mr. Kernaghan's leadership, the National Labor Committee has played a leading role in bringing the issue of sweatshop abuses and child labor before the American people, and placing it on the national agenda. Additionally, under Mr. Kernaghan, the National Labor Committee has held public campaigns on trafficking in persons and other human rights issues. And it's nice to have him back, when he last testified on child labor several years ago before our committee.

If you all could come to the witness table. And, Ms. Cohn, if you could begin.

MS. SHARON B. COHN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Tancredo, members of the committee.

My name is Sharon Cohn and I serve as the vice president for Interventions for International Justice Mission. IJM is an international human rights agency that mobilizes legal professionals to do work with local governments to conduct investigations and to intervene on behalf of victims of abuse. Specifically, IJM has offices in Latin America, Asia and Africa that work with local authorities to rescue victims and bring perpetrators to justice, in cases of rape, trafficking, forced-labor, slavery, illegal detention, torture, police violence and other cases of abuse.

I'd like to confine my remarks today to this issue of forced labor.

But before I do so, I'd just like to take a moment to thank this committee for calling this hearing on trafficking, and I know that there are many other things that compete for this time. But in calling this hearing, you do honor the victims of trafficking, and, in addition, I think you improve the circumstances and environment where less women and children and men will be victimized. This hearing also helps to ensure that -- the ever-increasing excellence of the Trafficking In Persons report.

And it just is true and it just is my experience that there are little girls and women all over the world that owe their rescue from serial rape, in large part, to the vigilance of the Trafficking In Persons report, and to the vigilance of this committee; in particular, Mr. Chairman, to your great work on this issue. Therefore, as I note with great appreciation, this year's increased emphasis on the issue of forced-labor slavery, I have equal confidence that the TIP report will serve as a catalyst for the release of forced-labor slaves and justice for their perpetrators.

There should be no question as to the prevalence of modern-day forced-labor slavery. I think this has been addressed well. Estimates of forced-labor slaves range from four million to 27 million; some estimates are even higher. In any event, the U.S. State Department's Country Reports itself note that over 100 countries have reports of forced labor or compulsory labor. So, given its prevalence, there is this temptation, however, to minimize the harshness of its reality. There's the temptation to assert that slaves are forced to work only because they owe some money to their slave masters, and I'd just like to take a minute to address that.

First, there are virtually no contracts in the world that can require specific performance. It's illegal to require someone to perform in order to pay a debt. Second, the loan itself is almost always a ruse; it's a sham; it's a simple device like the debt that's incurred by trafficking victims into sexual slavery, and it's done just to lure the potential victims into the trap of forced labor. The victims are charged interest and extremely usurious rates and are forced to buy their necessities from their master at inflated prices, which ensure that they can never repay the loan.

And we've been with slaves as they are being rescued and have asked them -- when they have said, we think we owe a loan, we owe a debt to our masters -- have asked them, have you ever met anybody, ever, any of you, that has ever been able to repay the debt that they owe? And they look around to each other and talk among their friends, and no one has ever met anyone who has repaid these debts. They are simply a sham used to confine the slaves to their place.

Third, and most importantly, however, the whole system of forced labor requires force and intimidation to bind the slaves to their master. Without this the slave market simply can't coexist side by side with the global free market. It requires force and intimidation and we see this in virtually every case we've worked on. IJM staff members have met thousands of slaves face to face, but what the slaves all have in common is abuse or threats of abuse and a desperate desire to be free.

I have interviewed female slaves who have described the gruesome ritualistic rape that they have suffered at the hands of the thugs of the master, and I have seen government authorities rescue men who have been severely beaten and held hostage simply because the master was so outraged that other slaves had managed to escape. IJM staff members have assisted in the rescue of a man who has been held slave from 1947 to 1998 without having received a single penny for his labor. And I have heard firsthand a former slave account how he ran away from his master's facility after his wife committed suicide because of the horrible toil -- horrible conditions under which they toiled.

The runaway slave was recaptured by his master two years later, taken back to the facility and beaten ruthlessly, and when he begged for mercy, saying he would find a way to repay the money that he owed, the owner suggested that, in fact, the repayment of the debt was not what he was interested in, but what he was interested in was the manpower.

Our own staff members have been attacked by mobs of hundreds of people organized by local slave owners, as we assisted the police in providing slaves with the option of leaving their place of confinement to freedom. These stories are not unique. They typify the everyday experiences of millions of individuals around the world and the everyday experience of people today in slavery. Slavery today does bear many similarities to slavery in America's past. For example, now, as then, individuals are, essentially, required to work for little or no money and are not free to leave. But one significant difference is that slavery today is illegal. Whereas abolition movements in the past needed to abolish laws that supported, for example, the African slave trade or apartheid, today slavery is simply illegal.

Countries around the world have enacted laws that clearly identify forced-labor slavery as a crime. Countries have also entered into bilateral agreements and ratified international protocols prohibiting slave labor. Therefore, a massive overhaul of legislation as an expression of the public will is not needed. The public has already expressed itself in the form of laws. What is needed instead is for us to simply recognize that millions of slaves exist, to identify the slaves, and to hold the governments accountable to release them and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Today's abolition movement cannot be accused of misguided cultural imperialism. Governments have the laws that provide them with the authority to abolish slavery. Increased attention on slavery will have a grass roots effect. When slave sectors in local market economies are identified and called to account, local free market businesses will also join the call for local government enforcement of the law, because a free market economic and a slave market economy cannot forever coexist side by side, sharing the same market.

Cynics will tell you that we cannot end slavery, that it is simply inevitable. And pessimists will read the TIP report and be overwhelmed by the amount of injustice in the world. Of this, however, I am confident, neither the cynics nor the pessimists will have the last word. Slavery will end; trafficking will end; child prostitution will end. We are just beginning the modern-day abolition effort.

One final note I would make. The TIP report actually -- accurately describes, in our view, many problems throughout the world, but it also rightly highlights some successes. We'd like to note just one as illustrative of what can be done. On December 26, 2004, a massive tsunami wiped out the southern and eastern coastline of Sri Lanka. Tens of thousands of people were killed. Additionally, tens of thousands of people were displaced, including orphaned children. Despite the massive devastation to Sri Lanka, the TIP report states that, quote, "Officials remained vigilant toward the potential of increased child trafficking in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami and there was no significant increase in reports of trafficking following the tsunami."

This was our experience in Sri Lanka as well. IJM spent weeks in Sri Lanka in early 2005, examining government and community post-tsunami emergency child-protection efforts. In the face of the devastation experienced by the people of Sri Lanka, we found that the government's child-protection response was both credible and effective. And if a country in the midst of perhaps its worst natural disaster in modern history can take effective action to prevent trafficking,

what could be achieved if we treat trafficking in persons, including forced labor, as the global man-made disaster that it is?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Cohn, thank you very, very much for your testimony.

Ms. Gnezdilova.

MS. MASHA GNEZDILOVA (VIA INTERPRETER): First of all, I'd like to thank Congressman Christopher Smith personally and the House International Relations Committee for inviting me at this important event, and an opportunity to tell the world the truth about the real situation in Germany with trafficking.

My name is Masha and I'm 33 years old. So, by education, I am a lawyer in the sphere of social services. I worked as an inspector in a social -- the social protection department and also as an inspector -- HR inspector in a medical college. In 1996, I visit my relatives in St. Petersburg. On the way back, standing in the line to get my tickets back, I met a middle-aged woman who looked -- seemed very nice. So, in our conversation she mentioned between the lines that she had friends in Germany who were looking for a young Russian woman who can help them around the house. She also mentioned that it would be good opportunity for me to see the country and learn the language.

So, by that time, I have never been overseas and this offer looked for me very interesting. So the lady took my documents and said that it would be really easy to arrange everything. And at the beginning of 1997, I left for Germany by bus. In Hamburg, I was met by a young Russian woman under name Janna. This woman helped me -- at the railway station took me home and took my passport with an excuse that she has to show to the people where I'm supposed to work. Next day she met another three young Russian ladies whom she took home as well, and took their passports as well.

Next day she informed me that the job that I looked for is not there, but she promised that I can stay and then she can help me to find another job. Janna took us to a club under the name Six-Forty, where prostitutes worked. She told us that we shouldn't resist and that we have to work as prostitutes and actually there is no -- any sense to resist or to complain because it will be even worse for us or even be very dangerous. She threaten us that there is no need as well to run away, because she explained that they have good people or their people in the police that will immediately return runaways and then they will be severely beaten up.

I decided in this situation that it will be dangerous actually to resist and I pretended that I agree with that and even simulated complete compliance, and pretended frustration when I was not chosen by clients. Janna believed me and started to look for an appropriate bar for me. That's how I worked in several German bars. One day, together with another three girls, I was taken by Janna to a bar under the name Savoy, which was on the highway between Hamburg and Hanover. I didn't remember the name of this bar, but this bar was -- the city, but it was close to Bielefeld and the bar's name was Savoy.

By that time, the bar was closed and in two days we found out that it was closed because previously several Russian girls had been killed there. So then the bar was opened and we started to work there as hostesses and prostitutes. We were not allowed to go out because we didn't have any documents. Fortunately, soon the police came to the bar with a raid and they took us to a police station next to Bielefeld. We were questioned by a Russian lawyer who sympathized with us, and we were released next day. So we didn't know where to go because we didn't know the language, we didn't know about any progress or about any organizations that could help us, and plus we didn't have any money.

So we returned to the bar to take our things or try to find some help, but by the time when we were there, Janna was informed and she showed up there. The same night, she returned to the bar to take me to another place and sell me to another pimp for \$1,000. I was forced to work as a prostitute in another German bar, and in a week there was another police raid and I was arrested again. So when I was released, I didn't know where to go and some people, other people, helped me to do that because I didn't know where to go. So when I went to the police station to get my papers -- by the time I reached this police station they didn't have my documents and there was no translator to explain the situation.

So usually in this situation, when women have no passport and the situation is not clear with them, so they are re-sold again. So most clubs that deal with trafficking in women and exploiting women in prostitution illegally -- the same people deal with drugs as well. So most of them, they also deal with fake documents, and as I know some of the girls that were with me in this situation, we were, this way, then trafficked to Netherlands with the fake documents. So I

couldn't stand this situation any more and this condition any more and I stopped eating and threatened my so-called owner that I would actually jump out of the fourth floor.

He believed me and probably sympathized -- me and soon he bought a ticket for me for airplane. This way I returned home. Two years passed but I still was in depression and I didn't know I will live further.

This way I returned home. Two years passed but I still was in depression and I didn't know how I will live further. By chance, I found in a newspaper an article about a center in St. Petersburg that provided assistance for women like me. I called them and then they invited me to their place. So this way I met the Angel Coalition and its members. I received from them psychological, moral and financial assistance. I went back to my town and set up my own independent NGO.

So it seems like we, Russian women, are placed in an impossible economic condition and are not needed by our own country. In other countries we're just spit on as prostitutes when we're really victims. I see that 10 years passed -- what happened to me -- but the situation is still the same. Is the German government really not aware of what is happening in their country? It looks like everybody knows everything and everybody feels okay with what's going on. We think that the government profited from our suffering, exploiting us in prostitution.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Gnezdilova, thank you very much for your testimony. And I truly believe, and I hope it is conveyed back to Germany, that your testimony is not just a challenge and it's not just an appeal; it's really an indictment of the policy of the German government, and the fact that all of this happened when, perhaps, the police were actually raiding brothels. Since it has been legalized just a couple of years ago in Germany, I'm sure those numbers have diminished rather significantly.

So, thank you. And when you mentioned that you replaced murdered girls, that must have been harrowing in and of itself; wondering what your fate might be as well, as a replacement for those murdered girls. So thank you for your bravery, and for forming your own NGO and for enlightening us and helping us better understand the tragedy of human trafficking.

I'd like to now ask Ms. Veselykh -- if you would provide your testimony.

MS. IRINA VESELYKH (VIA INTERPRETER): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I want to also say that I'd like to thank Congressman Christopher Smith personally and the House International Relations Committee for inviting me at this important event, and given opportunity to tell the truth about the situation with trafficking in Germany.

My name is Irina Veselykh and in 1983 I graduated from Amur construction college, and then since 1984 till 1991, I worked as an engineer at the local construction company. In 1986, I got married and I have two daughters from this marriage. At perestroika time I decided to get another education and this education was in bookkeeping. Of course, by that time this profession was in demand, and with this profession I work as a bookkeeper in a clinic.

So, it happened, so, that my husband became an alcoholic and he got many debts and, of course, most of the debts were the debts of our whole family, so I had to change my profession again. I had one year course in massage and cosmetology, and then I moved to Volgodonsk. So it was hard with my specialty and my salary of \$100, to raise my children, and my husband didn't help me with all those debts. Once, in a newspaper, Chance, I found an ad about employment overseas. This ad looked very promising and I thought that if I worked for six months or a year, it would be enough to earn enough money to cover the debts that my family had.

Plus, they said that they would give me advance of 500 euros, and they said that they would arrange everything with visa. They promised that my work will be as a waiter and my final salary will be 800 or 900 euros. So this company had an office in Volgodonsk in Volgograd, and they said that they will arrange for me a contract and arrange all the -- the appropriate documents for me. I went to Germany by bus via Poland, and finally I arrived at Bremen where I was met by a Russian couple who immediately told me, in a rough form, that I shouldn't expect any work as a waitress and I will work as a prostitute.

And they explained that there is no sense to resist or to complain again. And plus to that, when I tried to resist or contradict, they said that I have 1000 euros' debt on me. I refused to work and then they severely beat me up.

So when I tried to say that I would go to police, or threaten them that I would go to police, they said that it won't help because the police is bought and most teams work under the cover of police officers. And plus I didn't have any documents, and they said that if you don't -- documents, they will arrest you and put you in jail. Plus, they showed me the pictures of murdered girls who tried to approach police.

So I had to succumb, and then this married couple appointed for me work as a prostitute and immediately left for Canary Islands. Then, later, they resold me to another team under the name Viktor, who worked in Bremen. So Viktor had a business in Bremen that sold girls to different European countries including Belgium and Netherlands.

So they sold Russian girls for 15,000 dollars -- euros each. Plus to that, they hold -- run a network of brothels around Germany, and I was sent to one of those brothels. So the brothel that I got to was owned by Toni, a woman, Toni. So, Toni's brothel was run legally, so they had a legal status, though the women who worked in this brothel had fake documents on them as their real documents were taken away by pimps.

Viktor and his wife were from Lithuania, so they made for me Lithuanian fake passport that actually increased the sum of my debt for 2000 euros. I didn't get this passport into my hands because they keep it so I couldn't run away. So the pimps in this brothel threaten us that we shouldn't try even to run away, and they kept our documents. Plus, that they said that they know our family members and if we try something, they can easily find them and then it will be dangerous for our family members. Plus that we have big debts and we couldn't cover that.

By the time they realized debts they decided to resell us, so that's how we ended up in another club, under the name Diplomat, that was next to Holland, on the border with Germany. So there were -- in that club I had to serve so many clients. Beside of me there were another three Russian ladies who actually worked there as well with fake passports and were forced to serve many clients. At that time, I took a decision to run away and with an assistance from another Russian young woman under the name Tatiana, who helped me to get my fake documents back, I run away.

And I said that soon I will help her as well, because she refused to run away with me, being so threatened. So with the help of Tatiana, who actually stole these fake documents from the owners, I could run away. She said that she cannot run away with me because she had a son back in Russia and she was afraid that something would happen to her son because the pimp had threatened her. So then, later, I found out from one of the clients, Russian clients, that this young girl was murdered because of helping me with my documents.

So in that run away I was helped by other girls from the club as well, who helped to call a taxi and arrange with the man, under the name Ben, from Dutch city Von Shoten, who was an owner of a club, Antenna, and was well known for helping women like me in this situation. So in Antenna club I didn't work as a prostitute, and I found a -- in a way, a shelter there, but Russian mafia found me there and then informed me that they would kill me next day. At that night, again with the help from Ben, who, together with his friends, took me in a car to a different place, I could escape and run away from this again.

So at Ben's friends' place I lived in a garage, and they fed me there and also provided me some money. Later, I ran away to another club and they suggested if I want, I can earn some money if I work as a waitress serving beverages. Many Dutch people were very kind to me, but Russian mafia was onto me and the only good decision in this situation was for me to go to police.

But it was dangerous because, again, mafia was onto me. So I applied to police -- Dutch police -- and they helped my 21-year-old daughter to come -- who knew English -- to come to Netherlands to help me with my case.

As my daughter arrived, we immediately went to an appropriate police office, but as we reached this office and explained what happened to me, they immediately arrested me with a charge for the fake documents -- for five days. Since that time, the long process of investigation and interrogation started, with misunderstanding on the side of Dutch police and authorities.

So they called me guilty for using a fake Lithuanian passport crossing the borders and that actually was produced not by me but by perpetrators. I provided all information I knew about the traffickers with the hope that it would help. But instead of that, I became a perpetrator and was arrested and put into jail.

So they didn't provide me with any attorney or advocate to help me in this situation that could help me to explain what happened. And they didn't even inform me that I was charged for using a fake passport -- but, indeed -- that actually in the reality I didn't use.

So nobody listened to me. And with all the information I provided them with the hope for justice, it happened just the opposite -- that instead of getting a good assistance and with expectation that these perpetrators will be punished, different happened, so I was completely unprotected and treated badly.

As the crime happened in Germany, they had to contact and pass the case to the German police, and it took more time, because then I was sent to another police station in -- I was sent to another place and they interrogated me again and started to collect all the data I had again. Everything I told was confirmed and, in two weeks, I could meet my daughter.

With the help from my daughter and some good Dutch people, I could obtain a special benefit -- social benefit -- from the local government that could hardly let me cope with payments for my lodgings, and I didn't have enough money to buy even food. After that, my daughter left for Russia and -- but I stayed there to participate in the further investigations, where I was supposed to give further testimony.

Waiting for continuation of proceedings of this investigation lasted for two years. For that period, I didn't hear any developments or any news on this investigation from the local authorities. I couldn't stand it any more. And I, again, applied to the local authorities with a request to return me back to Russia because I couldn't stand it any more. And I also explained that, if they need further testimony, I can return and give this testimony.

I was not in a good health by that time and my children lived in Russia. And in this situation I even tried to commit suicide.

Instead of sending me back to Russia, the Dutch police recalled the previous case with big documents and charged me for -- with this again, and I spent another three months in a jail for an old crime -- so-called crime -- that I didn't commit. So the actions on behalf of national and migration police contradict each other.

The months that I spent in jail, I didn't have any advocate or an interpreter. For me, there were no opportunities to contact my relatives and my children. I tried not to eat. I tried to protest that, trying to find some justice. But instead of that, I was placed to another cell, in a very, very, bad condition, with the only mattress on the floor.

Later, with the help from another young lady from Russia who was in the same jail, I could manage to get an advocate who, for the first time, let me to contact my relatives back in Russia. The only help at that time that I could get -- it was from the Dutch -- from the counselor in Netherlands, who gave me a helpline of the Angel Coalition and helped me to contact the police officers in Dutch embassy in Moscow and Russian consulate in Hague.

A police officer contacted the police in Netherlands while the Angel Coalition members tried to be in constant contact with my relatives, constantly updating them about the situation with me. So after three months of imprisonment, with 30 euros in my pocket, I was just thrown out on the street. Police had to take me to the consulate, but they preferred just to leave me on the street. In order to reach the -- only the local people, the Dutch people, helped me to reach this embassy.

From the consulate, I was placed for a short period of time in a shelter while the local authorities tried to solve the situation with my documents.

Back to Russia in the airport, I was met by the members of the Angel Coalition who helped me to buy a ticket back home, paid for my hotel for one night and provided me with medication. That was the only human treatment that I got after all these months of suffering.

The Angel Coalition is still helping me and very soon -- still helping me. I didn't commit any crime in any of those countries where I've been -- why I was placed into jail -- people that tortured me still are free. And they continue to exploit other young women under the cover of their local police and with their policy of legalized prostitution. My rights were violated. Who will be responsible for that?

In these countries the rights of immigrants are constantly violated -- those ones who got in a difficult situation. But their government, as it looks to me, even don't try to deal with that or be responsible for that, because it looks like they are quite satisfied what's happening in their country.

That's all.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Veselykh, thank you so very much for your testimony and, again, for making the long trip to be here. It does, again, help this committee and helps the Congress by extension, and the executive branch with Ambassador Miller here, and Ambassador Ormond who has remained as well, to hear again and to get motivated to combat this outrage that you have suffered. So thank you so much.

We will have to take a very brief break. There are seven votes on the floor. They are 2-minute votes, so they're very quick.

And then I will come back, reconvene the hearing, and then we'll hear from Mr. Kernaghan and proceed with any questions.

But again -- and I thank you in advance for your patience -- and I apologize for it.

(Recess.)

The committee will resume its sitting. And I again want to apologize to our witnesses for that lengthy delay. There were eight votes -- I think it was eight -- on the floor and they took longer than they were advertised. So I do apologize for that.

Mr. Kernaghan, you are next. Please proceed.

MR. CHARLES KERNAGHAN: (Off mike.)

REP. SMITH: Could you just turn on the mike or bring it closer.

MR. KERNAGHAN: There it goes.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

MR. KERNAGHAN: I wish everyone in the United States could have heard their stories this morning. It was incredibly powerful. And I think the American people are quite decent and would be sickened by what they heard.

I want to discuss human trafficking and involuntary servitude under the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. Today, there is an estimated 300,000 foreign guest workers employed in Jordan as domestic help, in agriculture, construction, and also in Jordan's garment factories, which export \$1.2 billion a year of apparel duty free to the United States. Many of these guest workers are victims of human trafficking and are being held today under conditions of involuntary servitude.

Our research focuses on the conditions faced by the guest workers in Jordan's factories -- their garment factories. There are 36,500 foreign guest workers in Jordan's garment factories from Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, and India. They're employed in 114 export factories, more than 90 percent of which are foreign owned.

And how the system operates, in Bangladesh for example -- the Bangladesh guest workers -- the prospective workers -- will see ads in the newspapers in Bangladesh, advertising terrific jobs in Jordan. If you go to Jordan, you're going to make \$134 a month as a base wage. You're going to get \$250 a month with overtime. They tell you you're going to have Fridays off -- the Muslim holiday. You're going to have all national holidays off in Jordan. They tell you that you're going to have free healthcare; you're going to have free food; free housing. And they tell you that you're going to live -- the services are very good, they say. You're going to live like they do in the West.

And so the workers in Bangladesh, where wages are about 21 cents an hour in the garment industry -- they think to themselves, we're going to make a killing in Jordan. We're going to help our families.

But the catch is, you have to pay for these contracts. To get a 3-year contract to work in Jordan, you have to pay about 180,000 taka, which is \$2,657. Well, that's an enormous amount of money in Bangladesh. And these are poor workers. So they go out into the informal market and they borrow that money at exorbitant interest rates -- at least five (percent) to 10 percent a month, meaning that loan more than doubles every single year.

They take these loans and they head to Jordan. But there's another catch in the contract. You can only work for one factory. You can't leave that factory and work any place else. You're tied to that one factory.

So the workers get on a plane, like 100 Bangladesh workers did to go to the Al Shahaed factory in Irbid, which is a city -- a large city in Jordan. They went to the Al Shahaed factory. When they arrived at the airport, their passports were immediately confiscated by management. Management wouldn't give them their residency permits, which are necessary documents. You can't go out onto the street without your residence permits. If the police stop you, you will be detained and deported.

So these workers were virtually held as prisoners inside this factory, unable to leave. They found themselves working 15 hours a day, 30 hours a day, 48 hours a day -- 72 hours straight. They would go two and three days in a row without sleep. They worked seven days a week. Instead of getting the \$250 they were promised, they got two cents an hour. They got \$2.31 for a 98-hour work week.

When workers asked for their wages, they were imprisoned. Workers would spend three days in prison, without food, for asking for their wages. If workers complained about food in the factory -- food that was supplied by the company -- the workers were beaten with sticks, beaten with belts.

Twenty-eight workers shared each tiny room -- 12 foot by 12 foot. They had access to water just once every three days.

And in desperation, when the workers finally asked to be paid at least part of their wages, they were forcibly deported back to Bangladesh. Many of those workers today are back in Bangladesh hiding in Dhaka City, driving bicycle rickshaws because they can't return home to their villages because they can't pay off their loans, and there's no way they'll ever be able to pay off those loans now that they're back in Bangladesh.

They were trafficked out of Bangladesh. They were sent to Jordan under false pretenses. They were abused and exploited. And now they are back in Bangladesh. And they and their families are going to sink deeper and deeper into misery.

The same thing happened with workers who responded to an ad in Bangladesh to go to work in the Western factory, also in Irbid. Both these factories make clothing for Wal-Mart. The minutes they arrived in Jordan, their passports were also confiscated by management. They didn't receive their residency permits either. They were virtual prisoners. They had to work 16 to 20 hours a day, seven days a week.

They worked 109 hours a week and yet, routinely, they were not paid for months on end. So for example, in the beginning of 2006 -- for the first four months of 2006 -- the Western workers did not receive one cent in wages, despite working 109 hours a week making clothing for export to the United States, which enters the United States duty free. When these workers asked for their wages, they were beaten and threatened with possible deportation.

We went on a delegation with the steelworkers to Jordan in May -- mid-May -- and we were given numerous guarantees by the government of Jordan that there'd be no retaliation against any workers who met with our delegation. Well, sad to say that two workers from a factory called Saidan that met with our delegation -- they were beaten and forcibly deported at gunpoint and sent back to Bangladesh without their back wages and without even their meager belongings, for the simple crime of meeting with the U.S. delegation.

Right now in the Saidan factory, which is making clothing for L.L. Bean, the workers are working 56 hours a week of overtime with not one cent of overtime pay. The owner has recently told the workers that, if they complain about their wages, they too will be sent back to Bangladesh with nothing, just as the two workers were who had met with our delegation.

Just last Sunday, in a factory called Al Nahat, 25 workers had the courage to try to do the right thing and they went to the local labor court to try to get help that they would receive some of their back wages.

When the owner of the factory found out that the workers had gone to the labor court, he brought them together, he took out a pistol, and he held it to the heads of many of the workers, and he told them, if you dare go back to the labor court to complain about your wages, we will shoot you or you'll be forcibly deported.

In Al Nahat they're working right now from 7:30 in the morning until 11:00 at night -- minimum 15 1/2-hour shifts, seven days a week. They get no days off whatsoever. They're being cheated of more than 60 percent of the wages that are legally owed them. They're in a situation of great desperation. Both in the Saidan factory and at Al Nahat, the workers are fearing for their lives. The situation is rapidly deteriorating.

I could go on with many of these horror stories about these guest factory workers in Jordan who are being trafficked and who are being held under conditions of involuntary servitude, who are being exploited, who are being abused.

In the Western factory, there was very credible evidence that several of the young women from Bangladesh were sexually assaulted. One 16-year-old girl was raped. There's credible evidence about a young girl hanging herself in a bathroom in the Al (Safi ?) factory after she was raped by management. I think the clear picture of what's happened in those factories is only beginning to emerge now.

But I also want to say there is some good news. The government of Jordan has responded seriously and quickly. If the government of Jordan fulfills what it says it intends to do, then Jordan will be on the road to ending human trafficking and ending involuntary servitude and restoring the rule of law in its factories.

Along with this, the United Steelworkers and the National Labor Committee has asked Jordan to demand that the factories immediately return the workers' passports. We also are asking the government of Jordan to give the workers the

right of portability. To be tied to one single factory is a form of modern slavery. The Supreme Court in Israel just announced that, with their own guest worker program. They are ending -- they also returned the passports -- but they are also ending tying workers to specific factories or job locations. Workers have to have the freedom to move from factory to factory or job site to job site. That's the only way to punish bad factories and reward good factories.

The workers in Jordan also need help, especially in the subcontract factories. There are 55 subcontract factories in Jordan which are operating below the radar screen. They're not being monitored by the major U.S. companies. Most of the violations are taking place in those smaller subcontract factories -- or the most egregious violations. We're asking the government of Jordan to give special attention to these 55 subcontract factories and to put permanent monitors in those factories to secure the workers -- the safety of the workers.

And in those factories where there are the worst violations, they need to shut those factories down. They need to prosecute those factory owners. And they need to safely relocate those workers into better factories so they don't suffer any further.

And in Jordan the guest workers have no right to organize, which is a violation of the core ILO's labor standards. So we've asked the government of Jordan to amend the by-laws of the local unions so that the local unions can accept as members these guest workers. These guest workers must have freedom of association, the right to organize and the right to bargain collectively.

So having said that, I really feel that the Jordanian government is taking this seriously. We know, right now on the ground in Jordan -- we're monitoring it every day. We know that factories are shutting down now earlier. Most factories are closing down at about 9:00, after a 13 1/2-hour shift -- but that's much better than working to 11:00 or 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning or much later. Most factories are coming into compliance with the minimum wage law of 641/2-cents- an-hour -- not everyone, but most factories are moving in that direction. Workers are now getting one day off a week -- most factories -- on Friday, the Muslim holiday.

However, overtime pay all across Jordan is being violated, even in the big factories producing under direct contract to the U.S. companies. There are still serious problems in Jordan. Only two or three factories that we know of have the workers actually received their passports back.

So despite the good intentions, workers still have not received their passports back; overtime wages are violated in the majority of factories across Jordan; there are workers in these 55 subcontract factories which are living under an atmosphere of terror, fear, threats of beating, shootings and being forcibly deported.

So I think it's very important that we keep pressure on the Jordanian government to act on its good intention and, again, if they do so, Jordan will then become a model of fair labor standards and respect for human, women's and workers' rights across the Middle East and beyond. Jordan is really at a crossroads, and they could come out as a model or, if these intentions are not implemented, Jordan will be a sweatshop with some of the worst conditions we've ever seen. They rival China, actually. It's completely out of control, and we're now very hopeful that the Jordanian government will implement concrete steps to bring these factories into line with Jordanian law and with U.S. commitments under the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

So thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: And thank you very much for your testimony and for your work all these years on behalf of workers' rights.

Let me just ask you -- apart from being designated Tier 3 -- and I would note for the record that the TIP office at any time can designate any country any level -- one, two, Watch List, or Tier 3. It's now subjected to just the annual review.

Ambassador Miller and his shop were so convinced by the data and persuaded others within the State Department, Jordan could be designated Tier 3 and could be done so tomorrow based on evidence that was presented to him.

The idea behind that flexibility is so that we don't get at least the appearance of cooperation with the U.S. government and with NGOs on trafficking as the review period comes to an end, only to revert and fall back to bad habits. So that flexibility -- and it's something that I'll raise with the ambassador as well, especially vis- a-vis Jordan.

Let me just ask you -- but apart from Tier 3, does the United States have any mechanisms under U.S. law, especially the Free Trade Agreement, that it could -- that could be triggered by this, you know, exploitation of labors in Jordan?

MR. KERNAGHAN: Under the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, which was considered a model at the time, because it does actually include worker rights provisions -- worker rights language -- at the core of the agreement, not on a sidebar -- much stronger than NAFTA -- the North American Free Trade Agreement. The problem was is there was a loophole put in the Free Trade Agreement that allowed Jordan to use its resources in any way they thought reasonable. So if the minister of labor said it didn't have the resources to implement Jordanian law, they didn't have to.

And what happened is -- and I think they pretty much acknowledge this -- the ministry of labor in Jordan actually turned into an agency which handed out work permits to foreign workers. There were no inspections of these factories that were very credible. Jordan only has 88 labor inspectors for 95,000 workplaces. And many of these inspectors are untrained and underpaid.

So there was good language in the Agreement -- but the loophole, you could drive a Mack truck through it. And so essentially they didn't do anything wrong. They just didn't put the resources or the time into enforcing these standards, which is one of the reasons why it got completely out of control.

REP. SMITH: You know, earlier, Ms. Cohn mentioned that slavery is illegal. And I would just say, so it torture. And in both cases in the Peoples Republic of China, both are widespread and pervasive. What is your view -- and Ms. Cohn what is your view -- as to whether or not China ought to be on Tier 3?

It does have a sex trafficking problem, but it has an enormous labor trafficking problem.

There's no collective bargaining; they have arrearage payments that are not made to their own workers; 10 (million) to 20 million child laborers, according to best estimates; 6 million, approximately, people are being exploited in the Lao Gai system.

And as I said as we were coming in the door, back in the early '90s, Congressman Frank Wolf and I visited one of those Lao Gai -- Beijing Prison number one -- and saw Tiananmen Square activists doing slave labor for what -- their crime was asking for freedom and democracy in the PRC. There's no OSH regulations and upwards of 126,000 occupational deaths occur in China every year. If ever there were a case to be made that on labor -- and I would submit also on sex trafficking -- but certainly on labor, China ought to be a Tier 3 country. What is your sense on that?

And just let me finally say, and I will include in the record at least a summary of it, on June 8th, Congressman Ben Cardin and I joined with the AFL-CIO in officially petitioning the U.S. trade representative to impose WTO sanctions on China for its violations of their freely entered into obligations with regards to laborers.

So what's your thought?

MR. KERNAGHAN: If I could --

MS. COHN: Sorry. Go ahead.

MR. KERNAGHAN: Okay. Can I just speak for the labor section quickly?

We have had workers in a factory called Fourway (ph) in China smuggle out their time cards which showed them working from 7:31 in the morning until 4:30 the following morning. They were working 134 hours a week. They were getting 16 and a half cents an hour. China's labor law says 40 hours a week and no more than 6 hours of overtime, 9 hours of overtime a week.

The labor laws in China are being completely violated. The workers have no freedom of association. In fact, it has been so stamped out that if you ask many Chinese workers what a union is, and we've asked them this, they think it's a breakfast meeting. They have no idea.

So there are tens of millions of mostly young women from rural areas in these factories with no rights whatsoever and, of course, you know the number of goods that are coming to the United States are just unbelievable. Jordan sends us, I believe 1.2 billion pairs of shoes a year as an example. I mean, this is like a couple of shoes for every single man, woman and child in the United States. I mean it is really revving up to like overwhelm the world with these exports made by workers whose rights are denied. They're not part of the 10 percent growth in China that the economy is growing. They're being left behind. And the living conditions are also barbaric.

MS COHN: Just to answer that, we are often asked if we do work in China and could we do work in China.

We don't currently do work in China and thus can't comment directly as to the situation there based on our own investigative findings. However, I would say that the reason we have not worked in China to date is primarily not for lack of

case referrals asking us to do so, but because we, in our assessment, don't believe we could secure the sufficient government cooperation or leverage in order to get rescues for victims and prosecutions for perpetrators.

I think some of the reports you're referring to, and would add to it just the North Korea/China connection with regard to sex slavery as well. So I can't comment as to the Tier ranking, but to say it's a source of great concern for us as well.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

Ms. Gnezdilova, if you could tell us, are you aware of any action that was taken by the German government to prosecute the owners of the clubs where you were forced to engage in prostitution? And if you could describe exactly what did the Angel Coalition do for you, I guess prior to -- before you set up your own NGO which I assume is a part of it.

MS. GNEZDILOVA (VIA INTERPRETER): I don't know about in the cases pressed against the traffickers in Germany. Beside of helping me to set up my NGO, the Angel Coalition, first of all, it helped me to feel myself -- to feel again as a human being, free and open, and ready to fight for my own human rights.

REP. SMITH: Could I ask you, in your work as an NGO, have you met any women who were trafficked to Germany since prostitution has been legalized?

MS. GNEZDILOVA (VIA INTERPRETER): So in Belgrade where I live there are a lot of ads in newspaper, and I'm sure there are a lot of cases because I heard from my friends like -- but usually in those cases women aren't -- do not tell about that. So in our city I can say that there are several employment agencies and most of them, they provide employment -- so-called employment in Germany. Those agencies that invite girls for work to Germany.

REP. SMITH: Let me ask you, Ms Veselykh, when you worked in Toni's brothel in Germany, what you described in your statement as a "legal brothel," did you ever see the police or any government inspector in the brothel for the purpose of enforcing any of the so-called regulations, and did they make any effort to discern whether or not the women there were there legally, on their own volition, or whether or not they were there involuntarily?

MS. VESELYKH (VIA INTERPRETER): When I was there, I can tell you that I didn't see any inspection on the behalf of police. Actually, Toni, the owner, from her words, was afraid of such inspection, but also from her words what I heard, she said that she pays some amount of money to police, so they basically turn their blind eye to what's happening there because they knew that there are a lot of women who work there illegally without any documents.

REP. SMITH: When did this happen? When were you there, I should say? And let me ask you in addition to that, did any Dutch authorities prosecute brothel owners when you were in the Netherlands?

MS. VESELYKH (VIA INTERPRETER): So when I was there it was August 2003, and as to my knowledge, I don't remember or know any cases when these people were prosecuted -- brother owners. I was promised -- I was promised that they will be penalized, that there will be a trial, but nothing happened.

REP. SMITH: So you were there after the legalization of prostitution, obviously. Let me ask you, in Germany can you give us any sense as to how many of the women were there as -- under force and duress, as opposed to those who might be there voluntarily, in the brothels you were in?

MS. VESELYKH (VIA INTERPRETER): So in one of the clubs -- and if I'm not mistaken, the name of it Poofa (ph) -- so I saw at least five Russian women who were forced. So there are at least three of them I know perfectly, because they were 30 years those, and I saw that they were completely threatened. I was the witness of selling another Russian young lady -- if I'm not mistaken, her name was Marina -- to Belgium for 15,000 euros. So when I say that she was sold, it means that there was a fake marriage but without her -- of course, her agreement on that. So there was an agreement between the owner of the club and Russian mafia with the Belgian party, so that there is a fake marriage and then, when the lady goes to Belgium, she has to work for her so-called husband.

In the Diplomat club, I know when I was there -- so they planned right after me, to deliver another three or four Russian young ladies. And, as I heard from the other women there, so that there is the same situation with the rest of these clubs in the Netherlands. As I heard, the owner of Diplomat made some agreement with Russian mafia groups, so they could provide these young ladies on a regular basis.

REP. SMITH: Let me ask you, you said in your testimony that pimps threatened to hurt your family if you tried to escape. Are you aware of any families that were hurt, or did the threat do its dirty work and people -- women not think to escape?

MS. VESELYKH (VIA INTERPRETER): So as example, I can tell you -- and you heard that already in my statement, that the young woman who helped me to get these fake documents in order to cross the borders, she was killed; that's already a good example.

So then I was also severely beaten up. That's already examples of those threats -- that they're real. And I think that her mother, of that young woman who was killed, still doesn't know what happened to her daughter and probably is looking for her right now. I know where her mother lives, but also, at the same time, I cannot inform her because the only thing I know about this young woman -- that her name was Marina.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Gnezdilova, you said that several Russian girls had been recently murdered in the subway. Both of you -- and Ms. Cohn, you might want to speak to this -- how widespread is the murdering of women who have been trafficked?

MS. GNEZDILOVA (VIA INTERPRETER): So as for that situation with Savoy club, when we arrived there, we were not -- they didn't let us in, and they explained that they had temporary problems with police. As we later found out, the Russian girls were killed there. But then, later, as they say, they opened it again because they cleared the situation with the police.

From my experience, I can tell you that a murder happens really often in the situation of trafficking, at least in that case with me. And I can tell you the felons are usually these people whom I faced while I was in Germany. I can tell you that the traffickers always have the same men from Russia who are there on an illegal basis, basically, without documents, who do so-called, like, dark, or let's say dirty job.

So they're tasked to take those girls who resist to work, or continue to work, take them to special apartments that they usually have where they beat them up, where they break their hands, where they kill them. And personally I saw the pictures of those ladies mutilated, with faces mutilated, and those young men who did that job, being basically torturers for higher owners or management. They, with a joke, said, we just usually put them in concrete and throw them away. Usually how it happens, they can kill resisting young ladies even in a car or take her to the woods and just throw, or bury her there, and nobody will find out.

REP. SMITH: Is there any way that the German police are tipped off that this has happened, and do they do anything?

MS. GNEZDILOVA (VIA INTERPRETER): I don't know about the cases of prosecution on the -- I mean, on the behalf of the police, but what I can tell you, that this is the same Russian gangsters who operated that. So they mention it not once that there is no even sense applied to police because basically it's -- we have our people and police and we will be actually against you.

REP. SMITH: Well, there's a lot of room for us to follow up on that, so I do thank you so much for that.

Let me ask one final question to Ms Cohn, and that is: what has been the typical sentence for a labor trafficker?

MS. COHN: The typical sentence we've seen in labor for slavery has been one day.

REP. SMITH: One day.

MS. COHN: One day, and a moderate to mild fine, and we've only had a few of those. But that's been the sentence.

REP. SMITH: Okay. Yes. Let me yield to Maureen Walsh, our general counselor for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

MS. WALSH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually just maybe two questions for Mr. Kernaghan, if I could?

Your report mentions that at the time you were interviewing workers from one particular factory, a monitoring team from a U.S. company was at the same time inspecting the factory. You uncovered terrible abuses. The monitoring team apparently thought everything was fine and signed off on the factory continuing its operation.

Could you talk, or maybe make some suggestions about what we could do to make the monitoring by U.S. companies more effective?

MR. KERNAGHAN: Well, what we want to do is -- and we've actually discussed this with the companies and had some federal response, is to set up a workers' hotline where they receive a card from us which states Jordan's labor laws on one side, and the other side says that there's people willing to help them, that they should receive their passports back, that they can't be, you know, beaten and denied their wages -- their minimum wages and what not -- with a toll

free number where they could call back to their home countries to women's groups, and human rights groups, and labor rights groups to ask for help. And they can report these violations confidentially.

We did this as an experiment on our trip to Jordan in May. We handed out these flyers. We are now getting calls from all across Jordan. It works. The workers are anxious to speak, desperate to speak, but they're terrified in the factories because the monitors parachute in. Even if they're well-meaning people, and many of them are -- many of them are really, truly dedicated to human rights. But the workers have to say to them, we only work eight hours a day.

In a factory we went to in Jordan on this trip in May with the U.S. delegation, we went to a factory that was mostly Chinese women workers, and we walked over to a woman with our translator and we asked the young woman inside the factory, how many hours a day do you work? And the woman started to actually, like, physically shake. She was very young, and she blurted out, I work eight hours a day, five days a week. And then she started to shake and then she started crying. And we obviously left her, not to terrorize her.

The owner of the factory was at the same time telling me, we work 12 hours a day six days a week. So the workers are so terrified that there's no way they could tell the truth inside the factories. So we need to have a system where the workers can feel confident who they're talking to. And what we're finding out with this -- the few flyers we handed in Bangladesh, we handed out 50 flyers with this information on it, -- call Bangladesh. Call the Bangladesh Center for Workers' Solidarity. Call the National Garment Workers' Federation. Here is their number. If you have complaints, call them. We'll try to help you. The calls are flooding in from all across Jordan.

So it will work if workers are given access to actually speak in confidence to people they trust and, you know, you can't fly a corporate monitor into the country to parachute into the factories for two or three days, if even that. Workers under those conditions cannot tell the truth because they're told, if we find out that you've criticized the factory you will never work here again.

So it's a situation which needs something independent.

MS. WALSH: And in your report you actually name by name a number of U.S. companies which are having their goods produced in these factories. What has the response been from those companies since your report was issued?

MR. KERNAGHAN: I would say surprisingly good, and I was caught off guard actually. But I'll tell you, the response on the part of many of the companies, companies you would expect clearly -- Levi Strauss, very strong; Phillips-Van Heusen, very strong, super strong; Gap, Sears, very strong. I think the U.S. companies can play a very positive role. I received a letter from J.C. Paynes (sp), vice president.

I actually think that the U.S. companies want to get it right in Jordan. They're committed to Jordan. We don't want them to pull out of the country. Those workers need the jobs. We just want them to, you know, guarantee that the workers' rights will be respected according to Jordanian law and international standards.

So, I note today the companies are actually meeting with the Jordanian Minister for Industry and Trade, so there's a large meeting today in Washington. So I think the response on the part of many of the companies has been very good.

I mentioned this, the L.L. Bean label, which is a very, you know, well-known company in the United States, being produced in a factory Saidan where these workers were beaten up and deported at gunpoint for a meeting with us. L.L. Bean wrote back to us and said, we have no connection to that factory whatsoever, and I figured we should -- you know, I told them we'll do further research and we'll get back to them. I was ready to pull that stuff.

And then the workers faxed us the L.L. Bean label. So it actually proves that there's this subcontracting going on that the companies don't even know about. So L.L. Bean checked and they could not track any productions to that factory, but, sure enough, the workers are making L.L. Bean. So they have to do more.

But this time around I would say the response on the part of the U.S. companies has been surprisingly good, and they've actually given us some inside information on why the workers never get paid their real wages, because they set the production goals so high that it's impossible to reach. So you have to keep working for free, five or six hours a night, to reach the production goal which itself is ridiculously impossible to reach, so they're working five or six hours a day without wages. And the companies want to try to crack down on that. So I'd say it's been very good.

MS. WALSH: And just one final question.

You also mention in your report the programs where U.S. AID has been training managers at these factories. You talk about the initial training on accounting or basic management principles, but not getting into issues of workers' rights or trafficking.

Have you had any conversations or interaction with AID since your report came out? Is that type of training still ongoing and is there a place there where we can talk to U.S. AID and get them to insert some of these other human rights issues into their training?

MR. KERNAGHAN: Well, it's a very important question, I think, and we did meet with U.S. embassy officials when we were in Jordan. We did not meet with U.S. AID. We haven't received any phone calls from them, but the role that they could play could be huge.

So, for example, the Jordanian government has said they will allow the local unions to accept these guest workers as members, which would some protection for the guest workers, obviously. The problem is, is that the union is not allowed to enter the factories. They told us when we were in Jordan that they've never -- they have prohibited it from entering the factories, and also they have no resources.

So if they don't have trained staff who can speak Bengali and speak Mandarin, and speak to the Sri Lankan workers, the fact that the guest workers can join the union is meaningless because if there's no resources there, the union won't be able to even speak with the workers let alone help them or accompany them. So I think there is a huge role here where resources would need to be put in to, like, the local union there so that it could actually be in contact with the workers and could, you know, accompany them and support them.

MS. WALSH: Thanks very much.

MR. KERNAGHAN: Thank you.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much.

One final question if I could? What is the free labor movement like in India, and can it be used to improve the plight of the Dalits in bonded labor?

MR. KERNAGHAN: I'm not qualified to answer.

REP. SMITH: Ms. Cohn?

MS. COHN: I'm not qualified to answer.

REP. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. Thanks for your tender.

I want to thank our very distinguished witnesses for your testimony today, which will be used as we go forward on these issues. It gives us incredibly valuable insights to get the real feeling on the ground as to what is happening, and your recommendations will be very carefully weighed and I can assure you will find their way into policy as we go forward.

I also want to thank on our staff Maureen Walsh, who you just heard from; Eleanor Neggy (ph) who is our chief programs policy for this subcommittee; Lindsay Flumley (ph); Jonathon Bruno (ph), who is actually our intern and doing a fine job; Dorothy Taft (sp), the deputy chief of staff for the Helsinki Commission; and Mary Newitt (ph) who is my personal chief of staff, for all the work that they did into bringing this hearing together and all the work you do on this important human rights issue.

And thank you to the witnesses for your leadership.

The hearing is adjourned. #####

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351 of 445 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

June 14, 2006 Wednesday

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY****LENGTH: 2308 words**

Statement of Chairman Christopher H. Smith

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

June 14, 2006

Good morning. The Subcommittee will today hear expert testimony concerning the scourge of human trafficking - modern day slavery. The U.S. Government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each year.

And now we know well that many American girls and young women - many of whom start out as "runaways" - are bought, sold, abused, and raped throughout the United States.

(To combat the exploitation of Americans, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005 not only requires the Attorney General to conduct prevalence studies of sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts in the U.S. but the new law requires both the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to prepare reports on best practices to reduce demand. For the first time, the new law also authorizes \$20 million for a Health and Human Services grants program for U.S. victims, \$10 million for long-term residential treatment facilities and provides \$50 million for a new grants program for state and local law enforcement.) Today's hearing will focus on the findings in the State Department's sixth annual Trafficking in Persons Report, with a focus on progress made and on the significant challenges ahead.

The Committee is privileged to have as our special guest Julia Ormond in her capacity as the UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Ms. Ormond has traveled to Ghana, India, Cambodia, and Thailand to raise awareness about the horrors of human trafficking. Ms. Ormond has been a leader on a number of humanitarian issues including AIDS and refugee issues. She is the founding Chair of Film Aid International and is well known for her film roles in numerous movies including "Legends of the Fall," "Sabrina," "First Knight," "Barber of Siberia" and many others. Ms. Ormond is also the Executive Producer of the 1996 Emmy award-winning documentary "Calling of the Ghosts," a story about two women in Bosnia, caught in war where rape was as much an everyday weapon as bullets and bombs. We are extremely honored and privileged to have her with us today. This is also the second of a two-part series of hearings on sex trafficking in connection with the World Cup soccer championship.

(http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/afhear.htm) The traffickers who use and abuse human beings as commodities to be bought and sold must be tracked down, their nefarious operations crushed and the individuals who commit these heinous crimes sent to jail for a long, long time. All profits derived from selling women and children into slavery must be seized and put to good use like providing some semblance of restitution to the victims or for the construction of shelters.

The TIP report itself is mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which I sponsored and which was signed into law in October 2000. In 2003, I sponsored a reauthorization and expansion of that Act which also

became law, and, on January 10, 2006, President Bush signed into law my third anti-trafficking bill the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.

These pieces of legislation have created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, the trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States, and the domestic trafficking of our own citizens. As a result, the United States has become a leader in addressing this human rights violation and encouraging other governments to do the same.

Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$400 million to combat trafficking in more than 149 countries. The new law authorizes an additional \$361 over two years to expand these efforts. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. With 4,700 convictions worldwide this year alone, the heinous crime of trafficking is at long last being punished. In the last two years alone, convictions have topped 7,700. Because a significant portion of U.S. foreign assistance is now contingent on whether a nation is meeting basic minimum standards specifically prescribed in the three TPVAs to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers, 41 countries in the last year alone have passed tough new laws to end this modern day slavery. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

I applaud Ambassador John Miller for keeping trafficking in the forefront of our human rights agenda and for the progress we are making. I also welcome the emphasis on forced labor in this year's report. Forced labor, in which people are enslaved and exploited for purposes of labor often within their own countries, is infrequently mentioned but affects anywhere from 4 to 27 million people worldwide. In places such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Brazil, Jordan, Kuwait, and Taiwan - all ranked as Tier 3 or on the Tier 2 Watch List in this year's Report - foreign migrant workers or these countries' own citizens are trapped and held in slave-like working conditions. Not only must the victims be freed and properly compensated; their employers must be held responsible and forced labor punished as the heinous crime it is.

While the TIP report is good -- the best yet I would submit -- I am nevertheless disappointed that the State Department has again failed to place India on Tier 3 with other government who are not making significant antitrafficking efforts. Millions of men, women, and children, predominantly from India's Dalit caste, are in debt bondage and face involuntary servitude in brick kilns, rice mills, and zari embroidery factories. India's placement on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption, reeks of political considerations within the State Department overriding the facts about **human trafficking**. The Watch List was created by my legislation to send a clear warning and enable egregious offenders to make specific reforms. It's not a place to hide our friends who fail to make real improvements.

It is also deeply troubling that while some countries not only turn a blind eye to trafficking others embrace inhumane policies that actually facilitate or encourage the very crime they profess to abhor. Athletes and fans are gathering in Germany for one of the premiere, world-wide sporting events of our day, the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which opened last Friday. Over the course of one month at 12 venues throughout Germany, national soccer teams will be competing. Millions of fans will join in the festivities. For most soccer fans like myself, this quadrennial event is the showcase of world class athleticism and teamwork. But, looming in its shadow is the very real threat that the World Cup matches have become a catalyst and magnet for sex trafficking into Germany. Those that work with victims report that trafficking for the so-called sex industry often heightens during major sports events. In Germany, the problem is exacerbated by the legalization of prostitution.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, in a June 8th interview, observed that in Germany, many women are forced into prostitution. "This is a fundamental human rights violation," he said. "Women have become market commodities, which can be bought. And they cost less than a ticket for a football match."

For the last year, the German Government has prepared for the World Cup, coordinating security efforts with all neighboring countries, and attending to the myriad of details associated with such major international events. Traffickers have also worked overtime to exploit this opportunity to improve their illicit revenues through the expected rise in demand in the so-called "sex industry."

Sadly, this is not idle speculation. AFP reported over the weekend that police in Latvia arrested a man suspected of selling at least six women to German brothels. Latvian and German police collaborated in a monthlong investigation in

which the suspect allegedly paid his friends 100 euros for each woman found. He, in turn, was paid 400 euros per woman by the German brothel.

We will hear testimony today from two women who have traveled from Russia to tell us about their horrific experiences being trafficked to Germany. Ms. Masha Gnezdilova (NEZ-DIL-OH-VAH) and Ms. Irina Veselykh (VEZ-EL-KAH) were deceived by offers of non-existent jobs in Germany, their passports seized, beaten, raped, and forced to work as prostitutes, controlled by the Russian mafia.

During the February meeting in Vienna, as Head of the U.S. Delegation and as Special Representative on Human Trafficking for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I vigorously raised concerns about the trafficking prevention efforts for the World Cup. I was joined by other European parliamentarians who were sobered by the expectation that, especially since the matches are being held in Germany which legalized pimping and prostitution in 2001, the World Cup fans would be legally free to rape women in brothels or even in mobile units designed specifically for this form of exploitation. Of the approximately 400,000 prostitutes in Germany, it is estimated that 75 percent of those who are abused in these houses of prostitution are foreigners, many from Central and Eastern Europe.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires the State Department to analyze and report annually on the efforts of governments to combat trafficking in persons around the world. Germany received a Tier 1 rating again this year meaning that the Government is meeting minimum standards to combat trafficking. Frankly, the German Government has done some good work to identify and protect victims of trafficking and to prosecute their exploiters. And yet, these efforts are at odds with its laws on legalized prostitution, and in some cases the facilitation of prostitution by local governments, which provides direct and indirect sanction for sex trafficking.

Legalized prostitution is not a policy that the German Government has to embrace. I am aware that the German Government is supporting public awareness efforts regarding trafficking for forced prostitution in the context of the World Cup. This is a somewhat absurd effort given that the legalized prostitution infrastructure is gearing up to expand its capacity during the World Cup and there is every reason to believe that the "new recruits" will be trafficked women and girls. I see this as flagrant state complicity in promoting sex trafficking. I believe Germany can do much more to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by attacking the demand that fuels this problem.

It is time for Chancellor Merkel to take a stand and speak out against the exploitation of women and children in the name of sport. I would encourage her government to turn the tables beginning now with the World Cup by committing to reverse Germany's laws on prostitution. In this regard, on June 9th I introduced House Resolution 860, calling on the Government of Germany to take immediate action to combat sex trafficking in connection with the 2006 FIFA World Cup. I ask that my Colleagues expeditiously support and move this bill forward to the House floor. As the world's attention is turned to soccer, those committed to ending the tragedy of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation will be watching how Germany protects the most vulnerable.

Finally, let me say a few words about the prevention of trafficking by armed forces. In response to evils such as the sexual exploitation of young women and girls by UN peacekeepers in the Congo - some as young as 11 or 12, and in exchange for a banana or a dollar - the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 includes provisions requiring the US government to press international organizations to do more in this area.

Section 104(e)(1) requires the annual trafficking report to include information on measures taken by the UN, NATO, OSCE, and other similar bodies to prevent trafficking, and I am pleased to see the inclusion of such information in this year's report. Section 104(e)(2) requires a report by the Secretary of State at least 15 days prior to voting for a new or reauthorized peacekeeping mission which describes measures taken by the international organization to prevent trafficking and analyzes their effectiveness. I have not seen any such reports by the Department to date, and would ask for a clarification of where we are on this.

In conclusion, I look forward to hearing the testimony of all of our distinguished witnesses who have a vast amount of experience with these and other international trafficking issues. I now yield to my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Payne, for his opening statement.

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352 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

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VOA NEWS: HOUSE COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 475 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The Voice of America issued the following story:

By Cindy Saine

A congressional subcommittee held a hearing Wednesday on the State Department's 2006 report on human trafficking around the world. British actress Julia Ormond, who is also a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations, told about meeting the victims of human trafficking in Ghana, India, Thailand and Cambodia.

The House subcommittee on human rights met to focus on human trafficking, which claims an estimated 800,000 victims around the world, mostly women and children.

Julia Ormond is the U.N.'s Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking. She told the subcommittee she has met girls as young as five who had been forced into prostitution, as clients increasingly seek virgins in the belief they will protect themselves from HIV / AIDS. Ormond said it is hard to appreciate the extent of the abuse.

"The reality is that not everyone survives this ordeal. These people are often functionally invisible. They lack either birth records through lack of birth registration or citizenship, or they lack legal status in a country. Not surprisingly, invisible people are incredibly disposable," she said.

Ormond hailed the work of non-governmental organizations in fighting human trafficking, but said nothing was as effective as governments that enforce their own laws to put an end to forced labor and sexual exploitation.

This year's State Department report listed Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe as worst offenders, or **Tier 3** countries, for failing to combat **human trafficking**. The State Department ranks countries into three groups, or tiers, with one being the best and three the worst.

Republican Congressman Christopher Smith criticized the State Department for not placing India in Tier 3, or worst offenders' list, for its massive problem with forced labor.

"India's placement on the **Tier 2 watchlist** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption reeks of political considerations within the Department of State overriding the facts about **human trafficking**," he said.

In response, State Department official John Miller said India was not "gleeful" about the rating they received, and that the country has done some positive things. He said India is a friend, and the United States really wants to work with the Indian government on modern day slavery.

Congressman Smith also expressed concern about the World Cup soccer tournament in Germany serving as a magnet for forced prostitution. Miller said the German government was taking steps to prevent human trafficking.

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353 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 14, 2006 Wednesday 2:17 AM EST

REP. SMITH COMMENTS ON 'MODERN-DAY SLAVERY: SPOTLIGHT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, FORCED LABOR, SEX TRAFFICKING AT WORLD CUP'

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 2280 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

At a hearing of the House Committee on International Relations subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, Rep. Christopher H. Smith made the following statement:

Good morning. The Subcommittee will today hear expert testimony concerning the scourge of human trafficking - modern day slavery.

The U.S. Government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each year.

And now we know well that many American girls and young women - many of whom start out as "runaways" - are bought, sold, abused, and raped throughout the United States.

(To combat the exploitation of Americans, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005 not only requires the Attorney General to conduct prevalence studies of sex trafficking and unlawful commercial sex acts in the U.S. but the new law requires both the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to prepare reports on best practices to reduce demand. For the first time, the new law also authorizes \$20 million for a Health and Human Services grants program for U.S. victims, \$10 million for long-term residential treatment facilities and provides \$50 million for a new grants program for state and local law enforcement.)

Today's hearing will focus on the findings in the State Department's sixth annual Trafficking in Persons Report, with a focus on progress made and on the significant challenges ahead.

The Committee is privileged to have as our special guest Julia Ormond in her capacity as the UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Ms. Ormond has traveled to Ghana, India, Cambodia, and Thailand to raise awareness about the horrors of human trafficking. Ms. Ormond has been a leader on a number of humanitarian issues including AIDS and refugee issues. She is the founding Chair of Film Aid International and is well known for her film roles in numerous movies including "Legends of the Fall," "Sabrina," "First Knight," "Barber of Siberia" and many others. Ms. Ormond is also the Executive Producer of the 1996 Emmy award-winning documentary "Calling of the Ghosts," a story about two women in Bosnia, caught in war where rape was as much an everyday weapon as bullets and bombs. We are extremely honored and privileged to have her with us today.

This is also the second of a two-part series of hearings on sex trafficking in connection with the World Cup soccer championship. (http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/afhear.htm)

The traffickers who use and abuse human beings as commodities to be bought and sold must be tracked down, their nefarious operations crushed and the individuals who commit these heinous crimes sent to jail for a long, long time. All

profits derived from selling women and children into slavery must be seized and put to good use like providing some semblance of restitution to the victims or for the construction of shelters.

The TIP report itself is mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which I sponsored and which was signed into law in October 2000. In 2003, I sponsored a reauthorization and expansion of that Act which also became law, and, on January 10, 2006, President Bush signed into law my third anti-trafficking bill--the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.

These pieces of legislation have created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, the trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States, and the domestic trafficking of our own citizens. As a result, the United States has become a leader in addressing this human rights violation and encouraging other governments to do the same.

Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$400 million to combat trafficking in more than 149 countries. The new law authorizes an additional \$361 over two years to expand these efforts. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. With 4,700 convictions worldwide this year alone, the heinous crime of trafficking is at long last being punished. In the last two years alone, convictions have topped 7,700. Because a significant portion of U.S. foreign assistance is now contingent on whether a nation is meeting basic minimum standards specifically prescribed in the three TPVAs to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers, 41 countries in the last year alone have passed tough new laws to end this modern day slavery. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

I applaud Ambassador John Miller for keeping trafficking in the forefront of our human rights agenda and for the progress we are making. I also welcome the emphasis on forced labor in this year's report. Forced labor, in which people are enslaved and exploited for purposes of labor often within their own countries, is infrequently mentioned but affects anywhere from 4 to 27 million people worldwide. In places such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Brazil, Jordan, Kuwait, and Taiwan - all ranked as Tier 3 or on the Tier 2 Watch List in this year's Report - foreign migrant workers or these countries' own citizens are trapped and held in slave-like working conditions. Not only must the victims be freed and properly compensated; their employers must be held responsible and forced labor punished as the heinous crime it is.

While the TIP report is good - the best yet I would submit - I am nevertheless disappointed that the State Department has again failed to place India on Tier 3 with other government who are not making significant antitrafficking efforts. Millions of men, women, and children, predominantly from India's Dalit caste, are in debt bondage and face involuntary servitude in brick kilns, rice mills, and zari embroidery factories. India's placement on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption, reeks of political considerations within the State Department overriding the facts about **human trafficking**. The Watch List was created by my legislation to send a clear warning and enable egregious offenders to make specific reforms. It's not a place to hide our friends who fail to make real improvements.

It is also deeply troubling that while some countries not only turn a blind eye to trafficking others embrace inhumane policies that actually facilitate or encourage the very crime they profess to abhor.

Athletes and fans are gathering in Germany for one of the premiere, world-wide sporting events of our day, the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which opened last Friday. Over the course of one month at 12 venues throughout Germany, national soccer teams will be competing. Millions of fans will join in the festivities. For most soccer fans like myself, this quadrennial event is the showcase of world class athleticism and teamwork. But, looming in its shadow is the very real threat that the World Cup matches have become a catalyst and magnet for sex trafficking into Germany. Those that work with victims report that trafficking for the so-called sex industry often heightens during major sports events. In Germany, the problem is exacerbated by the legalization of prostitution.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, in a June 8th interview, observed that in Germany, many women are forced into prostitution. "This is a fundamental human rights violation," he said. "Women have become market commodities, which can be bought. And they cost less than a ticket for a football match."

For the last year, the German Government has prepared for the World Cup, coordinating security efforts with all neighboring countries, and attending to the myriad of details associated with such major international events. Traffick-

ers have also worked overtime to exploit this opportunity to improve their illicit revenues through the expected rise in demand in the so-called "sex industry."

Sadly, this is not idle speculation. AFP reported over the weekend that police in Latvia arrested a man suspected of selling at least six women to German brothels. Latvian and German police collaborated in a monthlong investigation in which the suspect allegedly paid his friends 100 euros for each woman found. He, in turn, was paid 400 euros per woman by the German brothel.

We will hear testimony today from two women who have traveled from Russia to tell us about their horrific experiences being trafficked to Germany. Ms. Masha Gnezdilova (NEZ-DIL-OH-VAH) and Ms. Irina Veselykh (VEZ-EL-KAH) were deceived by offers of non-existent jobs in Germany, their passports seized, beaten, raped, and forced to work as prostitutes, controlled by the Russian mafia.

During the February meeting in Vienna, as Head of the U.S. Delegation and as Special Representative on Human Trafficking for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I vigorously raised concerns about the trafficking prevention efforts for the World Cup. I was joined by other European parliamentarians who were sobered by the expectation that, especially since the matches are being held in Germany which legalized pimping and prostitution in 2001, the World Cup fans would be legally free to rape women in brothels or even in mobile units designed specifically for this form of exploitation. Of the approximately 400,000 prostitutes in Germany, it is estimated that 75 percent of those who are abused in these houses of prostitution are foreigners, many from Central and Eastern Europe.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires the State Department to analyze and report annually on the efforts of governments to combat trafficking in persons around the world. Germany received a Tier 1 rating again this year--meaning that the Government is meeting minimum standards to combat trafficking. Frankly, the German Government has done some good work to identify and protect victims of trafficking and to prosecute their exploiters. And yet, these efforts are at odds with its laws on legalized prostitution, and in some cases the facilitation of prostitution by local governments, which provides direct and indirect sanction for sex trafficking.

Legalized prostitution is not a policy that the German Government has to embrace. I am aware that the German Government is supporting public awareness efforts regarding trafficking for forced prostitution in the context of the World Cup. This is a somewhat absurd effort given that the legalized prostitution infrastructure is gearing up to expand its capacity during the World Cup and there is every reason to believe that the "new recruits" will be trafficked women and girls. I see this as flagrant state complicity in promoting sex trafficking. I believe Germany can do much more to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by attacking the demand that fuels this problem.

It is time for Chancellor Merkel to take a stand and speak out against the exploitation of women and children in the name of sport. I would encourage her government to turn the tables--beginning now with the World Cup--by committing to reverse Germany's laws on prostitution.

In this regard, on June 9th I introduced House Resolution 860, calling on the Government of Germany to take immediate action to combat sex trafficking in connection with the 2006 FIFA World Cup. I ask that my Colleagues expeditiously support and move this bill forward to the House floor. As the world's attention is turned to soccer, those committed to ending the tragedy of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation will be watching how Germany protects the most vulnerable.

Finally, let me say a few words about the prevention of trafficking by armed forces. In response to evils such as the sexual exploitation of young women and girls by UN peacekeepers in the Congo - some as young as 11 or 12, and in exchange for a banana or a dollar - the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 includes provisions requiring the US government to press international organizations to do more in this area. Section 104(e)(1) requires the annual trafficking report to include information on measures taken by the UN, NATO, OSCE, and other similar bodies to prevent trafficking, and I am pleased to see the inclusion of such information in this year's report. Section 104(e)(2) requires a report by the Secretary of State at least 15 days prior to voting for a new or reauthorized peacekeeping mission which describes measures taken by the international organization to prevent trafficking and analyzes their effectiveness. I have not seen any such reports by the Department to date, and would ask for a clarification of where we are on this.

In conclusion, I look forward to hearing the testimony of all of our distinguished witnesses who have a vast amount of experience with these and other international trafficking issues. I now yield to my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Payne, for his opening statement.

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354 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

June 14, 2006

US House Committee Focuses on Human Trafficking

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 463 words

DATELINE: Washington

A congressional subcommittee held a hearing Wednesday on the State Department's 2006 report on human trafficking around the world. British actress Julia Ormond, who is also a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations, told about meeting the victims of human trafficking in Ghana, India, Thailand and Cambodia.

The House subcommittee on human rights met to focus on human trafficking, which claims an estimated 800,000 victims around the world, mostly women and children.

Julia Ormond is the U.N.'s Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking. She told the subcommittee she has met girls as young as five who had been forced into prostitution, as clients increasingly seek virgins in the belief they will protect themselves from HIV / AIDS. Ormond said it is hard to appreciate the extent of the abuse.

"The reality is that not everyone survives this ordeal. These people are often functionally invisible. They lack either birth records through lack of birth registration or citizenship, or they lack legal status in a country. Not surprisingly, invisible people are incredibly disposable," she said.

Ormond hailed the work of non-governmental organizations in fighting human trafficking, but said nothing was as effective as governments that enforce their own laws to put an end to forced labor and sexual exploitation.

This year's State Department report listed Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe as worst offenders, or **Tier 3** countries, for failing to combat **human trafficking**. The State Department ranks countries into three groups, or tiers, with one being the best and three the worst.

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In response, State Department official John Miller said India was not "gleeful" about the rating they received, and that the country has done some positive things. He said India is a friend, and the United States really wants to work with the Indian government on modern day slavery.

Congressman Smith also expressed concern about the World Cup soccer tournament in Germany serving as a magnet for forced prostitution. Miller said the German government was taking steps to prevent human trafficking.

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355 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

June 10, 2006 Saturday
Final Edition

Soccer With a Side of Slavery

BYLINE: Katherine Chon and Derek Ellerman

SECTION: Editorial; A19

LENGTH: 805 words

"It is truly scandalous. People are talking about women, importing them to satisfy the base instincts of people associated with football. It is humiliating enough for me that football is linked with alcohol and violence. But this is worse. It is slaves that will come and be put into houses. Human beings are being talked about like cattle, and football is linked with that."

-- Raymond Domenech, coach of the French World Cup soccer team

As the 2006 World Cup games get underway in Germany, tourists and soccer fans are being joined at the various competition venues by denizens of an international world of crime where human beings are bought and sold for profit.

Human trafficking is the third-largest criminal industry in the world, after arms and drugs. While soccer fans anticipate the excitement of the games, many of us in the anti-trafficking movement are deeply troubled by the expected surge of sex trafficking in Germany to meet the demand for commercial sex associated with the World Cup. It is estimated that more than 40,000 women and children will be imported to Germany during the month-long competition to provide commercial sex in the "mega-brothels," "quickie shacks," other legalized venues and vast underground networks that exist in Germany.

The traffickers and those who benefit from sex trafficking promote an image of women freely choosing to be involved in prostitution, making huge amounts of money at it and in general having a great time. It is the "Pretty Woman" myth, which many apparently like to believe in order to justify their inaction or ignorance on the issue.

But as our organization, Polaris Project, and many others like it that work every day with people in the sex industry know, this image does not reflect the reality on the streets and in the brothels for a majority of women and children.

In fact this is a world where violence and psychological abuse by the pimps, traffickers and customers are nearly ubiquitous. Research has shown that those who are prostituted face a 62 percent chance of being raped or gang-raped, a 73 percent chance of being physically assaulted, and a chance of dying that is 40 times greater than that of the average person in their age group. There is nothing "pretty" about the sex industry for the majority of people it victimizes.

From our experience as service providers for victims of trafficking, we know that large sporting events, conventions and other such gatherings are closely tied to a spike in demand for commercial sex and, in turn, for sex trafficking. Behind the trophies and cheers is the hidden suffering of women and children who bear the brunt of violence and abuse resulting from the rise in demand. Because of the link between demand and sex trafficking, we are troubled to see that

the State Department gave Germany a **Tier 1** compliance ranking in its annual **Trafficking in Persons** report released earlier this week, despite the German government's failure to address this problem.

Exacerbating all of the factors described above are the legalization of pimping and of the buying of commercial sex. The traffickers support legalization because they know that "regulation" has, in practice, meant a thin layer of regulated commercial sex businesses that have opted into the system, resting on top of a far larger group of illegal operations. The underground dealers have correctly calculated that greater profits can be generated through not paying taxes, ignoring basic safety standards for women and engaging in trafficking of children. Without a commensurately large, and politically unrealistic, apparatus to meaningfully monitor and police the thousands of underground operations, the increase in demand under a legalized system dramatically drives the expansion of this sector of sex trafficking. Unlike the success seen in countries such as Sweden, with its policies that decriminalize prostituted women and children but criminalize the buyers and controllers, failure has been the hallmark of the social experiment of full legalization.

The modern-day slave trade is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. There should be no country that is uncertain in its opposition to all the things that facilitate this egregious crime. Those who fail to act will surely face international condemnation now, and the judgment of history in the future. A time will come when they will be asked, "Where did you stand? What did you do?" We hope that the German government, soccer fans and governments and people everywhere, will be able to answer in sound conscience: We stood with the oppressed, and did everything in our power to stop these abuses.

The writers are co-executive directors and co-founders of Polaris Project, a Washington-based agency combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

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356 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Forward

June 9, 2006

Human Trafficking Report Slaps Israel

BYLINE: Ori Nir

SECTION: News; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 913 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The State Department has put Israel on a special "watch list," citing its "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking" in human beings.

In its annual Report on Human Trafficking, published Monday, the State Department contended that "the Government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and has failed to show efforts to address "conditions of involuntary servitude allegedly facing thousands of foreign migrant workers." Specifically, the report chides Israel's government for not pushing to pass legislation criminalizing all forms of trafficking. It states that Israel "should also more vigorously enforce existing bans against charging recruitment fees and withholding passports, factors that contribute to the trafficking of workers."

This is the first time in four years that the administration has downgraded Israel's ranking, putting it in the unflattering company of Third World, mostly non-democratic regimes. The report classifies 149 countries into four groups. Most countries are in **Tier 1**, which means that they are effectively fighting **human trafficking** and reducing it to a minimum. A small minority, 12 countries that include Iran, Cuba, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, are in the lowest, **Tier 3**. These are governments that have not made "significant efforts" to bring themselves "into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons**." Such countries may face the withholding of American foreign aid. In between, there is the **Tier 2** category and the even more negative **Tier 2 Watch List** for countries that are seen as not doing enough to improve.

Trafficking is one of several areas in which Israel has come under U.S. scrutiny. Others include religious freedom, human rights generally and money laundering.

In 2001, when the first trafficking report was published, many were shocked to see Israel ranked in Tier 3. The main reason for this low ranking was the pervasive illegal importation of young women, mainly from Eastern European countries, for prostitution in Israel. Efforts by the Israeli government to confront the phenomenon convinced the State Department to upgrade Israel to Tier 2, where it has remained since 2002. This year, however, Israel found itself downgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List - one step away from being ranked again with the world's most notorious regimes on the issue.

In reaction to the report, Israel's Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Israel "is fighting with various tools" against the phenomenon of violating the rights of foreign workers. The statement also points out that the report is based only on data pertaining to the period of April 2004 to April 2005. In the past year, the Israeli statement says, there were "additional actions taken, which contributed significantly to advancing the battle against trafficking in people."

One explanation for Israel's drop this year is that the report focused not on sex-related trafficking but on migrant workers. And although the report noted the progress that Israel made in fighting the trafficking of women, it pointed out that the government "did not demonstrate significant efforts to improve its protection of labor trafficking victims." These victims, the report says, "do not receive adequate protection services. The government does not operate a shelter for their rehabilitation, housing them in detention facilities instead. Such victims are also frequently arrested and deported

for violation of immigration regulations before they have an opportunity to testify against their employers. The government does not provide state funded legal aid to foreign workers, and often fails to include interpreters in judicial and deportation hearings."

John Miller, who directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, told reporters Monday that being on the **Watch List** is a "warning," and that some countries on that list are in danger of slipping to the lowest category.

An ironic twist is that Rahel Gershuni, de facto anti-trafficking coordinator of the Israeli government, is mentioned in the State Department report as one of 10 "heroes acting to end modern day slavery" worldwide. Gershuni was noted for having "tirelessly led the Israeli effort to fight sex trafficking."

The downgrading of Israel "is a sobering development that unfortunately reflects what we see every day on the ground," said Shevi Korzen, director of the Hotline for Migrant Workers, an Israeli legal-aid organization. Korzen said that the main problem facing migrant workers is their inability to leave an employer who often maltreats them. Migrant workers, she explained, are typically recruited overseas by local human resources contractors, who charge them large sums of money - often up to \$15,000 - to ensure a work license in Israel. Some of that money is paid to Israeli dealers.

Often, Korzen said, these workers have to mortgage their homes to pay the large sum. In Israel, they find themselves bound to their employers. They can't travel back, because of the debt they left at home, but they are also not allowed to stay in Israel unless they are working for the Israeli employer who hired them to come to Israel.

In March, Israel's Supreme Court ruled that this policy, in practice for 13 years, was illegal. The court ordered the government to adopt a new one within six months. That process has not yet been completed.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: IMAGE

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

357 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Frontier Star

June 9, 2006 Friday

765 HUMAN SMUGGLERS ARRESTED: SHERPAO**LENGTH:** 211 words

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Sherpao has said that USA has lauded our tall efforts for the elimination of human smuggling, however India is still on a watch list. "During last one year, 765 human smugglers have been arrested and investigations underway while 92 have been punished," Sherpao expressed these views while addressing in a press conference in Parliament House on Friday.

Interior Minister said that according to a US Congress report concerning Human Smuggling, Pakistan is no longer in the **watch list** but India is. He said that US has lauded Pakistan in our efforts towards elimination of **human trafficking** underlining that it is satisfied with our investigation and prosecution of cases of human smuggling.

During the last one-year, cases against 765 culprits involved in human smuggling have been lodged stressing that 448 have been formally prosecuted.

He further said that we have constituted a special National Action Plan for the elimination of human smuggling that is not present in other neighbouring countries.

He said that Inter Agency Task Force has been set up under Secretary Interior to review the performance after 15 days besides a cell has also been set up in the Interior ministry for the elimination of human smuggling.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Trafficking/Smuggling; Law Enforcement**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Global News Bites

358 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

June 9, 2006 Friday

GOVERNMENT REPORTED 765 CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**LENGTH:** 347 words

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior has welcomed the acknowledgement of Pakistan's efforts by United States in combating the menace of human trafficking in its 6th Annual Trafficking In-Person (TIP) Report presented by Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice to Congress. To prevent further victimization, United States underlined the need that Government of Pakistan should also step up its efforts to protect the privacy and identity of victims.

Briefing the newsmen in his Parliament chamber, Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao while quoting the TIP report said government of Pakistan has improved its efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases this year. He said that government has reported 765 cases of human smuggling, out of which 448 were filed for prosecution.

The US Congress has also appreciated the Pakistan government's initiative to introduce a bill in the National Assembly to expedite trafficking cases through the judicial system. Sherpao said Pakistan has been placed on tier 2 of TIP Report. He also told the reporters that in this regard, Ministry of Interior has taken several measures like establishment of national plan of action to combat trafficking, approval of special Anti-Human Trafficking Cell within the Ministry to coordinate its anti trafficking response.

He said that Ministry of Interior in collaboration with IOM opened a shelter for trafficking victims providing medical, psychological and legal care. Interior Minister was of the view that Pakistan is the only country in the region, which was placed on **tier 2** as India and Bangladesh are still on **watch list**. Pakistan was excluded from **Human Trafficking Watch List** by the United States last year.

He said that Interior Ministry has also planned to involve NGOs, local/provincial governments to institute measures to address internal trafficking and broaden public awareness campaign to reach more at-risk population. Sherpao said that no data was made available by India regarding the filing and prosecution of trafficking cases. Besides, Bangladesh prosecuted 36 traffickers

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Trafficking/Smuggling**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Global News Bites

359 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

June 9, 2006 Friday

Government reported 765 cases of human trafficking

SECTION: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 345 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD JUN 09

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360 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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June 9, 2006 Friday

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SECTION: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 345 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD JUN 09

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LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

361 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

June 9, 2006 Friday

BYLINE: By John McCaslin, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; EMBASSY ROW; Pg. A16**LENGTH:** 648 words

Economic threads

A top Greek official compared his country's economic diplomacy to Lilliputians trying to restrain Gulliver from wreaking havoc in the world.

Theodore Skylakakis called economic diplomacy a long-range antidote to many international conflicts because trade relations are like "threads interconnecting people, organizations, regions and countries."

"If enough such threads form the relations among countries, then gradually the destructive forces motivating conflicts will find themselves constrained and defeated by this net of intersecting economic threads," Mr. Skylakakis, secretary-general of the Greek Foreign Ministry, told a Washington audience this week.

"These destructive forces have long existed, and they will not disappear overnight. But like the ropes of the Lilliputians, the multiple threats of economic relations, given enough time, can restrain and immobilize the Gulliver who wreaks havoc in the world."

He told the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars that Greece's practice of economic diplomacy includes the promotion of international trade, the reduction of costs and risks in cross-border transactions, the security of property rights and the facilitation of the political climate to support those principles.

"This is a great challenge, especially for governments that must contend with the forces of economic nationalism, cultural anxieties, embedded corruption and resistance to reform," he said.

"Economic diplomacy is necessarily a long-term process. Its results start showing not in mere months or years, but rather in a decade or even longer. So it cannot be effective by itself when a situation rapidly and unexpectedly deteriorates toward conflict."

Mr. Skylakakis cited Greece's relations with Turkey as an example of economic diplomacy. He noted that his country, once a rival of Turkey's, is now its biggest advocate for membership in the European Union.

"Greece took the brave decision to encourage and support Turkish candidacy," he said.

"We believe that if Turkey proceeds with the reforms necessary for European integration, both our countries, and the broader region, will enjoy very substantial political, economic and security benefits."

Mr. Skylakakis also noted such joint economic projects as the natural-gas pipeline being built from Baku, Azerbaijan, through Turkey and Greece and into Italy.

Corrupt Cambodia

Cambodia's government might be drenched in corruption, but it made significant progress in the fight against human trafficking, the U.S. Embassy said this week.

"The record over the past year demonstrates the high-level commitment by the [Cambodian government] and the prime minister to improve the government's performance in fighting trafficking in persons," said Mark C. Storella, charge d'affaires at the embassy in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

The State Department's "2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report" recognized Cambodia's progress by promoting it to a **Tier 2** nation from the bottom ranking of **Tier 3**. The new status means that Cambodia does not fully comply with international standards but is making progress in the fight to end sexual exploitation and forced labor of women and children.

The department urged Cambodia to "make greater efforts to prosecute and convict public officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking and should also pass and enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation," the embassy said.

It noted that Cambodia's efforts are "hampered by corruption at all levels of government and by ineffectual judicial system."

Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak called the new status a "reflection of reality."

"It is good news," he told Japan's Kyodo News. "We welcome such fair and positive assessment based on the fact that we are committed to fighting against human trafficking."

* Call Embassy Row at 202/636-3297, fax 202/832-7278 or e-mail jmorrison@washingtontimes.com.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

362 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 8, 2006 Thursday

Belize rejects US State Department's human-trafficking charges

LENGTH: 618 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website on 8 June

Belmopan, Belize: Belize Prime Minister Said Musa is insisting that his country is addressing the problems of human trafficking while slamming the US State Department for seeking to pass judgement on the Caribbean Community state.

"When you analyse the issue of human trafficking, we have done a lot in this country to address this issue.

"Police, the immigration, people have raided constantly in addressing this issue of prostitution for instance and the whole question of human trafficking we've done a lot.

"But those who seek to judge us should perhaps examine their own decadent societies before they come and pass judgement on us," he told reporters Wednesday in response to the US State Department's **Human Trafficking** Report which gave Belize a "**Tier 3**" rating.

Musa said he did not think it was coincidence that Belize is "now lumped and almost put in a box so to speak with, Belize, Venezuela and Cuba".

In its latest report released this week, the Department gave Belize the "Tier 3' rating, which is reserved for countries whose governments do not comply with the minimum standards to prevent trafficking and which are not making significant efforts to do so.

The other two Caricom countries detailed in the report, Guyana and Jamaica, were placed in Tier 2, which indicated that while their governments do not fully comply with minimum standards they were making significant efforts to bring themselves in compliance with those standards.

Haiti and the Bahamas were placed in a special category, as their countries were not assessed for different reasons.

However, while they were not noted as source points for human trafficking, the State Department identified Barbados and Suriname as two countries where Guyanese young girls and women were being trafficked to for sexual exploitation.

In relation to Belize, the report said Belize was "the source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation. Women and girls are trafficked to Belize, mainly from Central America, and exploited in prostitution."

The report said the country's largely unmonitored borders with Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico facilitated the movement of illegal migrants who were vulnerable to traffickers.

In the face of these activities, the State Department charged that Belize failed to show evidence of significant law enforcement or victim protection efforts over the last year.

"Laws against trafficking remained weak and largely unenforced, adult victims received no attention or assistance and the government made no significant effort to raise public awareness and work with vulnerable populations," it concluded.

It relation to Guyana it noted that government had increased financial support for nongovernmental organizations to provide victim assistance and expand prevention activities, but needed to expand its efforts to include more rural officials, aggressively pursue traffickers and continuing working with NGOs.

The report said that having been placed in Tier 3 last year, Jamaica launched a public awareness campaign, created an inter-agency task force to coordinate anti-trafficking matters and appointed police officers to handle trafficking-related investigations.

However it said, "government should increase law enforcement efforts and take strong action against corruption that may impede progress in this area".

On Tuesday Information Minister Colin Campbell expressed satisfaction with the report which acknowledged Jamaica's efforts with dealing with the problem.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1620 gmt 8 Jun 06

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

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363 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 7, 2006 Wednesday 10:15 PM TST**FAMILY HELPERS TO BE SUBJECT TO LABOR STANDARDS LAW PROTECTION: CLA****BYLINE:** Elisa Kao**LENGTH:** 164 words**DATELINE:** Taipei, June 7

Officials of the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) said Wednesday that they are considering including family helpers under the Labor Standards Law to further protect their interests.

The CLA officials made the remarks after the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released recently by the U.S. State Department downgraded Taiwan's labor situation to the "**tier 2 watch list**" along with underdeveloped or least developed countries.

In response to questions from reporters, U.S. State Department officials said Taiwan's labor situation being downgraded was due to too much forced labor meted out to foreign caregivers.

CLA officials said the agency has been working on including family helpers under the Labor Standards Law, but claimed that as the agency still has to work on many other details concerning the issue, such as fixing reasonable labor conditions for foreign caregivers, the CLA will hold several surveys among foreign caregivers and consult with experts to draw final conclusions.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

364 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 7, 2006 Wednesday 10:28 AM TST

TAIWAN VOWS TO STEP UP CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**BYLINE:** Sofia Wu**LENGTH:** 184 words

(repeat)

Taipei, June 6 (CNA) Interior Minister Lee Yi-yang said Tuesday the government will step up crackdown on human trafficking and has outlawed cross-border marriage matchmaking to prevent human trafficking.

Lee made the remarks after the newly released U.S. annual report on **trafficking in persons** places Taiwan on a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

The U.S. report said Taiwan has failed to show evidence of increasing efforts over the past year to address trafficking, despite ample resources to do so, particularly to address the serious level of forced labor and sexual servitude among legally migrating Southeast Asian contract workers and brides.

Lee said the government is determined to devote more energies and resources to clamp down on human trafficking. Under the newly revised immigration law, no more marriage brokerage companies can be set up and existing marriage matchmaking firms will be subject to stricter regulations and monitoring to prevent cross-border human trafficking in guise of marriage matchmaking.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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365 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

June 7, 2006 Wednesday 3:54 PM EST

US sticks to its guns on India-critical slavery report

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service

LENGTH: 405 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, June 7 -- The United States Tuesday defended its sharp criticism of India in a report on **human trafficking**, saying the fact that many friends and allies ended up on its **watch lists** demonstrated Washington's commitment to ending what it calls "modern-day slavery".

Seeking to soft pedal India's sharp reaction to the report, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said listing of countries in various tiers was merely a mechanism to try to solve the problem and was not meant to brand any particular country.

Suggesting that there hadn't been "any particular reaction from the Indian government", he claimed that the US Trafficking in Persons Office tries to gather the best information working with host governments on the issue, and the report reflected "their best judgment based on an objective set of criteria."

"There are many countries who are our friends and allies who end up in Tier 3 or on the Tier 2 Watch List, and that I think is a real demonstration of our commitment to this. This is a hard issue and that we are going to speak out clearly and in public on it," McCormack said.

The whole idea behind listing the various countries and the governments in terms of what steps they have taken on to fight trafficking in persons is to try to solve the problem that both President George Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice took seriously, he said.

"What we want to do is work with governments to try to resolve the problem - work with those governments so that they can take steps, they can change their laws, they can change their regulations to fight trafficking in persons."

"So the actual list itself is more of a mechanism. It's not meant to - it's not meant to brand any particular country, although there are some countries that have sort of - have remained on the list for quite some time," he said.

Citing Malawi, Ecuador and a few others as good examples of countries moving up from the bottom Tier 3 up to Tier 1, McCormack said, the visible improvements in those countries was a demonstration of the utility of talking about the issue in public.

The US report on trafficking in persons evoked a sharp reaction in India with New Delhi taking strong objection to the US tendency to issue reports based on "preconceptions," and rejecting the "judgemental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government".

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LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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366 of 445 DOCUMENTS

IPR Strategic Business Information Database

June 7, 2006**GOVT. RESPONDS TO POOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING RANKING****LENGTH:** 154 words**DATELINE:** BAHRAIN

According to "Bahrain Tribune", the government has defended the Kingdom's ranking given out by the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, which put Bahrain on the **Tier 2 Watch list** in its latest report on global **human-trafficking**. The news is not unexpected in human rights circles in the Kingdom. A workshop in March prepared the ground by commending Bahrain for 'making significant efforts' to comply with higher standards. The Assistant Undersecretary for Co-ordination and Follow-up at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, said that the Kingdom was committed to making a difference in its fight against human-trafficking before the year-end. Shaikh Abdulaziz said Bahrain is considering stricter laws with stiff penalties and updating the database of human-trafficking and abuse reports so that proper information would be in place for the implementation of new measures.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter

367 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 7, 2006, Wednesday

'Censure must spur Israel to action' Government admits foreign workers' rights being disregarded

BYLINE: Ruth Eglash And Herb Keinon

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 641 words

Israeli human rights groups welcomed the US State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report Tuesday and were hopeful that Israel's poor showing - it was placed in the **Tier 2 (Watch List)** category - would propel the government and other official bodies into taking immediate action.

Shevy Korzen executive director of the Hotline for Migrant Workers one of several organizations involved in the fight against slave labor and sexual exploitation against women warned The Jerusalem Post that if Israel fails to tackle this growing problem "it could fall into the final Tier 3 group which could include economic sanctions."

Tier 3 countries are those whose governments "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so."

In previous years Israel was in the Tier 2 category of countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act but are making significant efforts to do so.

"Progress has been made by the government in the fight against sex trafficking but the situation for labor trafficking has gravely deteriorated said Korzen. If it were not for the progress made in the sex industry I have no doubt that Israel would have been labeled Tier 3. I hope this will act as a sign to the government to start taking this issue seriously."

The Foreign Ministry issued a response to the report saying that the situation regarding foreign workers in Israel is not as bad as indicated by the report. It claimed that the problems highlighted in the report were not widespread but limited to "isolated incidents." At the same time the statement admitted there was a problem with the rights of foreign workers being disregarded something that the state was trying to combat.

The report also criticized Israel's current anti- trafficking law which does not cover forms of labor trafficking. The Foreign Ministry said that a bill criminalizing human trafficking had passed its first reading in the Knesset.

Roni Aloni-Sadovnik spokeswoman for the Task Force on Human Trafficking (TFHT) - a project of the non- profit organization ATZUM - commented that Israel's standing in the report was mainly due to the government's failure to take the problem seriously. She also said that the police needed to take more action in catching those running trafficking operations in Israel.

A spokesman for Interior Minister Avi Dichter said his ministry would work together with the police to draft a strategy for combating the problem which would be brought before the government and prime minister for approval within the next few weeks.

"More needs to be done to break the vicious cycle of human trafficking commented Ayelet Lahmi coordinator of activities against human trafficking at Amnesty Israel.

She said that one of the biggest problems was the lack of shelters and a viable witness protection program to help get the victims out of the cycle of forced labor and prostitution.

And even though the Foreign Ministry highlighted to the US State Department the improvements Israel has made in providing shelters Lahmi said the one shelter that exists is not enough to help the estimated 4 0 women working in Israel's sex industry. And Korzan of the Hotline for Migrant Workers added that no such program existed for foreign workers trying to escape forced labor.

As well as the negative aspects the report did comment on some of the positive steps taken by the country. The ministry said the State Department had named Rachel Gershuni Israel's interministerial coordinator on the issue as one of ten heroes acting to end modern day slavery" around the world.

The Foreign Ministry praised the State Department for its report saying Israel would study the document and use it to help Israel improve the means to battle human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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368 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Korea Times

June 7, 2006 Wednesday

US Questions Legitimacy of Kaesong Wage System

LENGTH: 465 words

By Christopher Carpenter

The United States is concerned wages intended for North Korean employees working for South Korean companies in the Kaesong Industrial Complex may be going to the North Korean government instead.

A U.S. State Department report on global **human trafficking** released Monday placed the communist nation in "**Tier 3**" in terms of **human trafficking**. The lowest ranking possible, tier 3 is given to governments that do not comply with even minimum standards and are make no effort to do so.

"The DPRK regime reportedly provides workers for foreign investors operating in North Korean industrial parks," the Trafficking in Persons Report said.

DPRK, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is North Korea's official name.

"There are concerns that this labor may be exploitative, with the DPRK government keeping most or all of the foreign exchange paid and then paying workers in local, non-convertible currency," it said.

South Korean manufacturers have set up production plants in Kaesong, a North Korean city just inside the inter-Korean border, combining their capital with cheap North Korean labor to be more price-competitive.

Because of wide differences between official and black market foreign exchange rates, critics believe the North Korean government takes the majority of the workers' wages.

The report notes allegations that North Korea sends its workers to countries like Mongolia, Russia and the Czech Republic, many of them coercively.

With Seoul and Washington starting free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations this week, and South Korea wanting Kaesong products recognized as "Made in South Korea," U.S. officials have not been receptive, raising questions about labor standards at Kaesong and about exactly where the North Koreans' wages are going.

John Miller, senior adviser to the secretary of state, emphasized that although working conditions of these people may be better than in North Korea, they should still be considered trafficking victims.

"They lack freedom," he said at a news conference. "It's not clear that they get any money, whether the money goes to them or the North Korean government. We are talking about forced labor."

South Korea was put in "Tier 1" with nations fully complying with minimum standards.

Regarding South Korea, the report gave high marks to a 2004 law punishing involvement in the sex-trade and related fields.

"The law sends a clear message that the government is serious about taking action against a crime that went largely unpunished in the past," the report said.

Seoul has also successfully worked with U.S. Forces Korea to address sexual exploitation around American bases in South Korea, it said.

"As a result, sources suggest a significant decline in the number of foreign women working near U.S. bases," the report said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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369 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

June 7, 2006 Wednesday

WASHINGTON STRIKES RP OFF HUMAN-TRAFFICKING WATCHLIST BUT ASKS GOVERNMENT TO PROSECUTE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE CRIME

BYLINE: By Jonathan vicente, Reporter

LENGTH: 479 words

THE US State Department has removed the Philippines from its **human trafficking watchlist** but at the same time asked the Philippine government to prosecute public officials and syndicates involved in human smuggling.

The US government has released on its website the 2006 annual report on human trafficking, which cited the country's improvement in battling human smuggling.

"The Philippine government made discernible progress in its antitrafficking law-enforcement efforts in 2005. In particular, the government made progress in prosecuting human traffickers," the US report said.

Embassy officials said that based on the latest State Department report, the Philippines is no longer on the "Tier 2" watchlist.

The US report said over the last few years, the Philippine government stepped up efforts to enforce its antitrafficking law and made initial progress in implementing strategies to combat trafficking in persons, particularly the prosecution of human traffickers.

Following the imposition by the Japanese government of stricter requirements for entertainer visas, the number of Filipino women given Tokyo visas dropped by almost half in 2005 compared with 2004, the US report added.

The US government, however, advised Manila to shift its focus on prosecuting and convicting traffickers and public officials involved in human smuggling.

The report said that last year alone, 67 human trafficking-related cases were investigated and another 31 cases were filed for prosecution. Two cases resulted in the conviction of four individuals for trafficking offenses, with the courts handing down life sentences to the traffickers and awarding compensation to the victims.

Two additional cases led to convictions under the 2003 antitrafficking law, but the human smugglers pleaded guilty to a lesser offense-and were sentenced to six months of community service and a fine instead of imprisonment.

In justifying Manila's removal from the high-level **watchlist**, the US government said the Philippine Department of Justice tripled the number of prosecutors handling trafficking cases at the national level and assigned additional prosecutors at the regional level to focus on **human-trafficking** cases, "resulting in a fourfold increase in the number of investigative cases presented for prosecution under the 2003 antitrafficking law."

Justice Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez also ordered all prosecutors to give preferential attention to human trafficking cases and to oppose any motion for dismissal for lack of testimony by witnesses or where the defendant has made a financial settlement with the victim or family members.

The US report, however, said corruption and a weak judiciary remain serious impediments to the effective prosecution of traffickers. "Despite widespread reports of law-enforcement officials' complicity in trafficking, the government prosecuted only one such official."

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trafficking/Smuggling

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

370 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Moscow Times

June 7, 2006 Wednesday

U.S. Tells Russia to Fight Trafficking

BYLINE: Anastasiya Lebedev, Staff Writer

LENGTH: 462 words

Russia must do more to curb human trafficking, a new U.S. State Department report says. For the third year in a row, the country landed on the department's watch list.

Russia was also criticized for delaying legislation providing money for shelters and medical and psychological assistance for victims.

The sixth annual Trafficking in Persons report was released Monday in Washington.

"Today, victim protection and assistance is provided on an ad hoc basis and is highly dependent upon local and regional authorities," the report said.

According to the report, trafficking victims come from, travel through and end up in Russia. Victims include those used for forced labor, prostitution and child sex tourism. Corruption among police officers and border guards, who accept bribes from traffickers, compound the problem, the report said.

Of Russia's 5 million illegal immigrants, 1 million are thought to be victims of forced labor, which includes construction- and agriculture-related work, the report said, citing the International Labor Organization.

Asona Kadyrova, a lawyer at the Angel Coalition, an umbrella organization of anti-trafficking NGOs operating in nine Russian regions, said the coalition had given advice to 5,233 people who called their emergency phone line since 2004. The phone line services victims, relatives and others concerned about trafficking and working abroad. The coalition has also given shelter, legal consultation and other help to 727 trafficking victims since 2003, Kadyrova said.

Anti-trafficking experts met Tuesday in Moscow to discuss a possible study on trafficking in Moscow and the Moscow region, Maria Melnikova of the International Organization for Migration said. For now, she said, there are no reliable statistics.

The U.S. report stated that Russia had improved its law enforcement efforts, noting that the numbers of prosecutions and investigations had risen. But it also criticized the country for imposing inconsistent and, at times, inadequate sentences on traffickers.

The **watch list** includes countries whose governments do not meet the State Department's minimum criteria for fighting **human trafficking** and are not doing enough to improve the situation. Other countries on the list are Cambodia, China, Brazil, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Cyprus.

Only 12 countries, including North Korea and Sudan, are considered to be doing a worse job than Russia at combatting trafficking, the report said.

Melnikova said an anti-trafficking bill was being reviewed by government officials. Work began in 2003.

The bill would provide money and facilitate coordination between state agencies and NGOs. Melnikova said the International Organization for Migration plans to open a shelter in Moscow for trafficking victims by the fall.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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371 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

June 7, 2006 Wednesday

BYLINE: By James Morrison, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; EMBASSY ROW; Pg. A17**LENGTH:** 649 words

Mixed message

The U.S. ambassador to India praised the government in New Delhi for "taking action" against human trafficking a day after the State Department criticized India for failing to meet "minimum standards" to stop sexual slavery and forced labor.

"Recognizing trafficking is an important issue, the [Indian] government is taking action," Ambassador David C. Mulford wrote in an article in the Times of India.

Mr. Mulford noted that the government created a minister of state for women and child development, elevating a former bureaucratic agency and "raising the profile of the government's anti-trafficking agenda."

"The central government is also pursuing initiatives that would establish media-awareness campaigns, coordinate national enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and expand coordination of government efforts at the national and state levels," he wrote.

Mr. Mulford noted that the U.S. Embassy in the capital and U.S. consulates in other cities are providing assistance to the Indian government and that Washington is contributing \$9 million to 24 projects throughout the country to combat human trafficking.

"We have a good working relationship with our counterparts at all levels of the Indian government and support current legislation that would strengthen laws and penalties against traffickers," wrote Mr. Mulford, a political appointee and former business executive.

The ambassador's assessment of India's response to women and children exploited in sex rings and men and women held in involuntary servitude contrasted sharply with the review of India in the State Department's annual report on human trafficking.

"The government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however it is making significant efforts to do so," said the report, released Monday.

"India is placed on [the] **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to address **trafficking in persons**."

The report assigns nations to three categories with Tier 1 countries in full compliance and Tier 3 at the bottom. Countries on the Tier 2 watch list risk being downgraded and losing U.S. humanitarian assistance.

India yesterday denounced the report and complained that the State Department failed to consider its "active cooperation" with the United States.

"On the subject of trafficking in persons, .. we reject judgmental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government," the Foreign Ministry said.

Liberty bonds

Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon looked to the American Liberty Bell for inspiration when he spoke on the 50th anniversary of the Israel Bonds' Ambassador's Ball.

"The Bible tells us that the 50th anniversary, or 'jubilee,' is a special time, a time to celebrate liberty and freedom," he said at Monday's soiree.

Mr. Ayalon noted that a portion of a verse from the Book of Leviticus was inscribed on the Liberty Bell, most famous for ringing in 1776 to proclaim American independence.

"And you shall sanctify the 50th year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. It shall be a jubilee unto you," he said.

"Crucial to liberty is freedom of religion," Mr. Ayalon added, noting that June 7 is also Jerusalem Day, which commemorates the Israeli conquest of the divided city in the 1967 war. The Israeli government proclaimed Jerusalem the national capital and guaranteed Jews, Muslims and Christians access to their holy sites in the city.

"Only after the liberation and unification of Jerusalem could followers of all religions enjoy their most basic rights," he said.

The annual Ambassador's Ball promotes the financial instruments that have underpinned the Israeli economy. More than \$26 billion in bonds have been sold since they were first issued in 1951.

* Call Embassy Row at 202/636-3297, fax 202/832-7278 or e-mail jmorrison@washingtontimes.com.

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372 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 7, 2006 Wednesday 10:00 PM EST

Venezuela rejects U.S. report on human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 171 words**DATELINE:** CARACAS

The Venezuelan government on Tuesday rejected a U.S. report which rated Venezuela's fight against human trafficking poorly, saying it was "part of the greater campaign to discredit President Hugo Chavez."

Venezuelan National Assembly legislators had passed laws against people trafficking and the government planned to invest 170,000 U.S. dollars in fighting the trade during 2006, said a statement issued by the Venezuelan embassy in the United States.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report of the U.S. State Department, Venezuela was listed among 12 nations rated "**Tier 3**": the worst offenders who could face sanctions if they do not take counter-measures within 90 days.

During the last 12 months, Venezuelan authorities have made great efforts to protect victims of human trafficking, sentence smugglers, and help police and public institutions to solve the problem, the Venezuelan press reported.

There was no evidence to support the U.S. government's accusations, the statement added.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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373 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 7, 2006 Wednesday 10:00 PM EST

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

SECTION: WORLD NEWS

LENGTH: 120 words

DATELINE: MANILA

The following are major news items in leading Philippine newspapers on Wednesday:

Manila Bulletin:

-- President Arroyo threatened on Tuesday to veto the proposed 2006 national budget if lawmakers insisted on large reductions that would jeopardize the government's pro-poor programs.

Philippine Daily Inquirer:

-- In a move that would benefit about 1,000 people on death row, the Senate and the House of Representatives Tuesday crossed party lines to approve the abolition of the death penalty.

The Philippine Star:

-- The Philippines has improved its ranking in the United States' **watch list of human trafficking** violators, owing to its efforts at combating modern-day sex and labor slavery.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

374 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 9:27 PM GMT

US govt points to Nigeria's fight against human trafficking

LENGTH: 322 words**DATELINE:** LAGOS, June 6 2006

The US government has called attention to Nigeria's efforts in the fight against human trafficking, which despite showing some progress still fall short of complying with the "minimum standards" for eliminating the vice.

"The sixth annual Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report was released on Monday, June 5. Nigeria is categorized in the report as **Tier 2**," the US embassy in Nigeria said in a statement.

"The report said the government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but it is making significant efforts to do so," the text said.

It said the government continued to strengthen and institutionalise Nigeria's response to human trafficking over the last year, showing substantial commitment to the issue.

The report advised the government to increase prosecutions and convictions of traffickers and boost protection efforts in order to strengthen its response to trafficking.

It said Nigeria is a source, transit and destination country for women and children trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation.

"Victims are trafficked for domestic servitude, street hawking, agricultural labour, and sexual exploitation. Within Nigeria, women and children are trafficked from rural areas to urban zones.

"Internationally, they are trafficked to the Central African Republic, Mali, Gabon, Sudan, North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Austria.

"Women and children are also trafficked to Nigeria from Togo, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Niger, and Ghana," the report also said.

Last year, the US government praised Nigeria for implementing the 2003 anti-trafficking in persons' law. That year, the US commended the Nigerian officials, organisations and individuals who have worked to fight the scourge of trafficking, especially the Nigerian Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

375 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 3:14 PM GMT

Pakistan hands Turkey list of suspected human smugglers

LENGTH: 261 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD, June 6 2006

Pakistan Tuesday handed Turkey a list of 26 people suspected of involvement in human trafficking, officials said.

The director general of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, Tariq Pervaz, told AFP there was a gang in Turkey that facilitates illegal Pakistani immigrants on their way to Greece and other European destinations for employment.

He said interior ministry official Kamal Shah gave the list of suspect's names to a Turkish interior ministry delegation during a meeting to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fight against human trafficking.

Pervaz said Pakistan had been on a drive against human smugglers, which had led to the arrest of some 1,400 people involved in the illegal trade since last year.

"The drive has paid dividends," Pervaz said, noting that the rate of deportation of illegal Pakistani entrants from Turkey had dropped.

Turkey deported 10,000 Pakistanis in 2005 while the number had been reduced to 1,200 in the first five months of the current year, he said.

Pakistan is regarded as a major hub for **human trafficking** and in 2004 was placed on the **watch list** by the United States.

Last year Washington removed Pakistan from the watch list noting the country had made significant progress in curbing the problem.

In December Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece signed an agreement to strengthen border controls, boost cooperation between respective police forces and encourage information sharing.

The four states pledged to hold regular talks on the issue, and to create a working group of senior officials, who will meet at least once a year.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

376 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:30 PM GMT

India rejects "judgemental" US report on human trafficking

LENGTH: 342 words**DATELINE:** NEW DELHI, June 6 2006

India Tuesday rejected the US State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" which accuses New Delhi of not doing enough to eliminate "bonded labor slavery".

"The US has a practice of issuing global reports on a wide variety of subjects ... Such reports are, by their very nature based on US viewpoints and preconceptions," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement.

"On the subject of trafficking in persons, as with other areas, we reject judgemental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government," the statement said.

The 290-page report which analysed trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes in about 150 countries, was issued in Washington on Monday.

It **blacklists** countries that do not take adequate action to stem **human trafficking**.

On India, the report said that gauging the seriousness of trafficking problem had become difficult due to lack of data from India.

India and giant neighbour China remain on the watchlist from previous years and could be relegated to the lowest-ranked Tier 3 from a special "Tier 2 watchlist", if they do not take prompt action, said John Miller, a senior US advisor on trafficking issues.

While India had taken some steps to check sex trafficking, there was "lack of action" on "bonded labor slavery" in the vast nation, the report said.

The Indian statement said New Delhi and Washington had held a dialogue on trafficking in people and other transnational challenges.

"The approach of the 2006 report does not reflect the active cooperation on this subject between the two countries.

"It certainly is not helpful to furthering our dialogue in that regard," it added.

In an article in the Times of India on Tuesday, meanwhile, US ambassador to India David C. Mulford wrote that India was "taking action" to curb trafficking.

"The government is also pursuing initiatives that would establish media awareness campaigns, coordinate national enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and expand coordination of government efforts at the national and state levels," he wrote.

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377 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 11:29 AM GMT

China pledges to fight human trafficking, cooperate internationally

LENGTH: 246 words**DATELINE:** BEIJING, June 6 2006

China Tuesday said it was making headway in its fight to combat the trafficking of women and children and pledged to cooperate internationally to end the scourge.

"China's government attaches high importance to the legitimate rights of the Chinese people and in combatting human trafficking, especially the trafficking of women and children," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told journalists.

"Now the numbers of trafficking cases in China have gone down and we have been making great progress in our work combatting human trafficking."

Liu was commenting on the annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," issued Monday by the US State Department, which placed China on a **watchlist** of countries where **human trafficking** remains a problem.

China was also cited in the report for "forced labor" involving largely North Korean refugees.

"Some are trafficked after they get to China. A lot of them are trafficked to be brides, filling this (gender) imbalance that comes from this one child (family planning) policy," John Miller, a senior advisor on trafficking issues at the State Department, said.

Chinese spokesman Liu acknowledged that human trafficking was a cross-border issue and pledged to step up international cooperation.

"Human trafficking, especially the trafficking of women and children is a regional and international problem so we are willing to conduct international cooperation in this regard and step up efforts to combat the evil acts of human trafficking," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

378 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 10:20 AM GMT

Cambodia sheds worst offender status on human trafficking list

LENGTH: 251 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH, June 6 2006

Cambodia has climbed out of the worst offenders category on the US State Department's people trafficking blacklist as a result of its efforts to arrest and convict those trading in humans.

The impoverished Southeast Asian country rose from the lowest-ranked **Tier 3**, where it was listed alongside North Korea and Myanmar, to a special "**Tier 2 watchlist**", according to the annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report.

This designation acknowledges that Cambodia is not fully complying with minimum standards to combat the problem, but is making "significant efforts" to do so, the report said.

"The record over the past year demonstrates the high-level commitment by the (government) and the prime minister to improve the government's performance in fighting trafficking in persons," said US embassy charge d'affairs Mark Storr Tuesday.

"Obviously there is still much work to be done," he added.

Cambodia is both a significant provider and recipient of trafficked people because of its weak border controls and poorly enforced migration laws.

But in a statement released alongside the report, the embassy cited successful domestic trafficking prosecutions and the government's cooperation with Washington to try US citizens committing sex acts against minors in Cambodia as signs of a turnaround.

The new designation means all non-humanitarian and non-trade related sanctions levied on Cambodia as a Tier 3 country will be lifted, the embassy said, but was unable to say how the move would affect US aid to the country.

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379 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:35 AM GMT

Missing fingers, toes highlight Asia's human trafficking woes

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran**LENGTH:** 692 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 5 2006

The shattered dream of an Indonesian domestic maid, who lost her fingers and toes, following torture by her employer in the Middle East is being used by the US State Department to illustrate the seriousness of the human trafficking problem.

Nour Miyatis dream was simple: To provide a brighter future for her nine-year old daughter back home.

But after working as a domestic for four years in the Middle East, her luck ran out as her new employer last year confined her in his house, denied her pay and tortured her.

Injuries she suffered to her hands and feet resulted in gangrene that required the amputation of her fingers and toes and prevented her from working anymore, the State Department said in its annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Human trafficking -- which refers to the transportation of persons for sexual exploitation, forced labour or other illicit activities -- threatens to stifle the livelihood of many Asian workers, the report warns.

"I met with Nour Miyati in Riyadh -- a victim of abuse, servitude and torture," John Miller, a senior advisor on trafficking issues at the State Department, told reporters.

The 290-page report was dedicated to the young Indonesian woman and many other foreign migrant workers "who pursued dreams but found hell on earth."

The report, which analyzed trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes in about 150 countries, **blacklists** countries that do not take adequate action to stem **human trafficking**.

Many Asian governments are trying to stem the problem but are not doing enough, the report said.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, prosecutions and convictions of human traffickers have leaped rapidly.

But in South Asia, gauging the seriousness of the problem has become a difficulty due to lack of data from India, the biggest country in the region.

Prosecutions in East Asia ballooned to 2,580 cases in 2005 from a mere 438 cases the year earlier. Similarly, convictions last year jumped to 2,347 from only 348.

Laos this year joined North Korea and Myanmar among Asian nations in the State Department's "**Tier 3**" list of worst offenders of **human trafficking**.

Countries in the blacklist could face sanctions if they do not take immediate measures within 90 days.

Others in the blacklist were Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Belize, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Cuba.

Cambodia, as a result of stepped up efforts by the government to arrest, prosecute, and convict traffickers, climbed from Tier 3 to a special "Tier 2 watchlist," comprising nations making "significant" efforts to deal with the problem.

India and China have remained on the watchlist from previous years and could be relegated to Tier 3 if they do not take prompt action to tackle the problem, Miller warned.

"This has to be a source of concern," he said.

Miller said that while the Indian government had taken some steps to check sex trafficking, there was "lack of action" on "bonded labor slavery" in the vast nation.

"This is a situation where a grandfather may incur a debt from an employer, gets them to come to work at a rice mill or a brick kiln. The son then continues working to pay off the debt. The grandson continues working," he explained.

The victims were not allowed to leave the mill and those who bolted were tracked down and beaten, said Miller, who had also met with survivors of such a rice mill when he was in India recently.

"I could not find an example while I was there of one owner of such a rice mill or brick kiln that had gone to jail," he said, highlighting India's weak prosecution of offenders despite having a tough law.

China was cited in the report for "forced labor" involving largely North Korean refugees.

"Some are trafficked after they get to China. A lot of them are trafficked to be brides, filling this imbalance that comes from this one child policy," Miller said, adding he had raised the issue with Beijing.

Malaysia and Indonesia were relegated from "Tier 2" to the watchlist. "This is not good news," Miller stressed.

The two Southeast Asian nations were penalized for their alleged failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking.

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380 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Europe - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 6, 2006 Tuesday

Slovenia does "not fully comply" with anti-trafficking standards - US report

LENGTH: 364 words

Text of report in English by Slovene news agency STA

Washington, 6 June: A US State Department report on **trafficking in persons** places Slovenia in the second **tier** of countries which do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts to do so.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, released on Monday [5 June], finds that the parliament has adopted a witness protection law and took steps to improve its ability to track trafficking statistics by establishing a standard methodology for the collection of data.

"In addition to these efforts, Slovenia should take the necessary steps to convict traffickers. The government should also improve support for public awareness efforts and provide consistent budget funding for designated NGO-run trafficking shelters."

The State Department notes modest progress in law enforcement efforts over the reporting period, as police investigated seven new trafficking cases in 2005. However, there have been no convictions of traffickers since 2002.

The government is also criticized for "considerably diminished" efforts to provide victim protection and assistance, as it temporarily withheld funding from the only anti-trafficking NGO shelter.

On the other hand, the report says that Slovenia demonstrated adequate prevention efforts during the reporting period. Specifically, the government tightly controlled its borders and regularly detained persons attempting to enter Slovenia illegally.

Moreover, the government, in cooperation with an NGO, continued a programme which provided trafficking awareness classes for 1,000 students in elementary and secondary schools around Slovenia in 2005.

It also funded a project focused on preventing asylum seekers from becoming trafficking victims and established a web page with contact information for victim assistance organizations.

Overall, the report says that Slovenia is primarily a transit and, to a lesser extent, a source and destination country for women and girls trafficked from Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Source: STA news agency, Ljubljana, in English 1101 gmt 6 Jun 06

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

381 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring South Asia - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 6, 2006 Tuesday

India rejects "judgemental" US report on people trafficking

LENGTH: 329 words

Text of report by Indian news agency PTI

New Delhi,StartDateStartDate 6 June: Reacting strongly to the US State Department's observations on status of trafficking in India, the government Tuesday [6 June] rejected "judgemental and prescriptive approach of a foreign government" and said it will not help in furthering the dialogue between the two countries on the issue.

New Delhi pointed out that the "active cooperation" between the two countries is not reflected on the State Department's annual report on **Trafficking in Persons** for 2006 which said India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and placed the country in "**Tier Two Watch List**".

"The US has a practise of issuing global reports on a wide variety of subjects from human rights and religious freedom to narcotics and trafficking in persons," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said when asked for comment on the report.

"Such reports are, by their very nature, based on US viewpoints and pre-conceptions," he said.

He asserted that "on the subject of trafficking in persons, as with other areas, we reject judgemental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government."

The State Department report said "India lacks a national law enforcement response to any form of trafficking but took some preliminary measures to create a central law enforcement unit to do so. However, India did not take steps to address the huge issue of bonded labour and other forms of involuntary servitude."

Sarna said India and the US have an ongoing dialogue on the subject of trafficking in persons and other transnational challenges and noted that such subjects are also discussed in the Global Issues Forum.

"The approach of the 2006 report does not reflect the active cooperation on this subject between the two countries. It certainly is not helpful to furthering our dialogue in that regard," the spokesman said.

Source: PTI news agency, New Delhi, in English 1242 gmt 6 Jun 06

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

382 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 12:12 PM TST**TAIWAN DOWNGRADED IN U.S. 'TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT'****BYLINE:** Lin Chieh-yu and Y.F. Low**LENGTH:** 423 words**DATELINE:** Washington, June 5

Taiwan has been placed on a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**, according to the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released Monday by the U.S. State Department.

The latest listing marks a downgrading for Taiwan, which was listed as a "Tier 2" country in past years.

"Taiwan is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts over the past year to address trafficking, despite ample resources to do so, particularly to address the serious level of forced labor and sexual servitude among legally migrating Southeast Asian contract workers and brides," the report says.

The report urges Taiwan authorities to demonstrate political will in tackling the human trafficking problem and develop a clear policy and action plan that adequately covers sex trafficking and involuntary servitude among foreign workers and brides.

The report describes Taiwan as a destination for men, women and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

While women from China and Southeast Asian countries are trafficked to Taiwan through fraudulent marriages, deceptive employment offers, and illegal smuggling, some foreign workers, primarily from Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines, are recruited legally for low-skilled jobs in Taiwan's construction, fishing or manufacturing industries or as domestic servants, and are subjected to forced labor or involuntary servitude by labor agencies or employers upon arrival in Taiwan, the report says.

It notes that Taiwan has a number of related laws that may be used to prosecute traffickers, including laws against slavery and exploiting children for prostitution, but it does not have comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation.

The Taiwan authorities provided inadequate protection for many victims of trafficking on the island over the last year, though they made efforts to improve levels of victim support in some areas, the report says.

Also Monday, Taiwan's representative to the United States David Ta-wei Lee expressed regret over the result.

Lee said the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the U.S. State Department had expressed their concern on the situation of human trafficking in Taiwan three months ago and that Taiwan's Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) had also provided the United States with a brochure for its reference.

Lee said the AIT's Taipei office has continued to communicate with the CLA and the Ministry of Justice for solutions to improve the situation.

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383 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Hindustan Times

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:38 PM EST

India on US human trafficking watch list**BYLINE:** Hindustan Times**LENGTH:** 306 words**DATELINE:** NEW DELHI, India

NEW DELHI, India, June 6 -- The US has yet again placed India on a "**watch list**" for allegedly not doing enough to deal with **human trafficking** for purposes of forced or bonded labour and sexual exploitation. India, which figures on the Tier II Watch List for the third consecutive year, has been faulted for "not taking steps to address the huge issue of bonded labour and other forms of involuntary servitude".

An annual report of the State Department says: "The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however it is making significant efforts to do so." The report, however, praises Tamil Nadu grassroots activist Kari Siddama as a hero "acting to end modern-day slavery". Some 30-odd countries, including China, figure on the same list as India while Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are a shade better and placed in Tier II as opposed to Tier II Watch List.

The report says India lacks a national law enforcement response to any form of trafficking but has taken some preliminary measures. It notes that amendments to impose stricter penalties on sex traffickers, though drafted, are yet to be introduced in Parliament. "India should consider designating a national law enforcement agency with investigative and prosecutorial jurisdiction throughout the country to address its inter-state and international trafficking problem," it reads.

Releasing the report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said: "By calling to account any nation, friend or foe, that can and should do more to confront human trafficking, we are pressing countries into action." John R. Miller, the Department's Ambassador-at-Large for international slavery, spoke of India's lack of action to end "bonded labour slavery".

The Hindustan Times is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

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384 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Indo-Asian News Service

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 2:16 PM EST

India placed on US Special Watch List against slavery

BYLINE: Indo-Asian News Service**LENGTH:** 1575 words**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, June 6 -- The US has placed a dozen countries, including India, on its Special **Watch List** against modern-day slavery for the third consecutive year due to their alleged failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to address **trafficking in persons**.

"The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," noted the sixth annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report released by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Monday.

India, it said, is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced or bonded labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, boys from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are trafficked through India to the Gulf states for involuntary servitude as child camel jockeys.

India's neighbours - Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh - have been placed a cut above it in Tier two for although all three did not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, they were, in US assessment, making significant efforts to do so.

India lacks a national law enforcement response to any form of trafficking, but took some preliminary measures to create a central law enforcement unit to do so, said the report which the US intends to use as a diplomatic tool to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

Described as the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons**, or modern-day slavery, the 158-country report divides them in four **tiers**.

Countries whose governments fully comply with the minimum standards specified in a 2000 U.S. law are placed in Tier one. Next come countries whose governments are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

A dozen countries including India have been placed on **tier** two Special **Watch List** for their failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **human trafficking** from the previous year. In the last **Tier** three are countries whose governments are not making significant efforts to comply.

India and other countries placed on the Special Watch List in this Report will be re-examined in an interim assessment to be submitted to the US Congress by Feb 1, 2007.

Those in Tier three, including Iran, North Korea and Saudi Arabia may be subject to certain sanctions, including withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the next fiscal year beginning Oct 1, 2006.

"By calling to account any nation, friend or foe, that can and should do more to confront human trafficking, we are pressing countries into action. With each year, more and more governments are increasing public awareness of the crime, targeting and prosecuting the perpetrators and helping victims to rebuild their lives," said Rice.

"To date, the US government has provided almost \$400 million to support global anti-trafficking efforts, said Rice noting that an estimated 800,000 people, primarily women and children, are victimised each year, and forced into lives of cruel and punishing degradation," she said.

Rice acknowledged that US too is a destination for the victims of human traffickers, but said they were "taking measures to hasten the coming of the day when no man, woman or child is denied their rights and their common humanity on American soil."

On India, the report said endemic corruption among law enforcement officials impedes the country's ability to effectively combat trafficking in persons. In terms of trafficking for sexual exploitation, corrupt law enforcement authorities reportedly continue to facilitate the movement of trafficking victims, protect brothels that exploit victims, and protect traffickers and brothel keepers from arrest or other threats of enforcement.

In the area of bonded labour and forced child labour, some corrupt police officials continued to protect businesses and managers who rely on forced labour, and take bribes to stop enforcement or judicial action.

India, the report said did not take steps to address the huge issue of bonded labour and other forms of involuntary servitude. The Indian government also did not take meaningful steps to address its sizeable trafficking-related corruption problem.

The government drafted, but had not yet introduced to parliament, amendments to the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) that would afford greater protection to sex trafficking victims and stricter penalties for their traffickers and for clients of prostitution.

India should consider designating and empowering a national law enforcement agency with investigative and prosecutorial jurisdiction throughout the country to address its interstate and international trafficking problem, the report suggested.

The government should similarly consider taking greater measures to rescue and protect victims of bonded labour and to prosecute their traffickers or employers, giving them punishments sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflect the nature of the heinous crime of trafficking.

It is particularly important to strengthen and enforce sentences applied to individuals convicted of exploiting bonded labourers. India should also improve its long-term protection of trafficking victims and institute nation-wide public awareness programs to educate all segments of the population on the dangers of trafficking.

India, the report said was unable to guard its long, porous borders with Bangladesh and Nepal, through which several thousand trafficking victims reportedly enter India each year.

Reportedly, Bangladeshi women are trafficked through India for sexual exploitation in Pakistan. Moreover, Indian men and women migrate willingly to the Gulf for work as domestic servants and low-skilled labourers, but some later find themselves in situations of involuntary servitude.

The report said a growing gender imbalance in areas of South and East Asia is increasingly driving the demand for trafficking victims and contributing to the phenomenon of bride selling.

India faces a similar problem of gender imbalance in some regions, although it is sparked primarily by cultural attitudes that see girls as economic liabilities due to dowry demands by potential grooms.

This gender gap has resulted in several million more men than women in the marriage market, creating a "marriage squeeze" and pressure for men to find women to marry.

As a consequence, there are some cases in which women from Nepal, Bangladesh, and other areas of India have been bought or kidnapped as brides for "bachelor villages".

The lack of women also contributes to greater demand for prostituted women and girls, fuelling the demand for victims of trafficking.

The report's introduction begins with the story of a 12-year-old girl Reena, who was brought to India from Nepal by her maternal aunt and forced into a New Delhi brothel shortly after arrival.

It also lists Kari Siddama, a grass roots activist and founder of Bharathi Trust in Tamil Nadu as one of the "Heroes Acting To End Modern-Day Slavery".

Kari Siddamma has been working extensively with the marginalised Irula (a low caste) tribal communities in Tamil Nadu for more than 12 years. With her intervention, an Irula movement has emerged that is now better organised to pursue indigenous legal rights from exploitive landlords.

In one incident in 2004, Siddamma helped release over 1,000 bonded labourers employed in the rice mills of the Red Hills area of Tamil Nadu.

The report said it had focused more attention on the plight of low skilled labourers from developing countries, particularly women working as domestics. Many of these labourers, pursuing a dream of giving their family a more secure and prosperous future, fall victim to conditions of servitude in developed destination countries, including the US.

Contract workers, especially in Asia, have modest aspirations but they are the most vulnerable, due to the lack of protection and their low economic status. Unscrupulous labour recruiters, "manpower" agencies, and employers often preyed on the aspirations of these workers, it said.

Economic globalisation has encouraged an unprecedented mobilisation of unskilled and low-skilled labour in response to demand in labour-deficit markets for construction, manufacturing, agriculture, and domestic work.

Migrant workers from less developed South and East Asian countries fill relatively short-term labour contracts in more developed Asian, European, and Near Eastern countries at an ever increasing rate.

The report sheds some light on a trafficking phenomenon, seen increasingly in Asia and the Near East-servitude, imposed on a large number of migrant labourers who accept contracts in other countries for low-skilled work in construction, manufacturing, agriculture and as domestic workers.

Apart from the costs in human terms, profits from human trafficking fuel other criminal activities. According to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking generates an estimated \$9.5 billion in annual revenue.

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385 of 445 DOCUMENTS

IPS - Inter Press Service

June 6, 2006 Tuesday

ARGENTINA: ABUSE COMES FULL CIRCLE FOR FORMER CHILD SEX SLAVES

BYLINE: Marcela Valente**LENGTH:** 891 words**DATELINE:** BUENOS AIRES, June 6 2006

A trial opened Tuesday in Argentina against a former federal police officer charged with running a brothel and three women who were supposedly his accomplices.

But human rights groups point out that two of the women facing charges were themselves his victims, sold into slavery and forced prostitution at the ages of 9 and 13.

A number of young women have gone missing in Argentina, and human trafficking rings engaged in sexual exploitation are suspected in many of the cases.

The 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** report released Monday by the U.S. State Department puts Argentina on the "**Tier 2 Watch List**."

The "Tier 2" category includes countries whose governments do not comply with "minimum standards" set forth in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making "significant efforts" to bring themselves into compliance.

In "Watch List" countries, meanwhile, the number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is considered very significant or significantly increasing, or governments have failed to step up efforts to halt these abuses.

Washington recommended that the Argentine government work with Congress to secure passage of a federal law against trafficking, whose victims are mainly women and children; ramp up efforts to arrest and prosecute traffickers; expand training for court and law enforcement officials; and work with non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness of the problem.

The story behind the current trial dates back to late November 2004, when a 15-year-old girl managed to escape from a hideout built in the back of a cabaret near the town of Inrville, in the province of Córdoba, 800 kilometers northwest of Buenos Aires.

The girl, who was held in captivity, said she was often deprived of food, forced to use drugs, and beaten. She was also tortured, by being made to eat excrement and drink urine, and was anally raped with a stick.

Psychological exams found that the victim was suffering "severe psychological damages" after being subjected to "repeated cruel, abusive and violent behaviors."

In connection with her case, and that of three other minors subjected to sexual exploitation, charges were filed against former police officer Jorge Gonzalez, who owned the cabaret, and his girlfriend Valeria Calderín for promoting prostitution, illegal deprivation of freedom, forced labor, weapons possession and abetment.

But two 21-year-old women, Vanesa Payero and Betiana Zapata, have also been charged with promoting prostitution, illegal deprivation of freedom and forced labor, even though as minors they were also held captive and subjected to a wide range of abuses. And under threat, they say, they were forced to abuse the new victims.

The Red No a la Trata de Mujeres (No to the Trafficking of Women Network), a coalition of Argentine social organizations, called for a suspension of the trial against Payero and Zapata, who were arrested when they were 19 and 20 years old, respectively.

The two women do not deny having taking part in abuses against minors, but say they did so under duress, and under the threat of violence.

According to social psychologist Adriana Dominguez, a member of the Red No a la Trata de Mujeres, Payero was "sold" at the age of 13, and Zapata when she was just 9 years old. Both were raped and tortured -- burned with boiling water and cigarettes, and whipped -- and were often deprived of food, to force them to work as prostitutes. They were held in captivity and reduced to slavery, and were not allowed any contact with the outside world.

Dominguez said Payero was raped and impregnated by Gonz lez, who forced her to abort. And at the age of 13, Zapata says, she bore the daughter of another pimp, but the baby was killed by her captors shortly after the birth.

"They beat me, but they let me bury her," Zapata told the C rdoba daily newspaper La Voz del Interior, in a 2005 interview from the prison in the town of Villa Maria, in the province of C rdoba. "I reported them, but I was never summoned to testify."

"I didn't know what being a child was. I never had a toy," she said.

The Red No a la Trata de Mujeres holds the state responsible for omission "in the face of these abuses and for failing to bring to trial the real perpetrators of these crimes."

"The state was nowhere to be seen when these minors were kidnapped, abused and shuffled around as if they were live-stock," but now it has "shown up to try them," said the coalition of NGOs.

Dominguez told IPS that Payero and Zapata did not even have the right to a defense. They were assigned a pro bono lawyer when no court-appointed public defender was available. But their attorney only met with them once in nearly two years.

When the trial actually began, the two women met Carlos Figueroa, their new lawyer, who had just recently passed the bar exam.

Figueroa explained to IPS that his clients had not been assigned a public defender because the only one available at the time was already representing "the victims" -- the girls and women whose testimony led to the arrests of Gonz lez and his alleged accomplices, Payero and Zapata.

And while Figueroa was appointed to represent the two young women a month ago, they have only met him once.

"We'll see how I'm going to prepare the defense," the lawyer said after the trial had already begun, declining to give any idea of what his strategy would be.

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386 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 10:54 AM GMT

U.S. praises Cambodia for improvement in anti-human trafficking

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DATELINE: PHNOM PENH June 6

The United States praised Cambodia on Tuesday for efforts to improve anti-**human trafficking** and upgraded the country from its **Tier 3** to **Tier 2 Watch List**, according to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The statement said U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the upgrade in her address on the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

A Tier 2 designation is used to indicate governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards laid out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tuesday's statement said the U.S. Embassy "commends the Cambodian authorities" on progress they have made in combating trafficking in persons over the past year, including intensified efforts to prosecute and convict traffickers, progress on a new Anti-Trafficking Law that meets international standards, continuing cooperation with the United States on PROTECT Act cases of U.S. citizens who commit sex crimes against minors in Cambodia, and implementation of a nationwide anti-trafficking plan by the Ministry of Interior.

Embassy charge Mark C. Storella said, "Today's announcement by Secretary Rice reflects my government's recognition of the improved efforts by Cambodian officials in the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, who are working in concert with courageous Cambodian and international NGO partners."

"The record over the past year demonstrates the high-level commitment by the (government) and the prime minister to improve the government's performance in fighting trafficking in persons," he said.

Khieu Sopheak, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, told Kyodo News that Cambodia welcomed the report as "a reflection of a reality."

"It is good news. We welcome such fair and positive assessment based on the fact that we are committed to fighting against human trafficking in persons," he said.

While praising Cambodia for the efforts made, the U.S. government also noted Cambodia still has much work to do.

"In terms of recommended areas for improvement, the State Department report notes that the Cambodian government should make greater efforts to prosecute and convict public officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking and should also pass and enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation," the statement said.

The U.S. government added that as a result of the new ranking, all non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions levied on Cambodia as a Tier 3 country will be lifted.

The U.S. placed Cambodia on Tier 3 last year.

Last month, governments of six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries met in Cambodia and promised to bolster cooperation in the fight against human trafficking in the region.

The six said that while significant achievements from the past year were highlighted, the governments in the region also acknowledged the challenges that they encountered and that human trafficking continues to prevail.

Neither the U.S. report and nor the governments of the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries made any figure available on human trafficking, but unofficial estimates are that the number may reach the thousands, possibly the millions, per year.

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387 of 445 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 6, 2006, Tuesday

US slams Israel for worsening performance on human trafficking

BYLINE: Nathan Guttman Jerusalem Post Correspondent Hilary Leila Krieger Contributed To This Report.

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 644 words

WASHINGTON - Israel's performance in fighting human trafficking was downgraded in a US ranking of nations dealing with the problem.

The State Department determined in a report published Monday that Israel had not done enough to fight **human trafficking** and thus designated it a "**Tier 2 Watch List**" country the third echelon in a four-level scale and a one-level drop from last year's **Tier 2** rating.

"Israel is placed on Tier 2 Watch List the report states for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking namely the conditions of involuntary servitude allegedly facing thousands of foreign migrant workers."

The report also notes that Israel failed to pass a law drafted in 2003 which makes all forms of human trafficking a crime. "Israel should extend the scope of the anti-trafficking law to criminalize labor trafficking and establish a shelter for those victims the report says.

According to NGOs operating in Israel there are between 16 0 and 20 0 foreign workers who faced involuntary servitude in Israel. There are also 1 0 0 women who were brought to Israel for sexual exploitation.

While the report notes that Israel has made progress in dealing with trafficking of women for sexual exploitation it has not paid adequate attention to the problem of foreign workers who are subject to involuntary servitude. These workers come from countries including China Romania Jordan Turkey Thailand the Philippines Nepal Sri Lanka and India.

Israel according to the report does not have an effective method of screening the foreign workers to differentiate between those who are victims of human trafficking and those who are attempting to violate its immigration laws. Victims of labor trafficking do not receive adequate protection services the report states and are frequently arrested and deported."

Hanna Zohar of Kav La'oved a workers' rights group welcomed the report's rating. She agrees the government hasn't done enough to eradicate human trafficking and suggested that this report could push the government to do more.

She added however that "in practice the conditions are better than what was before. Awareness is higher because the public is exposed to the phenomenon more than before."

She pointed to slight improvements in working conditions pay and a decrease in the practice of employers holding workers' passports and other documents "hostage but said more should be done.

Uri Sadeh a lawyer with the Hot Line for Migrant Workers also said that there had been some progress made in the last year. He stressed though that the authorities have not grasped what trafficking is about and who the victims are." He attributed the improvements that have been made to "international pressure" on the government including the State Department reports.

The report does commend Israel for stepping up efforts to prevent trafficking over the past year for including information about the problem in the high school curriculum and in training programs for diplomats soldiers and law enforcement officers.

In reaction to the report Israeli sources said assessments show that human trafficking resulting in involuntary servitude is not a widespread phenomenon.

"We will use this report as a source for constructive self-criticism in an effort to improve our tools for dealing with the issue one source said.

The report also lists Israel's de facto anti- trafficking coordinator Rahel Gershuni as one of 10 heroes acting to end modern day slavery" around the world.

The report also rated Syria and Iran for the first time placing both in the **Tier 3** group of countries which do not act against **human trafficking**. There are 12 countries in Tier 3 including Saudi Arabia Cuba and North Korea. According to US law countries in Tier 3 may be subject to financial sanctions.

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388 of 445 DOCUMENTS

RIA Novosti

June 06, 2006

Russia remains on human trafficking watch list - U.S. State Dept**LENGTH:** 211 words

WASHINGTON, June 6 (RIA Novosti) - The U.S. State Department has kept Russia on the list of 32 countries whose governments are not doing enough in the fight against trafficking in human beings, an annual report said.

Russia has been placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** in the Annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report "for a third consecutive year for its continued failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, particularly in the area of victim protection and assistance."

"The [Russian] government made uneven progress during the reporting period [2005]," says the report, presented Monday by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Fifty three criminal prosecutions were launched in human-trafficking cases in Russia in 2005, up from 11 in 2004, and the country's courts convicted at least nine traffickers and sentenced six to time in prison, the report says, but Russia remains a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in persons.

In particular, Russia "remains a significant source of women trafficked to over 50 countries for commercial sexual exploitation," the report says.

Presenting the report at the State Department, Rice said up to 800,000 people, primarily women and children, are victims of trafficking in human beings every year.

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389 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 6, 2006 Tuesday

GULF ARAB COUNTRIES CONFRONT HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROBLEMS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 547 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Three Gulf Arab countries have been elevated from the lowest ranks of offenders to an intermediate ranking in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were raised from Tier 3 countries, the least favorable rating, to the Tier 2 Watch List in the report to the U.S. Congress issued June 5.

The report evaluates foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking, grouping nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 Watch List includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. Saudi Arabia is the only remaining Gulf Arab country in Tier 3. (See related article.)

Gulf Arab countries are a common destination for South and Southeast Asians who serve as domestic workers and unskilled laborers. These workers often fall victim to involuntary servitude, excessive hours, nonpayment of wages, physical abuse, sexual abuse and passport confiscation. These countries also have tolerated trafficking of children to work as camel jockeys, according to the report.

The report welcomed proposed measures in Kuwait to standardize contracts for domestic workers and hailed the government's commitment to enact legislation that would criminalize exploitation of foreign workers. Within the past year, Kuwait has assigned the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor the task of coordinating the government's anti-trafficking activities.

According to the report, Kuwait also took steps toward implementing anti-trafficking measures by enforcing a ban on child camel jockeys and prosecuting some employers for labor rights abuses. The report said that an association of Kuwaiti labor recruitment agencies has taken steps to defend foreign workers' rights.

Qatar confronted the problem of child trafficking by repatriating numerous child camel jockeys, according to the report. It also established a shelter for abused domestic workers and created a hotline for complaints.

The United Arab Emirates banned the practice of using child camel jockeys and repatriated all identified victims to their home countries. Both the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have launched anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns.

Saudi Arabia remained in **Tier 3** for its unwillingness to confront the issue of **human trafficking**. The report said Saudi Arabia sometimes arrests, punishes and deports victims rather than protecting them.

Oman fell from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 Watch List due to a lack of evidence over the past year that it is increasing efforts to combat trafficking.

The State Department is under a congressional mandate to prepare the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Countries that rank in Tier 3 are subject to a suspension of U.S. assistance not related to trade or humanitarian relief.

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390 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 6, 2006

Gulf Arab Countries Confront Human Trafficking Problems; State Department report evaluates anti-trafficking efforts worldwide

BYLINE: David Shelby, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 578 words

Washington -- Three Gulf Arab countries have been elevated from the lowest ranks of offenders to an intermediate ranking in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

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Oman fell from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 "Watch List" due to a lack of evidence over the past year that it is increasing efforts to combat trafficking.

The State Department is under a congressional mandate to prepare the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Countries that rank in tier three are subject to a suspension of nonhumanitarian and nontrade related U.S. assistance.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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391 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 6, 2006

Daily Press Briefing -- June 6

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS

LENGTH: 7532 words

Daily Press Briefing

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

June 6, 2006

INDEX:

IRAN

EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana Presents Proposal to Iranian Government / Contents of Package / How Long Iran has to Respond / Why Contents of Package have not been Made Public / U.S. Security Guarantees Not on Table / Three Different Tracks

INDIA

Trafficking in Persons Report / India's **Tier** Placement

VENEZUELA

Venezuela's Response to Trafficking in Persons Report

SOMALIA

Reports that Islamic Courts' has taken Control of Mogadishu / U.S. Concerned

About Presence of Foreign Terrorists and al-Qaeda in Somalia / Spike in Violence

/ Allegations that U.S. is Contributing to Instability / U.S. Involvement

MISCELLANEOUS

Department of Defense Detainee Directive / LA Times Story that it will Exclude Certain Geneva Convention Protections

ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS

General Dayton Continues to work with President Abbas to Implement Gaza Movement and Access Agreement / Rafah Crossing Still Open / Palestinian Security

Possible Palestinian Referendum

Quartet Tasked EU to Come Up with a Proposal to be Considered by Quartet

IRAQ

Prime Minister al-Maliki's Efforts to Heal Divisions Within Iraqi Society

Recent Violence and Attacks on Coalition Forces / Motives of Those Committing Acts of Violence

TAIWAN

Query on U.S. Position on Whether President Chen Should Step Down or Complete his Term

BURMA

U.S. Efforts to Free Aung San Suu Kyi

TRANSCRIPT: 12:50 p.m. EDT

MR. MCCORMACK: Good afternoon, everybody. How are you? How's it going?

QUESTION: Good.

MR. MCCORMACK: We've got a full house today. I don't have any opening statements, so we can get right into your questions. Who'd like to start?

Anne Gearan.

QUESTION: Since the proposal has been made to Iran, can you ascribe at all what is happening here -- has the -- who has the Secretary been in touch with, if anyone? And what is your assessment of the initial reaction from the Iranians?

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm. We have not had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Solana or any other member of his party. My understanding is that Mr. Solana as well -- accompanied by the political directors from the EU-3 -- England, Germany and France -- presented the proposal to the Iranian Government this morning and that they answered some of the Iranian Government's questions about it. We don't have a readout yet of the meeting. I would expect that in the near future the Secretary will probably talk to Mr. Solana but at the political director level we'll be in touch as well. So I can't offer you any insight into the atmosphere --

QUESTION: Today?

MR. MCCORMACK: Today. I would expect today. And we'll -- I'll try to keep you up to date on that. If there are any phone calls this afternoon, I'll try to let you know about them and share what I am able to from those phone calls. So I can't provide you any readout as to the atmosphere or any particular reaction from the Iranian Government. We have seen some public comments from it. I think you could look at them for yourself. I wouldn't characterize them one way or the other at this point, as either accepting or rejecting the proposal. So what we're going to do is going to wait to see what Mr. Solana has to report back from the meeting and then we'll try to have a little bit -- little bit fuller reaction. I can't tell you exactly when that will be, whether that's today or tomorrow.

QUESTION: We're reporting that the -- one of the components is an offer of U.S. technological help for civilian nuclear development. Can you describe that component at all?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, I -- you know, I've seen a lot of reports flying around for the past couple of days about what may or may not be in this package. I would just caution everybody, until we actually are able to discuss what is in the package in public, to take reports with a grain of salt. There are robust measures on both sides, both the incentive side as well as the disincentive side in the package that was presented to the Iranian Government today. Where it presents the Iranian Government with a very clear choice on both sides of the road here: a pathway of negotiation, a pathway of increased isolation. So we'll to wait to see what their answer is. At the moment, we're going -- we're not going to discuss in public what the elements of the package may be, we want to give them time to consider it. They have had it presented to them. Now it's time for them to consider what their answer is going to be. We hope that there's going to be a positive answer. That we think is the best outcome for all involved; that they choose the pathway of negotiation; that they meet the conditions that the P-5+1 has laid them for them in order to have those negotiations.

QUESTION: And how long do they have to do that?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Secretary said it's a matter of weeks, not months. I'm not going to pin it down any further than that.

QUESTION: Sean, I'm sorry, did you say how Javier Solana is going to report back his discussions with the Iranians? Is there going to be another meeting or --

MR. MCCORMACK: What I told Anne, as well as the others here, is that I would expect the Secretary will be in contact with Mr. Solana at some point in the near future. We'll try to let you know when that is and I'll share with you what I can out of that contact.

Sue.

QUESTION: Are you anticipating that there's going to be some sort of give and take and some negotiations over these robust measures? And secondly, why are you not releasing details of them? They now have them in hand. I mean, it could take weeks or possibly even a month, I don't know, for them to answer. So why do you want to keep it secret?

MR. MCCORMACK: Because we want to give this every opportunity to succeed. And once we start talking about these various -- the package in public, it becomes a public document, it becomes a matter for public debate and that's not where we are right now. The diplomacy, I would say, is at a sensitive stage. This package has been presented to the Iranian Government and we want to give them a little bit of space to consider what's in the package, both on the positive as well as the negative side. And we want to do that free from having a public debate about what has been agreed upon by all the members of the P-5+1.

QUESTION: And what about negotiations? Is there room to negotiate over this package?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, we're not to that point yet. And when we reach that point, what we talked about is having negotiations. But in order to get that point -- to that point, the Iranian regime needs to meet the conditions that were laid out for it by the P-5+1. And central to those conditions is a full suspension of all enrichment-related activities. It was laid out -- as laid out in the IAEA Board of Governors resolution in February -- I believe February of this year.

QUESTION: Can I just ask you that when do you think you're going to be able to give us details of what is in the package?

MR. MCCORMACK: In due course. In due course we hope to be able to share these with you. But as I said, we want to give the Iranian Government some time to consider what is in this package. So in due course, we will, I'm sure, be able to share this with you. But the time is not now.

QUESTION: But don't the public have a right to know what their governments are offering the Iranians?

MR. MCCORMACK: What the governments have a right to expect -- what the people have the right to expect is that their governments do everything that they possibly can to give diplomacy a chance to succeed and that's what we're doing now.

Yes.

QUESTION: Sean, how would the fact that you would make this public impede Iran's chances or their desire to respond positive to the package? I mean, what --

MR. MCCORMACK: I think I just answered that question for Sue, Nicholas.

QUESTION: Well, I didn't hear the answer. If somebody did, please let me know. But what you said was that it leaves you more room in the negotiations.

MR. MCCORMACK: No, that's not what I said. That's not what I said, Nicholas. What I said is that this is a matter of sensitive diplomacy at the moment. We want to give the Iranian Government some time to consider this, to consider this package, free from having a public debate about what may or may not be in the package and we think that that's appropriate. We think that -- and all the ministers in the P-5+1 agreed that that is appropriate. There was an agreement among the ministers that we would not discuss the elements of the package in public before the Iranian Government has had some time to consider what is being offered to them.

Libby.

QUESTION: But if they do stop their enrichment work -- this is following up on Sue -- that means that the elements of the incentive package are still under negotiation. Is that accurate?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, if --

QUESTION: I mean, it's still open for discussion once they stop -- if they stop their nuclear work*?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, it's -- then if they meet the conditions that have been laid out for them, it then becomes a negotiation. And we have laid out -- laid out for the Iranian regime -- the P-5+1 has laid out what as a group we believe is a positive package, a positive pathway. We're offering them that pathway and we hope that they take up the international community on that positive pathway. As we talked about, there's another one. And the international community, the P-5+1 is fully prepared to go down that pathway if the Iranian regime doesn't meet the conditions laid out for it.

Teri.

QUESTION: Can -- without going into the elements of the package then, can you at least assure us that some of the principals that were very firm before the package was presented, such as no security guarantees, no security assurances for Iran, that that's still true?

MR. MCCORMACK: In terms of U.S. Security affairs?

QUESTION: Right. U.S. policy.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes. This is, as Saul will remember, this is the exception -- the exception that I made to not talking about the package. U.S. security guarantees are not on the table.

Yes, Sylvie.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) to characterize the answer, the response of Iran, but can you at least tell us if, according to you, it's something -- it's a good sign or it's a bad sign or it's --

MR. MCCORMACK: Sylvie, without -- without all the facts here, I'm not going to try to characterize it. We've seen along with you all the public comments that Mr. Larijani have made. I think we're going to wait until we get a sense of what the response was from the representatives from the EU-3 and Mr. Solana before we have any further comment on it.

After we have had an opportunity to consult with them, then I'll try to get you a little bit more of a response. I'll try to share something a little bit more with you.

QUESTION: They're -- while not revealing any parts of the package, the Iranians have said that they find there is some ambiguities. Would you agree with them that there are any ambiguities or would you dispute that analysis?

MR. MCCORMACK: Again, without having access to the facts here and the facts would be what Mr. Solana may have heard from the Iranians, I'm not going to try to dissect what they have said in public.

Yes. Anything else on Iran?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. MCCORMACK: Elise.

QUESTION: Although there's no kind of timeline, at what point do the penalties or sticks kick in if Iran doesn't suspend? I mean, you're not going to wait for them indefinitely to suspend.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, we've talked about weeks, not months, as the timeline for them to consider whether or not they want to go down this positive pathway. If they choose not to, then the international community is fully prepared at that point to go down the pathway of the UN Security Council.

QUESTION: Well -- but weeks, not months is also kind of ambiguous. While you don't want to tell us specifically, have you told the Iranians you have X date to give us an answer?

MR. MCCORMACK: We -- let me wait until we get the readout from Mr. Solana's meeting before I go into any more detail on that.

Anne.

QUESTION: How long would it take the Iranians to suspend and have that verified to your satisfaction?

MR. MCCORMACK: That -- well, part of that's a technical question because the suspension would be verified by the IAEA.

QUESTION: I'm just wondering how long that whole thing takes.

MR. MCCORMACK: I think it'll probably take a matter of weeks.

QUESTION: Not months.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes.

QUESTION: You said U.S. security guarantees are not on the table.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes.

QUESTION: Does that also include the U.S. acceding to any multilateral security guarantees that the other five may be willing to present?

MR. MCCORMACK: U.S. security guarantees, U.S.-based security guarantees, U.S. participation in security guarantees not on the table.

QUESTION: That should cover it. Thank you.

QUESTION: But are you willing to discuss the idea of security with them in a dialogue without providing a guarantee?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't think I could be any more clear than I was with Teri.

QUESTION: Well, there's a difference between providing a guarantee and engaging with a country on a dialogue about the issue of security.

MR. MCCORMACK: I think that we have sliced the salami here about as thin as you can slice it.

Anything else on Iran?

QUESTION: Iranian President keeps saying according to the reports and also he keeps saying in public also that he is backed by China and Russia, and he will not move as far as nuclear program where Iran is concerned.

MR. MCCORMACK: All I can say is the package that was presented to the Iranians was agreed upon by the P5+1, which includes Russia and China.

Joel?

QUESTION: Change of subject, Sean.

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't know. Is there anything else on Iran?

Yes, sir?

QUESTION: There must be some content inside this incentive side of the proposal like freezing foreign assets of Iran, like that. Do you recognize them as economic sanction or this is the only disincentive. Is there any difference between disincentives and economic sanctions?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, there -- well, people will use different words to characterize it. We have used the words robust measures, robust steps that the international community would take that are agreed upon by the P5+1. So I'm not going to characterize it any further than that.

But I will say that we have talked about outside of this process, outside the Security Council, outside of this potential negotiating track, the United States and other like-minded states are looking at what other measures they might take that might prevent the Iranian regime from using the international financial system to further their nuclear weapons program, to further financing of terror, also talking to other like-minded states about counterproliferation measures.

A good example of that is our Proliferation Security Initiative, how to use those sort of defensive or counterproliferation measures to stop the inflow or the outflow of WMD, weapons of mass destruction technology and know how. So those are discussions that are also taking place but are outside the track of the P-5+1 potential negotiating track and outside of the Security Council track as well.

QUESTION: Do you mean it is -- you don't require any resolution in the Security Council for this -- disincentives?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, you're mixing terms a bit here. Let me go back. We talked about this in terms of three tracks. There's the Security Council track, there's the P-5+1 potential negotiating track that everybody's very interested in today, and there's a third track and those are the so-called financial measures or the counterproliferation steps. Those are things that don't necessarily require any action by the Security Council. Those are steps that individual states or like-minded states can take together in concert outside of the Security Council track.

QUESTION: I just have one more question --

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: You say --

MR. MCCORMACK: I'll start apologizing now. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: I mean, you say you're not going to reveal the details of the package, but details are being leaked. I'm not saying by you, but clearly some information coming out of Vienna. Would you correct anything that is wrong in those leaks?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not going to do it one way or the other because that starts going down the road of what's in it, what might not be in it. I would just point out that the negotiations aren't taking place in Vienna.

QUESTION: New subject?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes.

QUESTION: Sean, yesterday the Secretary released the report on trafficking, as I said yesterday, and the Ambassador was very clear also. It's disturbing for the world's largest democracy, India, that India has gone down on the list and what sort of steps India is taking or the Secretary has been talking with Indian Government officials she meets so many times here and also in Delhi, and what is the reaction from the Indian Government on --

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't have any particular reaction from the Indian Government on this, Goyal. Look, this is a very serious problem. It's something that the President takes seriously, the Secretary of State takes seriously. Our Trafficking in Persons Office tries to gather the best information that they possibly can working with host governments on this issue, and what you see is their best judgment based on an objective set of criteria.

There are many countries who are our friends and allies who end up in Tier 3 or on the Tier 2 Watch List, and that I think is a real demonstration of our commitment to this. This is a hard issue and that we are going to speak out clearly and in public on it.

Now, the whole idea behind listing the various countries and the governments in terms of what steps they have taken on to fight trafficking in persons is to try to solve the problem. What we want to do is work with governments to try to resolve the problem, get -- work with those governments so that they can take steps, they can change their laws, they can change their regulations to fight trafficking in persons.

So the actual list itself is more of a mechanism. It's not meant to -- it's not meant to brand any particular country, although there are some countries that have sort of -- have remained on the list for quite some time. There are examples of countries moving up, and moving up in this case is a good thing, up from Tier 3 up to Tier 1. Malawi is a good example. Ecuador is a good example. And there are other examples that were listed in the report yesterday. So it is possible to see improvements and I think that when you look at those countries that have moved up the list, it's a demonstration of the utility of talking about this in public.

QUESTION: How about the United States? What are the UN doing on this issue and are we going to talk when the UN General Assembly meets in September or October this year?

MR. MCCORMACK: Honestly, Goyal, I don't have any particular information on what the UN may be doing. You can check with them.

Teri.

QUESTION: Change of subject?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: Venezuela is complaining about its designation for a fourth year, I think, on Tier 3.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right.

QUESTION: And they put out a press release yesterday saying that contrary to State's report which says there have been no prosecutions of human traffickers, they say there were 21 prosecutions last year, three so far this year. How could the records be so different?

MR. MCCORMACK: I saw the press release and I talked to our Trafficking in Persons Office about this because I wanted to try to square this. What I was told is that, first of all, the report goes from March -- this particular report covers the time period from March 2005 to March 2006. And the office, our Trafficking in Persons Office, gathered all the information that it could. This particular set of facts or purported facts was not made available to our Trafficking in Persons Office. So I talked to John Miller about this and he said, look, if these are -- if these really are real prosecutions last

year and this year, they're going to look into it. They're going to see if, in fact, this is real data. If it is, then it will be reflected in upcoming reports.

As part of this process, what we do is we encourage countries that are on Tier 3 -- and Venezuela is in Tier 3 -- we encourage them in this time period from when the report is issued until September to take remedial steps, to take action, to change the laws, change the regulations. So if the Government of Venezuela has, in fact, done these prosecutions and they're real prosecutions and they have taken steps, certainly that will be reflected in future reports.

Sue.

QUESTION: Change of subject to Somalia?

MR. MCCORMACK: Anything else on trafficking in persons? That's a no.

QUESTION: Do you see the rise of the Islamists in Somalia as a setback for counterterrorism measures in the region? And just to clarify, there are many reports that you have been backing this anti-terrorism coalition and that you have said -- that the State Department has said publicly that you would support those who are fighting terrorism, especially within the Horn of Africa. Do you think you backed the wrong horse?

MR. MCCORMACK: A few things. One, we have certainly our set of facts with respect to what is happening in Mogadishu, and I think that these reports are centered on Mogadishu itself as opposed to the rest of the country. It's imperfect. I will tell you that right now. We don't have an embassy there. We watch what is going -- we have a group of people in Embassy Nairobi in Kenya that watches the situation in Somalia.

As for the press reports about this group that has allegedly "taken control" of Mogadishu, I can't verify any particular aspect of those reports, what area they may control as opposed to another group. The situation, I think as many people will understand, is very fluid in Mogadishu. It has been for some time, years in fact.

So but there is one thing in asking questions about this particular group. My understanding is that they are not, in fact, a monolithic group. There is a -- there are many different factions even to this one group. So I can't -- I'm not going to characterize them in any particular way. I couldn't get into whether or not they have links to al-Qaida or not.

Now, all of that said, we do have serious concerns and publicly stated concerns about the presence of foreign terrorists in Somalia. The institutions in Somalia are -- the national institutions in Somalia are virtually nonexistent. The international community has been working to try to support the transitional federal institutions which has sought to set up a capital in a town -- in a city outside of Mogadishu. To this point, those efforts have not been successful. These institutions are very, very weak and it's really unclear how much authority they actually are able to exercise over Somalian territory.

So we view the international efforts to try to reinforce and to build up these international institutions and efforts to fight the presence of foreign terrorists in Somalia as mutually reinforcing. If you're able to combat the presence of foreign terrorists, who like nothing more than ungoverned areas -- failed states, if you will -- then that helps -- that could help build up these national institutions. Fighting did not just break out in Mogadishu four weeks ago. Sadly, this has been the case in Somalia for quite some time. It hasn't had a central government since, I think, about 1991. It's a tragic situation for the Somalian people. It's a real source of concern for the international community. The international community is still, despite the conditions in -- violent conditions in many parts of Mogadishu and parts of Somalia, still working to get humanitarian food aid in. We contribute to that via the World Food Program.

So we and the rest of the world have an interest in seeing a better day for the Somalian people and we have an interest in seeing democratic institutions reinforced in the Horn of Africa. And we have -- also have an interest as well as the rest of the world in combating the presence of foreign terrorists in that Horn of Africa region. It's a place where Usama bin Laden after he left Afghanistan -- before he went to Afghanistan sought refuge in Sudan. So there is a long history of foreign terrorist presence in that Horn of Africa. It's an important area of responsibility for our Central Command.

QUESTION: Are you concerned that this violence that has been going on for several -- that's been going on since 1991 basically, but it's intensified in the last three months, are you concerned that this is going to create an even more dire humanitarian situation? Apparently people have been fleeing the capital of Mogadishu and NGOs are very concerned that it could be a repeat of sort of the 1992, 1993.

MR. MCCORMACK: Certainly, the humanitarian -- the situation for the Somalian people is a real source of concern for us. That's why I mentioned that we do contribute to the World Food Program. The violence over the years has waxed

and waned. There have been periods where it spiked. I think that -- I can't speak to the relative level of violence today versus 1992. But I think it is safe to say, relative to recent times, there has been -- there has been a spike in violence. Yes. It's a source of concern. Yeah.

George.

QUESTION: All right. Can you say anything about the foreign terrorists you were alluding to before and where they are from and with which groups do they have links?

MR. MCCORMACK: We do have concerns about the presence of al-Qaida in Somalia, George. I can't go into a list of names for you. If I am able to share that information with you, I'll be certainly happy to do so. You know, we have certain constraints in terms of intelligence information. But yes, we do have concerns about the presence of al-Qaida in Somalia.

Jonathan.

QUESTION: Just following up on that. What do you say to the accusation that the U.S. is contributing to instability in the country because of its support by (inaudible) of certain groups?

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. Well, we have talked about the fact in public that we certainly want to work with people in Somalia who are interested in combating terrorism, foreign terrorists. And the presence of foreign terrorists in Somalia is a destabilizing fact in and of itself. I would just go back to the -- I would just go back to the sad fact that violence is not new in Somalia. And it's certainly not new in Mogadishu. This is a place that has known violence for the past you know, since 1991, coming up on two decades now.

So we have an interest as well as the rest of the world in seeing what we can do to try to help the Somali people realize a better day. I talked a little bit about the basic approach, in that helped to try to build up those institutions in Somalia that might someday lay the foundation for a stable, well-governed state. Sadly that seems to be far off in the future, as well to fighting the presence of foreign terrorists in Somalia.

So that's a general explanation for what our policy is. And certainly, we as well as others around the world have an interest in seeing a stable, secure, peaceful and prosperous Somalia. But that's going to take a lot of work on the part of the international community as well as on the part of the Somali people

Elise.

QUESTION: Sean, also on Somalia, you're working with these people in Somalia who are interested in fighting terrorism. Do you have a minimum kind of set of standards for their practices or, you know, when you talk about the issue of working with some unsavory characters, what kind of accountability factor do you have for people that you're working with? And also, who is taking the lead in terms of dealing with Somalia? Is it the State Department? Is it the Embassy in Nairobi or is it the Pentagon in terms of dealing with some of these characters?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, all the various elements that the U.S. Government have an interest in Somalia. You have the State Department, who certainly is very interested in the political situation there, interested in the humanitarian situation there.

I think the Department of Defense also has interest in that. They have a -- Central Command has a task force that has area of responsibility for -- that includes Somalia I believe that they're based in Djibouti. So they have an interest in the Horn of Africa. Somalia policy is of interest to a variety of different agencies in the U.S. Government and it's one that is coordinated across those agencies.

QUESTION: And what about the -- I'm sorry, what about the minimum standards for people that you're working with that are fighting terrorism? Obviously no institutions there, so what kind of benchmarks do you put for these people?

MR. MCCORMACK: As I said, we work with a variety of individuals and have interest in working with a variety of groups in Somalia. I don't have any further details on that. There's nothing I can share with you from the podium

QUESTION: Change of subject?

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MR. MCCORMACK: Sylvie. Why don't we go back to Sylvie.

QUESTION: The African Union criticized yesterday -- the President of African Union, President Sassou Nguesso, criticized yesterday your involvement in Somalia saying that it would be better if you supported the official government, which is in exile in Nairobi. So what do you have to answer to that? What do you do for this government in exile?

MR. MCCORMACK: It's a question that I'll have to look into for you, Sylvie. I don't have any information on what our view is on that particular group. I know that we have worked to try to support the transitional federal institutions that are I think in Baidoa. I think that's the name of the city.

QUESTION: I just wondered whether you had any comment on the international crisis group's assertions that the U.S. is sponsoring this anti-terrorism alliance to the tune of about \$150,000 a month?

MR. MCCORMACK: Anything else on Somalia?

QUESTION: Can you look into it?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'd be happy to share with you what I can, yes. Anything else on Somalia?

Libby?

QUESTION: Change of subject?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: Sean, there was a report in yesterday's LA Times that said State Department officials were upset over a decision by the U.S. military to exclude certain Geneva Convention protections in the new army field manual on interrogations. So I'm just wondering if you have any comment on that? I know that the new army field manual is not out yet, but just the aspect that they may happen, you know.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah. No, I looked into this and I, you know, talked with our legal advisor, John Bellinger, who if anybody would be upset would probably -- he'd be the guy that's upset and he wasn't upset.

In fact, I can say that we believe that the directive is a good directive. We have had full opportunity to review it. We have had ample input. We are, I think comfortable with the directive but it has yet to come out. It's going to be issued by the Department of Defense. So I'm not going to try to preempt them and describe for you what is in there, but I would point out a couple of things.

One, that we believe that the directive establishes a minimum level of protections for detainees that is consistent with Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, and that was one of the questions that was raised by this LA Times story. And in fact, some of the important respects, the directive will contain broader protections than those contained in Article 3.

The other point is that the Detainee Treatment Act, which has been referred to around here -- around Washington as the McCain Amendment, prohibits cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of any detainees in U.S. Government custody. And this is also reflected in the DOD directive.

So I think -- on the whole we think it's a good directive. We're comfortable with it. And we had ample opportunity to provide our input to the directive, and I think that much of that input is going to be reflected in the final product.

QUESTION: Just to follow up, though, just the notion that it may contain certain elements of Article 3, but that it doesn't exactly follow the rule of the Geneva Convention. Just the image of that, isn't that damaging considering --

MR. MCCORMACK: I would caution you against making those sorts of assumptions. Again, I don't want to preempt what is a Department of Defense wide effort. This is going to be for use by Department of Defense employees, so I think you understand that I don't want to -- I don't want to talk about their work. But I can say from the State Department's perspective we think it's a good directive. Our input is reflected in it and it does contain those protections consistent with Common Article 3 as well as the Detainee Treatment Act.

Okay. Anybody else on this? Joel.

QUESTION: Sean, change of subject. The Gaza preventive security building was fired on with grenades and it appears there's still an ongoing duel militant army between Fatah and Hamas. And it appears that President Abbas is giving out his recommendation for this referendum and it appears, too, that Prime Minister Olmert is negotiating with various countries so it's ongoing.

If you would, maybe it can be called a mini-roadmap. The whole effort is to drive Hamas from power. Is there someone such as a James Wolfensohn that once again -- or General Dayton -- working to facilitate this between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

MR. MCCORMACK: In terms of a potential meeting between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas, that's for them to decide.

QUESTION: Just this small -- whole drive to get something ongoing where it's back to the regular roadmap.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay, well, there are a few -- there are a few elements in that question. One, in terms of General Dayton, he is -- he continues to work with the office of President Abbas to implement the Gaza movement and access agreement. The Rafah crossing is still open. The security on the Palestinian side is handled by a presidential guard so that's directly with the office of President Abbas. European monitors are still there. There's still traffic that goes through there. General Dayton is still part of that process. And I have to emphasize working with President Abbas's office, not with the Hamas-led government.

In terms of the referendum question, this is -- I think what this reflects is the ongoing discussion within Palestinian society about their future: What pathway are they going to follow? Certainly the pathway that the Hamas-led government would like to take the Palestinian people down leads to nowhere because it's a pathway of violence and it does not lead to a two-state solution, it does not lead to a Palestinian state for the Palestinian people.

There's another way and that is the way that President Abbas has talked about: recognition of Israel's right to exist and being a negotiating partner for peace with the state of Israel. It's going to be up to the Palestinian people to decide which pathway they go down. I think that discussion of a referendum, discussion about the various kinds of proposals and agreements that are now ongoing in Palestinian society is a healthy debate but it's going to be a debate that is going to have to be finally answered by the Palestinian people. We can't answer it. Nobody else can answer it for them.

QUESTION: So you support this idea of referendum?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, that's not what I'm saying. I'm saying -- what I'm saying is that it's the Palestinian people that have had the choice. They are going to have to decide for themselves how they resolve these fundamental issues. The fundamental issues are what kind of future is the Palestinian people going to have. Are they going to continue down the same pathway that they are on with a Hamas-led government that advocates use of terror, does not recognize the right of the state of Israel to exist? There's another pathway and that is represented by President Abbas and people that work in the office of the president. That is a pathway that could potentially lead to a Palestinian state, Palestine. But how those questions get answered and using what mechanisms are only questions for the Palestinian people to answer.

QUESTION: On the same connection?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is the U.S. going to do anything to help Abbas in conducting this referendum and campaigns or anything?

MR. MCCORMACK: That's for -- those are questions for the Palestinian people and President Abbas and others to answer.

QUESTION: Sean, one on Burma?

MR. MCCORMACK: On -- we're still in the Middle East.

QUESTION: Do you have anything on the aid mechanism that the Quartet's come up with, that the Quartet agreed on in New York? Apparently the EU is very close to -- this is for the Palestinians. The EU is close to making some decisions and I wondered whether they'd been consulting you and what you had on it.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah, we have been talking. I don't think that they have -- I don't think they have reached the point of having a final proposal. And the way this would work is that the Quartet tasked the EU to come up with this, come up with a proposal that then would be put forward for consideration by the Quartet. We have been consulting with them. I think there was a meeting in Brussels within the past couple of weeks that we attended at the deputy assistant secretary of state level. But as of this point, I don't think that they have come to closure on a final proposal yet that they could submit to the Quartet for consideration.

QUESTION: So how would that work? Would that be submitted to political directors within the Quartet? Would that be presented to the ministers or --

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not sure what the exact mechanism would be, Sue. But the Quartet envoy -- it's usually David Welch who handles those things in close consultation with the interagency, including the White House.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. MCCORMACK: Sylvie.

QUESTION: In Iraq, the Prime Minister al-Maliki is proposing a new plan for security and actually he started by releasing -- or announcing the release of 2,500 detainees and also he proposed a South African-style truth and reconciliation committee. Do you think it's a good idea?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, certainly on the prisoner -- on the prisoner question, this is something that is being done in consultation with the U.S. Government and the multinational forces on the ground there. We are deeply involved with Prime Minister Maliki's government on this issue.

Let me step back for a second. There is very clearly going to come a time when the Iraqi people need to come together and to try to reconcile whatever differences that they may have. This has been -- the period of Saddam Hussein was a very difficult and dark period for the Iraqi people in terms of their rights, the abuses that were visited upon them by this regime, and they're very clearly over the past few years there have been differences among the Iraqi population about the liberation of Iraq as well as the formation of this new government.

So I would interpret -- the way I would view Prime Minister Maliki's efforts is as an attempt to start to heal some of the -- some of those divisions that currently exist in Iraqi society to try to bring together the Iraqi people.

We have, for quite some time, talked about our strategy working very closely with the Iraqi Government to bring as many people into the political process as we possibly can. We believe that that ultimately is the way, the most important way of reducing the level of violence in Iraq and helping the Iraqi people build a more stable, prosperous Iraq.

There are going to be people that are irreconcilable to any political process. The al-Qaida adherence of the world, the Zarqawi's of the world, and some hardcore insurgents that are just, regardless of what sort of political process may exist to try to bring them in to a better future for Iraq, they're not going to participate in it. And you have to deal with them militarily or through the use of force, and that is what we're working with also on -- with the Iraqi Government in training of their troops, training of their security forces, and also the presence of multinational forces in Iraq.

QUESTION: Follow up on Iraq?

MR. MCCORMACK: Excuse me?

QUESTION: Follow up on Iraq?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah, sure.

QUESTION: Yesterday, an Italian soldier was killed in an explosion near Nasiriyah in an area which was relatively calm until a few weeks ago, and now we are have a number of violence and a number of deaths. Does that mean that the violence is spreading off to the Sunni area or does that mean that the insurrection is targeting the weakest element of the coalition and trying to push them out of Iraq sooner than they plan?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, I don't have the particular details of this incident, and I think that the security people on the ground, our coalition forces on the ground are in a better position to more precisely describe to you where violence may be occurring, whether that's in new places or whether it's a pattern that they have witnessed before. So I think that type of question is best posed to them on the ground in Baghdad.

Certainly, we honor the sacrifice of all the coalition forces. We honor the sacrifice of the Italian forces that have also previously shed blood in Iraq in defense of liberty. So our condolences go out to those who have given their lives for this cause of freedom.

As for the motivation of those committing these acts of violence, they're interested in seeing -- halting the progress along the pathway to democracy of this new Iraqi Government. They're interested in seeing multinational forces leave Iraq before the Iraqi people have a real opportunity to set a solid foundation for a better way of life for themselves.

Yes?

QUESTION: I think I asked you about the trips (inaudible) that Assistant Secretary of Affairs --

MR. MCCORMACK: Oh, Mr. Yamamoto? Did we get any answers on that? We'll get back to you. Check with Tom after the briefing, he'll get you an answer.

QUESTION: Okay. I have just a couple of questions. Do you have any comments on last week there was an announcement on Ethiopian radio that you're going to be maybe directly or indirectly participating on the fundraising that is taking place here in Washington, D.C., for the opposition party? Has anyone is being invited from your Department?

MR. MCCORMACK: We'll check for you.

Okay, yes, ma'am?

QUESTION: On South Korea it is reported that South Korean Government has requested the United States to agree that goods manufactured at Kaesong in North Korea to be regarded as made in South Korea. Was this issue formally discussed at FTA meeting between U.S. and South Korea?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'll check. I know that we've begun FTA negotiations with South Korea. I don't have a readout for you as to what issues were discussed in the meeting.

We have other people with their hands up? Anybody else here?

Yes, ma'am.

QUESTION: Thank you for taking my question yesterday. I saw you put out a statement on Taiwan. I'm just wondering how the U.S. perceives the latest development now the opposition party has filed a motion to impeach Chen Shui-bian. Are you concerned the impeachment may cause instability in Taiwan?

MR. MCCORMACK: I would refer you to the statement that I put out yesterday.

QUESTION: A quick follow-up. There have been a lot of confusing reports in Taiwan. A few politicians claim now the U.S. is backing them. Just for the record, can you clarify whether or not the U.S. has any preference for Chen Shui-bian to either step down or complete his terms?

MR. MCCORMACK: Those are political decisions for the Taiwan people to make, not for us.

QUESTION: Just a follow-up.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes?

QUESTION: Taiwan's Government on the news agency, Central News Agency filed a report on -- saying that U.S. hoped President Chen to complete his term in the office. And they said -- a government-owned agency says the report was read everywhere in Taiwan. So the people in Taiwan now says perhaps the U.S. Government take side on that issue.

MR. MCCORMACK: It sounds like a political issue for the Taiwan people to decide.

QUESTION: Sean, first one on Burma. It's been like ten years, I saw the statements from the State Department on Burma, the democratically elected leader. She's still under house arrest further beyond ten years and celebrating her 61st birthday still not in freedom.

Like we did with the other dictators, the U.S. -- how the U.S. is not going to deal with this Burma dictator to free her and have a free election and let the people decide what they want and she was elected freely in that country which still -- she is not free still.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, you do that a variety of different ways, Goyal. You do it by speaking out in public, trying to bring diplomatic pressure to bear on that regime. You work quietly behind the scenes with countries in the region and around the world who have an interest in seeing democracy come to Burma. So there are a lot of different ways that you do that. You can act through the Security Council as well. So I think it's safe to say way we're pursuing all those different avenues.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you.

(The briefing was concluded at 1:37 p.m.)

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392 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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June 6, 2006

Burma, North Korea, Laos Fail To Stop Human Trafficking, U.S. Says; China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia among those on special "watch list"

BYLINE: Susan Krause, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1202 words

Washington -- The U.S. Department of State has cited three East Asian nations -- Burma, North Korea and Laos -- for failing to make a significant effort to combat trafficking in persons, according to an annual report released June 5.

In the department's Trafficking in Persons Report for 2006, the three are among 12 countries ranked in the lowest of three categories. The categories, called tiers, were determined on the basis of government action to combat trafficking, prosecute offenders and assist victims. (See related article.)

The department first determined whether a country was a point of origin, transit or destination for a significant number -- usually at least 100 -- of victims of severe forms of trafficking. It then assigned each country to one of the four tiers on the basis of that determination.

In its evaluations, the State Department compiled information from U.S. diplomatic posts, foreign government officials, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and published reports. The diplomatic posts conducted investigations to gather information -- meeting with government officials, representatives of local and international NGOs and multilateral organizations, journalists, academics and survivors of trafficking.

Countries in Tier 1 fully complied with standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Those in Tier 2 made significant efforts to comply with the TVPA, but did not reach full compliance.

A special "watch list" was established for countries in Tier 2 that showed a significant number of victims of the most severe forms of trafficking, a significant increase in numbers of victims or other evidence of falling backward. In the East Asia-Pacific region, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Malaysia were included in this category, as well as Macau and Taiwan.

Countries that did not comply fully with the standards of the TVPA and did not make significant efforts to do so were placed in Tier 3, the lowest rank. Third tier countries may be subject to certain sanctions by the U.S. government, including withholding of nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related assistance funds.

BURMA

Burma is a source country for human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation, according to the report. Burmese men, women and children are trafficked to Thailand, China, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Korea and Macau for domestic service, forced and bonded labor in industrial zones and agricultural estates, and prostitution. The Burmese military has been implicated in trafficking persons for forced labor, and there have been reports of forced enlistments of children in the Burmese army.

"The Burmese government made minimal progress in prosecuting trafficking-related cases, especially cases involving trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation," the report said.

The State Department said Burma passed anti-trafficking legislation in September 2005 that addressed sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, servitude and debt bondage. But the law has not been applied effectively, the report says, because of corruption in Burma's judiciary and lack of resources.

For more information on Burma, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea is also a source country of persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation, according to the report.

The North Korean government's own repressive activities have contributed to the problem, the report notes. The government operates forced-labor prison camps, incarcerating an estimated 150,000-200,000 people. An unknown number of North Koreans have attempted to escape the camps by fleeing across the Chinese border. In China, they are vulnerable to trafficking rings, sold as brides to Korean and Chinese men or forced into prostitution and exploitative labor arrangements.

Little information is available on North Korea's legal system, the report says, and there are no known laws that directly address trafficking in persons.

"The government does not acknowledge that trafficking is occurring, either within the country or transnationally," the report says.

For more information on North Korea, see The U.S. and the Korean Peninsula.

LAOS

A significant number of men, women and children in Laos are economic migrants who fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor arrangements in Thailand, the report says.

Laos is also a transit and destination country for women who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

A "Law on Women" passed in September 2004 was intended to protect victims of trafficking, but the government of Laos has not implemented its provisions fully.

Laos has no specific anti-trafficking legislation, according to the report, and data is limited on local officials' efforts to prosecute other offenses, such as kidnapping and prostitution.

"Overall, judicial and law enforcement institutions are extremely weak and corruption is widespread in Laos," the report says.

"TIER 2 WATCH LIST" COUNTRIES

Countries on the Tier 2 special watch list should receive "special scrutiny," according to the State Department.

Cambodia was placed on the watch list, according to the report, because "the determination that it is making significant efforts is based in part on commitments to sustain progress over the coming year." Cambodia increased its enforcement efforts over the past year, the report notes, with more police actions, leading to arrests and convictions of traffickers.

China was assigned to the watch list for a second consecutive year because it failed to show evidence of increasing efforts to address transnational trafficking, according to the report.

"The government of China provides reasonable protections to internal victims of trafficking," the report says. "However, protections for Chinese and foreign victims of transnational trafficking remain inadequate and victims are sometimes punished for unlawful acts that were a direct result of their being trafficked -- e.g., violations of prostitution or immigration/emigration controls."

Indonesia was placed on the watch list for failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, according to the report.

"The Indonesian government has not passed a much-needed anti-trafficking law that has been under consideration for three years," the report says. "While the government launched an unprecedented anti-corruption campaign, widespread corrupt practices continued to contribute to trafficking."

Malaysia also was cited for failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking and protect trafficking victims.

"Some commitments made by Malaysian officials in 2004 and 2005 went unfulfilled," the report says. "Although Malaysia has criminal statutes that allow it to punish elements of trafficking, Malaysia lacks comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that would enable officials to identify and shelter victims and to prosecute traffickers under a single criminal statute."

For additional information, see Human Trafficking.

The full text of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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393 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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STATE DEPT.: GULF ARAB COUNTRIES CONFRONT HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROBLEMS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 607 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By David Shelby

Washington File Staff Writer

Three Gulf Arab countries have been elevated from the lowest ranks of offenders to an intermediate ranking in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were raised from Tier 3 countries, the least favorable rating, to the Tier 2 "Watch List" in the report to the U.S. Congress issued June 5.

The report evaluates foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking, grouping nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. Saudi Arabia is the only remaining Gulf Arab country in Tier 3. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/05-20237.html>.)

Gulf Arab countries are a common destination for South and Southeast Asians who serve as domestic workers and unskilled laborers. These workers often fall victim to involuntary servitude, excessive hours, nonpayment of wages, physical abuse, sexual abuse and passport confiscation. These countries also have tolerated trafficking of children to work as camel jockeys, according to the report.

The report welcomed proposed measures in Kuwait to standardize contracts for domestic workers and hailed the government's commitment to enact legislation that would criminalize exploitation of foreign workers. Within the past year, Kuwait has assigned the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor the task of coordinating the government's anti-trafficking activities.

According to the report, Kuwait also took steps toward implementing anti-trafficking measures by enforcing a ban on child camel jockeys and prosecuting some employers for labor rights abuses. The report said that an association of Kuwaiti labor recruitment agencies has taken steps to defend foreign workers' rights.

Qatar confronted the problem of child trafficking by repatriating numerous child camel jockeys, according to the report. It also established a shelter for abused domestic workers and created a hotline for complaints.

The United Arab Emirates banned the practice of using child camel jockeys and repatriated all identified victims to their home countries. Both the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have launched anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns.

Saudi Arabia remained in **Tier 3** for its unwillingness to confront the issue of **human trafficking**. The report said Saudi Arabia sometimes arrests, punishes and deports victims rather than protecting them.

Oman fell from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 "Watch List" due to a lack of evidence over the past year that it is increasing efforts to combat trafficking.

The State Department is under a congressional mandate to prepare the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Countries that rank in Tier 3 are subject to a suspension of U.S. assistance not related to trade or humanitarian relief.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html.

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394 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 6:32 AM EST

AMBASSADOR MORIARTY: FOR THE COURAGEOUS, A MODERN DAY FIGHT TO ABOLISH SLAVERY

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 798 words**DATELINE:** KATHMANDU, Nepal

The U.S. Embassy issued the text of the following speech:

U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty, in an opinion column June 6 in a major Nepali-language daily newspaper, The Annapurna Post, urges greater efforts to stop the scourge of trafficking in persons:

Yesterday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the Department of State's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The report puts it bluntly: trafficking in persons is modern day slavery and is a crime that affects virtually every country, including the United States. The U.S. government estimates that over the past year 600,000 - 800,000 persons - including children and especially women and girls - have been forced into sexual servitude, child soldiering, forced labor, and debt bondage.

Some like Nayla, 8, brought to Dubai from Azerbaijan and prostituted when she was 13, are sold into slavery by acquaintances or family members.

Others, like 15-year-old Michael, kidnapped from his Ugandan village to serve as a combatant for a rebel army, are simply accosted and held with threats against their lives and the lives of their families. Another, 12-year-old Malik of Niger, was lured from his parents by a religious leader, who made false promises of education and instead forced him to beg on the streets of Mali.

Along with the more than \$400 million in international anti-trafficking assistance to date, the annual TIP Report is an important part of the U.S. commitment to work with international partners to fight trafficking. The report, mandated by law, is intended to raise global awareness of the problem, underscore the growing efforts of the international community to combat human trafficking, and encourage nations around the world to take effective actions against this abuse. Again this year, the TIP Report presents "**tier** assessments" of countries' compliance with what U.S. law has set as minimum standards for the elimination **trafficking in persons**.

This year's report classifies Nepal as having slipped to "tier two," meaning it is not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking but is making significant efforts to meet them. The United States is pleased to note, though, that from July 15, 2004 through July 15, 2005, Nepal's government reported prosecuting 347 cases at the district, appellate and Supreme Court levels, and filing 73 new trafficking cases. Nonetheless, it is clear the government of Nepal must improve its anti-corruption efforts to meet the minimum standards.

Similarly, the Maoists must abandon the forcible conscription of children.

Events in Nepal over the past year made anti-trafficking efforts more difficult. Yet the United States hopes the recent reinstatement of a multiparty Parliament will enable the new Nepal Government to focus on this issue more directly. To assist the Nepal Government, the Department of State and USAID will continue to support the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in its anti-trafficking activities in the areas of prevention, rehabilitation and prosecution.

We can all do better in this fight. The U.S. government, for its part, continues to seek new ways to address America's own trafficking problem. Earlier this year, President George W. Bush signed a law reauthorizing the Trafficking Vic-

tims Protection Act (TVPA), which strengthens provisions designed to combat human trafficking by prosecuting and punishing traffickers, protecting their victims, and preventing future attempts by criminals to perpetrate this scourge against human dignity and freedom.

Critical partners in the fight against trafficking are non-government organizations (NGOs). These civil society leaders press governments to combat trafficking, keep law enforcement officials informed, and assist victims with shelters, counseling and education. Altogether, USAID in Nepal has provided \$1.3 million over a four-year period for anti-trafficking programs, such as providing skills-based training to women and girls who are most at risk of being trafficked. Other NGOs have organized non-formal education and trafficking awareness programs in rural Nepal. These programs led to the arrest of several people involved in trafficking girls to circuses in India and the rescue and repatriation of these girls.

Thanks to these and other NGOs - and spurred by the U.S. Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report - more governments have joined a growing international partnership of nations sharing information and cooperating in the fight against human trafficking.

For millions of enslaved people around the world, this new abolitionist movement has come none too soon. As President Bush recently noted, "Our nation is determined to fight and end this modern form of slavery."

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395 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 5:19 AM EST

U.S. GOVERNMENT URGES NIGERIA TO INCREASE PROSECUTIONS, CONVICTIONS OF TRAFFICKERS IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 319 words**DATELINE:** ABUJA, Nigeria

The U.S. Diplomatic Mission issued the following press release:

The sixth annual Department of State **Trafficking in Persons** Report was released on Monday, June 5. Nigeria is categorized in the report as **Tier 2**. The report said the Government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but it is making significant efforts to do so. It said the government continued to strengthen and institutionalize Nigeria's response to **human trafficking** over the last year, showing substantial commitment to the issue.

The report advised that the government should increase prosecutions and convictions of traffickers and strengthen protection efforts in order to strengthen its response to trafficking. It said Nigeria is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Victims are trafficked for domestic servitude, street hawking, agricultural labor, and sexual exploitation. Within Nigeria, women and children are trafficked from rural areas to urban zones.

Internationally, they are trafficked to the Central African Republic, Mali, Gabon, Sudan, North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Austria. Women and children are also trafficked to Nigeria from Togo, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Niger, and Ghana. Follow this link for the full report: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65989.htm>

In 2005, the U.S. Government praised Nigeria for implementing the 2003 anti-trafficking in persons' law. That year, the U.S. Government commended the federal government and all the state governments, organizations, and individuals who have worked to fight the scourge of trafficking, especially the Nigerian Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). Related story:<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/wwwhp060605a.html>.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

396 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 5:03 AM EST**U.S. EMBASSY ISSUES STATEMENT ON 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 372 words**DATELINE:** PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

The U.S. Embassy issued the following statement:

On Monday, June 5, 2006, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the sixth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report in a public event at the State Department's Press Briefing Room in Washington, D.C. This 150-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat "severe forms of trafficking in persons." The annual Trafficking in Persons Report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which the U.S. Government encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against forced labor, sexual exploitation, and modern-day slavery.

In the 2006 report, the rating for the Republic of Mauritius has improved to Tier 2, which is defined as countries not fully complying with minimum standards of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, but making significant efforts to meet these standards. This elevates Mauritius from the Tier Two Watch List. As stated in the report, the scope of the trafficking problem in Mauritius is limited to child prostitution. The improved **tier** rating is a result of the following anti-trafficking efforts implemented by the Government of Mauritius: passage of the 2005 Child Protection Bill which contained comprehensive anti-child trafficking provisions; additional police training and resources in detecting and responding to instances of **trafficking in persons**; and public awareness-raising efforts on the dangers of engaging in prostitution.

The U.S. urges continued progress by Mauritius in the area of law enforcement, particularly in arresting, prosecuting and convicting perpetrators of child prostitution as well as the passage of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation. The Government of the United States looks forward to working with the government of Mauritius to support its ongoing anti-trafficking efforts. Working in cooperation with governments and its citizens around the world, The United States and the American people look forward to the day when all people may be free from these contemporary forms of human servitude and exploitation.

The entire Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) is available via the following Internet URL: www.state.gov/g/tip.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

397 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 9:30 AM EST**Cambodia makes progress in fighting trafficking in persons, U.S. report****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 233 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH

Cambodia has made progress in combating trafficking in persons over the past year, a statement of U.S. Embassy here said on Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department's 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, released on Monday, said that Cambodia has been upgraded from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2 Watch List**, which meant the government has made "significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

The report highlighted the progress made by Cambodia in intensified efforts to prosecute and convict traffickers; progress on a new Anti-Trafficking Law that meets international standards; and implementation of a nationwide anti-trafficking plan by the Ministry of Interior and continued cooperation with other countries including the U.S.

"The record over the past year demonstrates the high-level commitment by the RGC (the Royal Government of Cambodia) and the Prime Minister to improve the government's performance in fighting trafficking in persons," said Charge Mark C. Storella.

However, the U.S. urged Cambodia to "make greater efforts to prosecute and convict public officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking and should also pass and enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation."

As a result of the new tier ranking, all non-humanitarian and non-trade related sanctions levied on Cambodia as a Tier 3 country will be lifted, it said.

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398 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:15 AM EST

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

SECTION: WORLD NEWS

LENGTH: 295 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD

The following are major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers on Tuesday:

Dawn:

-- The Pakistani government has presented 1.5 trillion federal budget for the coming fiscal year 2006-07.

Perceived to have been prepared with next year's general elections in mind, the budget envisages development spending to increase by 52.57 percent to 415 billion rupees (about 6.91 billion U.S. dollars), and offers a 15 percent dearness allowance to government employees, and 20 and 15 percent increase to pensioners who retired before 1977 and afterwards, respectively, amounting to a relief of 10 billion rupees.

The News:

-- The Pakistani government Monday allocated an outlay of 250.182 billion rupees (about 4.17 billion U.S. dollar) for defense for fiscal 2006-07, an increase of only 4.65 percent on the revised figures of 241.063 billion rupees of the current year (July 2005-June 2006).

However, the defense allocations are nearly 27 billion rupees or 11.93 percent higher than the initial defense budget of 223.501 billion rupees of the outgoing fiscal.

The Nation:

-- Pakistan has rejected Indian accusations of cross border terrorism. Foreign Office has asked India to provide evidence in support of the allegations leveled against Pakistan. In a statement Monday, Foreign Office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam termed the Indian national security adviser's allegations of cross border terrorism as baseless.

Daily Times:

-- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the sixth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report at a public event on Monday, placing Pakistan in **Tier 2** countries whose governments had made significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for fighting severe forms of **human trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

399 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 8:13 AM GMT

U.S. removes Philippines from **human trafficking watch list**, cites improvements

BYLINE: By TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 385 words

DATELINE: MANILA Philippines

The United States removed the Philippines from its **human trafficking watch list** because of the country's progress in fighting modern day slavery, including forced prostitution, sex trafficking and child labor, the U.S. Embassy said Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, released Monday, moves the Philippines up a **tier** from its **watch list** of problem nations, to one that is making significant efforts to combat trafficking.

The report congratulated the Philippines for last year's improvements, saying the government "has stepped up efforts to implement its anti-trafficking law and made initial progress in implementing strategies to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in prosecuting human traffickers."

But it said the Philippines still does not fully comply with minimum standards and remains a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

The report noted that the Justice Department tripled the number of prosecutors, resulting in a fourfold increase in cases presented for prosecution. The government also sponsored "impressive efforts (to help) trafficking victims," including arrangements with nongovernment organizations and Philippine embassies to provide shelter, counseling and medical assistance to victims.

The number of Filipino women sent to Japan as entertainers in 2005 was almost half that of 2004, because of Japan's stricter visa requirements, the report said. Most of the women are forced into prostitution, it said.

"The U.S. urges continued progress in the Philippines in these areas, and we look forward to working with the government of the Philippines to support its ongoing anti-trafficking efforts," the embassy said in a statement.

According to the report's ranking, "Tier 1" countries fully comply with minimum international standards while those in "Tier 2" including the Philippines do not fully comply but are making significant efforts to combat the problem.

Down a rank is the "Tier 2 Watch List" which lists countries that have made efforts to combat trafficking but still have a significant number of victims and, until this year, had included the Philippines.

"Tier 3" countries are the worst offenders and could face restrictions on U.S. government assistance.

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400 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 8:18 AM GMT

U.S. State Department report says Albania not doing enough to fight human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 368 words**DATELINE:** TIRANA Albania

A report of the U.S. State Department says Albania was not doing enough to fight human trafficking, and the tiny Balkan country remained a source for prostitution and forced labor.

The 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released Monday by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Albania was still classified as a **Tier 2** country assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet them.

"Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor," said the report made available by the U.S. Embassy in Tirana.

"The government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," it said.

The report lists three tiers. Tier 3 is for a country that neither complies with the minimum standards nor is making significant efforts to do so. Tier 1 classifies countries as meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking.

The report said Albanian victims were trafficked to Greece and Italy, "with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands."

Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005, and reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued, it added.

The report urged Tirana to strengthen protection and prevention programs, to fully implement its witness protection program, encourage a greater number of victims to testify against their traffickers and make efforts to guarantee victims' safety.

"The government as a whole should assume a greater leadership role in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, actively implement its National Action Plan, and vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking-related corruption at all levels of law enforcement," the report said.

Albanian authorities have stepped up efforts to crack down on organized crime, trafficking and corruption in the impoverished ex-communist country, which aspires to join NATO and the European Union one day.

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401 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 12:07 PM GMT

India rejects U. S. criticism for inability to control human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 236 words

DATELINE: NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday criticized the United States for putting it on a **watch list** of nations with a mixed record of tackling **human trafficking**, child labor and forced marriages.

India "rejects judgmental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. State Department on Monday cites child and forced labor and forced marriages as abuses in India.

The U.S. State Department listed 32 countries, including allies such as Mexico, India and Kuwait, and important world powers including China and Russia, as being on a "watch list" of problem nations where the record of prevention and prosecution is mixed.

The Indian ministry statement said India and the United States have an ongoing dialogue on the trafficking in persons, and the annual report "certainly is not helpful to furthering our dialogue."

Rep. Christopher Smith, a Republican author of the 2000 law that established the annual trafficking reports, said in Washington that the Bush administration went too easy on India by placing it on the watch list instead of among the dozen worst offenders.

Smith cited India's "blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption," and said its ranking "reeks of political considerations within the State Department, overriding the facts about human trafficking."

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402 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 3:03 PM GMT

U.S. State Department report: Albania not doing enough to fight human trafficking

BYLINE: By LLAZAR SEMINI, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 487 words

DATELINE: TIRANA Albania

The U.S. State Department issued a report criticizing Albania for not doing enough to fight human trafficking, and said the tiny Balkan country remained a source for prostitution and forced labor.

According to the 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report released on Monday, Albania is still classified as a **Tier 2** country one which does not fully comply with minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to meet them.

"Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor," said the report made available by the U.S. Embassy in Tirana.

"The government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," it said.

The report lists three tiers. Tier 3 is for a country that neither complies with minimum standards nor is making significant efforts to do so. Tier 1 classifies countries as meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking.

According to the report, those smuggled through Albania were sent to Greece and Italy, "with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands."

Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005, and reports of Roma children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued, it added.

The report urged Tirana to strengthen protection and prevention programs, implement its witness protection program, encourage more victims to testify against their traffickers and make efforts to guarantee victims' safety.

"The government as a whole should assume a greater leadership role in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, actively implement its National Action Plan, and vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking-related corruption at all levels of law enforcement," the report said.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll on corruption released Tuesday indicated that Albanians believe customs and tax officials, doctors, judges and parliamentarians to be the most corrupt professionals in the country. Courts were also perceived as not being transparent.

The poll was conducted in December 2005 and January 2006 by a local non-governmental organization, the Institute for Development Research and Alternatives, and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It questioned about 1,200 people in 10 Albanian cities and had a 2.8 percent margin of error.

Political parties and trade unions had the lowest level of public trust. "This suggests that corruption corrodes the support for the political system," the survey said in an analysis of the results.

Albanian authorities have stepped up efforts to crack down on organized crime, trafficking and corruption in the impoverished ex-communist country, which aspires to join NATO and the European Union.

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403 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 5, 2006 Monday

Malawi; United States Praises Malawi, Morocco for Anti-Trafficking Gains

BYLINE: United States Department of State

LENGTH: 553 words

Two African governments received praise for progress in fighting human trafficking and two countries were cited for doing enough in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In its annual report to the U.S. Congress, released June 5, the State Department evaluated foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking. The report groups nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. (See related article.)

MALAWI, MOROCCO

Two **Tier 1** countries, Malawi and Morocco, were praised for taking steps to prevent **human trafficking** in 2005.

Despite limited resources, Malawi made significant progress, particularly in the areas of prosecuting traffickers and educating the public to recognize human trafficking. Malawi, with support from international donors also produced and distributed 10,000 posters and 20,000 pamphlets to schools, welfare agencies, hospitals and youth clubs to educate the public about the issue.

Morocco fully complies with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, according to the report. Its international anti-trafficking cooperation "reflects the government's strong commitment to addressing the trafficking problem," the report said.

In February, Moroccan officials dismantled a large international network that was trafficking and smuggling migrants from India. Seventy suspects, including a police officer, were arrested.

SUDAN, ZIMBABWE MUST IMPROVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Sudan and Zimbabwe - both **Tier 3** countries -- were cited for not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**.

Even though Sudan demonstrated initial progress on a number of fronts, "most of these efforts were not sustained," the report said. During the country's recently ended civil war, adults and children were forced to join armed groups.

To improve its anti-trafficking efforts, the Sudanese government should take steps to provide protective services to all types of trafficking victims and remove child soldiers from armed groups.

Zimbabwe showed "little political will" to address its trafficking problem during the past year, the report said. Zimbabwean children are trafficked internally for forced agricultural labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Trafficked women and girls are lured out of the country by false job or scholarship promises.

To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the report said, Zimbabwe should improve anti-trafficking legislation and launch a broad public awareness campaign.

Algeria, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, South Africa, and Togo were among the countries listed on the reports Tier 2 "Watch List."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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404 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 5, 2006 Monday 9:31 PM GMT

Iran, Syria added to US blacklist of human traffickers

LENGTH: 723 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 5 2006

Iran and Syria were added to a US blacklist of countries trafficking in people, a State Department report said Monday, while raising concerns over an influx of sex workers to Germany for the World Cup soccer tournament.

Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Laos and Belize were also on the **blacklist** for the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" which analyzed efforts in about 150 countries to combat trafficking for forced labor, prostitution, military service and other purposes.

The six countries join Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Sudan, Cuba and Myanmar among the "**Tier 3**" worst offenders of **human trafficking** who could face sanctions if they do not take immediate measures within 90 days.

"By calling to account any nation, friend or foe, that can and should do more to confront human trafficking, we are pressing countries into action," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in the presentation of the 290-page report.

"The harsh reality of human trafficking stuns even the hardest of hearts," she said.

The United States estimates that up to 800,000 people -- primarily women and children -- fall victims each year to trafficking, Rice said.

Iran and Syria, both of which have been accused by Washington of backing international terrorism, were cited in the report for being a "source, transit and destination country" for women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The United States is currently in the forefront of international efforts to slap UN Security Council sanctions on Iran if it does not suspend uranium enrichment activities, which could lead to the manufacture of nuclear bombs.

"Iran is downgraded to Tier 3 after persistent, credible reports of Iranian authorities punishing victims of trafficking with beatings, imprisonment and execution," the State Department said.

A key criteria of US law, which is used as a basis for the rankings, is protection of human trafficking victims.

"The law specifically says victims should not be punished for acts they commit after they've been trafficked, whether it's prostitution or anything else," said John Miller, a State Department advisor on efforts to stem the problem.

"We hope this situation will change in the next year," he said.

Last year, Syria was not rated at all while Iran was in "Tier 2," comprising countries which were making "significant" efforts to deal with the problem.

Nations deemed to be complying with US and international efforts to fight trafficking are placed in "Tier 1."

A notable relegation from Tier 1 to Tier 2 this year is Portugal, cited as a destination and transit country for women, men and children trafficked from Brazil, Eastern Europe and Africa.

Germany, where prostitution is legal, was criticized for reportedly allowing sex workers to be trafficked into the country to meet the demand from hundreds of thousands of soccer fans during the World Cup which runs from June 9 to July 9.

"Are we concerned about the World Cup? And the answer to that, in terms of trafficking, is yes," Miller said, adding that he had expressed his concern directly to the German envoy in Washington over reports of sex trafficking ahead of the World Cup.

"This has become a big issue in Europe with Swedish ministers, a French soccer coach, the Irish Women's Federation, all speaking out," he said, citing reports that thousands of women were transported to Germany for sex during the premier sports event.

Research and evidence available showed that "when you have large flows of women for sexual purposes, there is going to be trafficking (and) there is a link between prostitution and sex trafficking," he said.

Germany remained on Tier 1 in the US trafficking ranking, drawing criticism from some rights activists.

"It is unconscionable to give Germany Tier One status when it is blatantly encouraging sex trafficking," said Janice Shaw Crouse of Concerned Women for America (CWA), the largest US public policy womens group.

The United States itself came under scrutiny in the report, which cited abuses, "some of them considered widespread," committed by Pentagon contractors or subcontractors of third country workers in Iraq.

They include illegal confiscation of passports, deceptive hiring practices and substandard living conditions of largely low-skilled workers from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

pp/kd

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405 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 5, 2006 Monday 11:29 PM GMT

U.S. criticizes N. Korea, China in human trafficking report

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 359 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON June 5

The United States again harshly criticized North Korea and China for their continuing complacency in the face of human trafficking within and across their borders in an annual report released Monday.

In the State Department's sixth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, China remained on the **Tier 2 Watch List**, and North Korea made no headway out of its **Tier 3** classification, a place reserved for countries with the worst **human trafficking** records.

"Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our time," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters upon the release of the report, which covers about 150 countries.

In its second year as a Tier 2 country, Japan also received criticism for its ongoing trafficking of men, women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. But it did receive praise in the report for its "remarkable progress" in limiting so-called entertainer visas, which are often used to traffic foreign women into the Japanese sex industry.

This year's report criticized North Korea for reports that the government provided "forced or coerced" labor for Mongolia, Russia and the Czech Republic, and for not acknowledging that trafficking exists.

Criticism of China in the report also stemmed in part from the treatment of North Korean refugees who have crossed over into China.

North Koreans trafficked into China face sexual exploitation, forced labor, or repatriation into North Korea, where they are often imprisoned and tortured, according to the report.

A minimum of 10,000-20,000 people are trafficked within China each year, according to the report, 90 percent of whom are women and children.

While most trafficking in China is internal, some remains international. Women are trafficked from China to Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia. And some are brought to China from Mongolia, Burma, North Korea, Russia and Vietnam, often for forced marriage, sexual slavery or forced labor, the report found.

The Tier 2 Watch List category, in which China finds itself, is considered very close to Tier 3 countries. **Tier 3** countries make no attempt to deal with **human trafficking** and are subject to U.S. sanctions.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

406 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 5, 2006 Monday

UNITED STATES PRAISES MALAWI, MOROCCO FOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING GAINS

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 539 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Two African governments received praise for progress in fighting human trafficking and two countries were cited for doing enough in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In its annual report to the U.S. Congress, released June 5, the State Department evaluated foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking. The report groups nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 Watch List includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. (See related article.)

MALAWI, MOROCCO

Two **Tier 1** countries, Malawi and Morocco, were praised for taking steps to prevent **human trafficking** in 2005.

Despite limited resources, Malawi made significant progress, particularly in the areas of prosecuting traffickers and educating the public to recognize human trafficking. Malawi, with support from international donors also produced and distributed 10,000 posters and 20,000 pamphlets to schools, welfare agencies, hospitals and youth clubs to educate the public about the issue.

Morocco fully complies with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, according to the report. Its international anti-trafficking cooperation "reflects the government's strong commitment to addressing the trafficking problem," the report said.

In February, Moroccan officials dismantled a large international network that was trafficking and smuggling migrants from India. Seventy suspects, including a police officer, were arrested.

SUDAN, ZIMBABWE MUST IMPROVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Sudan and Zimbabwe both **Tier 3** countries -- were cited for not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**.

Even though Sudan demonstrated initial progress on a number of fronts, "most of these efforts were not sustained," the report said. During the country's recently ended civil war, adults and children were forced to join armed groups.

To improve its anti-trafficking efforts, the Sudanese government should take steps to provide protective services to all types of trafficking victims and remove child soldiers from armed groups.

Zimbabwe showed "little political will" to address its trafficking problem during the past year, the report said. Zimbabwean children are trafficked internally for forced agricultural labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Trafficked women and girls are lured out of the country by false job or scholarship promises.

To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the report said, Zimbabwe should improve anti-trafficking legislation and launch a broad public awareness campaign.

Algeria, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, South Africa, and Togo were among the countries listed on the reports Tier 2 "Watch List."

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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407 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 5, 2006 Monday

U.S. SAYS BELIZE, CUBA, VENEZUELA NOT FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 1026 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

The U.S. State Department has determined that three countries in the Americas -- Belize, Cuba, and Venezuela -- are not meeting minimum standards to fight trafficking in persons, a criminal practice which Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says is "more than a human rights objective; it is a matter of global security."

In the department's 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, released June 5, the three countries are placed on what is called a **Tier 3** list, meaning that their governments are not fully complying with the minimum standards against **trafficking in persons**, and are not "making significant efforts to do so." The placement is based more on the extent of the government's action (or inaction) to combat trafficking, rather than the size of the problem, "important though that is," the report said.

The report assigns countries to one of four categories. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 Watch List includes countries that show signs of falling backwards. (See related article.)

BELIZE

Regarding Belize, the department's annual report said women and girls are trafficked to that country, mainly from Central America, and exploited in prostitution, while children are trafficked there for labor exploitation.

The country's largely unmonitored borders with Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico allow for the movement of illegal migrants who are vulnerable to traffickers, while girls are trafficked within Belize for sexual exploitation.

The report said Belize failed to "show evidence of significant law enforcement or victim protection efforts" in 2005, and that the country's laws against trafficking remained "weak and largely unenforced."

CUBA

In Cuba, the report said, women and children are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced child labor, adding that the nature and extent of trafficking in the country is hard to gauge due to the closed nature of the Cuban government and a lack of nongovernmental reporting.

However, the report said, Cuba is a major destination for sex tourism, which largely caters to European, Canadian and Latin American tourists.

Cuba's "thriving sex trade," the report said, involves large numbers of minors. The report said there is "anecdotal evidence" that state-run hotel workers, employees of travel companies, taxicab drivers, bar and restaurant workers and law enforcement personnel are complicit in the commercial sexual exploitation of these children.

VENEZUELA

The report said women and children from Colombia, China, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic are trafficked to and through Venezuela and subjected to commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Venezuelans are trafficked internally and to Western Europe -- particularly Spain and the Netherlands -- and to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for commercial sexual exploitation. The report found that Venezuela is a transit country for illegal migrants from other countries in the region -- particularly Peru and Colombia -- and for Asian nationals.

The Venezuelan government has made some "clear improvements" in anti-trafficking activities, such as training officials and undertaking initiatives to raise public awareness against trafficking in persons, but the report found that these increased activities were not matched by progress in prosecutions of traffickers.

The Venezuelan government "should increase investigation and prosecution efforts against traffickers, continue educating the public, and provide victim assistance geared to the specific needs of trafficking victims," the report said.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TIER 2 WATCH LIST

Several other countries in the Americas were placed on what the State Department calls its "Tier 2 Watch List." These are countries that the Department says should receive "special scrutiny." Countries listed in this group are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru.

Argentina was placed on the watch list "for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking" in 2005, particularly in the "key area of prosecutions." In addition, the Argentine government's efforts to improve inter-agency anti-trafficking coordination "did not achieve significant progress in moving cases against traffickers through the judicial system." However, the report said, Argentina did make progress in other areas including submitting anti-trafficking legislation to its Congress in August 2005 and "sensitizing provincial and municipal government officials to the trafficking problem."

Even though Bolivia moved up from its Tier 3 listing in the 2005 report, the country was placed on the Tier 2 watch list for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking in the areas of trafficking prosecutions and victim protection. Brazil was put on the watch list for its failure to show evidence of effective criminal penalties against traffickers who exploit forced labor.

After being placed in **Tier 3** in 2005, Jamaica was put on the **watch list** in 2006 based on the Jamaican government's commitments to take "future steps" to fight **trafficking in persons**. However, the report said, very few investigations against human trafficking have led to prosecutions.

Mexico remains on the **watch list** for the third straight year "based on future commitments" of that country's government to undertake additional efforts in prosecution, protection, and prevention of **human trafficking**, the report said.

Peru is on the watch list for its "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to eliminate trafficking over the previous year." The report said the Peruvian government should prosecute trafficking cases more promptly and increase protection for victims.

The full text of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

408 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 5, 2006

U.S. Says Belize, Cuba, Venezuela Not Fighting Human Trafficking; Six other countries in Americas on special "watch list" in State Department report

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1013 words

Washington -- The U.S. State Department has determined that three countries in the Americas -- Belize, Cuba, and Venezuela -- are not meeting minimum standards to fight trafficking in persons, a criminal practice which Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says is "more than a human rights objective; it is a matter of global security."

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Peru is on the watch list for its "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to eliminate trafficking over the previous year." The report said the Peruvian government should prosecute trafficking cases more promptly and increase protection for victims.

The full text of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

409 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

June 5, 2006

United States Praises Malawi, Morocco for Anti-Trafficking Gains; State Department cites two African nations for doing enough to fight trafficking

BYLINE: Michelle Austein, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 571 words

Washington ' Two African governments received praise for progress in fighting human trafficking and two countries were cited for doing enough in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

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Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. (See related article.)

MALAWI, MOROCCO

Two **Tier 1** countries, Malawi and Morocco, were praised for taking steps to prevent **human trafficking** in 2005.

Despite limited resources, Malawi made significant progress, particularly in the areas of prosecuting traffickers and educating the public to recognize human trafficking. Malawi, with support from international donors also produced and distributed 10,000 posters and 20,000 pamphlets to schools, welfare agencies, hospitals and youth clubs to educate the public about the issue.

Morocco fully complies with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, according to the report. Its international anti-trafficking cooperation "reflects the government's strong commitment to addressing the trafficking problem," the report said.

In February, Moroccan officials dismantled a large international network that was trafficking and smuggling migrants from India. Seventy suspects, including a police officer, were arrested.

SUDAN, ZIMBABWE MUST IMPROVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Sudan and Zimbabwe ' both **Tier 3** countries -- were cited for not doing enough to fight **human trafficking**.

Even though Sudan demonstrated initial progress on a number of fronts, "most of these efforts were not sustained," the report said. During the country's recently ended civil war, adults and children were forced to join armed groups.

To improve its anti-trafficking efforts, the Sudanese government should take steps to provide protective services to all types of trafficking victims and remove child soldiers from armed groups.

Zimbabwe showed "little political will" to address its trafficking problem during the past year, the report said. Zimbabwean children are trafficked internally for forced agricultural labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Trafficked women and girls are lured out of the country by false job or scholarship promises.

To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the report said, Zimbabwe should improve anti-trafficking legislation and launch a broad public awareness campaign.

Algeria, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, South Africa, and Togo were among the countries listed on the reports Tier 2 "Watch List."

The full text of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Report

410 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 11:45 PM EST

U.S. RELEASES 2006 ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 1132 words

DATELINE: TIRANA, Albania

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Today, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, as mandated by the U.S. Congress and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000.

The goal of the TIP Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are evaluated in the report and are assigned to one of three tiers. This year 158 nations from around the world were evaluated.

Albania maintained a **Tier 2** placement in the 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, having moved up from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2** in the 2002.

Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the law are classified as "Tier 1."

Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards, are classified as "Tier 2."

Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as "Tier 3."

Countries classified as "Tier 2 Watch List" are at risk of slipping to Tier 3 unless serious concerns are addressed.

The entire TIP Report is available at www.state.gov/g/tip. Below is a copy of this year's report on Albania. This is also available in both English and Albanian on the Embassy website at www.usemb-tirana.rpo.at/

2006 Trafficking in Persons Report

Albania (Tier 2)

Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005. Reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued.

The Government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government continued to produce successful prosecutions and convictions of traffickers, appointed a new full-time national anti-trafficking coordinator with staff, began to implement its witness protection law for trafficking victims, and signed a bilateral anti-child trafficking agreement with Greece. While the government demonstrated strong law enforcement efforts, overall implementation of the government's protection and prevention programs remained weak. The government should fully implement its witness, protection program, encourage a greater number of victims to testify against their traffickers and make efforts to guarantee victims' safety. Comprehensive reintegration and rehabilitation services are critical to prevent the re-trafficking of Albanian citizens. The

government as a whole should assume a greater leadership role in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, actively implement its National Action Plan, and vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking-related corruption at all levels of law enforcement.

Prosecution

In 2005, the Government of Albania actively continued to investigate and prosecute trafficking; it investigated 49 cases, prosecuted 51 traffickers, and convicted 54 traffickers. Albanian courts sentenced more than half of the convicted traffickers to five to 10 years, with some sentences over 10 years - significant penalties for the region. In February 2005, the government established a specialized asset forfeiture unit and thus far has obtained final judgments of forfeiture for two trafficking cases, with additional cases pending. The government failed to conduct its own specialized anti-trafficking training for police, prosecutors, judges, and other relevant law enforcement officials in 2005, but continued to cooperate closely with NGOs and international organizations on border control and various trainings. Reports of trafficking-related corruption in Albania involving government and police officials continued. The government increased its investigations of police officers for involvement in illegal border crossings, but did not find any government officials complicit in trafficking.

Protection

The government sustained its modest efforts to protect and reintegrate trafficking victims during 2005. NGOs and international organizations administered and funded the majority of services for victims; however, the government provided some facilities and personnel. In 2006, the government began using in one case a witness protection program for trafficking victims. While the government approved a national victim referral mechanism in 2005, it did not employ it during the reporting period. In 2005, Albanian police continued to informally refer victims to shelters and re-integration assistance. Police identified and referred 28 victims identified in Albania and referred 214 victims either repatriated or deported back to Albania to the Vatra Center, a leading NGO in Albania providing shelter and services to victims. The Vatra Center reported assisting 238 victims in 2005, more than half of which had been trafficked at least on one other occasion. In addition, another reintegration shelter, Different and Equal, reported assisting 23 women and girls in 2005. The government-run National Victim Referral Center temporarily housed 32 victims in 2005; many were transferred to other shelters for reintegration. In February 2006, the government signed a bilateral agreement with Greece to address child trafficking, which should assist with the return of child trafficking victims to Albania from Greece.

Prevention

The government made some progress in anti-trafficking prevention during the reporting period. In 2005, the government appointed a new, full-time, national coordinator with a dedicated staff of five. It publicly endorsed the previous government's National Action Plan for 2005-2007, though it failed to implement most of the Plan's objectives, including implementing a referral mechanism, improving witness protection, vocational training and other key reintegration efforts, specialized law enforcement training, and a targeted awareness campaign. The government took steps to increase the level of coordination with NGOs and international organizations, but relied primarily on these groups for anti-trafficking prevention and outreach to vulnerable populations and potential victims. The Ministry of Education continued to implement with IOM a project targeting 36 schools in at-risk regions, and in 2005 expanded the project to another 10 schools.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

411 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 10:50 PM EST

REP. SMITH ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT'S 2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 566 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following statement:

Rep. Chris Smith (R-Hamilton), the author of the historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent anti-trafficking expansion laws (2003, 2005), released the following statement regarding the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The annual TIP report, a comprehensive assessment of global status of anti-trafficking measures, was mandated by Smith's first trafficking bill, signed in October 2000 (Public Law 106-386).

"The State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report shows that the global community is responding to US pressure as other countries do more to combat trafficking and protect women.

With 4,700 convictions worldwide this year alone, the heinous crime of trafficking in women and children is finally at long last being punished. In the last two years alone, convictions have topped 7,700.

Because a significant portion of US foreign assistance is now contingent on whether a nation is meeting basic minimum standards to prevent trafficking, protect women and prosecute traffickers, 41 countries in the last year have passed tough new laws to end this modern day slavery.

Victim support is another critical component of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the report outlines numerous activities in which victims-mostly women and children-are being better identified and receiving shelter, counseling, medical care and training.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act is working as intended-but more needs to be done.

Regrettably, the State Department again failed to include India on its list of Tier 3 countries. India's placement on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption, reeks of political considerations within the State Department overriding the facts about **human trafficking**. The watch list was created by my legislation to send a clear warning and enable egregious offenders to make specific reforms. It's not a place to hide our friends who fail to make real improvements.

Likewise, I am not pleased that Germany received a Tier 1 rating this year. This report is being released on the eve of the World Cup soccer matches, when potentially thousands of women and children will be trafficked and exploited in Germany's legal sex industry for the benefit of fans attending the games. Because Germany has legalized prostitution, cities hosting World Cup games and 'business people' are free to accommodate this trade in women by constructing brothels and 'sex huts,' or issue permits for street prostitution, thereby creating a virtual partnership with brothel owners, pimps and traffickers.

Legalized prostitution is not a policy that the German Government has to embrace. I believe Germany can do much more to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by attacking the demand that fuels this problem.

Over the next several days we will pour through this report and I have already scheduled a hearing in my subcommittee for June 14th. The report has proven to be an effective means for spotlighting the problems and pressuring offending countries to make reforms."

Contact: Ryan Goodwin, 202/225-3765.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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412 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 10:35 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: U.S. PRAISES MALAWI, MOROCCO FOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING GAINS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 615 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Michelle Austein

Washington File Staff Writer

Two African governments received praise for progress in fighting human trafficking and two countries were cited for doing enough in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In its annual report to the U.S. Congress, released June 5, the State Department evaluated foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking. The report groups nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060605164421cmretrop0.2916681&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>.)

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To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the report said, Zimbabwe should improve anti-trafficking legislation and launch a broad public awareness campaign.

Algeria, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, South Africa, and Togo were among the countries listed on the reports Tier 2 "Watch List."

The full text of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking:
http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html.

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

413 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 10:33 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: U.S. SAYS BELIZE, CUBA, VENEZUELA NOT FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 1054 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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The U.S. State Department has determined that three countries in the Americas - Belize, Cuba, and Venezuela - are not meeting minimum standards to fight trafficking in persons, a criminal practice which Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says is "more than a human rights objective; it is a matter of global security."

In the department's 2006 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, released June 5, the three countries are placed on what is called a **Tier 3** list, meaning that their governments are not fully complying with the minimum standards against **trafficking in persons**, and are not "making significant efforts to do so." The placement is based more on the extent of the government's action (or inaction) to combat trafficking, rather than the size of the problem, "important though that is," the report said.

The report assigns countries to one of four categories. Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards. (See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060605164421cmretrop0.2916681&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>.)

BELIZE

Regarding Belize, the department's annual report said women and girls are trafficked to that country, mainly from Central America, and exploited in prostitution, while children are trafficked there for labor exploitation.

The country's largely unmonitored borders with Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico allow for the movement of illegal migrants who are vulnerable to traffickers, while girls are trafficked within Belize for sexual exploitation.

The report said Belize failed to "show evidence of significant law enforcement or victim protection efforts" in 2005, and that the country's laws against trafficking remained "weak and largely unenforced."

CUBA

In Cuba, the report said, women and children are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced child labor, adding that the nature and extent of trafficking in the country is hard to gauge due to the closed nature of the Cuban government and a lack of nongovernmental reporting.

However, the report said, Cuba is a major destination for sex tourism, which largely caters to European, Canadian and Latin American tourists.

Cuba's "thriving sex trade," the report said, involves large numbers of minors. The report said there is "anecdotal evidence" that state-run hotel workers, employees of travel companies, taxicab drivers, bar and restaurant workers and law enforcement personnel are complicit in the commercial sexual exploitation of these children.

VENEZUELA

The report said women and children from Colombia, China, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic are trafficked to and through Venezuela and subjected to commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Venezuelans are trafficked internally and to Western Europe - particularly Spain and the Netherlands - and to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for commercial sexual exploitation. The report found that Venezuela is a transit country for illegal migrants from other countries in the region - particularly Peru and Colombia - and for Asian nationals.

The Venezuelan government has made some "clear improvements" in anti-trafficking activities, such as training officials and undertaking initiatives to raise public awareness against trafficking in persons, but the report found that these increased activities were not matched by progress in prosecutions of traffickers.

The Venezuelan government "should increase investigation and prosecution efforts against traffickers, continue educating the public, and provide victim assistance geared to the specific needs of trafficking victims," the report said.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING "TIER 2 WATCH LIST"

Several other countries in the Americas were placed on what the State Department calls its "Tier 2 Watch List." These are countries that the Department says should receive "special scrutiny." Countries listed in this group are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru.

Argentina was placed on the watch list "for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking" in 2005, particularly in the "key area of prosecutions." In addition, the Argentine government's efforts to improve inter-agency anti-trafficking coordination "did not achieve significant progress in moving cases against traffickers through the judicial system." However, the report said, Argentina did make progress in other areas including submitting anti-trafficking legislation to its Congress in August 2005 and "sensitizing provincial and municipal government officials to the trafficking problem."

Even though Bolivia moved up from its Tier 3 listing in the 2005 report, the country was placed on the Tier 2 watch list for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking in the areas of trafficking prosecutions and victim protection. Brazil was put on the watch list for its failure to show evidence of effective criminal penalties against traffickers who exploit forced labor.

After being placed in **Tier 3** in 2005, Jamaica was put on the **watch list** in 2006 based on the Jamaican government's commitments to take "future steps" to fight **trafficking in persons**. However, the report said, very few investigations against human trafficking have led to prosecutions.

Mexico remains on the **watch list** for the third straight year "based on future commitments" of that country's government to undertake additional efforts in prosecution, protection, and prevention of **human trafficking**, the report said.

Peru is on the watch list for its "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to eliminate trafficking over the previous year." The report said the Peruvian government should prosecute trafficking cases more promptly and increase protection for victims.

The full text of the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

414 of 445 DOCUMENTS



June 5, 2006 Monday 3:06 PM EST

2006 Trafficking Report Shows Countries Responding with New Laws; U.S. Rep. Smith Schedules Hearing for June 14

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 565 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 5

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R- Hamilton), the author of the historic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and two subsequent anti-trafficking expansion laws (2003, 2005), released the following statement regarding the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The annual TIP report, a comprehensive assessment of global status of anti- trafficking measures, was mandated by Smith's first trafficking bill, signed in October 2000 (Public Law 106-386).

"The State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report shows that the global community is responding to US pressure as other countries do more to combat trafficking and protect women.

"With 4,700 convictions worldwide this year alone, the heinous crime of trafficking in women and children is finally at long last being punished. In the last two years alone, convictions have topped 7,700.

"Because a significant portion of US foreign assistance is now contingent on whether a nation is meeting basic minimum standards to prevent trafficking, protect women and prosecute traffickers, 41 countries in the last year have passed tough new laws to end this modern day slavery.

"Victim support is another critical component of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the report outlines numerous activities in which victims -- mostly women and children -- are being better identified and receiving shelter, counseling, medical care and training.

"The Trafficking Victims Protection Act is working as intended -- but more needs to be done.

"Regrettably, the State Department again failed to include India on its list of Tier 3 countries. India's placement on the **Tier 2 Watch List** for the third consecutive year, despite its failure to create a national law enforcement response to the crime of trafficking, and its blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption, reeks of political considerations within the State Department overriding the facts about **human trafficking**. The watch list was created by my legislation to send a clear warning and enable egregious offenders to make specific reforms. It's not a place to hide our friends who fail to make real improvements.

"Likewise, I am not pleased that Germany received a Tier 1 rating this year. This report is being released on the eve of the World Cup soccer matches, when potentially thousands of women and children will be trafficked and exploited in Germany's legal sex industry for the benefit of fans attending the games. Because Germany has legalized prostitution, cities hosting World Cup games and 'business people' are free to accommodate this trade in women by constructing brothels and 'sex huts,' or issue permits for street prostitution, thereby creating a virtual partnership with brothel owners, pimps and traffickers.

"Legalized prostitution is not a policy that the German Government has to embrace. I believe Germany can do much more to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by attacking the demand that fuels this problem.

"Over the next several days we will pour through this report and I have already scheduled a hearing in my subcommittee for June 14th. The report has proven to be an effective means for spotlighting the problems and pressuring offending countries to make reforms."

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

Contact: Ryan Goodwin of the Office of U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, 202-225-3765

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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415 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 9:07 AM EST

GREECE ADVANCES TO 'TIER TWO' RANKING IN STATE DEPARTMENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 318 words**DATELINE:** ATHENS, Greece

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

Greece has been elevated to **Tier 2** status from its ranking last year of **Tier 2 Watch List** in the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released today by the U.S. Secretary of State in Washington, DC. This new designation means that the Government of Greece is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons**.

Ambassador Charles Ries noted, "I was pleased to be able to inform the Foreign Minister today that Greece has been elevated to **Tier Two** on the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report. This is a reflection of Greece's efforts over the past year to address this serious problem. There is more work to be done, however, especially to protect victims and to prosecute traffickers."

According to the report, Greece has increased its capacity to protect and assist victims, has continued to investigate trafficking cases, and has expanded its cooperation with neighboring countries, among other improvements. The Government should now ensure that all the available protections are provided to trafficking victims, that non-governmental organizations are integrated even more closely into the victim identification and protection process, and that traffickers are convicted and actually serve time in prison.

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons. This report is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons, including sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, child trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of trafficking in persons.

Secretary Rice's remarks on the release of the report, as well as the text of the report, are available at <http://www.state.gov>.

LOAD-DATE: July 25, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

416 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 5, 2006 Monday 4:32 AM EST

REP. MALONEY SAYS STATE DEPT. REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING REVEALS NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 562 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y. (14th CD), issued the following press release:

Following the release today by the U.S. State Department of its 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report (report), Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) expressed concern about the mixed results in the battle against human trafficking. Despite some encouraging steps forward on this issue, broad progress has been slow in some of the world largest countries.

On the positive side, the report shows a more than 50% increase in the number of convictions for human trafficking - from 3000 in the 2005 to 4700 in this year's report. Additionally, 41 additional countries have implemented some form of anti-trafficking policies.

The report rates countries on a three tier scale, with those in the bottom tier becoming subject to sanctions. Some success stories include Ecuador, where the First Lady has adopted trafficking as her own personal cause, and Malawi, the first sub-saharan African country to receive the highest ranking.

However Maloney is highly concerned that Russia, Mexico and India for the third year in a row remain on the Tier 2 watchlist, meaning that they are in danger of sinking to the level at which sanctions would be imposed.

"This report is an important yardstick of the progress we are making in combatting one of the world's most terrible and persistent crimes: the trafficking of human beings," said Congresswoman Maloney. "While some countries have clearly made progress, it's clear that some nations that are the most serious contributors to human trafficking are not taking the necessary steps to combat it.

"This report should serve as a wake up call that more needs to be done. The countries who have lingered on the Tier 2 watchlist year after year should be told to take serious steps to put an end to this business the way Ecuador and Malawi have done or otherwise face real penalties."

Ambassador at Large John Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, noted that, "While many governments have made progress, it is disappointing that several major countries remain on the **Tier 2 watch list**. For the third consecutive year these countries such as India, Mexico and Russia have shown no signs of progress in their anti-trafficking commitments."

Along with Representative Deborah Pryce, Congresswoman Maloney helped author the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act, which targets the demand side of trafficking, and was incorporated into the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.

Background

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the State Department is required to produce an annual report that reviews recent trends in **human trafficking** and places countries on a four **tier** scale based on their commitment to anti-trafficking policies.

The State Department estimates that between 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and an additional 2 to 4 million people are trafficked within their own borders. Most of the victims are women and children. Each year an estimated 14,500 people enter the United States through trafficking rings. Experts say human trafficking is a \$10 billion dollar worldwide industry and sex trafficking is the third largest and fastest growing crime ring in history.

Contact: Afshin Mohamadi, 202/225-7944.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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417 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 5, 2006 Monday 9:55 PM GMT**Several Southeast Asian countries improve on U.S. people-trafficking rankings****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 180 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The Philippines, Singapore and Cambodia moved up on a U.S. ranking of efforts to fight modern-day sex and labor slavery.

The State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, released Monday, uses a "**tier**" system to evaluate countries' performances, from those found to be complying fully with international standards to those that are seen as failing to comply.

Singapore moved up to the highest tier as the report praised its efforts to deal with abuses of foreign domestic workers and to combat the buying and selling of people for forced sex.

Cambodia also was said to have improved, moving up one slot from the lowest tier. While the report said the government had not complied fully with minimum standards to fight trafficking, the United States found that Cambodian officials were committed to continue recent progress.

"During the last year, the Cambodian government stepped up efforts to arrest, prosecute and convict traffickers," the report said.

The Philippines was also said to have made "discernible progress in its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts in 2005."

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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418 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Jiji Press Ticker Service

May 16, 2006 Tuesday 2:46 AM JST

Japan, Thailand to Combat Human Trafficking

LENGTH: 156 words**DATELINE:** Bangkok, May 15

Japan and Thailand set up a task force Monday to eradicate human trafficking, the first initiative of its kind for Japan.

At a meeting in Bangkok the same day, members of a Japanese government mission and Thai government officials agreed to share information on individual cases of human trafficking and step up education for Thai women in order to prevent them from being involved in such incidents.

The Japanese mission consisted of seven officials from government agencies including the Foreign Ministry and the National Policy Agency.

From Thursday, Japan will hold similar talks with Indonesia.

Japanese police made arrests in 319 cases of human trafficking between 2001 and 2005. Thai women topped the list of victims, accounting for 169.

The United States criticized Japan for lack of sufficient efforts to prevent **human trafficking** in the country and placed it on a special **watch list** of countries in its 2004 report on **human trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

419 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

May 15, 2006 Monday

Filipinos may be using 'spouse' visas to work in Japan - POEA

BYLINE: Rommer M. Balaba

SECTION: Pg. S1/10

LENGTH: 323 words

Filipino entertainers who want to work in Japan may be circumventing tighter rules for migrant workers by obtaining "spouse" visas, the top official of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said.

"One of our concerns [with the decline in deployment to Japan] is the increase in spouse visa," said Rosalinda D. Baldoz, the agency's administrator.

"We would like to find out whether it is connected with the decline in entertainers visa," she added during an interview on the sidelines of a labor and employment conference on Friday.

Without citing numbers, Ms. Baldoz said there is an "alarming" rise in the issuance of Japan's spouse visas to Filipino women.

She said Japan's so-called international marriages, where one of the spouses is a non-Japanese citizen, have been rising in the aftermath of the stricter visa policy. Japan carried out the visa reforms after being placed by the United States on a **watch list** for **human trafficking**.

"We want to get some feedback from the [labor] posts [in Japan] regarding this. The attaches have said they will give us the numbers... but it is the connection we need to know, concrete evidence that links the decline [in entertainers visa] with the increase in [spouse visa]," she added.

The deployment of Filipino performing artists to Japan went down by as much as 50% to 35,000 last year because of the stricter visa rules and is expected to be cut further by half this year.

Ms. Baldoz noted that there is nothing wrong if these international marriages were genuine, but some Filipinos, especially female entertainers, may be using such scheme to circumvent Japan's new immigration rules.

A spouse visa is valid for either a one- or three-year period, which can be extended. It remains valid even after a divorce until it expires.

"The spouse visa however can be subject to abuse... in the same way the Filipinas involved can be abused by forcing them to do other jobs," Ms. Baldoz said.

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

420 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

May 10, 2006 Wednesday

RP to receive \$1.9-M grant from Japanese gov't, UN**BYLINE:** Bernardette S. Sto. Domingo**SECTION:** Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 400 words

The Philippines stands to benefit from a \$1.9-million assistance (P101 million) from the Japanese government and the United Nations (UN) aimed at helping human trafficking victims reintegrate into society through counseling, job trainings and legal support.

The amount was channeled to the Trust Fund for Human Security for the economic and social empowerment of returned victims of trafficking project that will be implemented by the International Labor Organization.

Thailand, which also faces serious human trafficking problems, will also benefit from the project.

"Victims confront difficulties upon their repatriation such as reprisals from traffickers and threats of re-trafficking. This project aims to facilitate social reintegration of victims who returned to their countries of origin," the Japanese embassy in Manila said in a statement.

"This project is expected to restore the dignity of victims of human trafficking in the Philippines and Thailand as well as to improve their livelihoods," it added.

Citing lack of conviction of traffickers and the need for continued improvement in protection, prosecution, and prevention, the US has placed the Philippines in **Tier 2** of its **watch list** of countries violating anti- **human trafficking** laws under the **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

Tier 2 countries do not meet the standards fully, but are working to improve compliance to laws. Relegation to Tier 3, however, will mean possible restrictions in US foreign assistance.

The US has attributed the increasing number of "significant trafficking activity" in the Philippines to "endemic poverty, high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity towards migration, a weak rule-of- law environment, and sex tourism."

The project will delve on providing immediate and continuous legal assistance, psychological counseling and medical services to returned trafficked victims; conducting reintegration assistance programs for victims who returned to their country of origin; empowering victims to make them self-sustaining through education, job placement, and small-scale savings and credit schemes; and giving opportunities to meet other victims and setting up self-help groups.

The Trust Fund for Human Security, established in the UN Secretariat in March 1999, has supported projects from more than 140 UN agencies, addressing threats to human life, livelihood and dignity, from the perspective of human security.

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

421 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: May 9, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

422 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

May 4, 2006 Thursday

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A DAY OF LEARNING**SESSION 2: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND GLOBAL HEALTH**

SPEAKERS: SARAH MENDELSON, SENIOR FELLOW, RUSSIA AND EURASIA PROGRAM, CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES; ALICE MILLER, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; LAW AND HEALTH ADVISER, SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS PROJECT, OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE; JOY ZAREMBKA, DIRECTOR, BREAK THE CHAIN

PRESIDER: NICHOLAS KRISTOF, COLUMNIST, THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOCATION: COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

SECTION: PRESS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH

LENGTH: 12412 words

MR. KRISTOF: Thank you. I think we're going to get started now. Thank you -- thank you all for coming. It's great to see this turnout. This is really terrific. Standing-room-only audience on trafficking at the Council on Foreign Relations. Wow! (Applause.)

MS. : (Off mike.)

MR. KRISTOF: And there's (global time ?) for women. Equal opportunity applause.

I'm Nicholas Kristof from The New York Times. I should say I was wrote in at the last minute to moderate the panel. So this is kind of a bait and switch, but you're stuck with me for the next little bit. And I'm sure a lot of you were at the previous session, so you know that in contrast to usual council rules, this panel is actually on the record. And so scribble away and spread the news. And when we do get to questions then, again, make sure there's a question mark that comes pretty quickly in what you raise.

First of all, let me introduce our panelists. We have Sarah Mendelson, who is at CSIS, a senior fellow and, in particular, an expert on security aspects and peacekeeping troops as they apply to trafficking issues, and in particular on Russia and Eastern Europe.

Next, we have Alice Miller, who is at Columbia, a professor of population issues and public health, and also an adviser to the Open Society Institute, which as many of you know is also much engaged in these issues.

And then we have Joy Zarembka, who heads a NGO in Washington, the Break the Chain campaign, which does both advocacy and service provision, and is particularly engaged in trafficking issues in the U.S.

So let me -- we've got a lot of ground to cover focusing on health and security issues. Allie (ph), let me start with you. Can you talk a little bit about how trafficking issues do relate to the public health challenge and in particular AIDS? And kind of give us a framework of what you think about this?

MS. MILLER: Okay. And I will, again -- as all of us -- in thanking both the council and The Global Fund for this opportunity, and particularly the opening panel, which I think really began to set up an understanding of the issue, which in my close to 15 years of work for the rights of persons who have been trafficked and different forms of workers, it's unparalleled in this new kind of clarity about how to confront the problem. And I want to say that because I'm going to give the perverse answer of saying that after 15 years of this work, I'm now concerned not only about the health and human rights impacts of trafficking and forced labor itself, but I now have to be concerned about the health and human rights negative impacts of anti- trafficking policies. And for those of us who work in the public health law, rights and policy field, the fact that policy is set up to respond to trafficking can be counterproductive has been deeply troubling to many of us.

So in my remarks, I'm going to be addressing both sides of what, as a public health person and law and rights person, I confront in addressing trafficking.

The easy way to think about the harms of trafficking are what people use the horrible word in terms of clinical, which is to say at the personal level, at the level of the body. What a person faces who is in a forced labor or highly exploitative situation. Those are the kind of issues that I think you easily understand in terms of bodies. They come from abuse. They come from denial of access to air and lights. They come from health impacts of rape and other forms of torture. They come from health impacts of denial of food, of exposure to toxic chemicals in certain unregulated plantation and agricultural industries. They come from over-work. All of those are immediately visible on the body.

But from the health, the public health standpoint, we also want to think about the way in which systems can reach or not reach people who have been trafficked and the fact that people who are in a highly exploitative situation -- those have direct impacts on their bodies and cannot get services to ameliorate those impacts. So the health and human rights questions are doubled. What happens to the body? And then -- this is the part that's hard to cover from a journalistic standpoint -- what happens to the systems that should be in place either to prevent people from facing those harms? What do we need to know, for example, about HIV/AIDS prevention? What kind of information and practices would people need to know to protect themselves? Can they protect themselves? In other words, are they in a situation where denial of information or forced sex or forced other forms of abuse make it individually impossible? But then, if they go to seek services to ameliorate those harms, can they get those services?

And this is where in regard to the health and human rights impact of anti-trafficking policies -- the sort of perverse impact of the U.S. on the one hand taking a leadership position to combat the global AIDS epidemic, but then linking the flow of that money to respond to that global epidemic, some of which is connected to the specific abuses that people in trafficking face, linking the flow of that money to particular positions that may make it impossible for those of us who do public health and human rights-based AIDS education with people in sex work, for example, through peer education. But the linkage of funding and policies that say it's impossible to do that work unless you take a position opposing prostitution as part of our work to end trafficking. And I'm going to hopefully -- I won't take up more time on that --

MR. KRISTOF: We'll come back to that.

MS. MILLER: But I want to come back. But those three aspects -- the clinical aspect, what do persons face and what are their health needs, and then structurally how do they face those harms, and then structurally how do we respond to those harms -- are all the health and human rights questions that I want us to deal with, I hope, over the course of this panel.

MR. KRISTOF: Joy, maybe I'll ask you next. You deal principally, I think, with a situation in the U.S., and with some other kinds of trafficking. Maybe you could talk for a moment about the situation in the U.S. and these various other kinds of trafficking and those health implications.

MS. ZAREMBKA: Right. I mainly work with the domestic worker community, so I'm working with maids, nannies, housekeepers, gardeners, anybody sort of related to the home who potentially is brought into this country and made to work against their will.

Interestingly, I work both with people who are trafficked as well as people who are being exploited, and by that, I mean, say, they're not getting the proper wages. So I often say there's a sort of worker continuum. There's those of us who are skipping off to work in the morning. There are those of us who are about to go postal working the post office. There are those who are exploited. And then we have this sort of -- this group of trafficked individuals.

And I work with people who are exploited all the way up to people who are trafficked. And what's fascinating about the way in which the trafficking act has influenced my work is that we now have to put, you know, we have to demarcate who was trafficked and who was not. And interestingly, it very much affects what type of services -- medical services and other services -- we can offer.

So for example, let me give you a quick story. Oftentimes, we get frantic calls from people who want to get out of their egregious situation. And I'll be talking to them and trying to figure out is it trafficking, is it not trafficking? And quickly we'll get to sort of the sensitive questions about if there's been any sort of physical abuse or sexual abuse in the situation. And sadly, I recognize that in the back of my head I'm saying, "Gosh, I hope this person's been beaten; I hope this person has been, you know, sexually assaulted," because all of a sudden we have millions of services for that person. We have -- unfortunately, we have great protections. We have benefits. We have immigration relief, et cetera, for that particular group of people. But unfortunately, if you fall into this other section where you've been abused but not abused enough, we don't have those same services. We don't have funding for that person. And so it's interesting. When those two different individuals come out of a situation, we have very different mental care and medical care available to them.

And you know, again, it's sort of -- it's an interesting sort of underbelly of this great trafficking act that came out. Yes, we finally have services for a certain group. But unfortunately, there are others who aren't getting those same services.

MR. KRISTOF: And Sarah, often we try to address the security problem. In the Congo, for example, we have a security problem; we send in peacekeeping troops, then we end up with a new problem, which is trafficking. And a lot of the places that are trafficking centers have been concentrations of servicemen at some point.

So tell us a little bit of the connection between that security issue and, in turn, trafficking.

MS. MENDELSON: Sure. First, thank you very much to the council and The Global Fund. It is really -- as a council member, it is wonderful to see you all here on this issue.

I'm a Russia specialist, and I had a grant a few years ago from the MacArthur Foundation to look at military-to-military contact -- U.S.-Russia. And everybody said look at Bosnia; this is a great success story. So when I started interviewing people who had served with the Russians -- Americans who had served with the Russians -- I started hearing another story. I started hearing a story about how U.S. peacekeepers were serving with Russians, and they were encountering on their troop movements as they were going around patrolling a lot of trafficked females from various parts of the former Soviet empire. And these American military officers would try and raise the issue up their command chains only to be told not to say anything -- "shhh!" The Russia relationship with NATO is more important than the human rights of these women and girls.

And then, of course, as I dug deeper, I realized it's not just about the Russians. There are U.S. contractors. There's involvement of, in some cases, U.S. military. There's French. We have all sorts of -- you mentioned the Congo, that this is a much larger issue and that it hadn't been -- it had been documented that trafficking in women and girls had followed the peacekeepers in Bosnia and Kosovo.

We have a story that broke a few days ago that hasn't been picked up by The New York Times or The Washington Post that there is widespread labor trafficking in Iraq by U.S. contractors. And we have the order that General Casey issued, and we have the response by at least one contractor -- Kellogg, Brown & Root -- which is entirely superficial, and it betrays the fact that I think they're not going to take this seriously.

This is also saying there are security implications when those involved in peacekeeping missions engage in human rights abuses. The link between abuse and security is a very serious one that has gone unrecognized by many policy-making communities. The local community knows what's going on. It undermines the mission. A lot of these missions are about trying to help enforce rule of law. When they engage in criminal acts and abuse, they're directly undermining

it. In some cases, we had those who are responsible for force protection -- that is, entry to the base -- were in some ways involved. This is extremely worrisome.

Also, in a lot of conflict and post-conflict situations, organized crime is a main security threat. When you have people either turning a blind eye or actively engaged in purchasing humans as chattel, there's a continuum, and there's different kinds of harm that are done. But they all harm not only the victim, but they harm the mission.

And understanding and getting our arms around the role that organized crime plays and what we can do about, what you can do about it, who you can call to try and affect policy I think is in some ways one of the more hopeful aspects of trafficking. We can stop international and U.S. engagement in this. We've got the tools; we just have to enforce them.

MR. KRISTOF: Let me ask a skeptical question that I open up to anybody who wants to take it, and it was one that was raised in the last panel. And that is really whether the notion of trafficking is the best way to slice this issue or to look at it. If one looks at the security nexus, for example, in the former Yugoslavia, the problems there clearly have to do with trafficking. In other parts of the world -- I mean, for example, Congo -- a lot of the victims are local people who aren't being trafficked in any kind of conventional sense. Likewise, in terms of the AIDS connection, you have these trucking routes in India where the issue is very much trafficking. In Zambia, you have similar routes from South Africa where you have truckers and brothels. But the women in the brothels in many cases aren't trafficked. They're local women who have gone there on their own.

And so I wonder if really the most useful way to look at this issue is trafficking, or whether it's, you know, some other method such as forced labor, or exploitation or whatever.

MS. MENDELSON: I think that what I'm hearing -- e-mails, conversations, a recent U.N. report -- I'm hearing repeatedly cases of force fraud, coercion, exploitation in the context of peacekeeping operations or in ongoing conflicts. So I think there is a merit to using the language of trafficking in this case. I'm hearing about cases in Kabul where there are Chinese food restaurants that are -- as one contractor e-mailed me -- the worst kept secret in Kabul. They are fronts for brothels where expat males go. And in a situation where you have third-country females in a place where there is no legal sex industry, you immediately worry, who are these people? How did they get there? And what's going on with them? This is a case of coercion, exploitation, fraud.

Korea -- you don't usually think of Korea as a peacekeeping mission, but that's how the U.S. military is poised there. And there are females that are trafficked from the Philippines and the far east of Russia to Korea. And the U.S. military had an effort to address these issues -- we can talk about how good an effort it was. But when the general who was trying to enforce this left, the e-mails that I'm getting suggest that the problem has gotten worse.

So I think yes, we are seeing -- there's a different modality to all of these. And I think in Congo, it is much more of a case of sexual exploitation and abuse as opposed to trafficking. I don't know that any trafficking experts have looked at it. The U.N. is sometimes impenetrable, although we have some people who are very much working with us to try and combat this. But I think it provides us tools to address these issues.

MS. MILLER: I'd like to actually take a slightly different take, which is that I think -- it will be a double answer -- which is I agree with Sarah that many of the conditions that we see people -- women and men recruited and moved into in a range of both postconflict and so-called peacetime situations -- are rightfully called trafficking. What the term trafficking gets you, however, is not the -- will not necessarily be all of the interventions that you need to address the other questions of general HIV/AIDS prevention at a population level, more general health care systems and the repair of access to health services for poor and unprotected populations. So we have to do, I think, a bit of both. It will sound like bait and switch because the media, to a large extent, will follow a story of trafficking. What we need to then do is ensure that the response to the specific harms documented by Sarah. Or there are a number of colleagues in this room working with projects with Physicians for Human Rights in regard to trafficking in Thailand; Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International have done specific documentation projects on those specific harms.

But what we cannot do is mistake the specific harm response as being sufficient as a policy response to the other set of problems that you raised, Nicholas -- which include how do we strengthen the way that both individuals and populations confront the AIDS epidemic? And that is information, services, self-organization and broader associational rights. So we always -- we need to focus on specific response for trafficking but not be misled into thinking -- and this comes hard to those of us who are used to doing traditional human rights work when you rescue one torture victim and that feels enough. We're talking about setting up, as the earlier panel said, processes of prevention that stop the funnel of people into exploitative situations. And we're talking within the HIV/AIDS epidemic and responses to health problems with a whole host of long-term and short-term empowerment strategies that make it more likely that people can avoid

the risk of HIV/AIDS, or get the services they need if infected. And those two things have to be dealt with at the same time. But as we know, one tends to eclipse the other. And this, I think, is our challenge.

MS. ZAREMBKA: I agree wholeheartedly with both Allie (ph) and Sarah on this point, but it really provides a tool. I mean, I often say as a social service provider that our social services are really the chemotherapy. And making the systemic changes -- that's the cure to the cancer. And we have to be working on both of those simultaneously.

We can't just continuously be giving services if we're not changing the sort of -- the overall focus.

And I mean, interestingly in the United States, I would dare say I'm enslaved to the semantics and the legislation as it relates to trafficking. And so we have to use those definitions, and we have to use the word trafficking to be able to get the services that are necessary and needed. I also think that the fact our trafficking act includes psychological coercion is very important. That people are being enslaved not just because they have shackles on their ankles but because they're being coerced into staying. They're being threatened at home. They're being threatened by violence. It doesn't have to be, you know, the sexual assault. It doesn't have to be the beating. There's various ways in which people are being psychologically coerced. And so I do appreciate that part of our trafficking law that takes that into consideration.

MS. ZAREMBKA: Nicholas, can I add one more point? And I'm going to call -- I'm going to here reference the work of a colleague who's here in the room working in South Korea precisely in regard to the issue that Sarah raised and anthropologist Seling Chang, who can speak for herself later. But her work has demonstrated that on the one hand, the range of people who move and are moved into the entertainment basis around the -- entertainment areas -- around the U.S. military bases are a mixture of trafficked and non-trafficked women. And one of the ironies in her work from published articles that I, at least, have been involved in the reviewing of have indicated that some of the anti-trafficking interventions -- because they are about removing women and sending them home -- are a part of breaking up the capacity to do effective both labor rights work and AIDS work. Simultaneously within the Korean structure, people who don't move into the entertainment industry -- migrants in other forms of work -- are entirely unaddressed by the attention that the U.S. is putting in regard to trafficking for a range of sexual labor, including forced prostitution. So we have again this double issue that I'm going to endlessly ask us to think about. Because if our long-term goal is stopping immediate harm, but doing, as I think Jyoti Sanghera said so eloquently on the first panel, empowering and building the structures for the human rights protection of the individuals most at risk, we can't just stop at the one or the other.

And I think within the Korea example -- and I think there's a history there. And this links back again to the first panel that the pressure on the Korean government from the U.S. government, among others, because of exposes in the U.S. on U.S. military bases and the way in which the exchange -- sexual exchange between U.S. soldiers and Filipino and other women in the entertainment industry, and nonsexual exchange, led to shutting down of movement of a lot of those women out. There's questions about whether the law reform that happened in South Korea, in part to move up the **tier** from the lowest **tier** of not doing enough to being, you know, the Good Housekeeping seal of approval, that happens as countries are raised up the review process under the U.S. **Trafficking in Persons** Report, which is issued by the U.S. State Department. Whether those pressures and whether that change in the law has been good for the people most affected is precisely the question we should be asking. And I think we'll hear more about that also from colleagues in the audience.

MR. KRISTOF: Let me raise one of the most controversial areas in this whole issue, which is the question, as was raised in the last session as well, of prostitution versus sex work. And in particular, the U.S. law curbs provision of money to groups unless they say that they are opposed to prostitution. How does that work on the ground from each of your perspectives in terms of effectiveness of dealing with, for example, these kind of public health issues?

MS. ZAREMBKA: This issue of complexity that you're hearing about -- we need to have complex responses in our policy -- is really quite critical. And the problem is that this debate of prostitution versus trafficking has in many ways, I think, inhibited us from developing complex responses -- for example, in the case of the Department of Defense. We have, actually, a DOD policy on trafficking. In a \$450 billion budget, give or take a billion or two, there is no line item to implement this policy -- zero. And the response by the DOD has been to develop long-distance training modules, which colleagues who work on this issue were not -- DOD basically did this themselves.

The main response that DOD has done is that they have added language about prostitution to the UCMJ -- the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They've tightened it up a bit. But they haven't done any kind of systematic effort to change the organizational culture within the DOD or within the armed forces or within the contracting community to understand this issue at all. And we had a fix actually in the trafficking bill that was passed. There was a large piece in there that drew on research a lot of us have done advocating for an office to really get out in front. The House Armed Ser-

vices Committee refused to pass the bill with that language in the bill. So there's still language about peacekeeping, but the policy tools -- the office, the resources, the leadership -- were taken out.

And my impression is -- and I would be very encouraged to hear from some of you if I'm wrong -- my impression is the DOD and House Armed Services Committee thought they were doing everything right because they had other language that they were working with inside the DOD on prostitution. But they weren't really addressing the fundamental issues in the field.

MS. MILLER: Can I take a step back and perhaps explain the law and the way the two conditionalities on the flow of money function, because I think that may be useful to people.

There are two pieces of legislation, both enacted in 2003, which contain language about specific to prostitution and related in different ways to the conversation today about anti-trafficking. The first piece of legislation where the language first appeared is in the U.S. global leadership act on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and the language and conditionality in that flow of money. So that is the money that basically feeds the president's -- the PEPFAR -- the president's emergency prevention act -- response to AIDS act. And that was the kind of big pledge of we will -- the U.S. government as part of fighting the global AIDS pandemic will put in \$15 billion, and we will do both prevention and treatment. So the act in its big lineaments was revolutionary in many ways and represented the joining together of many forces. And it had a prevention component and a treatment component. But as many of you following the work around sexual and reproductive health will understand, the politics of sexual and reproductive health have been quite polarized to the extent where evidence-based work on what is both useful -- in particular, for women to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health rights -- is less important than certain ideological frameworks. That's a (train ?) throughout the congressional work. And there's quite a good working piece on U.S. policy in regard to this that I can refer you to by a woman named Francois Gerard (ph), currently at the OSI, who did a piece on the intersections between all this.

Fast forward to the bill itself. It's about getting money out to combat the AIDS epidemic. Within that, there is a set of conditionalities that says no U.S. money can be used for the promotion, for the advocacy of legalization of prostitution or the promotion of prostitution. That part's -- and also in favor of sex trafficking. No one is in favor of sex trafficking. Obviously, it's the first part that is the contentious part.

It is a norm for the U.S. government to say what you can do with our money. It's the second half that is particularly problematic, which says that no NGO is eligible to receive this money -- and remember, this is part of a big push for public-private partnerships in combating HIV/AIDS around the world. No NGO is eligible to receive this money if it does not have a policy opposing prostitution. Now, what that means in function is that an NGO both has to make a policy, and not only can it not use U.S. money for this in any way that doesn't oppose prostitution but it cannot in any of its other activities, anywhere in the world, do anything that might fall afoul of this conditionality.

So two kinds of problems. What is falling afoul? What does it mean to insufficiently oppose prostitution? If you organize with sex workers and teach them language skills, which help negotiate safer sex as colleagues an NGO in Cambodia have been doing, is that part of the promotion? Is that insufficient opposition, because they're also more successful in holding onto their money and -- one catches the drift. What is that?

The second half, which is that policy, which people who follow reproductive health will recognize elements of what's often called the Mexico City policy or global gag rule around abortion. There was an assumption that this notion that you could constrain what an NGO says by giving it U.S. money would not apply to NGOs based in the United States, because NGOs in the U.S. would have First Amendment rights. That general assumption, which has held true for the abortion gag rule, is no longer true for this prostitution pledge. U.S. NGOs that receive this money are now bound by this conditionality following a series of internal memos starting last fall of 2004 and then the actual appearance of this grant in U.S. NGO's contracts, which they sign with USAID.

Now, this same set of restrictions with similar -- not identical but similar language also appears in the 2003 anti-trafficking -- what people have been referring to as the trafficking victim protection or Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 -- same set of restrictions -- U.S. money use and NGO can't do other or speak, and applied to U.S. NGOs receiving this money.

Now, the First Amendment part of that is being challenged in two sets of lawsuits, because U.S. groups can fight for their First Amendment rights through U.S. courts.

But I want to highlight the fact that although this lawsuit is proceeding -- two different suits filed -- we can speak more about them if people are interested in it -- in last summer and fall of last year -- one suit in D.C. by a population services

group called DKT International, which receives about (16/60 ?) percent of its funding from USAID, and the second suit filed here in New York by OSI and Pathfinder International, both groups who work in sexual and reproductive health more generally. So that lawsuit proceeds. But I want to highlight the fact that even the success of that lawsuit does not remove the restriction from non-U.S. NGOs receiving this money. And as a public health person -- and we can talk about the research that shows that peer-based education programs with people in sex work that both help them fight abuse and fight AIDS are among the most successful AIDS prevention strategies -- this is a problem for us.

So I hope that wasn't too long.

MS. MENDELSON: And let me give a concrete example of this, if I will. As I mentioned, we work mostly with domestic workers, but we also have individuals who have been trafficked into prostitution. And we are a subcontractor of monies that are to be used to provide services to these individuals.

Now, we had some clients -- and this is prior to this passing -- but we had some clients who came to us who had consented to coming to this country to work in the sex sector. They knew that. But once they arrived here, they were forced to work against their will. It was above and beyond what they thought and signed up for -- right. They were trafficked into their situation. And when they got out, they came to us.

Now, we offered them services. We did everything we could in terms of language. Our main gist is to meet people where they are and help them move toward self-sufficiency -- so, you know, everything from food, clothing, shelter to, you know, life skills, language, et cetera.

Now, we can't force these people to do one thing or another. We can't say okay, but you can never go back into prostitution. We had no control over what they did next. Now, they ended up returning to their home country, and we can't really say what happened to them.

But am I promoting prostitution by helping individuals who've been trafficked but now are trying to get back on their feet? And how do I even negotiate that? Am I violating this? So interesting questions like that are going to continuously come up until we have more definition. And you know, I think it's very problematic that we can't just do the service provision that we had signed up to do for trafficked individuals without worrying about, quite frankly, a policy that has nothing to do with the work that I do. I don't have -- we don't have a policy on prostitution. It's not of any interest to the work that we're doing. But we're wondering how is that going to stymie our ability to actually serve our clients.

MR. KRISTOF: The administration doesn't have a lot of fans on the panel, maybe -- (laughter) -- but let me ask a question about that. I mean, this issue has been -- had tremendous hostility from a lot of the NGO community. But it's also my impression that actually on the ground, it matters much less than people have feared. And part of that is because NGOs lie. And part of that is because in fact policies in Washington always get diluted on the ground as they go through layers and layers and layers. And so I wonder if in fact all the, you know, concern about this issue -- and, for example, in Poipet, Cambodia, and in Livingstone, Zambia, and in Calcutta -- each of those three places I've seen programs that are getting U.S. funding that on their face would raise precisely these kinds of concerns but that are going through and that are doing great work.

And so I wonder whether we really need to be so alarmed (it doesn't come to much ?) about this particular issue?

MS. ZAREMBKA: It strikes me that -- we -- it might be useful to go back to what was said on the first panel about the funnel issue, and that the way in which this is destructive is it diverts -- it's the politics of distraction, as our colleague, Martina Vandenberg, likes to say. It distracts from the larger issue of root causes and where the money from both public and private foundations should be going and how U.S. foreign policy should be executed and whether or not you place rights and development really fundamentally behind the rhetoric. There's a lot of rhetoric out there.

On paper -- I don't know how many of you have read the national security strategy that came out. I read it and I thought well, on paper, you know, this is a very right-faced national security strategy. But when you look at the implementation and you look at the budgets and you look at -- that's where things begin to fall apart. And this administration is not of one voice, frankly. And when you look really closely inside, even with the executive branch, there are people who are beginning to think about this and trying to figure out how to move it forward. And there are many people on the legislative side who are very frustrated by both this debate taking us away from the real fundamental issues, and trying to keep it back on track.

MS. MENDELSON: And I think -- I think we need to look at what this looks like -- the impact on the ground. Even though perhaps some NGOs might be able to slither around, I think it's most important to note that many of the social

service providers that do not have a policy do not have funding anymore. Funding has completely been diverted to faith-based initiatives and other such areas, so that it actually is having a really strong impact on those who have, you know, sort of built up an expertise in this work over the years. But now, for example, we don't have any sort of funding streams that are coming specifically from the office of victims of crime or from Health and Human Services.

MS. MILLER: I'd like to add that -- to support both this conversation about the way in which uncertainty makes for bad programming. It may be true that NGOs lie, and certain AID program officers can nod and wink. It is not consistently true, and the inability to know when that will be true means that you cannot program. And services cannot be given on a heroic and ad hoc measure, which is what essentially we're asking for -- that people be heroic, ad hoc and individual. And I do love individual heroes, but that's not the basis of good programming, either in prevention or in response.

So as just a fundamental matter, all of us are caught by saying yes, good stuff's going on; can't talk about it. (Laughter). Do we give the credit to the policy for that and secondly that can't talk about it -- and as someone who is both an academic and an advocate, not being able to talk about the impact of policies and research, to really look at and even to go back to the vexed question of what are the relationships between different forms of unprotected labor and exploitation -- if we cannot talk, network and associate with people who are receiving U.S. money and get operational-based research, we can't do good intervention.

And I think Joy's second point that the flow of money is shifting because of this policy -- not just this policy, but the general shift. So one wants to pay attention to each of those pieces, even as we say yes, good programming, go forward. But we cannot give a bad policy the credit to the fact that those programs survive.

There are individual incidences which keep scaring people to self-censorship, to limiting even what they can do under the program, to shutting down good programs, in part because of the intersection of certain moments of U.S. foreign policy. A recent set of events in India, which you may be familiar with -- last summer when an advocate who has been working for years both in regard to AIDS prevention -- named Mina Sashu (ph) -- and in looking at anti-exploitation was named as a child trafficker and found herself caught in a battle between interventionists and rescue and raids, who found the group that she worked with insufficiently helpful to them, which then attempted to shut down and intervene with AIDS programming, which had worked with collectives who were also looking to remove people from exploitative circumstances in the brothel. And that particular vortex shut down very good AIDS programming and was part and parcel of the intersection of this ideology with domestic U.S. politics. And it is affecting programs on the ground, even as good programs may continue to sort of slither under the radar.

MR. KRISTOF: Let me ask a very practical question as sort of how we translate all this into reality.

Maybe the worst place for trafficking I've ever seen was old Svay Pak in Cambodia where you used to be able to, you know, buy 7-year-old girls. They were completely imprisoned and so on. Doctors Without Borders -- MSF had a program there. They had a clinic there twice a week where they sent a doctor who would provide free medical treatment for these very young, essentially enslaved girls and treat STI and so on. Then they were criticized because the notion was it was effectively like providing treatment to slaves so they could work harder. And so they pulled out. They closed that clinic. In the meantime, Svay Pak has been to some degree closed down. But what do you -- what does one do in that kind of situation? Suppose, you know, each of you are whatever -- whether it's ambassador to Cambodia or you're U.N. OCHA head in Cambodia or you're head of a major NGO there, and you have this kind of a brothel district. What do you do with the public health problem there?

MS. : This is the conversation I think that has not -- or at least maybe you've been in these conversations more, but in the policy community, we've not been able to get beyond this and have serious conversations about what is a viable response to this. I mean, I think a lot of us can see that giving medical treatment to a 7-year-old in that situation is enabling.

On the other hand, with all due respect, the idea of purchasing somebody and getting them out is also, I mean -- (laughter) -- could be construed as -- in other places where that has gone on --

MR. KRISTOF: President Bush is calling to -- (laughter).

MS. : Sorry. I thought it was off. Oops!

MS. : I had no idea that was supposed to be off. My apologies.

MS. MILLER(?): Maybe they had some constructive ideas. (Laughter.)

It's a very serious issue, and I don't think that we've put in place the kinds of policies that can address the situation of that child. If you have somebody who comes in and they buy somebody, they are another trafficker in some sense. To the person who's being bought, they're no different. I mean, you know, you're a good person and you weren't taking them and reselling them. But the move to repatriate, the move to rescue, the move to -- none of this is adequate. I mean, we are not dealing with -- we have something in place, but it's not -- you know, we're not talking about serious amounts of money.

And the one place I would disagree with the first panel is that there are still very large, unresolved issues in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and there is not a lot of money going to the health and education of children and youth. And there's nothing for these people. And you can understand why people would end up in a situation.

So the answer is cloudy and ask later, but we need to be talking about this. And we need to be doing it in a way that is not -- immediately backs everyone into a corner where you say so, you are pro-prostitution. No, you are -- sex workers. And then you can't go on. I mean, and then it's of no help to anybody.

MS. MENDELSON: I often -- I often -- at the end of any talk that I give about trafficking, people want to know, what can I do? And while my first inclination is send me money -- (laughter) -- I know that that's not the answer. My second answer is send money to these sending countries. I mean, you know, support some sort of economic initiative. You know, help a school in that area where these young, you know, 7-year-olds are not able to get proper education. I think that -- I mean, I'm just really wanting to echo what we heard in the first panel, this idea of really thinking about systemic change that's going to allow us to take away the root causes and conditions that are then leading to these trafficking situations.

I think we need to start talking about long term versus short term. You know, buying a slave is a short-term solution, but it doesn't really replace that revolving door that's going to put another slave in that exact same position. So sort of taking a step back and --

MS. MILLER: I think -- and I come from the world of specific human rights intervention and moved into public health. So the question about what you when you see a single individual and then changing systems I understand as being a point of tension. But I would actually somewhat also take issue with the notion that what you described -- and in my work in Cambodia, I did not see brothels full of 7-year-olds. One of the interesting questions is how to respond immediately to the extreme situation but not characterize that as true of the whole. And that sounds really cold-hearted, but that is what we have to do.

Cambodia has a deeply -- and I've spent years working within the criminal justice system in the early mid-90s to try to set up the criminal justice system. It is still an incapable and unfortunately still highly corrupt criminal justice system to the extent that a colleague who was with us for the last two days, Carol Jenkins -- a report will be recently released that talks about more than 70 percent of the women that she interviewed who were in prostitution were raped by police. So that the idea that on the one hand we're trying to respond to the 7-year-old, but we're calling into play a set of authorities that are themselves unaccountable in a way that we aren't now talking about becomes part of the problem there.

So I want to see a discussion that says, one, how do we actually understand who's in the brothels in Phnom Penh and outside Phnom Penh. And the study that was spoken about this morning was very interesting -- an investigator who followed cab drivers until he felt like he had mapped out all of the known brothels that both foreigners and non- foreigners went to, and then within that did representative sampling of the people in those brothels, which is the first of its kind actually in that area. And it did not turn up hosts of 7-year-olds. It doesn't say that there aren't any. But it's just so now how do we respond to both sets of problems.

And then as a health -- in terms of MSF's own work, part of the notion of enabling them to work with the people in the brothels. There are organizations of sex workers attempting to organize to fight exploitation. How do we support them as well as supporting their work to get children out of the brothels when those people are children, you know, and trafficked? And that work to tease that out is what is going to be shut down by certain versions of anti-trafficking policies that don't allow us to try to do both things. And this is the problem for many of us who are trying so hard to end the harm and then end the systems that lead to the harm, as well as respond to HIV/AIDS.

MR. KRISTOF: I'll go to questions in a moment, but let me just push you all a little more on that question of specifically, you know, what we do, or what interventions you've seen that you think are great. And everybody talks in the long run about raising the status of women and about educating girls and so on. But you know, if you were ambassador to Cambodia, you're going to be there for two or three years, you know, what do you do in the here and now that is going to make a real difference on the issue?

MS. ZAREMBKA: I make sure that if I have troops that are on Fighter Management Pass Programs, R&R, that are going to Cambodia, that they're prosecuted if they engage in these activities -- prosecution; you know, a zero-tolerance policy, but zero prosecutions.

MS. MILLER: The other piece is that you work with the Cambodian legal system to protect the people who have been trafficked, because the statistics that trafficked and/or any person in prostitution is more likely to be raped by the police has to become top of your list. And I think that we should step away from the notions that poverty causes trafficking, girls' education will stop trafficking. The earlier panel made it clear that the causative factors are differential development, inability to move safely into good work, inability to have job opportunities that pay a living wage. Those are different problems. In fact, there's evidence in both northern Thailand and Cambodia that a little bit of education -- because it increases the ability of a girl or a young woman to be able to move -- increases her social capital. That does not increase her ability to move safely becomes a factor in trafficking. So we have to stop listing these things as just educating girls will fix the problem. It will not.

Within public health, we know that individual behavior change is useless if the structures that force people into unsafe behaviors don't change. So I think we always -- you know, my ambassador's going to talk long and hard, but spend a lot of time with these differential issues: the cross-border movement of people into Thailand; the fact that people in Thailand, either non-registered Thai people or Cambodians, have no ability to argue for their rights; the fact that they are deported without neither prosecution of the harms against them or any ability to appear in Thailand to claim their rights and very few groups are able to speak with them and for them; the fact that the debt bondage system has continued to be left in place, which means that when you send one child home to Cambodia from a begging operation in Thailand, a younger child is sent; which means Operation Hope has been doing extremely good work in Thailand trying to break the debt bondage system and work with the individuals and stop the pressures that move the younger and younger children who are less and less able to move safely. Those are the things I would focus on.

MS. MENDELSON: I don't want to be ambassador. (Laughter.)

MR. KRISTOF: Okay. Your turn. Now, we don't have a floating mike and so -- but, you know, same idea. Please just stand up and identify yourself and ask a question that is a genuine question.

Yes.

Q (Off mike.)

MS. MENDELSON: When I was doing interviews in Bosnia and Kosovo --

MR. KRISTOF: I should re-rephrase the question for the transcript which will be done. Andrew Pierre asked about the connection between these kinds of issues and other kinds of illicit behaviors, whether arms or drug smuggling for it -- other kinds of trafficking issues.

MS. MENDELSON: When I was in Bosnia meeting with senior U.S. military who were serving there, they would say I'm all about slaying the dragon, I'm all about stopping trafficking and arms and drugs. Well, what about trafficking in humans? Hmmm, trafficking in humans? When I just said that, that's the first time I've ever said it or thought about it. For a lot of people, there hasn't been -- in the DOD, frankly, at NATO there hasn't been an understanding of how these networks are connected, partly because the research has not been done in the way that it should be.

There's one report that came out in July 2004 from IOM that talked about how these criminal networks were interlinked. Somebody once said to me what I need in order to be able to really move this issue -- I need a chart that shows me X percentage of persons indicted for war criminals are making money off of trafficking in arms, trafficking in drugs, trafficking in fill in the blank and legitimate business.

I need to understand the illegal political economy of this region, and then I will respond. And what they were doing was essentially leaving the trafficking in humans part aside. And that's -- and they weren't seeing it as a security issue, and that's partly why they weren't responding to it.

So research on some level. They need the evidence. They need to see -- I keep waiting for Mladic to be picked up, and then they're going to go through what was supporting him. And it's going to be all sorts of illegal activity and the connectivity is going to be very intense.

Q (Off mike.)

MS. MENDELSON: UNODC just has a report out -- I don't know how many of you have seen it. They looked very closely -- this is the part of the U.N. that looks at drugs and crime. And there seems to be the strongest link is between drugs and human trafficking. I know everybody wants to make the connection with terrorism, but I think we're -- on some level, I think it's an overreach.

MR. KRISTOF: I'm not sure to what extent a moderator should try to moderate himself, but just two quick thoughts. One is that, purely anecdotal, you sure do see that, I mean, trafficking in humans is run by the same connection of -- these cartels, criminal cartels, which usually means a law enforcement cartel hooked in with it. And that's true of all of these things -- all of these activities. And as a result, one of the best ways I think to try to fight some of these issues is to undermine economic incentives for trafficking. And one can do that in sensitive ways.

The other thought is that technology in some ways is undermined or has acted (to ?) great accountability on trafficking and, in particular, cell phones. Particularly in the case of China, I see that, for example, young women from Fujian or young people generally from Fujian province routinely now are trafficked all over the world. And now they call back and tell their families and their villagers what kind of situation they've ended up in. And so people in the village, in the community, have some idea whether a given trafficker in that area -- to what extent they're telling the truth about the final situation. So that has created a real -- sort of changed the dynamic of that kind of situation.

Yes.

Q Lisa Kerbeel (ph) from the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping, and my question is also for Sarah. Sarah, you've been a leader in pushing NATO, the U.N. and DOD on trafficking, and there's been a seismic shift. We have policies in place. We admit at the U.N. that we're part of the problem in peacekeeping. NATO has put into place an implementation strategy. But as you highlighted, lip service -- and what will it take to get this room of advocates linked to those contractors at Halliburton and those multimillionaires who run those companies -- (off mike) -- Washington, Brussels and New York to really step up? Any advice on how we can all work together in our --

MR. KRISTOF: Lisa Kerbeel (ph) from U.N. --

MS. : Lisa Kerbeel (ph). (Laughter.)

MR. KRISTOFF: -- asks about what it actually takes to go from lip service to actually making a difference with whether Halliburton or other operations on the ground.

MS. MENDELSON: Traffickers work in networks, and countertrafficking works in networks and, you know, Lisa at UNDPKO has been part of this countertrafficking, peacekeeping network.

We did have momentum, and I think when we got the policies we thought that was it. And frankly, what needs to happen is more research. We need to have more reports. We need reporters also going out and finding information. Examining -- we need independent, nongovernmental eyes and ears on the ground looking at how policies are being implemented.

I mean, essentially what's happening is the DOD, NATO and the U.N. -- they hide behind the policies. But there's no real examination of how have they implemented their policies. So the very political issue, though, is international organizations are a reflection of member states, right? So NATO and the U.N. sign onto a policy. The policy may be good, but it all goes back to the member states, right? This is a kind of organic community, and the member states make up what it does.

In the Euro-Atlantic region, which is where I both live and work, I think there is actually a crisis of human rights. I think that it's there for a variety of reasons, but human rights is considered more or less a luxury. There isn't serious implementation of these policies. And what happens concretely is that states are not putting in the money to implement the policies. We've witnessed it at DOD. We saw in the legislation there was a piece to deal with this. It would have given us the ability of having the U.S. lead, and on a global military front it's actually very important what the U.S. does. If the U.S. is engaging in abuse, it affects the entire human rights regime. If it's more compliant with international human rights and humanitarian law, it affects the human rights regime.

So the fact that DOD did not respond -- guess what the NATO leading member troop contributing country responses are. That's the U.S., Germany, Italy, France. Nothing. I mean, essentially there have been a series of meetings since NATO passed their policy in June 2004. There have been -- we have been invited to a meeting in Finland -- non-NATO state -- meeting in Switzerland -- non-NATO state -- meeting in Sweden -- non-NATO state. And what members of NATO deployments are present? Nobody from Afghanistan, nobody from Kosovo. The guys who are in Macedonia,

like all five of them, come to these meetings. They're really nice guys. (Laughter.) They actually know some things. And believe me, there's trafficking problems in Macedonia. But this is an utterly un-serious effort.

And these countries, our country, they need to be shamed, essentially. They need to be brought before audiences in New York, in Washington, in Paris, in London, and they need to be asked, what are you doing? How are you implementing? And then we need people out there on the ground in Kosovo or in Bulgarian Romania where we're going to build bases. We're going to do vertical integration in trafficking. We're going to provide the contractors to source countries. And unless somebody is really watching -- you know, I was told the inspector general's office that went out to Iraq to look at the contracting issue -- they told some friends in the legislative branch that well, I understand that the passports of these people were taken away, but that was for security reasons. These are the people who are tasked with inspecting whether or not there is a problem with contractors or U.S. military.

So to date, it has been utterly un-serious. We need a serious campaign. We can do a disciplined campaign. It involves resources. It involves people. It involves a plan -- a campaign plan -- but it's possible.

MS. : Can I ask a question? Because in kind of classic human rights terms, one says that immunity equals impunity. And in the world of -- and some interesting studies about what actually allows trafficking to flourish, whether it's in sweatshops in terms of garment-making sweatshops, or in plantation work, or in different forms of the sex sector. What allows trafficking to flourish is the impunity for the offense. And I'm wondering if you wanted to say more on what -- in particular, the pieces that have been left out of the -- because we're very concerned in general anti-trafficking work to understand how it is that certain forms of employers are immune, which increases the likelihood that they will commit abuses, because they have impunity. It's a very short link.

MS. MENDELSON: There's impunity, but there's also the perception of immunity. There is, since 2000, there's been something called the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act -- MEJA. And it would cover any crime that was committed by somebody serving under a DOD contract. One of the things that did stick in the 2005 reauthorization act is that the jurisdiction was extended from not only DOD contractors, but to any U.S. government contractors.

The problem is the regulations haven't been written yet, or if they've been written -- I don't know. Is anybody from the DOJ in the room? I mean, it's literally been -- it was six years and the regulations haven't been written. There needs to be more, and we've got this thing MEJA -- it could be implemented. The worst of it is, though, that people who are out on the ground -- for example, the criminal investigative division -- has no idea that the contractors could be prosecuted back in the U.S. They don't know what tools are available. And so -- plus the response of most employers if they have somebody who's been doing something is rapid repatriation. They disappear in the middle of the night. So no witness, no prosecution.

One of the things that was remarkable about the Zade (ph) report that came out from the U.N. March 2005 was how it was a blueprint for essentially revolutionizing, modernizing peacekeeping operations, stability operations -- pick whatever word you want to use -- both in terms of legal and forensic. If you had somebody who was involved in a crime that there would be forensics so you could actually -- you know, welcome to the modern world.

You know, as far as I can tell, the impact of the Zade (ph) report has been almost zero.

And so we need reporters to be asking, you know, a year later what is the impact of the Zade (ph) report in the U.N. system?

MS. MILLER(?): I wanted to piggyback on that answer with an example much closer to home. We're finding here in the United States individuals who bring in domestic workers who work at the -- unfortunately, I hate to pick on the U.N., the World Bank, the IMF -- individuals who work there are allowed to legally bring their domestic workers with them here. And unfortunately, in embassies -- I was going to get to the embassy part and diplomatic immunity. We have a lot of cases where unfortunately, due to diplomatic immunity, we're not able to go after these individuals who are abusing their workers. And it's the exact same thing -- the taking of the passports, individuals not being allowed to leave the home and being made to work around the clock. And yet, of course, there are all sorts of things on the books somewhere that should be stopping this, but there's no implementation. And unfortunately, the abuses continue.

MR. KRISTOF: Yes.

Q (Off mike) -- human rights organizations ought to make common cause with right-wing think tanks -- (off mike) -- notably in an article published in Foreign Affairs and (our ?) publication here. (Off mike) -- is there a benefit (cluster ?) for the human rights -- (off mike)?

MR. KRISTOFF: So should human rights organizations work together with the faith-based community on some of these kinds of issues?

Q And they mention the trafficking -- (off mike) --

MS. MENDELSON(?): I think it makes a lot of sense. I think there's a lot of synergy that can happen there.

I think the bigger problem that we're seeing is that you have -- at this point, you have specialized organizations that are really interested in doing things that are culturally appropriate. The human rights organizations that have been working on this issue for a while sort of have the linguistical capacities. They've sort of built up programs. And now newer faith-based organizations are getting involved, and I think that's important. But the money is now being shifted to folks who don't have any experience working with trafficking, and they're somewhat tacking it on to some of the other programs they have and say oh, it's just like domestic violence; we can, you know, send them through that channel. And it hasn't yet come together. I think we need to really think more about how those two groups can be talking about, so the expertise can be shared, so the funding can be shared. And I think that there's a lot of possibility there -- yeah.

MS. MILLER: I'm assuming you're talking about the piece by Holly Burkhalter from Physicians for Human Rights. And part of what was both implicit -- explicit and less explicit than I think it could have been in that piece is that in working together, one presumes that you would have agreement on core principles and underlying values, which would undergird the work. It cannot simply be a political tactic to appear together, and therefore to appear appropriately in a coalition.

In my own work in human rights coalitions, both in this country and elsewhere, what you set as a basis is the core values that underpin the agreed-upon common work together. And what was also partly clear in Burkhalter's article and quite clear in much of the work against trafficking is we don't have those agreed common principles yet.

For example, one of the panelists on the earlier panel talked about as a human rights principle protecting against both discrimination and coercion, and the basis of understanding that your goal is to create the conditions where a person becomes more empowered and more in control of their own life. If that were agreed common value, then perhaps we could work together. But that -- one of my colleagues in Cambodia who heads a crisis center was asked to hold women against their will who had been rescued from a brothel. That cannot be part of the common values of a human rights organization.

So I would say possible, talk about the values, talk about the rights principles and then include in that the conversation about the impact of the different interventions from rights principles, both short term and long term. Then we can talk about the possibilities of coalition.

MS. MENDELSON: Let me give a slightly different answer. I am on a steering committee for Human Rights Watch, and I work very closely with Russian organizations. So I would be amiss if I didn't follow the words that we often talk about in the Russian context, which is in certain cases it strategically does make sense. And I think that the answer is really case by case. And it depends on which organizations and individuals. It depends on which case.

I think that we've done some great work with Mr. Smith in Congress, who is both a human rights activist, but also a -- I don't know. What would you characterize him? I don't know how he characterizes himself but -- yeah, you know, he's religious. I mean, he's a fundamentalist Christian.

So you know, in certain cases it can be enormously effective. I don't think there is a sweeping in every case we should be doing this and there's a way to negotiate it. So maybe a little micro response.

MS. MILLER(?): I think the other piece is to not let off the fact -- you know, after 20 years of doing prison work in this country, organizations that would be faith-based that worked under a common thread of human rights principles. So we should be careful about also understanding what we're talking about when we talk about different organizations and be clear about the content of that work. And then I would agree with Sarah in terms of strategy.

MR. KRISTOF: Joy?

MS. ZAREMBKA: I think, again, it's -- I don't know if I would break them up in that way. For me, I think it's really important that we're working with organizations that are interested in making sure the agency stays with the actual trafficked individual. I'm often struck by the fact that some organizations take somebody out of a situation where they're trafficked, where they had no control over their food, their clothing, their shelter, what they did with their lives. And

then they go to agencies who again take away their agency by then telling them what they can wear, what they can eat, how they need to operate.

So I think -- right. How frequently they might have to pray. You know, that sort of -- perhaps that element might be part of it. And I think that's -- the real concern is, again, going back to are we coming at this from a similar point of view? And I think interestingly, though, we're being forced -- whether it's strategically right or not for different groups to be working together, the funding is now forcing everybody to come together. (There are ?) task force. Money now in the United States has been given out in terms of task force. It's going to law enforcement. It's going to faith-based organizations. And if you're interested in being part of it, you have to show up at the table and work collectively.

And to answer the earlier question, I think it is good that law enforcement and NGOs are talking a lot more -- somewhat strange bedfellows for some folks, but it's really important if we're going to figure out how to identify people and get them out of trafficked spaces. But it's actually a sort of a forced situation that we're dealing with at this point.

Q (Off mike.) My question is for Alice, and it's a broad question. And that is how useful is the trafficking way of looking at things for actually solving the problems? At -- (off mike) -- we're organized around exploitation of labor, commercial sexual exploitation, exploitation by military, and exploitation of refugees and -- (off mike) -- peoples. And in each of those spheres, for every bit of exploitation (that's trans-border ?), there are a dozen (U.S. domestic ?) -- (word inaudible).

So in fact, the trafficking is a consequence of these forms of exploitation rather than a driver and how we're managing -- (off mike). And the big problems are interstate in each of these spheres -- not to say that being trafficked is a high-class problem, but there's a lot more focus. And yet, the causes are different and the solutions are different, which is really important -- (off mike) -- in our looking at it. How you deal with military exploitation and trafficking and how you deal with labor exploitation and trafficking and how you deal with sex -- each are different things, different ministries, different international agencies, different U.N. agencies, and so on. So then come back -- is the trafficking (paradox ?), you know, part of the solution or part of the problem?

MR. KRISTOF: So is interstate trafficking really part of the solution or part of the problem?

MS. MILLER(?): Well, except the re-framing, but the bigger question -- a point of information -- law point. By both U.S. law and the U.N. law, the trafficking cover situations that are not cross-border movements -- under U.S. law, if you meet the standard of the recruitment by duplicity or with coercion into a situation where -- of servitude, peonage, et cetera, it falls as trafficking.

So it is -- you don't need cross-border movement per se.

The focus on movement -- and I'll expand from the law part -- the focus on movement comes from our kind of historical association of trafficking of being -- of coming out of what was often termed the white slavery scare, the movement of women into prostitution across borders. The legal definition of trafficking doesn't require that, but we're left with that legacy of storytelling. And to a large extent, that legacy of storytelling is part of what you hear us responding to today.

So we have a story that was told that got attention and money, but it got attention and money to policies and with programs that are not always, as you say, effective responses to either the root causes of the harm or to the specific problems we see people present with. So we have that terrible kind of paradox of being careful what you wish for when something that many of us spent 15 years trying to put on the agenda gets put on the agenda. And I think it is fair to say the rhetoric of trafficking is far more pervasive than actual work against exploitation.

In the U.S., because the TVPRA is an actual law with the capacity to give specific benefits, if you can walk a person, as Joy often does, through the door as a traffic victim, then it has some utility as a legal project. The question is whether the analysis, including the historical legacy that keeps trailing over everyone's account of it, is useful to us in understanding the problems of uneven development, irrational immigration and worker policies, and unprotected labor spheres in which young people work. I think the answer is often no, but we have to walk through the language of trafficking to open up attention and hopefully get better responses.

It's a frustrating moment, because many of us worked so hard to get attention to this thing that we called trafficking. But I would be interested in hearing the specific programming that you think works, because those are the kinds of good models that were also earlier today being discussed, because they end exploitation in the short and the long term.

MR. KRISTOF: Let me actually follow that up. In terms of good models, I would like to, you know, look at some lessons we can learn or some specific kinds of things that can be done, whether in public health or in security issues. I

mean, for example, in the public health field, what a number of countries have done is regardless of whether they legalize, they in effect regulate. And they have some kind of regular system where prostitutes of all kinds, whether they're trafficked or not, get some kind of examination for STI, for HIV. So they try to drive down the public health problems of HIV. Are those -- is that approach useful? Or, I mean, another way of putting it is if you got -- if you inherited, you know, a billion dollars tomorrow and wanted to make a big difference on these kinds of issues, then where would you invest that money? What kinds of specific interventions would you engage in?

MS. MENDELSON: You know, a lot of work that I've done -- not specifically on trafficking but on human rights in Russia -- we spent an enormous amount of time surveying -- public opinion surveys, random samples, large random sample surveys. How do Russians feel about X -- democracy, authoritarianism, Stalin, the war in Chechnya. It has been very difficult to get funds to do surveys of young females or young males around these issues. But if you're going to program money, you need to have a better sense -- and empirical sense -- of what kind of gender-based discrimination, harassment, abuse they've experienced. And then you use it in programming, whether it's public service announcements or whatever. There's this really sinister thing that goes on where -- you know, the health field knows how to do strategic communication. But oftentimes -- and I see it in HIV work and in trafficking -- we do it on the cheap. We develop messages that come out of our heads, but have nothing to do with surveys, have nothing to do with public opinion. So on that --

On the lessons learned on the peacekeeping front, I'm very -- I mean, the good news is in 2000 when I went to NATO with a group from the council and raised this issue in every meeting and was then labeled the, you know, feminist in the group -- everybody rolled their eyes, you know, both in our group but also senior military -- senior -- senior military snickered "boys will be boys." And literally four years later, there was a policy. So if you push, there is a response that can happen, but it needs to be sustained and it needs to go on.

In terms of very concrete what's gone on, it hasn't happened yet.

MR. KRISTOF: We're short on time so you're going to have to solve the problem pretty quickly.

MS. MILLER(?): I think I would look to Brazil, which had a health and human rights approach to its AIDS epidemic and dealt both with the prevention side about being realistic and real about sexual reproductive health and rights, organizing from the ground up, and from the treatment access side -- and we can talk more about what that means in terms of generic drugs and access for poor people.

And then quickly, in terms of regulation. Data is extraordinarily bad, but most of those systems are, in fact, abusive in two ways, one of which is health information is known about a person who is a registered sex worker, but he or she does not control the information. It is accessible to others, and that model is not on voluntary counseling and testing but coercion, which in general we know is a failure as a model.

There's some indications that this sort -- so that the commercial regulation is generally a tool of abuse and almost never a doorway into effective health education and health services. I'm actually going to Senegal in about a week to look at what is often touted as the best version of this system. I've seen dueling reports, but in general I think right now it's a failed system. So the short answer is commercial -- the regulation by the government as far as impacts on people's health and rights -- probably not good -- may or may be actively bad.

MS. ZAREMBKA(?): While I didn't want to be ambassador, I'll be a billionaire -- (laughter) -- for just a moment and I'm going to give a very ethnocentric answer about changes that could be made in the U.S. I think, you know, everything else should happen. But interestingly here, I mean, we still are not getting the public awareness and the training out there about this issue. I mean, when I tell people what I do, you know, people are still at this point, you know surprised that this sort of thing is happening, you know, in the land of the free, that folks are actually being enslaved.

So I think I would actually put quite a bit of money into not only training the general public but also law enforcement -- in particular, FBI and immigration, who are now, you know, tasked with doing this work but don't yet quite have a grasp of the issue.

MR. KRISTOF: Presumably, you would also give a large share of that one billion to Break the Chain.

MS. ZAREMBKA(?): Yes, yes. (Laughter.)

MR. KRISTOF: I'm afraid that our time is up. We will have maybe informally a chance to raise some of these, and some of the larger issues can be raised in the next session for those of you who are staying.

I've been asked to in turn ask everybody to move directly on to the lunchroom as there is an event upstairs and we don't want to lose people in either direction.

And finally, please join me in giving the panel a great hand.

(Applause.) CFR-TRAFFICKING-II PAGE 32 05/04/2003 .STX

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423 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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May 1, 2006 Monday**NEWS CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ)****SUBJECT: EXPLOITED WOMEN IN THE SEX TRADE****LOCATION: CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.****SECTION:** PRESS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH**LENGTH:** 649 words

REP. SMITH: Thank you. And first of all, I want to thank you for coming out for this press conference on a very, very profoundly disturbing issue.

I want Michael Horowitz and Lisa for inviting me to be here to say a couple of words on an issue that we have worked jointly on for many, many years, but there's a very ominous undertaking about to take place in Germany. The World Cup, as you know, will begin on June 9th. It will last to about July 9th. It involves about 12 venues where various soccer teams from around the world will be playing, and the sad and disturbing news is that the German government currently is facilitating prostitution and we believe what will be a very significant influx of trafficked women who will be exploited. They will be treated as commodities; they will be raped as a direct result of their having been trafficked into Germany for the World Cup event.

By way of background, I chair the Human Rights Committee as well -- in the Congress as well as co-chairing the Commission on the Security and Cooperation in Europe. As the co-chair of the Helsinki Commission, as it's known, I have met frequently with friends who are members of the German bundestag to express my outrage and our outrage collectively as a Congress over this problem.

In January, at the OSCE parliamentary assembly in Belgium, I raised on three separate occasions during this parliamentary assembly with our Germany counterparts the fact that this is an outrage, that they will be remembered in Germany more for what happened off the field, rather than that which happened on the field.

And we ask them to go back, to raise it with their government. And there is still time for the Merkel government, and we believe -- you know, this is a policy that she inherited. It's not a policy that she has to embrace. We hope that she will step up for women who are about to be exploited and in very huge numbers.

There are many estimates as to how many women will be exploited. Probably the commonly accepted number is that about 40,000 women will be trafficked, mostly from Eastern and Central Europe, from the Ukraine, from the former Soviet Union, and that is an outrage beyond -- beyond compare.

Let me also say that, as I think you know, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires that every year the United States government **tier** -- that is, to say put countries around the world, after a thorough analysis of how well or poorly they are doing with regards with trafficking -- are they preventing it? Are they providing protection for the women who are trafficked? Are they prosecuting the traffickers? Well, I happen to believe that unless there is a change by the German government, that they need to be ranked as a **Tier 3** country, an egregious violator of **human trafficking** because of this next step that they're taking, this quantum leap in providing venues, building houses of prostitutions -- which is what they're doing with state funds and with local funds -- and then providing official state sanctions for what will be a very serious trafficking problem.

You know, about -- of the 400,000 prostitutes -- because it is legal in Germany -- the estimates are about 75 percent of those who are degraded in these houses of prostitution are foreigners, are people who are brought in from Central Europe, who are brought in from the Ukraine, and, like I said, and from places like Moldova or other countries in that area.

That is an outrage. We know beyond any reasonable doubt that so many of these women are coerced by -- and they are there because of forced fraud or, like I say, coercion. So we're calling on the German government to reverse course. There is still time. Otherwise, this will be a blight, a very serious blight on the German government, and I and others will be pushing hard that they be regarded as Tier 3, egregious violators.

Thank you. (Applause.)

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424 of 445 DOCUMENTS

FDCH Political Transcripts

May 1, 2006 Monday

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ) DELIVERS REMARKS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 670 words**SPEAKER:**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ)

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPRESENTATIVE SMITH DELIVERS REMARKS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MAY 1, 2006

SPEAKER: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ)

SMITH: First of all, I want to thank you for coming out for this press conference on a very, very profoundly disturbing issue.

I want to thank Michael Horowitz and Lisa for inviting me to be here to say a couple of words on an issue that we have worked jointly on for many, many years.

But there's a very ominous undertaking about to take place in Germany.

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By way of background, I chair the Human Rights Committee in the Congress, as well as co-chairing the Commission on the Security and Cooperation in Europe.

As a co-chair of the Helsinki Commission, as it's known, I have met frequently with friends who are members of the German Bundestag to express my outrage and our outrage collectively as a Congress over this problem.

In January, at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Belgium, I raised on three separate occasions during this Parliamentary Assembly with our German counterparts the fact that this is an outrage; that they will be remembered in Germany more for what happened off the field rather than that which happened on the field.

And we asked them to go back, to raise it with their government. And there is still time for the Merkel government. And we believe this is a policy that she inherited; it's not a policy that she has to embrace.

We hope that she will step up for women who are about to be exploited, and in very huge numbers. There are many estimates as to how many women will be exploited. Probably the commonly accepted number is about 40,000 women will be trafficked, mostly from Eastern and Central Europe, from the Ukraine, from the former Soviet Union. And that is an outrage beyond compare.

SMITH: Let me also say that, as I think you know, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires that every year the United States government tier -- that is to say, put countries around the world, after a thorough analysis of how well or poorly they're doing with regard to trafficking -- are they preventing it, are they providing protection for the women who are trafficked, are they prosecuting the traffickers?

Well, I happen to believe that unless there is a change by the German government, that they need to be ranked as a **tier** three country, an egregious violator of **human trafficking**, because of this next step that they're taking, this quantum leap in providing venues, building houses of prostitution, which is what they're doing with state funds and with local funds, and then providing official state sanction for what will be a very serious trafficking problem.

You know, of the 400,000 prostitutes -- because it is legal in Germany -- the estimates are about 75 percent of those who are degraded in these houses of prostitution are foreigners, are people who are brought in from Central Europe, who are brought in from the Ukraine, like I said, and from places like Moldova or other countries in that area.

That is an outrage. We know beyond any reasonable doubt that so many of these women are coerced and they are there because of force, fraud or, like I say, coercion.

So we're calling on the German government to reverse course. There is still time. Otherwise, this will be a blight -- a very serious blight on the German government. And I and others will be pushing hard that they be regarded as tier three egregious violators.

Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

END

LOAD-DATE: May 1, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[-] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

425 of 445 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

March 29, 2006 Wednesday

HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 1718 words

Statement of Nguyen Dinh Thang, Ph.D. Executive Director, Boat People SOS, Inc.

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

March 29, 2006

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

The next eight months present a rare window of opportunity to truly influence Vietnam's policies towards religious freedom, human rights, and human trafficking.

Vietnam hopes to achieve permanent Normal Trade Relations status this Summer and enter the World Trade Organization by the end of the year. The Vietnamese government is preparing to welcome world leaders, including President Bush, to the APEC summit in Ha Noi this November. It is in Vietnam's interest to convince the international community that it is a country in transition to a more open society. In that context, the Vietnamese government has become more sensitive to the Country of Particular Concern (CPC) designation by the U.S. Department of State.

Last year Prime Minister issued Directive on Protestantism and instructions on the implementation of the Ordinance on Religion and Belief. To avoid sanctions, Vietnam has signed on to a roadmap to improve religious freedom.

These changes, while promising, have had little real effect on the ground. So far only three of some 4,500 Christian house churches have been approved for conducting religious activities. Many house churches, such as the General Baptist Church, the Fellowship Baptist Church and the Southern Baptist Church in Saigon and many more in other provinces have not been allowed to even register. The authorities told them that they would review applications only on an informal basis and would notify when time comes for formal submission. Months have passed and there has been no word from these authorities.

I would like to note that registering religious activities is not the same as legal recognition as a religious institution. Not a single house church has received legal recognition. It appears that the Vietnamese government conducts a two-pronged policy. The central government promises changes to appease the concerns of the international community, particularly the U.S. At the same time provincial and local officials use administrative maneuvers to harass people of faith, persecute religious leaders, and block religious activities. In fact the Ordinance on Religion and Belief gives these authorities full discretion to authorize religious activities or recognize a religious institution, making it much harder for the international community to monitor the situation in Vietnam.

We have noted a significant increase in violations of religious freedom after Prime Minister Phan Van Khai's visit to the U.S. last June. Following is an illustrative sample.

(1) July 2005, the government of Son Tay Village, Quang Ngai Province, pulled down the houses of ten Protestant families, declaring that Son Tay was a "clean village" untainted by a foreign religion.

(2) August 2005, the government of Son Thuong Village, Quang Ngai Province, declared that their community did not tolerate Protestants and burned the home of Dinh Van Hoan, a member of the General Association of Vietnamese Evangelical Churches-South, because he did not renounce his faith.

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(7) January 2006, prior to a visit to Kontum by a delegation of the American Embassy, A Ngai and his fellow members of the Mennonite Church were chased into the woods. The U.S. delegation was reportedly led to meet a person who pretended to A Ngai.

(8) February 2006, the Presbyterian Church in Darlak Province applied for official recognition. The provincial government denied the application on the ground that it had not received the order from the central government. The authorities ordered Pastor Nguyen Van Dan to take down the cross they displayed in front of his house and stop all prayer services.

(9) March 2006, the public security police, People's Committee officials, and the militia surrounded the home of Ms. Hoang Thi Le, where 30 members of the Emmanuel Christian Church were holding their Sunday prayer. Ms. Le was told that her house would be burned down if she continued to allow prayer service at her home.

The Hoa Hao Buddhist Church is no less persecuted. On August 5, 2005 Monk Vo Van Thanh Liem was arrested in front of his Quang Minh Tu Buddhist Temple in An Giang Province. On Sept 14, 2005, in a closed court, he was sentenced to seven years in prison convicted of the charge "opposing public Authorities." He had submitted a written statement to the hearing held by this Committee in June of last year. Mr. Bui Thien Hue, a Hoa Hao Buddhist who also submitted his written testimony at last year's hearing, is currently under house arrest. On February 18, 2006, plain-clothed police of Can Tho Province beat up Truong Van Thuc and his brother and then dumped them into the river. Three weeks ago Thuc was sentenced to house arrest for the reports he had written concerning violations of human rights and religious freedom. On February 16, Venerable Thich Quang Do, Deputy Head of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), and 11 UBCV monks were assaulted and detained for six hours as they boarded the train to visit their Patriarch Thich Huyen Quang, who remained in detention in Binh Dinh Province. Two weeks ago the public security police expelled Buddhist nun Thich Nu Thong Man from her own pagoda in Khanh Hoa Province. The expulsion order cited "wrongful acts by being a member of the Unified Buddhist Church, in violation of the [State-sponsored] Vietnam Buddhist Sangha's Charter and the laws of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam". With religious persecution still widespread, I am concerned that many victims do not have full and prompt access to U.S. refugee programs. While I am encouraged that the relatives of Father Nguyen Van Ly have made it to the U.S. under the Priority One Refugee Program, it is troubling that they are the only ones, with only one exception, who have left Vietnam under this program in the past 12 years.

I am also concerned that those victims who have successfully escaped to neighboring countries are not receiving due protection by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. I am aware of a dozen cases with very compelling claims that have been denied refugee status. I am also aware of many recognized refugee cases in Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia that UNHCR has not referred for resettlement for years.

A major source of trafficking in persons, Vietnam each year exports tens of thousand men, women and children to sweatshops and the sex industry in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Ma Cau, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, and the Czech Republic. Vietnam has refused to pay \$3.5 million in damages to 321 victims in the Daewoosa American Samoa case as ruled by the High Court of American Samoa.

Last December I spent more than a week in Taiwan to meet with many trafficked victims. Taiwan currently has one hundred thousand contract workers from Vietnam. Twenty thousand of them had escaped their employers. In late 2004 Vietnam sent bounty hunters to Taiwan to round up escapees. By October 2004 some 500 escapees were captured. They were forced to work to pay off their debt to the brokers before repatriation. A number of female workers were raped by their brokers. Dropped from **Tier 1** to **Tier 2** in last year's **Trafficking In Person's** annual report, Taiwan has intro-

duced several measures to combat trafficking. In response, Vietnam has shifted to South Korea as destination for its contract workers.

The situation in Malaysia is even worse. By late 2005 an estimate 80,000 Vietnamese workers were laboring in Malaysia. Malaysian brokers have total control over these workers, keeping their documents and regularly "re-selling" them to higher bidders. Some of these brokers are mafia bosses. Since I was not issued a visa to join you in Vietnam late last year, I spent time in Kuala Lumpur to meet with many trafficked workers. Many were not paid for their work. Others were not allowed to return to Vietnam until they paid off their debt to the brokers. Actually I talked to a group of workers who attempted to escape back to Vietnam through Cambodia as their travel documents had been confiscated. Some female contract workers were lured into prostitution.

Considering the gravity of the problem, I believe that Vietnam belongs squarely in Tier 3. There is still hope if our government takes full advantage of the present window of opportunity to push for real improvements. I offer the following recommendations:

- (1) Use test cases as benchmarks of real progress: We will provide the State Department the list of house churches that have applied for recognition or registered their activities without success and the list of refugee cases not allowed access to U.S. interviews or not issued exit visa.
- (2) Engage and fund the independent churches to conduct human services, including HIV/AIDS prevention and re-integration of repatriated trafficking victims.
- (3) Organize a series of conferences in Vietnam on human rights, civil society, human trafficking, and religious freedom during President Bush's visit to Vietnam.

I commend you for holding this hearing. It will send a strong message to the Vietnamese communist leaders as they prepare for their Congress, to be held in three weeks, to choose new leaders and set national policies for the next five years.

LOAD-DATE: March 29, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA

TESTIMONY-BY: NGUYEN DINH THANG, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFILIATION: BOAT PEOPLE SOS, INC.

426 of 445 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: April 4, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA

TESTIMONY-BY: NGUYEN DINH THANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFILIATION: BOAT PEOPLE SOS, INC.

427 of 445 DOCUMENTS

University Wire

March 29, 2006 Wednesday

Baylor U. professors push for laws to abolish human slavery

BYLINE: By Kelly Knox, The Lariat; **SOURCE:** Baylor U.

LENGTH: 1033 words

DATELINE: WACO, Texas

It's a crime you might never have known existed. It's stealthy, not easily recognizable to the untrained eye and for the most part, silent. It's human trafficking, and it's being called present-day slavery.

The International Organization for Migration defines human trafficking as the as an illegal violation of international laws and human rights. It is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world today, according to the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Trafficking victims are routinely taunted, beaten, raped and broken, said Amy Jackson, a task supervisor in the School of Social Work. The Baylor University alumna spent her internship working with the Abolition of Sexual Trafficking at the Salvation Army National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"As a Christian community, Baylor should support research in the area of human trafficking, support internships dealing with trafficked populations and support nongovernmental organizations that are proactively working against trafficking," Jackson said.

She also said she sees an implication for social work practice within the multifaceted issue of human trafficking.

"We need to acknowledge the problem, bring awareness to the community, change our views about the objectification of women and take stands against pornography and the legalization of prostitution which lead to and worsen the problem of trafficking," she said.

Trafficking occurs when criminals, often members of crime networks, transport victims within their own countries or across international borders. Victims are robbed of basic rights, including liberty, personal security and privacy. They're then sold as commerce.

While in Washington, Jackson provided advocacy for victims of sexual trafficking and participated in an outreach program for prostitutes.

"Since I was 14 years old, I have felt called to women who suffer from some sort of oppression," Jackson said. "As I learned more about oppression and injustice, my heart grew for women involved in sex trafficking. I just went where I saw a need."

While there, she also conducted a master's level research project on sexual trafficking.

Jackson's efforts were rewarded in 2005 with the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The act, which amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, strengthens tools law enforcement officers use to prosecute traffickers and enhances assistance to victims.

Jackson said the Trafficking in Persons Report offers a three-tiered system for cataloging the ways in which countries respond to human trafficking. Countries that neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a compliance toward ending **human trafficking** receive **Tier 3** status. These countries, such as Jamaica, Cambodia and Sudan, are subject to nonhumanitarian and nontrade sanctions.

Tier 2 countries, such as Mexico, India and the Dominican Republic, are assigned to a watch list because of a significant number of victims. Countries within this ranking often fail to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking.

Countries that fully comply with the act's standards for the elimination of trafficking are assigned to Tier 1 status.

Rife in many countries, human trafficking is a problem that isn't going away.

The CIA estimates 50,000 people are trafficked annually into the United States as sex slaves and laborers. John Miller, U.S. State Department's director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking in Persons, said 17,000 individuals are trafficked into the United States from Mexico each year.

A study by the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report suggests 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked annually across international borders. Among these, 70 percent are female and 50 percent are children.

Victims often are shipped to remote locations. At the same time, they are ferried into places much closer to home.

"The United States offers help to those in need as they try to seek asylum in our country. At the same time, we're sending tourists over to those countries, and these are so often men from the West who use these children," Yancey said. "We have no systems in place which regulate tourism. So my question is, 'Are we saying and doing things that aren't consistent?'"

Vicki Northern, director of recruitment and career services in the School of Social Work, traveled to Moldova with several colleagues last fall. Moldova is a leading country in the number of human trafficking offenses reported each year. While there, Northern and her colleagues provided aid to victims.

Northern said Moldova is overwhelmingly the poorest nation in Europe, and many citizens are forced into trafficking as a way to make ends meet. Northern explained that people are tricked into the sex trafficking trade by means of fraud.

"Sometimes women answer ads that promise jobs in other countries, such as being a nanny or working in a department store," Northern said. "But they're then trafficked as prostitutes."

Northern said there's a difference between blatant prostitution and sexual slavery; however, she questioned to what extent the difference matters.

"How can we tell them it's wrong when this is the way in which they are able to provide for their families?" Northern asked. "We don't know how many are choosing prostitution. Whether they're selling their bodies willingly or they're caught in the cycle of human trafficking, how can we tell them it's wrong?"

Jacksonville senior Sorana Ban had a different opinion as to how women become entrenched within the trafficking system.

Ban, who moved to the U.S. from Romania four years ago, said, "Some are tricked into human trafficking because they think it's a door to the Western world. But just because you're in another country doesn't mean you have access to the opportunities available there."

She also added that many large families sometimes sell one or more of their children into trafficking out of sheer desperation and poverty.

"When I think of trafficking, I think of a large family with seven or more children. They sell one or more of their children of a couple of hundred dollars," Ban said. "To us, that's not a lot. To them, it's a fortune and a way to get by."

(C) 2006 The Lariat via U-WIRE

LOAD-DATE: March 29, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

428 of 445 DOCUMENTS

PR Newswire
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March 13, 2006 Monday 10:20 AM EST

Former Sudanese Slave to Lead Historic 300-Mile Walk to be Joined by Former NBA Star Manute Bol

SECTION: ASSIGNMENT AND METRO DESKS

LENGTH: 404 words

From March 15 to April 5, former Sudanese slave, Simon Deng will lead a walk from New York to Washington, D.C., to shed light on the genocide and modern-day slavery in Sudan, and call for U.S. government action to stop the violence and enslavement of black African Sudanese.

The 300-mile walk will begin Wednesday, March 15 at 1 p.m., at UN Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, (47th and 1st Ave.) where Deng will hold a press conference before commencing the walk. Former NBA player Manute Bol will join Deng in NYC. Bol, known for his advocacy on behalf of Sudan, is the second tallest player to appear in the NBA and holds the all-time NBA record for the most blocked shots per minute. Spanning five states, the walk will stop in 19 cities, including Philadelphia and Baltimore and will end in front of the Capitol on April 5.

The Sudan Campaign supports the following:

- That the U.S. Congress pass the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act without delay, provide \$514 million in emergency funding called for by the President to support humanitarian and peacekeeping programs in Darfur, and adopt Senate Resolution 383 to strengthen the peacekeeping efforts;
- That President Bush appoint a new Special Envoy for Sudan, and the U.S. Government use all available means to increase pressure on the Government of Sudan until peace is secured throughout the country by implementing the provisions of the Sudan Peace Agreement;
- That the U.S. State Department reclassify the Government of Sudan as a **Tier 3** Nation with regard to **Human Trafficking** (the worst classification possible) for its failure to make significant progress to eradicate slavery and that the U.S. establish an independent anti-slavery commission to monitor slavery and its eradication in Sudan.

At nine, Deng, a native of Southern Sudan was captured and sold to an Arab family in Northern Sudan. He was enslaved for over three years until he escaped. Now 44, Deng speaks on his difficult childhood and about the atrocities that continue to plague Sudan. One of the first 40 Sudanese to come to the U.S. on political asylum, Deng has emerged a national leader among the 250,000 Sudanese Refugees now living in the U.S.

<http://www.sudanfreedomwalk.org>

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<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

Contact: Maria Sliwa of Freedom Now Communications (Local Media), 973-272-2861 or sliwanews@aol.com or Meryl Zegarek of MZ Public Relations, Inc. (National Media), 917-493-3601 or mz@mzpr.com

LOAD-DATE: March 14, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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429 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 7, 2006 Tuesday

HUMAN TRAFFICKING A HUGE PROBLEM FOR CHINA, U.S. OFFICIALS SAY

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 844 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Human trafficking is a huge problem for China, both for Chinese seeking better lives overseas and for those within China, U.S. experts say.

"Chinese of both sexes migrate all over the world for low-skilled labor, and a significant number of these fall victim to involuntary servitude," or forced labor, according to Ambassador John R. Miller. "There are also reports of involuntary servitude among migrant workers moving internally within China in search of economic opportunities."

Miller is the director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and senior adviser on human trafficking to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He spoke March 6 before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which monitors human rights and rule of law in China. Created by Congress in October 2000, the commission, composed of members of Congress and senior administration officials, submits an annual report to the president.

Miller called human trafficking "modern-day slavery" that uses kidnapping, fraud and psychological and physical abuse to force men, women and children into labor and sexual exploitation. Often linked to organized crime, human trafficking is a billion-dollar industry, according to estimates by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

A 2002 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimate says there are approximately 250,000 victims of trafficking inside China alone. Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska and chairman of the commission, noted that many of the trafficking victims in China are North Korean refugees.

Steven Law, deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor and a member of the commission, said that although human trafficking is a worldwide phenomenon, the problem in China has some unique characteristics.

"China is stepping forward to address a broad range of human rights and worker rights issues, and the U.S. Department of Labor has provided technical support and other assistance for these efforts," Law said. "Still, the interplay between forced marriage, one-child restrictions and rural-urban migration creates an atmosphere where human trafficking could explode unless proactive measures are taken now." The Labor Department has contributed \$164 million since 1995 to anti-trafficking projects worldwide, he said.

Miller said China has made "limited progress" in addressing human trafficking. "Although the government has undertaken some efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related crime, much more needs to be done," he said.

The State Department official urged a "victim-centered" approach that emphasizes prevention, protection and prosecution. Vulnerable people, especially women and children, he said, should be warned that promises of employment are often traps. Victims of trafficking should be provided protection via adequate shelter and care, and the traffickers should be prosecuted vigorously. "The traffickers function as long as they operate beyond the law and between systems of enforcement" from region to region, he said.

Hagel, in his opening remarks, said the commission is concerned that China fell from "**Tier 2**" to "**Tier 2 Watch Status**" in the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2005 because of inadequate protection of trafficking victims. The U.S. law mandates the annual international survey, which ranks countries in three tiers: Tier 1 indicates that a nation is in compliance with international standards; Tier 3 denotes countries that are not. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards; the Tier 2 "Watch List" consists of countries that might be vulnerable to an erosion of their efforts.

"The Chinese government must uphold international agreements and grant the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to screen the refugee petitions of North Korean in China," he said.

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Miller added that human trafficking affects human rights, public health and international security. The Bush administration is committed to ending the trade in human beings, he said.

"The Departments of State, Labor, Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services and the U.S. Agency for International Development are working together to combat this scourge both at home and abroad. Since 2001, we have contributed approximately \$375 million toward anti-trafficking programs and we are seeing results," the State Department official said.

"This 21st century struggle for freedom," Miller said, "is one we can and must win everywhere in the world."

Testimony from the March 6 commission hearing is available on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China's Web site. The 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

For more on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: March 9, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

430 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

March 7, 2006

Human Trafficking a Huge Problem for China, U.S. Officials Say; Greater need for prevention, protection and prosecution

BYLINE: Jane Morse, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 853 words

Washington -- Human trafficking is a huge problem for China, both for Chinese seeking better lives overseas and for those within China, U.S. experts say.

"Chinese of both sexes migrate all over the world for low-skilled labor, and a significant number of these fall victim to involuntary servitude," or forced labor, according to Ambassador John R. Miller. "There are also reports of involuntary servitude among migrant workers moving internally within China in search of economic opportunities."

Miller is the director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and senior adviser on human trafficking to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He spoke March 6 before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which monitors human rights and rule of law in China. Created by Congress in October 2000, the commission, composed of members of Congress and senior administration officials, submits an annual report to the president.

Miller called human trafficking "modern-day slavery" that uses kidnapping, fraud and psychological and physical abuse to force men, women and children into labor and sexual exploitation. Often linked to organized crime, human trafficking is a billion-dollar industry, according to estimates by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

A 2002 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimate says there are approximately 250,000 victims of trafficking inside China alone. Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska and chairman of the commission, noted that many of the trafficking victims in China are North Korean refugees.

Steven Law, deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor and a member of the commission, said that although human trafficking is a worldwide phenomenon, the problem in China has some unique characteristics.

"China is stepping forward to address a broad range of human rights and worker rights issues, and the U.S. Department of Labor has provided technical support and other assistance for these efforts," Law said. "Still, the interplay between forced marriage, one-child restrictions and rural-urban migration creates an atmosphere where human trafficking could explode unless proactive measures are taken now." The Labor Department has contributed \$164 million since 1995 to anti-trafficking projects worldwide, he said.

Miller said China has made "limited progress" in addressing human trafficking. "Although the government has undertaken some efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related crime, much more needs to be done," he said.

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For more on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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431 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 7, 2006 Tuesday 7:54 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: HUMAN TRAFFICKING HUGE PROBLEM FOR CHINA, U.S. OFFICIALS SAY

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 890 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Jane Morse

Washington File Staff Writer

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Testimony

(<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/hearings/2006/20060306/index.php?PHPSESSID=a05f2dca16917bed7699fe5ebf35b354>) from the March 6 commission hearing is available on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China's Web site. The 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

For more on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking: http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html.

LOAD-DATE: March 9, 2006

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

432 of 445 DOCUMENTS

Congressional Press Releases

March 6, 2006 Monday**OPENING STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR CHUCK HAGEL CHAIRMAN,
CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA****BYLINE:** CHUCK HAGEL, SENATOR, SENATE**SECTION:** PRESS RELEASE**LENGTH:** 998 words

For Immediate Release

Opening Statement by U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Chairman, Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Contact: Mike Buttry 202/224-4224

March 6, 2006

"The Congressional-Executive Commission on China meets today to examine human trafficking in China. The Commission will also consider domestic and international efforts to help stop human trafficking in and through China and to help rehabilitate victims of trafficking.

Human trafficking in China is a serious problem. According to a 2002 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimate, there are approximately 250,000 victims of trafficking in China. Traffickers are increasingly linked to organized crime and specialize in abducting girls and women both for the bridal market in China's poorest areas and for sale as prostitutes in urban areas. North Korean refugees are an especially vulnerable group. Today's Administration witness, Ambassador John Miller, has estimated that 80 to 90 percent of the refugees from North Korea, particularly women and children, end up as trafficking victims.

The Chinese government has publicly acknowledged the seriousness of the problem and has taken steps to stop trafficking and aid victims. Chinese experts and officials have cooperated with international agencies including the International Labor Organization (ILO) and UNICEF to combat trafficking. China's Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women outlaws trafficking, and Article 240 of the Criminal Law outlines harsh penalties for those convicted of human trafficking related crimes.

These steps reflect a serious effort, but the Chinese government needs to do more. The Commission is concerned that China fell from "**Tier 2**" to "**Tier 2 Watch Status**" in the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2005 because of inadequate protection of trafficking victims. The Chinese government must uphold international agreements and grant the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to screen the refugee petitions of North Koreans in China. The Chinese government has not signed the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The United States can do more. In its 2005 Annual Report, the Commission recommended that the President and Congress continue to support international programs to build law enforcement capacity to prevent trafficking in and through China, and additionally should develop and fund programs led by U.S.-based Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that focus on the protection and rehabilitation of victims, especially legal and educational assistance programs. But the Chinese government must become more open to cooperation with foreign NGOs.

To help us better understand the human trafficking problem in China, and international and domestic efforts to fight trafficking and assist victims, we turn to our witnesses.

Representative Chris Smith has been a leader in Congressional efforts to combat trafficking worldwide and assist victims of trafficking. Earlier this year, President Bush signed into law Representative Smith's third anti-trafficking bill, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. This new law provides significant additional anti-trafficking and protection measures for victims and potential victims of trafficking. Representative Smith is Vice Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Chairman of the International Relations subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations. The Commission is very pleased that Mr. Smith will be making a statement at today's hearing.

Speaking on behalf of the Administration will be Ambassador John R. Miller, who is Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Senior Advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on human trafficking. From 1985 to 1993, Mr. Miller served in the U.S. House of Representatives from the state of Washington. While in Congress, Mr. Miller held a seat on the Committee on International Relations and was a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

After Ambassador Miller, we will hear from a distinguished panel of experts who will share their knowledge and expertise. Mr. Roger Plant will lead Panel Two. Mr. Plant is the Head of the ILO's Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labor. Mr. Plant has been a leading investigator and activist on forced labor and modern slavery for more than 30 years. Prior to joining the ILO Mr. Plant worked with the Asian Development Bank, United Kingdom Department for International Development; Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Shell International, Danish International Development Agency, and several international human rights NGOs.

Ms. Wenchi Yu Perkins will provide perspectives on the problem of human trafficking to and from China. Ms. Perkins is the Director of Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights Program at Vital Voices. Prior to joining Vital Voices, Ms. Perkins worked with victims of trafficking and conducted training for law enforcement and NGOs in the Midwest. She was also a foreign policy assistant in Taiwan's parliament and worked in the Taiwan representative office in Chicago. She has an MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago and a BA in Political Science from National Taiwan University.

Finally, Mr. Abraham Lee will testify to the Commission on the problems faced by North Korean refugees in China. Mr. Lee is Director of Public Affairs for Crossing Borders, an NGO devoted to assisting North Korean refugees in Northeast China. Mr. Lee has been in China for the past three years working with North Korean refugees and teaching college English. He received his BA in Economics from the University of Maryland in 1999 and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2002.

We welcome all of our witnesses today and appreciate their time and presentations."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Other

433 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 6, 2006 Monday 11:01 AM EST

JAMAICA: JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES UPDATES ON POST-CABINET BRIEFINGS, MARCH 6

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 897 words**DATELINE:** KINGSTON, Jamaica

The government of Jamaica issued the following news release:

PORT AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA TO PURCHASE PROPERTIES

Cabinet approved a request from the Port Authority of Jamaica to purchase three (3) properties located on the Titchfield Hill in Port Antonio from the Commissioner of Lands and National Land Agency.

The properties will be included in a development programme to restore properties on the historic Titchfield Hill to its 19th Century profile, creating a "Heritage Village" and provide an opportunity to expose our art, craft, music and other cultural products.

The Heritage Village would compliment the Marina, Cruise Shipping and Navy Island Developments and establish an additional tourism attraction.

The properties are:

37 Fort George Street

39 Fort George Street

13 King Street

In addition, the Port Authority of Jamaica obtained approval to purchase a private property for the same purposes.

It is anticipated that government agencies and Private Sector partners will collaborate fully in the new developmental phase and that a joint venture company will be responsible for the management of the project once completed.

REGIONAL MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM

Approval was given for the implementation of a Regional Medical Waste Treatment and Collection System.

It is estimated that the health sector generates approximately 1596 tonnes of medical waste annually. This represents approximately 20% of the total waste stream from health care facilities. The remaining 80% is non-risk or "genuine" health care waste with similar characteristics to domestic waste such as uncontaminated waste items. Eighty three percent (83%) of the total medical waste is generated by public health care facilities, while the remaining 17% is generated by private facilities.

Against this background, it is imperative that the Government invest in appropriate technology for the treatment of medical waste, as the negative effects of improper handling and disposal practices is a burden on the public purse.

The project will be implemented in two phases, beginning in the new financial year at a cost of \$114.6m and \$273Jm in 2007 - 2008. Additionally there will be recurrent costs of \$14.3m as of 2008 - 2009.

The technology which has been decided on after wide inter Agency and inter-Ministerial consultations is the autoclave technology endorsed by the World Health Organization. It is a wet heat treatment process which combines shredding

materials, direct heated steam, and high pressure to achieve complete sterilization of infections networks. It is reputed to achieve virtually 100% of micro - bial inactivation and make all processed waste harmless.

THE CONSTABULARY FORCE ACT

The Cabinet approved a proposal to amend the Constabulary Force Act to grant legal status to the Jamaica Police Officers Association. This is in keeping with the legal status enjoyed by the Police Federation and the Special Constabulary Force Association.

The amendments also introduce provisions to cover the broad areas of membership, functions, appellate procedure and disciplinary proceedings.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The Cabinet received a note informing that in relation to **Trafficking in Persons**, Jamaica's ranking by the U.S. State Department in the 2005 Annual Report has moved from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2**.

The improvement in rating is attributed to the measures implemented by the Government of Jamaica.

Efforts will continue within the limits of our resumes and in accordance with the national priorities.

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA (GOJ) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Cabinet received a report on the status of the economic and technical cooperation agreements concluded between the GOJ and the Government of People's Republic of China for 2003 - 2005.

The report gave an update on the Sligoville Complex, which is to include sports facility, police station and post office; and assistance with the construction of new Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) office building in down town Kingston.

The Cabinet noted that the presence of the MFAFT building down town would assist in the revitalization of the area.

Currently the country is benefiting from the two Chinese Table Tennis Coaches and a Chinese language instructor at UWI.

The Sligoville Complex project will also provide collateral benefits thorough the expected provision of pipes and fittings to improve the water supply by the NWC in that area.

In addition, the NWC is already benefiting from US 12.5 million soft loan (2%) for the purchase of pipes and appurtenances 2.5million worth of which have already been delivered, with the remainder due by mid-year. The impact will be islandwide.

The Cabinet also authorized the MFAFT to indicate to the Chinese Government its approval of the US \$100,000.00 or J \$6.5m to support the improvement of the MOEYC management information system.

The total value of the economic cooperation agreement between China and Jamaica is as follows:

Grant A: \$3US.6m Y30,000.00

Grant B: \$3US.5m Y30,000.00

Loan: \$2US.5m Y20,000.00

Cabinet Secretary: The Honourable Carlton E. Davis O.J., C.D., Ph.D

Address: Office of the Prime Minister,

1 Devon Road, Kingston 10

Jamaica West Indies.

Telephone: (876) 929-8880 to 5

Fax: (876) 929-8459

E-Mail: cablib@cwjamaica.com

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434 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

March 2, 2006 Thursday 1:49 AM EST

REP. SMITH URGES STATE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER SUDAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 750 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following press release:

In response to a failed effort by the US Department of State to encourage the government of Sudan to effectively address human trafficking, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) urged the Administration to correct its policy. Last fall, a four month experiment began designed to improve Sudan's ranking on the **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) ratings from **Tier 3** (the worst traffickers) to **Tier 2**.

That experiment ended in January 2006, but there are indications that the US Department of State may continue the experiment. In a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Smith called the experiment a failure and urged the Administration to return Sudan to **Tier 3**. Smith noted that the basis for elevating Sudan in the TIP rankings was its support for the Committee to Eliminate the Abduction of Women and Children (CEAWC). The next US State Department **Trafficking in Persons** report is due to be released in June.

"When Ambassador John Miller, head of the Office of Trafficking in Persons gave a briefing this month on the TIP interim assessment, he acknowledged that the Government of Sudan had suspended its support for CEAWC," said Smith, who has written three landmark US human trafficking laws. "This alone should demonstrate why the effort to gently encourage the Sudanese government to take action to redress its history of involvement in slavery has not succeeded."

Smith met with the Director of CEAWC in August during a visit to Sudan, and was told that the organizational focus was on returning women who had been forced to become brides against their will to their families.

"While this is no doubt a serious problem, it is only part of the tragedy and does not deal satisfactorily with the thousands of people who have been sold into slavery in Sudan over the years," said Smith, Chairman of the House Subcommittee that has oversight on Africa and Global Human Rights.

Members of Congress and anti-slavery activists reacted strongly to the elevation of Sudan in the TIP rankings, despite the fact that Sudan was placed on a watch list and could potentially be dropped in rankings even between annual reports. While the Administration considered the elevation of Sudan's ranking to be a useful means of coaxing positive action from a recalcitrant government, others felt the Government of Sudan continues to refuse to admit its involvement in or support for slavery and has no intention of undoing the terrible wrong done to so many of its own citizens with its cooperation.

The complicity of the Sudanese government was confirmed during a March 13, 1996, hearing chaired by Rep. Smith. Then-Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs William Twadell testified that the Government of Sudan's campaign to subjugate its opposition in the South included the taking of slaves by its army or by forces under its control.

Over the past decade, I have convened several hearings examining the phenomenon of modern-day slavery in Sudan, and written three landmark laws on human trafficking," said Smith. "In none of the testimony, including a hearing my current Subcommittee convened on November 1, 2005, has there been any evidence presented to demonstrate Sudanese

government willingness to return those sold into slavery to their families - not even as part of a general repatriation of people forced from southern Sudan to their homes in this newly-semi-autonomous South."

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Christian Solidarity and other organizations have investigated this situation thoroughly over the years. The Campaign of Conscience, organized by the Center for Religious Freedom at Freedom House, the National Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other organizations have organized teach-ins, letter campaigns to our government and raised money to help the Sudanese people. Members of Congress, such as Congressman Smith and the February congressional delegation led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, have visited Sudan in an effort to place U.S. policy on the right side of this issue.

"All these efforts do not prepare the American people or their representatives in Congress to accept the lack of effort by the Government of Sudan on the issue of freeing and repatriating people sold into slavery, and I call on the Administration to take this into account in its deliberations of the TIP rankings," Smith said.

Contact: Brad Dayspring, 202/225-3765.

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435 of 445 DOCUMENTS

ABA Journal

March, 2006

92 A.B.A.J. 59

SINISTER INDUSTRY: ABA Joins Worldwide Effort to Fight Criminal Trade in Human Beings

AUTHOR: Siobhan Morrissey

LENGTH: 1583 words

SECTION: Your ABA

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS ARE famed for the extraordinary wildlife that evolved in relative isolation some 600 miles out in the Pacific Ocean from the mainland coast of Ecuador.

But the islands are not isolated enough to escape one of the most sinister criminal scourges of modern times--human trafficking. The exploding scope of the modern trade in human beings has begun to draw attention from governments, human rights organizations and legal groups like the ABA.

Human trafficking "is the fastest-growing and third-largest criminal industry in the world today after the arms and drugs trades, generating billions in profits each year," states the ABA Center for Human Rights in the introduction to its resource manual on the issue published in October.

"Sex trafficking is the most lucrative of trafficking efforts and involves sexual exploitation in prostitution or pornography, bride trafficking or the commercial or sexual abuse of children. Millions of innocents are victimized each year in this contemporary form of slavery; thousands are trafficked within the U.S. alone."

The U.S. State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report," issued in June, estimates that some 12.3 million people are enslaved in forced labor, bonded labor, sexual servitude and involuntary servitude at any given time around the world. That includes the U.S., where the FBI estimates that human trafficking generates \$ 9.5 billion annually.

Actually, human traffickers "could be making much more money" in the United States than suggested by government estimates, which are based only on information from traffickers who have been apprehended, says Andreea Vesa, a senior legal analyst working on human rights issues with the ABA's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative. The victims, she notes, "are people who are trafficked into the U.S.--from Mexico to the southern United States and Asia to California, and by the Russian mafia into New York."

The State Department report notes that the victims of human trafficking "are as diverse as the world's cultures. Some leave developing countries seeking to improve their lives through low-skilled jobs in more prosperous countries. Others fall victim to forced or bonded labor in their own countries. Some families give children to related or unrelated adults who promise education and opportunity--but deliver the children into slavery for money."

AN UNSEEN CRIME

BUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING GOES LARGELY UNNOTICED, says Jerome J. Shestack of Philadelphia, an ABA past president who co-chairs the Human Rights Center with Steven T. Walther of Reno, Nev. Part of the reason, says Shestack, is that victims often are reluctant to testify against their captors.

"Basically, what we're trying to do is muster interest," he says about the efforts of the Human Rights Center.

Other ABA entities also are involved in the growing international effort to fight human trafficking.

In 2004, the Latin America and Caribbean Law Initiative Council launched its Project to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Ecuador. The project is funded by the State Department's Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons. The American Bar Foundation also supports the project.

The project was part of the response to Ecuadorian authorities' 2003 arrest of a couple who ran a dance studio on the Galapagos Islands on charges that they exploited some 50 children for Internet pornography, says Salvador A. Cicero, director of the project. (While Ecuador maintains 90 percent of the Galapagos as a national park, the islands also are home to some 12,000 residents.)

"These people would feed them popcorn laced with cocaine and pizza laced with marijuana and other drugs," Cicero says. "They would drug the children who went to their dance academy, and then they would rape them and make pornographic pictures. The guy would rape them and the woman would record them."

But Ecuador did not have a law on human trafficking when the couple was arrested, Cicero says. Each was sentenced to a 25-year prison term for violating Ecuador's drug laws (which carry a harsher sentence than child-abuse laws).

"This was the case that gave evidence that they really needed to do something about the problem," Cicero says. "People were coming to Ecuador to buy this. That was the case that made the government pull the ABA in because it was so grotesque."

The human-trafficking law adopted by the Ecuadorian Congress in June was drafted largely by lawyers from the United States and Ecuador working with the trafficking project of the Latin America law initiative. Lawyers from the project are now assisting in efforts to help Ecuadorian law enforcement agencies develop enforcement mechanisms.

When the Ecuadorian supreme court asked the ABA for help in drafting anti-trafficking legislation in 2004, Ecuador was in danger of sanctions from the U.S. government under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 that could have affected its military funding, says Cicero.

The act established a three-tier system for rating the efforts of countries to address **human trafficking**, and Ecuador had dropped down to the lowest rating for its lack of enforcement efforts before adopting its new law.

"We have had the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador, and we are very satisfied" with the final version of the law, says Armando E. LaCasa of Miami, who chairs the Latin America and Caribbean Law Initiative Council.

"I hope this will serve as the basis to go into other countries," LaCasa says. "There are several countries in Latin America where there is a need."

ISSUES IN ECUADOR

WHILE THE GALAPAGOS CASE INVOLVED CHILD pornography, human trafficking also takes other forms in Ecuador, says Luis Velez, an Ecuadorian attorney based in Miami who serves on the advisory committee for the trafficking project.

First, he says, there is the problem of Colombian girls forced into prostitution in Ecuador, where they command a high price because they are considered exotic. The other concern, Velez says, is Ecuadorians lured overseas with the promise of a good job who end up in prostitution.

"Because it's a very poor country, the poor people try to go out of Ecuador, especially to Europe and the United States," Velez says. "The girls or the girls' parents think they are going to find a job. But it is really not a job. They are kept like slaves. They go to Europe and think they are going to work as top models. But as a matter of fact, this is not true. They have to work as a prostitute in order to pay for their airline ticket and expenses."

But human trafficking patterns work in both directions, according to project director Cicero.

"In Colombia, Ecuadorian kids are trafficked there for begging," he says. "There are kids begging in the streets. They follow you. They are persistent to the point of being annoying. Apparently some of them walk back to Ecuador with drugs. Sometimes they are kidnapped. Sometimes their parents are talked into it. Trafficking is usually done by people you know."

CAMPAIGN IN AFRICA

WHILE THE LATIN AMERICA LAW INITIATIVE CONTINUES its work, another ABA entity--ABA-Africa--is fighting against human trafficking on another continent.

In 2004, ABA-Africa started a two-year campaign against human trafficking that focuses on East Africa, particularly Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The project concentrates on educating judges, lawyers and human rights advocates in the region about the trafficking problem, highlighting the issue in the news media, and helping provide legal aid to victims. The project also convened the first-ever conference in East Africa on the human-trafficking problem.

The project is exploring possible legislative initiatives as well, says Vernice I. Guthrie-Sullivan, the staff director for ABA-Africa.

"There is no overarching trafficking law in any of the East African countries," says Guthrie-Sullivan. "A law has been introduced in Kenya, and we are working to support a law in Uganda and eventually in Tanzania."

Beyond its tragic toll on individuals, one of the greatest dangers of human trafficking is its insidious nature. Human trafficking, experts say, is not a stand-alone crime. Often it is intertwined with money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery and human smuggling.

Traffickers "are people who are also part of organized crime groups and could be doing other unauthorized activity," says Vesa of CEELI. "We're not able to list how many traffickers are out there. There are those who peddle their own kids. India is a big place where that happens, as are Cambodia, Laos and Thailand."

Traffickers tend to target an area repeatedly once they succeed in obtaining their first victim there.

"The profits from trafficking allow the practice to take root in a particular community, which is then repeatedly exploited as a ready source of victims," notes the State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report."

At the same time, many countries, including Ecuador, lack the necessary social services infrastructure to help human-trafficking victims rejoin society, say Cicero and other experts.

"Ecuador is not set up to accommodate these people," Cicero says. "There are no shelters, no programs to help them reinsert themselves into society. These people are vulnerable," which only makes it possible for traffickers to victimize them again. Traffickers search for victims "the way lions look at a herd," he says. "They look for the easy target."

LOAD-DATE: 04/06/2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo, Luis Velez: Poor people seeking work may fall prey to prostitution., PHOTOGRAPH BY RODRIGO VARELA

436 of 445 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

February 18, 2006 Saturday

Surinam police arrest woman for people trafficking, forced prostitution

LENGTH: 354 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website on 17 February

Paramaribo, Surinam: Police have detained a well-known female brothel keeper for luring six migrants from the Dominican Republic to Surinam and subsequently forcing them into prostitution.

The detainee was arrested Monday [13 February] at the Johan Adolf Pengel International airport near the capital Paramaribo by the special Trafficking in Persons Police Unit.

According to police the 42-year-old suspect lured the six women to Surinam by promising them employment but on arriving in the country they were forced into prostitution.

The police unit followed up on a tip from the community that the suspect was engaged in human trafficking and forced prostitution.

Prosecuting Attorney Garcia Paragsingh said in a statement that the victims had already given evidence to the police.

Police spokeswoman Marita Ritfeld-Asontoe confirmed that the suspect's name already surfaced in an ongoing investigation where recently three other hotel owners were arrested and detained on similar charges.

At the launching of a nation-wide awareness campaign, Paragsingh told reporters that a greater awareness of trafficking in persons was necessary in order to successfully fight this crime.

Starting with the publication of posters and brochures, the campaign will also target the media in an effort to reach a wider audience.

Meanwhile the authorities have discovered several human trafficking routes to Surinam. Most victims are recruited in China, Colombia, Brazil, Dominican Republic and, to a lesser extent, some Eastern European countries.

Currently Surinam is on the United States' **Tier 2 watch list** of countries not doing enough to combat **human trafficking**. In 2003 the country was listed on the Tier 3 section risking sanctions from Washington if nothing was done to this crime.

Since then several actions have been taken by the government and judicial authorities to comply with the international policy regarding the fight against trafficking in persons.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 2000 gmt 17 Feb 06

LOAD-DATE: February 18, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Transcript

437 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

February 9, 2006 Thursday 11:32 PM EST

U.S. PRAISES SLOVAKIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 397 words**DATELINE:** BRATISLAVA, Slovakia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

An interim progress report submitted by the U.S. Department of State to Congress praises Slovakia's "considerable political will and progress in combating **trafficking in persons**" since its placement on the "Special **Watch List**" last June.

The report cited Slovakia's creation of a National Coordinating Expert Working Group in April 2005, and the appointment in October of a national coordinator for the fight against trafficking in persons. According to the progress report, Slovakia has shown dedication to increasing its victim assistance network, acquiring additional equipment and training for police, and establishing an improved hotline for trafficking victims. The report also commends Slovakia for its increased outreach and educational efforts, including a media campaign to raise public awareness, and the distribution of informational flyers in police stations and high schools.

The February 1 report, called an "Interim Assessment," evaluates the progress made by countries that are on the "Special **Watch List**" in addressing key deficiencies that were highlighted in the U.S. State Department's June 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The Slovak Republic was included along with 36 other countries on the "Special **Watch List**" last June because it had not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address **trafficking in persons** in previous years. That assessment has now changed, with significant progress by the Government of Slovakia. The State Department's full annual report on Trafficking in Persons will be issued later this year.

U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic Rodolphe M. Vallee said that the interim progress report reflects the strong commitment Slovakia has shown to combating trafficking in persons: "Slovakia has demonstrated that it is serious about the struggle to abolish trafficking in persons, and is emerging as a valued partner and role model on this issue within the region," the Ambassador said. "While there remains a lot of work to be done, Slovakia has set a course in the past year which we think will help protect the citizens of Slovakia and other countries from being denied their most basic human rights and falling into this terrible form of modern-day slavery."

More information, including the full text of the Interim Assessment, is available at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

LOAD-DATE: February 28, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

438 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 8, 2006 Wednesday

CONGRESSMAN URGES U.S. TO SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON BURMA

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 2125 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

As the current president of the United Nations Security Council, the United States should introduce a resolution to address the disastrous situation in Burma, says Congressman Christopher Smith, chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations.

Smith delivered an opening statement February 7 at a joint hearing on Human Rights in Burma, which he convened in cooperation with the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. (See related article.)

Largely as a result of "relentless" efforts by the United States government, the New Jersey Republican said, the world is beginning to face up to the gathering humanitarian crisis created by Burma's ruling military regime.

Referring to the State Department's most recent reports on human rights and religious freedom, Smith outlined several areas of increasing international concern, including the abuse and torture of more than 1,100 political prisoners; human trafficking, military conscription of children, and use of forced labor; and evidence of involvement by the Burmese military and government in illicit sales of heroin and methamphetamines throughout China and other parts of Asia.

Smith said that the restrictions imposed by the Burmese regime are creating a health care crisis in the country, forcing the withdrawal of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that work to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

"The military's self-justification for its decades of arbitrary rule is to protect Burma from 'instability,' the congressman said. "Yet for forty years it has waged endless war on the nation's ethnic minorities, killing tens of thousands, driving hundreds of thousands -- perhaps millions -- of others into exile as refugees or within Burma as displaced persons."

In response to these problems, the United States has imposed a wide range of sanctions, Smith said, many of which will come up for renewal in 2006.

Yet, despite the dark situation in Burma, according to Smith, some recent developments show that progress is possible.

He cited a September 2005 report by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel, which charged that Burma's human-rights infringements threaten regional peace and security. And in a step forward that might lead to stronger international action, he said, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the member states of the Security Council were briefed on the situation in Burma in December 2005.

Smith said the "next logical step" is for the United States to introduce a Security Council resolution calling upon the Burmese junta, "in the strongest possible terms," to release detained democratic opposition leader and Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, to implement a program for national reconciliation that includes the democratic opposition party National League for Democracy, and to open access to all parts of Burma for relief agencies and international humanitarian organizations.

If the junta failed to comply with such a resolution, Smith said, the resolution should include provisions for imposition of punitive sanctions.

For information on U.S. policy, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma.

Following is the full text of Smith's statement:

(begin text)

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations

Statement of Representative Christopher H. Smith Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

Joint Hearing on Human Rights in Burma February 7, 2006

The Subcommittee will come to order, and good afternoon to everyone. Today's joint hearing of the Subcommittees on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and on Asia and the Pacific will focus on the current human rights situation in Burma, and what the U.S. and the international can and must do to improve that situation. After forty years of brutal military dictatorships, the human rights situation in Burma is frightening. That nation's current military junta, in power for over seventeen years, is an abysmal failure on every conceivable level.

It has ruined a beautiful and naturally rich land. According to the State Department's most recent Human Rights Country Report,

"More than 4 decades of economic mismanagement and endemic corruption have resulted in widespread poverty, poor health care, declining education levels, poor infrastructure, and continuously deteriorating economic conditions. During the year, poor economic policymaking, lingering consequences of the 2003 private banking sector collapse, and the economic consequences of international sanctions further weakened the economy. The estimated annual per capita income was approximately \$225. Most of the population of more than 50 million live in rural areas at subsistence levels."

The Heritage Foundation ranked Iran and North Korea as the only countries with more restrictive economies than that of Burma.

But economic misery is probably the least of the problems faced by Burma's long-suffering people.

"Citizens still did not have the right to criticize or change their government...Security forces continued to carry out extrajudicial killings. Disappearances continued, and security forces raped, tortured, beat, and otherwise abused prisoners and detainees. Citizens were subjected to arbitrary arrest without appeal." --2004 State Department Human Rights Report

There are more than 1,100 political prisoners in Burma, who are abused and tortured. 7 are reported to have died in custody last year, and just last month a 38-year old democratic activist died in custody due to inadequate medical attention.

Over fifteen years ago the National League for Democracy, led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic forces, won an overwhelming victory in free elections (82%). The junta refused to accept the results or to call Parliament into session. Instead it imprisoned many activists, including Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 years under house arrest. Her current house arrest is tantamount to solitary confinement. She has been cruelly kept away from her children, and her husband, who died abroad. For fifteen years the junta has cynically proclaimed its intention to draft a new constitution via a National Convention, with no participation by the people's democratic representatives. That National Convention has again been adjourned, with no Constitution, and no freedom, in sight.

Since 1999, the U.S. Secretary of State has designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Burma continues to be a **Tier 3** Country for **human trafficking**, and "the junta's policy of using forced labor is a driving factor behind Burma's large trafficking problem." The ILO has condemned Burma's use of forced labor, and the ILO representative in Burma has received death threats. Burma has threatened to quit the ILO. Burma regularly prosecutes those who complain about forced labor. Last October, Burma sentenced a 34-year-old woman to twenty months in prison for "criminal intimidation" of local officials. Her offense? She had the temerity to initiate the first successful prosecution for use of forced labor in Burma. She had lodged a complaint in 2004 against local government officials over their use of forced labor on a road construction project. She exercised

her right to do this under new regulations introduced by the government to appease the International Labor Organization (ILO). She is now in prison, and her appeal was summarily denied.

Burma is high on the list of uncooperative drug producing or transiting countries, and there is evidence of military and government involvement in the narcotics traffic. Burma produces about 80% of Southeast Asia's heroin, and is one of the largest producers of methamphetamines in the world. It exports its illicit narcotics throughout China and Southeast and Central Asia.

And as Burma's heroin circulates through Asia, so does HIV/AIDS, which Burma refuses to take seriously as a domestic problem, although the UN estimated in 1999 that over half a million adults had HIV. According to one estimate, Burma spent only \$22,000 in 2004 to help AIDS victims. In 2005 the regime tightened restrictions on NGOs and U.N. agency staff providing humanitarian assistance in Burma. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced in August that it was terminating its \$98 million program on the ground -- that "its grants to the country cannot be managed in a way that ensures effective program implementation." The French contingent of medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres reportedly plans to withdraw from Burma because of restrictions imposed on access to villagers.

The military's self-justification for its decades of arbitrary rule is to protect Burma from "instability." Yet for forty years it has waged endless war on the nation's ethnic minorities, killing tens of thousands, driving hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of others into exile as refugees or within Burma as displaced persons. It has destroyed over 2,500 villages, and uses rape as an instrument of policy. And to wage these wars, it has resorted to conscription of children: more than 70,000 child soldiers may be serving, in horrible circumstances, in Burma's bloated army.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Sergio Pinheiro, has not been allowed into Burma for two years. In January 2006, U.N. Special

Envoy to Burma Razali Ismail resigned his post after nearly five years, since the junta has not allowed him into the country for two years.

With such a record, it is no wonder that the U.S. has a wide array of sanctions in place against Burma, many of which must be renewed this year.

And many wonder, can any progress be made? Yet in the midst of so much darkness, there has been light this year.

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN, which Burma joined in 1997) has finally moved from a posture of "constructive engagement," without sanctions or diplomatic pressure, to a more proactive approach to promote change.

But most of all, we owe this progress to this administration. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, and even more importantly, President George Bush, have been relentless in making the world face up to the appalling disaster in Burma. We have just begun, and we have a long way to go, but we in Congress are determined to support these efforts to bring peace and freedom to the heroic Burmese people, who, in the face of so much persecution and suffering, still persist in their resolute struggle for justice.

The next logical step to take is for the U.S., which is currently President of the Security Council, to introduce a Security Council Resolution calling on Burma, in the strongest possible terms:

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Such a resolution should include a timeline for compliance and punitive sanctions if the SPDC fails to comply.

We welcome here today Assistant Secretary of State Barry Lowenkron, of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. This is Mr. Lowenkron's first time before this House, and we look forward to a very fruitful collaboration on the vital issues he promotes. His Bureau has kept attention focused on Burma when most have forgotten it. We shall also hear from Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who is the chief executor of our President's policy to change Burma.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site:
<http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LOAD-DATE: February 10, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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439 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

February 8, 2006

Congressman Urges U.S. To Seek Security Council Action on Burma; World is facing up to gathering humanitarian crisis, says New Jersey's Smith

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 2108 words

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(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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440 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

February 8, 2006 Wednesday 8:47 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: CONGRESSMAN URGES U.S. TO SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON BURMA

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 2145 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

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If the junta failed to comply with such a resolution, Smith said, the resolution should include provisions for imposition of punitive sanctions.

For information on U.S. policy, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/burma.html).

Following is the full text of Smith's statement:

(begin text)

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on International Relations

Statement of Representative Christopher H. Smith

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

Joint Hearing on Human Rights in Burma

February 7, 2006

The Subcommittee will come to order, and good afternoon to everyone. Today's joint hearing of the Subcommittees on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and on Asia and the Pacific will focus on the current human rights situation in Burma, and what the U.S. and the international can and must do to improve that situation. After forty years of brutal military dictatorships, the human rights situation in Burma is frightening. That nation's current military junta, in power for over seventeen years, is an abysmal failure on every conceivable level.

It has ruined a beautiful and naturally rich land. According to the State Department's most recent Human Rights Country Report,

"More than 4 decades of economic mismanagement and endemic corruption have resulted in widespread poverty, poor health care, declining education levels, poor infrastructure, and continuously deteriorating economic conditions. During the year, poor economic policymaking, lingering consequences of the 2003 private banking sector collapse, and the economic consequences of international sanctions further weakened the economy. The estimated annual per capita income was approximately \$225. Most of the population of more than 50 million live in rural areas at subsistence levels."

The Heritage Foundation ranked Iran and North Korea as the only countries with more restrictive economies than that of Burma.

But economic misery is probably the least of the problems faced by Burma's long-suffering people.

"Citizens still did not have the right to criticize or change their government...Security forces continued to carry out extrajudicial killings. Disappearances continued, and security forces raped, tortured, beat, and otherwise abused prisoners and detainees. Citizens were subjected to arbitrary arrest without appeal."

-2004 State Department Human Rights Report

There are more than 1,100 political prisoners in Burma, who are abused and tortured. 7 are reported to have died in custody last year, and just last month a 38-year old democratic activist died in custody due to inadequate medical attention.

Over fifteen years ago the National League for Democracy, led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic forces, won an overwhelming victory in free elections (82%). The junta refused to accept the results or to call Parliament into session. Instead it imprisoned many activists, including Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 years under house arrest. Her current house arrest is tantamount to solitary confinement. She has been cruelly kept away from her children, and her husband, who died abroad. For fifteen years the junta has cynically proclaimed its intention to draft a new constitution via a National Convention, with no participation by the people's democratic representatives. That National Convention has again been adjourned, with no Constitution, and no freedom, in sight.

Since 1999, the U.S. Secretary of State has designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Burma continues to be a **Tier 3** Country for **human trafficking**, and "the junta's policy of using forced labor is a driving factor behind Burma's large trafficking problem." The ILO has con-

demned Burma's use of forced labor, and the ILO representative in Burma has received death threats. Burma has threatened to quit the ILO. Burma regularly prosecutes those who complain about forced labor. Last October, Burma sentenced a 34-year-old woman to twenty months in prison for "criminal intimidation" of local officials. Her offense? She had the temerity to initiate the first successful prosecution for use of forced labor in Burma. She had lodged a complaint in 2004 against local government officials over their use of forced labor on a road construction project. She exercised her right to do this under new regulations introduced by the government to appease the International Labor Organization (ILO). She is now in prison, and her appeal was summarily denied.

Burma is high on the list of uncooperative drug producing or transiting countries, and there is evidence of military and government involvement in the narcotics traffic. Burma produces about 80% of Southeast Asia's heroin, and is one of the largest producers of methamphetamines in the world. It exports its illicit narcotics throughout China and Southeast and Central Asia.

And as Burma's heroin circulates through Asia, so does HIV/AIDS, which Burma refuses to take seriously as a domestic problem, although the UN estimated in 1999 that over half a million adults had HIV. According to one estimate, Burma spent only \$22,000 in 2004 to help AIDS victims. In 2005 the regime tightened restrictions on NGOs and U.N. agency staff providing humanitarian assistance in Burma. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced in August that it was terminating its \$98 million program on the ground - that "its grants to the country cannot be managed in a way that ensures effective program implementation." The French contingent of medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres reportedly plans to withdraw from Burma because of restrictions imposed on access to villagers.

The military's self-justification for its decades of arbitrary rule is to protect Burma from "instability." Yet for forty years it has waged endless war on the nation's ethnic minorities, killing tens of thousands, driving hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of others into exile as refugees or within Burma as displaced persons. It has destroyed over 2,500 villages, and uses rape as an instrument of policy. And to wage these wars, it has resorted to conscription of children: more than 70,000 child soldiers may be serving, in horrible circumstances, in Burma's bloated army.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Sergio Pinheiro, has not been allowed into Burma for two years. In January 2006, U.N. Special

Envoy to Burma Razali Ismail resigned his post after nearly five years, since the junta has not allowed him into the country for two years.

With such a record, it is no wonder that the U.S. has a wide array of sanctions in place against Burma, many of which must be renewed this year.

And many wonder, can any progress be made? Yet in the midst of so much darkness, there has been light this year.

In September 2005, Nobel Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel released a major report documenting Burma's human rights problems as a threat to regional peace and security.

In December, with the strong support of the United States, U.N. Undersecretary for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, in the unusual but significant presence of Secretary General Kofi Annan, personally gave the Security Council its first-ever briefing on the situation in Burma, a possible first step towards tougher international action. He went on record that the Burmese junta imprisons dissidents, ignores basic human rights, and is steering the country "towards a humanitarian crisis."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN, which Burma joined in 1997) has finally moved from a posture of "constructive engagement," without sanctions or diplomatic pressure, to a more proactive approach to promote change.

But most of all, we owe this progress to this administration. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, and even more importantly, President George Bush, have been relentless in making the world face up to the appalling disaster in Burma. We have just begun, and we have a long way to go, but we in Congress are determined to support these efforts to bring peace and freedom to the heroic Burmese people, who, in the face of so much persecution and suffering, still persist in their resolute struggle for justice.

The next logical step to take is for the U.S., which is currently President of the Security Council, to introduce a Security Council Resolution calling on Burma, in the strongest possible terms:

- To release Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners,
- Implement a program for national reconciliation that includes the National League for Democracy,
- Grant immediate and unhindered access to all parts of Burma for U.N. relief agencies and other international humanitarian organizations.

Such a resolution should include a timeline for compliance and punitive sanctions if the SPDC fails to comply.

We welcome here today Assistant Secretary of State Barry Lowenkron, of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. This is Mr. Lowenkron's first time before this House, and we look forward to a very fruitful collaboration on the vital issues he promotes. His Bureau has kept attention focused on Burma when most have forgotten it. We shall also hear from Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who is the chief executor of our President's policy to change Burma.

(end text)

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441 of 445 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

February 7, 2006 Tuesday

BURMA'S REGIME POSES DEMOCRATIC AND SECURITY CHALLENGES

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 882 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Burma's ruling military junta poses a security concern to the country's immediate neighbors and the broader region, says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill.

"Burma's neighbors have particular reason to be concerned, because many of the country's growing problems will not stay within its borders," Hill warned.

Hill spoke February 7 in testimony before the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee and the Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations Subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations.

The Burmese government's economic policies have severely hurt the economy, which remained stagnant in 2005. Inflation might have risen as much as 50 percent, Hill said.

Citing the regime's failure to devote resources to health and education, the assistant secretary said HIV infections are on the rise and there are high rates of tuberculosis and malaria.

Burma could have unreported cases of avian influenza in both poultry and humans, which would have global health implications, Hill said.

"Burma remains the world's second-largest producer of opium, and production of amphetamine-type stimulants is on the rise," he said, adding 90 percent of the heroin in Southeast Asia comes from Burma.

In separate testimony, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Barry Lowenkron cited forced labor, trafficking in persons, the use of child soldiers and religious discrimination as serious human rights concerns in Burma.

The regime's use of forced labor is particularly common in regions with ethnic and religious minorities, Lowenkron said, and the military has persecuted Muslim and Christian communities in Burma's western China state. (See related article.)

Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation, factory labor and as household servants continues unabated, Lowenkron said. Most are sent to Thailand, China, India, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and countries in the Middle East, he said.

The State Department's 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** report lists Burma as a **Tier 3** country -- a country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. (See related article.)

According to Hill, the United States' long-term goal for Burma is the emergence of a unified, democratic and independent nation in which the government respects human rights of its citizens and promotes policies that contribute to the well-being of the Burmese people and regional peace and prosperity.

CALL FOR RELEASE OF BURMESE DEMOCRACY LEADER

Hill and Lowenkron both called on Burmese authorities immediately to release pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, initiate a credible and inclusive political process, grant access for U.N. representatives and lift restrictions on U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations providing humanitarian relief.

Lowenkron said the Burmese government's January 31 session of the National Convention to draft a new constitution was "lacking credibility" since the regime hand-picked delegates, barred the participation of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and other pro-democracy parties and did not allow delegates to debate freely.

The regime wants to redraft Burma's Constitution in such a way as to nullify the results of the legitimate 1990 elections - during which the NLD, followed by the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, won the majority of seats, Lowenkron said.

Additionally, the United States calls for greater involvement from the international community to help reverse the deteriorating situation in Burma, he said.

"We will continue to press hard for further U.N. Security Council discussion and action on Burma," Lowenkron said. The United States, he added, plans to support strong resolutions in the U.N. General Assembly as well as other international bodies.

He called for the U.N. secretary-general to name another U.N. special envoy to Burma and to give the envoy a broader mandate to enhance coordination with the international community to gain support for pressing the Burmese regime to change.

Hill also cited increased U.S. diplomatic efforts with India, China, Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to define steps the regime needs to take to address the international community's concerns.

Since 2000, the State Department has administered more than \$16 million through the National Endowment for Democracy to focus on democracy and human rights activities, including capacity building for NGOs in exile and collection of information on human rights, Lowenkron said.

One such program involves \$650,000 for training Burmese journalists and other media professionals; the United States also has provided \$325,000 in scholarships for 200 Burmese students to universities, he said.

The United States will also continue to monitor and annually report on human rights in Burma, and describe our efforts to support human rights and democracy there, Lowenkron said.

For more information on U.S. policies, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma.

The text of Hill's remarks to the panel is available on the State Department Web site.

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442 of 445 DOCUMENTS

State Department Documents and Publications

February 7, 2006

Burma's Regime Poses Democratic and Security Challenges; State's Hill, Lowenkron cite human rights abuses, junta's failing policies

BYLINE: Todd Bullock, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 891 words

Washington -- Burma's ruling military junta poses a security concern to the country's immediate neighbors and the broader region, says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill.

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"We will continue to press hard for further U.N. Security Council discussion and action on Burma," Lowenkron said. The United States, he added, plans to support strong resolutions in the U.N. General Assembly as well as other international bodies.

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"The United States will also continue to monitor and annually report on human rights in Burma, and describe our efforts to support human rights and democracy there," Lowenkron said.

For more information on U.S. policies, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma.

The text of Hill's remarks to the panel is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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443 of 445 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

February 7, 2006 Tuesday 9:13 PM EST

STATE DEPT.: BURMA'S REGIME POSES DEMOCRATIC, SECURITY CHALLENGES

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 942 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Todd Bullock

Washington File Staff Writer

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For more information on U.S. policies, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/burma.html).

The text of Hill's remarks to the panel is available on the State Department Web site (<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/rls/rm/60553.htm>).

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444 of 445 DOCUMENTS



UPI

January 19, 2006 Thursday 10:46 PM EST

Drug gang plan to smuggle in Osama's guys

BYLINE: SHAUN WATERMAN**LENGTH:** 832 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Jan. 19

A drug-trafficker who admitted importing a quarter-ton of cocaine from Mexico also plotted to smuggle 20 men he said were Iraqi terrorists into the United States, charging them \$8000 a head.

In December 2004, Noel Exinia told associates in wiretapped and consensually recorded conversations that the men were "gente de Osama" -- Osama's guys -- and that they were "really bad people," who were armed and made the smugglers working with them afraid, according to papers filed last week by the U.S. Justice Department with the federal court in Brownsville, Texas.

In the papers, prosecutors say that Exinia was asked to move the men in by his boss in the notorious Gulf Cartel, a Mexican drug smuggling and organized crime network.

Investigators moved immediately at the suggestion of a terrorist nexus. "We jumped on that right away," a federal law enforcement official from one of the agencies involved told United Press International.

But the investigation "did not develop that way," the official said.

"The goods were not as advertised."

Nonetheless, the official said, "We were ready. That's the good news. If it had been the real deal, we had all the visibility we needed. We could have stopped it."

Exinia's plans never came to fruition. He was arrested the following month, and pleaded guilty late last year to drug importation charges.

According to the Brownsville Herald, which first reported the story, his defense lawyers had successfully fought to keep any reference to terrorism out of the trial.

Nonetheless, the case is the latest in a string that have highlighted the security risks posed by human trafficking and weak points in the country's immigration and border security.

A naturalized citizen faces charges in Michigan as the head of a ring that smuggled 200 mainly Iraqi illegal immigrants into the United States since 2001.

Iraqi-born Neeran Hakim Zaia was indicted in October 2004 along with her husband and three others following an undercover investigation spanning three continents that lasted more than three years and cost millions of dollars, U.S. officials familiar with the case told UPI last year.

And other federal officials tell UPI that Zaia is just one of a handful of so-called **Tier One human trafficking** targets in the sights of federal investigators and U.S. intelligence agencies concerned about their links to "special interest" countries -- those where global Islamic terrorists are thought to have a foothold.

The cases are stoking concern that human trafficking routes, including those across the porous southern border, are increasingly being used to smuggle special interest aliens into the United States.

The 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act gave legislative form to the U.S. Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center. It aims to co-ordinate the work of federal government agencies and their foreign and international partners against "the separate but related issues of alien smuggling, trafficking in persons, and smuggler support of clandestine terrorist travel," according to the State Department.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of the Department of Homeland Security currently holds the directorship of the center, which its web site describes as "an interagency joint intelligence fusion center," conjoining other parts of homeland security, the Departments of State and Justice and "members of the intelligence community."

Exinia will be sentenced in March, according to court records, and could face life in prison.

His lawyer said that there was no evidence of any real terrorist involvement. "They were terrorists only in his mind," John Blaylock told United Press International in a telephone interview from Harlingen, Texas.

Blaylock said his client had been asked about getting people over the border, but the idea that they were Iraqi terrorists "was an invention of Noel Exinia's."

He said the reference had none the less "got the attention" of federal authorities. "He got himself in a world of trouble."

Blaylock added prosecutors were introducing the terrorism conversations as "relevant conduct," to argue for a longer sentence even though "They know there were no real terrorists involved." He accused them of "piling on."

"It is unseemly," he said.

According to the pre-sentence review filing by federal prosecutors, the wiretapped and consensually recorded conversations about the "gente de Osama" took place largely with a pilot who had volunteered to help with his drug importation business and who later become a federal informant.

The pilot was husband to a "curandera," a traditional Mexican spiritualist, and met Exinia after the smuggler and his brother Carlos had asked for her help in silencing someone they believed to be an informant, and in blocking a police investigation after Carlos was arrested.

The curandera made "A doll with certain characteristics," that the brothers believed would "help in controlling" the informant and in "closing the mouth" of the policeman leading the investigation.

LOAD-DATE: January 20, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

445 of 445 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

January 11, 2006 Wednesday 4:58 AM GMT

ASIAN LIVES: Ex-prostitute helps others escape the vice trap

LENGTH: 1725 words**DATELINE:** HONG KONG, Jan 11 2006

When ships carrying thousands of American servicemen sailed into the former American naval base in the Philippines' Subic Bay for routine port calls during the 1980s, it was not just the shore crews who were ready for their arrival.

Greeting them was blasting rock music from hundreds of bars in nearby Olongapo City, and inside were thousands of call-girls waiting for their next uniformed "trick".

Among them was Minda Pascual.

"The bar owners would announce that a big ship was coming in and they always said that we should look our best for the customers," Pascual recalls.

It was a reception the seamen eagerly awaited after months at sea. But behind the parties and the colourful neon lights, and hidden by the girls' smiles, make-up and scandalously short skirts, lurked intense misery.

Most of the 16,000 women estimated to have worked the bars around the largest overseas naval base were forced into the sex industry.

Far from the lip-glossed world of Suzy Wong and the other "happy hookers" of fictionalised Asia, the experience of Pascual and her colleagues was anything but fun. During eight years as a call-girl in Olongapo and the capital Manila, Pascual says she was raped, beaten, forced into drug addiction and driven to the brink of suicide by abusive clients, pimps and bar owners.

"I would have to take drugs because I could not accept what they would do to me unless I was high," she says of her days as a sex worker, when she masked her pain through marijuana and methamphetamine hydrochloride, a stimulant popularly known as "shabu" or "ice".

"If I didn't have drugs I couldn't work. I couldn't dance or loosen up enough to show my body," she says. "Every time I felt depressed, I felt suicidal. But every time I used the drugs and alcohol, I felt happier."

Pascual has since pulled herself from the vicious cycle of poverty that beats a well-trodden path to prostitution. Now she counsels younger women who face similar prospects in an industry that, despite the US pull-out from Subic Bay in 1992, continues to fester, catering to a new generation of civilian sex tourists.

Her mission brought her to Hong Kong last month for the World Trade Organisation summit to highlight the problem of human trafficking and violence against women in the sex trade.

Her aim is simple: to spare other young women the misery she endured.

"I have to make myself a role model and show them they too can survive without being a prostitute," says Pascual, who visits sex workers in her old stomping ground and tries to persuade them to leave the seedy life behind.

"I know this is a slow process but I want to give them hope and make them realise there are other ways to live and other kinds of jobs they can do," Pascual says.

She knows too well the despair that sucks the helpless women into this life. Twenty years on, Pascual still sheds tears when she tells her story.

-- 'I didn't want to save my life anymore' --

Born in the southern part of the main Philippines island of Luzon, Pascual was 16 when she began working the bars, fresh out of high school and with heady dreams of becoming a restaurateur.

She asked her aunt for help in getting her a job. The aunt sold her to a man who pimped her to a massive nightclub of 3,000 girls in Olongapo in return for a cut of her first four months of "wages".

Pascual's "training" was brutal. She was locked in a room for a month, starved and force-fed drugs and alcohol to ensure she was addicted and could be more easily controlled.

"My aunt always said to me I would be going home tomorrow. But it never happened," the 39-year-old recalls.

She was often beaten unconscious for refusing to have sex with customers, but had no money for hospital treatment. Her old community shunned her.

"I didn't want to save my life anymore. I felt really dirty. People all looked down on me. Even if I wore perfume, had a bath, no matter what I did, people still considered me as dirty. I hated all the things that were going on. They ruined my life," Pascual says.

During her years working the bars, Pascual had five abortions and bore three children by different strangers. She made almost no money as what little she earned was spent on food, babysitting, rent and pay-offs to corrupt police to prevent her being arrested.

Leaving the job was not an option.

"I had no choice and needed money and food to survive. I had no dignity. My self-esteem was very low," she says.

Pascual had no one to turn to. She had never met her biological father because he was on constant leave with the military, and her mother no longer made contact with her. The bar owners threatened to kill her if she ran away.

"I was depressed, I was losing my hope. I was intoxicated with drugs and alcohol. I didn't want to think so I let it go on," she says.

-- 'Most women in prostitution are victims of human trafficking' --

Jean Enriquez, regional deputy director of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, says Pascual's story is not unusual in the Philippines. Nor is the problem restricted to Olongapo.

Thousands of women, as well as underaged boys and girls, are stuck in a similar plight across a country that has become one of the major centres for the global sex tourism industry, she says.

According to a report commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), prostitution is a massive industry and the fourth largest source of income in the Philippines.

Enriquez estimates that at least 400,000 women work in prostitution in the staunchly Roman Catholic country, even though it is illegal. She says poverty in Philippines forces millions of people to seek work abroad -- but that's often when they fall into traps set by human traffickers.

"The basic problem is the massive poverty in the country," she says. "A lot of women have no jobs and are desperate for money."

A 2004 study by End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) found family and close friends sometimes helped recruit children for prostitution, some in the genuine belief they were helping the children and family out of poverty.

Enriquez says many Filipinos are being transported to Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong, where they work as entertainers, dancers or domestic helpers but often end up sex slaves in nightclubs or massage parlours.

Despite being one of its strongest allies, the Philippines is on the US's **human trafficking watchlist**, cited as a source, transit point and destination for trafficked women, men and children.

John Miller, director of the US State Department tasked with fighting human trafficking, says despite detailed and well-drafted laws against the crime in the Philippines, few prosecutions are brought. He blames poor policing and corruption for hindering any crackdown.

"The biggest challenge facing the Philippines and the area most in need of improvement has been in the law-enforcement area," he says.

Enriquez, along with Pascual and other advocates, are fighting to push through a law that decriminalises prostitution, saying sex workers are stigmatised in the Philippines' conservative society.

"Most of these women in prostitution are victims of human trafficking. They should not be arrested. Those who buy and sell women should be the ones who are punished," Enriquez says.

-- 'This is still very painful for me' --

Leaving Olongapo was not easy for Pascual. Without a job, she moved to Manila hoping to find work but only found herself going back to work in a bar.

Eventually she made up her mind to get out of prostitution altogether at the end of 1998.

"I decided not to go back any more as my kids were growing up. I was disappointed with myself but I didn't want them to be disappointed with me," she says.

Pascual found help at BUKAL, a support group for female street workers, and other women's organisations that gave her moral support as she finally summoned the courage to quit the bar she worked at -- without the threatened retribution she had long feared.

She began working for BUKAL and in 2003, she founded a support and campaign group called Bagong Kamalayan Collective, or New Consciousness, that provides counselling services to prostitutes and training on legal issues on the rights of the women.

She says there are thousands of women with similar stories to hers -- many sexually abused as a child, as she was, and too embarrassed to talk about their problems.

"Every time I visit these women on the streets, they tell me the same story. They remind me of my past," she says. "This is still very painful for me."

Her group creates alternative jobs for prostitutes, such as making soap and providing catering services to other NGOs.

But Pascual knows too well it is an uphill struggle. Even she is not totally free from her past, despite a year of counselling and a regular stream of anti-depressants. She never spoke to her mother again and her biological father was in his 60s by the time she found him.

"He probably knew what happened to me but just didn't want to talk about it. He never asked me what happened," she says. He died last year at the age of 72.

She finds it hard to trust men again, but through friends she found a partner, a company driver. They have been together for six years.

"I even blame him for what happened to me. But he is always so understanding. He often tells me not to look back and that I have to move on with my life. He gives me support every time I feel depressed," Pascual says.

But what really helps her to go forward is her three children, now aged 20, 17 and seven -- even though they remind her of her unhappy past.

"They blamed me for not having a father. People say their mother is a prostitute. It's very hard for them," she says. "Sometimes they remind me of the bad times I had. It's always very hard to forget. That's why I always keep myself busy so I don't think about it," she says.

Her oldest son is going to college and plans to fulfill the same dream his mother had -- opening a restaurant. Her second son went into rehab to solve a drugs problem but has since kicked his habit.

"This Christmas, he sent me a card to tell me he was proud to have a mum like me ... and wrote 'I love you'. It's the first time he's done that. I cried," Pascual says.

"My children are the ones who inspire me. That's why I'm working and helping these women. If one woman says to me that she wants to quit, I'm happy.

"That's a good therapy for myself."

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2006

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1 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

December 22, 2005 Thursday 5:06 AM EST**MICHELE SISON NAMED ABOLITIONIST AMBASSADOR OF YEAR 2005****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 136 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the following press release:

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has named Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Michele Sison the 2005 Abolitionist Ambassador of the Year.

Ambassador Sison's leadership helped stimulate U.A.E. government action to: rescue and shelter more than 800 trafficked children, repatriate camel jockey victims, and pass a law criminalizing child camel jockey trafficking. These actions lifted the U.A.E. out of **Tier 3** of the **Trafficking in Persons** Report. This is an example of the great progress that can be achieved when the U.S. and other countries partner to address this issue in a meaningful way, thereby giving hope of new life to some of the world's most vulnerable citizens.

LOAD-DATE: January 3, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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2 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

December 15, 2005 Thursday 11:27 PM GMT

US to give more teeth to human trafficking laws

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran**LENGTH:** 593 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Dec 15 2005

The United States is to give more teeth to laws against human trafficking and widen criteria under which nations are blacklisted, officials said Thursday.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill late Wednesday providing greater powers to prosecute American traffickers abroad and those who launder money through such illicit activities.

US civilian contractors, federal employees and even their dependents accused of human trafficking overseas could be prosecuted in US courts under the bill.

US military personnel in South Korea have been accused previously of patronizing bars with women from the Philippines and Russia who had been forced into the sex trade.

"We want to get everyone thinking protection, prosecution and prevention -- all of these are mutually reinforcing obviously but the more we do that, I think the better we stop this modern day slavery," Republican legislator Chris Smith, the author of the bill, told AFP in an interview.

He expected the "very comprehensive" bill to also be passed by the Senate and signed into law by President George W. Bush, who is "strongly in favour" of the legislation.

"With a crime as abhorrent as human trafficking, it is essential that the United States takes the lead and that includes within our own borders," said Smith, who just returned from a trip to Asia where he had campaigned strongly for stiffer measures against trafficking in persons.

The bill tightens criteria that **blacklists** governments turning a blind eye to **human trafficking**.

The **blacklist** appears in the annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" by the State Department and countries included face economic and security sanctions.

The bill requires governments to reduce demand for commercial sex acts and prevent citizens from participating in sex tourism.

Following violations among UN peacekeeping troops in several countries this year, the bill requires governments to investigate and punish any of their peacekeepers who engage in or facilitate trafficking.

"This is a significant piece of legislation that, for the first time, expands domestic trafficking protections in the United States and also targets prostitution and the sex trade industry for the first time," Smith said.

"It will have a large effect on the sex trade industry not only in the US, but across the globe specifically in Asia, where the sex trade problem is so rampant," Smith said.

Each year, an estimated 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders, mostly women and children, including 14,500-17,500 persons into the United States.

Smith said in the past four years, twice as many people in the United States had been prosecuted and convicted for trafficking than in the prior four-year period.

Worldwide, he said, more than 3,000 traffickers were convicted last year, during which also about 40 countries tightened or introduced new laws against trafficking.

According to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, the bill would provide 361 million dollars over the next two years to combat trafficking in persons worldwide.

The money would also be used for upgrading or building rehabilitation centers for victims of trafficking so that they could equip themselves with vocational skills to help reintegrate them into society, Smith said.

Topping the US State Department **human trafficking blacklist** are Ecuador, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Cambodia, Kuwait, Cuba and North Korea.

Among nations in the second tier of a "watch list" are Mexico, South Africa, Bahrain, the Philippines, Russia, India, Zimbabwe and China.

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3 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

November 15, 2005

Western Hemisphere Praised for Fight Against Human Trafficking; State Department's Miller singles out Brazil for actions on labor victims

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 2814 words

The Western Hemisphere has come a "very long way in the last few years" in addressing the problem of human trafficking, says John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In November 15 prepared remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington, Miller said the hemisphere is now much more active than in previous years in fighting the human trafficking problem, which he likened to "modern-day slavery."

"When I came to the State Department three years ago, the issue was in its infancy. We are seeing so much more recognition [of] and activity" against trafficking, Miller told the IDB.

The official singled out the actions of Brazil, in particular, in combating labor trafficking.

"Brazil has been especially diligent and productive in this regard. It is a world leader in identifying labor victims, especially in agriculture," said Miller.

However, Miller said he is concerned that a State Department "**Tier 2 watch list**" contains a number of Western Hemisphere countries that are weak in prosecuting **human trafficking**. Those countries are Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Suriname. More information about the **Tier 2 watch list** is available in the **Trafficking in Persons 2005** report and the electronic journal Responses to **Human Trafficking** on the State Department Web site.

The main purpose of this watch list is to "stimulate action, not make a comparative list of who's up and who's down," said Miller. "We make each recommendation based on the minimum standards described in the law, not as a function of politics."

Miller said that in recommending follow-up action, the State Department looks at three facets of the anti-trafficking fight -- prosecution, prevention and protection.

"My message -- in every country I visit and with every dignitary I meet with -- is that each part of this three-part approach is essential," Miller said.

The Western Hemisphere needs to give extra attention to four broad areas of the human trafficking phenomenon, said Miller. Those areas, he said, are the "explosion" of child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, the many "faces of the migration issue and the frequency [with which] human smuggling turns into human trafficking," the fact that state corruption "often facilitates human trafficking" and the need to encourage nongovernmental involvement in the solution because "private organizations are often essential in victim protection."

Miller said the U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders around the world each year, and between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States yearly. Millions more are trafficked within their own countries, he added.

On the positive side, Miller said that in recent years, governments and citizens and nongovernmental organizations have begun to awaken to the problem of human trafficking. Worldwide, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to more than 3,000 in 2004, and new legislation to combat human trafficking was approved in 39 countries, he said.

"We need your dedication and energy and patience," Miller told the IDB. He added that the U.S. government "can engage governments, we can seek to educate people around the world, but the fight to end modern slavery" depends on the involvement of nongovernmental organizations, regular citizens, individual diplomats, businesspeople and others -- "all of us committed to the new abolition movement" of ending human trafficking.

Following is the text of Miller's prepared remarks:

(begin text)

REMARKS BY JOHN MILLER,
DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
AT THE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Good afternoon. I am honored to speak to such a distinguished audience today. It is especially gratifying to come before a group of people who are normally thinking about finance and development. Your work is, in many ways, the ultimate solution to the circumstances that make millions of men, women, and children vulnerable to the global crime of human trafficking -- my subject today.

Modern-day slavery, euphemistically called trafficking in persons, is a global phenomenon that relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence. And it is highly profitable.

Human trafficking extends into every country in the world, including the United States. We have not yet found a country immune, largely because in every country there are people hoping to improve their lives through work. Too often there aren't enough domestic opportunities so they seek jobs abroad -- and that's when individuals become vulnerable to the lies, coercion, and manipulation that traffickers employ to lure victims.

Fundamentally, human trafficking deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, which is the most prominent reason that the U.S. government is working to confront this despicable practice. But human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat. It is a global health risk, profoundly harming individual victims and facilitating the transmission of disease, including HIV/AIDS. And it is a threat to the safety and security of nations because of the profits generated for organized crime networks that have no respect for the rule of law.

By definition, human trafficking involves force, fraud, or coercion -- legally sanitized words that cover intimidation, kidnapping, beatings, rape, deceit, abandonment, and murder. Victims describe mind-numbing varieties of torture, psychological abuse, and physical deprivation that are at the heart of the trafficking experience.

Before generalizing, allow me to introduce one victim. Rosa was trafficked from Mexico to the U.S. Her true story illustrates the nature and scope and harm of human trafficking.

Rosa was 13 and waiting tables in a restaurant in a small village near Vera Cruz, Mexico, when she was approached by an acquaintance of the family who told her, "You know you can make 10 times more money in the U.S. doing what you're doing here. I know someone who can find you a job in Texas. You can send money home to your family; you can have your own life. If you don't like the job, we'll get you a new one. If you're homesick, we'll bring you back across the border. You can't lose."

Rosa was young and hopeful. She asked her parents if she could go, but they forbade her. But she wanted a better life than what she had, and so, against her parents' and friends' warnings, she secretly accepted the offer. She was told to go to the main hotel in town on Friday evening. When she got there, a car was waiting, with several other young girls in it from neighboring villages.

They drove as far up into the desert toward the Mexican-American border. Then they arrived at what looked like a pre-arranged place in the desert on the Mexican side. There were dozens more girls from other towns in Mexico, and more men too.

On the ground were backpacks and water bottles. They were told to put the backpacks on their backs, and then they began to walk. They walked four days and four nights -- through the desert, across the Rio Grande, and into Brownsville, Texas, where they were picked up by a white van and driven across Texas, Louisiana and into rural Florida, where they were dropped off in front a series of trailers.

A big guy came out and told them, "I've just bought you. Now you work for me." A little later an older woman took them to spots in the trailer. She told Rosa she was in a brothel and that she would have to buy her freedom by sexually servicing men.

Rosa was young. She was a virgin. She was Catholic. She knew what the woman was telling her was bad -- a sin. She began to cry and begged to be taken to a restaurant to work. But she was told, "There are no restaurant jobs, only this." When she refused to do what they said, the burly man brought out three other men who took her into one of the trailers and gang-raped her to induct her into the "business." Then they locked her in the trailer without food and water until she succumbed.

For the next six months she was a prisoner. She was forced to service 10 or more men a day. On the weekends it was as many as 20 to 30 men. The men bought a ticket, which was a condom, for \$20. But they often didn't use it.

Twice Rosa was impregnated and twice forced to have an abortion and twice forced back into the brothel the next day. She also was forced to pay off the price of the abortions in more services. She was beaten if she refused a customer's demands. She was guarded 24 hours a day, even when she went to the bathroom. She was passed around at private parties the trafficking ring held in the evenings and on weekends, for in addition to trafficking women and children, this ring also robbed banks and ran drugs.

Once she and several others tried to escape. They were caught and pistol-whipped around the head and face in front of the other girls -- to deter all of them. She became sick and felt crazy. The traffickers offered her drugs and alcohol to numb her pain.

She was only rescued when one of the young women jumped out of a second-story window at one of the private parties and ran to a neighbor's house. The neighbor called the local police. The police called the INS and FBI, and a sting operation was set up. Over 40 young women and girls were rescued, and 14 traffickers were arrested.

A medical doctor examined Rosa. She had several STDs; she had pelvic inflammatory disease and scar tissue from the forced abortions. She had broken bones that hadn't healed properly from the beatings. She was addicted to drugs and alcohol, had post-traumatic stress syndrome, including nightmares, flashbacks, depression, and suicidal tendencies. In short, she was physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually broken.

To make matters worse, when Rosa was discovered, the U.S. didn't have a trafficking law. Instead of really rescuing Rosa, the police arrested her and the other young women and children, and locked them up in jail along with the traffickers.

If you take Rosa's story and multiply it by hundreds of thousands, even millions, you will get an idea of the magnitude of the problem.

The U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, and between 14,500 and 17,500 are trafficked into the U.S. each year. Millions more are trafficked within their own countries.

People are trafficked for many purposes. You just heard one story -- of trafficking for purposes of prostitution. But men, women, and children are trafficked for forced labor into construction, agriculture, sweatshops, and factories. Children are trafficked for camel jockeying, and to be child soldiers, or into brick factories, rug-making sweatshops, or cocoa plantations because their small bodies and little fingers are useful in making or picking these products. Women and children are trafficked for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Up to 80 percent of the victims of transnational human trafficking are women and children.

Countries can be divided roughly into countries of origin (usually the resource-poor countries or countries that are politically or economically unstable); countries of destination (usually resource-rich developed countries, where demand is located); and transit countries (countries along a trafficking route, where traffickers have safe passage and harbor). Some countries are countries of origin, transit, and destination.

In the past, people working against human trafficking, and the State Department, have focused most attention on countries of origin. More and more, we are also focusing on the demand for slaves, generally coming from wealthier countries, that creates the market for more victims.

I've made the point that the crime of human trafficking is a global problem. I would like to address a few points regarding the situation in the hemisphere.

There are many tools to combat human trafficking, and one of these is the Trafficking in Persons Report mandated by the U.S. Congress since 2000.

Among Western Hemisphere countries, we have:

-- Two Tier 1 countries: Colombia and Canada

-- Twelve countries on Tier 2: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

-- Six countries on Tier 2 Watch List: Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname

-- Three countries on Tier 3: Cuba, Ecuador, and Venezuela

-- Bolivia and Jamaica started on Tier 3 but took significant steps to avoid sanctions and were raised to Tier 2 by the President in September.

The main purpose of this report is to stimulate action, not make a comparative list of who's up and who's down. We make each recommendation based on the minimum standards described in the law, not as a function of politics.

In each country narrative and in recommending follow-up action we look at three facets of the anti-slavery fight, also known as the three "Ps": prosecution, prevention, and protection. My message -- in every country I visit and with every dignitary I meet with -- is that each part of this three-part approach is essential.

To prosecute, regional cooperation is essential. The traffickers function as long as they operate beyond the law and between systems of enforcement. Prevention is self-evident but under-employed. Vulnerable people, especially women and children, should be warned that promises of work abroad are often traps. And protection appears to be the greatest challenge for many governments that, tragically, treat slaves like criminals.

The Western Hemisphere has come a very long way in the last few years in addressing the complex human-trafficking challenge. When I came to the State Department three years ago, the issue was in its infancy. We are seeing so much more recognition and activity.

I want to single out the actions of Brazil in combating labor trafficking. Brazil has been especially diligent and productive in this regard. It is a world leader in identifying labor victims, especially in agriculture.

I am worried to see a number of "weak Tier Twos" from the hemisphere on the watch list. Many countries are still weak on prosecution. This is true around the globe, and it is true in the U.S.

Four broad areas of the human trafficking phenomenon that the hemisphere should put some extra attention on are: 1) the explosion of child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, 2) the many faces of the migration issue and the frequency that human smuggling turns into human trafficking, 3) the fact that state corruption often facilitates human trafficking, and; 4) the need to encourage non-government involvement in the solution because private organizations are often essential in victim protection.

If prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation were not tolerated, we wouldn't have sex trafficking. To confront that fact, we need to confront the demand for victims, not just the supply of victims.

Migration continues to diversify. There is increasing Asian migration into the hemisphere, and migration trends from the hemisphere to Europe, not to mention migration into the U.S. More and more, we find bonded labor schemes function to put people -- who start out as willing participants -- into slavery that is simply inhuman. Can you imagine this? Chinese smugglers commonly charge \$20,000-\$30,000 a head to arrange transport to the hemisphere. Essentially the smuggler owns that person when they reach whatever destination they reach. And the debt is often impossible to fulfill. It's labor slavery, not a new future.

For a programmatic organization such as the Inter-Development Bank, anti-trafficking programs can be integrated into many of your activities, especially in rule of law, anti-corruption, and social welfare programs as well as programs targeting youth.

I have painted a bleak picture but in recent years governments and citizens and non-governmental organizations have begun to awake. Worldwide, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to over 3,000 in 2004, and new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. The struggle will be a long one.

We need your dedication and energy and patience. The U.S. government can engage governments, we can seek to educate people around the world, but the fight to end modern slavery depends on the involvement of NGOs, citizens, individual diplomats, businesspeople, the IFIs [international financial institutions], all of us committed to the new abolition movement, together.

(end text)

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4 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

November 15, 2005 Tuesday

WESTERN HEMISPHERE PRAISED FOR FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 2803 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

The Western Hemisphere has come a "very long way in the last few years" in addressing the problem of human trafficking, says John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In November 15 prepared remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington, Miller said the hemisphere is now much more active than in previous years in fighting the human trafficking problem, which he likened to "modern-day slavery."

"When I came to the State Department three years ago, the issue was in its infancy. We are seeing so much more recognition [of] and activity" against trafficking, Miller told the IDB.

The official singled out the actions of Brazil, in particular, in combating labor trafficking.

"Brazil has been especially diligent and productive in this regard. It is a world leader in identifying labor victims, especially in agriculture," said Miller.

However, Miller said he is concerned that a State Department "**Tier 2 watch list**" contains a number of Western Hemisphere countries that are weak in prosecuting **human trafficking**. Those countries are Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Suriname. More information about the **Tier 2 watch list** is available in the **Trafficking in Persons 2005** report and the electronic journal Responses to **Human Trafficking** on the State Department Web site.

The main purpose of this watch list is to "stimulate action, not make a comparative list of who's up and who's down," said Miller. "We make each recommendation based on the minimum standards described in the law, not as a function of politics."

Miller said that in recommending follow-up action, the State Department looks at three facets of the anti-trafficking fight -- prosecution, prevention and protection.

"My message -- in every country I visit and with every dignitary I meet with -- is that each part of this three-part approach is essential," Miller said.

The Western Hemisphere needs to give extra attention to four broad areas of the human trafficking phenomenon, said Miller. Those areas, he said, are the "explosion" of child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, the many "faces of the migration issue and the frequency [with which] human smuggling turns into human trafficking," the fact that state corruption "often facilitates human trafficking" and the need to encourage nongovernmental involvement in the solution because "private organizations are often essential in victim protection."

Miller said the U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders around the world each year, and between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States yearly. Millions more are trafficked within their own countries, he added.

On the positive side, Miller said that in recent years, governments and citizens and nongovernmental organizations have begun to awaken to the problem of human trafficking. Worldwide, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to more than 3,000 in 2004, and new legislation to combat human trafficking was approved in 39 countries, he said.

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(begin text)

REMARKS BY JOHN MILLER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

AT THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WASHINGTON, D.C. NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Good afternoon. I am honored to speak to such a distinguished audience today. It is especially gratifying to come before a group of people who are normally thinking about finance and development. Your work is, in many ways, the ultimate solution to the circumstances that make millions of men, women, and children vulnerable to the global crime of human trafficking -- my subject today.

Modern-day slavery, euphemistically called trafficking in persons, is a global phenomenon that relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence. And it is highly profitable.

Human trafficking extends into every country in the world, including the United States. We have not yet found a country immune, largely because in every country there are people hoping to improve their lives through work. Too often there aren't enough domestic opportunities so they seek jobs abroad -- and that's when individuals become vulnerable to the lies, coercion, and manipulation that traffickers employ to lure victims.

Fundamentally, human trafficking deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, which is the most prominent reason that the U.S. government is working to confront this despicable practice. But human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat. It is a global health risk, profoundly harming individual victims and facilitating the transmission of disease, including HIV/AIDS. And it is a threat to the safety and security of nations because of the profits generated for organized crime networks that have no respect for the rule of law.

By definition, human trafficking involves force, fraud, or coercion -- legally sanitized words that cover intimidation, kidnapping, beatings, rape, deceit, abandonment, and murder. Victims describe mind-numbing varieties of torture, psychological abuse, and physical deprivation that are at the heart of the trafficking experience.

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ville, Texas, where they were picked up by a white van and driven across Texas, Louisiana and into rural Florida, where they were dropped off in front a series of trailers.

A big guy came out and told them, "I've just bought you. Now you work for me." A little later an older woman took them to spots in the trailer. She told Rosa she was in a brothel and that she would have to buy her freedom by sexually servicing men.

Rosa was young. She was a virgin. She was Catholic. She knew what the woman was telling her was bad -- a sin. She began to cry and begged to be taken to a restaurant to work. But she was told, "There are no restaurant jobs, only this." When she refused to do what they said, the burly man brought out three other men who took her into one of the trailers and gang-raped her to induct her into the "business." Then they locked her in the trailer without food and water until she succumbed.

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Twice Rosa was impregnated and twice forced to have an abortion and twice forced back into the brothel the next day. She also was forced to pay off the price of the abortions in more services. She was beaten if she refused a customer's demands. She was guarded 24 hours a day, even when she went to the bathroom. She was passed around at private parties the trafficking ring held in the evenings and on weekends, for in addition to trafficking women and children, this ring also robbed banks and ran drugs.

Once she and several others tried to escape. They were caught and pistol-whipped around the head and face in front of the other girls -- to deter all of them. She became sick and felt crazy. The traffickers offered her drugs and alcohol to numb her pain.

She was only rescued when one of the young women jumped out of a second-story window at one of the private parties and ran to a neighbor's house. The neighbor called the local police. The police called the INS and FBI, and a sting operation was set up. Over 40 young women and girls were rescued, and 14 traffickers were arrested.

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To make matters worse, when Rosa was discovered, the U.S. didn't have a trafficking law. Instead of really rescuing Rosa, the police arrested her and the other young women and children, and locked them up in jail along with the traffickers.

If you take Rosa's story and multiply it by hundreds of thousands, even millions, you will get an idea of the magnitude of the problem.

The U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, and between 14,500 and 17,500 are trafficked into the U.S. each year. Millions more are trafficked within their own countries.

People are trafficked for many purposes. You just heard one story -- of trafficking for purposes of prostitution. But men, women, and children are trafficked for forced labor into construction, agriculture, sweatshops, and factories. Children are trafficked for camel jockeying, and to be child soldiers, or into brick factories, rug-making sweatshops, or cocoa plantations because their small bodies and little fingers are useful in making or picking these products. Women and children are trafficked for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Up to 80 percent of the victims of transnational human trafficking are women and children.

Countries can be divided roughly into countries of origin (usually the resource-poor countries or countries that are politically or economically unstable); countries of destination (usually resource-rich developed countries, where demand is located); and transit countries (countries along a trafficking route, where traffickers have safe passage and harbor). Some countries are countries of origin, transit, and destination.

In the past, people working against human trafficking, and the State Department, have focused most attention on countries of origin. More and more, we are also focusing on the demand for slaves, generally coming from wealthier countries, that creates the market for more victims.

I've made the point that the crime of human trafficking is a global problem. I would like to address a few points regarding the situation in the hemisphere.

There are many tools to combat human trafficking, and one of these is the Trafficking in Persons Report mandated by the U.S. Congress since 2000.

Among Western Hemisphere countries, we have:

-- Two Tier 1 countries: Colombia and Canada

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The main purpose of this report is to stimulate action, not make a comparative list of who's up and who's down. We make each recommendation based on the minimum standards described in the law, not as a function of politics.

In each country narrative and in recommending follow-up action we look at three facets of the anti-slavery fight, also known as the three "Ps": prosecution, prevention, and protection. My message -- in every country I visit and with every dignitary I meet with -- is that each part of this three-part approach is essential.

To prosecute, regional cooperation is essential. The traffickers function as long as they operate beyond the law and between systems of enforcement. Prevention is self-evident but under-employed. Vulnerable people, especially women and children, should be warned that promises of work abroad are often traps. And protection appears to be the greatest challenge for many governments that, tragically, treat slaves like criminals.

The Western Hemisphere has come a very long way in the last few years in addressing the complex human-trafficking challenge. When I came to the State Department three years ago, the issue was in its infancy. We are seeing so much more recognition and activity.

I want to single out the actions of Brazil in combating labor trafficking. Brazil has been especially diligent and productive in this regard. It is a world leader in identifying labor victims, especially in agriculture.

I am worried to see a number of "weak Tier Twos" from the hemisphere on the watch list. Many countries are still weak on prosecution. This is true around the globe, and it is true in the U.S.

Four broad areas of the human trafficking phenomenon that the hemisphere should put some extra attention on are: 1) the explosion of child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, 2) the many faces of the migration issue and the frequency that human smuggling turns into human trafficking, 3) the fact that state corruption often facilitates human trafficking, and; 4) the need to encourage non-government involvement in the solution because private organizations are often essential in victim protection.

If prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation were not tolerated, we wouldn't have sex trafficking. To confront that fact, we need to confront the demand for victims, not just the supply of victims.

Migration continues to diversify. There is increasing Asian migration into the hemisphere, and migration trends from the hemisphere to Europe, not to mention migration into the U.S. More and more, we find bonded labor schemes function to put people -- who start out as willing participants -- into slavery that is simply inhuman. Can you imagine this? Chinese smugglers commonly charge \$20,000-\$30,000 a head to arrange transport to the hemisphere. Essentially the smuggler owns that person when they reach whatever destination they reach. And the debt is often impossible to fulfill. It's labor slavery, not a new future.

For a programmatic organization such as the Inter-Development Bank, anti-trafficking programs can be integrated into many of your activities, especially in rule of law, anti-corruption, and social welfare programs as well as programs targeting youth.

I have painted a bleak picture but in recent years governments and citizens and non-governmental organizations have begun to awake. Worldwide, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to over 3,000 in 2004, and new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. The struggle will be a long one.

We need your dedication and energy and patience. The U.S. government can engage governments, we can seek to educate people around the world, but the fight to end modern slavery depends on the involvement of NGOs, citizens, individual diplomats, businesspeople, the IFIs [international financial institutions], all of us committed to the new abolition movement, together.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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5 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

November 15, 2005 Tuesday 3:34 AM EST

STATE DEPT.: WESTERN HEMISPHERE PRAISED FOR FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 2824 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

The Western Hemisphere has come a "very long way in the last few years" in addressing the problem of human trafficking, says John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In November 15 prepared remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington, Miller said the hemisphere is now much more active than in previous years in fighting the human trafficking problem, which he likened to "modern-day slavery."

"When I came to the State Department three years ago, the issue was in its infancy. We are seeing so much more recognition [of] and activity" against trafficking, Miller told the IDB.

The official singled out the actions of Brazil, in particular, in combating labor trafficking.

"Brazil has been especially diligent and productive in this regard. It is a world leader in identifying labor victims, especially in agriculture," said Miller.

However, Miller said he is concerned that a State Department "**Tier 2 watch list**" contains a number of Western Hemisphere countries that are weak in prosecuting **human trafficking**. Those countries are Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Suriname. More information about the **Tier 2 watch list** is available in the **Trafficking in Persons 2005** report at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/> and the electronic journal Responses to **Human Trafficking** on the State Department Web site at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0603/ijge/ijge0603.htm>

The main purpose of this watch list is to "stimulate action, not make a comparative list of who's up and who's down," said Miller. "We make each recommendation based on the minimum standards described in the law, not as a function of politics."

Miller said that in recommending follow-up action, the State Department looks at three facets of the anti-trafficking fight - prosecution, prevention and protection.

"My message - in every country I visit and with every dignitary I meet with - is that each part of this three-part approach is essential," Miller said.

The Western Hemisphere needs to give extra attention to four broad areas of the human trafficking phenomenon, said Miller. Those areas, he said, are the "explosion" of child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, the many "faces of the migration issue and the frequency [with which] human smuggling turns into human trafficking," the fact that state corruption "often facilitates human trafficking" and the need to encourage nongovernmental involvement in the solution because "private organizations are often essential in victim protection."

Miller said the U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders around the world each year, and between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States yearly. Millions more are trafficked within their own countries, he added.

On the positive side, Miller said that in recent years, governments and citizens and nongovernmental organizations have begun to awaken to the problem of human trafficking. Worldwide, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to more than 3,000 in 2004, and new legislation to combat human trafficking was approved in 39 countries, he said.

"We need your dedication and energy and patience," Miller told the IDB. He added that the U.S. government "can engage governments, we can seek to educate people around the world, but the fight to end modern slavery" depends on the involvement of nongovernmental organizations, regular citizens, individual diplomats, businesspeople and others - "all of us committed to the new abolition movement" of ending human trafficking.

Following is the text of Miller's prepared remarks:

(begin text)

REMARKS BY JOHN MILLER,

DIRECTOR, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

AT THE

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Good afternoon. I am honored to speak to such a distinguished audience today. It is especially gratifying to come before a group of people who are normally thinking about finance and development. Your work is, in many ways, the ultimate solution to the circumstances that make millions of men, women, and children vulnerable to the global crime of human trafficking - my subject today.

Modern-day slavery, euphemistically called trafficking in persons, is a global phenomenon that relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence. And it is highly profitable.

Human trafficking extends into every country in the world, including the United States. We have not yet found a country immune, largely because in every country there are people hoping to improve their lives through work. Too often there aren't enough domestic opportunities so they seek jobs abroad - and that's when individuals become vulnerable to the lies, coercion, and manipulation that traffickers employ to lure victims.

Fundamentally, human trafficking deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, which is the most prominent reason that the U.S. government is working to confront this despicable practice. But human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat. It is a global health risk, profoundly harming individual victims and facilitating the transmission of disease, including HIV/AIDS. And it is a threat to the safety and security of nations because of the profits generated for organized crime networks that have no respect for the rule of law.

By definition, human trafficking involves force, fraud, or coercion - legally sanitized words that cover intimidation, kidnapping, beatings, rape, deceit, abandonment, and murder. Victims describe mind-numbing varieties of torture, psychological abuse, and physical deprivation that are at the heart of the trafficking experience.

Before generalizing, allow me to introduce one victim. Rosa was trafficked from Mexico to the U.S. Her true story illustrates the nature and scope and harm of human trafficking.

Rosa was 13 and waiting tables in a restaurant in a small village near Vera Cruz, Mexico, when she was approached by an acquaintance of the family who told her, "You know you can make 10 times more money in the U.S. doing what you're doing here. I know someone who can find you a job in Texas. You can send money home to your family; you can have your own life. If you don't like the job, we'll get you a new one. If you're homesick, we'll bring you back across the border. You can't lose."

Rosa was young and hopeful. She asked her parents if she could go, but they forbade her. But she wanted a better life than what she had, and so, against her parents' and friends' warnings, she secretly accepted the offer. She was told to go to the main hotel in town on Friday evening. When she got there, a car was waiting, with several other young girls in it from neighboring villages.

They drove as far up into the desert toward the Mexican-American border. Then they arrived at what looked like a pre-arranged place in the desert on the Mexican side. There were dozens more girls from other towns in Mexico, and more men too.

On the ground were backpacks and water bottles. They were told to put the backpacks on their backs, and then they began to walk. They walked four days and four nights - through the desert, across the Rio Grande, and into Brownsville, Texas, where they were picked up by a white van and driven across Texas, Louisiana and into rural Florida, where they were dropped off in front a series of trailers.

A big guy came out and told them, "I've just bought you. Now you work for me." A little later an older woman took them to spots in the trailer. She told Rosa she was in a brothel and that she would have to buy her freedom by sexually servicing men.

Rosa was young. She was a virgin. She was Catholic. She knew what the woman was telling her was bad - a sin. She began to cry and begged to be taken to a restaurant to work. But she was told, "There are no restaurant jobs, only this." When she refused to do what they said, the burly man brought out three other men who took her into one of the trailers and gang-raped her to induct her into the "business." Then they locked her in the trailer without food and water until she succumbed.

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Twice Rosa was impregnated and twice forced to have an abortion and twice forced back into the brothel the next day. She also was forced to pay off the price of the abortions in more services. She was beaten if she refused a customer's demands. She was guarded 24 hours a day, even when she went to the bathroom. She was passed around at private parties the trafficking ring held in the evenings and on weekends, for in addition to trafficking women and children, this ring also robbed banks and ran drugs.

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(end text)

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6 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

November 9, 2005 Wednesday 9:19 AM GMT

US says Philippines not doing enough to curb human trafficking

LENGTH: 189 words**DATELINE:** MANILA Nov 9

The Philippines is not doing enough to curb human trafficking with no one so far prosecuted for the crime, a US official said Wednesday.

US embassy deputy chief of mission Scott Bellard said the lack of prosecutions was a major factor in the State Department's decision to retain the Philippines in **tier** two of its **watchlist** in its annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report".

"We need to see more progress in prosecution and convictions this year to avoid a downgrade to tier three next year," Bellard said during a police workshop on preventing the crime.

He noted that the Philippines in 2003 passed a law penalizing human trafficking and called on authorities to "aggressively pursue prosecutions" and obtain timely convictions.

In the report the Philippines was cited as a source, transit point and destination for trafficked women, men and children.

Others in the same tier of the watchlist are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Cameroon, China, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Greece, Haiti, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Russia, Rwanda, Sierre Leone, South Africa, Surinam, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

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LOAD-DATE: November 10, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

7 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

November 9, 2005 Wednesday**STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING, NOVEMBER 9****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 6829 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli briefed the press November 9.

Following is the transcript of the State Department briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State Daily Press Briefing Index Wednesday, November 9, 2005 12:18 p.m. EDT

Briefer: Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman

IRAQ -- Secretary Rice's Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad al-Chalabi -- Trial of Saddam Hussein/Security Issues/Prospects for Change of Venue -- Detention of Journalist Kemal Kadir by Iraqi Authorities

MISCELLANEOUS -- Allegations CIA Maintains Secret Prisons -- Secretary Rice's Comments Yesterday -- Administration's Policy on Use of Torture

SAUDI ARABIA -- Secretary Rice's Upcoming Travel to the Middle East -- International Religious Freedom Report Regarding Saudi Arabia -- Trafficking In Persons Report Regarding Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

CHINA -- US Embassy Warden Message on Chinese Police Advisory regarding Possible Attacks on Hotels -- US Position on Lifting EU Arms Embargo -- Secretary Rice's meeting with the Dalai Lama

CYPRUS -- Secretary Rice's Meeting with Turkish Cypriot Community Leader Mehmet Ali Talat

MACEDONIA -- Macedonia's Aspirations to Join EU -- Macedonia Name Issue

NORTH KOREA -- Food Aid to North Korea

ZIMBABWE -- Speech by US Ambassador Dell

LIBYA -- Imprisonment of Five Bulgarian Medics

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005 (ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

12:18 p.m. EST

MR. ERELI: Afternoon, everyone. No statements to begin with so let's start with your questions.

QUESTION: How about the U.S. account of the Secretary's meeting with Ahmad Chalabi? And if you could touch on what U.S. interest is there in all this -- many meetings. He's seen Cheney, now you can't speak for the whole Administration. What is the U.S. interest in having these extensive talks with Chalabi?

MR. ERELI: The United States meets with a wide range of Iraqi Government officials on a regular basis, here in Washington, in Baghdad, and in international fora and conferences and other occasions. So the way to look at this visit, and the meetings with Chalabi, is in the context of a broad and sustained and intensive partnership between the United States and Iraq and consistent with our shared goals of promoting Iraq's political development, helping its economic reconstruction and assuring its security. And as I said yesterday, as Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Iraq, Dr. Chalabi has a role to play in all that.

So we meet with Dr. Chalabi, we meet with Foreign Minister Zebari, we meet with Prime Minister Jafari, we meet with Deputy President Al-Mahdi, we meet with the oil minister, the finance minister. So I guess the simple answer would be this is a meeting with an Iraqi Government official as part of a sustained and broad set of engagements with the Iraqi Government as a whole. That's number one.

Number two, the meeting itself. It was a good meeting. They had a wide-ranging discussion over a full range of issues regarding Iraq -- economic, security, political. I think in view of the fact that Dr. Chalabi does have the portfolio for energy and finance issues, the bulk of the conversation focused on those sectors, taking note of really the devastating

state which Saddam Hussein's regime left Iraq's energy infrastructure and finance sectors. They talked about some of the challenges that Iraq is working to overcome, particularly in the areas of refining capacity, oil production, encouraging private and foreign investment in Iraq, on the security front looking at progress made in developing Iraqi capabilities to provide for its own security, on the political front, looking forward to the December elections. And the Secretary making the point, as we regularly do, that inclusiveness and the broadest participation possible is in everybody's interest. Spending time on both the finance and agricultural sectors and focusing on, you know, how to build institutions that operate on the basis of technocratic principles as opposed to secrecy and privilege and corruption, as was the case under Saddam Hussein.

So that's basically how I'd characterize their discussion.

QUESTION: I don't expect you to speak for the whole Administration but did Secretary Rice solicit Chalabi's advice on such other issues as how to beat back the insurgency? He again is speaking in terms of Iraq should have a deeper relationship with Iran. Is he still someone you ask the advice of and do you find -- have you found him to be a reliable source of advice?

MR. ERELI: Obviously, the insurgency was discussed or came up as part of the discussion, but within the context of the other issues, as I described, particularly when you're talking about the infrastructure of -- the oil infrastructure, the energy infrastructure and the challenge that the insurgency poses to that and related to the security side of things how we and the Iraqis can work together to protect Iraqis and Iraqi assets from terrorists bent on attacking them. And I think it was noted that the cooperation with the MNFI and the Iraqi security forces in this regard is good and is a priority for both of us.

QUESTION: Well, the other part of question was do you consider him a reliable advisor, a consultant or whatever --

MR. ERELI: You know, he was a -- I would characterize it the way I did, which is he's a member of the Government of Iraq. He has responsibility for areas that are critical to Iraq's future recovery and that was the context in which the discussions took place.

QUESTION: I guess going back to the original question -- just trying to get you to elaborate on the reasons why you -- the Secretary would meet with Chalabi. The U.S. Government does veto meeting government officials, you know, you'll say that a Hezbollah member can get in the cabinet in Lebanon, but we won't speak to them. So I want to know about the criteria for Chalabi, not making it a comparison that he is in any way connected to a guerilla group, but he is accused of having passed U.S. intelligence information to Iran. So you would imagine, therefore, he'd be extremely unpopular despite all these things that you've said in the Bush Administration. So was that criterion ignored, the fact that he is accused of passing U.S. secrets to Iran?

MR. ERELI: Well, I don't really have much to add to that issue other than to say that as far as the accusations that are out there, that's a matter under investigation. I'd leave it to the competent authorities to talk about that. As far as Chalabi's meeting with U.S. Government officials goes, he is the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and he's meeting with us in that context and it's appropriate and right and in everybody's interest to do so.

QUESTION: Well, is the issue of the investigation that -- with Iran came up?

MR. ERELI: No.

QUESTION: Did the issue of faulty intelligence come up and --

MR. ERELI: No.

QUESTION: Any intelligence --

MR. ERELI: Not that I'm aware of, nope.

QUESTION: He don't go for two years and a half. Why does he come today?

MR. ERELI: I don't think that's right. I think he's been since the last two and a half years.

QUESTION: At least eight months ago, at least eight months ago. Can we stay on Iraq?

QUESTION: Sure.

QUESTION: You've said, obviously, that they talked about security, which is key. One problem with security is it's affecting the trial of Saddam, the defense lawyers for him and for his aides, that they've decided to cut off contact with the court because of the killings.

MR. ERELI: Yeah.

QUESTION: Now, yesterday we asked you is it possible to have this trial in Baghdad? Do you hold to the fact that it is if you can't even get the lawyers to be there because of their problems with safety?

MR. ERELI: I'd make the following points, similar to what we said yesterday. Number one, this is an Iraqi trial. This is an Iraqi process. It's taking place under Iraqi laws, through Iraqi institutions. And those laws, those institutions and those officials will determine the way ahead. We are committed to supporting them as they do so. We leave it to them to make the decisions about what's in the best interest of Iraq and Iraqis. We will support them when they make those decisions.

There's -- to my knowledge and at this point -- there's no change in the way forward. We also made the point yesterday that we are offering security support to the facilities that are designated for the trials. I would also note that the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi security forces have offered protection for all the defense lawyers and that it is their decision whether they accept that protection or not. But certainly there are steps being taken by both the coalition and the Iraqi Government to provide the kind of security and protection that people are looking for, for the trial and that's right and good and let's move forward.

Yes.

QUESTION: Back to the thorny subject of secret prisons. The Secretary of State again was asked about this and she did her dance of the seven veils. Why can't we have just a straight answer whether these reports are true or false?

MR. ERELI: I guess it's not enough to look back at the daily transcripts of the last week to answer your question. You want it repeated?

QUESTION: They were not answered, is my point.

MR. ERELI: Pardon?

QUESTION: There's no straight answer.

MR. ERELI: The straight answer is I'm not going to comment on intelligence -- reports about intelligence.

QUESTION: Okay, then. What about the fact that she said the President doesn't support torture. Do we take it that the State Department supports John McCain's proposal not to exempt the CIA?

MR. ERELI: There's a statement of Administration policy on that issue that I would refer you to.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. ERELI: Yes. Go ahead.

QUESTION: On a new subject. Did the Secretary, when she was National Security Advisor, know of the existence of secret CIA prisons?

MR. ERELI: I don't have -- again, I told you I'm not going to comment on intelligence matters.

QUESTION: But -- but did she --

MR. ERELI: I'm not going to comment on intelligence matters.

QUESTION: Okay. Here's a follow-up to that then. The Secretary, when she's going abroad will no doubt, as she always does, try to further the President's freedom agenda.

MR. ERELI: Yes.

QUESTION: She will be doing that with a great doubt over her about whether or not she supported a policy --

MR. ERELI: I disagree.

QUESTION: That restricts freedom.

MR. ERELI: I disagree.

QUESTION: You have not done anything to clear up the doubt.

MR. ERELI: I will tell you -- and the Secretary, I think, spoke very eloquently and forcefully to this issue yesterday in talking about the principles, values, and image of the United States throughout the world. And that is one where we state clearly what we believe in. We represent an example for the rest of the world and that example has proved, I think, beneficial to the development of freedom and democracy throughout the world as evidenced, as the Secretary said yesterday, in the changes that swept the Soviet Union in the final years of that system.

I think in looking forward to her upcoming travels, I would expect that the United States and the Secretary will find a very positive and favorable reception in -- certainly in Bahrain, certainly in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere to the United States freedom agenda, to the support that the United States has given reformers and democrats and people struggling for their rights and freedoms throughout the region and that what so consumes you here in this briefing will not adversely color our dealings on this trip.

QUESTION: You mentioned Saudi Arabia. The freedom agenda, presumably encompasses such essential freedoms as freedom of religion.

MR. ERELI: Yes.

QUESTION: Freedom of speech.

MR. ERELI: Yes.

QUESTION: Women's rights.

MR. ERELI: Yes.

QUESTION: The State Department had very critical things to say this week about what the Department calls a lack of freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia. Do you think she'll get a glowing reception on that issue as well? Yeah, and will she take up with the Saudis, because they're in a period of --

MR. ERELI: The issue of --

QUESTION: A 180-day trial period.

MR. ERELI: This is an issue that will certainly be raised as it always is when we have discussions with the Saudis. This is the value of having kind of a strategic dialogue that the Secretary will be inaugurating on her visit to the Kingdom in that it provides us an opportunity to raise the level of discussion of these issues to a senior level to do it in a sustained way and to work out ways to address these problems. I think that if you look at the policies and actions of King Abdullah -- and we have noted this -- they recognize that this is an issue, they recognize that the challenge is before them and they are looking to ways to respond to these challenges in order to -- not because it's something that we put before them, but first and foremost, because it's in their own interests to do so and it's the impulse for change is coming from within their own societies.

So when you combine that homegrown momentum, along with the role of the United States as a power for, supportive of and encouraging of change and reform, you get progress. Now each country does it in a different way, at a different pace and we are mindful of each country's unique circumstances. But we're going to, as I said in respect to other issues, call it like we see it and not hold back from putting down on the table the issues and challenges that we think are important for all of us to deal with in our collective self-interest.

QUESTION: Follow on that?

MR. ERELI: Sure.

QUESTION: To talk to you again about the message to the world and the principles and values and images to the world that the Secretary talked about yesterday: promotion of freedom and liberty. Saudi Arabia has now twice in the last six weeks been waived by the Administration on some very important findings along these lines.

I think about six weeks ago, they were placed on the top **tier** on the U.S. **Human Trafficking Watch List**. The President gave them a waiver allowing more than \$4 billion in military sales to go forward uninhibited. They were given a waiver on religious freedom as well. They've been given more time. Kuwait got a waiver on human trafficking, also allowing more than, I think, \$2 billion in military sales to go forward.

What's the message to the world then, that freedom and liberty are --

MR. ERELI: You've got to look at the details. I think details are important and you're glossing over them in a, I think, careless way. If you look at the case of Kuwait, if you -- on trafficking in persons, if you look at the case of Saudi Arabia on religious freedom, the way those are based on specific actions that those countries have taken and the waivers are limited in scope and duration. And there's a relationship between the actions they take and the waiver.

So, you know, you've got to be prepared to take -- I'm sorry, you have to be prepared to take yes for an answer. You can't just -- let me finish, just a second -- are you going to let me finish?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MR. ERELI: You can't just say, you've got to do all this right now or we're going to beat you over the head with a stick. You say, these are the goal posts, you need to work with us to find a way to get there and if you move incrementally, we're prepared to move incrementally. But the fact of the matter is the sanctions are still - pending a real progress, the sanctions are still out there. They're still a possibility. But it's: (a) it's not black and white; (b) you've got to take an approach that matches incentives or disincentives in a realistic way. And you, most importantly, you've got to follow these things over time. I mean, it's not just like, okay, today you issue a waiver and the problem's gone and you're not -- you're letting them off the hook. Rather, there's an annual process of -- actually, in some cases, more frequent than annual -- process of review that you establish benchmarks, you establish standards, you hold them to standards and there are actions that you take or don't take based on their actions.

QUESTION: Waivers for both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, according to the President's statements, on both of those instances were based on -- the war on terrorism had nothing to do with the progress that they were making towards ending human trafficking, unlike UAE and, I think, Qatar, which the Secretary herself downgraded the two of them. So they were just given a waiver for a U.S. strategic interest in that case. Is the message to the world that if you're helping us with our strategic interests, we'll look askance on issues of freedom and liberty?

MR. ERELI: No.

Yeah.

QUESTION: You said that they've made -- they've taken action, but that it was because, you know, you do these waivers. Could you see them taking action? What action has Saudi Arabia taken?

MR. ERELI: I'd refer you to our International Religious Freedom Report. I think it says --

QUESTION: Which says that there's --

QUESTION: There's no freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia.

QUESTION: -- an unqualified statement.

MR. ERELI: They have, as Ambassador Hanford pointed out in his briefing to all of you yesterday, I believe, they have taken action against certain religious preachers who incite violence and preach intolerance and hatred and they have worked with us to develop an action plan that shows a willingness to engage and to plan for action.

Now, as I said in response to the other question, that is a limited response and limited scope and therefore, the measures we're taking are limited. But again, you have to be able to take a yes for an answer. In this case, Saudi Arabia is showing -- even though as the report says, there is no freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia -- that they are willing to address this issue, that they're willing to discuss this issue with us, that they are willing to consider actions, as opposed to other countries which refuse to engage and just tell us to go take a hike. So if they're going to talk to you and they're going to be receptive to your entreaties, then you should respond accordingly. And we think the steps we've taken are an appropriate response.

QUESTION: With apologies to Elise because I know she was due a question. On this idea of the message that you're giving to the world, I think it is -- some people would say that it's confusing, that we have this cloud over the possibility of secret prisons and yet you're pushing your freedom agenda. And what you do is you say, well, we've got all these great values and that you won't address the issue. The Secretary always, when she's abroad, talks about freedoms that divide. She says some people are on the wrong side of that divide. Her argument is there are governments that restrict the freedoms of people and those unfortunate people are on the wrong side of freedom's divide.

Those people who are disappeared into secret prisons, are they on the wrong side of freedom's divide?

MR. ERELI: Without speaking to this issue specifically, let me make a couple of points that we've made repeatedly, but I guess it stands -- it could use reiteration.

Number one, we are in a war on terror that this is an issue, when dealing with terrorists, of people who have and will continue, unless stopped, try to kill Americans, innocent civilians, attack our infrastructure and -- in horrific ways, and that it is incumbent upon the leaders of this country, the President, the Secretary and those who are sworn to uphold our Constitution, to use every instrument of national power to defeat this enemy.

So we engage in the war and we will in conducting that war, be true to our values, be true to our principles, be true to our laws and constitutions, and be respectful and mindful of our international obligations. And I think that -- and following on that, the President, the National Security Advisor and the Secretary have all said very clearly, we do not torture and when dealing with the challenges posed by those who respect no rules, we will stay true to our laws and our values and our Constitution.

Yes.

QUESTION: How does holding people in secret, though, keep America any more safe? You've got people in Guantanamo Bay that are being held because you believe it makes America more safe. Why not hold people out in the open and let the investigation -- sorry, let visitations take place by the ICRC? Why does holding --

MR. ERELI: I don't have anything for you on that (inaudible).

QUESTION: But, sir, when you say -- sorry -- you say, you know, no torture of prisoners but people know what happened in Abu Ghraib and I know that wasn't condoned by the Administration in any way.

MR. ERELI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: But the fact that those things did happen, make people wonder what would happen if there were secret prisons. So you can't just say that, you've got to show it, too. And how are you going to show it when you're not even going to tell us whether there are secret prisons or not?

MR. ERELI: We -- I think have, as I said before, an unmatched record of accountability and transparency when it comes to conducting our war. Remember -- excuse me. Let me finish. Let me finish. Let me finish.

We are conducting a war. No country conducts a war completely -- no country conducts a war without holding things close to the vest, okay. So I challenge you to tell me any country that doesn't have any classified information. I'm not going to talk about classified information. That's against the law, all right. So let's be clear about that.

Number two, in conducting the war on terror there has been no country, I would submit to you, that has been more forthcoming and more mindful of the need to communicate what it's doing and to act in a way that is responsible and consistent with international norms and obligations.

And specific to the point of Abu Ghraib, sure, abuses happen. That's inevitable in any system. But the point that we made, at the very beginning, when the Abu Ghraib photos came out, was, number one, we were the ones -- it was American servicemen who alerted the authorities to the fact that there was abuse, that there was an intensive and exhaustive process of investigation by members of Congress calling before them the senior levels of the Administration. There was legal proceedings taken. There was recognition that this was abuse, that it was contrary to the laws, that the laws did mean something, that those responsible would be held accountable and they have been accountable. There have been prosecutions and convictions. And so, again, I think our record is strong and enviable.

QUESTION: It was only after the servicemen alerted the press, not the authorities, that the investigations took place. And if you have secret prisons where there isn't any way to get this information out, how can anybody be sure that you would be transparent, that you would launch investigations if abuse was taking place in secret facilities?

MR. ERELI: Again, I think that if you look at what happened after Abu Ghraib, if you look at all the measures that we've -- if you look at all the actions we've taken with Guantanamo, with access to ICRC, with access to the press, with access to delegations from foreign countries, I think our record is one that stands scrutiny and that should be recognized as positive and laudable.

Yep.

QUESTION: Is this a fair evaluation of the U.S. policy on torture: we do not torture detainees but we want to have an exception for the CIA in case it's ever necessary --

MR. ERELI: No, I think there is a clear statement of policy -- is the Administration's statement of policy, which is available to you. I'll endeavor to get you the site. It should be on a website somewhere and you can read it for yourself. It's exhaustive.

Yeah.

QUESTION: Adam, just to follow up real quick on this, we've heard this now for several days running: On the one hand, we don't torture, we stay within the limits of our values and our laws; but on the other hand, these are really bad people and this is a different kind of war. Isn't there kind of -- no offense to my British friend -- an inherent nudge-nudge, wink-wink there in that message that you're sending out? No, we don't torture but these are really bad people? What's the message?

MR. ERELI: I'm not nudging or winking. I'm saying --

QUESTION: Then what are you saying?

MR. ERELI: I'm saying that --

QUESTION: What are you trying to say with that? We've heard that from the White House as well.

QUESTION: And from the Secretary.

QUESTION: Yes, give us an answer is basically what we're asking for.

MR. ERELI: On the nudge-nudge -- well, I guess the point is -- let me put it this way. We're in a -- what people want to do when they're looking at this is try to understand it in terms of past experience. Right? Geneva Conventions governing the laws of war, for example. Well, those were written in a world where you didn't have people flying planes into buildings or you didn't have armed groups trying to develop chemical weapons capabilities and you didn't have armies that weren't under the flag of a national power or that didn't wear uniforms or that didn't -- that crossed borders and lived within societies.

So all we're saying is you've got codes of conduct that are incumbent upon countries that respect the rule of law and believe in certain values and certain principles, and that's what guides us, while at the same time recognizing that a lot of the lessons of history are -- lessons of history are that this is an unprecedented conflict with an unprecedented challenge.

QUESTION: So that --

MR. ERELI: But that does not mitigate in any way the imperative of acting right and respecting our values and our norms and our laws.

QUESTION: Are you saying, then, that while you recognize the Geneva Conventions for certain detainees, and the President and others have said that there is a -- that the Geneva Conventions would apply to detainees at Guantanamo, then that all terror suspects are entitled to the same protections under the Geneva Conventions?

MR. ERELI: You know, I'm not going to give you a legal exegesis of treaties in the context of the war on terror. That has been done much, much better than I could ever do by our officials who have provided testimony on the subject as well as the statement of Administration policy. So I refer you to existing documents on that score.

QUESTION: But you're opening -- I'm sorry, you're opening up the door here, saying --

MR. ERELI: No, I'm not. I'm not opening up -- do not interpret my remarks to be the opening of any door. I'm just trying to explain to you -- in fact, I'm trying to shut the door, actually. (Laughter.) But anyway, I'm just trying to explain, you know, in response to Cam's philosophical question, give a philosophical answer, but not a legal interpretation.

QUESTION: So, philosophically, you're saying that --

MR. ERELI: Philosophically, I'm saying we are dealing with an unprecedented threat and we are trying to deal with it with norms and structures and processes from the past. And that's a challenge.

QUESTION: So, Adam, since you're dealing with structures from the past, would you support -- that the Administration support, then, a new convention, since you're dealing with a new enemy, as every Administration official has said, since you're dealing with new enemy combatants, are you looking for a new international structure then that would be able to deal with this new enemy?

MR. ERELI: No, we are -- again, I'd refer you to the statement of Administration policy, which lays out where we stand on this. And I think the President was very clear in his statement on Monday and that really gives it to you in a capsule form.

QUESTION: I just have to try one more, just following up on Cam. If the U.S. holds -- has these values and they're enduring values, why does it matter what kind of people you're dealing with, because the U.S. values would stand regardless of who they are?

MR. ERELI: Exactly. Good. I agree.

QUESTION: Okay. So why do you feel it necessary to keep saying that these are "really bad" people, we have these values but these are "really bad" people? The U.S. values stand no matter who you're dealing with.

MR. ERELI: Right.

QUESTION: So why are some people in secret prisons and some people not? I'm serious. That was the question. Why are you holding some "really bad" people in secret prisons?

MR. ERELI: I didn't -- that -- the issue that you raised and that you raised and that you're all interested in, that you've been raising for like four days or five days, I'm not going to speak to. I'm going to speak to --

QUESTION: But this is not the values --

MR. ERELI: What I'm going to speak to is our -- are the -- is the policies which guide us and what informs our decisions and how -- why we do what we do. And that -- I'm sorry -- and that I think we've been over and over and over but without answering the one question you want answered, which I can't answer.

QUESTION: Real quick, just a quick follow. You said you can't talk about classified information or respond to the question of secret prisons. If there were no secret prisons, it wouldn't be classified and therefore you could talk about; is that correct?

MR. ERELI: That's too convoluted for me. I can't understand it.

QUESTION: It's pretty straightforward.

MR. ERELI: Yeah?

QUESTION: Can we change the subject?

MR. ERELI: We probably could -- well, go ahead. Yeah, sure, I'm happy to change the subject.

QUESTION: There was a warning put out by the U.S. Embassy in China. There's some information coming from the government that --

MR. ERELI: Actually, it was --

QUESTION: It was a Warden Message and --

MR. ERELI: Yeah. It was a -- it was an advisory put out by the Chinese that said that Islamic extremists could be planning to attack four- and five-star hotels in China sometime over the course of the next week. What we did was just disseminate that information through our Warden system.

QUESTION: Do you have more information?

MR. ERELI: We don't have more information that was included -- than what was included in the Chinese advisory. Our understanding is that they are continuing to -- the Chinese are continuing to, investigate the matter to determine the credibility of the information they have. We, ourselves, do not have any specific information concerning the timing, target or method of any possible attacks.

QUESTION: So what did you put out? You put out --

MR. ERELI: We put out a Warden Message --

QUESTION: -- a warning message by the Chinese. In other words, you attributed the --

MR. ERELI: If I could read to you the warning message -- the Warden Message, it says: "The Embassy has learned that Chinese police advised hotels that Islamic extremist elements could be planning to attack four- and five-star hotels in China sometime over the course of the next week. Chinese authorities have assured the Embassy that they are taking appropriate security measures and investigating the possible threat thoroughly."

QUESTION: And yet there is no -- I haven't seen this, but there is no follow-on U.S. advice to travelers?

MR. ERELI: No. Other than what's included -- well, in the Warden Message it says American citizens visiting Chinese four- and five-star hotels should review their plans carefully, remain vigilant with regard to their personal security, and exercise caution. And then I would also note that we have extensive travel information on China for the traveling public on our website.

QUESTION: Is that -- I mean, that information that you always provide out and it's been very rare that there's ever been any kind of hint of an extremist -- an Islamic extremist threat in China except for the Chinese talking about Uighur Muslims. Do you have any reason to believe that this is part of a Chinese crackdown on Uighur Muslims?

MR. ERELI: No, I don't have any reason to believe that.

Yeah.

QUESTION: Chinese President Hu is visiting Britain right now and Chinese Foreign Ministry source said that Britain may shift its stance on the EU arms embargo. Are you aware of the potential policy change?

MR. ERELI: I really can't speak to the British policy. I can make clear to you what our policy is and we don't think that the arms embargo should be lifted. And this is a matter that we have had discussions with our EU partners about and we haven't really changed our views on that.

QUESTION: Recently, British Defense Minister was in town and met with probably some of the officials here and Pentagon. And also I thought you have a strategic dialogue with EU partners regarding China's emergence. Do you have any update?

MR. ERELI: We have a -- obviously, a dialogue with the -- a strategic dialogue with the Chinese. We have regular engagement with the EU-3. But I don't know really where your question is going on this.

QUESTION: I mean, through your interaction or any recent meeting with your British or European partners, are you aware of any potential policy change?

MR. ERELI: No, I don't -- it hasn't been an issue lately that I think has come up in our discussions.

Mr. Lambros, in the back.

QUESTION: Another philosophical question, however on Cyprus. Senator Olympia Snowe, speaking extensively on the Cyprus issue on the Senate floor the other day, stated, inter alia, criticizing the State Department, "Mr. President, I wanted today to discuss the extremely unfortunate decision by the highest levels of the State Department to meet with Mehmet Ali Talat, the self-declared president of the so-called 'Turkish republic of northern Cyprus.' For more than 30 years, it's been a tenet of the United States' foreign policy not to extend de jure or de facto recognition to the self-declared government which exists only because of the forceful occupation of northern one-third of Cyprus by more than 40,000 Turkish troops."

Since the Senator is criticizing the October 28th meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş -- excuse me, Mehmet Ali Talat, how do you respond to her criticism against the Department of State?

MR. ERELI: There is no change in U.S. policy. There is no de jure or de facto recognition of anything. This meeting was consistent with past practice whereby the leadership of the State Department believes it is useful and productive to exchange views with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. We've done it in the past, we'll continue to do it in the future, and this is consistent and supportive of our efforts to help promote reconciliation on the island on the basis of the Annan plan.

QUESTION: One more question on Iraq. Any response to my pending question regarding the arrest of the Kurdish human activist Dr. Tirman Said Khadil I raised the other day. For your information, Mr. Erel, Amnesty International get involved, too.

MR. ERELI: I don't know anything about --

QUESTION: Can you take this question?

MR. ERELI: I'll see if there's anything we have to say on it, but that doesn't mean that we will.

Yeah.

QUESTION: The British Parliament just rejected legislation proposed by Tony Blair to hold terrorists suspects for 90 days without charging them. Do you think that this is going to hurt joint operations that you have with the British regarding terrorists with respect to the war on terror?

MR. ERELI: I wouldn't speculate on that.

QUESTION: Do you have any reaction to the parliament rejecting it?

MR. ERELI: No, no.

Now, let's go -- ma'am. Sure.

QUESTION: May I change the subject? Yeah? On something that indirectly concerns U.S. interests. Macedonia today received from Brussels positive opinion on its application for joining the EU, but no date was set -- kind of odd. Where does Washington stand on this, I mean, on the pace Balkan countries join EU?

MR. ERELI: Well, the -- the process of accession of Macedonia to the EU is obviously a matter for the Macedonia and the EU to work out. We are supportive of Macedonia's aspirations to join the EU. And we, I think, encourage and support the kind of reforms and actions that Macedonia needs to take to fulfill EU membership requirements.

QUESTION: One more?

MR. ERELI: Sure.

QUESTION: On this issue, Mr. Erel, would you support their efforts to join EU or NATO with their present name, because as you know, there is difference between Greece and FYROM on the name issue?

MR. ERELI: Yeah. Our position on the name issue, as you won't be surprised to hear, has not changed and that is that again, there's a UN-led process to lead Macedonia and Greece to come to a common position on that.

QUESTION: But the question is do you support this process to EU or to NATO or the present name, "Macedonia?"

MR. ERELI: We support Macedonia and Greece settling it with the -- through the UN.

Lou.

QUESTION: You didn't answer my question.

MR. ERELI: That's my answer.

Louie.

QUESTION: USAID put out a statement about cutting off food aid to North Korea if North Korea continues on with its plan to boot out, I guess, the WFP. Can you talk about that and -- it's largely about the timing, given that it's the start of six-party talks today?

MR. ERELI: The decision is not influenced by politics, number one. The decision -- number one, the decision to provide food aid is not a political decision, it is a humanitarian decision and it is -- we take our actions based on a number of criteria, one of which is need; another one is the ability to monitor the situation so that we can be sure that the people who need the food are getting the food. And the decision that was announced by the AID today was taken based on those criteria, specifically, obstacles that are being erected to international aid workers and others, international organization members, to monitoring the delivery and provision of the aid. That's a critical component in making a decision to provide aid, it's also a component critical factor in the decision to take the steps that we have.

QUESTION: Do you see any potential impact on the talks, as a result of this?

MR. ERELI: There shouldn't be. There shouldn't be. As I said, they're completely distinct issues.

Yes.

QUESTION: Adam, as you anticipated yesterday, the American Ambassador in Zimbabwe was called into the foreign ministry.

MR. ERELI: Are we done with North Korea?

QUESTION: I'm sorry.

MR. ERELI: Okay. Yeah. On Zimbabwe.

QUESTION: Could you tell me what happened? I understand there was a -- they gave him a protest note of some sort?

MR. ERELI: The Ambassador met with officials in the foreign ministry today. They took issue with his remarks of last week. We made the point that these remarks were fully consistent with the role of the ambassador and the policies of the United States and that we continue to call on Zimbabwe to change course and to take actions and adopt policies that serve the interests of their people and that are consistent with international norms and the direction that the rest of the world is taking but that seems to be different from where Zimbabwe is going.

QUESTION: Did the issue of expelling them come up because there have new --

MR. ERELI: No.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. ERELI: Yes.

QUESTION: The Secretary will meet with Dalai Lama this afternoon. Do you know what topic she may like to talk with him? And also, will the Secretary bring up the issue of Tibet when she meets with Chinese leaders on the 19th?

MR. ERELI: Let me see if I can get you something on that.

QUESTION: The last one on HIV. Mr. Erel, according to Reuters yesterday, a senior Libyan official denied a published report that the nation would scrap capital punishment to facilitate the release of the five Bulgarian nurses. The five together with a Palestinian doctor was sentenced to death, following conviction on charges of deliberately infecting 426 children with HIV, using pills for the first time in history of this disease -- of this deadly disease. Any comment, since the execution of November 29th is approaching?

MR. ERELI: The only comment I would have is that the position of the United States, the EU -- and the EU is clear, that these people should -- the Bulgarians and Palestinian should be released. They've been convicted on faulty evidence and faulty procedure. They should not be in jail. They should be released. And we continue to work with the Bulgarians, with the EU-3 and with the Libyans to secure their release.

QUESTION: What about the charges that they used pills?

MR. ERELI: I think those charges are baseless.

(The briefing was concluded at 1:05 p.m.)

(end transcript)

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8 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Australian

November 1, 2005 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Shamed Japan to crack down on sex slavery

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TOKYO: Under fire for its inaction on eliminating human trafficking, Japan is expected to bring in new laws this week to crack down on the brokers and buyers of women forced to work as sex slaves.

Japan remains embarrassed by a US State Department report last year condemning the world's second-biggest economy for its failure to adequately address the problem and placing it on a watch list with offenders such as Cambodia and the Ivory Coast.

Although a more recent version of the survey praised Japan's efforts to improve the situation, it remains a "tier two" country because its thriving sex industry remains a lucrative destination for those who traffic women from Thailand, The Philippines, Colombia and Belarus.

A place in the **tier**-two category denotes that a country fails to meet minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**.

The impending changes will make the manager of any establishment in the sex or entertainment industry criminally liable for employing anyone without proper legal documentation.

Keiko Otsu, who runs a secret shelter in Tokyo for women who escape from their captors, described a constant fear that haunts the women who arrive at her door. "They are genuinely terrified, often trembling uncontrollably," she said.

The first prosecution occurred last week, when the Taiwanese manageress of a club in the resort town of Nagano was arrested for buying a 24-year-old Indonesian woman for use as a sex slave. She is understood to have been sold for almost \$24,000.

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2005

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9 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Bangor Daily News (Maine)

November 1, 2005 Tuesday
Correction Appended
All Editions

Judge frees woman suspected of human trafficking attempt

BYLINE: JUDY HARRISON OF THE NEWS STAFF

SECTION: Pg. A1

LENGTH: 507 words

DATELINE: BANGOR

Only because the government couldn't prove that a Canadian woman was involved in human trafficking when she brought a man and two teenage females into the country illegally was she free to return to her husband and children, a federal judge said Monday.

Savita Singh-Murray, 39, of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, wept as U.S. District Judge John Woodcock sentenced her to time served, or 132 days in jail.

The woman pleaded guilty in September to trying to smuggle three illegal aliens from her former homeland, Guyana, into the U.S. at the Calais border crossing this summer.

Guyana is a former British colony on the northern coast of South America bordered by Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south, and Suriname to the east.

"I have no idea what was going on," Woodcock said Monday. "What I do know gives considerable pause."

He sternly admonished Singh-Murray for her involvement with what prosecutors suspect was a plot to bring young women into the country to be forced to work as prostitutes.

Woodcock said that Guyana is on an international **human trafficking watch list**.

Singh-Murray initially told officials that she was the aunt of Awad Hansraj, 21, Lalita Depaul, 18, and a 16-year-old girl, and that she intended to take them to the Calais McDonald's restaurant, according to court documents.

Later, she admitted that she was not their aunt and was forced by a former boyfriend in Toronto to smuggle the three into the U.S. and drop them off at the Calais Motor Inn.

"I shudder to think what may have happened to those two young females," Woodcock said Monday. "The purpose of human trafficking is to submit young women to humiliation and degradation. I am appalled that you, as a woman and a Guyanese, would get involved in anything like this.

"Even if you didn't know for certain they would have been abused, you had to know that there was that possibility," he continued. "I can tell you that the only reason I sentenced you the way I did is because of the problem of proof."

The mother of three, who has been held without bail at the Piscataquis County Jail since her arrest on June 22, faced up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The federal sentencing guidelines, which determine sentencing ranges used by federal judges, called for Singh-Murray to serve zero to six months in prison.

She also was barred from entering the U.S.

"I want to say how sorry I am to the court and the American people," Singh-Murray told Woodcock before he sentenced her. "Most of all, I want to apologize to my husband and my children."

Singh-Murray was returned Monday night to Canada by border patrol agents. Her husband and two friends attended the hearing but did not address the court.

The Guyanese adults, Hansraj and Depaul, each pleaded guilty last month to a misdemeanor charge of attempting to enter the U.S. by making false statements to border agents and were ordered to spend four days in jail before deportation.

The 16-year-old girl, identified only as Sheliza A. in court documents, was turned over to U.S. immigration officials.

LOAD-DATE: November 2, 2005

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CORRECTION-DATE: November 2, 2005

CORRECTION: A story on Tuesday's Page One about a Canadian woman sentenced on charges of trying to smuggle a man and two teenage females into the country requires clarification. U.S. District Judge John Woodcock raised questions about whether Savita Singh-Murray, 39, of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, was involved in human trafficking. Prosecutors charged her with alien smuggling.

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

10 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

November 1, 2005 Tuesday**HEARING OF THE AFRICA, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE****SUBJECT: "SUDAN: LOSING GROUND ON PEACE?"****CHAired BY: REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ)****WITNESS: JENDAYI FRAZER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS****LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.****SECTION: PRESS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH****LENGTH: 15017 words**

REP. SMITH: The subcommittee will come to order. And good afternoon, everybody.

Over the last few years, the U.S. Congress has devoted a great deal of attention to the troubled East Africa nation of Sudan. Initially, we were as concerned about the issue of slavery as we were about the country's destructive civil war. Over several years, I have held several hearings on this issue of slavery, as early as March of 1996. Unfortunately, to this date there is no proof that the existence of slavery in Sudan has been eliminated; certainly no reason has been given to Congress to justify the downgrading of Sudan's status as a nation guilty of trafficking in persons.

We have also devoted attention to resolving the 21-year-old North-South conflict between the National Congress Party government in the North, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the South. With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9th of this year, there was great hope that this long-standing war would finally be brought to a peaceful and equitable end so that the suffering would be over and reconstruction could begin. However, the sudden death of SPLN leader Dr. John Garang seems to have thrown the peace process off track, and there is evidence that the National Congress Party may be trying to forestall the peace accords rather than to implement them.

Most recently, we've been focused on the tragic situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, where as many as 400,000 people have been killed in a conflict that began in February of 2003. At one point, as many as 10,000 people per month were dying, due to attacks led or abetted by the government of Sudan. More than 2 million residents of Darfur have been displaced, many of them living in internally displaced persons camps. I visited two of these camps in August with my friend and colleague, my chief of staff on the subcommittee who deals with African issues, Greg Simpkins (sp). We went to Mukjar camp and Kalma camp, perhaps the largest IDP camp in the world. When we visited South Darfur this past August, again with Greg, we found encouraging signs in the determination of the people of Darfur to survive, even in horrendous circumstances. We also were impressed with the dedication of the USAID staff and contractors, as well as the NGOs on the ground, to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance, despite many logistical and bureaucratic obstacles.

However, there were some troubling conditions that have only gotten worse since our return. The tens of thousands of people living in Kalma camp had refused to allow Sudanese police into the camp because they saw them as enemies. The police proved them right by shooting over the camp nightly to frighten residents. When the shooting didn't chase camp residents out, a commercial embargo was put into place so that people in the camp were unable to bring in any supplies beyond what they can carry on themselves.

The people in Kalma camp, like the people in other IDP camps, are justifiably afraid to leave: women who have been routinely raped upon venturing outside the camp for water or for firewood. Bandits are not only robbing people outside the camps, but they are killing men as well in all too many cases.

While in Darfur, we met with African Union troops whose commanders told us that they, too, had few too (sic) vehicles to patrol effectively in carrying out their mission to protect the people of Darfur from attacks. AU commanders told us that the pay that they had been promised had not been forthcoming. When we were there in August, the average AU soldier was receiving \$1.28, having been promised about \$15 a day. Given the attacks and kidnappings of AU troops, I believe they are demonstrating extraordinary commitment under trying circumstances.

Last month the AU accused the government of Sudan of joining with the janjawid militias in attacking villages and refugee camps. After supposedly ending their collaboration with the janjawid weeks ago, this alliance appears to be back in place.

The Darfur peace talks have not made much progress largely due to the splintering of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, or SLA, who, with the Justice and Equality Movement, or JEM, declared war on the government of Sudan nearly three years ago. The government of Sudan also bears responsibility for these talks being stymied. Furthermore, Eritrea and Libya are supporting these rebel movements, and they, too, are making a peaceful settlement less likely.

Meanwhile, the SPLA, now part of the government of Sudan, has not played a noticeable role in the Darfur conflict as they did under Dr. John Garang. However, failure to resolve the Darfur situation could help unravel the peace between the north and the south. Certainly, that peace agreement faces its own challenges from a National Congress Party that seems to want an agreement in name only, and from an SPLM struggling to regain its footing after the death of its long-time leader.

Too many aspects of the comprehensive plan -- peace agreement remain undone. I spoke with the Catholic archbishop of Juba last week. And he told me that the development of the south was desperately in need of international support. He said frustration over the slow pace of the peace process will only increase the separatist elements in the south. According to the archbishop, the northern part of the government has not withdrawn its troops from the south as scheduled nor established key commissions to implement the peace accord, nor have complied with the international commission that already has set the boundary between the north and the south.

Congress has tried in our recent legislative effort to take into account the entirety of the crisis of Sudan. We surely want to focus on the accountability of those involved in genocide in Sudan, but we cannot ignore other parts of the complex picture in this country. We must keep a focus on the north-south peace accord, or it may fail and plunge the country back into a wider conflict.

Today's hearing is necessary and is required to learn from the administration how our government's policy is attempting to tackle this difficult situation and how Congress can help create a comprehensive plan to contribute to peace and to accountability for those who have murdered, rape, enslaved, and otherwise plagued the people of Sudan for so many years.

Our committee's chairman, Mr. Hyde, has fashioned a bill with many of us working with him that we feel will make such a contribution. We want to move forward on this effort as soon as possible for the sake of so many who are still in danger in Sudan.

I'd like to yield my friend and colleague Mr. Payne, who has been a tireless worker for peace in Sudan, for such time as he may consume.

REP. DONALD PAYNE (D-NJ): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And let me commend you for calling this very important hearing on the increasing worrisome situation in Sudan.

I welcome Assistant Secretary Frazer to the committee. I look forward to working with her and hearing her testimony. I'd like to commend you for the outstanding work that you've done in your previous capacities in National Security Council and as ambassador to South Africa. And it was a pleasure traveling with you to Liberia recently to observe the

elections in Liberia, which I thought went extremely well. And we look forward to the runoff on next Tuesday, Tuesday a week from now.

And I know that you traveled through other countries, and I'd be interested at some time to assess what your findings were.

We -- and since you're certainly new in this position, you just happen to be the messenger. So we don't want you to take it personally. Perhaps we'll see some changes under your tenure.

We certainly feel that the loss of Dr. John Garang was a tremendous setback to the peace accord in Sudan. As the chairman said, I have been traveling to Sudan for -- since the early '90s, and Dr. Garang has been a tireless warrior for the people of south Sudan. And it was -- we were all saddened with his untimely death, and certainly we feel it's been a setback to the process.

I had the privilege to attend the wake in Yei the day before funeral in Juba, and you could see on the faces of the Sudanese the sorrow and sadness that has sort of besieged the country.

And so we will have to move forward, but I hope that all of the work that he's done and even his death has not been in vain.

My object for listening to your testimony at this hearing is to get a clarification on U.S. policy towards the current regime in Sudan. We do have a National Unity Government which was recently formed, but I have serious concerns about the commitment of the ruling National Congress Party to real, true, lasting peace in Sudan.

We must not let up pressure on the government. We must ensure that they fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and end the violence in Darfur without any further foot-dragging and excuse-making.

At the same time, we must provide increased assistance to the government of southern Sudan, led by Salva Kiir, who I first met in 1994 and who has certainly been a close ally of Dr. John Garang for as long as the movement has been going forth.

One hundred and five members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary Rice yesterday expressing the following concerns:

One, recent developments in Darfur, including the kidnapping and killing of African Union troops and humanitarian workers.

The closure of main roads leading out of the capital of West Darfur, Western Darfur.

An estimate by the United Nations that nearly three-quarters of a million refugees are beyond the reach of humanitarian aid, which means that we will start seeing tragedy again by the fact that resources cannot get to these people.

Delay in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which mandates the immediate withdrawal of government troops from disputed areas.

Government reform of civil service, security forces and the judiciary.

And the establishment of an investigatory commission into the genocide in Sudan.

And apparent softening of U.S. policy toward the government of Sudan was also expressed in the letter to Secretary Rice.

I have followed the crisis in Sudan, as the chairman mentioned, for a long time, for at least 21 years that the war had been going on between Islamist government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army and movement of the SPLA -- SPLM. As you are well aware, more than 4 million people were displaced in that civil war since 1989, and over 2 million people have died as a result of that struggle, that had gone on when Shari'a law was imposed on the entire country to those who were Christians and Animists and Agnostics and Atheists and felt that they should not be under Shari'a law because they did not believe in the Koran.

During that time, the National Islamic Front, the NIF government, led by Omar al-Bashir, committed innumerable brutalities in unimaginable scope against the people of the South. They marginalized areas of Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains with the longest running war in Africa until January the 9th, when the parties signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the CPA. I was there in Nairobi for the signing and was cautiously hopeful for the long-awaited peace in Sudan. However, once again the North-South conflict reached the point where an agreement was imminent.

The government began its attack on innocent civilians in Darfur, which caught us all by surprise. With the help of the Janjawid, it destroyed villages and communities, maimed, raped, killed, terrorized the people of Darfur.

We know that the AU mission is simply not deployed at the adequate numbers to quell the violence in Darfur, and that its mandate must be strengthened to protect civilians. Still, I commend the AU for the tremendous role it has played, but more is needed to protect the innocent civilians of Darfur. The people of Sudan have suffered tremendously under the hand of this government, which, by the way, came to power in a bloody coup in 1989, as I mentioned. Concerned citizens of this great country have devoted years to ending the bloodshed in Sudan, first South Sudan, now Darfur.

We could be looking at a crisis in East Sudan soon as well if the government does not stop its genocidal behavior in that region.

The message must be clear and concise until the following occurs: the United States is ill-advised and must not normalize relations with the government of Sudan. It's just that simple. The crisis in Darfur is resolved peacefully is when we should look at a normalization of our relations with the government of Sudan. When the Janjawid and allied militia are disarmed and demobilized is when we should look at normalized relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan is cooperating with the ICC is when we ought to normalize relations with Sudan. When suspects are handed over for trials to the ICC is when we should normalize relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan negotiates in good faith in the East is when we should normalize relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan is cooperating fully to disarm, demobilize and hand the LRA leaders, who are killing children -- have done it for 18 years and go to Sudan for cover -- that's when we should normalize relations with Sudan. When the CPA is being implemented in good faith and without delay, including the implementation of the Abyei commission report, withdrawal of the government forces from the South as called for in the CPA; setting up of key commissions, as called for in the CPA; revenue sharings, as called for in the wealth-sharing agreement, that's when we should normalize relations with Sudan.

The Darfur crisis is not abating. We must be firm with Khartoum. We must ensure compliance. We must stop the killing. No more visits from the Sudan intelligence chief or other architects of genocide should be tolerated in this country. No more waiving of certain sanctions, like that allowing Sudan to hire lobbyists in Washington for \$530,000 so they can clean up their image.

I look forward to hearing your testimony.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Payne.

Chairman Royce?

REP. EDWARD ROYCE (R-CA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you, I've traveled to Darfur, and I've seen the results there of the government's genocidal campaign. And when I say genocidal campaign -- we took with us Don Cheadle and Paul Rusesabagina, the hotelier who Paul Cheadle -- who Don Cheadle portrayed, and we went into a little town that had been attacked by the Janjawid, and had been bombed prior to that.

The town formerly had 30,000 inhabitants. There are less than -- there are only a couple hundred left in that particular town. We talked to a number of survivors of those attacks. Children drew us pictures that looked an awful lot like Antonov bombers dropping bombs on their village. And it's hard to believe that since those villages were bombed, it wasn't done by the government.

I remember one young boy who put out his hand -- his arm, but there was no hand. And I asked him what happened to it. And he said, "Janjawid. Janjawid."

So I'm deeply troubled by the continuing violence in Darfur, which is mostly the government's responsibility. And I look forward to hearing from the administration, hearing what it's doing to end the killing and suffering and move the peace process ahead.

And again, I thank the chairman for holding this hearing. And I thank you very much for being with us today. Appreciate it very much.

REP. SMITH: Chairman Royce, thank you very much.

Ambassador Watson?

REP. DIANE WATSON (D-CA): Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

I too must join with my colleagues, Royce and Payne. I've had the good great fortune of traveling with Mr. Royce, and I cannot find a more committed and dedicated member of our House for the cause of eradicating this genocide, and Mr. Payne, who has a distinguished record of fighting for the people of the Sudan and who goes often and reports back to us formally and informally. And I want to thank them.

But unfortunately, what I see right now when I look at the United States policy towards Sudan is a willingness to tolerate any behavior by the Khartoum regime -- in the interest of improving relations. And I think there's something wrong about that. This administration has taken several actions over the past few months which send the unmistakable message that Washington is pleased with the behavior of the Sudanese government. Well, not from my viewpoint.

And I understand that Sudan's **trafficking in persons** status has been upgraded to Title II **watchlist** and it's a Title II **watchlist** country, which would put it in the same company as Israel and Switzerland; this despite the fact that earlier this year the U.N. documented abductions and sexual slavery by the Sudanese troops.

And we heard the stories that were given when we were out among the refugees, and they were blood-chilling and blood-curdling. We were able to spend time with Rusesabagina, the actual manager, and he told us what really happened. And that movie did not give you all of the ugliness and the pain and the tragedy that they actually went through.

For an example, he said, when they came into a village, and they would go to -- the Janjawid -- to someone's home -- and by the way, they were high off of drugs and alcohol when they did this. And they would go to someone's home, and they would get the father, or the head of the household, and they would chop off his feet. Well, they wouldn't kill him; they would chop off his feet. Then they'd come back the next day, chop off his arms. And then they'd go back to kill him, had he not bled to death before that. That actually took place. And he told us these stories. And Don Cheadle tried to enact them, some of them, in the movie.

Well, this kind of madness and savagery is actually taking place, and probably as we speak. So -- and the administration has also issued a waiver to permit the government of Sudan to hire -- to hire! -- a Washington lobbyist to permit the architects of genocide in Darfur to develop and sell a public relations strategy on Capitol Hill.

Well, let me tell you, for one, they can't sell that to me, they can't sell that to Payne, and I know the rest of my colleagues will not buy that. They can come in and put whatever face they want on it. But those of us who have been there and talked and been among the refugees know that what they're selling us is a bit of goods.

So meanwhile, the Sudanese government in Khartoum continues to arm and support the militias who have murdered tens of thousands of people and forced over 2 million out of their homes. As for the United States of America, we have an investment in the comprehensive peace agreement for the Sudan. We need to see it work. But it will not work if we fail to press the Sudanese government to stop the genocide. Unless the United States demands that Sudan end the violence in Darfur, I fear we will be left with a comprehensive peace agreement that is neither comprehensive nor peaceful.

So, I will be listening to hear what specific measures the administration will take to first dispel the appearance that we are seeking to rehabilitate Khartoum's genocidal regime; and second, increase the pressure on the Khartoum regime to change its behavior and permit all of its citizens to live in peace. And once you're out there and you go among the people, you know that we must move in a positive direction. Now, we cannot let another child's hand be cut off, we cannot let another mother go into mourning over the loss of her husband, and we cannot let a people be wiped out on this watch.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I yield back my time.

REP. SMITH: Thank you very much.

Jeff Fortenberry.

REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY (R-NE): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I just simply wish to commend you for your consistent concern over this issue, for your long-held willingness to dig deep into the complexities of this irrational lawlessness and violence which seems to govern this area.

So given the complexities and how difficult the challenges are that present themselves in terms of the solution, I just simply look forward to hearing some possible answers today. Thank you so much.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Fortenberry, thank you very much.

Let me now introduce our very distinguished witness for today's hearing: Secretary Jendayi Frazer, who was sworn in as assistant secretary for the Bureau of Africa -- African Affairs in August of 2005. Prior to becoming assistant secretary, Secretary Frazer served as the U.S. ambassador to South Africa and as special assistant to the president and senior director for African Affairs at the National Security Council.

Ambassador Frazer came to the NSC from Harvard University, where she served as an assistant professor of public policy. As a Council on Foreign Relations international affairs fellow, she served as a political military planner with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Department of Defense and as director for African Affairs at the NSC.

A very distinguished career and a very capable and very able leader on these very, very vexing issues. So you are very welcome to this hearing, and please proceed as you would like.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on our Sudan policy, and I also thank you for your resolve and commitment on trying to push for a better Sudan, a Sudan that will be peaceful and prosperous for all of its people.

Today I would like to review with you the U.S. strategy to push for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to resolve the crisis in Darfur.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would request that my written testimony be placed in the record, and I will highlight the main points of the administration's Sudan policy this afternoon.

REP. SMITH: Without objection.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you.

First, the administration's primary goal is a peaceful and democratic Sudan that contributes to regional development and cooperates on counterterrorism. Over the past five years, we have made steady progress towards this goal.

Mr. Chairman, you specifically ask: Are we losing ground on peace in Sudan? The answer is as challenging and complex as the country itself. On the north-south peace front, we have clearly gained ground. On Darfur, it's back and often -- sometimes forth, but mainly back. But we do have a plan for progress there.

We also have to be watchful and take preventative measures to not lose ground in the east.

First, Mr. Chairman, let me outline where we are today and why I say we've made progress toward our overall goal over the past five years.

On January 22nd, 2001, President Bush told his then-national security adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, that we must end the war in Sudan and stop the humanitarian and human rights abuses in the south. As you all know, Mr. Chairman, the National Congress Party-controlled government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement were bitter enemies that had warred for over 22 years. As Congressman Payne said, 4 million people were displaced, 2 million died in that bitter conflict.

Yet as a result of active U.S. diplomacy, working closely with Kenya, IGAD and other international partners, the SPLM and Khartoum government signed the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005, in Nairobi, Kenya. The United States led international efforts to achieve that success, and the Bush administration remains committed to its full implementation.

We witnessed on July 9, 2005, the installation of the chairman of the SPLM, the late Dr. John Garang, as first vice president of Sudan in Khartoum. Since then, members of the SPLM, the NCP, and other parties have formed the Government of National Unity in Khartoum. And the SPLM, under the new first vice president of the Government of National Unity, Salva Kiir, have set up the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba.

And I would just say that, as you know, the first vice president, Salva Kiir, is here on his first international trip, and he's had a chance to meet today with Vice President Cheney, with Secretary Rice, with Deputy Secretary Zoellick and myself. And so some of the testimony that I will state is based on my direct -- on our direct consultations with the first vice president.

But these historic changes are major steps forward, but clearly there is more for the parties to do. I know that you, Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee, as well as the administration, remain concerned that many of the national commissions called for in the CPA still must be stood up; troop withdrawals are behind schedule; demobilization, disarmament and reintegration needs to move forward. These are just three areas to cite that are of particular importance.

Still, and most significantly, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement passed its first major test, the tragic death of its key architect, the first vice president, Dr. John Garang. Dr. Garang was committed to the cause of a peaceful, prosperous and united Sudan. While his death is a great loss, there is every reason to hope that his vision of a peaceful, democratic and unified Sudan will be fulfilled.

Demonstrating the resilience of the CPA, Garang's successor, Salva Kiir, was inaugurated as first vice president in an orderly process, and he has stated his unwavering commitment to realizing Dr. Garang's vision. In addition, Dr. Garang's widow, Rebecca, is carrying forward her husband's vision and is now serving as the minister of Transport and Roads in the Government of Southern Sudan.

Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Zoellick just had a phone call with Vice President Taha to talk about the implementation of this comprehensive agreement, and he confirmed that the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the National Petroleum Commission, as well as the Boundary Commission have now been formed by decree issued by President Bashir. Vice President Kiir told us this morning that he has expected the announcements today, since when he left Sudan, the membership of the commissions were already agreed upon and it was a matter of making the announcement. So there has been some progress, and we welcome this news of the establishment of these key commissions.

As far as the administration is concerned, the next critical steps are for both parties to honor the security commitments, particularly by forming a Joint Defense Board, setting up the Joint Integrated Units, and, as I mentioned, withdrawing the troops, particularly the government troops being withdrawn from the south and from Juba.

Mr. Chairman, let me emphasize a fundamental premise of our Sudan strategy to maintain peace momentum. The administration views implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and resolution of the Darfur crisis as inter-related issues.

Implementation of the CPA is crucial to ending the violence in Darfur. Moreover, without progress in Darfur, there is a real danger for the violence to spill over into other areas of Sudan. The bottom line is the CPA is applicable in many respects to all areas of Sudan, and is designed to share power and wealth between the center and the periphery areas, a key root of the conflict in all parts of Sudan. It serves as a framework for our political agreements, including in -- or for other political agreements, including in Darfur.

To get to Darfur, clearly it's an unacceptable situation that must end now. Darfur is complex, it's a difficult situation that we and the administration -- that we, the administration and the Congress have characterized as involving genocide. The people of the United States know that this administration under the direction of President Bush, Secretary Powell, and now Secretary Rice has been the global leader in efforts to end the violence and suffering in Darfur. President Bush was the first head of state to speak out publicly on the unfolding violence and atrocities in Darfur in 2004. The United States was the first country to call for action in the United Nations Security Council. We were instrumental in obtaining a cease-fire agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Darfur rebels, the Sudan Liberation Movement and Justice and Equality Movement in April 2004. The United States was also the first to emphasize the need for intervention to stem the violence. And as a result of our actions, the African Union agreed to deploy observers and troops to Darfur in August 2004.

Since that time, the United States has worked closely with the African Union to build 32 base camps, and with other donors, provided airlift for over 6,900 African Union personnel now deployed to Darfur. This was possible with the over \$160 million in resources provided by the Congress. President Bush continues to be committed to ending the conflict in Darfur. And the United States has mounted with the international community -- the effort that the United States has mounted with the international community has yielded results in Darfur.

As a result of the African Union's intervention and pressure exerted on the Government of Sudan and Darfur rebels, the AU-led political talks are moving ahead in Abuja, large-scale organized violence has substantially diminished since early 2005, and mortality rates have dropped. That said, the situation in Darfur remains intolerable. Over 2.4 million people are living in camps for internally displaced persons, another 200,000 have sought refuge in neighboring Chad, violence continues to plague civilian populations, as we see in the current spike of violence, caused by banditry, actions initiated by rebel movements, and actions by government forces, and continued marauding by the janjawid militia. We continue to make categorically clear the responsibility of the Government of Sudan -- now the Government of National Unity -- that is must end support to the janjawid and work actively to stop its actions while ensuring discipline within the Government of National Union's (sic) own forces.

But the bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is that a political solution is needed to end the violence in Darfur.

We are trying to take actions. The U.S. government's actions -- the way ahead in Darfur is to continue to make clear to the government of Sudan its responsibility to insist that all sides respect the cease-fire and to work with regional countries -- Libya, Chad, Eritrea and others -- to try to continue to put pressure on the rebels to respect the cease-fire and to negotiate a political solution.

In that regard, Deputy Secretary Zoellick will be leading a mission next week to Kenya and to Sudan to advance the administration's efforts to restore peace to Darfur and set the groundwork for a lasting political settlement in Abuja. He's going to in those Nairobi talks bring the SLM leadership together, so that they can form a united front in their negotiations with the Government of National Unity.

So making it clear to the government of Sudan its responsibility, insisting on accountability of all sides to the cease-fire, pushing for the political solution in the talks to Darfur, we also are pushing the Government of National Unity to have a joint negotiating team at Abuja. And in my consultations and the administration's consultations with the first vice president, Salva Kiir, he told us that the Government of National Unity has established a high committee on Darfur, which will be headed by Bashir, will also have First Vice President Kiir, Second Vice President Taha and other cabinet ministers as the joint team that will then go to Darfur to negotiate with SLM and JEM.

So we'll continue to support the Abuja talks, the AU-led Abuja talks. We've sent a U.S. senior official as an observer. We've also sent and provided technical expertise to assist the mediator.

And then finally, our approach to Darfur is to strengthen the African Union mission there, strengthen it by pushing for it to have the capability, the 105 Canadian armored personnel carriers. We're also pushing to increase NATO training and advice. We're trying to ensure a consistent understanding by the AU forces of their mandate, continuing to look at U.N. logistical assistance and perhaps even blue-hatting the AU mission in Darfur to strengthen the security environment.

And then finally we're continuing to provide humanitarian assistance in Darfur and in southern Sudan. In fiscal year 2005, we provided over 650 million (dollars), mostly in humanitarian assistance and support to the African Union mission, and over 450 million (dollars) in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to other areas in Sudan, including southern Sudan and the three transition areas -- Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the USG continues its strong support for the south, and we will help the government of southern Sudan to build the institutions, capacity, transparency and infrastructure necessary for it to function.

We believe that the institutions in Sudan have changed substantially over the past 10 months since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which has led to the new national -- interim national constitution, the formation of a new Government of National Unity in Khartoum, and the new Government of Southern Sudan. We have to keep working with the SPLM to develop the new governmental institutions both in the south and in the north. We will continue to work with international partners to support the commissions and other integrated programs designed to facilitate the peaceful transition to Dr. Garang's vision of a united or unified government.

Congress and the administration share an interest in keeping the pressure on the central government, but also in supporting the new Government of Southern Sudan. We need to consult with Congress about how existing legal authorities may need to be modified so we can reinforce the SPLM while maintaining and increasing pressure on the north. I hope that I can work with you, Mr. Chairman, and the committee so we can move effectively address the challenges and opportunities of the peace agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the United States is on the right track. Our strategy is moving forward. With the strong support of the president and the secretary and the Congress, we believe we have the tools in place to maintain momentum, to influence the parties and to achieve our common goal of a peaceful Sudan.

Thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: Secretary Frazer, thank you very much for your testimony and for your leadership.

I'd like to begin the questioning, if I could. First, one of the real take-homes that Greg Simpkins (sp) and I took away after meetings with President Bashir, Taha, vice president, and Salva Kiir, the first vice president, especially with Salva Kiir -- he was only on the job into his seventh day when we met with him, but he was very committed to making the government work. He said, "I am part of this government and we want to make this government work," you know, "for all the right reasons," as he put it.

And my first question would be about whether or not you feel that unity government has really been integrated. I have read reports that I find somewhat disconcerting that when it came to handing out or allocating the top ministries, that the SPLM did not do all that well; that except for foreign affairs, perhaps, most of the key bureaucracies are safely vested in the other side, if you will.

And secondly, he made a number of points -- and I noticed in your testimony, and if you could speak to this, that you said that we want to consult with Congress about First Vice President Kiir's request that we allow U.S. companies to provide spare parts to rehabilitate Sudan's railways. I struck up that conversation as well when I was in Khartoum about how do you move masses of people from Khartoum back to the south. Yes, it has a dual-use capability, but railroads are indeed now -- or if the peace becomes more durable, does that become a way of providing the means for those people to get back to their homes?

Let me also ask you, if I could, on trafficking. As you know, I was the prime sponsor of the **Trafficking in Persons Act** in 2000, which led to the creation the **tiers, Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3** and the **Watch List. The Watch List**, as you know, we put in the '03 act.

I was very concerned when I saw that Sudan was upgraded, if you will, to watch list from Tier 3. If you could elaborate, if you will, on what concrete facts exist that would suggest that the government of Khartoum -- the government of Sudan merits that kind of treatment. It seems to me that that is still a major problem warranting Tier 3 status. But if you could -- .

On the government of southern Sudan, how well or poorly is -- and the government doing in the south in establishing that government? And then, on the issue of humanitarianism, and the lack of responsiveness by Khartoum, Greg and I saw and we've heard reports before and since our trip that the government has not been helpful in ensuring that the NGO community, the United Nations, our USAID personnel flow in an unfettered way. They have been profoundly unhelpful in many instances, which means that people are put at grave risk.

And finally, when it comes to accountability -- and Mr. Payne and I and many of us are trying to get Henry Hyde's bill, which is now a bipartisan piece of legislation, moved forward. But the key -- one of the key phrases in that legislation is the accountability, holding those men and women to account who have committed atrocities. Well, we know the U.N. Resolution 1593, which was adopted on March 29th, provides for referral to the ICC for those who have, perhaps, committed -- not perhaps; those who have committed atrocities. The International Commission of Inquiry recommended that the ICC prosecute; where is that? Is there a list of individuals on a printed page somewhere of people who need to be prosecuted at the ICC, and when will that be made public, if you will, and what's the status of that whole effort? Madame Secretary.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The -- on the national -- your first question was on the National Congress Party and the -- its domination of the Government of National Unity, particularly of the ministries, key ministries. I think that was the perception, particularly given that the National Congress Party received the Finance Ministry and the Energy Ministry as well.

Now, in our consultations with the SPLM, part of what we learned is that some of their capable senior officials wanted to be ministers in the government of southern Sudan, and so didn't put themselves forward to be part of the Government of National Unity, because the feeling is that there needs to be a very strong government of southern Sudan. So certainly, we continue to have concern and will watch carefully whether the Government of National Unity is dominated by the National Congress Party and what type of influence do the SPLM ministers have in that government.

I had the opportunity to visit Sudan earlier in October. And I actually posed this question to a couple of the SPLM ministers, to say do you have authority within your ministry?

What's the nature of all of these mini-advisers? Is there a shadow government? And I was assured that they do have the authority. But I do think that, clearly, SPLM is the new member of this government, and the United States must continue in our effort to back and to transform the nature of this regime, which is characterized by many other members of this committee appropriately; that we must work very closely with the SPLM and build their capacity, continue to assist them so that they can be an effective force within the Government of National Unity, an effective, transformative force. And certainly, I think that the vice president's visit to the United States, being the first country that he came to on an international visit, suggests his understanding and continued appreciation of the strong support of the United States for his role as the second-senior official in that Government of National Unity.

The government of Southern Sudan -- the same story. We need to continue to support them, build their capacity, especially help them with their development. When I, again, was traveling, I went to Juba. I met with the first vice president, Salva Kiir. I met with senior officials -- SPLM officials. I had an opportunity to meet with Rebecca Garang, who is now the government of Southern Sudan's minister of transport. And this issue of spare parts did come up, and they were saying that they had, because they government of Sudan sent soldiers through the railways, they had destroyed the rail capacity. Now they need development to come through those same railways. And they did raise the question of the possibility of allowing for spare parts.

REP. SMITH: If I could -- are they in favor of that -- (inaudible) -- sanctions --

MS. FRAZER: When I was in -- When I was in Juba, they spoke favorably of it. But what I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that the first vice president is here himself and will have an opportunity to meet with members, and that question can be posed directly to him.

But a couple of weeks ago, in my consultations with them in Juba, they all spoke favorably for it. But we need to look across the board at how we can help the government of Southern Sudan. It will also involve supporting the reform of the security sector, professionalizing the SPLM. And because Sudan is -- we have sanctions on them, many numerous sanctions on them, we many need carve-outs. But I think that Ambassador Zoellick, when he goes to Sudan, will have a better opportunity to make an assessment of that and then come back to the Congress with some specifics of ways in which we may need to look at authorities to provide the avenue for assisting the government of Southern Sudan while maintaining the pressure on the National Congress Party within the Government of National Unity.

You asked me a question, Mr. Chairman, about the trafficking, and it indeed -- the recommendation has gone forward that Sudan be put on the Tier 2 watch list. And the reason behind that was specifically related to the sexual violence against women. And as Secretary Rice had asked -- when she went to Darfur, she met with women who had been abused and violated. And she asked the administration to come up with a -- an initiative to counter violence against women, and we sent that to the government of Sudan.

They developed an action plan, which was a tailored work plan to address those issues. In particular, Sudan committed to implement a plan to address sexual violence against women in Darfur itself. It also helped to assist with the repatriation of a hundred Sudanese children, camel jockeys from Qatar and began investigation into the trafficking of these children, and it was the basis of that action that they were put on the watch list with the understanding that they could always go back to Tier 3 if we weren't satisfied with the actions being taken to implement the plan. And so that was the basis of the Tier 2 Watch List. But again, it's not a permanent status. It can easily revert to Tier 3.

REP. SMITH: Excuse me, but if you could provide for the record a copy of that national plan, I think it would be very helpful.

MS. FRAZER: Certainly.

REP. SMITH: Because the idea behind the act was to try to prod constructive action, and as you pointed out so well, if this is nothing but a paper promise, they should immediately revert back to Tier 3. So I thank you for that explanation.

MS. FRAZER: Absolutely.

You asked about the humanitarian. We still have concerns that the government of Sudan, namely the National Congress Party, is not allowing humanitarian access, and Ambassador Zoellick raised this specifically in his conversation with Vice President Taha this afternoon and got some assurances. But you know assurances -- words are one thing, action is another. And so we will continue to press the government to allow for that humanitarian access.

And on the accountability, as far as I know, Mr. Chairman, the ICC list has not become public. But Ambassador Zoellick again has signaled that if the ICC requires assistance, the United States stands ready for any assistance, but they haven't asked us for any assistance in developing their list or getting the government to adhere to that -- to the -- any ICC charges.

REP. SMITH: Just two final questions before yielding to Mr. Payne. The Sudan Tribune had an article online over the weekend that said "Darfur rebel SLA opens unity conference without leader." Can you speak to how -- you know, what that means in terms of not having a segment of the group there, including its leader?

And secondly, you heard in my opening comments concerns about the pay for African Union troops. Has that been rectified? And I also note that the administration, you know, has it identified. Approximately \$100 million we're expected to contribute to the African Union, and will that be forthcoming and when?

MS. FRAZER: I missed the very first part of your question on the African Union.

REP. SMITH: African troops. What we heard from commanders on the ground was that -- and we also heard it in Addis when we went to AU headquarters -- that they have been promised about \$15 a day; they were getting \$1.28 a day. And while the moral implications have not really shown themselves yet, it will and it will soon, especially if there's remittances back to their families back home, and they don't have it.

MS. FRAZER: Sure.

REP. SMITH: And I mean, it's a tough posting to begin with and to be under paid. And they told us at headquarters and in the field in Darfur they're cash poor. They have airlift; they have other kinds of help; but they're not getting the cash.

MS. FRAZER: Okay. Thank you.

Yes, on Darfur, the SLM, Mani Minawi is there, but Abdul Wahid is not at the SLM conference. We raised this question -- I raised this question with the first vice president Salva Kiir. He said that there may be some concerns in terms of security of Abdul Wahid, and that that's the reason that the Nairobi conference will be so important, because it'll be on neutral ground.

And we expect both leaders to show up at the Nairobi conference that the United States will be hosting.

So it's critical that the SLM come together. They are providing an excuse for the National Congress Party to not make progress on the peace front. And so without rebel unity, we -- it's just -- the negotiations won't go anywhere. So we're taking an active role to try to bring them together.

On the African Union, there is a financial shortfall, which is partly the reason why we're looking at, over time, the possibility of blue-hatting them as a U.N. force. But certainly the United States is looking to meet its shortfall, which is about \$100 million. The EU is also coming up with the money. As far as the pay differential, it's my understanding that the AU has rectified it.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much.

Thank you for your testimony. And I'd just like to ask a few questions.

Would USAID -- how is it going to organize itself? We were hoping that there would have been some peace dividends after the signing of the accord. And will there be a permanent mission in Southern Sudan, or will you work out of Khartoum? Or would there be a special coordinator to deal with the aid projects, which would be very important to the South, since they are certainly in need of development.

And secondly, with a brand new government being set up, I wonder if the SPLN will be given specific support in setting up regional governments in Nuba, Southern Blue Nile, and other places. Since they have to start from scratch, it seems that they would need financial and technical support. And I wonder whether the U.S. government, through USAID or other agencies, has any formal plan to work with the government of South Sudan.

Also, I noted that -- and I'm not sure the funds that the chairman was talking about -- but there was \$100 million requested from the Southern -- the emergency supplement, and it was reduced in Congress by almost two-thirds; only \$37 million was appropriated. And I wonder if the administration is going to come forward with a new request, and whether there will be a need for us to try to develop a strategy to get those funds in play.

And you mention about the commissions that were called for in the CPA, which you mentioned in your testimony, a response to the first vice president's visit here. And I wonder whether -- whether the pronouncements that are being made by the government of Sudan is -- are they real, or is it just because Salva Kiir is coming here, and to try to have a smooth -- a smooth series of meetings here that the government of Sudan is acting as if it's trying to play ball. But, I mean, it's very difficult to tell the real intent. But I wonder whether the feeling of the administration is that these are things that are just being done because of the visit here by Salva Kiir.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. The -- on your first question, Congressman Payne, in terms of USAID and how it's going to organize itself, there is a building being constructed in Juba. And the plan is to move the operations that are in Nairobi to Juba to -- so that we can more effectively support the government of southern Sudan. That support includes training, helping to train the capacity of the SPLM officials both in the assembly as well as in the executive, the ministers themselves; also trying to provide assistance with the budgetary monitoring and transparency so that the oil revenue that they'll get as well as the donor assistance can be accounted for and used for the people. We are also trying to work with India and IRI and other institutions to try to build the political party, the government -- the SPLM becoming a political party able to contest elections over the future and supporting the parliamentarians -- just assembly members with training. So, yes, we are doing -- we're -- a whole range of activities to try to support the government of southern Sudan. We think it's critical. That's why the administration is focused on Sudan in the first place. It was because of the grievances in the south, the atrocities that were taking place in the south. So, it behooves us to really put a focus on assisting them in establishing a peaceful and prosperous Sudan, and particularly southern Sudan.

On the question of the funds, yes, I do look forward to working with you to try to develop a strategy to get the type of funding and assistance that will be necessary to fully support the peace process in Sudan. And I will come back to have -- to discuss that directly with you on how we might address any shortfalls in funding that we're facing. Nov 01, 2005 18:01 ET .EOF

Your question about the commissions is apt. It's a -- timing is everything, and I'm certain that the first vice president's visit here helped to get the announcement.

That said, when I visited Juba, the first vice president told me at that time that he had submitted the names of the SPLM ministers who would be part of these new commissions, and it was clear that many of the commissions required government of southern Sudan ministers. Until the government was -- the government of southern Sudan was established, the commissions could not go forward.

And so I believe that it has been in the works, without a doubt. And as I said, the first vice president told us this morning that when he left Sudan, he expected the decree to have been already announced, because he left it on Bashir's desk, to be done with everyone having agreed on the composition of the commission.

So I don't doubt that the timing was intended for effect, but it does represent, I think, considerable work, particularly considerable work on the part of the government of southern Sudan and on Vice President Kiir's part.

REP. PAYNE: Thank you very much.

Just my final two questions. The State Department, as you know, in the last administration, had a very intensive interviewing of, I think, over 1,200 individuals that built up a case to declare genocide in Darfur. And it would appear to me that this information would certainly be helpful for the ICC. And I know that there is the problem of formal relations, although the U.S. did abstain and therefore allowed the International Criminal Court to proceed. And for that, we're very thankful.

However, we do feel that since we did indicate by our abstention that we felt that there should be prosecutions going on in Sudan by the ICC, it would appear that we would try to cooperate with the court and to allow the court, if they ask, to review any materials that was taken -- that Secretary Powell built the case of genocide. And so I would hope that some way there can be cooperation between ICC and our State Department.

And just finally, if you might indicate to us -- recently a senior diplomat was sent to Khartoum, and I just wonder: Is the State Department intending to name him as an ambassador, the person as an ambassador? Are we getting ready to normalize relations with Sudan?

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. Yes, Ambassador Zoellick -- Deputy Secretary Zoellick has made very clear that if we were asked by the ICC for our help, we would try to make sure that this gets pursued fully, to use his words, because we don't want to see impunity for any of these actors. And so they haven't asked, but if they did, we're -- we stand ready to assist.

On the question of the senior diplomat, no, it's not a matter of normalizing relations. What we did was, we sent Ambassador Hume there, and we sent Ambassador Hume, who used to be the former ambassador to South Africa, as well as the former ambassador -- Algiers -- he speaks Arabic. He's got extensive expertise in conflict management.

He worked in Mozambique. He's been working at the U.N. What we wanted was a senior diplomat who could pursue U.S. interests, and our interests are clear. Our interests are we need someone that can put pressure on the National Con-

gress Party to end its support for the Janjawid, to stop the violence in Darfur. We need a senior person who understands how the former liberation movement, the SPLM, can be transformed into a government of Southern Sudan. And he has the expertise across the board. And so our sending him there was in the U.S. interest. It was in no way a signal of a normalization of relations. And I think we're not trying to normalize relations with the government of Sudan or the Government of National Unity. What we're trying to do is implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement so that we transform the very nature of that regime. And we need someone senior with that mandate who's able to engage all parties to push forward on the areas that I outlined: support for the government of Sudan, implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and ending the violence in Darfur and creating a broader peace -- prosperous and unified Sudan.

REP. PAYNE: Last question or two. We mentioned that there had been 105 armed personnel carriers delivered to the AU mission to go in Sudan. But from what I understand, that they were supposed to be delivered, but the government of Sudan has blocked them from being delivered and have refused to cooperate. I wonder if you could comment on that?

And just finally, I don't know whether Mr. Roger Winter speaks Arabic, I was under the impression that he was some type of an envoy. I don't think anyone knows Sudan any better than Roger Winter. I think that all members of the committee has a great deal of respect for his long-time interest and -- more than interest, but he's dedicated his whole life working in Sudan, even before becoming part of the government. And I just wonder what role will he play, if in fact we have a more senior diplomat in Khartoum?

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. Yes, the armored personnel carriers have been held up by President Bashir. I think we can say that it's President Bashir himself that's holding up those armored personnel carriers. What they've agreed to do is to let 35 come in. We're continuing to push for all of the armored personnel carriers to be allowed in to support the AU mission in Darfur.

So we're continuing to pressure. Certainly this is something that Deputy Secretary Zoellick will raise in his mission to Sudan next week. It's something that I raised when I met with President Bashir, when I met with Vice President Taha and other officials. So we're continuing to push on that front.

The question of Roger Winter, who was our special representative to the deputy secretary and how he will interface with Ambassador Hume, who is our charge now. The idea here is that the charge is there permanently, in terms of he doesn't go in and out. He's a presence there daily. And we can call him and say you need to put pressure on these guys right now at this moment in time. And so he's sort of managing our operation and has a daily presence there.

Roger Winter, as you said, has a longtime engagement in Sudan. He has excellent contacts there. He has a good sense of what's actually taking place. He will continue to be a senior adviser, especially to the deputy secretary. He will continue to have an influence and a role as an envoy going back and forth, in and out. He'll continue to meet with SPLM and government officials as necessary. He and I will work closely together in the formulation of our Sudan policy. So his role -- he will continue to meet with constituency groups there and here. So his role is one of more roving, whereas the charge is a permanent presence to try to keep the pressure on.

REP. PAYNE: I have no more questions. I just want to say that, you know, the government of Sudan once again, 105 armored personnel carriers supposed to go in, well, they hold them up, we may let a third in, we'll get back to you next week. You know, it's the same thing they've been doing decade after decade after decade.

Now, I know we need to try to work along with them, but you see it's the same bloody hands that let Osama bin Laden live in that country from '91 to '96, that planned the bombing of the Nairobi and the Dar es Salaam U.S. embassies. People I knew, had been there a week before and knew families that worked in that embassy who are dead now. Same government. And once again, we're going to start fiddling while Rome burns.

In dealing with this government, we ought to have a policy that tells them they either have to make the policy work or we ought to come down with some serious policy against them! This business about we let a few in and we may let them out, and some of our humanitarian groups now have not been issued any more permits to come in, Doctors Without Borders were given a hard time because they were outspoken, it just continues as people die every day in this millennium. It makes no sense at all.

REP. SMITH (?): Would my friend yield?

REP. PAYNE: Yes.

REP. SMITH (?): If I could, Madame Secretary, ask you, in addition to the armored personnel carriers not being allowed in, what other materiel has been stopped by Bashir?

And I had asked earlier about the humanitarian crisis, though, because we've heard it, it's ongoing, the reluctance to allow the Norwegians, for example, in Kalma camp to get the director, who was absolutely committed, suffered malaria himself doing this humanitarian work, didn't know from one day to the next whether or not his mission was going to be decertified or not re-upped by the Bashir government

What other problems do you see? I mean, you have a platform. If on this side the government of Sudan was sitting, what other things would you say "this has to be done"?

I think my friend is absolutely right, you know, to allow a third in but not the other two-thirds, constantly crippling the efforts of the international community to help the people on the ground.

MS. FRAZER: Yes. Thank -- thank you very much. The Kalma camp issue also came in in Ambassador Zoellick's phone call with Vice President Taha and emphasized again that that has to be resolved. He got assurances; we'll see. We know the character of the regime.

I would also say that redeployment of the government troops from Juba is necessary. It's an immediate necessary action that they must take. It's absolutely unacceptable for them to continue to have their presence there. They're behind the schedule in redeployment; it represents psychological warfare for them to continue to be there. And so, I would push very strongly on the government -- and I know that Ambassador Zoellick is going to do so -- that those government forces redeploy and get out of the south on -- at -- because they're already behind schedule. So that certainly is an area.

A second area that's important, now they established this boundary commission. That's one of the announcements that's made. But it's critical that that boundary commission's work be transparent and that we have oversight, because it establishes the line for where the north and the south is. And as the first vice president has stated and others have stated, that line is creeping southward, so that they're capturing more area of the south, claiming it to be north, particularly where there are oil fields. And that will have a major impact on revenue-sharing. And so that's another area that we have to get immediate action and have some very clear -- very clear oversight.

So, those are two areas. And certainly, to allow, there's at least 11,000 international NGO workers in Sudan. They have to have free access, they have to be allowed to do their work.

And so, these are -- that would be three areas that I'm sure that Ambassador Zoellick is going to continue to push on, and I certainly will as well.

REP. SMITH (?): Thank you.

REP. SMITH: Chairman Royce.

REP. EDWARD R. ROYCE (R-CA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we have several hundred thousand people wandering around the desert of Sudan without any help. They've been run off of their land by the Janjawid, and part of the strategy on the part of the government has been to prevent any assistance from being delivered to those individuals.

It's a daunting task for the African Union, because this is a country the size of -- this is a region. Darfur is the size of France. And when Diane Watson and I were there in -- earlier this year in Darfur, Sudan, we had an opportunity to be briefed by one of the African Union military units that are there in order to record the attacks.

And we got first-hand accounts of these mysteriously coincidental attacks by the government and the Janjawid, where the government comes in and attacks the villages, and then the Janjawid horsemen do the clean-up, seize the property, do the pursuit of those who flee. And allegedly, the volume of these attacks are down. But now I read that the African Union this week have come forward and said, no, they've documented yet another attack. The government is working with the Janjawid -- it's their assertion -- on attacking a camp.

So I would ask you to specifically tell us about government support for the Janjawid. How is it done? Who is doing it? The International Criminal Court is supposed to be undertaking an examination. They're interviewing Janjawid leaders who are ratting out people in the government, and vice versa, pointing fingers. But how widespread is this backing? What do we know?

And another thing I would like to know, is that President Bouteflika assured us when we were there -- I mean, he had conversations with the government in Sudan in which they agreed no longer to engage in use of airpower in attacks on

villages. What air assets are being utilized? I'd like to know that. I saw recent press accounts that the Sudanese government was purchasing 34 Chinese-built jet fighters. So I'd ask you if there's anything to do that. I certainly would want to know -- and the members of this committee I know want to know if there's any more use of airpower.

The reason I bring up the question specifically about these Chinese fighters is because our past experience with the government of Sudan includes their use of helicopter gunships built in China deployed in attacks on civilians in Southern Sudan. These were not only Chinese-made, but they were based on the Chinese-built airstrips controlled by the Chinese oil companies. So if there's the introduction of these assets, I'd like to understand how that can be, because I remember some seven months ago the U.N. arms embargo that we were involved in shepherding through, and the U.N. Security resolution -- I think that was 1591 that was passed. So apparently it has not been implemented if the discussion now is to bring these Chinese fighters into the theater.

And lastly, in your testimony, you note that we continue to make categorically clear the responsibility of the government of Sudan -- now the Government of National Unity -- to both end support to the Janjawid and work actively to stop its actions while ensuring discipline within the Government of National Unity's old forces. Those are the words from the testimony that we got today. And, by the way, just -- I know with the administration -- the chairman and his staff -- his staff has worked diligently to try to get testimony in advance so that we can read through the testimony rather than an hour before the hearing. But I just raise that as a procedural question. But my point is what are we doing besides protests to get this message across?

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. And let me apologize for the lateness of the testimony. It --

REP. ROYCE: I fully suspect this has nothing to do with you. I -- I know you very well, Jendayi -- Secretary Frazer. I know that your testimony was submitted to the administration for clearance. The point I'm raising --

MS. FRAZER: Yes.

REP. ROYCE: -- is that so often, in my committee and in the chairman's committee here, it's the day before. And some of us have the -- have the eccentricity of reading these things the night before, and when we can't go through it in order to really look at the statements and the questions that we'd like to ask, it, I think, doesn't allow Congress to as effectively do its oversight responsibilities. That comment was not directed to you. It's directed to the administration, so thank you.

MS. FRAZER: Yes, certainly.

You ask a very complex and difficult question for me on how exactly is the Janjawid operating. I'll answer it a few ways. One, we clearly have seen in the past that the Janjawid were armed by the government, that the government of Sudan -- this is before it became a Government of National Unity -- did provide air cover for their operation. So there was clear coordination between the Janjawid and the government of Sudan, the National Congress Party.

What Salva Kiir -- the first vice president Salva Kiir has said -- as often happens when you support armed militia groups, you can lose control of them. It's his --- it's his view that the government has lost control of Janjawid. That's not to say that there was a recent -- I know there was a recent attack on a village in which there seemed to be some coordination again.

REP. ROYCE: According to the African Union -- and those troops are highly trained --

MS. FRAZER: Yes.

REP. ROYCE: -- they're sort of our canary in the mineshaft there, warning about these attacks --

MS. FRAZER: Right.

REP. ROYCE: And I -- one other point. I would think that if we could increase or expand their mandate to not just protection of their units and their observer status, but also protection of civilian population, it would give a deterrent effect in the region and might really encourage so many displaced people who are wandering the desert to at least come in close in order to try to get this -- the support and defense they need to stay alive.

MS. FRAZER: Yes. No, a point very well taken. And it's our understanding that the AU actually has the mandate to protect civilians as well as themselves, but that different units don't seem to understand their mandate very well. So partly we have to work with the AU to make sure that there's communication and capacity, and that there's a headquar-

ter element that can -- that can coordinate better the various units of the force itself. And so that's where we're looking for potentially NATO to play a role. We'll work with the AU to try to get NATO to support the headquarters' capacity.

REP. ROYCE: And the numbers, too, because the week we were there, there was an attack to the south of us on a village.

MS. FRAZER: Yes.

REP. ROYCE: And because the AU troops were spread out so thinly through this region, you know, they weren't able to deter that, so we need --

MS. FRAZER: Yes.

REP. FRAZER: -- we need support for a more robust force in the West.

MS. FRAZER: Absolutely.

On the question of the Sudanese government purchasing Chinese fighters, I will have to go back and look into this. This is -- this would be very concerning, as you said. We'll look into it. I will be actually going to Beijing at the end of this month, and certainly we will raise -- Sudan is on the agenda to be discussed, and we'll raise this. If, in fact, they're circumventing an arms embargo, that's a very serious issue. But it's -- it -- I actually don't have the information that you've cited. So I have to --

REP. ROYCE: I read it in Aviation Week and Space Technology, and it was the assertion that they had purchased these 35 -- 34 new fighters. So if -- if you could check that with those sources, and also maybe we could look at the budget on the Sudanese side. If there's transparency in the budget, we'll be able to see if that's budgeted.

MS. FRAZER: Yeah.

REP. ROYCE: Thank you.

MS. FRAZER: Uh-huh.

REP. SMITH: Ambassador (sic) Watson?

REP. WATSON: Thank you so much.

We understand that during the course of the Sudan civil war there were tens of thousands of children who were employed by various armed groups as child soldiers. And I guess that's USAID or other aid agencies -- estimate that 20,000 of them have been demobilized since 2001. So, given the importance of restoring children's access to education in conflict and post-conflict situations, can you describe for us any assistance that USAID is providing to address the needs of reintegrating these child soldiers in the region, and what would be the future plans, if you are aware, for educating children in the Sudan? I mean, how can we bring these children back in so they can re-enter childhood?

MS. FRAZER: Yes. Thank you. I do know that USAID is planning to work on reintegration, and certainly the children soldiers would be part of that reintegration. Let me see if we -- if I can find --

REP. WATSON: Sure.

MS. FRAZER: -- some more specific information. (Pause, searches documents.)

Congresswoman Watson, it looks like I'm going to have to come back to you with the specific plan that USAID has for --

REP. WATSON: Sure. You can --

MS. FRAZER: -- for integration of these children. I know that that specifically is in a disarming, demobilization, reintegration. They're going to focus on reintegration, but I don't have in front of me their specific plan for dealing with the children. So I can come back to you with that.

REP. WATSON: Yes. And I would hope that the chair would entertain maybe another hearing on the positives, that there are some urgent actions that need to be taken now. And for the future, you know, how do we stabilize these young people?

So it's not that I need the information this moment. I would like to know what the plans are.

So if the chair would be so kind as to hold subsequent hearings, we can get the information then. If not, I can take it in writing.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you.

REP. WATSON: But there's no rush on it; I just want to know --

REP. SMITH: If the gentlelady will yield --

REP. WATSON: Yes.

REP. SMITH: -- this is part of an ongoing effort.

REP. WATSON: Yeah.

REP. SMITH: I can guarantee we will have several additional hearings on Darfur, on Sudan. So you will have ample time.

REP. WATSON: Thank you so very much, Madame Secretary.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you.

And Congressman (sic) Watson, let me just say that we do have experience with this in Liberia, where we -- I and Congressman Payne were just there for the elections. And what we've done is, we've actually taken many of those children and given them the skills training to help rebuild the infrastructure in Liberia. And I would imagine that USAID will work on some of that type of skills training, but I certainly will come back to you with a detailed plan.

REP. WATSON: And I would -- thank you. I would like to emphasize that these children need not only retraining in skill sets, but they're going to need some psychological and emotional support. I'm a school psychologist in my other life, and what I know about these children -- many of them orphans, many of them were probably forced into picking up these guns, and many of them were too young to understand the permanency of the death that they caused. And so I would hope that in your plan and working with the children, as we say, you work with the whole child --

MS. FRAZER: Yes.

REP. WATSON: -- and be sure that they have a mind-set and a thought process where they will not go back into this behavior again. And I'm sure they were forced in probably the most gruesome ways to take up arms and kill innocent people.

MS. FRAZER: Sure.

REP. WATSON: So we have to minister to their psychological and emotional side as well.

Thank you so very much, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Watson.

Ambassador Frazer, just let me ask you a couple of additional questions. We've been talking a little bit about the mandate of the AU. And first of all, if you could assess what your feeling is about how well they have performed -- I would just say parenthetically that I think both Mr. Simpkins and I, as much as you can glean from, you know, a couple of day visit in Darfur, were very impressed by their esprit de corps. They were very committed. When I got talking to Major Ajumbo (sp), who's from Kenya, we compared notes because he was very active in peacekeeping in Sarajevo, in the former Yugoslavia. And so, you know, he's no stranger to being deployed in very difficult straits.

Is their mandate enough? Is it clear enough? How would you like to see it either changed or expanded? Because I am concerned, I think, like many, that -- but again, when you don't have armored personnel carriers, and you're riding around in mini vans -- not mini vans, but small vehicles, that hardly gives you the kind of protection to have a more robust mandate -- but if you could speak to the mandate issue.

Secondly, in your prepared testimony, you mentioned that we convened a donor meeting on October 18th. Could you just give us an update on what happened at that donor meeting to help the African Union?

Third, I -- on the issue of Dr. Garang's tragic death, do you have any insight as to -- you know, obviously most of us hoped that it was an accident, but obviously there was also some suggestions, including by the president of Uganda, that it might have been something other than that. What does the evidence tell you so far?

Number four, the Lord's Resistance Army in or new Juba, in the South. What is being done to get the Sudanese to end its relationship with these government rebels, the Lord's Resistance Army?

And finally, if I could, a mention was made earlier about the \$535,000 contract to CR International. Could you elaborate on what that was all about?

And you know we've had lobby firms in the past that have represented dictatorial governments. I remember from Haiti to governments in Eastern Europe very reputable -- maybe not reputable by the clients that they were able to front for -- often come up and make a presentation that has an awful lot of surface appeal. I remember when I was leading the effort to stop MFN for Romania because of the Securitate's horrific abuse of religious believers and other human rights abuses and -- under the Ceausescu regime.

They had lobby firms that would make -- you know, every year when MFN was coming up for review -- had this excellent -- seemingly excellent talking points that really got you to look askance as to what was really happening on the ground and put a gloss on gross misbehavior, so if you could speak to the lobbying firms as well.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you. Thank you.

The mandate -- the AU needs to tell us if the mandate is not sufficient, and they haven't yet told us that is the case. As I say, it's a mandate that clearly states that they can protect civilians and protect themselves from attack. But it's also clear that there's certain units that don't seem to understand that mandate very clearly. So part of this is communication.

It may be that they need a more robust mandate, but they need to carry out the one that they have first, and also, as I said, let us know if indeed -- and we don't -- we're not opposed to a more robust mandate or for a more robust mandate. We'll follow the lead of the forces in Darfur and try to make sure that they have what they need, whether that be mandate, as well as equipment, training and most importantly logistics and command and control, because as you say, they've operated very well, particularly at the battalion level.

They've done a fantastic job. They stepped up to the plate, and we should commend their effort and continue to support their area. But when you start talking about brigade-level operations, they need more support at the headquarters element -- more planning, more logistics, make sure they get the fuel that they need, et cetera. And so we are looking at how we can assist them.

This is not new to the administration. We worked very much like this with the ECOWAS force in Liberia, where we had a EUCOM element embedded in their planning headquarters to assist with that brigade-level operation. And it's also the case that it may be that over time, particularly if we talk about increasing the troop levels for the AU, that we may need to look at a blue U.N. force because the AU may be tapped out in terms of its ability to get new troop contributors, because, frankly, they're all over. They're in Cote d'Ivoire, they're in Liberia, they're in Burundi. They're stretched fairly thin. The countries that normally come up and provide troops are fairly stretched, and so it may be that we need to look at a U.N. blue-hatting. But they've done very well. And, you know, I think the African Union is demonstrating the very philosophy of Africans taking control of their own destiny. And certainly they've stepped up in Darfur.

There's no information that we have that Dr. Garang's death was anything but an accident. I think the investigation is going on, but as far as the initial assessments, it was indeed a tragic -- a very tragic accident.

As far as the LRA is concerned, there has been an agreement between the government of Sudan and the government of Uganda to allow for the government of Uganda to have sort of quick action in the southern territory. We believe that the SPLM will become an effective part of that relationship to try to address the LRA threat. The LRA is actually starting to attack SPLM. So it's a very, very dangerous situation, and I think we have to take and do whatever we can to push the government of Sudan, because what we fear is that there may be elements within the military that continues to provide information to the LRA, and maybe even arms. They may not represent government of Sudan policy. That's a question that's still out there. But there's certainly some type of assistance, we believe, continuing with the LRA.

On the question of the lobby, the only thing that I can say there is that certainly not -- one lobby can't change the administration's approach to Sudan. We think that this is a regime that needs fundamental transformation. That's been our approach from day one. As I said, January 22nd, President Bush said that he needs -- we need to change and stop the killing that was taking place. That continues to apply in Darfur.

This administration is very serious about what -- the challenges in Sudan and where the responsibility lies in Sudan. So certainly one lobbyist can't change in any way, advocating for whomever, the fundamental approach of the administration on Sudan.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Payne?

REP. PAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we realize that one lobbyist can't change, you know, this administration probably. However, the thing that's baffling is why would the administration -- even though one lobbyist can't necessarily change the policy of this administration -- why would the administration break an eight-year sanction -- regardless to whether the lobbyist can change it or not -- to change a sanctions law to allow a lobbyist to be paid \$530,000 by the government of Sudan to lobby the Congress and the administration.

Now, on one hand we say that we want to really show Sudan that we're serious. How do you show them that we're serious when you allow them to have a lobbyist come in?

Now, I know it wasn't made on your level. However, I'm simply saying it sends the wrong message. It sends the message that the administration is not serious about Sudan. We had sanctions on gum arabic. The administration will allow gum arabic to come into this country unimpeded because gum arabic is something that some corporations want, and the administration is not going to stop gum arabic from Sudan to come in, in spite of the fact that we have sanctions on Sudan.

And so you see, the thing that's frustrating is that we say the right things, we talk things, but then on the other hand, it seems like we concede, and we cajole, and we finesse this government of Sudan. We don't have to do that. We're the most powerful nation in the world. We don't have to play around with Sudan. There is no excuse for it. It's disgraceful. It absolutely makes no sense. Why do we have to play around with Sudan? We don't play around with anybody else. When we're serious about something, as we can see, we make our feelings known. But why do we play around with Sudan? It makes no sense at all to allow a law to be changed to allow a lobby firm to come in to lobby.

If I were Bashir and Taha, I'd say things have gone all right. You know, they wink here and nod. And we're just going to do the same thing.

If I were the government of Sudan, I'd continue to do what I'm doing anyway, because I would say that they're not serious. Why aren't they serious? Well, they're letting our government come in, they're letting us violate the CPA, they allowed a lobbyist to come in, they sent a top former ambassador, very distinguished person, to be here, not to be an ambassador, but to just keep an eye on things that are going on. I think that -- and I can't understand why our government continues to allow this dastardly, murderous government to have a wink and a nod. I just can't understand it. It's not a question, it's just a statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Thank you.

If I could, if the gentleman would yield for one second, the record should note that on the gum Arabic question both Mr. Payne and I were united. When the original Sudanese Peace Act went through our committee, way back in the 1990s, we originally wanted to proscribe that in terms of it -- its ability to come into this country.

There was another New Jerseyan who also sits on this committee who took the opposite view, and that view prevailed. So we, at the mark-up level, could not hold onto that sanction. But we were united on that in trying to keep that. Even though Mars is located in our state, a number of pharmaceuticals -- Mars, obviously the great producer of chocolates, which I love. But, you know, at what -- at what price? So, we did unite on that one. But again, it was another member from our state who led the effort in the opposite direction.

Mr. Tancredo.

REP. THOMAS G. TANCREDO (R-CO): Mr. Chairman, because I'm -- I have just a -- maybe a couple of questions. And if they've -- if you've answered them while I was called out of the room, please tell me, and I will just simply read the transcript.

First of all, the issue of -- other countries that are aiding the rebel movements in Darfur, what is their -- what's in it for them? Why are they doing that? That's one --

MS. FRAZER: Okay.

REP. TANCREDO: Go ahead.

MS. FRAZER: Okay. Yes. Thank you -- thank you very much, Congressman.

The other countries that are supporting the rebels in Darfur: Chad, it may be ethnic and tribal-based support; Eritrea, it's probably more strategic. Eritrea has had issues with the character of the regime itself, just as the United States has had trouble with the character of the regime. And so, they may be supporting various rebel forces to try to transform the nature of the regime.

REP. TANCREDO: And what are we doing -- what are our communications with them?

MS. FRAZER: Our communications at this moment is that the solution to Darfur and the solution to the East is negotiation, that we have a comprehensive peace agreement in place that provides for the devolving of power from the center to the periphery, that provides for power-sharing, wealth-sharing, and that what we need to do is push the rebels to form a united front and to negotiate so that they can become part of the Government of National Unity, deliver benefits to their population, and help the SPLM to transform the character of that regime as part of that Government of National Unity.

REP. TANCREDO: Secondly, the ICC and its -- the status of its investigation. I know -- I'm well aware of our position with regard to the ICC. But several of us have attempted to, you know, make sure that we would like the State Department to help and to cooperate in any way possible with that investigation. What is the status?

MS. FRAZER: This issue did come up earlier.

REP. TANCREDO: All right. That's okay. I was just -- you don't have to be redundant. I'll wait and read it.

Thank you very much.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you very much.

REP. SMITH: Just one final question, and Mr. Payne might have one final as well -- but really two.

H.R. 3127 as amended, does the administration have a position on that legislation?

And secondly, I did ask this previously, but, you know, I did ask multiple questions -- about that donor meeting on October 18th. And maybe you did answer it and I missed it, but what was concluded at that meeting for the African Union in terms of additional resources?

MS. FRAZER: Yes, thank you. On the question of the 3127, clearly we support the spirit of the legislation and the need for accountability for the perpetrators of violence and atrocities. We will continue to watch to see how the bill comes out. So we're -- and we're prepared to consult with you on it. But the spirit of it, certainly we're with you on that.

On the donors conference, it was to strengthen the African Union mission, particularly looking at funding over time, trying to build international support to continue that funding. And looking at the future of Darfur peacekeeping -- some of the issues that came up here: What is the mandate? How do we support the mandate that's currently there? Do they need a stronger mandate? What would be required if it were a stronger mandate? And how can you continue the funding in out years. So that was the purpose of the meeting.

REP. SMITH: Ranking Member Payne has a final statement.

REP. PAYNE: Oh, I just want to say that, you know, we commend your department for the success in Liberia and the runoff that is coming. An outstanding job done by the State Department. We are pleased, and fingers crossed, that Burundi will move forward. And although the U.S. was not totally involved, watched and encouraged, I'm sure, South Africa to move forward.

We're pleased that the difficult job at NDRC is being moved forward in your recent visit to Zimbabwe -- to Tanzania, rather. Dealing with the elections in Zanzibar and the tension that's been there for a decade or so is commendable. So we do feel that things that the department is doing is moving in the right direction and it's the right thing to do.

However, as you can see, members of Congress are very frustrated at U.S. policy in Sudan. We've been frustrated for a long time. And we think that because of the lack of real commitment on the part of the administration, that all of those things that are going well gets lost when we sit around and allow a government like that to have the privileges that it

does. And I hope that the message gets back to the food chain up that we're very serious about the situation and that we expect our government to start acting in a more assertive and a more responsible manner as relates to Sudan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. SMITH: Mr. Payne, thank you very much.

Ambassador, do you have any final comment you'd like to make?

MS. FRAZER: The only final comment is to thank you for convening this meeting, this hearing on Sudan. Again, as I said, I thank you for your commitment and resolve, Mr. Chairman, as well as the committee members.

And I just want to restate and assure you that the administration feels as deeply as you do, and that comes from the very top, from President Bush himself, who is very strong on Sudan and what is necessary to get peace there. And so we'll continue to work together -- (inaudible).

REP. SMITH: (Inaudible) -- thank you so much for your leadership and for your gracious time you've spent here with us this afternoon. It's been very enlightening and informative. Thank you so much.

MS. FRAZER: Thank you.

REP. SMITH: The hearing's adjourned. #####

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11 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

November 1, 2005 Tuesday 2:13 AM EST

REP. SMITH HEARING FOCUSES ON CRISIS IN SUDAN AS FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT VISITS U.S.

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 755 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following press release:

While Sudanese First Vice-President Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit was meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick and other Administration officials during his first visit to the United States (since assuming his current position), Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) used the opportunity to investigate troubles surrounding the East African Nation and seek avenues for the United States to effectively direct its efforts. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations, Smith will welcome Dr. Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, to testify at a hearing entitled: "Sudan: Losing Ground on Peace?"

"For the last several years, we have devoted a great deal of attention to the troubled nation of Sudan, ranging from the North-South conflict to the genocide in Darfur to trafficking in persons and abuses by UN Peacekeepers," said Smith, who has held numerous hearings focusing on Sudan. "We need to develop a comprehensive plan that can best contribute to peace and hold those that have murdered, raped, enslaved and plagued the people of Sudan accountable."

U.S. attention has most recently been focused on the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, where as many as 400,000 people have been killed in a conflict that began early in 2003. Over 1 million people have been displaced from their homes, and hundreds of thousands remain in refugee camps. The Sudanese police force - under orders from the government - routinely fires shots over the camps nightly to frighten residents. Violence surrounding the camps - including robberies, rapes and murders - prohibits people from feeling safe enough to venture out for supplies. The African Union (AU) troops tasked with maintaining civility and peace are in need of equipment and supplies, and are only being paid an average of \$1.28 per day. Smith visited two of these camps in a trip to Sudan in August.

"Those in refugee camps live in constant fear and refuse to allow Sudanese police into their camps and are afraid to venture outside of the camps for water or firewood because of the ongoing violence occurring nearby," Smith said. "While in Darfur, I met with African Union troops who continually demonstrate extraordinary commitment under dire circumstances by putting their lives at stake for minimal return. We must help in providing equipment and supplies to enable them to accomplish their mission."

In September, Smith had expressed disappointment with the State Department decision to move Sudan from **Tier III** country - a ranking for worst offenders of **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) - to **Tier II**. Smith's Victims of Trafficking Protection Act of 2000 created the **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) produced by Office of **Trafficking in Persons** at the Department of State, which ranks countries according to their efforts to combat trafficking around the world into three **tiers**. Countries listed on **Tier 3** - the lowest ranking - are failing to take minimum steps to combat **human trafficking** and are denied non-humanitarian U.S. aid. According to a Presidential Determination Memorandum, the Secretary of State has determined that Sudan "is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance."

"America cannot condone human trafficking by any nation," said Smith, who is the author two landmark laws to combat human trafficking and aid the victims of this horrible crime. "We have made significant progress over the past few

years to combat human trafficking and actions like this send the wrong signal to nations - friend and foe alike - that turn a blind eye to this international horror."

The hearing will examine how the Administration is handling these issues and the ways that Congress can help in these efforts. Smith is the co-sponsor of HR 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005, which was authored by Rep. Henry Hyde. The bill would "impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity," and "support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations" and "support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan."

"The situation in Darfur requires prompt international action to stop the attacks on civilians and to try to ensure that the genocide in that nation is truly ended," Smith said. "The time for action on this issue is now."

Contact: Brad Dayspring, 202/225-3765.

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12 of 359 DOCUMENTS

FDCH Political Transcripts

November 1, 2005 Tuesday

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH (R-NJ) HOLDS A HEARING ON SUDAN PEACE

LENGTH: 14830 words

COMMITTEE: AFRICA, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPEAKER:

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH (R-NJ), CHAIRMAN

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

WITNESSES:

JENDAYI E. FRAZER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: SUBCOMMITTEE
ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS
HOLDS A HEARING ON SUDAN PEACE

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

SPEAKERS:

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH (R-NJ)
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EX OFFICIO

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SMITH: The subcommittee will come to order, and good afternoon, everybody.

Over the last few years, the U.S. Congress has devoted a great deal of attention to the troubled East African nation of Sudan. Initially, we were as concerned about the issue of slavery as we were about the country's destructive civil war.

Over several years, I've held several hearings on this issue of slavery, as early as March of 1996. Unfortunately, to this date, there is no proof that the existence of slavery in Sudan has been eliminated. Certainly, no reason has been given to Congress to justify the downgrading of Sudan's status as a nation guilty of trafficking in persons.

We have also devoted attention to resolving the 21-year-old north-south conflict between the National Congress Party government in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south. With their signing of the comprehensive peace agreement on January 9 of this year, there was great hope that this longstanding war would finally be brought to a peaceful and equitable end, so that the suffering would be over and reconstruction could begin. However, the sudden death of SPLM's leader, Dr. John Garang, seems to have thrown the peace process off track, and there is evidence that the National Congress Party may be trying to forestall the peace accords rather than to implement them.

Most recently, we've been focused on the traffic situation in the South Darfur region of Sudan, where as many as 400,000 people have been killed in a conflict that began in February of 2003. At one point, as many as 10,000 people per month were dying due to attacks led or abetted by the government of Sudan. More than 2 million residents of Darfur have been displaced, many of them living in internally displaced persons camps.

I visited two of these camps in August with my friend and colleague, my chief of staff on the subcommittee, who deals with African issues, Greg Simpkins. We went to Mershing camp and Kalma camp, perhaps the largest IDP camps in the world.

When we visited South Darfur this past August, again with Greg, we found encouraging signs in the determination of the people of Darfur to survive, even in horrendous circumstances. We also were impressed with the dedication of the USAID staff and contractors, as well as the NGOs on the ground, to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance despite many logistical and bureaucratic obstacles.

However, there are some troubling conditions that have only gotten worse since our return. The tens of thousands of people living in Kalma have refused to allow Sudanese police into the camp because they saw them as enemies. The police proved them right by shooting over the camp nightly to frighten residents. When shooting didn't chase camp residents out, a commercial embargo was put into place so that people in the camp were unable to bring in any supplies beyond what they can carry on themselves.

The people in Kalma camp, like the people in other IDP camps, are justifiably afraid to leave -- women who have been routinely raped upon venturing outside the camp for water or for firewood. Bandits are not only robbing people outside the camps, but they are killing them as well in all too many cases.

While in Darfur, we met with African Union troops, whose commanders told us that they had too few vehicles to patrol effectively in carrying out their mission to protect the people of Darfur from attack. A.U. commanders told us that the pay that they had been promised had not been forthcoming. When we were there in August, the average A.U. soldier was receiving \$1.28 a day, having been promised about \$15.00 a day. Given the attacks and kidnappings of A.U. troops, I believe they are demonstrating extraordinary commitment under trying circumstances.

Last month, the A.U. accused the government of Sudan of joining with the Janjaweed militias in attacking villages and refugee camps. After supposedly ending their collaboration with the Janjaweed weeks ago, this alliance appears to be back in place.

The Darfur peace talks have not made much progress, largely due to the splintering of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, or SOA, who with the Justice and Equality Movement, or JEM, declared war on the government of Sudan nearly three years ago. The government of Sudan also bears responsibility for these talks being stymied. Furthermore, Eritrea and Libya are supporting these rebel movements, and they too are making a peaceful settlement less likely.

Meanwhile, the SPLA, now part of the government of Sudan, has not played a noticeable role in the Darfur conflict, as they did under Dr. John Garang. However, failure to resolve the Darfur situation could help unravel the peace between the north and the south. Certainly that peace agreement faces its own challenges from a National Congress Party that seems to want an agreement in name only and from an SPLM struggling to regain its footing after the death of its long-time leader.

Too many aspects of the comprehensive peace agreement remain undone. I spoke with the Catholic archbishop of Juba last week, and he told me that the development of the south was desperately in need of international support. He said frustration over the slow pace of the peace process will only increase the separatist elements in the south. According to the archbishop, the northern part of the government has not withdrawn its troops from the south as scheduled, nor established key commissions to implement the peace accords, nor complied with the international commission that already had set the boundary between the north and the south.

Congress has tried in our recent legislative effort to take into account the entirety of the crisis of Sudan. We surely want to focus on the accountability of those involved in genocide in Sudan, but we cannot ignore other parts of the complex picture in this country. We must keep a focus on the north-south peace accord, or it may fail and plunge the country back into a wider conflict.

Today's hearing is necessary and is required to learn from the administration how our government's policy is attempting to tackle this difficult situation, and how Congress can create a comprehensive plan to contribute to peace and to accountability for those who have murdered, raped, enslaved and otherwise plagued the people of Sudan for so many years. Our committee's chairman, Mr. Hyde, has fashioned a bill with many of us working with him that we feel will make such a contribution. We want to move forward on this effort as soon as possible for the sake of so many who are still in danger in Sudan.

I'd like to go to my friend and colleague, Mr. Payne, who has been a tireless worker for peace in Sudan for such time as he may consume.

PAYNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And let me commend you for calling this very important hearing on the increasing worrisome situation in Sudan.

I welcome Assistant Secretary Frazer to the committee. And I look forward to working with her and hearing her testimony. I'd like to commend you for the outstanding work that you've done in your previous capacities on the National Security Council and as ambassador to South Africa. And it was a pleasure traveling with you to Liberia recently to observe the elections in Liberia, which I thought went extremely well, and we look forward to the runoff on next Tuesday -- Tuesday a week from now. And I know that you've traveled to other countries, and I'd be interested at some time to assess what your findings were.

We at the center certainly knew in this position you just happen to be the messenger, so we don't want you to take it personally. Perhaps we'll see some changes under your tenure.

We certainly feel that the loss of Dr. John Garang was a tremendous setback to the peace accord in Sudan. As the chairman said, I've been traveling to Sudan since the early '90s, and Dr. Garang has been a tireless warrior for the people of South Sudan. And we were all saddened with his untimely death, and certainly we feel it's been a setback to the process. I had the privilege to attend the wake in Yei the day before the funeral in Juba, and you could see on the faces of the Sudanese the sorrow and sadness that besieged the country.

And so we'll have to move forward, but I hope that all of the work that he's done and even his death has not been in vain. My objective for listening to your testimony at this hearing is to get a clarification on U.S. policy towards the current regime in Sudan. We do have a national unity government which was recently formed, but I have serious concerns about the commitment of the ruling National Congress Party to real, true, lasting peace in Sudan.

We must not let up pressure on the government; we must ensure that they fully implement the comprehensive peace agreement and end the violence in Darfur without any further foot-dragging and excuse-making. At the same time, we must provide increased assistance to the government of southern Sudan, led by Salva Kiir, who I first met in 1994, and who has certainly been a close ally of Dr. John Garang for as long as the movement has been going forth.

One hundred and five members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary Rice yesterday expressing the following concerns: Recent developments in Darfur, including the kidnapping and killing of African Union troops and humanitarian workers;

The closure of main roads leading out of the capital of western Darfur;

An estimate by the United Nations that nearly three-quarters of a million refugees are beyond the reach of humanitarian aid, which means we will start seeing tragedy again by the fact that resources cannot get to these people;

Delay in the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement, which mandates the immediate withdrawal of government troops from disputed areas, government reform of civil service, security forces and the judiciary, and the establishment of an investigatory commission into the genocide in Sudan.

An apparent softening of U.S. policy towards the government of Sudan was also expressed in the letter to Secretary Rice.

I have followed the crisis in Sudan, as the chairman mentioned, for a long time -- for at least the 21 years that the war has been going on between the Islamist government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army and Movement, the SPLA-SPLM. As you are well aware, more than 4 million people were displaced in that civil war since 1989, and over 2 million people have died as a result of that struggle that has gone on when Sharia law was imposed on the entire country to those who are Christians and animists and agnostics and atheists and felt that they should not be under Sharian law, because they did not believe in the Koran.

During that time, the National Islamic Front -- the NIF government, led by Omar-al-Bashir -- committed innumerable brutalities in unimaginable scope against the people of the south. They marginalized areas of southern Brunel and the Nuba Mountains with the lawless war running until January 9, when the party signed a comprehensive peace agreement, the CPA. I was there in Nairobi for the signing and was cautiously hopeful for the long-awaited peace in Sudan.

However, once again, the north-south conflict reached the point where an agreement was imminent and the government began its attack on innocent civilians in Darfur, which caught us all by surprise. With the help of the Janjaweed, it destroyed villages and communities, maimed, raped, killed, terrorized the people of Darfur.

We know that the A.U. mission is simply not deployed at the adequate numbers to quell the violence in Darfur, and that its mandate must be strengthened to protect civilians. Still, I commend the A.U. for the tremendous role it has played, but more is needed to protect the innocent civilians of Darfur.

The people of Sudan have suffered tremendously under the hand of this government -- which by the way, came to power in a bloody coup in 1989, as I mentioned. Concerned citizens of this great country have devoted years to ending the bloodshed in Sudan -- first South Sudan, now Darfur. We could be looking at a crisis in East Sudan soon as well if the government does not stop its genocidal behavior in that region.

The message must be clear and concise: until the following occurs, the United States is ill-advised and must not normalize relations with the government of Sudan. It's just that simple.

When the crisis in Darfur is resolved peacefully is when we should look at a normalization of our relations with the government of Sudan. When the Janjaweed and allied militia are disarmed and demobilized is when we should look at normalized relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan is cooperating with the ICC is when we ought to normalize relations with Sudan.

When suspects are handed over for trial to the ICC is when we should normalize relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan negotiates in good faith in the east is when we should normalize relations with Sudan. When the government of Sudan is cooperating fully to disarm, demobilize, and hand the LRA leaders who are killing children, have done it for 18 years, and go to Sudan for cover -- that's when we should normalize relations with Sudan.

When the CPA is being implemented in good faith and without delay -- including the implementation of the Abyei Commission report, withdrawal of the government forces from the south as called for in the CPA, setting up of key commission as called for in the CPA, revenue-sharing as called for in the wealth-sharing agreement -- that's when we should normalize relations with Sudan.

The Darfur crisis is not abating. We must be firm with Khartoum. We must ensure compliance. We must stop the killing. No more visits from the Sudan intelligence chief or other architects of genocide should be tolerated in this country. No more waiving of certain sanctions, like that allowing Sudan to hire lobbyists in Washington for \$530,000 so they can clean up their image.

I look forward to hearing your testimony.

SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. Payne.

Chairman Royce?

ROYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Like you, I've traveled to Darfur, and I've seen the results there of the government's genocidal campaign. And when I say "genocidal campaign," we took with us Don Cheadle and Paul Rusesabagina, the hotelier who Don Cheadle portrayed, and we went into a little town that had been attacked by the Janjaweed, and it had been bombed prior to that. The town formerly had 30,000 inhabitants; there were only a couple of hundred left in that particular town.

We talked to a number of survivors of those attacks. Children drew us pictures that looked an awful lot like Antonov bombers dropping bombs on their village. And it's hard to believe that since those villages were bombed, it wasn't done by the government.

We remember one young boy who put out his arm, but there was no hand, and I asked him what happened to it, and he said, "Janjaweed, Janjaweed." So I'm deeply troubled by the continuing violence in Darfur, which is mostly the government's responsibility, and I look forward to hearing from the administration -- hearing what it's doing to end the killing and suffering and move the peace process ahead.

And again, I thank the chairman for holding this hearing.

And I thank you very much for being with us today. I appreciate it very much.

SMITH: Chairman Royce, thank you very much.

Ambassador Watson?

WATSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

I too must join with my colleagues, Royce and Payne. I had the great good fortune of traveling with Mr. Royce, and I cannot find a more committed and dedicated member of our House for the cause of eradicating this genocide. And Mr. Payne, who has a distinguished record of fighting for the people of the Sudan, and who goes often and reports back to us formally and informally, and I want to thank them.

But unfortunately, what I see right now when I look at the United States' policy towards Sudan is a willingness to tolerate any behavior by the Khartoum regime in the interests of improving relations. And I think there's something wrong about that. This administration has taken several actions over the past few months which send the unmistakable message that Washington is pleased with the behavior of the Sudanese government.

Well, not from my viewpoint. And I understand that Sudan's **trafficking-in-persons** status has been updated to **tier two watch list**. And it's a **tier two watch list** country, which would put it in the same company as Israel, and Switzerland -- this despite the fact that earlier this year, the U.N. documented abductions and sexual slavery by the Sudanese troops.

And we heard the stories that were given when we were out among the refugees, and they were blood-chilling and blood-curdling. We were able to spend time with Rusesabagina, the actual manager, and he told us what really happened, and that movie did not give you all of the ugliness and the pain and the tragedy that they actually went through.

For an example, he said when they came into a village they would go -- the Janjaweed -- to someone's home -- and by the way, they were high off of drugs and alcohol when they did this. And they would go to someone's home and they would get the father -- the head of the household -- and they would chop off his feet. Well, they wouldn't kill him, but they'd chop off his feet. And they'd come back the next day and chop off his arms. And then they'd go back to kill him, had he not bled to death before that.

That actually took place, and he told us these stories. And Don Cheadle tried to enact them -- some of them -- in the movie. Well, this kind of madness and savagery is actually taking place, and probably as we speak.

And the administration has also issued a waiver to commit the government of Sudan to hire a Washington lobbyist to permit the architects of genocide in Darfur to develop and sell a public-relations strategy on Capitol Hill. Well, let me tell you for one, they can't sell that to me, they can't sell that to Payne, and I know the rest of my colleagues will not buy that. They can come in and put whatever face they want on it, but those of us who have been there and talked and been among the refugees know that what they're selling us is a bill of goods.

So meanwhile, the Sudanese government in Khartoum continues to arm and support the militias who have murdered tens of thousands of people and forced over 2 million out of their homes. As the United States of America, we have an investment in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for the Sudan. We need to see it work, but it will not work if we fail to press the Sudanese government to stop the genocide.

Unless the United States demands that Sudan end the violence in Darfur, I fear we will be left with a comprehensive peace agreement that is neither comprehensive nor peaceful. So I will be listening to hear what specific measures the administration will take to first dispel the appearance that we are seeking to rehabilitate Khartoum's genocidal regime, and second, increase the pressure on the Khartoum regime to change its behavior and permit all of its citizens to live in peace.

And once you're out there and you go among the people, you know that we must move in a positive direction. Now, we cannot let another child's hand be cut off. We cannot let another mother go into mourning over the loss of her husband, and we cannot let a people be wiped out on this watch.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I yield back my time.

SMITH: Thank you very much.

Jeff Fortenberry?

FORTENBERRY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just simply wish to commend you for your consistent concern over this issue, for your long-held willingness to dig deep into the complexities of this irrational lawlessness and violence which seems to govern this area. So given decomplexities and how difficult the challenges are that present themselves in terms of a solution, I simply look forward to hearing some possible answers today.

Thank you so much.

SMITH: Fortenberry, thank you very much.

Let me now introduce our very distinguished witness for today's hearing, Secretary Jendayi Frazer, who was sworn in as assistant secretary for the Bureau of Africa and African Affairs in August of 2005.

Prior to becoming assistant secretary, Secretary Frazer served as the U.S. ambassador to South Africa and as special assistant to the president and senior director for African affairs at the National Security Council. Ambassador Frazer came to the NSC from Harvard University, where she served as an assistant professor of public policy. As a Council on Foreign Relations international affairs fellow, she served as a political military planner with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Department of Defense and as director for African affairs at the NSC. A very distinguished career, and a very capable and very able leader on these very, very vexing issues.

So you are very welcome to this hearing, and please proceed as you would like.

FRAZER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on our Sudan policy, and I also thank you for your resolve and commitment on trying to push for a better Sudan, a Sudan that will be peaceful and prosperous for all of its people.

Today I would like to review with you the U.S. strategy to push for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to resolve the crisis in Darfur. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would request that my written testimony be placed in the record, and I will highlight the main points of the administration's Sudan policy this afternoon.

SMITH: Without objection.

FRAZER: Thank you.

First, the administration's primary goal is a peaceful and democratic Sudan that contributes to regional development and cooperates on counter-terrorism. Over the past five years, we have made steady progress toward this goal.

Mr. Chairman, you specifically ask: Are we losing ground on peace in Sudan? The answer is as challenging and complex as the country itself. On the north-south peace front, we have clearly gained ground. On Darfur, it's back and sometimes forth, but mainly back. But we do have a plan for progress there. We also have to be watchful and take preventative measures to not lose ground in the east.

First, Mr. Chairman, let me outline where we are today and why I say we've made progress toward our overall goal over the past five years. On January 22, 2001, President Bush told his then-national security adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, that we must end the war in Sudan and stop the humanitarian and human-rights abuses in the south. As you well know, Mr. Chairman, the National Congress Party-controlled government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement were bitter enemies that had warred for over 22 years. As Congressman Payne said, 4 million people were displaced and 2 million died in that bitter conflict.

Yet as a result of active U.S. diplomacy, working closely with Kenya, EGAD, and other international partners, the SPLM and Khartoum government signed the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The United States led international efforts to achieve that success, and the Bush administration remains committed to its full implementation. We witnessed, on July 9, 2005, the installation of the Chairman of the SPLM, the late Dr. John Garang, as First Vice President of Sudan in Khartoum.

Since then, members of the SPLM, the NCP, and other parties have formed a government of national unity in Khartoum. And the SPLM, under the new first vice president of the government of national unity, Salva Kiir, has set up the government of Southern Sudan in Juba. And I would just say that as you know, the first vice president, Salva Kiir, is here on his first international trip, and he's had a chance to meet today with Vice President Cheney, with Secretary Rice, with Deputy Secretary Zoellick, and myself. And so some of the testimony that I will state is based on our direct consultations with the first vice president.

But these historic changes are major steps forward, but clearly, there is more for the parties to do. I know that you, Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee, as well as the administration, remain concerned that many of the national commissions called for in the CPA still must be stood up. Troop withdrawals are behind schedule, and demobilization, disarmament and reintegration needs to move forward. These are just three areas to cite that are of particular importance.

Still, and most significantly, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement passed its first major test, the tragic death of its key architect, the first vice president, Dr. John Garang. Dr. Garang was committed to the cause of a peaceful, prosperous, and united Sudan. While his death is a great loss, there is every reason to hope that his vision of a peaceful, democratic, and unified Sudan will be fulfilled.

Demonstrating the resilience of the CPA, Garang's successor, Salva Kiir, was inaugurated as first vice president in an orderly process, and he has stated his unwavering commitment to realizing Dr. Garang's vision. In addition, Dr. Garang's widow, Rebecca, is carrying forward her husband's vision and is now serving as the minister of transport and roads in the government of Southern Sudan.

Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Zoellick just had a phone call with Vice President Taha to talk about the implementation of this comprehensive agreement. And he confirmed that the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the National Petroleum Commission, as well as the Boundary Commission, have now been formed by decree issued by President Bashir. Vice President Kiir told us this this morning -- that he expected the announcements today -- since when he left Sudan, the membership of the commissions were already agreed upon, and it was a matter of making the announcement. So there has been some progress, and we welcome this news of the establishment of these key commissions.

As far as the administration is concerned, the next critical steps are for both parties to honor the security commitments, particularly by forming a joint defense board, setting up the joint integrated units, and, as I mentioned, withdrawing the troops, particularly the government troops being withdrawn from the south and from Juba.

Mr. Chairman, let me emphasize a fundamental premise of our Sudan strategy to maintain peace momentum. The administration views implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and resolution of the Darfur crisis as inter-related issues. Implementation of the CPA is crucial to ending the violence in Darfur.

Moreover, without progress in Darfur, there is a real danger for the violence to spill over into other areas of Sudan. The bottom line is, the CPA is applicable in many respects to all areas of Sudan, and is designed to share power and wealth between the center and periphery areas, a key root of the conflict in all parts of Sudan. It serves as a framework for other political agreements, including in Darfur.

To get to Darfur, clearly it's an unacceptable situation that must end now. Darfur is complex; it's a difficult situation that we, the administration and Congress, have characterized as involving genocide. The people of the United States know that this administration, under the direction of President Bush, Secretary Powell and now Secretary Rice, has been the global leader in efforts to end the violence and suffering in Darfur.

President Bush was the first head of state to speak out publicly on the unfolding violence and atrocities in Darfur in 2004. The United States was the first country to call for action in the United Nations Security Council. We were instrumental in obtaining a cease-fire agreement between the government of Sudan and the Darfur rebels, the Sudan Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement in April 2004. The United States was also the first to emphasize the need for intervention to stem the violence.

And as a result of our actions, the African Union agreed to deploy observers and troops to Darfur in August 2004. Since that time, the United States has worked closely with the African Union to build 32 base camps, and with other donors, provided airlift for over 6,900 African Union personnel now deployed to Darfur. This was possible with the over \$160 million in resources provided by Congress.

President Bush continues to be committed to ending the conflict in Darfur, and the effort that the United States has mounted with the international community has yielded results in Darfur. As a result of the African Union's intervention and pressure exerted on the government of Sudan and the Darfur rebels, the A.U.-led political talks are moving ahead in Abuja, large-scale organized violence has substantially diminished since early 2005, and mortality rates have dropped.

That said, the situation in Darfur remains intolerable. Over 2.4 million people are living in camps for internally displaced persons, and another 200,000 have sought refuge in neighboring Chad. Violence continues to plague civilian populations, as we see in the current spike of violence, caused by banditry, actions initiated by rebel movements, and actions by the government forces, and continued marauding by the Janjaweed militia. We continue to make categorically clear the responsibility of the government of Sudan -- now the government of national unity -- that it must end support to the Janjaweed and work actively to stop its actions while ensuring discipline within the government of national unity's own forces.

But the bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is that a political solution is needed to end the violence in Darfur. We are trying to take actions; the U.S. government's actions, the way ahead in Darfur, is to continue to make clear to the government of Sudan its responsibility to insist that all sides respect the cease-fire, and to work to regional countries -- Libya, Chad, Eritrea, and others -- to try to continue to put pressure on the rebels to respect the cease-fire and to negotiate a solution.

In that regard, Deputy Secretary Zoellick will be leading a mission next week to Kenya and to Sudan to advance the administration's efforts to restore peace to Darfur and set the groundwork for a lasting political settlement in Abuja. He's going to, in those Nairobi talks, bring the SLM leadership together so that they can form a united front in their negotiations with the government of national unity.

So making it clear to the government of Sudan its responsibility, insisting on accountability of all sides to the cease-fire, pushing for the political solution in the talks to Darfur, we also are pushing the government of national unity to have a joint negotiating team at Abuja. And in my consultations and the administration's consultations with the first vice president, Salva Kiir, he told us that the government of national unity has established a High Committee on Darfur, which will be headed by Bashir, will also have First Vice President Kiir, Second Vice President Taha, and other cabinet ministers as the joint team that will then go to Darfur to negotiate with SLM and JEM.

So we'll continue to support the A.U.-led Abuja talks. We've sent a U.S. senior official as an observer. We've also sent and provided technical expertise to assist the mediator. And then finally, our approach to Darfur is to strengthen the African Union mission there -- strengthen it by pushing for it to have the 105 Canadian armored personnel carriers.

We're also pushing to increase NATO training and advice. We're trying to ensure a consistent understanding by the A.U. forces of their mandate, continue to look at UN logistical assistance and perhaps even blue-hatting the A.U. mission in Darfur to strengthen the security environment.

And then finally, we're continuing to provide humanitarian assistance in Darfur and in southern Sudan. In fiscal year 2005, we provided over \$650 million, mostly in humanitarian assistance and support to the African Union Mission, and over \$450 million in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to other areas in Sudan, including Southern Sudan and the three transition areas: Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei. Finally, Mr. Chairman, the USG continues its strong support for the south, and we will help the government of Southern Sudan to build the institutions, capacity, transparency, and infrastructure necessary for it to function.

We believe that the institutions in Sudan have changed substantially over the past 10 months since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which has led to the new interim national constitution, the formation of a new government of national unity in Khartoum, and the new government of Southern Sudan. We have to keep working with the SPLM to develop the new governmental institutions, both in the south and in the north. We will continue to work with

international partners to support the commissions and other integrated programs designed to facilitate the peaceful transition to Dr. Garang's vision of a unified government.

Congress and the administration share an interest in keeping the pressure on the central government, but also in supporting the new government of Southern Sudan. We need to consult with Congress about how existing legal authorities may need to be modified so we can reinforce the SPLM while maintaining and increasing pressure on the north. I hope that I can work with you, Mr. Chairman, and the committee so we can move effectively to address the challenges and opportunities of the peace agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the United States is on the right track. Our strategy is moving forward with the strong support of the president and the secretary and the Congress. We believe we have the tools in place to maintain momentum, to influence the parties and to achieve our common goal of a peaceful Sudan.

Thank you very much.

SMITH: Secretary Frazer, thank you very much for your testimony and for your leadership. I'd like to begin the questioning, if I could.

First, one of the real take-homes that Greg Simpkins and I took away after meetings with President Bashir, Vice President Taha, and Salva Kiir, the first vice president -- especially with Salva Kiir. He was only on the job into his seventh day when we met with him, but he was very committed to making the government work. He said, "I am part of this government, and we want to make this government work, you know, for all the right reasons," as he put it.

And my first question would be about whether or not you feel that unity government has really been integrated. I have read reports that I find somewhat disconcerting, that when it came to handing out or allocating the top ministries, that the SPLM did not do all that well. Except for foreign affairs, perhaps, most of the key bureaucracies are safely vested in the other side, if you will.

And secondly, that you made a number of points -- and I noticed in your testimony, and if you could speak to this -- that you said you want to consult with Congress about First Vice President Kiir's request that we allow U.S. companies to provide spare parts to rehabilitate Sudan's railways. I struck up that conversation as well when I was in Khartoum, about how do you move masses of people from Khartoum back to the south? Yes, it has a dual-use capability, but railroads are indeed now -- or as the peace becomes more durable -- that that become a way of providing the means for those people to get back to their homes.

I might also ask you, if I could, on trafficking -- as you know, I was the prime sponsor of the **Trafficking in Persons Act of 2000**, which led to the creation of the **tiers** -- **tier one**, **tier two**, **tier three** -- and the **watch list**. **The watch list**, as you know, we put in the '03 act.

I was very concerned when I saw that Sudan was upgraded, if you will, to watch list from tier three. If you could elaborate, if you will, on what concrete facts exist that would suggest that the government of Khartoum or the government of Sudan merit that kind of treatment. It seems to me that there is still a major problem warranting tier three status, but if you could.

On the government of southern Sudan, how well or poorly is Salva Kiir and the government doing in the south in establishing that government? And then, on the issue of humanitarianism and the lack of responsiveness by Khartoum, Greg and I saw, and we've heard reports before and since our trip, that the government has not been helpful in ensuring that the NGO community -- the United Nations, our USAID personnel -- flow in an unfettered way. They have been profoundly unhelpful in many instances, which means that people are put at grave risk.

And finally, when it comes to accountability, and Mr. Payne and I and many of us are trying to get Henry Hyde's bill -- which is now a bipartisan piece of legislation -- moved forward. But one of the key phrases in that legislation is the accountability, holding those men and women to account who have committed atrocities.

Well, we know the U.N. Resolution 1593, which was adopted on March 29, provides for a referral to the ICC for those who have committed atrocities. The International Commission of Inquiry recommended that the ICC prosecute. Where is that? Is there a list of individuals on a printed page somewhere of people who need to be prosecuted at the ICC, and when will that be made public, if you will, and what's the status of that whole effort?

FRAZER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Your first question was on the National Congress Party and its domination of the government of national unity, particularly of the key ministries. I think that was the perception, particularly given that the National Congress Party received the Finance Ministry and the Energy Ministry as well. Now, in our consultations with the SPLM, part of what we learned is that some of their capable senior officials wanted to be ministers in the government of Southern Sudan, and so didn't put themselves forth to be part of the government of national unity, because the feeling is that there needs to be a very strong government of Southern Sudan.

So certainly, we continue to have concern, and will watch carefully whether the government of national unity is dominated by the National Congress Party, and what type of influences the SPLM ministers have in that government. I had the opportunity to visit Sudan earlier in October, and I actually posed this question to a couple of the SPLM ministers, to say, "Do you have authority within your ministry? What's the nature of all of these mini-advisers? Is there a shadow government?" And I was assured that they do have the authority.

But I do think that clearly, SPLM is the new member of this government, and the United States must continue in our effort to back and to transform the nature of this regime -- which is characterized by many of the members of this committee appropriately that we must work very closely with the SPLM and build their capacity, continue to assist them so that they can be an effective force within the government of national unity, an effective transformative force. And certainly, I think that the vice president's visit to the United States, being the first country that he came to on an international visit, suggests his understanding and continued appreciation of the strong support of the United States for his role as the second senior official in that government of national unity.

The government of Southern Sudan -- the same story, we need to continue to support them, build their capacity, especially help them with the development. When I again was traveling, I went to Juba. I met with the first vice president, Salva Kiir. I met with senior SPLM officials.

I had an opportunity to meet with Rebecca Gurang, who is now the government of Southern Sudan's minister of transport. And this issue of spare parts did come up, and they were saying that they had -- because the government of Sudan sent soldiers through the railways, they had destroyed the rail capacity. Now they need development to come through those same railways. And they did raise the question of the possibility of allowing for spare parts.

SMITH: If they could, are they in favor of that? Are they...

(CROSSTALK)

FRAZER: When I was in Juba, they spoke favorably of it. But what I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that the first vice president is here himself, and will have an opportunity to meet with members, and that question can be posed directly to him. But a couple of weeks ago, in my consultations with them in Juba, they all spoke favorably for it.

But we need to look across the board at how we can help the government of Southern Sudan. It will also involve supporting the reform of the security sector, professionalizing the SPLM, and because Sudan is -- we have sanctions on them, many numerous sanctions on them -- we may need carve-outs. But I think Ambassador Zoellick, when he goes to Sudan, will have a better opportunity to make an assessment of that and then come back to the Congress with some specifics of ways in which we may need to look at authority to provide the avenue for assisting the government of Southern Sudan while maintaining the pressure on the National Congress Party within the government of national unity.

You asked the question, Mr. Chairman, about the trafficking. And indeed, the recommendation has gone forth that Sudan be put on the tier two watch list. And the reason behind that was specifically related to the sexual violence against women.

And Secretary Rice had asked -- when she went to Darfur, she met with women who had been abused and violated. And she asked the administration to come up with an initiative to counter violence against women. And we sent that to the government of Sudan.

They developed an action plan, which was a tailored work plan to address those issues. In particular, Sudan committed to implement a plan to address sexual violence against women in Darfur itself.

It also helped to assist with the repatriation of 100 Sudanese children -- camel jockeys from Qatar -- and began an investigation in trafficking of these children. And it was the basis of that action that they were put on the watch list, with the understanding that they could always go back to tier three if we weren't satisfied with the actions being taken to implement the plan.

So that was the basis of the tier two watch list. But again, it's not a permanent status. It can easily revert to tier three.

SMITH: Excuse me, but if you could provide for the record a copy of that national plan, I think it would be very helpful.

FRAZER: Certainly.

SMITH: Because the idea behind the act was to try to prod constructive action, and as you pointed out so well, if this is nothing but a paper promise, they should immediately revert back to tier three. So I thank you for that explanation.

FRAZER: Absolutely.

You asked about the humanitarian -- we still have concerns that the government of Sudan, namely the National Congress Party, is not allowing humanitarian access. And Ambassador Zoellick raised this specifically in his conversation with Vice President Taha, and got some assurances. But, you know, assurances -- words are one thing, action is another. So we'll continue to press the government to allow for that humanitarian access.

And on the accountability, as far as I know, Mr. Chairman, the ICC list has not become public. But Ambassador Zoellick again has signaled that if the ICC requires assistance, the United States stands ready for any assistance. But they haven't asked us for any assistance in developing their list, or getting the government to adhere to any ICC charges.

SMITH: Just two final questions before yielding to Mr. Payne. The Sudan Tribune had an article online over the weekend that said, "Darfur rebel SLA opens unity conference without leaders." Can you speak to what that means, in terms of not having a segment of the group there, including its leaders?

And secondly, you heard in my opening comments concerns about the pay for African Union troops. Has that been rectified? And I also note that the administration, you know, has identified approximately \$100 million we're expected to contribute to the African Union. Will that be forthcoming, and when?

FRAZER: I missed the very first part of your question on the African Union.

SMITH: What we heard from commanders on the ground was that -- and we also heard it in Addis when we went to A.U. headquarters -- they had been promised about \$15 a day. They were getting \$1.28 a day. And while the morale implications have not really shown themselves yet, it will, and it will soon, especially if there's remittances back to their families back home, and they don't have it. I mean, it's a tough posting to begin with, and to be underpaid, and they told us at headquarters and in the field in Darfur, they're cash-poor. They have airlifts, they have other kinds of help, but they're not getting the cash.

FRAZER: OK. Thank you.

Yes, on Darfur, the SLM -- Mani Minawi is there, but Abdulwahed is not at the SLM conference. I raised this question with First Vice President Salva Kiir. He said that there may be some concerns in terms of security of Abdelwahed. And that's the reason why the Nairobi conference will be so important, because it'll be on neutral ground, and we expect both leaders to show up at the Nairobi conference that the United States will be hosting.

So it's critical that the SLM come together. They're providing an excuse for the National Congress Party to not make progress on the peace front. And so, without rebel unity, the negotiations won't go anywhere. So we're taking an active role to try to bring them together.

On the African Union, there is a financial shortfall which is partly the reason why we're looking at, over time, the possibility of blue-hatting them as a UN force. But certainly, the United States is looking to meet its shortfall, which is about \$100 million. The EU is also coming up with the money. As far as the pay differential, it's my understanding that the A.U. has rectified it.

PAYNE: Thank you very much. Thank you for your testimony, and I'd just like to ask a few questions.

With USAID, how is it going to organize itself? We're hoping that there would have been some peace dividends after the signing of the accord. And will there be a permanent mission in Southern Sudan, or will you work out of Khartoum, or would there be a special coordinator to deal with the aid projects -- which would be very important to the south, since they are certainly in need of development?

And secondly, with the brand-new government being set up, I wonder if the SPLM will be given specific support in setting up regional governments in Nuba, Southern Blue Nile, and other places? Since they have to start from scratch, it

seems that they would need financial and technical support, and I wonder whether the U.S. government, or USAID or other agencies, has any formal plan to work with the government of Southern Sudan.

Also, I noted that -- and I'm not sure of the funds that the chairman was talking about, but -- there was \$100 million requested from the emergency supplement, and it was reduced in Congress by almost two-thirds. Only \$37 million was appropriated. And I wonder if the administration is going to come forward with a new request, and whether there will be a need for us to try to develop a strategy to get those funds in place.

And you mentioned about the commissions that were called for in the CPA, which you mentioned in your testimony in response to the first vice president's visit here. And I wonder whether the pronouncements that are being made by the government of Sudan -- are they real, or is it just because Salva Kiir is coming here, and to try to have a smooth series of meetings here -- that the government of Sudan is acting as if it's trying to play ball, but it's very difficult to tell the real intent. But I wonder whether the feeling of the administration is that these are things that are just being done because of the business here by Salva Kiir.

FRAZER: Thank you.

On your first question, Congressman Payne, in terms of USAID and how it's going to organize itself, there is a building being constructed in Juba. And the plan is to move the operations that are in Nairobi to Juba, so that we can more effectively support the government of Southern Sudan. That support includes training -- helping to train the capacity of the SPLM officials, both in the assembly as well as in the executive, the ministers themselves -- also trying to provide assistance with the budgetary monitoring and transparency so that the oil revenue that they'll get, as well as the donor assistance, can be accounted for and used for the people.

We're also trying to work with NDI and ILI and other institutions to try to build the political parties, the SPLM becoming a political party able to contest elections over the future, and supporting the parliamentarians -- the assembly members -- with training. So, yes, we are doing a whole range of activities to try to support the government of Southern Sudan. We think it's critical. That's why the administration is focused on Sudan in the first place -- it was because of the grievances in the south, the atrocities that were taking place in the south. So it behooves us to really put a focus on assisting them in establishing a peace for a prosperous Sudan, and particularly southern Sudan.

On the question of the funds, yes, I do look forward to working with you to try to develop a strategy to get the type of funding and assistance that will be necessary to fully support the peace process in Sudan. And I will come back to discuss that directly with you, on how we might address any shortfalls in funding that we're facing.

Your question about the commissions is apt. Timing is everything, and I'm certain that the first vice president's visit here helped to get the announcement. That said, when I visited Juba, the first vice president told me at that time that he had submitted the names of the SPLM ministers who would be part of these new commissions.

And it was clear that many of the commissions required Southern Sudan government ministers. Until the government of Southern Sudan was established, the commissions could not go forward. So I believe that it has been in the works, without a doubt.

And as I said, the first vice president told us this morning that when he left Sudan, he expected the decree to have been already announced, because he left it on Bashir's desk to be done with everyone having agreed on the composition of the commission. So I don't doubt that the timing was intended for effect, but it does represent, I think, considerable work, particularly considerable work on the part of the government of Southern Sudan and on Vice President Kiir's part.

PAYNE: Thank you very much.

Just my final two questions: The State Department, as you know, in the last administration did a very intensive interviewing of, I think, over 1,200 individuals that built up a case to declare genocide in Darfur. And it would appear to me that this information would certainly be helpful for the ICC. And I know that there is the problem of formal relations, although the U.S. did abstain and therefore allowed the International Criminal Court to proceed, and for that we're very thankful.

However, we do feel that since we did indicate by our abstention that we felt that there should be prosecution going on in Sudan by the ICC, it would appear that we would try to cooperate with the court, and to allow the court, as they have, to review any materials that were taken that Secretary Powell built the case of genocide. So I would hope that in some way, there can be cooperation between ICC and our State Department.

And just finally, if you might indicate to us -- recently, a senior diplomat was sent to Khartoum. And I just wonder, is the State Department intending to name him as an ambassador -- a person as an ambassador? Are we getting ready to normalize relations with Sudan?

FRAZER: Thank you.

Yes, Deputy Secretary Zoellick has made very clear that if we were asked by the ICC for help, we would try to make sure that this gets pursued fully, to use his words, because "We do not want to see impunity for any of these actors." So they haven't asked, but if they did, we stand ready to assist.

On the question of the senior diplomat -- no, it's not a matter of normalizing relations. What we did was, we sent Ambassador Hume there. And we sent Ambassador Hume -- who used to be the former ambassador to South Africa, as well as the former ambassador to Algiers -- he speaks Arabic, he's got extensive expertise in conference management, he worked in Mozambique, he's been working at the U.N. What we wanted was a senior diplomat who could pursue U.S. interests.

And our interests are clear -- our interests are, we need someone that can put pressure on the National Congress Party to end its support for the Janjaweed to stop the violence in Darfur. We need a senior person who understands how a former liberation movement, the SPLM, can be transformed into a government of Southern Sudan, and he has the expertise across the board.

So our sending him there was in the U.S. interest. It was in no way a signal of the normalization of relations. And I think that we're not trying to normalize relations with the government of Sudan or the government of national unity.

What we're trying to do is implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, so that we transform the very nature of that regime. And we need someone senior with that mandate who is able to engage all parties to push forward on the areas that I outlined -- support for the government of Sudan, implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and ending the violence in Darfur and creating a broader peace, a prosperous and unified Sudan.

PAYNE: May I ask a question or two? We mentioned that there's been 105 armored personnel carriers delivered to the A.U. mission to go in Sudan. But from what I understand, they were supposed to be delivered, but the government of Sudan has blocked them from being delivered, and have refused to cooperate. I wonder if you could comment on that.

And just finally, I don't know whether Mr. Roger Winter speaks Arabic, but I was under the impression that he was some type of an envoy. I don't think anyone knows Sudan better than Roger Winter -- I think that all members of the committee have a great deal of respect for his longtime interest. And more than interest, he's dedicated his whole life working in Sudan, even before becoming a part of the government. And I just wonder -- what role will he play if in fact we have a more senior diplomat in Khartoum?

FRAZER: Thank you.

Yes, the armored personnel carriers have been held up by President Bashir. We can say that it's President Bashir himself who's holding up those armored personnel carriers. What they've agreed to do is let 35 come in. We're continuing to push for all of the armored personnel carriers to be allowed in to support the A.U. mission in Darfur.

So we're continuing the pressure. Certainly, this is something that Deputy Secretary Zoellick will raise in his mission to Sudan next week. It's something that I raised when I met with President Bashir, when I met with Vice President Taha, and other officials. So we're continuing to push on that front.

The question of Roger Winter, who is our special representative to the deputy secretary, and how he will interface with Ambassador Hume, who's our charge now -- the idea here is that the charge is there permanently, in terms that he doesn't go in and out. He's a presence there daily, and we can call him and say, "You need to put pressure on these guys right now at this moment in time." So he's sort of managing our operation, and has a daily presence there.

Roger Winter, as you said, has a longtime engagement in Sudan. He has excellent contacts there. He has a good sense of what's actually taking place.

He'll continue to be a senior adviser, especially to the deputy secretary. He will continue to have an influence and a role as an envoy going back and forth, in and out. He will continue to meet with SPLM and government officials as necessary.

He and I will work closely together in the formulation of our Sudan policy. He will continue to meet with constituency groups there and here. So his role is one of more roving, whereas the charge is a permanent presence to try to keep the pressure on.

PAYNE: I have no more questions.

I just want to say, you know, that the government of Sudan, once again -- 105 armored personnel carriers supposed to go in, they hold them up, "we may let a third in, we'll get back to you next week" -- you know, it's the same thing they've been doing decade after decade after decade. Now, I know we need to try to work along with them, but you see, it's the same bloody hands that let Osama bin Laden live in that country from '91 to '96, that planned the bombing of the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam U.S. embassies. Pete Clyde (ph) knew, had been there a week before, knew families that worked in that embassy who are dead now.

Same government, and once again, we're going to start fiddling while Rome burns. In dealing with this government, we ought to have a policy that tells them they either have to make the policy work or we ought to come down with some serious policy against them.

This business about "we let a few in, and we may let them out," and some of our humanitarian groups now have not been issued any more permits to come in -- Doctors Without Borders were given a hard time because they were outspoken. It just continues as people die, every day in this new millennium. It makes no sense at all.

SMITH: If I could, Madame Secretary, ask you -- in addition to the armored personnel carriers not being allowed in, what other materiel has been stopped by Bashir? And I had asked earlier about the humanitarian crisis, because we've heard it, it's ongoing -- the reluctance to allow the Norwegians, for example, in Kalma camp to get the director -- who is absolutely committed, suffered malaria himself doing this humanitarian work -- didn't know from one day to the next whether or not his mission was going to be decertified or not re-upped by the Bashir government.

What other problems do you see? I mean, you have a platform, it's on the side the government of Sudan was sitting. What other things did you say did have to be done? I think my friend is absolutely right -- to allow a third in but not the other two-thirds is constantly crippling the efforts of the international community to help the people on the ground.

FRAZER: Yes. Thank you very much.

The Kalma camp issue also came in in Ambassador Zoellick's phone call with Vice President Taha, and he emphasized again that that has to be resolved. He got assurances -- we'll see. We know the character of the regime.

I would also say that redeployment of the government troops from Juba is necessary. It's an immediate necessary action that they must take. It's absolutely unacceptable for them to continue to have their presence there. They're behind the schedule in redeployment. It represents psychological warfare for them to continue to be there.

So I would push very strongly on the government, and I know that Ambassador Zoellick is going to do so, that those government forces redeploy and get out of the south, because they're already behind schedule. So that certainly is an area.

A second area that's important -- now, they established this Boundary Commission. That's one of the announcements that's made, but it's critical that the Boundary Commission's work be transparent and that we have oversight, because it establishes the line for where the north and the south is.

And as the first vice president has stated and others have stated, that line is creeping southward -- so that they're capturing more area of the south claiming it to be north, particularly where there are oil fields -- and that will have a major impact on revenue-sharing. So that's another area that we have to get immediate action in, and have some very clear oversight.

So those are two areas. And certainly, to allow at least 11,000 international NGO workers in Sudan, they have to have free access -- they have to be allowed to do their work. So that would be three areas that I'm sure that Ambassador Zoellick is going to continue to push on, and I certainly will as well.

SMITH: Chairman Royce?

ROYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have several hundred thousand people wandering around the desert of Sudan without any help. They've been run off of their land by the Janjaweed, and part of the strategy on the part of the government has been to prevent any assistance

from being delivered to those individuals. It's a daunting task for the African Union, because this is a region -- Darfur is the size of France.

And when Diane Watson and I were there earlier this year in Darfur, Sudan, we had an opportunity to be briefed by one of the African Union military units that are there in order to record the attacks. And we got first-hand accounts of these mysteriously coincidental attacks by the government and the Janjaweed, where the government comes in and attacks the villages, and then the Janjaweed horsemen do the cleanup, seize the property, do the pursuit of those who flee -- and allegedly, the volume of these attacks are down.

But now, I read that the African Union this week have come forward and said no, they've documented yet another attack. The government is working with the Janjaweed, it's their assertion, on attacking a camp.

So I would ask you to specifically tell us about government support for the Janjaweed -- how is it done, who is doing it? The International Criminal Court is supposed to be undertaking an examination. They're interviewing Janjaweed leaders who are ratting out people in the government, and vice versa, pointing fingers. But how widespread is this backing? What do we know?

Another thing I would like to know is that President Bouteflika assured us when we were there, I mean, he had conversations with the government in Sudan in which they agreed no longer to engage in use of air power in attacks on villages. What air assets are being utilized? I'd like to know that.

I saw recent press accounts that the Sudanese government was purchasing 34 Chinese-built jet fighters. So I'd ask you if there's anything to that. I certainly would want to know, and the members of this committee, I know, want to know if there's any more use of air power.

The reason I bring up the question specifically about these Chinese fighters is because our past experience with the government of Sudan includes their abuse of helicopter gunships built in China deployed in attacks on civilians in Southern Sudan. These were not only Chinese-made, but they were based on the Chinese-built airstrips controlled by the Chinese oil companies.

So if there's the introduction of these assets, I'd like to understand how that can be, because I remember some seven months ago, the U.N. arms embargo that we were involved in shepherding through, and the U.N. Security Council resolution -- I think that was 1591 that was passed -- so apparently it has not been implemented if the discussion now is to bring these Chinese fighters into the theater.

And lastly, in your testimony, you note that "We continue to make categorically clear the responsibility of the government of Sudan -- now the government of national unity -- to both end support to the Janjaweed and work actively to stop its actions while ensuring discipline within the government of national unity's own forces." Those are the words from the testimony that we got today."

And by the way, just -- I know where the administration, the chairman and his staff has worked diligently to try to get testimony in advance, so that we can read through the testimony rather than an hour before the hearing. But I just raise that as a procedural question.

But my point is, what are we doing besides protests to get this message across?

FRAZER: Thank you.

Let me apologize for the lateness of the testimony.

ROYCE: I fully suspect this has nothing to do with you. I know you very well, Jendayi -- Secretary Frazer. I know that your testimony was submitted to the administration for clearance.

The point I'm raising is that so often, in my committee, and in the chairman's committee here, it's the day before, and some of us have the eccentricity of reading these things the night before. And when we can't go through it in order to really look at the statements and the questions that we'd like to ask, it doesn't allow Congress to as effectively do its oversight responsibilities. That comment was not directed to you, it's directed to the administration, so thank you.

FRAZER: You ask a very complex and difficult question for me on how exactly is the Janjaweed operating. I'll answer it in a few ways.

One, we clearly have seen in the past that the Janjaweed were armed by the government, that the government of Sudan - - this is before it became the government of national unity -- did provide air cover for their operations. So there was clear coordination between the Janjaweed and the government of Sudan -- the National Congress Party.

What First Vice President Salva Kiir has said, as often happens when you support an armed militia group, you can lose control of them. It's his view that the government has lost control of the Janjaweed. That's not to say that -- I know there was a recent attack on a village, in which there seemed to be some coordination again...

ROYCE: According to the African Union, and those troops are highly trained. They're sort of our canary in the mineshaft there, warning about these attacks. And, one other point: I would think that if we could increase or expand their mandate to not just protection of their units and their observer status, but also protection of the civilian population, it would give a deterrent effect in the region and might really encourage so many displaced people who are wandering the desert to at least come in close in order to try to get the support and defense they need to stay alive.

FRAZER: Yes. A point very well taken. And it's our understanding that the A.U. actually has the mandate to protect civilians as well as themselves, but that different units don't seem to understand their mandate very well.

So partly, we have to work with the A.U. to make sure of this communication and capacity, and that there's a headquarters element that can coordinate better the various units of the force itself. And so that's where we're looking for potentially NATO to play a role. We'll work with the A.U. to try to get NATO to support the headquarters capacity.

ROYCE: And the numbers, too, because the week we were there, there was an attack to the south of us on a village. And because the A.U. troops were spread out so thinly throughout this region, they weren't able to deter that. So we need support for a more robust force in the west.

FRAZER: Absolutely.

On the question of the Sudanese government purchasing Chinese fighters, I will have to go back and look into this. This would be very concerning, as you said. We'll look into it. I will be actually going to Beijing at the end of this month, and certainly we will raise -- Sudan is on the agenda to be discussed, and we'll raise this. If in fact they're circumventing an arms embargo, that's a very serious issue. But I actually don't have the information that you cited, so I have to...

(CROSSTALK)

ROYCE: I read it in Aviation Week and Space Technology, and it was the assertion that they have purchased these 34 new fighters. So if you could check that with those sources -- and also maybe we could look at the budget on the Sudanese side. If there's transparency in the budget, we'll be able to see if that's budgeted.

Thank you.

SMITH: Ambassador Watson?

WATSON: Thank you so much.

We understand that during the course of the Sudan civil war, there were tens of thousands of children who were employed by various armed groups as child soldiers. And I guess that USAID or other aid agencies estimate that 20,000 of them had been demobilized in 2001. So, given the importance of restoring children's access to education in conflict and post-conflict situations, can you describe for us any assistance that USAID is providing to address the needs of reintegrating these child soldiers in the region, and what would be the future plans, if you are aware, for educating children in the Sudan? I mean, how can we bring these children back in so they can re-enter childhood?

FRAZER: Thank you.

I do know that USAID is planning to work on reintegration, and certainly the children soldiers would be part of that reintegration. Let me see if I can find more specific information.

Congresswoman Watson, it looks like I'm going to have to come back to you with the specific plan that USAID has for integration of these children. I know that that specifically is in the disarming- demobilization-reintegration. They're going to focus on reintegration, but I don't have in front of me their specific plans for dealing with the children. So I can come back to you with that.

WATSON: Yes, and I would hope that the chair would entertain maybe another hearing on the position that there are some urgent actions that need to be taken now. And for the future, how do we stabilize these young people? So it's not that I need the information this moment. I would like to know what the plans are, so if the chair would be so kind as to hold subsequent hearings, we can get the information then. If not, I can take it in writing. But there's no rush on it...

SMITH: The gentlelady will yield. This is part of an ongoing effort. I can guarantee we will have several additional hearings on Darfur, on Sudan. So you will have ample time.

WATSON: Thank you so very much, Madame Secretary.

FRAZER: Thank you.

Congresswoman Watson, let me just say that we do have experience with this in Liberia, where I and Congressman Payne were just there for the elections. And what we've done is, we've actually taken many of those children and given them the skills training to help rebuild the infrastructure in Liberia, and I would imagine that USAID will work on some of that type of skills training, but I certainly will come back to you with a detailed plan.

WATSON: Thank you. And I would like to emphasize that these children need not only retraining and skill sets, but they're going to need some psychological and emotional support. I'm a school psychologist in my other life, and what I know about these children -- many of them orphans, many of them were probably forced into picking up these guns, and many of them were too young to understand the permanency of the death that they caused.

And so I would hope that in your plan in working with the children, as we say, you work with the whole child, and be sure that they have a mindset and a thought process where they will not go back into this behavior again. And I'm sure they were forced in probably the most gruesome ways to take up arms and kill innocent people. So we have to administer to their psychological and emotional side as well.

Thank you so very much, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SMITH: Thank you, Ambassador Watson.

Ambassador Frazer, I just wanted to ask you a couple of additional questions. We've been talking a little bit about the mandate of the A.U., and first of all, if you could assess what your feeling is about how well they have performed. I would just say parenthetically that I think both Mr. Simpkins and I -- as much as you can glean from, you know, a couple of days' visit in Darfur -- were very impressed by their esprit de corps. They were very committed.

When I got to talking to Major Adjumbo (ph), who is from Kenya, we compared notes because he was very active in peacekeeping in Sarajevo, in the former Yugoslavia. So, you know, he's no stranger to being deployed in very difficult straits.

Is their mandate enough? Is it clear enough? How would you like to see it either changed or expanded? Because I am concerned, I think like many, that when you don't have armored personnel carriers and you're riding around in small vehicles, that hardly gives you the kind of protection to have a more robust mandate, but if you could speak to the mandate issue.

Secondly, in your prepared testimony, you mentioned that we convened a donor meeting on October 18. Could you just give some update on what happened at that donor meeting to help the African Union?

Third, on the issue of Dr. Garang's tragic death, do you have any insights as to -- you know, obviously, most of us hope that it was an accident, but obviously there were also some suggestions, including by the president of Uganda, that it might have been something other than that. What does the evidence tell you so far?

Number four, the Lord's Resistance Army in or near Juba in the south -- what is being done to get the Sudanese to end its relationship with these Ugandan rebels, the Lord's Resistance Army?

And finally, if I could, mention was made earlier about the \$530,000 contract to CR International. Could you elaborate on what that was all about? And you know, we've had lobbying firms in the past that have represented dictatorial governments, I remember from Haiti to governments in Eastern Europe, very reputable -- maybe not reputable by the crimes that they were able to front for -- often come up and make a presentation that has an awful lot of surface appeal.

I remember when I was leading the effort to stop MFN for Romania, because of the Securitate's horrific abuse of religious believers and other human rights abuses under the Ceacescu regime. They had lobby firms that would make -- you know, every year when MFN was coming up for review -- had these seemingly excellent talking points that really

got you to look askance as to what was really happening on the ground and put a gloss on gross misbehavior. So if you could speak to the lobbying firms as well?

FRAZER: Thank you.

The A.U. needs to tell us if the mandate is not sufficient, and they haven't yet told us that's the case. It's a mandate that clearly states that they can protect civilians and protect themselves from attack. But it's also clear that there are certain units that don't seem to understand that mandate very clearly.

So part of this is communication. It may be that they need a more robust mandate, but they need to carry out the one that they have first, and also, as I said, let us know if indeed. We're not opposed to a more robust mandate, or for a more robust mandate. We'll follow the lead of the forces in Darfur and try to make sure that they have what they need, whether that be mandate as well as equipment, training, and most importantly, logistics and command and control.

Because, as you say, they've operated very well, particularly at the battalion level. They've done a fantastic job. They stepped up to the plate, and we should commend their effort and continue to support their area. But when you start talking about brigade-level operations, they need more support at the headquarters element, more planning, more logistics, make sure they get the fuel that they need, et cetera. And so we are looking at how we can assist them.

This is not new to the administration. We worked very much like this with the ECOWAS force in Liberia, where we had a UCOM element embedded in their planning headquarters to assist with that brigade-level operation.

And it's also the case that it may be that over time, particularly if we talk about increasing the troop levels for the A.U., that we may need to look at a blue UN force, because the A.U. may be tapped out in terms of its ability to get new troop contributors -- because frankly, they're all over. They're in Cote D'Ivoire, they're in Liberia, they're in Burundi -- they're stretched fairly thin. The countries that normally come up and provide troops are fairly stretched.

So it may be that we need to look at a UN blue-hatting. But they've done very well. And, you know, I think the African Union is demonstrating the very philosophy of Africans taking control of their own destiny, and certainly they've stepped up in Darfur.

There's no information that we have that Dr. Garang's death was anything but an accident. I think the investigation is going on, but as far as the initial assessments, it was indeed a very tragic accident.

As far as the LRA is concerned, there has been an agreement between the government of Sudan and the government of Uganda to allow for the government of Uganda to have sort of quick action in the southern territory. We believe that the SPLM will become an effective part of that relationship to try to address the LRA threat. The LRA is actually starting to attack SPLM, so it's a very, very dangerous situation, and I think we have to do whatever we can to push the government of Sudan.

Because what we fear is that there may be elements within the military that continues to provide information to the LRA, and maybe even arms. They may not represent government of Sudan policy. That's a question that's still out there. But there's certainly some type of assistance, we believe, continuing with the LRA.

On the question of the lobby, the only thing that I can say there is that certainly not one lobby can change the administration's approach to Sudan. We think that this is a regime that needs fundamental transformation. That's been our approach from day one.

As I said, January 22, President Bush said that we need to change and stop the killing that was taking place. That continues to apply in Darfur. This administration is very serious about what the challenges are in Sudan and where the responsibility lies in Sudan. So certainly, one lobbyist can't change in any way, advocating for whomever, the fundamental approach of the administration on Sudan.

SMITH: Mr. Payne?

PAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And we realize that one lobbyist can't change this administration, probably. However, the thing that's baffling is why would the administration -- even though one lobbyist can't necessarily change the policy of this administration -- why would the administration break an 8-year sanction, regardless of whether the lobbyist can change it or not, but to change a sanctions law to allow a lobbyist to be paid \$530,000 by the government of Sudan to lobby the Congress and the administration?

Now, on one hand, we say that we want to really show Sudan that we're serious. How do you show them that we're serious when you allow them to have a lobbyist come in? Now, I know it wasn't made on your level. However, I'm simply saying it sends the wrong message. It sends the message that the administration is not serious about Sudan.

We had sanctions on gum arabic. The administration will allow gum arabic to come into this country unimpeded, because gum arabic is something that some corporations want, and the administration is not going to stop gum arabic from Sudan to come in spite of the fact that we have sanctions on Sudan.

And so, you see, the thing that's frustrating is that we say the right things, we talk things, but then on the other hand it seems like we concede and we cajole and we finesse this government of Sudan. We don't have to do that. We're the most powerful nation in the world. We don't have to play around with Sudan. There is no excuse for it. It's disgraceful. It absolutely makes no sense.

Why do we have to play around with Sudan? We don't play around with anybody else. When we're serious about something, as we can see, we make our feelings known. But why do we play around with Sudan? It makes no sense at all to allow law to be changed, to allow a lobby firm to come in to lobby.

If I were Bashir and Taha -- things are going all right, you know, they wink here, and nod, and we're just going to do the same thing. If I were the government of Sudan, I would continue to do what I'm doing anyway, because I would say that they're not serious. "Why are they not serious? Well, they're letting our gum arabic come in, they're letting us violate the CPA, they allow the lobbyists to come in. They send a top former ambassador, a very distinguished person, to be here, not to be an ambassador, but to just keep an eye on things that are going on."

I think that -- and I can't understand -- why our government continues to allow this dastardly murderous government to have a wink and a nod. I just can't understand. It's not a question, it's just a statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SMITH: Thank you.

If I could, if the gentleman yield for one second, the record should note that on the gum arabic question, both Mr. Payne and I were united when the original Sudan Peace Act went through our committee way back in the 1990s. We originally wanted to proscribe that in terms of its ability to come into this country. There was another New Jerseyan who also sits on this committee who took the opposite view, and that view prevailed.

So we, at the markup level, could not hold onto that sanction, but we were united on that in trying to keep that out, even though Mars is located in our state -- a number of pharmaceuticals, Mars, obviously, the great producer of chocolates, which I love. But, you know, at what price? So we did unite on that one, but again, it was another member from our own state who led the effort in the opposite direction.

Mr. Tancredo?

TANCREDO: Mr. Chairman, because I have just maybe a couple of questions, and if you've answered them while I was called out of the room, please tell me, and I will just simply read the transcript. First of all, the issue of the other countries that are stating the rebel movements in Darfur -- what's in it for them? Why are they doing that?

FRAZER: Thank you very much, Congressman.

The other countries that are supporting the rebels in Darfur -- Chad, it may be ethnic and tribal-based support. Eritrea -- it's probably more strategic. Eritrea has had issues with the character of the regime itself, just as the United States has had trouble with the character of the regime. And so, they may be supporting various rebel forces to try to transform the nature of the regime. But...

TANCREDO: And what are our communications with them?

FRAZER: Our communications at this moment is that the solution to Darfur and the solution to the east is negotiation -- that we have a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in place that provides for the devolving of power from the center to the periphery, that provides for power-sharing, wealth-sharing. And that what we need to do is push the rebels to form a united front and to negotiate so that they can become part of the government of national unity, deliver benefits to their population, and help the SPLM to transform the character of that regime as part of that government of national unity.

TANCREDO: Secondly, the ICC, and the status of the investigation -- I know, I'm well aware of them in regard to the ICC. But several of us have attempted to make sure that we would like the State Department to help and to cooperate in any way possible with that investigation. What is the status?

FRAZER: This issue did come up earlier.

TANCREDO: That's OK. I was just -- don't have to be redundant. I'll wait and read the -- thank you very much.

FRAZER: Thank you very much.

SMITH: Just one final question, and Mr. Payne might have one final as well, but really two.

H.R. 3127, as amended -- does the administration have a position on that legislation? And secondly, I did ask this previously, but I did ask multiple questions. About that donor meeting on October 18 -- maybe you did answer and I missed it, but -- what was concluded at that meeting for the African Union in terms of additional resources?

FRAZER: Thank you.

On the question of H.R. 3127, clearly, we support the spirit of the legislation and the need for accountability for the perpetrators of violence and atrocities. We will continue to watch to see how the bill comes out, and we're prepared to consult with you on it, but the spirit of it, certainly, we're with you on that.

On the donor conference, it was to strengthen the African Union mission -- particularly looking at funding over time, trying to build international support to continue that funding, and looking at the future of Darfur peacekeeping. Some of the issues that came up here: What is the mandate? How do we support the mandate that's currently there? Do they need a stronger mandate? What would be required if it were a stronger mandate? And how can you continue the funding in out years? So that was the purpose of the meeting.

SMITH: Ranking Member Payne has a final statement.

PAYNE: I just want to say that, you know, we commend your department for the success in Liberia, and the runoff that is coming -- an outstanding job done by the State Department. We are pleased, and fingers crossed, that Burundi will move forward -- and although the U.S. was not totally involved, watched and encouraged, I'm sure, South Africa to move forward. We're pleased that the difficult job at NDRC is being moved forward in your recent visit to Tanzania; dealing with the elections in Zanzibar and the tension that's been there for a decade or so is commendable.

So we do feel that things that the department is doing is moving in the right direction, and it's the right thing to do. However, as you can see, members of Congress are very frustrated at U.S. policy in Sudan.

We've been frustrated for a long time, and we think that because of the lack of real commitment on the part of the administration, that all of those things that are going well get lost when we sit around and allow a government like that to have the privileges that it does. And I hope that the message gets back to the food chain up that we're very serious about this situation, and that we expect our government to start acting in a more assertive and a more responsible manner as it relates to Sudan.

SMITH: Ambassador, do you have any final comments you'd like to make?

FRAZER: The only final comment is to thank you for convening this hearing on Sudan. Again, as I said, I thank you for your commitment and resolve, Mr. Chairman, as well as the committee members. And I just want to restate and assure you that the administration feels as deeply as you do -- and that comes from the very top, from President Bush himself, who is very strong on Sudan and what is necessary to get peace there. And so we'll continue to work together, and I thank you.

SMITH: Thank you so much for your leadership, and for your gracious time you spent here with us this afternoon. You're very enlightening and informative. Thank you so much.

Hearing is adjourned.

END

LOAD-DATE: November 7, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: COMMITTEE HEARING

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[--] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

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13 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

October 31, 2005 Monday

Sudan; Congressman Mike Capuano Demands Explanation of U.S. Policy in Sudan

BYLINE: United States Congress

LENGTH: 580 words

Congressman Mike Capuano (D-MA), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Sudan wrote to Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, requesting an explanation of the U.S. policy towards Sudan in the wake of a number of troubling developments.

105 members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, joined Rep. Capuano in requesting these critical clarifications. "Congress and President Bush have long ago declared that the atrocities occurring in Sudan constitute genocide, yet our government has not taken strong and decisive action, even as the violence worsens in Darfur," stated Congressman Capuano.

Congressman Capuano and his colleagues expressed alarm at what appears to be a shift in U.S. policy toward Sudan. "Rather than hold accountable a regime that the President, former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and the Congress declared guilty of genocide, we appear to be engaged in a policy of appeasement," the lawmakers wrote. Federal lawmakers outlined three areas of significant concern:

- Recent developments in Darfur, including the kidnapping and killing of African Union troops and humanitarian workers; the closure of main roads leading out of the capital of Western Darfur, and an estimate by the United Nations that nearly three-quarter of a million refugees are beyond the reach of humanitarian aid.
- Delay in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which mandates the immediate withdrawal of government troops from disputed areas; government reform of civil service, security forces, and the judiciary; and establishment of investigatory commissions into the genocide in Sudan.
- An apparent softening of U.S. policy towards the Government of Sudan.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons risk genocide by attrition as the security situation deteriorates.

The delay in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is equally troubling. The Government of Sudan has yet to establish key commissions, including the Assessment and Evaluation Commission and the North-South Boundary Commission.

The Government of Sudan, including people in power when over 400,000 civilians were killed, was granted a waiver by the State Department to hire a U.S. lobbyist for \$530,000. Their responsibilities include assisting the Government of Sudan with an image-boosting public relations campaign.

Further evidence of a shift in U.S. policy comes in the recent report that Sudan's **Trafficking in Persons** status was upgraded from a **Tier III** to a **Tier II watch-list** country, despite the fact that there is no evidence to justify this upgrade. With this change, Sudan was placed in the same category as Tier II democratic countries like Switzerland and Israel.

"Only this past January the UN Commission of Inquiry released a report on Darfur in which it documented cases of Sudanese troops involved in abductions and sexual slavery. On what grounds, then, was Sudan upgraded? What "significant efforts" were made? And for what purpose was Sudan's Trafficking in Persons status elevated?" the lawmakers wrote.

"The United States has declared that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide. Any actions that appear to be inconsistent with that declaration are concerning and we expect clarification from Secretary Rice on US policy," stated Congressman Capuano.

[Click here to view letter in pdf format](http://allafrica.com/resources/view/00010732.pdf)

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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14 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

October 31, 2005 Monday
Final Edition**Japan set to introduce tougher sex-trade laws****BYLINE:** Leo Lewis, Times of London**SECTION:** NEWS; Asia Report: News From the Region; Pg. A8**LENGTH:** 275 words**DATELINE:** TOYKO

Under fire for its sluggish action on eliminating human trafficking, Japan is expected to bring in new laws this week to enable tougher police crackdowns on the brokers and buyers of women forced to work as sex slaves.

Japan remains acutely embarrassed by a 2004 U.S. State Department report condemning the world's second-biggest economy for its failure to adequately address the problem, and placing it on a watch list with offenders such as Cambodia and Ivory Coast.

Although a more recent version of the survey praised Japan's efforts to improve the situation, it remains a "tier-two" country since its thriving sex industry remains a lucrative destination for those who traffic women from Thailand, the Philippines, Colombia and Belarus. Placement in the **tier**-two category denotes a country that fails to meet the minimum standards for eliminating **human trafficking**. The U.S. report concluded Japan "has yet to make a significant effort to lessen the domestic demand for trafficking victims."

The impending changes to the law will come into effect next spring and make the manager of any establishment in the sex or entertainment industry criminally liable for employing anyone without proper legal documentation.

Keiko Otsu, who runs a secret shelter in Tokyo for women who escape from their captors, described to The Times a constant fear that haunts the women who arrive at her door. "They are genuinely terrified, often trembling uncontrollably," she said.

They know they can't go to the police because they have no visas. They fear, if they are spotted coming to the shelter, they will be killed, or their families back home will be hurt by thugs.

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** News**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

15 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

October 31, 2005 Monday**CONGRESSMAN CAPUANO QUESTIONS U.S. POLICY IN SUDAN****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 580 words

The following information was released by The Office of Massachusetts Congressman Michael Capuano:

Congressman Mike Capuano (D-MA), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Sudan wrote to Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, requesting an explanation of the U.S. policy towards Sudan in the wake of a number of troubling developments. [Read a PDF of the letter]

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LOAD-DATE: November 9, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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16 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Times (London)

October 31, 2005, Monday

Police powers to curb trade in sex slaves

BYLINE: Leo Lewis in Tokyo

SECTION: Overseas news; 35

LENGTH: 530 words

UNDER fire for its sluggish action on eliminating human trafficking, Japan is this week expected to bring in new laws to enable tougher police curbs on the brokers and buyers of women forced to work as sex slaves.

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"They live under the weight of a fake debt, which means that they have to have sex with about ten customers a day, and there are fines for any tiny thing they do wrong that just adds to the debt and keeps them as slaves forever." The tardiness of Tokyo's moves on human trafficking was highlighted when the concept itself was accepted into Japanese law only in July this year.

Although many MPs hoped that the law would clear the way for raids on the managers of brothels, massage parlours and hostess bars, the first three months have hardly seen it used. The first prosecution was carried out last week, when the Taiwanese manageress of a club in the town of Nagano was arrested for buying a 24-year old Indonesian woman for use as a sex slave. The trafficked woman is understood to have been sold for about £10,000.

Much of the criticism of Japan centres on its failure to support the kind of shelter run by Ms Otsu. A report by the International Labour Organisation said: "Victims should receive protection and rehabilitation. In practice they are often arrested, detained and deported. (They) frequently bear all the costs of the deception they have undergone, while the traffickers are rarely prosecuted."

* RISING TOLL

* Japan's underground sex trade is worth £43 billion

* In 2000 120,000 foreign women worked in Japan's sex industry, of whom 75,000 were being held against their will

* Entertainer visas are a well-known method of getting women in to Japan

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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17 of 359 DOCUMENTS

University Wire

October 27, 2005 Thursday

Human trafficking a global issue, ex-State Dept. official says at U. Montana

BYLINE: By Kelly Jackson, Montana Kaimin; **SOURCE:** U. Montana

LENGTH: 478 words

DATELINE: MISSOULA, Mont.

People in economic misery, seeking political asylum, the jobless and homeless or victims of natural catastrophes are the most likely to become victims of human trafficking, said the former director of the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons on Wednesday in a public lecture at the University of Montana.

Nancy Ely-Raphel spoke to a crowd of more than 150 people in a speech titled "21st-Century Slave Trade: International Trafficking in Persons: Crimes Against Women and Children" in honor of United Nations Week.

"Human trafficking is taking human lives and turning their misery into quick cash," Ely-Raphel said. "It puts a value on an individual and measures them by a price."

With 800,000 people a year falling victim to human trafficking in the world, over the past couple of years the United States has taken an active role in stopping the trafficking.

In 2000, the U.S. government adopted the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. The protection act focuses on preventing human trafficking, the prosecution of traffickers and providing assistance to its victims.

"The government has to confront the rampant corruption that allows traffickers to flourish," Ely-Raphel said. "The government is taking aggressive steps to end these crimes."

Today, traffickers, if prosecuted, can get five years to life in prison in the United States.

To prevent human trafficking, Ely-Raphel suggests tightening border control and combating it with effective law enforcement in the United States. She also suggests that new legislation on training judges and police on trafficking laws should be put in place.

"Prevention is very important because then trafficking can be avoided," Ely-Raphel said.

Each year, the U.S. Department of State issues a trafficking report on 150 countries and ranks them on how effective their governments' efforts are to fight against trafficking in persons and modern-day slavery. The ranking is done in three **tiers**, the first **tier** being the best ranking and the third being the worst -- when the country is not making any effort to deal with **trafficking in persons**. Some countries that are on tier three are Cambodia and Burma, two countries that are in the worst area of trafficking -- Southeast and South Asia, said Ely-Raphel.

"It's really bad when the government in a country is not dealing with it or when the government is involved in it, like in Cambodia, where government officials dealt in human trafficking," Ely-Raphel said.

To stop those governments from ignoring human trafficking going on in their country, the United States imposes sanctions to diminish trade or vote against funding the country might need from the World Bank.

"There has been a tremendous improvement in stopping human trafficking," Ely-Raphel said. "It's a slow process, but it's moving in the right direction."

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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18 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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19 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 13, 2005, Thursday

Thailand, Japan to step up fight against human trafficking

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 13:13 GMT, 13 Oct 05

LENGTH: 344 words

Text of report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Bangkok, 13 October: The foreign ministries of Japan and Thailand agreed Thursday [13 October] to set up a joint task force to combat human trafficking, according to a press release from the Thai side. The agreement was reached in principle during a high-level annual meeting - the Japan-Thailand Political Partnership Consultation - in Bangkok on Thursday.

The half-day talks led by the Thai Foreign Ministry's Permanent Secretary Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Tsuneo Nishida also concluded they should work on an "appropriate framework" for cooperation on the transfer of offenders, said the press release, which gave no details of the plan.

In July, Japan's National Police Agency [NPA] revealed that 51 foreign women were trafficked into Japan and forced into the sex industry or other forms of exploitation in the first half of this year, the highest figure on record for the first half of a year. The latest figure, which was triple the number compared with the corresponding period last year, included a Thai transsexual for the first time since the NPA began compiling the data in 2001. According to the NPA, Filipino and Thai nationals topped the list of victims, with 20 and 17 respectively, followed by women from Indonesia, Romania, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia and Estonia.

Japan came under international pressure last year to combat **human trafficking** following a June report by the US State Department that downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to crack down on the problem by putting it on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category. Tokyo subsequently adopted an action plan to combat human trafficking in December and implemented legal changes such as amending the penal code to make human trafficking a crime. Human rights groups and researchers estimate that thousands of women, mostly from poor Asian countries, are trafficked into Japan every year and to work in the sex industry.

LOAD-DATE: October 13, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

20 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

October 13, 2005 Thursday

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SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 330 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK, Oct. 13

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21 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Chicago Tribune

October 9, 2005, Sunday

U.S. cash fuels human trade

BYLINE: By Cam Simpson and Aamer Madhani

LENGTH: 1990 words

American tax dollars and the wartime needs of the U.S. military are fueling an illicit pipeline of cheap foreign labor, mainly impoverished Asians who often are deceived, exploited and put in harm's way in Iraq with little protection.

The U.S. has long condemned the practices that characterize this human trade as it operates elsewhere in the Middle East. Yet this very system is now part of the privatization of the American war effort and is central to the operations of Halliburton subsidiary KBR, the U.S. military's biggest private contractor in Iraq.

To document this system, the Tribune retraced the journey of 12 Nepalese men kidnapped last year from an unprotected convoy en route to an American military base in Iraq. The Tribune's reporting found that:

To maintain the flow of low-paid workers key to military support and reconstruction in Iraq, the U.S. military has allowed KBR to partner with subcontractors that hire laborers from Nepal and other countries that prohibit citizens from being deployed in Iraq. That means brokers recruiting such workers operate illicitly.

The U.S. military and KBR assume no responsibility for the recruitment, transportation or protection of foreign workers brought to the country. KBR leaves every aspect of hiring and deployment in the hands of its subcontractors. Those subcontractors often turn to job brokers dealing in menial laborers.

Working in tandem with counterparts in the Middle East, the brokers in South and Southeast Asia recruit workers from some of the world's most remote areas. They lure laborers to Iraq with false promises of lucrative, safe jobs in nations such as Jordan and Kuwait, even falsifying documents to complete the deception.

Even after foreign workers discover they have been lured under false pretenses, many say they have little choice but to continue into Iraq or stay longer than planned. They feel trapped because they must repay brokers' huge fees.

Some U.S. subcontractors in Iraq--and the brokers feeding them--employ practices condemned by the U.S. elsewhere, including fraud, coercion and seizure of workers' passports.

The State Department has long expressed concerns about the treatment of foreign workers in the same Middle Eastern nations the U.S. relies on to supply labor for bases in Iraq. In June, the department added four of these nations--Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates--to the top **tier of its human trafficking watch list** for not undertaking "significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking."

U.S. law calls for sanctions in such cases. But last month, citing Kuwait's and Saudi Arabia's efforts in the "Global War on Terror," President Bush waived the sanctions against them. This allowed more than \$ 6 billion in combined military sales to go forward. One reason laborers from developing countries are sought for work in Iraq is the U.S. military fears that hiring Iraqis would allow insurgents to infiltrate its bases.

Halliburton would not say whether it includes such laborers in its public tallies of contractor casualties in Iraq. But figures compiled by Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, a private group, indicate that third-country nationals--neither Iraqis nor citizens from U.S. coalition members--account for more than 100 of the roughly 270 contractor fatalities in the country since the start of the war. Those numbers are based on the group's tracking of Defense Department releases and media accounts.

Halliburton declined to make KBR executives available for an interview, agreeing to respond only to written questions from the Tribune. In a written statement, Halliburton said it outlines the "legal and ethical behaviors that all employees and subcontractors are expected to follow in every aspect of their work."

The U.S. military has outsourced vital support operations in Iraq to KBR at an unprecedented scale, a deal that has cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$ 12 billion. KBR, in turn, outsources much of that work to more than 200 subcontractors, many of them based in the Middle East.

The subcontractors employ an army of workers from developing countries to dish out food, wash clothes and clean latrines. About 35,000 of the 48,000 people working for those subcontractors are not Americans, KBR has said.

According to salary statements obtained by the Tribune, the pay for such workers can range from about \$ 65 to \$ 112 weekly--a fortune to those scratching a living from the farm fields and brick factories of Nepal, where the per capita annual income is about \$ 270.

The Nepalese government must grant permission before workers can legally go abroad or brokers can legally send them. It has refused to do so for Iraq, because of the dangers there.

Some Nepalese job brokers have been raided or shut down, but it is unclear how vigorously authorities have pursued those involved. The government, consistently ranked among the world's most corrupt, has little incentive to do so because the Nepalese economy is reliant on the estimated \$ 1 billion sent home each year by citizens working overseas.

Many Nepalis willingly assume the risks of working in Iraq, although their knowledge of its dangers before leaving home is questionable. Only 16 of every 1,000 Nepalis even had a phone line when the war broke out in 2003.

The U.S. military and KBR do not screen workers to determine whether they come from Nepal and other nations that prohibit their citizens from working in Iraq. But the military could easily do so, because it issues the badges listing each worker's nationality, name, job and the subcontractor employing him.

Asked what it was doing to stop the flow of workers from these nations or to monitor its subcontractors, KBR said questions "regarding the recruitment practices of subcontractors should be directed to the subcontractor."

The U.S. Army, which oversees the contract, said much the same. "Questions involving alleged misconduct towards employees by subcontractor firms should be addressed to those firms, as these are not Army issues."

KBR said it does not tolerate subcontractors that abuse their workers. But it declined to cite any specific actions taken against any of its subcontractors since the onset of the war.

The company did not respond to several questions about the case of the 12 Nepalis or any other specific abuses uncovered by the Tribune.

An estimated 10,000 of their countrymen are now in Iraq despite policies restricting such work. Many are employed at American bases where KBR runs support operations, according to Prakash Mahat, who was the Nepalese foreign minister until February.

The Philippines, originally a partner in the U.S.-led coalition, instituted a ban last summer after attacks against Filipino workers in Iraq. Before that, the nation had an arrangement that helped protect workers from exploitation because it effectively cut out the job brokers. Filipinos willing to risk working in Iraq went through official channels, which ensured that they didn't have to pay broker fees and helped guarantee contract terms.

But since the Philippine ban, Filipino workers hoping to go to Iraq go through agencies that operate illegally and charge exorbitant fees. The agencies deliver workers through neighboring Middle Eastern nations, said Ricardo Endaya, who was a senior official with the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad until recently.

Many of the same firms engage in practices condemned by the U.S., including luring workers with false promises or contracts, then switching jobs or terms upon arrival.

Even after they learn they'll be in a combat zone--or their wages will be less than promised--some feel compelled to go into Iraq or stay longer than planned so they can repay the money their families borrowed to send them.

"If I could leave now, I would, but I have not yet even paid off my loan," said Sahib Yadev, a 24-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, India, who was working at the American base called Camp Liberty near Baghdad International Airport when the Tribune interviewed him earlier this year.

A Tribune reporter embedded this summer with U.S. forces at Camp Liberty, which comes under fire almost daily, was taken to the base's living area for foreign workers operated by subcontractor Prime Projects International, or PPI, which has offices in the United Arab Emirates.

Several other workers interviewed shared Yadev's sentiment, but like most who work under KBR at U.S. bases in Iraq, they are not supposed to speak with journalists and did so only on condition of anonymity. An American employee for KBR escorted the reporter to the camp, where the reporter interviewed several laborers.

Passports taken

All of the South Asian workers said PPI took their passports upon arrival. Western supervisors for PPI at the camp said the company keeps workers' passports for safety reasons. The supervisors said they feared if documents were lost, it would be difficult for laborers to get new ones, as most of their countries do not have embassies in Iraq.

Veerus, an Indian laborer who spoke on agreement that his last name not be used, said workers insisted they could care for their passports. But Veerus said PPI responded with an ultimatum: They would not be paid until PPI had their passports. Other workers at the camp suspected the firm kept the documents for another reason.

"We might transfer to another company," said another Indian laborer for PPI, who asked not to be identified. "They are paying very little salary, and other companies may be paying very good salaries. Without passports, they know we cannot leave."

HOW U.S. DOLLARS HELPED RECRUIT NEPALESE WORKERS:

An elaborate and largely undocumented system for hiring foreign laborers led 12 Nepalese men to Iraq, where they were kidnapped.

The U.S government . . .

... outsources vital military support operations to Halliburton's KBR subsidiary under a multibillion-dollar deal, giving the company responsibility for logistics on U.S. bases in Iraq.

Halliburton/KBR . . .

. . . outsources much of the day-to-day work on those bases to more than 200 subcontractors, many of them from the Middle East.

Subcontractors . . .

. . . employ thousands of so-called third country nationals, most brought into the Middle East from impoverished nations, to carry out menial labor on the bases. KBR leaves responsibility for virtually everything-- recruitment, deployment and safety--in the hands of these subcontractors.

Middle Eastern brokers . . .

. . . import foreign workers into Iraq's neighboring nations and funnel those workers to KBR's subcontractors. One such broker reported being paid \$ 300-\$ 500 per head for Nepalese workers.

South Asia labor recruiters . . .

. . . work with their Middle Eastern counterparts. To get workers into Iraq, they sometimes file false paperwork with their home governments, stating the jobs are in Iraq's neighboring states. These men employ their own recruiters, known as dalals, who troll rural villages in search of recruits. They collect huge fees from the workers and their families.

Nepalese workers . . .

... were originally offered as much as \$ 700 per month to work in Iraq. Others had paperwork promising jobs in Jordan. All appear to have been deceived about key details that propelled their journey. They paid a Nepalese labor agent and the dalals working for him as much as \$ 3,500 apiece, more than a decade's worth of earnings back home.

Source: Tribune reporting

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22 of 359 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

October 6, 2005 Thursday**CASTE SYSTEM IN INDIA****SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY****LENGTH: 2828 words**

Opening Statement of Christopher H. Smith U.S. Representative

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

October 06, 2005

The Subcommittee will come to order, and good afternoon to everyone.

Today's hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations will study the terrible situation facing India's Dalits and tribal peoples. Taken together, Dalits and tribal peoples constitute as many as 250 million people. The Dalits, whose name means "the oppressed," are much better known as "untouchables," although this demeaning name is not the one they choose for themselves. They are also often referred to in official documents as "Scheduled Castes, and occasionally as "Harijans (HAR ee johns)," or "Children of God," a name given them by Gandhi. The tribal peoples are often referred to as Scheduled Tribes, or Adivasis (a- di-VAH-sees), which means indigenous or aboriginal inhabitants. The Dalits and tribal peoples are treated as virtual non-humans, and suffer pervasive discrimination and violation of their human rights.

This topic has taken on a special relevance. India's reformist government has made great strides to open its economy, and improve the lot of all its citizens. It has also played a leading role in the Community of Democracies and the UN's Democracy Caucus and the UN Democracy Fund. In June and July of this year the U.S. and India announced a series of agreements that represent a quantum leap in cooperation between the world's two most populous democracies after decades of estrangement during the Cold War. On July 18th, U.S. and Indian leaders issued a joint statement resolving to establish a "global partnership" between the two nations through increased cooperation on a wide range of issues. We heartily welcome all of these actions.

However, there is still a long road to travel. Most observers have focused on the nuclear proliferation implications of our announced agreements as potential stumbling blocks to a true strategic partnership between the U.S. and India. But as we seek to develop a strategic partnership, we must not lose sight of India's serious human rights problems.

These problems are amply documented in the three current State Department reports: the 2004 Human Rights Report on India, the 2005 Report on Trafficking in Persons, and the 2004 Report on Religious Freedom. All three are massive catalogues of human rights violations which the Government of India condones, ignores, and in some instances, has even promoted.

To quote the 2004 Human Rights Report on India: Security force officials who committed human rights abuses generally enjoyed de facto legal impunity. . .violations included: torture and rape by police and other government agents; . . .harassment and arrest of human rights monitors; . . .forced prostitution; child prostitution and female infanticide; trafficking in women and children; . . .serious discrimination and violence against indigenous people and scheduled castes and tribes; widespread intercaste and communal violence; religiously motivated violence against Muslims and Christians; and widespread exploitation of indentured, bonded, and child labor. Further, the 2005 Report on Trafficking in Persons has this to say. Again I quote:

India is a source, transit, and destination country for women, men, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. . .Internal trafficking . . .for . . .sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, bonded labor, and indentured servitude is widespread. . .the vast majority of females in the Indian commercial sex industry are currently victims of

sexual servitude or were originally trafficked into the sex trade. India is also home to millions of victims of forced or bonded labor. The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

India was placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** for **human trafficking** a second consecutive year in 2005. Many of us believe it should be a Tier III country.

The State Department's 2004 Report on Religious Freedom also had many harsh words for India's respect for religious freedom. It noted that the Indian government, despite India's constitutional commitment to religious freedom and secular government, was often lax in protecting religious minorities from attack, and in punishing their persecutors. Religious extremists have taken such laxity as a signal that they can attack with impunity. Missionaries were often harassed, and the right to freely choose one's own religion was often violated.

Finally, there is abortion. In theory, India only allows abortions for risk to the life of the mother, or "grave risks" to her health, or for "substantial risk" of fetal impairment. Yet like so many countries where the absolute right to life of the unborn child has been disregarded in a misguided attempt to provide a so-called "limited" abortion license, the reality is that there is abortion on demand. Estimates of abortions run as high as 7 million a year. There are some estimates that 17% of maternal deaths are due to abortion: so much for "safe, legal and rare."

And abortion is not just at the demand of the mother, but often at the demand of relatives who don't want girl babies. The incidence of "sexselection abortions" has reached staggering proportions. As many as 50 million girls and women are missing from India's population as a result of infanticide and abortion. In most countries in the world, there are approximately 105 female births for every 100 males. In India, there are less than 93 women for every 100 men in the population. In one wealthier area of the capital of New Delhi, the sex ratio at birth has dropped to 762 girls for every 1,000 boys, one of the lowest in the entire country. The problem is getting worse as scientific methods of detecting the sex of a baby and of performing abortions are improving. These methods are becoming increasingly available even in rural areas.

India banned sex-selection abortions in 1996, but the health minister recently admitted that not a single person has ever been convicted or otherwise punished for having carried out sex selective abortions. UNICEF has warned that unless steps are taken to address the problem, India will soon face severe social problems, not least increased trafficking of women, which is already an enormous problem. As more and more girls are aborted or murdered after birth, more and more poor women and girls will be trafficked.

All of this background will provide the context for today's hearing.

India's Dalits and tribal peoples are victims of all the human rights violations prevalent in India, and to a far greater extent than most other Indians.

According to India's caste system, Dalits are impure, and even their shadow can pollute. Dalits are discriminated against, denied access to land and forced to work in degrading conditions. Dalit men, women, and children numbering in the tens of millions work as agricultural laborers for a few pounds of rice or less than a dollar a day. Their upper-caste employers frequently use caste as a cover for exploitative economic arrangements. In India's own version of "apartheid," entire villages in many Indian states remain completely segregated by caste. Dalits dare not even walk in the part of the village occupied by higher castes. They may not use the same wells, visit the same temples, drink from the same cups in tea stalls, or lay claim to land that is legally theirs. Dalit children are frequently made to sit in the back of classrooms.

Most Dalits continue to live in extreme poverty, without land or opportunities for better employment or education. India has a policy of quotas in education and government jobs to benefit Dalits and tribal peoples. But most cannot afford primary education, so their literacy rates remain very low and only a small minority can benefit from these quotas.

Dalits are routinely abused at the hands of the police and of higher-caste groups that enjoy the state's protection. According to India's National Crime Records Bureau, in 2000, the last year for which figures are available, 25,455 crimes were committed against Dalits. Every hour two Dalits were assaulted; every day three Dalit women were raped, two Dalits were murdered, and two Dalit homes were torched. And most experts believe that these numbers are grossly underreported, since Dalits are afraid to report crimes to police, and when they do, police often refused to register or investigate their complaints. In 2001 Amnesty International estimated that only about 5 percent of sexual assaults were registered, and that police officers dismissed at least 30 percent of rape complaints as false.

Approximately eighty percent of the tribal population lives below the poverty level. Despite constitutional safeguards, the rights of indigenous groups in the eastern parts of the country are often ignored. In recent years, crime against the tribes has risen. Indigenous peoples suffer discrimination and harassment, are deprived of their land, and subjected to torture and to arbitrary arrest. Mob violence, lynching, arson, and police atrocities against tribal persons occur in many states.

Dalits and tribal peoples suffer horribly from human trafficking. Dalit girls have been forced to become temple prostitutes as devadasis (de-vi-DAH-sees), or "servants of god," a practice where they are "married" to a deity or temple where they are then forced to have sex with upper caste men and are eventually sold into prostitution. In 2001, more than 40,000 tribal women were forced into situations of economic and sexual exploitation. An estimated 40 million people, most of them Dalits, are bonded workers, many working to pay off debts that were incurred generations ago, according to a 1999 report by Human Rights Watch. These people work under slave-like conditions for less than U.S. \$1 per day. 15 million are children, and according to UNICEF, the majority are from the lowest castes.

Dalits and tribal peoples are often the targets of Hindu religious extremism as well. Over the years, many Dalits and tribal groups have converted from Hinduism to other faiths to escape widespread discrimination and achieve higher social status. However, such converts often lose benefits conferred by the Government's affirmative action programs because these, according to the Constitution, are reserved only for those having scheduled caste status. Converts to Christianity are particularly targeted.

Christian missionaries have been operating schools and medical clinics for many years in tribal areas and among the very poor, and tribal peoples and Dalits have made great strides as a result. Hindu extremists resent these gains for disturbing the traditional social order, since better educated Dalits and tribals no longer accept their disadvantaged status as readily as they once did. Some Hindu groups fear that Christians may try to convert large numbers of lower-caste Hindus, using economic or social welfare incentives. Many acts of violence against Christians stem from these fears, and most go unpunished. Many states have also adopted anticonversion laws, in violation of India's constitutional protection for religious freedom.

In many cases, India has very good laws to protect the human rights of its citizens, although new and tougher legislation against trafficking is clearly necessary. But the best laws in the world are useless unless there is vigorous enforcement, and all too often, enforcement of laws protecting human rights is weak or non-existent. As an American I can easily understand the difficulty in a democratic, federal system of confronting deeply ingrained social prejudices against a minority, but that difficulty must be faced and overcome in any nation which aspires to its rightful place as one of the great nations in the world. To keep nearly a quarter of one's population in subhuman status is not only a grotesque violation of human rights, but it is a formula for economic and political stagnation as well.

Once in America, we deprived African Americans of the most basic rights and opportunities. This was especially true in our Southern states, which were once a byword for poverty and backwardness among people of all races. For a long time we refused to act at a national level to stop lynchings, often arguing that it was a local problem. Yet we all suffered the consequences of shutting off a huge segment of our population from equality and justice. Now, after the civil rights movement ended all legal basis for discrimination, and lynching is only a shameful memory, the Southern states are among the most economically dynamic in America, and all regions of America enjoy unprecedented prosperity. By fulfilling its promises of equality and justice for all, India will also benefit in every way imaginable.

Today our panel of distinguished visitors will provide us first hand accounts of the situation in India, what Dalits and tribal peoples are doing for themselves to advance their cause, and I hope, they will provide suggestions as to how the U.S. can best ameliorate this terrible situation.

The panel includes

Mr. Udit Raj

Mr. Raj is the National President of the Justice Party, the All India Confederation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Organizations, and the Lord Buddha Club, which was founded in 1996 for furthering the cause of Buddhism, implementation of reservation (India's version of affirmative action), setting up of schools and vocational centers, promoting the cause of human rights, and ensuring economic development of the Dalits. Udit possesses an M.A. in Political Science and is an LL.B, Ph.D scholar. Udit continues to fight against social injustice and contributes to the cause of effective implementation of reservation for the Dalits of India.

Professor Kancha Ilaiah

Professor Ilaiah is a Professor and currently Head of the Department of Political Science at Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. Dr. Ilaiah is the author of many works on the socio-political situation in India, notably: *Why I am Not a Hindu: A Critique of Sudra Philosophy, Culture and Political Economy*, a best seller published in 1996.

In 1985 when starvation deaths occurred in a poverty-ridden district in India, he established free feeding centers for the starving masses, started a massive campaign against caste atrocities in India, and campaigned against state repression of the Dalits and other lower caste people in India. For the last 25 years, Kancha has been campaigning against the practice of untouchability in India.

Ms. Indira Singh Athwale

Ms. Athwale is the Maharashtra State President of the All India Confederation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Organizations, as well as a professor in the JBD Science College, an affiliate of the University of Pune. Mrs. Athawale fights for the rights of Dalits, Dalit women in particular, in Maharashtra State and across India. She is also the National President of the Fule Shahu Ambedkar Students' Association, a college and university level organization that brings together low caste students.

Dr. Joseph D'Souza

Dr. D'Souza is the President of the All India Christian Council, one of the largest interdenominational alliances of Christians dealing with national concerns and human rights issues. Dr. D'Souza is also the International President of the Dalit Freedom Network and the Associate International Director of OM International. Dr. D'Souza has been writing articles and speaking publicly for nearly 25 years. He focuses on issues of freedom of religion, human rights, and the work among the oppressed and marginalized. He travels extensively in his campaign for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized in society, especially for the rights of the Dalits and the backward castes in India. His most recent book, a best seller, *Dalit Freedom Now and Forever*, was published in 2004. In addition, Dr. D'Souza's articles have been published in major mission journals and magazines, as well as the three compendiums, *Communication in an Asian Context*, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Handbook*, and *Global Missiology*.

Mr. T. Kumar

T. Kumar is the Asia Advocacy Director for Amnesty International USA. He has lived in several Asian and African countries and served as a human rights monitor throughout Asia as well as in Bosnia, Haiti, Guatemala, and South Africa. He has also served as director of several refugee ships and refugee camps. Kumar is a sought after expert on Asia. His comments frequently appear in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and have been interviewed by CNN, BBC, and NPR. He also frequently testifies before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and lectures at Foreign Service Institute where U.S. diplomats are trained.

LOAD-DATE: October 7, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA

TESTIMONY-BY: CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

23 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

September 23, 2005 Friday

WANT TO LEAVE RP WITHOUT A HITCH? BRIBE IMMIGRATION AGENTS

BYLINE: By Jonathan M. Hicap, Reporter

LENGTH: 470 words

HUMAN trafficking is a big business at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, mostly involving Filipinos who are allowed to leave the country even with suspicious papers, an immigration employee told The Times.

The employee, who asked not to be named, said some immigration agents "fix" the departure of Filipinos who are bound for job overseas but are armed only with tourist visas or without working permits.

The employee said immigration officers get P10,000 to as high as P50,000 for every person allowed to depart.

He said some recruiters have contacts at the NAIA immigration, which facilitates the papers of the Filipino workers.

The workers are usually bound for the Middle East, where many undocumented Filipinos who enter only on visitor's visa.

The Manila International Airport Authority hosted an orientation Thursday on human smuggling at the NAIA and principal seaports.

The orientation was a project of the Interagency Council Against Trafficking and the National Law-Enforcement Task Force Against Trafficking.

Airport General Manager Alfonso Cusi said the MIAA has tightened its intelligence network and boarding procedures to prevent human trafficking. Human smuggling has decreased, he said. He did not elaborate.

He said the Bureau of Immigration at the NAIA is responsible for stopping any form of human smuggling, although the MIAA has its intelligence office.

The Philippines has been put on the **Tier 2 Watchlist of human trafficking** by the United States Department of State for not complying with minimum international standards against trafficking.

In the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report, the State Department described the Philippines as "source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor."

The report said Filipino women are victims of "false promises of legitimate employment and are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to destinations throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America."

Filipinos who go abroad to work end up in "exploitative conditions" which can be considered as involuntary servitude. Filipino children are also victims of sexual exploitation in the country, the study added.

"Endemic poverty, a high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity toward migration, a weak rule-of-law environment and sex tourism all contribute to significant trafficking activity in the Philippines," the report said.

It noted the Philippine government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so."

President Arroyo signed Republic Act 9208, the Antitrafficking of Persons Act in 2003, to combat human trafficking.

She created the Antiillegal Recruitment Task Force to protect overseas Filipino workers.

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trafficking/Smuggling

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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24 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

September 22, 2005 Thursday 7:43 AM EST

REP. SMITH DISAPPOINTED WITH WHITE HOUSE FAILURE TO SANCTION ALLIES FOR TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 446 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following press release:

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), today expressed disappointment with President Bush's decision to waive or reduce sanctions against some countries that are known to be among the worst offenders in human trafficking. Smith is the author two landmark laws to combat human trafficking and aid the victims of this horrible crime and introduced H.R. 972 - the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 - in February 2005.

"Ally or not, America cannot condone human trafficking by any nation, and that is what we seem to be doing," said Smith, who has long championed efforts to eliminate human trafficking. "I have said it time and time again, 'friends don't let friends commit human rights violations.'"

In fall 2000, Smith's Victims of Trafficking Protection Act became law. In addition to provisions created to provide U.S. authorities explicit tools and powers to prosecute traffickers, the law created the **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) produced by Office of **Trafficking in Persons** at the Department of State which ranks countries according to their efforts to combat trafficking around the world into three **tiers**. Countries listed on **Tier 3** - the lowest ranking - of the TIP are failing to take minimum steps to combat **human trafficking** and are denied non-humanitarian US aid.

On Wednesday, the White House announced that sanctions against United States allies including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Ecuador were waived, despite their failure to make any significant reform. Only countries that do not have diplomatic relations with the United States - Burma, Cuba and North Korea - are barred from receiving certain types of foreign aid.

"We have made significant progress over the past few years to combat human trafficking. The waiver in the law to remove sanctions should be reserved for the most crucial national security standards and I am not convinced that this meets that criteria," said Smith, who was elected Special Representative for Trafficking for the Organization for Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly in 2004.

"Actions like this send the wrong signal to nations - friend and foe alike - that turn a blind eye to this international horror."

Smith noted that he hoped that the President's decision to impose limited sanctions against Cambodia, also announced yesterday, would enable that country to increase their efforts to combat human trafficking.

For additional information about Representative Chris Smith and his efforts on behalf of global human rights, please visit <http://www.house.gov/chris-smith/>.

Contact: Brad Dayspring, 202/225-3765.

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 2005

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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25 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

September 7, 2005 Wednesday 9:47 AM GMT

Eleven Vietnamese sex slaves freed in Cambodia: police

LENGTH: 212 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH Sept 7

Cambodian police said Wednesday they had freed 11 Vietnamese women who were forced to work as prostitutes in a brothel in the capital, in the fourth such raid rescuing Vietnamese nationals since February.

Police raided the brothel on Tuesday, said Keo Thea, deputy chief of police of Phnom Penh's anti-human trafficking unit.

"They told police they were between 19 and 21, but they look smaller and younger than that," he told AFP.

"According to our investigation, they were locked up in the house during the day and when night fell they were forced to be sex workers," he said, adding that a Vietnamese man accused of running the brothel was also arrested.

The raid followed another in the northwestern Cambodian tourist town of Siem Reap on Friday in which five Vietnamese women were rescued from a brothel.

In February and April, 29 Vietnamese women were freed from two other brothels in the town, the gateway to the famous Angkor Wat temple complex.

In June the United States added Cambodia to its **blacklist** of the world's worst **human trafficking** violators.

The kingdom, still recovering after decades of conflict which only ended in 1998, has long been a significant sender and receiver of trafficked people because of its weak border controls and poorly enforced migration laws.

LOAD-DATE: September 8, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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26 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

September 6, 2005 Tuesday

Bad traffic

BYLINE: EETTA PRINCE-GIBSON

SECTION: FEATURES; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 2195 words

HIGHLIGHT: MK Zahava Gal-On says Israel still has a long way to go to free the white slaves from the sexual black market

The most recent "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," issued in June 2005 by the US Department of State, places Israel in "**tier** two" in terms of its treatment of women who are bought and sold in the sex trade.

The rating is better than in past years, when Israel's treatment of sex slaves almost brought on economic sanctions by the United States. But the rating is still a diplomatic embarrassment, since Israel is left in the dubious company of countries such as Kuwait, Lebanon, Albania, Azerbaijan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

"The Government of Israel," states the report, "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so."

MK Zahava Gal-On (Meretz-Yahad), who heads the Knesset's Parliamentary Subcommittee on the Trafficking of Women, soberly agrees with the assessment.

According to a recent report by Gal-On, between 3,000 and 5,000 women have been sold as sex slaves over the past four years, each for \$8,000-\$10,000. The women are forced to work up to 18 hours a day in nearly 400 brothels throughout Israel.

With approximately one million visits to prostitutes each month, the Israeli sex "industry" generates an estimated billion dollars a year, Gal-On reveals.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared last month that this "despicable phenomenon completely contradicts Jewish tradition and the values of dignity."

Yet, despite repeated criticism by the State Department and human rights organizations, Israel has not established a central authority to cope with the problem. In December 2003, the government decided to establish a committee of ministerial directors-general to deal with trafficking in persons, but the decision was conditioned on a budgetary allocation, which was never forthcoming. Nearly two years later, this committee still doesn't exist.

To Gal-On's dismay, while the public seems to feel some sympathy for the sex slaves themselves, most Israelis simply do not view trafficking in women as a human rights violation.

To mark last week's International Day Against Trafficking in Women, Gal-On - who has been campaigning against the sex trade in Israel for nearly four years - discusses the State Department's report and its implications.

"We have made tremendous progress with regard to legislation, law enforcement and the treatment of the women victims," she says, reviewing the achievements of the committee she heads. "But we still have a long way to go."

Even after four years of intensive parliamentary effort, Gal-On "still doesn't have the words to describe how abhorrent and cruel trafficking in women really is... These women are bought and sold as if they were merely commodities in the market. They are beaten, raped and abused; imprisoned in brothel-apartments; threatened and forced to work, without a

break, for weeks and days on end. If their 'value' goes down, they are traded off again, sold for a lower price. What words are there to describe this modern slavery?"

Gal-On considers the increasing official recognition that "trafficking in women is a phenomenon that the government and the public must deal with" as her committee's primary achievement.

"When we established the committee, most people didn't recognize - even I wasn't fully aware - that we were dealing with a phenomenon, not merely a collection of isolated cases," she says.

Gal-On is also careful to give particular credit for this achievement to the women's and feminist organizations that work with her committee.

"The organizations - who work with the women - brought us the data, and they were the ones to convince MKs from all political parties how serious a problem it really is," she says.

The public often contends, she notes, that most of these women came to Israel of their own free will, knowing they would be prostitutes. This argument infuriates her.

According to her committee's report, fully one third of the women traded in Israel did not know they would be working as prostitutes, and the two thirds who did believed they would be employed in comfortable conditions and would earn enormous sums of money.

"So the majority of them knew they would be prostitutes," she says. "But they didn't come of their own free will. They came out of despair. The public thinks about [the movie] *Pretty Woman*. Well these women aren't Julia Roberts, and their clients aren't Richard Gere."

There is no free choice in this situation, she says.

"A woman who is sucked into the world of prostitution usually lives in deep poverty and social despair, especially in the former Soviet Union, where everything has fallen apart. The procurers promise them that they'll work for a summer, earn vast sums of money, and be able to come back home. And they believe them, because they don't know the truth and are too desperate to find out."

Furthermore, she asks rhetorically, "What about the effect prostitution has on all women? Is that free choice?"

"A society that allows trade in women only because they're women degrades the entire community of women. If some women can be bought, then all women can be bought.

"The sex trade entrenches women into their inferior social position. It finds its expression in the under- representation of women in politics, the fact that women earn one third less than men."

GALON RECALLS a recent Knesset debate about child prostitution in Jerusalem.

"Everyone was so upset, but I thought, 'Why are you so surprised?' After all, this is a slippery slope. It's another stage in our loss of our humanity as a society. If we are insensitive to foreign women who have been sold into slavery, sooner or later we will become insensitive to Israeli women, and then to children, too."

Incensed, she describes a recent court case in which a judge ordered an insurance company to compensate a man who was wounded in a traffic accident by paying for his visits to a prostitute in order to meet his sexual needs until he reaches the age of 70."

"The man also asked for cigarettes," she continues, "but the judge refused, because cigarettes are dangerous to his health," she says ironically.

"So a judge in the State of Israel is saying that it's OK to buy sex, and the state should pay for it. On the one hand, the state wants to close down the brothels and fight the sex trade and on the other, a judge is mandating their use. A woman as compensation for a traffic accident? That's perverted."

Gal-On also rejects proposals to legalize prostitution, noting first of all that in Israel, prostitution isn't illegal, although pimping and procuring are.

"People say that since prostitution has always been around, let's legalize it and take care of the women. This infuriates me every time I hear it. First of all, whoever wants to legalize prostitution is lending a hand to trafficking. You can't separate the two.

"So these criminals who are trading in human beings will now be considered legitimate businessmen? Upstanding citizens who are called up to the Torah on Shabbat? Pillars of the community? If the pimps become legitimate, tax-paying citizens, then the state becomes a mega-pimp.

"Third, by making prostitution legal and normative, we'd be removing the last inhibitions that people may have, so there will be a greater demand and actually increased criminality. After all, these are not people who want to pay taxes."

She continues, "It has also always been said that slavery can't be eradicated - so should we institutionalize it? We can't eradicate domestic violence, so should we make it legal? And incest has been around forever, too - so should we make incest legal?"

The suggestion wouldn't be made if prostitutes weren't women, Gal-On believes.

"No one is suggesting that we allow drug dealers to legally launder their money. Or gun runners. It's more acceptable to think of institutionalizing prostitution because it involves women and women's bodies."

While protecting the women and criminalizing the pimps, the committee has also devoted attention to the "Johns" (the clients).

"We like to delude ourselves and think that most of the Johns are foreign workers or Palestinians. But they're not. They majority are Israeli Jews - secular and religious, from all ethnic backgrounds."

The committee, Gal-On says, has had numerous discussions about this issue.

"There are a million visits to prostitutes every month. This means that men rape women every day. Some of them rape women several times a day. We've considered criminalizing them, but I think that before we make it a criminal offense to visit a prostitute, we have to work on public opinion, to get men to realize that they have to find other ways to fulfill their sexual needs. There are models of such campaigns in other cities, and we will be studying them in the fall.

"I believe that it will be possible to affect the way the public views the issue. We've already brought about changes in the way the authorities behave toward the women. At first, they treated them like criminals, because of their illegal status in the country. But now, through concerted efforts, the police and the courts recognize they are victims. If we were able to change official opinions on this issue, we should be able to create a shift in public opinion."

Such a shift, she believes, is crucial, pointing to a recent survey conducted by the Information Center at the Knesset and the Dahaf Institute's Mina Tzemah, which found that a majority of the public does not make a connection between trafficking in women and the violation of human rights.

"Israelis see this as an issue for foreigners - foreign workers, illegal residents, foreign prostitutes. And those who do object to trafficking mostly do so for moral or moralistic reasons."

She is thus especially proud of a shelter the government has established to care for the victims of the sex trade.

"The moment the state established the shelter, it was making a statement that Israel views these women as victims. In the shelter, the women are protected from the men who abused them and could try to harm or even kill them because they have agreed to testify against them. They also receive all of the services they need, such as medical treatment, psychological aid and even professional training and education."

Today, there are nearly 50 women in the shelter. Gal-On notes, however, that the shelter only accepts women who are waiting to testify; women who refuse or are unable to testify are held in a separate facility where they are protected, but not entitled to the same services. She is campaigning for all the women to be admitted to the full-service shelter.

DESPITE THE State Department's critique, Gal-On does not believe that Israel is in any way "special" with regard to trafficking in women.

"Israel is part of a world-wide phenomenon," she says. "But for many years, it was virtually risk-free to traffic here, because Israel didn't have anti-trafficking legislation."

The reason for this, she explains, is "because we never had to, since we didn't have a history of slavery in this country."

The massive aliya from Russia, she adds, facilitated the phenomenon, because the women trafficked from the FSU were able to blend in with the genuine immigrants.

Israel's criminal code was amended to specifically address trafficking. Since then, Gal-On has brought some 17 legislative changes in the Knesset, and says that Israel now has some of the most progressive legislation in the world. And when judges were unwilling to impose stiff sentences on the pimps and procurers, she made sure that legislation mandating minimum sentencing was also passed.

Proposals currently in committee include empowering the state to repossess property obtained through the profits of trafficking and a comprehensive proposal that would apply to all forms of coercion - whether ill treatment of foreign workers, organ theft or any other type of behavior that denies a human being his or her freedom.

"Human rights are simply not divisible," she says. "Trafficking is enslavement, and it is a violation of a woman's human rights."

Thanks to new legislation and heightened awareness, Gal-On claims, the police have increased their activity and are catching more of the pimps and procurers before they manage to force the women into slavery. In the past, women were smuggled in through the airport and seaports, but police have cut off most of the activity through these entrances. Today, most women are smuggled in through the Philadelphi corridor, under the nose - and tacit approval - of the Egyptians.

In its report, the State Department criticized Israel for not having established any specific task force or authority to deal with trafficking. Gal-On responds that she has proposed creating a central, statutory authority to coordinate among all relevant ministries and offices to initiate educational campaigns and promote human rights.

The proposal has yet to pass its first reading.

Summing up, Gal-On sighs. "People must realize that prostitution is first and foremost a form of violence against women," she says emphatically. "It is a denial of a woman's right to dignity and physical and mental well-being. How can Israel consider itself a democracy if people in our midst are treated this way?"

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2011

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GRAPHIC: Photo: ZAHAVA GAL-ON. 'We like to delude ourselves and think that most of the Johns are foreign workers or Palestinians. But they're not.' (Credit: Ariel Jerozolinski/The Jerusalem Post)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

27 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 30, 2005 Tuesday 5:43 AM EST

REP. SMITH URGES STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 656 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following press release:

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), author of two landmark laws to combat human trafficking and aid the victims of this horrible crime, said September is an "important month" for two key efforts to combat human trafficking - one in Congress and one in the United Nations.

Smith urged his colleagues in Congress to move forward on H.R. 972 - the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 - which he introduced in February 2005. This legislation will reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs in the United States and abroad and offers solutions to specific scenarios where additional initiatives are needed to combat trafficking problems including occurrences of sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers. Smith renewed his call after Louise Arbour - the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights - said at the Asia-Pacific human rights conference in Beijing that human trafficking is on the rise worldwide.

"We have made significant progress over the past few years to combat human trafficking, through stronger laws, increased awareness, and better law enforcement but we must fortify and expand our efforts to end this international horror," said Smith, who was appointed Special Representative for Human Trafficking for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly in 2004. "It remains essential for Congress to pass the 2005 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act so that law enforcement can continue to liberate the unfortunate women and children who are forced and coerced into slavery."

Smith has long championed efforts to eliminate human trafficking. In fall 2000, the President signed into law Smith's Trafficking Victims Protection Act which gave U.S. authorities explicit tools and powers to prosecute traffickers. Specifically, the bill created the **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP) produced by the Department of State which ranks countries according to their efforts to combat trafficking around the world into three **tiers**. Countries listed on **Tier 3** - the lowest ranking - are failing to make significant efforts to combat **human trafficking** and, as a consequence, may be denied non-humanitarian U.S. aid. HR 972 contains new provisions targeted at preventing the well-documented problem of **trafficking in persons**, and sexual exploitation and abuse in connection with peacekeeping operations.

In March 2005, - as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations - Smith held hearings about the 150 allegations of gross sexual misconduct and exploitation of refugees by UN peacekeepers and civilian personnel assigned to the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Abuses typically involved peacekeepers' sexual contact with Congolese women and girls, some as young as 11, in exchange for food or small sums of money. In recent years, the UN has struggled to deal with similar allegations in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Smith maintained that the UN must act quickly to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation by its own personnel. He noted that the UN General Assembly is scheduled to meet from September 14-17. "Actions must speak louder than words, and the UN owes it to the victims of peacekeeper misconduct to act and adopt a binding uniform code of conduct for all peacekeeping personnel," he said. Smith also noted that the UN needs to put in place a comprehensive plan for

victim assistance. "If a peacekeeper fathers a child, he should pay child support, and troop contributing countries should be obligated to enforce this," said Smith.

For additional information about Representative Chris Smith's global human rights efforts and his continued fight against human trafficking please visit <http://www.house.gov/chris-smith/>.

Contact: Brad Dayspring, 202/225-3765.

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28 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Seattle Times (Washington)

August 25, 2005, Thursday

John Miller takes on the slave trade

BYLINE: By Alicia Mundy

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 2750 words

WASHINGTON _ In the lives of public figures, there are make-or-break moments when one has a nanosecond to choose candor or caution. When advisers counsel a politician to fake laryngitis before speaking from the gut.

But John Miller did not have a posse of political advisers on hand last September when the cameras were rolling at the State Department and he was face-to-face with a hard-nosed investigative reporter. The reporter came bearing videotape showing that Miller and his boss, Secretary of State Colin Powell, had been made fools in the international community by one of America's rich allies in the Middle East.

Miller, President George W. Bush's ambassador for human-trafficking issues, had just publicly given his seal of approval to the United Arab Emirates. Home of several internationally famous camel races, the U.A.E. had officially banned the kidnapping and abuse of young boys as camel jockeys for millionaire enthusiasts. Miller had lauded the country as "a model for the region." Powell offered praise, too.

Now Miller was facing Emmy-winning TV correspondent Bernard Goldberg. Goldberg's crew from HBO Sports had just returned from the U.A.E., where they had gone undercover to examine the lives _ and deaths _ of the littlest riders.

As Miller watched their tape, the images unfolded; tiny boys, some as young as 3, skinny and scared, rode and fell from camels as trainers screamed. They slept six to 10 in a room on the floor, or outside on the sand; if their weight passed 50 pounds, they were discarded. A 6-year-old trampled by a camel had been sent back to Pakistan in a box.

Kidnapped from their homes or sold by their families in Pakistan, or Bangladesh, they had no way to escape and no place to go if they did. One 7-year-old showed his bruised rear end, where he had been sodomized by his trainer.

"When you look at that what do you think?" Goldberg asked.

Quietly, shaking his head slowly, Miller denounced the "slavery" of the little boys.

But when Goldberg pressed him on the U.A.E.'s role as an ally, Miller turned feisty. "I will tell you this. From what I know of the president and the secretary of state's feelings about the slavery issue, the fact that a government is a friend or an ally is not gonna keep this government from speaking out.

"And it isn't gonna keep me from speaking out," he said.

The interview could have been a disaster for Miller's credibility. But when the show ran a month later, Goldberg declared Miller "a real straight shooter."

Recently, Goldberg elaborated: "I've only interviewed about 20 million people in my time. He was furious that he'd been lied to about this. He just came through as the real deal."

The real deal. Of course.

Twenty years ago, John Miller was a mild-mannered Republican congressman representing Seattle. He was sincere, intellectual, decent. And perhaps just a bit of a milquetoast.

Today, Mr. Milquetoast storms the back alleys of Calcutta, the gutters and red-light districts of Cambodia and Indonesia with a team of true believers from the State Department and human-rights groups, asking young girls about being forced into prostitution, listening to them describe indescribable acts, looking to change their futures.

His constituents now are Arab domestic maids and Russian construction workers forced into servitude in places as different as Kuwait and Israel.

The crusader's cause is quite fashionable now. Christian conservatives have embraced the mission as a natural extension of their moral agenda. Orthodox Jews have joined in, along with Southern Republicans and New York Democrats, Hollywood stars, arch-feminist Gloria Steinem and born-again ex-congresswoman Linda Smith of Vancouver, Wash.

Bush and his White House advisers on religious issues began pulling moral themes as part of a crossover political-cultural agenda in 2001, and they pounced on trafficking as a win-win, thrusting a fledgling Clinton concept into the limelight. Miller's advent at TIP, the Trafficking In Persons Office, was intended to raise the program's profile. The title "ambassador" was a White House signal that Bush was taking diplomacy in a new direction. With a kinder, gentler Condoleezza Rice as the new boss at State since January, it's touting humanitarian issues, democracy, women's rights and AIDS relief.

The TIP office is presented as a success story. Nearly 90 nations have signed agreements to stop trafficking, and other countries prosecuted some 3,000 offenders last year. Miller's office has even bucked centuries of unspoken military tradition by persuading the Pentagon to pledge it will enforce a long-standing ban on U.S. troops overseas visiting brothels.

But if naivete is considered a virtue, John Miller may be among the purest men alive.

Does "the real deal" have any real power?

And even if the White House is behind him, some question what Miller can actually accomplish as the official scold.

First, some human-rights groups, AIDS activists and politicians complain that Miller is White House window dressing for President Bush's push to promote his personal Christian agenda around the globe. For instance, the White House recently demanded that AIDS organizations sign a pledge against prostitution before they receive federal grants. This infuriated health groups trying to organize sex workers to push for condoms and health care to control HIV.

On top of that, Miller is treading on some State Department toes with a target list of traffickers that reads like a who's who of America's sweethearts: Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait; the Netherlands and United Nations peacekeepers.

Miller even finds himself at odds with one of the most reputable philanthropic organizations in the world, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, because it has given money to an Indian sex-workers union that Miller and others say is part of the problem.

Finally, Miller may be trying to help prostitutes and indentured servants find a way out. But for hundreds of thousands in poverty, prostitution and servitude is a way out.

Miller acknowledges the skeptics, the critics: "I understand what you are asking, can we really make a difference?" he says. "I looked into the face of a girl who was rescued. Do I tell her that her other life wasn't so bad?"

Miller always wanted to save the world. Now he's doing it _ one child, one housemaid, one hooker at a time.

In Miller's frenetic efforts to find his mission, he bounced from cause to case, occasionally dropping out of sight. Friends would ask: "Whatever happened to John Miller? They should have asked: "Whatever didn't happen to John Miller?"

He's been a lawyer and a Seattle City Councilman, a TV commentator, state attorney general candidate, baseball columnist and wanna-be baseball-team owner. He's also been a conservative think tank-er, Yeshiva teacher, late-blooming father, John McCain supporter and, now, ambassador.

When many people think "ambassador," they think Gregory Peck in "The Omen," a debonaire diplomat with graying temples, tall and erect in sartorial splendor. That is not John Miller.

He's tall, but he walks with his neck pitched forward, cranium bent, giving the impression he's in a hurry to charge into the next briefing head first. At 67, his hair is thinning. The furrows of his sloping brow are deep enough to bowl in; he fidgets; in meetings, he repeatedly removes his wire-rimmed glasses and replaces them absentmindedly.

But when he talks, he is commanding. His huge hands swing wildly as he makes a point, causing staffers to surreptitiously move coffee cups and microphones aside. His hazel eyes sparkle when he gets animated, and his smile isn't the coy stuff of diplomacy, it's open and wide. A laugher's smile.

Miller was destined for Seattle from the fourth grade. He was in Public School 6 in Manhattan, and the geography lesson that day was on Puget Sound.

"It looked wonderful," says Miller. "It said the climate was 'temperate.' I looked up 'temperate' and said, 'That's where I'm going to live.'"

That night his New Yorker mother told him he'd fuggeddaboutit in two weeks.

This is John Miller: He went to his room, marked it on the calendar for two weeks hence, and a fortnight later announced again his intention to live there. When he was finishing Yale Law School, he jumped at an offer from a firm in Seattle.

And so Seattle welcomed the son of Russian-Ukrainian Jews, the GOP moderate with a Sierra Club-friendly environmental agenda.

Miller hooked up with GOP progressives such as Bruce Chapman, and worked for good-government initiatives on the City Council.

Next, he became a commentator for KIRO-TV. It wore him down. "I panicked that one morning I would not have anything to say _ and they would only let me fall back on baseball just so much."

Ah, baseball. In the early 1980s, Miller was teamed with George Weigel to produce a baseball column for The Seattle Weekly. Today, Weigel is one of the world's best known conservative Catholic scholars. They spent spring training with the Mariners, but they didn't produce Proust.

Miller careened back into politics in 1984, and won the 1st District Congressional seat. He became a leader of the Human Rights Caucus. When Microsoft and Boeing were lobbying for most-favored-nation status for China, Miller lectured their executives over human-rights abuses there.

In 1988, his good-guy instincts almost cost him re-election. His opponent, Seattle teachers-union president Reese Lindquist, unleashed a nasty TV ad linking Miller's stand on drug sentencing with a body in a morgue.

"We'd heard a lot of rumors about Lindquist," recalls Miller's former press secretary, Anna Perez. There were allegations that Lindquist, married with children, was too interested in teenage boys. "People were trying to give us information," but Miller wouldn't let the staff pursue it, says Perez, now PR chief for NBC Universal. In 1992, Lindquist pleaded to soliciting sex from a minor. That same year, Miller bowed out of politics. He was 54, tired of commuting coast to coast, and he and his wife, June, had adopted a little boy.

During his "missing years," Miller became involved with the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based conservative-leaning think tank, and headed its board from 2000-2002. He also unsuccessfully attempted to buy a farm team and make his field of dreams in Kitsap County. In 2002, Miller was teaching at the Northwest Yeshiva High School on Mercer Island when he learned that the Bush White House wanted him to head the Trafficking In Persons Office. The approval was held up for several months after the White House noticed that Miller had been a McCain supporter in the 2000 presidential primary, but it was finally OK'd. Last year, he and his wife divorced. They remain friends. There was no one else, he says. Just his job.

So, while many diplomats party hop after work, Miller schleps on the Metro to his spartan apartment in an Arlington high-rise canyon and grabs the five-buck stroganoff special at a nearby noodle cafe.

There's a nine-hour difference between Kuwait and Washington, D.C., and an even greater difference of opinion. A video conference has been arranged for Miller and his team to explain to Kuwait why it has landed on the bottom **tier** of this year's **Trafficking In Persons** report, an annual review of all nations' efforts to curtail traffickers. The three-tier TIP rankings rankle some countries. As the screen opens, a huddle of irritated journalists is staring back from Kuwait City. The trafficking crisis in Kuwait is so bad that Bangladeshi servants and construction workers recently rioted in front of their embassy, seeking help to escape employers or get paid.

But the Kuwaiti journalists jump on Miller. They want to know: Who is the United States to tell us what we should do inside our country?

The aim, Miller finally tells them, is to "create discussion."

That's all?

No, Miller explains later. "We hope they will respond to the "name and shame" factor.

For instance, Japan and Korea were embarrassed to land low on an earlier list.

Japan was issuing "entertainment" visas to tens of thousands of Philippine women. "I mean, how many 'dancers' do they need to import?" Miller asked. Japan passed laws against trafficking. But the TIP report was trashed in the Saudi press. And inside the State Department there were tense meetings over its ranking.

On the new TIP list, the U.A.E. shot from first tier to third. "We were duped last year," Miller explains.

The U.A.E. responded by pulling in a powerful Republican lobbyist, former Minnesota Rep. Vin Weber, to jawbone Miller. Weber says he and Miller are working with the U.A.E. on a plan to get them re-upgraded. The U.A.E. has been negotiating a free-trade agreement and doesn't want TIP sanctions to get in the way.

But here's the realistic issue facing "the real deal." The U.A.E. is an important staging area for America in the Middle East. U-2 spy planes are based there, and it risks terrorist attacks to act as a go-between with Arab leaders. Miller says, "It always comes down to Realpolitik versus real rights. But it's not a 'piddly' issue. This is human rights. Playing favorites is not an option."

Still, the question begs: Once the report comes out, does anything really happen? A tier-three country gets three months to show a desire to improve its status or the United States may impose sanctions.

Or not.

Only tiny Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela, whose president is disliked by the Bush administration, have faced them.

John Miller minces no words. The Gates Foundation is, he says, "unintentionally, underwriting the enslavement of children" in India.

Girls and boys are in demand in bordellos, he explains, because brothel owners want disease-free workers for their clients. Condoms are supposed to be provided, but pimps and madams tell clients that for a few rupees more, they can go rubber-free. Plus, there's always a market for virgins.

The Gates Foundation set up a \$200 million program in 2003 to prevent the spread of AIDS in several countries, including India. Grantees include sex-worker associations.

"They are very well-intentioned," says Miller. But he claims that one Gates grant recipient, the DMSC, the sex workers union of Calcutta, is really helping brothel owners maintain control in the red-light district.

In fact, in January 2004 while Melinda Gates was visiting India, union members attacked Calcutta police attempting to rescue a 14-year-old prostitute who was being held against her will, according to The Times of India.

Miller was so annoyed with DMSC, he met with Bill Gates, Sr., wrote an op-ed piece in The Seattle Times and sent Gates a letter last February.

"Many DMSC members are older prostitutes (who) become madams or brothel owners themselves and rely on revenues generated by children," he said. "There is also evidence that the DMSC leadership has strong contacts with organized crime."

The foundation's representative, Dr. Helene Gayle, says a million dollars went to the DMSC before the new \$200 million project, and that the focus should be on the overall work that is done.

"You do everything you can to see that you are not supporting a group that is in league with the people who enslave the girls," she said. But she did not explain how the foundation vetted the union.

Still, for many impoverished people, it is better to be inside a brothel than outside one, begging.

Prostitutes are protesting in the streets of Korea for their rights. Belgium wants to join the Dutch in legalizing prostitution to curb violence and AIDS. There are marches in India for it.

What could be wrong with helping groups who want to organize sex workers and better the conditions for prostitutes?

Miller's answer: "Look, for hundreds of years there was a group of well-intentioned reformers who said, 'We must get the slaves better mattresses, ventilation, doctors, food, and register the slaves.' They reported back to the queen of England that the slaves were happy.

"They were right in trying to improve conditions. But that cannot be a substitute for abolishing slavery."

He sighs. "I know our embassies have other things on their plate. Freedom and slavery is not always at the top of the agenda."

He pauses. "You think I'm naive? Maybe. Maybe."

But, he adds, "It shouldn't be naive to want to do the right thing."

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29 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

August 24, 2005 Wednesday

CURBING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 373 words

THE plan to check human smuggling and illegal immigration, be it under foreign pressure or the prevailing of sanity in the Interior Ministry, is a welcome step. If a 'glass half-full' view is taken, the fallout of 9/11 and the London bombings have improved the working of the Ministry when it comes to increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions, and strengthened implementation of its 2002 Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance.

In addition to Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao's approval to operate a Task Force Action Plan against illegal immigration and human trade across Pakistan-Iran border, the statement by the Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis, Senator Tariq Azeem, that gangs involved in trafficking of Pakistani children would be arrested, shows a wholesome approach towards eliminating dangerous elements. During the return of 22 children out of 250 in the first batch in June, the media was helpful in creating awareness for these undernourished children and placed the spotlight on the working of the law enforcement agencies responsible for checking human trade. That 10,000 Pakistani children could be smuggled to the Middle East indicates the flaws in the system. Human smuggling takes place mostly with the connivance of immigration and custom officials. Now that the federal government has identified 92 traffickers, including government officials, it would serve as a warning for others involved in the heinous crime. Last year the USA removed Pakistan from its **watchlist on human trafficking** but pressed Islamabad to do more to stamp out the practice.

In 2004, 479 trafficking-related cases were registered, 289 individuals arrested, 248 court cases filed and 72 convictions obtained - a significant improvement over the six convictions obtained in 2003.

In the wake of the London bombings there is fresh pressure to check extremist elements entering porous borders. Other than prosecuting illegal immigrants and gangs, the new regulations for the implementation of Pakistan's 2002 anti-trafficking law oblige the government to provide assistance to trafficking victims and allocate funding for their repatriation. We have to put our house in order if we want others to stop pointing fingers.

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Global News Bites

30 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Pakistan)

August 24, 2005 Wednesday

EDITORIAL: Curbing human trafficking

SECTION: Nationwide International News

LENGTH: 378 words

DATELINE: August 24

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If a 'glass half-full' view is taken, the fallout of 9/11 and the London bombings have improved the working of the Ministry when it comes to increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions, and strengthened implementation of its 2002 Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance.

In addition to Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao's approval to operate a Task Force Action Plan against illegal immigration and human trade across Pakistan-Iran border, the statement by the Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis, Senator Tariq Azeem, that gangs involved in trafficking of Pakistani children would be arrested, shows a wholesome approach towards eliminating dangerous elements.

During the return of 22 children out of 250 in the first batch in June, the media was helpful in creating awareness for these undernourished children and placed the spotlight on the working of the law enforcement agencies responsible for checking human trade.

That 10,000 Pakistani children could be smuggled to the Middle East indicates the flaws in the system. Human smuggling takes place mostly with the connivance of immigration and custom officials. Now that the federal government has identified 92 traffickers, including government officials, it would serve as a warning for others involved in the heinous crime.

Last year the USA removed Pakistan from its **watchlist** on **human trafficking** but pressed Islamabad to do more to stamp out the practice. In 2004, 479 trafficking-related cases were registered, 289 individuals arrested, 248 court cases filed and 72 convictions obtained - a significant improvement over the six convictions obtained in 2003.

In the wake of the London bombings there is fresh pressure to check extremist elements entering porous borders. Other than prosecuting illegal immigrants and gangs, the new regulations for the implementation of Pakistan's 2002 anti-trafficking law oblige the government to provide assistance to trafficking victims and allocate funding for their repatriation. We have to put our house in order if we want others to stop pointing fingers.

LOAD-DATE: August 26, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

31 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

August 19, 2005 Friday

BUSH APPOINTS SPECIAL ENVOY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

BYLINE: States News Service**LENGTH:** 560 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department: President Bush has appointed Jay Lefkowitz as the U.S. special envoy for human rights in North Korea, the White House said in an announcement released August 19. Lefkowitz, an attorney, served as deputy assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. He has been a public member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

The special envoy, mandated by the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333, October 18, 2004), will work in the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and report directly to the secretary of state.

The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 is intended to promote international cooperation on human rights and refugee protection and increased transparency in the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of North Korea. It authorizes funds for programs to promote human rights, democracy, rule of law, a market economy and freedom of information.

"Mr. Lefkowitz will increase awareness and promote efforts to improve the human rights of the long-suffering North Korean people," a senior administration official told the press on background August 19.

According to the official, the special envoy will meet with international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to promote coordinated humanitarian activities in North Korea and "will also engage with North Korea on human rights concerns."

Lefkowitz plans to increase broadcasting by Radio Free Asia into North Korea and will travel to the region, the official said.

Asked if Lefkowitz's appointment would have any bearing on the Six-Party Talks to end North Korea's nuclear program, the official said the envoy would coordinate his activities with the chief U.S. negotiator for the talks, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill.

North Korea remains one of the most repressive countries in the world and stands in stark contrast to democratic governments elsewhere in Asia, according to the State Department's report Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004-2005.

The report estimates 150,000-200,000 persons are being held for political reasons in detention camps in remote areas where prisoners have died from torture, starvation, disease, exposure or a combination of these causes.

"The regime controls many aspects of citizens' lives, denying freedom of speech, religion, the press, assembly and association," the report says. "The regime also severely restricts freedom of movement and worker rights."

In the State Department's 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, North Korea was rated as a **Tier 3** country, the least favorable rating. Tier 3 is reserved for countries whose governments not only fail to implement international standards but fail to make progress in prosecuting rampant trafficking and engage in acts such as state-sanctioned use of forced labor.

The announcement is available on the White House Web site.

See the State Department Web site for copies of Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004-2005 and the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LOAD-DATE: August 23, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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32 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 19, 2005 Friday 6:03 AM EST

BUSH APPOINTS SPECIAL ENVOY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 573 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Todd Bullock

Washington File Staff Writer

President Bush has appointed Jay Lefkowitz as the U.S. special envoy for human rights in North Korea, the White House said in an announcement released August 19.

Lefkowitz, an attorney, served as deputy assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. He has been a public member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

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The announcement is available on the White House Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/08/20050819.html>

See the State Department Web site for copies of Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004-2005 at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2004/> and the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>

LOAD-DATE: August 21, 2005

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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33 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

August 11, 2005 Thursday

Collective efforts sought for curbing human trafficking

SECTION: Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 599 words**DATELINE:** Karachi, August 11

Participants at a meeting on human trafficking Thursday terming poverty, lack of awareness and biased traditional customs basic causes of human trafficking, stressed need for provoking awareness among people on their legal rights and physical and mental hazards they may encounter in wake of being potential trafficking victim.

The meeting arranged by International Organization for Migration (IOM) here to discuss Pakistan Thematic Group on Human Trafficking (PTGHT)'s finding in face of a Position Paper, unanimously agreed collective measures were required on part of government functionaries and society to curb this menace.

Representatives of NGOs, lawyers association, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Sindh Government and labour community participated in IOM's last round of discussions, aimed at receiving inputs from various stakeholders for devising an effective strategy.

Shameela Ahmed, Project Coordinator PTGHT, said the anti-trafficking campaign should cover restriction of trafficking, protection and rehabilitation of victims and legal prosecution of traffickers. "Position Paper was compiled after various brain storming sessions on Pakistan's legal position on human trafficking, causes, implications and it's strategic location as a source, transit and destination country for trafficking", she said.

She said Pakistan was being used for human trafficking of vulnerable people, especially women and children, to Middle East and other destinations. Whereas, she added, it was also a destination for women being trafficked from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Nepal.

She emphasized that while efforts were required within Pakistan, it was essentially important for regional countries to compound anti-trafficking activities for making any long-lasting impact.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao has already expressed commitment for devising National Strategy for countering human trafficking in Pakistan in light of recommendations and measures suggested in PTGHT's position paper, she said.

The position paper quotes Deputy Director Law, FIA, Muhammad Azam Khan as saying: "FIA, leading institution for anti-trafficking interventions, faces serious concerns in terms of outreach and resources. It has limited staff and vehicles".

However, Monica Steven, also associated with PTGHT, said Pakistani Government was making considerable efforts for tackling human trafficking. She said due to recent developments, Pakistan was removed from US State Department's **Tier II (Watch List)** on **human trafficking**.

She too warned against consequences of trafficking, which poses threat to country's security and involved repercussions for public health including transfer of HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases. Statistics show most victims fall pray to prostitution, she added.

Rasheeda Patel, President PAWLA- women's lawyer association and FIA representatives Shahid Hayat and Siraj Phanswar said it was often hard to ascertain criminals in absence of comprehensive data collection system on human trafficking.

They were of the view that special courts were required to prosecute human traffickers, who were operating massive criminal networks. The meeting said Government along with its **tiers**, NGOs and legislators should establish a liaison for abolishing causes leading to **human trafficking**.

They also called for removing socio-economic restraints, which were being used as tools by traffickers for hoodwinking poor masses and selling them into slavery, prostitution and forced labour, abroad.

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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34 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 10, 2005 Wednesday

Nigeria; Human Trafficking: USAID to Spend N140m for Victims

BYLINE: Daily Champion**LENGTH:** 213 words

COMMITTED to total eradication of human trafficking in the country, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has said it will spend approximately \$1 million (about N140 million) to support and reintegrate victims of trafficking as well as promote public awareness on the issue.

The money, which has been budgeted to be spent this year, will also be used to improve capacity of police and immigration officials to detect, investigate and prosecute human traffickers.

Briefing newsmen at the United States (US) Consulate General, the Consulate's Economic/Political Officer, Mr. Eshel William Murad, also disclosed that the embassy, through its Small Grants Fund, recently committed \$18,000 to assist non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in educating people in their communities on the dangers of trafficking.

He said Nigeria has been elevated from **tier** two **watchlist** status to **tier** two in the state department's annual international **trafficking in persons** reports.

The elevation, he said, stemmed from frequent and successful efforts made by the country in fighting human trafficking.

Touching on househelp issue, which many blame on poverty, the Consulate Economic/Political officer insisted that poverty was not the problem.

LOAD-DATE: August 10, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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35 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 10, 2005 Wednesday

Nigeria; USAID Votes \$1m for Anti-Trafficking War

BYLINE: This Day**LENGTH:** 326 words

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has voted about \$1 million to "support and re-integrate victims of human trafficking, to promote public awareness, and to improve the capacity of police and immigration officials to detect, investigate, and prosecute traffickers."

This is in addition to the \$18,000 already committed by the Embassy through its Small Grants Fund in educating people in their communities.

Economic/Political Officer of the United States Consulate in Nigeria, Mr. Eshel William Murad, revealed this yesterday at the weekly press briefing of the consulate.

According to him, US is also helping to establish state-level working groups, consisting of law enforcement officers, commissioners, community and religious leaders.

He said last week, Ogun State chapter of the working group was inaugurated, but hoped that the Lagos group will be established this week, even as the Ondo group is to be formed next week.

The Department of Labour, he added, is currently working with International Labour Organisation and Cocoa Global Issues Group to withdraw children from hazardous work on cocoa plantations.

He commended the government, non-governmental organisations and concerned communities for the recent elevation of Nigeria from **tier two watch list** status to **tier two** in the State Department's annual international **trafficking in persons** report.

"These rankings reflect the country's will to eliminate trafficking within and across its borders, and serve to help measure how effective US assistance can be in a country," he said.

He added that recently the Lagos zonal Director for National Agency for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) told him that attitudes that led to trafficking are not customary nor traditional.

According to him, the director cited "the 'househelp' syndrome of many Nigerians, who want young girls to act as stewardesses and cooks at home."

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

36 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 8, 2005 Monday

Gambia; National Conference On Human Trafficking

BYLINE: The Independent

LENGTH: 412 words

The first national day conference on the Best Practices to Combat the Trafficking of Children in The Gambia jointly organised by The Gambia Government and United States Embassy in Banjul was recently held at Kairaba Beach Hotel.

The conference brought together about 70 participants drawn from government, civil societies, NCOs and other institutions dealing with children affairs.

In his opening statement, SoS for Health, Tamsir Mbowe said The Gambia Government has been and continues to be committed to the fight against trafficking in persons, especially among children who are subjected to prostitution, terrible mental and physical abuse, which put them at risk of contracting devastating diseases like HIV/Aids.

He said his government has recognised the staggering proportion around the globe, in particular the sub-region. He said solving the problem requires cooperation.

He noted that the government has undertaken several efforts to combat the problem of trafficking, many of which have been aimed specifically at protecting children, ratified several conventions, and is actively working towards combating this problem at both the regional and sub-regional level.

"Currently, government is negotiating draft cooperation agreements with several ECOWAS states to combat child trafficking across the borders in the sub-region in order to conform to the ECOWAS Plan of Action, and has formed a National Task Force to fight against trafficking," he said.

The American Ambassador to The Gambia, Mr. Joseph Stafford emphasised the importance the US Government attached to the trafficking of persons, especially children. He expressed his government's commitment to support all stakeholders to ensure that the humanity wins the fight against this menace. Ambassador Stafford commended the government, NGOs and civil societies for their resolve in the fight against trafficking in person.

Ms Shaye Brown, who is currently on attachment at the American Embassy, said that the US Congress Trafficking Act 2002 among other things noted that wherever a US citizen commits a crime he or she will be prosecuted.

Ms Shaye Brown, who is also responsible for **trafficking in Person** at the State Department in Washington, said her department prepares a report on countries concerning **trafficking in person** and send it to the Congress so that countries can be placed correctly on their **tiers**.

Several papers were presented on how to combat the menace.

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

37 of 359 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

August 2005

U.S. Releases Fifth Annual Human Trafficking Report, Criticizes Persian Gulf Allies

BYLINE: Jed Borod n1

n1 Jed Borod is the assistant editor of the International Enforcement Law Reporter. He received a B.A. in international studies from Johns Hopkins University.

SECTION: HUMAN TRAFFICKING; Vol. 21, No. 8

LENGTH: 1507 words

On Friday, June 3, 2005, the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons released the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking at the press conference announcing the report, called human trafficking nothing less than a modern form of slavery and said that the 2005 TIP report represented the United States deep commitment to stop the brutal crime of human trafficking. n2

n2 Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Remarks at the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (June 3, 2005) (transcript available online at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/47193.htm>).

Ambassador John R. Miller, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, echoed Rice's view, calling trafficking synonyms with slavery and affirming that the U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern day slavery. n3

n3 Ambassador John R. Miller, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Remarks at the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (June 3, 2005) (transcript available online at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2005/47210.htm>).

This 2005 TIP report, released as part of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are victims of trafficking each year; of this group, 80 percent are female and 50 percent are minors. n4

n4 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, US Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report June 2005 (2005) 6. (Hereafter referred to as the TIP Report.)

While the exact number of trafficking victims remains difficult to measure, an earlier CIA report put the number of women involved in sex trafficking for sexual exploitation as high as 2,000,000 n5

n5 Amy O Neil Richard, Center for the Study of Intelligence, International Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime (2000); cited in Susan Tiefenbrum, The Saga of Susannah: A U.S. Remedy for Sex Trafficking in Women: The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, 2002 Utah Law Review 111 (2002).

and the 2005 TIP report notes that the 600,000 to 800,000 figure fails to include millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders. n6

n6 TIP Report, 6.

This year's report focuses on trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking for forced labor, offering a series of case studies that span the globe, as well as country reports, profiles of anti-trafficking NGOs and activists, and a list of inter-

national anti-trafficking best practices. The most watched part of the report, however, is the **tier** list, which ranks countries based on their involvement in **human trafficking**, their domestic anti-trafficking and victim services laws, and their compliance with U.S. and international anti-trafficking initiatives.

Continuing the rankings metric established by the TVPA, the 2005 report uses a three tier system to rank countries. Countries that follow the TVPA protocol to eliminate trafficking are placed on Tier 1; countries that take some anti-trafficking action but fail to meet the minimum TVPA protocol are placed on Tier 2; and countries that fail to meet the minimum protocol and do not make any substantive anti-trafficking efforts are placed on Tier 3. n7

n7 Lindsay Nordell, House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Trafficking in Persons, 20 Int L Enforcement L. Rep. 375 (2004).

(The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 also establishes a Tier 2 Watch List, for 2004 Tier 2 countries that have moved to Tier 1, 2004 Tier 3 countries that have moved to Tier 2, and current Tier 2 countries where trafficking is increasing or where anti-trafficking measures are not developed and implemented.) n8

n8 TIP Report, 26.

1. Persian Gulf Countries in the 2005 Report

This year's report places 24 countries in the Tier 1 category, 77 countries in the Tier 2 category, 27 countries in the Tier 2 Special Watch List, and 14 countries in the Tier 3 category. n9

n9 TIP Report, 42.

The placement of a number of American allies in the Persian Gulf Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and most notably Saudi Arabia into the Tier 3 category in the 2005 TIP Report has drawn international attention and commentary.

The four Persian Gulf countries in Tier 3, all allies in the United States post-9/11 anti-terrorism efforts, were cited as destination countries for traffickers offering men, women, and children for forced labor, especially in the domestic services industry. n10

n10 TIP Report, 137 (Kuwait), 181 (Qatar), 187 (Saudi Arabia), 218 (United Arab Emirates).

Additionally, the report notes that Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait are destination countries for young boys forced to work as camel racing jockeys.

Ambassador Miller devoted special attention to the trafficking situation in Saudi Arabia, a staunch American ally, saying that the country's problem was serious. n11

n11 Gary G. Yerkey. U.S. Threatens FTA Partners in Gulf War with Sanctions over Human Trafficking, Daily Rep. For Exec., June 6, 2005, at A9.

According to the TIP Report, Saudi Arabia is host to numerous trafficking victims brought to the country to provide labor. In a 2004 report entitled *Bad Dreams: Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia*, Human Rights Watch noted that these foreign workers were subjected to abysmal and exploitative working conditions, sexual violence, and human rights abuses in the criminal justice system.

2. Analysis

Human trafficking is a widely acknowledged international problem resulting from the complex interaction of a number of legal, political, social, and economic forces. In the United States, anti-trafficking efforts are relatively uncontroversial, enjoying support from political groups that are normally opposed to international legal initiatives such as the International Criminal Court.

The 2005 TIP Report comes at a time when the United States faces increasing international criticism, some of which comes from traditional American allies like the United Kingdom. This criticism focuses on America's military intervention and continued presence in Iraq and the alleged human rights violations occurring at the interrogation facilities located at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

This contentious political climate may undermine the power of the TIP report. Many of the Tier 3 countries have deplorable human rights records and are unlikely to respond to American overtures for anti-trafficking cooperation: Cuba, North Korea, and Burma are three such examples. The United States has attempted to soften the unilateral nature of their anti-trafficking efforts, repeatedly explaining that the TIP report is not designed to result in sanctions ... [but] to get progress, and acknowledging America's own internal labor and sex trafficking problems. n12

n12 Ambassador John R. Miller, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Remarks at the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (June 3, 2005) (transcript available online at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2005/47210.htm>).

Nevertheless, the current international climate raises the possibility that perceptions of American hypocrisy or unilateralism will subvert the goals of the anti-trafficking program.

Given this situation, the decision to include the four Persian Gulf countries in Tier 3 is all the more surprising. Tom Malinowski, advocacy director at Human Rights Watch in Washington, told the WASHINGTON POST that the Tier 3 status of the Gulf states is ... another positive sign that the administration is willing to be honest and straight-forward about the shortcomings of its allies in the Arab world, including Saudi Arabia. n13

n13 Glenn Kessler. Saudis Rebuked on Forced Labor, Washington Post, June 4, 2005, at A10.

Interested observers should continue to monitor State Department human rights and anti-trafficking reports, as they may serve as a proxy for shifts in American foreign policy. In addition, the anti-trafficking reports enable professionals to identify problems in efforts to apply international anti-trafficking requirements, and to review the trends of traffickers and government officials. The success or failure of the 2005 report in generating meaningful international enforcement cooperation on anti-trafficking measures will also offer a useful measure of America's moral and diplomatic authority on human rights issues in the contemporary political climate.

LOAD-DATE: August 16, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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38 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

August 1, 2005 Monday

Interior Ministry sets up Inter-Agency Passport body to tackle human trafficking

SECTION: Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 413 words**DATELINE:** LAHORE, August 1-

In order to curb the menace of human trafficking properly, the Interior Ministry has set up Inter-Agency Passport committee headed by Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

It would prepare a National Plan of Action to tackle the issue, which would be presented in the Interior Ministry's meeting scheduled for August 15.

Director General FIA Tariq Pervaiz disclosed this while talking to newsmen at the Agency's regional headquarters here on Monday. He along with FIA officials heard public complaints against the FIA officials and issued orders on the spot on the pending inquiries.

"Viewing the increasing incidents of human trafficking from Gujranwala Division, the FIA has decided to set up a Passport Circle Office at Gujrat to eliminate the gangs involved in this heinous crime. A database of human traffickers, proclaimed offenders and their cronies would be formed and to round them up from abroad FIA would seek the help of Interpol," the DG said.

Mr. Pervaiz said that there were more 7000 Pakistanis detained in Turkey for entering there illegally while Iran was expelling a number of people, who were either national of Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, at our borders. "However, a joint tripartite Pak-Iran-Turkey ministerial committee has been constituted to tackle the issue amicably instead of creating any rift among the three Muslim brotherly countries. While, the FIA has considerably been succeeded in controlling the illegal human trafficking."

The DG said that the US has deleted Pakistan's name from its **Watch List of Human Trafficking** due to the concerted recent efforts and raids by the Agency as a number of culprits have been nabbed and their groups busted. The British government had threatened to reduce its flights from Pakistan, however, up to 40 percent incidents of human trafficking to UK have been reduced, he said.

He said the FIA was able to check properly the rising menace of copyrights at Karachi, which was not only recognized at domestic level rather at internationally. Besides, he said, the focus was given on improving the departmental efficiency, adding that during a couple of years as many as 40 FIA officials up to Inspector rank were sacked, mostly due to their linkage with human traffickers. However, it was imperative to pour more funds for enhancing the capacity building of the Agency, of which 750 personnel have been transferred to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the DG said.

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

39 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

July 29, 2005 Friday 4:55 AM GMT

Two Vietnamese jailed in Cambodia for human trafficking

LENGTH: 293 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH July 29

A Cambodian court has handed sentences of 10 and 15 years to two Vietnamese for trafficking females from their homeland, including the daughter of one of them, to be sex workers in Malaysia, a court official said Friday.

Phnom Penh Municipal Court found Vietnamese nationals Keo Chin, 39, and Nguyen Thi Vang, 45, along with Cambodians Tin Matt Sein and a man identified as Rosat guilty during a hearing Thursday, deputy prosecutor Nget Sarath said.

He told AFP that Keo Chin and Tin Matt Sein were sentenced to 15 years in jail each, while Nguyen Thi Vang was handed a 10-year sentence for selling her own daughter aged about 20 to the men to be taken to Malaysia as a sex worker.

Keo Chin and Nguyen Thi Vang were arrested in January in Cambodia's northwestern Poipet as they tried to take four Vietnamese women, including her daughter as well as a 13-year-old girl, via Thailand to Malaysia. Tin Matt Sein was also involved, the prosecutor said.

But he said Tin Matt Sein was only arrested in March, along with Rosat, as they tried to take a second batch of four Vietnamese women into Thailand, again destined for Malaysia.

"They planned to take all the girls from Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) to Malaysia through Poipet and Thailand," Nget Sarath said.

In the latter case, Tin Matt Sein was sentenced to another 12 years in jail, to be served separately, while Rosat was given a 10-year sentence.

The United States added Cambodia, one of the world's poorest nations, to its **blacklist** of the world's worst **human trafficking** violators in June.

The kingdom, still recovering after decades of conflict which only ended in 1998, has long been a significant sender and receiver of trafficked people because of its weak border controls and poorly enforced migration laws.

LOAD-DATE: July 30, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

40 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Japan Times

July 14, 2005, Thursday

Tokyo still weak on human-trafficking: U.N. investigator

LENGTH: 261 words

By MASAMI ITO, Staff writer

The government will have to do much more than just revise a few laws to combat human-trafficking, the U.N. special rapporteur on the problem said Wednesday.

Sigma Huda, of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, was in Tokyo on an unofficial visit to meet with nongovernmental groups, lawyers and government officials to learn more about Japan's antitrafficking steps.

"Trafficking is the grossest form of violation of human rights," the Bangladeshi told a news conference. It is "when you lose the control over your own self, when you lose your own dignity" and have no say as others make money off of you.

After the United States put Japan on a **watch list** in June 2004 for not getting tough on **human-trafficking**, the government beefed up measures to address the issue, including an addition to the Penal Code that took effect Tuesday that makes the offense punishable.

Huda said the government has taken a step in the right direction, but has not done much else.

"Trafficking is not only a law and order situation," Huda said.

"It is also a social and humanitarian issue."

The U.N. investigator said she was shocked to hear several Japanese men at a Tokyo symposium the previous day condoning the existence of the sex industry, arguing that it is deep-rooted in Japanese culture.

Huda, who was to leave Japan on Thursday, said she hopes to make an official visit to Japan next year.

The special envoy is expected to submit a report on the situation of human-trafficking to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan next year.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

41 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

July 13, 2005 Wednesday

Police log record 51 human trafficking victims in 2005 first half

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 456 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, July 14

Fifty-one foreign women were trafficked into Japan and forced into sex industry or other forms of exploitation in the first half of this year, the highest figure on record for the first half of a year, the National Police Agency said Thursday.

The latest figure, which was triple the numbers compared with the corresponding period last year, includes a Thai transsexual for the first time since the NPA began compiling the data in 2001.

Police uncovered 29 human trafficking cases, up by five, and netted a record 29 suspects, up by 16, involved in trafficking. The suspects, identified as brokers or the victims' employers, were either arrested or had their papers sent to prosecutors by the police.

The NPA report comes after revisions to the Penal Code were enforced on Tuesday. The revised law stipulates human trafficking as a crime and set punishments for violators.

Under the revised laws, those who purchase a person and put him or her under their control face three months to five years in prison. In cases of human trafficking for profits or sexual purposes, the penalty is even harsher or the prison term spans from one year to 10 years.

Based on these revisions, the NPA is hoping to step up measures against brokers and help protect victims.

According to the NPA, Filipino and Thai nationals topped the list of victims, with 20 and 17 respectively, followed by women from Indonesia, Romania, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia and Estonia.

All the victims worked as hostesses, with 27 of them being forced into prostitution and other sexual services, while 24 others dressed in underwear to entertain visitors.

The NPA found that the victims could not escape due to various reasons such as incurring huge debts or having their passports taken away from them.

Of the victims, 28 sought help from the police, immigration officials or their embassies. The other cases were uncovered only when the victims were questioned on charges such as illegally staying in Japan.

Japan came under international pressure last year to combat **human trafficking** following a June report by the U.S. State Department, which downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to crack down on the problem by putting it on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category.

Tokyo subsequently adopted an action plan to combat human trafficking in December and implemented legal changes such as amending the Penal Code.

Last month, the State Department removed Japan from the list.

Human rights groups and researchers estimate that thousands of women, mostly from poor Asian countries, are trafficked into Japan every year and forced to work in the sex industry.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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42 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

July 6, 2005 Wednesday

CAMEL KIDS REHABILITATION RECOMMENDED

LENGTH: 1393 words

Karachi - Serious and holistic measures should be taken for the rehabilitation and prevention of future use of child jockeys in Pakistan and UAE as this is the dire need of the time.

This was recommended by a fact-finding report by Centre for Research and Social Development on camel jockeys after the repatriation of 22 camel kids last month. In 2002, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) quoted that there were 1500 Camel Jockeys in UAE. Whereas in a recent US TIP 2005 report they have quoted that according to UAE interior ministry there are 1200 - 2700 camel kids in UAE. Furthermore when Pakistani Minister for Overseas visited the UAE in May 2005 he reported that there are 2000 camel kids in UAE, mostly of Pakistani origin. Whereas according to Centre for Research and Social Development's (CRSD) review and analysis there are around 500 Pakistani children in UAE, who are being used for races purpose.

According to CRSD's estimates around 200 children in a year are trafficked from Pakistan and less than 150 are repatriated from UAE through official channels. Agents facilitate the whole process of child trafficking for camel races but in most of the cases they are sent with the consent of their parents.

It is interesting to note that in the beginning of engagement of children, the Sheikhs were used to pay PKR 3-5 lacks to family and agents for the engagement of child for the race. Since now the trade has flourished therefore they do not pay anything whereas families themselves pay PKR 20,000 to 30,000 to agents for selection and sponsoring their child to UAE.

After 9/11 in order to control the human trafficking and illegal cross border movement of people, government of Pakistan with support from US installed highly sophisticated 'Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System' (PISCES) in December 2001 which was functional within two years in order to control human trafficking, this facility was installed at 18 entry and exist points of Pakistan but yet it was made fail to control human trafficking and child trafficking continued throughout this period and as on with multiple routs.

Computerized national identity card (CNIC) and Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) were also part of the same PISCES system but so far have been unsuccessful in deducting the cases of child being trafficked from Pakistan either legally or illegally.

According to a recent survey by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) rural poverty has increased in Pakistan at 14 per cent, which is one of the major contributing factors in child trafficking mostly from Southern Punjab. Other reports regarding the poverty level in Southern Punjab and upper Sindh quote higher figures compared to this one. Similarly in these areas unemployment has also increased to a much higher level.

Currently, there are more than 20,000 the overall active camel races whereas camels under the age of 2-6 years are used for the races. Mostly female camels are used in the races, those take part in races ranging from 4 - 8 kilometres and complete them within 6 - 14 minutes.

In a race mostly 8 - 25 camels take part whereas in large races more than 70 camels participate. For long route races camels above the age of 6 years are used and complete within 17 minutes.

Trust building and fulfillment of commitment are the major factors those help this trade thriving. Generally a child is or his family is paid something between 600 to 2000 UAE Dharmas per month. In case of any serious injuries they are paid 50,00 to 50,000 UAE Dharmas, whereas in case of death they are paid 100,000 UAE Dharmas.

This economic generation of this trade also support the Pakistani economy through the remittances sent from Middle East on annually which contribute more than 150 US \$ as remittances, which also includes the money contributed by these camel kids.

Since December last, the UAE authorities have taken up this issue more seriously and established a Rehabilitation centre in UAE for camel kids located in a military facility at Abu Dhabi. This was followed by Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) in Karachi with the establishment of another similar centre in April 2005 for 340 children in OPF office. Whereas in May 9, 2005 UAE and UNICEF agreed for the rehabilitation of camel kids and signed an agreement in UAE. UAE preliminary survey report says 3000 children out of which 2000 Pakistanis. On June 20, 2005 total 22 children repatriated under the age of 4-14 years of age.

Since last year there have been few research studies on this topic by local and international organizations but service delivery organizations instead of doing any work for the prevention of trafficking are focussing on rehabilitation thus allowing the continuation of child trafficking. Further this rehabilitation work is being performed in isolation and with the formation of silos instead of building on the previous work by other organization.

In Pakistan since the identification of this heinous crime, only Edhi Foundation was providing the shelter and rehabilitation services to these children since 1986 and has a comprehensive infrastructure to provide such services including 17 shelter homes throughout Pakistan. Later on few other local organizations jumped in and started their work on this issue mostly advocacy based.

Human trafficking ordinance 2002 has been promulgated but since 2002 very few cases were registered under the child trafficking component though this law specifically focuses this issue at various levels.

Since 2001/ 2002 Pakistan has been on the **Tier 2** of the United States **Trafficking in Persons** Report, though child trafficking and Pakistani children's repatriation has been continued.

Government of Pakistan announced in the beginning of year 2004 as 'Year of Child Welfare and Rights' but in practice was failed to take any major steps for their protection and especially for camel jockeys. Though they announced the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004 and currently they are doing rehabilitation work but legally it is not their mandate to provide rehabilitation services to camel jockeys, furthermore they lack expertise in this area. But flow of international funding has opened many doors of providing rehabilitation services without expertise but none of them is focussing on prevention aspect of the issue.

First time as a result of international pressure on UAE in 1993 it bans the use of below 15 years children in the races having less than 45 kg (but violated and used 3-7 years of age, 15-17 Kg). Second time through order No 1/ 6/ 266 on 22 July 2002 - prohibited under 15 years and weight less than 45 kg came into enforcement from September 1, 2002 (but violated and used 3-7 years of age, 15-17 Kg).

Third time on March 16, 2005 UAE government announced a new law to enforce from March 31, 2005-06-30 banning children under 16 years and less than 45 kg. But yet constantly ignoring the age limit of a child as defined in UNCRC of 18 years.

Because of the lack of control and continuation of violation of international agreement UAE has been declining on the **Trafficking in Persons** Report of US, as this year UAE was included in **Tier 3**, previously (2004) on **Tier 2**, 2003 **Tier 1**.

CRSD strongly urges Government of Pakistan and UAE to take serious actions on this issue and instead of offering lip services should ban the races and use of children. The barbaric practice of using little children as jockeys in camel races has been going on as usual, after announcing internationally ban on the use of the children below the 15 years of age.

There are also few more factors that after the implementation of new ban, they will start using the ex-jockeys for races as they have increased the age limit and will be recruiting child which will ultimately open new windows of child trafficking from Pakistan.

The Government must ensure that all those responsible for trafficking and employing underage jockeys are prosecuted under the existing laws; Provide details of the number of prosecutions brought and the number of successful convictions obtained with details of the sentences passed against those trafficking and employing camel jockeys since 1 September 2002.

Furthermore, the government of Pakistan should substantially increase allocation for education and implement pro-poor policies so that people in the lower strata are able to come out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

LOAD-DATE: July 11, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trafficking/Smuggling; Human Rights/Civil Liberties

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

43 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (AsiaNet)

July 6, 2005 Wednesday

Camel kids rehabilitation recommended

SECTION: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 1395 words**DATELINE:** Karachi JUL 6

Serious and holistic measures should be taken for the rehabilitation and prevention of future use of child jockeys in Pakistan and UAE as this is the dire need of the time. This was recommended by a fact-finding report by Centre for Research and Social Development on camel jockeys after the repatriation of 22 camel kids last month. In 2002, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) quoted that there were 1500 Camel Jockeys in UAE. Whereas in a recent US TIP 2005 report they have quoted that according to UAE interior ministry there are 1200 - 2700 camel kids in UAE. Furthermore when Pakistani Minister for Overseas visited the UAE in May 2005 he reported that there are 2000 camel kids in UAE, mostly of Pakistani origin. Whereas according to Centre for Research and Social Development's (CRSD) review and analysis there are around 500 Pakistani children in UAE, who are being used for races purpose.

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Furthermore, the government of Pakistan should substantially increase allocation for education and implement pro-poor policies so that people in the lower strata are able to come out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

44 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

July 4, 2005, Monday

Philippines' Cebu government takes steps to stamp out child trafficking

SOURCE: The Philippine Star website, Manila, in English 4 Jul 05

LENGTH: 1068 words

Excerpt from report by Wenna Berondo, published in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star website on 4 July

Alarmed by the surge of child trafficking and prostitution in Cebu, local government officials are taking steps to address the problem. Just recently, Cebu City councillor Gerardo Carillo proposed an ordinance requiring airline and shipping companies, terminals, ports and other public transport companies to post warning signs against child trafficking to encourage public awareness. Carillo said the people should know that child trafficking is punishable under Republic Act [RA] 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

Under the proposed ordinance, establishments which do not post signs against child trafficking face a fine of 2,000 pesos and 3,000 pesos for the first and second offence, respectively, and 5,000 pesos and suspension of business permit for the third offence .

Carillo said Cebu is one the five areas in the country where child prostitution and sex tourism are prevalent because it is where the international and domestic trafficking of children aged 11 to 17 from the nearby provinces of Samar, Leyte, Bohol and Negros happens.

The End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) said the number of commercially and sexually exploited children in the country is increasing. The Philippine Plan of Action estimates that there are between 60,000 and 75,000 Filipino children who are involved in the sex trade. But according to non-government organizations (NGOs), the number could reach up to 100,000.

RA 9208 defines human trafficking as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer or harbouring, or receipt of persons with or without the victim's consent or knowledge, within or across national borders by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position and taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person." [passage omitted]

In its 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** placed the Philippines on the "**Tier 2**" **watch list** due to the country's failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict human traffickers. According to the report, while the Philippine government has exerted more efforts to implement RA 9208, the number of trafficking-related prosecutions has remained low and that there have been no convictions. [passage omitted]

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales admitted that human trafficking in the country is still prevalent. However, he said the US report failed to consider the significant efforts which the Philippines has made through the member-agencies of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), which the Department of Justice heads.

Based on the Department Of Justice's records, 65 complaints for human trafficking had been filed from June 2003 to January this year. Of these cases, 24 have been filed in court, while 31 are still under preliminary investigation. These complaints involve 98 alleged traffickers/recruiters. [The] majority of these cases - 35 - were filed in Manila, Quezon City and Pasay City and with the National Prosecution Offices. The rest were filed in Zamboanga City (eight cases), Cebu (four), Davao City (four), Olongapo City (three), Lapu-Lapu City (three), La Union (two), Bacolod City (two), Kabankalan City (two) and Tagbilaran City (two).

While there have been no convictions for violations of the anti-trafficking law, owing to the judicial procedures giving due process to the accused, a number have been convicted for trafficking-related offences. The Inter-Agency Committee on Passport Irregularities reported that 69 people had been convicted for violations of the Passport Law and 20 others for illegal recruitment from 2000 to 2004.

In its report, the US State Department said endemic poverty, high unemployment rate, cultural propensity towards migration, a weak rule-of-law environment and sex tourism have contributed to the significant human trafficking in the Philippines. For its part, ECPAT cited poor educational levels, family breakdown, gender discrimination, weak political will and lax law enforcement.

ECPAT said it is not a remote possibility that the exploited children could acquire illnesses such as sexually transmitted diseases. The victims also face health risks such as unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages and unsafe abortions, the group added.

Last year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recognized Cebu City as one of the most child-friendly cities in Southeast Asia. However, Carillo, chairman of the city council's committee on social services, claimed that the city has to do more because it still lacks laws to prevent child abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Last March, the city council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Tomas Osmeo enter into a memorandum of agreement with the national government and the UNICEF to implement the sixth phase of the UNICEF programme in the country. The programme calls for all city barangays [villages] to have their own Barangay Council for the Protection of Children.

Under RA 9208, the government is mandated to establish preventive, protective and rehabilitative programmes for trafficked persons. Local government units (LGUs) are mandated to monitor and document cases of human trafficking in their respective areas, cancel the licenses of establishments which violate the law, and ensure effective prosecution of such cases.

The LGUs shall also undertake an information campaign against human trafficking through the establishment of Migrants Advisory and Information Network (MAIN) desks in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine Information Agency, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, NGOs and other concerned agencies. They shall also encourage and support community-based initiatives to address the problem.

The police, for their part, are tasked to conduct surveillance of, investigate and arrest those engaged in human trafficking. They shall closely coordinate with other law enforcement agencies to investigate and apprehend suspected traffickers, and establish a system to receive complaints and calls to assist trafficked persons and conduct rescue operations.

LOAD-DATE: July 4, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

45 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

July 4, 2005 Monday

DOUBLETAKE**BYLINE:** Eric F. Mallonga**LENGTH:** 951 words**Watchlist**

PRESIDENT Arroyo has just announced that her government is making headway in its fight against **human trafficking**. She is determined to remove the Philippines from the US watch- list of countries that failed to curb this "curse on the poor and transnational evil." The government had been forewarned about its failure in fighting the scourge of human enslavement more than two years ago. Instead of consolidating forces among immigration, customs and law-enforcement agents in trapping human traffickers, and instead of cooperating with foreign affairs, health, labor and social welfare authorities for the protection and reintegration of victimized women and children, then-Acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez chose, and as incumbent Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez chooses, to debate with the US Embassy on the accuracy of the assessment. Since then, no earnest efforts had been undertaken to resolve this particular problem.

The Philippines was thus placed on the Tier 2 Watchlist, a notch lower than its former Tier 2 classification. Because of government's continuing failure to curb human trafficking, this country was described as a "source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor" in the Asian region. Unless the Philippines secures a conviction of a human trafficker this year, the country is in danger of being demoted to **Tier 3**, a category for countries with the worst record of **human trafficking**.

If demoted, the US government will cut nonhumanitarian and nontrade assistance packages to the Philippines. American funding for Philippine participation in educational and cultural exchange programs could be withheld. The government also faces US opposition to assistance from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other multilateral development banks. The Arroyo administration is very dependent on these institutions for the government's poverty alleviation programs.

Even as Congress, in a rare display, expeditiously promulgated an Antitrafficking in Persons Act (R.A. 9208), this law has basically remained unimplemented. Mark Taylor, US State Department's senior coordinator for reports to monitor and combat human trafficking, observed: "The government of the Philippines does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The Philippines' placement on **Tier 2 Watchlist** is due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers." The **Tier 2 Watchlist** are "countries on **Tier 2** but requiring special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims; failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**; or an assessment as **Tier 2** based on commitments to take action over the next year." Secretary Gonzalez claims that the Department of Justice has garnered convictions in trafficking-related activities. He does not get the point. The government must incarcerate human traffickers, not the prostituted women and children.

Indeed, it is humiliating enough that the Philippines has been lumped in the Tier 2 Watchlist with other Third-World countries such as Azerbaijan, Benin, Guinea, Haiti, Mexico, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, which are impoverished countries that have unstable governments and national histories of genocide and slavery. But the Philippines is about to be demoted to Tier 3 and lumped with Bolivia, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, North Korea and Sudan, countries suffering from squalor and where the intelligence quotients of their children are continuously decreasing from extreme malnutrition and disease. This is the place to which the Arroyo administration has steered our country.

The State Department was blunt: "More progress in its law-enforcement efforts is needed. The Philippine government should take immediate corrective action by arresting, prosecuting and convicting traffickers and any public official found to be involved in trafficking." Culpable involvement should include the direct participation or the indispensable cooperation on the part of concerned government officials, and for their failure to take immediate and sustained action. Take the case of two sisters, aged 12 and 13, rescued from the international airport, possessing passports that stipulated their ages at 18 and 19 years. It was supposedly their second time to travel to Kyoto, Japan, where they had been employed as guest relations officers at a beerhouse. Why were they issued passports, visas and employment documents considering their tender ages? How were they allowed to travel to Japan despite their manifest appearances as children? In tepid response, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo visited Washington last month to personally appeal for the Philippines' removal from the US watchlist, briefing the State Department on government measures for the protection of Filipino migrant women. But what steps, what genuine efforts, has Secretary Romulo undertaken to clean up his own backyard?

As the State Department continues to assist governments in improving their antitrafficking activities, the enslavement of our people continues unabated and the situation of women and children continues to worsen. For as long as the government and Filipino presidents fail to solve the burgeoning problem of poverty, there will always be fodder for human traffickers, and there will always be an imminent threat of revolution.

An administration that fails to sensitively respond to our people's impoverishment is its own, as the President expressed, "curse on the poor." It does not deserve our people's trust.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trafficking/Smuggling

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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46 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

July 3, 2005 Sunday

RP NEEDS TO TOUGHEN UP HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS-ARROYO**LENGTH:** 386 words

The Philippines needs to implement its laws more strongly if it wants to be struck off a US **human trafficking blacklist**, President Arroyo said Saturday.

Speaking at a ceremony on US-Philippine cooperation against trafficking, the President told US diplomats she recognized the country had to do more to tackle the problem.

"I want to tell you . . . that we are determined to be delisted from the international watchlist," Mrs. Arroyo said.

"We know exactly what needs to be done. We have a good law. We have the best after-care service for the victims," she added.

But she conceded implementing the law would require more effort, saying "we are determined to increase efforts to convict the human traffickers."

Justice Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez said 63 people had been charged in 2004 and 22 other cases are now being investigated for alleged violations of an antitrafficking law passed in 2003.

US Embassy charg  d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli praised the Philippine efforts, saying the country had "perhaps the most comprehensive antitrafficking law in the world."

"It could potentially bring some of the worst trafficking offenders to justice. But we all know that just passing the law isn't enough," he said.

In its "Trafficking in Persons Report" for 2005, the US State Department noted that Filipino women "are often lured abroad with false promises of legitimate employment and are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to destinations throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America."

It said a "significant number" of the 71,084 Filipinas who entered Japan as overseas performing artists in 2004 "are believed to have been women trafficked into the sex trade."

The State Department traced the roots of human trafficking in Filipinas to "endemic poverty, a high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity toward migration, a weak rule of law environment and sex tourism."

It proposed that the Philippine government "take immediate corrective action by arresting, prosecuting, and convicting traffickers and any public officials found to be involved in trafficking. The government needs to make greater efforts to address allegations of corruption and fraud regarding the issuance of documents to facilitate the recruitment of Philippine entertainers to Japan, a process that traffickers exploit."

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** International Relations**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

47 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

July 2, 2005 Saturday 9:53 AM GMT

Philippine president vows to get tough on human trafficking

LENGTH: 234 words

DATELINE: MANILA July 2

The Philippines needs to implement its laws more strongly if it wants to be struck off a US **human trafficking blacklist**, President Gloria Arroyo said Saturday.

Speaking at a ceremony on US-Philippine cooperation against trafficking, Arroyo told US diplomats she recognized the country had to do more to tackle the problem.

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"It could potentially bring some of the worst trafficking offenders to justice. But we all know that just passing the law isn't enough," he said.

The Philippines was recently listed in "**Tier 2**" of the **blacklist** of the US State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**." This is just below the **Tier 1** rating of the worst **human trafficking** violators.

LOAD-DATE: July 3, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

48 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

July 2, 2005 Saturday 8:00 AM EST

Philippines vows to fight human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 263 words

DATELINE: MANILA

The Philippines is determined to continue fighting against **human trafficking** to be removed from the **watch list** of countries that fail to curb such "curse on the poor and transnational evil," President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Saturday.

In a speech on the progress of fighting human trafficking, the president said her country is making headway in the area but admitted that much would still have to be done to solve the problem.

She said the "modest yet significant" accomplishments of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking should be cited, reiterating her marching orders to the law enforcers and the Department of Justice to increase effort to convict human traffickers.

Arroyo also asked local government officials to beef up the law with ordinances to prevent and suppress trafficking and protect the victims.

The Inter-Agency Committee on Passport Irregularities reported that 69 persons were convicted for violation of the law on human trafficking and 20 for illegal recruitment activities for the period of 2000 to 2004.

Earlier, the US State Department said the Philippines remained on the "Tier 2" watch list for the second consecutive year because of its "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers."

US Embassy charge d'affaires Joseph Mussomeli repeated this, saying the Philippines "must aggressively pursue prosecutions and ultimately convictions" since having one of the most comprehensive anti-trafficking laws in the world would not be enough to be removed from the watch list.

LOAD-DATE: July 3, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

49 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Facts on File World News Digest

June 30, 2005

Human Rights; U.S. Cites 14 Nations for Human Trafficking

SECTION: Pg. 431F2**LENGTH:** 307 words

The U.S. State Department June 3 released a report criticizing the governments of 14 countries for allowing human trafficking and other forms of forced labor, and for doing little or nothing to end the practice. Among the 14 nations cited were four prominent U.S. allies in the Middle East: Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, none of which had been cited in the 2004 report.

The other 10 nations cited were Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela. [See 2002 Human Rights: U.S. Reports on Human Trafficking]

The State Department had begun issuing the annual Trafficking in Persons Report in 2001, as required by the U.S.'s 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Under the law, the U.S. could penalize nations for permitting human trafficking, but only Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela had been sanctioned.

Introducing the report, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery." The report estimated that 800,000 people were trafficked between countries against their will each year, including some 15,000 who entered the U.S.

The report cited Saudi Arabia for failing to have laws that protected foreign workers who entered the country, among other problems. The State Department cited Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE for holding small children in captivity, some as young as three or four years old, for use as jockeys in camel races. The U.S. also criticized the four Persian Gulf states for allowing the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

The State Department put 27 other countries, including China, on its **watch list**. That classification meant that the countries had significant **human trafficking** problems but that their governments were taking steps to address the issue.

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

50 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2005 Tuesday 11:07 AM GMT

Four Cambodians charged after 88 sex workers are rescued

LENGTH: 274 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH June 28

A Cambodian court Tuesday charged four people with pimping and debauchery following a weekend raid on a massage parlour at a Phnom Penh hotel in which 88 sex workers were rescued by police.

Twenty-eight Vietnamese and four Chinese were among the female workers, whom police said appeared to be aged at least 18.

Earlier they said they believed they were trafficked into the work.

Phnom Penh Municipal Court prosecutor Uk Savuth charged Sok Leng, 50, the massage parlour owner who remains at large, with pimping and debauchery.

Manager Chring Trang, 33, cashier Chhun Sok Lay, 25, and receptionist Sok Lim Vichka, 25, were charged with being accomplices. They are in custody.

Police presented to the court pornographic VCDs, numbered photographs of the women, condoms and a large number of invoices listing a variety of sexual services provided by the women.

The women have been sent to several shelters operated by non-government organisations, police said.

The accused face five to 10 years in jail if found guilty of pimping plus one to five years for debauchery, as well as a fine of up to 30 million riel (7,500 dollars).

The raid was the largest since a December anti-trafficking operation that rescued more than 80 women and girl sex workers, who were then reportedly abducted from a women's refuge a day later.

The Cambodian government's handling of the case upset the United States, which charged that it failed to ensure those responsible for the shelter raid were brought to justice.

Cambodia, which is particularly notorious for child sex trafficking, was added to a US **blacklist** of the world's worst **human trafficking** violators early this month.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

51 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 27, 2005, Monday

Japan calls for international cooperation on human trafficking

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 04:29 GMT, 27 Jun 05

LENGTH: 253 words

Text of report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Tokyo, 27 June: Japan called Monday [27 June] for unity of countries concerned to fight human trafficking during a seminar on the issue it hosted in Tokyo inviting officials from about 50 countries. Keishiro Fukushima, parliamentary foreign secretary, said at the outset of the seminar: "Measures compiled by a single country are not sufficient to effectively deal with the issue of human trafficking."

Cooperation is necessary among countries in which the victims of human trafficking originate, countries relaying them and countries which are their destinations, Fukushima said. Japan aims to display its efforts to tackle human trafficking to the international community during the session which will last through Tuesday, a ministry official said earlier.

The US State Department a year ago placed Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category in connection with **human trafficking**. The Japanese government then compiled the action programme, which included law changes, and also dispatched diplomats to the Philippines and Colombia, from which many women are illegally brought to Japan for prostitution and other services, to ask for stricter law enforcement to crack down on brokers.

Such efforts prompted the US government to remove Japan from the list earlier this month, but the Japanese government still sees a need of promoting the efforts on various occasions, the official said.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

52 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 27, 2005 Monday

Japan calls for int'l unity to fight human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 241 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 27

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LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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53 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 26, 2005 Sunday 4:41 AM GMT

Cambodian police rescue 88 sex workers, nab four alleged human traffickers

LENGTH: 234 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH June 26

Cambodian police said Sunday they rescued 88 trafficked sex workers and nabbed the four men who allegedly coerced them to work, weeks after the United States warned the kingdom to curb the flesh trade.

Police raided a massage parlour at a hotel in the capital on Saturday, rescuing 56 Cambodians, 28 Vietnamese and four Chinese sex workers and detaining the four hotel managers, Phnom Penh police chief Heng Peo told AFP.

"The women were victims of human trafficking," he said, adding they appeared to be aged between 18 and 25.

"We will charge the four men with human trafficking," the police chief said.

Cambodia, which is in particular notorious for child sex trafficking, was added to a US **blacklist** of the world's worst **human trafficking** violators early this month, keeping company with North Korea and Myanmar.

The kingdom was downgraded to the "**Tier 3**" **blacklist** of the US State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**" for the first time since 2002, largely because of government complicity in trafficking.

Cambodia, one of the world's poorest nations, is viewed as a sender and receiver of trafficked people because of its weak border controls and poorly enforced migration laws.

The United States estimates up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year and a million more trafficked internally. In East Asia and the Pacific 348 traffickers were convicted in 2004.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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54 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 24, 2005 Friday

Ghana; MPs and Civil Society Clash Over Draft Bill On Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Public Agenda

LENGTH: 1249 words

Members of parliament and civil society groups attending a meeting to discuss the Human Trafficking Bill last weekend clashed over certain portions of the bill.

While some MPs were of the opinion that the Bill is an imposition of foreign culture, others said it should at least reflect Ghanaian cultural practices.

The MPs were drawn from the Committee on Women and Children as well as the Committee on Manpower, Youth and Employment.

But the representatives of Civil Society groups such as Rescue Foundation and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO) insisted the Bill was in the best interest of Ghanaian children.

They also said the reports were a true reflection of what is actually happening on the ground.

Another bone of contention at the two- day meeting organized by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) and the ILO was the report by some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the state of human trafficking activities especially in fishing communities which some MPs said did not reflect the realities on the ground.

Children who are trafficked from rural areas to serve as baby sitters and house helps also came up for discussion.

The Human Trafficking Bill, which is before Parliament, is expected to be passed before Parliament rises at the end of July.

Definition

Section 1(a) of the Bill defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, trading or receipt of persons," while Section 1 (4) also states, "Where children are trafficked, the consent of the child, parents or guardian of the child cannot be used as a defense in prosecution under this Act regardless of whether or not there is evidence of abuse of power, fraud or deception on the part of the trafficker or whether the vulnerability of the child was taken advantage of."

The Bill further states in Section two that "a person who contravenes Subsection one commits an offense and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than five years."

The disagreements

The MP for Central Tongu, Joe Gidisu was the first to fire the shot. Attributing the contents of the Bill to some NGO reports, he said, "Some of the findings are contrary to realities on the ground." According to him, some of the so called trafficked children especially in the Tongu area are actually living with their own parents but agree to be resettled to enable them go to school.

According to Gidisu, as a result of the construction of the Akosombo Dam, about 80 to 90 percent of fishermen in the area have moved to Yeji or the Afram plains for fishing.

Such parents do take their children to live with them, but as a result of lack of good education, they allow their children to be resettled.

"They will be back at the next fishing season or when they are on vacation," he added.

"For us some of these things are normal and an age long tradition," he said.

Gidisu was of the opinion that even if the practices of the people were wrong, the NGOs should concentrate themselves on educating them and not painting a bad picture of the practices.

The MP for Hohoe South, Joseph Z. Amenowode had support for Gidisu. He said the NGOs must understand the culture of the people and not draw hasty conclusions.

He later told Public Agenda in an interview that such reports go along way to affect the image of the country in international circles.

The MP for North Tongu, Charles Hodogbey was also not happy with the NGOs' report as well as the definition of human trafficking as contained in the Bill. Nevertheless, he called for sensitization as the best approach to the issue arguing that "the country has always had laws but enforcement has always been a problem."

Another MP who was skeptical about the content of the Bill was the MP for Twifo-Atti Morkwaa, Elisabeth Amoah-Tetteh. In her opinion, the Bill could even be faulting those who genuinely want to help family members by bringing them from the rural areas to live with them in urban areas. She queried, "I was taken care of by my uncle, and today if I want to help my uncle by bringing some of his children to live with me, is that also trafficking?"

The MP for Builsa North, Agnes Chigabatia, said, agencies that recruit young girls and train them as maidservants should also be captured by the Bill.

She said time is needed to deliberate on the Bill since it could incriminate innocent people who are just helping their neighbours who are in need.

"As an MP I now have four girls in my house who I am assisting to learn a trade. Should the law be passed as it is, I could be accused of engaging in child trafficking by my neighbours," she later told Public Agenda.

The MP for Lambussie, Alice Boon said the issue is a dicey one and should be handled with caution. She said she has visited the Gambia and has seen several Ghanaian fishermen there in 'Ghana Town'. She said, since Ghanaian fishermen are more experienced than their Gambian counterparts, their skills are preferred.

Public Officials who addressed the meeting also had support for the MPs.

The deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare, Stephen Adongo, said there has been an age-old tradition between the people of Immuna, in the Mfantseman District of the Central Region and some fishing communities in the Gambia.

It was done as a normal practice, where children are given to family members or families in Gambia," he said adding, "Every family at Immuna has a child in the Gambia, that was how Ghana Town was built and some of the children have returned to build houses for their families."

According to Adongo, sometimes trafficked children rescued by the Social Welfare become rude, violent and insist on going back.

The rebuff

But the Executive Director of Rescue Foundation, Sylvia Hinson-Ekong will not hear any of these.

"The fact that money has been brought home does not mean it is good," she says.

"We are talking about our children, the future human resource of our country. I want to ask him whether he was trying to convince us that trafficking is good," referring to Adongo's earlier point.

Taking on the MPs later in an interview with Public Agenda, Hinson-Ekong, who has been working in the area of child trafficking, said what NGOs say reflects the realities on the ground.

He denied that NGOs have painted a bad image of the country. "The world knows of it already, most of them come here and do their studies on the quite and do not depend on NGO reports," she said.

An Official of the IOM, Nat Bonnie, also told Public Agenda that the MPs are reacting that way because they do not know the realities on the ground. "If you go to Yeji, you would weep," he said adding, it is the truth, people do not want to accept it."

The Country Director of ILO, Eric Okrah said as a result of large family sizes, some couple considers it a blessing to give their children out.

"Some children trafficked to Gabon have grown up not knowing their countries of origin." he said.

It is not only the MPs who are disputing NGO reports in trafficked communities, the General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) has same sentiments and has even completed a study on it.

The US government this year removed Ghana from **Tier** one to **Tier** two of its annual **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report because according to the State Department Ghana has no legislation on **Human Trafficking**.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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55 of 359 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

COMBATING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 4094 words

Statement of Lisa L. Thompson Liaison, Abolition of Sexual Trafficking The Salvation Army National Headquarters
Committee on House Financial Services

June 22, 2005

I am here as a representative of The Salvation Army USA. The Salvation Army was founded in London, England, in 1865 by William and Catherine Booth. The organization is first and foremost a church, which now exists in 110 countries carrying out wideranging forms of ministry and human service from school and hospital administration, micro-credit programs, HIV/AIDS and community health work, elderly residential centers, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, disaster and emergency relief, and a growing number of specific programs aimed at combating human trafficking, to mention a few.

The Salvation Army founders, the Booths, were revolutionaries in their time. They went against every Victorian convention and took their ministry to the dirty and dangerous streets of London's east side where they reached out to the destitute and desperate. They tackled the issue of sexual trafficking by, among other things, forming Midnight Rescue Brigades for "Cellar, Gutter, and Garret" work, going at night to the back allies and attics in which they might find women and girls longing to escape from the snares of their traffickers, brothel keepers and pimps to another life. Commenting on this work, Catherine Booth said, "I felt as though I must go and walk the streets and besiege the dens where these hellish iniquities are going on. To keep quiet seemed like being a traitor to humanity."² Once again, The Salvation Army finds itself fighting this same fight and once again we must raise our voices or betray not only humanity but also our faith.

Sexual Gulags: Slavery on an Industrial Scale

Many times I have heard human trafficking referred to as modern-day slavery. It's a powerful and apt analogy that shocks and challenges us. Americans in particular are moved by this comparison. Slavery is an anachronism - something that was supposedly put behind us years ago. However, reports like the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report and the Department of Justice's annual Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons prove to us otherwise.

Today I would like to take the slavery analogy a step further, and give to you another framework with which to conceptualize sexual trafficking. Today I want to introduce to you what I call the "Sexual Gulag."

I'm sure you are all familiar with the term gulag. Generally it's used to describe networks of prisons or labor camps. But the word GULAG (Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerei) is a Russian acronym meaning Main Camp Administration.³ The Soviet Union built a network of prisons for slave labor so vast and so brutal that the word gulag has been adopted into the English language and today the word's usage is synonymous with inhumane, torturous prison conditions, and industrialized death.

"In the course of the Soviet Union's existence, at least 476 distinct camp complexes came into being, consisting of thousands of individual camps . . . The total number of prisoners in the camps generally hovered around two million, but the total number of Soviet citizens who had some experience of the camps, as political or criminal prisoners, is far higher. From 1929, when the Gulag began its major expansion, until 1953, when Stalin died, the best estimates indicate that some eighteen million people passed through its massive system."

The Soviet regime and its gulags have collapsed, but a new gulag system, stretching far beyond the borders of the former Soviet empire, has risen to take its place - the Sexual Gulag. The Sexual Gulag is a global system made up of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of brothels, bars, strip clubs, massage parlors, escort services, and street corners where people are sold for sex.

The Sexual Gulag entraps and exploits women and children turning them into sexual commodities. The State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report and its **tier** ranking of 142 countries testifies to the fact that this gulag exists the world over and that vast numbers of women and children are trapped within its confines. How many women and children exactly? No one knows. But consider these statistics:

UNICEF reports that across the world, there are over one million children entering the sex trade every year and that approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years. In Southeast Asia alone, there are currently around a million children involved in the sex industry, some younger than 10 years old. Thus in scale, both in terms of geographic breadth and the number of those impacted, the comparison of the Soviet's developed and complex gulag system to the modern day Sexual Gulag, is if anything, inadequate.

While there were a great many forms and varieties of camps in the Soviet system and people were sent to them for a variety of reasons, their primary purpose was an economic one. In her book *Gulag: A History*, Anne Applebaum writes: "They produced a third of the country's gold, much of its coal and timber, and a great deal of almost everything else. . . ."⁸ So the Soviet gulag and the Sexual Gulag share the same purpose, an economic one, and the real difference between the two is that in the Sexual Gulag there is only one industry in which people are exploited the sex industry.

The Sexual Gulag is flourishing and highly profitable. The value of the global trade in women as commodities for sex industries has been estimated to be between seven and twelve billion dollars annually. However, as the information I'm going to share with you demonstrates, these estimates are astonishingly low based on a review of just a few statistics regarding the global sex industry.

As I share this information, it's important to keep in mind the following four items:

- 1) All prostitution of persons under 18 is de facto sex trafficking;
- 2) A high prevalence of foreign-born women in any given country's sex industry is highly indicative of sex trafficking;
- 3) The vast majority of adult women in prostitution in any given country experience levels of physical and psychological coercion, abuse, and torture that plainly classify them as victims of sex trafficking; and
- 4) Victims are trafficked into and are used in various forms of commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography, and stripping. Thus prostitution and sexual trafficking are symbiotically related the existence of prostitution is the only reason sex trafficking exists.¹⁰

The Sexual Gulag is Big Business

In Japan, where prostitution is not legal, but widely tolerated, the sex industry is estimated to make 10,000bn (US \$83 billion). There are an estimated 150,000 foreign women in the sex industry. Many of them are known to be trafficked from the Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Russia, and Latin America each year. Prostitution in the Philippines is a de facto legal industry that is now the fourth largest source of gross national product (GNP) for the country. Estimates vary but the likelihood is that there are nearly half a million persons in prostitution in the country and an estimated 100,000 of them are children. 300,000 sex tourists from Japan alone are believed to visit the Philippines every year.

The sex industry in the Netherlands is estimated to make almost \$1 billion each year. It is a major destination country for trafficked women in Western Europe, with 2000 brothels and numerous escort services, using an estimated 30,000 women. Moreover, 68% of women in its sex industry are from other countries (see figure). Other estimates put this figure as high as 80 percent.¹⁹ Furthermore, representatives of its government have openly defended the demand for women in prostitution. "The demand is already there. We can't eradicate the demand. We will regulate it. Grant permits. Make them pay taxes."²⁰ This official also commented that, "Other countries may have women with working skills that will benefit the Netherlands. We could create special permits that will allow foreign nationals to engage in prostitution."

In Germany, where prostitution and brothels are legal, an estimated 400,000 prostitutes serve 1.2 million buyers a day in an industry with an annual turnover of 14 billion (US \$18 billion). No one knows definitively how many of these are trafficked women, but the German news agency DPA has reported that approximately 200,000 prostitutes in the country

have been "smuggled" into Germany from Central and Eastern Europe and that most of the prostitutes arrested in Germany in recent police raids come from Russia, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

In London suburbs, there are approximately 1000 brothels. According to Scotland Yard's Vice Squad the Eastern European crime gangs that run them make 50 million (US \$91.6 million) a year. In London, a pimp can make 300,000 to 400,000 (US \$549,000 to \$733,000) a year from prostituting a 16-year-old girl.

More than 2.3 million girls and women are believed to make up India's sex industry. The U.N. reports that an estimated 40 percent are below 18 years of age.²⁸ In 2004, it was reported that transactions in prostitution are worth Rs 185 million (US \$4.1 million) a day; Rs 370 billion (US \$8.5 billion) per year.

In Antwerp, Belgium, legalization of prostitution has brought in nearly \$800,000 of tax revenue to the city. Officials have gone so far as to encourage a business man who was planning to convert a warehouse into loft apartments to convert it into a brothel instead. He took their suggestion and has constructed the city's biggest brothel and is now considering opening a brothel chain.

In 2003, an IPO of brothel shares was introduced on Australia's stock exchange. The Daily Planet Ltd., the first such traded stock, has plans to launch a "sex Disneyland" in Sydney, and intends expansion to the U.S.

A 1998 study by the International Labor Organization on the sex industries of four Asian countries, reported that Indonesia's sex industry was as much as 2.4% (US \$3.3 billion) of the gross domestic product and as much as 14% (US \$27 billion) of Thailand's gross domestic product. The report stated, "The stark reality is that the sex sector is a big business that is well entrenched in the national

International Labor Office, Geneva, p10. economies and the international economy,' with highly organized structures and linkages to other types of legitimate economic activity." According to the report, the revenues generated by the sex industry were crucial to the livelihoods and earnings potential of millions of workers beyond the "prostitutes" themselves. Owners, managers, pimps and other employees of the sex establishments, the related entertainment industry and some segments of the tourism industry make the number of workers earning a living directly or indirectly from prostitution several million. Support staff like cleaners, waitresses, cashiers, parking valets, security guards, medical practitioners, operators of food stalls in the vicinity of sex establishments, vendors of cigarettes and liquor, and property owners who rent premises to providers of sexual services are just some of those who profit from the existence of the Sexual Gulag. In an interview of Ms. Lin Lim, who edited the report, she said government policies had "encourage[d] the growth of tourism, promote[d] migration for employment, promote[d] exports of female labour for earning foreign exchange" and thus contributed indirectly to the growth of prostitution.

Clearly then, many governments and economic sectors have a vested interest in the continued existence and expansion of the Sexual Gulag.

Open Promotion

The Soviet gulags were often in remote and harsh locations, and when located within cities, "physical barriers such as walls and fences were meant to keep outsiders from seeing in." Not so with the Sexual Gulag. The fact that the Sexual Gulag is often fully integrated into the landscape of a community and that it openly seeks to attract outsiders as customers is a key distinction between the two systems.

For example, there is the famed red-light district of Amsterdam where women are put on display in windows for passersby on the street. The women are exhibited in much the same way as zoo animals, or as merchandise for sale in a hardware store. There is also Tijuana's notorious "Zona Norte" where on any given evening, scores of young women and girls are sexual fare openly for sale on the city streets. In this country, yellow pages and newspapers in most major cities run advertisements clearly offering sex for sale. The masters of the Sexual Gulag also opportunely take advantage of special events which lure large numbers of potential consumers as in Dortmund, Germany, one of 12 cities to host World Cup matches. There a series of drive-in wooden "sex huts" are being installed in

Experts estimate as many as 40,000 prostitutes may travel to Germany to offer their services to fans during the tournament. City officials in Antwerp are reported to be considering putting decorative gates on the city's legal commercial sex zone to mark it as a tourist attraction.

Dehumanization One of the hallmarks of both the Soviet-styled system and the Sexual Gulag is that they rely upon methods of treatment of prisoners that dehumanize their captives. Applebaum writes, "Within the [Soviet] system, prisoners were treated as cattle, or rather as lumps of iron ore. Guards shuffled them around at will, loading and unloading

them into cattle cars, weighing and measuring them, feeding them if it seemed they might be useful, starving them if they were not. They were, to use Marxist language, exploited, reified, and commodified."

The same is true of the captives of the Sexual Gulag. Women and children are bought and sold for prices ranging from \$50 U.S., to prices exceeding \$16,000.⁴³ They are inspected, shuttled, and traded. They are objects, things to be used for profit as long as their shelf life allows, not human beings.

Like inmates in a prison system, women in some brothels are even given ID numbers. For instance, one brothel in Antwerp, Belgium, has begun using biometric technology to keep track of the women. The women's finger prints are scanned into the system, and after being matched with their fingerprints in its database, the brothel's system clocks them in and flashes an ID number.⁴⁴ Another brothel, this one on the outskirts of Ocana, a city approximately 100 kilometers from Madrid, Spain, is surrounded by electrical wire, has barred windows and attack dogs on the grounds to prevent the women from escaping.

Life and Death in the Sexual Gulag

In their lives as sexual commodities, many of the women and children in the Sexual Gulag will experience a long litany of physical, psychological, and spiritual health harms from such things as:

Bodily injuries such as broken bones, concussions, burns, as well as vaginal and anal tearing from violent assaults, stabbings, rapes, and torture;

Traumatic brain injury (TBI): resulting in such things as memory loss, dizziness, headaches, numbness, etc.;

STDs such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, UTIs, and pubic lice;

Sterility, miscarriages, and menstrual problems;

Diseases like TB, hepatitis, malaria, and pneumonia;

Drug and alcohol addiction;

Forced abortions; and

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The magnitude of these harms often does irreversible damage and hastens death. And to point out a statistic on just one of these harms, a study of 827 people in different types of prostitution in 9 countries found that 68% of those surveyed suffered PTSD symptoms in the same range as treatment-seeking combat veterans and refugees of state-organized torture.

This degree of trauma is hardly surprising. As Dr. Wendy Freed, in her research of brothel prostitution in Cambodia, explains:

"Sexual trauma is a violation of the most intimate and personal aspect of the self. One's own body becomes the setting in which the atrocities are perpetrated. For the women and adolescent girls living in a brothel, the sexual violations take place inside the tiny cubicle (smaller than most prison cells) that is their only private living space. There is no safe haven for them."

Echoing the findings of researchers, one survivor described her experience this way: "I feel like I imagine people who were in concentration camps feel when they get out . . . It's a real deep pain, an assault to my mind, my body, my dignity as a human being. I feel like what was taken away from me in prostitution is irretrievable."

A Canadian constable described a situation he observed where a man was picking up a prostitute, saying that the prostitute "was the most asexual human being I've ever met. She was (like) a concentration camp victim she looked exactly like the photos of the Jewish women at Auschwitz and Dachau."

Not very many women and children actually make it out of the Sexual Gulag. One reason: the homicide rate among prostituted women is many times higher than for women and men in other "occupational" environments: 204 per 100,000 among prostituted women, versus 4 for female liquor store workers.

This hazard of life in the Sexual Gulag is known by gulag masters and captives alike. For example, the owner of the Antwerp brothel mentioned above has also equipped rooms with panic buttons in case of trouble from buyers. Ironically

comforted by this, one prostituted woman in this brothel said, "If something should happen to me and I turn up dead tomorrow the technology here means that police will know exactly who I am."

Seasoning

Understanding of the systematic coercive techniques - known as seasoning - used to break women and girls into prostitution is essential to understanding the power and control the masters of the Sexual Gulag have over their captives. Professionals in the fields of torture, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation know that torturers, abusers, pimps, and traffickers use systematic methods to groom and reduce their victims "to the condition of slavery." "Binderman's Chart of Coercion," published by Amnesty International in 1973, describes these methods in detail. Techniques used on political prisoners like those in the Soviet gulag such as isolation, induced debility and exhaustion, threats, degradation, enforcing of trivial demands, granting of occasional indulgences, to mention a few, are the same means used to subjugate women in prostitution and pornography. In the Soviet system these types of procedures and others came to be called "the meat-grinder." Those in prostitution have described their trauma similarly: one fourteen year old stated: "You feel like a piece of hamburger meat all chopped up and barely holding together."

Captives of systems like the Soviet and Sexual Gulags develop strategies to enhance their survival. In her history of the Soviet gulags, Anne Applebaum dedicates an entire chapter to a discussion of "Strategies of Survival."⁵⁸ But survival strategies can deceive outsider observers into believing there is no abuse. This is particularly true of those captive to the Sexual Gulag.

"As people find the best way to survive, some of their behaviors may raise questions if viewed out of context. For example, the woman's and adolescent girl's flirtatiousness, seeking out clients, and getting clients to feel pity or love for them may represent strategies aimed at enhancing their survival."

"When an individual has been beaten into submission, and has become passive and accepting of what is done to her because she is a captive, then any sexual encounter she has is rape. Even if she has worked hard to attract the customer, because she has no right to refuse consent, she is being raped."

Thus we can understand that the woman we see on the street corner the supposed "voluntary prostitute" may give every appearance of choosing to be there, while the unseen forces that keep her there are every bit as real as if they were made of yards of barbed wire.

Recommendations

It's clear from the monumental profits generated by the sex industry that the fight against the Sexual Gulag is a battle like that of David against Goliath. Those who have profited have grown extremely powerful and it will take our relentless energy, creativity, sizeable resources, and a strategic plan to bring this giant down.

Current U.S. policy recognizes the innate harm in prostitution, and acknowledges the symbiosis between prostitution and sexual trafficking. In February 2003, a National Presidential Security Directive was signed by President Bush which states, "Prostitution and related activities, which are inherently harmful and dehumanizing, contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. . . ." This is an excellent policy foundation from which to begin. But to take new ground in the fight against sexual trafficking there are specific actions that should be taken:

1). The minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act should be enhanced to include the following provisions:

Whether the government of the country sponsors and supports law enforcement programs and non-governmental organizations tasked with reducing demand for international and domestic **trafficking in persons** and commercial sex acts as a factor for **tier** placement advancement.

Whether the government of the country has legalized its sex industry specifically including the activities of pimping, pandering, brothel keeping, and soliciting a prostitute as a factor for tier placement reduction.

2). The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act should mandate a study of the economics of trafficking, including a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the money flows and connections to transnational organized crime, to be conducted by the U.S. Department of States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law. If we better understand how sex trafficking financial operations work, we will have a better chance of bringing them down.

3). Congress should pass the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005. Passage of this bill will among other things strengthen prosecution and punishment of traffickers under the Mann Act. It authorizes federal funds for programs to

establish model law enforcement programs for the prosecution of purchasers of commercial sex, as well as to enhance prosecution efforts of traffickers and pimps through surveillance efforts, prosecution for rape, sexual assault, as well as tax evasion.

Conclusion

Timerman, a Holocaust survivor, said in his book *Prisoner Without a Name*, "The Holocaust will be understood not so much for the number of victims as for the magnitude of the silence. And what obsesses me most is the repetition of the silence." This brings me back to the remarks of Catherine Booth whose challenging words I shared with you earlier: "I felt as though I must go and walk the streets and besiege the dens where these hellish iniquities are going on. To keep quiet seemed like being a traitor to humanity." So I thank you for your interest and concern about this tragic issue, and the opportunity to speak out on behalf of humanity; about what I believe is clearly a brutal and massive system supported and advanced by traffickers, pimps, brothel keepers, organized crime, corrupt government official, buyers of commercial sex, and a growing moral bankruptcy within civil society; a system which is sentencing and condemning women and girls to lives of brutal captivity in the Sexual Gulags of the world's brothels, massage parlors, and streets.

But neither speaking out nor learning about a problem are sufficient. With knowledge comes responsibility the duty to take action. On the wall of The Salvation Army National Headquarters where I work there is a plaque hanging in the lobby with these words of the founder General William Booth:

"While women weep as they do now, I'll fight;

While little children go hungry as they do now, I'll fight;

While men go to prison, in and out, in and out, I'll fight;

While there yet remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight - I'll fight to the very end."

I agree with Booth. While women and children are captive to the Sexual Gulag, I'll fight I'll fight to the very end." Will you?

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES

TESTIMONY-BY: LISA L. THOMPSON, LIAISON

AFFILIATION: THE SALVATION ARMY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

56 of 359 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

COMBATING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 1494 words

Opening Statement of Deborah Pryce U.S. Representative

Committee on House Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, Technology And Economic Growth

June 22, 2005 2PM

I'd like to welcome everyone this afternoon. Today we are convening the second in a series of hearings in this Subcommittee on the very serious issue of trafficking in persons.

At our first hearing in April, we heard testimony from a great leader at the State Department's Trafficking in Persons office, Ambassador John Miller. Ambassador Miller offered a thorough and passionate testimony about U.S. efforts to combat trafficking here and abroad.

We also heard from Ms. Norma Hotaling, Executive Director and Founder of the SAGE Project in San Francisco. Norma turned her own experience with homelessness, addiction, and sexual exploitation into a mission to make it easier for other women, men, and youth who want to leave the sex trade behind, and find their way from the harsh effects of sexual exploitation to leave the sex trade behind.

Ms. Tina Frundt (pron: FRONT), our final witness, courageously offered her firsthand experience as a victim of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in the United States. Her harrowing encounters of victimization by pimps and johns put a human face on this tragedy and shed light on an issue that is all too often kept in darkness.

I expect today's hearing to further expose members of this Subcommittee, members of the media, and the public to the multi-faceted and destructive issues surrounding human trafficking, including the significant economic and financial implications.

Today's hearing is timely for a number of reasons.

First, in stating the obvious, modern day slavery will be a timely issue to debate in the halls of Congress and in communities across the world until it has its own chapter - complete with a start and a finish - in the history books of every country in the world.

Second, just a few weeks ago, Ambassador Miller's Trafficking in Persons office at the State Department released its much anticipated Trafficking In Persons Report for 2005. The State Department is required by law to submit a report each year to Congress on the efforts of foreign governments to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This report, covering April 2004 to March 2005, is the fifth annual TIP Report.

The intent of the Report is to raise global awareness and prompt foreign governments to combat all forms of trafficking in persons. The Report highlights the "three P's" - prosecution, protection, and prevention, and the "three R's" - rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. There is great significance in this marriage between the Ps and the Rs, and we need to focus on both in order to fully understand and tackle the scope of the problem.

During my time overseas meeting with NGOs and victims, I saw firsthand the great potential to make this holistic approach work.

While no country I visited came close to perfecting this approach in its entirety, I witnessed improved prosecution efforts in Albania and the implementation of better prevention and reintegration efforts in Moldova, showing that progress

can be made with commitment and coordination across the globe. Countries, including the U.S., must strive to implement all aspects of this victim-centered approach to fighting trafficking.

The 2005 Report gave a Tier 3 classification to 14 of the 150 countries that were assessed. A **Tier 3** country fails to take significant actions to bring itself in compliance with the minimum standards for eliminating **trafficking in persons**. Such an assessment can trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-aid and U.S. opposition to assistance from public lenders such as the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank.

One country on the Tier 3 list has already ignited action. Jamaica, a country previously on the Tier 2 list, was downgraded for failure to follow through on previous commitments to strengthen law enforcement and protection measures.

Not long after the report's release, the Jamaican Prime Minister disclosed in a meeting with several journalists that a Cabinet Office group consisting of representatives of the ministries of health, education, and foreign affairs; the Attorney General's office; and immigration authorities would be established to act on the findings of the report and review existing law to identify areas to improve.

Several countries that were on the Tier 3 list last year jumped up a notch this year. For example, Bangladesh showed a strong commitment to implementing anti-trafficking efforts over the last year.

The country established an anti-trafficking committee to oversee its national efforts to combat the issue, and set up a much anticipated special anti-trafficking police unit, which initiated new investigations while rescuing more victims.

And, in South America, Guyana's president facilitated the enactment of the country's first anti-trafficking law and launched a country-wide awareness campaign on the dangers and risks.

The Report revealed that progress is being made in the campaign to combat sexual slavery and other forms of forced servitude. New anti-trafficking measures were enacted in 39 countries last year, and there were more than 3,000 convictions worldwide related to trafficking.

Upon release of the report, Ambassador Miller was quoted as saying "Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery."

Though there is still much work to be done, the U.S. is putting its laws to work. In 2003, "Operation Predator" was launched within the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. This marked an unprecedented initiative to protect children worldwide from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors; Internet child pornographers; and child sex traffickers.

Operation Predator targets U.S. citizens suspected of sex crimes against children as well as non-citizens whose child sex crimes render them deportable from the U.S. Since its inception, there have been more than 5,700 individuals arrested nationwide, including 14 arrests brought under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act.

While progress has been made to combat human trafficking, sobering statistics linger:

-- An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, of which 80 percent are females and 50 percent are minors.

-- According to a recent study by the International Labor Organization, a special agency of the United Nations that seeks to promote human and labor rights, at least 12.3 million people are trapped in forced labor across the globe.

-- Of this number, over 2 million are victims of human trafficking and 1.2 million are children forced into prostitution, drug trafficking, and armed conflict.

-- These victims of trafficking are an enormous source of revenue for organized crime. The ILO study estimates that \$44 billion in global profits is brought in annually from forced labor, including \$15 billion from victims of trafficking in persons.

This report offers us evidence that there is much to learn about how effectively, or ineffectively, we are following the money and enforcing existing anti-money laundering laws to deprive criminals of the economic gains associated with the global sex trade. 8

There is not one clear cause of modern day slavery, nor is there one clear solution. But, there is a clear goal - to stamp out this global crisis for good.

As President George W. Bush so movingly stated in his 2005 Inaugural Address to the nation, a statement that Secretary Condoleezza Rice reminded us of upon release of the 2005 TIP Report, "America will not pretend that the jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies."

That is why we have convened today. That is why we must not stop until we end the victimization of men, women and children across the globe. That is why we must continue to raise awareness and build support for restoring the most basic of human rights to those who have been swept up in the tidal wave of the modern day slave trade.

I want to thank the witnesses who have joined us here today. You each bring a unique perspective, and we appreciate your time, energy, and courage to educating us about this global crisis.

I'd like to now acknowledge the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. Carolyn Maloney. Her passion for tackling this crisis is admirable, and I have very much enjoyed working with her in our shared goal to shed light on the sad and sobering issue of human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE: DOMESTIC MONETARY POLICY, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TESTIMONY-BY: DEBORAH PRYCE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

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57 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

STATE'S MILLER CALLS HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY GLOBAL PROBLEMS

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 748 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and a worldwide problem, according to John Miller, senior adviser to the U.S. secretary of state on trafficking in persons.

In our country, the United States, there were people that just assumed that slavery must have ended with the American Civil War, and it came as a shock to find that slavery still existed -- in the form of human trafficking, Miller told a group of Kuwaiti journalists in a digital videoconference June 22.

He said, Our aim in these dialogues is to focus public attention on this issue so as to create discussion ' about ' the slavery issue within the country, to create discussion about what can be done, and we believe this discussion has the potential to lead to positive steps.

Miller differentiated between smuggling of immigrants and human trafficking. [W]e're referring here not to smuggling; we're referring here to people who find themselves in conditions of slavery, people who have lost their freedom, he said. He noted that many governments in the world, including that of Kuwait, have spoken out against slavery, but he said that the United States does not believe Kuwait is making significant efforts to combat slavery.

From our perspective, the deeds have yet to match the words, he said.

Kuwait was ranked as a **Tier 3** country, the lowest possible ranking, in the State Department's recently released 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. President Bush will review the rankings in September. He may either raise the ranking if improvements have been made or issue sanctions if nothing has been done.

Miller expressed hope that the government of Kuwait would develop a plan of action to protect those in conditions of slavery before Bush's review. He said, We are hopeful that there will be action. The whole purpose of this exercise is not to criticize; it is to bring progress in ending slavery, which is an international problem.

Miller explained that the rankings given to each country are reflections of the efforts being made in the country to stop trafficking, not the size of the problem. Even Tier 1 nations, those receiving the highest ranking, are not exempt from the issue in his opinion. He said, Tier 1 is only meeting minimum standards. Tier 1 doesn't mean you don't have a problem. I can tell you every country in this report in Tier 1 has a large problem.

The primary purpose of the report was to identify the problems. We don't tell anybody how to do something here. We're spotlighting an issue. We're reporting on it. We make recommendations, said Miller.

Kuwait, like many developed countries, such as the United States and Japan, was described as a destination country for slavery. Although these nations do not supply and sell slave labor, people within the nations buy it. Miller said, As destination countries, we have just as much responsibility as source countries.

Responding to a question about how Kuwait can address the problem, given that many Kuwaiti leaders employ slave labor, he said that government officials are certainly not immune and should be setting an example, a positive example. Miller encouraged the journalists to participate actively in stopping slavery within their country. He explained, When you write about this issue, you do increase public awareness. And when public awareness increases in democratic countries or in countries that are moving toward democracy, good things start to happen.

Throughout the discussion, Miller encouraged dialogue on the issue, asking for commentary about the reality of the situation in Kuwait and suggestions on how to end it. He also encouraged other countries and the United Nations to look

at the United States' human trafficking situation. Miller said that the United States shares the burden of the worldwide slavery problem and that a thorough analysis of domestic trafficking will be released soon by the Department of Justice. Miller added that, based on his observations, people everywhere generally abhor slavery. He said he remains optimistic about the future of slavery in the world and said, I look forward to the day when this report is not necessary. The full text of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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58 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 22, 2005

State's Miller Calls Human Trafficking, Slavery Global Problems; Ambassador urges all countries and United Nations to address the problem

BYLINE: Brittany Sterrett, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 737 words

Washington -- Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and a worldwide problem, according to John Miller, senior adviser to the U.S. secretary of state on trafficking in persons.

"In our country, the United States, there were people that just assumed that slavery must have ended with the American Civil War, and it came as a shock to find that slavery still existed" -- in the form of human trafficking, Miller told a group of Kuwaiti journalists in a digital videoconference June 22.

He said, "Our aim in these dialogues is to focus public attention on this issue so as to create discussion -- about -- the slavery issue within the country, to create discussion about what can be done, and we believe this discussion has the potential to lead to positive steps."

Miller differentiated between smuggling of immigrants and human trafficking. "[W]e're referring here not to smuggling; we're referring here to people who find themselves in conditions of slavery, people who have lost their freedom," he said.

He noted that many governments in the world, including that of Kuwait, have spoken out against slavery, but he said that the United States does not believe Kuwait is making "significant efforts to combat slavery."

"From our perspective, the deeds have yet to match the words," he said.

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The primary purpose of the report was to identify the problems. "We don't tell anybody how to do something here. We're spotlighting an issue. We're reporting on it. We make recommendations," said Miller.

Kuwait, like many developed countries, such as the United States and Japan, was described as a destination country for slavery. Although these nations do not supply and sell slave labor, people within the nations buy it. Miller said, "As destination countries, we have just as much responsibility as source countries."

Responding to a question about how Kuwait can address the problem, given that many Kuwaiti leaders employ slave labor, he said that government officials "are certainly not immune and should be setting an example, a positive example."

Miller encouraged the journalists to participate actively in stopping slavery within their country. He explained, "When you write about this issue, you do increase public awareness. And when public awareness increases in democratic countries or in countries that are moving toward democracy, good things start to happen."

Throughout the discussion, Miller encouraged dialogue on the issue, asking for commentary about the reality of the situation in Kuwait and suggestions on how to end it. He also encouraged other countries and the United Nations to look at the United States' human trafficking situation. Miller said that the United States shares the burden of the worldwide slavery problem and that a thorough analysis of domestic trafficking will be released soon by the Department of Justice.

Miller added that, based on his observations, people everywhere generally abhor slavery. He said he remains optimistic about the future of slavery in the world and said, "I look forward to the day when this report is not necessary."

The full text of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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59 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 22, 2005 Wednesday 5:26 AM EST

STATE'S MILLER CALLS HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY GLOBAL PROBLEMS

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 747 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Brittany Sterrett

Washington File Staff Writer

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"In our country, the United States, there were people that just assumed that slavery must have ended with the American Civil War, and it came as a shock to find that slavery still existed" - in the form of human trafficking, Miller told a group of Kuwaiti journalists in a digital videoconference June 22.

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The full text of the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>

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60 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 19, 2005 Sunday

Nigeria; Nigeria, Benin United Against Child Trafficking

BYLINE: This Day**LENGTH:** 2012 words

The evil called human trafficking is one that Nigeria and Benin Republic have taken a giant step to confront by signing a Co-operation Agreement. Max Amuchie, who was in Cotonou for the event, writes

Some time in 2003 about 300 children were discovered at a slave labour camp at some quarries in Abeokuta. The children were, in the words of Chief Akin Olujinmi, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, "found working in very horrendous, degrading and inhuman conditions." With Nigeria's help, those children were repatriated back to Benin Republic, where they came from.

The issue of human trafficking is one that has engaged the imagination of people across the world over the years. Penultimate weekend, Nigeria and Benin Republic signed a co-operation in Cotonou, the capital of Benin Republic to put an end to child trafficking. At the auditorium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration in Cotonou, Olujinmi signed the accord on behalf of Nigeria while Mr Biaou Rogatien, the Beninois Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration signed for his country.

The signing of the agreement followed months of intensive meetings and dialogue between both countries with UNICEF, Nigeria and Benin acting as the facilitators.

Earlier, between April 7 and 8, representatives of both countries governmental and non-governmental agencies from both countries and UNICEF had met at NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja on what was termed third meeting on country

response on child trafficking. The first meeting was held in March 2004 in Lagos while the second took place in June 2005 in Cotonou. These meetings, which were supported by UNICEF, enabled the two countries, to among other things, prepare the Co-operation Agreement.

At that meeting it was noted that "The regional status of child trafficking shows that both countries are source, transit and destination of children from Benin Republic to Nigeria. In addition Nigeria was also noted to be a country with recruiters and intermediaries."

For Nigeria, the highlights and issues included that Nigeria was and still is an origin, transit and destination country;

Nigerian girls working in Europe, Saudi Arabia and Benin Republic;

The ILO Report of 2003 noted that 19 per cent of children work in dangerous environment;

End use of victims of include domestic servants, bus conducting, street trading, agricultural jobs, prostitution in brothels, stone digging, scavenging, drug peddling, crime and violence;

Ratio between boys and girls is 7:3, while 50 per cent of victims are below 18 years;

Women and girls are mostly trafficked for sexual exploitation; Boys are often trafficked to Gabon for cheap labour; Children trafficked to Saudi Arabia are predominantly from states in the North; Deaf and dumb now operate the trafficking ring; Over 50 per cent of returnees are below 18-25 years; Countries from where trafficked Nigerians return in order of priority are Italy, Spain, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Libya, UK, South Africa, Mali and Benin Republic;

Internal trafficking is increasing due to high demand for child workers at the household level; Security of traffickers and victims is guaranteed through voodoo men in Nigeria and even on departure and point of arrival in destination countries;

Camerounians use Nigeria as transit country to be trafficked to Algiers through Niger;

Togolese and Beninois use Nigeria as transit country to Gabon.

It was also noted that 69 Beninois children rescued in 2005 had been repatriated to Benin from Nigeria.

Furthermore, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTI) was identified as a national monitoring centre that could save finger prints, names and other relevant information on convicted traffickers. The agency has also developed jingles as part of campaign against human trafficking.

In addition, UNICEF supported the production of 10,000 copies of the Trafficking Act.

For Nigeria, the challenges on child trafficking include that investigation and intelligence remain very costly while the judicial process is very slow. The rest are that resources for integration are scarce; awareness for end users of victims is low with penalties for end users negligible.

For Benin Republic, the issues and highlights of concern as stated in the April meeting in Abuja included that:

The country had undertaken policies aimed at eradicating trafficking in Benin in response ECOWAS MoU used as a basis;

Presentation made on interventions in the areas of legislation, awareness creation, community sensitisation, rehabilitation activities and poverty eradication;

Law on protection for family and children promulgated into law in 2004 and its translation is being used to sensitise the people;

Draft Bill against trafficking in progress and should be presented for passage into law before end of this year;

Study on trafficking to be supported by UNICEF will be conducted this year;

Study on juvenile delinquency funded from national resources to be carried out this year;

Liaison committee established for the defence of child rights, among others.

The challenges Benin Republic has had to contend with include lack of resources to fight poverty;

Effective co-operation between Nigeria and Benin Republic;

Monitoring at borders of the two countries;

Means of identifying the victims; and how to identify and discourage the end users of victims.

The meeting in Abuja finalised all the issues leading to the signing ceremony in Cotonou. The co-operation agreement between both countries is a??To prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons with emphasis on trafficking in women and children.a??

Article II of the Agreement set out the objectives, which are:

(i) To develop a common front to prevent, fight, suppress and punish trafficking in women and children by setting up joint security surveillance patrols and joint sensitisation and campaigns along border areas of the two countries;

(ii) To protect, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking into their original environment;

(iii) To promote friendly co-operation between the parties with a view to attaining these objectives.

The Agreement provides for the setting up of a joint committee to implement provisions of the Agreement. The two countries are to have equal representation on the committee.

It further provides for the formation of joint security surveillance patrol team that would detect, arrest and punish traffickers. The border patrol team will also educate and sensitise local communities at the border on the negative consequences of trafficking in persons.

The accord provides that the two countries should, in strict confidence, exchange information relevant to on possible steps to be taken with a view to combating trafficking in persons and other information that could aid in the prosecution of offenders.

In a case where an offender is to be deported, the host country is enjoined to inform the country of origin of the date and means of transportation.

Notwithstanding their immigration status of victims, both countries are enjoined in the Agreement to treat victims of trafficking as victims and not as criminals. They are not to detain, torture or subject victims to degrading or inhumane treatment. They have to provide for the physical safety, medical care, and provision of shelter, psychosocial support, feeding and clothing for the victims while they are within the territory of the host country.

The fourth chapter of the Agreement makes elaborate provision for the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

In his speech after signing the agreement on behalf of Nigeria, Olujimi said: "Apart from the fact that Nigeria and Benin Republic share common borders, the two countries also share cultural, linguistic, religious and historical affinity. These borders seem more imaginary than real having regard to the level of commercial and social interaction between the two countries. It is a known fact that trans-national crime such as human trafficking has no respect for national borders, hence the need to co-operate with each other at this level."

He said traffickers had developed sophistication in their effort to beat national laws and border controls. "They resort to subtle means of deceit, enticement and superior position of authority to lure their victims from one jurisdiction where the offences are severe to another where the offences are less severe. Victims are led into claws of servitude and slavery, exploitation and abuse of human rights."

Olujimi thanked UNICEF Nigeria and UNICEF Benin for their initiative, financial and technical support in the effort towards making the agreement between the two countries a reality.

In his reply, Mr Rogatien expressed delight at the accord. He debunked claims that his country has not been doing enough to fight trafficking in women and children. He said the fact that the accord was being signed one week ahead of June 16, which is Day of the African Child was evidence of how serious the two countries took the issue of child trafficking.

Dr Phillippe Duamelle, UNICEF Representative in Benin, in his speech, said: "This new era of strengthened co-operation between the Republic of Benin and Nigeria to fight trafficking in persons must rapidly lead to concrete actions. Every day, we face dramatic consequences of this scourge for the victims and for the development of both countries. This agreement will enable a stronger mobilisation to eradicate trafficking, especially child trafficking."

Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Country Representative, UNICEF, Nigeria, congratulated both countries on the agreement. She said the word, trafficking should not be associated with a human being and urged Nigeria and Benin to implement the agreement.

In a statement issued after the ceremony, UNICEF said the signing of the agreement "marks an important step forward in the fight against child trafficking and illustrates the determination of the Republic of Benin and Nigeria to join forces against trafficking in persons.

The statement quoted Ayalew Abai, UNICEF Nigeria Representative as saying: "As child trafficking is now a cross border issue, initiating international co-operation through bilateral agreement is important to obtain better results. We hope that the Benin-Nigeria agreement will be an example for other countries."

In an interview with THISDAY after the ceremony, Olujimi said Nigeria was committed to the agreement and would do every thing within her power to bring the menace to an end. He said even without any formal agreement, Nigeria repatriated the girls discovered in Abeokuta to Benin Republic in 2003.

Also, the fact that Nigeria was this month upgraded from the status of Second **tier Watch List** to Second **tier** Status by the US Department of State was evidence of the country's concerted effort in the fight against **human trafficking**.

He commended the effort of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) for the relentless war the agency was waging on human trafficking in Nigeria. He said the agency successfully prosecuted the case of a woman child trafficker in Benin, Edo State this year and got her convicted for child trafficking.

Also in an interview with THISDAY, Mrs Carol Ndaguba, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive of NAPTIP, stressed the readiness of her agency to wage the war against human traffickers in Nigeria. She said Benin was the agreement with Republic of Benin was first and that similar accords with other countries sharing border with Nigeria would be explored in the near future.

She commended UNICEF and all other agencies that have been supporting NAPTIP in the war against human trafficking.

The Joint Committee set up by both countries later met in Quidah, Benin Republic, where the joint plan of action against trafficking in persons was finalised and adopted.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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61 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 17, 2005 Friday 9:55 AM GMT

US insists human trafficking report not 'political'

LENGTH: 341 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK June 17

The US State Department defended its annual human trafficking report against accusations that it is a political tool used by Washington to pressure target countries, with one author Friday insisting its findings are impartial.

Military-ruled Myanmar and Cambodia have complained about being blacklisted, with both being relegated to the report's "tier three" of worst offenders which failed to meet the State Departments minimum standards against trafficking.

"We firmly believe that Burma is a **tier** three country," said Mark Taylor, senior coordinator in the office to monitor and combat **trafficking in persons**, using the country's former name.

"It is not making significant efforts to address trafficking for forced labour and until we see signs that it is, it will remain at that level."

Though Cambodia has been praised for curbing child sex crimes, it was relegated to tier three for the first time since 2002 because of its failure to convict traffickers or prosecute public officials involved in the flesh trade.

"While we appreciate their cooperation in getting these American paedophiles back to the US for prosecution, we call on them (Cambodia) to prosecute the trafficker who took the child to the brothel keeper that provided this child for rape for profit in the beginning," Taylor said.

Taylor, who was visiting Thailand as part of a regional tour to discuss the report's findings, said the State Department worked hard to ensure the report stuck to its "objective" criteria.

The 2005 report assigned 14 countries to tier three, including US allies Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, he said.

"I hope that that speaks to its ability to see past the political prism and to the objective criteria," Taylor said.

Myanmar has attacked the report as "lacking in objectivity".

"Myanmar does not condone the practice of trafficking in persons and is constantly striving to overcome the pernicious practice," state media said last week, carrying a foreign ministry report highlighting the junta's efforts to combat trafficking.

pjl/mlm/sdm

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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62 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 16, 2005, Thursday

Japan revises Penal Code, immigration law to combat human trafficking

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 04:23 GMT, 16 Jun 05

LENGTH: 321 words

Text of report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Tokyo, 16 June: Japan's parliament on Thursday [16 June] approved legislation to revise the Penal Code and immigration law to punish those involved in human trafficking, while granting victims special residency status to protect them even if they have overstayed their visas. The House of Representative passed a set of relevant bills in a plenary session. The House of Councillors approved them in April.

Under the revised laws, those who purchase a person and put him or her under their control would face three months to five years in prison. The maximum punishment would be increased to seven years if the victim is a minor.

In cases of human trafficking for profits or sexual purposes, the penalty would be even harsher or the prison term would span from one year to 10 years. Human trafficking victims would be permitted to stay in Japan at the discretion of the justice minister so they can receive treatment before returning to their countries. During the stay, they will be asked to cooperate with the Japanese police in investigations, including by explaining how they had entered the country.

Foreign nationals who are found to be involved in human trafficking will be deported under the revised laws. Those who have provided forged travel documents to others with the intention of sending them to Japan would face a prison term of up to three years or a fine of up to 3m yen. The laws also require airline operators to confirm travel documents of their passengers to prevent human smuggling.

The move came after the US State Department placed Japan on the special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category in **human trafficking** in June last year. Earlier this month, the State Department removed Japan from the list after it compiled an action programme, including these legal changes, last December.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

63 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 16, 2005 Thursday

Japan revises Penal Code, immigration law to fight human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 312 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 16

Japan's parliament on Thursday approved legislation to revise the Penal Code and immigration law to punish those involved in human trafficking, while granting victims special residency status to protect them even if they have overstayed their visas.

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LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

64 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 16, 2005

OSCE Countries Fighting Human Trafficking, but More Work Needed; U.S. diplomat Brucker cites report findings at OSCE Permanent Council

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 552 words

Both developed and developing countries share responsibility for curbing human trafficking and assisting victims, U.S. diplomat Katherine Brucker told the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) June 16 as she noted the release of the State Department's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

"All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society," Brucker said.

She said no OSCE countries were given a Tier 3 ranking for 2005 -- the lowest ranking, which is reserved for countries that do not comply with minimum standards under the United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

"Yet we know that because the problem of human trafficking is so large, all OSCE participating States have much more work left to do," Brucker said.

The full text of the Trafficking in Persons Report is available on the State Department Web site.

Following are Brucker's remarks to the Permanent Council:

(begin text)

United States Mission to the OSCE

RELEASE OF THE 2005 DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

As delivered by Deputy Political Counselor Katherine Brucker

to the Permanent Council, Vienna

June 16, 2005

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to announce the release on June 3 of the United States Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

This fifth annual report, along with the \$96 million in anti-trafficking assistance our nation provided to foreign governments and non-government organizations last year, demonstrates our strong commitment to this cause.

This year, we included more country analyses as a result of deeper research and a wider range of sources. We also expanded our coverage of labor slavery, especially internal labor trafficking. Forced labor and involuntary servitude are appallingly common, including whole villages working to pay off old debts passed down through generations.

We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it.

All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society. The responsibility does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty, corruption, or lack of education. Destination or demand countries, like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility.

We are pleased to note that there are no OSCE countries on **Tier 3** this year; yet we know that because the problem of **human trafficking** is so large, all OSCE participating States have much more work left to do.

The entire report, which covers 150 countries, can be found at <http://www.state.gov/>

The report will be followed later this month by an assessment of how the United States is doing in combating human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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65 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 16, 2005 Thursday 11:01 AM EST

Japan revises Penal Code, immigration law to fight human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 305 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO

Japan's parliament Thursday approved legislation to revise the Penal Code and immigration law to punish those involved in human trafficking, while granting victims special residency status to protect them even if they have overstayed their visas.

The House of Representative passed a set of relevant bills in a plenary session.

The House of Councilors approved them in April.

Under the revised laws, those who purchase a person and put him or her under their control would face three months to five years in prison. The maximum punishment would be increased to seven years if the victim is a minor.

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LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

66 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 14, 2005 Tuesday 9:56 AM GMT

Japan lacks support system to help victims of human trafficking: study

LENGTH: 344 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO June 14

Japan must do more to fight human trafficking by providing legal and medical support to women who often fear retaliation if they escape from enslavement, a study by activists and scholars said Tuesday.

Japan has taken actions such as tightening visa rules after being put on a US **watchlist** in 2004 for **human trafficking**, but the moves are not enough, the report by more than 100 groups said.

"We have heard from victims that they want Japanese authorities to step up their regulatory activities and help them," said Rieko Aoki, a social worker who took part in the study.

"Non-government organizations are offering a variety of help. But they do not have money to give medical care and mental care in the languages that trafficking victims understand. The government must offer help," she told a news conference.

Tokyo must also coordinate with authorities abroad to ensure the safety of victims who are repatriated, said Nanako Inaba, an associate professor specializing in migration and gender studies at Ibaraki University.

"Even after they return home, many victims fear repercussions from traffickers, who are often their relatives or acquaintances," Inaba said.

Japan this year began tightening rules on "entertainer" visas, despite protests from the Philippines which worried that legitimate workers would suffer.

But the study said smugglers were also becoming more clever. It said some traffickers drew highly educated Thai women into Japan's sex trade with promises of work under a bilateral free trade agreement that is still being negotiated.

Human trafficking victims in Japan are mainly Asians but the number of victims from Eastern Europe and Latin America is on the rise, the study said.

The number of victims of trafficking fell in the mid-1990s as Japan plunged into recession but the slump also took attention off the problem, it said.

"We believe it is important that we discuss this issue to lobby the government for improved public policies to help victims of trafficking," said Tamie Kaino, professor of law and gender science at Ochanomizu University.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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67 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 14, 2005, Tuesday

Japanese House committee passes human trafficking bill

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 03:48 GMT, 14 Jun 05

LENGTH: 244 words

Text of report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Tokyo, 14 June: The House of Representatives Judicial Affairs Committee on Tuesday [14 June] approved bills to revise laws to punish those involved in human trafficking while granting victims special residency status to protect them even if they have overstayed their visas.

The bills to revise the Penal Code and the immigration law, which were already passed by the House of Councillors in April, will be tabled for a vote at the full lower house later this week.

Under the revised laws, those who purchase a person to put him or her under their control will face punishment of three months to five years in prison. The maximum punishment will be increased to seven years if the victim is a minor.

In cases of human trafficking for profits or sexual purposes, the penalty will be even harsher or the prison term will be longer than one year and up to 10 years.

Meanwhile, human trafficking victims will be permitted to stay in Japan at the discretion of the justice minister so they can be rehabilitated before returning to their countries.

The move came after the US State Department placed Japan on the special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category in **human trafficking** in June last year.

Earlier this month, the State Department removed Japan from the list after it compiled an action programme, including these planned legal changes.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

68 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 14, 2005 Tuesday

House committee OKs bill against human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 365 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 14

The House of Representatives Judicial Affairs Committee on Tuesday approved a set of bills to punish those involved in human trafficking while granting victims special residency status to protect them even if they have overstayed their visas.

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The Japanese government has been asking for cooperation from countries from which women are being sent to Japan to help combat human trafficking.

The Foreign Ministry has already dispatched officers to the Philippines and Colombia to ask law-enforcement authorities in these countries to crack down on brokers who are sending women to Japan for prostitution and other services, ministry officials said.

The ministry is considering sending officers to Russia and East European countries as well in late July, the officials said.

They said the officers plan to ask local churches to issue warnings about human trafficking during services, for example.

The number of female victims of human trafficking detected by the government came to 77 in 2004, including 48 Thais, 13 Philippines, five Taiwanese and five Colombians.

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

69 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 14, 2005 Tuesday

House committee OKs bill on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 230 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 14

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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70 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

71 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 13, 2005 Monday

House committee OKs bill on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 230 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 14

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LOAD-DATE: June 14, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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72 of 359 DOCUMENTS

San Jose Mercury News (California)

June 12, 2005 Sunday MORNING FINAL EDITION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN JAPAN PRESENTS FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE; BUREAUCRACY, TRADITION SLOW NATION'S EFFORT TO AID FEMALE WORKERS

BYLINE: SHARON NOGUCHI AND EMI DOI, Knight Ridder

SECTION: FRONT; Pg. 17A

LENGTH: 820 words

DATELINE: TOKYO

Angel Kiss, Zeus and cabarets that offer "live love" still beckon customers in Kabukicho, Tokyo's infamous red-light district. But near-daily police and immigration raids have banished the women who once openly solicited potential customers on the street.

Humiliated by international criticism of its commerce in girls and women, Japan last year began to clamp down on human trafficking. Yet the tougher laws that are expected to pass next month face huge obstacles. Japan must reorient a slow-moving bureaucracy, overcome widespread social acceptance of sex for hire, and take on the powerful sex industry and the criminal groups that control it.

Marisela -- not her real name -- entered Japan on a tourist visa procured by a recruiter. The waitress job that she thought would support her two daughters in the Philippines turned out to be a bar-hostessing job that included being sent out on calls with customers. Like most women in the industry, she was moved from place to place and sometimes was terrified. "I thought if I complained, I would get killed," she said.

Thousands of Mariselas, desperate to earn money for their families, slip into Japan on short-term visas or with falsified passports. Told that they have to pay off debts of sometimes 5 million yen (\$47,600), they're held captive, beaten and controlled by threats to their families at home, anti-trafficking groups say.

Estimates of the number of victims vary wildly. The National Police Agency identified 79 in 2004 from among arrested illegal foreigners. The Organization of American States estimates that 1,700 girls and women from Latin America have been sold in Japan. Anti-trafficking groups say there are more than 100,000 victims, mostly Thais, Filipinas and Colombians -- but also Russians, Chinese, Koreans, Taiwanese and other Southeast Asians.

Until now, police dealt with the problem by arresting the victims as illegal immigrants, jailing and deporting them as soon as they presented enough money for airfare home.

Trafficked women often live brutal, desolate lives, forced into having unprotected sex with sometimes dozens of customers a day, say those who work rescuing the women.

"The Japanese are the coldest people, without any heart, that can possibly exist in the world," one girl, who arrived at age 16, wrote in a statement after she fled to the Colombian Consulate. "Besides the mafia who own us, on the streets they treat us as criminals and beat me when I don't earn enough money. They force us to do horrible, repulsive things, and often the police come in, showing their badge, and force us to service them for free."

The United States, the International Labor Organization and other groups have singled out Japan for harsh criticism. A U.S. State Department report last year demoted Japan to a **"watch list"** of foot-dragging governments -- the same ranking as Laos and Russia -- in **human trafficking**.

Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor, including 2.4 million trafficking victims -- a majority of them in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2004 State Department report jolted Japan into speeding up reform.

This year's State report, released June 1, credited Tokyo with progress in addressing the problem.

Two months ago, the government began cutting back on entertainer visas, which last year were issued to 80,000 people, mostly Filipinas. Those were a sham, said Hidenori Sakanaka, a former head of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau. "The women are ordered to become hostesses, even though they are invited as singers or dancers, and end up in prostitution," he said.

After his agents embarked on an aggressive campaign 10 years ago, arresting illegal entertainers as well as club owners and brokers, he received irate phone calls from politicians and anonymous threats on his life, he said. "Trafficking is the shame of Japan," he wrote in a recently published book.

For more than a year, immigration and police officers have been arresting thousands of undocumented workers, including trafficking victims. To live up to an October 2003 pledge to cut in half the population of illegal foreigners in Tokyo, then estimated at 125,000, officers have staked out stations and streets populated by Third World migrants.

Agents are so busy that the immigration jails are full.

To have an impact, authorities will have to tackle the most difficult problem of all: challenging the Japanese yakuza and their foreign partners who profit from the trafficking.

Last year, 46 people were found guilty of trafficking-related crimes. Sentences, however, sometimes have been light.

New laws criminalizing human trafficking and beefing up penalties will allow authorities to crack down on brokers. Currently, immigration agents who record victims' testimonies can arrest only the visa violators, not the traffickers.

LOAD-DATE: September 14, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo;

PHOTO: TORIN BOYD -- KNIGHT RIDDER

The Kabukicho quarter is a major entertainment hub that contains Tokyo's red-light district, recently the scene of immigration raids as Japan tries to confront its powerful and entrenched sex industry.

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73 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 10, 2005 Friday

Ghana; Ghana's Human Trafficking Ranking Drops

BYLINE: Public Agenda**LENGTH:** 759 words

Ghana has moved from **Tier** One of US State Department's **Human trafficking** ranking to **Tier** two this year.

To be demoted to two tier means Ghana is neither bad or worse off well in terms of protecting children.

According to the Fifth Annual Trafficking in Persons report (TIP) issued on June 3, 2005 in Washington, Ghana has become an important source, transit and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced domestic and commercial labour.

Speaking via Video Conference in Washington DC, the Africa Desk Officer in charge of Monitoring and preparing the annual report Rachel Yousey said the Government of Ghana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

"Ghanaian Children are trafficked internally for forced labour in fishing communities and Cocoa plantations," said the report. Ghanaian children are also trafficked to Ivory Coast, Togo, Nigeria and the Gambia for exploitation as labourers or domestic servants.

Recruiters according to the report target poor children who are removed from the home community with their parents consent.

This is because the country has no legislation on human trafficking.

The report further said Ghanaian women and girls are trafficked to Western Europe especially to Germany, Italy and the Netherlands for sexual exploitation.

The report also said some young Ghanaian women are trafficked for involuntary domestic servitude in the Middle East. "Nigerian females moved to Western Europe for sexual exploitation transit in Ghana as do Burkinabe victims on their way to La Cote d'Ivoire.

Victims also include children brought to Ghana from La Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin and Nigeria for forced Labour.

Reacting, the MP for North Dayi, Akua Sena Dansua said, there is no special trafficking ring that recruits women for sexual exploitation in Europe. "These Women travel on their own volition and enter into prostitution when they are unable to face the realities of life in Europe," she said.

She however said Ghana is making efforts aimed at curbing the problem.

"Ghana continues educating the public and providing assistance to trafficked children and their families," Yousey said adding, "but law enforcement efforts were disjointed and hampered by lack of comprehensive national trafficking law."

On prosecution Yousey said the government did not make significant progress in identifying and prosecuting trafficking cases, though it provided modest resources for child victims and reunited child victims with their families during the reporting period.

She further said anti-trafficking legislation proposed since 2002 did not reach Parliament.

"Laws prohibiting slavery, prostitution, use of underage labour and manufacture of fraudulent documents exists, but officials did not keep data on internal cases relating to trafficking and could not determine how many of the approximately 250 reported cases of abduction, child stealing and child abuse involved trafficking.

The US report also made mention of the Ghana Government's refusal to extradite a Ghanaian Member of Parliament for trial in a US court for trafficking a woman to the US for forced domestic servitude.

On protection the report further said the government further worked with the IOM to offer start up assistance for resettlement of repatriated children in their home communities, while few officials were trained in recognizing trafficking and providing assistance to victims.

Yousey also says although resources were scarce, the government of Ghana remains a leader in Africa for its continued efforts to educate the public.

Agencies like the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Ghana police service, the Ghana Child labour Unit, the Department of Social Welfare held community meetings and distributed handbills in local languages to the citizenry.

What the government has to do to reclaim its Tier One position according to Yousey is to seek the passage and implementation of trafficking legislation.

She however said there are no ramifications for the Tier Two position.

Tier one countries are countries whose government complies fully with the minimum standards, while Tier two category consist of countries whose governments do not comply fully with the Acts Minimum standards.

Tier three position is the worst of all and it consists of countries whose governments do not fully comply and are not making efforts to do so. This category attracts sanctions such as denial of aid among others.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

74 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 10, 2005 Friday

Nigeria; Nigeria, Benin Sign MOU On Child Trafficking

BYLINE: This Day**LENGTH:** 848 words

Nigeria and the Republic of Benin on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the fight against trafficking in women and children.

In a ceremony that took place in the conference room of the Beninois Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration in Cotonou, the capital of Benin Republic, Chief Akinlolu Olujimi, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice signed on behalf of Nigeria. Mr Biaou Rogatien, Beninois Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration signed on behalf of his country.

In his speech at the ceremony, Olujimi said: "Apart from the fact that Nigeria and Benin Republic share common borders, the two countries also share cultural, linguistic, religious and historical affinity. These borders seem more imaginary than real having regard to the level of commercial and social interaction between the two countries. It is a known fact that trans-national crime such as human trafficking has no respect for national borders, hence the need to co-operate with each other at this level."

He said traffickers had developed sophistication in their effort to beat national laws and border controls. "They resort to subtle means of deceit, enticement and superior position of authority to lure their victims from one jurisdiction where the offences are severe to another where the offences are less severe. Victims are led into claws of servitude and slavery, exploitation and abuse of human rights."

He recollected the story of the about 300 children who were found at a slave labour camp at some quarries in Abeokuta in Nigeria in 2003 "working in very horrendous, degrading and inhuman conditions."

The children, who were identified as Beninois were eventually repatriated to Benin with the help of Nigeria.

Olujimi thanked UNICEF Nigeria and UNICEF Benin for their initiative, financial and technical support in the effort towards making the agreement between the two countries a reality.

In his reply, Mr Rogatien expressed delight at the accord. He debunked claims that his country has not been doing enough to fight trafficking in women and children. He said the fact that the accord was being signed one week ahead of June 16, which is Day of the African Child was evidence of how serious the two countries took the the issue of child trafficking.

Dr Phillippe Duamelle, UNICEF Representative in Benin, in his speech, said: "This new era of strengthened co-operation between the Republic of Benin and Nigeria to fight trafficking in persons must rapidly lead to concrete actions. Every day, we face dramatic consequences of this scourge for the victims and for the development of both countries. This agreement will enable a stronger mobilisation to eradicate trafficking, especially child trafficking."

Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Country Representative, UNICEF, Nigeria, congratulated both countries on the agreement. She said the word, trafficking should not be associated with a human being and urged Nigeria and Benin to implement the agreement.

In an interview with THISDAY after the ceremony, Olujimi said Nigeria was committed to the agreement and would do every thing within her power to bring the menace to an end. He said even without any formal agreement, Nigeria repatriated the girls discovered in Abeokuta to Benin Republic in 2003.

Also, the fact that Nigeria was this month upgraded from the status of Second **tier Watch List** to Second **tier** Status by the US Department of State was evidence of the country's concerted effort in the fight against **human trafficking**.

He commended the effort of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) for the relentless war the agency was waging on human trafficking in Nigeria. He said the agency successfully prosecuted the case of a woman child trafficker in Benin, Edo State this year and got her convicted for child trafficking.

Also in an interview with THISDAY, Mrs Carol Ndaguba, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive of NAPTIP, stressed the readiness of her agency to wage the war against human traffickers in Nigeria. She said Benin was the agreement with Republic of Benin was first and that similar accords with other countries sharing border with Nigeria would be explored in the near future.

She commended UNICEF and all other agencies that have been supporting NAPTIP in the war against human trafficking.

The objectives of the agreement between both countries include developing a common front to prevent, fight, suppress and punish trafficking in women and children by setting up joint security surveillance patrols and joint sensitisation campaigns along the border areas of the two countries.

It is to protect, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking into their original environment and to promote friendly co-operation between the parties with a view to attaining these objectives.

The two countries will set up a joint committee with equal representation to be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions taken to achieve the objectives.

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

75 of 359 DOCUMENTS

AP Worldstream

June 10, 2005 Friday

Hundreds of Pakistanis return home after being deported by Oman for alleged illegal entry

BYLINE: ZARAR KHAN; Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 203 words**DATELINE:** KARACHI, Pakistan

Hundreds of Pakistanis deported by Oman for alleged illegal entry returned Friday aboard a ferry and were expected to be freed after questioning, an immigration official said.

Oman deported the 552 men at Pakistan's request, said Malik Subh Sadiq, an official with the Federal Investigation Agency which handles immigration issues.

"We will question them to determine who sent them to Oman, and these investigations will help us capture human smugglers," he said.

Thousands of Pakistanis seek work each year in oil-rich Middle Eastern countries. Many pay human traffickers to take them there, often without visas, and they are frequently arrested and deported.

Oman has deported more than 40,000 Pakistanis in the past two years.

The latest group returned home less than a week after the United States said it had removed Pakistan from its **human trafficking watch list**.

Pakistan is considered to be a major human smuggling route, but authorities have taken steps in recent months to crack down on such trafficking.

In 2002, Pakistan made human smuggling an offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison. In January, it announced it would establish special courts to expedite smuggling suspects' trials.

LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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76 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 10, 2005, Friday

USA offers Jamaica help to tackle human trafficking

SOURCE: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 17:15 GMT, 10 Jun 05

LENGTH: 568 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 10 June

Kingston, Jamaica: The United States says it has put in place a plan to address human trafficking in Jamaica, even though the P.J. Patterson administration has until 2 September to implement measures which could persuade Washington against implementing harsh economic sanctions against the island.

Speaking during a Digital Video Conference on Thursday [9 June], the report officer on Jamaica, Rachel Owen said the US Action Plan is intended prevent the imposition of sanctions that now loom over Jamaica in the wake of the recent report, which presented a damning image of human trafficking in the country.

Ms Owen said the measures being proposed include the establishment of a small police unit to monitor the trafficking of persons and public outreach campaigns.

She said over the next three months, Washington would be working closely with the Jamaica government to ensure that some of these objectives were met.

"We will be working in the city of Kingston, we've compiled an action plan of items that the Jamaican government can undertake during the grace period to avoid sanctions and move up to tier two, we've already seen some reaction from the Jamaican government which is positive, we've received something from the national security ministry that we are reviewing right now," she said.

But she argued that the report and the subsequent downgrading of Jamaica should not have surprised local authorities since they had been kept informed of the concerns of the United States.

"Last year we did send out an action plan to Jamaica, there was no follow through on the action plan. In January of this year, we also issued an interim assessment on Jamaica saying that they weren't doing enough particularly in law enforcement in combating trafficking in persons so there was a lot of awareness I believe we gave the Jamaicans," she said.

The Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John Miller, who participated in the video conference, said the parties would be stepping up the pace of the discussions.

"The next couple of days we are going to get into more specifics through our embassy with the Jamaica government. There will be a lot of specific items all achievable within ninety days. There are a lot of things that can be done in 90 days and I'm looking forward to those things being done, I think it will make the situation better for the women and children of Jamaica," said Miller.

Last week Friday, the US State department released its **Trafficking in Persons** Report in which Jamaica was placed at the bottom of the pile in the "**Tier** Three" group of countries.

According to the report, Jamaica is a source country for children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation. It quoted the International Labour Organization's 2001 study, which found that more than 100 boys and girls are involved in Jamaica's sex trade.

The report alleges that Jamaican children often travel from rural areas to urban and tourist centres where they are engaged in prostitution sometimes with the encouragement and complicity of their families.

The Jamaica government also criticized the report, which also claimed that there is a lack of political will in Jamaica to fully protect children who are being sexually exploited.

LOAD-DATE: June 11, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

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77 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

June 10, 2005 Friday**BYLINE:** By James Morrison, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; EMBASSY ROW; Pg. A17**LENGTH:** 665 words

Movement in Malabo

At least one ambassador is happy with the State Department's report on trafficking in human beings.

Ambassador Teodoro Biyogo Nsue of Equatorial Guinea this week said his government is "very pleased" that the United States promoted the tiny, but oil-rich, West African nation from a blacklist of the world's worst offenders to a middle rank of countries that are responding to the forced labor and sexual exploitation of women and children.

"We have worked closely with U.S. officials for over eight months to address the issue and ensure that it is not a problem in my country or an issue that undercuts bilateral relations," Mr. Nsue said.

The State Department report recognized the country's progress, but still expressed concerns over continued abuse.

"The government of Equatorial Guinea does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said.

"Over the past year, the government has made a number of efforts that attest to its commitment to address Equatorial Guinea's small, but significant, trafficking problem."

The department raised Equatorial Guinea from a "**tier 3**" nation, which includes those countries that have made no efforts to end **human trafficking**, to a "**tier 2**" nation.

Mr. Nsue said his government has adopted laws to ban trafficking in humans and has assigned officials to monitor compliance, especially in the capital, Malabo, where the problem is the worst. The government also adopted U.S. recommendations for a public-awareness program to explain the issue to its citizens and a government office to assist victims of human trafficking.

"This is a worldwide problem, and my government is committed to ensuring that it is not a concern in Equatorial Guinea now or in the future," the ambassador said. "We will continue to work closely with U.S. officials to monitor the situation."

Despite its progress on combating human trafficking, the country's human rights record remains poor, its government is authoritarian and its bureaucracy corrupt, according to the State Department's human rights report.

Mission to Europe

The top U.S. diplomat for Europe yesterday tried to put the best spin on the turmoil created by the French and Dutch rejection of the European constitution.

Daniel Fried, the assistant secretary of state for European affairs, told reporters in Berlin that the United States needs a strong partner in Europe to face joint security threats throughout the world, according to a dispatch from our correspondent in the German capital, Tom Goeller.

"I have come here after the referendum in France to send a message to our European friends," Mr. Fried said.

"We want a strong Europe as our partner, a Europe that faces the challenges that are beyond our shores, located in the Middle East and in other parts of the world."

He praised U.S.-EU cooperation, especially in the promotion of democratic reforms in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. However, he noted the disagreements over EU plans to consider lifting a ban on arms sales to China.

"We need a debate with the Europeans about East Asia in general and China in particular. We want Europe to work with us on foreign policy challenges," he said.

Mr. Fried also visited France and Italy this week to prepare for the June 20 U.S.-EU summit in Washington. President Bush is expected to host EU Council President Jean-Claude Juncker, EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, French President Jacques Chirac and the leaders of the 22 other EU nations.

Two other U.S. officials were barnstorming Europe on similar missions yesterday. Christopher R. Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, met with NATO officials in Belgium, and Treasury Secretary John W. Snow began his five-day visit to London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt, Germany.

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LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2005

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78 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 9, 2005 Thursday 6:20 PM GMT

US hails Qatar new law banning children as camel jockeys

LENGTH: 267 words**DATELINE:** DOHA June 9

The United States welcomed Thursday a new law in Qatar banning the use of children as camel jockeys, but said it came too late to keep Doha off the annual US **blacklist** for **human trafficking**.

"The United States welcomes the new law of the State of Qatar banning the use of anyone under the age of 18 as a camel jockey," US Ambassador Chase Untermeyer said in a statement.

He was referring to a decree issued last month threatening jail sentences of three to 10 years for anyone using child jockeys in camel races and fines of up to 55,000 dollars.

"Unfortunately, this law was not enacted within the March 1, 2004 to March 1, 2005 review period for the Department of State's annual Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report, which was released last week," he said.

"Therefore, it could not be taken into account in the report's ranking of Qatar," he said.

Untermeyer said "in the months ahead, the US government looks forward to the implementation of the new law, and to the rescue and repatriation of child camel jockeys," most of whom are smuggled by traffickers from Asia.

The Gulf states of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were added to the US **blacklist** for **human trafficking** in the State Department's fifth annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released last Friday.

They were among 14 states in the US report ranked "Tier 3," as the worst offenders who could face sanctions if they do not improve within 90 days.

"The US embassy in Doha will work with the government of Qatar to improve its anti-trafficking efforts before the mid-year review late this summer," said Untermeyer.

fb-nay/al

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

79 of 359 DOCUMENTS

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 9, 2005, Thursday

POLITICS: U.S. TRAFFICKING REPORT INCLUDES CUBA AND VENEZUELA

BYLINE: By Katherine Stapp

LENGTH: 1290 words

DATELINE: NEW YORK, June 9 2005

The inclusion of Cuba, Venezuela and other countries out of favour with Washington on a **blacklist** of nations that sponsor or tolerate **human trafficking** has raised eyebrows among experts who believe the assessment reflects a policy of "selective indignation".

The U.S. State Department report divides countries into three "tiers". Tier 1 includes those that have met international standards for coping with trafficking and are vigorously addressing the problem, while Tier 2 comprises countries that demonstrate a commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards.

A country is branded "**Tier 3**" -- the worst of the worst -- if it "fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons**".

This year, 14 countries out of the 150 surveyed were classified as Tier 3: Bolivia, Ecuador, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Burma, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Cambodia, Kuwait, Sudan, Cuba, North Korea and Togo.

"Country ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking of persons as defined by U.S. law," said John Miller, the State Department's senior adviser on trafficking in persons, in an overview of the report, which was issued Jun. 3. "The standards are set up by the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country."

In the case of Venezuela, whose populist President Hugo Chavez has been at odds with Washington for several years, the report charges that "the government funded no NGO (non-governmental organization) programs geared towards victims of trafficking" and that prevention efforts were "inadequate". It does not mention any reported complaint in 2005.

But in a June 3 statement challenging the report's conclusions, the Venezuelan embassy cited "640 community organizations through which thousands of people have been informed of the problem of human trafficking," as well as joint operations by the Metropolitan Fire Department and the National Guard to monitor the frequency with which non-Venezuelan citizens go to motels, and "increased scrutiny of documentation regarding those seeking to enter and exit the country."

It concludes that the Tier 3 status is "an example of either a profound lack of knowledge of what the government of Venezuela is doing," or an "intentional mischaracterisation of the good faith actions" it has taken.

The report's section on Cuba, another U.S. nemesis, concedes that "there are no reliable estimates available on the extent of trafficking in the country; however, children in prostitution (are) widely apparent, even to casual observers."

This lack of concrete data has led some in the NGO community, including prominent groups like the Inter-American Dialogue and Human Rights Watch, to suspect that the Tier 3 list is shaped more by politics than reality.

"It's pure snake oil," said Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a Washington-based think-tank. "The drug certification, human rights certification, terrorism and trafficking reports are all essentially political tools that the administration uses to voice selective indignation."

"The purpose is to show that Venezuela is a failed state, making it a candidate for OAS (Organization of American States) intervention. But what's really noteworthy is that the administration doesn't realize how isolated it is. The cumulative effect is to basically eradicate U.S. credibility."

Sanctions against Tier 3 countries may include the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related aid, and U.S. opposition to assistance from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, among other public lenders that it dominates.

This year, Caracas plans to apply for a \$ 250-million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, and Washington has announced its intention to veto the request based on Venezuela's Tier 3 ranking.

Janie Chuang, an international legal expert on trafficking issues who teaches at American University's Washington College of Law, said in comments to IPS: "In reviewing the country assessments, it's difficult to glean meaningful standards for Tier placement and movement, at least from a human rights perspective."

"How is it that Tier 1 includes countries that engage in the arrest, jailing, and fining of trafficking 'victims'? Or countries that fail to distinguish between smuggling and trafficking, and end up simply deporting trafficked persons rather than affording them the human rights protections they deserve?"

"I think increased attention to labor trafficking is a significant improvement in the report," she said, adding, "but the Middle Eastern countries don't have a monopoly on this form of trafficking. The country assessments across the board need to include more information regarding government efforts to address labor trafficking."

The International Labor Organization said in a study released in May that at least 12.3 million people are trapped in forced labor around the world, and that of these, the study estimates a minimum of 2.4 million to be victims of human trafficking.

"It'll be interesting to see which countries actually end up under trafficking sanctions," said Chuang. She noted that so far the countries the United States has actually targeted for sanctions tend to be ones with which it has no relationship or at best a strained relationship, like Burma, North Korea, Cuba, Sudan and Venezuela.

Other activists question the wisdom and effectiveness of a heavy-handed approach.

"Sanctions are not the effective way to solve problems," said Anuradha Koirala, head of Maiti Nepal, an anti-trafficking group. "It would be better if the monitoring mechanism is improved."

No one disputes that the problem of global trafficking for forced labor and sex work is pervasive and horrendous. According to U.S. government data, of the 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, about 80 percent are women and girls and half are minors.

The majority of these transnational victims are condemned to commercial sexual exploitation, and this number does not even include the millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.

"I think what has been largely omitted in the report is the economic situation of the Latin American countries, which is the main cause for the trafficking in persons," said Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, the regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

"But it's not only poverty. It's a poverty that is preyed upon by recruiters, traffickers and pimps," she said. "And it is both local and foreign demand for the sex of prostitution which promotes the market for victims of trafficking."

Human trafficking is the third most profitable illicit activity in the world, just after the trafficking of drugs and weapons, Ziaurriz added.

"It is the demand that perpetuates stereotypes of submission and inferiority of women, considered as merchandise that could be sold, bought or rented for the sexual pleasure of men," she said. "The demand for sexual tourism in Mexico and Latin America is 80 percent from the U.S. and Canada."

"I strongly believe that the rich countries should contribute to generate welfare and investment for development in the poor countries, and there is a need of technical cooperation with the organizations like mine, with a long career in combating prostitution and trafficking in women and children in the Latin American and Caribbean region."

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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80 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 8, 2005 Wednesday 6:37 AM GMT

Cambodia brushes off being added to US human trafficking blacklist

LENGTH: 255 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH June 8

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen on Wednesday shrugged off the kingdom's addition to a US **blacklist** of the world's worst **human trafficking** violators.

Cambodia, notorious mostly for child sex trafficking, joined North Korea and Myanmar on the "**Tier 3**" **blacklist** of the US State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released last week.

"When the US says Cambodia is good, Cambodia is still the same, and when the US says Cambodia is bad, it is still the same," Hun Sen told reporters.

The premier blamed the suffering of many Cambodians in their impoverished country today on the US secret bombing in the 1960s, when the world power sought to root out Vietnamese communists hiding in border areas.

"Even now many Cambodians suffer every day and every month because of the US bombs... When the US says we are good, we should not be happy and when the US says we are bad, we should not be angry either," Hun Sen said.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance from the period as well as from the decades of conflict that followed, including the 1975-79 genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, continue to maim and kill many in the Southeast Asian country.

A total of 756 landmine casualties, including 113 deaths, were reported in 2003.

Cambodia's inclusion on the blacklist stemmed largely from government complicity in trafficking, the US state department said.

Cambodia, one of the world's poorest nations, is both a significant sender and receiver of trafficked people because of its weak border controls and poorly enforced migration laws.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

81 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 8, 2005, Wednesday

DFA seeks special courts for recruiters

BYLINE: Bernardette S. Sto. Domingo

SECTION: Pg. S1/11

LENGTH: 296 words

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) would seek the creation of a special court to try human traffickers and speed up prosecution of violators, Foreign Affairs Sec. Alberto G. Romulo said yesterday. The move is seen to help decongest local courts and expedite case proceedings on human trafficking.

"We are serious in pursuing being delisted from the US watch list...we will exert all efforts in apprehending suspects and pursuing their conviction," Mr. Romulo told reporters.

The country was retained in the **Tier 2 Watch List** of the US state department's 2005 **human trafficking** report for its failure to prosecute human traffickers.

The US embassy in Manila warned Monday that the Philippines is in danger of being relegated to the **Tier 3** level of its **human trafficking watch list** if it fails to fully implement its anti-trafficking laws and convict violators.

Demotion to Tier 3, or non-compliance with minimum standards or making significant efforts to do so, is subject to sanctions such as cuts in the non-humanitarian and non-trade assistance packages from the US.

On illegal recruitment, Reynaldo H. Jaylo, head of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force, reported that from July 2004 to May 2005, the task force has apprehended some 439 suspected illegal recruiters, 22 of which are foreign nationals.

He also indicated that a slow justice system is preventing the government from prosecuting violators. At least 10% of pending cases before the Department of Justice are expected to get conviction, Mr. Jaylo said.

If proven guilty, illegal recruiters are meted with life imprisonment.

"These are at least 400 individuals from unlicensed agencies. We expect our first conviction by the end of the year," Mr. Jaylo told reporters.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

82 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Emirates News Agency

June 8, 2005 Wednesday 4:51 PM EST

UAE-UNICEF agreement on jockeys completes first month

BYLINE: Emirates News Agency

LENGTH: 847 words

DATELINE: Abu Dhabi, June 08

The joint programme between the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Interior on efforts to register, rehabilitate and repatriate children formerly involved as jockeys in camel-racing marks the completion of its first month of operations today.

The agreement was signed as a follow up to strict new legislation introduced a few months ago to stamp out the use of children in races..

+we have started the process of registering the children according to international standards agreed with UNICEF.

So far a total of 197 children who were formerly working in camel-camps have been taken into care, and are being housed in two special centres near Abu Dhabi City.+

+ Colonel Najm Sayyar, the director of the Social Support Centre of the Ministry told WAM..

+In addition to this,+ Col. Sayyar said: +UNICEF's technical expert is looking at each and every file that we are registering.

No information has yet been uncovered to suggest that any kidnapping of any of the children occurred, contrary to suggestions in the international media that some of them were originally kidnapped from their homes overseas.+

+ In a reference to the recent report issued by the US State Department on Human Trafficking, which was strongly critical of the UAE, Colonel Sayyar questioned the accuracy of the estimates cited in the report for the number of children involved in camel racing in the Emirates..

+At the Ministry of Interior, we have credible records from the Immigration Department about the number of children used as camel jockeys, as well as access to information from those who are in charge of camel racing in the country.

We believe the numbers involved to be much lower than those cited in the US State Department report, and we ask those who claim to have other figures to reveal their sources so we can evaluate their accuracy.+

+, Sayyar told WAM..

He added: +We are building an accurate database of all children involved in camel racing as well as of those others believed to be at risk, and we will soon have a complete register with the most accurate figures.

More importantly, with this information, we will be well on the way to bringing an end to the use of children as camel jockeys,+..

June Kunuji, the UNICEF representative in the Gulf Region, who was a prime mover in the recently-signed agreement, added: +We at UNICEF are pleased to have entered into a partnership agreement with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, and would like to commend them for making the commitment to provide support to the children formerly involved in camel racing, including for their protection, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into their families and communities.+

+ +Over the past month since we signed the agreement,+she added, +UNICEF's focus has been to provide technical support to the Social Support Centre as well as to the shelter where the children formerly involved in camel racing are being kept and provided with care.

Our technical expert has been reviewing and strengthening the examination and registration process of these children, and training the social workers there in the special handling and management of these children that is required.+

+ Ms. Kunuji noted that, as part of planning for the implementation of the agreement, UNICEF helped to facilitate and convene a consultation hosted by the UAE Government with representatives of Government and civil society from four countries - Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Sudan and Mauritania, who are preparing to receive returning children and families..

+We hope that this initiative will develop modalities of inter- -country co-operation that can be used in other situations seeking to protect children and take action in their best interests+, she said..

Asked about the estimated number of camel jockeys or children covered by the agreement, she said: +The UAE Government, through the Ministry of Interior, is taking action to locate and identify under- -aged children involved in camel racing.

We will be providing technical support to establish a database in the Social Support Centre that will keep a record of all children who have been properly registered.+

+ The US State Department report on **Trafficking in Persons**, issued last week, downgraded the UAE from **Tier** Two to **Tier** Three, as a country not taking appropriate measures to eradicate trafficking in people, even though it noted that the UAE's collaboration with UNICEF was one of "several steps (taken by the UAE) that may lead to potentially positive outcomes."

However, the US report made no mention of the UAE-UNICEF agreement and the recent steps taken as a result of that agreement to implement the UAE Government's commitment to bring an end to the use of children in camel racing..

The head of the Ministry of Interior's Social Support Centre urged any person who has information about kidnapped children brought to the UAE to inform the Ministry of Interior by calling 999 or the Social Support Centre, directly, at 02-5561000 or to contact any UAE diplomatic mission overseas.

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83 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 7, 2005, Tuesday

Guyana receives encouraging grade from US on people trafficking

SOURCE: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 15:00 GMT, 7 Jun 05

LENGTH: 363 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 7 June

Georgetown, Guyana: The United States government has praised Guyana's efforts in dealing with trafficking in persons (TIP).

According to the fifth annual TIP report released over the last weekend, Washington said that the Guyana government has "made appreciable progress over the last year, particularly through its enactment of anti-trafficking legislation, improvement in Government coordination and aggressive public awareness campaigns".

Guyana's status was recently upgraded to Tier Two, indicating that while Georgetown does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant strides in the area.

The strides include legislation to criminalise the practice with severe penalties including prison terms; forfeiture of property; and an order to pay full restitution to the victims.

TIP is a global industry that is said to be earning approximately 8m US dollars.

According to the US report, most foreign victims come from bordering regions of Brazil, south of Guyana, and may be trafficked through Guyana to Dutch-speaking Surinam to the east.

The State Department's report said that while the Guyana government made good efforts to assist trafficking victims over the last year, protection remains inadequate.

Last week, the Jamaica government rejected the report as being highly prejudicial and based on unsubstantiated information.

The US State department gave Jamaica a **tier** three country grading on **human trafficking**. The grading implies that the government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for combating trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.

The new ranking means that Jamaica could be banned from receiving non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance from the United States as of October this year.

According to the report, Jamaica is a source country for children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation. It quotes a 2001 International Labour Organization study, which found that more than 100 boys and girls are involved in Jamaica's sex trade.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

84 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 7, 2005, Tuesday

RP may further slip in human trafficking list**BYLINE:** Bernardette S. Sto. Domingo**SECTION:** Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 229 words

The Philippines may be relegated to the **Tier 3** level of the US State Department's report on **human trafficking** if it fails to fully implement its anti-trafficking laws and convict violators, the US embassy in Manila warned yesterday. The country was retained in the Tier 2 Watch List of the 2005 report for its failure to prosecute human traffickers.

Demotion to Tier 3, or noncompliance with minimum standards or making significant efforts to do so, is subject to sanctions such as cuts in the non-humanitarian and non-trade assistance packages of the US. Countries currently in the lowest placement include Cambodia, Kuwait, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, among others.

"If there is progress, then you can go up to Tier 2 [but] if there is lack of progress and there is no conviction, then you will go potentially be placed in Tier 3," US political counselor Joseph Novak said.

Tier 2 countries, which also include Bahrain, China, Greece, India and South Africa among others, are described as having "noncompliance with minimum standards, requires interim assessment and receives special scrutiny." "It is hypothetical, and we do hope that the Philippines will be able to move up to Tier 2 again," Mr. Novak said.

Last year, the Philippines had a zero turnout on convicted human traffickers out of the 348 cases that were successfully prosecuted in East Asia.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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85 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

June 7, 2005 Tuesday**BYLINE:** By James Morrison, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; EMBASSY ROW; Pg. A15**LENGTH:** 647 words

Caracas condemned

Venezuela denounced the State Department for placing it on a black list of countries that fail to take even minimum steps to prevent forced child labor and the sexual exploitation of women.

The Venezuelan Embassy complained that the department's move is a "sad demonstration of how the [Bush] administration has politicized its work on human rights."

The inclusion of Venezuela as a "**tier** three" country, the worst category in the annual Report on **Human Trafficking**, increases the tension between the United States and the government of left-wing President Hugo Chavez, a champion of anti-American causes in Latin America.

The State Department placed Venezuela on a list that includes Cuba, North Korea and other major violators of human rights.

"Venezuela is a source, transit and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor," said the State Department report, which was released last week.

Smugglers sell women and children from Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana and Peru to brothels and sweatshops in Venezuela, the report said.

"Traffickers lure victims with promises of lucrative jobs or educational opportunities and take advantage of lax border controls or move victims using illegally obtained Venezuelan or false travel documents," the report said.

The State Department blamed the Venezuelan government for failing to "fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking" and the report cited "widespread" corruption among immigration officials and border patrol agents.

The embassy, however, insisted the government has initiated public awareness programs, assisted private charities that try to rescue the exploited women and children and placed undercover agents in motels and hostels in the capital, Caracas, to try to unmask the smugglers.

"The issue is whether Venezuela is working actively and with a seriousness of purpose to combat human trafficking," the embassy said. "The answer, as demonstrated by our deeds, is a clear and cogent, 'Yes.'"

Pakistan piqued

Pakistani Ambassador Jehangir Karamat is complaining about "extraordinary delays" Pakistanis face trying to get visas to work or study in the United States.

Mr. Karamat met last week with Maura Harty, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, who promised to try to reduce the red tape facing citizens from a country seen as one of the most important U.S. partners in the war on terrorism.

The ambassador said Pakistanis in Canadian border cities also face problems commuting to jobs in the United States and asked that they be given visa waivers.

He cited delays in the issuance of H1B work visas, F1 student visas and J1 visas for doctors, scientists, researchers and teachers in U.S.-Pakistani exchange programs.

"The assistant secretary ... assured the ambassador that her bureau was making efforts to speed up the process," the Pakistani Embassy said. "She said that students and businessmen are being given priority for the issuance of visas, but at time delays occur due to security clearance requirements, which in some cases take longer time."

Indian visit official

The meeting next month between President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will mark "the next stage" in the expanding relationship between the United States and the South Asian powerhouse, the White House said in officially announcing the July 18 visit.

"The two leaders will discuss all aspects of U.S.-India bilateral relations, including energy, economic and strategic elements," the White House said on Friday.

Embassy Row last week noted Indian press reports of Mr. Singh's plans for a three-day Washington visit, beginning July 18. His supporters here are trying to arrange for him to address Congress.

* Call Embassy Row at 202/636-3297, fax 202/832-7278 or e-mail [jmorrison@ washingtontimes.com](mailto:jmorrison@washingtontimes.com).

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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86 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Trans Caucasus Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 6, 2005, Monday

Armenia "source" of human trafficking - US State Department

SOURCE: Arminfo, Yerevan, in Russian 14:57 GMT, 6 Jun 05

LENGTH: 248 words

Excerpt from report by Armenian news agency Arminfo

Yerevan, 6 June: The US State Department has included Armenia on a **watch list** of countries in its annual **human trafficking** report.

"Armenia is more like a source of trafficking rather than a transit country," the document says. According to the document, Armenian women and girls are sent for sex exploitation mainly to Turkey and the UAE, and according to some information, to European countries. According to UN information, more than a 1,000 women are engaged in prostitution in the UAE and Turkey, most of them being victims of trafficking. According to the State Department report, although the Armenian authorities are making efforts to fight this phenomenon, they are not achieving a proper result. Armenia was included on the watch list of countries because last year it could not prove that it has increased its efforts in the fight against this phenomenon, the document says.

[Passage omitted: the Armenian Criminal Code envisages punishment for human trafficking]

The report also notes that some officials' involvement in this phenomenon hinders the appropriate fight against it. Specifically, the report notes that some prosecutors illegally help people engaged in trafficking while officers of the border service take bribes and simplify procedures for crossing the border. The Armenian authorities have proved incapable of investigating these cases and punishing the culprits, the document says.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

87 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 6, 2005, Monday

RP still on human trafficking watch list**SECTION:** Pg. S1/11**LENGTH:** 181 words

The Philippines remained on the US State Department's **watch list** of countries violating anti-**human trafficking** laws, the 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report stated. US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice said the Philippine received a Tier 2 placement, noting its noncompliance with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. "Although the Philippine government made modestly better efforts to implement its anti-trafficking law, it failed to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers," the report said. It stressed continued improvement in the areas of protection, prosecution, and prevention will be important over the next years. "The Philippines is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor," it said. "Endemic poverty, a high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity towards migration, a weak rule-of-law environment, and sex tourism all contribute to significant trafficking activity in the Philippines," the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report added.

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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88 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

June 6, 2005 Monday

ERASING THE BLIGHT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**LENGTH:** 457 words

Human trafficking is a global scourge, as far as the US State Department is concerned. That is why it has been diligently monitoring countries where human trafficking thrives in one form or another.

Every year, the State Department issues a "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, which ranks countries according to the extent of **human trafficking** and the efforts of their governments to curb them. For the past two years the Philippines has been in the report's "**Tier 2 watch list**," a level just above "**Tier 3**," where the biggest violators are. That means while the country has made some progress in its antitrafficking campaign, it is still way below the minimum requirements listed by the State Department.

The report is an eye-opener. It considers the Philippines as "a source, transit and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor." It cites as the biggest problem the plight of Filipino entertainers to Japan. The report says that a "significant number of the 71,084 Philippine women who entered Japan as overseas performing artists in 2004 are believed to have been women trafficked into the sex trade."

The report also notes that sexual exploitation of children thrives within the Philippines, nurtured by "endemic poverty, a high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity toward migration, a weak rule-of-law environment and sex tourism."

The report acknowledges that the government made "modestly better" efforts to implement the antitrafficking law. Four state prosecutors have been assigned to focus on traffic-related cases and law-enforcement officials are now being trained on the antitrafficking law. The government also earned the State Department's nod for continuing to provide protection to trafficking victims in 2004.

Still, the State Department feels the Philippines is not doing enough to convict traffickers for it to be lifted to the next rung, "Tier 2."

What more needs to be done? A lot more, in the State Department's assessment.

The government must step up efforts to arrest, prosecute and convict traffickers and state officials involved in trafficking. But before it can accomplish this, it must address corruption and a weak judiciary.

It also needs to do more "to address allegations of corruption and fraud regarding the issuance of documents to facilitate the recruitment of Philippine entertainers to Japan, a process that traffickers exploit."

That's a tall order, considering that antitrafficking measures are not high on the government's roster of priorities. But the question remains: Can we live with the notoriety of being labeled as a country that abets human trafficking?

There is no excuse for the government not to take trafficking head-on.

LOAD-DATE: September 21, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** International Relations; Human Rights/Civil Liberties**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Global News Bites

89 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 6, 2005 Monday 2:53 AM EST**U.S. EMBASSY STATEMENT ON BELARUS, 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 234 words**DATELINE:** MINSK, Belarus

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On June 3, 2005, the Department of State released the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

This Report is the fifth annual TIP Report and covers the period April 2004 through March 2005.

The TIP Report is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons, a form of modern day slavery. In assessing foreign governments' efforts, the Report highlights the "three P's" - prosecution, protection, and prevention. In addition, a victim-centered approach to trafficking requires addressing the "three R's" - rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Belarus received a **Tier 2** placement in the 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report. Tier 2 countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the standards of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. The Government of Belarus has made progress in its anti-trafficking efforts over the past year. It continued to recognize that trafficking is a serious problem in Belarus and increased investigative and law enforcement efforts. However, more remains to be done, particularly in the area of protection and assistance to victims.

The 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report may be found at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

90 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 6, 2005 Monday 12:51 AM EST

MOLDOVA REMAINS IN TIER TWO IN 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 323 words**DATELINE:** CHISINAU, Moldova

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

To inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments in the fight against modern-day slavery, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 3, 2005.

The report describes the actions, and in some cases the lack of actions, taken by 150 governments to end the crime of human trafficking, with a goal of raising global awareness and spurring countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The efforts of governments to fight **human trafficking** are rated in **tiers** in the report based on tangible actions taken throughout the year.

In the 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, Moldova remained in **Tier** Two - an indication that Moldova does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, however it is making significant efforts to do so. The steps outlined in the report as taken by the Moldovan Government include moving forward in creating new legislation to comprehensively address all aspects of trafficking, and establishing a working group to draft a new national Action Plan.

U.S. Embassy spokesperson, Aleisha Woodward, said in connection with the release of the report, "We encourage the Moldovan Government to increase its efforts to protect and assist trafficking victims, fight trafficking-related corruption, and address trafficking with even greater vigor since this is a real threat to the Moldovan people."

The entire Trafficking in Persons Report is available on-line at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/. The transcript of a briefing by Ambassador John R. Miller, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, as well as other related materials, can also be found on that website. The section of the report specifically on Moldova can be found in English, Romanian, and Russian at www.usembassy.md.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

91 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 5, 2005 Sunday

Kenya; Human Trafficking Checked

BYLINE: The Nation**LENGTH:** 532 words

A <http://allafrica.com/peaceafrica/resources/view/00010661.pdf> [pdf; 6.26 MBytes] released by the US State Department indicates that Kenya is among more than 20 countries in Africa which have made good progress in meeting minimum standards in the elimination of trafficking in persons.

However, the report says Kenya is still a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation.

The report, released on Friday by the US government's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, says Kenyan children are internally trafficked for forced domestic servitude, street vending, agricultural labour, and sexual exploitation.

Kenya is among more than 20 countries in Africa which have been classified as **tier two** in **human trafficking** which means that they are among countries whose Governments are making significant efforts to meet minimum standards in the elimination of **human trafficking**.

Classification of countries in **tiers** is based on the extent of a Government's action to combat **human trafficking**.

Governments that fully comply with minimum standards for elimination of trafficking of persons are classified as tier one.

Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking and are not making significant efforts to do so, are placed in tier three.

The report says that Kenyan women are trafficked to the Middle East, other African nations, and Western Europe for forced domestic labour and sexual exploitation.

It adds that Burundian and Rwandan children are trafficked to Kenya for sexual exploitation and unpaid domestic labour, while Asian nationals, mainly Chinese women, are reportedly trafficked through Nairobi to Europe.

Southeast Asian nationals are allegedly coerced into accepting circumstances of bonded and unpaid labour in Kenya's construction and garment industries.

The reports notes that the Kenya government noticeably expanded its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts over the reporting period.

The Government is said to be carrying out investigations into over 20 cases of human trafficking, including one involving suspected trafficking of Kenyan children to Tanzania.

It adds that in mid-2004, the Kenya Police launched a 10-member Human Trafficking Unit to undertake investigations. The unit began investigating an alleged child trafficking ring operating between Kenya and the UK.

The report reveals that the unit conducted surveys of individuals and establishments suspected of involvement in trafficking, including brothels, massage parlours, and foreign employment agencies.

The report adds that Kenya has put in place a number of measures to curb the problem and they include a registration programme requiring owners of tourist guesthouses to identify and account for all workers.

On prevention, the report says Kenya has initiated broad measures focused on the prevention of trafficking that include implementation of a code of conduct for the tourist industry to curb sex tourism.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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92 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

June 5, 2005 Sunday

RP KEEPS RANKING ON HUMAN TRAFFIC LIST

LENGTH: 543 words

WASHINGTON: The Philippines remained on the **Tier 2 watch list of human trafficking** violators compiled by the US State Department.

The **Tier 2 watch list** is a level created last year for more worrisome countries that were not ranked as "**Tier 3**" by the State Department, which tracks the problem of **human trafficking** across the globe.

Cambodia has joined North Korea and Myanmar as Asia's worst human trafficking violators, the US State Department said Friday in its annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Notorious mostly for child sex trafficking, Cambodia was lumped together with the hard-line states on the "Tier 3" blacklist.

Cambodia's inclusion stems largely from government "complicity" in trafficking, said John Miller, the department's senior adviser against human trafficking.

The department also gave lower grades to China and Taiwan this year in its review of 150 countries in combating trafficking for forced labor, prostitution and military service, among other areas.

China has been included this year on the Tier 2 Watch List. Its inclusion resulted from its "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, specifically its inadequate protection for trafficking victims," the report said.

The department also cited the "involuntary return" of North Korean refugees from China, often facing "serious abuses" by the hard-line communist regime in Pyongyang.

Taiwan, which in 2004 was on "Tier 1" with nations deemed compliant with US and international efforts to fight trafficking, fell to Tier 2.

But Japan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand, Laos and Nepal moved up to **Tier 2** from the **Tier 2 watch list** while Bangladesh, lumped together with the worst violators in 2004, made a significant improvement to **Tier 2**, indicating stepped-up efforts in the region to combat **human trafficking**, the department said.

"We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, and millions more are trafficked internally," Rice said.

She did not give a regional breakdown, but the report said convictions for human trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific last year dropped to 348 last year from 583 in 2003.

In South Asia, however, convictions more than doubled to 1,260 in 2004 from 355 the previous year.

India and the Philippines remained on the Tier 2 watch list while Afghanistan, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka were maintained on Tier 2.

Miller said that trafficking for labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention in 2005.

"This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernment organizations," he said.

The State Department's ratings were based on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by US law. The standards are applied equally to every country, Miller said. "We examine each country individually."

Vietnam, he said, had "made some significant progress in the last year," and cited controls on exporting Vietnamese labor and alleged links with "slave owners" in other countries.

"They have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam," he said.

AFP

LOAD-DATE: September 20, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Human Rights/Civil Liberties; International Relations

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

93 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 5, 2005 Sunday 6:00 AM EST

Philippine govt admits much to be done to curb human trafficking

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; Political

LENGTH: 297 words

DATELINE: MANILA

The Philippine government said on Sunday that there was still much to be done to curb human trafficking while calling for close cooperation among different government agencies and individuals to fight the scourge.

"Human trafficking is one of the concerns of the government.

The government is doing everything possible to arrest and prosecute those involved in the illegal human traffic trade," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview.

Bunye made the statement after the US State Department said the Philippines remained on the "Tier 2" watch list for the second consecutive year because of its "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers."

Though the Philippines has made "modest efforts" to crack down on **human trafficking**, the US State Department said this was not enough for the country to be removed from the US **watch list** of countries cited as Asia's worst **human trafficking** violators.

The Philippines joins India on the Tier 2 list this year along with Afghanistan, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The United States estimates that up to 800,000 people -- most of them women and children -- are being trafficked across international borders every year and millions more are trafficked internally.

Women and children form a large part of the illegal human traffic trade wherein they are forced into prostitution or cheap labor, according to the US report.

Bunye said that the Philippine Bureau of Immigration and other concerned government agencies have got standing instructions to conduct aggressive moves against human trafficking.

"But we need the cooperation of all concerned, especially the families of would-be victims of human trafficking," he added.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

94 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2005 Saturday 12:50 PM GMT

Gulf officials, rights activists dispute US trafficking charges

BYLINE: Lydia Georgi**LENGTH:** 709 words**DATELINE:** RIYADH June 4

Officials and rights activists in oil-rich Gulf Arab states on Saturday disputed US charges that they are doing little to combat human trafficking or end the use of children as camel jockeys.

Saudi Arabia and three other Gulf allies -- Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) -- were added to the US **blacklist** for **human trafficking** in the State Department's fifth annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released Friday.

"I am surprised that the report claims the Saudi government is not combating abuses or punishing those involved in violations, which in no way can be described as human trafficking," said Saleh al-Khathlan, a member of the officially sanctioned National Human Rights Association.

"There are cases of misuse of work permits by agents who bring foreign workers into the country, direct them to jobs other than those specified in their permits and take a commission from them, but these people are punished (when caught)," he told AFP.

There are some six million expatriates, mostly Asians, in Saudi Arabia.

"With regard to the smuggling of children from Yemen who are turned into beggars, authorities carry out campaigns to arrest those responsible and repatriate the children," Khathlan said.

The Saudi daily Al-Watan on Saturday front-paged a report on raids launched by security authorities to track down "gangs" involved in smuggling impoverished women and children across the southern border of Yemen.

It quoted the police chief of the southern Jazan region, Ahmad al-Qazzaz, as saying many of the "dens" used by beggars and the gangs which exploit them were raided in a 25-day-long campaign.

Officials in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE were either not reachable or unwilling to immediately comment on the US report, but in Kuwait, a senior official said his country had adopted stiff measures to clamp down on human trafficking.

These included closing the camel race club for four months in punishment for using child jockeys. Government reopened it only after the club pledged not to violate the law banning the use of jockeys under 18 or weighing less than 45 kilograms (100 pounds), said Adnan al-Omar, assistant undersecretary at the social affairs and labor ministry.

A plan to replace human jockeys by robots could be applied "within weeks," he told AFP.

Omar said Kuwait, which hosts 1.8 million foreigners, was considering a study by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to "find alternatives for the sponsor system," which binds foreign workers with a view to safeguarding their dignity.

Both Qatar and the UAE have already tested the use of robots as jockeys after banning children in the region's popular sport, and the UAE has signed an agreement with the United Nations children's fund UNICEF to rehabilitate child camel jockeys.

But the State Department report said "the trafficking and exploitation of South Asian and African children as camel jockeys has burgeoned in the Gulf states" despite promises to curb the practice.

The head of Qatar's National Human Rights Committee, a government watchdog, said the 2004 report issued by his group had "not detected a single case of human trafficking."

In addition, Qatar's government had just "issued a law to combat human trafficking, particularly bringing children from abroad for use as camel jockeys," Khaled al-Attiyah told AFP.

He was referring to a decree issued last month threatening jail sentences of between three and 10 years for anyone using child jockeys in camel races and fines of up to 55,000 dollars for violators.

The four Gulf countries were among 14 states in the US report ranked "Tier 3," as the worst offenders who could face sanctions if they don't improve within 90 days.

The Saudis were cited for "lack of progress in anti-trafficking efforts," particularly an alleged failure to protect men and women trafficked for labor and children forced into begging.

Suhaila Hammad, another member of the Saudi National Human Rights Association, said the report was "neither objective nor impartial," because it ignored abuses in the United States itself and Europe.

She charged that the timing of its release suggests Washington is trying to "cover up the scandal over the desecration of the Holy Koran at the US detention camp in Guantanamo."

lg-oh-fb/ksh

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

95 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2005 Saturday 1:15 AM GMT

Cambodia joins US human trafficking blacklist, China, Taiwan downgraded

BYLINE: P. Parameswaran

LENGTH: 512 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON June 3

Cambodia has joined North Korea and Myanmar as Asia's worst human trafficking violators, the US State Department said Friday in a report tracking the problem across the globe.

Notorious mostly for child sex trafficking, Cambodia was lumped together with the hardline states in the "**Tier 3**" **blacklist** of the department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report."

Cambodia's inclusion stems largely from government "complicity" in trafficking, said John Miller, the department's senior adviser against human trafficking.

The department also gave lower grades to China and Taiwan this year in its review of 150 countries in combating trafficking for forced labor, prostitution and military service, among other areas.

China has been included this year in the "Tier 2 Watch List" created last year for more worrisome countries that were not ranked as "Tier 3."

It resulted from China's "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, specifically its inadequate protection for trafficking victims," the report said.

The department also cited the "involuntary return" of North Korean refugees from China, often facing "serious abuses" by the hardline communist regime in Pyongyang.

Taiwan, which in 2004 was on "Tier 1" with nations deemed compliant with US and international efforts to fight trafficking, fell to "Tier 2".

But Japan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand, Laos and Nepal moved up to **Tier 2** from the **Tier 2 watchlist** while Bangladesh, lumped together with the worst violators in 2004, made a significant improvement to **Tier 2**, indicating stepped up efforts in the region to combat **human trafficking**, the department said.

"We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, and millions more are trafficked internally," Rice said.

She did not give a regional breakdown but the report said convictions for human trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific last year dropped to 348 last year from 583 in 2003.

In South Asia however, convictions more than doubled to 1,260 in 2004 from 355 the previous year.

India and the Philippines remained on the Tier 2 watchlist this year while Afghanistan, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka were maintained on Tier 2.

Miller said that trafficking for labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention in 2005.

"This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations," he said.

The State Department's ratings were based on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by US law.

The standards are applied equally to every country, Miller said. "We examine each country individually."

Vietnam, he said, had "made some significant progress in the last year," and cited controls on exporting Vietnamese labor and alleged links with "slave owners" in other countries.

"They have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam," he said.

LOAD-DATE: June 4, 2005

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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96 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 4, 2005, Saturday

US revises Jamaica's position on human trafficking list

SOURCE: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 15:07 GMT, 4 Jun 05

LENGTH: 416 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 4 June

Kingston, Jamaica: The United States Government has downgraded Jamaica on its list of countries tackling the problem of the illegal trafficking of persons.

In its latest **Trafficking in Persons** Report, released on Friday [3 June], the US State Department ranks Jamaica at the bottom of the pile in the "**Tier** Three" group of countries down from "**Tier** Two" last year. That group of worst performing countries includes Cuba, Burma, Sudan, Kuwait and Venezuela.

The new ranking means that Jamaica could be banned from receiving non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance from the United States as of October this year.

According to the report, Jamaica is a source country for children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation. "A 2001 ILO (International Labour Organization) report cited that more than 100 minors, both boys and girls, are involved in Jamaica's sex trade. Precise numbers of trafficking victims are difficult to establish due to the underground and under-acknowledged nature of trafficking in the country", the report states.

It alleges that Jamaican children often travel from rural areas to urban and tourist centres where they are engaged in prostitution, sometimes with the encouragement and complicity of their families. The report goes on to say that Jamaica is a transit country for illegal migrants moving to the United States and Canada.

The government has also been harshly criticised for "not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so."

While noting the passage of the Child Care and Protection Act through the Jamaican Parliament in 2004, the State Department report argues that this was not very effective as some of its provisions have not been implemented.

The report argues that additional action needs to be taken against corrupt Jamaican officials who are facilitating the international movement of persons. In what is perhaps its most damning charge, the report alleges that there is a lack of political will in Jamaica to fully protect children who are being sexually exploited.

The US State Department notes that the Child Care and Protection Act has been invoked to prosecute cases of child abuse and violations of children's rights but it said that there was no investigation, arrest or prosecution of persons involved in the trafficking of children.

LOAD-DATE: June 4, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

97 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Frontier Star

June 4, 2005 Saturday

PAKISTAN SEEKING FOR TIER 1 ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**LENGTH:** 294 words

ISLAMABAD, June 4 : Lauding FIA's efforts in controlling **human trafficking** Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Sherpao said that Pakistan is aiming for **Tier 1** list on **human trafficking**

Internationally, there are three lists to watch **human trafficking Tier 1, 2 and 3** and few countries in the world touch the **Tier 1** status due to extra-ordinary planning and work to control the **human trafficking**.

Mr. Sherpao while talking to journalists before the meeting with high officials of Federal Investigation Officer (FIA) at FIA Headquarter said after viewing the efforts of Pakistan to control the human trafficking, US State Department will soon present the final report to Congress about removing Pakistan among the human trafficking countries.

He said the US government has not only removed Pakistan from the watch list but has also commended the government of Pakistan on its efforts to combat humane trafficking.

"This year Pakistan received a **Tier 2** placement in the 2005 **trafficking in person** report and it will further improve it," he said optimistically.

He said that the report has noted that the Pakistan government has increased trafficking-related prosecution and convictions, strengthened implementations of its 2002 Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance and established Anti Trafficking Unit (ATU) in the FIA.

While appreciating the team of Director General of FIA, Tariq Pervez to control the human trafficking, he said FIA played a significant role to counter the human trafficking across the country.

"The government would air a two part documentary film soon on human trafficking on PTV to create awareness among the masses," he informed.

Secretary Interior, Kamal Shah, DG, FIA, Tariq Pervez and other high officials of FIA were present at the occasion.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Trafficking/Smuggling**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper



Global News Bites

98 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Jiji Press Ticker Service

June 4, 2005, Saturday

Japan Removed from U.S. Human Trafficking Watch List

LENGTH: 163 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 3

Japan was removed from the U.S. list of countries that require special watch for human trafficking, according to the Trafficking in Persons Report for 2005, released Friday.

Of the three levels of compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, Japan was placed on Tier 2.

The evaluation reflects the countermeasures the Japanese government has taken in response to its placement on Tier 2 Watch List last year, according to the report published by the Department of State.

"The government of Japan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," the report said. It cited proposed penal code revisions to increase penalties for trafficking-related offenses and reforms to significantly tighten the issuances of entertainer visas to women from the Philippines.

The lowest level of Tier 3 listed 14 countries including North Korea and Myanmar.

LOAD-DATE: June 03, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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99 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The New York Times

June 4, 2005 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

U.S. Faults 4 Allies Over Forced Labor

BYLINE: By JOEL BRINKLEY**SECTION:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 5**LENGTH:** 952 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 3

The United States criticized four of its closest allies in the Middle East on Friday, saying Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are doing little if anything to stop forced labor and other forms of "modern slavery" within their borders.

The four countries are among 14 "**Tier III**" nations that the State Department said had a serious problem with **trafficking in persons** and made little or no effort to control it, despite prodding from the United States. Citation as a Tier III country can trigger economic penalties.

"Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking at a news conference introducing the government's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

None of the four Middle Eastern countries were on the government's list of problem nations last year -- though Saudi Arabia was listed in 2001 and 2002. The government decided this year to focus its attention on forced labor, the primary problem in the four Middle Eastern states.

In Saudi Arabia, said John R. Miller, the State Department's senior adviser on trafficking, "We have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude, child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape -- very difficult to get shelter, no convictions."

Slave trafficking burst onto the world stage in the mid-1990's, when thousands of women from the former Soviet Union, attracted by job offers in Europe, were forced to work as prostitutes once they arrived. These Russian women began working the streets of major European capitals.

In the United States during the late 1990's, several notorious farm-labor servitude cases in Florida and forced prostitution cases involving hundreds of Mexican and Thai women caught the attention of the Clinton administration, just as Europe was urging Washington to get involved.

In 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victim Protection Act, which set out new penalties for slave traffickers and required the State Department to publish an annual report on slave trafficking worldwide. The department vigorously opposed the report provision. Officials said they did not want to do research for another annual report, on top of the human rights and drug trafficking reports, and did not believe nations found to be out of compliance should be penalized automatically.

The bill was amended to make the sanctions subject to the president's discretion. And since 2003, when the sanction provision took effect, only two countries -- Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea -- have been cited. Under the law, no decisions on whether to sanction the 14 nations cited this year can be made before September -- to give the nations time to improve their records, Mr. Miller said.

The other nations include Bolivia, Cambodia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela. Also listed were Cuba, Myanmar and North Korea, nations that are mentioned in almost every government list of problem states. Last year, the department listed only 10 problem states. But the first report, in 2001, listed 23.

Saudi Arabia is a key American ally and oil supplier whose leader, Crown Prince Abdullah, visited President Bush at his Texas ranch in April. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, along with Qatar, are also allies, and the United States maintains an important military base in Qatar.

The criticisms of the four countries were similar. All four nations, the report says, imported workers from the region, from the Middle East and Asia and then effectively enslaved them.

"Some foreign women who migrate legally to Kuwait as domestic workers," the report says, "are subsequently abused by their employers or coerced into situations of debt bondage or involuntary servitude," the legal term for slavery. In the United Arab Emirates, "women are trafficked" from many nations "for the purpose of sexual exploitation."

Saudi Arabia, the report adds, discourages victims from complaining. "The government offers no legal aid to foreign workers," the report says, "and does not otherwise assist them in using the Saudi criminal justice system to bring exploiters to justice. If a victim chooses to file a complaint, he or she is not allowed to work."

None of the embassies of the four countries responded to requests for comment.

The government was particularly critical of Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates for allowing young children to be held in captivity and used as jockeys in camel races, "a multi-million dollar activity" in the Persian Gulf states. Tiny children, some 3 or 4 years old, are prized, and they are underfed to keep their weight down, the report notes.

"Some boys as young as 6 months old were reported kidnapped and sold to traffickers and raised to become camel jockeys." Others, it adds, "were sold by their parents to traffickers." Recently, it adds, one fell off his camel and was trampled to death.

In Kuwait, it says, "some have been thrown from the camels they rode and suffered serious neurological damage. Most no longer remember where they came from."

The United States estimates that about 800,000 people are trafficked against their will between nations each year, and that many hundreds of thousands more are enslaved within their own nations.

The government also estimates that about 15,000 people are trafficked to the United States each year. That estimate has fallen since the Central Intelligence Agency issued the first one in 2000. Then it was estimated that as many as 50,000 people were trafficked to the United States from a dozen foreign countries each year.

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com>

LOAD-DATE: June 4, 2005

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100 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

June 4, 2005 Saturday 1:15 AM EST

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

SECTION: WORLD NEWS

LENGTH: 223 words

DATELINE: NEW DELHI

Following are the major news items in leading Indian newspapers on Saturday.

Hindustan Times:

-- Energy cooperation is likely to be the "big ticket" issue of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's first bilateral visit to Washington from July 18 to 20.

According to US President George W. Bush, "big things" are expected to emanate from this visit, with both countries "joingly engaged in the process of widening and deepening" their "multifaceted cooperative relationship."

The Times of India:

-- The US state department has included India among countries in the "**watch list**" in its annual report on global **human trafficking** released on Friday, for the second year in succession, saying it did not show "evidence of increased efforts to address **trafficking in persons.**" The fifth annual **trafficking in persons** report, which meanwhile removed Pakistan from the **watch list.**

The Hindu:

-- Ending all speculation to the contrary, India has come out in support of a controversial Sri Lankan Government proposal to involve the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a joint domestic mechanism for administering post-tsunami operations in that country. The India-Sri Lanka joint statement was issued in New Delhi on Friday during the ongoing working visit of Sri lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

101 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 3, 2005 Friday

United States, Canada and Africa; State Department Releases 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: United States Department of State

LENGTH: 4810 words

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Thank you, Madame Secretary. As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking or trafficking in persons is synonymous with slavery. Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories, but this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana, an all too typical victim of human trafficking.

Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus, looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport. They locked her up. They forced her into prostitution. And then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen, just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers, who killed her.

Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there are counterattacks going on.

Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report. I think you've all got copies of it. And they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about. Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence and it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries. U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year.

This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month -- one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights. It amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange. We believe that modern day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source destination or transit country, for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report.

If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated. Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activists, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the mix, extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watch list, or Tier 3.

We didn't design the system. Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organization and faith-based communities. I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports, Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves.

For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking. In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims.

When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers. But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly in voluntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys who live in slave-like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments.

Burma and North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons** -- another important criteria for **Tier 3** and the law.

The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted. This is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery.

The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up for the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually. The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We are prepared to work with them to help achieve this.

At the same time, nowhere on earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited with no recourse to help or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women.

I'd like to address one misperception that is developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires **Tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem. Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in person efforts underway justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in person problem.

Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery.

Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or ten years ago.

We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims.

Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable UN peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of UN deployment. The report on pages 33 and 38 identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could have been much longer, believe me.

The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few. The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. The Malawian nongovernmental organization People Serving Girls at Risk works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach. And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness.

The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for exploitation, as camel jockeys. To Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFESIP who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed an excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti-trafficking programs last year. In January, President George W. Bush said, "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery, on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the Secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing powerful response -- a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part.

Thank you and let's turn to questions. Oh, my gosh. Okay, yes. Go ahead. Yeah.

QUESTION: Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether you believe that it was the prior sanctions to get some action? In particular in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards, not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this practice.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude -- child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape, very difficult to get shelter, no convictions. But you're -- the first part of your question was: Is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is I hope not because the purpose of the law is not to sanction, it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail.

QUESTION: They've moved backwards in the last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Wait a minute -- that's...

QUESTION: Will it require sanctions?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: If they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking and we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned. Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions, but there is that possibility.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can I follow-up on that?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: This law has been in effect for five years?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past, we've had several relationships with, have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report.

For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3. But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters, there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress.

Yes. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Under which capacity, the United States is preparing in those type of reports, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat the question again?

QUESTION: Yes. Under which capacity, the United States of America is preparing, those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, this is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer -- that is that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce. On the floor of the English Parliament, back in the 1790s when he discovered, realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade, and the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was: Will the right honorable gentleman tell me what rights we have to impose British moral values on the world? Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values, to show that people nowhere wanted slavery.

Today, we have -- the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world, that I'm aware of, officially endorses slavery and there are numerous international covenants, UN covenants, that nations of the world have subscribed to that are -- banned slavery.

So I would say in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery, that citizens around the world and ostensibly, governments around the world, all agree is a scourge that should be ended. Let's take somebody in the back.

Yeah, go ahead.

QUESTION: Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Well, as Ambassador-at-large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt, but I want to comment on the premise of your question. You identified poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade and I would agree it is a major cause. There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years -- I won't cite them all -- that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role.

There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they -- we talked about the arms trade, the drug trade, and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime.

So all of these causes we hope will be addressed, but in the meantime -- in the meantime -- we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims, and get prevention and education campaigns.

Yes.

QUESTION: To what extent are the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa programs they -- to what extent are those efforts successful and why are not --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: How many victims have been identified to date?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And what are the problems in identifying victims?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear -- should I be repeating the questions or --

QUESTION: No, that's fine. We don't mind.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: You can hear, okay. Your question about identifying victims in the United States, you put your finger on a problem that is -- confronts the United States and almost every country in the world. The gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help -- just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on trafficking in persons consisting of cabinet officers chaired by Secretary of State Rice discussed this issue and the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up, as an area where we need to do more, exactly that.

What has been done? And the gap is such -- to give you an idea of the gap, I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. They cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that, yet we know the figure -- we suspect -- we don't scientifically know, since victims don't stand in line to be -- raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14 and a half thousand. So there's a gap.

Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in ten -- I believe it's soon to be 20 cities -- trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward. We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach, and Health and Human Services has done some work on this, but this approach would involve mobilizing or involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel in this effort to try to help victims come forward.

So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges.

Yes, back?

QUESTION: Can I follow up on this question, sir?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. Well, just --

QUESTION: It's on this particular area.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay.

QUESTION: Can you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the Secretary said? You just said that nowhere on earth --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is it acceptable, so --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Right.

QUESTION: -- what is the U.S. doing? And it's your -- you just mentioned that you were the Ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that the --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, it's -- I guess it's sort of new. It's -- Congress and the President raised the position to ambassadorial status -- well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago and in the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, I -- at the direction of the President, I chair a -- under that Presidential task force I referred to, I chair a senior policy operating group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies.

Now, let's get to the first part of your question: demand and what's being done in the United States. I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States.

I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayers' support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution, who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners, and the so-called customers. And

then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name, John School, that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago and this school now has been going for some time, appears to have very good results, two percent recidivism rate.

This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further and we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. For example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue.

Yes, in the back. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the Brazil Government is making progress, but is not fully complying? Could you say what needs to be done?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Brazil, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil: Brazil has started setting up, in different provinces, anti-trafficking in persons efforts.

I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been tremendous government interest, the President of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue, but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year, coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims -- so, I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area.

I hope I'm calling -- yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: You mentioned Canada as a transit country.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yes.

QUESTION: With some of these sex trade workers.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And although Canada is in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country and Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada and I think it's referred to in the report. I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada -- for example, Korea, they don't need a visa and then they just come across the U.S. border and we -- there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved.

We're going to have to -- we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example.

I'm sorry, there's so -- yes? There's so many people. Go ahead.

MR. CASEY: Mr. Ambassador I'm afraid we're going to have to make this limited to a couple more people. So why don't you take that one and then I know Teri wanted to get in --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Oh, Teri -- no, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Ha (ph), Radio Free Asia.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: I didn't hear -- you didn't mention anything about Vietnam.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: However, the problem is there. You know, like there -- now, Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 watch list.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Watch list, yes.

QUESTION: On the Tier 2 --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: It's not on the watch list anymore.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: My question is, what is the method that you used to -- in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 watch list?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: To -- well, we thought they --

QUESTION: Did you find -- yeah, did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah. We have had -- Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before on exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam.

Teri, Teri? No, I've got to -- no, Teri -- I ignored her last year.

QUESTION: He ignored me last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I didn't call on her. I got to -- okay.

QUESTION: Okay, thank you. Ambassador Miller, a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned when you talked about sanctions and I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies: Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia. And could you -- you've been to these countries and you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think. Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies of the U.S. in counterterrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who's been sanctioned.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm glad you've -- the toughest question comes last. Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned, if you look at the countries in -- nobody has been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report, and we can -- I can't recall them from memory, but you can -- our staff can get them to you, but your -- the tough part of your question was -- well, here are close friends of the United States; how can this happen? Two years ago, I was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3?

I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness, that as public awareness increases in these countries, you see more action. For example, just for example, in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital -- domestic servitude case has gotten publicity. A human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there and I don't know how it's all going to come out, but they're -- apparently in the last month, there was an arrest made.

As public awareness increases -- and sometimes when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard -- but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today and this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue the last couple of years.

Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you, when you write on this -- when you write on this, I know you're journalists and all that -- but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials.

Good things happen when -- so -- but the last comment, I am -- so, I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs.

I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If --

QUESTION: You're going to come up, sir. We have about 10 minutes to (inaudible) --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more minutes, okay. And -- but we've also got people on our staff: Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner that even if I have to move out after five or ten minutes can answer questions.

So thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

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102 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 3, 2005 Friday

PanAfrica; Trafficking in Persons Report Focuses On Labor Exploitation

BYLINE: United States Department of State

LENGTH: 1079 words

Secretary Rice, Ambassador Miller aim to end modern-day slavery

Citing both the positive actions and failures of governments around the world to take the necessary steps to end modern-day slavery, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice presented to the public the fifth annual ["http://allafrica.com/peaceafrica/resources/view/00010661.pdf" target="_blank"](http://allafrica.com/peaceafrica/resources/view/00010661.pdf) alt="http://allafrica.com/peaceafrica/resources/view/00010661.pdf">Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) [pdf; 6.26 MBytes] at the U.S. Department of State June 3.

Rice expressed the hope that the comprehensive, worldwide report "will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it."

Introducing the findings, the secretary noted that "up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year and millions more are trafficked internally." Four out of five of those trafficked are women and one in two is a minor, she said.

The data, she said, illustrate that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, but there is also an alarming enslavement of people for purposes of labor exploitation, a form of slavery given special attention in this year's report.

The responsibility for trafficking does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education, Rice pointed out, but "destination or demand countries like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility."

There is a modern-day abolitionist movement of "concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other non-governmental groups ... doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation," Rice said. "The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

The United States provided more than \$96 million in foreign aid during 2004 to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts, Rice noted, and is now helping them to develop legislation to combat abuse. The aid assists in creating special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs," she said.

The report records the efforts of 150 nations between March 2004 and March 2005 to deal with the issue, explained Ambassador John Miller, the senior adviser on trafficking in persons in the State Department. "Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern-day slavery.

"Worldwide this past year the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from four or five years ago," he said.

The report's methodology includes a three-tier system for rating countries' effectiveness in combating trafficking:

Tier 1 includes those countries that have met international standards for coping with trafficking and are vigorously addressing the problem.

Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards; the Tier 2 "Watch List" consists of countries that might be vulnerable to an erosion of their efforts.

Tier 3, the least favorable rating, lists countries whose governments fail to meet minimal international standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

While some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted, Miller said, others have failed to move forward: "Ecuador was placed on Tier III [the lowest] again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery."

In an overview of this year's report, Miller noted that sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery, which translates to an increased number of sex victims in countries where prostitution is allowed or encouraged. Hence there has been "a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers," he said.

But the United States is concerned with all forms of slavery, Miller insisted, so "this year trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and non-governmental organizations."

Four countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- remain on Tier III, primarily for failing to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking, he said. "The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude, or child camel jockeys who live in slavlike conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments," he added.

"Burma, North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier III, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier III** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons**."

On the positive side, Miller said: "The Tier II Warning Watch List introduced last year has been very effective. Thirty-one of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports Tier II Watch List improved their ratings this year."

Several countries that were on Tier III on the 2004 report have acted to be raised to the next tier, Miller stated: "Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking, [and] Bangladesh set up a long-promised anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims."

Miller also explained: "Country ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking of persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up by the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country."

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2005

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103 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

June 3, 2005 Friday 1:55 PM GMT

Pakistan removed from US **human trafficking watchlist**

LENGTH: 412 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD June 3

The United States has removed Pakistan from its **watchlist** on **human trafficking**, but Islamabad needs to do more to stamp out the practice, the US embassy said Friday.

US Ambassador Ryan Crocker had delivered a copy of the State Department's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons report, due to be released later Friday, to Pakistani Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao on Thursday, it said in a statement.

"The report indicates that Pakistan has improved its anti-trafficking performance over the reporting period," the statement said.

Pakistan is regarded as a major hub for **human trafficking** and was placed on the **watch list** last year, but President Pervez Musharraf's government has launched a drive to tackle people smugglers.

Crocker commended Pakistan's efforts during his meeting with Sherpao but encouraged continued progress. "We look forward to further cooperation on trafficking-in-persons issues," he was quoted as telling the minister.

Pakistan had increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions and strengthened implementation of key 2002 legislation to prevent human smuggling, the US embassy statement said.

It had also established an anti-trafficking unit and co-sponsored several public awareness campaigns, it added.

Pakistani authorities said earlier this year they had arrested two key suspects linked to a human smuggling mafia that has allegedly sent thousands of Pakistanis illegally to Europe in the past eight years.

Intelligence officials also investigated whether the pair had helped wanted Islamic militants to flee the country following a crackdown on extremism by Musharraf.

There are no official estimates on how many Pakistanis go abroad illegally, but thousands are repatriated every year.

Pakistan had been in danger of slipping into a category under which it would have been in line for economic sanctions, Director General of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency Tariq Pervaiz told AFP. The agency is responsible for combating human trafficking.

"It is an acknowledgement of the efforts by the government to curb the problem," he said. "In recent years we have given the highest priority to investigation of cases of trafficking and convicting those involved in the trade."

Pakistan had also taken action against corrupt officials involved in the trade, arresting 90 officials.

"We are going to step up our efforts," said Pervaiz. "It is a very serious humanitarian issue. Thousands of families have been destroyed by the traffickers."

dk-rj/fz

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104 of 359 DOCUMENTS

AP Worldstream

June 3, 2005 Friday

U.S. removes Pakistan from its watchlist on human smuggling, says interior minister

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 208 words**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

The United States has removed Pakistan from its **watchlist** on **human trafficking**, a Cabinet minister said Friday.

Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said he had been briefed by U.S. ambassador Ryan C. Croker on Thursday and that the news will be officially announced by the State Department in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report this week.

The department recommends sanctions against countries that fail to combat human trafficking.

Pakistan is considered to be a major route for human smuggling, and was included on the list in 2002, but authorities have in recent months taken several steps to crack down on trafficking.

In 2002, Pakistan made human smuggling an offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison, or a fine, and in January, announced it would establish special courts to expedite trials of those suspected of smuggling.

Smugglers are accused of taking vast sums of money from thousands of Pakistanis who every year attempt to sneak into oil-rich Middle Eastern countries or Europe, often without travel documents, searching for work. Officials say that a number of young children are also smuggled to the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere to act as camel jockeys and women are lured abroad to work as prostitutes.

LOAD-DATE: June 4, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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105 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday

SPECIAL STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING**TOPIC: RELEASE OF THE 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BRIEFERS: SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE; JOHN R. MILLER, THE SECRETARY'S SENIOR ADVISER ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; PAULA DOBRIANSKY, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS****LOCATION: THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.****SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING****LENGTH: 5357 words**

SEC. RICE: Good afternoon. I'm pleased to join Undersecretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky and the director of the Office for Monitoring and Combatting Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John Miller, for the release today of the Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

This congressionally mandated report represents the United States' deep commitment to stop the brutal crime of human trafficking. Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery, and President Bush has called upon all countries to confront this evil. As the president has said, human life is the gift of our creator, and it should never be for sale. The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge, because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty upon which this nation was founded.

We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, and millions more are trafficked internally. Victims of trafficking, most of them women and children, are forced, defrauded or coerced into inhumane conditions. They're made to toil on farms and in work camps, in brothels and in sweatshops. Children are even forced to become soldiers.

Whatever cruel form of servitude they may take, trafficking victims live in fear and misery. And wherever the trafficking trade flourishes, the rule of law erodes, corruption thrives, public health suffers, and organized crime threatens the security of entire communities.

To confront the abomination of human trafficking, a modern-day abolitionist movement has emerged.

Concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other nongovernmental groups are doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation.

The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign. We provided more than \$96 million in foreign aid last year to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts. We're helping them develop legislation to combat abuse, create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it. All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society.

The responsibility does not rest only with developing countries whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption, or lack of education. Destination, or "demand" countries, like the United States and other prosperous nations whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility.

As President Bush has said, nearly two centuries after the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last strongholds, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our times. We must all work to end this terrible tragedy.

Now, my senior advisor on trafficking in persons, Ambassador John Miller, will give a brief presentation on the report, and he will answer your questions. John?

Q May we ask you a question, Madam Secretary?

SEC. RICE: Ambassador Miller is going to do the report, and he'll answer your questions.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is synonymous with slavery.

Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories. But this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana -- an all too typical victim of human trafficking.

Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul, and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport; they locked her up. They forced her into prostitution, and then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers who killed her. Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus.

There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there is -- there are counterattacks going on.

Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report -- I think you've all got copies of it -- and they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about.

Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence. And it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries.

The U.S. government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery, and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking In Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year. This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month, one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights, it amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange.

We believe that modern-day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source, destination or transit country for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report. If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country, or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated.

Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activities, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the mix. Extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country, and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, or Tier 3.

We didn't design this system, Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organizations and faith-based communities.

I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 Warning Watch List, introduced last year, has been very effective; 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP Report's Tier 2 Watch List improved their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves.

For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law, and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking.

In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti- trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims.

When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution, and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers.

But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking for labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys, who live in slave- like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments.

Burma, North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3 largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons**, another important criteria for **Tier 3** in the law.

The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted, which is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery.

The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking persons, as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up by the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually.

The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern-day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We're prepared to work with them to help achieve this.

At the same time, nowhere on Earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited, with no recourse to help, or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women.

I'd like to address one misperception that has developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 require **tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem.

Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in persons efforts under way justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in persons problem.

Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern-day slavery.

Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased to over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was improved -- approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or 10 years ago.

We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims.

Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution, while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable U.N. peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of U.N. deployment.

The report, on pages 33 and 38, identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could've been much longer, believe me. The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few.

The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. Jun 03, 2005 13:14 ET .EOF

The Malawian nongovernment organization, People Serving Girls at Risk, works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach.

And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness.

The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney, the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for exploitation as camel jockeys; to Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFEISP, who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed in excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti- trafficking programs last year.

In January, President George W. Bush said, "No one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing, powerful response, a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part.

Thank you. And let's turn to questions. Oh my gosh! Okay, yes, go ahead. Yeah.

Q Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us, regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether you believe that it would require sanctions to get some action, particularly in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this trafficking. Jun 03, 2005 14:04 ET .EOF

MR. MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia. We have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude, child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings, and rape -- very difficult to get shelter, no convictions.

But your -- the first part of your question was, is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is, I hope not, because the purpose of the law is not to sanction; it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail.

Q They've moved backwards in the last year. It will require sanctions.

MR. MILLER: Wait a minute. That's -- if they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is, under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking. And we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned.

Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions. But there is that possibility.

Yes?

Q May I follow up on that?

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q This law has been in effect for five years.

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now?

MR. MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past -- we've had civil relationships with -- have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report.

For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3.

But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters; there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress.

Yes. Go ahead.

Q Yes, Ambassador, under which capacity the United States is preparing those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

MR. MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat that question again?

Q Under which capacity --

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q -- the United States of America --

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q -- is preparing those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

MR. MILLER: Okay.

Well, that's is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer -- that is -- that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce on the floor of the English Parliament back in the 1790s when he discovered -- realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade. And the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was, "Will the Right Honorable Gentleman tell me what right we have to impose British moral values on the world?" Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values to show that people nowhere wanted slavery.

Today, we have -- the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world that I'm aware of officially endorses slavery, and there are numerous international covenants, U.N. covenants that nations of the world have subscribed to that are -- ban slavery.

So I would say, in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery that citizens around the world and ostensibly governments around the world all agree is a scourge that should be ended.

Let's take somebody in the back. Yeah, go ahead.

Q Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms --

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q -- to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable --

MR. MILLER: Sure. Well, as ambassador at large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt. But I want to comment on your -- the premise of your question. You identify poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade, and I would agree it is a major cause.

There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years -- I won't cite them all -- that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role.

There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they -- we talk about the arms trade, the drug trade and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime.

So all of these causes, we hope, will be addressed. But in the meantime -- in the meantime -- we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims and get prevention and education campaigns.

Yes.

Q What about the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa program, to what extent are those successful and why or not?

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q How many victims have been identified to date?

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q And what are the problems in identifying victims?

MR. MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear it? Should I be repeating the questions?

Q No, that's fine.

MR. MILLER: You can hear? Okay.

Your question about identifying victims in the United States -- you put your finger on a problem that is -- confronts the United States and almost every country in the world, the gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help. Just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on Trafficking in Persons, consisting of Cabinet officers, chaired by Secretary of State Rice, discussed this issue. And the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up as an area where we need to do more, exactly that.

What has been done? And the gap is such -- to give you an idea of the gap -- I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. So they cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that. Yet, we know the figure -- we suspect, we don't scientifically know since victims don't stand in line to be -- raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14,500. So there's a gap.

Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in 10 -- I believe it's soon to be 20 -- cities, trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward.

We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach. And Health and Human Services has done some work on this. But this approach would involve mobilizing -- involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel, in this effort to try to help victims come forward. So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges.

Yeah, back? Yeah?

Q Can I follow up on this question, sir?

MR. MILLER: Well --

Q It's on this particular issue.

MR. MILLER: Okay.

Q Could you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the secretary said? You just said nowhere on earth is acceptable.

MR. MILLER: Right.

Q So what is the U.S. doing? And is your -- you just mentioned that you were the ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title, or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that --

MR. MILLER: Well, it's -- I guess it's sort of new. Congress and the president raised the position to ambassadorial status -- well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago. And the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, at the direction of the president, I chair -- under that presidential task force I referred to, I chair a Senior Policy Operating Group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies.

Now let's get to the first part of your question -- demand and what's being done in the United States.

I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States.

I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE, in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayer support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners and the so-called customers.

And then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name "John School," that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago. And this school now has been going for some time; appears to have very good results; 2 percent recidivism rate. This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further. And we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. We're -- for example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue.

Yes, in the back. Go ahead.

Q Thank you. You say that the Brazil government is making progress, but is not fully complying. Could say what needs to be done?

MR. MILLER: Sure.

Brazil -- Brazil -- I believe if I'm not mistaken -- is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil, Brazil has started setting up in different provinces anti-trafficking-in-persons efforts. I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been government interest -- the president of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue -- but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims. So I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area.

I am -- I hope I'm calling -- yes, go ahead.

Q You mentioned Canada as a transit countries for some of the sex trade --

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q And although Canada's in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation?

MR. MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country. And Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada, and I think it's referred to in the report -- I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada -- for example, Korea -- they don't need a visa, and then they just come across the U.S. border. And there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved. We're going to have to -- we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example.

I'm sorry, there are so many -- yes -- there are so many people. Go ahead.

STAFF: Ambassador, I'm afraid we're going to have make this limited to a couple of more people. Why don't you take that one, and then I know Teri also wanted to get in. And then we'll call it a --

MR. MILLER: Oh, Teri --

(Cross talk.)

MR. MILLER: No, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two.

Go ahead. Go ahead.

Q Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Haw (sp), Radio Free Asia. You didn't mention anything about Vietnam.

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q However, the problem is there. You know, like they were -- Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 Watch List.

MR. MILLER: Watch List. Yes.

Q This year Tier 2, not on the Watch List anymore.

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q My question is, what is the methodology you used to -- in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 Watch list --

MR. MILLER: Well, we thought they --

Q Yeah. Did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam?

MR. MILLER: We have had had -- yeah. Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before in exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave-owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased. So there's been some progress in Vietnam.

Teri?

Q Thank you.

Q (Off mike.)

MR. MILLER: No, I've got to -- no. I ignored her last --

Q He forgot me last year! (Laughs.)

MR. MILLER: Last year I didn't call on her. I've got --

STAFF: We'll make her the last one.

Q Okay, thank you. Ambassador -- (off mike) -- a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned, when you talked about sanctions. And I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies -- Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia -- and could you -- you've been to these countries, you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues --

MR. MILLER: Yeah.

Q -- and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think.

Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies with the U.S. in counter-terrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who has been saying something.

MR. MILLER: I'm glad you've -- the toughest question comes last.

Q (Off mike) -- you called on her.

MR. MILLER: (Chuckles.) Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned if you look at the countries in -- nobody's been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report -- and I, we can -- I can't recall

them from memory, but you can -- our staff can get them to you. But the top part of your question was, well, here are close friends of the United States. How can this happen? Two years ago it was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3?

I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness. That is, public awareness increases in these countries; you see more action. For example -- just for example -- in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman, tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital -- domestic servitude case -- has gotten publicity. Human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there, and I don't know how it's all going to come out. But there -- apparently in the last month there was an arrest made.

As public awareness increases -- and sometimes, when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard -- but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today. And this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue, the last couple of years.

Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you. When you write on this, when you write on this -- I know you're journalists and all that, but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help. You indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail, because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials. Good things happen, when -- so.

But last comment: I am -- so I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs.

I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If --

STAFF: They're going to come up, sir. We have a 10-minute -- (off mike) --

MR. MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more -- okay. And -- but we've also got people on our staff -- Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner -- that even if I have to move out after five or 10 minutes, can answer questions.

So thank you all for coming. Appreciate it.

Q Thank you, Mr. -- (off mike). (Applause.)

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106 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Fox News Network

June 3, 2005 Friday

SHOW: THE O'REILLY FACTOR 8:48 PM EST

Countries Criticized for Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Bill O'Reilly

GUESTS: Gary Haugen

SECTION: NEWS; Domestic

LENGTH: 831 words

O'REILLY: In the "Back of the Book" segment tonight, the selling of human beings into slavery. It still goes on.

The State Department announced today that 14 new countries are out of control when it comes to human trafficking for sex and other reasons. Among them, Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Togo and the United Arab Emirates. Also on the list, Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela.

Joining us now from L.A. is Gary Haugen, the president of International Justice Mission, an author of the book "Terrify No More." I'm sorry about my throat here, Mr. Haugen. It's one of those things that I have to deal with a couple of times a year.

Now, the Arab -- the Arab countries, I mean, these countries have a lot of money with the oil coming in. Kuwait is supposed to be our friend. Saudi Arabia, the Emirates supposed to be our friend. What's going on over there?

GARY HAUGEN, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION: Well, this is a good report, because it's telling the truth about modern day slavery and about sex trafficking around the world.

And I think it's an important report, because it also motivates these countries to start to do more to really rescue the victims and bring the perpetrators to justice.

And I think it's also a bold report, because it's really put the names of some of our Arab allies that have serious problems with trafficking, with **human trafficking**, and it's named them and it's put them on that **tier** three which...

O'REILLY: But what do they -- what did they do? I know what they do in Cambodia. We're looking at your Cambodian video. We discussed that last time you were here. This is the sex trade into prostitution, brothels. You rescue these people.

But what do they do in the Arab countries? What's the industry there?

HAUGEN: Well, sex trafficking is a problem. The sexual exploitation of women and girls into commercial establishments of sexual exploitation. They also have...

O'REILLY: In Muslim countries, where you get your head cut off for doing that?

HAUGEN: Sure. Sure.

O'REILLY: I thought it was that they brought in people from India, Sri Lanka, and they made them slaves, domestic slaves. I thought there was a lot of that going on.

HAUGEN: They do that, as well. And that's a significant part of this report is that it draws the attention not only to sex slavery but to forced labor, modern day slavery.

O'REILLY: Right. The people come over -- they come over to Saudi Arabia to be domestics, and all of a sudden, they tie them up and sell them to somebody out in the middle of the desert.

Now Jamaica, we had a segment at the top of the program where a New Jersey couple's daughter, professional travel writer, disappeared. What's going on in Jamaica?

HAUGEN: Well, Jamaica is one of those countries, too, that is failing to meet minimum standards in dealing with forced labor and sex trafficking. And then not only that, but they are also not making significant efforts to address the problem.

So Jamaica, all these countries, is failing from a law enforcement point of view to handle the problem.

O'REILLY: OK. So one of the problems, and you saw this in Cambodia, is that the cops are involved with the human trafficking, correct?

HAUGEN: Absolutely right. In fact, this only flourishes in certain places around the world where law enforcement tolerates it. Because if the customers can find these victims by the millions, then the police can, whenever they want. So the only way people get away with this is by bringing people into the business.

In fact, last week, we were able to bust a police officer in one of these Southeast Asia countries who was just openly selling minors in a bar. And so it only takes place because the police are part of the problem.

These governments now need to be serious about drawing their own law enforcement employees to account for what they do. And in fact, with -- one issue about this report is I think it needs to begin to produce more concrete data of just precisely how many prosecutions or disciplinary actions these countries have carried out. Because the reports say corruption's a problem, but it doesn't tell you what they're doing about it.

O'REILLY: Thirty seconds. Is the United States the world leader in trying to stop human trafficking?

HAUGEN: At International Justice Mission, we've been really grateful for the leadership that the United States has put forward in this.

O'REILLY: Good. I'm happy to hear that.

HAUGEN: And some of these countries actually changed because the United States takes a strong position.

O'REILLY: Yes, we threaten them with sanctions. That's what the State Department's doing. But we -- our image has been so battered with the torture and all that, I'm happy to hear a guy like you, a no spin guy, say that we are taking the lead in this problem.

HAUGEN: Glad to.

O'REILLY: Mr. Haugen, thanks very much, appreciate it. And keep up the good work, sir.

Up next, we will wrap things up with "The Most Ridiculous Item of the Day" and some of your mail.

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107 of 359 DOCUMENTS



IRNA

June 3, 2005 Friday 9:45 PM EST

Pakistan-Human-Government

BYLINE: Iran News Agency**LENGTH:** 88 words**DATELINE:** Tehran, June 03

Pakistan removed from US watch list on

human trade - minister Islamabad, June 3, IRNA Pakistan-US The United States government has removed Pakistan from its **watch list of human trafficking**, an official said.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Sherpao told a news conference here Thursday that US Ambassador Ryan Crocker delivered the annual Trafficking in Person Report to him.

The US not only removed Pakistan from the **watch list** but also commended the government on its efforts to combat **human trafficking**, he added.

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108 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 3, 2005 Friday**U.S. upgrades Japan's efforts to fight human trafficking****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 151 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 3

The United States upgraded its assessment of Japanese efforts to fight **human trafficking** Friday, designated Japan as a **Tier 2** country of improving records and removing it from a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category.

'The government of Japan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so,' the U.S. State Department said in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

Japan has made an 'impressive start' in providing assistance to trafficking victims, such as implementing a national action plan with 'modest, additional resources' for state-run and private shelters, the department said.

Japan has also made 'substantial' efforts to improve the legal framework by drafting Penal Code revisions to criminalize trafficking and increase penalties, it said.

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109 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 3, 2005 Friday

U.S. upgrades Japan's efforts to combat human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 693 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 3

The United States on Friday upgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to combat **human trafficking**, removing Japan from a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category, but maintained that Tokyo still needs to make more improvements.

China was downgraded to the **Tier 2 Special Watch List**, while North Korea remained among the worst countries in combating **human trafficking** in **Tier 3**, the State Department said in its fifth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report covering a total of 150 countries.

The intensified efforts by the Japanese government follow the country's embarrassing placement on the special watch list last year due to regulatory issues, including lax entertainment visa regulations exploited by criminal organizations to traffic women, particularly Filipino women.

This year, Japan was upgraded to Tier 2 for the government's 'significant efforts.' Countries in this category are those who fail to comply fully with the minimum standards to fight human trafficking but are making strides to do so.

The Japanese government 'has made an impressive start in providing assistance to trafficking victims,' the State Department said.

Japan has implemented a national action plan, increased assistance to state-run and private shelters and bolstered law enforcement efforts, including drafting Penal Code revisions to criminalize trafficking and increase penalties, the report said.

'The foundations that the government of Japan has laid in the past few months offer promise of results that would place Japan in a leadership role in fighting trafficking,' the report said.

But it cautioned that Japan 'has yet to make a significant effort to lessen the domestic demand for trafficking victims.'

China was downgraded from Tier 2 to the special watch list 'due to its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking,' the report said, particularly protection for victims such as foreign women and Chinese women from Taiwan.

The report also highlighted China's harsh deportation of North Koreans, including trafficking victims, back to North Korea, where they reportedly face punishment including 'forced labor prison camps where torture and public executions are commonplace.'

North Korea remained in Tier 3 alongside 14 other countries including Sudan, Myanmar and Cambodia.

The report said North Korea is 'a source country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' most often to China.

'Thousands of North Korean men, women and children are forced to work and often perish under conditions of slavery inside the country,' it said.

The North Korean government made 'no effort to protect trafficking victims during the reporting period; reporting instead indicated that the government punished victims,' the State Department said, noting Pyongyang 'does not recognize trafficking as a problem.'

Overall around the world last year, between 600,000 and 800,000 people were trafficked, 80 percent of the victims were women and 50 percent were children, the report said.

'We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it,' Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a news conference following the report's release. 'All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society,' she said.

The report classifies countries into three tiers with the additional Tier 2 Special Watch List.

Thirty-one of the 46 countries placed on last year's watch list improved their ratings.

Tier 3 countries are those that do no attempt to comply with the act's minimal standards and could be subject to sanctions if efforts are not stepped up within the 90-day grace period following the report's release.

The State Department compiles the report based upon information provided by nongovernmental organizations, embassies, foreign governments, law enforcement and others.

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110 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Saudi Press Agency

June 3, 2005 Friday 3:50 PM EST**U.S. removes Pakistan from its watch list****BYLINE:** Saudi Press Agency**LENGTH:** 143 words**DATELINE:** Riyadh, June 03

The United States has removed Pakistan from its **watch list on human trafficking**, a Cabinet minister said Friday..

Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said he had been briefed by U.S. ambassador Ryan C.

Crocker on Thursday and that the news will be officially announced by the State Department in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report this week..

The department recommends sanctions against countries that fail to combat human trafficking..

Pakistan was included on the list in 2002, but authorities have in recent months taken several steps to crack down on trafficking, according to a report of The Associated Press..

In 2002, Pakistan made human smuggling an offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison, or a fine, and in January, announced it would establish special courts to expedite trials of those suspected of smuggling..

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111 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday**RELEASE OF FIFTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 4792 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Thank you, Madame Secretary. As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking or trafficking in persons is synonymous with slavery. Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories, but this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana, an all too typical victim of human trafficking. Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus, looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport. They locked her up. They forced her into prostitution. And then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen, just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers, who killed her. Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there are counterattacks going on. Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report. I think you've all got copies of it. And they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about. Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence and it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries. U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year. This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month -- one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights. It amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange. We believe that modern day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source destination or transit country, for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report. If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated. Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activists, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the mix, extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watch list, or Tier 3. We didn't design the system. Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organization and faith-based communities. I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports, Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves. For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking. In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of

victims. When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers. But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly in voluntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys who live in slave-like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments. Burma and North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons** -- another important criteria for **Tier 3** and the law. The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted. This is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery. The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up for the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually. The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We are prepared to work with them to help achieve this. At the same time, nowhere on earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited with no recourse to help or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women. I'd like to address one misperception that is developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires **Tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem. Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in person efforts underway justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in person problem. Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery. Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or ten years ago. We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims. Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims. Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable UN peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of UN deployment. The report on pages 33 and 38 identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could have been much longer, believe me. The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few. The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. The Malawian nongovernmental organization People Serving Girls at Risk works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach. And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness. The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for exploitation, as camel jockeys. To Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFESIP who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia. The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed an excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti-trafficking programs last year. In January, President George W. Bush said, "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery, on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the Secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing powerful response -- a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part. Thank you and let's turn to questions. Oh, my gosh. Okay, yes. Go ahead. Yeah.

QUESTION: Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether

you believe that it was the prior sanctions to get some action? In particular in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards, not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this practice. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude -- child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape, very difficult to get shelter, no convictions. But you're -- the first part of your question was: Is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is I hope not because the purpose of the law is not to sanction, it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail. QUESTION: They've moved backwards in the last year. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Wait a minute -- that's QUESTION: Will it require sanctions? AMBASSADOR MILLER: If they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking and we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned. Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions, but there is that possibility. Yes. QUESTION: Can I follow-up on that? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: This law has been in effect for five years? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past, we've had several relationships with, have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report. For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3. But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters, there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress. Yes. Go ahead. QUESTION: Under which capacity, the United States is preparing in those type of reports, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries? AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat the question again? QUESTION: Yes. Under which capacity, the United States of America is preparing, those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, this is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer -- that is that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce. On the floor of the English Parliament, back in the 1790s when he discovered, realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade, and the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was: Will the right honorable gentleman tell me what rights we have to impose British moral values on the world? Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values, to show that people nowhere wanted slavery. Today, we have -- the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world, that I'm aware of, officially endorses slavery and there are numerous international covenants, UN covenants, that nations of the world have subscribed to that are -- banned slavery. So I would say in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery, that citizens around the world and ostensibly, governments around the world, all agree is a scourge that should be ended. Let's take somebody in the back. Yeah, go ahead. QUESTION: Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Well, as Ambassador-at-large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt, but I want to comment on the premise of your question. You identified poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade and I would agree it is a major cause. There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years -- I won't cite them all -- that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role. There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they -- we talked about the arms trade, the drug trade, and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime. So all of these causes we hope will be addressed, but in the meantime -- in the meantime -- we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims, and get prevention and education campaigns. Yes. QUESTION: To what extent are the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa programs they -- to what extent are those efforts successful and why are not -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: How many victims have been identified to date? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: And what are the problems in identifying victims? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear -- should I be repeating the questions or -- QUESTION: No, that's fine. We don't mind. AMBASSADOR MIL-

LER: You can hear, okay. Your question about identifying victims in the United States, you put your finger on a problem that is -- confronts the United States and almost every country in the world. The gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help -- just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on trafficking in persons consisting of cabinet officers chaired by Secretary of State Rice discussed this issue and the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up, as an area where we need to do more, exactly that. What has been done? And the gap is such -- to give you an idea of the gap, I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. They cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that, yet we know the figure -- we suspect -- we don't scientifically know, since victims don't stand in line to be -- raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14 and a half thousand. So there's a gap. Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in ten -- I believe it's soon to be 20 cities -- trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward. We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach, and Health and Human Services has done some work on this, but this approach would involve mobilizing or involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel in this effort to try to help victims come forward. So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges. Yes, back? QUESTION: Can I follow up on this question, sir? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. Well, just -- QUESTION: It's on this particular area. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. QUESTION: Can you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the Secretary said? You just said that nowhere on earth -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: Is it acceptable, so -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Right. QUESTION: -- what is the U.S. doing? And it's your -- you just mentioned that you were the Ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that the -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, it's -- I guess it's sort of new. It's -- Congress and the President raised the position to ambassadorial status -- well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago and in the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, I -- at the direction of the President, I chair a -- under that Presidential task force I referred to, I chair a senior policy operating group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies. Now, let's get to the first part of your question: demand and what's being done in the United States. I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States. I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayers' support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution, who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners, and the so-called customers. And then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name, John School, that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago and this school now has been going for some time, appears to have very good results, two percent recidivism rate. This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further and we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. For example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue. Yes, in the back. Go ahead. QUESTION: Are you saying that the Brazil Government is making progress, but is not fully complying? Could you say what needs to be done? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Brazil, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil: Brazil has started setting up, in different provinces, anti-trafficking in persons efforts. I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been tremendous government interest, the President of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue, but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year, coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims -- so, I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area. I hope I'm calling -- yes, go ahead. QUESTION: You mentioned Canada as a transit country. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yes. QUESTION: With some of these sex trade workers. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: And although Canada is in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country and Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada and I think it's referred to in the report. I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada -- for example, Korea, they don't need a visa and then they just come across the U.S. border and we -- there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved. We're going to have to -- we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example. I'm sorry, there's so -- yes? There's so many people. Go

ahead. MR. CASEY: Mr. Ambassador I'm afraid we're going to have to make this limited to a couple more people. So why don't you take that one and then I know Teri wanted to get in -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Oh, Teri -- no, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two. Go ahead. QUESTION: Yeah. Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Ha (ph), Radio Free Asia. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: I didn't hear -- you didn't mention anything about Vietnam. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: However, the problem is there. You know, like there -- now, Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 watch list. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Watch list, yes. QUESTION: On the Tier 2 -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: It's not on the watch list anymore. AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: My question is, what is the method that you used to -- in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 watch list? AMBASSADOR MILLER: To -- well, we thought they -- QUESTION: Did you find -- yeah, did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam? AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah. We have had -- Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before on exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam. Teri, Teri? No, I've got to -- no, Teri -- I ignored her last year. QUESTION: He ignored me last year. AMBASSADOR MILLER: I didn't call on her. I got to -- okay. QUESTION: Okay, thank you. Ambassador Miller, a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned when you talked about sanctions and I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies: Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia. And could you -- you've been to these countries and you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. QUESTION: -- and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think. Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies of the U.S. in counterterrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who's been sanctioned. AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm glad you've -- the toughest question comes last. Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned, if you look at the countries in -- nobody has been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report, and we can -- I can't recall them from memory, but you can -- our staff can get them to you, but your -- the tough part of your question was -- well, here are close friends of the United States; how can this happen? Two years ago, I was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3? I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness, that as public awareness increases in these countries, you see more action. For example, just for example, in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital -- domestic servitude case has gotten publicity. A human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there and I don't know how it's all going to come out, but they're -- apparently in the last month, there was an arrest made. As public awareness increases -- and sometimes when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard -- but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today and this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue the last couple of years. Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you, when you write on this -- when you write on this, I know you're journalists and all that -- but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials. Good things happen when -- so -- but the last comment, I am -- so, I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs. I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If -- QUESTION: You're going to come up, sir. We have about 10 minutes to (inaudible) -- AMBASSADOR MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more minutes, okay. And -- but we've also got people on our staff: Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner that even if I have to move out after five or ten minutes can answer questions. So thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

112 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT FOCUSES ON LABOR EXPLOITATION

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1063 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

Citing both the positive actions and failures of governments around the world to take the necessary steps to end modern-day slavery, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice presented to the public the fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) at the U.S. Department of State June 3.

Rice expressed the hope that the comprehensive, worldwide report "will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it."

Introducing the findings, the secretary noted that "up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year and millions more are trafficked internally." Four out of five of those trafficked are women and one in two is a minor, she said.

The data, she said, illustrate that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, but there is also an alarming enslavement of people for purposes of labor exploitation, a form of slavery given special attention in this year's report.

The responsibility for trafficking does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education, Rice pointed out, but "destination or demand countries like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility."

There is a modern-day abolitionist movement of "concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other non-governmental groups ' doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation," Rice said. "The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

The United States provided more than \$96 million in foreign aid during 2004 to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts, Rice noted, and is now helping them to develop legislation to combat abuse. The aid assists in creating special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs," she said.

The report records the efforts of 150 nations between March 2004 and March 2005 to deal with the issue, explained Ambassador John Miller, the senior adviser on trafficking in persons in the State Department. "Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern-day slavery.

"Worldwide this past year the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from four or five years ago," he said.

The report's methodology includes a three-tier system for rating countries' effectiveness in combating trafficking: 'cents Tier 1 includes those countries that have met international standards for coping with trafficking and are vigorously addressing the problem.

'cents Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards; the Tier 2 "Watch List" consists of countries that might be vulnerable to an erosion of their efforts.

'cents Tier 3, the least favorable rating, lists countries whose governments fail to meet minimal international standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

While some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted, Miller said, others have failed to move forward: "Ecuador was placed on Tier III [the lowest] again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery."

In an overview of this year's report, Miller noted that sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery, which translates to an increased number of sex victims in countries where prostitution is allowed or encouraged. Hence there has been "a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers," he said.

But the United States is concerned with all forms of slavery, Miller insisted, so "this year trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and non-governmental organizations."

Four countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- remain on Tier III, primarily for failing to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking, he said. "The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude, or child camel jockeys who live in slavelike conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments," he added.

"Burma, North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier III, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier III** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons**."

On the positive side, Miller said: "The Tier II Warning Watch List introduced last year has been very effective. Thirty-one of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports Tier II Watch List improved their ratings this year."

Several countries that were on Tier III on the 2004 report have acted to be raised to the next tier, Miller stated: "Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking, [and] Bangladesh set up a long-promised anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims."

Miller also explained: "Country ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking of persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up by the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country."

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

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113 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday**STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING, JUNE 3****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 5596 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

[U.S. Department of State] Daily Press Briefing Index

Friday, June 3, 2005 2:10 p.m. EDT

Briefer: Sean McCormack, Spokesman

DEPARTMENT -- Sec. Rice: Farewell to Richard Boucher, former Spokesman; Introduction of Sean McCormack, Spokesman/ Richard Boucher: Thank You -- **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP)/ Ambassador Dobriansky meeting with Ambassadors/ Sanctions/ **Tier 3** allies/ Ambassador Miller -- Sec. Rice Attendance at Organization of American States (OAS) Summit in Ft. Lauderdale/ Aid to Fragile Democracies/ Inter-American Democratic Charter

SRI LANKA -- Sec. Rice Meeting with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar/ Tsunami Reconstruction/ Violence

INDONESIA -- Warden Message/ Specific Threat/ Travel Warning/ Security Measures at Embassy/ Hotels

LEBANON -- Killing of Journalist Samir Kassir/ Investigation/ Sec. Meetings with Zebari and Makabi

SYRIA -- SCUD Missile Test/ Weapons of Mass Destruction/ Out of Step with Region

SAUDI ARABIA -- Response to TIP report/ Possibility of Sanctions -- Record on International Religious Freedom / Country of Particular Concern Designation

NORTH KOREA -- Six Party Talks/ Food Aid

SUDAN -- Dep. Sec. Zoellick's Trip/ Kartoum/ Darfur/ African Union Mission/ Security

G-8 -- Prime Minister Tony Blair Meeting with President Bush/ G8 Summit/ AIDS/ Poverty

IRAQ -- Ambassador to Iraq/ Ambassador Khalilzad / Embassy of Baghdad/ Security/ US Support of Iraqi People and Government / Iraqi Process

BOLIVIA -- OAS Summit/ Assistance

ARUBA -- Missing American Natalee Hardaway /FBI Assistance

GREECE/CYPRUS -- State of Relations / Cyprus

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005 (ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

2:15 p.m. EDT

MR. MCCORMACK: Under any circumstance, the Secretary of State is a hard act to follow and, well, for that matter, so is Richard Boucher. So why don't I just jump right into questions. I don't have anything to start with.

Mr. Gedda.

QUESTION: I have no questions. I just want to say congratulations on your confirmation and your swearing-in and I hope you have a long --

QUESTION: Please speak up, George.

QUESTION: I wanted to congratulate Sean at the outset on his confirmation and his swearing-in and I'm sure we'll have a long and productive and sometimes contentious time together.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, I very much look forward to working with you and all of your colleagues in the State Department press corps. You serve an important function in our form of government and our way of life and I think it's an example for the entire world, you know, the Spokesman of the State Department standing up here and taking questions from a free and responsible press and trying to provide the best, most timely information that we can. So I look forward to working with you over the coming period.

QUESTION: Ah, flattery.

MR. MCCORMACK: Will it get me everywhere?

QUESTION: I have a question. I realize we've already had a briefing on the trafficking report.

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Have you -- has the government, the U.S. Government, gotten any reaction from any of the countries that were put in **Tier 3** for the first time, notably the Saudis, the Kuwaitis, the UAE, Qatar? Are they dismayed about this? Have they given any strong signals that they're going to try to act fast to do something about it?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'll try to get for you any information that we might have on specific reactions, but in general, I would note that Undersecretary Paula Dobriansky is this afternoon -- I don't know if she's already met with them or not -- meeting with about a hundred ambassadors here in Washington to talk about the **Trafficking in Persons** Report. And included in that number are a number of Tier 3 countries and I would note that we have already had some consultations with some of the countries that appear in Tier 3. Our ambassadors went in and talked to the foreign ministries about the report. I would note that -- I think Ambassador Miller talked about this, that one country -- I believe Bolivia -- has already acted on some of the issues raised by the report.

So if there's anything further with respect to -- on those four, I'll let you know.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Sean?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: Regarding those four, how serious is the threat of sanction? Does the administration believe that that is a real weapon that can be used? Is it the threat of sanctions that you hope, because of the reputational impact, would have some effect on their behavior? And particularly with the Saudis, since they have gotten worse, not better.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, if --

QUESTION: Worse through this whole process.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. As you know, and you heard in your briefing today, sanctions, you know, that is one possibility here. But the overall intent of the lives, it's -- this is meant to foster a dialogue and discussion about this issue. There's a 90-day period in which we will have a dialogue with the countries that are on Tier 3 and the hope is that we can address some of the issues raised by the report and that, as a result of that dialogue, that you actually take effective action in response to some of the issues that are raised by the report.

I mentioned to Arshad one of the countries, Bolivia, has already taken some steps and I think that that is a model for the kind of cooperative dialogue on these kinds of issues that is envisioned not only by the law, but by, you know, our application of the law.

QUESTION: May I follow up?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: How do you weigh the balance of benefits and risks with four countries, in this case, that are key allies in the war on terror and key components of our military operation in that region?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, in any relationship, in any sort of deep, involved relationship like we have with a number of these different countries, including Saudi Arabia and including Qatar, as you mentioned -- they are allies in the war on terror, as well as others that are in the report -- oftentimes you have to bring up difficult issues. And as the President has talked about before, as the Secretary has talked about before, we're not going to hesitate to bring up these issues with those countries. It's important that -- the President believes it's important that we speak out clearly on these issues. This is an important moral issue of our time.

I think Ambassador Miller talked about how this trafficking in persons was the modern-day equivalent of slavery, and both the Secretary and the President are committed to abolishing this. Part of that effort is to speak clearly about the problem in an objective manner using the criteria laid out by the law. The second part to that is to work with these countries to try to address, in a real way, some of these issues and to end the practices that are cited in the report.

Why don't we move back here.

QUESTION: Sean, congratulations and welcome aboard.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: I have a question. On Tuesday, there was a meeting between the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Washington with the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Mr. Welch, in which they say the Deputy Ambassador was included. Is that an indication that maybe we're heading towards a lowering of diplomatic relations with Syria?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not up on that meeting. Let me look into it. And if there's anything that we have to add, we'll get back to you.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay. Saul.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the Secretary's with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister this morning. Can you do a readout from that for us, please?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, if you put it that way. (Laughter.)

Secretary Rice and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Kadirgamar had a good meeting today. They met this morning up in the Secretary's office. It was the Foreign Minister and just a couple of his aides and the Secretary and a couple of her aides. They talked about bilateral issues of mutual interest, including tsunami reconstruction assistance and the need for arrangements to assure its equitable distribution. The Secretary recognized and applauded Sri Lanka's commitment to democracy.

QUESTION: How about issues of the general war on terrorism, given that they've got their own problems with the Tamils? Is that something that Rice reiterated that she would be giving support to, to the mediating process done by Norway?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't believe that came up in the meeting, but let me check for you.

QUESTION: But on the -- you said equitable distribution for the tsunami aid. Do you have a reason to believe that it is being inequitably distributed, the tsunami aid in Sri Lanka?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, we don't. As a matter of fact, the Secretary and the Foreign Minister had a good talk about this. They talked about how we have moved from the immediate relief phase into, really, the reconstruction phase and how the importance of working with all the various groups in establishing the mechanisms with the NGOs and the governments and other foreign governments that are involved in the reconstruction process, and make sure that it's a coordinated process. And I think both of them were comfortable with the progress thus far in making sure that those reconstruction funds are spent in an equitable manner.

QUESTION: Great. So you don't have concerns, for example, that the Tamil population is getting less than its due?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not aware of any concerns along those lines.

In the back, Teri.

QUESTION: Change of subject?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Can you talk about concerns in Indonesia, the Warden Message put out today, and the fact that the missions are remaining open despite the threat to hotels?

MR. MCCORMACK: As you noted, we did issue a Warden Message in Indonesia. This was in response to a credible and specific information that talked about hotels specifically, so we thought this was and is an appropriate step to issue this message. And because it was -- the information was specific, we decided that it was most appropriate to issue a Warden Message as opposed to making any changes to the Travel Warning at this time.

QUESTION: The Warden Message said that the plans were as of June 1st. Does the fact that you only put the Warden Message out on June 3rd indicate that the threat remains at at least a constant level?

MR. MCCORMACK: I believe that the Warden Message is still operative and I'll check to see if there's any action that we would take to notify people that the actual threat had ended. I don't know the --

QUESTION: Yeah, it's unusual just that they would say that two days ago there was this threat and we're notifying you today.

MR. CASEY: Effective as of June 1, meaning ongoing.

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure, let's move around. Peter.

QUESTION: Can we stay on this?

MR. MCCORMACK: Oh, okay.

QUESTION: I don't mean to nitpick, but if you're saying the reason for only doing a Warden Message, not a Travel Warning, is that it was very specific to hotels, wouldn't a Warden Message just go to Americans whom you have contacts with who you know are already in the country and the Travel Warning would be for the people who would be visiting and wanting to go to hotels and therefore might be victims to the targeted hotels?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Embassy, working with the Consular Affairs people back here in Washington, felt, based on the information that they have and which I can't go into any more than I have, this was the most appropriate step to take. Peter. Any other on this subject?

QUESTION: Syria.

QUESTION: Just one more. Despite the fact that it seemed very specific, have there been any measures taken by Indonesian local security forces to shore up U.S. missions?

MR. MCCORMACK: In these cases, typically, the embassy does work with the local officials but I'm not aware of any specific measures that they may have taken.

Peter.

QUESTION: Syria. The killing of the journalist the other day. Do you have any more information on it indicating who might be behind it? And is the United States, as it did in the killing of Hariri, going to be asking for an international or an independent investigation?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Secretary did address this yesterday in her remarks with Minister Zebari and I don't have -- I really don't have at this point anything to add to those remarks. I don't have any further information on the question of who.

She noted the fact that it would appear that these were efforts by individuals who were attempting to intimidate the population at a time when they're holding elections. At this point, I think that, again, I would reiterate what the Secretary said, and she urged Prime Minister Mikati to follow through in a real way on his pledge to investigate and ultimately hold accountable those responsible for this, for this act.

QUESTION: Is there a point that you might be seeking in independent or outside investigation or you're holding that in abeyance or is that a possibility?

MR. BOUCHER: I think at this point, I would just stick with what the Secretary said.

QUESTION: Also on Syria. Welcome, Sean.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Do you know if there's been any contact between the Department and Syria either on the killing of Samir Kassir or about the scud missile test by Syria last week? Scott confirmed that the U.S. knew about the test, but has there been any dialogue on that? And then I have a question on a separate subject.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay. Thanks for the warning. On both of those questions, in terms of contact with the Syrian Government, I'm not aware of any.

On the Syrian missile test, as Scott indicated, we have information that indicates that it did occur. And I would just add that it's one more example of Syria being out of step with what's going on in the rest of the region. You have Lebanon on one side, Iraq on the other, and the populations of those countries are focused on trying to build the institutions -- political, economic, security -- that form the foundation for a more free, prosperous country as well as region. So it's just one more example of the fact that they're out of step with what else is going on in the region.

QUESTION: One more on this, okay?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Do you know anything about whether these missiles or any of the technology related to the missiles were supplied by North Korea?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't have any information I could share with you on that.

QUESTION: One last follow-up on (inaudible) in principle Syria is a sovereign country, should it not test missiles of any kind as long as it's not illegal?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, again, we have long talked about our concerns of Syria's efforts to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction as well as the means of delivering them. That's -- you know, that's not a new message. I just think that this type of step is, when you look at the rest of what's going on in the region and the efforts that people are taking to try to develop a more peaceful, a more stable, more harmonious region, it's just a discordant note and that's the reason why I wanted to point that out to you.

Tammy.

QUESTION: New topic?

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm. Anybody else on Syria?

QUESTION: Can you take a question on whether there's been any contacts today between -- seems a lot going on in the U.S.-Syria front. Like, if anybody spoke to anybody?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure, sure.

QUESTION: And Sean, when you said you had indications that the test went ahead, do you have indications that the missile actually went into Turkish territory?

MR. MCCORMACK: That -- I don't have anything for you on that.

Tammy.

QUESTION: On Saudi Arabia, last September, the U.S. designated Saudi Arabia a Country of Particular Concern about religious freedom. Has there been any decision taken so far to impose sanctions on Saudi Arabia? And I think I'm going to follow up.

MR. MCCORMACK: Oh, I'll raise your follow-up with, "I'll have to get back to you on that." (Laughter.)

I'll have to check on that. I don't have any information on that.

QUESTION: Well, my follow-up may not -- well, if I could.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay, sure.

QUESTION: Given that at least we haven't heard of any action taken, how realistic should the threat of sanctions be seen by a country such as Saudi Arabia, given that nothing appears to have happened since last September? I'm sorry, sanctions regarding trafficking in persons

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, again, that is in the law. That's part of the law as a possibility. But the law -- the spirit of the law -- also is to emphasize a consultative process. That's why you have this 90-day period. And I expect that -- we already have had contact with the Saudis on this when we delivered a copy of the report to them and discussed the chapter dealing with them. And I expect that we would have follow-up conversations on the subject as well.

So, again, the emphasis is on a dialogue and trying to solve the problem, as well as on measure -- we're not trying to single anybody out. These are objective criteria applied evenly across states, so -- and we use the criteria that are in the law.

QUESTION: May I just follow on that quickly?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Did the President and the Secretary raise this in Crawford at the most recent meetings?

MR. MCCORMACK: That was before my time, but I'll check for you.

QUESTION: You'll check that?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah, sure.

QUESTION: A follow-up?

MR. MCCORMACK: George.

QUESTION: Could you take a question on the status of the religious freedom decision, the deadline for which was in March?

MR. MCCORMACK: I will.

Charlie.

QUESTION: Sean, I believe yesterday there was a report out of Israel that the Israelis plan to build more housing at Maale Adumim. Do you know about that? Have you talked to the Israelis about it? And if it's true, how does it comport with the President's recent discussions with Prime Minister Sharon?

MR. MCCORMACK: I did see some reporting in the news concerning some plans to take down Palestinian houses. Is that what you're referring to?

QUESTION: I think this was more building, just more houses at Maale Adumim. This was --

MR. MCCORMACK: That I haven't seen. I haven't seen those reports, so -- the President was very clear last week when he met with Prime Minister Abbas. He was asked about these types of questions and I'd just refer you back to his remarks.

QUESTION: The North Koreans said this morning that they were pleased to see that President Bush had used the honorific Mister, referring to Kim Jong Il.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right.

QUESTION: And they didn't call him a bloodthirsty beast.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right.

QUESTION: I wonder, is the administration trying to lower the temperature here a year after their departure from the six-party talks? And how, if at all, do you plan to mark the anniversary of that one-year departure?

MR. MCCORMACK: I wouldn't necessarily read anything into the President's remarks besides, you know, exactly what he said. I think he said exactly what he wanted to.

In terms of the anniversary, I'm not aware of any particular plans other than to, once again, urge the North Koreans to do -- once again, to do what we've said: return back to the six-party talks to engage with the other five parties in a constructive manner to work towards the goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

QUESTION: Have you heard anything back via the New York channel or have you had any contacts at all via the New York channel since the last ones?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, no. Any other on that?

QUESTION: North Korea.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: You didn't read anything into the bloodthirsty beast comments?

MR. MCCORMACK: We've seen these kind of statements out of the North Koreans before.

QUESTION: Continuing on that subject, apparently Secretary Rumsfeld said on his flight to Singapore that the U.S. is reviewing policy toward North Korea. Can you expound on this at all?

MR. MCCORMACK: Let me take a look at his remarks first. I haven't seen -- I haven't had a chance to look at his remarks.

QUESTION: Okay. And even if you dismiss the North Korean -- I mean, the kind of rhetorical nastiness that we've heard before, every time this happens does it concern you that we really aren't getting anywhere in terms of having a dialogue at least publicly?

MR. MCCORMACK: You know, this is rather -- we're looking for actions, so I wouldn't necessarily read anything into it.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Within the last number of weeks, there have been massive protests here in Washington as well as protests of the Sudanese Embassy, and Deputy Secretary Zoellick has just been to Sudan. What progress has he made with the Khartoum central government? And also do you have any plans to work with the logistics groups putting together this Live Aid concert -- Live Eight Concert -- for debt and relief from poverty in Africa?

MR. MCCORMACK: On the second part of your question, I don't have anything.

QUESTION: It's days prior to the G-8 Summit.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. I'm not aware of any plans in that regard. Deputy Secretary Zoellick is actually right now in Khartoum. I think he's scheduled to have some meetings there shortly, if not already. He flew into Sudan today. He visited a refugee camp in Darfur. He also met with tribal officials. He met with AU officials there as well. And I think I would just say that he's working the issue. He is working on the security aspects of Darfur, working and talking to the AU mission on the ground.

And one of the reports that he got back from the head of the AU mission in the area that he was visiting with responsibilities for security was that in areas where the AU was deployed, they actually had seen a reduction in violence. And he also had an opportunity to meet with Jan Prank while he was on the ground in Darfur. And both of them had a good discussion and one of the things that came out of it was, I think, both of them were pleased with the increased flow of food to that part of the -- to Darfur.

So it's a complex, difficult issue. I think the fact that this is Deputy Secretary Zoellick's second trip there, Secretary Powell has visited there, the President has spoken out about it, the Secretary has spoken out about it, is an indication of our commitment to try to resolve the tough issues that you see there in Darfur -- in Sudan and Darfur.

Yes. Same topic? Okay.

QUESTION: Yes. Is there any likely change to the -- in the way Deputy Zoellick will conduct those talks in light of what the President terming what's happening in Sudan -- in Darfur as a genocide?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, I don't think there will be any change. No.

QUESTION: Can I follow up on the G-8?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Tony Blair is coming to Washington to try to raise support for his initiative, which includes writing off debt relief and doubling aid, but the U.S. really made clear it won't sign up to some of these proposals. I was wondering if you think there is a danger here that the U.S. will be seen as party-poopers at the G-8. Also, will you be offering, sort of, real alternatives to what the Brits are putting forward?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, Prime Minister Blair is going to be coming here and he's going to be meeting with the President. That's the reason for his coming here so I'm going to defer any questions about that visit to my colleagues at the White House.

As for the G-8 summit, the Secretary will be -- is deeply engaged in this issue, as is the President, working on issues related to development around the world. You know, the President, since he has come in, I think, has made an unprecedented commitment not only to taking steps and devoting resources to alleviating poverty but also to fighting the scourge of AIDS and other disease. So and, you know, this is also a President that has, I think, met, I daresay met with more African leaders than any other President in recent memory. So we are deeply committed to the cause of poverty alleviation as well as helping populations around the world, and in particular in Africa, try to realize a better life.

Why don't we move over here.

QUESTION: Can we go back to North Korea for a minute?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: First off, congratulations on your appointment.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much. I like the way these questions all begin with that.

QUESTION: Are you aware of any reports that China has told North Korea that it will cut off food aid to North Korea if they test a nuclear bomb?

MR. MCCORMACK: No.

QUESTION: Just to follow up on that, has the U.S. Government yet made any decision on whether it will provide additional food aid to North Korea in response to the 2005 appeal?

MR. MCCORMACK: I believe the decision on that is still pending and we have made donations in the past two years and going back as well of 50,000 metric tons and 100,000 metric tons. But as for the current decision, that's still pending.

Mr. John Karl.

QUESTION: Yeah, Sean, I'm sure you saw Foreign Minister Zebari's comments in The Washington Post and elsewhere basically saying he thinks the U.S. needs to be more involved in the political process in Iraq. I'm wondering your reaction to that. And also, where are we on a U.S. Ambassador to Iraq? I mean, it's been -- quite some time since Negropon-te left. Is there a concern to such an important post go unfilled for so long?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, Ambassador Khalilzad has been nominated by the President to fill Ambassador Negropon-te's spot in Baghdad. He looks forward to a Senate hearing, which is going to happen next week on June 7th. And we would hope and urge a speedy confirmation process for him so he can get out to Embassy Baghdad and work with the great men and women of the State Department and other U.S. Government agencies that are working closely with the Iraqi Government on building political institutions, economic institutions, legal institutions and working on the security issue as well.

I think that, you know, if you look back at the series of meetings that we have, including the one yesterday between Dr. Rice and Minister Zebari, it's evident that our commitment to assisting the Iraqi people and building those institutions, as well as helping on the political process wherever we can, is really unquestionable. We have literally -- there are hundreds of contacts every single day between U.S. officials and Iraqi officials on a whole variety of issues.

But -- and it's clear this is an Iraqi process. This is part of their process of moving beyond the dark era of Saddam Hussein and writing a constitution that embodies the values that we see in the TAL and that reflect their culture, tradition and society.

So we are prepared and do stand ready to assist the Iraqis as they move through this constitution writing process. But at its core, certainly, this is an Iraqi process. If there are any adjustments in the level of effort or level of interaction that we need to make with the Iraqis, certainly we'll talk to them about it.

Any other on that topic?

QUESTION: Just one quick one, speaking about embassies. I might have missed this but has there been an announcement on an Ambassador to Kabul to replace Mr. Khalilzad?

MR. MCCORMACK: That I have to check on. I'm not -- let me check on that for you.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can you preview the administration's objectives at the OAS this weekend and early next week and specifically, whether or not Secretary or the President propose to and are looking maybe to create a committee to monitor the progress towards democracy in some of these countries?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Secretary is going to be traveling down to the OAS summit in Ft. Lauderdale. She's going to be leaving Sunday and many of you are going to coming with us. She looks forward to her meetings at the summit. As you know, the President will be speaking there as well.

I think we look at this summit as really a part of a transformational moment for the Organization of American States.

We have a new dynamic Secretary General, a former cabinet minister, Minister Insulza, who has a vision for promoting democracy and reinforcing democracy in the region. I think that we support and we looking forward to not only meeting with him but meeting with all the member-states for a discussion on the importance of reinforcing democracies and the freedoms that the people of the hemisphere enjoy.

The theme, if you will, of the summit is delivering the benefits of democracy. So what does that mean? That means working for a more prosperous, safer and more free hemisphere. So we're going to talk about a variety of different mechanisms that the OAS as well as the member-states can look at to, perhaps, come to the assistance of those, as Secretary Rice has referred to, as those fragile democracies, those democracies where there are tensions, that are having difficulties. I think there have been a couple in the news.

So we're going to talk about that. I think we're open to talking about mechanisms, but I don't think I'm going to prejudge those conversations, other than to say that Secretary Rice looks forward to her meetings with her counterparts as well as Secretary General Insulza.

QUESTION: What kind of an OAS role does the U.S. support in Bolivia at the moment, which, as you said, is, well, is one of the countries in the news?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, you know, again, I think that Bolivia is going to be, I'm sure, a topic of discussion down in Ft. Lauderdale. There have been -- to my knowledge, there haven't been any requests from the Bolivian Government for assistance. I think that, as I said, it would be a topic for discussion and that we ourselves are open to any variety of mechanisms in terms of general assistance to those fragile democracies in the region. But with respect to Bolivia, I don't have anything to share with you.

QUESTION: Rather than requesting assistance, what they've done is the Foreign Ministry issued a statement rejecting OAS mediation, which they have interpreted as what Richard was saying the other day. And because they don't want mediation by the OAS, is that something that the U.S. would also rule out?

MR. MCCORMACK: Again, I don't -- you know, I don't want to rule anything in or rule anything out at this point. What I'd prefer to do is -- what I prefer to do is actually let the discussions down there in Florida take place.

QUESTION: You won't rule it out. That seems to imply that it doesn't matter what the Bolivians think they need, they're saying we don't want mediation, they're saying, well, let the rest of us talk about it.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, they themselves are going to be part of the conversation as well down in Florida. So what I'd prefer to do, if I could, is just let those conversations take place first.

QUESTION: Just to follow on the issue of these mechanisms, is the U.S. going to make any proposals for specific mechanisms?

MR. MCCORMACK: We are going to be talking about the Inter-American Democratic Charter and many different parties have talked about the Inter-American Democratic Charter, ways that that could be strengthened to look at that as one possible mechanism which we can talk about these issues. At this point, I don't have anything -- any particular proposals to share with you. I think that, again, we're going to be looking forward to a good discussion with the fellow OAS members down there in Ft. Lauderdale.

Elise.

QUESTION: Can you say anything about an American woman, an 18-year-old teen missing in Aruba? She's from Alabama. Her family believes that she's kidnapped. Have there been any discussions with authorities in Aruba or the Dutch Government?

MR. MCCORMACK: What I can share with you is that the Department learned on Tuesday, June 1st, that an American citizen was missing in Aruba. The citizen's name is Natalee Holloway and she was last seen on Monday night, I think, on May 31st. Natalee's family have arrived in Aruba and a consular officer from Curacao is in Aruba at this time and is in contact with the family. And we are making sure that we provide all possible assistance to the family and local authorities and would also note that the FBI is also on hand and cooperating with local authorities in the search effort. And beyond that, I can't really offer anything else, due to Privacy Act considerations.

Why don't we go in the back. Yes.

QUESTION: Mr. McCormack.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes.

QUESTION: Congratulation and every success.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Since you are new from the White House here to the State Department, how do you assess the Greek-U.S. relations and the prospects for a solution to the Cyprus problem?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, the U.S. --

QUESTION: Welcome to the State Department.

MR. MCCORMACK: What's that?

QUESTION: Welcome to the State Department.

(Laughter.)

MR. MCCORMACK: I notice a little difference here.

In terms of U.S.-Greek relations, you know, the state of our relations is excellent. As for the issue of Cyprus, I think that this question comes up frequently in this room and I don't, at this point, don't have anything to add beyond what my esteemed predecessor has talked about on the topic recently.

Thank you very much.

(The briefing was concluded at 2:50 p.m.)

(end transcript)

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114 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday

U.S. FINDS FEW EFFORTS TO HALT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARAB GULF

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 742 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Nearly all the Arab Gulf countries experienced a deterioration in efforts to combat human trafficking, according to the State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report. Four countries -- Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- fell to Tier 3 rankings, indicating that their governments are not making significant efforts to address the trafficking problem.

The report groups countries into three **tiers** according to their efforts to confront the problem of **human trafficking**. Tier 1 countries are in compliance with the minimum standards outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Tier 2 countries are not in compliance with the minimum standards but are working to address the problem. Tier 3 countries are not making significant efforts to combat trafficking.

The Gulf countries are destination countries for people trafficked from South and Southeast Asia and from East Africa. Women are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Men are trafficked to work in forced labor. Children are trafficked to the Gulf to work as beggars and camel jockeys.

The report noted that the Kuwaiti government outlawed the use of children as camel jockeys and made public statements condemning human trafficking during 2004, but it said Kuwait made no apparent effort to prosecute traffickers. The report said that Kuwait has made no effort to protect victims of trafficking. Domestic servants are not protected under Kuwait's labor law, and victims of trafficking are often detained, jailed and either deported for immigration violations or returned to abusive employers.

Qatar adopted a National Action Plan on human trafficking in 2003 calling for public awareness campaigns, establishment of a complaints hotline, an end to the use of child camel jockeys, and training for judges on trafficking issues, but, according to the report, most of the plan's provisions remain unimplemented.

The report says that Saudi Arabia has not protected victims of trafficking or prosecuted those responsible for the human trade. Despite reports of trafficking and abuses of domestic and other unskilled workers and children, there is evidence of only one Saudi Government prosecution of a Saudi employer for a trafficking-related offense during the reporting period, the report said.

The report says Saudi Arabia lacks laws criminalizing human trafficking and does not provide protection for domestic workers under its labor laws. It also says that cases of abuse involving foreign workers are seldom subject to criminal prosecution.

The trafficking of young boys to serve as jockeys for camel races remains a widespread problem in the United Arab Emirates, with victims numbering in the thousands, the report said. The Emirates is also a major destination for women trafficked into the sex trade. The report says that the United Arab Emirates government has made no significant effort to confront the problem. It says that decrees and laws regarding human trafficking have largely remained unenforced.

The report noted that the United Arab Emirates government has recently stated its intention to address the trafficking problem through new legislation on camel jockeys and closer monitoring of visas and passports of foreign nationals entering the country.

The report places Bahrain in the group of **Tier 2** countries, saying that it is making efforts to confront its problems with **human trafficking**. Nevertheless, it places Bahrain on a watch list on the grounds that it has failed to follow through on its national anti-trafficking action plan with concrete measures aimed at protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers.

The State Department issues its annual Trafficking in Persons Report pursuant to a congressional mandate. Presenting the 2005 report on June 3, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society. The responsibility does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education. Destination or demand countries, like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility, she added.

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States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday**STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES 2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 5227 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

The U.S. Department of State released June 3 its fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), which estimates that as many as 800,000 victims may be transported across international borders each year and forced to work against their will. The report surveys the counter-trafficking activities in 150 nations, 10 more than in 2004.

Ambassador John Miller, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said at a June 3 Washington press briefing that sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery and, to combat it, the United States is urging a greater focus on demand and on educating and dissuading the "customers."

Miller also cited labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign workers, as receiving greater attention in the 2005 report.

The U.S. law mandates the annual international survey, which ranks countries in three tiers: Tier 1 indicates that a nation is in compliance with international standards; Tier 3 denotes countries that are not. A Tier 2 designation is given to countries that are not meeting the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so. Placement in Tier 3 could make a nation subject to U.S. sanctions.

Miller said that four countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- have been placed in Tier 3, primarily for their failure to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking.

The TIP report uses **tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking** -- especially in terms of prosecution and protection, rather than just the extent, of the slavery problem, according to Miller.

"I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year," Miller said.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

Following is the transcript of Miller's press briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesman For Immediate Release June 3, 2005

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John R. Miller On the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State "Trafficking in Persons Report"

June 3, 2005 Washington, D.C.

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Thank you, Madame Secretary. As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking or trafficking in persons is synonymous with slavery. Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories, but this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana, an all too typical victim of human trafficking.

Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus, looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport. They locked her up. They forced her into prostitution. And then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen, just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. Ac-

According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers, who killed her.

Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there are counterattacks going on.

Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report. I think you've all got copies of it. And they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about. Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence and it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries. U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year.

This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month -- one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights. It amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange. We believe that modern day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source destination or transit country, for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report.

If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated. Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activists, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the mix, extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watch list, or Tier 3.

We didn't design the system. Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organization and faith-based communities. I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports, Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves.

For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking. In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims.

When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers. But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly in voluntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys who live in slave-like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments.

Burma and North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons** -- another important criteria for **Tier 3** and the law.

The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted. This is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery.

The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up for the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually. The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace

period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We are prepared to work with them to help achieve this.

At the same time, nowhere on earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited with no recourse to help or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women.

I'd like to address one misperception that is developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires **Tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem. Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in person efforts underway justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in person problem.

Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery.

Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or ten years ago.

We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims.

Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable UN peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of UN deployment. The report on pages 33 and 38 identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could have been much longer, believe me.

The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few. The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. The Malawian nongovernmental organization People Serving Girls at Risk works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach. And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness.

The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for exploitation, as camel jockeys. To Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFESIP who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed an excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti-trafficking programs last year. In January, President George W. Bush said, "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery, on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the Secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing powerful response -- a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part.

Thank you and let's turn to questions. Oh, my gosh. Okay, yes. Go ahead. Yeah.

QUESTION: Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether you believe that it was the prior sanctions to get some action? In particular in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards, not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this practice.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude -- child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape, very difficult to get shelter, no convictions. But you're -- the first part of your question was: Is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is I hope not because the purpose of the law is not to sanction, it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail.

QUESTION: They've moved backwards in the last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Wait a minute -- that's...

QUESTION: Will it require sanctions?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: If they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking and we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned. Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions, but there is that possibility.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can I follow-up on that?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: This law has been in effect for five years?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past, we've had several relationships with, have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report.

For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3. But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters, there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress.

Yes. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Under which capacity, the United States is preparing in those type of reports, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat the question again?

QUESTION: Yes. Under which capacity, the United States of America is preparing, those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, this is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer -- that is that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce. On the floor of the English Parliament, back in the 1790s when he discovered, realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade, and the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was: Will the right honorable gentleman tell me what rights we have to impose British moral values on the world? Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values, to show that people nowhere wanted slavery.

Today, we have -- the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world, that I'm aware of, officially endorses slavery and there are numerous international covenants, UN covenants, that nations of the world have subscribed to that are -- banned slavery.

So I would say in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery, that citizens around the world and ostensibly, governments around the world, all agree is a scourge that should be ended. Let's take somebody in the back.

Yeah, go ahead.

QUESTION: Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Well, as Ambassador-at-large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt, but I want to comment on the premise of your question. You identified poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade and I would agree it is a major cause. There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years -- I won't cite them all -- that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role.

There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they -- we talked about the arms trade, the drug trade, and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime.

So all of these causes we hope will be addressed, but in the meantime -- in the meantime -- we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims, and get prevention and education campaigns.

Yes.

QUESTION: To what extent are the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa programs they -- to what extent are those efforts successful and why are not --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: How many victims have been identified to date?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And what are the problems in identifying victims?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear -- should I be repeating the questions or --

QUESTION: No, that's fine. We don't mind.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: You can hear, okay. Your question about identifying victims in the United States, you put your finger on a problem that is -- confronts the United States and almost every country in the world. The gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help -- just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on trafficking in persons consisting of cabinet officers chaired by Secretary of State Rice discussed this issue and the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up, as an area where we need to do more, exactly that.

What has been done? And the gap is such -- to give you an idea of the gap, I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. They cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that, yet we know the figure -- we suspect -- we don't scientifically know, since victims don't stand in line to be -- raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14 and a half thousand. So there's a gap.

Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in ten -- I believe it's soon to be 20 cities -- trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward. We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach, and Health and Human Services has done some work on this, but this approach would involve mobilizing or involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel in this effort to try to help victims come forward.

So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges.

Yes, back?

QUESTION: Can I follow up on this question, sir?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. Well, just --

QUESTION: It's on this particular area.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay.

QUESTION: Can you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the Secretary said? You just said that nowhere on earth --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is it acceptable, so --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Right.

QUESTION: -- what is the U.S. doing? And it's your -- you just mentioned that you were the Ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that the --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, it's -- I guess it's sort of new. It's -- Congress and the President raised the position to ambassadorial status -- well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago and in the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, I -- at the direction of the President, I chair a -- under that Presidential task force I referred to, I chair a senior policy operating group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies.

Now, let's get to the first part of your question: demand and what's being done in the United States. I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States.

I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayers' support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution, who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners, and the so-called customers. And then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name, John School, that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago and this school now has been going for some time, appears to have very good results, two percent recidivism rate.

This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further and we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. For example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue.

Yes, in the back. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the Brazil Government is making progress, but is not fully complying? Could you say what needs to be done?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Brazil, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil: Brazil has started setting up, in different provinces, anti-trafficking in persons efforts.

I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been tremendous government interest, the President of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue, but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year, coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims -- so, I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area.

I hope I'm calling -- yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: You mentioned Canada as a transit country.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yes.

QUESTION: With some of these sex trade workers.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And although Canada is in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country and Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada and I think it's referred to in the report. I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada -- for example, Korea, they don't need a visa and then they just come across the U.S. border and we -- there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved.

We're going to have to -- we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example.

I'm sorry, there's so -- yes? There's so many people. Go ahead.

MR. CASEY: Mr. Ambassador I'm afraid we're going to have to make this limited to a couple more people. So why don't you take that one and then I know Teri wanted to get in --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Oh, Teri -- no, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Ha (ph), Radio Free Asia.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: I didn't hear -- you didn't mention anything about Vietnam.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: However, the problem is there. You know, like there -- now, Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 watch list.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Watch list, yes.

QUESTION: On the Tier 2 --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: It's not on the watch list anymore.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: My question is, what is the method that you used to -- in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 watch list?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: To -- well, we thought they --

QUESTION: Did you find -- yeah, did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah. We have had -- Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before on exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam.

Teri, Teri? No, I've got to -- no, Teri -- I ignored her last year.

QUESTION: He ignored me last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I didn't call on her. I got to -- okay.

QUESTION: Okay, thank you. Ambassador Miller, a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned when you talked about sanctions and I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies: Kuwait, UAE,

Saudi Arabia. And could you -- you've been to these countries and you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think. Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies of the U.S. in counterterrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who's been sanctioned.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm glad you've -- the toughest question comes last. Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned, if you look at the countries in -- nobody has been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report, and we can -- I can't recall them from memory, but you can -- our staff can get them to you, but your -- the tough part of your question was -- well, here are close friends of the United States; how can this happen? Two years ago, I was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3?

I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness, that as public awareness increases in these countries, you see more action. For example, just for example, in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital -- domestic servitude case has gotten publicity. A human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there and I don't know how it's all going to come out, but they're -- apparently in the last month, there was an arrest made.

As public awareness increases -- and sometimes when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard -- but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today and this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue the last couple of years.

Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you, when you write on this -- when you write on this, I know you're journalists and all that -- but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials.

Good things happen when -- so -- but the last comment, I am -- so, I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs.

I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If --

QUESTION: You're going to come up, sir. We have about 10 minutes to (inaudible) --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more minutes, okay. And -- but we've also got people on our staff: Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner that even if I have to move out after five or ten minutes can answer questions.

So thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

(end transcript)

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116 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday**SOUTH ASIA ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS IMPROVE, REPORT SAYS****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 971 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department: Three South Asian countries, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, received praise in the State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report for their significant efforts to confront the problem of human trafficking over the past year.

Nepal and Bangladesh are both sources of women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labor. Pakistan is both a source and destination country for victims of trafficking. Women and girls from South and Central Asia are trafficked to Pakistan for sexual and domestic servitude while Pakistanis are trafficked to the Middle East for bonded labor. Both Bangladeshi and Pakistani boys are trafficked to the Arab Gulf countries to serve as camel jockeys for organized camel racing.

The report also observed that internal trafficking takes place within each country, typically bringing rural women and children to cities in order to work as prostitutes, domestic servants and forced laborers.

The report groups countries into three "tiers," according to their efforts to combat the scourge. Tier 1 groups countries that are in compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Tier 2 includes countries that are not in compliance but are making efforts to comply. Tier 3 groups countries that are not making significant efforts to combat the problem.

The 2005 report moved Nepal from a Tier 2 country to a Tier 1 country, indicating that the Nepalese government is now in compliance with the minimum standards.

Despite political and security challenges, the government has sustained its efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Nepal has a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking, a draft Human Trafficking Control Bill to strengthen its 1986 anti-trafficking law, and a National Rapporteur on trafficking, the report said.

The report noted that the Nepalese government faces significant challenges in addressing the problem of human trafficking given the country's ongoing Maoist insurgency. It also noted that the Maoist insurgents are responsible for internal trafficking of children, whom they forcibly conscript into military service.

Nevertheless, the report calls the Nepalese government's law enforcement efforts commendable and says the government works well with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide protection and assistance for the victims.

According to the report, the government has established anti-trafficking vigilance committees in high-priority districts, conducts mandatory safe migration orientation sessions for workers traveling abroad, and carries out national public awareness campaigns.

Bangladesh improved its performance in combating trafficking, moving from a Tier 3 country to a Tier 2 country in the 2005 report, indicating that it has begun making efforts to comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA.

Over the last year, Bangladesh showed commendable progress in all areas of anti-trafficking efforts, the report stated. Bangladesh established an inter-ministerial anti-trafficking committee to oversee its national efforts to combat trafficking, created a national anti-trafficking police monitoring unit with presence in all 64 districts, prosecuted an increased number of trafficking and trafficking-related corruption cases, rescued over 161 boys from servitude in the fishing industry, devised and launched a multi-faceted anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, and increased its cooperation with NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking.

The report stated that Bangladesh continues to have difficulty confronting the trafficking problem due to generalized corruption of public officials who in many cases are complicit in the human trade.

Pakistan moved from the **watch list** to the "general list" within the **tier**-two category, indicating that its efforts to combat trafficking and meet the minimum standards of TVPA have become noticeably more effective over the past year.

Most notably, [Pakistan] has increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions, strengthened implementation of its 2002 Prevention and Control of **Human Trafficking** Ordinance, established an Anti-Trafficking Unit within the Federal Investigation Agency, and co-sponsored several public awareness campaigns, the report said.

The report noted that Pakistan obtained 72 convictions on trafficking crimes in 2004 compared to six in 2003. It also said that the Pakistani government has committed itself to providing resources for protection, shelter and repatriation of trafficking victims.

Afghanistan and Sri Lanka remained in the **Tier 2** category, indicating that they are working to confront their **human-trafficking** problems. India remained on the Tier 2 watch list due to its inability to show evidence of increased efforts to address the problem, and specifically its failure to empower a national law enforcement entity with an anti-trafficking mandate.

The State Department prepares the annual Trafficking in Persons Report in response to a congressional mandate. In presenting the 2005 report on June 3, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty, upon which this nation was founded.

We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it, she added.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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117 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

June 3, 2005 Friday

BURMA, CAMBODIA, NORTH KOREA CITED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABUSES

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 12012 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

The world's most comprehensive report on trafficking in persons has cited Burma, Cambodia and North Korea as countries in East Asia whose governments have neglected to implement minimal standards against this form of criminal activity --often called modern-day slavery. The findings were contained in the fifth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released by the State Department June 3.

The report's methodology includes a three-tier system for rating countries' effectiveness in combating trafficking: 'cents **Tier 1** includes those countries that have met international standards for coping with trafficking and are vigorously addressing the problem.

'cents Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards; the Tier 2 "Watch List" consists of countries that might be vulnerable to an erosion of their efforts.

'cents Tier 3, the least favorable rating, lists countries whose governments fail to meet minimal international standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Burma, Cambodia and North Korea were listed as Tier 3 countries because their governments not only failed to implement international standards but also engaged in acts such as state-sanctioned use of forced labor and failed to make progress in prosecuting rampant trafficking.

China is one of the countries in East Asia placed on the watch list. China was cited for failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, specifically its inadequate protection for trafficking victims, particularly foreign women (especially those from Vietnam) and mainland Chinese women routed for sex work in Taiwan.

The Philippines also was added to the Tier 2 Watch List due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers.

Consistent with its objective of inspiring action against human trafficking, the report also praised countries that have adopted "best practices" in their efforts to prevent trafficking, provide for victims or prosecute traffickers themselves. South Korea, for example, passed two significant anti-prostitution and anti-trafficking laws in 2004 aimed at combating the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Indonesia worked with nongovernmental organizations to build Islamic boarding schools to educate young girls from impoverished families. The Philippines established four shelters for trafficking victims at major port cities.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

Following are excerpts for East Asia from the 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report:

(begin text)

U.S. Department of State 2005 Report Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: **Trafficking in Persons** Report

BURMA (**TIER 3**)

Burma is a source country for women and men trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Burmese men, women, and children (primarily from the country's ethnic minority populations) are trafficked to Thailand, China, Bangladesh, Taiwan, India, Malaysia, Korea, Macau, and Japan for forced labor - including commercial labor - involuntary domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. To a lesser extent, Burma is a destination for women from the

People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) who are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation occurs from villages to urban centers and other areas, such as truck stops, fishing villages, border towns, and mining and military camps. The junta's policy of using forced labor is a driving factor behind Burma's large trafficking problem.

The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. While Burma has made improved efforts to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, significant state-sanctioned use (especially by the military) of forced labor continued. The Burmese armed forces continued to force ethnic minorities to serve as porters during military operations in ethnic areas. There also are continuing reports that some children were forced to join the Burmese Army. Although eight local officials were convicted in January 2005 on charges of forced labor, the Burmese Government supported or tolerated the use of forced labor for large infrastructure projects. The government sentenced three individuals to death for communicating with the ILO on the subject of forced labor. Because of the Burmese Government's failure to end forced labor, the ILO postponed implementation of a plan of action to address such practices. During the reporting period, the government took some steps to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, including drafting anti-trafficking legislation and improving cooperation with UN agencies, neighboring countries, and NGOs.

Prosecution

Over the past year, the Burmese Government made progress in addressing trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, including establishing a police task force to combat trafficking, enhancing cooperation with Burma's neighbors, and beginning to draft anti-trafficking legislation. The Burmese Government made only minimal progress in prosecuting cases involving trafficking for forced labor. Since July 2002, the government claims it prosecuted 474 cases related to trafficking for sexual exploitation and smuggling; an indeterminate number of these cases actually involved severe forms of trafficking in persons. Authorities also convicted eight local officials for using forced labor in a road construction project, sentencing the offenders to six to eight months' imprisonment. The government created a police anti-trafficking unit in 2004 and stationed the unit's teams in border towns to monitor and interdict trafficking. The Burmese Government is developing an anti-trafficking law, but currently uses kidnapping and prostitution statutes to arrest and prosecute traffickers. Corruption continued to be a major problem. Although local and regional officials were suspected of complicity in trafficking, the Burmese Government reported no prosecutions of corrupt government officials related to trafficking. The Burmese military continued to carry out trafficking abuses including forced portering and other forced labor.

Protection

During the reporting period, the Burmese Government provided minimal assistance to victims. Burma's protection included a repatriation center on the Thailand-Burma border, but its overall efforts were hampered by a lack of adequate funding. The government continued to refer victims to NGOs and international organizations that provide protection for victims of trafficking. The Burmese Government also coordinated the repatriation of a limited number of victims from Thailand with international NGOs and provided limited counseling and job training for returning victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. The government did not provide assistance to victims trafficked internally for forced labor, nor did it fund international or domestic NGOs that provide protective services to victims. The Ministry of Home Affairs' Anti-Trafficking Unit received training on various aspects of investigating and handling trafficking cases.

Prevention

The Burmese Government's efforts to prevent trafficking remained inadequate. Governmental measures to prevent trafficking for sexual exploitation include publicizing the dangers in border areas through government-sponsored discussion groups, distribution of printed materials, and media programming. However, these efforts remained under-funded. The government also conducted awareness workshops at the local level on the dangers of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

CAMBODIA (TIER 3)

Cambodia is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. A significant number of Cambodian women and children are trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia for labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Cambodian men are primarily trafficked to Thailand for labor exploitation in the construction and agricultural sectors, particularly the fishing industry. Cambodian children are trafficked to Vietnam and Thailand to work as street beggars. Cambodia is a transit and destination point for women from Vietnam who are trafficked for prostitution.

The Government of Cambodia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. Cambodia is placed on Tier 3 for its lack of progress in combating severe forms of trafficking, particularly its failure to convict traffickers and public officials involved in trafficking. During the last year, the Cambodian Government failed to take effective action to ensure that those responsible for the raid on an

NGO shelter for trafficking victims were held accountable and brought to justice. The Cambodian Government's failure to act calls into question Cambodia's commitment to combating human trafficking. Cambodia's anti-trafficking efforts remained hampered by systemic corruption and an ineffectual judicial system. The government must take aggressive measures to prosecute and convict traffickers and public officials found to be involved in trafficking, and confront the corruption in its judicial system that hampers prosecutions of traffickers.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, the Cambodian Government made no significant progress in its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. Prosecutions of suspected traffickers dropped significantly, despite a small increase in the number of arrests. The Cambodian Government's response to an attack on an NGO shelter for trafficking victims and removal of suspected trafficking victims was unsatisfactory. Moreover, the government did not adequately investigate or hold accountable those who were responsible for the attack. Cambodia does not have a comprehensive anti-trafficking law but it used existing statutes to prosecute traffickers. Penalties for trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation carry sentences of up to 20 years' imprisonment. The National Assembly has not yet acted on a draft anti-trafficking bill that would provide law enforcement and judicial officials with more powers to arrest and prosecute traffickers. In 2004, the Cambodian police reported 165 arrests but only 24 successful prosecutions. Despite the number of arrests, there were few actual convictions of traffickers. There was no available information on the length of sentences for trafficking-related cases. Systemic corruption and a weak judiciary remain the most serious impediments to the effective prosecution of traffickers. Senior Cambodian Government officials and their family members are reportedly involved in or profit from trafficking activities but there were no trafficking-related prosecutions of corrupt officials.

Protection

The Cambodian Government continued to refer victims to NGOs and international organizations with victim protection programs. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation operated two temporary shelters for victims, but the government relied primarily on foreign and domestic NGOs to provide shelter to victims. The Cambodian Government also supported an NGO that places trafficking victims in long-term shelters. Victims in Cambodia are not treated as criminals and have the right to seek legal action against traffickers, but seldom do.

Prevention

The government continued its efforts to raise awareness of trafficking by cooperating with numerous NGOs and international organizations. The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) continued to carry out information campaigns, including grassroots meetings in key provinces. The MWA worked with IOM to expand a nationwide anti-trafficking information and advocacy campaign that included district-level meetings with government officials and the distribution of educational materials and videos. During the reporting period, the Anti-Trafficking Police Unit conducted an outreach program to warn high school students of the dangers of trafficking. The Ministry of Tourism produced pamphlets and advertisements warning tourists of the penalties for engaging in sex with minors, and conducted workshops for hospitality staff on how to identify and intervene in cases of trafficking or sexual exploitation of children.

NORTH KOREA (TIER 3)

The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea is a source country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Thousands of North Korean men, women, and children are forced to work and often perish under conditions of slavery inside the country. Thousands of North Koreans, pushed by deteriorating conditions in the country, become economic migrants who are subjected to conditions of debt bondage, commercial sexual exploitation, and/or forced labor upon arrival in a destination country, most often the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.). The illegal status of North Koreans in other nations increases their vulnerability to trafficking schemes and sexual and physical abuse. North Korean women are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriages with Chinese men while North Korean men are trafficked for forced labor. North Koreans forcibly returned from China are sent to labor prison camps operated by the government.

The Government of North Korea does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making efforts to do so. The government does not recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes slave-like labor conditions on prisoners and repatriated North Koreans.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, North Korea publicly executed three men for trafficking North Korean women into China. There were no reports that authorities investigated the trafficking of North Korean women for sale into brothels and marriages with Chinese men. The North Korean Government continued to carry out trafficking abuses, particularly forced labor. There were no reports of prosecutions of corrupt officials related to trafficking.

Protection

The Government of North Korea made no effort to protect trafficking victims during the reporting period; reporting instead indicated that the government punished victims. Press reports indicated that nine women who were trafficked

and returned from China were sentenced to prison terms of two years to 18 years. The government sent all North Koreans who were forcibly returned from China, including trafficking victims, to forced-labor prison camps where torture and public executions are commonplace. There are also reports that North Koreans who were forcibly returned from China are detained in re-education camps.

Prevention

The North Korean Government does not recognize trafficking as a problem, and there were no reports of any government anti-trafficking efforts. Due to the lack of prevention efforts, there have been reports of an increase in the trafficking of North Korean women along the Chinese-North Korean border. The government has not taken steps to warn its citizens about the kidnapping of North Korean women by Chinese or North Korean men along the border who prey on unaccompanied women.

CHINA (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

The Peoples' Republic of China is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. A significant number of Chinese women and children are trafficked internally for forced marriage and forced labor. Chinese women are at times lured abroad with false promises of legitimate employment and then trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to destinations throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America, while Chinese men have been trafficked for forced labor to Europe, South America, and the Middle East. A large number of Chinese men and women are smuggled abroad at enormous personal financial cost and, upon arrival in the destination country, are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation or other forms of exploitative labor to repay their debts. They often face exploitative conditions that meet the definition of involuntary servitude. Women from Burma, North Korea, Russia, Vietnam, and Mongolia are trafficked to China for labor and commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

The Government of the People's Republic of China does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. China's placement on Tier 2 Watch List is due to its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, specifically its inadequate protection for trafficking victims, particularly foreign women and P.R.C. women identified from Taiwan. There are reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to North Korea, as these returnees often face serious abuses. The Chinese Government does not, as a matter of policy, fine identified trafficking victims, but it reportedly and unintentionally does fine some victims - particularly P.R.C. women and girls returning from Taiwan - who are among illegal migrants. China needs to identify these trafficking victims, and provide them with protection, rather than levying fines or other punishment on them. The government should also vigorously investigate allegations of coercive labor practices, including alleged situations of involuntary servitude and forced labor.

Prosecution

The Chinese Government continued its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts in 2004, actively arresting and prosecuting traffickers. China has a law that specifically outlaws the trafficking or kidnapping of women and coercion into prostitution. Penalties for trafficking carry sentences of up to ten years' imprisonment. "Snakeheads" or traffickers who smuggle victims overseas can be fined, have their property confiscated, be imprisoned for terms up to life, or be executed. China's criminal code imposes the death penalty for traffickers who coerce girls under 14 into prostitution. Over the past year, the police reportedly investigated 309 trafficking gangs and arrested 5,043 suspected traffickers, referring 3,144 for prosecution. While the Chinese Government did not provide statistics on the number of convictions, media reports indicated that 36 members of a child trafficking ring were given sentences ranging from two years' imprisonment to the death penalty. There do not appear to be adequate efforts to focus law enforcement resources on the problem of forced or coercive labor that meet the definition of involuntary servitude. Several police officials, including those that reportedly profited from trafficking, were convicted of commercial sexual exploitation and issuing visas to facilitate trafficking.

Protection

During the reporting period, the Chinese Government provided an inadequate level of protection for victims of trafficking. China does not fine repatriated trafficking victims once identified, and generally categorizes them separately from illegal migrants. However, there have been reports that police have levied fines for immigration violations on trafficking victims, particularly women and girls repatriated from Taiwan. The Chinese Government also did not take measures to protect foreign women who were trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriages with Chinese men. Over the past year, the Chinese Government funded programs operated by an NGO to reintegrate trafficked women into their local communities and relieve the stigma attached to trafficking victims. The Chinese Government reportedly allocated funds to provincial and local police departments to use in returning trafficking victims to their hometowns. Some government agencies also provided basic living necessities and return assistance. The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) continued to train police officers on how to handle trafficking-related crimes. The MPS reportedly eliminated

special anti-trafficking police units and subsumed their duties into general law enforcement units but its national office for trafficking crimes remains in place.

Prevention

The Chinese Government expanded its efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in 2004. The government cooperated with the Vietnamese Government and UNICEF on a mass communications effort to educate people and local government leaders on trafficking. Through its law enforcement agencies and its school systems, the government continued its awareness campaigns to warn of the potential dangers of trafficking. Posters, videos and pamphlets are distributed throughout the country.

THE PHILIPPINES (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

The Philippines is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Philippine women are often lured abroad with false promises of legitimate employment and are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to destinations throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America. A significant number of the 71,084 Philippine women who entered Japan as overseas performing artists in 2004 are believed to have been women trafficked into the sex trade. Philippine men and women who go overseas to work in domestic service and the construction and garment industries often face exploitative conditions that meet the definition of involuntary servitude - a severe form of trafficking in persons. To a lesser extent, the Philippines is a transit point and destination for women from the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Within the Philippines, there is internal trafficking from rural to urban metropolitan areas and sexual exploitation of children. Endemic poverty, a high unemployment rate, a cultural propensity towards migration, a weak rule-of-law environment, and sex tourism all contribute to significant trafficking activity in the Philippines.

The Government of the Philippines does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Although the Philippines remains a strong proponent of anti-trafficking measures in the context of international organizations, more progress in its law enforcement efforts is needed.

The Philippines' placement on Tier 2 Watch List is due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers. The government made modestly better efforts to implement its anti-trafficking law, dedicating four state prosecutors to focus on trafficking-related cases and providing training to law enforcement officials on the anti-trafficking law. The Philippine Government should take immediate corrective action by arresting, prosecuting, and convicting traffickers and any public officials found to be involved in trafficking. The government also needs to make greater efforts to address allegations of corruption and fraud regarding the issuance of documents to facilitate the recruitment of Philippine entertainers to Japan, a process that traffickers exploit.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, the Philippine Government made increasing efforts to implement its anti-trafficking law; the number of trafficking-related prosecutions under the anti-trafficking law remained low, although there were other prosecutions under legislation related to child abuse and illegal recruitment. There were no reported convictions under the anti-trafficking law of 2003. The government dedicated four state prosecutors to focus on trafficking-related cases and provided training to law enforcement officials on the anti-trafficking law. Currently, there are 28 cases under investigation. The Department of Justice is prosecuting at least 15 cases under the anti-trafficking law and other statutes related to child abuse and illegal recruitment. Corruption and a weak judiciary remain serious impediments to the effective prosecution of traffickers. Despite widespread allegations of law enforcement officials' complicity in trafficking, the government reported no prosecutions of trafficking-related corruption.

Protection

The Philippine Government continued to sponsor impressive protection efforts for trafficking victims in 2004. The anti-trafficking law passed in 2003 recognizes trafficked persons as victims and does not penalize them. Despite limited resources, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) continued to provide a range of protective services, including temporary residency status, relief from deportation, shelter, and access to legal, medical, and counseling services. With assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the DSWD also established arrangements with NGOs in destination countries to provide overseas Philippine workers who had been exploited with temporary shelter, counseling, and medical assistance. The government also provided additional protective services, including telephone hotlines for reporting cases of abused/exploited women and children. The Philippine Government increased its efforts to train law enforcement officials and consular officials in all of its embassies to deal with trafficking victims.

Prevention

The government continued modest efforts to raise awareness of trafficking. Senior government officials frequently spoke out about the dangers of trafficking. Fourteen government agencies also coordinate the government's anti-trafficking efforts, much of which is prevention-oriented. The Philippine Government's information campaign on over-

seas employment resulted in a decline in illegal recruitment and recruitment violations. The government has a national action plan to address trafficking in persons.

EAST TIMOR (TIER 2)

East Timor is a destination country for women trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The majority of trafficking victims in East Timor are women from Thailand, Indonesia, and the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) who had been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.

The Government of East Timor does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government shows the political will to address the problem but lacks the resources to combat trafficking effectively. While the East Timorese Government actively engages with NGOs and regional and international bodies, it continues to have difficulty distinguishing trafficking victims from illegal migrants. Government action should concentrate on adopting a strong and comprehensive anti-trafficking law, arresting and prosecuting traffickers, and improving victim protection measures. The government and the United Nations should also continue to address credible reports that UN peacekeepers are clients of brothels that have trafficked women.

Prosecution

The Government of East Timor's law enforcement efforts against trafficking were modest during the reporting period. The government has not developed the capacity to compile full information on trafficking-related arrests, prosecutions, and convictions. East Timorese authorities conducted sporadic investigations and raids but did not prosecute any trafficking-related cases over the last year. The Immigration and Asylum Act of 2003 criminalizes trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and for non-sexual purposes but penalties are less severe than penalties for rape and forcible sexual assault. The Ministry of Justice is finalizing a new penal code that will criminalize the activities of pimps and brothel owners/operators. There is a lack of coordination between prosecutors and the police, and law enforcement officials generally lack training.

Protection

Due to a lack of resources, the East Timorese Government provided only sporadic protection and assistance to trafficking victims during the reporting period. Some trafficking victims were repatriated with the help of the government, their embassies, and international organizations. While the government assisted a few victims in finding shelter and protection from NGOs it appears that some victims may have been charged and deported for prostitution and/or immigration violations. The government did not fund foreign and domestic NGOs that provided shelter and access to services for victims.

Prevention

There have been no anti-trafficking campaigns conducted in East Timor, in part because East Timor has not been a country of origin for trafficking victims. While the government continued to recognize that trafficking is a problem, it did not place a priority on trafficking prevention programs. The government has been considering a national action plan.

INDONESIA (TIER 2)

Indonesia is a source and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked internationally for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor, while the country also faces a significant internal trafficking problem. Indonesian victims are trafficked to Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia. To a much lesser extent, Indonesia is a destination for women from the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), Thailand, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Venezuela, Spain, and Ukraine who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Within Indonesia, there is extensive internal trafficking primarily from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation and for other forced labor such as involuntary domestic servitude.

The Government of Indonesia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. In 2004, the Indonesian Government showed clear progress in applying greater law enforcement efforts to fighting trafficking and assisting Indonesian victims abroad, including migrant workers who had been trafficked. The government significantly increased its convictions of traffickers and adopted standard operating procedures for the protection of victims. In some Indonesian provinces, local governments drafted and enacted new laws and budgeted resources for anti-trafficking programs. Following the tsunami that devastated Aceh province, the Indonesian Government rapidly responded with appropriate measures to reduce the potential for trafficking of children from the region. While local governments gave greater priority to trafficking, translating national commitment to local action remained a problem. The Indonesian Government can take significant action by passing a strong and comprehensive anti-trafficking law; addressing internal trafficking; recognizing and taking steps to eliminate debt bondage for migrant workers; and arresting and prosecuting officials involved in trafficking.

Prosecution

The Indonesian Government increased its law enforcement efforts against trafficking during the reporting period. Indonesia does not have a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, but a draft bill is currently pending before Parliament. Although Indonesian law criminalizes trafficking, it lacks a comprehensive definition of the crime. In 2004, the government reported 141 trafficking-related investigations, 51 prosecutions, and 45 convictions. The number of convictions reflected an 80 percent increase over the previous year's performance. Although law enforcement efforts increased, convictions for trafficking-related offenses often carried light sentences, with an average sentence of just over three years' imprisonment. The Indonesian Government cooperated with the Malaysian Government in arresting and prosecuting a major network that trafficked Indonesians into Malaysia for commercial sexual exploitation. Corruption and a weak judiciary remain serious impediments to the effective prosecution of traffickers. The government has recognized that action must be taken against officials involved in trafficking, but has provided little information concerning actions it has taken against corrupt officials who may be complicit in trafficking.

Protection

In 2004, the Indonesian Government improved its efforts to provide protection to trafficking victims despite limited resources. National and local victim assistance efforts increased, but remained small in comparison to the scope of the problem. Assistance for internal trafficking victims was minimal. The Indonesian Government continued to operate shelters for Indonesian victims of involuntary servitude and commercial sexual exploitation at its embassies and consulates in Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. The government also operates crisis centers inside the country and cooperates with domestic NGOs and civil society organizations that provide services for victims. The Indonesian Government continued to provide training to officials and law enforcement officers in the handling of witnesses and victims. The Women's Ministry also finalized standard operating procedures used to assist trafficking victims in 2004. Although Indonesia's national action plan calls for proper treatment of trafficking victims, implementation varies widely at the local level.

Prevention

The Indonesian Government made commendable efforts to promote public awareness of trafficking in 2004. The government increasingly used its National Anti-Trafficking Ambassador, a well-known television personality, to raise awareness of trafficking and of the need for more anti-trafficking efforts. Although the government has a limited ability to fund prevention programs, it welcomed international assistance and continued to work with NGOs on anti-trafficking and education initiatives. Most education campaigns focused on warning potential victims about trafficking. Some public education material in the campaign to stop child sex tourism in Batam and Bali contained messages for potential clients of prostitutes. Government-sponsored public awareness campaigns often featured senior officials and included television, radio, and print media.

JAPAN (TIER 2)

Japan is a destination country for a large number of Asian, Latin American, and Eastern European women and children who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There have also been cases of Asian and Latin American men trafficked to Japan for criminal, labor and/or commercial sexual purposes. Japanese organized crime groups (yakuza) that operate internationally are involved in trafficking.

The Government of Japan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government has made an impressive start in providing assistance to trafficking victims, including implementation of a national action plan with modest, additional resources for government-run shelters and private shelters.

The government made substantial efforts to improve the legal framework by drafting penal code revisions which specifically criminalize trafficking and increase penalties for trafficking-related offenses. During the reporting period, the government undertook major reforms to significantly tighten the issuance of entertainer visas to women from the Philippines, a process used by traffickers to enslave thousands of Philippine women in Japan each year. Japan continued to provide support for international anti-trafficking programs and conferences. The foundations that the Government of Japan has laid in the past few months offer promises of results that would place Japan in a leadership role in fighting trafficking.

Prosecution

Japan increased its law enforcement efforts against trafficking during the reporting period. The government uses the penal code and a variety of labor, immigration, and child welfare/protection statutes to prosecute trafficking-related offenses. While Japan's current laws provide for up to ten-year prison terms and steep fines, actual penalties thus far have been much less severe. The government has drafted revisions to the penal code that specifically criminalize trafficking and increase penalties for trafficking-related offenses. Japan's National Police Agency (NPA) reported 58 arrests and 48 prosecutions in 2004, reflecting a significant increase over the previous year's performance. The NPA improved

its handling of trafficking cases and provided guidelines on victim identification and treatment to local police forces. The NPA also took concrete steps to increase cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies on trafficking cases.

Protection
In 2004, the government improved its efforts to protect victims of trafficking. Twenty-two trafficking victims were provided government protection from January through October 2004, a dramatic increase over the previous year. The government implemented a national action plan that provides additional resources for victim protection in government-run shelters and private shelters. Trafficking victims are no longer treated as criminals, and a short grace period allows the government time to develop its cases against traffickers. Japanese authorities referred trafficking victims to government-run prefectural domestic violence shelters and NGO facilities. While the government's prefectural shelters are now open to foreign trafficking victims, few victims use the shelters for fear that they would be sent to an immigration detention center and then deported. The prefectural governments of Tokyo and Kanagawa continued to provide modest funding to NGOs operating shelters for trafficking victims in those prefectures.

Prevention

The government continued its efforts to raise public awareness of violence against women and trafficking. The NPA produced a training video on trafficking and distributed it to all police offices to improve their awareness of trafficking. The government also took major steps to significantly tighten the issuance of entertainer visas to women from the Philippines, a major source of trafficking victims. The government continued to provide support for international anti-trafficking programs to alleviate poverty, raise awareness of the dangers of trafficking, and promote alternative economic opportunities for women. The government, however, has yet to make a significant effort to lessen the domestic demand for trafficking victims.

LAOS (TIER 2)

Laos is a source and, to a lesser extent, transit, and destination country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Many Lao victims are economic migrants who become victims of involuntary servitude or commercial sexual exploitation in Thailand. A small number of victims from the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) and Vietnam are trafficked to Laos to work as street vendors and for sexual exploitation in prostitution. The Government of Laos does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.

The Lao Government has recognized that trafficking is a problem, and has strongly supported NGO and international organization efforts to assist victims and promote awareness of trafficking. In September 2004, the government passed a Law on Women that covers trafficking in persons. The new law criminalizes trafficking; provides for the protection of victims, both internally and through international cooperation; and prohibits the punishing of trafficking victims upon their return to Laos. Until the new law is implemented effectively at the local level, however, the government should establish an official mechanism to identify trafficking victims among returnees to the country and take necessary measures to ensure that they are not subjected to fines or other punishment by local authorities.

Prosecution

The Government of Laos reportedly increased its prosecution efforts during the reporting period. Lao law enforcement is decentralized, and the central government does not keep data on efforts of local officials to prosecute traffickers. However, the anti-trafficking office, operated jointly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW) and the Ministry of Public Security reported five convictions for trafficking-related crimes in 2004. The new Law on Women stipulates specific penalties for trafficking, including the death penalty for the most egregious forms of trafficking, and those that lead to the loss of life or permanent disability. It also contains provisions defining trafficking and recognizing and guaranteeing the rights of trafficking victims. Overall, judicial and law enforcement institutions are extremely weak. Corruption is widespread; some local government officials reportedly profited from trafficking, though there were no reported prosecutions of officials for complicity in trafficking. The Lao Government does not effectively control its long and porous borders.

Protection

While the Lao Government provided minimal assistance to victims, it continued to refer victims to NGOs and international organizations that run protection programs for victims of trafficking. The government continued to expand its engagement with NGOs and requested their assistance in providing vocational training and establishing another shelter for returnees. While the Lao Government recognized the status of trafficking victims and made efforts to educate provincial and district-level officials on the need to protect them, it made minimal efforts to distinguish trafficking victims from returning migrants who had left the country illegally.

Prevention

The government, in cooperation with NGOs, continued to raise awareness in the media of the dangers of trafficking. The MLSW, with NGO funding, has sponsored media messages on the dangers of trafficking and conducted data col-

lection and public education campaigns. In conjunction with UNESCO, the MLSW conducted a radio project designed to raise awareness of trafficking and HIV/AIDS among ethnic minorities. The Ministry of Education also integrated some anti-trafficking information into school curricula.

MALAYSIA (TIER 2)

Malaysia is a destination and, to a lesser extent, a source and transit country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. As many as several thousand women from Thailand, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), Cambodia, and Burma are trafficked to Malaysia for commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, some economic migrants from Indonesia who work as domestic servants and as laborers in the construction and agricultural sectors face exploitative conditions in Malaysia that meet the definition of involuntary servitude. Malaysian women (primarily of Chinese origin) are trafficked to Western Europe, North America, Australia, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan.

The Government of Malaysia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While the government took some steps to combat trafficking, Malaysia lacks comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to enable officials to provide adequate victim protection and work effectively at the interagency level to combat trafficking in persons. The Ministry for Women, Family, and Community Development announced in December 2004 the establishment of a dedicated shelter for foreign trafficking victims. The National Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) drafted a national action plan on trafficking, though it has not yet been approved by the government. The Malaysian Government should screen illegal migrants detained for immigration violations to identify and provide care for trafficking victims that may be in their midst. The Malaysian Government should draft and enact a comprehensive trafficking law that recognizes trafficked men and women as victims and provides them with shelter, counseling, and assistance in repatriation.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, the Malaysian Government continued efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related cases. Malaysia does not have a law that specifically addresses trafficking in persons but uses existing laws to prosecute traffickers. Twenty individuals were convicted under trafficking statutes in the penal code during the first six months of 2004. The penal code criminalizes most of the acts involved in severe forms of trafficking and those laws carry penalties of up to 15 years' imprisonment. In 2004, the government began to use new amendments to the 2001 Anti-Money Laundering Act to seize the assets of businesses involved in illicit activities, including trafficking. The Malaysian Government reported four such seizures in early 2004. Malaysia does not have a witness protection program that would encourage victims to testify against the criminal syndicates that are responsible for much of the trafficking. There were no reported prosecutions of officials complicit in trafficking.

Protection

In 2004, Malaysia provided an inadequate level of protection for most victims of trafficking. While police procedure is to send victims who can prove their nationality to embassy shelters rather than immigration detention, many victims, including some who agreed to cooperate in prosecutions, were placed in harsh conditions in immigration detention centers to await deportation. Because the police continued to lack the training and language skills to identify trafficking victims among illegal migrants, foreign trafficking victims often went unrecognized and were treated as immigration offenders. The Malaysian Government has not yet implemented a formal screening process to identify trafficking victims but Suhakam has developed a questionnaire for foreign women arrested for prostitution to identify trafficking victims. In December 2004, the Women's Ministry announced the establishment of a dedicated shelter for foreign trafficking victims, though the shelter has yet to open and care for victims. The Malaysian Government provided training for some of its higher-ranking officials but there was no systematic training program to sensitize front line police and immigration officers on trafficking.

Prevention

The Malaysian Government continued efforts to prevent trafficking through public awareness or education campaigns.

The Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), within the government's ruling political coalition, continued to publish warnings about trafficking in its Chinese-language publications, make public statements to caution potential victims about overly lucrative job offers abroad, and hold periodic press conferences highlighting the plight of returned Malaysian trafficking victims. In 2004, Malaysian state-run television ran a documentary on trafficking victims who had been assisted by MCA. The Women's Ministry is planning a nationwide campaign to increase public awareness on trafficking through seminars, workshops, and dissemination of brochures.

MONGOLIA (TIER 2)

Mongolia is a source and transit country for women and men trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor; it also faces a problem of children trafficked internally for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. In 2004, the government documented over 200 Mongolian children exploited as prostitutes. Mongolian women are trafficked to China, Macau, and South Korea for commercial sexual exploitation. There are also reports that Mongolian

women have been trafficked to Hungary, Poland, and other East European countries, as well as France and Germany. Some Mongolian men working overseas face exploitative conditions that meet the definition of involuntary servitude - a severe form of trafficking.

The Government of Mongolia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The Mongolian Government has acknowledged that trafficking is a problem and has tried to improve its ability to address it. While the government engages NGOs and regional and international organizations on anti-trafficking measures, it lacks the resources to combat trafficking effectively on its own. The Mongolian Government does not systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts and some officials lack an understanding of what constitutes trafficking. Government action should concentrate on adopting a strong and comprehensive anti-trafficking law, arresting and prosecuting traffickers, and providing victim protection measures.

Prosecution

The Mongolian Government's law enforcement efforts against trafficking were modest during the reporting period. The government investigated four trafficking-related cases in 2004, but there were no successful prosecutions. Authorities have not developed the capacity to compile full information on trafficking-related arrests, prosecutions, and convictions. Mongolia's criminal code and criminal procedure code contain provisions against trafficking in women and children and prostitution, with penalties of ten to 15 years' imprisonment for trafficking and a maximum of five years' imprisonment for prostitution. The Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, in coordination with the National Human Rights Commission, is currently reviewing the anti-trafficking provisions of the criminal code in an effort to strengthen the law and make it easier to prosecute traffickers.

Protection

The Mongolian Government did not provide protection and direct assistance to trafficking victims during the reporting period, largely due to resource constraints. The government did not fund foreign and domestic NGOs that provided support for victims.

Prevention

While there were no anti-trafficking campaigns conducted in Mongolia over the last year, the government worked with travel industry representatives and UNICEF to establish a voluntary code of conduct to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in the travel and tourism industry. The Mongolian Government recognized that trafficking is a problem, but it did not place a priority on trafficking prevention programs. During the last year, the government began developing a national action plan to combat trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

SINGAPORE (TIER 2)

Singapore is a destination country for a limited number of women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Some of the women and girls from the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam who travel to Singapore voluntarily for prostitution or non-sexual work are deceived or coerced into sexual servitude in the city-state. A small minority of foreign domestic workers in Singapore face seriously abusive labor conditions that amount to involuntary servitude, a severe form of trafficking.

The Government of Singapore does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While Singapore has made improvements to its labor laws and regulations to address abuse of foreign domestic workers, it made limited progress in its efforts to combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Authorities in Singapore generally tolerate prostitution, which largely involves foreign women, a few of whom are trafficked. The government authorizes the operation of brothels in "traditional redlight districts" and does not criminalize the prostitution of adults and of 16 and 17 year-old minors. Pursuant to international protocols, the government should consider reforming its laws to criminalize the prostitution of 16 and 17 year-old children as a trafficking offense. The government should address child sex tourism by Singaporeans in foreign destinations, and do more to publicize the problem of trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in these destinations, particularly Batam, Indonesia. Singapore should also consider adopting a comprehensive law, containing victim protection measures, for all forms of trafficking.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, the Singapore Government increased its efforts to curb abuses of foreign domestic workers. A small but significant number of Singapore's estimated 140,000 foreign domestic workers continued to experience abusive employment conditions that may amount to involuntary servitude, and the government vigorously prosecuted cases involving such allegations. Singapore does not have a consolidated anti-trafficking law, but its criminal code criminalizes all activities that fall under the UN definition of trafficking. Involuntary servitude is punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine, or both; wrongful confinement is punishable by up to nine years in prison, a fine, or both; slavery is punishable with up to ten years in prison, a fine, and caning. Laws against forced or coerced prostitution carry sentences of up to ten years' imprisonment. In 2004, there were no prosecutions reported for trafficking for commercial

sexual exploitation; violators are often prosecuted under other statutes, such as those prohibiting third parties from living off the earnings of a prostitute. The government maintains effective border and immigration controls and there is no evidence that government officials are complicit in trafficking.

Protection

The government provided minimal assistance to trafficking victims in 2004. The government continued to lack a systematic procedure to identify trafficking victims among the foreign women detained for immigration or vice violations; there was no evidence of proactive screening during the detentions of over 4,600 foreign women for prostitution in 2004. The few victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation that are identified by authorities are generally referred to NGO shelters that offer counseling; foreign domestic workers who are victims of involuntary servitude or other abuse are referred to shelters run by their embassies or local NGOs, some of which provide legal assistance. The Singaporean Government, through the Ministry of Community Development, Youth, and Sports, provided counseling and health care for abused foreign domestic workers and victims of commercial sexual exploitation. There are no NGOs in Singapore that focus exclusively on trafficking, but there is one NGO devoted exclusively to helping women in prostitution, and victims often receive assistance from groups dedicated to helping abused women and children. There are several NGOs that assist foreign workers and seek the enactment of enhanced labor protections. The Ministry of Manpower continued to promote the welfare of foreign domestic workers by educating employees and employers on acceptable employment practices, establishing a hotline for foreign domestic workers, enhancing regulations, and undertaking a public outreach campaign on the rights and responsibilities of employers and foreign domestic workers.

Prevention

The Singaporean Government made efforts to raise awareness of trafficking. The government sought to improve awareness of the regulations protecting foreign domestic workers and the consequences of violating those laws, and has taken some steps to raise societal awareness of sex tourism by Singaporeans in an effort to curb demand. There were no specific anti-trafficking campaigns directed at the use of fraud or coercion to recruit foreign women as prostitutes. Singapore has no national action plan to address trafficking.

TAIWAN (TIER 2)

Taiwan is primarily a destination for women and girls, mainly from the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Some trafficking victims from the P.R.C., Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam are forced or coerced into the commercial sex trade or lured to Taiwan by fraudulent offers of employment or marriage. Some Taiwan women are also trafficked to Japan for sexual exploitation.

Taiwan authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, they are making significant efforts to do so. Taiwan authorities have increased efforts to provide protection for trafficking victims. Despite prosecutions of traffickers, there is insufficient protection for trafficking victims, particularly for women and girls from the P.R.C. While illegal immigrants from other countries are generally quickly repatriated, the P.R.C. often delays Taiwan efforts to assist P.R.C. victims to return home. Taiwan authorities and NGOs have collaborated in ongoing efforts to develop a plan of action on trafficking. Some law enforcement officials conflate trafficking with smuggling. Taiwan laws criminalize most forms of trafficking but do not address prevention of trafficking or victim protection, which the authorities nonetheless provide on an ad hoc basis.

Prosecution

Taiwan lacks a comprehensive trafficking law providing for preventive measures and victim protection, though most forms of human trafficking are criminalized through a number of different statutes. Trafficking of Taiwan residents abroad or children of any nationality is prohibited by the 1995 Statute for Prevention of Child and Juvenile Sexual Trafficking and provisions in Taiwan's Criminal Code. Article 296 criminalizes a broad range of forms of trafficking and servitude. Article 296-1 provides for stronger penalties when the crimes are committed by officials. Taiwan authorities report that they indicted 241 and convicted 150 persons under these statutes in 2004. Taiwan authorities took steps in 2004 to address the growing number of Vietnamese women lured to Taiwan as brides and then forced into prostitution. A more stringent law enacted in January 2004 and aimed at cross-Strait trafficking stipulates that any person found guilty of smuggling Mainland Chinese into Taiwan shall be punished with a prison term of three to ten years and fined up to \$150,000. Authorities in late March 2005 broke up a trafficking ring run by two Taiwan Army officers and their wives. A year-long investigation into the ring produced a number of arrests for trafficking of P.R.C. women to Taiwan for exploitation in the sex industry. Taiwan authorities have increased training for law enforcement officials on trafficking issues and how to best assist a victim. In early 2005, Taiwan executed a local trafficker convicted of killing P.R.C. victims.

Protection

Foreign victims of trafficking who are not of P.R.C. origin are provided with shelter and counseling and are generally quickly repatriated. Current Taiwan law provides no legal alternative to the return to the P.R.C. of all unlawfully present

P.R.C. citizens, including trafficking victims. Taiwan has recently increased efforts to provide protection to P.R.C. trafficking victims. Taiwan law enforcement authorities and NGO social workers interview all illegal immigrants in detention centers in order to identify possible trafficking victims. Women and girls identified as trafficking victims are housed in a separate wing, where they are provided with access to social workers, health care, vocational activities, and counseling. Women with children have an additional, separate area within the facility. Identified trafficking victims are exempt from rules that apply to criminal detainees. There is no policy or law that requires the authorities to evaluate whether victims would face persecution or retribution upon returning to the P.R.C. Authorities have established an island-wide toll-free "113 Women's and Children's Protection" hotline.

Prevention

Taiwan law enforcement authorities are working to intercept criminal syndicates that smuggle P.R.C. migrants, including trafficking victims, to Taiwan. Taiwan continued its support of NGO anti-trafficking prevention programs, with government funding for public awareness programs targeting minors and awareness campaigns targeting Southeast Asian women who marry Taiwan men, including publicity campaigns funded by Taiwan in source countries. Taiwan officials have raised public awareness of the dangers of pornography and the use of the Internet to lure children into the sex trade. Social workers automatically visit high-school students with unexcused school absences to provide counseling and to ensure that the children do not fall into the sex trade or other illicit activities.

THAILAND (TIER 2)

Thailand is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Thai women are trafficked to Australia, Bahrain, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Europe, and North America for commercial sexual exploitation. A significant number of men, women, and children from Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) are economic migrants who wind up in forced or bonded labor and commercial sexual exploitation in Thailand. Regional economic disparities drive significant illegal migration into Thailand, presenting traffickers opportunities to move victims into labor or sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking also occurs in Thailand, involving victims from Northern Thailand, especially ethnic hill tribe women and girls. Widespread sex tourism in Thailand encourages trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

The Government of Thailand does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Thailand showed clear progress in applying greater law enforcement efforts to fighting trafficking and systematically screening hundreds of thousands of undocumented illegal migrants to identify and provide care for trafficking victims in their midst. The government also made modest progress in addressing widespread trafficking-related corruption within the ranks of the police, immigration services, and judiciary. In November 2004, the Thai Government began a new, intensified effort to improve the vetting procedure used by the police and immigration authorities to identify trafficking victims. While reports suggest increased efforts by police and immigration officials to provide protection to trafficking victims, international organizations and NGOs continue to play an important role in screening of trafficking victims, especially underage victims found in street work. There are reports that child trafficking victims continued to be incarcerated in and deported from Thailand without proper victim care or any attempt to investigate the trafficking crimes committed against these children.

Prosecution

During the reporting period, the Thai Government increased its law enforcement efforts against trafficking. Thailand has a law specifically prohibiting trafficking. In 2004, the government reported 307 trafficking-related arrests, 66 prosecutions, and 12 convictions - an increase in arrests over the previous year's performance. Sentences handed down for trafficking cases remained light, with an average sentence of three years' imprisonment. However, a number of sentences in trafficking cases were severe, with imprisonment of up to 50 years. In early March 2005, a Thai court convicted a Cambodian woman for trafficking eight Cambodian girls to Thailand and Malaysia; the trafficker was sentenced to 85 years' imprisonment. As in previous years, the Thai Government made minimal progress in reducing trafficking-related corruption in the police, immigration services, and judiciary. Law enforcement officials continued to be implicated in facilitating trafficking, but only one police officer was convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment over the past year; prosecutions of 18 others fired in 2003 for complicity in trafficking continues. Thailand is not able to adequately control its long land borders.

Protection

In 2004, the Thai Government continued to provide commendable protection to trafficking victims. The government continued to operate 97 shelters throughout the country for abused women and children, six regional shelters for foreign trafficking victims, and a central shelter outside of Bangkok with capacity for over 500 foreign trafficking victims. The government reportedly identified and provided protection to 108 women and children since the November 2004 institution of the new screening mechanism. Thailand's overseas missions continued to provide support to Thai victims who

wish to return home, but limited funding is available to assist their repatriation. The government also provided police and consular officials with training on trafficking issues and dealing with victims.

Prevention

The Thai Government continued its efforts to raise awareness of trafficking. In 2004, the Thai police began an information campaign, which included the distribution of pamphlets and creation of a hotline for reporting suspected cases. The government also continued to support the work of NGOs and international organizations to carry out public awareness campaigns and provide victim support services.

VIETNAM (TIER 2)

Vietnam is a source and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Vietnamese women and girls are trafficked to Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the Czech Republic for commercial sexual exploitation. A large percentage of the Vietnamese women who are trafficked to Taiwan are lured by fraudulent offers of employment or marriage to Taiwanese men. Labor export companies recruit and send workers abroad. Although there were no confirmed reports during the rating period, some of these laborers were victims of abuses that constitute "involuntary servitude," a severe form of trafficking. To a lesser extent, Vietnam is a destination country for Cambodian children who are trafficked for forced work as beggars. There is also internal trafficking from rural to urban areas.

The Government of Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. In July 2004, the government issued a national action plan to combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, as well as a five-year national program for addressing all aspects of Vietnam's anti-trafficking efforts including prevention, prosecution, and protection. In addition to implementing strategies to address trafficking for sexual exploitation, the government took steps to provide greater protection for Vietnamese workers sent abroad by labor export companies. It continued to engage neighboring governments to combat trafficking and cooperated on the repatriation of victims and other cross-border issues.

Prosecution

In 2004, the government continued its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts, actively investigating trafficking cases, and prosecuting and convicting traffickers. Vietnam has a statute that prohibits commercial sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women and children with penalties ranging up to 20 years' imprisonment. Trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation is covered under Vietnam's Penal Code. Over the past year, the government's crime statistics office reported 142 prosecutions and 110 convictions specifically related to trafficking in women and children. While some local government officials reportedly profited from trafficking, there were no reported prosecutions of officials for complicity in trafficking. The government does not effectively control its long and porous borders.

Protection

The Vietnamese Government improved its efforts to provide protection to victims during the reporting period by strengthening protections for Vietnamese workers sent abroad by labor export companies. It stationed labor attaches in the nine top labor export receiving countries to look after the welfare of workers and to assist in resolving workplace disputes. The government also increased its oversight of labor export companies, and imposed penalties and sanctions against companies that violated labor laws or regulations. Vietnam's revised labor code has provisions that allow workers to negotiate settlements from labor export companies in cases of fraud or abuse, although precise statistics on these actions were not provided. Trafficking victims in Vietnam are usually not detained, arrested or otherwise punished. However, the government routinely sends women who engage in prostitution within the country to "rehabilitation" detention centers that provide medical treatment, vocational training, and counseling, and seek to deter the women's return to prostitution. The government's rehabilitation efforts lack adequate financial resources and usually take place at the provincial and local levels.

Prevention

While the Vietnamese Government did not implement specific anti-trafficking awareness campaigns in 2004, it raised the issue of trafficking in combination with other information and education programs. In 2004, it cooperated with the Chinese Government and UNICEF on a mass communications effort to educate the public and local government leaders on trafficking. The yearlong campaign included workshops on local laws regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children and training on how to counsel trafficking victims.

2005 BEST PRACTICES

The Republic of Korea (R.O.K.): Cracking Down on Prostitution and Trafficking. In response to a petition by a million Korean women, the R.O.K. passed two significant anti-prostitution and anti-trafficking laws in 2004 aimed at combating the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. The laws not only stiffened penalties for trafficking and prostitution, established support mechanisms and facilities for victims, and provided for public awareness and education campaigns, but also reflected the input of the NGO community and the government agencies charged with responsibility

for enforcement. The Government of the Republic of Korea backed its new laws with both political will and resources. The new legislation has resulted in the rescue of over 200 victims and the arrests of over 500 traffickers and sex-buyers. The government's efforts have also produced a visible reduction in the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls and markedly raised public awareness of trafficking and prostitution.

Indonesia: Involving Local Muslim Leaders. Many young girls from impoverished families are educated in Islamic boarding schools (pesantren). The Asia Foundation supports the Fahmina Institute to provide anti-trafficking training materials to pesantren teachers, and to male and female preachers. In January 2005, The Asia Foundation helped organize a meeting of pesantren leaders, resulting in 32 schools forming the Pesantren-Based Alliance for Eliminating Trafficking in Persons in East Java.

Philippines: Public-Private Partnership. NGO Visayan Forum Foundation (VFF) operates four shelters for victims at major Philippine ports, including Manila and Davao. The Philippine Port Authority, police, and shipping companies, including the country's largest passenger shipping company, identify victims, mainly children, transiting the port and turn them over to VFF, which provides housing and protection. VFF then works with police to facilitate investigations and with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to repatriate and counsel victims. At the Davao shelter alone, VFF serves up to 45 victims a week.

(end text)

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118 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

South Asia Anti-Trafficking Efforts Improve, Report Says; State Department report praises Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan

BYLINE: David Shelby, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 961 words

Washington -- Three South Asian countries, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, received praise in the State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report for their significant efforts to confront the problem of human trafficking over the past year.

Nepal and Bangladesh are both sources of women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labor. Pakistan is both a source and destination country for victims of trafficking. Women and girls from South and Central Asia are trafficked to Pakistan for sexual and domestic servitude while Pakistanis are trafficked to the Middle East for bonded labor. Both Bangladeshi and Pakistani boys are trafficked to the Arab Gulf countries to serve as camel jockeys for organized camel racing.

The report also observed that internal trafficking takes place within each country, typically bringing rural women and children to cities in order to work as prostitutes, domestic servants and forced laborers.

The report groups countries into three "tiers," according to their efforts to combat the scourge. Tier 1 groups countries that are in compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Tier 2 includes countries that are not in compliance but are making efforts to comply. Tier 3 groups countries that are not making significant efforts to combat the problem.

The 2005 report moved Nepal from a Tier 2 country to a Tier 1 country, indicating that the Nepalese government is now in compliance with the minimum standards.

"Despite political and security challenges, the government has sustained its efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Nepal has a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking, a draft Human Trafficking Control Bill to strengthen its 1986 anti-trafficking law, and a National Rapporteur on trafficking," the report said.

The report noted that the Nepalese government faces significant challenges in addressing the problem of human trafficking given the country's ongoing Maoist insurgency. It also noted that the Maoist insurgents are responsible for internal trafficking of children, whom they forcibly conscript into military service.

Nevertheless, the report calls the Nepalese government's law enforcement efforts "commendable" and says the government works well with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide protection and assistance for the victims.

According to the report, the government has established anti-trafficking "vigilance committees" in high-priority districts, conducts mandatory "safe migration" orientation sessions for workers traveling abroad, and carries out national public awareness campaigns.

Bangladesh improved its performance in combating trafficking, moving from a Tier 3 country to a Tier 2 country in the 2005 report, indicating that it has begun making efforts to comply with the minimum standards of the TVPA.

"Over the last year, Bangladesh showed commendable progress in all areas of anti-trafficking efforts," the report stated. "Bangladesh established an inter-ministerial anti-trafficking committee to oversee its national efforts to combat trafficking, created a national anti-trafficking police monitoring unit with presence in all 64 districts, prosecuted an increased number of trafficking and trafficking-related corruption cases, rescued over 161 boys from servitude in the fishing in-

dustry, devised and launched a multi-faceted anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, and increased its cooperation with NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking."

The report stated that Bangladesh continues to have difficulty confronting the trafficking problem due to generalized corruption of public officials who in many cases are complicit in the human trade.

Pakistan moved from the "watch list" to the "general list" within the tier-two category, indicating that its efforts to combat trafficking and meet the minimum standards of TVPA have become noticeably more effective over the past year.

"Most notably, [Pakistan] has increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions, strengthened implementation of its 2002 Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, established an Anti-Trafficking Unit within the Federal Investigation Agency, and co-sponsored several public awareness campaigns," the report said.

The report noted that Pakistan obtained 72 convictions on trafficking crimes in 2004 compared to six in 2003. It also said that the Pakistani government has committed itself to providing resources for protection, shelter and repatriation of trafficking victims.

Afghanistan and Sri Lanka remained in the **Tier 2** category, indicating that they are working to confront their **human-trafficking** problems. India remained on the Tier 2 "watch list" due to its inability to show evidence of increased efforts to address the problem, and specifically its failure to empower a national law enforcement entity with an anti-trafficking mandate.

The State Department prepares the annual Trafficking in Persons Report in response to a congressional mandate. In presenting the 2005 report on June 3, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty, upon which this nation was founded."

"We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it," she added.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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119 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

Trafficking in Persons Report 2005 - Eurasia; Introduction, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE**LENGTH:** 15163 words

Following are excerpts from the 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report pertaining to Eurasia:

(begin excerpt)

INTRODUCTION

By Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Dear Reader:

In his 2005 inaugural address, President Bush gave renewed voice to the hopes and dreams of people around the world who seek lives of freedom. He said, "America will not pretend that the jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies." Yet for millions of people entrapped each year in vicious schemes of labor and sex trafficking, freedom is denied. These trafficking victims are deprived of their most basic human rights and fall into modern-day slavery. President Bush, the Congress, and the American people are united in efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons internationally and within national borders because this global crime opposes the universal value of freedom.

This fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report, along with the \$96 million in anti-trafficking assistance our nation provided to foreign governments and non-government organizations last year, demonstrates our strong commitment to this cause. This year, we included more country analyses as a result of deeper research and a wider range of sources. We also expanded our coverage of labor slavery, especially internal labor trafficking. Forced labor and involuntary servitude are appallingly common, including whole villages working to pay off old debts passed down through generations.

The TIP Report serves to expose these despicable aspects of trafficking. It provokes, lauds, and challenges. Countries including the United States, which is dealing with its own trafficking problem, have been inspired to greater action against human trafficking as a result of this unique compendium. By reading it, we hope you are joining with us in the abolitionist movement of the 21st century to advance freedom for the world's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Condoleezza Rice

This Report and subsequent updates are available at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>

INTRODUCTION

The 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report:

Its Purpose

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This Report is the fifth annual TIP Report. This Report is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons - a form of modern day slavery. The Report has increasingly focused the efforts of a growing com-

munity of nations to share information and to partner in new and important ways to fight human trafficking. A country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of **trafficking in persons** receives a negative "Tier 3" assessment in this Report. Such an assessment could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country. In assessing foreign governments' efforts, the TIP Report highlights the "three P's" - prosecution, protection, and prevention. But a victim-centered approach to trafficking requires us equally to address the "three R's" - rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The law that guides these efforts, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), makes clear from its first sentence that the purpose of combating human trafficking is to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, to protect their victims, and to prevent trafficking.

[...]

In last year's Report, we used U.S. Government data that disaggregated transnational trafficking in persons by age and gender for the first time. These data showed that, of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors. The data also illustrate that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. With a focus on transnational trafficking in persons, however, these data fail to include millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.

The alarming enslavement of people for purposes of labor exploitation, often in their own countries, is a form of human trafficking that can be hard to track from afar. It may not involve the same criminal organizations profiting from transnational trafficking for sexual exploitation; more often individuals are guilty of, for example, enslaving one domestic servant or hundreds of unpaid, forced workers at a factory.

[...]

Over the next year, the Department of State intends to focus more attention on involuntary servitude and its related manifestations...

The Common Thread of Servitude

[...]

The means by which people are subjected to servitude -- their recruitment and the deception and coercion that may cause movement -- are important factors but factors that are secondary to their compelled service. It is the state of servitude that is key to defining trafficking. As such, "trafficking" denotes the act of placing someone in servitude and everything done knowingly that surrounds or contributes to it. In the popular lexicon, and because of the century-old history of the term in international law, this has been interpreted widely as movement.

A person may travel of his or her own volition to another location within his or her own country or abroad and still fall into a state of involuntary servitude later. The movement of that person to the new location is not what constitutes trafficking; the force, fraud or coercion exercised on that person by another to perform or remain in service to the master is the defining element of trafficking in the modern usage. The person who is trapped in compelled service after initially voluntarily migrating or taking a job willingly is still considered a trafficking victim.

[...]

The Human and Social Costs of Trafficking

Victims of human trafficking pay a horrible price. Psychological and physical harm, including disease and stunted growth, often have permanent effects. In many cases the exploitation of trafficking victims is progressive: a child trafficked into one form of labor may be further abused in another. Another brutal reality of the modern-day slave trade is that its victims are frequently bought and sold many times over -- often sold initially by family members.

Victims forced into sex slavery can be subdued with drugs and subjected to extreme violence. Victims trafficked for sexual exploitation face physical and emotional damage from forced sexual activity, forced substance abuse, and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Some victims suffer permanent damage to their reproductive organs. When the victim is trafficked to a location where he or she cannot speak or understand the language, this compounds the psychological damage caused from isolation and domination by traffickers.

The Human Rights Dimension.

Fundamentally, trafficking in persons violates the universal human right to life, liberty, and freedom from slavery in all its forms. Trafficking of children violates the inherent right of a child to grow up in a protective environment and the right to be free from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Promoting Social Breakdown.

The loss of family and community support networks makes trafficking victims vulnerable to traffickers' demands and threats, and contributes in several ways to the breakdown of social structures. Trafficking tears children from their parents and extended family. The profits from trafficking allow the practice to take root in a particular community, which is then repeatedly exploited as a ready source of victims. The danger of becoming a trafficking victim can lead vulnerable groups such as children and young women to go into hiding, with adverse effects on their schooling or family structure. The loss of education reduces victims' future economic opportunities and increases their vulnerability to being re-trafficked in the future. Victims who are able to return to their communities often find themselves stigmatized or ostracized. Recovery from the trauma, if it ever occurs, can take a lifetime.

Fueling Organized Crime.

The profits from human trafficking fuel other criminal activities. According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking generates an estimated \$9.5 billion in annual revenue. It is closely connected with money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery, and human smuggling. Where organized crime flourishes, governments and the rule of law are undermined and weakened.

Depriving Countries of Human Capital and Inhibiting Development.

Trafficking has a negative impact on labor markets, contributing to an irretrievable loss of human resources. Some effects of trafficking include depressed wages, fewer individuals left to care for an increasing number of elderly persons, and an undereducated generation. These effects lead to the loss of future productivity and earning power. Forcing children to work that denies them access to education can reinforce the cycle of poverty and illiteracy that stunts national development. When forced or bonded labor involves a significant part of a country's population, this form of trafficking retards the country's development, as generation after generation of these victims remain mired in poverty.

Public Health Costs.

Victims of trafficking often endure brutal conditions that result in physical, sexual, and psychological trauma. Sexually transmitted infections, pelvic inflammatory disease, and HIV/AIDS are often the result of being used in prostitution. Anxiety, insomnia, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder are common psychological manifestations among trafficked victims. Unsanitary and crowded living conditions, coupled with poor nutrition, foster a host of adverse health conditions such as scabies, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases. The most egregious abuses are often borne by children, who are more easily controlled and forced into domestic service, armed conflict, and other hazardous forms of work.

Erosion of Government Authority.

Many governments struggle to exercise full law enforcement authority over their national territory, particularly where corruption is prevalent. Armed conflicts, natural disasters, and political or ethnic struggles can create large populations of internally displaced persons, who could be vulnerable to trafficking. Human trafficking operations further undermine government efforts to exert authority, threatening the security of vulnerable populations. Many governments are unable to protect women and children kidnapped from their homes and schools or from refugee camps. Moreover, the bribes paid to law enforcement, immigration, and judicial officials impede a government's ability to battle corruption from within government ranks.

The Methods of Traffickers

Slave traders prey on the vulnerable. Their targets are often children and young women, and their ploys are creative and ruthless, designed to trick, coerce, and win the confidence of potential victims. Very often these ruses involve promises of marriage, employment, educational opportunities, or a better life...

The Myriad Causes of Trafficking

The causes of human trafficking are complex and often reinforce each other. Viewing trafficking in persons as a global market, victims constitute the supply, and abusive employers or sexual exploiters (also known as sex buyers) represent the demand.

The supply of victims is encouraged by many factors including poverty, the attraction of perceived higher standards of living elsewhere, lack of employment opportunities, organized crime, violence against women and children, discrimination against women, government corruption, political instability, and armed conflict. In some societies a tradition of fostering allows the third or fourth child to be sent to live and work in an urban center with a member of the extended family (often, an "uncle"), in exchange for a promise of education and instruction in a trade. Taking advantage of this tradition, traffickers often position themselves as employment agents, inducing parents to part with a child, but then traffic the child to work in prostitution, domestic servitude, or a commercial enterprise. In the end, the family receives few if any wage remittances, the child remains unschooled and untrained and separated from his or her family, and the hoped-for educational and economic opportunities never materialize.

On the demand side, factors driving trafficking in persons include the sex industry and the growing demand for exploitable labor. Sex tourism and child pornography have become worldwide industries, facilitated by technologies such as the Internet, which vastly expand the choices available to "consumers" and permit instant and nearly undetectable transactions. Trafficking is also driven by the global demand for cheap, vulnerable, and illegal labor. For example, there is great demand in some prosperous countries of Asia and the Gulf for domestic servants who sometimes fall victim to exploitation or involuntary servitude.

[...]

Effective Strategies in Combating Trafficking

To be effective, anti-trafficking strategies must target both the supply side, the traffickers - and the demand side - the owners or, in the case of trafficking for sexual exploitation, the sex buyers - of this ugly phenomenon.

On the supply side, the conditions that drive trafficking must be dealt with through programs that alert communities to the dangers of trafficking, improve and expand educational and economic opportunities to vulnerable groups, promote equal access to education, educate people regarding their legal rights, and create better and broader life opportunities.

Regarding traffickers, law enforcement must vigorously prosecute traffickers and those who aid and abet them; fight public corruption which facilitates and profits from the trade; identify and interdict trafficking routes through better intelligence gathering and coordination; clarify legal definitions of trafficking and coordinate law enforcement responsibilities; and train personnel to identify and direct trafficking victims to appropriate care.

On the demand side, persons who exploit trafficked persons must be identified and prosecuted. Employers of forced labor and exploiters of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation must be named and shamed. With regard to sex slavery, awareness-raising campaigns must be conducted in destination countries to make it harder for trafficking to be concealed or ignored. Victims must be rescued from slave-like living and working situations, rehabilitated, and reintegrated into their families and communities.

Local, state, national, and regional programs to fight trafficking must be coordinated. By drawing public attention to the problem, governments can enlist the support of the public in the fight against trafficking. Anti-trafficking strategies and programs developed with input from stakeholders (civil society and NGOs) are the most effective and likely to succeed as they bring a comprehensive view to the problem. Coordination and cooperation-whether national, bilateral, or regional-will leverage country efforts and help rationalize the allocation of resources. Nations should cooperate more closely to deny traffickers legal sanctuary and facilitate their extradition for prosecution. Such cooperation should also aim to facilitate the voluntary and humane repatriation of victims.

Knowledge about trafficking must be continually improved, and the network of anti-trafficking organizations and efforts strengthened. Religious institutions, NGOs, schools, community associations, and traditional leaders need to be mobilized and drawn into the struggle. Victims and their families are important stakeholders in the fight against trafficking. Governments need to periodically reassess their anti-trafficking strategies and programs to ensure they remain effective to counter new methods and approaches by traffickers.

Finally, government officials must be trained in anti-trafficking techniques and methods, and trafficking flows and trends must be closely monitored to better understand the nature and magnitude of the problem so that appropriate policy responses can be crafted to tackle trafficking.

[...]

How the Report Is Used

This Report is a diplomatic tool for the U.S. Government to use as an instrument for continued dialogue, encouragement, and a guide to help focus resources on prosecution, protection, and prevention programs and policies. The Department will continue to engage governments about the content of the Report in order to strengthen cooperative efforts to eradicate trafficking. In the coming year, and particularly in the months before a determination is made regarding sanctions for Tier 3 countries, the Department will use the information gathered in the compilation of this Report to more effectively target assistance programs and to work with countries that need help in combating trafficking. The Department hopes the Report will be a catalyst for government and non-government efforts to combat trafficking in persons around the world.

Methodology

The Department of State prepared this Report using information from U.S. embassies, meetings with foreign government officials, NGOs and international organizations, published reports, research trips to every region, and the information submitted to the e-mail address (tipreport@state.gov) which was established for NGOs and individuals to report information on government progress in addressing trafficking. Our diplomatic posts reported on the trafficking situation and governmental action based on thorough research, including meetings with a wide variety of government officials, local and international NGO representatives, international organizations, officials, journalists, academics, and victims.

To compile this year's Report, the Department took a fresh look at sources of information on every country to make the assessments in this report. Assessing each government's anti-trafficking efforts involved a two-step process:

Step One: Significant Numbers of Victims

First, the Department determined whether a country is "a country of origin, transit, or destination for a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking," generally on the order of 100 or more victims, the same threshold applied in previous reports. Some countries for which such information was not available were not given tier ratings, but are included in the Special Case section, as they exhibited indications of trafficking.

Step Two: Tier Placement

The Department placed each of the countries included on the 2005 TIP Report into one of the three lists, described here as tiers, mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based on the extent of a government's actions to combat trafficking. The Department first evaluates whether the government fully complies with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Governments that do are placed in Tier 1. For other governments, the Department considers whether they made significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. Governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in **Tier 2**. Those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed in **Tier 3**. Finally, the **Special Watch List** criteria are considered and, if applicable, **Tier 2** countries are placed on the **Tier 2 Watch List**. As required by the TVPA, in making **tier** determinations between **Tiers 2** and **3**, the Department considers the overall extent of **human trafficking** in the country; the extent of government noncompliance with the minimum standards, particularly the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking; and, what measures are reasonable to bring the government into compliance the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities.

[...]

Regardless of tier placement, every country can do more, including the United States. No country placement is permanent. All countries must maintain and increase efforts to combat trafficking. The United States will continue to monitor progress throughout the world and work with its partners to strengthen international efforts to eliminate all forms of modern-day slavery.

2005 TIP REPORT INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

[...]

Estonia: Raising Awareness. To raise public awareness about trafficking in persons among students, the Estonian Government sponsored two essay competitions in spring 2004 for young people to write on the issues of prostitution and human trafficking. The subject was, "How could I fall into the hands of traffickers?"

[...]

HEROES ACTING TO END MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

[...]

Adiba Umarova, Journalist, Tajikistan

As a result of a U.S. Government-funded program for media professionals in Tajikistan, reporter Adiba Umarova investigated a labor migration trafficking scam that had been dismissed from court. Her investigation led to the re-opening of the case and the re-arrest of the ringleader of the trafficking syndicate. The scam involved a group of men from Charku Village, who were deceived by an advertisement in a local newspaper promising work in Russia. After arriving in Moscow, the workers' passports were taken. They were forced to work in a landfill site to repay debts incurred for transportation. Several managed to escape and return to Tajikistan where they pushed for the arrest of the local scam leader.

When the suspect was quickly released from custody without a satisfactory investigation, Ms. Umarova pursued the case beyond local officials to the regional prosecutor's office, which took an interest in the case and reopened the investigation. A short documentary was produced to highlight this story, which emphasizes important themes of forced labor abuse and local corruption.

[...]

COMBATING TRAFFICKING: THE INVALUABLE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

The media plays an indispensable role in educating us about the many manifestations of global human trafficking, presenting the problem in human terms and in all its painful detail. Yet media coverage is weak in many parts of the world. Some news media outlets are not yet aware of the trafficking phenomenon, or confuse it with other issues such as illegal migration and alien smuggling. The media's role is most effective when it:

--Illuminates the problem. By writing an article or airing a segment focusing on trafficking in persons, media not only educates the public but also shines a light on an issue typically shrouded in darkness. We know of many cases, particularly in corrupt systems, in which scrutiny by international media has made the difference between a trafficker's release or imprisonment.

--Provides a help line. When the media prints or airs an item on trafficking, it is beneficial to include a local anti-trafficking help line number and other assistance sources, for potential victims and community members who may want to get involved.

--Shames the perpetrators. Identify traffickers and protect victims. Press accounts tend to focus on victims. It is ethical and respectful for the media to protect victims by altering details of identity and personal story. Identify and photograph traffickers - they deserve the limelight.

The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has a Public Affairs and Outreach Section that is eager to hear from you. Please join us in the fight against trafficking: tipoutreach@state.gov, or (202) 312-9639.

ARMENIA (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

Armenia is a source and, to a lesser extent, a transit and destination country for women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation largely to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Turkey. Some evidence indicates that Armenian victims were trafficked to other European countries as well. According to UN estimates, up to 1,000 Armenian women work as prostitutes in the U.A.E. and Turkey, most of whom are victims of trafficking. The Government of Armenia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Armenia is placed on Tier 2 Watch List this year because of its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking over the past year. Specifically, the government failed to disseminate or implement any elements of its January 2004 National Action Plan. The government should take proactive steps to officially distribute, publicly support, and implement this plan as soon as possible. Notably, trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions increased; however, reluctance to apply the new anti-trafficking statute produced insufficient penalties. The government adopted an anti-corruption program and created a task force in 2004; however, it failed to take any measures beyond issuing a rhetorical pledge to address trafficking-related complicity.

Prosecution

Article 132 of the criminal code prohibits trafficking in persons and provides for a maximum penalty of four to eight years' imprisonment. However, the government overwhelmingly applied Article 262 of the criminal code - a lighter pimping charge. Out of 16 convictions in 2004, the government applied the 2003 anti-trafficking statute (Article 132)

only once; the remaining 15 convictions under Article 262 produced much weaker penalties. While the government increased the overall number of trafficking-related convictions, the cases produced outcomes ranging from six-month to two-year sentences, suspended sentences, corrective labor and fines. These penalties are not commensurate with Armenian penalties for other grave crimes, such as rape. Indications of official collusion and complicity among government officials hampered the government's efforts to adequately tackle Armenia's trafficking problem. Members of the Prosecution allegedly assisted traffickers and border guards accepted bribes facilitating traffickers' movements across the border. The government failed to investigate or prosecute government officials complicit in trafficking.

Protection

Armenia's anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts remained anemic over the last year. While Armenia's law provides trafficking victims with protection, the government largely failed to provide this assistance during the reporting period. NGOs and international organizations continued to provide the majority of victim protection and widely reported good cooperation with the government. The government did not issue any formalized or standard operating procedures for police to follow when encountering possible victims of trafficking. In the absence of a formalized referral mechanism, police informally referred victims to local NGOs. Police also referred potential victims of sexual exploitation for medical screening and treatment as necessary. The rights of victims were generally respected. The police often failed, however, to treat victims' identities with confidentiality. Victim assistance programs reported sheltering 15 victims in 2004.

Prevention

Cooperation between the government and NGOs continued to help raise awareness about trafficking in Armenia. The government sustained its program of providing housing to vulnerable children released from Armenian orphanages. The Department of Migration and Refugees initiated anti-trafficking discussions on several local talk shows. Lack of official recognition of the problem within many sectors of the government, however, contributed to the overall lack of progress. In a recent interview, the Minister of Justice declared that "trafficking does not exist as a phenomenon in Armenia." Informally, the government made a preliminary effort to engage bilaterally with Georgia, but did not develop any proactive programs to assist Armenian victims in transit or destination countries.

AZERBAIJAN (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

Azerbaijan is primarily a country of origin and transit for women and children trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Azerbaijani, Russian, Ukrainian, and Central Asian women and girls were trafficked from or through the country to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Turkey, Pakistan, and India. Internal trafficking of women and girls appeared to be an increasing problem. There were some reports of men trafficked to neighboring countries (e.g., Turkey and Russia) for forced labor. The Government of Azerbaijan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The Government of Azerbaijan is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for a second consecutive year because of its inability to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking over the reporting period. The government's efforts remained in preliminary stages of implementation. However, government recognition and acknowledgement of the problem increased and progress was made in a few notable areas, particularly in the drafting of anti-trafficking legislation and amendments to the criminal code. In addition, the government increased the number of its trafficking investigations and established an anti-trafficking police unit. The Government of Azerbaijan should ensure full implementation of its national action plan, formalize a victim referral and protection system, provide adequate anti-trafficking training for police, and properly vet officers on the anti trafficking unit.

Prosecution

Anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts in Azerbaijan remained anemic during the last year. The government drafted anti-trafficking legislation and amendments to the criminal code, but did not officially adopt them during 2004. The government continued its use of trafficking-related charges of slavery, rape, coercion into prostitution and inducing a minor into prostitution to investigate trafficking crimes. The government in 2004 reported 106 trafficking-related investigations, ten of which resulted in convictions - a decrease from 20 convictions in 2003. Eight perpetrators received one-year prison sentences and two female offenders were reportedly released because they had children. The government created a special anti-trafficking police unit and developed operational guidelines for the unit, though the unit's members were not vetted according to international standards. Reports of official complicity continued during the reporting period, yet the government failed to investigate or prosecute any new cases of official corruption during the year. In January 2005, a new anti-corruption law adopted by the Government of Azerbaijan came into force; it aims to reduce corruption and increase professionalism, particularly among police and customs officials.

Protection

During the reporting period, the government did not show evidence of employing a formal referral mechanism or specialized protections for trafficking victims but did informally refer victims to state healthcare facilities, international organizations, and some local NGOs for assistance. The government continued to provide mandatory health screening and treatment to women in prostitution, many of whom the government believes fit the trafficking profile. As previously recommended, the government did not provide these individuals with information on trafficking. The Cabinet of Ministers identified property that will be used to house a shelter for trafficking victims.

Prevention

In May 2004, the President issued an official decree ordering all government bodies to implement Azerbaijan's National Action Plan and named the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs as National Coordinator for Trafficking. International organizations and NGOs conducted the bulk of anti-trafficking prevention activities; however, cooperation and participation from local government officials increased slightly. A local NGO provided some anti-trafficking training to police. For the first time in 2004, Azerbaijani consular officers began to report potential trafficking cases to international organizations. The government targeted prevention efforts at populations vulnerable to being trafficked and funded the construction of permanent housing for internally displaced persons. The government continued its communication with neighboring governments on transnational crime issues, including trafficking in persons.

BELARUS (TIER 2)

Belarus is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked to Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Japan for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Approximately one-fifth of the victims IOM assisted in 2004 were trafficked for labor exploitation. Organizations reported an increase in men trafficked for forced labor to Russia during the reporting period. Belarus' borders with Russia and Ukraine remained porous, allowing for the easy movement of people. The Government of Belarus does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. In early March 2005, President Lukashenko signed a presidential decree to combat trafficking in persons; the lower house of parliament approved the decree in early April. Belarus continued to increase its law enforcement efforts, but it lacked adequate funding for victim protection and trafficking prevention. To advance anti-trafficking efforts, Belarus should adopt amendments to strengthen anti-trafficking legislation including defining victims' rights. The interagency task force should meet regularly. Also, as a major source country, Belarus should provide the training and funding its overseas personnel need to assist trafficking victims.

Prosecution

Belarusian anti-trafficking enforcement efforts increased during the reporting period. Law enforcement authorities prosecuted 290 trafficking cases in 2004, up from 191 in 2003. To detect victims and trafficking schemes, the State Border Guards worked with former trafficking victims. Existing 2001 anti-trafficking legislation prohibits trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation with sufficiently severe penalties. Prosecutors and judges improved their use of this law in 2004; the government secured the first conviction under it in July. The government deals with trafficking for labor exploitation under a separate article with sentences of up to three years' imprisonment. In total, Belarusian courts convicted 26 individuals for trafficking and recruiting for sexual exploitation. In 2004, the courts imposed penalties for trafficking of three to eight years' imprisonment. In 2004, Belarusian authorities cooperated on trafficking cases with their counterparts from Germany, Austria, Israel, Turkey, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and Poland. While reports continued of bribes to law enforcement and border officials for ignoring trafficking activities, in 2004 the government made strong statements condemning such inducements. In February 2005, the courts found a Ministry of Culture official guilty of complicity in trafficking for sexual exploitation from January 2001 to April 2003. The court sentenced him to eight years' imprisonment and confiscated his personal property.

Protection

The Belarusian Government did not directly fund victim assistance during the reporting period, though it gave some in-kind support to NGOs. In July 2004, the Minsk city government provided building space for an EU/UNDP-funded shelter. The government integrated into its law enforcement training academy an IOM-produced anti-trafficking operations manual that provides guidance on victim detection methods and approaches to working with and assisting victims. According to the Ministry of Interior, it did not arrest, fine, or charge victims with prostitution or immigration violations in 2004; it made 110 direct referrals to IOM during the reporting period. Witness protection of trafficking victims remained inadequate. Overall, Belarusian law and society continued to consider women "victims" only if they were una-

ware prior to their trafficking ordeal that they would be involved in prostitution; even then, they often suffered as social outcasts.

Prevention

While the government did not conduct independent anti-trafficking information campaigns in 2004, it actively supported those of international organizations. The government aired anti-trafficking public service announcements produced by international organizations on State television channels free of charge. In January 2005, a State-owned television channel aired the UNDP documentary film, *Ally's Dream*, which is about Belarusian girls trafficked to Germany and Russia for sexual exploitation. The documentary also ran in selected theaters with strong advertising to students. The government's Task Force to Combat Trafficking did not convene during the reporting period.

ESTONIA (TIER 2)

Estonia is primarily a source and transit country for a small number of women and children trafficked internally and abroad - to surrounding Nordic and EU countries for the purpose of sexual exploitation. New information shows that Estonian victims include both ethnic Estonians and those that are Russian-speaking natives from the country's northeast. Victims transiting through Estonia are mainly from neighboring countries, such as Russia and Latvia. The Government of Estonia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The deputy under secretaries of four principal ministries met regularly during the reporting period to coordinate Estonia's efforts to combat trafficking in persons. In 2004, police raided and closed 28 of an estimated 45 brothels in Estonia. Still, the number of trafficking victims assisted remained low, as did the sentences imposed on convicted traffickers.

Prosecution

Estonia's enforcement record improved over the reporting period, from no convictions in 2003 to nine trafficking-related convictions during the reporting period. While this is a significant improvement, only two of the nine convicted are currently serving time in prison. Trafficking in persons is prohibited in Estonia under related criminal articles on enslavement and abduction with maximum penalties of 12 years' imprisonment. In February 2005, the Government of Estonia prosecuted its first anti-trafficking case under the enslavement statute, convicting four traffickers and sentencing two of those to four years' imprisonment each and two to sentences of only two years and four months of probation. The courts convicted five remaining persons involved in the case under other statutes such as forcing minors into prostitution and pimping, and sentenced them to conditional probation. Estonian law enforcement investigated an additional ten trafficking-related cases during the reporting period. The Estonian Government incorporated trafficking-specific training at the Police Academy, the Border Guard School, and the Public Service Academy in 2004. Law enforcement officials attended prevention, recognition, and prosecution training events, at which some trained social workers and police to work together.

Protection

During the reporting period, the Estonian Government continued to increase its funding of crime victim assistance programs that apply to trafficking victims. Each Estonian county has been assigned a Victim Assistant who is able to provide trafficking and other victims access to the public assistance system. Victim Assistants are paired with police and provided space in police prefectures to better assist victims. During the reporting period, one trafficking victim received shelter and three received counseling. Law enforcement officials did not provide clear information on how they deal with foreign trafficking victims, particularly from Russia. In accordance with a Baltic States agreement on witness protection, Estonia provided witness protection to a trafficking victim of a neighboring country in 2004. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized consular officer training in April 2004 specifically tailored to teach consuls how to assist trafficking victims.

Prevention

In its efforts to raise public awareness about trafficking in persons, the Estonian Government in spring 2004 sponsored two essay competitions for young people to write on the issues of prostitution and trafficking. The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Nordic Council of Ministers initiated in May 2004 a public awareness project called, "Drugs, Prostitution, and Trafficking from a Gender Perspective," which demonstrated the correlation of these issues. The government completed its first draft of a national action plan against trafficking in December 2004. In January 2005, the government appointed the Ministry of Justice to lead and coordinate Estonia's anti-trafficking efforts. Estonia's National Roundtable on Trafficking continued to meet, though it was supplanted to some extent by a high-level interagency group comprised

of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Social Affairs that met on several occasions at the deputy under secretary level.

GEORGIA (TIER 2)

Georgia is a source and transit country for women and men trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked through Georgia from Ukraine, Russia, and other former Soviet republics to destinations such as Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Greece, Western Europe, and the United States. Evidence suggests there is some internal trafficking within Georgia, though only one case has been confirmed in the last two years. The Government of Georgia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government took steps to implement several of its commitments, yet some important pledges remain unfulfilled. The government established and adequately supported a new police anti-trafficking unit, replacing the previous administration's dysfunctional anti-trafficking unit under the Ministry of Interior. In addition, the government revised and publicly endorsed a comprehensive National Action Plan, appointed a primary point of contact for trafficking, and established an interagency commission. The government identified few victims for protection and assistance. The government should take proactive steps to fully implement its action plan, implement and formalize a victim referral mechanism with NGO assistance, ensure increased victim identification, and continue special law enforcement training programs. In addition, the government should ensure that up-to-date, comprehensive law enforcement statistics are collected and disseminated, perhaps via the interagency commission on trafficking.

Prosecution

In January 2005, the government established and adequately funded a new anti-trafficking unit with a staff of 49 operating in Tbilisi and throughout Georgia. In its first few months the unit investigated 13 cases and arrested 30 traffickers. In one case, the unit arrested some members of an international ring operating in Georgia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan and shared information with law enforcement counterparts in Azerbaijan and Turkey to identify and arrest the Azeri and Turkish traffickers. In 2004, three traffickers were convicted and sentenced to eight to 12 years' imprisonment. The Ministry of Justice has also drafted a new law in collaboration with a legal NGO to address deficiencies in the current legislation, particularly to release victims from criminal liability and assure the right to refuse to give evidence or testimony. Furthermore, the government increased its recognition of trafficking-related corruption and took some action against complicit officials. In August 2004 and February 2005, the government arrested and charged three passport officials with facilitating trafficking.

Protection

Georgia continued to offer an inadequate level of protection for victims of trafficking during the reporting period. The government maintains no shelters for trafficking victims; however a domestic violence NGO provided temporary shelter for some victims. Although the government failed to create a formalized system for referring trafficking victims to the NGO shelter, police made a number of informal referrals to NGOs and international organizations over the last year. The government established and successfully implemented a policy to protect the identity of trafficking victims. In one case early in the reporting period, police investigators verbally mistreated victims during initial interrogations. The Police Academy has since instituted formal trafficking awareness and sensitivity training for all new officers. Since January 2005, the new anti-trafficking unit successfully identified 15 victims and informally referred them to temporary shelter and other resources.

Prevention

In 2004, the government initiated some anti-trafficking public awareness efforts and continued to participate in prevention programs including the airing of public service announcements with NGOs and international organizations. Senior government officials spoke out about trafficking and the government's new action plan. Although the government has not yet allocated specific funds to implement the new action plan, several ministries redirected funds from their budgets to underwrite anti-trafficking efforts. The government upgraded and enhanced the security features of Georgian passports to render passport fraud more difficult. After the discovery of four trafficking victims recruited from a specific area, the anti-trafficking unit proactively disseminated information in the neighborhood and in local colleges and schools to educate and prevent possible further victims.

KAZAKHSTAN (TIER 2)

Kazakhstan is a source, transit, and destination country for people trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Kazakhstani men, women, and children are trafficked to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Turkey, Isra-

el, South Korea, Greece, Cyprus, Russia, Syria, and Western Europe. Persons from other countries in Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan, are trafficked through or to Kazakhstan primarily for forced labor in construction and agriculture. Internal trafficking occurs from rural to urban areas for the purposes of both sexual and labor exploitation. Small trafficking rings, employment and travel agencies, and marriage brokers are often involved in trafficking individuals out of Kazakhstan. The Government of Kazakhstan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Kazakhstan's interagency National Working Group on Trafficking in Persons met regularly and made progress in implementing the National Action Plan adopted in February 2004. The government incorporated anti-trafficking curricula at high schools and universities, and local governments and NGOs throughout Kazakhstan concluded formal agreements of cooperation. The government should adopt amendments it has drafted to strengthen its anti-trafficking legislation, support legislative and prosecutorial initiatives to increase convictions and penalties, and considerably increase funds for trafficking victim assistance and prevention programs.

Prosecution

The Government of Kazakhstan increased its convictions of traffickers during the reporting period, although prosecution numbers remain low relative to the size of the problem. The Kazakhstani Criminal Code covers trafficking for the purposes of sexual or other exploitation both internally and abroad. The government has drafted a set of amendments to strengthen anti-trafficking legislation by more clearly defining trafficking, increasing penalties, and improving protection of victims. Law enforcement conducted 27 trafficking-related investigations during the last year. The courts prosecuted 14 cases and convicted 12 traffickers. However, only five of these traffickers are currently serving prison time; the rest received suspended sentences. Among other training events, the Ministry of Internal Affairs held a conference on trafficking in December 2004 for law enforcement from all parts of the country. In 2004, Kazakhstan cooperated on trafficking investigations with Uzbekistan, Russia, and the U.A.E. Evidence exists of some government officials' complicity in trafficking. During the reporting period, the government investigated two higher-level officials suspected of aiding trafficking rings.

Protection

Kazakhstan increased its efforts to protect trafficking victims in 2004; however, protection and assistance to victims remained inadequate mainly due to lack of government resources. The government grants temporary residency to identified trafficking victims to ensure safe repatriation or participation in criminal proceeding against their traffickers, though this residency is not specifically guaranteed by law. Local law enforcement officials have a mechanism to refer victims to crisis centers and shelters based on formal agreements with NGOs. The government provided a small amount of funding to the Union of Crisis Centers in 2004, whose member NGOs run nationwide trafficking hotlines and shelters to assist all types of victims, including trafficking victims. In the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk, the local government provided room, board, and protection for trafficking victims, in conjunction with a local NGO. Shelters reported effective coordination with local law enforcement to increase patrols and respond quickly to calls. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted in the repatriation of 36 Kazakhstani citizens from abroad, up from 24 in 2003.

Prevention

Public information about trafficking and education campaigns sponsored by the government has led to greater awareness of the risks of traveling abroad for employment. The government incorporated an anti-trafficking component into curricula at high schools, vocational schools, and universities, and required private and state television and radio stations to broadcast anti-trafficking public service announcements. The government covered the costs of disseminating information packets to media outlets with information on assistance hotlines and government efforts to combat trafficking. Law enforcement agencies continued to undertake unannounced inspections and investigations of travel and employment agencies. Kazakhstan's National Action Plan is publicly available and lays out a multi-year strategy to combat trafficking.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (TIER 2)

The Kyrgyz Republic is a source and transit country and, to a lesser degree, a destination country for persons trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation - to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for agricultural labor; to Russia for labor in agriculture, industry, commerce, and construction; and to China for bonded labor. Kyrgyz women and girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), China, South Korea, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Thailand, and Syria. Researchers in 2004 concluded that 80 percent of Kyrgyz women trafficked abroad for sexual exploitation ended up in the U.A.E. Smaller numbers of trafficking victims transited the Kyrgyz Republic from Uzbeki-

stan and South Asia to Russia, Turkey, and Europe. In 2004, the Kyrgyz Republic was a destination country for Uzbek women trafficked for sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking occurred from poor, rural areas to larger cities. An estimated 295,000 Kyrgyz migrant laborers work illegally in Russia, making them vulnerable to being trafficked. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government adopted a new comprehensive anti-trafficking law in January 2005 and focused its prevention efforts on protecting migrant laborers abroad. While the government's victim protection efforts remained lacking, it donated space for a trafficking shelter. The government should amend the Kyrgyz Criminal Code to bring its new anti-trafficking law into force and update its 2002 to 2005 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Prosecution

The Kyrgyz Government improved its law enforcement efforts with the May 2004 creation of a dedicated anti-trafficking enforcement unit, formed from a unit previously established in June 2003. Authorities produced 31 indictments and 17 convictions for trafficking-related offenses, including recruitment for sexual or labor exploitation and marriage to underage persons. Three of these convictions fell under the Kyrgyz Republic's 2003 amended criminal code criminalizing trafficking in persons; information on sentences in these cases was not available at the time of this report. The Kyrgyz anti-trafficking law prohibits all types of trafficking with sufficiently severe penalties. Over the last year, authorities shut down seven recruitment agencies and investigated eight more for illegally recruiting people to work abroad. Allegations continued of corruption and perceived tolerance of trafficking by some low-level officials, though the government reported no officials prosecuted for complicity in trafficking crimes. Kyrgyz law enforcement officials established contacts in 2004 with counterparts in South Korea and the U.A.E., and pursued joint trafficking investigations with Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

Protection

The Kyrgyz Government's efforts to assist and protect trafficking victims remained inadequate during the reporting period, though NGOs reported an increase in victim referrals by law enforcement officials. In October 2004, the government donated space for a trafficking shelter in Bishkek. In January 2005, the parliament adopted a new comprehensive anti-trafficking law giving immunity from prosecution to trafficking victims who cooperate with investigators. However, this provision and other new legal guarantees for victims require corresponding changes to the criminal code, which are pending in parliament, before they can take effect. Existing legislation provides for witness protection, but the government did not often use these measures due to resource constraints. During the reporting period, Kyrgyz diplomatic missions abroad assisted in the return of 71 Kyrgyz trafficking victims - 67 from the U.A.E. and four from Turkey.

Prevention

In August 2004, the government joined IOM and an NGO to distribute anti-trafficking information to labor migrants. During the reporting period, the government opened new consulates in Russia and China to better protect Kyrgyz citizens' rights in each country. Kyrgyz officials met regularly with Kazakh local authorities and monitored Kyrgyz labor migrants' working and living conditions in Kazakhstan. The number of Kyrgyz citizens trafficked to Russia, Kazakhstan, and South Korea continued to decrease during the reporting period because of bilateral labor migration agreements signed with those countries in 2003 and 2004. The National Council to Combat Trafficking met regularly, and in April 2004 the government provided office space for and started paying the salaries of the Council's two-staff-member Secretariat.

LATVIA (TIER 2)

Latvia is a source and transit country for primarily women and minors trafficked to Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Cyprus, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Victims are also trafficked internally, from rural areas to urban centers, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The Government of Latvia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government appears politically committed to its March 2004 National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, but is struggling to adequately fund and implement it. While the Latvian Government significantly enlarged its anti-trafficking police squad, its victim support services remained lacking and the Latvian court system imposed weak sentences on traffickers.

Prosecution

Latvia specifically criminalizes trafficking in persons for sexual and non-sexual exploitation purposes. In December 2004, Latvia amended its criminal law to cover internal trafficking as well as trafficking across international borders. Although Latvian legislation allows for sufficiently severe penalties under the section of the law against trafficking in persons, the courts in all cases in 2004 only applied those sections of the law that criminalize pimping and alien smuggling for sexual exploitation. While the law was amended in 2004 to provide greater penalties for alien smuggling for sexual exploitation, making it a felony, penalties under this section remain significantly less than those under the trafficking statute. The number of trafficking-related investigations increased, from 12 in 2003 up to 30 in 2004 (with four of those cases initiated under the trafficking section of the criminal law), but Latvian court delays made for fewer convictions in 2004. Of the 21 trafficking-related convictions, down from 40 in 2003, only one trafficker was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, while the rest received conditional sentences. In nine of those cases, the courts confiscated traffickers' property. The staff of the anti-trafficking police squad was increased in 2004 from eight full-time officers to 13. In 2004, the Latvian anti-trafficking unit continued close cooperation with German, Danish, Estonian, and Finnish law enforcement agencies. Latvia has established an anti-corruption bureau and continues to fight official corruption.

Protection

Latvia's efforts to assist and protect trafficking victims remained deficient. The government continued to provide no direct funding for foreign or domestic NGOs for services to victims. Some local municipalities provide ad hoc funds to victim assistance projects. The Riga city municipality granted limited funding to the Skalbes Crisis Center and to the Dardedze Center for abused children, NGOs that identified and assisted trafficking victims in 2004. Trafficking victims continue to be housed in a facility shared by a small number of asylum seekers, although the two groups are separated from one another within the facility. Law enforcement officials do not criminally punish victims, but rather refer them to NGOs for assistance. The process for applying for witness protection is complicated, perhaps explaining police reports that no trafficking victims requested protection in 2004. Latvian embassies abroad identified and assisted three victims during the reporting period, and helped repatriate the remains of two probable Latvian trafficking victims. In 2004, the Ministry of Education trained municipal social workers on trafficking issues, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April sponsored an annual training for consular officers on trafficking-related issues, and the state police organized three training sessions in all regions of Latvia on how to identify and develop trafficking cases.

Prevention

The Government of Latvia does not conduct independent anti-trafficking campaigns, but supports the efforts of NGOs. The Ministries of Education and Welfare continued to use the Swedish anti-trafficking film, "Lilya 4-Ever," to raise awareness among students through videos and associated materials in secondary schools. Also, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with a local NGO, has developed a guide on crime prevention, including trafficking in persons, for distribution in high schools. The Ministry of Interior leads an inter-ministerial working group that meets on a regular basis to implement Latvia's National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan adopted in March 2004. The Ministry of Interior in early 2005 released Latvia's first annual trafficking in persons report, which noted significant progress in modifying Latvian legislation to conform to international standards and problems with adequately funding the government's anti-trafficking efforts.

LITHUANIA (TIER 1)

Lithuania is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children primarily trafficked to large cities in Europe for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Victims are trafficked to and through Lithuania from countries such as Ukraine, Russia (Kaliningrad), and Belarus. Traffickers continued to target Lithuanian boarding schools, which also serve as orphanages, to recruit victims. The Government of Lithuania fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. During the reporting period, the government increased trafficking-related convictions, augmented funds for anti-trafficking programs, and assisted more victims. Still, overall trafficking convictions and sentences remained low, and some NGOs called for greater government funding of victim protection programs. To further strengthen anti-trafficking efforts, the government should consider establishing a specialized anti-trafficking law enforcement unit, formalize screening and referral mechanisms, and increase sensitivity training for police. The Lithuanian Government should consider expanding its prevention program to include domestic demand-reduction programs.

Prosecution

In 2004, the Government of Lithuania in 2004 opened 22 new investigations, involving 25 traffickers, up from 15 investigations in 2003. During that period, the courts prosecuted 16 trafficking cases and convicted 14 individuals with sentences ranging from fines to three years' imprisonment. Lithuania's Criminal Code penalized trafficking with prison

sentences of up to ten years in cases of trafficking in children. In March 2005, a Vilnius court finalized the extradition of a Costa Rican wanted by Costa Rican authorities for trafficking children in that country. In 2004, Lithuanian law enforcement officials participated in trafficking-related training in Norway, Belarus, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and Sweden. Lithuania's law enforcement training center provided four hours of anti-trafficking training biannually to all new officers. While there was no official evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking in persons, some individual police officers may condone it. Lithuanian law enforcement officials continued to cooperate with other governments on trafficking investigations and participated in 23 joint trafficking investigations in 2004.

Protection

The Lithuanian Government provided grants to 13 of the approximately 20 NGOs that offer trafficking victims assistance or temporary shelter - up from 11 in 2003. Experts estimated over 300 trafficking victims received support in 2004. No formal screening and referral procedures existed, but police cooperation with assistance providers was adequate. The police signed an agreement of cooperation in December 2004 with one NGO that provided shelter and social assistance to 17 trafficking victims. The government provided 30 trafficking victims with counseling and occupational training under its rehabilitation and orientation program established in July 2003. In 2004, trafficking victims and witnesses composed 13 to 14 percent of all protected people in the police department's protection program. Police did not charge trafficking victims as criminal violators in 2004, and the government submitted to the parliament in February 2005 new draft legislation to guarantee formal protections for victims. The government continued to provide guidance to its overseas posts on the handling of trafficking cases; the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted in the repatriation of 42 trafficking victims during the reporting period, up from 20 in 2003.

Prevention

The government and local NGOs organized a series of educational events for more than 200 boarding school students who are particularly at risk for trafficking. An NGO that received approximately half of its annual budget from government funding distributed over 82,000 anti-trafficking brochures and posters throughout Lithuania, and implemented over ten trafficking prevention programs in 2004. Schools continued to use the anti-trafficking curricula on a voluntary basis. Lithuania's first National Strategy to combat trafficking ended in 2004; an interagency group drafted a National Strategy for 2005 to 2008 that is expected to receive official approval in spring 2005.

MOLDOVA (TIER 2)

Moldova is primarily a source country for persons, particularly women and girls, trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation to the Middle East and European countries west and south of Moldova. It is also to a lesser extent a transit country to European destinations for victims trafficked from former Soviet states. Moldovan victims continued to be increasingly trafficked to Turkey, the Middle East (including the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Israel), and Russia (particularly minors). New information indicates that Moldovan men are trafficked to Baltic and other former Soviet states for the purpose of agricultural and construction labor exploitation. IOM reported an increased number of families trafficked to Poland for forced begging. The small breakaway region of Transnistria in eastern Moldova is outside the central government's control and remained a significant source and transit area for trafficking in persons. The Government of Moldova does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. In 2004, the government more than doubled the number of trafficking convictions handed down with prison sentences. While Moldova's National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons continued to meet regularly and frequently, the government spent very little of its own funds to combat trafficking. The trafficking problem severely affects the Moldovan population. The government should lead Moldova's fight against trafficking rather than continuing to rely heavily on initiatives from NGOs and international organizations.

Prosecution

While Moldova made progress in its law enforcement efforts during the reporting period, it is widely suspected that the Anti-Trafficking Unit limited the number of cases it investigated due in some instances to pressure from complicit officials at higher levels in the government. Moldovan legislation prohibits all types of trafficking and provides for severe penalties ranging from seven years to life imprisonment. The Ministry of Interior's Anti-Trafficking Unit opened 274 trafficking investigations, up from 189 investigations in 2003. The courts convicted 16 individuals for trafficking in persons and seven for trafficking in children, of which 13 received prison sentences (compared to six in 2003) ranging from two to 16 years. Police and prosecutors received anti-trafficking investigations training in September 2004. Moldovan law enforcement officials participated in the regional operation "Mirage 2004" that led authorities to open nine trafficking cases in Moldova. Despite continued allegations of trafficking-related corruption among some law enforce-

ment officials, the government took no action against these officials. Authorities investigated a former Moldovan policeman for trafficking women to the U.A.E.; he is currently free on bail pending his trial. Corrupt judges often downgraded trafficking charges to pimping for lesser penalties.

Protection

The Moldovan Government's efforts to assist and protect trafficking victims remained inadequate. The government provided practically no funding to NGOs for victim assistance, though it continued to provide space in state buildings for a rehabilitation center run by IOM and another anti-trafficking organization's branch offices. Moldova has not implemented its witness protection law adopted in 1998, though in certain cases police posted guards outside witnesses' homes during the reporting period. Still, a majority of victims did not feel secure enough to take action against their traffickers. The government did not prosecute trafficking victims in 2004 for crimes committed in the course of being trafficked. No official victim referral system existed; however, the Anti-Trafficking Unit signed cooperative agreements with two lead anti-trafficking organizations under which it referred several hundred victims for assistance during the reporting period.

Prevention

The government continued its work to prevent trafficking, though NGOs and international organizations conducted most of the anti-trafficking campaigns. While the National Committee on Trafficking in Persons met twice a month on a regular basis, it produced limited results due to the lack of a full-time secretariat and a clear mandate. In December 2004, the National Committee asked NGOs and international organizations to evaluate its work and suggest ways to improve government efforts to combat trafficking. It then released an assessment of anti-trafficking work by all entities for the 2003 to 2004 period. In January 2005, the government established a working group with NGO participation to draft a new National Action Plan that will replace the outdated 2001 Action Plan. Additionally, the government drafted and sent to parliament in February 2005 new legislation to comprehensively address all aspects for trafficking. All local committees, underneath the National Committee, conducted trafficking awareness-raising meetings in schools with students and teachers. The Ministry of Internal Affairs withdrew the licenses of several tourism and employment agencies in 2004 for their suspected involvement in trafficking.

RUSSIA (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

Russia is a major source of women trafficked globally for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Russia is also a significant destination and transit country for persons trafficked for sexual and labor exploitation from regional and neighboring countries into Russia, and on to the Gulf states, Europe, Asia, and North America. The ILO estimates that 20 percent of the five million illegal immigrants in Russia are victims of forced labor, which is a form of trafficking. There were reports of trafficking of children and of child sex tourism in Russia. Internal trafficking from rural to urban areas remained a problem. The Government of Russia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Russia is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for a second consecutive year for its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking, particularly in the area of victim protection and assistance. A new general witness protection program may improve care of trafficking victims who participate in an investigation or protection. While the central government sustained its commitment and recognition to address trafficking, more remains to be done. The government made particular progress in the area of enforcement, increasing investigations and prosecutions under the new amendments to the Criminal Code. It took important preliminary steps to raise awareness among law enforcement and the public through a national training program and development of a training manual. However, the government must develop mechanisms to protect Russian and foreign trafficking victims immediately, administer its new witness protection legislation, and target public awareness programs at potential victims, particularly regarding recruitment scams inherent in employment ads throughout Russia. Moreover, the government should intensify its efforts to work with the NGO community in Russia. The government should continue to actively prosecute and sentence traffickers. It should also identify and address trafficking complicity of public officials. Specialized targeted training for law enforcement is essential to ensure that police are armed with the proper investigative tools to implement anti-trafficking statutes and the new witness protection legislation.

Prosecution

The central government took visible efforts to improve Russia's law enforcement response to trafficking over the last year with its implementation of the 2003 anti-trafficking amendments to the criminal code. In January 2005, President Putin signed additional legislative amendments to the criminal code punishing the organization of illegal entry and transit of aliens into and through Russia. Investigators increased their application of new anti-trafficking tools, but few

convictions were reported. In 2004, the government investigated 26 cases under the new anti-trafficking provisions of the criminal code, eight of which were cases of labor trafficking. A total of 11 cases were successfully referred for prosecution. The government continued to bring charges against traffickers using older code provisions. In May 2004, the government convicted and sentenced two Ukrainian men to eight and ten years for trafficking in girls for sexual exploitation. Official corruption continued to facilitate and protect the operation of criminal trafficking networks. The government reported two trafficking-related corruption cases pending before the Russian courts. In September 2004, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) co-sponsored a regional anti-trafficking coordination conference for specialized anti-trafficking units of law enforcement agencies of neighboring countries. The government developed an anti-trafficking training manual analyzing current laws and procedures; a field manual was under development and was shared with Russian law enforcement and neighboring countries. The government actively cooperated in transnational law enforcement investigations with other countries. In June 2004, the Interior Minister announced the arrest of five individuals involved in a ring trafficking young women to the United States and Asia. The MVD rescued 72 victims and confiscated a large amount of criminal proceeds from the ring. In January 2005, the MVD publicly announced the creation of specialized anti-trafficking units throughout Russia. These units cooperated with Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and numerous other countries on trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

Protection

The Russian Government's protection and assistance for victims of trafficking remained weak throughout the reporting period; however, in August 2004, it supplemented its 2003 anti-trafficking amendments with the passage of witness protection legislation, which became effective in January 2005. This well-funded legislation could potentially allow shelter and protection for trafficking victims who are witnesses in an investigation or prosecution. The statute includes rights to employment and collection of damages. Regrettably, the Duma failed to pass comprehensive victim protection, and assistance legislation needed to address the broader issues of prevention, protection and rehabilitation for foreign victims and victims not party to an investigation. As a result, the government has yet to support or establish shelters specifically for trafficking victims. While the central government did not institute a formalized screening referral process, IOM reported that the MVD solicited repatriation assistance for illegal migrants, including some trafficking victims. In addition, one regional government collaborated with an anti-trafficking NGO to develop a referral procedure for victims in Yaroslavl. While a prosecutor or investigator in a trafficking case may permit a foreign victim to remain in Russia during a pending criminal case, Russian law afforded no specific status to assist or protect foreign victims of trafficking; their involuntary deportation remained a problem. Currently, additional legislation is pending to address some of these critical deficiencies; future passage of the law, however, remained uncertain. The need to assist victims and provide them with legal status remained paramount.

Prevention

Senior government officials continued to highlight the trafficking issue in the media during the last year; they also participated in anti-trafficking seminars. In November 2004, in front of the Russian Duma and again in February 2005, the central government hosted two regional anti-trafficking conferences to develop public awareness, consider draft legislation, and encourage closer cooperation between the MVD and NGOs. The events received widespread media attention. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs placed detailed warnings on its consular affairs website for potential victims. The government did not have a formal trafficking coordination body, but coordination of anti-trafficking policies and programs took place primarily through the Duma Legislative Working Group. The Duma began drafting a comprehensive report on the nature and scope of trafficking in Russia and the means to address it.

NGOs and international organizations continued to conduct virtually all targeted prevention programs for victims; however, they reported increasingly good relations with the government and actively participated in the Duma anti-trafficking working group. Some local NGOs reported they received operational support from local officials, and many reported they provided anti-trafficking training to local government and police.

TAJIKISTAN (TIER 2)

Tajikistan is a source country for men, women, and children trafficked to Russia, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Iran for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. The Government of Tajikistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Over the past year, the government adopted a comprehensive trafficking in persons law, established a specialized anti-trafficking police unit, and created an interagency commission to coordinate anti-trafficking activities and draft a national action plan. While victim assistance and protection remained inadequate, in

large part due to a lack of resources, Tajikistan's new law provides a useful framework for the protection of victims. The government should make strong efforts to meet trafficking victims' needs and increase convictions.

Prosecution

The Government of Tajikistan adopted a comprehensive Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons in August 2004. Tajikistan's Criminal Code criminalized trafficking in persons for both sexual and labor exploitation. Penalties include imprisonment of five to 15 years and confiscation of property. Traffickers may also be prosecuted under other laws such as those prohibiting exploitation of prostitution, rape, kidnapping, and buying and selling of minors. In 2004, law enforcement officials investigated 14 trafficking cases. A Dushanbe court in late 2004 handed down the first conviction under Tajikistan's new anti-trafficking law, sentencing a trafficker to 14 years' imprisonment and confiscating her property. In May 2004, the government established a dedicated police unit with five officers directly involved in trafficking investigations. The Ministry of Interior added a special trafficking training course to its academy curriculum. The government arrested 14 low-level law enforcement officers who engaged in sexually exploiting underage girls. Defendants charged with trafficking have received reduced charges allegedly due to bribes accepted by judges.

Protection

Assistance for trafficking victims in Tajikistan remained inadequate during the reporting period. In theory, victims are protected under the new anti-trafficking law, but in practice the government offers no protection or reintegration programs for victims, citing limited resources. The Ministry of Interior and a local NGO signed an agreement on cooperation in December 2004, in part, as an effort to try to locate space to interview victims in a secure, confidential environment. Enforcement officials did not jail, fine, detain, or otherwise punish victims.

Prevention

In January 2005, the government established an interagency commission on combating human trafficking, a product of its new anti-trafficking law. The commission began meeting monthly in February and is charged with producing a national plan to combat human trafficking. The commission consists of representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Security, Labor, Foreign Affairs, Education, Health, and Economy and Trade, as well as the State Border Protection Committee, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the President's Administration. The government continued to cooperate with local NGOs and international groups on prevention, and may include them in future meetings of the commission. On May 5, 2004, the Ministry of Interior and IOM signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Sphere of Combating Trafficking in Persons, leading to a formal cooperative relationship between IOM and the anti-trafficking unit on prosecution and protection activities.

UKRAINE (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

Ukraine is primarily a source country for men, women, and children trafficked to Europe, the Middle East, and Russia for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Recent studies indicate an increase in internal trafficking for all forms of exploitation and a growing problem of trafficking in minors. Ukraine continued to serve as a significant transit country for Asian and Moldovan victims trafficked to Western destinations. The Government of Ukraine does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Ukraine has been placed on Tier 2 Watch List because of its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts and its commitment to take additional future steps over the next year, particularly in the area of victim protection and prosecution of trafficking-related complicity. Ukraine's new government, which assumed power in late 2004, is expected to respond more effectively to institutional weaknesses and corruption, which hindered the previous government's anti-trafficking efforts. The government should create a special witness protection program for trafficking victims, expand the legal definition of trafficking to conform with international requirements, ensure the appropriation of consistent resources for the anti-trafficking unit, and conduct sensitivity training to reduce victim blaming and breaches of victim confidentiality.

Prosecution

Ukraine's Criminal Code remained inadequate to address the full range of trafficking in Ukraine over the reporting period. The Ministry of Interior initiated 269 new cases, completed 72 investigations, and charged 138 persons with trafficking crimes. A total of 68 trafficking prosecutions were started. The courts convicted traffickers in 67 cases, an increase from the previous year. Regrettably, only 22 persons were sentenced to time in prison, the rest receiving probation. During the reporting period, the government successfully dismantled 17 organized crime groups involved in trafficking cases. Trafficking-related complicity and official involvement continued to be a problem; there were persistent

reports of high-level official intervention, which may have resulted in significant sentence reductions. The government did not investigate or prosecute any cases of trafficking-related corruption during the year.

Protection

The Government of Ukraine failed to provide adequate protection and rehabilitation services to victims of trafficking in 2004. The lack of a credible victim witness protection program impaired the government's ability to protect victims, and as a result few victims were willing to cooperate in prosecutions. Ukrainian courts showed a lack of sensitivity to victims during court proceedings; trafficking victims were characterized as prostitutes, rather than victims of a serious crime. The Ministry of Family and Youth Affairs coordinated some rehabilitation services, but the majority of funding for these programs came from international donors. Commendably, the government screened all victims repatriated or deported from abroad to the port of Odesa and referred them to a local NGO for services. The government instructed all diplomatic officials abroad to accelerate procedures for identifying Ukrainian victims and providing them with appropriate travel documents.

Prevention

Ukraine's trafficking prevention efforts were woefully inadequate over the last year. The country's Comprehensive Program for Combating Trafficking was not implemented well in 2004, as it lacked both financing and practical measures needed for its effective implementation. As a result, internal trafficking was not addressed. In December 2004, the government established an advisory anti-trafficking working group to improve coordination of the largely ineffectual Inter-Ministerial Group. The government continued to rely on NGOs and international organizations to conduct the bulk of prevention programs. However, it provided minor support for their activities, primarily by distributing literature throughout the government and in public schools. In 2004, the Ministry of Family and Youth Affairs conducted outreach to some rural youth and provided mortgage assistance to young families.

UZBEKISTAN (TIER 2 - WATCH LIST)

Uzbekistan is primarily a source, and, to a lesser extent, a transit country for people trafficked to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Israel, Turkey, Egypt, South Korea, Bahrain, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Western Europe, and other former Soviet states. Typically women are trafficked to those countries for the purpose of sexual exploitation; men end up trafficked in Kazakhstan and Russia for labor exploitation in construction, agriculture, and the service sector. IOM reported an increase of trafficked victims from the Fergana Valley in 2004. Internal trafficking occurred from rural to urban areas primarily for labor exploitation. The Government of Uzbekistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government has been placed on Tier 2 Watch List based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year, including the adoption of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, criminal code amendments to raise anti-trafficking penalties, support to the country's first trafficking shelter, and approval of a national action plan. During 2004, the government created an anti-trafficking unit, improved Uzbek consulate efforts to free trafficked victims abroad, and increased trafficking convictions.

Prosecution

While the Government of Uzbekistan increased trafficking convictions to 251 in 2004 (up from 80 in 2003), a majority of convicted traffickers were amnestied. The government extended a general amnesty to anyone convicted of crimes with prison terms of less than ten years. Uzbekistan's law on trafficking prescribes prison sentences of five to eight years, which meant that most traffickers qualified for general amnesty during 2004 and thus served little to no jail time, unless they were convicted for additional offenses or were repeat offenders. The government amnestied in December 2004 two women convicted earlier in the Fall for their role in trafficking 14 women to Georgia for onward movement to the U.A.E. Proposed legislation that would comprehensively address trafficking and raise penalties for cross-border trafficking to ten to 15 years' imprisonment remained pending during the reporting period. In 2004, the Uzbek Government established contacts with anti-trafficking counterparts in the U.A.E., the top destination for Uzbek women trafficked for sexual exploitation. Still, the government acknowledged that it needed more cooperative relationships with destination countries for effective trafficking prosecutions. Ministry of Internal Affairs participants in a May 2004 anti-trafficking training course used their skills to train an additional 1,500 officers throughout Uzbekistan. Allegations of local officials falsifying or selling travel documents continued, although the government reported no actions taken against this corruption in 2004.

Protection

The Uzbek Government provided no direct support to trafficking victims, due in part to limited resources. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted some with obtaining the necessary identification documents to return to Uzbekistan. Following an Uzbek delegation's visit in December 2004 to the U.A.E. - where it interviewed 119 women in five prisons - and an ensuing consular officers' training in January 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs changed the identification policy for trafficking victims, compressing the process into weeks as opposed to months. Airport police continued to refer identified trafficking victims to an NGO in Tashkent. The state-run Uzbekistan Airways issued tickets at a 50 percent discount to destitute citizens abroad, including trafficking victims. Authorities did not jail or prosecute trafficking victims in 2004. The government encouraged victims to assist with investigations, but no formal programs existed to protect victims of any crime who served as witnesses in criminal prosecutions.

Prevention

The government continued to support anti-trafficking educational programming via state-controlled mass media and informational posters in public and government spaces. It paid to translate trafficking awareness posters into the Karakalpak language for those in western Uzbekistan. The Uzbek Government allowed free advertising on local television stations of seven regional anti-trafficking hotlines, run by IOM's partner organizations. Members of the anti-trafficking unit traveled to each region of Uzbekistan during the summer of 2004 to assess regional anti-trafficking measures; consequently, regional units were formed to better coordinate local anti-trafficking measures. At the end of 2004, Uzbekistan reconstituted its anti-trafficking working group in which three government agencies participated.

(end excerpt)

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120 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

Trafficking in Persons Report Focuses on Labor Exploitation; Secretary Rice, Ambassador Miller aim to end modern-day slavery

BYLINE: Susan Ellis, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1076 words

Washington ' Citing both the positive actions and failures of governments around the world to take the necessary steps to end modern-day slavery, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice presented to the public the fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) at the U.S. Department of State June 3.

Rice expressed the hope that the comprehensive, worldwide report "will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it."

Introducing the findings, the secretary noted that "up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year and millions more are trafficked internally." Four out of five of those trafficked are women and one in two is a minor, she said.

The data, she said, illustrate that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, but there is also an alarming enslavement of people for purposes of labor exploitation, a form of slavery given special attention in this year's report.

The responsibility for trafficking does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education, Rice pointed out, but "destination or demand countries like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility."

There is a modern-day abolitionist movement of "concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other non-governmental groups -- doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation," Rice said. "The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

The United States provided more than \$96 million in foreign aid during 2004 to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts, Rice noted, and is now helping them to develop legislation to combat abuse. The aid assists in creating special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs," she said.

The report records the efforts of 150 nations between March 2004 and March 2005 to deal with the issue, explained Ambassador John Miller, the senior adviser on trafficking in persons in the State Department. "Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern-day slavery.

"Worldwide this past year the number of trafficking-related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from four or five years ago," he said.

The report's methodology includes a three-tier system for rating countries' effectiveness in combating trafficking:

" [cents] Tier 1 includes those countries that have met international standards for coping with trafficking and are vigorously addressing the problem.

" [cents] Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards; the Tier 2 "Watch List" consists of countries that might be vulnerable to an erosion of their efforts.

" [cents] Tier 3, the least favorable rating, lists countries whose governments fail to meet minimal international standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

While some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted, Miller said, others have failed to move forward: "Ecuador was placed on Tier III [the lowest] again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery."

In an overview of this year's report, Miller noted that sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery, which translates to an increased number of sex victims in countries where prostitution is allowed or encouraged. Hence there has been "a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers," he said.

But the United States is concerned with all forms of slavery, Miller insisted, so "this year trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and non-governmental organizations."

Four countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- remain on Tier III, primarily for failing to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking, he said. "The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude, or child camel jockeys who live in slavlike conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments," he added.

"Burma, North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier III, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier III** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons.**"

On the positive side, Miller said: "The Tier II Warning Watch List introduced last year has been very effective. Thirty-one of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports Tier II Watch List improved their ratings this year."

Several countries that were on Tier III on the 2004 report have acted to be raised to the next tier, Miller stated: "Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking, [and] Bangladesh set up a long-promised anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims."

Miller also explained: "Country ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking of persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up by the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country."

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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121 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

State Department Briefing, June 3; Department / Sec. Rice welcomes McCormack as spokesman / Trafficking in Persons report / Amb. Dobriansky meeting with ambassadors / Sec. Rice attendance at OAS summit / aid to fragile democracies / Inter-American Democratic Charter, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Sudan, G8, Iraq, Bolivia, Aruba, Greece/Cyprus

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State Department spokesman Sean McCormack briefed the press June 3.

Following is the transcript of the State Department briefing:

(begin transcript)

[U.S. Department of State]

Daily Press Briefing Index

Friday, June 3, 2005

2:10 p.m. EDT

Briefer: Sean McCormack, Spokesman

DEPARTMENT

-- Sec. Rice: Farewell to Richard Boucher, former Spokesman; Introduction of Sean McCormack, Spokesman/ Richard Boucher: Thank You

-- **Trafficking in Persons** Report (TIP)/ Ambassador Dobriansky meeting with Ambassadors/ Sanctions/ **Tier 3** allies/ Ambassador Miller

-- Sec. Rice Attendance at Organization of American States (OAS) Summit in Ft. Lauderdale/ Aid to Fragile Democracies/ Inter-American Democratic Charter

SRI LANKA

-- Sec. Rice Meeting with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar/ Tsunami Reconstruction/ Violence

INDONESIA

-- Warden Message/ Specific Threat/ Travel Warning/ Security Measures at Embassy/ Hotels

LEBANON

-- Killing of Journalist Samir Kassir/ Investigation/ Sec. Meetings with Zebari and Makabi

SYRIA

-- SCUD Missile Test/ Weapons of Mass Destruction/ Out of Step with Region

SAUDI ARABIA

-- Response to TIP report/ Possibility of Sanctions

-- Record on International Religious Freedom / Country of Particular Concern Designation

NORTH KOREA

-- Six Party Talks/ Food Aid

SUDAN

-- Dep. Sec. Zoellick's Trip/ Kartoum/ Darfur/ African Union Mission/ Security

G-8

-- Prime Minister Tony Blair Meeting with President Bush/ G8 Summit/ AIDS/ Poverty

IRAQ

-- Ambassador to Iraq/ Ambassador Khalilzad / Embassy of Baghdad/ Security/ US Support of Iraqi People and Government / Iraqi Process

BOLIVIA

-- OAS Summit/ Assistance

ARUBA

-- Missing American Natalee Hardaway /FBI Assistance

GREECE/CYPRUS

-- State of Relations / Cyprus

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

2:15 p.m. EDT

MR. MCCORMACK: Under any circumstance, the Secretary of State is a hard act to follow and, well, for that matter, so is Richard Boucher. So why don't I just jump right into questions. I don't have anything to start with.

Mr. Gedda.

QUESTION: I have no questions. I just want to say congratulations on your confirmation and your swearing-in and I hope you have a long --

QUESTION: Please speak up, George.

QUESTION: I wanted to congratulate Sean at the outset on his confirmation and his swearing-in and I'm sure we'll have a long and productive and sometimes contentious time together.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, I very much look forward to working with you and all of your colleagues in the State Department press corps. You serve an important function in our form of government and our way of life and I think it's an example for the entire world, you know, the Spokesman of the State Department standing up here and taking questions from a free and responsible press and trying to provide the best, most timely information that we can. So I look forward to working with you over the coming period.

QUESTION: Ah, flattery.

MR. MCCORMACK: Will it get me everywhere?

QUESTION: I have a question. I realize we've already had a briefing on the trafficking report.

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Have you -- has the government, the U.S. Government, gotten any reaction from any of the countries that were put in Tier 3 for the first time, notably the Saudis, the Kuwaitis, the UAE, Qatar? Are they dismayed about this? Have they given any strong signals that they're going to try to act fast to do something about it?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'll try to get for you any information that we might have on specific reactions, but in general, I would note that Undersecretary Paula Dobriansky is this afternoon -- I don't know if she's already met with them or not -- meeting with about a hundred ambassadors here in Washington to talk about the Trafficking in Persons Report. And included in that number are a number of Tier 3 countries and I would note that we have already had some consultations with some of the countries that appear in Tier 3. Our ambassadors went in and talked to the foreign ministries about the report. I would note that -- I think Ambassador Miller talked about this, that one country -- I believe Bolivia -- has already acted on some of the issues raised by the report.

So if there's anything further with respect to -- on those four, I'll let you know.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Sean?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: Regarding those four, how serious is the threat of sanction? Does the administration believe that that is a real weapon that can be used? Is it the threat of sanctions that you hope, because of the reputational impact, would have some effect on their behavior? And particularly with the Saudis, since they have gotten worse, not better.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, if --

QUESTION: Worse through this whole process.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. As you know, and you heard in your briefing today, sanctions, you know, that is one possibility here. But the overall intent of the lives, it's -- this is meant to foster a dialogue and discussion about this issue. There's a 90-day period in which we will have a dialogue with the countries that are on Tier 3 and the hope is that we can address some of the issues raised by the report and that, as a result of that dialogue, that you actually take effective action in response to some of the issues that are raised by the report.

I mentioned to Arshad one of the countries, Bolivia, has already taken some steps and I think that that is a model for the kind of cooperative dialogue on these kinds of issues that is envisioned not only by the law, but by, you know, our application of the law.

QUESTION: May I follow up?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: How do you weigh the balance of benefits and risks with four countries, in this case, that are key allies in the war on terror and key components of our military operation in that region?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, in any relationship, in any sort of deep, involved relationship like we have with a number of these different countries, including Saudi Arabia and including Qatar, as you mentioned -- they are allies in the war on terror, as well as others that are in the report -- oftentimes you have to bring up difficult issues. And as the President has talked about before, as the Secretary has talked about before, we're not going to hesitate to bring up these issues with those countries. It's important that -- the President believes it's important that we speak out clearly on these issues. This is an important moral issue of our time.

I think Ambassador Miller talked about how this trafficking in persons was the modern-day equivalent of slavery, and both the Secretary and the President are committed to abolishing this. Part of that effort is to speak clearly about the problem in an objective manner using the criteria laid out by the law. The second part to that is to work with these countries to try to address, in a real way, some of these issues and to end the practices that are cited in the report.

Why don't we move back here.

QUESTION: Sean, congratulations and welcome aboard.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: I have a question. On Tuesday, there was a meeting between the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Washington with the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Mr. Welch, in which they say the Deputy Ambassador was included. Is that an indication that maybe we're heading towards a lowering of diplomatic relations with Syria?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not up on that meeting. Let me look into it. And if there's anything that we have to add, we'll get back to you.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay. Saul.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the Secretary's with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister this morning. Can you do a readout from that for us, please?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, if you put it that way. (Laughter.)

Secretary Rice and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Kadirgamar had a good meeting today. They met this morning up in the Secretary's office. It was the Foreign Minister and just a couple of his aides and the Secretary and a couple of her aides. They talked about bilateral issues of mutual interest, including tsunami reconstruction assistance and the need for arrangements to assure its equitable distribution. The Secretary recognized and applauded Sri Lanka's commitment to democracy.

QUESTION: How about issues of the general war on terrorism, given that they've got their own problems with the Tamils? Is that something that Rice reiterated that she would be giving support to, to the mediating process done by Norway?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't believe that came up in the meeting, but let me check for you.

QUESTION: But on the -- you said equitable distribution for the tsunami aid. Do you have a reason to believe that it is being inequitably distributed, the tsunami aid in Sri Lanka?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, we don't. As a matter of fact, the Secretary and the Foreign Minister had a good talk about this. They talked about how we have moved from the immediate relief phase into, really, the reconstruction phase and how the importance of working with all the various groups in establishing the mechanisms with the NGOs and the governments and other foreign governments that are involved in the reconstruction process, and make sure that it's a coordinated process. And I think both of them were comfortable with the progress thus far in making sure that those reconstruction funds are spent in an equitable manner.

QUESTION: Great. So you don't have concerns, for example, that the Tamil population is getting less than its due?

MR. MCCORMACK: I'm not aware of any concerns along those lines.

In the back, Teri.

QUESTION: Change of subject?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Can you talk about concerns in Indonesia, the Warden Message put out today, and the fact that the missions are remaining open despite the threat to hotels?

MR. MCCORMACK: As you noted, we did issue a Warden Message in Indonesia. This was in response to a credible and specific information that talked about hotels specifically, so we thought this was and is an appropriate step to issue this message. And because it was -- the information was specific, we decided that it was most appropriate to issue a Warden Message as opposed to making any changes to the Travel Warning at this time.

QUESTION: The Warden Message said that the plans were as of June 1st. Does the fact that you only put the Warden Message out on June 3rd indicate that the threat remains at at least a constant level?

MR. MCCORMACK: I believe that the Warden Message is still operative and I'll check to see if there's any action that we would take to notify people that the actual threat had ended. I don't know the --

QUESTION: Yeah, it's unusual just that they would say that two days ago there was this threat and we're notifying you today.

MR. CASEY: Effective as of June 1, meaning ongoing.

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure, let's move around. Peter.

QUESTION: Can we stay on this?

MR. MCCORMACK: Oh, okay.

QUESTION: I don't mean to nitpick, but if you're saying the reason for only doing a Warden Message, not a Travel Warning, is that it was very specific to hotels, wouldn't a Warden Message just go to Americans whom you have contacts with who you know are already in the country and the Travel Warning would be for the people who would be visiting and wanting to go to hotels and therefore might be victims to the targeted hotels?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Embassy, working with the Consular Affairs people back here in Washington, felt, based on the information that they have and which I can't go into any more than I have, this was the most appropriate step to take.

Peter. Any other on this subject?

QUESTION: Syria.

QUESTION: Just one more. Despite the fact that it seemed very specific, have there been any measures taken by Indonesian local security forces to shore up U.S. missions?

MR. MCCORMACK: In these cases, typically, the embassy does work with the local officials but I'm not aware of any specific measures that they may have taken.

Peter.

QUESTION: Syria. The killing of the journalist the other day. Do you have any more information on it indicating who might be behind it? And is the United States, as it did in the killing of Hariri, going to be asking for an international or an independent investigation?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Secretary did address this yesterday in her remarks with Minister Zebari and I don't have -- I really don't have at this point anything to add to those remarks. I don't have any further information on the question of who.

She noted the fact that it would appear that these were efforts by individuals who were attempting to intimidate the population at a time when they're holding elections. At this point, I think that, again, I would reiterate what the Secretary said, and she urged Prime Minister Mikati to follow through in a real way on his pledge to investigate and ultimately hold accountable those responsible for this, for this act.

QUESTION: Is there a point that you might be seeking in independent or outside investigation or you're holding that in abeyance or is that a possibility?

MR. BOUCHER: I think at this point, I would just stick with what the Secretary said.

QUESTION: Also on Syria. Welcome, Sean.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Do you know if there's been any contact between the Department and Syria either on the killing of Samir Kassir or about the scud missile test by Syria last week? Scott confirmed that the U.S. knew about the test, but has there been any dialogue on that? And then I have a question on a separate subject.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay. Thanks for the warning. On both of those questions, in terms of contact with the Syrian Government, I'm not aware of any.

On the Syrian missile test, as Scott indicated, we have information that indicates that it did occur. And I would just add that it's one more example of Syria being out of step with what's going on in the rest of the region. You have Lebanon on one side, Iraq on the other, and the populations of those countries are focused on trying to build the institutions -- political, economic, security -- that form the foundation for a more free, prosperous country as well as region. So it's just one more example of the fact that they're out of step with what else is going on in the region.

QUESTION: One more on this, okay?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Do you know anything about whether these missiles or any of the technology related to the missiles were supplied by North Korea?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't have any information I could share with you on that.

QUESTION: One last follow-up on (inaudible) in principle Syria is a sovereign country, should it not test missiles of any kind as long as it's not illegal?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, again, we have long talked about our concerns of Syria's efforts to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction as well as the means of delivering them. That's -- you know, that's not a new message. I just think that this type of step is, when you look at the rest of what's going on in the region and the efforts that people are taking to try to develop a more peaceful, a more stable, more harmonious region, it's just a discordant note and that's the reason why I wanted to point that out to you.

Tammy.

QUESTION: New topic?

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm. Anybody else on Syria?

QUESTION: Can you take a question on whether there's been any contacts today between -- seems a lot going on in the U.S.-Syria front. Like, if anybody spoke to anybody?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure, sure.

QUESTION: And Sean, when you said you had indications that the test went ahead, do you have indications that the missile actually went into Turkish territory?

MR. MCCORMACK: That -- I don't have anything for you on that.

Tammy.

QUESTION: On Saudi Arabia, last September, the U.S. designated Saudi Arabia a Country of Particular Concern about religious freedom. Has there been any decision taken so far to impose sanctions on Saudi Arabia? And I think I'm going to follow up.

MR. MCCORMACK: Oh, I'll raise your follow-up with, "I'll have to get back to you on that." (Laughter.)

I'll have to check on that. I don't have any information on that.

QUESTION: Well, my follow-up may not -- well, if I could.

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay, sure.

QUESTION: Given that at least we haven't heard of any action taken, how realistic should the threat of sanctions be seen by a country such as Saudi Arabia, given that nothing appears to have happened since last September? I'm sorry, sanctions regarding trafficking in persons

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, again, that is in the law. That's part of the law as a possibility. But the law -- the spirit of the law -- also is to emphasize a consultative process. That's why you have this 90-day period. And I expect that -- we already have had contact with the Saudis on this when we delivered a copy of the report to them and discussed the chapter dealing with them. And I expect that we would have follow-up conversations on the subject as well.

So, again, the emphasis is on a dialogue and trying to solve the problem, as well as on measure -- we're not trying to single anybody out. These are objective criteria applied evenly across states, so -- and we use the criteria that are in the law.

QUESTION: May I just follow on that quickly?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Did the President and the Secretary raise this in Crawford at the most recent meetings?

MR. MCCORMACK: That was before my time, but I'll check for you.

QUESTION: You'll check that?

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah, sure.

QUESTION: A follow-up?

MR. MCCORMACK: George.

QUESTION: Could you take a question on the status of the religious freedom decision, the deadline for which was in March?

MR. MCCORMACK: I will.

Charlie.

QUESTION: Sean, I believe yesterday there was a report out of Israel that the Israelis plan to build more housing at Maale Adumim. Do you know about that? Have you talked to the Israelis about it? And if it's true, how does it comport with the President's recent discussions with Prime Minister Sharon?

MR. MCCORMACK: I did see some reporting in the news concerning some plans to take down Palestinian houses. Is that what you're referring to?

QUESTION: I think this was more building, just more houses at Maale Adumim. This was --

MR. MCCORMACK: That I haven't seen. I haven't seen those reports, so -- the President was very clear last week when he met with Prime Minister Abbas. He was asked about these types of questions and I'd just refer you back to his remarks.

QUESTION: The North Koreans said this morning that they were pleased to see that President Bush had used the honorific Mister, referring to Kim Jong Il.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right.

QUESTION: And they didn't call him a bloodthirsty beast.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right.

QUESTION: I wonder, is the administration trying to lower the temperature here a year after their departure from the six-party talks? And how, if at all, do you plan to mark the anniversary of that one-year departure?

MR. MCCORMACK: I wouldn't necessarily read anything into the President's remarks besides, you know, exactly what he said. I think he said exactly what he wanted to.

In terms of the anniversary, I'm not aware of any particular plans other than to, once again, urge the North Koreans to do -- once again, to do what we've said: return back to the six-party talks to engage with the other five parties in a constructive manner to work towards the goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

QUESTION: Have you heard anything back via the New York channel or have you had any contacts at all via the New York channel since the last ones?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, no. Any other on that?

QUESTION: North Korea.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yeah.

QUESTION: You didn't read anything into the bloodthirsty beast comments?

MR. MCCORMACK: We've seen these kind of statements out of the North Koreans before.

QUESTION: Continuing on that subject, apparently Secretary Rumsfeld said on his flight to Singapore that the U.S. is reviewing policy toward North Korea. Can you expound on this at all?

MR. MCCORMACK: Let me take a look at his remarks first. I haven't seen -- I haven't had a chance to look at his remarks.

QUESTION: Okay. And even if you dismiss the North Korean -- I mean, the kind of rhetorical nastiness that we've heard before, every time this happens does it concern you that we really aren't getting anywhere in terms of having a dialogue at least publicly?

MR. MCCORMACK: You know, this is rather -- we're looking for actions, so I wouldn't necessarily read anything into it.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Within the last number of weeks, there have been massive protests here in Washington as well as protests of the Sudanese Embassy, and Deputy Secretary Zoellick has just been to Sudan. What progress has he made with the Khartoum central government? And also do you have any plans to work with the logistics groups putting together this Live Aid concert -- Live Eight Concert -- for debt and relief from poverty in Africa?

MR. MCCORMACK: On the second part of your question, I don't have anything.

QUESTION: It's days prior to the G-8 Summit.

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. I'm not aware of any plans in that regard. Deputy Secretary Zoellick is actually right now in Khartoum. I think he's scheduled to have some meetings there shortly, if not already. He flew into Sudan today. He visited a refugee camp in Darfur. He also met with tribal officials. He met with AU officials there as well. And I think I would just say that he's working the issue. He is working on the security aspects of Darfur, working and talking to the AU mission on the ground.

And one of the reports that he got back from the head of the AU mission in the area that he was visiting with responsibilities for security was that in areas where the AU was deployed, they actually had seen a reduction in violence. And he also had an opportunity to meet with Jan Prank while he was on the ground in Darfur. And both of them had a good discussion and one of the things that came out of it was, I think, both of them were pleased with the increased flow of food to that part of the -- to Darfur.

So it's a complex, difficult issue. I think the fact that this is Deputy Secretary Zoellick's second trip there, Secretary Powell has visited there, the President has spoken out about it, the Secretary has spoken out about it, is an indication of our commitment to try to resolve the tough issues that you see there in Darfur -- in Sudan and Darfur.

Yes. Same topic? Okay.

QUESTION: Yes. Is there any likely change to the -- in the way Deputy Zoellick will conduct those talks in light of what the President terming what's happening in Sudan -- in Darfur as a genocide?

MR. MCCORMACK: No, I don't think there will be any change. No.

QUESTION: Can I follow up on the G-8?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: Tony Blair is coming to Washington to try to raise support for his initiative, which includes writing off debt relief and doubling aid, but the U.S. really made clear it won't sign up to some of these proposals. I was wondering if you think there is a danger here that the U.S. will be seen as party-poopers at the G-8. Also, will you be offering, sort of, real alternatives to what the Brits are putting forward?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, Prime Minister Blair is going to be coming here and he's going to be meeting with the President. That's the reason for his coming here so I'm going to defer any questions about that visit to my colleagues at the White House.

As for the G-8 summit, the Secretary will be -- is deeply engaged in this issue, as is the President, working on issues related to development around the world. You know, the President, since he has come in, I think, has made an unprecedented commitment not only to taking steps and devoting resources to alleviating poverty but also to fighting the scourge of AIDS and other disease. So and, you know, this is also a President that has, I think, met, I daresay met with more African leaders than any other President in recent memory. So we are deeply committed to the cause of poverty alleviation as well as helping populations around the world, and in particular in Africa, try to realize a better life.

Why don't we move over here.

QUESTION: Can we go back to North Korea for a minute?

MR. MCCORMACK: Sure.

QUESTION: First off, congratulations on your appointment.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much. I like the way these questions all begin with that.

QUESTION: Are you aware of any reports that China has told North Korea that it will cut off food aid to North Korea if they test a nuclear bomb?

MR. MCCORMACK: No.

QUESTION: Just to follow up on that, has the U.S. Government yet made any decision on whether it will provide additional food aid to North Korea in response to the 2005 appeal?

MR. MCCORMACK: I believe the decision on that is still pending and we have made donations in the past two years and going back as well of 50,000 metric tons and 100,000 metric tons. But as for the current decision, that's still pending.

Mr. John Karl.

QUESTION: Yeah, Sean, I'm sure you saw Foreign Minister Zebari's comments in The Washington Post and elsewhere basically saying he thinks the U.S. needs to be more involved in the political process in Iraq. I'm wondering your reaction to that. And also, where are we on a U.S. Ambassador to Iraq? I mean, it's been -- quite some time since Negropon-
te left. Is there a concern to such an important post go unfilled for so long?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, Ambassador Khalilzad has been nominated by the President to fill Ambassador Negropon-
te's spot in Baghdad. He looks forward to a Senate hearing, which is going to happen next week on June 7th. And we would hope and urge a speedy confirmation process for him so he can get out to Embassy Baghdad and work with the great men and women of the State Department and other U.S. Government agencies that are working closely with the Iraqi Government on building political institutions, economic institutions, legal institutions and working on the security issue as well.

I think that, you know, if you look back at the series of meetings that we have, including the one yesterday between Dr. Rice and Minister Zebari, it's evident that our commitment to assisting the Iraqi people and building those institutions, as well as helping on the political process wherever we can, is really unquestionable. We have literally -- there are hundreds of contacts every single day between U.S. officials and Iraqi officials on a whole variety of issues.

But -- and it's clear this is an Iraqi process. This is part of their process of moving beyond the dark era of Saddam Hussein and writing a constitution that embodies the values that we see in the TAL and that reflect their culture, tradition and society.

So we are prepared and do stand ready to assist the Iraqis as they move through this constitution writing process. But at its core, certainly, this is an Iraqi process. If there are any adjustments in the level of effort or level of interaction that we need to make with the Iraqis, certainly we'll talk to them about it.

Any other on that topic?

QUESTION: Just one quick one, speaking about embassies. I might have missed this but has there been an announcement on an Ambassador to Kabul to replace Mr. Khalilzad?

MR. MCCORMACK: That I have to check on. I'm not -- let me check on that for you.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can you preview the administration's objectives at the OAS this weekend and early next week and specifically, whether or not Secretary or the President propose to and are looking maybe to create a committee to monitor the progress towards democracy in some of these countries?

MR. MCCORMACK: The Secretary is going to be traveling down to the OAS summit in Ft. Lauderdale. She's going to be leaving Sunday and many of you are going to coming with us. She looks forward to her meetings at the summit. As you know, the President will be speaking there as well.

I think we look at this summit as really a part of a transformational moment for the Organization of American States. We have a new dynamic Secretary General, a former cabinet minister, Minister Insulza, who has a vision for promoting

democracy and reinforcing democracy in the region. I think that we support and we looking forward to not only meeting with him but meeting with all the member-states for a discussion on the importance of reinforcing democracies and the freedoms that the people of the hemisphere enjoy.

The theme, if you will, of the summit is delivering the benefits of democracy. So what does that mean? That means working for a more prosperous, safer and more free hemisphere. So we're going to talk about a variety of different mechanisms that the OAS as well as the member-states can look at to, perhaps, come to the assistance of those, as Secretary Rice has referred to, as those fragile democracies, those democracies where there are tensions, that are having difficulties. I think there have been a couple in the news.

So we're going to talk about that. I think we're open to talking about mechanisms, but I don't think I'm going to prejudge those conversations, other than to say that Secretary Rice looks forward to her meetings with her counterparts as well as Secretary General Insulza.

QUESTION: What kind of an OAS role does the U.S. support in Bolivia at the moment, which, as you said, is, well, is one of the countries in the news?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, you know, again, I think that Bolivia is going to be, I'm sure, a topic of discussion down in Ft. Lauderdale. There have been -- to my knowledge, there haven't been any requests from the Bolivian Government for assistance. I think that, as I said, it would be a topic for discussion and that we ourselves are open to any variety of mechanisms in terms of general assistance to those fragile democracies in the region. But with respect to Bolivia, I don't have anything to share with you.

QUESTION: Rather than requesting assistance, what they've done is the Foreign Ministry issued a statement rejecting OAS mediation, which they have interpreted as what Richard was saying the other day. And because they don't want mediation by the OAS, is that something that the U.S. would also rule out?

MR. MCCORMACK: Again, I don't -- you know, I don't want to rule anything in or rule anything out at this point. What I'd prefer to do is -- what I prefer to do is actually let the discussions down there in Florida take place.

QUESTION: You won't rule it out. That seems to imply that it doesn't matter what the Bolivians think they need, they're saying we don't want mediation, they're saying, well, let the rest of us talk about it.

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, they themselves are going to be part of the conversation as well down in Florida. So what I'd prefer to do, if I could, is just let those conversations take place first.

QUESTION: Just to follow on the issue of these mechanisms, is the U.S. going to make any proposals for specific mechanisms?

MR. MCCORMACK: We are going to be talking about the Inter-American Democratic Charter and many different parties have talked about the Inter-American Democratic Charter, ways that that could be strengthened to look at that as one possible mechanism which we can talk about these issues. At this point, I don't have anything -- any particular proposals to share with you. I think that, again, we're going to be looking forward to a good discussion with the fellow OAS members down there in Ft. Lauderdale.

Elise.

QUESTION: Can you say anything about an American woman, an 18-year-old teen missing in Aruba? She's from Alabama. Her family believes that she's kidnapped. Have there been any discussions with authorities in Aruba or the Dutch Government?

MR. MCCORMACK: What I can share with you is that the Department learned on Tuesday, June 1st, that an American citizen was missing in Aruba. The citizen's name is Natalee Holloway and she was last seen on Monday night, I think, on May 31st. Natalee's family have arrived in Aruba and a consular officer from Curacao is in Aruba at this time and is in contact with the family. And we are making sure that we provide all possible assistance to the family and local authorities and would also note that the FBI is also on hand and cooperating with local authorities in the search effort. And beyond that, I can't really offer anything else, due to Privacy Act considerations.

Why don't we go in the back. Yes.

QUESTION: Mr. McCormack.

MR. MCCORMACK: Yes.

QUESTION: Congratulation and every success.

MR. MCCORMACK: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Since you are new from the White House here to the State Department, how do you assess the Greek-U.S. relations and the prospects for a solution to the Cyprus problem?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, the U.S. --

QUESTION: Welcome to the State Department.

MR. MCCORMACK: What's that?

QUESTION: Welcome to the State Department.

(Laughter.)

MR. MCCORMACK: I notice a little difference here.

In terms of U.S.-Greek relations, you know, the state of our relations is excellent. As for the issue of Cyprus, I think that this question comes up frequently in this room and I don't, at this point, don't have anything to add beyond what my esteemed predecessor has talked about on the topic recently.

Thank you very much.

(The briefing was concluded at 2:50 p.m.)

(end transcript)

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122 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

U.S. Finds Few Efforts To Halt Human Trafficking in Arab Gulf; Gulf states serve as trafficking destination for sex trade, camel jockeys

BYLINE: David Shelby, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 766 words

Washington ' Nearly all the Arab Gulf countries experienced a deterioration in efforts to combat human trafficking, according to the State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report. Four countries -- Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- fell to Tier 3 rankings, indicating that their governments are not making significant efforts to address the trafficking problem.

The report groups countries into three **tiers** according to their efforts to confront the problem of **human trafficking**. Tier 1 countries are in compliance with the minimum standards outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Tier 2 countries are not in compliance with the minimum standards but are working to address the problem. Tier 3 countries are not making significant efforts to combat trafficking.

The Gulf countries are destination countries for people trafficked from South and Southeast Asia and from East Africa. Women are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Men are trafficked to work in forced labor. Children are trafficked to the Gulf to work as beggars and camel jockeys.

The report noted that the Kuwaiti government outlawed the use of children as camel jockeys and made public statements condemning human trafficking during 2004, but it said Kuwait made no apparent effort to prosecute traffickers.

The report said that Kuwait has made no effort to protect victims of trafficking. Domestic servants are not protected under Kuwait's labor law, and victims of trafficking are often detained, jailed and either deported for immigration violations or returned to abusive employers.

Qatar adopted a National Action Plan on human trafficking in 2003 calling for public awareness campaigns, establishment of a complaints hotline, an end to the use of child camel jockeys, and training for judges on trafficking issues, but, according to the report, most of the plan's provisions remain unimplemented.

The report says that Saudi Arabia has not protected victims of trafficking or prosecuted those responsible for the human trade.

"Despite reports of trafficking and abuses of domestic and other unskilled workers and children, there is evidence of only one Saudi Government prosecution of a Saudi employer for a trafficking-related offense during the reporting period," the report said.

The report says Saudi Arabia lacks laws criminalizing human trafficking and does not provide protection for domestic workers under its labor laws. It also says that cases of abuse involving foreign workers are seldom subject to criminal prosecution.

The trafficking of young boys to serve as jockeys for camel races remains a widespread problem in the United Arab Emirates, with victims numbering in the thousands, the report said. The Emirates is also a major destination for women trafficked into the sex trade. The report says that the United Arab Emirates government has made no significant effort to confront the problem. It says that decrees and laws regarding human trafficking have largely remained unenforced.

The report noted that the United Arab Emirates government has recently stated its intention to address the trafficking problem through new legislation on camel jockeys and closer monitoring of visas and passports of foreign nationals entering the country.

The report places Bahrain in the group of **Tier 2** countries, saying that it is making efforts to confront its problems with **human trafficking**. Nevertheless, it places Bahrain on a "watch list" on the grounds that it has failed to follow through on its national anti-trafficking action plan with concrete measures aimed at protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers.

The State Department issues its annual Trafficking in Persons Report pursuant to a congressional mandate. Presenting the 2005 report on June 3, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society."

"The responsibility does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education. Destination or demand countries, like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility," she added.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

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123 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 3, 2005

State Department Releases 2005 Trafficking In Persons Report; Miller discusses annual review of anti-trafficking efforts of 150 nations

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE**LENGTH:** 5212 words

The U.S. Department of State released June 3 its fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), which estimates that as many as 800,000 victims may be transported across international borders each year and forced to work against their will. The report surveys the counter-trafficking activities in 150 nations, 10 more than in 2004.

Ambassador John Miller, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said at a June 3 Washington press briefing that sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery and, to combat it, the United States is urging a greater focus on demand and on educating and dissuading the "customers."

Miller also cited labor exploitation, particularly involuntary servitude of foreign workers, as receiving greater attention in the 2005 report.

The U.S. law mandates the annual international survey, which ranks countries in three tiers: Tier 1 indicates that a nation is in compliance with international standards; Tier 3 denotes countries that are not. A Tier 2 designation is given to countries that are not meeting the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to do so. Placement in Tier 3 could make a nation subject to U.S. sanctions.

Miller said that four countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- have been placed in Tier 3, primarily for their failure to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking.

The TIP report uses **tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking** -- especially in terms of prosecution and protection, rather than just the extent, of the slavery problem, according to Miller.

"I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year," Miller said.

The full text of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

Following is the transcript of Miller's press briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2005

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John R. Miller

On the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State

"Trafficking in Persons Report"

June 3, 2005

Washington, D.C.

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Thank you, Madame Secretary. As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking or trafficking in persons is synonymous with slavery. Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories, but this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana, an all too typical victim of human trafficking.

Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus, looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport. They locked her up. They forced her into prostitution. And then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen, just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers, who killed her.

Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there are counterattacks going on.

Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report. I think you've all got copies of it. And they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about. Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence and it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries. U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year.

This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month -- one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights. It amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange. We believe that modern day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source destination or transit country, for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report.

If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated. Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activists, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the mix, extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watch list, or Tier 3.

We didn't design the system. Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organization and faith-based communities. I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports, Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves.

For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking. In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims.

When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers. But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly in voluntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on

Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys who live in slave-like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments.

Burma and North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons** -- another important criteria for **Tier 3** and the law.

The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted. This is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery.

The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up for the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually. The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We are prepared to work with them to help achieve this.

At the same time, nowhere on earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited with no recourse to help or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women.

I'd like to address one misperception that is developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires **Tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem. Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in person efforts underway justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in person problem.

Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery.

Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or ten years ago.

We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims.

Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable UN peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of UN deployment. The report on pages 33 and 38 identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could have been much longer, believe me.

The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few. The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. The Malawian nongovernmental organization People Serving Girls at Risk works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach. And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness.

The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for

exploitation, as camel jockeys. To Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFESIP who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed an excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti-trafficking programs last year. In January, President George W. Bush said, "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery, on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the Secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing powerful response -- a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part.

Thank you and let's turn to questions. Oh, my gosh. Okay, yes. Go ahead. Yeah.

QUESTION: Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether you believe that it was the prior sanctions to get some action? In particular in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards, not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this practice.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude -- child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape, very difficult to get shelter, no convictions. But you're -- the first part of your question was: Is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is I hope not because the purpose of the law is not to sanction, it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail.

QUESTION: They've moved backwards in the last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Wait a minute -- that's...

QUESTION: Will it require sanctions?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: If they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking and we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned. Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions, but there is that possibility.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can I follow-up on that?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: This law has been in effect for five years?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past, we've had several relationships with, have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report.

For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3. But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters, there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress.

Yes. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Under which capacity, the United States is preparing in those type of reports, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat the question again?

QUESTION: Yes. Under which capacity, the United States of America is preparing, those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, this is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer -- that is that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce. On the floor of the English Parliament, back in the 1790s when he discovered, realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade, and the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was: Will the right honorable gentleman tell me what rights we have to impose British moral values on the world? Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values, to show that people nowhere wanted slavery.

Today, we have -- the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world, that I'm aware of, officially endorses slavery and there are numerous international covenants, UN covenants, that nations of the world have subscribed to that are -- banned slavery.

So I would say in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery, that citizens around the world and ostensibly, governments around the world, all agree is a scourge that should be ended. Let's take somebody in the back.

Yeah, go ahead.

QUESTION: Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Well, as Ambassador-at-large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt, but I want to comment on the premise of your question. You identified poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade and I would agree it is a major cause. There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years -- I won't cite them all -- that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role.

There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they -- we talked about the arms trade, the drug trade, and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime.

So all of these causes we hope will be addressed, but in the meantime -- in the meantime -- we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims, and get prevention and education campaigns.

Yes.

QUESTION: To what extent are the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa programs they -- to what extent are those efforts successful and why are not --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: How many victims have been identified to date?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And what are the problems in identifying victims?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear -- should I be repeating the questions or --

QUESTION: No, that's fine. We don't mind.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: You can hear, okay. Your question about identifying victims in the United States, you put your finger on a problem that is -- confronts the United States and almost every country in the world. The gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help -- just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on trafficking in persons consisting of cabinet officers chaired by Secretary of State Rice

discussed this issue and the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up, as an area where we need to do more, exactly that.

What has been done? And the gap is such -- to give you an idea of the gap, I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. They cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that, yet we know the figure -- we suspect -- we don't scientifically know, since victims don't stand in line to be -- raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14 and a half thousand. So there's a gap.

Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in ten -- I believe it's soon to be 20 cities -- trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward. We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach, and Health and Human Services has done some work on this, but this approach would involve mobilizing or involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel in this effort to try to help victims come forward.

So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges.

Yes, back?

QUESTION: Can I follow up on this question, sir?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. Well, just --

QUESTION: It's on this particular area.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay.

QUESTION: Can you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the Secretary said? You just said that nowhere on earth --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is it acceptable, so --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Right.

QUESTION: -- what is the U.S. doing? And it's your -- you just mentioned that you were the Ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that the --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, it's -- I guess it's sort of new. It's -- Congress and the President raised the position to ambassadorial status -- well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago and in the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, I -- at the direction of the President, I chair a -- under that Presidential task force I referred to, I chair a senior policy operating group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies.

Now, let's get to the first part of your question: demand and what's being done in the United States. I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States.

I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayers' support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution, who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners, and the so-called customers. And then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name, John School, that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago and this school now has been going for some time, appears to have very good results, two percent recidivism rate.

This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further and we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. For example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue.

Yes, in the back. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the Brazil Government is making progress, but is not fully complying? Could you say what needs to be done?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Brazil, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil: Brazil has started setting up, in different provinces, anti-trafficking in persons efforts.

I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been tremendous government interest, the President of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue, but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year, coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims -- so, I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area.

I hope I'm calling -- yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: You mentioned Canada as a transit country.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yes.

QUESTION: With some of these sex trade workers.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And although Canada is in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country and Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada and I think it's referred to in the report. I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada -- for example, Korea, they don't need a visa and then they just come across the U.S. border and we -- there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved.

We're going to have to -- we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example.

I'm sorry, there's so -- yes? There's so many people. Go ahead.

MR. CASEY: Mr. Ambassador I'm afraid we're going to have to make this limited to a couple more people. So why don't you take that one and then I know Teri wanted to get in --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Oh, Teri -- no, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Ha (ph), Radio Free Asia.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: I didn't hear -- you didn't mention anything about Vietnam.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: However, the problem is there. You know, like there -- now, Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 watch list.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Watch list, yes.

QUESTION: On the Tier 2 --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: It's not on the watch list anymore.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: My question is, what is the method that you used to -- in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 watch list?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: To -- well, we thought they --

QUESTION: Did you find -- yeah, did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah. We have had -- Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before on exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam.

Teri, Teri? No, I've got to -- no, Teri -- I ignored her last year.

QUESTION: He ignored me last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I didn't call on her. I got to -- okay.

QUESTION: Okay, thank you. Ambassador Miller, a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned when you talked about sanctions and I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies: Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia. And could you -- you've been to these countries and you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think. Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies of the U.S. in counterterrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who's been sanctioned.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm glad you've -- the toughest question comes last. Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned, if you look at the countries in -- nobody has been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report, and we can -- I can't recall them from memory, but you can -- our staff can get them to you, but your -- the tough part of your question was -- well, here are close friends of the United States; how can this happen? Two years ago, I was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3?

I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness, that as public awareness increases in these countries, you see more action. For example, just for example, in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital -- domestic servitude case has gotten publicity. A human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there and I don't know how it's all going to come out, but they're -- apparently in the last month, there was an arrest made.

As public awareness increases -- and sometimes when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard -- but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today and this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue the last couple of years.

Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you, when you write on this -- when you write on this, I know you're journalists and all that -- but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials.

Good things happen when -- so -- but the last comment, I am -- so, I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs.

I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If --

QUESTION: You're going to come up, sir. We have about 10 minutes to (inaudible) --

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more minutes, okay. And -- but we've also got people on our staff: Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner that even if I have to move out after five or ten minutes can answer questions.

So thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

(end transcript)

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124 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 3

Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ), the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, released the following statement regarding the success and positive impact of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, released today for the fifth year. The report was mandated by Smith's first trafficking bill, signed in October 2000 (Public Law 106-386).

"Since its inception in 2001, the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report has been a powerful tool to encourage governments around the world to address the growing problem of trafficking in human beings for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

"The 2005 Report includes an analysis of 150 countries. This is ten more than the previous year's publication, and the most countries ever included in the report.

"A review of the report shows that over the past year, a stronger response from governments, an increase in public awareness of victim protection services, and a successful effort in anti-trafficking practices have occurred in many countries. Thirty-four countries improved their tier status, a sign of the system's success and effectiveness. Regrettably, some other governments' efforts lagged in the past year, resulting in the downward assessment of twenty-six countries. While it is disturbing that many strong allies of the United States fell into **Tier 3**, I commend the State Department for allowing the facts with regard to **human trafficking** to determine each country's **tier** placement, rather than unrelated political considerations.

"The 2005 TIP report includes an informative list of 'International Best Practices' consisting of examples of innovative and effective anti-trafficking policies, such as the Czech Republic's screening and identification procedures, as well as Estonia's campaign to raise public awareness on global trafficking.

"This year's report brings needed attention to the problem of peacekeepers' complicity in the sexual exploitation of vulnerable populations, including through trafficking, and highlights some positive steps underway to prevent such exploitation.

"In addition, this year's report includes data provided by foreign governments on trafficking-related investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences. As in our own country, the number of traffickers prosecuted and convicted has increased by nearly 300% since enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Likewise, the number of worldwide convictions increased this past year to more than 3000 convictions, as more countries acquired the legal tools necessary to combat trafficking and the political will to implement those tools."

To support the U.S. Government's ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking, on February 17, Smith introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972. The bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti- trafficking programs in the United States and abroad. The bill also offers solutions to specific scenarios in which trafficking is a problem and which experience has shown could benefit from additional initiatives.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, is a U.S. Government agency that monitors progress in the implementation of the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The Commission consists of nine members from the United States Senate, nine from the House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense and Commerce.

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

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125 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 3, 2005 Friday 7:31 AM EST

KEY U.S. GULF ALLIES CITED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 803 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The Voice of America issued the following story:

By David Gollust

State Department

The U.S. State Department, in a congressionally mandated report, has cited 14 countries, including key Gulf allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, for failing to take adequate steps to combat human trafficking. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the U.S. reports have helped generate a modern day abolitionist movement against forced labor and sexual exploitation.

The State Department's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons report covered 150 countries, 10 more than last year. And the list of countries whose efforts against the problem were deemed inadequate rose from 10 in 2004 to 14 this year, and included U.S. Gulf allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

At a news conference launching this year's report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said as many as 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and millions more are trafficked within various countries.

She said trafficking, for sexual exploitation, forced labor and other forms of servitude, is nothing less than a modern form of slavery, and that the U.S. reports, mandated by an act of Congress in 2000, have contributed to a growing international movement against it.

"To confront the abomination of human trafficking, a modern-day abolitionist movement has emerged," Secretary Rice said. "Concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other non-governmental groups are doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation. The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

The report, based on information gathered by U.S. diplomatic posts, non-governmental groups and other sources, divides countries into three categories, based on their efforts to deal with the trafficking problem.

Those given the lowest ranking, so called Tier Three countries, could face a cutoff of non-humanitarian U.S. aid or other penalties, if they do not take remedial steps by the end of September.

In addition to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, this year's Tier-Three list also includes Gulf countries Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The report said the Gulf states were destinations for men, women and children from South and East Asia and Africa, trafficked for labor exploitation, including children forced to work as camel jockeys.

Six countries faulted last year appeared again: Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela. The others in Tier Three are Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica and Togo.

The East Asian, Latin American and African states placed in Tier Three were said to be source or destination countries for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The report said North Korea, a perennial third tier nation, does not even recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes slave labor conditions on state prisoners and repatriated citizens.

The head of the State Department's anti-trafficking office, former U.S. Congressman John Miller, said only a handful of countries have actually faced U.S. penalties, and that the point of annual exercise is not to sanction, but to prod countries into action.

"The goal of the report is not to punish, but to stimulate government action to end modern-day slavery," Cong. Miller said. "We hope that all **Tier Three** countries will move off **Tier Three** within the 90-day grace period, by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We're prepared to work with them to help achieve this."

Mr. Miller said that since the new report was compiled, one Third Tier country, Ecuador, has already taken action, with its congress this week approving changes in the country's criminal code to deal with trafficking.

He said several countries listed in the bottom category last year, including Guyana and Bangladesh, were moved up this year because of remedial steps.

Mr. Miller also commended South Korea for what he termed a brave initiative to curb the sex trade in that country, and Sweden for similar action and for a Europe-wide information campaign focused on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

The 256 page report does not rank the United States, though Secretary Rice said in an accompanying letter that it is dealing with its own trafficking problem. Mr. Miller estimated that nearly 15,000 people are trafficked to the United States each year.

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126 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 3, 2005 Friday 5:29 AM EST

2005 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US States News

LENGTH: 336 words

DATELINE: GEORGETOWN, Guyana

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that Guyana appears on **Tier 2** of the fifth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report prepared by the U.S. Department of State. Guyana made appreciable progress during the last year in the fight against human trafficking. The new trafficking in persons legislation coupled with increased national awareness programs sponsored by the government will give new hope to Guyanese victims of this egregious crime.

The 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report is a reminder that the battle against human traffickers has only just begun. It is important to continue to build on the important steps taken in Guyana during the last year. By prosecuting human traffickers and partnering with non-government organizations to improve services to victims, Guyana will build on the progress made during the last year. Continued commitment to complementary legislation, such as the age of consent bill under consideration by the National Assembly, will provide additional protection for potential trafficking victims.

The crime of human trafficking impacts us all. It deprives people of their most basic human rights and freedoms. It is a public health risk and it fuels organized crime. It is a problem that cannot be ignored by any of us in the world community. To that end, the United States is committed to partner with the Government of Guyana to combat human trafficking wherever it is found.

The entire TIP Report will be available on-line at www.state.gov/g/tip shortly after Secretary Rice releases the report on June 3. The Secretary's statement at the June 3 press event, and the statement of and fielding of media questions by G/TIP Director and Senior Advisor to the Secretary Ambassador John Miller will also be available on the State Department's Website.

To read the letter to the editor written by Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State visit: www.georgetown.usembassy.gov/guyana/tip_oped.html

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127 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 3, 2005 Friday 4:52 AM EST

AMBASSADOR MILLER BRIEFS PRESS ON RELEASE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

BYLINE: US States News

LENGTH: 4799 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued the text of the following speech:

Ambassador John R. Miller, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Thank you, Madame Secretary. As Secretary of State Rice eloquently explained, human trafficking or trafficking in persons is synonymous with slavery. Now, this is a time when we roll out this report with facts, with figures, with categories, but this report is, more than anything, about human beings. And so I want to start by telling you about Svetlana, an all too typical victim of human trafficking.

Last year, Svetlana was a young woman living in Belarus, looking for a job. She came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul and once Svetlana crossed the border, the men seized her money, her papers, her passport. They locked her up. They forced her into prostitution. And then one night, they farmed her out to two businessmen, just like a commodity. Desperate, Svetlana jumped out of a window and fell six stories to a sidewalk. According to Turkish court documents, the so-called customers went down, found her on the sidewalk and instead of calling the police, called the traffickers, who killed her.

Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. There is a bright spot in this too common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out that bad things are happening, but also how there are counterattacks going on.

Svetlana and other victims' stories are interspersed throughout the introduction to this year's report. I think you've all got copies of it. And they're there so that we may always remember what this struggle is about. Trafficking in persons relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It is maintained through violence and it is highly profitable. In that sense, while there are differences, there are also similarities to the slavery of earlier centuries. U.S. Government is committed to taking action in cooperation with other nations to end modern-day slavery and that is the ultimate purpose of this annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which we're releasing today for the fifth year.

This is a tool, along with the assessment of the United States, which comes out later this month - one of many tools to help free the slaves and throw traffickers in jail. Trafficking is not simply a crime against human rights. It amounts to a public health menace and a rich source of financing for organized crime. It's a dangerous and perverse mutation of otherwise beneficial global exchange. We believe that modern day slavery plagues every, every country, including the United States. This report covers 150 countries found to be a source destination or transit country, for on the order of 100 victims, the threshold for inclusion in the report.

If you find a country is not listed, it probably means we have insufficient knowledge of slavery in that country or else the government in the country cannot exercise sufficient control to be evaluated. Our sources of information are diverse: law enforcement, U.S. embassies, NGOs, daring activists, foreign governments, our own visits. Everything enters the

mix, extensive analysis and debate goes into the assessment of each country and assignment into Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 watch list, or Tier 3.

We didn't design the system. Congress designed the system with important help from nongovernmental organization and faith-based communities. I'm happy to note that the Tier 2 warning watch list, introduced last year, has been very effective. 31 of the 46 countries on the 2004 TIP reports, Tier 2 watch list improve their ratings this year. The increased scrutiny of these countries' anti-trafficking efforts required of us by Congress has led to the State Department's greater engagement with these governments. More important, it has led to greater efforts by the governments themselves.

For the third year, Tier 3 countries can be sanctioned if they don't take significant anti-slavery action in the next few months. I'm encouraged to note several countries that were on Tier 3 last June stepped up anti-slavery activities so that they have been raised. In South America, Guyana's president pushed through the country's first anti-trafficking law and led a countrywide awareness campaign on the dangers of trafficking. In South Asia, Bangladesh set up a long-promised special anti-trafficking police unit, which started new investigations while rescuing an increased number of victims.

When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery. It is intrinsically linked to prostitution and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery, we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers. But while sex slavery is large, we are concerned with all forms of slavery. This year, trafficking through labor exploitation, particularly in voluntary servitude of foreign laborers, received greater attention. This greater emphasis came as a result of better data obtained from source countries and nongovernmental organizations. Four countries are placed on Tier 3 for their failure primarily to make significant efforts to combat forced labor trafficking: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The forced labor may involve foreign workers who end up in conditions of involuntary servitude or child camel jockeys who live in slave-like conditions and are forced to race in extremely dangerous environments.

Burma and North Korea, Sudan and Cuba remain on Tier 3, largely because they still fail to address forced labor in their countries. Another government, Cambodia, is on **Tier 3** because of government complicity in **trafficking in persons** - another important criteria for **Tier 3** and the law.

The report covers efforts from March 2004 to March 2005. Some governments have taken steps against slavery since the report was drafted. This is great. Ecuador was placed on Tier 3 again this year for its lack of significant efforts during the reporting period. Two days ago, Ecuador's congress passed criminal code changes that could lead to positive progress in fighting slavery.

The country ratings here, the government ratings are based strictly on government actions to combat trafficking in persons as defined by U.S. law. The standards are set up for the Trafficking Victim Protection Act and are applied equally to every country. We examine each country individually. The goal of the report is not to punish but to stimulate government action to end modern day slavery. We hope all **Tier 3** countries will move off **Tier 3** within the 90-day grace period by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We are prepared to work with them to help achieve this.

At the same time, nowhere on earth is it allowable to systematically abuse children for sport or to stand up while household help is trapped and exploited with no recourse to help or to look the other way while sex traffickers seize young women.

I'd like to address one misperception that is developed around this Trafficking in Persons Report. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires **Tier** ratings to emphasize government efforts against **human trafficking**, especially in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention, rather than just the extent of the slavery problem. Under the law, countries that have substantial anti-trafficking in person efforts underway justify higher ratings, even if they have a large trafficking in person problem.

Now, stepping back and looking around the world, the picture is not all bleak. Shining through this global tragedy are many rays of hope. In addition to the tremendous efforts of heroic individuals and private organizations, governments around the globe are awakening to this issue and taking action to end this form of modern day slavery.

Worldwide, this past year, the number of trafficking related convictions has increased over 3,000. And new anti-human trafficking legislation was approved in 39 countries. That's a big change from five or ten years ago.

We're seeing progress on many fronts. In this year's report, several countries on **Tier 1** showed anti-**trafficking in person** leadership through strong policies and implementation of laws. South Korea launched a brave initiative to close down outlets for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, arresting over 500 people and rescuing over 1,000 victims.

Sweden continued its path-breaking program to prosecute exploiters and clients of prostitution while identifying and protecting women in commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden has funded anti-trafficking information campaigns throughout Europe, focusing on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

Morocco has led efforts to hold accountable UN peacekeepers guilty of sexual abuse of minors in areas of UN deployment. The report on pages 33 and 38 identifies international best practices and anti-slavery heroes throughout the world. And those sections could have been much longer, believe me.

The best practices are wide and varied and all are commendable, but let me highlight a few. The Indian NGO Shakti Vahini produces an informative Indian Trafficking in Persons Report that rates anti-slavery efforts in Indian states. The Malawian nongovernmental organization People Serving Girls at Risk works to identify and help underage girls in prostitution through undercover outreach. And the Fahmina Institute of Indonesia engages Islamic boarding schools to spread anti-trafficking awareness.

The anti-slavery heroes cited in the report, a few out of thousands, range from Ansar Burney the Pakistani human rights activist who has sought to help Asian and African children who have been trafficked to the Arabian Gulf countries for exploitation, as camel jockeys. To Somaly Mam and Pierre Legros of the French NGO AFESIP who braved personal threats from traffickers to rescue victims of sex slavery in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. is deeply committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons. And that's why we contributed an excess of \$80 million abroad for all kinds of anti-trafficking programs last year. In January, President George W. Bush said, "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave." And because of the stain of slavery, on our own history, these words have special meaning to us and they guide our efforts against trafficking in persons, based on our strong belief in freedom and human dignity. As the Secretary has stated, modern slavery has been met and is being met with a growing powerful response - a 21st century abolitionist movement. We must all do our part.

Thank you and let's turn to questions. Oh, my gosh. Okay, yes. Go ahead. Yeah.

QUESTION: Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Can you tell us regarding Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, whether you believe that it was the prior sanctions to get some action? In particular in Saudi Arabia, they have moved backwards, not forward since last year's report. And you've got four countries that are major allies of the United States in the war on terror and in military operations that are chief abusers in this practice.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, I won't disagree with your characterization of the situation. It is serious, for example, in Saudi Arabia we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude - child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings and rape, very difficult to get shelter, no convictions. But you're - the first part of your question was: Is this going to lead to sanctions? My answer is I hope not because the purpose of the law is not to sanction, it is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail.

QUESTION: They've moved backwards in the last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Wait a minute - that's...

QUESTION: Will it require sanctions?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: If they stay in Tier 3, it will require sanctions. However, the reason why I hope this will not take place is under the law, there are now three months for any government in Tier 3 to take significant steps against trafficking and we're prepared to work with these governments, including the governments you mentioned. Our hope is there will be enough progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail that at the end of 120 days, there will not have to be sanctions, but there is that possibility.

Yes.

QUESTION: Can I follow-up on that?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: This law has been in effect for five years?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Could you say how many countries and which ones have been sanctioned until now?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. There have been several countries sanctioned. But the interesting thing is that countries that are willing to work on this issue in the past, we've had several relationships with, have avoided sanctions by taking action in the three months or four months after the report.

For example, two years ago, we placed Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, on Tier 3. But in the four months over the summer, the arrests, the prosecutions, the setting up of referral systems to get victims to nongovernmental organizations, the setting up of shelters, there was significant progress made, which we were delighted with. So the purpose here is not to result in sanctions, although that may happen, it is to get progress.

Yes. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Under which capacity, the United States is preparing in those type of reports, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat the question again?

QUESTION: Yes. Under which capacity, the United States of America is preparing, those type of reports interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, this is not the first time I've heard that question. The answer - that is that reminds me of a question that was asked William Wilberforce. On the floor of the English Parliament, back in the 1790s when he discovered, realized the extent of slavery and started his campaign to end the slave trade, and the question that was asked of him by another parliamentarian was: Will the right honorable gentleman tell me what rights we have to impose British moral values on the world? Wilberforce, who was alone in Parliament when he started this action, cited universal and religious values, to show that people nowhere wanted slavery.

Today, we have - the case is much stronger because unlike in Wilberforce's time, no government in the world, that I'm aware of, officially endorses slavery and there are numerous international covenants, UN covenants, that nations of the world have subscribed to that are - banned slavery.

So I would say in this effort that we're participating in, we are trying both at home and abroad to work with other countries in trying to end a slavery, that citizens around the world and ostensibly, governments around the world, all agree is a scourge that should be ended. Let's take somebody in the back.

Yeah, go ahead.

QUESTION: Advocacy organizations around the world are saying that poverty and lack of job opportunities is one of the causes of women or families being vulnerable to slavery. To what extent is the United States prepared to relieve debt to World Bank or IMF loans and other forms to substantially improve the quality of life and services in nations around the world vulnerable?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Well, as Ambassador-at-large on international slavery, I'm not the U.S. expert or authority on international debt, but I want to comment on the premise of your question. You identified poverty as a major cause of slavery and slave trade and I would agree it is a major cause. There are a lot of studies that have been done in the last couple of years - I won't cite them all - that show, however, that it is one of several major causes. Poverty is a push factor. There is the pull factor of the attraction of the better life in the wealthier country. There is the factor of gender attitudes. Believe me, when you look at sex slavery and parts of domestic servitude slavery, gender attitudes play a big role.

There is the role of organized crime and greed. I mean, this is a big source of revenue for organized crime. I mean, now they - we talked about the arms trade, the drug trade, and the people trade being sources of revenue for organized crime.

So all of these causes we hope will be addressed, but in the meantime - in the meantime - we are seeking, through our office, to do what we can to work with other countries to get better law enforcement, get better protection for victims, and get prevention and education campaigns.

Yes.

QUESTION: To what extent are the efforts in the United States to identify victims and to give them the T-4 visa programs they - to what extent are those efforts successful and why are not -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: How many victims have been identified to date?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And what are the problems in identifying victims?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. That's a very good question. Did everybody hear - should I be repeating the questions or -

QUESTION: No, that's fine. We don't mind.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: You can hear, okay. Your question about identifying victims in the United States, you put your finger on a problem that is - confronts the United States and almost every country in the world. The gap between what are estimated to be the number of victims and the actual number of victims getting help - just two weeks ago, President Bush's task force on trafficking in persons consisting of cabinet officers chaired by Secretary of State Rice discussed this issue and the Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt specifically brought up, as an area where we need to do more, exactly that.

What has been done? And the gap is such - to give you an idea of the gap, I believe the figure now is about roughly 700 people have been helped with temporary visas in the United States. They cooperate in prosecutions, get assistance and all that, yet we know the figure - we suspect - we don't scientifically know, since victims don't stand in line to be - raise their hands to be counted, but we suspect that the figure for the number of victims annually crossing into the United States across our borders every year is in excess of 14 and a half thousand. So there's a gap.

Presently, Health and Human Services has pilot programs in ten - I believe it's soon to be 20 cities - trying to reach out to the foreign migrant communities to help victims come forward. We are starting to consider another additional approach, a work sector approach, and Health and Human Services has done some work on this, but this approach would involve mobilizing or involving doctors, hospitals, lawyers, travel industry personnel in this effort to try to help victims come forward.

So you're right in identifying one of the big challenges.

Yes, back?

QUESTION: Can I follow up on this question, sir?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah. Well, just -

QUESTION: It's on this particular area.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay.

QUESTION: Can you speak about what the U.S. is doing to just not only identify victims, but to combat demand, as the Secretary said? You just said that nowhere on earth -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is it acceptable, so -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Right.

QUESTION: - what is the U.S. doing? And it's your - you just mentioned that you were the Ambassador of international slavery. Is this a new title or are you just kind of encapsulating what it is that the -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Well, it's - I guess it's sort of new. It's - Congress and the President raised the position to ambassadorial status - well, I was confirmed by the Senate nine months ago and in the previous year, I guess the end of 2003, legislation was passed raising this position to ambassadorial status. In addition, I - at the direction of the President, I chair a - under that Presidential task force I referred to, I chair a senior policy operating group of domestic and foreign U.S. agencies trying to coordinate policies.

Now, let's get to the first part of your question: demand and what's being done in the United States. I think if you look at the United States and around the world, you'll see there are a lot of demand education programs directed at potential victims. However, what you don't see yet are a lot of programs directed at the demand for the victims. That is starting to change in the United States.

I'll give you a good example. There is an organization, SAGE in San Francisco, with U.S. taxpayers' support, that first convinced the San Francisco law enforcement authorities to arrest not just the women engaged in prostitution, who might be trafficking victims, but arrest the traffickers, the pimps, the brothel owners, and the so-called customers. And then that organization convinced the authorities that a fine should be imposed on the first offense so there would be a school, which has the name, John School, that these men would have to go to. I visited there a couple of weeks ago and this school now has been going for some time, appears to have very good results, two percent recidivism rate.

This program has now spread in different forms to 15 or 20 U.S. cities. I think it's going to spread further and we are discussing with different countries around the world how this could be replicated in those countries to address demand. For example, we're in discussions with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Equality on that issue.

Yes, in the back. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the Brazil Government is making progress, but is not fully complying? Could you say what needs to be done?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Sure. Brazil, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, is listed in Tier 2, which is the upper category of the report. I visited Brazil last fall. One of the positive things going on in Brazil: Brazil has started setting up, in different provinces, anti-trafficking in persons efforts.

I think one of the problems that Brazil faces is that while there has been tremendous government interest, the President of Brazil has spoken out very strongly on this issue, but if you look at the actual finished product in law enforcement, three convictions last year, coming out of scores and scores of investigations and hundreds and hundreds of victims - so, I think in that area, they can do more. They can do more in terms of their awareness campaigns and their protection efforts for victims, but I would say law enforcement would be the major area.

I hope I'm calling - yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: You mentioned Canada as a transit country.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yes.

QUESTION: With some of these sex trade workers.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: And although Canada is in Tier 1, how would you rate Canada in terms of this problem and what do you think Canada should do to improve the situation?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Well, you're talking about Canada as a transit country and Canada has done some very aggressive things the last year. We have a specific transit problem we have to address with Canada and I think it's referred to in the report. I hope it's referred to. And the challenge that we face is that there are migrants from the Far East that come into Canada - for example, Korea, they don't need a visa and then they just come across the U.S. border and we - there's a lot of evidence that there's hundreds of such victims involved.

We're going to have to - we're working on this with Canada and Korea. We're going to see what we can do to try to address this problem. That's an example.

I'm sorry, there's so - yes? There's so many people. Go ahead.

MR. CASEY: Mr. Ambassador I'm afraid we're going to have to make this limited to a couple more people. So why don't you take that one and then I know Teri wanted to get in -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Okay. Oh, Teri - no, no, no, no. Okay, yes. Okay, I'll take two. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Ambassador Miller, my name is Wen Ha (ph), Radio Free Asia.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: I didn't hear - you didn't mention anything about Vietnam.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: However, the problem is there. You know, like there - now, Vietnam last year was on Tier 2 watch list.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Watch list, yes.

QUESTION: On the Tier 2 -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: It's not on the watch list anymore.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: My question is, what is the method that you used to - in order to classify Vietnam to Tier 2 watch list?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: To - well, we thought they -

QUESTION: Did you find - yeah, did you send a fact-finding team to Vietnam?

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah. We have had - Vietnam made some significant progress in the last year. For example, we were very critical of Vietnam before on exporting Vietnamese labor and cooperating with what we thought were slave owners in other countries, including one operation in American Samoa. But they have stepped in and are giving much better supervision and control. Their number of convictions has increased, so there's been some progress in Vietnam.

Teri, Teri? No, I've got to - no, Teri - I ignored her last year.

QUESTION: He ignored me last year.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I didn't call on her. I got to - okay.

QUESTION: Okay, thank you. Ambassador Miller, a couple of things. You didn't actually tell us who has been sanctioned when you talked about sanctions and I wanted to go back to the question of these very close allies: Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia. And could you - you've been to these countries and you've had discussions with these leaders about these issues -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Yeah.

QUESTION: - and many of them have laws in place, not to mention authoritarian regimes that should be able to enforce these laws, one would think. Could you help us understand why they aren't doing more, especially being such close allies of the U.S. in counterterrorism, for example? And we really do want to know who's been sanctioned.

AMBASSADOR MILLER: I'm glad you've - the toughest question comes last. Well, in terms of countries that have been sanctioned, if you look at the countries in - nobody has been sanctioned this year. If you look at the countries from last year's report, and we can - I can't recall them from memory, but you can - our staff can get them to you, but your - the tough part of your question was - well, here are close friends of the United States; how can this happen? Two years ago, I was asked about Greece and Turkey; how can allies be on Tier 3?

I believe that this is a function, to a large extent, of information and public awareness, that as public awareness increases in these countries, you see more action. For example, just for example, in Saudi Arabia, a recent case involving an Indonesian young woman tortured, beaten, dumped at a hospital - domestic servitude case has gotten publicity. A human rights lawyer in Saudi Arabia has protested there and I don't know how it's all going to come out, but they're - apparently in the last month, there was an arrest made.

As public awareness increases - and sometimes when countries don't have free flows of information, that's hard - but as public awareness increases, I don't think people want slavery today and this is where one of the signs of progress has been the exponential increase of news media attention to this issue the last couple of years.

Since I'm at the end here, I want to tell you, when you write on this - when you write on this, I know you're journalists and all that - but when you write on this issue, you indirectly help free victims and throw traffickers in jail because it increases public awareness. People become more aware all over the world. They become more aware in the United States. They start talking to their local police. They start talking to their public officials.

Good things happen when - so - but the last comment, I am - so, I have a meeting coming up with foreign ambassadors and then NGOs.

I know there are a lot of people that didn't get to ask questions. If -

QUESTION: You're going to come up, sir. We have about 10 minutes to (inaudible) -

AMBASSADOR MILLER: Oh, I've got 10 more minutes, okay. And - but we've also got people on our staff: Eleanor Kennelly, Caroline Tetschner that even if I have to move out after five or ten minutes can answer questions.

So thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

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128 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 3, 2005 Friday 4:20 AM EST

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES 2005 TRAFFICKING REPORT

BYLINE: US States News

LENGTH: 543 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. (4th CD), issued the following statement:

Rep. Chris Smith (R-Hamilton), the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, released the following statement regarding the success and positive impact of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, released today for the fifth year. The report was mandated by Smith's first trafficking bill, signed in October 2000 (Public Law 106-386).

"Since its inception in 2001, the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report has been a powerful tool to encourage governments around the world to address the growing problem of trafficking in human beings for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

The 2005 Report includes an analysis of 150 countries. This is ten more than the previous year's publication, and the most countries ever included in the report.

A review of the report shows that over the past year, a stronger response from governments, an increase in public awareness of victim protection services, and a successful effort in anti-trafficking practices have occurred in many countries. Thirty-four countries improved their tier status, a sign of the system's success and effectiveness. Regrettably, some other governments' efforts lagged in the past year, resulting in the downward assessment of twenty-six countries. While it is disturbing that many strong allies of the United States fell into **Tier 3**, I commend the State Department for allowing the facts with regard to **human trafficking** to determine each country's **tier** placement, rather than unrelated political considerations.

The 2005 TIP report includes an informative list of 'International Best Practices' consisting of examples of innovative and effective anti-trafficking policies, such as the Czech Republic's screening and identification procedures, as well as Estonia's campaign to raise public awareness on global trafficking.

This year's report brings needed attention to the problem of peacekeepers' complicity in the sexual exploitation of vulnerable populations, including through trafficking, and highlights some positive steps underway to prevent such exploitation.

In addition, this year's report includes data provided by foreign governments on trafficking-related investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences. As in our own country, the number of traffickers prosecuted and convicted has increased by nearly 300% since enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Likewise, the number of worldwide convictions increased this past year to more than 3000 convictions, as more countries acquired the legal tools necessary to combat trafficking and the political will to implement those tools."

To support the U.S. Government's ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking, on February 17, Smith introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972. The bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs in the United States and abroad. The bill also offers solutions to specific scenarios in which trafficking is a problem and which experience has shown could benefit from additional initiatives.

Contact: David Kush, 202/225-3765.

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129 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

June 3, 2005

HUMAN TRAFFICKING (L-ONLY)**BYLINE:** DAVID GOLLUST**SECTION:** RADIO SCRIPTS - CORRESPONDENT REPORT 2-325042**LENGTH:** 766 words

STATE DEPARTMENT

HEADLINE: US Gives 14 Countries, Including Gulf Allies, Failing Marks on Human Trafficking

INTRO: The U.S. State Department, in a congressionally mandated report, has cited 14 countries, including key Gulf allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, for failing to take adequate steps to combat human trafficking. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the U.S. reports have helped generate a modern day abolitionist movement against forced labor and sexual exploitation. VOA's David Gollust reports from the State Department.

The State Department's fifth annual Trafficking in Persons report covered 150 countries, 10 more than last year. And the list of countries whose efforts against the problem were deemed inadequate rose from 10 in 2004 to 14 this year, and included U.S. Gulf allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

At a news conference launching this year's report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said as many as 800-thousand people are trafficked across international borders each year, and millions more are trafficked within various countries.

She said trafficking, for sexual exploitation, forced labor and other forms of servitude, is nothing less than a modern form of slavery, and that the U.S. reports, mandated by an act of Congress in 2000, have contributed to a growing international movement against it:

[RICE ACTUALITY]

"To confront the abomination of human trafficking, a modern-day abolitionist movement has emerged. Concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other non-governmental groups are doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation. The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

[END ACT]

The report, based on information gathered by U.S. diplomatic posts, non-governmental groups and other sources, divides countries into three categories, based on their efforts to deal with the trafficking problem.

Those given the lowest-ranking, so called Tier Three countries, could face a cut-off of non-humanitarian U.S. aid or other penalties, if they do not take remedial steps by the end of September.

In addition to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, this year's Tier-Three list also includes Gulf countries Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The report said the Gulf states were destinations for men, women and children from South and East Asia and Africa, trafficked for labor exploitation, including children forced to work as camel jockeys.

Six countries faulted last year appeared again: Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela. The others in Tier Three are Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica and Togo.

The East Asian, Latin American and African states placed in Tier Three were said to be source or destination countries for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The report said North Korea, a perennial third-tier nation, does not even recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes slave-labor conditions on state prisoners and repatriated citizens.

The head of the State Department's anti-trafficking office, former U.S. Congressman John Miller, said only a handful of countries have actually faced U.S. penalties, and that the point of annual exercise is not to sanction, but to prod countries into action.

[MILLER ACTUALITY]

"The goal of the report is not to punish, but to stimulate government action to end modern-day slavery. We hope that all **Tier** Three countries will move off **Tier** Three within the 90-day grace period, by taking concrete steps to combat **trafficking in persons**. We're prepared to work with them to help achieve this."

[END ACT]

Mr. Miller said that since the new report was compiled, one Third Tier country, Ecuador, has already taken action, with its congress this week approving changes in the country's criminal code to deal with trafficking.

He said several countries listed in the bottom category last year, including Guyana and Bangladesh, were moved up this year because of remedial steps.

Mr. Miller also commended South Korea for what he termed a brave initiative to curb the sex trade in that country, and Sweden for similar action and for a Europe-wide information campaign focused on curbing demand for trafficking victims.

The 256-page report does not rank the United States, though Secretary Rice said in an accompanying letter that it is dealing with its own trafficking problem. Mr. Miller estimated that nearly 15-thousand people are trafficked to the United States each year. (SIGNED)

NEB/DAG/KBK/TW

LOAD-DATE: June 3, 2005

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130 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

June 3, 2005

US Gives 14 Countries Failing Marks on Human Trafficking

SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 731 words

DATELINE: State Department

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131 of 359 DOCUMENTS



June 3, 2005 Friday 6:17 PM EST

U.S. cites 4 Gulf allies in trafficking report

BYLINE: From Elise Labott CNN Washington Bureau

SECTION: U.S.

LENGTH: 664 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Four American allies in the Persian Gulf are among the countries criticized for not doing enough to combat human trafficking in a U.S. State Department report released Friday.

"Human trafficking is nothing less than a modern form of slavery," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in a news conference on the report.

In the annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, the State Department listed Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as "**Tier 3**" countries, which are defined as nations "whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards" set by American law and "are not making significant efforts to do so."

The report identified the countries as destinations for trafficking victims exposed to sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The State Department also listed Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Myanmar (formerly Burma), North Korea, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela as Tier 3 countries.

The United States could impose sanctions on these 14 countries, including the withholding of nonhumanitarian and non-trade-related assistance. The U.S. government also could oppose requests for assistance from international financial institutions.

The State Department estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders against their will each year.

Many victims are forced into prostitution, sweatshops, domestic labor, farm work or child armies.

About 80 percent of trafficking victims are women and girls, with a large majority forced into the sex industry. About 50 percent are minors, the report found.

"Whatever cruel form of servitude they may take, trafficking victims live in fear and in misery," Rice said. "And wherever the trafficking trade flourishes, the rule of law erodes."

Looking at 150 countries, the report focuses on the growing problem of trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation, sex tourism and prostitution. It found that more than 1 million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade each year.

The State Department estimates that 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.

"We believe that modern-day slavery plagues every country," said John R. Miller, a senior adviser to Rice and director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The report found that "hundreds of thousands of low-skilled workers" from South Asia and Africa who arrive in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries fall into either forced begging or "involuntary servitude, suffering from physical and sexual abuse, nonpayment of wages, withholding of travel documents and restriction of movement."

Saudi Arabia, a Tier 2 country last year, was upgraded to Tier 3 this year because of its lack of progress in protecting victims and prosecuting those guilty of involuntary servitude.

("Tier 2" countries do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 but are making "significant progress" toward compliance, according to the report. "Tier 1" countries comply fully with the law.)

Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have legislation against trafficking and forced labor, but the report cited the three countries for weak implementation of laws to investigate, prosecute and punish traffickers as well as for inadequate steps to protect victims.

The report found some Tier 3 countries -- Bolivia, Myanmar, Jamaica, Sudan and Togo -- as "source" countries, where traffickers find victims, while others --Cambodia, Ecuador and Venezuela -- are source, transit and destination countries for trafficking victims.

The United States put several countries on notice that they are at risk of joining the **Tier 3** list if they don't take adequate steps to combat **human trafficking**.

Bahrain, China, the Dominican Republic, India, Mexico, the Philippines and Russia were among 27 cited on a "Tier 2 Watch list," which will receive special scrutiny and be subject to an interim assessment before next year's report.

LOAD-DATE: June 4, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Web Publication

132 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

June 2, 2005 Thursday**Pakistan removed from U.S. Human Trafficking Watch List****SECTION:** Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 124 words**DATELINE:** Islamabad, June 2

Pakistan has been removed from **Human Trafficking Watch List** by the United States. A US State department report to this affect was delivered Thursday by the US Ambassador to Pakistan to Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao in Islamabad. The report said Pakistan demonstrated significant progress in its anti-trafficking efforts and indicated that Pakistan has improved its performance in this regard. Later addressing a news conference, Interior Minister described the removal of Pakistan from Watch List as "a big achievement". Enumerating steps taken to check human trafficking, Aftab Sherpao said government promulgated a comprehensive law and rules to over come menace of trafficking in all its forms and manifestations.

LOAD-DATE: June 3, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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133 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

June 2, 2005 Thursday 4:50 AM EST

PAKISTAN IMPROVES EFFORTS AGAINST **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; REMOVED FROM **WATCH LIST**, BUT MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE**

BYLINE: US States News

LENGTH: 482 words

DATELINE: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

The U.S. Department of State will release its fifth annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 3, 2005. The 150-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons or modern-day slavery. This year Pakistan received a **Tier 2** placement in the 2005 **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker delivered the report to Minister of Interior Sherpao on June 2, commending the Government of Pakistan on its efforts to combat trafficking-in-persons. Pakistan moved up this year from being placed on the Tier 2 Watch List last year.

The report indicates that Pakistan has improved its anti-trafficking performance over the reporting period. Most notably, it has increased trafficking-related prosecutions and convictions, strengthened implementation of its 2002 Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, established an Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) within the Federal Investigation Agency, and co-sponsored several public awareness campaigns.

The U.S. government has helped support these efforts by providing over \$100,000 through the International Organization for Migration to establish a model shelter for trafficked victims, build the capacity of law enforcement officials in the ATU, and conduct mass awareness activities.

In his meeting with Minister Sherpao, Ambassador Crocker noted that continued improvement in all three areas of protection, prosecution and prevention will be important in the coming year. In order to free people from modern-day slavery, he encouraged continued progress. "We look forward to further cooperation on trafficking-in-persons issues," he said.

The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit the Trafficking-in-Persons Report by June of each year. The goal of this Report is to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. This year, there will be an added focus on forced labor trafficking including involuntary servitude and debt bondage.

Countries determined to have a significant trafficking problem are evaluated in this Report and are assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the U.S. TVPA law are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards, nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as Tier 3. Countries classified as Tier 2 Watch List are weak Tier 2s that are at risk of slipping to Tier 3 unless serious concerns are addressed.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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134 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

May 26, 2005, Thursday

Japan cracking down on human trafficking in sex industry

BYLINE: By Sharon Noguchi and Emi Doi

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 1349 words

TOKYO _ Angel Kiss, Zeus and cabarets that offer "live love" still beckon customers in Kabukicho, Tokyo's infamous red-light district. But near-daily police and immigration raids have banished the women who once openly solicited potential customers on the street.

Humiliated by international criticism of its commerce in girls and women, Japan last year began to clamp down on human trafficking. Yet the tougher laws that are expected to pass next month face huge obstacles. Japan must reorient a slow-moving bureaucracy, overcome widespread social acceptance of sex for hire and take on the powerful sex industry and the criminal groups that control it.

Marisela _ not her real name _ entered Japan on a tourist visa procured by a recruiter. The waitress job that she thought would support her two daughters in the Philippines turned out to be a bar-hostessing job that included being sent out on calls with customers. Like most women in the industry, she was moved from place to place and sometimes was terrified. "I thought if I complained, I would get killed," she said.

Thousands of Mariselas, desperate to earn money for their families, slip into Japan on short-term visas or with falsified passports. Told that they have to pay off debts of sometimes 5 million yen (\$47,600), **they're held captive, beaten and controlled by threats to their families at home, anti-trafficking groups say.**

Estimates of the number of victims vary wildly. The National Police Agency identified 79 in 2004 from among arrested illegal foreigners. The Organization of American States estimates that 1,700 girls and women from Latin America have been sold in Japan. Anti-trafficking groups say there are more than 100,000 victims, mostly Thais, Filipinas and Colombians _ but also Russians, Chinese, Koreans, Taiwanese and other Southeast Asians.

Until now, police dealt with the problem by arresting the victims as illegal aliens, jailing and deporting them as soon as they presented enough money for airfare home.

Trafficked women often live brutal, desolate lives, forced into having unprotected sex with sometimes dozens of customers a day, say those who work rescuing the women.

"The Japanese are the coldest people, without any heart, that can possibly exist in the world," wrote one girl, who arrived at age 16, in a statement after she fled to the Colombian Consulate. "Besides the mafia who own us, on the streets they treat us as criminals and beat me when I don't earn enough money. They force us to do horrible, repulsive things, and often the police come in, showing their badge and force us to service them for free."

The United States, the International Labor Organization and other groups have singled out Japan for harsh criticism. A U.S. State Department report last year demoted Japan to a "watch list" of foot-dragging governments _ the same ranking as Laos and Russia _ in human trafficking.

Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor, including 2.4 million trafficking victims _ a majority of them in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2004 State Department report jolted Japan into speeding up reform.

This year's State report, due out June 1, is expected to credit Tokyo with progress in addressing the problem.

Two months ago, the government began cutting back on entertainer visas, which last year were issued to 80,000 people, mostly Filipinas. Those were a sham, said Hidenori Sakanaka, a former head of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau. "The women are ordered to become hostesses, even though they are invited as singers or dancers, and end up in prostitution," he said.

After his agents embarked on an aggressive campaign 10 years ago, arresting illegal entertainers as well as club owners and brokers, he received irate phone calls from politicians and anonymous threats on his life, he said. "Trafficking is the shame of Japan," he wrote in a recently published book. Now, he said, he regrets not being able to tackle the problem fully.

Will the new campaign meet less resistance? For more than a year, immigration and police officers have been arresting thousands of undocumented workers, including trafficking victims. To live up to an October 2003 pledge to cut in half the population of illegal foreigners in Tokyo, then estimated at 125,000, officers have staked out stations and streets populated by Third World migrants.

Agents are so busy that the immigration jails are full. On a recent 5 a.m. raid, agents nabbed 10 women _ to fill the 10 vacancies in the women's immigration jail, said Takuma Fukumoto, the chief of the newly established Shinjuku branch of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, which covers Kabukicho. The men's side was already full, he said.

To have an impact, authorities will have to tackle the most difficult problem of all: challenging the Japanese yakuza and their foreign partners who profit from the trafficking.

"If the Japanese want to do something," one victim wrote in a statement at the Colombian Consulate, "they have to first get rid of the mobsters." Arresting the victims will do nothing because "Colombians will just continue coming in, like flowers, in huge numbers at all the airports."

Last year, 46 people were found guilty of trafficking-related crimes.

One of the most notorious traffickers, Koichi Hagiwara _ known as Sony for his habit of videotaping his victims while he humiliates and tortures them _ served less than two years in prison for violating labor laws.

New laws criminalizing human trafficking and beefing up penalties will allow authorities to crack down on brokers. Currently, immigration agents who record victims' testimonies can arrest only the visa violators, not the traffickers, said Fukumoto. "We turn all our information to police _ who may not move on it," he said.

But Jun Shimado, of the Ministry of Justice's Public Security Division, said police are working on apprehending traffickers. Proof of their success, he said, is in the shuttering of shops that preyed on trafficked women in Yokohama's red-light district, Koganecho.

New measures will help victims. A \$200,000 fund will pay for some victims' airfare home. And some women may be allowed to stay in Japan for up to three months.

That's a start, advocates say. But the few shelters for the women are often full, and the time limit for a stay is two weeks. Women who once had tens of thousands of yen _ hundreds of dollars _ pass through their hands find themselves without income, assistance or support. Some may be pregnant, and many have mental and other health problems, including AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, said Keiko Otsu, who runs the HELP Asian Women's Shelter.

So far there's been little training for law enforcement to handle traumatized victims, either to elicit information or to avoid inflicting further trauma.

"Someone who's been under the control of the mafia and then arrested and put under police control is not likely to just open up and speak freely," said Yoko Yoshida, an attorney who works with the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons.

Another question is whether the crackdown will only move the sex industry deeper underground. Prostitution is widespread and not confined to areas such as Kabukicho, with its 4,300 bars and restaurants. Fliers recruiting girls for "compensated dating" and sex-related businesses are handed out on streets or posted on walls. Even in rural towns, the "snacks," as small bars are known here, often feature foreign hostesses who do more than serve drinks.

But pushing prostitution, and trafficked women, further underground succeeds in making them less accessible to the market, said Yoshida. "It sends the consumers a kind of warning. Perhaps they will stop buying women."

(Noguchi is on leave from the San Jose Mercury News. Doi is a Knight Ridder special correspondent.)

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135 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

May 25, 2005 Wednesday 12:13 PM EST

U.S. ENVOY: HALF OF ALL TRAFFICKED PERSONS MAY BE CHILDREN

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 954 words

DATELINE: BALTIMORE

The Voice of America issued the following story:

By David Gollust

State Department

The U.S. State Department's chief envoy on trafficking in persons says as many as half of all those trafficked worldwide for sex and domestic slavery may be children and young people under 18 years of age. Ambassador John Miller says the aim of the State Department's annual report on the issue is not to punish countries with trafficking problems, but prod them into action.

The State Department's annual reports on human trafficking, first authorized by an act of Congress in 2000, rate countries around the world according to efforts they make to combat the problem.

Those placed in the lowest, or third, tier of countries could face the prospect of U.S. sanctions including the loss of non-humanitarian aid. But the penalty provision has been only lightly used since the first annual report came out in 2001.

Ambassador Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, says the hope is that the so-called **Tier-Three** countries will consider the designation a wake-up call to take remedial action.

In a talk with VOA as he prepared for release of the 2005 report, Mr. Miller said in the vast majority of cases, and notably the listing of NATO allies Greece and Turkey in 2002, governments are responsive to U.S. criticism.

"They didn't necessarily agree with the report, but in the three months after the report, we believe that they made some very significant efforts: stepped up arrests and prosecutions, stepped up cooperation with non-governmental organizations, and referring victims for help, stepped-up education activities to warn victims," he said. "And as a result they were raised out of Tier-Three. That's the hope. The purpose here is not to put countries in Tier-Three. The purpose here is not to levy sanctions. The purpose is to get progress toward freeing victims and putting traffickers in jail."

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But he says the most recent U.S. estimate is that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, and that internal slavery means the figure far surpasses a million. He said as many as half of the victims are children and minors.

"This is the sad fact," he said. "When you look at sex slavery, which is inextricably linked to prostitution, many of those engaged in prostitution around the world are under age 18. If you look at domestic servitude slavery, many of

those engaged in domestic servitude slavery have left their homes for a job, what they hope will be a job in somebody's home. So children are at the center of this issue. They form a large number of the victims."

Mr. Miller said in absolute numbers, more children are probably trafficked in Asia than other areas and cited notorious sex-tourism problems in several Southeast Asian countries.

But he said regrettably, there is plenty of child slavery going on in Europe and every country in the world including the United States, where the State Department said last year that more than 14,000 people from abroad were trafficked.

He said some of the issues are long-standing, including the trafficking of children from South Asia to countries in the Gulf region to be camel jockeys, some of whom he said are half-starved to keep their weight down, and suffer serious injuries in racing accidents.

Mr. Miller said he is hopeful that states of origin for the child jockeys, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, and destination countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, will take significant steps in the coming year to end the practice.

He said he thinks most countries try to respond to criticisms in the trafficking report. But he said some governments, those with few or no official dealings with the United States, have refused to cooperate - citing Cuba, where he said children have been caught up in the sex trade.

"The major problem in Cuba is that there is a government-affiliated, supported sex-tourism industry that includes many, many children," he added. "And not just by U.S. law, but by international protocol. When you have children in prostitution, you have trafficking. So this is the challenge in Cuba. We hope the Cuban government will take action to meet that challenge."

The 2004 trafficking report faulted 10 countries including long-standing U.S. sanctions targets Cuba, Burma and North Korea for failing to adequately fight trafficking. Four of them - Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guyana and Sierra Leone - were later removed from the list in recognition of subsequent remedial action.

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136 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

May 25, 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING: RUSSIA / CIS**BYLINE:** LISA MCADAMS**SECTION:** RADIO SCRIPTS - BACKGROUND REPORT 5-56907**LENGTH:** 1004 words

MOSCOW

HEADLINE: New Program aims to Fight Child Trafficking in Russia

INTRO: A swiss-based non-governmental organization (N-G-O) known as Terre D'Homme is in the final stages of introducing a program in Russia, aimed at stopping the illegal flow of children into the country from other former-Soviet nations. VOA's Lisa McAdams in Moscow reports the group hopes the project will not only help improve the situation in Russia, but serve as a role model to other countries trying to combat child trafficking.

Sit at any traffic stoplight in Moscow and you are bound to see a mother carrying a swaddled child past car windows with her hand open, pleading for spare coins.

The more faint-hearted might be inclined to think that by handing over their hard-earned money they are helping the child. But more often than not, they are paying into the multi-billion-dollar illegal trade in child trafficking that is booming not only in Russia, but across the former Soviet Union.

In Russia more than 30-thousand children and teenagers are reported missing every year. Many fall prey to traffickers. Another five-thousand, living hand-to-mouth in the streets, are also an easy mark.

Numbers are inexact, hard to come by, and nearly impossible to confirm, but experts from Terre D'Homme say there is no doubt the problem is on the rise, especially in the former Soviet Republic of Moldova.

Terre D'Homme project director Natalia Chuard says the group plans to unveil the first two-year anti-trafficking project of its kind between Moldova and Russia. The pilot project, beginning this June, will focus initially on repatriating 100 Moldovan children recently found begging in the streets of Moscow for the benefit of criminal gangs.

She says the goal is to repatriate as many of them as possible and, through a combination of psychological and economic re-integration programs, ensure that they do not end up back in the vicious circle that is child-trafficking.

[CHUARD ACT]

"In two years time, we'll really be able to understand more on the phenomena and to provide correct answers and to prevent it. And then we will be able to have quite good guidelines and collaboration here between Russia and Moldova that, at the end, those two countries, without any other kind of external support, they will be able to coordinate properly the identification and return of children back to the country of origin. (And) not only Moldova, that is the country we started with, but that could be other countries as well."

[END ACT]

But Ms. Chuard says one of the biggest hindrances to the work at present is that across the former Soviet Union there are very few groups specializing in fighting child trafficking, and certainly not enough to combat the problem at the rate it is growing.

She also says there is a tremendous lack of legislation, and virtually no coordination between the government and non-governmental organizations and other bordering nations.

Olga Agapova is a psychologist at Coalition Angel, one of Russia's few NGOs working to fight child trafficking. Ms. Agapova agrees more coordination is needed at all levels.

[AGAPOVA ACT IN RUSSIAN EST. & FADE]

Ms. Agapova says very often law enforcement bodies do one thing, while governmental departments and educational bodies do others. She says all these structures face the same issues and problems, but are subordinate to different bodies and end up working at cross-purposes in the dark.

As a result, she says many children end up bouncing from one place to another, before ending up back out on the streets, where they are subject to drugs, prostitution, theft, violence and forced labor in the form of sexual exploitation or begging.

The Commissioner for Children's Rights in Moscow, Alexei Golovan, tells VOA the Russian government must own up to the extent of the problem, before it can ever hope to fix it.

[GOLOVAN ACTUALITY IN RUSSIAN EST. & FADE]

Mr. Golovan says protecting children from trafficking is not yet a major priority, either from the standpoint of the government or society. He also laments what he says is the near total lack of coverage about the problem in the Russian media.

A researcher at UNICEF's Moscow office, Gabriella Akimova, says there is some action being taken in Russia to combat the problem. But like so many experts working in the field, Ms. Akimova says the laws in Russia, as they stand right now, are far from sufficient.

[AKIMOVA ACT]

"There has got to be within any law, or combination of legal provision mechanisms, there's got to be recognition of caring for the victims needs. And again, I believe that in the draft laws being drafted, there is an interest in trying to do that. Now, whether it will be implemented is another question."

[END ACT]

Ms. Akimova says lawmakers also need to take into account the need for greater funding in order to provide care for victims of trafficking.

Others, like Ms. Agapova of Coalition Angel, believe that government workers serving in customs, migration and the interior ministry, need to undertake special training to both recognize and halt the problem, which she says often crosses their paths first.

The annual TIP, or **trafficking in persons**, report released in the United States, classifies Russia as a **tier-two watch list** country, for failing to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Once just a country of origin for victims of child trafficking, Russia has now earned the dubious distinction of being a country of transit and destination as well.

Children in the former Soviet Republics of Belarus, Ukraine, the Baltics, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have also been hard hit by trafficking.

But with the start of programs like those of Terre D'Homme and Coalition Angel, and efforts to upgrade laws and information-sharing, there is at least a glimmer of hope that the massive problem unfolding can at minimum - be slowed down, if not realistically stopped. (SIGNED)

NEB/LAM/RAE/KBK

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137 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

May 25, 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING: U.S.**BYLINE:** DAVID GOLLUST**SECTION:** RADIO SCRIPTS - BACKGROUND REPORT 5-56920**LENGTH:** 928 words

STATE DEPARTMENT

HEADLINE: US Envoy Says Half of All Trafficked Persons May Be Children

INTRO: The U.S. State Department's chief envoy on trafficking in persons says as many as half of all those trafficked world-wide for sex and domestic slavery may be children and young people under 18 years of age. Ambassador John Miller says the aim of the State Department's annual report on the issue is not to punish countries with trafficking problems, but prod them into action. VOA's David Gollust reports from the State Department.

The State Department's annual reports on human trafficking, first authorized by an act of Congress in 2000, rate countries around the world according to efforts they make to combat the problem.

Those placed in the lowest, or third, tier of countries could face the prospect of U.S. sanctions including the loss of non-humanitarian aid.

But the penalty provision has been only lightly used since the first annual report came out in 2001.

Ambassador Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, says the hope is that the so-called **Tier-Three** countries will consider the designation a wake-up call to take remedial action.

In a talk with V-O-A as he prepared for release of the 2005 report, Mr. Miller said in the vast majority of cases - and notably the listing of NATO allies Greece and Turkey in 2002 - governments are responsive to U.S. criticism:

[MILLER ACT ONE]

"They didn't necessarily agree with the report, but in the three months after the report, we believe that they made some very significant efforts: stepped up arrests and prosecutions, stepped up cooperation with non-governmental organizations, and referring victims for help, stepped-up education activities to warn victims. And as a result they were raised out of Tier-Three. That's the hope. The purpose here is not to put countries in Tier-Three. The purpose here is not to levy sanctions. The purpose is to get progress toward freeing victims and putting traffickers in jail."

[END ACT]

Mr. Miller called modern human trafficking which includes sex slavery, forced domestic, factory and farm labor, and the conscription and kidnapping of child soldiers, one of the great human rights issues of the 21st century.

The U.S. envoy, a former four-term U.S. Congressman from the state of Washington, said statistics on human trafficking are hard to come by given its criminal nature.

But he says the most recent U.S. estimate is that between 600-thousand and 800-thousand people are trafficked across international borders each year, and that internal slavery means the figure far surpasses a million. He said as many as half of the victims are children and minors:

[MILLER ACT TWO]

This is the sad fact. When you look at sex slavery, which is inextricably linked to prostitution, many of those engaged in prostitution around the world are under age 18. If you look at domestic servitude slavery, many of those engaged in domestic servitude slavery have left their homes for a job, what they hope will be a job in somebody's home. So children are at the center of this issue. They form a large number of the victims.

[END ACT]

Mr. Miller said in absolute numbers, more children are probably trafficked in Asia than other areas and cited notorious sex-tourism problems in several Southeast Asian countries.

But he said regrettably, there is plenty of child slavery going on in Europe and every country in the world including the United States, where the State Department said last year that more than 14-thousand people from abroad were trafficked.

He said some of the issues are long-standing, including the trafficking of children from South Asia to countries in the Gulf region to be camel jockeys, some of whom he said are half-starved to keep their weight down, and suffer serious injuries in racing accidents.

Mr. Miller said he is hopeful that states of origin for the child jockeys, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, and destination countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, will take significant steps in the coming year to end the practice.

He said he thinks most countries try to respond to criticisms in the trafficking report. But he said some governments, those with few or no official dealings with the United States, have refused to cooperate - citing Cuba, where he said children have been caught up in the sex trade:

[MILLER ACT THREE]

"The major problem in Cuba is that there is a government-affiliated, supported sex-tourism industry that includes many, many children. And not just by U.S. law, but by international protocol. When you have children in prostitution, you have trafficking. So this is the challenge in Cuba. We hope the Cuban government will take action to meet that challenge."

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The 2004 trafficking report faulted 10 countries including long-standing U.S. sanctions targets Cuba, Burma and North Korea for failing to adequately fight trafficking. Four of them - Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guyana and Sierra Leone - were later removed from the list in recognition of subsequent remedial action.

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NEB/DAG/KBK/MAR

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138 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

May 25, 2005

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SECTION: VOA ENGLISH SERVICE

LENGTH: 887 words

DATELINE: State Department

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139 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

United States, Canada and Africa; U.S. Fighting Government Corruption That Enables Child Labor

BYLINE: United States Department of State

LENGTH: 1494 words

More international law enforcement needed, says State's Miller

Each year 600,000 to 800,000 people--half of them children--are forced from their homes and their countries to work in other countries. These children are being used as soldiers, camel jockeys, and forced laborers, or engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. The U.S. government, working directly with governments and through nongovernmental organizations, is committed to stopping child traffickers, rehabilitating child victims, and reunifying them with their families. "We must fight government corruption, which allows trafficking to flourish and destabilizes economies," says John Miller, the State Department's top official in the effort to stem human trafficking. "We must step up law enforcement to rescue child slaves and deter traffickers. And we must improve our prevention efforts so children are not vulnerable to this terrible crime."

Ambassador John R. Miller is senior advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Since all countries have outlawed slavery, many people think the practice is a thing of the past. Unfortunately, the crime of trafficking in persons, or modern-day slavery, is thriving in 2005, and it is having a particular impact on children around the globe.

When we talk about trafficking in persons, we are talking about victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Shockingly, up to half of all trafficking victims may be children, who are used as soldiers, camel jockeys, and forced laborers, or engaged in prostitution. The forced labor takes many forms, from back-breaking work in stone quarries, to domestic servitude, to factory and fieldwork.

In response to this egregious offense, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. The law mandates a yearly State Department report that reviews foreign government actions to prevent trafficking, protect the victims, including children, and prosecute the traffickers. It must report on U.S. efforts in these areas. In 2004, the U.S. government gave more than \$96 million in funding for anti-trafficking programs abroad, and we are aggressively working to raise public awareness to the plight of children trapped in lives of bondage.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

As a result of our work and that of others, progress is being made to combat the problem on every front. Since 2003, there have been nearly 3,000 convictions of traffickers, and 40 countries have passed comprehensive anti-trafficking laws. There are a number of efforts to warn vulnerable people of trafficking schemes so that slavery can be prevented before it begins. And partnerships between government and nongovernmental organizations have led to successful initiatives that are improving children's lives by freeing them from forced labor and other forms of slavery.

For example, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is using U.S. funding to rehabilitate children who were abducted and trafficked to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) bases in southern Sudan and northern Uganda. Many of these children were forced to kill friends and family members as a result of their conscription. IRC also works to support children who flee Ugandan villages for towns every night for fear of abduction by the rebel LRA group.

To combat the enslavement of children used as camel jockeys, in December 2004 the Ansar Burney Welfare Trust opened a shelter in the United Arab Emirates to care for trafficking victims. The shelter serves many boys who have been trampled by the camels they were forced to ride. As of March 2005, this shelter had rescued and cared for as many as 50 children, at least 16 of whom have been repatriated.

The International Organization for Migration, in partnership with the Department of State, relevant Ghanaian government ministries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and local nongovernmental organizations, works to identify and provide documentation to children who have been trafficked to Ghana's Lake Volta region to work in the fishing industry. To help stop the trafficking of children in this region, this program provides counseling for the child victims, family reunification, and activities to help reintegrate children into daily life. Togbega Hadjor, paramount chief of Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, was honored as a hero in the State Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report for his work with this project and his efforts to raise awareness in the region.

We are also working with Free the Slaves to shut down fishing villages in the Bay of Bengal region of Bangladesh that use child slaves. Since October 2004, Bangladeshi police and coast guard have rescued 129 children.

As part of President Bush's initiative to combat all forms of human trafficking, Catholic Relief Services is working with Brazilian law enforcement to identify the routes traffickers use to exploit their victims. They are also working to improve coordination between law enforcement and labor inspectors in order to detect and investigate these activities so that more children can be free.

"NO ONE DESERVES TO BE A SLAVE"

Even with all of the efforts under way, we know that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of children remain enslaved, and this is a challenge we must face fully and without delay. We must fight government corruption, which allows trafficking to flourish and destabilizes economies. We must step up law enforcement to rescue child slaves and deter traffickers. And we must improve our prevention efforts so that children are not vulnerable to this terrible crime.

The movement to forever abolish the trafficking and enslavement of children continues, and I am proud the United States has taken a leading role to create a world, as President Bush said in his 2005 inaugural address, where "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave."

Sanctions Against Human Traffickers

Each year, the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report identifies countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards in U.S. law for prohibiting severe forms of **trafficking in persons** and do not make significant efforts to do so. The 2004 report identified Bangladesh, Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, North Korea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Venezuela in this "**Tier 3**" category. Under U.S. law, the United States can impose on such nations sanctions that include:

- * withholding non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance;
- * withholding funding for participation in educational and cultural exchange programs, when the country does not receive other assistance;
- * opposing loans and grants--except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance--from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other international financial institutions. For example, in 2004 the United States voted against IMF and World Bank loans to Venezuela as a result of Tier 3 placement.

U.S. law allows the president some discretion in waiving these sanctions, particularly if he feels that the waiver would be in the U.S. national interest or would avoid a significant adverse effect on vulnerable populations such as women and children, or if he finds that a government has come into compliance with the minimum standards after the report was issued. Waivers were granted in 2004 for Bangladesh, because of its increasing efforts to prosecute traffickers and rescue victims; for Guyana, because of its new action plan to direct more resources for victims and its new public awareness efforts; for Sierra Leone, for training police officers on trafficking prevention and enforcement and for designating a high government official as the coordinator for trafficking in persons; and for Ecuador, for increasing police raids on traffickers and for raising public awareness (see <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/prsrl/36127.htm> for the full presidential determination).

Sanctions are a last resort and one of only many tools used to stimulate foreign government action on behalf of victims and potential victims of modern-day slavery. Other U.S. efforts in the last year included providing more than \$96 mil-

lion in anti-trafficking funding abroad, participating in extensive bilateral discussions and partnerships, undertaking numerous anti-trafficking activities in cooperation with international organizations, and staging far-reaching public awareness and outreach programs.

The above article appears in the May 2005 issue of the State Department's electronic journal, Economic Perspectives. The complete issue, titled Ending Abusive Child Labor, can be viewed on the USINFO Web site.

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140 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

U.S. FIGHTING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION THAT ENABLES CHILD LABOR

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1528 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the State Department:

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ELIMINATING THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

Ambassador John R. Miller

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In response to this egregious offense, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. The law mandates a yearly State Department report that reviews foreign government actions to prevent trafficking, protect the victims, including children, and prosecute the traffickers. It must report on U.S. efforts in these areas. In 2004, the U.S. government gave more than \$96 million in funding for anti-trafficking programs abroad, and we are aggressively working to raise public awareness to the plight of children trapped in lives of bondage.

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As part of President Bush's initiative to combat all forms of human trafficking, Catholic Relief Services is working with Brazilian law enforcement to identify the routes traffickers use to exploit their victims. They are also working to improve coordination between law enforcement and labor inspectors in order to detect and investigate these activities so that more children can be free.

"NO ONE DESERVES TO BE A SLAVE"

Even with all of the efforts under way, we know that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of children remain enslaved, and this is a challenge we must face fully and without delay. We must fight government corruption, which allows trafficking to flourish and destabilizes economies. We must step up law enforcement to rescue child slaves and deter traffickers. And we must improve our prevention efforts so that children are not vulnerable to this terrible crime. The movement to forever abolish the trafficking and enslavement of children continues, and I am proud the United States has taken a leading role to create a world, as President Bush said in his 2005 inaugural address, where "no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave."

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U.S. law allows the president some discretion in waiving these sanctions, particularly if he feels that the waiver would be in the U.S. national interest or would avoid a significant adverse effect on vulnerable populations such as women and children, or if he finds that a government has come into compliance with the minimum standards after the report was issued. Waivers were granted in 2004 for Bangladesh, because of its increasing efforts to prosecute traffickers and rescue victims; for Guyana, because of its new action plan to direct more resources for victims and its new public awareness efforts; for Sierra Leone, for training police officers on trafficking prevention and enforcement and for designating a high government official as the coordinator for trafficking in persons; and for Ecuador, for increasing police raids on traffickers and for raising public awareness (see <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/prsr/36127.htm> for the full presidential determination).

Sanctions are a last resort and one of only many tools used to stimulate foreign government action on behalf of victims and potential victims of modern-day slavery. Other U.S. efforts in the last year included providing more than \$96 million in anti-trafficking funding abroad, participating in extensive bilateral discussions and partnerships, undertaking numerous anti-trafficking activities in cooperation with international organizations, and staging far-reaching public awareness and outreach programs.

(end byliner)

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141 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

May 18, 2005

U.S. Fighting Government Corruption that Enables Child Labor; More international law enforcement needed, says State's Miller

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1537 words

The following article appears in the May 2005 issue of the State Department's electronic journal, *Economic Perspectives*. The complete issue, titled *Ending Abusive Child Labor*, can be viewed on the USINFO Web site.

(begin byliner)

ELIMINATING THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

Ambassador John R. Miller

Each year 600,000 to 800,000 people--half of them children--are forced from their homes and their countries to work in other countries. These children are being used as soldiers, camel jockeys, and forced laborers, or engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. The U.S. government, working directly with governments and through nongovernmental organizations, is committed to stopping child traffickers, rehabilitating child victims, and reunifying them with their families. "We must fight government corruption, which allows trafficking to flourish and destabilizes economies," says John Miller, the State Department's top official in the effort to stem human trafficking. "We must step up law enforcement to rescue child slaves and deter traffickers. And we must improve our prevention efforts so children are not vulnerable to this terrible crime."

Ambassador John R. Miller is senior advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Since all countries have outlawed slavery, many people think the practice is a thing of the past. Unfortunately, the crime of trafficking in persons, or modern-day slavery, is thriving in 2005, and it is having a particular impact on children around the globe.

When we talk about trafficking in persons, we are talking about victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Shockingly, up to half of all trafficking victims may be children, who are used as soldiers, camel jockeys, and forced laborers, or engaged in prostitution. The forced labor takes many forms, from back-breaking work in stone quarries, to domestic servitude, to factory and fieldwork.

In response to this egregious offense, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. The law mandates a yearly State Department report that reviews foreign government actions to prevent trafficking, protect the victims, including children, and prosecute the traffickers. It must report on U.S. efforts in these areas. In 2004, the U.S. government gave more than \$96 million in funding for anti-trafficking programs abroad, and we are aggressively working to raise public awareness to the plight of children trapped in lives of bondage.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

As a result of our work and that of others, progress is being made to combat the problem on every front. Since 2003, there have been nearly 3,000 convictions of traffickers, and 40 countries have passed comprehensive anti-trafficking laws. There are a number of efforts to warn vulnerable people of trafficking schemes so that slavery can be prevented before it begins. And partnerships between government and nongovernmental organizations have led to successful initiatives that are improving children's lives by freeing them from forced labor and other forms of slavery.

For example, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is using U.S. funding to rehabilitate children who were abducted and trafficked to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) bases in southern Sudan and northern Uganda. Many of these children were forced to kill friends and family members as a result of their conscription. IRC also works to support children who flee Ugandan villages for towns every night for fear of abduction by the rebel LRA group.

To combat the enslavement of children used as camel jockeys, in December 2004 the Ansar Burney Welfare Trust opened a shelter in the United Arab Emirates to care for trafficking victims. The shelter serves many boys who have been trampled by the camels they were forced to ride. As of March 2005, this shelter had rescued and cared for as many as 50 children, at least 16 of whom have been repatriated.

The International Organization for Migration, in partnership with the Department of State, relevant Ghanaian government ministries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and local nongovernmental organizations, works to identify and provide documentation to children who have been trafficked to Ghana's Lake Volta region to work in the fishing industry. To help stop the trafficking of children in this region, this program provides counseling for the child victims, family reunification, and activities to help reintegrate children into daily life. Togbega Hadjor, paramount chief of Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, was honored as a hero in the State Department's 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report for his work with this project and his efforts to raise awareness in the region.

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(end byliner)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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142 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 5:27 AM EST

U.S. FIGHTING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION THAT ENABLES CHILD LABOR

BYLINE: US States News

LENGTH: 1522 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

The following article appears in the May 2005 issue of the State Department's electronic journal, Economic Perspectives. The complete issue, titled Ending Abusive Child Labor, can be viewed on the USINFO Web site at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0505/ijee/ijee0505.htm>

(begin byliner)

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143 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

May 10, 2005 Tuesday

EXCHANGE PROGRAM ALUMNI FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN UZBEKISTAN

BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 1137 words

DATELINE: NUKUS, Uzbekistan

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

On a warm Saturday in April in a remote desert town in Uzbekistan south of the Aral Sea, dozens of high school students gathered in a small classroom to learn about a growing scourge in Central Asia trafficking in human beings and how to keep from becoming victims.

This was just one of 150 different seminars on human trafficking given recently in more than 30 primary schools and colleges throughout the autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan in western Uzbekistan.

The project, called "Know Your Rights," reached more than 2,200 potential trafficking victims directly and tens of thousands more through posters, pamphlets, and word of mouth. The total cost of the project was roughly \$520.

The force behind this enormous undertaking is a small nongovernmental organization (NGO) called KaDem, short for Karakalpak Democracy and meaning step in the Karakalpak language.

Two alumni from the U.S. Department of State's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program -- Raihan Izimbetova and Nigora Dekhkanova, who each spent a year attending high school in the United States under the program are the co-founders and directors of KaDem.

They trained 28 university students on human-trafficking issues and sent them out to conduct seminars throughout Karakalpakstan during a three-week period.

"Since we live in a country with a challenging economic situation, huge numbers of people from Karakalpakstan move to foreign countries in search of work. Many of these migrants are not aware of their rights and they become victims of human traffic, Izimbetova said in an interview with the Washington File.

The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 - 800,000 people are trafficked globally across international borders to be exploited sexually or as forced laborers, while millions more are trafficked within countries. Eighty percent of those trafficked are women and children.

Within Uzbekistan, people are trafficked from rural to urban areas for labor exploitation, while Uzbek women are trafficked abroad for sexual exploitation. Many participants in the conference were the potential victims [of trafficking], because they were graduating this year and most of them would be searching for a job outside the country, said Izimbetova.

The Karakalpak Republic has had its share of hardships in recent years. The shrinkage of the Aral Sea has reduced the region's main industries -- fishing and cotton production -- resulting in a lack of employment and a harsher climate. In the 1950s, the Soviet Union decided to cultivate cotton in the region on a massive scale, using the Syr Darya and Amu Darya Rivers for large-scale irrigation leading to a drop in the flow of freshwater into the sea. It is estimated that the Aral Sea has lost 66 percent of its size in area and 88 percent of its volume between 1960 and 2005.

The lack of jobs, the need to provide for family members and the lure of nearby countries with higher standards of living have made many women easy prey for traffickers promising employment and travel abroad.

The co-founders of KaDem said they want to give young people the knowledge they need to make choices. Democracy for KaDem is to have a choice, said Raihan Izimbetova.

Nigora Dekhkanova said the human-trafficking seminars have been her most rewarding experience with KaDem so far. Not only has the organization taught over 2,200 young people about the dangers of human trafficking during the three-

week series of seminars, but it is now receiving calls from the participants and their families asking for advice before leaving the country for summer jobs.

The two women said KaDem has been successful thanks in part to the experiences gained during their yearlong program in the United States. Izimbetova spent a year studying in California in 1998, and Dekhanova studied for a year in Indiana in 2000.

"After completing the FLEX program we realized the importance of community service, said Dekhkanova. We are glad that not only [FLEX] alumni, but also the young generation of our country are involved in community service with the help of KaDem.

The FLEX program was established in 1992 to provide an opportunity for high-school students from the countries of the former Soviet Union to experience life in a democratic society. Over the past decade, more than 14,000 young people have participated in the State Department-funded program, and many today are making important contributions to the development of their countries.

Because of the work by organizations like KaDem and a greater willingness by the Uzbek government to discuss **human trafficking** and work to combat it, Uzbekistan in 2003 was promoted from the list of countries in the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report with the most serious **human trafficking** situation (**Tier 3**) to the list of countries that have a trafficking problem but are working to meet minimum standards for combating it (**Tier 2**). The report, issued annually in June, assesses trafficking activity and efforts to control it in most of the world's nations. The United States has called on the Uzbek government to cooperate more with law enforcement officials in countries where trafficking victims are taken, to train border guards and customs officials in identifying and assisting victims, and to train police on trafficking investigations.

In January, U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Jon Purnell opened a two-day meeting in Tashkent to discuss effective mechanisms for assisting Uzbek victims of human trafficking and enabling them to return home. The meeting brought together officials from Uzbekistan and countries determined to be the most common destinations for Uzbek trafficking victims: Israel, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine, South Korea, China and the United Arab Emirates.

The United States has been urging countries to impose serious penalties on traffickers, adopt laws that prohibit trafficking and provide for victim protection and assistance, ensure that legal tools exist to apprehend "sex tourists," and support preventive education to curb demand for trafficking, especially the demand created by military and civilian peacekeepers and other international personnel in conflict regions.

The United States vigorously enforces U.S. laws against those who traffic in persons and does not deport trafficking victims. Under U.S. law, victims have the right to stay in the United States either through "continued presence" that allows them to stay pending an outcome of a trial, or through a "T" visa, which allows them to stay for up to three years and then apply for permanent residency.

The United States is currently the only country that offers the possibility of permanent residency to victims of trafficking.

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144 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

May 10, 2005

Exchange Program Alumni Fight Human Trafficking in Uzbekistan; FLEX graduates reach out to potential victims of labor, sexual exploitation

BYLINE: Tim Receveur, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1169 words

Nukus, Uzbekistan -- On a warm Saturday in April in a remote desert town in Uzbekistan south of the Aral Sea, dozens of high school students gathered in a small classroom to learn about a growing scourge in Central Asia ' trafficking in human beings ' and how to keep from becoming victims.

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For additional information on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in persons, see Human Trafficking.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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145 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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EXCHANGE PROGRAM ALUMNI FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN UZBEKISTAN

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The U.S. Department of State's International Information Programs issued the following press release:

By Tim Receveur

Washington File Staff Writer

On a warm Saturday in April in a remote desert town in Uzbekistan south of the Aral Sea, dozens of high school students gathered in a small classroom to learn about a growing scourge in Central Asia - trafficking in human beings - and how to keep from becoming victims.

This was just one of 150 different seminars on human trafficking given recently in more than 30 primary schools and colleges throughout the autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan in western Uzbekistan.

The project, called "Know Your Rights," reached more than 2,200 potential trafficking victims directly and tens of thousands more through posters, pamphlets, and word of mouth. The total cost of the project was roughly \$520.

The force behind this enormous undertaking is a small nongovernmental organization (NGO) called KaDem, short for Karakalpak Democracy and meaning "step" in the Karakalpak language.

Two alumni from the U.S. Department of State's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program - Raihan Izimbetova and Nigora Dekhkanova, who each spent a year attending high school in the United States under the program - are the co-founders and directors of KaDem.

They trained 28 university students on human-trafficking issues and sent them out to conduct seminars throughout Karakalpakstan during a three-week period.

"Since we live in a country with a challenging economic situation, huge numbers of people from Karakalpakstan move to foreign countries in search of work. Many of these migrants are not aware of their rights and they become victims of human traffic," Izimbetova said in an interview with the Washington File.

The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 - 800,000 people are trafficked globally across international borders to be exploited sexually or as forced laborers, while millions more are trafficked within countries. Eighty percent of those trafficked are women and children.

Within Uzbekistan, people are trafficked from rural to urban areas for labor exploitation, while Uzbek women are trafficked abroad for sexual exploitation.

"Many participants in the conference were the potential victims [of trafficking], because they were graduating this year and most of them would be searching for a job outside the country," said Izimbetova.

The Karakalpak Republic has had its share of hardships in recent years. The shrinkage of the Aral Sea has reduced the region's main industries - fishing and cotton production - resulting in a lack of employment and a harsher climate. In the 1950s, the Soviet Union decided to cultivate cotton in the region on a massive scale, using the Syr Darya and Amu Dar-

ya Rivers for large-scale irrigation leading to a drop in the flow of freshwater into the sea. It is estimated that the Aral Sea has lost 66 percent of its size in area and 88 percent of its volume between 1960 and 2005.

The lack of jobs, the need to provide for family members and the lure of nearby countries with higher standards of living have made many women easy prey for traffickers promising employment and travel abroad.

The co-founders of KaDem said they want to give young people the knowledge they need to make choices. "Democracy for KaDem is to have a choice," said Raihan Izimbetova.

Nigora Dekhkanova said the human-trafficking seminars have been her most rewarding experience with KaDem so far. Not only has the organization taught over 2,200 young people about the dangers of human trafficking during the three-week series of seminars, but it is now receiving calls from the participants and their families asking for advice before leaving the country for summer jobs.

The two women said KaDem has been successful thanks in part to the experiences gained during their yearlong program in the United States. Izimbetova spent a year studying in California in 1998, and Dekhanova studied for a year in Indiana in 2000.

"After completing the FLEX program we realized the importance of community service," said Dekhkanova. "We are glad that not only [FLEX] alumni, but also the young generation of our country are involved in community service with the help of KaDem."

The FLEX program was established in 1992 to provide an opportunity for high-school students from the countries of the former Soviet Union to experience life in a democratic society. Over the past decade, more than 14,000 young people have participated in the State Department-funded program, and many today are making important contributions to the development of their countries.

Because of the work by organizations like KaDem and a greater willingness by the Uzbek government to discuss **human trafficking** and work to combat it, Uzbekistan in 2003 was "promoted" from the list of countries in the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report[1] with the most serious **human trafficking** situation (**Tier 3**) to the list of countries that have a trafficking problem but are working to meet minimum standards for combating it (**Tier 2**). The report, issued annually in June, assesses trafficking activity and efforts to control it in most of the world's nations.

The United States has called on the Uzbek government to cooperate more with law enforcement officials in countries where trafficking victims are taken, to train border guards and customs officials in identifying and assisting victims, and to train police on trafficking investigations.

In January, U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Jon Purnell opened a two-day meeting in Tashkent to discuss effective mechanisms for assisting Uzbek victims of human trafficking and enabling them to return home. The meeting brought together officials from Uzbekistan and countries determined to be the most common destinations for Uzbek trafficking victims: Israel, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine, South Korea, China and the United Arab Emirates.

The United States has been urging countries to impose serious penalties on traffickers, adopt laws that prohibit trafficking and provide for victim protection and assistance, ensure that legal tools exist to apprehend "sex tourists," and support preventive education to curb demand for trafficking, especially the demand created by military and civilian peacekeepers and other international personnel in conflict regions.

The United States vigorously enforces U.S. laws against those who traffic in persons and does not deport trafficking victims. Under U.S. law, victims have the right to stay in the United States either through "continued presence" that allows them to stay pending an outcome of a trial, or through a "T" visa, which allows them to stay for up to three years and then apply for permanent residency.

The United States is currently the only country that offers the possibility of permanent residency to victims of trafficking.

For additional information on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in persons, see Human Trafficking at http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/human_trafficking.html

[1] <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/>

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146 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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Final Edition

Japan Moves to Bar Human Trafficking; U.S. Pressure Prompts Legal Action

BYLINE: Natalie Obiko Pearson, Associated Press**SECTION:** A Section; A18**LENGTH:** 1150 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO

Monica's life as a Tokyo prostitute was her own choice. Like thousands of others over the past two decades, she took what she thought was a lucrative offer to work in Japan's multibillion-dollar sex industry.

But the Colombian woman had no idea of what can await a foreign prostitute in Japan: debt bondage, violent working conditions, fines imposed by pimps or brothel owners for attempting escape -- and an utter lack of help from authorities.

"The reality is different once you arrive. It's much harder than you ever imagined," said Monica, 31, a single mother who still works the Tokyo streets 12 years after arriving in Japan. She spoke on condition she be identified only by her first name.

The thousands of cases like Monica's are at the center of a crackdown on **human trafficking** in Japan after it was placed on a U.S. **watch list** in June 2004 and was cited for trafficking in a State Department human rights report in February.

In March, authorities tightened visa requirements for what are euphemistically known as "entertainers," a category thought to be used to provide legal cover for foreign sex workers. And the Diet, the Japanese legislature, is expected to pass a law by this summer that would for the first time make trafficking of foreign victims a criminal offense.

Affluence and a lack of laws against sex trafficking have combined to make Japan one of the world's top destinations for women like Monica.

Experts say cases involving women who are kidnapped or otherwise tricked into working as prostitutes are rare in Japan. More commonly, women come voluntarily, but find themselves caught in slave-like conditions after they arrive.

"The Japanese human trafficking problem is the sex industry," said Kazuo Inoue, a member of the opposition Democratic Party in the Diet and an anti-trafficking activist who says the crackdown also needs to address the root cause: demand stoked by loosely regulated red-light districts.

"We are in the process of drawing up the necessary measures to effectively battle this," said Masaru Sakamoto, of the cabinet office overseeing the government's anti-trafficking plan. "I think once those are in place, the fruits of our efforts will become more evident."

Critics, however, are waiting to see if Japan is serious about protecting victims. The country has long treated women like Monica as traffickers' accomplices. The women are given scant legal protections because of their status as sex workers and illegal migrants.

A mother at age 13, Monica was struggling to survive in a poor, violent barrio of Bogota more than a decade ago when she was approached by a broker with the offer of sex work in Japan. The money would be enough to provide a better future for her daughter. Monica left her daughter behind when she came to Japan.

"No one comes because they want to do this work. But we choose to because there's no better option," in Japan or Colombia, she said in a late-night interview at a cafe near one of Tokyo's busiest red-light districts.

Monica arrived in Japan in 1993 at age 20 and was saddled immediately with \$48,000 of debt -- much more than she had been led to believe, she said -- and warned of reprisals against her family if she tried to flee. Minor infringements, including missing work because of illness, can inflate that debt, she said. Women suffer a brutal physical toll serving dozens of customers a week, with no days off.

Monica was able to repay her debts in several months, since Japan's economy was stronger then, and said she now works on her own. She said women who come to Japan these days aren't as lucky, some finding themselves financially obligated for more than a year.

It's hard to come by statistics on women trafficked to Japan. Activists estimate more than 1 million women may have arrived since the early 1980s. The Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration calculates that about 150,000 foreigners work in Japan's sex industry.

The Philippines, Colombia and Thailand are the top sources, according to the International Labor Organization's Japan office, although anecdotal evidence on the street points to a significant number of Russians, Koreans and Chinese.

The sex industry has long been treated leniently in Japan. Critics have repeatedly alleged ties between traffickers and law enforcement, accusing immigration officers of taking bribes to allow prostitutes into the country on fake passports and police of returning abused sex workers to their captors after they had fled. Those allegations are denied by the National Police Agency.

Kinsey Alden Dinan, a Columbia University researcher, said the Japanese government does little to safeguard sex workers' rights or to help them quit the business.

"When there's clearly a demand for these people to work in your country, you have an obligation to work out a system that they can do it in legally and safely," she said, charging that Japanese officials find it "easier to deport them than to deal with them."

Sakamoto, of the cabinet office, said the government's anti-trafficking plan will include provisions for counseling for prostitutes and for postponing deportation to allow victims time to testify and to encourage them to cooperate with authorities.

But only a few women are expected to qualify for assistance under the new law, because the government does not recognize as victims those who have willingly entered the country for unauthorized labor, regardless of what happens to them.

"I don't see a clear plan to protect and support victims," said Yoko Yoshida, a lawyer and director of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons. She said there was a need for medical attention, legal advice and job training for victims.

Japan's wealth has long drawn the hopeful, and many believe turning them away could prove difficult.

Entertainment visas, intended for musicians, dancers and other entertainers, are issued to 80,000 Filipina women each year. Critics contend the visas are a cover for sex trafficking, saying most women who get the visas end up working illegally as strippers, hostesses and prostitutes.

Yet while the new visa restrictions are expected to reduce dramatically the number of entertainment visas issued, such measures also threaten the flow of \$400 million sent home each year by citizens of the Philippines working in Japan. The Philippine government has urged leniency for its citizens already working here with entertainment visas.

Chaturont Chaiyakam, a consular official at the Thai Embassy in Tokyo, estimates that of 15,000 illegal Thai migrants in Japan, roughly 6,000 are in prostitution.

Flipping through stacks of victims' affidavits collected by his embassy, Chaiyakam said it is not unusual for those sent home to Thailand to get smuggled back into Japan.

"There is still demand, so people want to come," he said.

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147 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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Japan cracks down on human trafficking, but sprawling sex industry is a tough target

BYLINE: By NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON, Associated Press Writer

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DATELINE: TOKYO

Monica's life as a Tokyo prostitute was her own choice. Like thousands of others over the past two decades, she took what she thought was a good offer of lucrative work in Japan's multibillion-dollar sex industry.

But the Colombian woman had no idea of what awaits foreign prostitutes in Japan: debt bondage, sometimes violent working conditions, "fines" imposed by pimps or brothel owners for any attempt to escape - and an utter lack of help from authorities.

"The reality is different once you arrive. It's much harder than you ever imagined," says Monica, 31, a single mother who still works the Tokyo streets. She spoke on condition she only be identified by her first name.

The thousands of cases like Monica's are at the center of a new crackdown on **human trafficking** in Japan following the country's placement on a U.S. **watch list** last year. Japan was again cited for trafficking in a U.S. human rights report in February.

Affluence and a lack of laws against sex trafficking have combined to make Japan one of the world's top destinations for women like Monica.

In the popular imagination, human trafficking involves women who are kidnapped or otherwise tricked into working as prostitutes. But experts say such cases are rare in Japan. More common are women who come voluntarily, but find themselves caught in slave-like conditions upon arrival.

"The Japanese human trafficking problem is the sex industry," said Kazuo Inoue, an opposition Democratic Party lawmaker and anti-trafficking activist who says the crackdown also needs to address the root cause - demand stoked by loosely regulated red-light districts.

Tokyo is moving to clean up its act. The government is expected to pass a law by this summer to make trafficking of foreign victims into Japan a criminal offense for the first time. Authorities also have tightened visa requirements for "entertainers," a category that is suspected of providing legal cover for foreign sex workers.

"We are in the process of drawing up the necessary measures to effectively battle this," said Masaru Sakamoto from the Cabinet office overseeing the government's anti-trafficking plan. "I think once those are in place, the fruits of our efforts will become more evident."

Critics, however, are waiting to see if Japan is serious about protecting victims. Japan has long treated women like Monica as accomplices to the traffickers who bring them here, deserving of few rights as sex workers and illegal migrants.

A mother at age 13, Monica was struggling to survive in a poor, violent barrio of Bogota more than a decade ago when she was approached by a broker with the offer of sex work in Japan, something that would pay enough to buy her daughter a better future back home in Colombia.

"No one comes because they want to do this work. But we choose to because there's no better option," in Japan or back in Colombia, says the petite redhead dressed modestly during a late-night interview at a cafe near one of Tokyo's busiest red-light districts.

Arriving in 1993 at age 20, Monica was slapped with a debt of \$48,000 - much larger than she had been led to believe - and warned of reprisals against her family if she tried to escape. Minor infringements, including illness, can inflate that debt, she says, and women suffer a brutal physical toll in serving dozens of customers a week, with no days off, to get rid of the debt.

She was able to repay her debt in several months, since Japan's economy was stronger then, and now works on her own. She says women who come these days aren't as lucky, with some finding themselves in bondage for more than a year amid ever-increasing fines for various infringements.

Statistics on women trafficked here are hard to get. Activists estimate more than 1 million may have come since the early 1980s. The Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration calculates Japan's sex industry has about 150,000 foreign workers today.

The Philippines, Colombia and Thailand are the top sources, according to the International Labor Organization's Japan office, although anecdotal evidence on the street points to a surging number of Russians, Koreans and Chinese as well.

The sex industry has long been treated with leniency in Japan: Red-light districts have openly thrived from the patronage of legitimate businesses.

Critics have repeatedly alleged ties between traffickers and law enforcement, from immigration officers taking bribes to allow prostitutes into the country on fake passports, to police who return escaped, abused sex workers to their captors. Those allegations are denied by the National Police Agency.

Kinsey Alden Dinan, a Columbia University researcher, said the Japanese government does little to safeguard sex workers' rights and well-being or ensure they have ways to quit the business.

"When there's clearly a demand for these people to work in your country, you have an obligation to work out a system that they can do it in legally and safely," she said, charging that for Japanese officials "it's easier to deport them than to deal with them."

Sakamoto of the Cabinet office said the government's anti-trafficking plan will include some counseling for prostitutes and plans to postpone immediate deportation to encourage victims to testify and cooperate with authorities.

But it's expected only a few women will qualify since the government does not recognize those who have willingly entered the country for unauthorized labor as victims, regardless of what happens to them.

"I don't see a clear plan to protect and support victims," said Yoko Yoshida, a lawyer and director of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons. She said there is a need for medical attention, legal advice and job training for victims.

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The government tightened visa requirements in mid-March, which is expected to dramatically reduce the number it issues.

Yet that plan threatens the flow of \$400 million sent home each year by Philippines citizens working in Japan, and the Philippines government has urged leniency for its citizens already working here with entertainment visas.

Chaturont Chaiyakam, a consular official at the Thai Embassy in Tokyo, estimates that of 15,000 illegal Thai migrants in Japan, roughly 6,000 are in prostitution.

Flipping through stacks of victims' affidavits collected by his embassy, Chaiyakam said it is not unusual for those sent home to Thailand to get smuggled back into Japan.

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148 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Prospect

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Learning the Thai sex trade

BYLINE: Alex Renton

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January was ugly in our part of Bangkok. We live near Soi Nana, off Sukhumvit Road, a famous tourist site catering for a specific sort of visitor: middle-aged western men. They come to Nana for one reason-to have sex cheaply. November to January is high season in Thailand for holidaymakers from northern nations, and the bars and pavements of Nana are packed with hundreds of people buying and selling sex. January was busier than ever this year. It took a struggle every evening to get through the ranks of skinny Thai women and the pale men in shorts picking them over.

It was the tsunami, of course. Patong beach, one of the worst hit parts of Phuket island, is among Thailand's best known destinations for tourists seeking sex. So the men transferred their holidays to Bangkok. Happily for them, there was a drought in northeastern Thailand at the end of 2004. The poor rice crop that resulted sent more young girls than usual down from their impoverished villages on the plains of Isaan to harvest the tourists in the big city. This seasonal migration goes back, historians of the sex trade will tell you, to the Vietnam war and the establishment of Thailand as a brothel for American GIs on leave. Prostitution for foreign visitors developed into a major industry, although official Thailand shrouds its economic and social significance in misinformation and a variety of interesting hypocrisies.

For a start, no one knows how many foreigners come to Thailand every year to buy sex. Many people have opinions on the matter-not least Thailand's government, which understandably resists the label "brothel of the world." It has threatened to expel journalists who impugn the honour of Thai womenfolk, and forced Longman's dictionary to change its 1993 edition, the entry for Bangkok which included the line "a place where there are a lot of prostitutes." Thailand, in its turn, has been considerably abused by statisticians and NGOs. Claims that there are 2m or more prostitutes in the population of 64m, as was once stated in a Time cover story, are absurd. This much-quoted figure was drawn from the statistics of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, an international NGO. If true, it would mean that one in four Thai women between the ages of 15 and 29 in Thailand was a prostitute. Another anti-trafficking organisation, Ecpat (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), claimed in the mid-1990s that there were up to 800,000 Thai child prostitutes-a lunatic figure that still circulates in the US state department.

The trade in humans across the borders of southeast Asia is a real and ugly story, but it continues to throw up incredible statistics-perhaps because it is an issue that generates large amounts of aid dollars. There are 21 UN agencies and NGOs based in Bangkok which concern themselves with trafficking. The Boxing day tsunami predictably generated a trafficking angle. Within a few days, aid agencies led by Unicef were issuing grim warnings of orphans being sold for adoption or the sex trade. The western media got particularly excited by the picture of an angelic Nordic child, supposedly stolen from a Thai hospital. This proved baseless, and there has yet to emerge a single credible example of a tsunami child, blond or brown, being sold. But the story has flourished in the global consciousness, leaving the few facts from which it seeded far behind.

The sex industry in Thailand generates fantasies. There are the fantasies of pliant girls which draw the western sex tourists, and then there are the fantasies of lurid exploitation which draw the western moralisers and NGOs. But what is the actual scale of prostitution in Thailand? And how serious is the trafficking problem?

Selling sex has been illegal in the kingdom since 1960, but Longman's was right-there are a lot of prostitutes. Ask most sensible analysts in Thailand and you will be told that the number of women employed in prostitution, though a long way short of 2m, is between 150,000 and 220,000 (male prostitutes are a tiny fraction of that). You will also hear that western sex tourism is not economically significant, that most prostitution in Thailand is for local men, and that most of the people who do come from abroad for sex are Asian. There is some truth in this. Sixty per cent of Thailand's 10m

visitors in 2003 were from elsewhere in east Asia, and certainly the brothel-lined towns on Thailand's Malaysian border, and the entire streets in Bangkok that are devoted to sex clubs for "Japanese only," are evidence of the sex trade designed for the region.

But the proof is there-in Pattaya, in Phuket and on my own street in Bangkok-that huge numbers of non-Asian visitors buy sex in Thailand. But how many? Sex tourism is notoriously difficult to measure. How can you ask at immigration if tourists have arrived in Thailand primarily for the prostitution? How do you know if a man on a business trip is likely to visit a sex venue with his Thai colleagues? Yet while the government, and the tourist and aviation industries, resist attempts to measure the significance of the sex trade, there is one way to gauge the extent of sex tourism, even if in fairly crude terms. A look at the Thai immigration department's statistics, culled from the cards foreigners must fill in on entry, reveals an interesting discrepancy: 60 per cent of visitors are male and only 40 per cent female. The gap grows when you look at arrivals from the rich countries who come to Thailand on holiday in large numbers-the US, Japan, Britain, France. For these places, nearly two males arrived for every female in 2003.

More British citizens visit Thailand than those of any other non-Asian country. In 2003 (the last year for which full figures are available) some 545,000 British residents arrived on visits. If you remove the children, and the British citizens visiting for business or reasons other than a holiday, you arrive at about 489,000-314,000 men and 175,000 women. That is 139,000 more British men than women coming to Thailand for a holiday-a gap of 28 per cent. The French gender disparity-60,500 more men than women-is 32 per cent, about the same as that of visitors from the US. The Japanese, at 35 per cent, is the highest-over 300,000 more men. If you take Europe as a whole (though there are some countries, like Finland and Sweden, with virtually no disparity) the gap is 25 per cent-494,000 more men than women.

A look at the major rich-nation visitors-those from the US, Australia, Europe and Japan-shows that 952,000 more men than women visited Thailand on holiday in 2003, a disparity of 28 per cent. (The 2004 statistics, not yet complete, will show a slight narrowing of this gap, but a leap of overall numbers of around 20 per cent.) This pattern is unique among major tourist destinations. Take, for example, the Caribbean, another popular tropical destination for economy tourism. Here, the disparity runs at 2 or 3 per cent-the only country with a significant gap in favour of men, nearly 11 per cent, is Cuba, the Caribbean country most notorious for sex tourism.

Do nearly a million men from the rich world come to Thailand to buy sex every year? The proposition deserves challenge. Men are capable of holidaying for reasons other than fornication with strangers. There is golf, after all. I asked Sasithara Pichaichannarong, director general of the Thai government's office of tourism development, how she accounted for the discrepancy. "Businessmen!" she said promptly. "They're counted as tourists in the statistics." But I had factored them out-and in any case, only 31,000 Britons stated business rather than holiday as the purpose of their visit in 2003, less than 6 per cent of the total. So did sex explain the extra 950,000 men that arrive from wealthy countries? "Probably," she said. "But sex tourism exists everywhere, not just in Thailand." Not in such numbers, however. These extra men represent 10 per cent of all international arrivals in Thailand.

So what are these men doing in Thailand? I took the problem to John Koldowski, managing director for strategic intelligence at the Bangkok-based Pacific Asia Travel Association. He was understandably cagey: Pata is funded by government, airlines and the hotel industry. But yes, he confirmed, the gender discrepancy is unusual for the global tourist destinations. So these extra men are coming here for sex? "It's that, or the golf," said Koldowski.

And why so many Brits? He thought that the backpacker tourists might account for the gap-young British males, following the traditional trail through southeast Asia to see mates or relatives in Australasia. But the average British arrival is aged 40, I pointed out. "Backpacking is a state of mind, not an age thing," pronounced Koldowski. That's an advertising slogan, not an explanation, I said.

He became tetchy. "Look, if you are really researching the social factors of this, you should consider if men might come here because they're fed up with the ball-breaking females they have to deal with at home. Maybe they want to meet the sort of gentle, beautiful, kind-hearted women they'll find here." This seemed to answer my question. The men are here for sex and, of course, golf. Or both. Female golf caddies who double as prostitutes are, anecdotally, one of the special features of the courses of Thailand.

Sex tourism is a significant part of Thailand's economy. Tourism overall has been the country's major foreign currency earner since 1982. In 2003, international tourism alone accounted for 309.26bn baht (£4.56bn) in receipts-about 6 per cent of GDP-ranking Thailand 15th in the world. That year, the extra adult male holidaymakers from around the world probably generated almost £1bn-over 1 per cent of Thailand's GDP.

But prostitution in Thailand is much bigger than just the trade for tourists. There is no official measurement of the economics, but the clues are there. Many Thai men are habitual users of prostitutes, and the trade, while illegal, carries less stigma than in most countries and is acknowledged by the government as a source of revenue. In January, the Thai excise department announced that it was going to seek a larger take in the so-called "sin tax" from massage parlours, a common brothel front. But Thai tax collection is notoriously inefficient. A better indicator of the money around in the prostitution business came last year from Chuwit Kamolvisit, who was employing 2,000 prostitutes in six luxury massage parlours in Bangkok (which he liked to refer to as "semen collection centres"). Chuwit, the "Tub Tycoon," is an amusing rogue-"very un-Thai," they say here-who in February 2005 became an opposition member of parliament with an anti-corruption agenda. During his campaign he opened his books to the press, revealing to a largely unsurprised nation that his monthly bill for bribes and payoffs to the Bangkok authorities came to £160,000. Separately, Thailand's National Economic and Social Advisory Council (Nesac) said that massage parlour owners pay £62m a year in police bribes. The income directly generated by prostitution was estimated at 100bn baht (£1.5bn) by the respected Thai economist Pasuk Phongpaichit in a 1998 study. This is about a third of the value of the agriculture sector, which employs more people than any other in Thailand.

Westerners form an important-albeit not the major-part of this economic picture. A few have settled here because of it, calling themselves "sexpatriates." In towns like Pattaya on the Gulf of Thailand, on Phuket island and in the sex trade districts of Bangkok, they run bars, hotels and brothels, mediating the transactions between male tourists and Thai women. They are vocal on websites and in local publishing ventures, churning out guides for sex tourists. Some of these men see themselves as exiles, refugees from the "feminazis" who are crushing the spirit of the western male. Here, the old order of the sexes still reigns. Women know their place, they wash your feet before they have sex with you, they say thank you and help you in the shower afterwards. And, of course, westerners' savings and pensions go a long way. Beer is a dollar a bottle, and a woman for the night available for £10 or less. It's the "last place you can be a white man," says one bar-owning sexpat on his website.

Their guidebooks picture a world of grasping, stupid peasant girls, known as "LBFMs" (little brown fucking machines), out to entrap and rip off the honest, randy male visitor, who must treat them firmly and be sure to stamp out any nonsense for the sake of the next bloke who comes along. Books like *Sex, Lies & Bar Girls* are available in mainstream shops, including at Bangkok airport. They are full of robust advice on "scrogging" as many Thai women in as short a time and for as little money as possible.

One of the self-justifications put forward by the sexpats is that the business makes everyone happy-the exploitation is two-way. It is not like normal prostitution, you hear. All the girls are smiling! ("All smile, all the time!" is an official tourism slogan). But you don't have to be a feminazi to see that the power relationship is grossly unbalanced. The real choices lie with the man with the wallet.

The famous Thai smile hides a lot. The women of rural Thailand who descend on the tourist areas are driven by poverty. Around a third of the Thai population lives on less than \$ 2 a day; in the agricultural northeast, where farmers are beset by drought and collapsing prices (chiefly because of the dropping of trade barriers with China), one in six people lives on less than \$ 1 a day. A high proportion of prostitutes-over 60 per cent, according to some surveys-have left children at home in the countryside. In traditional Thai society, a girl's first duty is the support of her family. Seventy-five per cent of prostitutes, according to one study, entered the trade after the failure of a relationship-"damaged goods" in a society that still puts a high premium on female virginity. Another common reason given for entering prostitution is the pressure of family debts.

And the gains to be had are fabulous. The price of sex from a street prostitute in Nana starts at perhaps 500 baht, a little over £7. That is a fortnight's living costs in the countryside, or half a week's salary for a Thai police constable. There is little doubt that the sex trade is vital to the economy of the poor northeast, which is another of the well-rehearsed justifications of the sexpats. Tales of bar girls who retire rich and happy to their home villages-some of them with a farang (foreign) husband-are many, and there is no social disgrace attached. "The land a girl child ploughs lies between her legs," goes a saying from rural Thailand. But some women are broken in the process, and on my street, occasionally, you can see the damage that results.

Still, there is a grain of truth in the sexpat argument. Soi Nana is not like the grim red light districts of London or New York, with their backdrop of organised crime, violence, and drug use. The only fight I have seen on Nana was between drunken Englishmen. Amphetamines are widely used by the prostitutes, it is said, but not heroin. I have spotted one used syringe in the gutter in our four years here: there was worse to be seen nightly on the crack-infected street in west London where we used to live. Most women soliciting rich-world foreigners are relatively free agents. Their worst af-

fliction appears to be the corrupt Bangkok police. In Thailand, the industry is not generally pimp-driven and, although technically illegal, its openness undoubtedly provides some protection for women. The sex tourist is more likely to visit a bar or a massage parlour than a traditional "closed" brothel (these appear to be more common for the domestic sex trade). NGOs say that condom use is close to 100 per cent, and HIV infection has been in decline in Thailand for a decade.

My family and I have become blasé about the street over the four years since we rented a house off Nana. We used to stare, transfixed by the grotesque Beauty and the Beast scenes: slender girls being slobbered over by beery skinheads, the doddering grandfathers being escorted to hotels by tiny teenagers. But you come to realise these objections are chiefly aesthetic. The tourists, as opposed to the sexpats, are not so bad—often ignorant, yes, but lonely and innocent too. We have only once on our street seen a girl who was plainly underage. She was being bundled into a car by two western men—we tried to get the police to stop the vehicle but they were not interested. (Of the 21 agencies and NGOs working from Bangkok on the trafficking problem, not one has managed to set up a 24-hour hotline where foreign visitors can report it actually happening.)

On my street you get snapshots of sadness—the look of a woman as she turns her face from her elderly male escort, her smile slipping to reveal what she is really thinking; the desperate patience of the older women, not pretty enough any longer to be attached to a bar, who must patiently wait in line under the glaring lights of the Nana Hotel sign. These can make you feel like crying for humanity, but, rationally, you must think, this is what globalised tourism and the laws of supply and demand will produce. What specifically should we object to? To stamp out the sex trade would cause enormous harm in a country that fails abjectly, despite its relative wealth, to provide for its poor. After four years, I find that the only aspect that can get me really heated about sex tourism in Thailand is the hypocrisy, from both the trade's apologists and its enemies.

There is another sex-related industry in Bangkok—run by those who survey and lobby, preach and analyse and argue endlessly with each other about how to stop or curb prostitution and human trafficking. There is a harvest here, too, for cultural anthropologists and social historians. The books on why people have sex in Thailand line the bookshop shelves next to those on how to have sex in Thailand. There are socioeconomists analysing the "incomplete dialectic between tourist and prostitute"; anthropologists on the Foucaultian relationship between a Thai prostitute and her body; social historians on the growth of the myth of the exotic Orient, as promulgated by Puccini, Gauguin or the young British men who ran the trading posts of the East India Company. There are, as Pasuk Phongpaichit points out, many people beyond the prostitutes themselves who make a living on the back of Thailand's sex trade.

And there is one aspect about which everyone agrees something must be done: "trafficking," the sale of women and children into the sex trade. Worrying about trafficking is another business, employing its own community of expats in Bangkok, which is the southeast Asian hub for many international NGOs. Thirteen UN agencies and eight international NGOs are involved in anti-trafficking work, so many that a further UN body (Uniap, the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region) was established in 2000, employing 18 people, to co-ordinate them and all the international NGOs (Save the Children, Oxfam and so on) which run programmes or policies on trafficking in the six countries through which the Mekong river flows.

Donors—particularly the US and British governments—throw millions of dollars at trafficking every year. Spending on the issue has shot up during the Bush administration—it was \$ 50m in 2003—for which the trafficking of women and children for sex is an ideal target for foreign aid. "It fits the demands of an ideological morality that says that in essence all sex issues should be dealt with by abstinence. And it's about defenceless kids and teenagers," said one former Unicef worker. Another who was involved in the agency's anti-trafficking programmes in east Asia told me that within Unicef they are seen as "a great collecting bucket," a reliable method of raising funds that can then be spent on less donor-thrilling projects, like education or immunisation.

Thus hardly a fortnight in Bangkok goes by without another seminar, conference or children's forum, organised by Uniap or others. In November, I dropped in on the "post-Yokohama mid-term review of the east Asia and Pacific regional commitment and action plan against commercial sexual exploitation of children," held by Unescap (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific), Unicef and Ecpat. This three-day meeting, attended by delegates from more than 20 countries, was to report on what had happened since the last such meeting three years earlier in Yokohama. The only concrete development, it seemed, was the signing in Burma a month earlier by ministers from Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam of a "memorandum of understanding to co-ordinate action to prevent trafficking." This was being hailed as a big achievement. But it was also noted that "a lack of reliable data remains a major hin-

drance to the implementation of well-targeted and effective measures to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children."

That is an understatement. Everyone in the anti-trafficking industry is painfully aware that there is no real data at all. There are gruesome anecdotes and a few unimpressive figures for arrest and prosecution, but hard facts do not exist. You are told that each year many Thai women are sold into the sex trade in Japan, that they arrive thinking they are going to work as nannies or waitresses and find themselves saddled with "debts" of \$ 25,000-45,000 and forced to work them off by yakuza gangsters in brothels known as "black jails." Such was the report of human rights lobbyist Kinsey Dinan, published by the Harvard Asia Centre in 2002. But that article, like so many others, made no attempt to attach numbers to the stories. Dinan's "several-year long research project" with Human Rights Watch merely says she "found that thousands of women from Thailand were being trafficked into... Japan each year." That is it. The truth is there are no useful statistics on this issue in Japan, other than some on the female visa overstayers (10,000 from Thailand in 2001). But the NGO lobbyists need better than that to tickle the donors. There are much more frightening ones around, and they are widely quoted: Unicef's estimate, for example, that 1.2m children (meaning under-18 year olds) are trafficked every year, a third of them in Asia.

At a recent anti-trafficking meeting of international NGOs, I met a woman from Oxfam India who told the meeting that in Delhi alone child-trafficking was a business worth \$ 1m a day. No one raised an eyebrow. Another agency claims the child sex trade has a \$ 7bn annual turnover in Asia (a figure the US state department gives as the global value of the human trafficking trade). These numbers are endlessly parroted by lobbyists and journalists, and never, it seems, challenged. The trade in humans is an area where anyone seems pretty much able to say anything. David Feingold, international co-ordinator on HIV and trafficking for Unesco, analyses the statistics on these issues, but even he has not been able to get Unicef to explain its figure of 1.2m children. "Trafficking is a dangerous word," Feingold says. "It stops the brain working."

If you ask the agencies how they get these figures, you get a weary response: "Why are you journalists so obsessed with statistics?" At the post-Yokohama mid-term review, I put the question to Anupama Rao Singh, regional director of Unicef for east Asia. She replied that she understood the journalistic "compulsion" for figures, but added, "I must make one point: the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation is one of the worst and most abhorrent abuses, one that cannot be condoned, irrespective of the numbers!" For this, she earned a cheer from her colleagues. Question the figures and you will be told you are helping the exploiters. A researcher I know who has worked in east Europe and west Africa on trafficking surveys for Unicef and Save the Children says that the problem lies in the fact that the data everyone wants are near impossible to come by. "It's not like measuring HIV infections, or seeing if children have access to safe drinking water. How do you extrapolate from the anecdotes? How do you separate a woman whose uncle gave her a lift to the big city to help her find work from a woman whose uncle paid her mother money to be allowed to put her to work?" But the commissioners of reports demand hard statistics. "The pressure to fudge them is enormous."

Feingold has a favourite example: the commonly used figure of 5-7,000 girls trafficked each year from Nepal to India. "It dates from a 1986 NGOs' seminar, when it was, I gather, a wild guess, and it was published in the Times of India in 1989. It has been in use ever since." After we met, I searched for the terms "5,000-7,000 Nepali girls" in Google and got 110 results, most of them relevant and appearing in documents by eminent organisations, including the World Bank and USAid. The most recent references to this 19-year-old "wild guess" were dated February 2005, and appeared in a Unicef paper and on the website of the Catholic aid agency APHD.

Bad statistics have a habit of reproducing and mutating. "The US government," says Feingold, "recently revised its figure of 700,000-2m people trafficked worldwide-a figure which no one could possibly know. On the state department website, this is now down to 600-800,000. Then they say that 80 per cent of these are female and 50 per cent minors. How could anyone possibly know that? I've been given a private explanation of their methodology and it's ludicrous."

I asked Anne Horsley for statistics. She is project co-ordinator for the International Organisation for Migration, working on "long-term recovery and reintegration assistance to trafficked women and children." Based in Phnom Penh, Horsley seemed more hands-on than most trafficking lobbyists. Cambodia to Thailand is meant to be a big export route for women and children. There is migrant labour going, legally and illegally, across these borders in the hundreds of thousands. Horsley, though, was also reluctant to be specific. Her rehabilitation project dealt with "a few hundred" Cambodian children each year, repatriated from Thailand. Some 25 per cent had had sexual experience, and two per cent said they had been involved in prostitution. If "a few hundred" were, say, 400, then 2 per cent would amount to eight under-18 year olds.

Shortly after the tsunami, Unicef started raising the spectre of orphans from the disaster being preyed upon and sold for sex, quoting "reports" of this having already happened. This was seized on by other agencies, and doubtless brought more money into appeal funds that were, as some organisations will admit, already subscribed beyond the organisations' ability to spend the cash. (Privately, the agencies are staggered at the success of their appeals. One international NGO says it will take eight years to spend the money donated in the first month after the wave hit.) No one at Unicef has come up with a credible example of a tsunami orphan being sold for sex—despite journalists' repeated requests. A British aid agency worker returning from the devastation in Aceh said to me: "Well, I heard that only one case of that actually having happened has been proved. But the good thing about that story is that it made the Indonesians wake up to the fact that there could be a problem, and that their people needed training to look out for it."

The statistics are seductive: a powerful tool for raising money, but also, as in Aceh, for embarrassing complacent governments whose women and children are demonstrably vulnerable. Some shocking stats and opprobrium in the media have got the Thai government to beef up its laws and policing, and in Thailand, arrests on trafficking or child abuse charges have risen a little. In May 2004, Thailand's autocratic prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced a "war on trafficking and prostitution," shortly after the International Labour Organisation (ILO) announced that 200-300,000 children were trafficked for sex into Thailand annually (though it is hard to see how they would fit into an existing population of 200,000 prostitutes), and shortly before the US state department released a report putting Thailand on its **"watch list"** of countries not working adequately to prevent **human trafficking**. Special police squads now exist to track the trafficking gangs, which are said to number about 30 in Thailand, and to have links to 70 or 80 in other countries; and in April 2005 a deputy prime minister was put in charge of a new human trafficking control board. But arrests and prosecutions remain few. In December 2004, in a report on one of the special 36-man anti-trafficking squads now patrolling 1,165km of the northern Thai-Burmese border, it was revealed that not a single arrest had been made, nor any victim rescued. In fact, in the first year of operation, on the entire Burmese border only four arrests had been made and four suspected trafficking victims freed. Many things can be deduced from this—not least the inefficiency of the Thai police. But a worrying question remains: how can you stop the trafficking of children for sex if you cannot find out where or how or in what numbers they are being trafficked?

Some of the agencies are beginning to admit that bad numbers can undermine their credibility. Ecpat, the child prostitution agency, does impressive work at the "demand side," including the training of hotel staff in Thailand to report on customers who may be using underage prostitutes. Formerly one of the worst offenders with exaggerated numbers, Ecpat now bases its statistics on figures provided by national governmental bodies, which are likely to be underestimates. In 2003, the ILO started a \$ 10m, five-year project to combat trafficking in Thailand and four neighbouring countries, largely funded by Britain's department for international development. Allan Dow, communications officer for the project, partially disowns that ILO figure of 200-300,000 children trafficked into the region. "We've stopped using numbers now. We know the problem is serious: there's no point coming up with unreliable statistics. Not having numbers doesn't mean we don't know what we're doing... but we have to admit that the current methodology for getting statistics doesn't work."

Trafficking is a real problem and, though there is little prospect of it being measured accurately, circumstances suggest that it will grow. Tourism into southeast Asia is forecast to increase by 14 per cent a year. Even after the tsunami, 13m people are expected to visit Thailand during 2005, and the kingdom plans to push that to 20m by 2008, which would make it the world's seventh most popular destination, just after Britain. And sex is demonstrably one of Thailand's major tourist attractions. What must concern those who, like me, take a liberal view of the sex trade is that underage prostitution is an inevitable part of it. Teenagers, research shows, are brought into the trade not principally because of the dedicated paedophiles we read so much about, but because youth is a valuable commodity. Men like to buy sex with young women: the young poor are the most easily obtained for them.

A few in the anti-trafficking community admit they have to reassess their approach. Amid the self-congratulation of the post-Yokohama meeting, there was one note of caution sounded. Vitit Muntarbhorn, a law professor and former special rapporteur for the UN secretary general on child prostitution and trafficking, told the meeting: "We've focused a lot on supply issues. It's time we placed as much focus on demand." The professor is a Thai, but his own country is set, if anything, to increase the demand for prostitutes. "The Thai government is committed to quality tourism," said Sasithara Pichaichannarong of the office of tourism development, "and that includes being anti-sex tourism." She gave no details of exactly what the kingdom is doing to oppose sex tourism—though if you tried to set up a sex tourism business today you would probably be discouraged. It was not always thus. In the 1980s, overt sex tourism flourished with considerable government encouragement. Doctors were even asked to play down the threat of Aids in order not to put off tourists.

Quietly, though, Thailand appears to have accepted its role as provider of sexual services to the rest of the planet. All that can be realistically asked is that it sets about doing it as cleanly and kindly as possible: that means tackling poverty in the rural north and corruption in the police force, as well as properly addressing the problem of the trafficked and the underage. The country would be aided in the latter by more honesty from the NGOs who have been given so many millions of aid dollars to tackle these problems.

Travelling to Thailand for sex will continue. The brand is established. The beautiful young woman wrapped in silk with her demure but inviting smile is a feature of Thai travel posters across the world. The promise is of "happiness on earth"-the delights of paradise just a cheap flight away. Most of the traditional tourist attractions are disappearing. The country's beaches are overexploited, its forests shrinking and the islands poisoned by tourists' waste. But Thailand and its neighbours retain one renewable resource for the tourists that is not in danger of running out-the supply of poor, smiling women.

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149 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

April 4, 2005, Monday

Entertainers in Korea

SECTION: Pg. 10**LENGTH:** 154 words

As if taking cue from Japan, the Korean government is set to slash the number of Filipino entertainers entering Seoul every year as part of its efforts to curb human trafficking. "We will restrict the entry of Filipino entertainers because of this human rights program. We would reduce the number of importation (of entertainers)," Korean Embassy First Secretary Bae Han-Jin told BusinessWorld. Mr. Bae noted that Korea, like Japan, is faced with the sex trade problem, which has placed it in the United States **watch list of human trafficking** countries. Japan began implementing its revised immigration law last month that is seen to decrease to tenfold the 80,000 Filipino entertainers entering Tokyo every year. There are about 41,000 Filipino workers in Korea, 1,012 of them entertainers. The embassy did not specify by how much the number of Filipino entertainers to Seoul's entertainment industry would be cut.

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150 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

March 29, 2005 Tuesday**CONDITIONS IN BURMA AND U.S. POLICY TOWARD BURMA FOR PERIOD SEPT. 28, 2004 - MARCH 27, 2005****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 4720 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Introduction and Summary

As a result of the Burmese junta's blatant disregard for human rights, its intolerance of dissent, and its ongoing efforts to perpetuate military rule, prospects for meaningful political change and reform continued to decline over the past six months. The October 2004 ouster of Prime Minister and Military Intelligence (MI) chief General Khin Nyunt and his close associates kicked off a struggle for political and economic power. As a result, more hard-line elements of the leadership further consolidated their positions. The Government of Burma (GOB, also referred to as the State Peace and Development Council - SPDC) kept senior democratic opposition leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo under house arrest and arrested other key democracy activists, including leading ethnic political leader Hkun Htun Oo. Although the National League for Democracy's (NLD) party headquarters in Rangoon was still open, all the party's other offices remained closed.

The GOB continued to arrest people for taking part in peaceful political activities and over a thousand persons remained jailed for their political beliefs. In February 2005, the junta reconvened its National Convention, adjourned since July 2004, to complete the drafting of a new constitution without the participation of the democratic opposition. The junta failed to set a timetable for taking subsequent steps on its "road map," including an oft-promised transition of power to an elected government.

The United States continued to consult with countries in the region, the European Union, and other interested parties to encourage them to maintain pressure on the Burmese junta to make progress toward a genuine political transition. During this reporting period, no other country adopted economic sanctions against the junta.

The government's dismal economic policies have resulted in widespread poverty and the flight of most foreign investors. The latest U.S. economic sanctions, imposed in 2003 and renewed in 2004, contributed to the closure of some garment factories in 2003 that had relied on exports to the United States. In addition, financial sanctions led the Burmese to rely increasingly on Euros, rather than on U.S. dollars, for their foreign exchange transactions. The 33 members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) lifted countermeasures on the GOB in October, although Burma remains on the FATF's list of non-cooperative countries and territories. The United States continued its ban on the export of financial services to Burma by U.S. persons.

The SPDC continued to abuse severely the human rights of its citizens. Freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, and association remained greatly restricted. Egregious abuses of ethnic minority civilians by the Burmese military including rape, torture, execution, and forced relocation continued. Forced labor, trafficking in persons, and religious discrimination remained serious problems. During the reporting period, the SPDC refused requests from UN Special Envoy Razali and UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Pinheiro to visit. In February 2005, a high-level delegation representing the International Labor Organization (ILO), mandated to evaluate the attitude of GOB authorities at the highest level toward the elimination of forced labor, curtailed its visit to Burma when the junta's top two leaders declined to meet with its members.

U.S. policy objectives in Burma remain unchanged: the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, Hkun Htun Oo and all political prisoners; the re-opening of all NLD party offices and the start of a meaningful dialogue leading to genuine national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy. Overall U.S. policy goals in-

clude the establishment of constitutional democracy, respect for human rights and religious freedom, the repatriation of refugees with monitoring by UNHCR, the return home of internally displaced persons (IDPs), cooperation in fighting terrorism, regional stability, a full accounting of missing U.S. servicemen from World War II, combating HIV/AIDS, eliminating trafficking in persons, ending forced labor, and increased cooperation in eradicating the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. During the reporting period, GOB cooperation decreased in some areas.

The United States will continue to urge other nations to use sanctions and diplomacy to press the junta to release all political prisoners and to allow all political parties to operate. The United States also encourages all countries with a major interest in Burma, particularly Burma's immediate neighbors China, India, and Thailand, as well as other ASEAN members and Japan, to use their influence with the government to urge it to take immediate steps on political reform and human rights. We will continue to urge the international community to support the UN Secretary General in his efforts to start meaningful talks on a political transition in Burma and to support UN efforts to improve the dismal human rights situation.

I. Measuring Progress Toward Democratization

Burma's pro-democracy movement continued to face severe repression. The GOB constantly harassed and regularly arrested opposition party members, pro-democracy activists, dissidents, and their supporters. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate General Secretary of the NLD, and U Tin Oo, the party's Vice Chairman, remained under detention. During the reporting period, the SPDC extended their house arrests for an additional year. Authorities also restricted Aung San Suu Kyi's access to medical care and her contacts with the outside world, leaving her virtually incommunicado. All NLD offices, except the party's Rangoon headquarters, remained closed. In February 2005, authorities arrested and later tried Hkun Htun Oo, the Chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), Burma's most influential ethnic democracy party. Authorities also detained and harassed several other ethnic pro-democracy party members.

The October 2004 ouster of Prime Minister and Military Intelligence (MI) chief General Khin Nyunt and his close associates in a struggle for political and economic power further consolidated the position of more hard-line members of the leadership. The SPDC claimed it released nearly 20,000 people from prison, many of whom the GOB asserted were "wrongly imprisoned" by MI. Among those released were 96 political prisoners, including pro-democracy student leader Min Ko Naing, detained since 1989. However, most of those released had already completed their original sentences. GOB authorities continued to arrest and imprison NLD members and other democracy supporters for alleged political offenses. Over 1,200 long-term political prisoners remain in prison.

U.S. officials persistently requested meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo. The government prohibited U.S. and other diplomats in Burma from visiting either. It also published a series of newspaper articles attempting to intimidate diplomats, including U.S. Embassy personnel, who visited NLD headquarters or met with other pro-democracy leaders. No independent observer has been able to visit Aung San Suu Kyi since UN Secretary General Special Envoy Razali Ismail met with her in March 2004.

Despite the government's refusal to allow Razali and UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro to visit Burma, Razali continued his efforts to encourage a political dialogue between the SPDC and the NLD. These efforts, however, consisted entirely of diplomatic discussions outside of Burma. The GOB has not permitted Razali or Pinheiro to visit since March 2004 and November 2003 respectively.

On February 17, 2005, the junta reconvened its National Convention, adjourned since July 2004, purportedly to complete the drafting of a new constitution to serve as the first step of its "road map to disciplined democracy." As it did in May 2004 (when the Convention originally reconvened after an eight-year hiatus), the SPDC handpicked pro-regime delegates to participate in the Convention, refused to include the NLD or pro-democracy ethnic groups, and prohibited free and open debate.

In October, Pinheiro noted in his October 2004 report to the UN General Assembly that "a credible process of national reconciliation and political transition is not possible without the early release of all political prisoners, and the relaxation of restrictions which continue to hamper the ability of political parties and ceasefire partners to operate." Following the reconvening of the Convention, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan released a statement concluding that "the National Convention, in its present format, does not adhere to the recommendations made by successive resolutions of the General Assembly." He reiterated his call on the Burmese authorities "even at this late stage, to take the necessary steps to make the roadmap process more inclusive and credible."

Although the junta has not set a firm timetable for completing its "road map," it continued to seek support from countries in the region. Several leaders from Southeast Asian countries attended the SPDC's Buddhist Summit in December 2004, despite a boycott of the event by its original Japanese sponsor. However, they did not publicly press the junta to take steps to make the National Convention credible. After much debate about Burma's participation at the biannual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which was held in Hanoi in October, Burma was allowed to become a member, but its

participation in Hanoi was limited to a lower level of representation than other countries. New Prime Minister Lt. General Soe Win attended the November ASEAN Summit in Laos. In neither forum was the GOB publicly criticized for its detention of Aung San Suu Kyi or its continuing abuses of human rights, although the ASEM Chairman's Statement did call for all political parties to be included in the National Convention. GOB senior-level officials visited India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and China during the last six months.

The SPDC and Burma's largest remaining ethnic insurgent group, the Karen National Union (KNU), entered into a temporary cease-fire in early 2004 after KNU leader General Bo Mya visited Rangoon and held "productive" discussions. However, the junta postponed negotiations when the National Convention convened in May 2004 and the two sides have yet to formalize an end to over five decades of armed conflict. In the meantime, there have been reports of occasional, low-level skirmishes between the KNU and Burmese military.

In mid-November, two small bombs exploded at a Rangoon cafe and near Rangoon's central Court. Two other improvised explosive devices went off in Karen and Mon States in October and November. The GOB blamed exile opposition groups for the incidents, as it has done in the past, but provided no convincing evidence to prove its allegations.

II. The Quality of Life in Burma

(Economy)

General Khin Nyunt's ouster caused significant short-term disruption to the economy. His now-dismantled MI apparatus played a key role in various sectors of the Burmese economy, particularly in the lucrative border trade and in commercial dealings with ethnic cease-fire groups. By the beginning of 2005, the situation began to return to normal with military, customs, immigration, and police units taking over MI's former economic role. However, an air of uncertainty remains, and with it, a chilling effect on new business investment.

The December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami affected Burma, but to a much smaller degree than other countries in the region. According to UN and NGO sources, 86 people died in Burma and another 15,000 were affected economically. The GOB did not request any international aid, although UN agencies and NGOs are providing assistance.

Despite continuing energy shortages, a lingering crisis in the private banking sector, the loss of its primary export market due to the 2003 U.S. ban on Burmese imports, and the expiration on January 1, 2005 of the WTO Multi-fiber Agreement, Burma's private garment sector has managed to survive. New orders from importers in EU member states and Latin America enabled the remaining factories to continue production and avoid new personnel layoffs.

Chronic mismanagement by the junta and a correspondingly poor business and investment climate continued to be the primary reasons for Burma's increasingly dismal economic performance. Despite GOB claims of 13.8 percent economic growth in FY 2004-05 (April-March), most foreign observers saw little evidence of real economic expansion. Little new foreign investment entered the country during this period, though interest by Korean, Indian, and Chinese firms in new offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration increased.

At the request of the FATF, in October 2004 the GOB enacted the "Rules for the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law," that now provides a framework for Burma to engage in effective international cooperation in the fight against money laundering. Simultaneously, the GOB added fraud to its list of predicate offenses for money laundering and made clear that there was not a threshold amount for money laundering offenses associated with any of the listed predicate crimes. In November 2004, the government further amended its money laundering law to specify a penalty of up to three years imprisonment and/or fine for "tipping off" the filing of a suspicious transaction report against an individual. In response to these actions, amendments to existing legislation, and new legislation issued in 2003 and early 2004, the FATF lifted its request that its 33 members impose countermeasures on Burma. Burma remains, however, on FATF's list of non-cooperative countries and territories, and the U.S. will continue to maintain Burma's designation as a primary money laundering concern.

Serious money laundering problems persist. A GOB committee formed in November 2003 to investigate two banks accused of money laundering - Asia Wealth and Myanmar Mayflower - has taken little action despite direct FATF and U.S. government pressure. In light of the fact that Burma has done little to ensure that criminals do not control or have a significant investment in Burmese financial institutions, the Treasury Department has decided to maintain the application of Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT ACT on both the Jurisdiction and the above-mentioned banks. These designations will remain until Burma fully addresses this issue and adequately implements legal reforms.

(Human rights/forced labor)

The SPDC severely abused the human rights of its citizens. Identified by Secretary of State Rice as one of the world's outposts of tyranny, Burma continued to restrict freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and association. Additional abuses in ethnic minority areas included persecution, torture, disappearances, extrajudicial executions, demolition of places of worship, forced relocation, rape, and forced labor. Burmese citizens were not free to criticize their government. Security forces regularly monitored the movements and communications of residents, searched homes without

warrants, and relocated persons forcibly without just compensation or legal recourse. In 2004, the United States again designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its particularly severe violations of religious freedom, especially among Muslim and Christian populations, and ranked Burma as a **Tier 3** country for its unwillingness to make serious and sustained efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**.

During the reporting period, the GOB released 96 of the country's roughly 1,300 long-term political prisoners, although the majority of these released detainees had already completed their original sentences. Concurrent to these releases, the GOB arrested and sentenced a roughly equal number of additional individuals for their peaceful political activities.

In March 2004, the government admitted that it had sentenced to death three individuals in part for communicating with the ILO and a Thailand-based labor rights group. In response, the ILO continued to postpone implementation of a plan of action to address forced labor practices. After commuting and then reducing these sentences, the government on January 3 released two of the three prisoners as part of an amnesty to recognize Burmese Independence Day. The third person, convicted of high treason, remained imprisoned. In February 2005, a high-level delegation representing the International Labor Organization (ILO), and charged with evaluating the attitudes of senior-level GOB authorities on the elimination of forced labor, curtailed its visit to Burma when the junta's top two leaders, SPDC Chairman Than Shwe and Vice Chairman Maung Aye, declined to meet with it.

The junta allowed UNHCR to maintain a presence in northern Rakhine State, where it provides humanitarian support and protection services to more than 230,000 Rohingya Muslims who have returned from Bangladesh. Approximately 20,000 Rohingya refugees remained in camps in Bangladesh, although another estimated 200,000 Rohingyas lived illegally in southernmost Bangladesh.

More than 144,000 Burmese ethnic minorities lived in camps along the border in Thailand. The UNHCR continued to monitor the Burmese side of the border region to assess conditions for the eventual repatriation of refugees and for the return home of internally displaced persons. In February, UNHCR concluded that current conditions are still not adequately safe for the repatriation of thousands of refugees from Thailand and the return home of thousands of internally displaced persons.

The GOB's economic mismanagement, political intransigence, and repression remained the primary causes of unemployment, illegal migration, and trafficking in persons. Over one million Burmese, ethnic minorities as well as ethnic Burmans, continued to live illegally in Thailand. Burmese living illegally in neighboring countries were willing to endure an often perilous existence, working in dangerous or exploitative jobs, because they believed it was more dangerous and/or economically difficult to make a living in Burma. This became abundantly clear when the December 26 tsunami hit southern Thailand, where a number of Burmese migrants resided and worked.

There was abundant evidence that the practice of forced labor in Burma continued, although for the first time the penal code was invoked to combat the practice. The use of forced labor met the U.S. and UN definitions of **trafficking in persons**, and was a key factor in Burma's **Tier 3** designation in the Department's 2004 TIP Report. During the year, the ILO Liaison Office in Rangoon reported to the GOB 46 cases of forced labor. As of February 2005, the GOB had responded to only 36 of these cases. In five of them, the GOB upheld the allegations and initiated criminal prosecutions against the officials involved. In 25 cases, the allegations were rejected. Of six cases involving complaints by individuals directly to the courts, three went to trial resulting in four officials sentenced to prison terms, a landmark decision marking the first application of section 374 of the penal code, which addresses the illegal imposition of forced labor. The Burmese government supported or tolerated the use of forced labor for large infrastructure projects and the Burmese Armed Forces used forced conscription to enlist porters. A February report by the UN Security Council noted the continued use of child soldiers in conflict areas both by the government and by some ethnic minority insurgent groups. The report singled out the Burmese army, the Karen National Liberation Army, and the Karenni Army as the main culprits. Some ethnic minority groups that have concluded cease-fire agreements with the government, particularly the United Wa State Army, also continued to conscript child soldiers.

UN Special Rapporteur Pinheiro continued to urge the government to release political prisoners, allow all opposition parties to participate in the National Convention, investigate the May 2003 attack on Aung San Suu Kyi, and allow an independent investigation of allegations of rape and other abuses by the Burmese military in ethnic regions. The government has not responded to any of these requests. In his October 2004 report to the UN General Assembly, Pinheiro concluded: "The situation with regard to the exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Myanmar has not substantially changed, and may have even worsened."

(Environment)

The Ministry of Forestry (MOF) is responsible for overseeing the protection of the environment and the SPDC's profitable logging operations. Logging is a source of revenue for Burma's army as well as the insurgent groups. The MOF instituted a program to increase the size of protected areas. However, the government committed few resources to support the policy and issued contradictory directives that the MOF increase foreign currency revenue from export of teak

and other hardwoods. Consequently, unsustainable legal and illegal logging and illicit trade in wildlife products, much of it in border areas where ethnic minority groups have some autonomy, overwhelmed efforts to protect natural resources. Conservationists are engaged in a battle against encroaching agriculture, logging, and poaching on "protected lands."

The government focused on the commercial possibilities of eco-tourism. During the last several years, the government opened up areas in Chin State, Kachin State, Sagaing Division, and Tanintharyi Division to specially arranged eco-tourism. There were credible reports that in the promotion of some of these tourism activities the government expropriated civilian property and forced others to provide services, including transportation for tourists and their baggage.

III. Development of a Multilateral Strategy

Immediate U.S. policy objectives in Burma remained securing the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, Hkun Htun Oo, and all other political prisoners and encouraging a genuine dialogue on democratic political reform, including the re-opening of all NLD offices. The United States continued its efforts to encourage all countries with a major interest in Burma, particularly Burma's immediate neighbors China, India, and Thailand as well as other ASEAN members and Japan, to use their influence to convince the generals to take these steps, noting that future regional stability requires the SPDC to take more constructive positions on political dialogue, economic reform, and the institution of rule of law. Most countries in the region continued to express similar concerns, and agreed the SPDC must work with the democratic opposition in order to effect a smooth political transition.

The ILO has long been concerned with Burma's serious forced labor problem and its violation of its obligations under the ILO's Forced Labour Convention. In 2000, the International Labor Conference concluded the GOB had not taken effective action to deal with the use of forced labor in the country and, for the first time in its history, called on all ILO members to review their relations with Burma to ensure that they did not support forced labor. In February, a senior-level delegation representing the ILO visited Burma, and provided the junta with a list of four steps it considered important for the effective eradication of forced labor. The GOB's response, if any, will be an important indicator of the attitude of the junta and its willingness to cooperate with the ILO. The United States supported the ILO's continuing close scrutiny of Burma, given the country's failure to deal effectively with its pervasive forced labor problems.

Overall U.S. policy goals included the establishment of constitutional democracy, genuine respect for human rights and religious freedom, the repatriation of refugees with monitoring by UNHCR, the return home of internally displaced persons (IDPs), cooperation in fighting terrorism, regional stability, a full accounting for missing U.S. servicemen from World War II, stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS, combating trafficking in persons, ending forced labor, and increased cooperation in eradicating the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics. During the reporting period, however, GOB cooperation with us on WWII remains recovery operations and an annual joint opium yield study decreased from previous years.

We will continue to urge the international community to support the UN Secretary General in his efforts to start genuine talks on a political transition in Burma. The United States co-sponsored the annual human rights resolution on Burma at the 2004 UN General Assembly and the annual Burma resolution at the 2004 UN Commission on Human Rights, both of which were adopted by consensus. The Secretary of State again designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" in September 2004 for its particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

The United States maintained extensive sanctions on Burma. These measures include an arms embargo, bans on new investment and imports, an asset freeze, and a prohibition on the exportation of financial services to Burma and the provision of financial assistance to the GOB. The Department of State maintained visa restrictions on SPDC members; Government ministers and other senior Burmese Government officials; military officers above the rank of Colonel; all officials of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA); civil servants above the rank of Director General; and managers of state-owned enterprises. The visa restrictions covered the immediate family members for all the categories of individuals listed above. Although the EU imposed a number of sanctions that parallel U.S. sanctions, no other country joined the United States in adopting bans on investment and imports, or a prohibition on the exportation of financial services. The EU strengthened its sanctions in October 2004 to include a ban on extending credit to a list of Burmese state-run enterprises and a more restrictive visa ban. The EU also called on its member states to vote against assistance to Burma by international financial institutions, though they were not required to do so. In advance of the October 8-9 ASEM Summit in Hanoi, the U.S. strongly urged the EU to oppose Burmese participation. Under a compromise hammered out between the EU and East Asian participants, Burma was allowed to become a member, but its participation in Hanoi was at a lower level of representation than other countries.

U.S. sanctions will be maintained until there is significant progress toward political transition and genuine respect for human rights or until a democratically elected government in Burma requests that they be lifted.

In 2004-2005, we provided \$2 million to address the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burma by funding international non-governmental organizations to undertake prevention and care activities; no assistance is provided to the government through this program. We also seek a greater commitment to more effective prevention, treatment, and care programs, including for pregnant mothers and high-risk groups. In addition, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - which receives one-third of its funding from the USG - has made grant commitments totaling \$35 million over two years to fight the three diseases. These funds are intended to be provided to non-governmental organizations. The Burmese government provided cooperation on counterterrorism issues, ratifying two additional UN conventions in 2004, and the United States noted the GOB's growing cooperation with states of the region on narcotics issues. Thus far in FY05, we are using funding appropriated by Congress to develop programs in support of democracy and human rights inside Burma, as well as democracy, human rights, social, feeding, health, educational, and governance-related programs outside Burma. None of these funds are disbursed to or through the Burmese government.

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US Fed News

March 29, 2005 Tuesday 3:18 AM EST**CONDITIONS IN BURMA, U.S. POLICY TOWARD BURMA FOR PERIOD
SEPT. 28, 2004 - MARCH 27, 2005****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 4722 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs issued the following report:

Introduction and Summary

As a result of the Burmese junta's blatant disregard for human rights, its intolerance of dissent, and its ongoing efforts to perpetuate military rule, prospects for meaningful political change and reform continued to decline over the past six months. The October 2004 ouster of Prime Minister and Military Intelligence (MI) chief General Khin Nyunt and his close associates kicked off a struggle for political and economic power. As a result, more hard-line elements of the leadership further consolidated their positions. The Government of Burma (GOB, also referred to as the State Peace and Development Council - SPDC) kept senior democratic opposition leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo under house arrest and arrested other key democracy activists, including leading ethnic political leader Hkun Htun Oo. Although the National League for Democracy's (NLD) party headquarters in Rangoon was still open, all the party's other offices remained closed.

The GOB continued to arrest people for taking part in peaceful political activities and over a thousand persons remained jailed for their political beliefs. In February 2005, the junta reconvened its National Convention, adjourned since July 2004, to complete the drafting of a new constitution without the participation of the democratic opposition. The junta failed to set a timetable for taking subsequent steps on its "road map," including an oft-promised transition of power to an elected government.

The United States continued to consult with countries in the region, the European Union, and other interested parties to encourage them to maintain pressure on the Burmese junta to make progress toward a genuine political transition. During this reporting period, no other country adopted economic sanctions against the junta.

The government's dismal economic policies have resulted in widespread poverty and the flight of most foreign investors. The latest U.S. economic sanctions, imposed in 2003 and renewed in 2004, contributed to the closure of some garment factories in 2003 that had relied on exports to the United States. In addition, financial sanctions led the Burmese to rely increasingly on Euros, rather than on U.S. dollars, for their foreign exchange transactions. The 33 members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) lifted countermeasures on the GOB in October, although Burma remains on the FATF's list of non-cooperative countries and territories. The United States continued its ban on the export of financial services to Burma by U.S. persons.

The SPDC continued to abuse severely the human rights of its citizens. Freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, and association remained greatly restricted. Egregious abuses of ethnic minority civilians by the Burmese military including rape, torture, execution, and forced relocation continued. Forced labor, trafficking in persons, and religious discrimination remained serious problems. During the reporting period, the SPDC refused requests from UN Special Envoy Razali and UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Pinheiro to visit. In February 2005, a high-level delegation representing the International Labor Organization (ILO), mandated to evaluate the attitude of GOB authorities at the highest level toward the elimination of forced labor, curtailed its visit to Burma when the junta's top two leaders declined to meet with its members.

U.S. policy objectives in Burma remain unchanged: the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, Hkun Htun Oo and all political prisoners; the re-opening of all NLD party offices and the start of a meaningful dialogue leading to genuine national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy. Overall U.S. policy goals include the establishment of constitutional democracy, respect for human rights and religious freedom, the repatriation of refugees with monitoring by UNHCR, the return home of internally displaced persons (IDPs), cooperation in fighting terrorism, regional stability, a full accounting of missing U.S. servicemen from World War II, combating HIV/AIDS, eliminating trafficking in persons, ending forced labor, and increased cooperation in eradicating the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. During the reporting period, GOB cooperation decreased in some areas.

The United States will continue to urge other nations to use sanctions and diplomacy to press the junta to release all political prisoners and to allow all political parties to operate. The United States also encourages all countries with a major interest in Burma, particularly Burma's immediate neighbors China, India, and Thailand, as well as other ASEAN members and Japan, to use their influence with the government to urge it to take immediate steps on political reform and human rights. We will continue to urge the international community to support the UN Secretary General in his efforts to start meaningful talks on a political transition in Burma and to support UN efforts to improve the dismal human rights situation.

I. Measuring Progress Toward Democratization

Burma's pro-democracy movement continued to face severe repression. The GOB constantly harassed and regularly arrested opposition party members, pro-democracy activists, dissidents, and their supporters. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate General Secretary of the NLD, and U Tin Oo, the party's Vice Chairman, remained under detention. During the reporting period, the SPDC extended their house arrests for an additional year. Authorities also restricted Aung San Suu Kyi's access to medical care and her contacts with the outside world, leaving her virtually incommunicado. All NLD offices, except the party's Rangoon headquarters, remained closed. In February 2005, authorities arrested and later tried Hkun Htun Oo, the Chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), Burma's most influential ethnic democracy party. Authorities also detained and harassed several other ethnic pro-democracy party members.

The October 2004 ouster of Prime Minister and Military Intelligence (MI) chief General Khin Nyunt and his close associates in a struggle for political and economic power further consolidated the position of more hard-line members of the leadership. The SPDC claimed it released nearly 20,000 people from prison, many of whom the GOB asserted were "wrongly imprisoned" by MI. Among those released were 96 political prisoners, including pro-democracy student leader Min Ko Naing, detained since 1989. However, most of those released had already completed their original sentences. GOB authorities continued to arrest and imprison NLD members and other democracy supporters for alleged political offenses. Over 1,200 long-term political prisoners remain in prison.

U.S. officials persistently requested meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo. The government prohibited U.S. and other diplomats in Burma from visiting either. It also published a series of newspaper articles attempting to intimidate diplomats, including U.S. Embassy personnel, who visited NLD headquarters or met with other pro-democracy leaders. No independent observer has been able to visit Aung San Suu Kyi since UN Secretary General Special Envoy Razali Ismail met with her in March 2004.

Despite the government's refusal to allow Razali and UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro to visit Burma, Razali continued his efforts to encourage a political dialogue between the SPDC and the NLD. These efforts, however, consisted entirely of diplomatic discussions outside of Burma. The GOB has not permitted Razali or Pinheiro to visit since March 2004 and November 2003 respectively.

On February 17, 2005, the junta reconvened its National Convention, adjourned since July 2004, purportedly to complete the drafting of a new constitution to serve as the first step of its "road map to disciplined democracy." As it did in May 2004 (when the Convention originally reconvened after an eight-year hiatus), the SPDC handpicked pro-regime delegates to participate in the Convention, refused to include the NLD or pro-democracy ethnic groups, and prohibited free and open debate.

In October, Pinheiro noted in his October 2004 report to the UN General Assembly that "a credible process of national reconciliation and political transition is not possible without...the early release of all political prisoners, and the relaxation of restrictions which continue to hamper the ability of political parties and ceasefire partners to operate." Following the reconvening of the Convention, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan released a statement concluding that "the National Convention, in its present format, does not adhere to the recommendations made by successive resolutions of the

General Assembly." He reiterated his call on the Burmese authorities "even at this late stage, to take the necessary steps to make the roadmap process more inclusive and credible."

Although the junta has not set a firm timetable for completing its "road map," it continued to seek support from countries in the region. Several leaders from Southeast Asian countries attended the SPDC's Buddhist Summit in December 2004, despite a boycott of the event by its original Japanese sponsor. However, they did not publicly press the junta to take steps to make the National Convention credible. After much debate about Burma's participation at the biannual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which was held in Hanoi in October, Burma was allowed to become a member, but its participation in Hanoi was limited to a lower level of representation than other countries. New Prime Minister Lt. General Soe Win attended the November ASEAN Summit in Laos. In neither forum was the GOB publicly criticized for its detention of Aung San Suu Kyi or its continuing abuses of human rights, although the ASEM Chairman's Statement did call for all political parties to be included in the National Convention. GOB senior-level officials visited India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and China during the last six months.

The SPDC and Burma's largest remaining ethnic insurgent group, the Karen National Union (KNU), entered into a temporary cease-fire in early 2004 after KNU leader General Bo Mya visited Rangoon and held "productive" discussions. However, the junta postponed negotiations when the National Convention convened in May 2004 and the two sides have yet to formalize an end to over five decades of armed conflict. In the meantime, there have been reports of occasional, low-level skirmishes between the KNU and Burmese military.

In mid-November, two small bombs exploded at a Rangoon café and near Rangoon's central Court. Two other improvised explosive devices went off in Karen and Mon States in October and November. The GOB blamed exile opposition groups for the incidents, as it has done in the past, but provided no convincing evidence to prove its allegations.

II. The Quality of Life in Burma

(Economy)

General Khin Nyunt's ouster caused significant short-term disruption to the economy. His now-dismantled MI apparatus played a key role in various sectors of the Burmese economy, particularly in the lucrative border trade and in commercial dealings with ethnic cease-fire groups. By the beginning of 2005, the situation began to return to normal with military, customs, immigration, and police units taking over MI's former economic role. However, an air of uncertainty remains, and with it, a chilling effect on new business investment.

The December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami affected Burma, but to a much smaller degree than other countries in the region. According to UN and NGO sources, 86 people died in Burma and another 15,000 were affected economically. The GOB did not request any international aid, although UN agencies and NGOs are providing assistance.

Despite continuing energy shortages, a lingering crisis in the private banking sector, the loss of its primary export market due to the 2003 U.S. ban on Burmese imports, and the expiration on January 1, 2005 of the WTO Multi-fiber Agreement, Burma's private garment sector has managed to survive. New orders from importers in EU member states and Latin America enabled the remaining factories to continue production and avoid new personnel layoffs.

Chronic mismanagement by the junta and a correspondingly poor business and investment climate continued to be the primary reasons for Burma's increasingly dismal economic performance. Despite GOB claims of 13.8 percent economic growth in FY 2004-05 (April-March), most foreign observers saw little evidence of real economic expansion. Little new foreign investment entered the country during this period, though interest by Korean, Indian, and Chinese firms in new offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration increased.

At the request of the FATF, in October 2004 the GOB enacted the "Rules for the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law," that now provides a framework for Burma to engage in effective international cooperation in the fight against money laundering. Simultaneously, the GOB added fraud to its list of predicate offenses for money laundering and made clear that there was not a threshold amount for money laundering offenses associated with any of the listed predicate crimes. In November 2004, the government further amended its money laundering law to specify a penalty of up to three years imprisonment and/or fine for "tipping off" the filing of a suspicious transaction report against an individual. In response to these actions, amendments to existing legislation, and new legislation issued in 2003 and early 2004, the FATF lifted its request that its 33 members impose countermeasures on Burma. Burma remains, however, on FATF's list of non-cooperative countries and territories, and the U.S. will continue to maintain Burma's designation as a primary money laundering concern.

Serious money laundering problems persist. A GOB committee formed in November 2003 to investigate two banks accused of money laundering - Asia Wealth and Myanmar Mayflower - has taken little action despite direct FATF and U.S. government pressure. In light of the fact that Burma has done little to ensure that criminals do not control or have a significant investment in Burmese financial institutions, the Treasury Department has decided to maintain the application of Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT ACT on both the Jurisdiction and the above-mentioned banks. These designations will remain until Burma fully addresses this issue and adequately implements legal reforms.

(Human rights/forced labor)

The SPDC severely abused the human rights of its citizens. Identified by Secretary of State Rice as one of the world's outposts of tyranny, Burma continued to restrict freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and association. Additional abuses in ethnic minority areas included persecution, torture, disappearances, extrajudicial executions, demolition of places of worship, forced relocation, rape, and forced labor. Burmese citizens were not free to criticize their government. Security forces regularly monitored the movements and communications of residents, searched homes without warrants, and relocated persons forcibly without just compensation or legal recourse. In 2004, the United States again designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its particularly severe violations of religious freedom, especially among Muslim and Christian populations, and ranked Burma as a **Tier 3** country for its unwillingness to make serious and sustained efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**.

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The United States maintained extensive sanctions on Burma. These measures include an arms embargo, bans on new investment and imports, an asset freeze, and a prohibition on the exportation of financial services to Burma and the provision of financial assistance to the GOB. The Department of State maintained visa restrictions on SPDC members; Government ministers and other senior Burmese Government officials; military officers above the rank of Colonel; all officials of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA); civil servants above the rank of Director General; and managers of state-owned enterprises. The visa restrictions covered the immediate family members for all the categories of individuals listed above. Although the EU imposed a number of sanctions that parallel U.S. sanctions, no other country joined the United States in adopting bans on investment and imports, or a prohibition on the exportation of financial services. The EU strengthened its sanctions in October 2004 to include a ban on extending credit to a list of Burmese state-run enterprises and a more restrictive visa ban. The EU also called on its member states to vote against assistance to Burma by international financial institutions, though they were not required to do so. In advance of the October 8-9 ASEM Summit in Hanoi, the U.S. strongly urged the EU to oppose Burmese participation. Under a compromise hammered out between the EU and East Asian participants, Burma was allowed to become a member, but its participation in Hanoi was at a lower level of representation than other countries.

U.S. sanctions will be maintained until there is significant progress toward political transition and genuine respect for human rights or until a democratically elected government in Burma requests that they be lifted.

In 2004-2005, we provided \$2 million to address the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burma by funding international non-governmental organizations to undertake prevention and care activities; no assistance is provided to the government through this program. We also seek a greater commitment to more effective prevention, treatment, and care programs, including for pregnant mothers and high-risk groups. In addition, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - which receives one-third of its funding from the USG - has made grant commitments totaling \$35 million over two years to fight the three diseases. These funds are intended to be provided to non-governmental organizations.

The Burmese government provided cooperation on counterterrorism issues, ratifying two additional UN conventions in 2004, and the United States noted the GOB's growing cooperation with states of the region on narcotics issues.

Thus far in FY05, we are using funding appropriated by Congress to develop programs in support of democracy and human rights inside Burma, as well as democracy, human rights, social, feeding, health, educational, and governance-related programs outside Burma. None of these funds are disbursed to or through the Burmese government.

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152 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Al-Bawaba

This content is provided to LexisNexis by Comtex News Network, Inc.

March 23, 2005 Wednesday

Report: Israeli sex trade industry amounts to over US\$1 billion per year

BYLINE: By Al-Bawaba Reporters

LENGTH: 164 words

Thousands of women are being smuggled into Israel, creating a booming sex trade industry in Israel that amounts to over US\$1 billion a year, a parliamentary committee said on Wednesday.

According to ynet, findings showed that some 3,000 and 5,000 women are smuggled to Israeach yearand sold into the prostitution industry, where they are constantly subjected to violence and abuse.

The report, issued annually, said some 10,000 such women currentlylive in 300 to 400 brothels throughout Israel. They are traded for about US\$ 8,000 - US\$ 10,000, the report said.

The U.S. State Department ranks Israel in the second **tier of human trafficking** around the world, saying the Jewish State does not maintain minimal conditions regarding the issue but is working to improve.

Most foreign prostitutes in Israel come from Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Russia and many are smuggled in across the Egyptian border.

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153 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

March 16, 2005 Wednesday

Japan cracks down on human trafficking, but sprawling sex industry poses complications

BYLINE: NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON; Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 1252 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO

Monica's life as a Tokyo prostitute was her own choice. Like thousands of others over the past two decades, she took what she thought was a good offer - lucrative work in Japan's multibillion dollar sex industry.

But Monica had no idea of what awaits foreign prostitutes in Japan: debt bondage, sometimes violent working conditions, so-called fines imposed by pimps or brothel owners for any attempt to escape, and an utter lack of help from authorities.

"The reality is different once you arrive - it's much harder than you ever imagined," says Monica, 31, a Colombian single mother who still works the Tokyo streets. She spoke on condition she only be identified by her first name.

The thousands of cases like Monica's are at the center of a mounting crackdown on **human trafficking** in Japan following the country's placement on a U.S. **watchlist** last year. Japan was again cited for trafficking in a U.S. human rights report last month.

Affluence and a lack of laws against sex trafficking have combined to make Japan one of the world's top destinations for women like Monica.

In the popular imagination, human trafficking involves women who are kidnapped or otherwise tricked into working as prostitutes. But experts say such cases are rare in Japan. More common are women who come voluntarily but encounter slave-like conditions - and trapping debts - on arrival.

"The Japanese human trafficking problem is the sex industry," said Kazuo Inoue, an opposition Democratic Party lawmaker and anti-trafficking activist who says a crackdown also needs to address the root cause - demand stoked by loosely regulated red-light districts.

Tokyo is moving to clean up its act. The government is expected to pass a law this spring to make trafficking of foreign victims into Japan a criminal offense for the first time. Authorities also have moved to tighten visa requirements for "entertainers" - suspected to be legal cover for foreign sex workers.

"We are in the process of drawing up the necessary measures to effectively battle this," said Masaru Sakamoto from the Cabinet office overseeing a government anti-trafficking plan released in December. "I think once those are in place, the fruits of our efforts will become more evident."

Critics, however, are still waiting to see if Japan is also serious about protecting victims. Japan has long treated women like Monica as accomplices to the traffickers who bring them here, deserving of few rights as sex workers and illegal migrants.

Monica was a single mother - she had her daughter at 13 - from a poor, violent barrio of Bogota, Colombia, when she was approached by a broker with the offer of sex work in Japan, something that would pay enough to buy her daughter a better future back home in Colombia.

"No one comes because they want to do this work. But we choose to because there's no better option. We want to get out - at any cost," said the petite redhead dressed modestly at a cafe one late night in Shinjuku near one of Tokyo's busiest red-light districts.

After arriving in 1993, Monica was slapped with a debt of 5 million yen (US\$48,000; [euro]36,000) - much larger than she'd been led to believe - and warned of reprisals against her family if she tried to escape. Minor infringements, including illness, can inflate that debt, she said, and women suffer a brutal physical toll in serving dozens of customers a week, with no days off, to get rid of the debt.

She was able to repay her debt in several months since Japan's economy was then faring better. But she said others now aren't as lucky, with some finding themselves in bondage for more than a year amid ever-increasing fines for various infringements.

Statistics on women trafficked here are hard to get. Activists estimate more than 1 million may have come since the early 1980s. The Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration calculates that Japan's sex industry hosts about 150,000 foreign workers today.

The Philippines, Colombia and Thailand are the top source countries, says a recent report by the International Labor Organization's Japan office, although anecdotal evidence on the street points to a surging number of Russians, Koreans and Chinese as well.

The sex industry has long been treated with leniency here: red-light districts have openly thrived from the patronage of legitimate businesses.

Critics have repeatedly alleged ties between traffickers and law enforcement, from immigration officers taking bribes to allow prostitutes into the country on fake passports, to police who return escaped, abused sex workers to their captors. Those allegations are denied by the National Police Agency.

Kinsey Alden Dinan, a Columbia University researcher and trafficking expert, says the Japanese government has done little to safeguard sex workers' rights and well-being or ensure they have ways to exit the industry.

"When there's clearly a demand for these people to work in your country, you have an obligation to work out a system that they can do it in legally and safely," she says. "It's easier to deport them than to deal with them."

Sakamoto of the Cabinet office pointed out that the government's anti-trafficking plan would include some counseling for prostitutes and plans to postpone immediate deportation to encourage victims to testify and cooperate with authorities. But it's expected only a few would qualify since the government does not recognize those who have willingly entered the country for unauthorized labor as victims, regardless of the ensuing conditions.

"I don't see a clear plan to protect and support victims," said Yoko Yoshida, a lawyer and director of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons, calling for the anti-trafficking plan to include medical attention, legal advice and job training for victims.

Japan's fabled wealth has long drawn the hopeful, and many believe turning them away could prove difficult.

"Entertainment" visas, intended for musicians, dancers and other entertainers, are issued to 80,000 Filipina women each year. But critics call the visas a front for sex trafficking, saying most women who get the visas end up working illegally as strippers, hostesses and prostitutes.

Tokyo tightened visa requirements this week, which is expected to dramatically reduce the number it issues.

Yet those plans threaten a US\$400 million-flow ([euro]300 million-flow) in annual worker remittances sent home by Philippine citizens in Japan, and last month Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo came to Tokyo to seek leniency for entertainers already here.

Chaturont Chaiyakam, a consular official at the Thai Embassy in Tokyo, estimates that of 15,000 illegal Thai migrants in Japan, roughly 6,000 are in prostitution.

Flipping through stacks of victims' affidavits collected by his embassy, Chaiyakam says it's not unusual for those sent home to Thailand to get smuggled again into Japan.

"There is still demand, so people want to come," he explains.

Pointing to another problem, Chaiyakam says some 4,000 children of Thai victims are estimated to be living in Japan effectively stateless. With no registered fathers and no documents, they can't enroll in public schools and wander the streets waiting for their mothers to get off work.

Monica says her dream of a new life can never be realized in a country that offers women like her a place in its sex industry but no place in larger society.

"Japan obligates us to do things we don't want to do," Monica says.

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154 of 359 DOCUMENTS

CQ Congressional Testimony

March 9, 2005 Wednesday

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 3217 words

Statement of Linda Smith Founder and Executive Director Shared Hope International

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

March 9, 2005

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 972, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. It is always an honor to come before your subcommittee because of the great respect I have for your passionate and tireless commitment to defending the world's most vulnerable victims.

It is encouraging to see the continued commitment by many in Congress to fine-tune and further develop our anti-trafficking efforts at home and abroad. I am honored to have the opportunity to present what Shared Hope International has learned in its years of rescuing and restoring women and children who are victims of trafficking around the world.

The Bush Administration has taken significant leadership on this issue and should be commended for all that it has done so far. President Bush himself has demonstrated his commitment to eradicating the trade of persons both internationally and domestically by addressing the United Nations on September 23, 2003 and at the Department of Justice's National Training Conference on Human Trafficking held in Tampa, Florida in July of 2004.

Ambassador John Miller is a catalyst among international leaders evaluating government's progress and directing US dollars. I appreciate this opportunity to commend him for his bold leadership on this issue.

The Department of Justice is also moving aggressively to prosecute human traffickers. Since January 2001, Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section - working with U.S. Attorney's Offices nationwide - has charged, convicted, or secured sentences for 92 human traffickers in 21 cases. They have also developed city wide taskforces to increase the capacity of local law enforcement to identify victims and bring their traffickers to justice.

The effects of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act are being felt around the world. Regardless of whether you agree on the specific **tier** placements, it is clear that in the past several years the annual report issued by the Department of State's Office to Combat and Monitor **Trafficking in Persons** is pushing countries to make strides of progress to fight human traffickers and aid their victims. The United States government demonstrates it's most noble leadership by holding our allies feet to the fire, encouraging them to take all necessary efforts to address trafficking in persons in their country. As a country of destination for trafficking, the United States can continue aggressively leading this international movement by strengthening the protection in our own country. Most notably we need to aggressively tackle the demand that creates market places of victimization.

H.R. 972 is a good bill and I strongly support it. It addresses many of the gaps that exist in the global fight against trafficking in persons. It deals with some issues we'd rather not acknowledge as a country - exploitation of child prostitutes by U.S. government personnel, U.S. government contractors and international peacekeepers - but it provides tools for ensuring that this exploitation is no longer tolerated. It also acknowledges, as did the original TVPA, that trafficking in persons is not something that happens only in other countries but is still a problem in our own country.

I would like to comment on two sections of the bill which I believe are very important:

1) The provisions to create pilot programs for long-term residential care facilities for trafficking victims in the United States and abroad, and

2) The provisions related to the protection of children in post- conflict situations and humanitarian crises. Pilot Programs for long-term care

I am particularly pleased to see language in the bill that enhances services for trafficking victims, both domestic and international. Since the TVPA was passed, the United States government has dramatically improved its service for victims of trafficking in the U.S. There are still improvements that can be made - particularly in the area of housing for victims - and this pilot program will address that.

Creating a pilot project for programs will establish a basis for best-practices and development of services around the world. Starting with two pilot projects is useful, but I would hope this would not limit us to providing long-term residential care facilities in countries with high incidences of trafficking.

Helping women and children who are victimized is the core of Shared Hope International's mission since its inception in 1998. In the past six years, we have established Homes of Hope in seven countries - India, Nepal, Fiji, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, South Africa and most recently, The Netherlands. All of Shared Hope International's Homes of Hope include the following services: outreach & identification, residential facilities, education, vocational training, and assistance with medical care and job placement. Each of these elements must be in place to provide effective care to trafficking victims.

A victim of human trafficking is a victim of a serious crime, a person whose physical, mental and emotional well-being has been severely damaged. While the seriousness of this crime is not in question, service providers, including ourselves, are still learning how best to bring about healing and long term restoration. I want to give credit to some of my colleagues working in the field who are pioneers on this issue. There was strong testimony presented on after-care to the Subcommittee on International terrorism, Non-proliferation and Human Rights on June 25, 2003 by Rev. Luran Bethel with the European Baptist Federation, and Nancy Murphy, Executive Director of the Northwest Life and Family Center. I would refer Members to that testimony because it confirms my own experience in working with trafficking victims.

Of course every rehabilitation program must be tailored to the specific cultural context in which it is located, but there are some core principles that I have seen to be highly effective in the restoration and rehabilitation process.

First, effective rehabilitation programs must reflect a holistic view of the person. Programs must consider the displacement of a person who is a victim of trafficking, recognizing the many ways in which the person must be addressed for their long-term restoration. They must meet the needs of the woman and child, including their physical, mental, spiritual and social needs.

Second, effective rehabilitation programs must be safe. Security is one of the most crucial factors and often one of the most expensive to put in place. All facilities require significant security measures to protect the survivors from the threats of gangs, pimps and traffickers.

Third, rehabilitation care facilities must be available to the person for the long term. We must move from thinking of rehabilitation centers as "short-term shelters" to thinking in terms of "home" and "community." A home is a place where a person can grow, learn and develop (or recover) a sense of independence with loving care and nurture. A home is a place where people care about you as a person. A home is a place where it is safe to share your feelings and experiences, both positive and negative, with people who will listen and will love you regardless. A home is a place where you belong. We have seen in our experience working with trafficking victims that these individuals need to feel loved and protected before they can move toward recovery. Every individual comes with their own unique story. This requires programs to have the flexibility to meet the individual's needs.

"Leila" is a Thai girl who was trafficked to Australia. I discovered her while conducting a human rights investigation in February of 2004. She was studying at a University in Thailand and withdrew. She felt responsible for providing the tuition costs for her brother and sister to also attend the University. Different "friends" from Bangkok told her they could get her a job in Australia. She trusted them and they flew with her to Sydney around the time of the 2000 Olympic Games. They told her she could work in a restaurant and make a lot of money. When she arrived they took her to a small hotel where she was kept and forced to prostitute. The girl who traveled with her knew they were going to be sold for prostitution; she had already been taken to other countries. "Leila" paid 50,000 Baht (USD\$1,300) to go to Australia. When she arrived she had to pay back A\$60,000 (USD\$47,500). Eventually, a customer became sympathetic and put her into hiding. She was taken to a safe place but still lives in fear of her traffickers, and believes her mother will not receive her knowing she was a prostitute.

I just returned from Amsterdam where I met with several strong and educated young women whose lives radically changed by the deception and exploitation of human traffickers. "Sarah", a Nigerian from Edo State, was recruited by a Nigerian trafficker who said that she could be a beautician in Europe and send money home for her family. She was recruited while she was in school learning economics. She is also the oldest child of a family with 9 children and believes she is financially responsible for her family. To intimidate and maintain control of "Sarah" the trafficker took her to a voodoo doctor where they had taken her nails, hair, and body fluids before leaving Nigeria. The first destination was Vienna, Austria where she worked in a strip club and was forced to prostitute. When she arrived in Europe she was told that she owed the trafficker Euro 35,000 (USD\$46,350.00). After 8 months she was taken to Amsterdam where she told a "client" what happened to her. He assisted her out of the brothels and introduced her to a place of safety.

"Vanessa" was a University student in Nigeria from Edo State. Vanessa was having trouble getting the money she needed for tuition and books. Another student said he had an auntie who helped people come to Europe. The lady was very nice and helped her get her papers. She arrived in Amsterdam where the woman told her that there weren't jobs except prostitution. Vanessa did not want to do this and tried to get out. The woman held her captive and sent a man who raped her. They beat her and locked her up. Vanessa eventually ran away and went to Germany where she was picked up and put into an immigration camp. She was raped in the camp and got pregnant. She is now a mother of a five-month-old boy and are both safe in a Home of Hope.

The Netherlands does not provide residency status for victims of trafficking. They also can not return home to Nigeria due to the threat of being re-trafficked. Shared Hope International is establishing an economic program to enable these women to provide for themselves.

I have shared before the story of Ganga who came to our Home of Hope in India in 1998. Ganga had been trafficked from Nepal to India and brought to a brothel on Falkland Road in Bombay. She was malnourished, repeatedly raped and locked in a dark room for a year. She tried to flee numerous times but was always discovered and beaten harshly by her trafficker. She finally managed to escape with the help from one of our outreach workers. The good news is that a year ago January, my husband Vern and I went to Ganga's wedding with 500 other guests at the Village of Hope. After five years of recovery she is now married and a leader at the Shared Hope International Village of Hope.

Anthea is a 19-year-old girl who is a victim of trafficking in South Africa. She was managed as a prostitute by gangs, addicted to drugs and was coerced by satanic rituals that included having most of her body covered in tattoos. She was identified by a local non-governmental organization (NGO) and offered a safe place to flee the gangs. When I first met Anthea she was pensive, withholding and adjusting to the requirements and comforts of the Home of Hope. After one year in the program, she was becoming a leader. We invited her to join a meeting with the Shared Hope International Board of Directors last fall. She came to tell us that she was accepting a job with the Home of Hope to help direct the girls' center in Cape Town. As she sat around the board room table she looked around at each one of us and burst into an assertive tone and confidently proclaimed, "I am a person." We were captivated by this young woman who, after a year in the Home of Hope, was radiating not as a victim of a crime but as a young woman who had come to a new understanding of who she really is.

Imagine taking any one of these girls and women and giving them 30 days to 3 months to recover in a safe home. Ganga was illiterate, did not have formal education, a family support network, and very little sense of worth. Women like "Vanessa", "Sarah" and "Leila" are educated and in need of employment and protection in their home countries. All of these young women and girls have hopes and dreams. Each of them has a desire to be empowered to obtain their dreams and provide for their families.

These women and youth are viewed by the traffickers as products to be sold. Market places of victimization are no respecter of persons; it robs the individual of their value. Part of restoring a life, is recognizing the individual person by rediscovering and building her dreams, one life at a time.

The pivotal element to restoration is the long-term commitment and expectation that is given to the woman and children. It is about creating a place that the victimized person would identify as home and like good homes do, provide enough security and opportunity to help them further establish themselves after their period of recovery. We can not underestimate the kind of time it takes for a person to regain their own sense of dignity and the acquired skills to be productive members of society. They must have a place to call home for as long as it takes.

Fourth, more efficient and effective rehabilitation is provided when there is on-going outreach to local service providers already working with women and children and a commitment to build local capacity, including the capacity to provide effective security, so victims of trafficking can be incorporated into existing programs. We don't need to reinvent the

wheel, just educate and build capacity into groups, including faith-based groups, currently committed to helping women and children.

Organizations such as Teen Challenge International have created models for addiction recovery programs that are often effective for victims of trafficking when applied to the specific cultural context and to the special needs of women and children. Shared Hope International's partners in three locations are modeled after the Teen Challenge recovery model.

Shared Hope International partners with local service providers to run Homes of Hope because we believe that local leaders committed to helping women and youth do develop the most culturally relevant and effective programs. We look for leaders who demonstrate a sacrificial and sustained commitment to helping vulnerable and victimized women and youth. We then educate them on the nature of trafficking and build their capacity to address the needs of trafficking victims.

One way the U.S. government could help the efforts of the anti-trafficking community worldwide would be to encourage US Embassies and the USAID Missions to routinely inventory NGOs providing a variety of services to women and children. There needs to be a deliberate strategy to identify a broader base of these NGOs, including the faith-based organizations that serve victimized women or youth in cities of destination for human trafficking and commercial sex tourism. We should then ensure that those providing direct services have an increased capacity to apply their programs to women and children trafficking victims.

I should also say for the record that the faith-based community has really stepped up to the plate on the issue of victim rehabilitation. There are new networks being developed around the world of faith-based groups willing and ready to engage in the work of rehabilitation. That is something that is encouraging to me personally. Strategies for Preventing Trafficking in post-conflict situation and humanitarian emergency situations.

The other aspect of H.R. 972 which is very needed are the provisions that encourage the U.S. government and the international community to develop trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations.

After the Tsunami in Asia, the media highlighted the trafficking threat in countries such as Thailand and made it seem like it was a new problem. Those of us who have been doing anti-trafficking work know, however, that trafficking was already a big problem in many of those countries before the Tsunami. The only difference is that the Tsunami created a more expansive group of vulnerable victims - children without parents and women who, through the loss of a husband or family, lost their means of livelihood and support.

What is needed are short-term strategies for protecting vulnerable children and long-term strategies for assuring that women benefit from the reconstruction efforts and are able to gain meaningful employment. If women can find jobs and the ability to support their families, they will be less likely to fall prey to traffickers.

Part of this long-term strategy should include programs to train U.S. military personnel who will engage in regions affected by conflict or humanitarian crises about the crime of trafficking, those who are most vulnerable, and how traffickers operate.

This April Shared Hope International will be co-hosting the sixth event as follow up to the world summit that we co-sponsored with the U.S. Department of State in February of 2003. The event will convene 14 nations in Southeast and East Asia to address measures that tackle the demand for child sex tourism and sex trafficking. This event will be among one of the many activities in the region to continue raising the awareness about the conditions of sex trafficking in the region and move practical measures forward. We must continue focusing on programs that educate vulnerable populations as to the nature of trafficking and build economic and educational alternatives that will keep women and children from the false promises that lead to such severe exploitation.

The women and children that I've met through our Homes of Hope demonstrate to me the vitality of the human spirit. They are among the strongest people I have encountered. I know that their strength comes in part from the sustained support and development that is offered to them through a community of hope. Together, we can help build these communities offering victims of a serious crime a place to rebuild their lives. This is not an inevitable crime. And, the women and children can be survivors, even becoming the agents of change for others like them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks on this important piece of legislation.

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COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: AFRICA

H.R. 972

Retrieve Bill Tracking Report
Retrieve Full Text of Bill

TESTIMONY-BY: LINDA SMITH, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE

AFFILIATION: DIRECTOR SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL

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155 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

February 25, 2005, Friday

Rule of Law; The Japanese challenge

BYLINE: Augusto R. Bundang

SECTION: Pg. 4

LENGTH: 682 words

And then it came like a bolt of lightning. Just when the volume of remittances from Filipinos working abroad was starting to pick up, another unexpected cut in the lifeline of the national economy is about to be made. This time, it's the Japanese government which is giving local officials and numerous overseas performing artists one big headache.

With the March 15 implementation of its new immigration policy, the Japanese government is set to enforce tougher, stricter rules on the issuance of entertainer or working visas with the aim of curbing human sex trafficking. The new policy will require a visa applicant to produce a certification that he/she graduated from a two-year course in performing arts or a certification that applicant has been a performing artist for two years in another country aside from Japan.

After the United States State department stunned Japan last year by including it on a **human trafficking watch list** alongside Guatemala and Laos, Japan chose the path of less resistance by seeking to immediately alter its immigration rules, making these less attractive to would-be criminals and sex traffickers.

Of course, local officials and those in the overseas entertainment industry are now moving heaven and earth, pleading with Tokyo to postpone the policy's implementation in order to prevent a perceived economic catastrophe from taking place.

With the Japanese media estimating the number of visas issued to Filipino entertainers annually to fall from 80,000 to 8,000 this year, the Arroyo administration stands to lose approximately US\$1 billion every year in foreign exchange remittances, according to Sen. Francis Pangilinan. Rep. Florencio Noel, on the other hand, noted that local banks could easily lose \$20 million in foreign exchange should Japanese promoters withdraw their deposits in escrow as required under the law. Well, not to be forgotten are the millions of Filipinos dependent on the overseas entertainment industry for a living, including the families of the entertainers and those employed by the industry, who might as well say good-bye to their sources of livelihood once the number of overseas Filipino entertainers is cut by approximately 90% this year.

A life with no money will surely spell disaster for the government and for the people as well. Many will certainly be displaced once the yen becomes as scarce as hen. In this country where every monetary earning counts, not as a matter of living but as a matter of survival, a drop in one's income will have reverberating effects on the dinner table, not to mention the psyche of those affected.

But one does not live by bread alone, we are told to believe. There is yet the other side of the matter, the better side if I may say so, the side we do not readily see since we always dwell on what our stomachs ache for, not what our spirits crave for. And that is, each crisis brings out the best in us. Did we not uncover our unified strength some 19 years ago in EDSA I when we triumphed over tyranny and oppression? The new hiring policy of Japan will allow us to unearth our core competencies and explore other fields like information technology and health services, rather than concentrate on providing entertainment in nightclubs where incidents of abuse are common and expected.

The derogatory term "Japayuki" will hopefully find a different meaning as the new policy will strive to give the work of entertainers the value and dignity it deserves as only qualified professional entertainers who can prove their worth will

be able to find a place in the Japanese entertainment industry. Filipino girls will no longer dream of becoming Japayukis to earn easy money, but to practice a profession deserving to be harnessed.

In the end, it will give us the opportunity to reexamine our values as a Christian nation and discover what really is important to us, that is, whether to earn at whatever cost or to earn but with honor and pride. The new policy is not detrimental to our cause as a nation, but more of a challenge we all should look forward to.

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156 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

February 24, 2005 Thursday

Cabinet approves bill to combat human traffickers in Japan

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 283 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO

Japan's Cabinet Friday approved a bill that would crack down on human traffickers, making it harder for them to bring women from around the world into Japan to work in the sex industry, officials said.

The legislation, which revises Japan's criminal laws and introduces penalties for human traffickers, will be submitted to Parliament for final approval, a Justice Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

Japanese yakuza, or crime syndicates, are believed to be involved in bringing thousands of women and children from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe to work in Japan's sex industry, or as forced laborers.

Under the proposed penalty for human trafficking, an offender could face up to three years and seven months in prison. A broker who uses or gives out fake passports will face up to three years in prison or a fine of 3 million yen (US\$28,600; [euro]21,568.63), Kyodo News agency reported.

The bill would provide protection for human trafficking victims rather than detaining them as illegal entrants.

Japan will also tighten visa requirements for foreign entertainers as part of the effort to crack down on human trafficking. The move could affect tens of thousands of women from the Philippines, who comprise more than half of the foreign nationals entering Japan on entertainer visas every year.

In June, the U.S. State Department put Japan on its 40-nation **watch-list** of countries that have failed to fully comply with an international treaty outlawing **human trafficking**.

Japan signed the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons in December 2002, but critics have said it has done little to stop the trade.

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157 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The International Herald Tribune

February 17, 2005 Thursday

Japan aims to stop trafficking in prostitutes

BYLINE: Norimitsu Onishi

SOURCE: The New York Times

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 1236 words

DATELINE: TOKYO:

After years of denying it had a problem with human trafficking, Japan is now putting the finishing touches on a law that would make the practice illegal in this country and help foreigners forced into the sex industry.

Over the next months, the new law, along with programs to assist victims testifying against traffickers, could begin to slow the illegal flow of women into one of the world's biggest destinations for foreign prostitutes.

In Japan, the foreign women who are victims of trafficking end up working everywhere from Tokyo's sprawling red-light districts to rural areas unfamiliar to most foreigners. They stand on street corners and sit behind glass windows; they serve as sex performers or hostesses at clubs outside of which they are expected to date customers.

A 28-year-old Colombian woman, who spent four years working as a prostitute in Japan, mostly to repay \$45,000 she owed the criminals who sold and bought her, finally fled to her embassy here late last year.

Having given testimony that could help arrest her traffickers, she now waits for authorization from immigration officials to return to Medellin, Colombia, to be reunited with her 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter. "We shouldn't be treated as criminals to be deported out of Japan, but as victims," she said in an interview at the Colombian Embassy.

Starting in March, the government is expected to severely restrict the number of entertainer visas granted, a category that has allowed the entry of, and sometimes trafficking in, women with dubious skills as entertainers. The number of such visas granted Filipinos alone, now 80,000 annually, could be slashed to 8,000.

But advocates for trafficking victims are watching cautiously. They say the government seemed ambivalent about addressing this problem, which they describe as a form of modern slavery, and began taking serious steps only after American pressure.

Japan, which signed the 2002 United Nations' protocol against human trafficking, but could not ratify it without a law against it, has long been known for its lax attitudes on the issue. The U.S. State Department in June placed Japan on a **watch list** in a report that ranks governments' efforts to fight **human trafficking**. It was the only developed nation on the list.

In Japan, some foreign workers come knowing they will become part of the sex industry. But few are aware that they will incur huge debts to traffickers, who typically confiscate their passports, restrict their movements and sometimes sell them to Japanese criminals.

Japan has always taken a businesslike attitude toward the sex industry, regarding it as necessary, and not necessarily evil. The Japanese government organized Asian sex slaves for its soldiers during World War II and brothels for American soldiers during the postwar occupation.

Today, the Japanese authorities take a laissez-faire attitude. At the main crossroads in the Shibuya district, touts openly solicit young women for the sex trade.

Japanese schoolgirls meet older men in a widespread practice euphemistically called "compensated dating." The sex industry remains a part of the business culture, as was shown in 2003 when an Osaka company organized a three-day sex party with 500 prostitutes in Zhuhai, a city in southern China. The party infuriated the Chinese, especially because it ended on Sept. 18, the anniversary of Japan's invasion of China in 1931.

For the first nine months of 2004, Japan's National Police Agency recorded 46 cases of human trafficking, and arrested 12 brokers on immigration or other charges. But the figures hide the problem's true magnitude, since most cases are never reported, according to diplomats, victims' advocates and the Japanese authorities.

Victims are said to number in the thousands, with the three largest sources being Thailand, Colombia and the Philippines. The Colombian Embassy estimates that 3,500 Colombian women work as prostitutes in Japan.

Yoko Yoshida, a lawyer for the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons, a private organization, said many Japanese women do not stop their husbands from hiring prostitutes. "If the husbands really fall in love with the foreign women, that would be a problem," she said. "But as long as that doesn't happen, there is little sense that these foreign women are human beings like them."

Motohisa Suzuki, the official coordinating the government's new antitrafficking campaign at the prime minister's cabinet office, said the Japanese had already started taking measures against trafficking, using criminal and labor laws.

In addition to a new antitrafficking law that will punish perpetrators, revisions of immigration laws will exempt victims without proper papers from being deported so that they can cooperate in investigations against traffickers, Suzuki said. Until recently, the women even those few willing to testify against traffickers were deported immediately.

How many of those with entertainment visas end up as trafficking victims and are coerced into prostitution is unclear, Suzuki said, though he added that the visa "offered a tool for human trafficking." About 70 percent of them end up doing work other than entertainment, including working as bar hostesses, he said.

But Joji Imai, president of the Association of Japanese Promoters Recruiting Foreign Entertainers, said cases of prostitution were isolated. "Many of the customers who like to patronize clubs with foreign entertainers are interested in learning foreign languages or discovering foreign cultures," Imai said. "They enjoy different cultures, such as Filipinos' cheerfulness."

Koki Kobayashi, a lawmaker in the governing Liberal Democratic Party, said the visas allowed Filipinos to earn good wages and support their families back home. "It is Japanese economic aid," he said.

"Why is only Japan criticized?" he added. "I just can't help thinking that the Japanese government is targeting innocent people just because it has been told to do something by the U.S."

The 28-year-old Colombian woman waiting to return home was approached about working in Japan as a waitress four years ago by a Colombian woman in Medellin, she said. But three hours after arriving in Tokyo, she was dropped off in a red-light area, Shin Okubo, and taught four Japanese phrases: "Good evening. Where are you going? Let's go to the hotel. Twenty thousand yen," or \$200

She had to hand over \$80 a night to two Japanese criminals and make regular payments on a \$35,000 debt to her Colombian traffickers, allowing her to send home only \$300 a month. Her passport was taken. She was largely confined in her off hours to a small apartment with other Colombian women.

After she had repaid all but \$5,000 of the debt, she was sold to one of the Japanese criminals, who demanded an additional \$5,000. She repaid the Japanese, but then went into hiding. She worked by herself for six months to buy a plane ticket home.

Deported from Japan, she went back to Colombia, with \$130 left

But after only three days in Colombia, one of the Colombian traffickers called her at home, saying, "You still owe me \$5,000." He threatened to kill her children unless she returned to Japan and worked off the debt. A few weeks later, holding a forged passport that cost her yet another \$5,000, she was back in Japan, she said.

LOAD-DATE: February 17, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

158 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The New York Times

February 16, 2005 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Japan, Easygoing Till Now, Plans Sex Traffic Crackdown

BYLINE: By NORIMITSU ONISHI

SECTION: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 1501 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, Feb. 14

After years of denying it had a problem with trafficking in humans, Japan is now putting the finishing touches on a law that would make the practice illegal in this country and help foreigners forced into the sex industry here.

In the months to come, the new law, along with programs to assist victims testifying against traffickers, could begin to stanch the illegal flow of women into one of the world's biggest destinations for foreign prostitutes.

In Japan, the foreign women who are victims of trafficking end up working everywhere from Tokyo's sprawling red-light districts to rural areas unfamiliar to most foreigners. They stand on street corners and sit behind glass windows; they serve as sex performers or hostesses at clubs outside of which they are expected to date customers.

A 28-year-old Colombian woman, who spent four years working as a prostitute in Japan, mostly to repay \$45,000 she owed criminals who sold and bought her, finally fled to her embassy here late last year. Having given testimony that could help arrest her traffickers, she now waits for authorization from immigration officials to return to Medellin, Colombia, to be reunited with her 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter.

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But advocates for trafficking victims are watching cautiously. They say the government seemed ambivalent about addressing this problem, which they describe as a form of modern slavery, and began taking serious steps only after American pressure.

John Miller, director of the United States State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the Japanese authorities were skeptical about the problem one year ago.

"We had some frank and candid discussions, and there was a lot of tussle back and forth," Mr. Miller said. "In the course of the succeeding months, there was a turnaround."

"But the final result is not in," he added. "We don't know whether the proposed law will lead to real change and whether these antitrafficking programs will be funded. Nonetheless, the foundation seems to be in the process of being laid."

Japan, which signed the 2002 United Nations protocol against human trafficking but could not ratify it without a law against it, has long been known for its lax attitudes on the issue. In June, the State Department placed it on a **watch list** in a report that ranks governments' efforts to fight **human trafficking**. It was the only developed nation on the list.

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Today, the Japanese authorities take a laissez-faire attitude. At the main crossroads in the Shibuya district here, the equivalent of Times Square, touts openly solicit young women for the sex trade. Japanese schoolgirls meet older men in a widespread practice euphemistically called "compensated dating." The sex industry remains a part of the business culture, as was shown in 2003 when an Osaka company organized a three-day sex party with 500 prostitutes in Zhuhai, a city in southern China. The party infuriated the Chinese, especially because it ended on Sept. 18, the anniversary of Japan's invasion of China in 1931.

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The Colombian Embassy estimates that 3,500 Colombian women work as prostitutes in Japan. How many were brought here by traffickers is unclear. But the number of women fleeing to the embassy -- more than 60 last year -- suggested the enormity of the problem to Francisco J. Sierra when he took over as ambassador two years ago.

When Mr. Sierra approached the Japanese Justice and Foreign Ministries, each said it was the other ministry's responsibility, he said, adding, "They were evading this topic."

Mr. Sierra attributed the lack of attention to a general permissiveness toward prostitution, saying, "Normal people in Japan don't think it's a problem."

Yoko Yoshida, a lawyer for the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons, a private organization, said many Japanese women do not stop their husbands from hiring prostitutes. "If the husbands really fall in love with the foreign women, that would be a problem," she said. "But as long as that doesn't happen, there is little sense that these foreign women are human beings like them."

Each month the Thai Embassy here receives about 20 forged passports confiscated from women trying to enter Japan illegally, said Chaturont Chaiyakam, a consul at the embassy. Most of those entering know they will work as prostitutes, but, once here, are kept in servitude and saddled with debts averaging \$50,000, he said.

"They may take years to repay the debts," Mr. Chaiyakam said. "Or sometimes a Japanese customer will pay the debt and acquire the girl."

Motohisa Suzuki, the official coordinating the government's new antitrafficking campaign at the prime minister's cabinet office, said the Japanese had already started taking measures against trafficking, using criminal and labor laws.

In addition to a new antitrafficking law that will punish offenders, revisions of immigration laws will exempt victims without proper papers from being deported so that they can cooperate in investigations against traffickers, Mr. Suzuki said. Until recently, the women -- even those few willing to testify against traffickers -- were deported immediately.

How many of those with entertainment visas end up as trafficking victims and are coerced into prostitution is unclear, Mr. Suzuki said, but he added that the visa "offered a tool for human trafficking." About 70 percent of them end up doing work other than entertainment, including working as bar hostesses, he said.

But Joji Imai, president of the Association of Japanese Promoters Recruiting Foreign Entertainers, said cases of prostitution were isolated. "Many of the customers who like to patronize clubs with foreign entertainers are interested in learning foreign languages or discovering foreign cultures," Mr. Imai said. "They enjoy different cultures, such as Filipinos' cheerfulness."

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URL: <http://www.nytimes.com>

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photos: Japan takes a businesslike attitude toward the sex industry. At a brothel in the Kawasaki district near Tokyo, a transaction seemed under way.

Brothels in the Kogane-cho section of Yokohama, which the police shut down at the end of 2004. Foreign prostitutes were numerous there. (Photographs by Ko Sasaki for The New York Times)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

159 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 15, 2005 Tuesday 10:37 AM GMT

Controversial Japanese visa clampdown aimed at sex trade to start March 15

LENGTH: 348 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO Feb 15

Japan said Tuesday it would tighten requirements from March 15 for entertainment visas in new rules meant to cut down on the sex trade but criticized in the Philippines where foreign remittances provide vital income.

The government enacted the revisions Tuesday, meaning they would go into effect in one month on March 15, an official at the justice ministry's immigration bureau said.

The visa reform plans were announced in December after the United States put Japan on a **watchlist** for **human trafficking** and said many woman, particularly Filipinas, who entered as "entertainers" were forced into prostitution.

But the proposal led to protests outside the Japanese embassy in the Philippines, whose vast overseas labor force sends home billions of dollars a year, equivalent to 11 percent of domestic economic output.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo flew to Tokyo to make a last-minute appeal on February 3 to his Japanese counterpart Nobutaka Machimura to reconsider the visa plan.

Japan went ahead after assuring Romulo that Filipinos here for legitimate reasons would not be targetted and that Japan would not impose quotas on fewer visas to issue or retroactively target Filipinos who entered under the more lax rules.

Some 80,000 of the 130,000 foreign entertainers certified in Japan are Filipina. The new rules will also affect other nationalities, with Colombia, Russia, Thailand and the United States also major sources of entertainers in Japan.

Under the new rules, only Filipino entertainers with two years' performance training at a foreign educational institution, or with two years' experience outside Japan, can be issued visas.

Previously, applicants needed only to show certification in their own country to be granted visas as entertainers.

The visa crackdown is one of the main thrusts of the Japanese effort to cut down on human trafficking.

Police also plan to require employers to keep ready documentation for foreign entertainers and to ban or restrict home distribution of leaflets promoting paid sexual services, which are illegal but mostly tolerated in Japan.

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

160 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Manila Times

February 15, 2005 Tuesday

PINOY OPAS STILL BEING TREATED WELL IN JAPAN

BYLINE: Ma. Theresa Torres

LENGTH: 523 words

MALACANANG remains persuaded that the Japanese government has been treating the country fairly well despite reports that Japan is considering accepting more Thai workers.

Last week, Japan ignored Manila's protests against its new visa rules that are likely to reduce the number of Filipinos allowed to work as entertainers.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that under the proposed provisions of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), more opportunities have been opened to Filipino workers going to Japan.

"So we believe we are getting a fair treatment from the Japanese government for our workers who are interested in going to Japan," Bunye said.

The agreement seeks to expand trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Through the agreement, the Philippines expects to boost its gross domestic product between 1.7 percent and 3 percent since Japan is the second biggest trading partner of the country.

But both countries have yet to sign the agreement.

Tokyo is considering relaxing employment conditions for Thai cooks, masseurs and caregivers.

Still, the Arroyo administration is confident that the Philippines' target of gaining full access to Japan's health-care service would not be affected by the entry of Thai masseurs and caregivers.

A lawyer supporting the plight of Filipino artists assailed the Japanese government for undermining the country's sovereignty when it refused to honor the artist accreditation certificates of overseas performing artists (OPAs).

The lawyer, Ramon Calubag, said: "For Japan not to honor the certificates while we honor its official documents is an affront to our sovereignty."

He said that despite repeated assurances by Japan that OPAs would not be affected, there is a "massive reduction" of Filipino workers in Osaka and Tokyo.

He also called on all OPAs to boycott Japanese products in order to send a strong message to Japan.

"If human trafficking is really the issue, why did Japan keep quiet in 2001 when we had 13 cases of human trafficking? Why only now when we have zero in 2003 and 2004? Is it because there is now a growing consensus to press the Japanese government to settle once and for all the issue of compensation for our comfort women?" Calubag asked.

Bunye noted that although the JPEPA is only an agreement in principle, both countries are finalizing its details before it is signed.

He said that Japan's new immigration law does not only focus on Filipinos but is a measure against human trafficking.

Bunye said slots for entertainers would be replaced only by health and information and technology workers.

Japan announced the visa reforms in December after the United States put the country on a **watchlist** for **human trafficking** and said many women, particularly Filipino, who entered Japan as entertainers were forced into prostitution.

The Philippines has a vast overseas labor force, which sends home billions of dollars a year, equivalent to 11 percent of domestic economic output.

Tokyo's tougher rules could in effect mean fewer Filipinos would be allowed in Japan. Some 80,000 of the 130,000 foreign entertainers certified in Japan are Filipino.

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Trade/External Payments

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Global News Bites

161 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 8, 2005 Tuesday 5:52 AM GMT

Japan to press ahead with visa crackdown despite Philippine pleas

LENGTH: 366 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO Feb 8

Japan will soon tighten visa rules to cut down on the sex trade, likely reducing the number of Filipinas allowed to enter as entertainers, despite protests in the Philippines, an official said Tuesday.

Japan will implement the new visas regulations "rather soon" after assuring the Philippines that the crackdown on visas will not be arbitrary, a foreign ministry official said.

Japan announced the visa reforms in December after the United States put the country on a **watchlist** for **human trafficking** and said many woman, particularly Filipinas, who entered Japan as entertainers were forced into prostitution.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo visited Tokyo last week and asked his Japanese counterpart Nobutaka Machimura not to target legitimate Filipino laborers, after protests in Manila outside the Japanese embassy.

The foreign ministry official said Romulo's talks here paved the way for the "speedy implementation" of the stricter rules on entertainer visas.

"There was a meeting of the minds that Japan's measures cannot be changed," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He said Japan promised the Philippines that the visa rules would not be retroactive for entertainers already in Japan and that Tokyo would not set quotas to lower the number of visas issued.

But the official acknowledged that the tougher rules could in effect mean fewer Filipinos would be allowed in Japan. Some 80,000 of the 130,000 foreign entertainers certified in Japan are Filipina.

"Quite naturally, that number will be reduced for the moment," he said.

"It could go down to 60,000 or 50,000; it is hard to tell. We are thinking it could fluctuate," he said, adding that the figure could go back up "if efforts are made to comply."

He estimated that of the entertainers, several hundred had been reported to be involved in the sex trade. Besides the Philippines, many entertainers also come from Thailand and Colombia, he said.

Under the new rules, certification as an entertainer in the applicant's home country would no longer be sufficient for a visa.

The Philippines has a vast overseas labor force which sends home billions of dollars a year, equivalent to 11 percent of domestic economic output.

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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162 of 359 DOCUMENTS



UPI

February 8, 2005 Tuesday 12:29 PM EST

UPI Hears ...

LENGTH: 777 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 8

Insider notes from United Press International for Feb. 8:

One item undoubtedly discussed in private during Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice's visit on Monday to Israel was that the State Department may shortly rank Israel among the group of countries not taking action against human trafficking, which could result in the imposition of economic sanctions. Since 2001 the U.S. State Department has published an annual report on international human trafficking, ranking countries by their willingness to eradicate it. In the report's first edition Israel was ranked on the third and lowest **tier**, among such countries as Albania, Bahrain, Pakistan and Qatar that do not meet the minimum standards in the struggle against **human trafficking** and are not making any efforts to improve. The report stated, "Israel is a destination country for trafficked persons, primarily women. Women are trafficked to Israel from the New Independent States (specifically Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine), Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, and some countries in Asia." Since then Israel has moved up to the second tier. Israeli officials fear that the fourth edition of the report, published in June, will bounce Israel back to the third tier. Justice Ministry attorney Miri Sasson told the Knesset committee on foreign workers, "Israel's position - that foreign workers are exploited but not to the extent of trafficking - was rejected by the Americans." Washington bureaucrats point to the U.S. legal criteria that stipulate that a minimal standard for combating the phenomenon is harsh punishment.

While human trafficking in the United States carries a penalty of 16 years in jail, Israel's maximum penalty is one year. Hoping to head off the rift, Knesset member Ran Cohen has asked Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to appoint someone to coordinate the state's fight against human trafficking.

Someone's asleep in South Korea's Ministry of National Defense, which has just released its Defense White Paper. The document notes that about 690,000 U.S. troops -- a number five times greater than U.S. troops currently deployed in Iraq -- along with 2,000 military aircraft and 160 warships would be mobilized to defend South Korea in the event of war. Citing the Pentagon's contingency plan, the ministry document said the deployment would include 70 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps, 50 percent of the U.S. Air Force and 40 percent of the U.S. Navy. The report commented that the vast buildup of U.S. forces is designed to first provide strikes against North Korean field artillery located near the Demilitarized Zone inter-Korean border in a conflict's early stage of any war. This despite the Pentagon's stated intention to remove 12,500, or one-third, of its current troops from South Korea by 2008.

British Muslims are nervously contemplating that a proposed amendment to Part 3 of the Public Order Act of 1986 might mean up to seven years in jail for a Muslim quoting certain verses from the Koran or hadith (traditions about the prophet) under the new amendment's "incitement to religious hatred." In Schedule 10 of the bill, "religious hatred" is defined as "hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief." When former Home Secretary David Blunkett presented the amendments to Parliament, he commented: "It is possible to quote

or misquote passages of sacred texts out of context so that they become threatening, abusive or insulting and intended or likely to stir up hatred. Such activities would rightly be caught by the scope of the law." Among the milder verses concerning Muslims is a line from Koran Surah 5: "O you who believe! Do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people."

Most Americans probably think that the Communist Party USA collapsed along with the Evil Empire. Not so: "With pride in our unity and fighting spirit," the National Committee of the Communist Party USA begun preparing for its 28th national convention scheduled for July 1-3 in Chicago, briefly turning Illinois into the ultimate "red state." The Windy City is dear to Yankee Commies, as the Communist Party USA was born 85 years ago. Convention organizers are preparing for 400 party members and invited guests. Organizers promise that a convention highlight will be an "international solidarity evening" with representatives from fraternal parties around the world. Convention organizer Pam Saffer bubbled, "We will be talking about solutions - here's what the 'Reds' are saying today!"

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163 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

February 4, 2005, Friday

WEEKENDER; **A case of Human Trafficking**

BYLINE: Ma. Eloisa I. Calderon

SECTION: Pg. 25

LENGTH: 1435 words

For the past two months, hundreds of young women bearing placards trooped to the Japanese embassy along Roxas Boulevard protesting Japan's imminent imposition of rigid visa requirements - a move that is seen to affect some 80,000 Filipino entertainers annually.

As expected, talent managers and participants in the entertainment industry also joined the bandwagon that rattled both the embassy and concerned government offices such as the Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The Japanese government first announced in December its plan to cut tenfold the number of visas issued to Filipinos entering as "entertainers."

Shuhei Ogawa, embassy press officer, said the move was part of his government's plan to stop **human trafficking**, a problem that has put Japan on the **watch list** of the United States for countries allegedly condoning the illegal activity.

"For the past decade, most of the Filipino entertainers in Japan are now working as hostesses in a bar or night club. They have been pushed into the sex trade when they are supposed to be there as professional singers and dancers," Mr. Ogawa said.

He noted that prior to 1994, when Japan used to require a two-year training in a specific field of entertainment or a two-year work experience before Filipinos could obtain entertainment visas, instead of the "more lax" artist record book (ARB) or artist accreditation card (AAC).

The number of Filipino entertainers then entering Japan annually was only 40,000.

Latest estimates, however, show that the figure doubled, accounting for more than 60% of the 130,000 total foreign entertainers in Japan.

Under the proposed visa regulation, which Mr. Ogawa said is being reviewed by the Japanese Ministry of Justice, the ARB or AAC requirement would be scrapped and the two-year training or experience would be reimposed.

As expected, the entertainers hit the proposal as only an estimated 9,000 of them are reported to have met the stringent requirements, translating to about \$1 billion in annual loss in remittances from overseas Filipino workers from Japan.

The Japanese government, however, is undeterred in implementing the stricter visa rules; Mr. Shuhei noted that the Ministry of Justice has begun introducing changes to the immigration ordinance and is set to have the amendments take effect in March.

Records at the DFA's Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) show that as of 2004, there were only eight reported cases of Filipino trafficking in Japan.

In an interview with BusinessWorld, Edna Mae G. Lazaro, special assistant for the OUMWA, noted there could be more incidents of human trafficking, but the victims themselves do not file complaints.

"That is just the figure of those who actually sought help at our embassy in Japan and gave sworn statements. The victims could be more but the problem is that some do not even consider themselves as victims because the idea of having to work abroad and earn is liberalizing to them," she said.

Mr. Ogawa admitted that the Japanese entertainment industry cannot be spared from fault.

"Out of fear, the Filipinos never report. The club owners threaten the girls. They hold their visas and give any orders with the threat that if they do not follow, they would be deported," he said.

The higher cases of Filipinos falling prey to the sex trade, the Japanese government noted, would be attributed to the fact that while some entered Japan with ARBs/AACs, some "as matter of fact, do not have capability as an artist."

Priscilla S. Caro, president of Artist Managers, Developers and Training Centers Association, admitted that the ARB system, previously issued by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority has been fraught with fraud as Japan-bound entertainers tend to "buy" visas without having undergone training and testing.

"The Japanese found the ARB system too lax, higitan pa daw [they said there is a need to be stricter]," she said.

Ms. Caro, who had been training entertainers for more than 10 years now, however, criticized the government for its decision to replace the ARB system with the AAC to institute reforms. The POEA is now the agency that issues the AAC, which, she said, is not enough to attest that the applicant is a qualified entertainer.

"All of a sudden, the ARB was replaced by the AAC. They removed the training and testing components. They say they hold auditions for the issuance of an AAC. But audition is different from testing, it means you just show yourself to a Japanese," Ms. Caro said in mixed English and Pilipino.

The government, meanwhile, defended the AAC system, saying safeguards are in place to check against forging and corruption.

"The AAC would ensure that the [applicant] is a legitimate entertainer. If you are an AAC holder, that means you went through training, and audition. We accredit auditioners and venues. We have tie-ups with the private sector. The [applicant] would be issued an AAC only upon passing the audition with accredited auditioners," POEA director for land-based workers Stella Z. Banawis said in an interview with BusinessWorld.

To stem human trafficking, the government cites the passage of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, or Republic Act No. 9208, in May 2003, which created an interagency council to implement the law.

The Foreign Affairs department, meanwhile, is actively participating in international meetings on anti-trafficking issues, which included the second Bali regional ministerial conference on people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime in 2003 and the labor migration ministerial consultations for countries of origin in Asia held in Sri Lanka also in the same year.

The government even conducted a strategic planning of the multisectoral network against trafficking in persons in Ba-coor, Cavite in July 2003.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose S. Brillantes said it is for these reasons that the government could not object to Japan's stricter visa scheme since both countries are combating human trafficking.

"We are also in favor of stopping human trafficking. What the government can do is tell Japan that this [AAC] is the new system and we have introduced all of the safeguards," Mr. Brillantes said.

A high-level delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo flew to Tokyo this week to impress that the AAC works in "separating the chaff from the grain."

The move is part of the government's last-ditch attempts after failing in the first two efforts to secure a five-year stay on the new visa rules.

Mr. Romulo earlier said the government is banking on "friendly relations" with Japan for it to accede to this request.

The DFA's move, considered a diplomatic posture, highlights whether the government's foreign policy is "pro-active" in protecting and promoting overseas workers welfare, whose remittances have been a major contribution to national growth.

Dr. Clarita Carlos, political science professor at the University of the Philippines, said, "Taking a pro-active stance means you assume that you have fairly a good knowledge of things that might happen in the future so that you can handle them when they happen."

The Japan experience fanned speculations that the entertainers would flock to other Asian countries like Hong Kong, which has less stringent worker's visa requirements, but which, in effect, may defeat the thrust against human trafficking as shown in the Japan case.

If not Hong Kong or to other destinations, there will be a glut of jobless entertainers - about 80,000 of them.

"Who would have known that Japan is going to be strict in terms of entry? What needs to be done is to address the supply side. Dito pa lang plantsahin mo na [Fix things at home]. The government does not have a national strategic plan in all areas. Kung dia por dia ka, walang mangyayari [Nothing will happen if things are done only on a daily basis]," Ms. Carlos said.

Part of the strategic plan apparently does not only concern foreign policy, but covers other aspects of governance, including security and the economy, she added.

"This administration should create job opportunities. If this government would sit down and identify the root of this all, it will boil down to [high] population [growth] and not enough education," Ms. Carlos said.

"We are a competent people and yet our leaders are not able to harness our human competence. That is the greatest tragedy of all," she added.

LOAD-DATE: February 3, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

164 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

February 4, 2005 Friday
Final Edition

Sex-industry crackdown

BYLINE: Agence France-Presse

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A24

LENGTH: 61 words

DATELINE: TOKYO

TOKYO -- Japanese police are planning ways to tighten registration rules for foreign sex workers in a bid to fight **human trafficking**, a problem that has put Japan on a U.S. **watch list**. Police want businesses in the sex industry to show that their foreign employees have permits to live and work in Japan, where adult entertainment is widely available although illegal.

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

165 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 3, 2005 Thursday 8:21 AM GMT

Philippine foreign minister to press Japan over immigration, free trade

LENGTH: 355 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO Feb 3

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo arrived Thursday to press Japan not to jeopardize the livelihood of legal Filipino workers amid a crackdown on sex trafficking.

Romulo will also hold talks to push forward a free trade agreement which the two countries want to finalize this year.

The Japanese embassy in Manila has been the scene of regular protests since Tokyo announced it would impose tougher requirements for "entertainer" visas -- which have been used to lure Filipinas into sexual slavery.

"We share the desire of the Japanese government to fight human trafficking and the victimization of our workers," Romulo said in a statement on his trip.

"I will meet with Japanese officials to ensure that the new immigration measures taken by Japan do not adversely affect the interests of our legitimate workers, particularly those already working in Japan," he said.

Romulo was to have a working dinner Thursday with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura at the start of his three-day visit, the Philippine embassy said.

Nearly 300,000 Filipinos work in Japan, many in bars and other nightspots. They are part of the Philippines' vast overseas labor force whose billions of dollars remitted each year are equivalent to 11 percent of the country's domestic economic output.

Japan has vowed action after close ally the United States in June placed it on a **watchlist** of nations with problems in **human trafficking**.

Japan plans to restrict entertainment visas to people with two years' training outside Japan or at foreign educational institutes.

On Thursday, police said they also aimed to require businesses to prove that foreign employees had work permits. They hope to ban fliers sent to homes advertising the sex trade, which is illegal but widely available in Japan.

Romulo is also due to meet Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa for talks on the free trade deal, which would ease regulations on Filipino nurses and other care-givers entering Japan.

Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agreed on basic points of a trade pact in November on the sidelines of a regional summit in Laos.

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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166 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Agence France Presse -- English

February 3, 2005 Thursday 4:05 AM GMT

Japanese police plan fresh crackdown on sex industry trafficking

LENGTH: 318 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO Feb 3

Japanese police said Thursday they are planning ways to tighten registration rules for foreign sex workers in a bid to fight **human trafficking**, a problem which has put Japan on a US **watchlist**.

The National Police Agency said it hoped to require businesses in the sex industry to show that their foreign employees had permits to live and work in Japan, where adult entertainment is widely available although illegal.

Businesses in violation of these rules could have their right to operate revoked, an agency spokesman said.

"We are drafting the proposed changes and are hoping to receive the cabinet's approval soon," he told AFP.

Many owners of businesses in the sex industry get away with flouting the rules by telling authorities they did not know their foreign employees were living and working illegally in Japan.

The police also aimed to ban the distribution of leaflets offering sexual services to private residences, the spokesman said.

Japan has vowed to do more to stop the sex trade after a damning US report in June that put it on a **watchlist** of countries involved in **human trafficking**.

The US State Department said Japan has "a huge problem with slavery, particularly sex slavery", and that there was a "tremendous gap" between the size of the problem and the resources devoted to addressing it.

However, Japan's crackdown on the sex trade has also drawn international criticism, with weekly pickets outside the Japanese embassy in Manila by Filipinos worried that many legitimate workers would be deprived of their livelihoods.

Japan plans to begin restricting the issue of entertainment visas -- often used in human trafficking -- only to Filipinos with two years' training outside Japan or at foreign educational institutes.

Nearly 300,000 Filipinos work in Japan, many of them women "entertainers" at bars and other nightspots.

Filipino officials estimate that up to 77,000 entered the country illegally.

LOAD-DATE: February 3, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

167 of 359 DOCUMENTS

**World Markets
Research Centre**

World Markets Analysis

January 13, 2005

Authorities Arrest Pakistan's Most Notorious Human Trafficker

BYLINE: Elizabeth Mills**SECTION:** IN BRIEF**LENGTH:** 252 words

Authorities in Pakistan announced yesterday that the country's most notorious human trafficker, Mohammad Hanif, had been arrested. According to news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP), Hanif was detained last week in the southern port city of Karachi, following an intelligence tip-off. He is believed to have been the key figure in the country's human trafficking racket, which sees thousands of Pakistanis smuggled into other countries every year. The situation has got so bad that the issue has been taken up by the US administration. Many of Hanif's clients are believed to have been sent to Britain and Europe, although the numbers involved remain unclear. In light of international pressure, the government has taken steps to curb the problem; it is currently in the process of amending the Human Trafficking Ordinance, and the steps that have already been taken have been welcomed. The US's 2004 Interim Assessment Report on **Human Trafficking** praised the government for curtailing trafficking and pursuing cases through the legal system, although the country remains on the US **watchlist**.

Significance: Ultimately, it is the domestic economic situation that is spurring many Pakistanis to consider leaving their country. The lure of employment abroad sees thousands tempted to pay the traffickers extortionate fees, in the hope of a better life. The government has no figures for the numbers involved, but AFP reports that Oman has returned more than 30,000 such individuals in just four years.

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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168 of 359 DOCUMENTS

States News Service

January 6, 2005 Thursday**U.S. COOPERATES WITH EUROPE TO COMBAT SEX TRAFFICKING****BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 2591 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Fact Sheet: U.S. assistance in combating sex trafficking

The following fact sheet on U.S. efforts to combat sex trafficking was compiled from U.S. government sources:
(begin fact sheet)

U.S. Department of State

International Information Programs

Washington, D.C.

January 6, 2005

FACT SHEET: SEX TRAFFICKING, THE UNITED STATES, AND EUROPE

Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States.

-- President Bush, July 16, 2004

Trafficking in human beings - often called modern day slavery - involves forced labor, most often of men, women and children in the commercial sex industry as prostitutes, but it can also involve forced labor in factories, fields, restaurants and homes. Traffickers prey on the ignorance or aspirations of people living in war-torn areas or in despair or poverty, often promising them a legitimate job opportunity. Once under the trafficker's control, the victim is then coerced or misled into work beyond legal protection.

Prostitution and related activities fuel the growth of trafficking by providing a facade behind which criminals can exploit the vulnerable. It is a vicious myth that women and children who work as prostitutes have voluntarily chosen such a life for themselves. A 2003 study first published in the scientific Journal of Trauma Practice found that 89 percent of women in prostitution want to escape. And children are also trapped in prostitution - despite the fact that international covenants and protocols impose upon state parties an obligation to criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children. For more information on the link between prostitution and sex trafficking, see

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38790.htm>

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) estimates that 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked globally across international borders, while millions more are trafficked within countries. Trafficking provides organized crime with annual profits in the range of \$8-10 billion (Ashcroft, July 16, 2004).

DOJ estimated in June 2004 that 14,500-17,500 people were being trafficked into the United States annually:

3,500-5,500 from Europe and Eurasia

3,500-5,500 from Latin America

5,000-7,000 from East Asia and the Pacific

200-700 from Africa

200- 600 from South Asia

0- 200 from the Near East

Age, Sex and Type of Exploitation - All Regions (DOJ):

33 percent Women - forced or coerced commercial sex

23 percent Girls (under 18) - forced or coerced commercial sex

14 percent Women - other forms of exploitation

11 percent Girls (under 18) - other forms of exploitation

10 percent Boys (under 18) - forced or coerced commercial sex

6 percent Boys (under 18) - other forms of exploitation
 3 percent Men - other forms of exploitation
 1 percent Men - forced or coerced commercial sex

TRAFFICKING BY REGION

Region of origin:

43 percent East Asia and the Pacific
 29 percent Europe and Eurasia
 17 percent Africa
 5 percent Western Hemisphere
 5 percent South Asia
 less than 1 percent Near East

Region of Destination:

40 percent East Asia and the Pacific
 36 percent Europe and Eurasia
 8 percent Near East
 6 percent Africa
 6 percent Western Hemisphere
 4 percent South Asia

WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING

The Trafficking in Persons Protocol:

In January 1999, the United States and Argentina proposed the first international protocol to require governments to criminalize trafficking in persons and to provide a framework for enhanced protection of, and assistance to, victims. The Trafficking in Persons Protocol, as it is called, entered into force in December 2003.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA):

The first federal law aimed specifically at trafficking, TVPA was signed into law on October 28, 2000. TVPA sets harsh penalties for traffickers and allocates \$95 million to protect victims and penalize criminals. It requires the U.S. State Department to create annually the "Trafficking in Persons Report" and rate each country's efforts according to its government's efforts to combat trafficking. For a fact sheet on TVPA, see

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/TVPA_2000.html

Interagency Task Force: In February 2002, pursuant to the TVPA, President George W. Bush established a Cabinet-level Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This Task Force is chaired by the Secretary of State and includes the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Task Force's responsibilities include coordination and implementation of the Administration's anti-trafficking activities.

The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons:

The TVPA also created the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is headed by Ambassador John R. Miller. This office supported more than 240 anti-trafficking programs in over 75 countries in fiscal year 2003. The types of assistance include the following: economic alternative programs for vulnerable groups; education programs; training for government officials and medical personnel; development or improvement of anti-trafficking laws; provision of equipment for law enforcement; establishment or renovation of shelters, crisis centers, or safe houses for victims; support for voluntary and humane return and reintegration assistance for victims; and support for psychological, legal, medical and counseling services for victims provided by NGOs, international organizations and governments.

International Support:

Since 2001, the United States has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries, according to the White House. Funding goes to governments and nongovernmental and international organizations to create specialized law enforcement units; train prosecutors and judges; strengthen anti-trafficking laws; provide emergency shelter and care for victims; offer voluntary repatriation assistance; make available long-term rehabilitation assistance and vocational training for victims; legal advocacy; psychological and medical assistance for victims; and launch information campaigns.

The PROTECT Act: In April 2003, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law The PROTECT Act, which provides better tools for combating international sex tourism, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and the federal offenses of child abuse, child kidnapping and child torture. The PROTECT Act enables U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and sexually abuse children.

President Bush addresses UN General Assembly: In September 2003, President Bush underscored his commitment to fight trafficking in a speech to the General Assembly with a pledge of \$50 million to support the work of anti-trafficking organizations.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: In December 2003, Congress passed and President Bush signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act strengthening the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The new legislation required better statistical monitoring; created a Special Watch List in the State Department's annual report; made convicting and sentencing traffickers as important as investigations when evaluating efforts of countries to combat trafficking; provided new tools for addressing destination countries that may not be doing anything about trafficking.

International Anti-trafficking Initiatives:

Under the leadership of the United States and Norway, NATO adopted a comprehensive plan to help combat worldwide trafficking in persons in Istanbul in June 2004. NATO personnel will support the efforts of authorities in host countries to combat trafficking while working with non-governmental organizations and anti-trafficking experts.

In addition, the United States:

- Vigorously enforces U.S. laws against all those who traffic in persons;
- Strives to raise awareness at home and abroad about human trafficking and how it can be eradicated;
- Identifies, protects, and assists victims exploited by traffickers;
- Reduces the vulnerability of individuals to trafficking through increased education, economic opportunity, and protection and promotion of human rights; and -- Employs diplomatic and foreign policy tools to encourage other nations, the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to work together to draft and enforce laws against trafficking and to hold accountable those engaged in it.

Cooperation with other countries has contributed to the prosecution around the world of nearly 8,000 perpetrators of trafficking crimes, resulting in over 2,800 convictions, according to the White House.

The United States does not deport victims. Under U.S. law victims have the right to stay in the United States, either through "continued presence," which allows victims to stay pending an outcome of a trial, or through a "T" visa, which allows them to stay for up to three years and to thereafter apply for legal permanent status. T-visas and continued presence had been granted to 584 victims as of July 2004.

For a fact sheet on certification for victims of trafficking see

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/cert_victims.html

The United States is currently the only country that offers the possibility of permanent residency to victims of trafficking.

THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT (TIP)

The best source to begin exploring the Trafficking in Persons Report is the "Introduction" provided by the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. It is available at

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/34021.htm>

This introduction details the human and social toll of trafficking, provides an overview of the causes and effective strategies for combating trafficking, and then describes the 2004 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

The Tiers

Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards.

Tier 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Watch List: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and:

- a. The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; or
- b. There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year; or
- c. The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Tier 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. Six European and Eurasian countries moved up from **Tier 3** status in the 2004 Trafficking Report: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING ABOUT TRAFFICKING SPECIFICALLY IN EUROPE?

Brief descriptions of the 105 anti-trafficking programs involving the U.S. Department of State, USAID and/or the U.S. Department of Labor can be found at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/34182.htm>

For example, the Department of State supports the Angel coalition, which assists NGOs in Russia and is building an international hotline to improve investigations of trafficking rings and to get more convictions in court.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that since 1995, more than 88,000 children have been rescued, rehabilitated and/or protected from trafficking through the \$125 million in international projects it has funded to combat trafficking. 22,000 of these children have been enrolled in education and training programs.

By working to increase compliance with labor laws, the Labor Department is helping to ensure that vulnerable immigrants are treated fairly. It is U.S. policy that all workers are entitled to full and fair compensation for their labor, regardless of their status.

In Eastern Europe, a Department of Labor-funded project created economic alternatives and job training for at-risk women in seven major cities. That project has provided skills training and job placement services to 20,000 women and young people of legal working age, the age group most vulnerable to traffickers. A DOL-funded project in the Balkans and Ukraine is helping children and young people stay in school and learn marketable skills so they can find jobs when they reach the legal working age, thereby strengthening national policies in those two countries regarding trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is certifying trafficking victims so they may qualify for the same assistance available to refugees. HHS is also running a major public awareness campaign to alert victims in the U.S. - some of whom are from Europe or Eurasia - that help is available through the hotline number 888-3737-888.

The Department of Defense has implemented a zero-tolerance stand against any actions by Defense personnel that contribute to human trafficking and is instituting a service-wide mandatory training program.

The National Institute of Justice funded five trafficking studies that have been completed, including a study of trafficking in women from Ukraine.

For a list of active research grants by the National Institute of Justice and selected U.S. government agency research proposals with an international criminal justice component, see:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/international/grants.html>

Public service announcements in the United States have been issued in Spanish, Russian, and Polish to inform victims of their rights.

Following are more fact sheets on specific topics:

The Link Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38790.htm>

How Can I Recognize Trafficking Victims?

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/34563.htm>

Best Shelter Practices by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/30069.htm>

To End Child Sex Tourism: Fighting Trafficking in Persons

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/fs/2004/36409.htm>

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (including how to recognize)

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/children_victims.html

Citizen Action: How Can I Help End Modern-Day Slavery?

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/35011.htm>

Facts About Human Trafficking

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/33109.htm>

Certification for victims of Trafficking (T visas, etc.)

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/cert_victims.html

Federal Efforts to Assist Victims of Trafficking

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fed_assist.html

Victim Assistance

http://www2.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/victim_assist.html

Operation Predator (targets sexual abusers of children)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/20040707-10.html>

Presidential Initiatives to Combat Trafficking

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/20040716-3.html>

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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169 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

January 4, 2005 Tuesday 4:30 AM EST

STATE DEPARTMENT SUBMITS INTERIM ASSESSMENT REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CYPRUS' EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BYLINE: US Fed News**LENGTH:** 364 words**DATELINE:** NICOSIA, Cyprus

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

On December 22, 2004, the Department of State submitted to Congress its first Interim Assessment of the progress made by countries on the September 2004 Special **Watch List** to combat **trafficking in persons** (TIP), pursuant to section 110(b)(3)(B) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, as amended by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, Public Law, 108-193. The full text follows:

The Government of Cyprus has made modest progress in its efforts to combat trafficking; a number of planned government initiatives have yet to be approved and implemented. Two intergovernmental groups meet regularly to discuss anti-trafficking efforts and promote information sharing. The groups expect to officially present to the Government a national plan to combat trafficking and legislation to address trafficking and immigration by the end of 2004. There was a significant increase in trafficking-related arrests in the first 10 months of 2004, 173 vice 26 in 2003. Additionally, 15 cases are being tried under 2000 anti-trafficking legislation, although no one has been convicted.

While police produced press releases on every trafficking in persons-related arrest, the Government has funded no large-scale efforts to educate the public on trafficking. The Government froze the issuing of new cabaret licenses in June 2004. It has prohibited hiring replacements of women on "artiste" visas who are identified as victims and removed from their cabaret employment. Women who are trafficking victims and leave a cabaret now have the right to stay in Cyprus and receive legal advice and financial assistance if they agree to aid the police in prosecuting their former employer or the person who trafficked them to the island. The Government has also set aside several rooms for trafficking victims in government- subsidized homes for the elderly until more permanent shelters can be secured. Victim protection remains inadequate. The Government drafted, but has not yet finalized or distributed, an information sheet to provide to newly arrived female foreign workers.

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

170 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Facts on File World News Digest

December 31, 2004**Thailand;
Police Sent to Muslim South; Attacks Feared; Other Developments****SECTION:** Pg. 1085C3**LENGTH:** 276 words**Other News**

In other news from Thailand:

- . Thaksin August 6 announced a crack-down on human trafficking. Thailand was a major source of and transit point for the global traffic in women and children in sexual servitude. Thaksin blamed corrupt officials and civil servants for "collusion" in the "evil" of trafficking, and called for police to target businesses that profited from the trade, rather than the women who worked in it. The U.S. in June had added Thailand to a **watch-list** of countries that had allowed **human trafficking** to continue unabated. [See 2004 U.S. President Bush Defends Iraq War, U.N.'s Annan Urges Rule of Law as U.N. General Assembly Opens; Other Developments]
- . The National Economic and Social Development Board December 7 said Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) slowed to 6% in the third quarter of 2004 from a year earlier. The board cited a drop in domestic demand and a weaker agricultural sector due to avian influenza, drought and high oil prices. The board projected 6.2% GDP growth for the year, down from its earlier peak projection of 7%, and said inflation had averaged 2.7% through November. [See 2003 Thailand: News in Brief]
- . The country's Human Rights Commission had ordered a temporary halt to work on the 158-mile (255-km) Trans Thai-Malaysia pipeline while the government investigated accusations of violations of social and environmental standards set by the World Bank for lenders, it was reported December 12. The project was about half-funded by British bank Barclays PLC, which human rights activists urged to withdraw its help. [See 2001 Thailand: U.S. Plans to Accept Young Rebel Twins; Other Developments]

LOAD-DATE: January 20, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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171 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

December 15, 2004 Wednesday 9:30 AM EST**Philippine gov't urged to step up anti-human trafficking efforts****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; Political**LENGTH:** 344 words**DATELINE:** MANILA

The United States Wednesday urged the Philippine government to exert more efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone stressed that "more work" should be done by the Philippine government although the Arroyo administration has made progress to eliminate human trafficking.

"There is so much more to go," he told reporters during the turnover ceremony of a 227,000-US-dollar grant from the US government to a non-governmental organization which helps people suffering from injustice and oppression, the International Justice Mission (IJM), to help prosecute cases of human trafficking.

According to a US report released in June, the Philippines is a "source, transit and destination country" for persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The Philippines was placed on Tier 2 Watch List due to the government's "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking, particularly in terms of its weak implementation of the anti-trafficking law and a lack of progress in law enforcement," the report said.

However, Ricciardone said that the significant progress made by the Arroyo administration against the problem is not enough for the Philippines to be removed from a US **watch list** of countries that have not fully complied with minimum standards for the elimination of **human trafficking**.

"I suppose there's possibility, but what matters is the qualitative assessment of progress and that will be verbal... and I'm sure whatever words Washington comes up with will be based on report from here," he said.

IJM Executive Director Patty Sison-Arroyo said that there is an increasing number of children in the Philippines who succumb to trafficking and who are exploited in prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

"The estimated number is about 60,000 to 75,000 children who are prostituted within the country. This does not reflect children prostituted outside the Philippines," he said.

LOAD-DATE: December 16, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

172 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

December 9, 2004 Thursday

Govt moves to stem human trafficking

SOURCE: Yomiuri**SECTION:** Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 254 words

The government will crackdown on human traffickers and strengthen immigration controls as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat human trafficking that received official endorsement at a meeting of related ministries and agencies at the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday.

The government hopes that moves to strengthen domestic laws and promote efforts to prevent human trafficking will stem international criticism of Japan's record on the issue.

The country was included on the **Tier 2 Watch List**, the second-worst of the four categories for trafficking, in the U.S. State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report released in June. A recently released report by the International Labor Organization also criticized the lack of anti-trafficking measures.

The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law will be revised and rules for the entertainer visa strictly enforced.

Traffickers will face a revised Criminal Code and a new law addressing human trafficking. Under the new law, the government will provide the International Criminal Police Organization with information on missing and stolen passports and share information internationally.

The government will also cooperate with private organizations that provide shelter for victims of human trafficking and will extend financial assistance to International Organization for Migration projects that assist victims to return to their home countries. The government will also provide financial assistance for victims to return home.

LOAD-DATE: December 8, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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173 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

December 7, 2004 Tuesday**Bill to combat human traffickers in Japan to reach parliament next year****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 279 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO

Legislation targeting Japanese crime syndicates that transport women from around the world into Japan to work in the sex industry will reach parliament in early 2005, an official said Tuesday.

Japan's crime gangs are believed to be involved in bringing thousands of women and children from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe to work in Japan's sex industry, or as forced laborers.

The proposed legislation would revise Japan's criminal laws to include harsh penalties for human traffickers, Justice Ministry official Hideharu Maruyama said.

In June, the U.S. State Department put Japan on its 40-nation **watch-list** of countries that have failed to fully comply with an international treaty outlawing **human trafficking**.

Japan will also tighten visa requirements for foreign entertainers to crack down on human trafficking - a move that could affect thousands of women from the Philippines. Of the 130,000 foreign nationals who enter Japan on entertainer visas every year, 80,000 are Filipino women.

Previously, foreigners certified in their native countries as entertainers would automatically qualify for an entertainer visa in Japan. However, under the new visa rules, expected to go into effect next year, applicants will need at least two years experience or education in dance or other performing arts to qualify for an entertainment visa.

The visas - allowing a six-month stay in Japan - apply to professional athletes, musicians, circus performers and other entertainers.

Japan signed the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons in December 2002, but critics have said it has done little to stop the trade.

LOAD-DATE: December 8, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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174 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

November 25, 2004 Thursday

Govt to crack down on human trafficking

SOURCE: Yomiuri**SECTION:** Pg. 1**LENGTH:** 565 words

The draft of a comprehensive government action plan to combat human trafficking includes a measure to protect human trafficking victims at private facilities, government sources said Wednesday.

According to the sources, the action plan, which will be finalized in December, calls for tougher immigration controls; strengthening a domestic crackdown on human trafficking, including the creation of related laws; and protection of trafficking victims at private facilities originally established for domestic violence victims.

As the plan puts top priority on protecting human trafficking victims, the government will provide financial assistance to private facilities when commissioning them to do so, the sources said.

The government aims to dispel international criticism that it has turned a blind eye to human trafficking by implementing the plan, the sources said.

Labeling human trafficking a serious violation of human rights that needs to be addressed swiftly and appropriately from a humanitarian viewpoint, the draft stresses the meaning of formulating a general and comprehensive action plan.

So that a protocol on human trafficking can be adopted as soon as possible, the government will seek approval of the action plan during the next ordinary Diet session, the sources said.

To review visa statuses and strengthening screening, the plan includes a proposed revision of a Justice Ministry ordinance related to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law to abolish a requirement stipulating that foreign entertainers must possess government certifications to obtain entertainment visas to work in Japan, the sources said.

The proposal was made because 80,000 Filipinos annually enter the country with entertainer certifications issued by their government, the sources said.

After the revision of the ministerial ordinance, like entertainers of other countries, Filipinos will have to have studied a particular entertainment field for at least two years before they can apply for a visa, the sources said.

To crack down on human trafficking, the plan calls for a revision of the criminal law to make human trafficking a crime, the sources said.

The government will offer within this year information on lost and stolen Japanese passports to Interpol to share such information with the international community, the sources said.

In addition to using counseling centers for women in the prefectures and dispatching counselors, the plans proposes joining forces with private facilities for victims of domestic violence to protect human trafficking victims, the sources said.

In the event victims cannot afford to pay their airfare home, the plan suggests considering offering state funds for their return, the sources said.

The plan also proposes providing financial assistance to the International Organization for Migration, which promotes the voluntary return of human trafficking victims to their country.

Japan has been criticized internationally for allowing the sex and entertainment industries to traffic foreign women.

In June, the U.S State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report placed Japan on the **Tier 2** List, the second-worst of the four categories for trafficking.

The International Labor Organization also released recently a special report pointing out a lack of anti-trafficking measures in this country.

LOAD-DATE: November 24, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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175 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Herald News (Passaic County, NJ)

November 25, 2004 Thursday
All Editions

Sexual slavery: Real, but largely ignored

BYLINE: By CARLIN ROMANO, Knight Ridder News Service, Wire Services

SECTION: VALUES; Pg. D03

LENGTH: 1102 words

"The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade" by Victor Malarek; Arcade (\$25)

"Woman, Child for Sale: The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century" by Gilbert King; Penguin (\$9.95)

Abduct, enslave and kill foreigners to make terrorist points, and world news media not only provide regular coverage but sometimes agree - as in the case of al-Jazeera - to enable the crimes.

Abduct, enslave and kill foreigners to make money off their bodies and there's a good chance you stay under the radar while attracting the best clients around - U.N. peacekeepers, NGO humanitarian workers, U.S. contractors, sleazy businessmen and more.

It's not hard to understand why the mounting global disaster of human trafficking gets so little mass-media attention. Even after decades of marketing and teasing sex in endless ads and programming, most media find it tough to "report" on sex. Particularly sordid sex.

Teenagers might be watching. And we wouldn't want them to see what so many of their peers experience.

The publication of these two modest books - "The "Natashas" by Victor Malarek and "Woman, Child for Sale" by Gilbert King - reminds us of how seamy the whole explosion in human trafficking has become.

"Trafficking in human beings is now the third-largest moneymaking venture in the world," writes Malarek, a Ukrainian Canadian investigative journalist, "after illegal weapons and drugs ... the United Nations estimates that the trade nets organized crime more than \$12 billion a year."

Yet its moments in the spotlight are few.

One came on Sept. 23, 2003, when President Bush denounced human trafficking in his annual talk to the U.N. General Assembly.

"Each year," Bush stated, "an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings are bought, sold or forced across the world's borders. ... The victims of the sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life - an underground of brutality and lonely fear. ... Governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery."

That glimmer of light on a dark side of globalization hardly triggered an ovation.

That's why Malarek's and King's books usefully complement coverage of more frequently discussed problems on the international scene.

You want to talk about corruption in U.N. missions overseas? Thuggish behavior by U.S. security contractors? Tolerance of brutal criminal elements in places, such as Bosnia, that we don't want to catch fire again?

You don't need the Oil-for-Food program. It's all present in the world of sex slavery.

Malarek focuses on trafficking of women from former Soviet states. King, a New York journalist, examines slavery more broadly and historically. He looks at imprisonment of domestic workers and directs readers to a rich cache of reference materials.

The point both men drive home is simple. Why isn't there more public outrage?

In explaining world sexual slavery, Malarek suggests that many people don't understand the criminality that drives the supply side of the commercial sex business.

They think prostitutes, lap-dancers and the like from impoverished places like Moldova or Ukraine choose to work in places like Bosnia the way, say, French lycee graduates apply to Ph.D. programs in the United States.

To better themselves. To earn crucial money. Freely. Tawdry choices, perhaps, but still choices.

Malarek argues that unscrupulous deception and violence, not choice, is the rule rather than the exception. Thugs take advantage of desperation among impoverished women.

As Malarek relates in horrific detail, women in former Soviet and Eastern European states, particularly naive small-town women, respond to ads promising respectable jobs in countries where they can make more than a few dollars a day.

Once they permit advertisers to pay for their airline tickets and handle their visas, the first step into slavery has begun. On their arrival in Bosnia, or Serbia, or other countries, thugs may seize their documents, lock them in apartments, beat them senseless and threaten their families: all to coerce them into prostitution.

Referred to in the trade as "Natashas" regardless of where they come from, such young women suddenly find themselves without any protection. They've surrendered their passports. They're guarded by goons with guns. They're told (often accurately) that local cops cooperate with the traffickers. They're even ordered to give police "freebies" as bribes.

You remember the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia? Serbia now contains "Breaking Fields," according to Malarek. In Belgrade, apartments exist in which as many as 50 to 100 young foreign women suffer as slaves. They're forced to strip for inspection by traffickers who buy and smuggle them to brothels in Kosovo, or Greece, or Israel - or the United States (into which an estimated 20,000 people a year are trafficked).

Serbian mobsters reportedly beheaded a Ukrainian woman in front of fellow prisoners to enforce their fear.

Thankfully, both Malarek and King also report good news and decent people fighting back.

While the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" list remains too politicized, it keeps some pressure on countries by assigning them to more or less shameful "**tiers.**" The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish **Trafficking in Persons**, Especially Women and Children, which came into effect on Dec. 25, 2003, also promises increased action.

Individual do-gooders persist, like the Puglian priest Don Cesare, who founded his Regina Pacis center in 1995 to help women trafficked from Albania to Italy. Philadelphia can take pride in former police officer David Lamb, who turned whistle-blower after a stint in Bosnia for DynCorp, the U.S. firm that recruits U.S. police for U.N. work in world hot spots. (That's the same firm now under criticism for its rough tactics in providing security for Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai.)

Lamb testified to Congress in 2002 about the participation of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia's sex-slave business.

Both Malarek and King make recommendations. Corrupt police from Bosnia to Israel must be punished for tolerating rape and slavery just because the victims have engaged (often against their will) in prostitution. Corrupt peacekeepers must be stopped from converting "humanitarian" missions into sex tourism in places such as Bosnia (where, Malarek reports, 260 bars house up to 5,000 Eastern European women "who've become nothing more than playthings for the international soldiers and staff").

King asks a mind-boggling question: "How could it be that there are twice as many people enslaved today ... (as) were enslaved in an African slave trade that lasted centuries?"

How indeed?

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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176 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

November 23, 2004 Tuesday

SCOPE: U.S. awaits results of Japan's actions on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 879 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Nov. 23

Recovering from the sting of international embarrassment since being placed on the U.S. State Department's **'watch list'** for **human trafficking** in 2004, Japan hopes that the actions it has taken this year to combat the problem will improve its ranking the next time around.

While the United States has seen some progress in Japan's measures to address the issue, it is still waiting to see the results, citing poor victim protection measures, including a lack of women's shelters, lax regulation of entertainment visas and minimal public awareness.

'Good foundation building steps are being taken. But, we still have to await the results,' John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said in a recent interview, following a week-long fact-finding trip to Japan and South Korea.

In June, the State Department released the '2004 **Trafficking in Persons** Report,' which placed Japan on the **Tier 2 Watch List**. Japan is the only industrialized, developed country to be placed on this **watch list, with Tier 3** as the worst ranking.

'Japan is a country of destination for men, women, and children trafficked for sexual exploitation,' the report said, adding that victims come mainly from China, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines, Colombia and Eastern Europe.

Since the release of the report, the Japanese government has moved quickly to establish the prime minister's interagency task force on human trafficking, draft antitrafficking legislation, and meet with nongovernmental organizations and foreign ambassadors, actions that Miller said, 'are all good steps that could lead to very positive results.'

But Miller remains cautious in his assessment of what Japan has done so far. 'On the ground, at this point, we cannot say that more victims are being sheltered, we cannot say, at this point, that more traffickers are being sent to jail or anything like that, so the next several months will be very crucial,' Miller said.

A midterm assessment will be released on Jan. 3. But this will have no effect on Japan's Tier 2 rank, which will remain until the release of the next report next June.

Every year, roughly 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders, 80 percent of victims are female, and 50 percent are children.

One reason for Miller's cautious stance is that he is waiting to see whether the draft antitrafficking legislation, to be sent for Diet approval next year, will include increased victim protection funding.

'If Japan is really going to tackle this issue the way it should, the law, to be progressive and advanced, should deal not only with the prosecutions and the penalties but also with the victim protection, and there should be some specific funding for trafficking victim protection,' Miller said.

Calling entertainment visas a 'sick joke,' Miller remained hopeful that the Japanese government would decrease the number of entertainment visas issued, which are often blatantly exploited by crime syndicates to traffic women.

A draft action plan currently under review by the Japanese government will aim to strengthen requirements for foreign entertainers wishing to obtain visas and decrease the number of visas issued to Filipinos to about 8,000.

Currently, all foreign entertainers including singers, musicians, and dancers who are officially certified in their home countries automatically receive entertainer visas.

According to Japanese Justice Ministry figures, about 130,000 foreign nationals enter Japan annually by entertainment visas, with 80,000 from the Philippines.

Miller also highlighted the need for an ongoing, permanent relationship between NGOs and the Japanese government.

'There have been some meetings but I don't sense, when I met with NGOs, I still don't sense any kind of ongoing relationship,' said Miller. 'I hope that cooperation with the NGOs that has been initiated, blossoms and continues.'

In addition, the lack of shelters for foreign victims, which was criticized in the 2004 report, still persists.

'It's still a true statement that there are only two trafficking victim shelters in Japan, however, the government officials are looking at this,' Miller said.

While some point to the availability of Japan's network of 'women consultative centers,' or domestic abuse shelters, these shelters lack many crucial components to aid foreign trafficking victims.

'The difficulty is, that when you're dealing with trafficking victims that are primarily foreign, you need foreign language skills, you need a certain set of skills that are not necessarily present in the domestic violence centers,' Miller said.

To address the fundamental issue behind sex trafficking, the most common form of trafficking in Japan, all societies around the world must address gender inequality, Miller said.

'Sex trafficking comes about not just because of organized crime or poverty, but it comes about because there is a market, a demand for prostitution,' said Miller. 'If you're going to address the market when it comes to sex trafficking, any society has to look at the attitudes towards gender on the part of males, and it's not just Japan.'

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177 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Xinhua General News Service

November 23, 2004 Tuesday 12:19 AM EST

Philippine government urges return of overstaying workers in Japan

SECTION: WORLD NEWS**LENGTH:** 416 words**DATELINE:** MANILA

The Philippine government Tuesday called for immediate return of overseas Filipino workers, who have overstayed in Japan, before a new immigration law takes effect in the country on Saturday.

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said in a radio interview that overstaying aliens face a maximum fine of 3 million yen, deportation and a 10-year ban from entering Japan, according to the law.

Although amendments to the immigration law allows the provisional stay of illegal aliens who applied for refugee status, illegal aliens guilty of violating the penal code or other laws of Japan are not entitled for a provisional status or refugee status, she said.

Japanese official statistics show that as of January 2004, there have been a total of 31,428 overstaying Filipinos in the country, 10,582 of them are entertainers.

Lorenzo J. Langomez, President of the Philippine Association of Recruitment Agencies Deploying Artists, earlier also warned that allegedly overstaying Filipino overseas performing artists in Japan would be facing either stiff fines or deportation when a newly amended Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act is implemented.

"The Philippine overseas entertainment industry is very likely to be severely affected by these developments. They could result in decreased deployment by as much as 50 percent a year and hence, a drastic decrease in the government's estimated one billion dollars in annual foreign exchange earnings," Langomez said.

According to the president, Japan imposes stricter measures against the entry of all foreign entertainers including Filipinos after the US government in June put Japan and the Philippines, among other countries, in the **watchlist** of countries that allegedly failed to curb **human trafficking**.

The US State Department report said that entertainer visas were being abused and their holders forced into situations of sexual exploitation, prostitution, or forced labor, which, however, was denied by the Philippines' and Japan's entertainment sectors.

Langomez said that their businesses were "legitimate, lawful, and beneficial to the economies of both countries."

However, Philippine and Japanese recruitment groups said that they would exert "utmost efforts to police their ranks and institute drastic reforms" to get rid of misunderstanding.

They also urged the governments of Japan and the Philippines to see the entertainment industry in a different light.

LOAD-DATE: November 25, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

178 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

November 20, 2004 Saturday

Japan blasted over human trafficking

SOURCE: Yomiuri**SECTION:** Pg. 1**LENGTH:** 448 words

Victims of human trafficking in Japan are not protected and are treated like criminals, according to a special report compiled by the International Labor Organization.

The organization's Tokyo office has begun distributing copies of the report to relevant government and nonprofit organizations.

The report is the second to criticize Japan's handling of human trafficking, following the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, released in June.

The ILO report highlights the lack of antitrafficking measures in the country to protect foreign women forced to work in the sex industry, and ministries and agencies are likely to respond quickly.

Titled "Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Japan," the report apportioned about 20 percent of its 81 pages to victims in this country.

The report cited case studies compiled by ILO staffers and others who interviewed female victims and says many women did not come to Japan aiming to become prostitutes, but were forced to do so.

According to the report, a 20-year-old Colombian woman came to Japan because she had been told she could work at a personal computer shop, but on her arrival, gangsters took her passport and forced her to work as a prostitute in Tokyo.

A Thai woman who had been promised a job at a Thai restaurant was told by a Japanese man that she owed him 4.8 million yen for travel costs, among other expenses, the report says.

She was forced to work at a bar in a provincial area and have sex with three to four men a day, the report says.

A Filipina who refused to cooperate was beaten and raped by her employer in front of his male employees, according to the report.

Women from Southeast Asia, South America and Eastern Europe have become victims of human trafficking, but Japanese bureaucrats seem to be blind to the issue, regarding them as illegal residents who entered the country of their own will, the report says.

In Japan, "victims of trafficking may be perceived to be voluntary participants in illegal immigration, which thereby removes their right to protection," the report added.

The report points out that "traffickers retain their profits and are rarely prosecuted. When they are, it is not necessarily in proportion to their crimes."

But the report praises the government's attempts to "address human trafficking since the beginning of 2004."

In the U.S. State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report places, Japan was the only industrially developed country to be included in the **Tier 2** List for Trafficking. Countries on the list do not meet minimum U.S. standards for combating trafficking, but are making efforts to comply.

LOAD-DATE: November 19, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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179 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Yomiuri Shimbun

November 19, 2004, Friday

Japan blasted over human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 464 words

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180 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

November 17, 2004 Wednesday

LDP eyes tough entertainer visa requirements to combat human traffic

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 445 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, Nov. 17

A ruling Liberal Democratic Party panel decided Wednesday to propose strict requirements for entertainer visas for foreigners to tackle the problem of the trafficking of women.

The panel will propose that the government abolish a Justice Ministry provision allowing foreigners with official certification for musicians, singers and dancers from their home countries to automatically obtain entertainer visas to enter Japan.

Many Asian women who enter with such visas are not trained or qualified as musicians, singers or dancers and the visas are used as a front for human trafficking, as many of them end up working in the sex industry in Japan, the panel said.

According to the ministry, there were about 130,000 foreigners entering Japan last year on entertainer visas, with 80,000 of them coming from the Philippines. Many had official certification for singers and dancers from their government.

However, certification from the Philippine government is relatively easy to obtain and is valid for 10 years, the panel members said.

The ministry had been asking the Philippines to tighten its screening of applicants but the LDP panel thought it is also necessary for the Japanese government to tighten its rules to tackle the problem.

Meanwhile, Japanese and Filipino entertainment business organizations have signed an accord to establish welfare monitoring systems to protect licensed artists, they said.

The measures include abolition of a Japanese system in which foreign musicians, singers and dancers are forced to have dates with their patrons before their performances and accompany them to their club.

The accord also said the two organizations will urge business enterprises which invite such entertainers from abroad to fully realize the shows they promised to promote, and the Philippines to come up with a system not to send any entertainers to promoters which do not promote such shows.

The move by the National Union of Promotion Companies and the Confederated Associations of Licensed Entertainment Agencies of the Philippines is in response to growing criticism that such systems nurture **human trafficking**, especially after the U.S. State Department put Japan and the Philippines on its **watch list** of countries involved in **human trafficking**.

Joji Imai, president of the Japanese union comprising eight associations of foreign artist promotion companies with 860 member companies in Japan, said, 'We decided to come up with such measures to protect foreign entertainers in Japan so that people will not get the wrong idea that those entering Japan on entertainer visas are involved in human trafficking.'

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

181 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

November 16, 2004 Tuesday

2-day confab on human trafficking in Cambodia begins

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 757 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH, Nov. 16

Foreign diplomats, representatives of international organizations and government officials gathered in Phnom Penh on Tuesday to discuss human trafficking in Cambodia and ways to combat the problem.

In an opening speech at a two-day conference, Prime Minister Hun Sen said 'human trafficking is the most serious form of human rights violation.'

About 60 people are taking part in the conference sponsored by the embassies of the United States, Britain, Australia and Thailand.

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Charles R. Ray said 'This problem is one that Cambodia has struggled within its recent past as traffickers move human beings into, through, and from Cambodia to other countries in the region.'

'We are here today to look at both regional and local actions that can be taken to combat trafficking in persons,' he said.

According to the government's report, people are trafficked from villages to cities and between provinces. Cambodians are also trafficked across the border to Thailand and Vietnam, where, in some cases, women and girls are trafficked to further destinations -- other parts of Asia, Europe, and the United States.

'Adding to the problem, there are possibly hundreds of thousands of undocumented aliens in Cambodia, notably Vietnamese and Chinese, as well as a growing number of South Asians, many of whom have been victims of trafficking,' the report said.

A recent government study estimates that there are 18,256 sex workers in Cambodia, of whom 66 percent are Cambodians and 33 percent are Vietnamese. Of these people, an estimated 20 percent are involved in human trafficking.

Hun Sen said that the government has stepped up investigations and crackdown operations, in which authorities have arrested 728 suspects and rescued 1,179 victims, 607 of them juveniles.

But the Australian government said Cambodia still lacks political will to deal with the issue.

'Trafficking in Cambodia is facilitated by shortfalls of political will and a weak legal system with inadequate laws and enforcement,' says a report released by the Australian government.

'The typical end purposes of trafficking both to and from Cambodia have been identified as: sex industry; begging, soliciting business or selling flowers; forced or exploit labor; baby buying and child trafficking for adoption,' the report adds.

Although more than 100 government, local and international agencies are working against trafficking in Cambodia, cases of Cambodians who were trafficked into sex work and domestic labor in Malaysia have recently emerged.

According to a British government report, 'Human trafficking has become a significant source of income for increasingly sophisticated criminal enterprises.'

It is estimated that approximately 800,000-900,000 people are trafficked across international borders worldwide. The figure does not include internal trafficking, which some observers estimate would raise the number to more than 2 million, the report said.

'Trafficking in human beings is now the third largest illegal moneymaking venture in the world after illegal weapons and drugs trafficking. Increasingly, it is women and children who are the victims of this odious trade,' the report says.

'Approximately 125,000 women and children from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and China have been sold into the Asia-Pacific sex industry alone since 1990,' it says.

An estimated 5,000 children aged 10 to 16 are internally and externally trafficked within and into Cambodia for the purpose of sexual exploitation each year, according to the report.

The Cambodian government also said in its report that an increasing number of elderly women and children are brought to Thailand for begging.

It said there are also cases of young men brought to Thailand for forced labor on fishing boats, and a few known cases of men trafficked to Thailand for forced sex work.

There are also a large number of Cambodians working in the agriculture and construction sectors in Thailand, many of whom find themselves in the situation of bondage and exploitation. It is estimated that there are 88,000 undocumented Cambodians in Thailand, the report says.

An annual report by the United States on **human trafficking**, which was released recently, has placed Cambodia in **Tier 2**, which means problems remain but efforts were made to combating trafficking.

Corruption and a weak judiciary remain the most serious impediments to the effective prosecution of traffickers, the report says.

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182 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Yomiuri Shimbun

October 27, 2004, Wednesday

Japanese government begins efforts to halt human trafficking

BYLINE: By Yoshimi Nagamine

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 629 words

TOKYO _ The Japanese government has begun talks to establish a legal framework to halt international trafficking of women and children brought to the nation to work as prostitutes, and human-rights groups want the policy to include protection for the victims.

Dealers involved in the human trade hunt for women everywhere to use them as property.

The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons adopted in 2000 mandates governments to protect and support victims of human trafficking.

Governments of the nations that signed the protocol have worked out legal measures to punish offenders but protect victims through withholding penalties for engaging in prostitution or illegally residing within their borders.

In the United States, the Trafficking of Victims Protection Act allows victims to remain in the country for some time and receive public support that supplies them with housing, medical and interpretive services, for example.

In France, victims are sent to public-run facilities for shelter and social rehabilitation that is designed to help them return to a life away from prostitution. The center provides the victims with a temporary residency permit on condition that they cooperate with a police investigation and attempt to find legal work.

Although Japan signed the U.N. protocol in 2002, the country has made little progress on the issue.

A Thai woman was persuaded by the Japanese man with whom she lived to return to Thailand when he learned she was pregnant. The man paid her debts to a broker and promised to send her money after she returned. But she lost contact with him and was forced to return to prostitution to support her family, leaving her prey to a local crime syndicate.

This example was presented to lawmakers during a meeting in Tokyo that was organized by a Thailand-based civic group that supports female victims of human trafficking.

In this case, a woman who appeared to have been saved from a terrible situation fell into a similar trap.

Nancy Kassebaum Baker, a former U.S. senator and the wife of Howard Baker Jr., U.S. ambassador to Japan, attended the meeting, at which she emphasized the importance of protecting victims and providing a safe environment in which they can testify against offenders without fear of retribution.

In June, the U.S. State Department released a report titled "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2004," in which Japan was the only industrially developed country to be included in the **Tier 2** List for Trafficking. Countries on the list do not meet minimum U.S. standards for combating trafficking, but are making efforts to comply.

The listing urged the government to take serious action in summer toward working out a legal framework on the issue.

The Justice Ministry hopes to revise the Criminal Code in next year's ordinary Diet session to enable the government to charge those involved in human trafficking.

But this action does not extend to significantly improving the nation's support system for victims. Police and judicial authorities will devise a plan this year, but the practical effects remain questionable.

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry plans to use women's consultation centers run by local governments and private-sector shelters to provide victims with temporary protection. But these facilities focus on assisting victims of domestic violence.

If the government is to rely on private shelters that barely have enough funds to operate, it should begin offering them financial support.

There are numerous problems to solve, including helping the victims return to society and stay away from prostitution.

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JOURNAL-CODE: YS

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183 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring**October** 24, 2004, Sunday

Guyana parliament sends trafficking in persons bill to special select committee

SOURCE: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 19:06 GMT, 23 Oct 04

LENGTH: 434 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 23 October

Georgetown, Guyana: An anti-human trafficking Bill, which provides for lengthy prison terms, forfeiture of offenders' property and the payment of restitution to victims, has gone to a Special Select Committee of Guyana's parliament for evaluation before its final passage through the House.

The six-part **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Bill comes after the US State Department placed Guyana on a **watch list** of countries that do not comply with a US **human trafficking** act.

Guyana was placed in **Tier 3**, the worst category, but was later upgraded to **Tier 2** when the Human Services and Social Security Ministry began to implement a series of measures to combat **human trafficking**.

The US State Department report includes every country where investigators can establish 100 or more victims. Tier 1 countries are those that have victims but are meeting the minimum standards of the act. Tier 2 countries are not meeting the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply. Tier 3 governments are not making significant efforts and could face sanctions.

The Parliamentary Select Committee review of the bill is expected improve the measure, which opposition parties have criticized as a clone of the North American legislation.

The bill criminalizes human trafficking, imposing jail terms of up to life imprisonment; forfeiture of property and an order to pay full restitution to victims.

Persons convicted of human trafficking for prostitution purposed shall be fined 2m Guyana dollars (10,000 US dollars) and shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years. However, the Bill also makes provisions under which the convicted person can be sentenced to a maximum of 20 years in jail.

Convicts must pay restitution "promptly upon the conviction of the defendant" with the proceeds from the property forfeited, and a victim's right to receive compensation shall not be affected if the victim returns to his/her home country or is absent from the jurisdiction for any other reason, the bill states.

Overseas assets of convicted persons can also be subjected to forfeiture. All property of convicted TIP offenders, including money, valuables and other movable and immovable property, "that was either used, intended to be used or was obtained in the course of the crime," shall be forfeited to the State.

Human Services and Social Security Minister Bibi Shadick who piloted the bill said it represents "Guyana's and the government's commitment to combating trafficking in persons."

LOAD-DATE: April 15, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

184 of 359 DOCUMENTS

October 24, 2004, Sunday**LENGTH:** 629 words

TOKYO _ The Japanese government has begun talks to establish a legal framework to halt international trafficking of women and children brought to the nation to work as prostitutes, and human-rights groups want the policy to include protection for the victims.

Dealers involved in the human trade hunt for women everywhere to use them as property.

The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons adopted in 2000 mandates governments to protect and support victims of human trafficking.

Governments of the nations that signed the protocol have worked out legal measures to punish offenders but protect victims through withholding penalties for engaging in prostitution or illegally residing within their borders.

In the United States, the Trafficking of Victims Protection Act allows victims to remain in the country for some time and receive public support that supplies them with housing, medical and interpretive services, for example.

In France, victims are sent to public-run facilities for shelter and social rehabilitation that is designed to help them return to a life away from prostitution. The center provides the victims with a temporary residency permit on condition that they cooperate with a police investigation and attempt to find legal work.

Although Japan signed the U.N. protocol in 2002, the country has made little progress on the issue.

A Thai woman was persuaded by the Japanese man with whom she lived to return to Thailand when he learned she was pregnant. The man paid her debts to a broker and promised to send her money after she returned. But she lost contact with him and was forced to return to prostitution to support her family, leaving her prey to a local crime syndicate.

This example was presented to lawmakers during a meeting in Tokyo that was organized by a Thailand-based civic group that supports female victims of human trafficking.

In this case, a woman who appeared to have been saved from a terrible situation fell into a similar trap.

Nancy Kassebaum Baker, a former U.S. senator and the wife of Howard Baker Jr., U.S. ambassador to Japan, attended the meeting, at which she emphasized the importance of protecting victims and providing a safe environment in which they can testify against offenders without fear of retribution.

In June, the U.S. State Department released a report titled "**Trafficking in Persons** Report 2004," in which Japan was the only industrially developed country to be included in the **Tier 2** List for Trafficking. Countries on the list do not meet minimum U.S. standards for combating trafficking, but are making efforts to comply.

The listing urged the government to take serious action in summer toward working out a legal framework on the issue.

The Justice Ministry hopes to revise the Criminal Code in next year's ordinary Diet session to enable the government to charge those involved in human trafficking.

But this action does not extend to significantly improving the nation's support system for victims. Police and judicial authorities will devise a plan this year, but the practical effects remain questionable.

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry plans to use women's consultation centers run by local governments and private-sector shelters to provide victims with temporary protection. But these facilities focus on assisting victims of domestic violence.

If the government is to rely on private shelters that barely have enough funds to operate, it should begin offering them financial support.

There are numerous problems to solve, including helping the victims return to society and stay away from prostitution.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

JOURNAL-CODE: YS

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185 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

October 23, 2004 Saturday

Govt efforts insufficient to halt international human trafficking

BYLINE: Yoshimi Nagamine Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

SOURCE: Yomiuri

SECTION: Pg. 4

LENGTH: 630 words

The government has begun discussing the establishment of a legal framework aimed at preventing the international trafficking of women and children brought to Japan to work as prostitutes, but victim protection and security should not be forgotten.

A Thai woman was persuaded by the Japanese man with whom she lived to return to Thailand when he learned she was pregnant. The man paid her debts to a broker and promised to send her money after she returned. But she lost contact with him and was forced to return to prostitution to support her family, leaving her prey to a local crime syndicate.

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Dealers involved in the trade of humans hunt for women everywhere to use them as property.

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If the government is to rely on private shelters that barely have enough funds to operate, it should begin offering them financial support.

There are numerous problems to solve. Who will help the victims return to society and stay away from prostitution, for example?

Japan should act responsibly and provide those who have been trafficked with support as a nation that has created many such victims.

LOAD-DATE: October 22, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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186 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

October 22, 2004 Friday

South Africa; Sex Workers 'Could Be Hit By Trafficking Laws'

BYLINE: Cape Argus

LENGTH: 815 words

South Africa is moving rapidly to improve its international reputation in the controversy around human trafficking, but a warning has been sounded that adult sex workers may become scapegoats in the process.

With specialised trafficking legislation firmly on the cards for South Africa, there are fears this could spell an end to "a more humane and socially responsible approach" to adult sex work, and see it branded "trafficking in women".

South Africa is rated a **Tier 2** country in the 2004 **Trafficking in Persons** report, published by the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, joining countries whose "governments do not comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act of 2003's minimum standards", but which are making "a significant effort to do so"

'Legislation must be relevant to local circumstances'

South Africa is a signatory to the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, and hopes to have comprehensive domestic legislation in place by 2006, according to the International Organisation on Migration (IOM).

According to the Geneva-based organisation, South Africa is the regional centre of an intricate trafficking network that recruits women and children from Mozambique, Angola, Malawi, Eastern Europe, Thailand and China.

But Ted Leggett, senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, is adamant the extent of South Africa's problem is unclear, with preliminary research here hinging on the direct experience of fewer than 35 people.

The greatest deficiency of this research, Leggett said in the Institute article, "The Risks of Human Trafficking Legislation", lay in the small number of victims interviewed - yet the research was being taken as "authoritative" by international agencies which, he said, needed evidence to support the cause.

Leggett said human trafficking called to mind images of children being snatched from the streets into panel vans, stowed in the holds of cargo ships and dumped in chains in a foreign brothel or work camp far from their mothers' arms.

"It is difficult to imagine a more horrific crime, and no one would question the drive to halt this activity. But definitions of trafficking are broad, and much of the activity that has been labelled trafficking falls far from this scenario," he wrote.

In addition, the offences involved could be prosecuted under existing South African law.

There were also grave dangers in passing a new law if it was poorly drafted; there were some who would argue that all adult sex work was based on the exploitation of economic vulnerability, making it possible that all consensual domestic adult commercial sex work could be deemed "trafficking in women".

"By possibly locking the country into a law enforcement approach to the problem of adult prostitution, the country could lose its flexibility to deal creatively with local problems," he said, pointing to the fact that for nearly 10 years academics and human rights advocates here had championed a movement to see adult commercial sex work decriminalised or legally regulated.

"The consensus has been that criminalising prostitution only locks women deeper into sex work and exacerbates the abuses they suffer - while deterring no one," Leggett wrote.

Writing in the IOM bulletin, Eye on Human Trafficking, Advocate Lowesa Stuurman, law adviser at the South African Law Reform Commission, acknowledged that while this country had an obligation to bring its domestic legislation in line with the Trafficking Protocol, "the extent of the problem of trafficking within and across the borders of South Africa is unclear".

But she argued that the absence of definite statistics was an added reason for urgent promulgation of anti-trafficking legislation.

"Legislation can be used to ensure that the necessary structure is established for determining, on a continuous basis, the extent of the problem," she said.

Stuurman argued too that the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation should not be confused with voluntary involvement in prostitution.

Victims of trafficking forced into prostitution were often afraid to seek help because they feared arrest, they were held under debt bondage and paid very little, if anything.

The Law Reform Commission was currently investigating the possible legalisation, regulation and decriminalisation of adult prostitution however, and legal interventions to combat human trafficking needed to take into account any changes that may result.

But existing legal measures that could be applied to prosecute offences related to trafficking in people were insufficient to combat trafficking, or to effectively protect victims.

"Although South African legislation on trafficking in persons must adhere to international standards, it must be relevant to local circumstances," Stuurman said.

LOAD-DATE: October 22, 2004

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187 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Philadelphia Inquirer

October 20, 2004, Wednesday

Sexual slavery: Real, but largely ignored

BYLINE: By Carlin Romano

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

LENGTH: 1144 words

"The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade" by Victor Malarek; Arcade (\$25)

"Woman, Child for Sale: The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century" by Gilbert King; Penguin (\$9.95)

Abduct, enslave and kill foreigners to make terrorist points, and world news media not only provide regular coverage but sometimes agree _ as in the case of al-Jazeera _ to enable the crimes.

Abduct, enslave and kill foreigners to make money off their bodies and there's a good chance you stay under the radar while attracting the best clients around _ U.N. peacekeepers, NGO humanitarian workers, U.S. contractors, sleazy businessmen and more.

It's not hard to understand why the mounting global disaster of human trafficking gets so little mass-media attention. Even after decades of marketing and teasing sex in endless ads and programming, most media find it tough to "report" on sex. Particularly sordid sex.

Teen-agers might be watching. And we wouldn't want them to see what so many of their peers experience.

The publication of these two modest books _ "The "Natashas" by Victor Malarek and "Woman, Child for Sale" by Gilbert King _ reminds us of how seamy the whole explosion in human trafficking has become.

"Trafficking in human beings is now the third-largest moneymaking venture in the world," writes Malarek, a Ukrainian Canadian investigative journalist, "after illegal weapons and drugs ... the United Nations estimates that the trade nets organized crime more than \$12 billion a year."

Yet its moments in the spotlight are few.

One came on Sept. 23, 2003, when President Bush denounced human trafficking in his annual talk to the U.N. General Assembly.

"Each year," Bush stated, "an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings are bought, sold or forced across the world's borders. ... The victims of the sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life _ an underground of brutality and lonely fear. ... Governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery."

That glimmer of light on a dark side of globalization hardly triggered an ovation.

That's why Malarek's and King's books usefully complement coverage of more frequently discussed problems on the international scene.

You want to talk about corruption in U.N. missions overseas? Thuggish behavior by U.S. security contractors? Tolerance of brutal criminal elements in places, such as Bosnia, that we don't want to catch fire again?

You don't need the Oil-for-Food program. It's all present in the world of sex slavery.

Malarek focuses on trafficking of women from former Soviet states. King, a New York journalist, examines slavery more broadly and historically. He looks at imprisonment of domestic workers and directs readers to a rich cache of reference materials.

The point both men drive home is simple. Why isn't there more public outrage?

In explaining world sexual slavery, Malarek suggests that many people don't understand the criminality that drives the supply side of the commercial sex business.

They think prostitutes, lap-dancers and the like from impoverished places like Moldova or Ukraine choose to work in places like Bosnia the way, say, French lycee graduates apply to Ph.D. programs in the United States.

To better themselves. To earn crucial money. Freely. Tawdry choices, perhaps, but still choices.

Malarek argues that unscrupulous deception and violence, not choice, is the rule rather than the exception. Thugs take advantage of desperation among impoverished women.

As Malarek relates in horrific detail, women in former Soviet and Eastern European states, particularly naive small-town women, respond to ads promising respectable jobs in countries where they can make more than a few dollars a day.

Once they permit advertisers to pay for their airline tickets and handle their visas, the first step into slavery has begun. On their arrival in Bosnia, or Serbia, or other countries, thugs may seize their documents, lock them in apartments, beat them senseless, and threaten their families: all to coerce them into prostitution.

Referred to in the trade as "Natashas" regardless of where they come from, such young women suddenly find themselves without any protection. They've surrendered their passports. They're guarded by goons with guns. They're told (often accurately) that local cops cooperate with the traffickers. They're even ordered to give police "freebies" as bribes.

You remember the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia? Serbia now contains "Breaking Fields," according to Malarek. In Belgrade, apartments exist in which as many as 50 to 100 young foreign women suffer as slaves. They're forced to strip for inspection by traffickers who buy and smuggle them to brothels in Kosovo, or Greece, or Israel _ or the United States (into which an estimated 20,000 people a year are trafficked).

Serbian mobsters reportedly beheaded a Ukrainian woman in front of fellow prisoners to enforce their fear.

Thankfully, both Malarek and King also report good news and decent people fighting back.

While the State Department's annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" list remains too politicized, it keeps some pressure on countries by assigning them to more or less shameful "**tiers.**" The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which came into effect on Dec. 25, 2003, also promises increased action.

Individual do-gooders persist, like the Puglian priest Don Cesare, who founded his Regina Pacis center in 1995 to help women trafficked from Albania to Italy. Philadelphia can take pride in former police officer David Lamb, who turned whistle-blower after a stint in Bosnia for DynCorp, the U.S. firm that recruits U.S. police for U.N. work in world hot spots. (That's the same firm now under criticism for its rough tactics in providing security for Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai.)

Lamb testified to Congress in 2002 about the participation of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia's sex-slave business.

Both Malarek and King make recommendations. Corrupt police from Bosnia to Israel must be punished for tolerating rape and slavery just because the victims have engaged (often against their will) in prostitution. Corrupt peacekeepers must be stopped from converting "humanitarian" missions into sex tourism in places such as Bosnia (where, Malarek reports, 260 bars house up to 5,000 Eastern European women "who've become nothing more than playthings for the international soldiers and staff").

King asks a mind-boggling question: "How could it be that there are twice as many people enslaved today ... (as) were enslaved in an African slave trade that lasted centuries?"

How indeed?

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188 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com
The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 17, 2004 Sunday ADVANCE EDITION

Sexual slavery: Real, but largely ignored; Two books fault media, international officials.

BYLINE: Carlin Romano

SECTION: FEATURES MAGAZINE: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. H14

LENGTH: 1147 words

The Natashas

Inside the New Global Sex Trade

By Victor Malarek

Arcade. 303 pp. \$25

Woman, Child for Sale

The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century

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Penguin. 232 pp. \$9.95

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Contact book critic Carlin Romano at 215-854-5615 or cromano@phillynews.com. Read his recent work at <http://go.philly.com/carlinromano>.

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189 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

October 14, 2004, Thursday

NGOs urge Japanese measures against human trafficking

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 1134 gmt 14 Oct 04**LENGTH:** 470 words

Text of report by May Masangkay, carried in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Tokyo, 14 October: A nationwide liaison network of human rights groups urged the Japanese government Thursday 14 October to build an effective legal framework to prevent human trafficking mainly of woman from abroad, provide relief to victims and punish perpetrators.

The efforts of the Tokyo-based Japan Network Against **Trafficking in Persons** come at a time the Japanese government is trying to step up measures to fight **human trafficking** after the US State Department in a report in June downgraded its assessment on Japan and put the country on a special **watch list**.

In a proposal issued Thursday, the network called for the establishment of human trafficking victims' recovery support centres at some 11 locations nationwide including Hokkaido, Tokyo and Okinawa based on the coordination between the government and private groups.

"Human trafficking victims are in dire need of psychological care, but centres that provide them with such care are scarce," Keiko Otsu, co-chairwoman of the network and director of Women's Shelter HELP, told an audience of lawmakers, lawyers, media members and human rights campaigners during a gathering at a House of Representatives building.

Otsu said several experts who have knowledge about human trafficking should be placed at each centre to identify the authenticity of people's claims as victims of human trafficking, and that the number of interpreters for various languages should be increased to support the victims.

According to the US report, "Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation." Human rights groups say many women from Thailand, the Philippines and Colombia may be victims of trafficking.

The proposal also said legal rights of trafficking victims should be protected, such as by freeing the centre of any obligation to report to immigration authorities if a victim is an illegal resident, and that victims should not be punished.

On the government level, the network also called for the creation of a countermeasures headquarters headed by the prime minister to pursue a comprehensive package of steps to eliminate human trafficking, as well as an in-house special working-level group that could train law enforcement officials.

The government has said it will compile an "action plan" by the end of this year, but House of Councillors lawmaker Mieko Kamimoto, who also attended the meeting, criticized as slow-paced the way the government is addressing the human trafficking issue.

Japan has dealt with cases of human trafficking under existing laws but does not have a law that directly bans human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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190 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

October 14, 2004 Thursday

NGOs call for better legal framework on human trafficking in Japan

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 453 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, Oct. 14

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LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

191 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

October 7, 2004

State Dept. Urges U.S., Mexico Fight Human Trafficking Together; About 17,000 people trafficked into United States from Mexico each year

BYLINE: Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 853 words

Washington -- An official with the U.S. State Department has called on the United States and Mexico to work together to end the global problem of trafficking in persons, a crime against humanity that has been likened to "modern-day slavery."

Speaking October 4 in Tijuana, Mexico, John Miller, the State Department's director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the cooperation is needed because about 17,000 people are being "trafficked" from Mexico into the United States each year. That number includes migrant workers, and women and children brought into the United States for purposes of commercial and sexual exploitation.

Miller indicated that even though U.S.-Mexican cooperation is important, Mexico also must work on its own to eradicate the country's internal problem with trafficking, with estimates pointing to 16,000-20,000 Mexican and Central American child sex victims in Mexico, found largely in border, urban, and tourist areas. For instance, the State Department says Mexico needs to expand cooperation on its land borders with Guatemala to identify trafficking cases that occur as part of cross-border illegal migration.

Miller said that although some of the people trafficked across the U.S.-Mexican border are from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America such as Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Colombia, others are from Asia or Europe who pass through Mexico on their way to the United States. Miller said that even though Mexico needs to do much more to combat trafficking in persons, it is also a U.S. national security problem because people are being trafficked and enslaved in the United States.

The official said the United States is anxious to work with Mexico to increase cooperation on issues related to trafficking in persons. One way to increase joint efforts is through what is called the Senior Law Enforcement Plenary, which the State Department says serves as the "primary coordinating mechanism" for U.S.-Mexican law enforcement cooperation. Bilateral cooperation, the State Department says, includes the exchange of information and coordination between personnel from the United States and Mexico to ensure a "seamless enforcement effort" against criminal groups engaged in human trafficking.

In Tijuana, Miller spoke at the inauguration of a State Department-funded center for at-risk children, designed to address every aspect of human trafficking and exploitation of people. The center aims to provide counseling and support to children taken from traffickers and is part of a joint U.S.-Mexico project, based in San Diego, California, called the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition to prevent and intervene in the commercial and sexual exploitation of women and children, while advocating for all exploited persons.

One of the main goals of the coalition is to renovate or construct shelters in cities along the U.S.-Mexico border to house and assist identified trafficking victims. Another component is to increase awareness of the trafficking problem in the border region through stepped-up publicity campaigns.

The coalition helped arrange a September 30-October 1 conference in San Diego called "Closing the Borders to Human Trafficking: Best Practices," in which the State Department's Miller gave opening remarks, and which included participants from other U.S. government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, as well as groups from other nations.

Human trafficking is often linked to organized crime and its profits help fuel other illegal activity, the State Department says, adding that human trafficking is among the world's fastest-growing criminal activities. Annually, at least 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across borders worldwide, the State Department said.

President Bush announced in July that eight countries, including Mexico and Brazil, had been selected to receive a total of \$50 million in U.S. aid to fight human trafficking, with Mexico slated to eventually receive about \$8.2 million of that amount. The assistance funds would be used to support nongovernmental organizations and U.S. agencies working abroad that rescue women and children from bondage and give them shelter, medical treatment and rehabilitation.

The State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report for 2004 said the Mexican government does not "fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so." The report put Mexico on a "**Tier II watch list**" for failing to do more against the trafficking of humans by criminal elements.

The report said many cross-border trafficking victims are difficult to identify because their cases are "shrouded" in a "clandestine transnational [criminal] movement."

More information about human trafficking is available online from the State Department at: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>
(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

LOAD-DATE: October 7, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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192 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

October 1, 2004, Friday**USA upgrades Guyana's **Trafficking In Persons** status but only to **Tier 2******SOURCE:** Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 1841 gmt 30 Sep 04**LENGTH:** 258 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 30 September

Georgetown, Guyana: The United States, citing Guyana's efforts at dealing with the crime of Trafficking In Persons (TIP), has upgraded the country's status, according to an official statement issued here.

"On the basis of positive actions undertaken by the Government of Guyana since the end of the 2004 reporting period, the deputy secretary of state has determined that the government of Guyana does not yet fully comply with the act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance," a US State Department release issued through the Government Information Agency (Gina) here said.

The US agency has upgraded Guyana to Tier 2, after downgrading it to Tier 3 citing a lack of government compliance with the minimum standards and simultaneously making no effort to do so.

The new placement indicates that the government still does not fully comply with the minimum standards. However, the State Department has deemed that the country is making strides to comply.

The Guyana government established an Anti-Trafficking Taskforce, which spearheaded a series of national sensitization programmes in the upgrading quest. The country has already tabled a comprehensive anti-TIP Bill, which will be debated when parliament reconvenes in October.

Among plans for protection of victims, the government will direct resources to a state-run shelter to work with TIP victims.

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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193 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

September 26, 2004 Sunday

U.S. diplomat urges Japan to combat human trafficking

SOURCE: Yomiuri**SECTION:** Pg. 3**LENGTH:** 376 words**DATELINE:** OSAKA

Ann Kambara, counselor for Labor Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Japan, encouraged Japan to draw up comprehensive measures to tackle international human trafficking in a recent lecture at the U.S. Consulate General in Osaka.

The American Center invited Kambara and Yukiko Oishi, probation officer of the U.N. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Tokyo, as lecturer and moderator, respectively, to discuss the prevention and eradication of trafficking in response to the U.S. State Department's recently released **Trafficking in Persons** Report 2004 that placed Japan on the **Tier 2 Watch List**.

Kambara said that human trafficking was a grave issue, affecting not only domestic public security but also international relationships, adding, "The issue is becoming more important for Japan, too," she said.

Although Japan signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in December 2002, supplementing the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, there has not been sufficient awareness to encourage the Japanese government to develop legislation to control human trafficking, Kambara said.

Along with the United States, Japan is one of the primary destinations for women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

Consequently, she added, criminals involved in human trafficking might regard Japan as a good place to do business.

Explaining why the United States has urged Japan to work harder on the issue, she said: "We care about Japan because Japan is the strongest of allies. We work together in a number of very good ways, and we certainly want to work together in combatting trafficking. That's the priority for us."

She added that the United States was not alone in wanting Japan to make an effort to prevent trafficking, saying that she has also heard about the issue from concerned Japanese citizens.

According to Kambara, antitrafficking measures in the United States, especially the Trafficking Victims Protection Act that was introduced in October 2000, have as their theme three P's: prevention of crime, protection of victims and prosecution of criminals.

LOAD-DATE: September 25, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

194 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

September 16, 2004 Thursday 5:10 AM GMT

Thai officials free 18 Laotian girls from sweatshop slavery

LENGTH: 362 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK Sept 16

Thai officials rescued 18 Laotian girls from slavery at a sweatshop in Bangkok where they were forced to work 18-hour days, were regularly beaten and badly fed, according to officials and reports.

The girls, aged between 11 and 14, were forced to live crammed together inside a secret underground chamber hidden by a pile of old cloth and wood and watched over by a guard dog, officials said.

The children's families had paid up to 5,000 baht each (120 dollars) for them to be smuggled into Thailand from Laos with the promise of work. But they were kept as slave labourers at the makeshift jeans factory and never paid.

They were promised 200 baht a day -- just above the Bangkok minimum wage -- but were not paid for months because the sweatshop owners said the money was for food and rent.

"This was the third time that this factory was raided," said Vallop Ploythaptim, permanent secretary of Thailand's ministry of social development and human security. "Some of the girls said they had been working there for four or five months."

Two girls escaped from the factory in June and told police they were beaten, badly fed and forced to work from 6am to midnight, according to Thai officials quoted by the Nation newspaper.

Thailand in August announced it was cracking down on **human trafficking**, two months after the US put the country on a **watchlist** for its failure to stamp out the illegal trade.

Human trafficking is considered a surging crisis in Asia, and several countries of the region have been strongly criticized for failing to recognize the scale of the problem.

The International Labour Organisation warned last year that hundreds of Laotian children were feared to have fallen victim to human traffickers after their families lost track of where they were.

The US State Department people trafficking report for 2004 said the totalitarian regime failed to police its borders adequately and attempts to prosecute traffickers were "weak and uncoordinated".

Some 800,000 men, women and children are estimated to be trafficked annually across borders worldwide in a billion-dollar illicit trade. Most victims of trafficking are severely exploited and many are sexually abused.

LOAD-DATE: September 17, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

195 of 359 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

September, 2004

**A. House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Trafficking in Persons(fn. 1)
(fn. 1) This article is by and large a summary of the June 24, 2004 Hearing on Trafficking in Persons before the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights. The testimonies can be found in their entirety at http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/ithrhear108.htm**

BYLINE: Lindsay Nordell

SECTION: III. HUMAN TRAFFICKING; Vol. 20, No. 9

LENGTH: 987 words

On June 24, 2004, a review of the fourth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report was held before the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation & Human Rights. Trafficking in persons is often considered the modern-day equivalent of slavery, and many countries worldwide are taking steps to stem its increase. International human trafficking remains an especially dire problem, with 600,000 to 800,000 people falling victim to it each year.(fn. 1) Of these, 80 percent are female and 50 percent are children.(fn. 3)

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 1)2 see Testimony of John R. Miller. http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/108/mil062404.htm
(fn. 3) *ibid*

-----End of Footnote-----

1. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which mandates the annual TIP Report, was passed by Congress in 2000, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), authorizing, among other things, \$200 million to fight against incoming US human trafficking, was passed in 2003. The TVPA created a **tier** system that ranks countries based on their level of proactiveness in addressing the problem of **human trafficking** within their borders. Governments that fully follow the TVPA's minimum protocol for the elimination of trafficking are placed on Tier 1. Countries which are not meeting the minimum protocol but are nonetheless taking action to eliminate trafficking are placed on Tier 2. Tier 3 consists of countries that neither meet the minimum protocol nor are making any efforts in that direction.

In order to identify countries that are in danger of falling from Tier 2 to Tier 3, the 2003 TVPRA added another tier. The so-called Tier 2 Watch List allows policy makers to distinguish between strong and weak Tier 2 countries, and to be "able to give a stern warning to those Tier 2 countries that fell backward while still taking some significant action."(fn. 4)

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(fn. 4) *ibid*

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2. Effective Methods of Combating Human Trafficking

Michele Clark, co-director of the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University, pointed to some disappointing trends in human trafficking. Of the 131 countries surveyed in the TIP Report, only 68 have any legislation regarding human trafficking. Even among these 68 countries, enforcement is lax and funding problematic.

Another difficulty in combating human trafficking, particularly international trafficking, is the varying interpretation across countries of victims of trafficking. In order to effectively combat human trafficking, she argues, legislation must take account of this. It must define human trafficking, and it must define it in terms that designate the victim as such and not as a criminal. "To law enforcement officials," Clark says, "they remain cabaret dancers or prostitutes and not victims of a crime."

3. Effect of the Report

Generally, the report has been met with approval by countries that are profiled in it. Japan was placed on Tier 2 this year, but its media has reacted well to the placement. Pakistan has also declared that its Tier 2 ranking has caused it to work on improving itself. United Arab Emirates, which received a worse rating than it had the previous year, also used the ranking as a motivation for change.(fn. 2)

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 2)5 Ibid .

-----End of Footnote-----

The TIP report is also reaping the benefits of the legal enforcement powers bestowed on the TVPRA in 2003. The 2003 TVPRA allows civil suits to be brought against traffickers under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization statue.(fn. 6) "I am particularly pleased that Director Miller took advantage of the new diplomatic tools provided to the executive branch by Congress when it reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act last year," Holly Burkhalter, Policy Director of Physicians for Human Rights said in her testimony. "The new Act's heavier emphasis on law enforcement and tangible outcomes and the creation of the Watch List add to the diplomatic tool kit and heighten the prospect that governments that fail to take appropriate steps will be subjected to economic pressure as well in the form of reduced foreign assistance."(fn. 3)

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(fn. 6) See US Department of Health and Human Services Fact Sheet: Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/TVPA_2000.html

(fn. 3)7 See http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/108/bur062404.htm

-----End of Footnote-----

4. International Accountability

The purpose of the TIP report is to provide accountability,(fn. 8) particularly international accountability. In the global community it is easy to let an international problem, such as trafficking of persons across borders, slip through the cracks, and in the dynamic field of international criminal enforcement there are a lot of cracks. By having a system that ranks countries by their ability and willingness to address human trafficking, it brings a country's problems to its own attention and to the attention of the international community.

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(fn. 8) See Testimony of Michele A. Clark. http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/108/cla062404.htm

-----End of Footnote-----

LOAD-DATE: August 19, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

196 of 359 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

September 2004

House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Trafficking in Persons n1

n1 This article is by and large a summary of the June 24, 2004 Hearing on Trafficking in Persons before the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights. The testimonies can be found in their entirety at http://wwwc.house.gov/international_relations/ithrhear108.htm

BYLINE: Lindsay Nordell

SECTION: HUMAN TRAFFICKING; Vol. 20, No. 9

LENGTH: 854 words

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LOAD-DATE: September 2, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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197 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 29, 2004 Sunday

Kenya; 'Deya Babies' Are Victims of Trafficking

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 1722 words

That the story of Archbishop Gilbert Deya's miracle "miracle babies" broke just two months after the US State Department fingered Kenya as a country deeply involved in the human traffic trade made many sit up and take notice.

The Americans are threatening to impose heavy trade sanctions on Kenya if no steps are taken to prevent human trafficking. Such sanctions would affect all businesses involved in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) scheme and could lead to even tougher times for Kenya's already cash-strapped economy.

While the Kenya police are treating the whole "miracle babies" affair with suspicion and caution, they are not yet convinced as are some NGOs that it is a human trafficking incident. However, they continue to hold a total of 21 children as they investigate the operations of the UK-based evangelist.

While Archbishop Deya, whose wife is being questioned, continues to maintain that he can and did create "miracle babies" for childless couples by exorcising demons to make them fertile, some charities have come out and said in no uncertain terms that his actions are, in fact, a front for trafficking babies from Kenya to the UK.

However, Police Spokesman Jasper Ombati told the Sunday Nation that for the time being, they were concentrating their efforts on trying to establish the parentage of the "miracle babies". "If this proves futile, then we will follow leads to try and establish the source of the children and maybe then we shall find out if they have been victims of trafficking."

One of the NGOs with an interest in the matter, the Child Rights Advisory Documentation and Legal Centre (Cradle), brought up the connection between the alleged activities of the Deyas and child trafficking, when they reminded Kenyans in a statement that since 1997, "the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women had identified Kenya as a conduit for the trafficking in women and children."

Ms Janice Ogonji, a programme officer with Cradle, gave the Sunday Nation access to material that gave a real life case study of a child who had been trafficked. The case study also went some way to show how child trafficking works.

The story is about a nine-year-old child living on the outskirts of Nairobi identified only as J.

J was a flower girl at a wedding from where she was abducted by a man who then took her to a nearby house and locked her in a room overnight before bringing yet another child, M, to join her.

The two children were kept in captivity for six days before a woman arrived to take M away. The following day, another woman came to take J away but J managed to run away and eventually found her way home.

Police investigating the kidnapping of J found that the woman who had tried to take her away actually knew J's family and had intended to exchange her for another child before having her sent to work as a domestic servant for a family far from Nairobi.

Meanwhile, as a result of the country's growing reputation for seeming lax on matters of human trafficking, Kenya risks losing substantial amounts in US aid and trade.

Earlier this year on June 14, US Secretary of State Colin Powell issued the annual trafficking in persons report and, as a result, US embassy officials told the Sunday Nation that sanctions would be imposed on Kenya if within the next year, no progress is seen in the area of the prevention of human trafficking.

Speaking to the Sunday Nation, an American government official explained that Kenya was seen by the US State Department as "a country of origin, destination and transit" for victims of human trafficking. As such, Kenya has been moved to a critical "**watch list**" where, if there is no improvement on the **human trafficking** front, the country will next June be automatically demoted from **Tier 2**, which it has inhabited for some years now, to **Tier 3**. This would mean closer and more critical scrutiny by the US Congress, which could decide to impose sanctions on the country in an effort to curb the practice.

According to the report, the Kenya government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Also the government stands accused of failing to provide evidence of its efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking.

The State Department's suggested way out of the potentially dangerous situation for the already fragile Kenyan economy is to suggest that Kenyan officials take the matter more seriously.

According to the report, the government could show its determination to combat human trafficking by developing "a national action plan, step up border security, provide training to law enforcement officials, and conduct anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns".

In connection with this, the American official said that already some funds had been disbursed to the Kenya police for the training and setting up of an anti-trafficking unit.

However, the Kenya police, through Mr Ombati, told the Sunday Nation: "As far as we know, Kenya is not in the business of trafficking. We are aware, of course, that the country is used as a conduit and we are taking corrective measures. So far, however, I don't think we are a point of origin. Having said that, of course, if we break the Deya case we may finally get evidence that we are a country of origin. So far we have no evidence pointing to this."

Nevertheless, the US report suggests that comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to combat official corruption should be passed.

The State Department ranks countries in tiers. Being a Tier 3 country makes a state eligible for trade sanctions if Congress so decides. **Tier 3** countries are also nations that are thought to be making direct profits from **trafficking in persons**.

Tier 2 countries are those where, though the government is not necessarily involved directly in **human trafficking**, they could do a bit more to improve the situation.

Kenya has traditionally been on this list as a result of incidents such as those from the early 1990s when Kenyan nationals were not protected by the government from being taken for jobs in places such as the Gulf States and the Middle East to work in inhuman conditions or as bonded labour.

The newly-created category of a watch list is designed as a sort of purgatory or stop-gap measure before a nation finds itself declared a Tier 3 country.

Tier 1 countries are those such as Canada and the United Kingdom, for instance, where the government is probably doing all it can to counter **trafficking in persons**, but is an ideal destination for human traffickers.

The US itself is not on the list and the official reckoned that this was because the report was prepared for the US Congress, where the elected representatives of the American people work and that, as representatives of the people, they were expected to have a good idea of the situation on the ground.

The American official, however, accepted that the US's exemption from the list was often used by critics to discredit the whole operation.

This year, for instance, the South American country of Venezuela was put on the Tier 3 list and accused of not doing enough to stop the trafficking of thousands of people forced into servitude or the sex trade every year.

Worried about what trade sanctions could do to the domestic economy and fragile politics of the oil rich nation, the Venezuelan government fought back with their own statistics on the US.

The Venezuelan Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Arevalo Mendez, said: "The numbers on prostitution, illegal traffic of all kinds, and the permanent violation of human rights in the US and against other nations, places the US government between the permanent violation of those rights, cynicism and arrogance."

"Has Colin Powell forgotten that 7 per cent of US agricultural workers are between 10 and 17 years old, and that [they] come mostly from the trafficking of people?" he asked.

Speaking to the Sunday Nation, the American official, who opted to remain anonymous, clarified that people or "alien" smuggling fell in a different category from trafficking in persons. Smuggling is a straight business deal with each party being aware of what they are getting into, whereas the victims of human trafficking were often abducted, or lured by false promises and then mistreated when they reached the other end.

Kenya stands accused of being "a country of origin, destination, and transit for victims trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour."

According to the report, victims are trafficked from South and East Asian countries as well as the Middle East, through Kenya to destinations in Europe for sexual exploitation.

The report is also concerned with trafficking to Kenya of Asian nationals, principally Indians, Bangladeshis and Nepalese (colloquially referred to as Rockets) who are brought here and then coerced into bonded labour in the construction and garment industries.

The US State Department is also concerned that Kenyan children are trafficked internally from rural areas to urban centres and the coast into involuntary servitude including work as street vendors, day labourers and prostitution. The report also claims that women and children are trafficked from Rwanda and Burundi to Kenya to be exploited in what it refers to as "the growing sex tourism industry."

In April last year, a UN special investigator, Juan Miguel Petit, said children from Angola and Mozambique were being trafficked and forced into prostitution on the streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town.

He added that the problem is growing with others from as far away as Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, and Ethiopia also being smuggled in to work as prostitutes. Mr Petit argued that the children were forced into the business by mainly Angolan, Congolese, and Nigerian syndicates.

He said that despite the fact that child trafficking in South Africa was not yet recognised as a criminal offence, police there had conceded that more needed to be done to tackle the problem. "The police authorities recognise that the problem exists, of course," he said. "They deal with the problem. They also say at the same time that the problem has no exact figures."

He says that the international police system, Interpol, had been invited to get involved.

LOAD-DATE: August 30, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

198 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

August 29, 2004 Sunday

PanAfrica; Human Trafficking Thrives, Barons Escape Justice

BYLINE: Vanguard**LENGTH:** 2252 words

During its annual conference of June, 2002, the International Labour Organization (ILO) declared June 12 World Day Against Child Labour. It was a day set aside for highlighting the global movement to eliminate child labour.

This was after the ILO had adopted Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. To demonstrate its commitment to the elimination of child labour, the ILO set up a department, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). IPEC has worked in many countries including Nigeria. Nigeria has also benefitted from financial support towards the elimination of child labour from the United States Labor Department, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and other non-governmental organizations.

However, the problem persists. Human trafficking, its social implications, efforts so far taken and the expectations of the international community is the focus of this article.

IN June 2002, when the ILO declared the World Day Against Child Labour, the ILO at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, presented two teenagers as evidence of child labour. A Nigerian girl, Comfort, who was a child prostitute, was one of those presented.

Comfort who was born in Akwa- Ibom state was rehabilitated under the ILO/ IPEC programme. What then is the link between Child Labour and Human Trafficking? Studies have shown that human trafficking is the first stage of what results in child labour. Children are trafficked from their countries of origin to other countries or cities to do hazardous work such as forced labour, prostitution, domestic help, etc.

The ILO in its report on Child Labour released during the 2004 conference stated that " Child domestic labour is a widespread and growing global phenomenon that traps as many as 10 million or more - mostly girls in hidden forms of exploitation, often involving abuse, health risks and violence". It identifies the worst form of child domestic labour as that which is " extremely hazardous to the child because of the tasks given, conditions of work or physical, emotional and sexual abuse; practices similar to slavery such as debt bondage or forced labour, and child domestic labour into which a child has been trafficked".

Back home in Nigeria, prompted mainly by the activities of non-governmental organizations, the National Assembly passed the anti-trafficking law in June 2003 and established the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). Beyond these, the federal government appears unwilling to do more to stop human trafficking. Headlines such as "Police rescue 64 children from suspected traffickers", "Royal father in child trafficking scandal", "Police nab four human traffickers" appear in our newspapers almost on a daily basis.

Trafficking in children

All the stories confirm that some people have been arrested for engaging in the trafficking of children from one state to another within Nigeria and while others are taken across the borders. Recently, officials of the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons were in Nigeria. The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons monitors the efforts of governments and non-governmental organizations in many countries directed at putting an end to human trafficking.

Its report on human trafficking in West Africa stated that thousands of children are trafficked from Benin Republic to Nigeria, Ghana, Gabon, Cote-D' Ivoire and Cameroon into forced labour situations which include, "agricultural labour, quarries, domestic service and prostitution".

On Cameroon, the report states, " Cameroon is a destination country for Nigeria and Beninese children trafficked to work in commercial agriculture, bars, auto parts shops, prostitution, or as street vendors.

It is also a transit country for the movement of children between Nigeria and Gabon".

Cote D' Ivoire - as stated in the report, " women are trafficked from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Asian countries for sexual exploitation in Abidjan and other urban centres. Some of these women are forced to prostitute themselves to earn money to reimburse the traffickers, to buy their release so their traffickers can send them to final destinations, including Italy, the Netherlands and Scandinavia". The situation in Ghana, Togo, Niger and other countries are similar.

For Nigeria, the report states, " Nigeria is a source, transit and destination country for trafficked women and children. Nigerians are trafficked to Europe, the Middle East and other countries for the purposes of forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. Nigerian girls and women are trafficked for forced prostitution to Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Cote d' Ivoire and South Africa. Nigerian children are trafficked for involuntary domestic labour and street hawking within Nigeria and to countries in West and Central Africa.

Nigeria is a destination country for Togolese, Beninese, Ghanaian and Cameroonian children trafficked for forced labour".

Beyond the report, child labour is visible on our streets. Children are mostly used as house helps. They also work as feet washers, hawkers, porters in major the markets. Others are bus conductors. The worst cases have been those of children murdered for ritually purposes but it would appear that Nigerians have not come to appreciate the negative effect of human trafficking and child labour.

Human trafficking barons have been able to get away without the long arms of the law catching up with them. The governments; state and federal, have not provided medical facilities for victims. Once rescued, they are thrown back into the streets.

Ms. JoAnn Schwider of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, who was in Nigeria recently, said the agency is not pleased with the failure of governments in Nigeria to punish offenders. Her words, "We are looking forward to government bringing traffickers to justice because laws are just on paper if they are not enforced. We were extremely disappointed with the lack of prosecutions. It is disappointing for the victims".

Her colleague Mr. Nicholas Levingtow said "it is important for governments to educate people on the dangers of child trafficking". He said the agency understands that poverty and labour migration provides a shield for those who traffick in children but AP TIP is expected to create awareness .

Levingtow said although Nigeria is not expected to solve the problem of child trafficking at once, the government should show commitment in terms of prosecution and prevention of trafficking so that traffickers can get the message that Nigeria is no longer a safe haven for traffickers. For instance, in Ghana, a report from the monitoring office based in Washington showed that two persons were recently sentenced to two year jail terms for attempting to sell a child.

To create awareness on the dangers of child trafficking and child labour, the Ghana National Commission on Children conducted community gatherings nationwide to discuss the hazards of trafficking. That country's ministry of women and children affairs also introduced a programme, " Operation Bring Your Children Home" which was aimed at encouraging parents who sold their children to bring them home in exchange for business assistance, vocational training, credit facilities and assistance with school fees and uniforms. A Women' Development Fund was also established from which mothers of trafficked children received loans and business training to help them start small enterprises.

To assist Nigeria tackle the problem of trafficking in persons, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Nigeria office granted \$500,00, to the International Office for Migration (IOM) to support a shelter in Lagos for returned trafficking victims, mostly women deported from European countries.

USAID mission director in Nigeria, Ms. Dawn Liberi, said the financial assistance was to provide shelter, training in skills for victims to enable them have economic alternatives and also to assist the victims return to school. She said Delta and Rivers State had also been identified as states to benefit from such assistance soon. Ms. Liberi like the officials

from the Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons officials commended the efforts of Nigeria so far but emphasized that public awareness is very important if Nigeria is to effectively tackle the problem of human trafficking.

By the assessment of the United States Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, Nigeria is on the "**Tier 2- Watch list**", which means Nigeria has made significant efforts but she still needs to do more.

The report states, "Nigeria is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List because of the continued significant complicity of Nigerian security personnel in trafficking and the lack of evidence of increasing efforts to address this complicity. Unlike other governments in the region, the Nigerian government does not face severe resource constraints, yet it commits inadequate funding and personnel to the fight against Nigeria's serious trafficking problem".

Corrupt officials

It was suggested that the government "should move quickly to implement the new law through vigorous high court prosecutions of corrupt officials and traffickers; it should also give adequate support to the new anti-trafficking agency and improve protection facilities or funding for NGO protection activities".

However, the report commended some state governments for their efforts. Imo state government repatriated 29 victims from Gabon during the year while Edo and Abia states ran skills acquisition centres for trafficking victims. Akwa- Ibom state government worked with the government of Cameroon to effect the repatriation of Nigerian children trafficked to that country".

The United States Agency noted that victims of trafficking from overseas are provided shelter but those trafficked within the country are usually kept in jails. The Agency prefers that all victims are provided decent shelter and medical facilities. It notes that "sex trafficking victims returned from abroad are usually forcibly tested for HIV/AIDS; the results of these tests are not kept confidential". It prefers that the results are kept confidential.

Why the international concern on human trafficking and Child Labour?

The International Labour Organisation during its June conference in Geneva, Switzerland released a report on a research conducted by its IPEC department titled "Helping Hands or Shackled Lives? Understanding child domestic labour and responses to it". The report highlights the exploitation of children as young as 10 on a global level.

ILO director-general, Mr. Juan Somavia, said, "Millions of children work night and day outside of their family homes, toiling as domestic child labourers. Nearly all are exploited, exposed to hazardous work and subjected to abuse".

As stated in the ILO report, "all domestic child labourers, without exception, are at risk because of the very nature of child domestic labour, which is not only widely accepted but often considered a "better" alternative for children from poor families".

The author of the report, Dr. June Kane, said, these children are in the workplace, "even if that workplace is someone else's home- hidden from public view and labour inspection. The children are consequently at risk not only of exploitation but also of abuse and violence. It is vital that child domestic labour, so often neglected because the exploitation and abuse take place behind closed doors, receives attention".

The director of the ILO/ IPEC programme, Mr. Frans Roselaers, described child domestic labour as "a waste of human talent and potential". He said "with the help of constructive and sustainable solutions from the ILO technical cooperation programme, governments, employers and workers worldwide stand ready to put an end to this abuse".

However the ILO report states: "Not all child domestics end up without a future. ILO experience in Asia, Central and South America and Africa shows that with strong social and national institutions, and income or credit options for the parents, children under the minimum working age can be successfully removed from domestic labour".

Financial assistance

The United States Government through agencies such as USAID and the embassy's labour department has offered Nigeria technical and financial assistance to enable her tackle the twin problem of human trafficking and child labour.

The American Secretary of State, Collin Powell, in his comments on the 2004 annual trafficking in persons report released in the United States, said the report "represents the collective work of our embassies, as well as foreign governments and NGO partners throughout the world who are committed to ending the scourge of slavery. We intend to use it as a guide in our efforts in the coming year to combat the trafficking of persons around the globe through improved laws, regulation, monitoring, enforcement and the protection of victims".

Mr. Powell called human trafficking " modern-slavery".

He said citizens of the U.S.A. who prey on foreign children around the globe for commercial sex are no longer beyond the reach of U.S. prosecution. Powell therefore called on governments all over the world to " join in the effort to prosecute these pedophiles through the application of similar laws".

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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199 of 359 DOCUMENTS



Saudi Press Agency

August 29, 2004 Sunday 4:55 PM EST**SPA -33- General\, Guyanese president travels to****BYLINE:** Saudi Press Agency**LENGTH:** 204 words**DATELINE:** Riyadh, August 29

Guyana President Bharrat Jagdeo is to hold talks with officials of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for a 108m-US-dollar loan to the country, the state-owned Government Information Agency (Gina) has said..

It said that the loan is expected to materialize by September 2005..

Gina said that Jagdeo, who leaves here this weekend [28-29 August] for Washington, would discuss with the IADB officials how soon Georgetown could access the loan and that he would also participate in a review and programming of priority projects..

Gina said that among the priority projects include the construction of a new road to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport at Timehri.

It said the discussion with the IADB would also focus on the 10m-US-dollar existing loan that Guyana wants to use to construct the Berbice River Bridge..

"I intend to have discussions with the IADB on how soon we can release those resources so that we can move forward speedily with construction of the bridge," Jagdeo said.

While in Washington, Jagdeo will meet with United States government officials on the recent decision to provide a **Tier-Three** ranking for **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP), Gina said..

--More 2318 Local Time 2018 GMT

LOAD-DATE: February 12, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** SPA

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200 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

August 26, 2004 Thursday

Gov't eyes tougher visa screening on foreign dancers, singers

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 407 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, Aug. 26

The Justice Ministry intends to tighten its visa screening on foreign women entering Japan as dancers and singers to try to prevent crime syndicates from forcing them into prostitution, ministry officials said Thursday.

The move comes amid growing international criticism against Japan's efforts to combat human trafficking, the officials said. Critics call Japan's efforts in the area weak.

In its annual **Trafficking in Person** Report released in June, the U.S. State Department put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries that are on the verge of falling into the worst category.

The Justice Ministry is considering revising a ministerial ordinance that serves as a basis for setting standards used for approving a person's status of residence, the officials said, adding concrete measures are being mapped out within the year.

The current ordinance requires entertainment operators that plan to host foreign citizens to have no past record of offenses in terms of Japan's immigration or anti-prostitution laws.

The ministry is also considering setting stricter conditions on the number of employees at entertainment facilities, and the size of stages and performer waiting rooms, the officials said.

At present, the ministry starts launching investigation only if problems are reported regarding the producer or entertainment facilities.

Under the envisioned screening, the ministry would have to check the performers' future workplaces or performance sites for illicit activity as frequently as possible as well as documenting screening prior to entry and for every visa renewal, the officials said.

Should the ministry uncover any prostitution taking place, it will also file a criminal complaint.

In addition to all this, the ministry is expected to propose to its Legislative Council in September revisions to the Penal Code, one of which is to create a new charge for human trafficking.

Activities covered under entertainment visas include performing in concerts, theaters and sporting events, and the duration of stay lasts from three months to one year. Those who come to Japan holding the visas are prohibited from working as bar hostesses.

Ministry statistics show the number of people entering Japan on entertainment visas has been increasing since 1997. Last year, 133,000 people entered Japan under such visas with Filipinos constituting about 60 percent or some 80,000.

LOAD-DATE: August 26, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

201 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

August 25, 2004 Wednesday 7:45 AM GMT**Thai official busted for trafficking in Myanmar labourers****LENGTH:** 222 words**DATELINE:** MAE SOT, Thailand Aug 25

A local official in Thailand has been arrested with her husband for illegally smuggling Myanmar workers into the kingdom, police said Wednesday.

Khomkhai Boonsitakul, 60, was taken into custody Tuesday at her house in the Mae Sot district of western Tak province with four Myanmar nationals after a warrant was issued for her arrest on charges of smuggling and sheltering illegal workers, police said.

An investigation showed that Khomkhai and her husband ran a human trafficking ring and job placement service for hundreds of Myanmar labourers, a policeman told AFP.

Police found records for 50 bank accounts along with hundreds of dollars worth of Myanmar currency, as well as a 100-name list of Myanmar labourers who apparently obtained work through the suspects.

Thailand launched a war on **human trafficking** in early August, nearly two months after the United States put it on a **watchlist** for its failure to make progress in stamping out the illegal trade.

Some 850,000 illegal migrant workers from Myanmar and 350,000 from Cambodia and Laos registered with the Thai authorities in July after being threatened with arrest and deportation.

Human rights groups have highlighted deteriorating conditions for up to two million migrant workers in the kingdom, who often live and toil in squalor in dozens of factories along the Myanmar border.

LOAD-DATE: August 26, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

202 of 359 DOCUMENTS

CNN INTERNATIONAL

August 19, 2004 Thursday**SHOW:** INSIGHT 11:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Human Trafficking in Japan

GUESTS: John Miller, Gilbert King**BYLINE:** Jonathan Aiken, Atika Shubert, Stan Grant**SECTION:** NEWS, INTERNATIONAL**LENGTH:** 3717 words**HIGHLIGHT:** A look at the problem of human trafficking, particularly in Japan.

JONATHAN AIKEN, CNN HOST: It brings in nearly as much money to organized crime and cooperating governments as arms sales or the drug trade, and every year between 600,000 and 800,000 women, children, even men, find themselves sent across borders, often against their will or without their knowledge. It's called trafficking in persons.

Hello everyone and welcome to INSIGHT. I'm Jonathan Aiken.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar business. It spawns sex industries. It keeps some agricultural economies afloat and it has helped to subsidize a global network of sweatshops and smugglers.

In May, the U.S. State Department released its annual report on the trafficking of persons worldwide. It divided countries into three general categories based on their efforts to combat the problem. Many of the countries on the list, no surprise, but some, like Japan, were. And Japan found itself in the company of 41 other nations where, in the eyes of U.S. officials, the number of victims of human trafficking is on the rise and the government is on official notice from Washington that it needs to do better.

On our program today, the global trade in people.

Atika Shubert begins our coverage in Tokyo, Japan.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ATIKA SHUBERT, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): It is a sight in plain view in Japan. Foreign women working the bars and streets of red light districts euphemistically called talent. They have brokers and pimps, managers, but the life of a talent is anything but entertaining.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE (through translator): I wanted to quit, but the mafia didn't let me. They forced me into prostitution, even when I was pregnant. They followed me and threatened to kill my baby if I didn't (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

SHUBERT: She says she is a victim of human trafficking. Afraid for her life, she refuses to be identified. She says she was lured from Colombia with promises of a casino job. A broker, she says, gave her a fake passport and a number to call. The woman who answered was a so-called manager.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE (through translator): She told me I could not go home because they would kill my family. Then she told me I had to pay \$50,000.

SHUBERT: A U.S. State Department report on **human trafficking** described Japan as having a large problem in trafficking, placing the country on a **watch list**.

The report says, quote, "Considering the resources available, Japan could do much more to protect its thousands of victims of sexual slavery."

(on camera): Japan has no law that specifically makes human trafficking a crime, making it virtually impossible to prosecute. But the deeper problem is public awareness. Many people here do not know or willfully ignore that many of these women are would into prostitution against their will.

(voice-over): Omira Nagatska (ph) at the Colombian embassy has helped dozens of victims seeking refuge at the embassy. Many arrive battered and penniless, turned away by police.

OMIRA NAGATSKA (ph), COLOMBIAN EMBASSY (through translator): Japan is a paradise for traffickers. We brought one victim to the police and told them that she is a victim of human trafficking. He told me there is no human trafficking in Japan. If there is no human trafficking, what is she? She is illegal, the officer says.

SHUBERT: But the government is taking steps to combat trafficking, distributing this video to raise awareness, debating a new law in parliament that would officially make trafficking a crime, but the roots of the problem remain.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If I day say a very politically incorrect thing, we didn't see in our history a (UNINTELLIGIBLE) system (UNINTELLIGIBLE) but I must say that this was a surprise for us all, for the public. Some of those ladies were (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

SHUBERT: Japan does have a history, although not openly discussed. World War II comfort women, sex slaves from conquered nations forces to service Japanese soldiers. In the same way the past has not been addressed, neither is the present.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Our public policy is the (UNINTELLIGIBLE) of the people's role, of people's (UNINTELLIGIBLE). There is a misconception among Japanese society and in this case our view is that (UNINTELLIGIBLE) out of state workers in illegal businesses.

SHUBERT: Compounding the problem, Japan's poor support network. This is the only women's shelter in Japan that caters to foreign victims. It has only nine rooms.

One Philippino woman fled her Japanese husband here. She married him without knowing he paid her cousin a fee for providing a wife. She says when he tried to kill her, she reported him to police and found that he had married twice before, each time paying a cousin a few hundred dollars for a new wife.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) in the house. I cannot come back, because my husband get (UNINTELLIGIBLE) for me and then to tell me "I kill you."

SHUBERT: Do you feel tricked?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes. I do.

SHUBERT: Her husband remains free, as does her cousin in the Philippines. Trafficking, less visible, just as insidious.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's not trafficking in itself, but it is trafficking because the -- how should I say -- though there is no syndicate or there's no gun that's at the back of their having the deals or something like that, but the person is being sold.

SHUBERT: Japan is the world's second largest economy, an economic powerhouse. Little wonder that the world's poor come here to make money from Colombia, Philippines, Thailand and now Russia and the Ukraine. Few women suspect they will be sold into sexual slavery.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE (through translator): There are many girls that come here deceived. Don't come here. Everything is a lie. In Colombia, they will draw a paradise for you, but when you get here, it is hell.

SHUBERT (on camera): Japan is now on a watch list, but the State Department says it can be taken off if the country takes concrete steps. Making it a crime to trade in people is one. Enforcing that law is the next. Most important, however, is awakening the public to this crime committed in plain view every day.

Atika Shubert, CNN, Tokyo.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

AIKEN: Joining us now from Seattle, Ambassador John Miller. He is the director of the U.S. State Department's Office To Monitor And Combat Trafficking In Persons.

Mr. Ambassador, thanks very much for joining us.

Is it that things in Japan has changed, or is it that the State Department has changed the way in which it monitors this that Japan finds itself on a watch list?

JOHN MILLER, U.S. STATE DEPT.: Well, we're operating with a law that's only be in effect a couple of years, and I think in the last year or two we've come to realize that this is not just a problem in the less developed nations of the world where trafficking victims may originate. It's a problem in wealthier destination countries where the trafficking victims end up.

Japan is one. Western Europe, also. The United States. We're all destination countries.

I think what stood out about Japan was the huge nature of the problem and the relatively small amount of resources devoted by this wealthy democracy towards meeting the problem.

AIKEN: Was it they didn't know the problem existed? Or they just didn't want to take action in stronger terms?

MILLER: Well, I think that there certainly has been in the last several months a growing awareness of the problem in Japan. I think that's been true all over the world in the last year or two, but particularly in Japan.

Many countries, people think, oh, slavery, that's something from the 19th century. But modern day slavery is going on in many parts of the world.

The positive news in Japan is in the last several months we have seen the start of some very significant steps. The prime minister has appointed a special task force on this. They're drafting a comprehensive anti- trafficking law. They're looking at reviewing their whole so-called entertainer visa policy. There are many steps that appear to be underway. So we're hopeful that Japan, a leading democracy, will take the lead in combating trafficking in persons, which is just a euphemism for the slave trade.

AIKEN: It's a broad issue. Paint a big picture for us. The report says that in terms of a revenue stream, this is right up there with illegal gun sales or drugs, when it comes to organized crime or cooperating governments. How big a till are we talking here?

MILLER: We're talking billions and billions of dollars.

Our FBI believes that it may be as high as \$9.5 billion a year for organized crime, and that would place it behind the arms trade and the drug trade, the trade in people, here in the 21st century.

AIKEN: But what has changed significantly between the 21st century and ot he centuries in the past? People have always been bought or sold or fought into slavery. What makes it different now?

MILLER: I think a couple hundred years ago, you had largely government-sanctioned slavery, often based on color.

Today you don't have governments officially supporting slavery. They may look the other way, but they're not supporting it. But what you have are organized criminal networks. It's the underside of globalization, is organized criminal networks moving people from country to country, some into sex slavery, some into domestic servitude slavery, some into farm and factory slavery.

And I think in the last several years, Jonathan, governments in the world are starting to wakeup, are starting to take steps, and of course non-governmental organizations, private charitable organizations, have been the lead and have been undertaking efforts to get governments to wake up.

AIKEN: Is there any one issue that set off the alarm on this worldwide?

MILLER: I don't think there's any one issue. I think if you look at just about every country in the world, you'll find a major incident.

Japan, a couple of years ago, there was a man who was arrested who had been involved with hundreds of trafficking victims, probably engineered thousands of rapes. This started to get attention for this subject in Japan.

United States, there are several major cities that have had big cases.

AIKEN: Secretary of State Powell was quoted as saying about this, "Human trafficking could very well help to finance terrorist activity," and yet he was somewhat vague on this.

Is there any concrete evidence to suggest that it's out there?

MILLER: Well, I think there's concrete evidence that a select number of terrorist groups are using trafficking to get recruits. They're abducting children and making them child soldier slaves. That we know.

In terms of other financing, there is research going on on that, but there is not any hard evidence that I can make available at this time.

AIKEN: Ambassador John Miller, from the U.S. State Department, from his post in Seattle, Washington. Thank you very much for being with us.

MILLER: Glad you're covering this subject -- Jonathan.

AIKEN: Thank you, sir.

When we come back, on INSIGHT, children as young as 12 being sold into the sex industry in Thailand. We'll have a report from Bangkok.

Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

AIKEN (voice-over): Back in May, CNN aired a documentary called "Easy Prey." It was a rare look inside the child sex trade.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

AIKEN: Welcome back.

Although it is thought that as many as 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, millions more are bought and sold within the borders of their own countries and in some cases by their own impoverished families. And for some children, that's almost a death sentence.

CNN's Stan Grant reports now from Thailand.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

STAN GRANT, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): These girls admit they are what they look like. They are prostitutes. They exist in a shadowy, secretive world, afraid even to show their faces.

They have agreed to talk to us, but are nervous about the camera, and we filmed discreetly. The mere sight of it is enough to spook them. They tell me they're 20. They look more like 12, at best 14.

"We sleep with foreigners," they tell me. Japanese and Chinese, some Westerners.

I ask them how they feel about that. "We just go blank," they say.

They do it for money. One girl tells me she needs to support her younger brother. Their families, they say, know what they do.

The girls used to go to this school in a town on the Thai-Myanmar border. Now they work for the pimps of the sex trade.

Thailand is notorious for its trade in young girls. From poor villages or nearby countries, many find themselves here in Bangkok's red light districts. They serve the desires of tourists or businessmen.

According to social workers and welfare groups, girls as young as 10 are sold into brothels here. In some areas they say as many as 90 percent of the girls who leave their villages become prostitutes, often they are sold by their own parents.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Many parents or cousins, relatives, who know that young girls, cheap girls from the village, when they arrive they can make a lot of money, so those people will just try to introduce them to, bring them to a person (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

GRANT (on camera): Their own family?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, yes. Right now I can say most of them are there own people.

GRANT (voice-over): (UNINTELLIGIBLE) has made it his mission to save young girls from the sex trade. He runs a safe house here, The Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities. He's been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2002 he was named one of "Time" magazine's Asian Heroes.

But his greatest achievement, he says, is seeing girls grow up free, healthy, and getting an education. It is, he concedes, a tough battle. He's had death threats from traffickers who deal not only in sex, but drugs.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The pimps or the broker, they have to control these groups by giving them some drugs or something so they will not run away from them, and they took all documents they might have. Maybe ID cards.

GRANT: These are the lucky girls. They are among the nearly 1,000 children rescued by (UNINTELLIGIBLE) since his center started in 1996.

It began with just 19 girls. At any one time now there are about 200 here.

"I have been saved," this girl tells me. "There is no chance for me to go out at night. If I was at home, I'd be on the streets, which is dangerous."

The children here are from bordering countries such as Laos, China and, like this girl, Myanmar.

"It's a big risk," she says. "It's very easy to be raped in Myanmar and put into forced labor." She tells me she knows some girls who have been taken.

(on camera): To understand what's at the root of the sex trade, you must first understand what's happening in countries like Myanmar, not 50 meters from where I'm standing.

Now, the United States has warned of an impending humanitarian crisis there. Human rights groups have complained of violence, rape, torture and false imprisonment. And that makes children especially vulnerable.

(voice-over): Dr. Cynthia Moong (ph) is a refugee from Myanmar. There are tens of thousands like her on the Thai border. Here she has setup a clinic and schools. The aim, she says, is not just to educate but protect.

DR. CYNTHIA MOONG (ph): They school becomes like a protection center because the children are very vulnerable (UNINTELLIGIBLE) can be kidnapped or (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

GRANT: The government in Thailand is trying to clamp down on the sex trade. It has imposed new, strict limits on closing times for bars. They can no longer stay open all night. But the image of Thailand as a sex tour destination remains.

(on camera): Is this a problem that is too big, too difficult, for the police?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I cannot say the traffickers are stronger than the police, but they get away with it. The fact that we still have lots of problems that cannot be reached. There are thousands of young girls who are the victims of trafficking, missing in other countries.

GRANT (voice-over): And thousands of girls, like these two, who are lured into the sex trade each year. They try to shrug it off, but they are young and vulnerable, and it shows.

Do they think of getting married, falling in love, I ask them.

"No one would want us," they say. "No one would be sincere with girls like us."

What of the future?

"We don't think about the future," they tell me. "Only now, and making money."

(END VIDEOTAPE)

AIKEN: Well, joining us to talk more about this is Gilbert King. He is the author of a book called "Women: Child For Sale," and he joins us from New York.

Mr. King, thanks for being with us.

GILBERT KING, AUTHOR: Thanks for having me.

AIKEN: How typical are the children Stan Grant talked to?

KING: Actually, those are the victims, right there.

You know, 70 percent of the victims of human trafficking are women. 50 percent are children. So that's a typical story and, believe me, the same exact stories you hear from countries like Uzbekistan to Bulgaria -- the same exact stories of deception, fraud, sometimes by their own families, that get them into human trafficking.

AIKEN: It sounds like an old story. What makes this new for the 21st century?

KING: I think it's new because, you know, the world is moving towards a global economy, and as goods are moved between nations now, you're seeing more and more of an epidemic in human trafficking.

And so, you know, I was listening to John Miller earlier. He was saying that the African slave trade -- right now, there's 24 million victims of human trafficking living as slaves right now. And when you look back to Africa, over 400 years of the African slave trade, there's twice as many living today than that entire span. So that's an epidemic.

AIKEN: Where is the focus of all of this going? Is it going more for the sex trade or more for cheap labor? It's exploitation no matter which way you cut it, but who is going to be winning? The sex operators or those who run sweatshops and things?

KING: The sex -- no. It's 70 percent -- according to the State Department statistics, 70 percent are in the sex trade.

And what's really frightening about this is that, you know, back in African slave trade times you had a plantation owner who would like at an African slave as a \$30,000 investment. He wanted to maximize that investment.

The slave traders today, they don't see a 30 year investment in a sex trade operator. What they see is a three, maybe a four year period of maximum output, and so these lives are just bought and sold at a very low price, just \$1,000. And they're basically discarded. It's a disposable industry.

AIKEN: I was just going to say, it sounds like a disposable issue, a disposable problem, really, when you think about it.

KING: Right.

AIKEN: So where is it focused now? Is this an international issue or an intra-national issue? We heard reports of people within border of their own countries being sold by their own families into servitude within their nation. Is this something that only extends across borders or is this something that each individual house is embarrassed to talk about?

KING: That's exactly -- good point.

You know, the statistics of 24 million living in slavery right now does not begin to talk about countries like India, where they're transported from smaller villages and brought into the cities. We really have no way of tracking those numbers.

But in those kinds of cities, South Asia especially, in those kinds of countries, we really don't have a way of tracking, but we know it's significant.

AIKEN: Missing from all of this so far has been a conversation about the United States. The idea of sex trade taking place in Thailand or Mexico, not surprising for many. What about the United States? Is this an issue within the borders of this country?

KING: It certainly is. I mean, the numbers are not quite as staggering. I think the State Department estimates somewhere around 17,000 per years are coming into the United States. But it's a very quiet thing. You don't hear about it because the media tends to report it as a prostitution issue, you know, more prostitutes having pimp problems. Let's arrest them and deport them.

Really, what is happening is these women are just too scared to say that they are victims of human trafficking. Their families are being threatened back home in, say, Mexico, whatever countries they come from, and so they don't cooperate at all with authorities, and that's a big problem.

I mean, down in Florida a couple of years ago you had the Catena (ph) family who was bringing these Mexican girls in, sneaking them into these migrant farm working areas, and basically keeping them there for a few weeks and then moving them on to another migrant farm area. It never really got a lot of attention until they found these shacks that were just used for these women and young girls to basically turn tricks for the migrant workers and then be deported back out of the country.

AIKEN: Let me get a real quick answers from you -- we're almost out of time here. What is the solution? These reports come out year after year. What's the answer?

KING: I think it's probably education. A lot of the countries now in the tier (ph) system of countries that you heard John Miller talking about, are starting these public awareness campaigns and they're trying to put pressure for prosecution, to try and prosecute some of the human traffickers.

AIKEN: All right, Gilbert King, author, talking to us from New York. Thanks very much for spending time with us today.

KING: Thank you.

AIKEN: Thank you.

Well, that is it for this edition of INSIGHT. I'm Jonathan Aiken. The news continues on CNN.

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TYPE: SHOW

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203 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

August 16, 2004, Monday

Bangladesh paper says US trafficking wish-list "almost fulfilled"

SOURCE: New Age web site, Dhaka, in English 16 Aug 04

LENGTH: 520 words

Text of report by Ehsanul Haque and Raheed Ejaz, carried by Bangladeshi newspaper New Age web site on 16 August Dhaka has "almost fulfilled" Washington's six-point recommendations on combating human trafficking out of Bangladesh within the US state department-set timeframe of 60 days that expired on Saturday 14 August , home ministry officials claimed on Sunday.

The government now hopes that the US state department will reassess its ranking of Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries of origin for human trafficking.

US ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K. Thomas, however, declined to make any comment on the issue at this stage. "It is too early and premature to say anything about the position of Bangladesh in the ranking," he told New Age on Sunday.

Although optimistic about a change in Washington's stance, the home ministry officials did admit that a major area of concern - corruption within the law enforcing agencies - still remains largely unaddressed.

Following America's insistence on prosecuting at least one security official involved in trafficking, the government took measures against two security guards who had already been sacked.

The government earlier informed the US state department that there had been no reports of complicity of any official in trafficking since 15 June, when the 14 August deadline was given to fulfil the six points.

"Bangladesh is committed to taking the most serious of actions against anyone including security officials having any complicity in trafficking," Dhaka's letter to Washington said, adding that it is extremely difficult for any official to have such complicity due to continuous monitoring.

The five other recommendations were activation of an anti-trafficking unit of the police, appointment of a special prosecutor for speedy trial tribunals, development and implementation of systematic BDR Bangladesh Rifles screening to identify victims, rescue of at least 100 victims along the border with India, and initiating prosecution of at least three new cases.

Out of 20 selected cases across the country, 15 cases were disposed of till 15 August. Of them, two cases were related to the use of children as camel jockeys in the Middle East.

In these cases, 28 people were convicted while 16 acquitted, a home ministry official said quoting records.

About the appointment of a special prosecutor, he said a deputy attorney-general was assigned to take steps in this regard.

Also, 88 victims of human trafficking were recovered out of a target of 100 people as set by Washington.

The foreign affairs ministry, meanwhile, has taken an initiative to develop a mechanism to exchange information on trafficking.

"We will soon send a report to the US state department about the latest developments," the home ministry official said.

Washington has ranked Bangladesh in **tier** three of countries of origin for **human trafficking** along with Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, North Korea, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Venezuela in the **Trafficking in Persons** Report of 2004 published on 14 June.

LOAD-DATE: August 16, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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204 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

August 12, 2004
Correction Appended

G2: Women: Tracking the traffickers: Victor Malarek, author of a new book about the global sex trade, says we should stop focusing on its victims and start prosecuting those who buy and sell them

BYLINE: Julie Bindel

SECTION: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 14

LENGTH: 1739 words

For the past four years, Victor Malarek has immersed himself in the world of pimps, traffickers, rapists and some of the most disenfranchised women and girls in the world. One of Canada's leading investigative journalists, he is the author of a new book about the global sex trade, *The Natashas*, a harsh introduction into a business that causes uncalculated misery to hundreds of thousands of young women.

The title refers to the generic name given by customers to the women and girls trafficked across international borders every year; the US state department currently puts this figure at around 900,000, most of them from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Malarek estimates that trafficking in women generates about \$ 12bn (£6.6bn) a year, making it the third largest money-making venture in the world, after trafficking in weapons and drugs.

Malarek's book takes us to auctions in Bosnia, where women are displayed naked on wooden crates to be poked and prodded like livestock. He hears stories of rape, abuse and torture on a shocking scale. But he avoids repeating what counter-trafficking activists already know, and what has been said many times before - that these women deserve our pity and compassion. There have been countless international events set up to address the issue of trafficking, but in Malarek's view the focus has been too much on the women forced into it, and not enough on the traffickers themselves, the perpetrators of the crime; there has been too much hand-wringing, and not enough action and enforcement. "We have spent millions researching the causes," he says, "and on international talking shops drawing up action plans and new legislation. But unless we implement these laws, and give police more money to investigate and prosecute the pimps, we will get nowhere."

The Natashas is an angry, impassioned book, for which Malarek makes no apologies. He describes the people who buy and sell women as "low-life criminals", "gutter trash" and "heartless goons". He does not make a distinction between "forced" and "chosen" prostitution - as many campaigners in the field do - but outlines the human rights abuses evident in the sex industry per se. He also identifies customers as a large part of the problem. "Let's look at how societies can discourage men from buying these women," he says, "which would reduce the supply. Some people justify prostitution by saying, 'It's the world's oldest profession.' I say there are ways to stop this. Trafficking is an easy crime to solve. If I can find the brothels and traffickers, so can the police. Just look in the tabloid personal advertisements for a start." These men are not looking for relationships, he says. "They want sex with a faceless female. Those who use trafficked women want to pretend that they are not like their sisters, mothers or partners."

Born in Lachine, Quebec, in 1948, Malarek was taken into care when he was nine, and grew up in a children's home. Before that, he regularly witnessed his father beat his mother in fits of drunken rage. As a teenager, he spent time in juvenile correction centres for petty crimes, but then decided to turn his life around and got a job as a copy boy on a Montreal magazine.

A front-page story for the Montreal Star in 1971 about the suicide of three boys in a Canadian correction centre launched him as a serious investigative reporter. He has since become a passionate advocate for the abused and the

marginalised, writing books about Canada's immigration policy and drugs trade, as well as hosting a television documentary series, *The Fifth Element*. "As a writer, I have always relied on my gut," he says. "If I feel a story is important, I will go all out to expose it."

When Malarek began research for *The Natashas* in 2000, journalists in Canada and elsewhere were by and large uninterested in the subject. "I would see stories coming in through the wires about the abduction and mass rape of Moldovan, Russian and Bosnian girls, but no one was following them up. I decided it was something I could not ignore," he says.

Focusing mainly on trafficking from the former Soviet Republic, Malarek examines the role of the Russian mafia, as well as the Albanian, Israeli, Czech, Serbian, Hungarian and Ukrainian gangs involved in international pimping. He reserves his fiercest criticism for those EU countries that have gone some way toward legalising prostitution in the belief that it will alleviate illegal elements within the sex trade. Governments should come down hard on criminals, he says, not improve their working conditions.

"Countries like the Netherlands and Germany (which have legalised 'off-street' prostitution) should hang their heads in shame," he says. "They should walk into the UN building with their flags held at half-mast for what their policies on the sex trade have done to thousands of young women. Traffickers have been given a red carpet to walk on in those countries."

His no-tolerance stance is not shared by some in the UK. Liverpool city council will seek Home Office approval for a "managed zone" for street prostitutes this November, and last month shortlisted two industrial estates as possible sites. The council maintains that a common area for women to work will improve their safety, as well as give them access to health and support networks; it is also popular with residents who do not want prostitution on their doorsteps. But similar zones have been established and subsequently closed down in the Netherlands because of an increase in trafficked women being brought to the area, along with high levels of violence and drug abuse.

The Natashas also examines the complicity of some members of the international community based in the Balkans, where trafficking is a growing problem. In 2002, an employment tribunal heard how Kathryn Bolkovac, a UN police officer, had been sacked after revealing that colleagues were involved in the sexual abuse of women and young girls in Bosnia. The American security firm she worked for, DynCorp, was ordered to pay Bolkovac £110,000 in compensation for unfair dismissal, and three men concerned were fired but never charged. (The UN itself is powerless to prosecute, and it is up to member countries to take further action.) During the employment tribunal, the court heard that one of the men had bought a young girl for \$ 700 and kept her in his apartment for sex.

In Bosnia, Malarek met a 15-year-old girl who had been trafficked to Bosnia. "She was the 21st birthday present for one of a (UN) platoon and was raped in turn by men with American, Canadian, British, Russian and French accents - so many she stopped counting," he writes. Malarek describes the traffickers' recruitment methods. An orphanage in Romania might receive a visit from "social workers" offering "apprentice programmes" for adolescent girls. The girls are taken away and forced into prostitution.

Much of Malarek's anger focuses on the annual US state department **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) report, which grades countries with a trafficking problem according to three **tiers**. Nations fully compliant with the minimum standards in combatting trafficking are graded tier one, while those unwilling and unable to counter the problem are graded tier three. The UK is in tier one, but there are those who believe - Malarek among them - that the grading system is merely another strategy adopted by the US to reward its allies.

"The TIP report was designed to stop the traffickers operating with impunity," he says. "It was supposed to be about having the courage and vision to take a firm and even bold stand. It was supposed to be about leadership and accountability. But despite all the hoopla and sabre rattling, the US has degraded the process to little more than a diplomatic game."

Earlier this week, protesters in Bangladesh (graded a **tier-three** country) argued that the report was a means of pressuring the government into deploying troops in Iraq, and only criminalised the poor. "Poverty is the main cause of **human trafficking** and the US should look into it," said a spokesperson for the Bangladesh Citizens Alliance Against Trafficking .

Despite its TIP status, the UK does not have a strong track record in prosecuting traffickers, with the few cases that are brought being investigated mainly by the Metropolitan police. Even with the new legislation introduced through the Sex

Offences Act, which has increased the penalty for human trafficking to a maximum of 14 years, traffickers are scarcely deterred by the force of the law.

In December last year, Luan Plakici, an Albanian, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for trafficking up to 60 young women from south-eastern Europe into the UK; he was also convicted on counts of incitement to rape, living on prostitution and kidnap. When the sentence was passed, there were gasps of disbelief from police and anti-trafficking activists at the judge's leniency.

The court of appeal later increased the sentence to 24 years. "Ten years is no deterrent," says Malarek. "Traffickers see it as an occupational hazard to go to jail every now and again. What hurts is when you seize their assets - take everything they have and give it back to the women they've abused and the police so they can track more of them down."

Does he think the situation has got worse? "There are no new crimes of this nature; just different ways of getting away with them." Malarek accuses the UK, and other countries that have thriving sex industries, of turning a blind eye. "Tolerance is worse than legalisation in a way. It means we can ignore the fact that some countries provide a safe haven for pimps rather than think of a solution. I would say to the UK, 'Legalise prostitution at your peril'. It would be a red light for pimps to operate with impunity, knowing vice is out of the police's hands."

The Natashas can seem like a hopeless story, the scale of the problem is so vast. But Malarek is not pessimistic. "What we need is for governments to say, 'Stop this, and stop it now'. I have a daughter, and would do anything I could to prevent her going into the sex trade. I'm proud of this book, and hope to hell it makes a difference. If it prevents just one life being ruined, then it will have been worth it."

The Natashas: The New Global Sex Trade, by Victor Malarek, is published today by Vision, £10.99

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

CORRECTION-DATE: August 16, 2004

CORRECTION: The CBC documentary series, mentioned in an article head lined Tracking the traffickers, is The Fifth Estate and not, as we said, the Fifth Element, (G2, page 14, August 12).

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205 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Prague Post (Czech Republic)

August 12, 2004

U.S. seeks solution to trafficking

BYLINE: Dinah A. Spritzer

SECTION: News

LENGTH: 1033 words

Expert lauds efforts, decries drift toward sex-trade legalization Ambassador John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, paid a visit to the Czech Republic at the beginning of the month and met with trafficking experts. Miller's office helps countries to curtail forced labor and sexual slavery. His position was created last year as part of an expansion of the U.S. Trafficking Victim Protection Act. Passed in 2000, the act provided stiffer penalties against human traffickers and funding for assistance to victims of modern-day slavery. On Aug. 6 Miller discussed with The Prague Post the Czech fight against sexual slavery and U.S. concern over the Czech government's aim to legalize prostitution. The Prague Post: The Czech Republic has been dubbed by some as the brothel of Europe because of its booming sex trade. Does that bother you? John Miller: First of all, I am not in a position at all to look at the Czech Republic that way. I have seen a lot of other European countries that could make a pretty good claim to that title. TPP: Nonetheless, the number of sex clubs here has dramatically grown in the last few years. Aren't you concerned that they fuel trafficking? JM: There is no question that when you have a brothel, you have a demand for victims. Research indicates that enormous percentages of the women involved are not doing this of their free choice. The most recent survey - it's an American study by eight doctors - looks at 854 women engaged in prostitution in nine countries, ranging from Germany to Taiwan. That survey shows that the overwhelming majority report being continuously harassed, assaulted and raped. Eighty-nine percent want to escape from prostitution. TPP: You called it the oldest form of abuse, but don't women have the right to be prostitutes? JM: If most women are not getting into it by their free choice, we have to acknowledge this fact. And if it is associated with rape and assault and harassment, we have to acknowledge that fact as well. For the most part it is a human rights violation. TPP: So is this what you're telling mayors in this country: "Hey, I know you want to legalize prostitution: Don't do it"? JM: I haven't talked to any mayors. I wish I had. But we feel making the state the chief pimp is not going to help matters. We talked to NGOs nongovernmental organizations and they privately said this is not going to help the women involved. This is going to stigmatize them as a class. It is going to create a demand for more victims. It is going to invite organized crime to extend their tentacles. TPP: Jitka Gjuricova, the Interior Ministry expert on prostitution, says the ministry "draws inspiration" from countries where regulation of licensed prostitution has proven to be an effective means in fighting trafficking. JM: She draws inspiration, let's be blunt about it, from the Netherlands. If you look at the last decade in the Netherlands, the number of trafficking victims has quadrupled. They created a magnet for victims from all over the world, particularly from Eastern Europe. There is absolutely no evidence the Netherlands, this inspiration for those who seek legalization, has reduced trafficking in victims. It appears to be the opposite. TPP: How do you assess Czech efforts to curtail sexual slavery? JM: You now have a national action plan on trafficking. You have an organized-crime unit with officers focusing specifically on trafficking and this is something many countries don't have. You are just in the process of finishing a pilot project for victims, very advanced, and the government officials I have talked to want to expand it. TPP: And the shortcomings? JM: The Czech Republic is a Tier 1 best-practices country according to the U.S. Global Report on Trafficking, but every government can improve. We did notice there were 15 or 20 arrests last year of traffickers, five convictions and then only one person went to jail and the rest got suspended sentences. There was an educational campaign a couple of years ago in the schools but it ended and I think there is something to be done there. And it has to be directed not just at potential victims but at society as a whole. There is a need to develop an attitude that recognizes that such women are not criminals; they are not a lower class; they are victims. TPP: Does the U.S. fight against trafficking have any real influence on what governments do? JM: A year ago, in our **Trafficking in Persons** Report, we listed a host of countries

in **Tier 3**, those not making significant efforts to stop trafficking. Included were some friends of ours, Greece and Turkey. In the three months after the report came out, while there was of course some criticism in these countries of our report, nonetheless there were people of goodwill who recognized this was a valuable tool. And so in these countries you found increased efforts at education, public service announcements directed at potential victims. You found law-enforcement training courses sensitizing police to look for victims, not just treating them as illegal immigrants. You found more arrests and prosecutions; you found more funding for NGOs helping victims. The point is to see progress. TPP: Many people object to the U.S. government acting as a moral bully. What gives you the right to boss other countries around? JM: There is not a government in the world that officially sanctions slavery. This is a universal value. I do not apologize for the fact that maybe the U.S. feels this value more acutely because of our history with slavery. I do not apologize for the fact that we take a leadership role on this. It is also not just a case of the U.S. looking at the world. One of the first things I did when I started this position was to commission a report on the U.S. TPP: What is the greatest weakness in the U.S. effort to combat trafficking at home? JM: Prosecutions. We have tripled them in the last two years, but there is more to be done. We know there are thousands of victims in the U.S. but the prosecutions are in the hundreds. Dinah A. Spritzer can be reached at dspritzer@praguepost.com

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 2004

LANGUAGE: English

PUB-TYPE: Paper

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206 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

August 11, 2004, Wednesday

Bangladesh rally protests US trafficking report

SOURCE: The Daily Star web site, Dhaka, in English 11 Aug 04

LENGTH: 271 words

Text of report by Bangladesh newspaper The Daily Star web site on 11 August

No dateline as received The US report on human trafficking in Bangladesh is completely motivated, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They said the United States wants to create pressure on Bangladesh to deploy its troops in Iraq in the name of imposing sanctions for its alleged "worsening" trafficking situation.

The rally was jointly organized by Bangladesh Citizens Alliance Against Trafficking (BCAAT) and Sushasoner Janno Procharavijan Campaign for Good Governance (SUPRO) at Muktangon in the city.

The speakers said most of the Bangladeshi victims of trafficking were abused severely in some Middle East countries, but Bangladesh was relegated to **tier** three of the US State Department's "**Human Trafficking in Persons** Report 2004" which put those countries at **Tier** two.

The US has no authority to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh, said alliance convenor Farida Aktar.

She said, "The poor are not criminal, rather they are the victims of trafficking. Poverty is the main cause of human trafficking and the US should look into it."

The US should also realize that sanctions would not help reduce trafficking in Bangladesh, she added.

SUPRO Secretary Rezaul Karim termed the sanction a device of imperialism to achieve its purposes.

He cautioned the government to abstain from entering any deal with the United States that goes against the interest of the country.

Later, a procession was brought out protesting US relegation of Bangladesh on trafficking and its possible sanctions.

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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207 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

August 11, 2004, Wednesday

Bangladesh disagrees with US human trafficking rating, calls for status upgrade

SOURCE: The Daily Star web site, Dhaka, in English 11 Aug 04

LENGTH: 555 words

Text of report by Bangladesh newspaper The Daily Star web site on 11 August

Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan yesterday reiterated that Dhaka does not subscribe to the US report that tags Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable states of origin in human trafficking.

He, however, said the United States should upgrade Bangladesh to a higher **tier** in recognition of the country's recent proactive measures against **human trafficking**.

"We never did accept Bangladesh's position in **tier** three and that's why we are pressing our case forward," Morshed told reporters referring to re-assessment of the country's role in containing **human trafficking**.

A US team arrived in Dhaka Monday 10 August to re-assess relegation of Bangladesh as one of the worst performers in preventing human trafficking.

Earlier on 14 June, the US State Department in its report on **human trafficking** downgraded Bangladesh to **tier** three for countries that are most vulnerable states of origin for **human trafficking from tier** two.

In a letter in May the US embassy in Dhaka gave a six-step work plan for Bangladesh to follow in response to the "Human Trafficking in Persons Report 2004".

Speaking in his office, Morshed said the government has taken some very significant steps to prevent human trafficking.

Morshed said government steps that include stronger implementation of existing anti-**human trafficking** laws, greater conviction of traffickers and more rigorous border screening measures, within a span of only 38 days of the US report is well up to par and should be encouraged by a return to **tier** two.

"We need support, because no country with such limited resources like ours can tackle the menace itself," said Morshed, adding, "Even more affluent nations like Greece and Turkey were downgraded to **tier** three in the US State Department's reports on **human trafficking** in previous years, but were put up to **tier** two after a year."

Reaz Rahman, adviser to the government on foreign affairs, told reporters that Dhaka has explained its difficulties in stemming the flow of human trafficking to the visiting US team, but also maintained that the government is very determined to make every possible effort to meet the challenge.

"We'd continue the process as part of our commitment to the people, not merely to graduate to tier two of a particular report," said Morshed.

The continuation of Bangladesh in tier three, Rahman said, would project a negative image of the country and might even deter possible General System of Preference facility as well as military assistance.

Withdrawal of non-humanitarian and non-trade US assistance could follow, if the visiting US team judge Bangladesh to have made inadequate efforts in improving the human-trafficking situation.

No country, however, has ever been slapped with such sanctions by the US for being marked as tier three country.

The US had given Bangladesh a deadline till 14 August to make "significant efforts" to comply with related US laws on human trafficking in persons in order to have a re-assessment. The visiting US team, lead by Mark Taylor, a senior official at the State Department, would return to US and have till 14 September to re-assess Bangladesh's position in tier three and give its report to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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208 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

August 11, 2004

Bangladesh Cited in Trafficking in Persons Report; Dhaka could be subject to sanctions if it does not address trafficking concerns

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 177 words

Following is the response to a question taken at the August 10 State Department daily briefing:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

August 10, 2004

Question Taken at August 10, 2004 Daily Press Briefing

BANGLADESH - TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RANKING

Question: Is Bangladesh a **Tier 3** country in the **Trafficking in Persons** report? If so, is Bangladesh being sanctioned, or would it face sanctions, as a result?

Answer: Bangladesh has been designated as a **Tier 3** country on the **Trafficking in Persons** report. The U.S. is working with Bangladesh on areas of compliance with the recommendations of this report. Sanctions could be imposed if the government of Bangladesh does not take significant steps to address trafficking issues. No decision has been made on whether sanctions would be appropriate in this case. The President has until September 30, 2004 to make a decision on whether to impose or waive sanctions.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

209 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

August 10, 2004**Question Taken at August 10, 2004 Daily Press Briefing; Bangladesh - Trafficking in Persons Ranking****SECTION:** STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES**LENGTH:** 114 words

Question: Is Bangladesh a **Tier 3** country in the **Trafficking in Persons** report? If so, is Bangladesh being sanctioned, or would face sanctions, as a result?

Answer: Bangladesh has been designated as a **Tier 3** country on the **Trafficking in Persons** report. The U.S. is working with Bangladesh on areas of compliance with the recommendations of this report. Sanctions could be imposed if the government of Bangladesh does not take significant steps to address trafficking issues. No decision has been made on whether sanctions would be appropriate in this case. The President has until September 30, 2004 to make a decision on whether to impose or waive sanctions.

2004/889

LOAD-DATE: August 11, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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210 of 359 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

August 10, 2004 Tuesday 8:42 AM EST

STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO QUESTION ON BANGLADESH ? TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RANKING

BYLINE: US Fed News

LENGTH: 121 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of State issued the following press release:

Question: Is Bangladesh a **Tier 3** country in the **Trafficking in Persons** report? If so, is Bangladesh being sanctioned, or would face sanctions, as a result?

Answer: Bangladesh has been designated as a **Tier 3** country on the **Trafficking in Persons** report. The U.S. is working with Bangladesh on areas of compliance with the recommendations of this report. Sanctions could be imposed if the government of Bangladesh does not take significant steps to address trafficking issues. No decision has been made on whether sanctions would be appropriate in this case. The President has until September 30, 2004 to make a decision on whether to impose or waive sanctions.

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

211 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

August 6, 2004 Friday

Thailand unveils war on human trafficking

BYLINE: JACK BARTON**SECTION:** International News**LENGTH:** 612 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK, Aug 6

Thailand announced a war on human trafficking Friday, with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra comparing those implicated in the global scourge to murderers leading their victims to a life of hell.

The campaign comes almost two months after the United States put Thailand on a **human trafficking watchlist** for its failure to make progress in stamping out the illegal trade.

"Human trafficking is cruel and equivalent to murder," said Thaksin, describing how thousands of poor people in the Mekong sub-region were being tricked into lives of virtual slavery by trafficking gangs.

"They (victims) are only seeing the heavenly tip of the iceberg, but the hell part is much bigger," he said at a national conference on trafficking.

The United Nations says up to one million people, mainly women, are trafficked globally each year, generating some seven billion dollars in annual profits for criminal gangs involved in the trade.

Thaksin pledged that Thailand would overhaul laws, create a special police taskforce, improve protection for victims, boost preventative education, forge greater local and international coordination and weed out corruption among politicians and police.

"If border police are corrupt that is the end of the matter and this ... is a waste of time," said a defiant Thaksin, adding that without effective and transparent enforcement any move to toughen penalties would be meaningless.

Thaksin said new legislation, yet to be signed into law, would more clearly define human trafficking and separate traffickers from their victims who are often reluctant to testify because of harsh treatment under current laws.

Some 500 million baht (12 million US dollars) would be set aside to care for and treat trafficking victims, he said.

Social Development Minister Sora-at Linparatoom said Thailand's role as a country of destination, transit and origin of victims meant it was pivotal to stemming the regional scourge.

"This government ... has declared war against human trafficking as seriously as it did in its declaration of war against drug trafficking," said Sora-at, referring to a controversial narcotics crackdown which saw more than 2,000 people killed.

The UN was highly critical of Thailand's drug war, but on Friday threw its support firmly behind the new initiative.

"The response is pragmatic and focuses both on law enforcement and human rights of victims," said the head of the UN's regional human trafficking program Philip Robertson.

"First and foremost human trafficking is a human rights abuse and when we talk about rights violations the first response should be to help the victims, then we must focus on how to stop it from taking place," he said.

Robertson said the depth of the strategy would be the most crucial element of its potential success.

"There is a recognition that it's not a problem that lends itself to one-dimensional solutions and also that it's critical for Thailand to cooperate with its neighbours and to better educate police," he said.

Thai police General Amnony Phetsiri said better police training, coupled with clearer laws targeting trafficking, would be a key factor in the new strategy.

"They need to know how to work appropriately with victims who have suffered physical and psychological harm," said Amnony, adding that officials are currently hamstrung because there is "no direct law or definition on human trafficking."

Friday's announcement comes ahead of a regional pact to fight trafficking that is expected to be signed between Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam when ministers meet in Yangon in October.

jb/mlm/sdm

Thailand-trafficking

LOAD-DATE: August 7, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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212 of 359 DOCUMENTS

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 6, 2004, Friday

RIGHTS-THAILAND: TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FINALLY GIVEN PROTECTION by Marwaan Macan-Markar

LENGTH: 818 words**DATELINE:** BANGKOK, Aug. 6, 2004

The Thai government opened its arms to victims of human trafficking by unveiling a raft of measures aimed at protecting children, women and men trapped in this modern form of slavery.

The announcement made Friday by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra underscored the priority Bangkok was giving to this form of abuse that is prevalent across Thailand and in neighbouring countries.

The law in Thailand will be amended to ensure that victims of human trafficking are protected, the prime minister told a packed auditorium in Bangkok gathered for the 'National Conference on Human Trafficking.'

"We must separate the victims from the traffickers," Thaksin said. "Victims must not be treated as offenders."

This marks a shift from the way victims of human trafficking were viewed under Thai immigration or labour laws - as violators of, say, the immigration law for having entered Thailand illegally.

Till now Thailand did not have specific laws to deal with victims of human trafficking, said Amnony Phetsiri, deputy commissioner-general of the Thai police.

"We must see victims as the beginning of (a process to gather) evidence to prosecute somebody," he added. "Human trafficking cases are unlike other cases."

To support such efforts, Thaksin announced that 500 million baht (\$ 12.5 million) will be set aside to "look after victims of human trafficking."

"Human trafficking is evil and it is something we must be concerned about," he added. "Human trafficking is equivalent to murder."

The government also plans to help neighbouring countries, such as Burma, Cambodia and Laos, to prevent their citizens from being trafficked into Thailand.

And in October, Bangkok will join leaders from the neighbouring countries to sign a pledge to pursue joint efforts to "intercept the cycle of trafficking."

"It is very encouraging that Prime Minister Thaksin recognised the importance of regional cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region to solve the problem, since they have to work together," Philip Robertson, of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, told IPS.

Such a display of commitment comes shortly after Thailand was taken to task by the U.S. government for failing to crack down on a scourge that is ranked, on the level of drug-trafficking, as among the major trans-national crimes perpetrated by global crime syndicates.

In June, in the U.S. State Department's annual '**Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report, Thailand had slipped from being a '**tier 2**' nation to being placed on the '**tier 2 watch list**' of nations.

The 'tier 2' nations are those that the State Department concludes are throwing their weight to maintain minimum standards to combat trafficking, while 'tier 3' nations are those that have failed to do so and run the risk of having the U.S. government impose sanctions on them.

Besides Thailand, the other Mekong region countries on the watch list are Laos and Vietnam.

Meanwhile Burma is in the lowest ranking, Cambodia, however, was among the 'tier 2' nations -- a sign of its improved record after being ranked at the lowest level last year.

Currently, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across borders annually by crime gangs. Of that number, 250,000 - mostly women and children - are trafficked in South-east Asia.

The victims are forced to work as prostitutes after being lured away from their homes by being offered other jobs, such as working in restaurants.

In South-east Asia, Thailand stands out as the country affected by the three levels of human trafficking: a source of trafficking, a transit point for other nationals to be trafficked to a third country and a point where victims are trafficked to.

Thailand's inability to retain children through the school system has been cited as one factor feeding the human trafficking trade.

"Although we have compulsory education, 20 percent of children drop out by the sixth year," says Saisuree Chutikul, head of the national sub-committee on trafficking in women and children.

Close to 600,000 children who join the school system at the primary level have dropped out before they reach the high school level, she adds.

Friday's announcement by the Thaksin administration is being well received by non-governmental groups who have been in the vanguard to protect women and children from being trafficked.

"The government is moving in the correct direction. It is an important first step to protect and help victims," Sanphasit Koompraphant, director of the Bangkok-based Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation, told IPS.

The laws in the past pushed the victims to the traffickers because of the way the authorities treated them, he added. "Now victims will feel safe knowing they will not be arrested and can help detect the traffickers."

LOAD-DATE: August 6, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

213 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

July 28, 2004 Wednesday

Six Asian states convene to tackle human trafficking crisis

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 338 words

DATELINE: BANGKOK, July 28

Senior officials from China and five Southeast Asian nations gathered in the Thai capital Wednesday to thrash out a new framework for fighting human trafficking in the region.

Representatives from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam were due to hammer out an inaugural agreement to address the problem that sees some 800,000 men, women and children trafficked annually across borders in a billion-dollar illicit trade.

It was the first time the countries came together to combat what Thailand's minister of social development and human security, Sora-at Klinpratoom, described as a "modern-day form of slavery".

"We must admit that the problem is a major one, and that it has huge impacts on the rights and livelihoods of our peoples," he said in an opening speech.

"The long land-borders that our countries share, and the geography of those border areas, makes it almost impossible to control these movements.

"Accordingly we have to work together, as good neighbours, to solve these problems."

The meeting is working on a memorandum of understanding that is expected to be signed by ministers of the six nations in Myanmar's capital Yangon in October.

The countries of the region have been strongly criticized for failing to recognize the scale of the problem.

In June the United States downgraded Thailand on its **human trafficking watchlist** for failure to make progress in stamping out the global scourge.

Thailand joins other Southeast Asian nations placed on the so-called "Tier Two watchlist" including Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam, while neighbouring Myanmar remains at Tier Three, the lowest level.

Earlier this month US President George W. Bush announced that 50 million dollars would be given to eight countries including Southeast Asia's Cambodia and Indonesia to fight trafficking.

The projects will focus primarily on fighting sex slavery, the fastest-growing category of trafficking, according to the US State Department.

mlm/ppy/nj

Thailand-trafficking-Asia

LOAD-DATE: July 29, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

214 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

July 27, 2004, Tuesday

Guyana disagrees with US decision on trafficking of persons

SOURCE: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency, Bridgetown, in English 1902 gmt 27 Jul 04

LENGTH: 297 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) news agency on 27 July

Georgetown, Guyana: Guyana has disagreed with a decision by the United States to place the Caribbean state among countries that do not "fully comply with the minimum standards" in a bid to prevent the trafficking of people.

Two officials from the Office of Human Trafficking in the United States State Department have held talks with President Bharrat Jagdeo and Human Services and Social Security Minister Bibi Shadick on the issue.

Shadick later told reporters that Washington had erred by placing Guyana on the category of countries that fail to deal adequately with **trafficking in persons** (TIP), adding that by next year "Guyana will be on **Tier I**".

Last year the US State Department placed the Guyana on Tier 3 suggesting that the country "does not fully comply with the minimum standards and is not making significant efforts to prevent victimization, ensure protection of victims and prosecute perpetrators or traffickers".

The minimum standards require countries to criminalize trafficking; provide assistance and protection of victims in countries of origin, transit and destination; and repatriation of victims.

Shadick said Georgetown would be pressing ahead with efforts to meet the minimum standards outlined in the US Protocol on TIP.

A Guyana Government Information Agency (GINA) statement said that in the quest to meet global standards, the government would table TIP legislation before the August recess.

It said that an inter-governmental steering committee, including representatives from the Guyana Police Service, the ministries of Education, Amerindian Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Labour, had been established to help fight the TIP problem here.

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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215 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

July 24, 2004 Saturday

Nigeria; US Accuses Police, Immigration of Aiding Human Trafficking

BYLINE: This Day

LENGTH: 327 words

The United States of America, yesterday acc-used the Nigeria Police and top Immigration officers of being behind the notorious cases of human trafficking in Nigeria.

The accusation was made in Lagos yesterday by the Deputy Director, office to Combat and Monitor Traffi-cking in Person, Joann Schneider, said Nigeria unlike other government in Africa does not face severe resource constraints yet it commits inadequate funds and personnel to the fight against human trafficking.

She threatened that unless the Nigerian government demonstrates greater commitment in the fight against the malaise, the US may consider sanctioning Nigeria by withholding its support from Nigeria in matters of financial credit at the World Bank.

Beside, the US, according to Schneider, may also deny Nigeria from benefitting from the US assistance in several ways.

According to her: " Nigeria Police reported 98 arrests of trafficking suspects, 44 of whom remain under investigation. There are no known prosecution during the last year and anti-trafficking efforts among the states appeared to diminish considerably over the reported period. Report indicated that government officials particularly police, and immigrations officials, facilitate the trafficking of women and children. There is no discernible commitment by Nigerian government to address this trafficking Malaise".

Schneider explained that Nigeria which is presently in **Tier 2 Watch List** need to improve in its policy toward preventing **human trafficking** adding if it fails it will move down to **Tier 3 Watch List**, which is the category of countries under America sanction.

Shneider pointed out that the proposed sanction is not plan to punish Nigeria, rather it is executed to make Nigeria show a lot of seriousness in human trafficking problems and try to solve it.

"We want to do all that we can to make Nigeria government save its people and to stop them being traffic as slaves," she said.

LOAD-DATE: July 26, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

216 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

July 13, 2004 Tuesday

TRAFFICKING OF WEAKER VESSELS

BYLINE: ASIF J. MIR

LENGTH: 860 words

ASIF J. MIR

Women are being sold like animals in Pakistani markets. Trafficking in persons - the illegal and highly profitable recruitment, transport, or sale of human beings into all forms of forced labour and servitude, including trafficking into forced marriage - is a tragic and complex human rights abuse. Like it or not, the increasing trend lays bare the sort of future we are ill fatedly going to see. Bangladeshi women are being kidnapped, married off to agents by unsuspecting parents, trafficked under false pretenses, or enticed by prospects of a better life, into brothels in Pakistan. Border police and other law enforcement agencies are well aware of the trafficking through entry points into Pakistan like Lahore, Kasur, Bahawalpur, Chhor and Badin.

In cases of women trafficking, coercive tactics are used to control women. In many cases corrupt officials facilitate the trafficking, accepting bribes to falsify documents and provide protection. Without such corruption and complicity on the part of state officials, trafficking could not thrive. Pakistan treats trafficked persons as illegal aliens, criminals, or both, exposing them to further abuse. By targeting the victims instead of the perpetrators, it thus allows the abuses to continue.

The buyers of these unfortunate women fix their prices after examining and scanning their bodies. They humiliate and sexually harass them in public. A Bengali woman can be sold in Pakistan for Rs 70,000 to 150,000 - depending on age and looks. Auctions of girls are arranged for three kinds of buyers: rich visiting Arabs (sheiks, businessmen, visitors, state-financed medical and university students), the rich local gentry, and rural farmers. Hidden in the slums of Karachi, Pakistan is a flourishing trade in young women and girls from Bangladesh. The forced trafficking of Bangladeshi women into Pakistan for the purposes of domestic or sexual slavery has been going on for at least 10 to 15 years. The majority of is lured from with promises of jobs, decent pay and a better life. They often end up in brothels in Bangladeshi paras (slums) in Karachi, although as their numbers have grown, brothels have been found in small towns throughout Pakistan.

In recent years, as the number of Bangladeshi women and girls trafficked into Pakistan has increased, the practice of selling female has become more clandestine. They are held under terrible conditions: they are not given proper food and are kept in crowded rooms. To compel the women and girls to provide the desired services, the pimps threaten to expose the women's status as illegal immigrants or denounce them under the Hudood laws, which penalise, among other things, sex outside of marriage and impose long prison terms and severe corporal punishment. Those who resist are beaten or worse. Instead of protecting the Bangladeshi women and girls by arresting those accountable for their illegal sale and forced prostitution or forced marriage, the Pakistani government imprisons the luckless women while allowing most brokers and pimps to go free.

In many cases Bangladeshi women and girls arrested by police in raids on brothels suffer prolonged detention, usually because they lack legal counsel or the financial resources to pay bail or surety. In other cases, the police allows pimps to bail out the women and take them back to the prostitution dens. Meanwhile, the pimps go free. Some pimps involved in the sale of Bangladeshi women and girls are occasionally arrested by the police, not one has ever been prosecuted or punished by the government for trafficking or for any of the other abuses resulting from trafficking and forced prostitution. Thus, the government, instead of dealing with the problems, seems intent on victimizing the victims.

The 2004 Trafficking in Persons Annual Report the launching ceremony of which was performed by Secretary of State Colin Powell was recently made public. With respect to Pakistan the Report notes that the arrests and conviction, a number of cases may be smuggling, the law enforcement officials do not often distinguish between trafficking and smuggling. It says that Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked persons. Women and girls are trafficked to Pakistan from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iran, Burma, Nepal, and Central Asia for forced commercial sexual exploitation and bonded labor. Girls and women from rural areas are trafficked to urban centers for commercial sexual exploitation and labor. Women trafficked from East Asian countries and Bangladesh to the Middle East often transit through Pakistan. Like other South Asian countries including India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan, Pakistan is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List** this year "because of a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of **trafficking in persons** from the previous year."

Pakistan does not consistently differentiate between trafficking and smuggling so actual rates of prosecution are difficult to determine. Lack of resources also limits victim assistance efforts. Government officials greatly need training on the distinction between trafficking and smuggling.

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2004

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Global News Bites

217 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

July 8, 2004 Thursday

TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 1709 words

Statement of Charles Song Dir. of Legal Services for the Coalition to Abolish Slavery

Committee on House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness

July 8, 2004

Thank you for the pleasure and honor of speaking with you this afternoon on behalf of nongovernmental organizations working to combat trafficking and the thousands of survivors of trafficking and their families that are working hard to rebuild their lives. I would also like to commend Congressman Burton and Congresswoman Watson for their leadership in championing the rights of survivors of trafficking.

As the Staff Attorney at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, I have been privileged to work collaboratively with nongovernmental organizations, pro bono attorneys, and law enforcement officials to ensure that survivors of trafficking receive comprehensive legal services. Since its inception in 1998, CAST has been dedicated exclusively to assisting all victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery and working towards ending all instances of such human rights violations. CAST achieves its mission by providing social and legal services to victims, conducting training and advocacy to improve survivors' access to services and resources. CAST's activities are interconnected by a client-centered approach that seeks to empower trafficked victims to fully realize their individual potential while advancing the human rights of all trafficked persons, including victims of sex trafficking, domestic worker trafficking, and garment worker trafficking, to name but a few. CAST has been a trailblazer since its establishment by creating a social services model tailored to the needs of trafficking survivors and drafting a comprehensive training curriculum with its partners to provide practitioners with the tools to better serve trafficking victims. The latest milestone in CAST's continued leadership in the anti-trafficking movement is that it opened the first shelter for trafficking survivors in the country.

This afternoon, I would like to talk about the recently published **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) Report 2004, which chronicles anti- trafficking efforts of 140 countries worldwide and places them in one of three **tiers** based on their performances. The U.S. government has linked the tier-system to non-humanitarian aid to put pressure on countries that have not made substantial efforts to curb trafficking. I would like to convey our recommendations on ways the U.S. government could strengthen its efforts to combat trafficking and assist victims of trafficking, both at home and abroad. Human trafficking is a global problem that requires a global response. Globalization, along with the easy flow of information and goods thanks to technological advances, has made trafficking harder to track and easier to hide. Victims are trafficked through multiple routes and various transit points before they arrive in the U.S..

Therefore, it is imperative that the TIP Report take a holistic approach to combating trafficking rather than compartmentalizing trafficking happening in and outside of the U.S.. Treating trafficking in and outside of the U.S. as separate may not reflect the multi-dimensional aspects of the problem and provide a full scope of the issue. The foreign governments' activities need to be linked to U.S. government's efforts to provide a complete picture of the trafficking problem and to be able to tackle it. Furthermore, nongovernmental organizations both in and outside of the U.S. can work closely with foreign and U.S. governments to share their expertise and ground experience in formulating a multi-pronged response. This approach may facilitate collaboration between governments and enhance relations to mobilize for a common cause.

We urge the U.S. government to: 1) Improve implementation of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (VTVPA), 2) Expand efforts to prevent trafficking from source countries, and 3) Increase its collaborative efforts with nongovernmental organizations nationwide and worldwide that serve victims of trafficking.

Landmark Trafficking Legislation

In 2000, thanks to the wisdom and leadership of Congress and anti- trafficking advocates nationwide, the VTVPA was passed to prosecute traffickers, protect victims of trafficking and prevent further trafficking. The landmark legislation, which is one of the most comprehensive in the world, criminalized trafficking for the first time and granted benefits to victims of trafficking provided they cooperate in a federal investigation. To date, not one single trafficker has been prosecuted under the new trafficking statute introduced in the VTVPA. Instead, they have been convicted of existing statutes, such as human smuggling and kidnapping, which usually carry lighter prison sentences. The new trafficking statute could carry a 20-year prison sentence with a maximum life sentence for some offenses, and this statute has yet to be applied in trafficking cases. Traffickers ought to pay for their crimes, especially if the legal measures to prosecute them already exist.

The number of investigations and benefits issuance has grown significantly since the VTVPA was enacted. Yet the absolute number of investigations and prosecutions of traffickers, certification letters that would allow victims to receive benefits, and T-visas that would allow victims to stabilize their immigration status and focus on rebuilding their lives, has room for improvement.

As of April 2004, the Department of Justice's Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division had 153 open trafficking investigations. There were 26 convictions in all of FY2003. The Department of Health & Human Services granted 151 certifications and benefits eligibility letters in FY2003. As of November 2003, the Department of Homeland Security approved 328 - or less than half - of the 757 T-visa applications filed. The VTVPA mandates an annual quota of 5,000 T-Visas or nearly 20,000 over four years since it was passed. The numbers indicate that the VTVPA assists less than three percent of the estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims trafficked into the U.S. every year. When we consider this figure to be an underestimate, the portion of victims receiving assistance is even smaller. Current Administration officials have set trafficking as a top priority for its government. It is safe to say that the VTVPA and its supporters had not intended to have traffickers going unpunished for this heinous crime and victims left without proper immigration status, work permits or basic survival necessities.

What Tier is the U.S.? CAST commends the U.S. government on its outreach campaign to raise awareness on trafficking in the U.S.. As the wealthiest nation in the world, the U.S. is a major destination country with its alluring promise of the American Dream. Yet the TIP Report does not mention how the U.S. government works with its embassies and consulates worldwide to provide information in various languages about workers' rights and immigrants' rights to all foreign nationals applying for a visa to enter the U.S.. Many trafficking victims receive inaccurate information from their traffickers before, during and after enslavement, and many are threatened with wrong information to prevent them from escaping. We at CAST have seen many instances where the very knowledge of one's rights in the U.S. could have saved a slavery victim from further abuse and possible death. Victims usually do not self-identify as victims of trafficking because they are isolated, threatened and live in fear for their well-being under the thumb of the traffickers. In fact, this lack of self-identification as victims of trafficking is one of the biggest obstacles in discovering and identifying victims of trafficking. Once they become aware that what is being done to them is a violation of their rights, it will become easier for them to come forward to denounce their traffickers.

International Forums on Trafficking

Conferences have been useful forums where practitioners of all backgrounds and ideologies congregate to exchange new ideas, best practices and lessons learned so that innovative programs will be replicated and tailored to meet the needs of victims enslaved in any U.S. state or country in the world. We would like to encourage the U.S. government to organize international conferences open to all practitioners at home and abroad to allow for transparent and free-flowing information and resources so that victims worldwide will be served in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

As the number of trafficked people grows exponentially and traffickers become savvier in skirting around law enforcement, it is critical that governments collaborate closely with nongovernmental organizations to find and assist victims. Furthermore, government estimates of the number of people trafficked into the U.S. every year has been changed from 50,000 in 1999 to 18,000-20,000 in 2003. In 2004, the estimate was further revised down to 14,500-17,500 a year, citing methodology changes rather than a decline in trafficked persons. CAST and many of the NGOs working in the field believe this number does not fully capture the scope of the trafficking problem in the U.S., and are concerned that trafficking may be misconstrued as a waning problem. CAST alone has served over 200 survivors of trafficking since its inception in 1998 and the Samoan case alone had another 200 survivors. While we recognize the difficulties associated with measuring this virtually invisible underground activity, we urge the government to apply a more consistent and

accurate measurement tool to quantify this increasingly ubiquitous problem that could be as close to the average person as a neighboring home.

Conclusion

On behalf of CAST and other NGOs working to eradicate trafficking and assist victims of trafficking, we praise the work of the United States Congress in addressing one of the most egregious human rights violations in the world today and look forward to continuing to collaborate closely with members of Congress to protect survivors and abolish human trafficking in all of its forms.

Thank you.

LOAD-DATE: July 9, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELLNESS

TESTIMONY-BY: CHARLES SONG, DIR.

AFFILIATION: LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE COALITION TO ABOLISH SLAVERY

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218 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

July 6, 2004 Tuesday

Japan to compile 'action plan' on human trafficking by year-end

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 802 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, July 6

The Japanese government will compile an 'action plan' by the end of this year to fight human trafficking after the U.S. State Department downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to combat the problem in a recent report, a Cabinet Secretariat official said Tuesday.

The plan will include measures such as submitting a bill to stipulate human trafficking as a crime, ratifying a U.N. protocol and working together with an international body on the matter, and imposing stricter visa rules for Filipinos who enter Japan on 'entertainment' visas.

Although government officials have indicated their discontent with the U.S. report, released June 14, which placed Japan on a special **watch list** for **human trafficking**, it obviously had an effect in accelerating Japanese efforts.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a meeting of senior officials from the Foreign, Justice and welfare ministries as well as the National Police Agency to take prompt steps to deal with the issue.

'Human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights...Regardless of whether the (U.S.) report is right or wrong, we will have to take necessary measures,' Hosoda said at the outset of the meeting, the second of its kind since April.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Masahiro Futahashi called for compiling all the measures being considered by the relevant ministries into an action plan as soon as possible during this year, the official said.

According to the data reported to the meeting, police have uncovered at least 24 cases of human trafficking during the first half of this year, involving 13 suspects, including five brokers, and 16 female victims consisting of 15 Thais and one Colombian.

The police highlighted a case in which an American manager of a strip club in Okinawa hired a Colombian woman staying in Japan illegally to dance in strip shows and work as a prostitute and another in which a Thai woman brokered Thai women to a pub for prostitution purposes, the official said.

The latest tally compares to 51 cases involving 41 suspects, including eight brokers, and 83 female victims, including 43 Colombians, 21 Thais and 12 women from Taiwan, in 2003, the official added.

Of the victims, three Filipinos and three Thai women were sheltered at prefectural women's shelters during fiscal 2003, which ended in March this year, up from one in fiscal 2001 and two in fiscal 2002.

According to immigration authorities, over 100,000 women were overstaying their visas as of Jan. 1. Of these, 20,000 were Filipinos and 8,000 were Thais. Human rights groups and nongovernmental organizations say many of these women may be the victims of trafficking.

In order to deal with the problem, the Justice Ministry is drafting a bill to revise the Penal Code and enact a new law to submit it to the next ordinary Diet session convening in January, the official said.

Japan has dealt with cases of human trafficking, such as for sexual exploitation and forced labor, under existing laws, but they may fall short in dealing with cases aimed at selling internal organs, he said.

Immigration authorities are considering relaxing rules on requiring special permission for illegal residents to temporarily stay in Japan in cases involving trafficking victims.

The Health, Welfare and Labor Ministry will consider tie-ups with private-sector shelters to help expand the capacities of the prefectural-based shelters.

The Foreign Ministry will seek the ratification of the U.N. convention against transnational organized crime protocol on trafficking in persons, and allocations in the fiscal 2005 budget to join hands with the International Organization for Migration to repatriate victims.

Currently, Japan does not have a law that directly bans human trafficking, but instead employs the Penal Code and a variety of laws, including immigration and anti-prostitution legislation, to carry out trafficking-related prosecutions.

As a result, enforcement methods are limited to people such as low-end brokers or the victims' employers.

In the 'Trafficking in Persons' report, the U.S. State Department pressed Japan to boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, and to provide better assistance for victims.

'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' the report said.

The report put Japan on a newly created **watch list**, citing the lack of a comprehensive law against **human trafficking** and victim protection efforts. The category contains 42 countries that are in danger of falling into the worst category in next year's report.

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

219 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

July 5, 2004 Monday

US reprimanded by Thailand after misusing Queen's name

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 330 words

DATELINE: BANGKOK, July 5

Thailand has reprimanded the United States after the name of the kingdom's highly revered queen was used in a US report as an alias for a human trafficking victim, a Thai official said Monday.

A diplomatic spat loomed after Thai officials spotted a US State Department report which used the name of Sirikit to mask the identity of a Thai girl who had been trafficked to Japan.

The kingdom's monarchy is held in the highest esteem by Thais and the penalty for making disparaging remarks about the royal family, which can include calling a royal by an incorrect title, is seven years in prison.

A prominent Thai intellectual was once arrested for referring to the king as "the skipper" -- King Bhumibol Adulyadej is an accomplished sailor -- and again about a decade later for describing the royals as "ordinary people".

He eventually received a royal pardon.

A Thai official said the US embassy had been contacted as soon as it became known that the queen's name was used to describe a 15-year-old Thai girl forced to work in a Japanese karaoke bar.

"We pointed out that this was very inappropriate," Thai foreign ministry spokesman Sihasak Phuangketkeow told AFP. "They said they were unaware of the name's significance and expressed regret and corrected it."

Sihasak said an investigation was still underway to see if the name, which only the Queen possesses in Thailand, was used intentionally.

"We are checking whether they were really unaware, or if someone deliberately provided them this name," he said, adding that the report had been compiled at the US embassy in Japan.

The use of the queen's name in a report on human trafficking is particularly embarrassing for the US, which has consistently hounded the kingdom about its record on the issue.

Last month, the United States downgraded the status of Thailand on its **human trafficking watchlist** for its failure to make progress in stamping out the global scourge.

jb/ppy/sdm

Thailand-US-row

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

220 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

July 3, 2004, Saturday

Officials say Japan to probe new measures against human trafficking

SOURCE: Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 1002 gmt 3 Jul 04

LENGTH: 349 words

Excerpt from report in English by Japanese news agency Kyodo

Tokyo, 3 July: To boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, the Japanese government is studying ways to implement sweeping changes to revise the Penal Code or the enactment of a new law to protect human trafficking victims, government officials said Saturday 3 July .

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the National Police Agency and other concerned government agencies are set to meet Tuesday to prepare bills for submission to the regular Diet session next year, the officials said.

The latest moves by Japan follow the release of an annual US report that downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts against **human trafficking**, putting Japan on a special **watch list** of countries that are on the verge of falling into the worst category.

According to the officials, the government is studying measures such as a revision of the Penal Code to make human trafficking a crime or the enactment of a new law that would stipulate criminal punishment for human trafficking.

The new law envisions a comprehensive set of measures that would include protection and relief provisions to victims of trafficking.

The move is also in line with efforts mainly by the Justice Ministry to prod Japan to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. Japan signed the three protocols in December 2002, which urges countries to clearly stipulate that human trafficking is a crime.

Methods on how to protect the victims have to be discussed among relevant authorities, given that many of the victims have issues regarding their legal status such as expired visas, officials said.

Currently, Japan does not have a law that directly bans human trafficking, but instead employs the code and a variety of laws such as immigration and anti-prostitution legislation to carry out trafficking-related prosecutions. As a result, enforcement methods are limited to people such as low-end brokers or the victims' employers. passage omitted

LOAD-DATE: July 3, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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221 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

July 3, 2004 Saturday

Japan mulls revised penal code, new law to fight human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 483 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, July 3

To boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, the Japanese government is studying ways to implement sweeping changes to revise the Penal Code or the enactment of a new law to protect human trafficking victims, government officials said Saturday.

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the National Police Agency and other concerned government agencies are set to meet Tuesday to prepare bills for submission to the regular Diet session next year, the officials said.

The latest moves by Japan follow the release of an annual U.S. report that downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts against **human trafficking**, putting Japan on a special **watch list** of countries that are on the verge of falling into the worst category.

According to the officials, the government is studying measures such as a revision of the Penal Code to make human trafficking a crime or the enactment of a new law that would stipulate criminal punishment for human trafficking.

The new law envisions a comprehensive set of measures that would include protection and relief provisions to victims of trafficking.

The move is also in line with efforts mainly by the Justice Ministry to prod Japan to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

Japan signed the three protocols in December 2002, which urges countries to clearly stipulate that human trafficking is a crime.

Methods on how to protect the victims have to be discussed among relevant authorities, given that many of the victims have issues regarding their legal status such as expired visas, officials said.

Currently, Japan does not have a law that directly bans human trafficking, but instead employs the code and a variety of laws such as immigration and anti-prostitution legislation to carry out trafficking-related prosecutions.

As a result, enforcement methods are limited to people such as low-end brokers or the victims' employers.

In a 'Trafficking in Persons' report released last month, the U.S. State Department pressed Japan to boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes and to provide better assistance for victims.

'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' the report said.

The report put Japan on a newly created **Tier 2 Watch List**, citing a lack of a comprehensive law against **human trafficking** and victim protection efforts. 'Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups that operate internationally are involved,' the report said.

The Tier 2 category comprises 42 countries that are in danger of falling into the worst Tier 3 category in next year's report.

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222 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 29, 2004 Tuesday

Ghana; Child Trafficking a Major Problem in Africa, Report Finds

BYLINE: Ghanaian Chronicle

LENGTH: 715 words

Ghanaian chief describes efforts to combat child labor

For the scores of boys who work in the fishing industry on Ghana's Lake Volta, life is more than simply grueling and monotonous - it is slavery, with no schools, no medical care, and no hope.

The boys, some as young as six years old, have been sold by their families to spend their days rowing boats across the lake and pulling nets laden with fish from the water.

More than a year ago, Togbega Hadjor, paramount chief of Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where child trafficking has been common, committed himself to ending this exploitation of children when the International Organization for Migration (IOM) asked for his help in combating child slavery in the Lake Volta region.

Hadjor was among several heroes in the fight against human trafficking who were honored in Washington June 14 when the U.S. Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The report evaluated efforts by 140 countries around the world to combat **human trafficking**, and ranked countries in **tiers** that correspond to their efforts to end the practice.

When the IOM approached him, Hadjor put together a list of 13 villages in his region where child trafficking was taking place, and held community meetings to discuss ways to reintegrate boys who had been working in the fishing industry. Over the past year, 228 children have been rescued from forced labor on Lake Volta, and Hadjor has helped many of them enroll in school and reunite with their families.

"The problem is being overcome. When I have people approach me, I advise them that they should remove their children [from slavery], and they've been doing it," he said.

Among nations in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana was the only one to be listed as a "Tier One" nation for its strong efforts to prevent child trafficking. The report found that Ghana has excelled at protecting victims of trafficking and reintegrating them into their communities, although it still urged the Ghanaian government to pass anti-trafficking legislation.

Three nations in sub-Saharan Africa - Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Sudan - received a "Tier Three" or least favorable ranking in the report for failing to make reasonable attempts to end the exploitation of minors. In Equatorial Guinea, the report found, the government has not used the resources from its petroleum industry to do anything to alleviate the situation. In Sierra Leone, it said, the government recognizes that trafficking is a problem, but has not made substantial efforts to prevent it.

The report was particularly critical of Sudan, noting, "Government officials deny the existence of trafficking in Sudan." It is estimated that 17,500 people have been abducted in Sudan since 1980.

Nations ranked as **Tier Three** face the possibility of losing U.S. aid if they do not make an effort to combat **human trafficking**. Globally, 10 countries were included on the Tier three list. The report indicated that child trafficking is a particularly challenging problem in Africa because of the practice of "fostering" or "placement" of children.

Under this traditional system, children are sent to live with relatives or other trusted individuals, and are given schooling or learn a trade. Yet "in all too many cases, the child is trafficked into a situation of forced domestic servitude, street vending, or sexual exploitation," the authors wrote.

In Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where Chief Hajor has helped reunite children with their families, trafficking has been driven by economic need. Communities downstream from Lake Volta that once supported themselves through farming and fishing have been left destitute by the construction of two dams on the Volta River, and many families that sent their children to work on the lake did so because they could no longer support them.

Hajor sees another underlying cause of child trafficking: polygamy. Men who marry several wives and have large families often find themselves unable to support their children, he said.

["I tell [villagers] that if you want a wife, take only one," he said. (The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)]

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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223 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

June 26, 2004 Saturday

Standing up to the sex-slave traders

SOURCE: MATP

BYLINE: MARTIN WALLACE

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 740 words

For years Australia refused to admit sex slavery was a problem. Now the blindfold is off, as MARTIN WALLACE reports

AUSTRALIA'S shameful role in the sex slavery trade has been massively under-estimated, the Federal Government's own expert adviser warned last night.

The revelation comes as Australia was named for the first time as a "destination country" for sex slavery in a global report.

A wide-ranging inquiry by the Australian Crime Commission's parliamentary watchdog has revealed sex traders bring 1000 women into the country every year.

Estimates by sex worker support groups that thousands of victims are suffering unspeakable treatment in captivity here have long been at odds with official figures, which only list 15 victims over the past four years.

International authority on sex slavery Paul Holmes has been brought in to train the Government's new anti-trafficking unit -- formed as part of a \$20 million response to sex slavery in Australia.

The former Scotland Yard detective is the author of Interpol's trafficking investigation guide.

"By the time investigations in Australia have been running for 12 months I believe no one will be telling me that they have only found 15 victims," Mr Holmes said.

The majority of sex slaves are brought in from Thailand, China, Malaysia, Korea and Indonesia. Others are smuggled in from Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

The US State Department's most comprehensive report on **human trafficking** listed Australia as a "**tier 1** country" -- meaning there is a significant problem but the Government's response only meets minimum standards.

That puts us on a par with Morocco, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

US anti-sex slavery group Shared Hope said Australia was only now admitting the extent of the problem.

The parliamentary joint committee inquiry has urged the Crime Commission to focus on how traffickers are getting round Australia's

immigration barriers using student and holiday visas and false passports.

A 26-year-old trafficking victim has told Melbourne-based sex worker support group Project Respect of how she was tricked into moving from Thailand by sex traders.

The woman was promised work but had her passport taken as soon as she arrived at a Sydney "safe house".

She was beaten and starved for three weeks when she refused to work as a prostitute.

The woman was kept locked inside the apartment with five other sex slaves.

She was made to work seven days a week and serviced more than 300 men over the next eight months. The only cash she saw was tips.

Her Asian captors threatened to kill her if she spoke to anyone about her situation.

She was too terrified to run away and was eventually released after paying off her \$40,000 debt bondage.

The woman is now living with friends in Sydney.

According to the US report, the number of illegal sex workers has tripled in NSW since brothels were legalised in 1995.

In October last year, Justice Minister Chris Ellison announced \$20 million worth of anti-sex slavery measures, including the formation of the AFP's 23-member Transnational Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Team.

He also introduced victim support measures including access to legal, medical and counselling services.

Ten people are awaiting trial on sex slavery-related offences in Australia.

Mr Holmes believes Australia's sex slavery networks have been emboldened by the Government's refusal to admit the problem exists.

"Once governments channel resources into it, then we start seeing results," he said.

One woman's tragic story

THE fate of women forced into sex slavery in Australia is exemplified by the case of Nawaporn Buntanchai.

Nawaporn, 30, arrived in Sydney from her home in northern Thailand in April, 2001, with a promise she would work in a restaurant.

Instead, she was raped, drugged and forced to become a sex worker. An "acquaintance of an acquaintance" had promised her visas and work permits would be waiting for her when she arrived.

"For a long time I had a dream of living in a democratic country where I could live like a respected human being, having not only material wealth, but also spiritual fulfillment," Nawaporn wrote. But her dreams were shattered.

She was attacked by a pimp, drugged and told she had to provide sexual services for money until she was rescued by the police.

She told police her story and she is now living in Europe.

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224 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Japan Times

June 26, 2004, Saturday

Cooperation key to war on human trafficking

LENGTH: 284 words

By HIROSHI MATSUBARA, Staff writer

A surge in human trafficking has become an urgent global problem that can only be curbed through international cooperation, experts said Friday.

The call came from participants of a two-day international meeting on human trafficking that was held in Tokyo earlier this week.

Speaking at a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Japan, they urged Japan to take effective steps to crack down on the complex problem through better cooperation with various government bodies and nongovernmental organizations. Japan was placed on a "special **watch**" list in the U.S. State Department's annual report on **human trafficking** earlier this month.

One of the speakers, Saisuree Chutikul, a former Cabinet minister of Thailand and a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, said Japan is a major destination of trafficking victims - mainly women - from Thailand and other parts of Southeast Asia.

She urged Tokyo to act on the "three Ps": prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers or exploiters.

Mu Sochua, Cambodia's minister for women's and veterans' affairs, said her country's efforts to recover from its war-torn past have been greatly obstructed by the trafficking of its nationals.

She said such crimes not only violate the rights of victims but also destroy "the culture, economy, and the whole nation."

Speaking at the symposium, former Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama expressed her dissatisfaction with the U.S. report, which criticized Japan for failing to create a comprehensive law to curb human trafficking. She said the report failed to properly take into account Japan's past efforts.

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225 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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226 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Cabinet Maker

June 25, 2004

ETHICAL SOURCING: What price teak?

SECTION: Pg. 20

LENGTH: 1600 words

If you sell teak furniture, or have some in your garden, perhaps you should spare a thought for where it was sourced from and how. Mark Lewis looks at the Burmese teak situation

Teak is a beautiful, durable hardwood. It grows in very few places and demands a large premium because of this. The very best teak grows in Burma (Myanmar), which derives a large bulk of its income from it. This Burmese wood makes sturdy and popular garden furniture, but should British retailers be stocking it?

Non-governmental organisations such as Global Witness and The Burma Campaign think not. They argue that, like West Africa's so called blood diamonds', Burmese teak funds civil wars, and sustains a vicious government.

A classic military dictatorship, the Burmese government drips with Orwellian irony. Since it came to power in a military coup in 1962, The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has kept the country in abject poverty and almost perpetual civil war.

The British Foreign Office estimates that 40% of Burma's GDP is spent on the army, compared to 0.3% spent on health. This in a country where AIDS, given sustenance by human trafficking and forced prostitution, is threatening to spiral to African proportions.

Girls as young as 10 are bought and sold into sexual slavery, often smuggled across borders into neighbouring countries. Last November The Economist reported on sex trafficking into Cambodia. A girl, aged 17, has lesions on her skin, a symptom of AIDS,' it wrote. She traces them with her fingertips and says they are the result of a disease caused by the local water. She and others who have similar markings use a local traditional medicine to try, without success, to clean them up.' When they become too ill to work, they will be discarded.

The Burmese government is soft on this kind of slavery. Under the US's three-tier categorisation of countries which allow **human trafficking**, Burma is in **tier** three. That means it neither adheres to minimum standards of prevention, nor makes any effort to do so.

The other form of human trafficking, forced labour, is also a favourite of the Burmese government, particularly for building roads and military camps. In 2000, Burma was censured by the UN's International Labour Organisation who called on the international community to impose sanctions on Burmese goods. The ILO found that the use of forced labour was systematic and widespread, and it accused the government of a crime against humanity'. John Jackson, The Burma Campaign director, described a situation where women were being raped on the roadside, and old people were dying of exhaustion at work.

The Foreign Office argues that doing business with Burma, whether teak or anything else, puts money in the pocket of the generals who maintain the dictatorship. It is impossible to do business there without working with generals, because it is such a highly centralised state,' says a spokesman. Many of those generals lead armies of children. With 77,000 child soldiers, Burma boasts more than any other country. That's 25% of the world's child soldiers,' says Jackson. He talks about a country where 11 year-olds are made to rape women, burn villages and beat people to death'.

The Foreign Office also believes companies that source timber from Burma or set up factories there, put money in the pocket of the military junta, and give it political legitimacy.

In 1990 the military junta did eventually allow an election. Believing itself popular enough to receive a public mandate, it was shocked when the rival National League for Democracy (NLD) won by a landslide. The result was never honoured, and the NLD's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi was promptly locked up. She remains perhaps the world's best-known political prisoner, and has been awarded a Nobel Peace prize in absentia.

Suu Kyi is reported to have urged companies not to invest in Burma. The Burma Campaign uses this as a clarion call to its cause. It publishes a 'dirty list' of British companies that invest there.

On the list is garden furniture manufacturer Alexander Rose. It sources teak from Burmese forests, and maintains a factory in the country. Borge Leth, Alexander Rose technical director, spends a lot of time in Burma, and mounts an eloquent defence for the company's association with the country. He broadly agrees with much of what The Burma Campaign says. Yes, the Burmese government is horrible; yes, the Burmese people are downtrodden because of it, but his factory keeps 200 families in food and clothes.

Even so, The Burma Campaign has hurt. Ikea and John Lewis refuse to buy furniture from Burma (John Lewis's Alexander Rose teak comes from Africa).

Major garden furniture retailers B&Q, Homebase, Focus-Wickes and Wyevale also told Cabinet Maker that they do not sell products made from Burmese teak.

Alexander Rose's Burma operation is constantly under internal review. Indeed, three years ago it was worth pounds 1.632m, today it is worth only pounds 544,000. It accounts for just 10% of the company's turnover. And given the political damage the company incurs because of its association with Burma, pulling out at a loss of 10% of turnover is something Leth feels it could live with. But in my heart I feel that would be the wrong decision,' he says. I am 90% sure that I am doing the right thing for those people. It is a topic which is close to my heart.'

The British Government is less sure. British American Tobacco recently sold its concern in Burma after an unprecedented request from the Foreign Office which said its presence offered economic succour and political legitimacy to the military junta. It advises British companies not to invest in the country and will provide no assistance to those which do. And like The Burma Campaign, the Foreign Office points to Suu Kyi's supposed opposition to foreign investment.

If Aung San Suu Kyi or someone from her party comes down and sees what we are doing,' says Leth, and comes back with the recommendation that we should still not be dealing with them, then I will put my hands up and admit I was wrong. But not somebody sitting in London from The Burma Campaign.'

It is the only time he gets upset. He is calmer when he compares Alexander Rose's legally felled teak to some of the illegal timber. The government sponsored timber is, at least, sustainable, he says. And while it does not agree that government commercial logging is sustainable, Global Witness does concede that it is a good deal less damaging than the illegal logging happening in the north and south of the country.

In Kachin State on the Chinese border, there is an ecological disaster unfolding. Uninhibited illegal logging of 150 year-old teak trees is devastating the local landscape and setting the whole region up for soil erosion and flooding. The country is losing forest cover at a rate of 1.4% a year and is threatening the ecosystem of this biologically diverse region.

As a Global Witness report, *A Conflict of Interests: The Uncertain Future of Burma's Forests*, noted at the end of last year: Despite the environmental and economic disasters experienced by both the Chinese and the Thais as a result of deforestation, they have encouraged the very same companies to log just over the border in Burma, with the same predictable results.'

Burma's neighbours are fantastically resource hungry. Fortunately for them, Burma is fantastically resource rich. It has some of the most fertile soil in mainland Asia, large and important offshore oil reserves, as well as jade, rubies and sapphires. Most important, it has timber, and sports around 60% of the world's teak. Yet its people are pitifully poor, while Burmese border towns in China and Burmese generals and strongmen are getting rich.

In 1999-2000, official Burmese teak exports totalled 806,000cu metres. Teak importing countries officially imported 1.72million cu m over the same period. The shortfall of 914,000cu m is just a fraction of how much teak is illegally felled every year. Most of it ends up in China. Much will make its way to British gardens in the shape of outdoor furniture.

There are three types of teak: Burmese, Indonesian and African. Leth says anyone dealing with teak can see immediately which is which. China does not have any teak. So anyone importing teak from China knows it is the Burmese variety, probably from Burma, and often illegal.

EU regulations state that timber products should be marked with a made in x' label. But that refers only to the last place the timber was substantially changed. Global Witness suggests clearing up any confusion by scrapping that and having a timber sourced in x' label and a last manufactured in x' label.

It also suggests consumers should ensure that timber imported from Burma does not fund conflict, or lead to human rights abuse or increased poverty, and that it is harvested from a legal, sustainable, managed source and produced in accordance with Burma's international obligations'

Andrew Berry, HJ Berry and Sons director has a more radical solution. Using local product is the most environmentally friendly thing you can do,' he says. He is thinking of introducing a range of garden furniture made from British oak. It is just as attractive as teak and nearly as durable, he claims.

It would take an immense effort, and almost as large subsidies, to create a manageable British forestry sector. Because though traditional teak furniture certainly feels British, it's worth remembering where the trees were cut down.

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227 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

June 25, 2004 Friday

Govt must act on human trafficking

BYLINE: Jake Adelstein Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer**SOURCE:** Yomiuri**SECTION:** Pg. 4**LENGTH:** 866 words

Japan, which was the venue for a two-day international meeting on human trafficking that closed in Tokyo on Thursday, was itself listed in the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report released on June 14 as a "special watch" country for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

The symposium, "Strategies for Human Trafficking in Asia," was organized by the U.S. Embassy, the nongovernmental organization Vital Voices, and the International Labor Organization and was attended by, among others, officials of the National Police Agency and the Justice Ministry.

In his opening remarks, U.S. Ambassador Howard Baker said, "I hope the ideas that come out this conference help victims all over the world."

One such victim was Sirikit (not her real name), whose experiences in Japan were documented in the State Department's report.

Born into a poor community in rural Thailand, at 15 Sirikit found a foreign labor agent in Bangkok who advertised well-paid waitressing jobs in Japan. But on her arrival in Japan, she was taken to a karaoke bar, where the owner raped her, subjected her to a blood test and then bought her.

"I felt like a piece of flesh being inspected," Sirikit recounted in the report. She was told that she had to pay off a large debt for her travel expenses and she was warned that girls who tried to escape were brought back by the yakuza, severely beaten, and their debts doubled. The only way to pay off the debt, she was told, was to service as many clients as possible as quickly as possible.

The report described in great detail the plight of Sirikit and other human-trafficking victims in Japan, focusing a harsh spotlight on the reality of the trafficking problem in this country.

It states quite critically that "the Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders." And while crediting Japanese authorities for the arrest of 41 individuals involved in trafficking, last year, the report does not mention whether this was a significant number.

The **watch list** targets countries in which more than 100 hundred reports of **human trafficking** have been collected. However, the rating attached to countries is based on the judgment of the State Department alone.

Former Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama touched upon this in her remarks. Expressing her displeasure, she noted that while the Japanese authorities had increased their cooperation and are preparing legislation, the United States had not properly noted these efforts.

Why did the United States, which is so sensitive to human rights issues, make Japan such a target of criticism in the report?

In all likelihood it is because Japan has neglected to create a legal framework for dealing with this modern form of slavery.

The report states: "Japan lacks a comprehensive law against trafficking...The government currently employs the penal code and a variety of labor, immigration, and child welfare/protection statutes to carry out limited trafficking-related prosecutions. These laws provide for up to 10-year prison terms and steep fines, but actual penalties have been far less severe."

Japan's failure to protect the women trafficked to its shores also is a major bone of contention. "Over the past year, the Japanese Government offered victims of sexual slavery little in the way of legal advice or psychological or financial support. Generally, victims were deported as illegal aliens," the report states.

The report is very unforgiving in regard to Japan's lack of action in trafficking matters.

Govt to implement measures

The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government decided Wednesday to implement a number of measures to eradicate human trafficking, including formulating a new law, tightening existing rules and making penalties for traffickers more severe.

The specifics of the new measures are to be hammered out by a forum to reinforce cooperation between four ministries and agencies on preventing women being trafficked into Japan from abroad and forced to work in the sex industry, which opens July 6.

The forum will be attended by bureau chief-class officials from the National Police Agency, the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry.

The government's decision is a response to mounting international criticism of how Japan is combating people trafficking following the publication of the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 14.

The report put Japan on a special watch list of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories of countries involved in the trade, and urged Tokyo to do more to prosecute traffickers and help victims.

The government decided drastic new measures were necessary following criticism from legal circles that there currently is no law that comprehensively outlaws the trade and penalizes traffickers, and that existing punishments are relatively light given the seriousness of the crime.

People trafficking is prohibited under the Prostitution Prevention Law and the Penal Code.

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 2004

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228 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 24, 2004, Thursday

Official contradicts US assessment of gov't anti-trafficking efforts, cites progress made

BYLINE: Ma. Eloisa I. Calderon

SECTION: Pg. 11

LENGTH: 331 words

The government yesterday took a defensive stance on the United States' assessment of its efforts to combat trafficking noting that the US Department of State failed to consider that the Philippines implemented the anti-trafficking law just this year.

The US State Department, in its 2004 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, gave the Philippines a **Tier 2 Watch List** rating, a downgrade from the grade it got for the past three years after noting there was no improvement in the enforcement of the new law.

But Executive Director Catherine Maceda of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, a division of the Department of Foreign Affairs said Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, said although it was passed on May 26, was just implemented in January. A fact that may not have been taken into consideration when the US made its annual trafficking report.

"Between January and now, we are talking of six months time frame for the implementation. We have six cases involving six people since the law was passed. In terms of seeing actual results since the law was passed, this is the first time we've seen people really coming out to report cases," Ms. Maceda told reporters and US embassy officials at a videoconference held in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The latest State Department report, noted that the Philippines has prosecuted only three trafficking cases under the new law and had only two convictions for trafficking-related offenses under other laws. It also stressed that country should take immediate corrective action as its prosecution remained weak.

But Ms. Maceda and other government officials noted the significant efforts the Philippines had been undertaking to combat human trafficking.

"The law which was just passed created an Interagency Council Against Human Trafficking. This is the first time where you see government efforts being integrated. [But] we realize that there is a big need for us to improve law enforcement," she said.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

229 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

June 24, 2004 Thursday

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 3523 words

Statement of Michele A. Clark Co-Director, The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights

June 24, 2004

Mr. Chairman, members of the sub-committee, I am honored to be here today and would like to thank you for holding this hearing on trafficking in persons, a most egregious form of modern slavery. My name is Michele Clark and I am the co-director of The Protection Project, a human rights research institute located at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. For the past seven years, we have focused on documenting and analyzing the complex dimensions of human trafficking. We have worked with members of Congress and US government agencies as well as representatives of foreign governments and NGOs to develop sound policy and practice in the war against trafficking and to conduct training, in this country as well as overseas, on the provision of services to victims of trafficking, drafting anti-trafficking legislation and identifying victims of trafficking.

In the past year, Protection Project staff have traveled to over twenty-five countries on 5 different continents, and throughout the United States. On behalf of the many victims we have spoken with in places as diverse as the Amazon jungle region in Peru, the cabarets in Cyprus and prisons in the United Arab Emirates, I would like to thank you for your strong, on-going support of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), signed into law on December 19, 2003, has proven to be an effective tool in the war against trafficking. This law provides not only for appropriations for the TVPA for 2004 and 2005, but also, through its amendments, enhances efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John Miller and the outstanding staff of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons for their hard work, and for the excellent 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report issued on June 14, 2004. The report is thorough, well written and highly informative. By including short testimonies illustrating experiences of victims of trafficking as well as acknowledging the valiant work of heroes in this cause, we come away with not only a sense of the policy and programmatic activities being undertaken to combat trafficking; we are also able to glimpse the heartaches and the horrors, the triumphs and the victories, of those who suffer and those who labor on their behalf. Our common mission is about saving lives, and this report helps us to focus on what is needed to accomplish this goal.

The War Against Trafficking Today

My intent today is to present a bird's eye view of where we are in the war against trafficking, and to provide recommendations on areas that deserve our immediate attention.

We have come a long way since October 2000, when Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Anti-trafficking laws have been passed in countries around the world - but still not enough countries have such laws. Of the 131 countries included in the Trafficking In Persons report, only 68, or 51 percent, have legislation which addresses trafficking. Among those with anti- trafficking legislation, enforcement remains weak. Thirty-three countries, or 25 percent, have adopted national action plans to combat countries. However, these are infrequently implemented, owing to a

lack of capacity, a lack of resources or a lack of political will. No **Tier 3** country has a national action plan to combat **trafficking in persons**. Funding is being allocated by affluent countries, but many of these funds fail to find their way to small grass roots organizations which are often the most well-suited to provide protection to victims of trafficking once they have been identified through rescue, arrest, or escape.

I would like to elaborate briefly on the Report, because this helps us to gain a quick overview of where countries stand in their fight against human trafficking today.

This year, 131 countries were included in the report. In 2003, 116 countries were listed. This significant increase indicates that we are doing a better job identifying victims and documenting criminal activities.

Of these 131 countries, 25 are on Tier 1; 54 countries are on Tier 2; 42 countries are on the new Tier 2 Watch list and 10 countries are listed on Tier 3.

Ten countries, or 7.6 percent, received a higher rating, moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2 or Tier 2 Watch List. Only one country, Canada, rose to Tier 1.

Thirty-seven countries, or 28 percent, received a lower rating. Four countries dropped from Tier 1 to Tier 2; 4 countries dropped from Tier 2 to Tier 3; and 27 dropped from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List.

The most significant movement among countries was downward.

The numbers cited above tell us that more intensive efforts are being made to document the scope of the problem of human trafficking around the world - in countries of destination, transit and origin. At the same time, improved documentation indicates shortcomings in the progress of many countries to make serious and concerted efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons.

I would like to address three specific issues where significant gaps remain in advancing a comprehensive, global anti-trafficking agenda. These are 1) the need for aggressive enactment of anti- trafficking legislation and for improved law enforcement; 2) the need for continued research and concerted practical efforts to identify victims of trafficking; and 3) the need to provide greater protection to victims of trafficking, especially in areas of repatriation and reintegration, in countries of transit and destination and origin.

1. Laws and Law Enforcement

Anti-Trafficking Legislation: The existence of good laws, and the enforcement of these laws, plays an important role in a country's ability to combat trafficking. Where there is a recognized legal framework that defines the crime, prevents different forms of trafficking, identifies and protects the victim, and punishes the perpetrators, and where this legislation is enforced, a country can begin to make progress. While we acknowledge that even small legislative measures are better than none, we would like to comment briefly on what constitutes effective anti- trafficking legislation.

Effective anti-trafficking legislation should:

Define the concept of a victim of trafficking and treat the trafficked person as a victim and not a criminal.

Recognize the trafficked person as a victim of the crime of trafficking and, as such, entitled to basic or fundamental rights including the right to safety, privacy, information, legal representation, to be heard in court, compensation for damages, medical assistance, social assistance and the right to residence and to return.

Address the scope of what constitutes a form of trafficking.

Recognize trafficking as a serious crime.

Law Enforcement Activities:

Tier 1. The TIP report reflects that Tier 1 countries are actively pursuing the prosecution of traffickers, utilizing either their trafficking statutes or related legislation to arrest, investigate, file cases and convict traffickers, reflecting a commitment to enforcement of existing laws. However, some Tier 1 countries are still levying relatively light sentences for convicted traffickers. For example in Austria, while 17 out of 27 persons convicted for trafficking offences during the reporting period spent time in prison, the majority served only a year or less. Likewise in Germany, a large number of convicted offenders received suspended sentences, reflecting the fact that these sentences were originally not higher than two years in duration. In Lithuania, sentences handed down to convicted traffickers averaged between two to three

years of imprisonment, and in Spain, the average sentence of trafficking-related convictions in 2003 was cited as 2.4 years.

Tier 2. Significantly, a vast majority of countries in Tier 2 are also arresting, investigating or prosecuting traffickers. However, corruption is mentioned in 5 of the Tier 2 narratives as remaining a problem or being investigated as a problem. Law enforcement corruption is one of the biggest challenges in combating trafficking, as corrupt law enforcement officials, working in collusion with traffickers, or utilizing services of trafficked women prevent the effective identification of victims and preclude their ability to access services. Corruption among law enforcement creates fear and reluctance among victims of trafficking to approach the police for help, thereby perpetuating their state of abuse. Tier 2 Watch List. The prosecution record of countries on the Tier 2 Watch List demonstrates that existence of a law is not in and of itself enough to result in punishment of perpetrators and signals that law enforcement remains a problem in many of these countries. While close to 48% of the countries included this year on the Tier 2 Watch List have some type of anti-trafficking legislation, approximately half of these countries are cited as either not having prosecuted any cases of trafficking throughout the reporting period, as having prosecuted only a handful of traffickers while facing a significant problem of trafficking, suggesting a lack in the enforcement mechanisms of existing laws; or as not having maintained any records of prosecutions. For example, Nigeria, which passed a comprehensive anti-trafficking law in June of 2003, has not yet prosecuted any cases under this law. Cyprus, Russia and Turkey, all countries with very significant problems of trafficking in persons have not prosecuted nearly as many traffickers as would be expected commensurate with the extent of the trafficking problems they are facing.

2. Identification of Victims of Trafficking

The lack of accurate victim identification remains one of the central obstacles to implementing effective anti-trafficking measures. If we do not know the identities, the conditions and the location of victims, we can do little to reach out to them to ensure that they benefit from existing protective measures. The following are key elements which highlight the importance of victim identification:

Proper victim identification ensures rapid intervention. How accurately law enforcement officials, social service providers, and even Good Samaritans identify a trafficked person will determine how quickly a victim of trafficking will receive assistance.

The interpretation of trafficking legislation must be harmonized with existing legal provisions related to the issue of trafficking, and which might confuse victim identification.

A legally recognized practice can be used to exploit victims of trafficking.

I would like to cite the example of Cyprus, which authorizes entertainment visas to women of other countries. As of December 2003, according to latest immigration figures, it was estimated that 1,400 foreign "artistes" work in 79 cabarets and 53 nightspots. However, investigations have revealed that the cabaret industry can conceal instances of human trafficking. Women entering the country on legal entertainment visas to work in the cabarets are coerced into providing sexual services to clients and become virtual prisoners of the club owners, their mobility severely limited, their contact with the outside world tightly monitored, and their gain from their activities very small. To law enforcement officials, however, they remain cabaret dancers or prostitutes and not victims of a crime.

Proper victim identification helps to ensure compassionate treatment and full access to available benefits. If a victim is not properly identified, she will not be granted any of the benefits, including shelter and protection that a country might provide. Women trafficked overseas from Azerbaijan who have been deported back to their home country and identified as prostitutes are taken to a state run clinic where they are examined and treated if they are diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. Because they are not identified as victims, they are not provided with any psychological counseling, nor are they referred to NGOs, which can provide this type of counseling. In countries without adequate anti-trafficking provisions, which include a definition of what constitutes trafficking, government and law enforcement officials tend to proceed according to a law-enforcement and crime control approach, rather than one which considers the human rights of victims of trafficking.

Without aggressive outreach, many victims of trafficking, especially in countries of destination, remain hidden and without assistance. In December 2003, The Protection Project trained law enforcement officials in nine countries of Southeastern Europe, a region of both destination and transit for trafficked women. During this visit, NGO representatives reported that, while many shelters have been established to house women trafficked to this region few victims have availed themselves of the protective services of these shelters. Reasons cited for this focused on the lack of outreach to

victims. Victims in these countries do not know about the shelters, do not feel that they provide adequate protection, and believe that they can do better for themselves on their own.

3. Protection of Victims of Trafficking

The TVPA provides that "The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with appropriate non-governmental organizations, shall establish and carry out programs and initiatives in foreign countries to assist in the safe integration, reintegration or resettlement, as appropriate, of victims of trafficking." (Sec. 107(1)) However, victims of trafficking around the world are still not able to benefit from full protective measures in countries of destination, transit and, tragically, in their own countries of origin.

The consequences of insufficient victim protection are vast and have extensive personal as well as policy implications.

Absent protective measures, victims of trafficking who have been rescued or released from their enslavement will not testify against their traffickers. Consequently traffickers go free, victims live in fear of reprisal, and the cause of justice is not served.

Absent sufficient protective measures, victims of trafficking will not receive the medical or psychological attention they require.

Absent comprehensive protective measures in their countries of origin, including shelters and reintegration programs, victims of trafficking will continue to be vulnerable to traffickers and will be recycled into international networks.

Absent humane repatriation practices, trafficked persons will be revictimized during the process of return.

Finally, absent centers which provide hope in their countries of origin, women in destination countries, faced with the possibilities of returning home as a criminal, branded as a prostitute, and confronting the same bleak economic opportunities that made them vulnerable to being trafficked in the first place, have committed, and tragically will continue to commit suicide. Countries of origin must be confronted with the responsibility of caring for their own citizens when these women return.

Repatriation procedures leave vast room for improvement in many countries. In one of the countries cited in the TIP report, trafficked women who are arrested during raids are summarily deported, left with no time to collect their personal possessions, contact associates, or seek legal assistance. Law enforcement officials do not interview them in order to determine to what extent they have been victims of trafficking. This process is an affront to the dignity of women who have already suffered extensive abuse and degradation. In other countries, women seeking repatriation assistance from their consular offices in countries of destination find that their new travel documents identify them as having been arrested for immigration violations, and having worked as a prostitute. These offenses stigmatize the victim and frequently contribute to her marginalization upon return to her country of origin.

Recommendations

Based on our analysis of available data and our first-hand experiences with anti-trafficking policies and practices around the world, we would like to make the following recommendations:

Enacting Anti-Trafficking Legislation: Anti-trafficking legislation which defines the crime, identifies and protects the victims, encourages the prevention of trafficking and prosecutes the offenders is a cornerstone in the war against trafficking. Countries, which have not yet enacted such legislation, must be encouraged to do so.

Training of Law Enforcement Officials: In order to ensure the effectiveness of anti-trafficking legislation, we advocate training of law enforcement officials in countries of destination, transit and origin. This training should include understanding of the laws related to trafficking, how to recognize a victim of trafficking and the rights accorded to victims of trafficking.

Enhancing Victim Identification Methods: Aggressive measures must be taken to identify victims of trafficking in countries of destination in order to provide them with information on where to seek assistance as well as the extent of their rights according to the laws of the countries where they have been trafficked. This information needs to be made available in languages of possible victims and placed in locations accessible to these individuals.

Training in Victim Identification Methods: Law enforcement representatives, social service providers, and other individuals who are likely to encounter victims of trafficking must be trained on how to identify victims of trafficking in their country. This training should include a description of the forms of trafficking particular to the region. It should

also include a definition of a victim of trafficking as well information on services for victims of trafficking. Training should also include cooperation between law enforcement and the NGO community, so that these two entities can work together on behalf of victims of trafficking. Furthermore, we advocate training in large urban areas as well as more rural communities. We have found that training tends to be concentrated in big cities despite the fact that significant trafficking activity also takes place outside of urban centers.

Ensuring Adequate Victim Protection in Countries of Transit and Destination: Protection in countries of transit and destination should include shelters with adequate safety and protective measures as well as access to social, medical and psychological assistance.

Ensuring Humane Repatriation Procedures: Careful repatriation and reintegration programs are critical in enabling victims of trafficking to regain control over their lives. In countries of origin, protective measures must include temporary shelters for returning victims, decriminalization, and measures to assist with social and economic reintegration. These will include access to job training as well as further educational opportunities for work that is actually available in the country of origin.

Funding Foreign NGOs: Because of their strong community ties, we encourage the funding of small, local NGOs in countries of destination, transit and origin for provision of protective services including shelter, repatriation and reintegration. These organizations tend to be successful because they are known and trusted in their communities. They conduct extensive outreach to trafficked persons and they have few limitations related to the length of stay in their shelters. Because they are local, they understand the complex psychological as well as cultural factors involved in reintegration.

Engaging in Research: Further research is necessary in order to successfully win the war against trafficking and we would like to encourage sponsorship of areas mentioned during this hearing. The TVPRA (Sec. 12A) states that "The President. . . shall carry out research included by providing grants to nongovernmental organizations as well as to relevant United States Government Agencies and international organizations. . . Such research activities shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include, but not be limited to, the following: "(1) The economic causes and consequences of trafficking in persons. "(2) The effectiveness of programs and initiatives funded or administered by Federal agencies to prevent trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims of trafficking. "(3) The interrelationship between trafficking in persons and global health risks.

Mr. Chairmen, members of the committee, I thank you for your commitment to this issue and look forward to working with you in the future.

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COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

TESTIMONY-BY: MICHELE A. CLARK, CO-DIRECTOR, THE PROTECTION PROJECT AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

AFFILIATION: SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

230 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Prague Post (Czech Republic)

June 24, 2004

Postview

BYLINE: Staff**SECTION:** Opinion**LENGTH:** 646 words

Report on human trafficking praises Czechs The government might be on the verge of collapse due to a lack of internal support within the ruling party, but it still has something to celebrate. The Czech Republic is the only former Eastern bloc state listed as a **Tier 1** country in the just released U.S. Report on **Human Trafficking**. That ranking, on a four-tier scale, indicates that the country is doing everything possible - prevention, victim aid, prosecution, arrest - to curtail the crime of **human trafficking**, which traps thousands of men, women and children in forced labor and sexual servitude each year. In the Czech Republic **human trafficking** is linked to street prostitution and forced sex work in the country's more than 200 brothels. The victims are primarily from the poorest ex-Soviet states, such as Ukraine and Moldova. U.S. Embassy political officer and trafficking expert Ben Rockwell did castigate the country on two points, however. First, sentencing in the Czech Republic, as in many countries, is too light, according to Rockwell. And despite excellent police work, he said, far too few traffickers are actually charged. Out of the five persons convicted of human trafficking last year, four were sentenced to jail time, but all of the sentences were suspended. "Judges and prosecutors still do not really know how to apply the trafficking law, which was only passed in 2000," Rockwell explained. The bigger problem, as Rockwell acknowledged, is that the country has developed a reputation as the brothel of Europe, with cheap flights fueling sex tourism. Traffickers see a great business opportunity in the Czech Republic. And if prosecutors and judges do not start to take the issue seriously, the Czech Republic could become even more of a trafficker's heaven, Tier 1 rating or not. Rockwell and the trafficking report also criticized the government's plan to submit a bill to the Chamber of Deputies to legalize prostitution. Although the Interior Ministry insists that legalization and the regulations that come with it would eliminate trafficking, Rockwell argues that this assumption is counterintuitive. "If a country becomes a legal haven for prostitution, then traffickers will be in greater demand. And there will always be people who want to avoid paying taxes and higher fees to prostitutes, so there will be an underground market for illegal prostitutes," he said. Jitka Gjuricova, the Interior Ministry's prostitution expert, says the claim of a link between trafficking and prostitution is not based on real evidence. "Legalization helps distinguish between persons involved in prostitution forcibly and voluntarily," she said, adding that legalization also reduces the number of prostitutes. "Since prostitution was legalized in Holland in 2000, the number of window prostitutes in Amsterdam has decreased by one-third." The question is whether that one-third has gone underground and can now be tapped through other means, such as mobile-phone escort services. "Where prostitution is legalized, a black market in trafficking emerges," the U.S. report asserts, "as exploiters seek to maximize profit by avoiding the scrutiny and regulatory costs of the legal prostitution market." The Brussels-based European Women's Lobby, representing hundreds of nongovernmental organizations, has also taken an anti-prostitution stand. It supports the approach of Sweden, which since 1999 has vigorously prosecuted prostitutes' clients. Since then, according to the Stockholm police, street prostitution has declined by 70 percent to 90 percent and brothel prostitution by half. It is hard to tell who is right, the Americans or the Czechs. But it is far from a merely academic or political question: Finding the right solution to the trafficking crisis in the former Soviet bloc could save the lives of thousands of women in the future.

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231 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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232 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 24, 2004

Anti-Trafficking Efforts Save Lives, Lawmakers Say; Congressional committee marks progress against modern day slavery

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1132 words

By Charlene Porter

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A four-year-old U.S. law to protect victims of human trafficking and end 21st century slavery worldwide is saving people from lives of abuse and exploitation, lawmakers and witnesses declared June 24 at a Congressional hearing.

"Many thousands of women will be protected from forced prostitution as well as rape," said Representative Christopher Smith (Republican, New Jersey) at a House International Relations Subcommittee hearing on the Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. State Department June 14.

Smith also cited a Department of Defense zero-tolerance policy for personnel who are complicit in trafficking by frequenting brothels where victims are forced into the sex industry. He said NATO is headed toward imposing a similar policy on its troops, and declared that the United Nations must follow the same course.

The hearing served as a forum for lawmakers to review the progress of their legislative actions to combat trafficking since initial implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000.

Several representatives from advocacy groups testified to the progress made against modern-day slavery, even while they underscored the need for more aggressive action. Sharon Cohn of the International Justice Mission works to identify and win freedom for victims of trafficking in places around the world. She described her experiences escorting victims out of brothels to the committee, and said it is a "literal truth" that a person can leave servitude and rape one day to begin rehabilitation the next "because of this law."

The Trafficking in Persons Report, mandated by the 2000 law, surveys 140 nations this year in their activity to prevent trafficking, prosecute the crime when detected and protect victims and potential victims. Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons John Miller said one distinct indicator of progress on the issue over the last several years is found in the increasing numbers of nations that are taking legislative and law enforcement actions against trafficking in persons.

"We know that 24 new countries this year enacted comprehensive anti-trafficking in persons legislation," Miller said. "That is great."

In compiling the report, the State Department also has placed new emphasis on documenting the actions of law enforcement to combat trafficking. "There were almost 8,000 prosecutions of traffickers around the world last year, and almost 3,000 convictions," Miller said.

The report divides nations into three tiers: Tier 1 is reserved for those nations in full compliance with international standards; Tier 2, for those nations making progress in meeting international standards; and Tier 3, for countries whose efforts to combat trafficking are out of line with international standards. One recent change, just added in the 2003 compilation of the report, is the creation of a "watch list" of Tier 2 countries that are at risk of backsliding, and could face sanctions.

Despite the reports of progress in the 2004 Trafficking in Persons report, lawmakers posed some tough questions about this global campaign. The report puts Ecuador, Guyana and Venezuela in the lowest-ranking category of its three-tier placement system for the first time, making them subject to a possible loss of some forms of U.S. assistance. Lawmakers expressed concern that these Western Hemisphere nations were among the 10 lowest-rated countries in the world.

Miller said discussions are under way with Ecuador, Guyana and Venezuela about ways in which they can improve their activities to prevent human trafficking. "I think there's a lack of awareness there, and they're becoming aware fast."

Miller said he is hopeful that Ecuador and Guyana, in particular, will be able to take adequate steps in the next several months to avoid the withdrawal of aid when the president makes that ultimate decision.

Bangladesh, Burma, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, North Korea, Sierra Leone and Sudan are also ranked in Tier 3, and considered out of line with international standards in their efforts to prevent trafficking.

Miller said the **watch-list** ranking device has given the State Department new leverage in challenging nations to take stronger action to prevent **human trafficking**. "We are able to give a signal to those countries at the bottom of Tier 2 that, a [tilde]you better be doing something this coming year if you don't want to fall into Tier 3."

Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Russia and Turkey are among the 42 nations included on the watch list, and Miller told the lawmakers that some of them are already responding with new commitments to take stronger actions to address their trafficking problems.

The watch-list nations also will undergo a midyear assessment to ascertain whether they are actually taking the actions they promise, and to give notice as to whether they may be likely to fall into the lowest category when the next report is issued in June 2005.

Specifically citing Japan, Miller described an attitude of "complacency" toward human trafficking among government officials.

"Japan's trafficking problem is large," backed by international organized crime, according to the report itself. "Japan could do much more to protect its thousands of victims of sexual slavery" the report says.

Miller told the committee the Japanese government has become more attuned to the issue just over the last two months, and he has become hopeful that stronger action will be taken in the near future.

In its ongoing efforts to monitor human trafficking, Miller said his office is going to start focusing more on "the demand side of this equation." He cited child sex tourism as an example. The abduction of children and their exploitation in the sex industry occurs largely in underdeveloped countries, "but where do the tourists come from?" Miller asked. "They come from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, U.S. [and] Japan. We're focusing more on that issue," Miller said.

One new approach the United States has taken to address child sex tourism rests in the Child Protection Act, passed by the Congress earlier this year. It allows U.S. authorities to arrest and prosecute a U.S. citizen for engaging in this form of exploitation anywhere it occurs in the world. Federal authorities already are pursuing several cases under that recent law, and Miller credited the lawmakers for their action.

Looking toward what remains to be done to further curtail trafficking, Miller told the subcommittee members, "All of us in the 21st century have to be abolitionists."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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233 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 23, 2004 Wednesday

Ex-justice minister questions U.S. human trafficking report

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 462 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, June 23

A former Japanese justice minister questioned Wednesday a U.S. **human trafficking** report released last week that put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category.

'It may be that the United States has not been fully informed of the situation of trafficking in Japan and the work of the Japanese government,' Mayumi Moriyama said. 'I feel that more research could have resulted in a different observation.'

Moriyama, who served as justice minister in Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's previous cabinet, made the remarks in a keynote speech at the outset of a two-day international meeting on human trafficking in Asia in Tokyo.

But Moriyama, a House of Representatives lawmaker, also said that Japan and other developed countries have 'the long way to go' in fighting against human trafficking.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons Report unveiled June 14, the U.S. State Department said, 'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.'

It put Japan, Russia and others on a special watch list of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, which include countries such as North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan. It urged Tokyo to address trafficking crimes and to provide better assistance for victims.

The two-day conference, 'Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia,' began at the United Nations University in Tokyo, hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Japan, the International Labor Organization's Tokyo Office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international nonprofit organization.

Around 100 officials from the United States, Japan and other Asian countries as well as various organizations attended the meeting.

The conference is an 'example of the pledge of the United States to lead this support in the fight against the crime of human trafficking,' U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker said in the opening ceremony.

'As many of you may know, the crime of trafficking men, women and children for the purpose of prostitution and forced labor is of concern to both President (George W.) Bush and to first lady Laura Bush,' Baker said.

Laura Bush said in a video message prepared for the event, 'Human trafficking is a crime across the borders. We know regional and international cooperation is crucial.'

In closed sessions, experts will discuss ways to thwart various forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

The participants are also aiming at increasing the level of cooperation between governments and nongovernment entities in Asia to combat human trafficking.

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234 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 23, 2004 Wednesday

US faults Israel on human trafficking

BYLINE: NINA GILBERT

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 254 words

There are an estimated 14,000 victims of human trafficking in the United States, whereas only 82 investigations were opened against traffickers in Israel, and 151 victims received assistance, a Justice Ministry official said Tuesday in response to the State Department's criticism of Israel in its 2004 report on trafficking in women.

Israel was placed in the same category (**Tier 2**) as in the 2003 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, but was cited for "inadequate care for victims of trafficking" and "minimal efforts in the area of prevention" via a public awareness campaign. At the same time, Israel was credited for improvements made in law enforcement against trafficking. The best ranking is Tier 1, and Israel was previously on the Tier 2 watch list.

The US is not included in the rankings, but the report includes a section on the efforts of the US government to combat the problem.

The 2004 report was discussed on Tuesday in the Knesset Committee of Inquiry into Women Trafficking. Committee chair Zehava Gal-On (Yahad) backed the conclusions of the 2004 report on treatment of victims, saying that a shelter was opened in February that can house 50 women, but has taken in only 23 women who are waiting to testify in sex slavery cases.

All the rest of the women are being held in prisons without any assistance while awaiting deportation, Gal-On said.

Gal-On also noted that the report found that the Internal Security Ministry has issued only seven visas to victims, which has forced most of them to go back into prostitution.

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235 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 23, 2004

Human Trafficking Needs Multi-pronged Opposition, Harrison Says; Prevention of trade, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims needed

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 2501 words

Fighting the scourge of human trafficking requires a "multi-pronged approach," according to Patricia de Stacy Harrison, the acting under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs.

Prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into society for victims are all necessary to deal with the complex problem of the "new slavery," she said at a conference held in Tokyo that discussed strategies for combating human trafficking in Asia.

In her keynote address delivered June 23 at Tokyo's United Nations University, Harrison said prevention must include anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups.

Rehabilitation should include emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign trafficking victims; and reintegration should include voluntary repatriation assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas, she explained.

"Trafficking in persons," Harrison said, "is truly a form of personal terrorism." Vulnerable people -- predominantly women and children -- are "lured and then trapped, their lives taken away," she said, while the victimizers, in many cases, are "free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted."

Fighting against human trafficking, Harrison said, is fighting for human dignity, human rights, rule of law and all the basic tenets of a civil society. "If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way," she said.

Legal reform is also critical in this venture, Harrison said. The United States is working "to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism."

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 is the cornerstone of American anti-trafficking efforts. "This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally," Harrison explained. She said an interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts has enjoyed favorable results -- criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The Protect Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 2003 strengthens existing laws. "Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists," Harrison said.

The Bush administration, Harrison said, is working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and, through development assistance, "to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers."

The two-day conference, "Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia," was hosted by the U.S. embassy in Japan, the International Labour Organization's Tokyo office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

The 2004 edition of the U.S. Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** Report has put Japan on a "**watch list**" of countries that may slide into the category of the most poorly performing countries for dealing with trafficking issues.

According to the report, "Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups (yakuza) that operate internationally are involved. The Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders."

Following is the transcript of Harrison's remarks:

(begin transcript)

Acting Under Secretary of State Patricia de Stacy Harrison

Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking In Asia

Keynote Speech

23 June 2004

United Nations University

Tokyo

ACTING UNDER SECRETARY HARRISON:

Good morning. Thank you Ms. Horiuchi, and good morning Mr. Ambassador, Mrs. Baker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First let me just say, Mrs. Moriyama (Mayumi Moriyama, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice), that was really wonderful, and your leadership on behalf of victims is really extraordinary.

I am so pleased to be here among so many distinguished guests - not only from Japan and the Asian region, but globally - as we all work together to end the scourge of human trafficking. Trafficking in persons is truly a form of personal terrorism. Vulnerable people - women and children - lured and then trapped, their lives taken away, and to complete the cycle of injustice, the victimizers, in many cases, free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted.

As each of us works to end the scourge of trafficking, we are really working for, as President Bush has said, the non-negotiable demands of human dignity - human rights, rule of law, all the basic tenets of a civil society. If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way.

If you were to ask almost anyone, "Are you for or against slavery?" the person would reply "Against, of course," because slavery is a word that everyone understands. But very few people really know - outside of this room - what trafficking means. They associate the word entirely with the selling and buying of illegal drugs, and it is true that human trafficking is linked to international crime syndicates involved in drugs and terrorism, and guns and false documents and the spread of HIV/AIDS. But so few people understand that this word "trafficking" really means selling into slavery women, men and children - a life of prostitution, degradation, violence and shame.

As Ambassador Baker said, President Bush was the first leader to raise the issue of trafficking at the General Assembly, and ending the scourge of slavery - trafficking - is a priority for him. That's why he has committed an additional \$50 million more funding, on top of the \$70 million allocated this past year. The President's determination is reflected in the remarks that he made to the General Assembly, and he said, "There is a special evil in the abuse and the exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims see little of life... an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished, and governments that tolerate this trade are really tolerating a form of slavery." Secretary of State Colin Powell used the word "slavery" as well, when he said, "This form of modern slavery plagues every single country in the world including the United States." Last Monday, the Secretary remarked, "We fight trafficking in persons not just for the sake of victims and potential victims of these crimes; we do it for ourselves, because we can't fully embrace our own dignity as human beings unless we champion the dignity of others." That is basically what Mrs. Horiuchi and everyone gathered here is doing - championing the dignity of others.

I know through this important conference, you're going to increase the numbers of people of good will who will be inspired to help those who are being victimized now. We know that heroes come from every level of society. The Colombian Ambassador to Japan is certainly a hero for his commitment to this issue, and each of you here today - you can be the heroes that inspire others. My personal hero is Nancy Kassebaum Baker, because her leadership on behalf of the dignity of others, through a lifetime of work just speaks volumes.

Let me quickly talk about what the United States is doing to eliminate trafficking in persons. As you know, the U.S. is not immune from the human trafficking problem, and we are working to accelerate anti-trafficking measures at home. In 2000, we passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which is the cornerstone of our anti-trafficking efforts. This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally. President Bush has established the President's interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts. The task force is chaired by Secretary of State Colin Powell, and its directives are carried out by senior-level government officials from 10 federal agencies and departments. As a result, I'm happy to say that criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The United States advocates a multi-pronged approach. It isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. As we just heard, this is a complex problem. This multi-pronged approach includes prevention, for one. So that means anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups. Rehabilitation - that provides emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign traffic victims, and it builds the capacity for NGOs focused on trafficking. And then reintegration - that includes voluntary repatriation assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas. And finally, legal reform. We are working to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism.

The U.S. Congress passed the Protect Act last year, which strengthens existing laws. Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists. Its directives are carried out through the President's task force. We are of course working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and most importantly, through development assistance, we are working to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers.

As a result of these efforts, we've begun to see real success in combating trafficking, both in the U.S. and worldwide. And I want to underscore that in our critical need to stop the traffickers, we must continue to help the victims once they are rescued. In the United States, victims of trafficking are eligible for temporary housing, legal assistance, educational opportunities, mental health counseling, foster care and other benefits, and we do work in partnership with NGOs to help us communicate what the benefits are and to deliver them to the victims.

We have an anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, letting victims know that if they do move forward - and moving forward sometimes takes the most courageous step for these people, to move forward to get help - that they will be protected. We also ask for help from those who may know of victims and can work with us to free them. We sponsor a hotline advising callers what resources are available to them, and we've also set up a new Web site for victim assistance.

My own bureau, Educational and Cultural Affairs, works to fight trafficking through educational exchange programs. We bring leading anti-trafficking experts to the United States, where they and their U.S. counterparts can focus on what is working, what needs to be done, and what resources are required. Alumni of these programs represent a positive force in every country on behalf of victims and potential victims. My bureau has also supported the travel of trafficking victims to conferences such as the one in Bali, and the important thing is that when victims of trafficking go to these conferences it provides an opportunity for the public to hear from them directly.

I had an opportunity to meet with some young people who had received both rescue and shelter from volunteers from the private sector. And I have to tell you: Once you meet a victim, you will not sleep at night until you do everything you can to end this terrible scourge.

In 2003, an Asia-only group participated in an ECA (the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) program that introduced them to policies and strategies to prevent and actively combat trafficking in persons. The program demonstrated how from a wide range of professions. We can effectively maximize what we are invested in doing, because it hits all levels of society. By bringing people from different sectors together, we have a much wider net.

We are supporting projects to provide journalists in Eastern Europe with the tools they need to increase public awareness and to ensure responsible coverage of the issue. We've provided support for four fellows to study anti-trafficking while participating in the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program. We support NGOs that build awareness through communications programs. We want to reach potential victims where they receive information - at shelters, but beyond shelters, at bus stops, in restaurants - so that young people can be aware before they succumb.

I'm extremely pleased to learn that some of the alumni of these programs are here today. You were selected for these programs because of your experience and dedication, and you will be part of a sustainable, multiplier effect increasing

the numbers of people, who as I said can then form a circle of prevention surrounding those who would fall prey to traffickers. And of course, our Embassy here in Tokyo and American embassies overseas support anti-trafficking efforts by organizing workshops and conferences, giving grants to local NGOs, and providing both public and private statements of support for anti-trafficking activities. Many of our participants today from other parts of Asia were selected to attend this conference by our U.S. Embassy colleagues in those countries. All of you have a strong ally in the war against trafficking, and that ally is the American Ambassador, and his or her staff in your home country. On behalf of those who are helpless, your dedication, your commitment is so important.

I want to thank and commend the co-sponsors of this very important conference: the Tokyo branch of the International Labour Organization and Vital Voices, and each one of you for being here today. As President Bush said, "We must show new energy in fighting back an old evil. Nearly two centuries after the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last stronghold, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our times."

Thank you so very much.

(end transcript)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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236 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Voice of America News

June 23, 2004

Japan to Strengthen Human Trafficking Measures

BYLINE: Steve Herman, Tokyo

SECTION: ASIA PACIFIC

LENGTH: 418 words

Filed: 10:06 UTC

Japan is hosting a conference on **human trafficking** - just a few days after being placed on a U.S. **watch list** of nations which need to do more to combat the problem.

Interpol, the international police agency, calls human trafficking the world's fastest growing crime with hundreds of thousands of people traded each year.

The State Department's Acting Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy, Patricia Stacy Harrison, says more than half the victims are women and children who are sexually exploited. "So few people understand that this word trafficking really means selling into slavery women, men and children -- a life of prostitution, degradation, violence and shame."

First Lady Laura Bush, in a video message to this week's Tokyo conference on human trafficking, says the United States is committed to ending modern-day slavery.

"We're monitoring human trafficking patterns, we're working to build public awareness and we plan to spend approximately 150 million dollars over two years to support anti-trafficking," says Mrs. Bush.

The U.S. State Department in its annual report Monday, says the 10 worst countries for trafficking include Bangladesh, Burma and North Korea. But it also listed Japan as a country which needs to do more, noting it is a major destination for Asian, South American and Eastern European women and children for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Governor Akiko Domoto of Japan's Chiba Prefecture, adjacent to Tokyo and home to Japan's largest international airport, admits it is a problem. She says Asian women, most believing they are being recruited for work in restaurants, are flown into the country posing as wives of Japanese men.

Governor Domoto says homeless or unemployed men are paid thousands of dollars to register paper marriages to the young foreign women who are then forced to work as prostitutes.

Japanese activists say police do not treat such matters seriously. They say police usually defer to immigration officials who deport the victims but do not go after the traffickers. In Japan, last year only 51 arrests were made in connection with trafficking women.

Japan's Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary Shotaro Yachi, says Tokyo - stung by its inclusion on the U.S. watch list - is acting. "The government of Japan has clear intention to strengthen our domestic measures to combat trafficking in persons."

Japan and Russia are the only countries among the Group of Eight most industrialized nations on the U.S. watch list.

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

237 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

June 19, 2004, Saturday

Philippine Justice Department unhappy with US human trafficking report

SOURCE: The Philippine Star web site, Manila, in English 19 Jun 04

LENGTH: 572 words

Excerpt from report by Aurea Calica entitled: "DOJ slams US State Department report on RP"; published in English by Philippine newspaper The Philippine Star web site on 19 June

The Department of Justice branded yesterday as unfair and baseless the US State Department's 2004 annual report that ranked the Philippines among several countries that have failed to do enough to stop human trafficking.

Acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez said the report placed the Philippines in a "**tier 2 watch list**" despite government efforts to combat **human trafficking**, particularly the passage of a law imposing tougher penalties for such offences. A country that lands in the "tier 3 watch list" faces US sanctions.

"We do not agree with the sweeping statements of the United States, particularly on the prosecution aspect. We are wondering why we were placed in the tier 2 watch list after passing our own law against trafficking," Gutierrez told reporters.

"The Philippines' anti-trafficking law is a relatively new law. It is barely a year since it was enacted and it is quite unfair to judge the efficacy of the law solely on the basis of prosecutions, and more so, on the number of convictions."

Gutierrez said the new law "is not merely a penal legislation, but also a comprehensive legislation addressing trafficking in persons from prevention, protection to recovery and reintegration. Thus the success of its implementation should not be measured by the number of prosecutions and convictions alone."

The report failed to note that the Philippines is one of two countries in Southeast Asia that have an anti-human trafficking law. Washington should have also considered the difficulty of prosecuting an offender and the need for cooperation from transit and destination countries, Gutierrez added.

Manila's Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking has gathered that several cases are awaiting trial or preliminary investigation, and that the Department of Foreign Affairs had repatriated a number of trafficking victims, many from Bahrain, Malaysia, Nigeria and South Korea, among other countries, Gutierrez said.

"The embassy in Korea was likewise successful in prosecuting the traffickers of 11 Filipinos who were trafficked for the purpose of prostitution. While the Korean employer was not penalized for trafficking because South Korea has no trafficking law, he was convicted under its labour laws."

Because of the lack of a more efficient monitoring system, the government has no clear idea of the extent of human trafficking in the country, Gutierrez said. "For this purpose, the council, as one of its priorities, will establish a shared central data base on trafficking with a capacity for case tracking and monitoring."

In its report, the State Department said Filipino women, often lured abroad with false promises of legitimate employment, are being trafficked for sexual exploitation to Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America in a modern day version of the slave trade. passage omitted

The report, which covers the period from April 2003 through March 2004, said the sexual exploitation of children within the Philippines was a growing concern. Last year, the Philippines was listed in the State Department report as a tier 2 country that did not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but was making significant efforts to do so.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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238 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 19, 2004, Saturday

SINGLE FEMALES, FEMALE GROUPS TO BE BARRED FROM ENTERING KUWAIT

SOURCE: Kuwait-Females**LENGTH:** 363 words**DATELINE:** DOHA, Qatar, June 19, 2004

Single females or groups of females from 34 countries including Malaysia will be barred from entering Kuwait using the "visa-on-arrival" privilege.

To enter Kuwait they must be accompanied by their husbands, sons or brothers.

The other countries include China, Japan, South Korea, France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Spain.

"If such women claim they are visiting Kuwait for business purposes they should produce documentary evidence to prove their claims," Assistant Undersecretary at the Interior Ministry Major-General Thabet Al-Muhanna was quoting as saying in the local Arabic daily Al Watan.

The move comes in the wake of the US State Department's fourth annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" placing Kuwait among 42 countries on "**Tier 2 Watch List**" - countries that have not been complying with US legal standards but had promised to make or are in the process of making significant efforts to meet the requirements.

"Tier 2" countries require "special scrutiny" and could fall into the bottom category - Tier 3 - on which sanctions could be imposed.

According to Arab Times, the report noted that domestic servants in Kuwait are trafficked internally for sexual and labour exploitation with victims suffering debt bondage, involuntary sexual servitude, coerced labour and verbal and physical abuse.

Meanwhile Malaysian business people going to Kuwait will soon find that a Malaysian smart passport is not secure enough as their thumbs as a form of identification.

In a move to counter forged passports, Kuwait's Interior Ministry has approved a proposal to install online fingerprint identification systems at all border points in the tiny wealthy emirate which is a major trade and investment gateway into Iraq.

All arriving and departing passengers will be asked to place their thumb on a fingerprint identification device linked to the computer of the immigration officer, the local daily Arab Times reported.

If everything is in order, the immigration officer will fill in the flight details and other relevant information and save the updated information into the database of the Ministry's Information centre.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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239 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

June 19, 2004, Saturday

KUWAIT TO INTRODUCE FINGERPRINT ID AT ENTRY POINTS

SOURCE: Kuwait-Fingerprint**LENGTH:** 408 words

DOHA (Qatar), June 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysian business people going to Kuwait will soon find that a Malaysian smart passport is not secure enough a form of identification as their thumbs.

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If everything is in order, the immigration officer will fill in the flight details and other relevant information and save the updated information into the database of the Ministry's Information centre.

Meanwhile, female individuals or groups from "some countries" travelling without their husbands, brothers or sons will be barred from entering Kuwait using the visa-on-arrival privilege offered to 34 countries.

Malaysia is one of the 34 countries, along with China, Singapore, Brunei, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, US, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Finland, Spain, Monaco, the Vatican, Iceland, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein.

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240 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 18, 2004 Friday**Philippines says US human trafficking watchlist "unfair"****SECTION:** International News**LENGTH:** 292 words**DATELINE:** MANILA, June 18

President Gloria Arroyo's government on Friday branded as "unfair" a US move to put the Philippines on a global watchlist of countries that have failed to adequately fight international sex trafficking.

Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez said Manila's anti-trafficking law was only passed last year, one of only two such statutes among the countries comprising Southeast Asia, and it should not be judged on the basis of how many suspects have been arrested and prosecuted.

The 2004 State Department report classifies Manila on a "Tier 2 watch list" of countries that are not yet in compliance with US legal standards, but which have promised to make or are in the process of making significant efforts to meet the requirements.

It said the Philippines "is a source, transit, and destination country for persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor" involving not only local women, but also as a "transit point and destination for victims" from China.

The report recognized Manila's "significant efforts" to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

However, it cited Manila's "failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking, particularly in terms of its weak implementation of the anti-trafficking law and a lack of progress in law enforcement."

Gutierrez told reporters: "It is quite unfair to judge the efficacy of the law solely on the basis of the number of prosecutions, and more so, on the number of convictions."

The law is not merely penal legislation but one that seeks to comprehensively address the problem from "prevention, protection to recovery and integration."

str/cgm/sdm

Philippines-US-trafficking

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

241 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation

June 18, 2004 Friday

KID CAMEL JOCKEYS TRAFFICKING THRIVING

LENGTH: 1148 words

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI- Beside tough enforcement of laws, children continue to be trafficked from Pakistan to be used as camel jockeys in UAE.

This was reported in a recently conducted research study on child trafficking for camel races-a perspective from Pakistan, one of the singularly few of its kind research study in the world. The study brings to light vital information on an issue about which little is known. It was carried out by Centre for Research and Social Development (CRSD).

Pakistan being the ally of US government on war against terror, but Pakistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, therefore, is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List of Trafficking in Persons** Report 2004.

The study pointed out that child trafficking is not new, but it is a current practice in most regions in the world. However, it has considerably gathered momentum over the past years. The trafficking of young children for forced labour is one of the fastest growing areas of international crimes.

While there are local groups involved in human trafficking, it is mainly international networks that have made it a sophisticated and well-organised industry in Pakistan.

Identifying the high risk areas for child trafficking, it says that for child traffickers Rahim Yar Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan and Southern Punjab are the centre for trafficking in children, and are a major sources of children trafficked as camel jockeys.

The use of children as jockeys in camel racing is itself extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury and even death. Some children are also abused by traffickers and their employers.

Highlighting the history and trend of this sport, it says that camel racing in UAE is an old sport. The use of children as jockeys from Pakistan, however, dates back to early '70s. Some of the local people attribute this to frequent visits of Arab Sheikhs to the area for purpose of hunting. A Pakistani businessman is alleged to be involved in inviting who in return was rewarded by expansion of his business empire in the Middle East manifolds. There are estimated 14,000 active racing camels and about 15 racetracks throughout the UAE. Dubai, which is centres of this activity, has two of the main stadiums.

The trafficking of children for use as camel jockeys is prohibited by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by ILO Conventions 29, 138 and 182 - all of which have been ratified by the UAE.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and also the Chairman of the Emirates Camel Racing Federation promulgated Order No.1/6/266 on 22 July 2002, which prohibits children under 15 or weighing less than 45kg from being employed in camel racing. It also specifies that all camel jockeys must have proof of their age through their passports and be issued with a medical certificate by the Camel Racing Federation. The minister announced that the ban would come into effect on 1 September 2002. A fine of 20,000 dirhams (\$ 5,500) will be imposed for a first offence and a second offence will lead to a ban from camel racing for one year. A prison sentence of three months along with a fine of 20,000 dirhams will be imposed for subsequent offences.

Tougher enforcement efforts in Pakistan and the ban on child camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates are believed to have reduced the numbers of boys trafficked through Pakistan for that purpose.

Violation of the law enforced in 2002 is still being continued, as evidences (cases of more than 40 children deported and repatriation in April and May 2003) of deportation and repatriation of more than 15 children in February and March 2004, indicates that rules are still being blatantly ignored and violated.

As during the last 15 months, more than 80 children were deported and repatriated from UAE, after working for more than two and three years as camel jockeys. Even the large number of such children are not traceable or deducted by government officials in UAE and Pakistan and remains ignored and invisible from the scene.

Highlighting the root causes of trafficking in children, it says that they are multiple and complex. Some more apparent, which especially persuade parents to part heir children at such a young age are poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, unawareness.

And inadequate legislation, and weak enforcement of related laws and may be greed in some cases.

Poverty has forced many families to send their children, some as young as three, to find whatever work they can. Even Pakistani children are smuggled as camel jockeys to the Gulf states; some are sold by their parents and others are kid-napped by organised groups.

Regarding the rehabilitation and re-integration of the camel jockeys to normal life, it draws that it is the most challenging task and requires a pragmatic programme of actions. Based on nature of the number of issues involved, it requires a multi-dimensional strategic approach. This also requires a strong and active cooperation of relevant government departments and agencies as well as NGOs.

Below given are the steps by steps strategic interventions, pointing out specific actions, must be taken to redress issues involved.

Exploring the role of government departments, the study says that in addition to deliberate connivance of a few corrupt officials, there is a lack of understanding of the issue among the government officials, as they have no understanding of difference between trafficking and smuggling, so actual rates of prosecution are difficult to determine. They especially have less knowledge of the laws and penalties under the new Ordinance on the Crime promulgated in 2002.

Frequent transfers, postings and ambiguities in role and responsibilities of different governmental departments add to worst situations.

Highlighting the efforts from the Government of Pakistan, it says that it has taken children trafficking as a major problem. It has signed regional and international protocols/ conventions. It has promulgated the 'Prevention and Control of the Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002' in August 2002 to check growing menace of human trafficking. The Ordinance covers issue of camel-kids, declaring it a criminal offence. Similarly it initiated a few strong initiatives and projects at different level. With such agreements and efforts there is hope that the issues of children trafficking can be taken seriously and brought to an end.

Regarding the recommendations, it proposes various practical suggestion as the issue is multi-dimensional and requires multi-sectoral approach, therefore, successful implementation of local, international laws, conventions and protocol is the main thrust of the issue.

Similarly, implementation and interventions as highlighted in the section of consequences and strategic interventions need to be addressed and implemented in the light of local experience and culture.

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Welfare/Social Services; Social Issues; Crime/Courts

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper



Global News Bites

242 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

June 18, 2004 Friday

Despite tougher laws, children still being trafficked to UAE for camel race: CRSD report

SECTION: Nationwide International News

LENGTH: 1270 words

DATELINE: Karachi, June 18

Despite tough enforcement of laws against trafficking of children from Pakistan, the practice is continued and children are regularly being trafficked from Pakistan to be used as camel jockeys in United Arab Emirates (UAE). This was reported in a recently conducted research study on "Child Trafficking for Camel Races; a Perspective from Pakistan" one of few of its kind research studies in the world, brings to light vital information on an issue about which little is known, carried out by Centre for Research and Social Development (CRSD). Pakistan is an important ally of US government on war against terror, it does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking, therefore is placed on **Tier 2 Watch List of Trafficking in Persons** report 2004, the study adds. The study pointed out that child trafficking is not new; it is a current practice in most regions in the world. However, it has considerably gathered momentum over the past years. The trafficking of young children for forced labour is one of the fastest growing areas of international crimes while there are local groups involved in human trafficking, it is mainly international networks that have made it a sophisticated and well-organized industry in Pakistan. The study is based on primary and secondary data from different sources. Interviews of experts, government officials and children recovered/ repatriated were taken for this study. As research on the issue of child trafficking for labour exploitation in Pakistan is the weakest in South Asia. Information and data on trafficking in children has not yet been systematically collected. Furthermore, the illegal and clandestine nature of the activities involved makes it difficult to obtain reliable and accurate data either from NGOs or different governmental departments. Identifying high risk areas for child trafficking, it says that for child traffickers Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan (Southern Punjab) are the center for trafficking in children and are major sources of children trafficked as camel jockeys. The use of children as jockeys in camel racing is itself extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury and even death. Some children are also abused by traffickers and their employers by depriving them of food and basic human rights. Highlighting the history and trend of this sport, it says that camel racing in UAE is an old sport. The use of children as jockeys from Pakistan, however, dates back to early 70s. Some of the local people attribute this to frequent visits of Arab Sheikhs to the Area for purpose of hunting. A Pakistani businessman is alleged to be involved in inviting who in return was rewarded by expansion of his business empire in the Middle East manifolds. There are estimated 14,000 active racing camels and about 15 racetracks throughout the UAE. Dubai, which is centre of this activity, has two of the main stadiums and a modern Camel. The trafficking of children for use as camel jockeys is prohibited by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by ILO Conventions 29, 138 and 182 - all of which have been ratified by the UAE. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and also the Chairman of the Emirates Camel Racing Federation promulgated Order No.1/6/266 on 22 July 2002, which prohibits children under 15 or weighing less than 45kg from being employed in camel racing. It also specifies that all camel jockeys must have proof of their age through their passports and be issued with a medical certificate by the Camel Racing Federation.

The Minister announced that the ban would come into effect on September 1, 2002. A fine of 20,000 dirhams (US\$5,500) will be imposed for a first offence and a second offence will lead to a ban from camel racing for one year. A prison sentence of three months along with a fine of 20,000 dirhams will be imposed for subsequent offences. Tougher enforcement efforts in Pakistan and the ban on child camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates are believed to have reduced the numbers of boys trafficked through Pakistan for that purpose. Violation of the law enforced in 2002 is still being continued, as evidences (cases of more than 40 children deported and repatriation in April and May 2003) of de-

portation and repatriation of more than 15 children in February and March 2004, indicates that rules are still being blatantly ignored and violated. As during the last 15 months, more than eighty children were deported and repatriated from UAE, after working for more than two and three years as camel jockeys. Even the large number of such children are not traceable or deducted by government officials in UAE and Pakistan and remains ignored and invisible from the scene. Highlighting the root causes of trafficking in children, research report says that they are multiple and complex. Some more apparent, which especially persuade parents to part their children at such a younger age are poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, unawareness, inadequate legislation, and weak enforcement of related laws and may be greed in some cases. Poverty has forced many families to send their children, some as young as three, to find whatever work they can. Even Pakistani children are smuggled as camel jockeys to the Gulf states; some are sold by their parents and others are kidnapped by organized groups. Regarding the rehabilitation and re-integration of the camel jockeys to normal life, it draws that it is the most challenging task and requires a pragmatic programme of actions. Based on nature of the number of issues involved, it requires a multi-dimensional strategic approach. This also requires a strong and active cooperation of relevant government departments and agencies as well as NGOs. Below given are the steps by steps strategic interventions, pointing out specific actions, must be taken to redress issues involved. Exploring the role of government departments, it says that in addition to deliberate connivance of a few corrupt officials, there is a lack of understanding of the issue among the government officials as they have no understanding of difference between trafficking and smuggling so actual rates of prosecution are difficult to determine. They especially have less knowledge of the laws and penalties under the new Ordinance on the Crime promulgated in 2002. Frequent transfers, postings and ambiguities in role and responsibilities of different governmental departments add to worst situations. Highlighting the efforts from the government of Pakistan, it says that it has taken children trafficking as a major problem. It has signed regional and international protocols/ conventions. It has promulgated the 'Prevention and Control of the Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002' in August 2002 to check growing menace of human trafficking. The Ordinance covers issue of camel-kids, declaring it a criminal offence. Similarly it initiated few strong initiatives and projects at different level. With such agreements and efforts there is hope that the issues of children trafficking can be taken seriously and brought to its end. Regarding the recommendations, it proposes various practical suggestion as the issue is multi-dimensional and requires multi-sectoral approach, therefore successful implementation of local, international laws, conventions and protocol is the main thrust of the issue. Similarly implementation and interventions as highlighted in the section of consequences and strategic interventions need to be address and implemented in the light of local experiences and culture.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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243 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

June 18, 2004 Friday

Child trafficking, violation of laws continue in Pakistan

SECTION: Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 634 words**DATELINE:** Karachi, June 18

Despite enforcement of laws, children continue to be trafficked from Pakistan and used as camel jockeys in the UAE. This was reported in a recently conducted research study on "Child Trafficking for camel races; a perspective from Pakistan" carried out by Centre for Research and Social Development (CRSD). Pakistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, therefore has been placed on **Tier 2 Watch List of Trafficking in Persons** report 2004. The study pointed out that child trafficking has considerably gathered momentum over the past years. The trafficking of young children for forced labour is one of the fastest growing areas of international crimes. While there are local groups involved in human trafficking, it is mainly international networks that have made it a sophisticated and well-organized industry in Pakistan. The study is based on primary and secondary data from different sources. Interviews of experts, government officials and children recovered/ repatriated were taken for this study. As research on the issue of child trafficking for labour exploitation in Pakistan is the weakest in South Asia, information and data on trafficking in children has not yet been systematically collected. Furthermore, the illegal and clandestine nature of the activities involved makes it difficult to obtain reliable and accurate data either from NGOs or different governmental departments. Identifying the high risk areas for child trafficking, it says that for child traffickers Rahim Yar Khan & Dera Ghazi Khan & (Southern Punjab) are the center for trafficking in children, and are major sources of children trafficked as camel jockeys. The use of children as jockeys from Pakistan dates back to early '70s. Some of the local people attribute this to frequent visits of Arab Sheikhs to the Area for hunting. A Pakistani businessman is alleged to be involved in inviting them who in return was rewarded by expansion of his business empire in the Middle East manifolds. There are estimated 14,000 active racing camels and about 15 racetracks throughout the UAE. Dubai, which is centre of this activity, has two of the main stadiums. The trafficking of children for use as camel jockeys is prohibited by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and by ILO Conventions 29, 138 and 182 - all of which have been ratified by the UAE. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and also the Chairman of the Emirates Camel Racing Federation promulgated Order No.1/6/266 on 22 July 2002, which prohibits children under 15 or weighing less than 45kg from being employed in camel racing. It also specifies that all camel jockeys must have proof of their age through their passports and be issued with a medical certificate by the Camel Racing Federation. The Minister announced that the ban would come into effect on 1 September 2002. A fine of 20,000 dirhams (US\$5,500) will be imposed for a first offence and a second offence will lead to a ban from camel racing for one year. A prison sentence of three months along with a fine of 20,000 dirhams will be imposed for subsequent offences. However, violation of the law enforced in 2002 continues, as evidences (cases of more than 40 children deported and repatriation in April and May 2003) of deportation and repatriation of more than 15 children in February and March 2004, indicate that rules are still being blatantly ignored and violated. During last 15 months, more than eighty children were deported and repatriated from UAE, after working for more than two and three years as camel jockeys. Even the large number of such children are not traceable by government officials in UAE and Pakistan and remains ignored and invisible from the scene.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

244 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 17, 2004 Thursday

Kenya; Minister Pledges Probe of Slavery Claims

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 417 words

The Government is to investigate claims of sex slavery in Kenya.

Cabinet minister Linah Jebii Kilimo yesterday appealed to the public to volunteer information on abused children and women.

The Nation reported yesterday that Kenya had been placed on an international "watch list", quoting a US government report. It said Kenya was a "country of origin, destination and transit " for people smuggled across borders for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The State Department report claimed that among the victims were rural children trafficked into urban centres and coastal resorts. Sex tourism was becoming common along the coast, it added.

Belonging to the "**watch list**" means a country could face US sanctions if it did not take steps to stop **human trafficking**.

Mrs Kilimo said: "It could be true there are cases of child smuggling, but it's probably done in the pretext of using the children to work in the house or as relatives who stay with the abusers."

It was a crime, she said, to use children as sex slaves or for labour "and the law will take its course once we apprehend the culprits."

Answering questions from journalists after presiding over this year's Day of the African Child celebrations at St Michael Primary School, Nairobi, the minister said Aids orphans were some of the most abused children.

Child slavery, sales, prostitution and trafficking were some of the African child's major challenges, she added.

Mrs Kilimo also condemned abortion as violence against children, saying: "I urge the communities to work closely with mothers to ensure they do not abort." Earlier, in a memorandum to the minister, Children's Parliament urged the Government to enact tough legislation against abortion. They also wanted an end to child abuse, including defilement.

They called for additional classrooms because schools were congested due to the free education programme. New classrooms, they said, should be part of the plan to put up 150,000 homes a year.

Unicef country representative Heimo Laakkonen urged the Government to find ways of enrolling the 1.5 million children yet to take advantage of the free schooling.

He urged school management committees to be proactive in following up the out-of-school children in their communities.

"Where families are negligent or absent, the community has a responsibility to step make sure that the children go to school," he said.

The theme of this year's celebrations was: The African Child and the Family.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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245 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 17, 2004 Thursday

Nigeria; Women Trafficking: Nigeria On US Watch List

BYLINE: This Day

LENGTH: 1078 words

The United States has listed Nigeria on Tier 2 Watch List for women and children trafficking.

The fourth annual trafficking in Persons Report released by US Department of state yesterday classified Nigeria as "a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked women and children".

Furthermore, the Department's evaluation of government's compliance with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) stated that Nigeria does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking despite making significant efforts to so do.

Nigeria is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List because of the continued significant complicity of Nigerian security personnel in trafficking and the noticeable failure to address this complicity.

According to the report, the Nigerian Government does not face severe resource constraints, faced by other countries in the region yet it commits inadequate funding and personnel to the fight against serious trafficking in women and children.

The Nigerian Government is, however, "commended for its new anti-trafficking law and the new central government anti-trafficking in persons law enforcement unit created by that law."

The government is however urged to "move quickly to implement the new law through vigorous high court prosecutions of corrupt officials and traffickers; it should also give adequate support to the new anti-trafficking agency and improve protection facilities or funding for NGO protection activities."

Some state governments were also mentioned for their efforts in combating trafficking crimes. These include Imo State for the repatriation of 29 victims from Gabon during the year. Edo and Abia States for running skills acquisition centers for victims, and Akwa Ibom State for working with Cameroon to effect the repatriation of Nigerian children trafficked to that country.

John Miller, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, at the presentation of the report, described **Tier 2 watch list** countries as "weak **Tier 2** countries that are in danger, the coming year, of falling to **Tier 3**." **Tier 3** countries or governments include those that are not making significant efforts and may be subject to certain U.S. sanctions.

Miller, however, stressed that sanctions are not the preferred way to go. "Let me make clear that while Tier 3, under the law, brings with it the possibility of losses of certain kinds of U.S. aid, the purpose of this report is not sanctions, it is to get progress. And as the law provides, last year, many countries that were named in Tier 3, over the succeeding three months before the presidential decision on sanctions, made tremendous progress. And we hope that all countries, particularly those on Tier 3, in the next three months, will make similar progress."

This placement in tiers is based on the extent of a government's actions to combat trafficking. The Department first evaluates whether the government fully complies with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The minimum standards include the prohibition of severe forms of trafficking in persons and prescription of punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault for the knowing commission of any act of sex

trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes death.

The government of a country is also expected to prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offence for the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, as well as make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In addition to the above criteria, the minimum standard also considers:

- whether the percentage of victims of severe forms of trafficking in the country that are non-citizens of such countries is insignificant;
- whether the government of the country, consistent with the capacity of such government, systematically monitors its efforts to satisfy the criteria described in paragraphs above and makes available publicly a periodic assessment of such efforts; and,
- whether the government of the country achieves appreciable progress in eliminating severe forms of trafficking when compared to the assessment in the previous year.

As required by the TVPA, in making **tier** determinations between **Tiers** 2 and 3, the Department considers the overall extent of **human trafficking** in the country; the extent of governmental non compliance with the minimum standards, particularly the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking; and, what measures are reasonable to bring the government into compliance with the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities.

Governments of countries in Tier 3 may be subject to certain sanctions including the withholding by US government of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance. Countries that receive no such assistance would be subject to withholding of funding for participation in educational and cultural exchange programmes.

Consistent with the TVPA, such governments would also face U.S. opposition to assistance (except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance) from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multilateral development banks such as the World Bank.

These potential consequences would take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1, 2004. All or part of the TVPA's sanctions can be waived upon a determination by the President that the provision of such assistance to the government would promote the purposes of the statute or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

The TVPA also provides that sanctions shall be waived if necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children. Sanctions also would not apply if the President finds that, after this report is issued but before the imposition of sanctions, a government has come into compliance with the minimum standards or is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

246 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 17, 2004 Thursday

PanAfrica; State Dept Releases Human Trafficking Report

BYLINE: allAfrica.com

LENGTH: 351 words

"We can't fully embrace our dignity unless we champion the dignity of others," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said during the release of the U.S. State Department's annual report on human trafficking in Washington, D.C. Monday.

Powell said 600,000 to 800,000 people are bought and sold, or forced across the world's borders each year.

Trafficking is on President George W. Bush's agenda, Powell said and the U.S. government will increase funding by \$50 million in addition to the \$70 million already available.

"Women and girls as young as six years old" are the vast majority of trafficking victims, Powell said, and most of them find themselves in sexual servitude.

However, "we are making progress against this evil," Powell said. "Real people have been helped."

Human trafficking is linked to other international problems, such as drug trafficking and HIV/Aids, he said. It is a major source of revenue for organized crime and "plagues every country in the world, including the United States."

"Trafficking is a global security threat," Powell said. "All nations must double their efforts."

The state department established a new "**Tier 2 Watchlist**" category this year to describe countries that have met the minimum standards, but are falling behind in their efforts to combat **human trafficking**, said John Miller, the Secretary of State's senior advisor on **trafficking in persons**.

Information on slavery is very inexact, Miller said, but estimated that 80 percent of trafficking victims are female, and half of those are children.

Miller said there is no hard evidence that trafficking is linked to terrorism, increased HIV/Aids rates or child prostitution in Africa, but that trafficking victims are more likely to be exposed to HIV infection.

"Victims frequently fall victim to HIV/Aids," Miller said. "There is a link."

Miller said the international community should integrate their HIV/Aids and anti-trafficking programs to better coordinate their efforts.

"Twenty-first century slavery is a story of evil, but also a story of hope," Miller said.

LOAD-DATE: June 17, 2004

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247 of 359 DOCUMENTS

AFX.COM

June 17, 2004 Thursday

Myanmar blames US sanctions for its poor record on human trafficking

SECTION: GENERAL; GOVERNMENT

LENGTH: 516 words

DATELINE: YANGON, Myanmar

Myanmar has strongly objected to a US report criticising the military-run state's poor record on **human trafficking** and blames Washington's tough economic sanctions for the problem.

The State Department's annual report on **human trafficking** put Myanmar among the countries doing the least to combat the problem, which sees hundreds of thousands of people trafficked for forced labour, sexual slavery and other forms of exploitation globally each year.

"The report failed to mention that the government of Myanmar is doing everything it can possibly do to prevent and stop this trafficking," the junta said in a statement.

"But the trade and economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar by the US undermine our economy, taking away resources that could be used to fight **human trafficking** effectively, help the victims and prevent potential victims from being exploited", the statement said.

In contrast, the US report said the regime's economic policies fuel trafficking and are responsible for Myanmar's listing in **Tier 3** -- the lowest category in the report.

"The military junta's economic mismanagement and its policy of using forced labour are driving factors behind Burma's huge trafficking problem," it said, using the country's former name.

"The government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so", it said.

In rejecting the report, Myanmar takes a swipe at what it says is rampant **human trafficking** and workplace abuse in the US, charging that a "huge sex trade and sweat shops" thrived there.

"It is unfortunate to realize that the US is merely putting all the blame on others", it said.

"It not only refuses to directly shoulder its shared responsibility in this war against trafficking in persons, but indirectly promotes poverty and unemployment by imposing sanctions on many developing countries, creating the main cause for women and children in becoming easy prey for human traffickers", the statement said.

Myanmar's rejection of the report comes three days after the US House of Representatives passed a resolution renewing a one-year ban on all imports from Myanmar, as part of sanctions for abuse of human rights and repression of democratic opposition.

The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming vote of 373-2, and an identical resolution introduced in the Senate is expected to be voted on soon.

The administration of President George Bush has called for passage of the resolution to pressure Yangon to hold talks with the opposition, led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

She remains under house arrest and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party's activities have been further curtailed.

The NLD won overwhelming support in Myanmar's 1990 elections, considered free and fair by the international community, but has not been allowed to govern.

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248 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 17, 2004 Thursday

Japan considering legislation against human trafficking

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 317 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 17

Japan's justice ministry plans to submit a bill to parliament next year on punishment for human traffickers, an official said Thursday, days after a damning US report said it was not doing enough about the problem.

"We are working towards submitting the bill to the ordinary session of parliament," the justice ministry official said.

The session is to be convened in January and the bill would likely go before parliament around March, the official said.

Japan's penal code has no provisions to punish traffickers as such, forcing the authorities to resort to charging suspects under the immigration law, prostitution and other charges.

Such offences can be punished by a few years' imprisonment at most.

"We want to make certain all (traffickers) are punished," the official said, adding it had yet to be decided whether the ministry would aim to create a totally new law or revise the existing legislation.

Japan vowed Tuesday to step up its efforts to fight **human trafficking** after being put on a "**watch list**" of nations involved in the problem by its closest ally, the United States.

The US State Department "Trafficking in Persons" report for 2003 slammed Japan for being lax in cracking down on human trafficking, often for sexual enslavement.

Japan's trafficking problem is large, the report said, adding that organized crime groups that operate internationally, like the yakuza, were involved.

The National Police Agency said in a report late May that police uncovered 83 foreign women who had been trafficked into Japan's sex industry last year although experts said the figure was only a fraction of the total.

The women were found as police arrested 41 brokers, strip club owners and others in 20 trafficking cases involving foreign women. Most of them were arrested for obscenity charges and violations of immigration law.

mis/ja/br

Japan-crime-trafficking-US

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

249 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BusinessWorld

June 17, 2004, Thursday

US exec asks RP to improve record on human trafficking

BYLINE: Ma. Eloisa I. Calderon

SECTION: Pg. 11

LENGTH: 553 words

The United States said the Philippines needed to do more to boost its fight against human trafficking, even as it noted that the Arroyo administration had put in motion measures meant to protect victims.

US Embassy political officer Kim Harrington noted that the Philippine government has been a doing a "great job" in the prevention of trafficking and has continued to sponsor adequate protection efforts for trafficking victim. But its efforts, she said, in enforcing the Republic Act 9208 or Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act it enacted in May 26 last year, remained weak.

"The Philippines has been maverick in that sense [prevention and protection] but the problem is in the area of prosecution. We are happy with Gloria [Macapagal Arroyo] and the entire Congress passing the legislation on anti-trafficking. That was a great job. But having it in paper is something, having it implemented is another," Ms. Harrington told reporters in yesterday's briefing at the embassy.

Ms. Harrington added that prosecution of violators of the anti-trafficking law in the Philippines has been a problem as it takes a long time for cases to be processed.

The latest report cited that the Philippine government has prosecuted only three trafficking cases under its new law, and only two convictions for trafficking-related offenses under other laws.

The Philippines should take immediate corrective action through the prosecution of traffickers, aggressive implementation of the new law, and the arrest and prosecution of officials involved in trafficking, the report said.

"If the government fails to act immediately and the country falls to Tier 3, economic sanctions and the cut-off of non-humanitarian aid is a very real possibility," Ms. Harrington said.

According to the 2004 **Trafficking in Persons** Report, the Philippines landed in **Tier 2 Watch List** category.

"The Government of the Philippines does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The Philippines is placed on Tier 2 Watch List due to the government's failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking, particularly in terms of its weak implementation of the anti-trafficking law and a lack of progress in law enforcement," the fourth annual report said.

Since the US Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, the State Department has been producing an annual report rating countries in the following **tiers**:

* **Tier 1:** Countries that fully comply with the act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

* **Tier 2:** Countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

* **Tier 2 Watch List:** Countries on **Tier 2** requiring special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims; failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**; or an assessment as **Tier 2** based on commitments to take action over the next year.

* **Tier 3:** Countries that neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a significant effort to come into compliance. Countries in this tier are subject to potential non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions.

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250 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 17, 2004

U.S. Embassy, OSCE Work to Combat Trafficking in Macedonia; Workshop aims to improve investigation, prosecution of human trafficking cases

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 470 words

The U.S. embassy in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje are sponsoring a three-day workshop July 17-19 that aims to improve the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases in the country.

Some 30 law enforcement officials and judges are attending the workshop. Barbara Carlin, resident legal advisor at the embassy, said that through professional, collaborative efforts of key law enforcement officials, "increased results to combat trafficking can be achieved."

Following is an OSCE press release on the workshop, which is taking place in the Macedonian city of Ohrid:

(begin text)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

17 June 2004

OSCE MISSION AND U.S. EMBASSY IN SKOPJE HOLD WORKSHOP ON COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SKOPJE, 17 June 2004 -- In an effort to enhance domestic capacity to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje and the U.S. Embassy in Skopje today launched a three-day training workshop in Ohrid.

"Ensuring that law enforcement officers of the Ministry of Interior, prosecutors and investigative and trial judges have an integrated approach to human trafficking cases is essential to effective case processing," said Victor Ullom, Head of the OSCE Mission's Rule of Law Unit.

Over 30 workshop participants will address inter-agency approach and cases processing techniques, and will provide for a review of changes to the Criminal Code and the impact they have on the fight against human trafficking.

"Through the professional, collaborative efforts of key law enforcement officials increased results to combat trafficking can be achieved," said Barbara Carlin, Resident Legal Advisor for the U.S. Embassy in Skopje.

Carlin, who also serves as the Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training Officer in Skopje, noted that country's **Tier 1** ranking in the State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, released on June 14, underscores the necessity of continued effective law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication of cases.

The workshop, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme and the Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training Programme, is the second in a series of three, planned for 2004.

Nikola Gaon, Acting Spokesperson, OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, 11 Oktomvri str. 25, QBE Building MK-1000, Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Tel.: +389 2 323 46 50, +389 70 327 158 (mobile). Fax: +389 2 323 42 34. E-mail: nikola.gaon@osce.org

(end text)

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251 of 359 DOCUMENTS



**World Markets
Research Centre**

World Markets Analysis

June 17, 2004

US Report Highlights Asia's Widespread Problem with Human Trafficking

BYLINE: amit chanda

SECTION: MAIN STORY

LENGTH: 1874 words

The US has this week released its fourth annual **Trafficking in Persons** report, in which a number of Asian countries feature either as the worst abusers, or on a second-tier **watchlist**.

WMRCNW Perspective

Significance

The US's list covers 141 countries, ranking them against its own criteria, with just 25 of these deemed to meet the requisite standards.

Implications

The US hopes that by highlighting the issue and - in the case of the worst offenders - pursuing sanctions, this awareness and pressure will be sufficient to elicit a positive change in the situation.

Outlook

The issue of trafficking has ramifications not only in the human rights sphere, but also, increasingly, for security. As such, in light of the US's increased global presence in security matters, it can be expected to pursue the issue doggedly.

Traffick Flows

Presenting the report, US Secretary of State Colin Powell estimated that 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked on an annual basis. Following the passing of its Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, the US has been monitoring the situation globally, surveying countries where more than 100 victims of trafficking have been reported. From this research, it has drawn up a comprehensive table, identifying the worst offenders and highlighting a watchlist of countries where there is known to be a problem, or where the existing situation is deteriorating, but the authorities are prepared to address the issue. There are two further tiers of countries; those that have a problem but are actively tackling it, and those where there is either no problem, or effective laws and procedures against trafficking are in place.

The Three Tiers (Global)

3 (10 facing sanctions)

Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, North Korea, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Venezuela

2 (42 on the watchlist)

including Japan, Russia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus

2 (54 not on the watchlist)

including Argentina, China, Finland, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan

1 (25 meet US criteria)

including Australia, Canada, France, Poland, Sweden and the UK

The Three Tiers (Asia)

3 (10 facing sanctions)

Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma) and North Korea

2 (42 on the watchlist)

India, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam

2 (54 not on the watchlist)

Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and Sri Lanka

1 (25 meet US criteria)

Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan

Definitions

Minimum US Standards: Prohibiting severe forms of trafficking and punishing these acts; prescribing punishment commensurate with the crime; making serious efforts to eliminate trafficking.

Tier 3: These countries may face sanctions in an attempt to pressure them into addressing the trafficking issue. They do not currently comply with minimum standards (as given in US law) and the authorities are making no effort to redress this.

Tier 2 (watchlist): In addition to the concerns raised in general for Tier 2, those on the watchlist also display the following tendencies: a deterioration in the situation; a failure to provide evidence of greater effort to combat trafficking; and a clear commitment on the part of the country to tackling the problem in the coming year.

Tier 2: These nations are under 'special scrutiny' because their governments currently do not fully comply with the minimum US standards, but they are making progress on this.

Tier 1: These states comply with the US's set of minimum standards.

The Usual Suspects?

Among the worst offending nations within Asia are Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma) and North Korea. To some degree, their inclusion will not come as a great surprise to many observers, but the one particularly interesting inclusion on the second tier watchlist is Japan.

Bangladesh: The report was damning with regard to Bangladesh, arguing both that the government had failed to make any progress in attempting to tackle the issue and, worse, that government officials were complicit in the practice. It estimated that 10,000-20,000 girls and women are trafficked annually, most being sent to Bahrain, India, Kuwait, Pakistan and the UAE. Most are sent to urban areas for either domestic work or sexual exploitation. Furthermore, there is a smaller market for trafficked boys, who often find themselves in Qatar or the UAE working as beggars and camel jockeys. The report concedes that the government has made progress in raising public awareness of the issue, but suggests that it should restart its anti-trafficking strategy. Furthermore, it calls on the government to tackle corruption more effectively, and prosecute officials involved in the people trade. It points to the international aid that Bangladesh receives, arguing that although the government faces considerable difficulty, not least of which is poverty, it should enlist the cooperation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the international community in its campaign.

Myanmar: In light of the US's raft of sanctions against Myanmar, and its hostile attitude towards the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) military junta - particularly over its detention of pro-democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi and general poor attitude towards democracy - it comes as little surprise that the country finds its way into the worst offenders category. The report highlights the junta's complicity in the use of forced labour, a factor that has long been an issue, but one on which some progress is believed to have been made (see Myanmar: 7 June 2004: UN Makes Fresh Charges Against Myanmar Over Forced Labour). The report highlights that Myanmar acts more as a source for trafficking rather than a destination for trafficked individuals; men, women and children have been recorded as being trafficked to a number of countries in the region, including China, Malaysia, Japan and Taiwan, subsequently being forced into domestic service, commercial labour and the sex trade. Similarly, the report highlights a problem with internal trafficking, with girls and women taken from villages to urban areas and camps, usually to work as prostitutes.

Japan: This was one of the more surprising inclusions in the list of Tier 2 countries, where it found itself along with Russia and Turkey for the second year in a row. The report criticised Japan, labelling it a 'destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation,' adding that 'Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups yakuza] that operate internationally are involved.' "

The State Department director in charge of producing the human trafficking report chastised Japan for falling short of employing its full legal and humanitarian resources in combating the problem. John Miller told a press conference, 'We believe that there has been a tremendous gap in Japan that has a huge problem with slavery, particularly sex slavery, a tremendous gap between the size of the problem and the resources and efforts devoted to addressing the problem.' The country currently lacks any kind of comprehensive legislation against human trafficking as a specific offence, relying instead upon the penal code - including various labour, immigration and child welfare statutes - to carry out the few trafficking prosecutions it has so far.

In fact, only in April 2004 did Japanese authorities apply human trafficking charges for the first time, arresting two men suspected of trafficking girls for the purpose of sexual slavery. Miller cited the need to increase investigations, prosecutions and convictions for trafficking, while simultaneously providing greater assistance for victims. Japanese authorities have a tendency to downplay the scale of the problem - an instinctive reaction that effectively blunts pressure for a cohesive legal and social response; the National Police Agency recently reported that only 83 women had been trafficked into Japan during 2003 and forced to work in the sex industry, whereas Colombia's ambassador recently told Japanese authorities that around 4,000 Colombian women had been trafficked to Japan for sexual exploitation and other purposes.

The State Department official appealed to Japanese leaders to play a greater leadership role in the fight against human trafficking as 'one of the leading and wealthiest democracies in the world', adding that 'if Japan takes the lead and takes the steps that they have indicated that they will take, this will be a big, big step forward'. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters at a later press conference that 'eliminating human rights violations is an urgent duty, and it is necessary to form a body linking up the related agencies to take appropriate measures'. Toward this end, the government plans to boost inter-ministry and inter-agency co-operation, with a view to encouraging the Diet (parliament) to ratify UN protocols against human trafficking during its next session."

Outlook and Implications

Alongside the human rights ramifications, the US will be keen to highlight the security threat that trafficking poses as a means to elicit support for its stance. Powell was quick to state that profits from trafficking finance crime and violence, and potentially terrorism, although he provided no evidence for the latter. Whether this type of pressure will prompt countries to address the problem is questionable; the US is effectively attempting to impose a global standard, and, furthermore, is using its own criteria to do so. As such, there is the potential for its moves to unnecessarily politicise the situation. For example, heaping further criticism and sanctions on a nation such as Myanmar threatens to exacerbate tensions, not only with the junta but also with other Asian countries, and potentially with international bodies such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which are seeking to improve the situation through engagement and dialogue. Furthermore, a number of UN protocols have been established on the topic of human trafficking, including the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, as well as specific protocols regarding human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

At the same time, however, the sheer scale of the human trafficking problem is such that most countries are never really doing enough to root out traffickers or provide support for victims. If the State Department's annual report succeeds in raising the issue's profile in countries that value their international image - like Japan - perhaps the US government's unilateral approach will have made a positive contribution to addressing the problem. In most cases, it is the same factors - poverty, a lack of legislation and effective policing, and porous borders - that conspire to create this and other similar problems.

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252 of 359 DOCUMENTS

XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

June 17, 2004, Thursday

US urged to change policy on Myanmar

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL**LENGTH:** 277 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, June 17

Myanmar urged the United States on Thursday to change its policy on Myanmar, saying that the negative approach of sanctions and isolation is a "lose-lose" strategy for both of them.

The Myanmar government, in an information sheet, stressed that "If our countries are to move forward, it is clearly time for a fresh approach", calling upon Washington to help Myanmar realize the road map to democracy.

The statement encouraged the United States to understand Myanmar's complex political culture, to consider the entire Myanmar people and to help develop a healthy society in which democracy can flourish and endure.

"America would benefit from a democratic Myanmar, yet Washington ignores Myanmar's invitations to work constructively toward this goal," it said.

While Myanmar is doing everything it possibly could manage, with its limited resources, to fight trafficking in person but it is difficult to understand why the United States has not been mentioned or simply exempted its own failure in its own report, it cited.

The United States is merely putting all the blame on others while it not only refuses to directly shoulder its shared responsibility in this war against trafficking in person but indirectly promotes poverty and unemployment by imposing sanctions on many developing countries creating the main cause for women and children in becoming an easy prey for human traffickers, it blamed.

The US House of Representative on Monday passed a resolution renewing one year ban on all imposed on Myanmar. The US State Department released on the same day its 2003 "**Trafficking in Persons**" report having placed Myanmar in a US "**watch list**".

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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253 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 16, 2004 Wednesday

Kenya; US Names Kenya in Slavery Report

BYLINE: The Nation

LENGTH: 491 words

Kenya has been placed on an international watchlist as a transit point for women and children smuggled from other African countries as sex slaves.

A report by the United States Government says Kenya is "country of origin, destination, and transit point" of people smuggled across borders for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The annual report on human trafficking worldwide claims that among the victims are Kenyan children from rural areas who are trafficked into urban centres and coastal resorts for involuntary work, including prostitution.

Sex tourism is becoming more common on the Coast, the US alleges.

"Women and children are trafficked from Burundi and Rwanda to coastal areas in Kenya for sexual exploitation in the growing sex tourism industry," the report says. It notes that "the Government recently began a registration programme for coastal guesthouses, in part to deter sex tourism".

Some of the victims from Asian countries are trafficked through Kenya to European destinations for sexual exploitation, the report says. In addition, "Asian nationals, principally Indians, Bangladeshi and Nepalese, are trafficked into Kenya and coerced into bonded labour in the construction and garment industries".

Overall, the United States gives the Kenyan Government a failing grade for efforts to combat the growing slave trade within and across Kenya's borders.

The State Department report puts Kenya on a "**watch list**" of countries that could face US sanctions if they do not take more effective action to prevent **human trafficking**.

"Some trafficking offences could be prosecuted under laws addressing child labour, forced detention for prostitution and the commercial exploitation of children, but no trafficking-related offences have been prosecuted", the report says in its assessment of Kenya. "Kenyan police officials continue to deny that trafficking is a problem."

But in seeming contradiction to these criticisms, the State Department says elsewhere in the same assessment that Kenyan officials are increasingly engaged with the United States to develop anti-trafficking programmes. The report notes that a human trafficking unit was created in the police force last year with US assistance.

Ten countries are designated in the report as most out of compliance with international efforts to prevent human trafficking. African countries included on this list are Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

The watchlist on which Kenya is placed also includes Tanzania as well as leading US allies such as Japan and Greece.

Some countries have made significant progress in fighting what Secretary of State Colin Powell described as a "kind of evil" that victimises up to 800,000 people a year.

Introducing the report on Monday, Mr Powell was accompanied by Paramount Chief Togbega Hadjor from Ghana, who was praised for fighting child trafficking "like a warrior" in his Lake Volta region.

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254 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 16, 2004 Wednesday

US puts Thailand on human trafficking watch list

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 523 words

DATELINE: BANGKOK, June 16

The United States has put Thailand on a **human trafficking watchlist** for its failure to make progress in stamping out the global scourge, the US embassy said Wednesday citing a State Department report.

Washington's **Trafficking in Persons** report, which analyses efforts to combat the trade in 140 countries, downgraded Thailand to the "**Tier Two watchlist**" over its poor treatment of street children trafficked from Cambodia.

It joins other Southeast Asian nations placed on the watchlist including Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam, while neighbouring Myanmar remains at Tier Three, the lowest level.

The watchlist is a new category added to the system for weak Tier Two countries in danger of slipping to Tier Three, the level which permits the US government to impose non-trade-related economic sanctions on the country.

"Thailand was placed on the list for one very specific reason: the government did not make progress over the past year over extending protection to Cambodian street children who beg or sell in urban areas," a US embassy official told AFP.

Thailand's setbacks were of particular concern as it signed a memorandum of understanding with Cambodia last year to help regularize the protection and repatriation of trafficking victims, he said.

The report released Monday pointed to two instances in the past year in which large numbers of Cambodian youths were rounded up and deported "without proper screening for trafficking victims or referral to shelters for those identified," he said.

The first occurred last October in the run-up to APEC, a Pacific leaders' summit for which Thai authorities scrubbed clean Bangkok streets and removed "eyesores" including street vendors and beggars.

Some 620 Cambodians were deported prior to the summit, while a second mass deportation of 236 Cambodians occurred in March 2004, the report said.

Washington's trafficking downgrade of its war-on-terror ally marked "an important wake-up call for Thailand," according to United Nations regional human trafficking official Philip Robertson.

"I think the Thais are quite concerned about it and will take some significant pro-active steps to address the issue of how the street children from Cambodia are dealt with," Bangkok-based Robertson told AFP.

According to the report, other problem areas include the need to reduce trafficking-related corruption in the police, immigration services, and judiciary.

"Thailand is not able to adequately control its long land borders and there appears to be an increase in trafficking along the Thai-Malaysian border," it added.

The US government estimates up to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders, and the billion-dollar trade ranks among the fastest growing transnational crimes.

Victims are forced into many forms of involuntary servitude, with more than half of all international victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, the report said.

Thailand's trafficking problem is particularly acute, as the kingdom is simultaneously a country of origin, transit and destination.

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Thailand-US-trafficking

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255 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 16, 2004 Wednesday

Guyana accuses US of being unfair in report on human trafficking

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 450 words

DATELINE: GEORGETOWN, June 16

Guyana on Wednesday accused the United States of being "unfair" in its assessment of Guyana's efforts to combat human trafficking but promised to fast-track plans to avoid a cut in funding from US and international lending agencies.

"That Guyana has been ranked '**tier** three' in the US State Department's report disappoints me. I think it's very unfair with all the work that we have been doing," Guyana's Minister of Labour and Human Services, Bibi Shadick, told the opening of a seminar on **trafficking in persons**.

She recalled that it was Guyana that last year asked the Inter American Commission of Women (IACW) to stop focusing only on human trafficking in Latin America because the Caribbean has "its own special brand of the problem."

The seminar is one of seven planned for Guyana, Bahamas, Barbados, Netherlands Antilles, St Lucia and Suriname by the International Organisation for Migration and the IACW, an agency of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to craft a regional strategy for combatting the problem.

"The Caribbean region, itself, has not been well looked at in terms of understanding the context and certainly countries were asking for and requesting assistance to be able to develop a response," IOM Project Manager for trafficking in persons, Ashley Garrett, said.

Shadick said Guyanese police and other authorities have been raiding mining camps and other areas to rescue mainly indigenous women from prostitution, cheap and forced labour, as well as prosecuting offenders under existing laws.

She said efforts to erase Guyana from **tier**-three of the US State Department's global report on **human trafficking** included drafting legislation on **human trafficking**, training people to identify and report instances of the crime, and educate the public about the issue.

"Rest assured, we're not doing this because we want to satisfy the US State Department that we're doing something about it," Shadick said, however.

Tier-three countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards to tackle **human trafficking** and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA), the US may withhold non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance and this could result in withholding of funding for participation in educational and cultural exchange programs.

The US could also oppose assistance, except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance, from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multilateral development banks such as the World Bank.

dc/mdl

Guyana-US-trafficking

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256 of 359 DOCUMENTS



June 16, 2004

ESTONIA NOT DOING ENOUGH TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING - U.S. REPORT

LENGTH: 464 words

DATELINE: TALLINN, Jun 16

A recent survey by the U.S. State Department ranks Estonia among countries which do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in humans, adding however that the country is making significant efforts to do so.

The Estonian government is placed in the State Department's fourth annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report on **Tier 2 Watch List** for lack of evidence of progress. The watch list includes 42 countries, among them Russia, Ethiopia, Japan and Thailand.

Of the 25 member states of the European Union only Cyprus and Greece are in the same group.

Lithuania is ranked in Tier 1 and Latvia in Tier 2 non-watch.

Kristiina Luht, project manager with the Estonian Social Affairs Ministry, told BNS the ranking was based not on the scope of the problem but on the country's readiness to fight with human trafficking.

Despite a few factual errors, the report's reproaches are justified, Luht said.

She said one of the biggest reproaches for Estonia was the lack of a state action plan. The obligation to draw up a state action plan for fight against human trafficking by 2005 was assumed by Estonia during a meeting of the Baltic and Nordic ministers in charge of justice, interior and gender equality affairs in Stockholm last year.

The report says Estonia is a source country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation both internally and abroad. Victims are usually trafficked to Finland, Sweden and the other Nordic countries, as well as Germany. There are also indications of internal trafficking typically from the northeast border region to the capital for prostitution. Estonia is a destination for foreign sex tourists, especially from neighboring countries.

High-ranking Estonian government officials condemned trafficking during the past year, but were slow to support such statements with institutional support or priority. The government should identify relevant focal points in each ministry and promptly establish a referral system for victim assistance, protection and increased outreach, says the report.

The government increased its funding to crime victim programs, which would be applicable to trafficking victims, but no trafficking victims reportedly benefited from such protections, according to the report. The government did not institute a referral system to NGOs for assistance, shelter or repatriation, although victims would be entitled to support under general (non-trafficking-specific) assistance programs.

The report also points out that the government led public discourse over the link between trafficking in persons and prostitution to determine a strategy for future action, but it did not institute a policy or plan during the reporting period.

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257 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

June 16, 2004, Wednesday

Thailand hovering above Tier 3

BYLINE: The Nation.

LENGTH: 594 words

Thailand hovering above Tier 3

Thailand is managing to stay above the board in terms of its efforts to end **human trafficking**, but it is edging ever closer to '**Tier 3**' status, a not-so-flattering category reserved for countries that are not doing enough to curb the practice. The following are excerpt from the US State Department's report on Human Trafficking:

Thailand (Tier 2 ' Watch List)

Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for persons trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Thailand is a destination for men, women and children from Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and China who are trafficked for forced or bonded labour and prostitution. Thai women are trafficked to Australia, South Africa, Japan, Bahrain, Taiwan, Europe and North America for sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking also occurs in Thailand, involving victims from northern Thailand. Additionally, regional economic disparities drive significant illegal migration into Thailand, presenting traffickers opportunities to move victims into labour exploitation. Widespread sex tourism in Thailand encourages trafficking for forced prostitution. The government of Thailand does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.

Thailand's placement on Tier 2 Watch List is due to the government's failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in one area: the protection of Cambodian trafficking victims, particularly those exploited in street work. The Thai government needs to take measures to protect trafficking victims in order to demonstrate significant efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking.

The Thai government's law enforcement efforts showed some progress, with a significant increase in prosecutions and more seizures of assets related to trafficking cases. Thailand has a law specifically prohibiting trafficking. However, as in previous years, the law was used sparingly in 2003. Some police and prosecutors seem to be unfamiliar with its provisions and therefore do not use it. The government needs to reduce trafficking-related corruption in the police, immigration services, and judiciary.

The Thai government continued to provide adequate protection to trafficking victims in 2003, operating 97 shelters throughout the country for abused women and children. In 2003, Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Cambodia and a wider agreement between government agencies and NGOs to help regularise the protection and repatriation of foreign trafficking victims. Foreign victims in Thailand are no longer subject to deportation. However, in an attempt to remove street children from Bangkok in advance of the Apec summit in October of 2003, the Thai government deported 620 Cambodians, some of whom were trafficking victims, without any of the protections required by the MOU.

Thai missions overseas have provided support to Thai victims who wish to return home, but limited funding is available to assist their repatriation. Police and consular officials have received training on trafficking issues and dealing with victims. The Thai police in 2004 began an information campaign to increase public awareness of trafficking that included the distribution of pamphlets and creation of a hotline for reporting suspected cases. The government also supports the work of NGOs and international organisations to carry out public awareness campaigns and provide victim support services.

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258 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 15, 2004 Tuesday

PanAfrica; Child Trafficking a Major Problem in Africa, Report Finds

BYLINE: United States Department of State

LENGTH: 715 words

Ghanaian chief describes efforts to combat child labor

For the scores of boys who work in the fishing industry on Ghana's Lake Volta, life is more than simply grueling and monotonous -- it is slavery, with no schools, no medical care, and no hope.

The boys, some as young as six years old, have been sold by their families to spend their days rowing boats across the lake and pulling nets laden with fish from the water.

More than a year ago, Togbega Hadjor, paramount chief of Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where child trafficking has been common, committed himself to ending this exploitation of children when the International Organization for Migration (IOM) asked for his help in combating child slavery in the Lake Volta region.

Hadjor was among several heroes in the fight against human trafficking who were honored in Washington June 14 when the U.S. Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The report evaluated efforts by 140 countries around the world to combat **human trafficking**, and ranked countries in **tiers** that correspond to their efforts to end the practice.

When the IOM approached him, Hadjor put together a list of 13 villages in his region where child trafficking was taking place, and held community meetings to discuss ways to reintegrate boys who had been working in the fishing industry. Over the past year, 228 children have been rescued from forced labor on Lake Volta, and Hadjor has helped many of them enroll in school and reunite with their families.

"The problem is being overcome. When I have people approach me, I advise them that they should remove their children [from slavery], and they've been doing it," he said.

Among nations in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana was the only one to be listed as a "Tier One" nation for its strong efforts to prevent child trafficking. The report found that Ghana has excelled at protecting victims of trafficking and reintegrating them into their communities, although it still urged the Ghanaian government to pass anti-trafficking legislation.

Three nations in sub-Saharan Africa -- Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Sudan -- received a "Tier Three" or least favorable ranking in the report for failing to make reasonable attempts to end the exploitation of minors. In Equatorial Guinea, the report found, the government has not used the resources from its petroleum industry to do anything to alleviate the situation. In Sierra Leone, it said, the government recognizes that trafficking is a problem, but has not made substantial efforts to prevent it.

The report was particularly critical of Sudan, noting, "Government officials deny the existence of trafficking in Sudan." It is estimated that 17,500 people have been abducted in Sudan since 1980.

Nations ranked as **Tier Three** face the possibility of losing U.S. aid if they do not make an effort to combat **human trafficking**. Globally, 10 countries were included on the Tier Three list.

The report indicated that child trafficking is a particularly challenging problem in Africa because of the practice of "fostering" or "placement" of children. Under this traditional system, children are sent to live with relatives or other trusted individuals, and are given schooling or learn a trade. Yet "in all too many cases, the child is trafficked into a situation of forced domestic servitude, street vending, or sexual exploitation," the authors wrote.

In Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where Chief Hadjor has helped reunite children with their families, trafficking has been driven by economic need. Communities downstream from Lake Volta that once supported themselves through farming and fishing have been left destitute by the construction of two dams on the Volta River, and many families that sent their children to work on the lake did so because they could no longer support them.

Hadjor sees another underlying cause of child trafficking: polygamy. Men who marry several wives and have large families often find themselves unable to support their children, he said.

"I tell [villagers] that if you want a wife, take only one," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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259 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 15, 2004 Tuesday

Japan among seven Asian nations in US human trafficking watchlist

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 547 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 15

Japan is among seven Asian nations placed in a US "watch list" of countries involved in human trafficking, officials said.

A key destination for women and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation, Japan was relegated to a so-called Tier 2 watch list by the US State Department in its 2003 "Trafficking in Persons" report released on Monday.

In the previous report, Japan was on Tier 2 but was relegated to a special watch list with a warning that it could be downgraded further to Tier 3, of countries not making significant efforts to combat human trafficking.

Nations deemed to be complying with US and international efforts to fight trafficking are placed in "Tier 1," while those making "significant efforts" are placed in "Tier 2."

For the first time in its four-year history, the report created a Tier 2 watch list for countries that are not yet in compliance with US legal standards and may be downgraded, but have promised to make or are in the process of making significant efforts to meet the requirements, officials said.

Aside from Japan, Asian nations on the watch list were India, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Tier 2 Asian nations comprised Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan are on Tier 1 while Tier 3 consists of Myanmar, Bangladesh and North Korea.

"Japan does not comply with the minimum standards," John Miller, director of the State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, told a media briefing.

"We believe that there has been a tremendous gap in Japan that has a huge problem with slavery -- particularly sex slavery -- a tremendous gap between the size of the problem and the resources and efforts devoted to addressing the problem," he said.

Japan's trafficking problem is "large," the report said, adding that organized crime groups that operate internationally, like the Yakuza, are involved.

"The Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders," the report said.

Last year, Japan's National Police Agency arrested 41 people for trafficking-related offenses, eight of whom were traffickers.

Human trafficking victims around the globe are women and girls, as young as six years old, forced into commercial sexual exploitation, men trafficked into forced labor and children forced to become child soldiers.

The report estimated up to 800,000 cases each year of people illegally transported across international frontiers.

It cited one documented example: Khan, an 11-year-old girl living in the hills of Laos, taken by traffickers in Southeast Asia to an embroidery factory in a large city.

She and dozens of other children were made to work 14 hours a day for food and clothing, but for no wages.

When Khan protested this, she was beaten. When she protested again, she was stuffed into a closet where the factory owner's son poured industrial chemicals over her and disfigured her, the report said.

"The trade in people is a major source of revenue, in the billions, for organized crime, along with the drug trade and the arms trade," Miller said.

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US-trafficking-Asia-Japan

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260 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English -- English

June 15, 2004 Tuesday

Japan vows to fight human trafficking after damning US report

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 264 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 15

Japan vowed Tuesday to step up efforts to fight **human trafficking** after being put on a "**watch list**" of nations involved in the problem by its closest ally, the United States.

"We want to strengthen measures in our country where there are inadequacies," top government spokesman Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters.

His comments came after the release of the US State Department "Trafficking in Persons" report for 2003 which slammed Japan for being lax in cracking down on human trafficking, often for sexual enslavement.

"Eliminating human rights violations is an urgent duty and it is necessary to form a body linking up the related agencies to take appropriate measures," Hosoda said.

In the report, Japan was relegated to a watch list of so-called "Tier 2" nations that are not in compliance with US laws and may be downgraded to "Tier 3" despite promises to make further efforts to fight the problem.

"Japan does not comply with the minimum standards," John Miller, director of the State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, told a media briefing in Washington.

Japan's trafficking problem is "large," the report said, adding that organized crime groups that operate internationally, like the yakuza, are involved.

Aside from Japan, Asian nations on the watch list were India, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Last year, Japan's National Police Agency arrested 41 people for trafficking-related offenses, eight of whom were traffickers.

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US-trafficking-Asia-Japan-reax

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

261 of 359 DOCUMENTS



June 15, 2004

LITHUANIA REMAINS SOURCE, TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING -- REPORT BY US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LENGTH: 459 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON/VILNIUS, Jun 15

Lithuania remains a source and transit country for trafficking in persons, a report by the U.S. Department of State says.

According to the report, arranged by the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** of the Department of State, Lithuania is rated in **Tier 1** together with Austria, 13 European Union states, Macedonia, Morocco, Ghana, Taiwan, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Korea, Colombia, Norway.

According to the study, Lithuania is a source and transit country for women and children trafficked to Germany, Spain, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, and Poland for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Women are trafficked for sexual exploitation into and through Lithuania from countries such as Ukraine, Russia (Kaliningrad), and Belarus, and within Lithuania.

The report suggests that Lithuania fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The Lithuanian government demonstrated a strong commitment through increased funding for anti-trafficking efforts and sustained law enforcement activities.

According to the study, to further strengthen anti-trafficking efforts, the government should establish formal screening and referral mechanisms to ensure that victims receive adequate assistance services, and ensure that police and social workers remain vigilant in identifying and addressing the needs of trafficked individuals as victims.

The report stresses that the new Lithuanian criminal code that came into effect in May 2003 includes eight articles that address trafficking with sufficiently severe penalties. Each of the 10 counties in Lithuania assigned a police officer to coordinate trafficking issues. During the reporting period of 2003-2004, Lithuanian authorities initiated 15 new criminal investigations and convicted a total of 13 traffickers as compared to eight in 2002.

Trafficking sentences ranged from fines to 14 years' imprisonment, with an average sentence of two to three years' imprisonment.

According to the report, while there was no official evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking in persons, some individual police officers may condone it. Lithuanian law enforcement officials continued to cooperate with other governments on trafficking investigations and participated in over 25 joint investigations in 2003.

The report also describes in detail the activity of government agencies and NGOs in the fields of social, psychological, and legal assistance to trafficking victims.

Latvia is rated in Tier 2. The report says international groups of human traffickers operate in the country. Estonia is rated in the Tier 2 "Watch List" and described also as a sex tourism country.

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LANGUAGE: English

PUB-TYPE: News

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262 of 359 DOCUMENTS



June 15, 2004

LITHUANIA REMAINS SOURCE, TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING -- REPORT BY US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LENGTH: 459 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON/VILNIUS, Jun 15

Lithuania remains a source and transit country for trafficking in persons, a report by the U.S. Department of State says.

According to the report, arranged by the Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** of the Department of State, Lithuania is rated in **Tier 1** together with Austria, 13 European Union states, Macedonia, Morocco, Ghana, Taiwan, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Korea, Colombia, Norway.

According to the study, Lithuania is a source and transit country for women and children trafficked to Germany, Spain, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, and Poland for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Women are trafficked for sexual exploitation into and through Lithuania from countries such as Ukraine, Russia (Kaliningrad), and Belarus, and within Lithuania.

The report suggests that Lithuania fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The Lithuanian government demonstrated a strong commitment through increased funding for anti-trafficking efforts and sustained law enforcement activities.

According to the study, to further strengthen anti-trafficking efforts, the government should establish formal screening and referral mechanisms to ensure that victims receive adequate assistance services, and ensure that police and social workers remain vigilant in identifying and addressing the needs of trafficked individuals as victims.

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Central News Agency - Taiwan

June 15, 2004, Tuesday

TAIWAN DOING WELL IN FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: U.S STATE DEPT

BYLINE: By Jay Chen and Deborah Kuo

LENGTH: 346 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 14

The U.S. government says that Taiwan is complying with U.S. and international efforts to fight human trafficking, sources from the Department of State reported Monday.

In its just-published annual report on global **human trafficking**, the State Department placed Taiwan among nations "deemed to be complying with U.S. and international efforts to fight trafficking, " a group labeled as "**Tier 1**."

The report praises the Taiwan authorities for having paid close attention to the human trafficking issue. In addition to strengthening law enforcement to crack down on trafficking, the Taiwan authorities have also collaborated with NGO groups in efforts to stem such crimes from reoccurring, the report says.

The report also infers that some Taiwanese women had been forced to engage in the sex trade in Japan, and many mainland Chinese women were conned into coming to Taiwan under the guise of employment but ended up in underground brothels. The report adds that the situation pertaining to Vietnamese women being tricked into coming to Taiwan has also become increasingly serious.

Countries that have made "significant efforts" are placed in "Tier 2."

For the first time in its four-year history, the 2004 report created a "Tier 2 watchlist" for countries that are not yet in compliance with U.S. legal standards and may be downgraded, but have promised to make or are in the process of making significant efforts to meet the requirements, officials from the State Department said.

By far the largest number of the 140 nations surveyed for the study were placed on the watchlist, including longstanding U.S. ally Japan as well as Greece, Turkey, India and Thailand.

Ten nations, including Cuba, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan, were cited by the report as being in the "Tier 3" group for not having done enough to combat trafficking and will be subjected to sanctions unless they "demonstrably improve their records by October, " the State Department said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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264 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 15, 2004 Tuesday**4,000 Colombian women trafficked to Japan: ambassador****SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 130 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 15

Colombia's Ambassador to Japan Francisco Sierra said Monday that 4,000 women from his country have been trafficked to Japan for sexual exploitation and other purposes, urging the Japanese government to tackle the problem.

Sierra, who also serves as ambassador to several other Asian countries, made the remark when speaking to a group of reporters.

The envoy attended a news conference held by the U.S. State Department on the release of its 2004 **Trafficking in Persons** Annual Report, which put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category.

Sierra cited an example in which one person trafficked 400 Colombian women to Japan. He also said part of the problem is that Japanese people are fond of Colombian women.

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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265 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Jiji Press Ticker Service

June 15, 2004, Tuesday

U.S. Places Japan on **Human Trafficking Watch List**

LENGTH: 274 words

DATELINE: Washington, June 14

The United States has placed Japan on a special **watch list** of countries to be scrutinized for efforts to improve its **human trafficking** records, a Department of State report showed Monday.

Japan "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the department said in its "Trafficking in Persons" report for 2004.

The report classifies countries into three groups according to measures they have taken to prevent human trafficking.

The lowest-ranking Tier 3 lists 10 countries, such as North Korea, Myanmar and Cuba, that face sanctions if they fail to take measures to improve the situation in three months.

In the previous year's report, Japan was among Tier 2 countries. But this year, Japan was placed on a newly created Tier 2 Watch List of countries to receive special scrutiny during the following year.

The countries on the list, which also includes Russia, Mexico and Thailand, are on the verge of falling into the Tier 3 category unless they take additional action within one year.

On Japan, the report noted international human trafficking practices involving "yakuza" organized crime groups. "Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation," it said.

Japan is making "significant efforts" to fully comply with the minimum standards, but it "could do more to protect its thousands of victims of sexual slavery," the report said.

Many other industrial nations, such as Britain, Germany and France, are in the Tier 1 category, along with South Korea and Taiwan.

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266 of 359 DOCUMENTS

PR Newswire

June 15, 2004 Tuesday

Twenty Four Children Rescued From Sex Slavery in the Dominican Republic, Five Perpetrators Jailed

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 435 words**DATELINE:** ARLINGTON, Va. June 15

Yesterday officers from the Dominican Republic National Police led a raid that resulted in the rescue of 24 children who were being sold for commercial sexual exploitation. The youngest victim rescued is believed to be seven years old. In addition, five perpetrators were arrested for trafficking related offenses. The lead officer on the raid, Frank F. Duran Mejia, conducted the operation acting on a tip from investigators at International Justice Mission, a Washington, DC-based human rights organization that investigates cases of sex trafficking and exploitation, and rescues victims of oppression around the world.

"The work in this case by the Dominican Republic National Police and Deputy Attorney General Eliza Sanchez was exemplary," said Sharon Cohn, vice president of interventions for IJM. "They acted swiftly on behalf of these children to rescue them from a horrendous situation. This is going to send a strong message to people in the Dominican Republic who are exploiting children."

The Dominican Republic was listed on the **Tier 2 watch list** in the U.S. State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report released yesterday. This categorization means the country is under special scrutiny with regard to its efforts to stop trafficking, and is in danger of being dropped to Tier 3, which could result in U.S. government sanctions.

Investigators in yesterday's case reported that the perpetrators had been preying on orphaned children on the beach and other vulnerable children, offering them to tourists for sex. In undercover investigations one of the perpetrators repeatedly bragged about his ability to provide very young children to customers for the purpose of rape and sexual exploitation.

Alba Beard Marcos is the prosecutor who will prepare the case for trial. The perpetrators are being held in a Santo Domingo jail awaiting trial.

About International Justice Mission

International Justice Mission is a human rights organization that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. A multi-national team of law enforcement professionals and a highly qualified legal staff conduct criminal investigations and collect evidence to rescue victims and bring perpetrators to justice. The work of IJM has been featured on Dateline NBC, in Forbes, New York Times Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and other media outlets. IJM was founded by Gary Haugen who was the Officer in Charge of the U.N. investigation into the Rwanda genocide.

SOURCE International Justice Mission

CONTACT: Penny Hunter of International Justice Mission, Cell: +1-571-215-5158, or hunterpg@msn.com

URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

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267 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 15, 2004

U.S. Combats Human Trafficking on Many Fronts; State Dept. issues overview of U.S. action against trafficking

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1062 words

The U.S. State Department issued a fact sheet May 24 outlining the range of activities that U.S. government agencies are conducting to combat human trafficking in this country and abroad.

Following is the text of the fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

U.S. State Department

Facts About Human Trafficking

Bureau of Public Affairs

Washington, DC

May 24, 2004

What is human trafficking?

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Annually, about 600,000 to 800,000 people -- mostly women and children -- are trafficked across national borders which does not count millions trafficked within their own countries.

People are snared into trafficking by many means. In some cases, physical force is used. In other cases, false promises are made regarding job opportunities or marriages in foreign countries to entrap victims.

What impact does human trafficking have on the world?

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat: it deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, it is a global health risk, and it fuels the growth of organized crime.

Human trafficking has a devastating impact on individual victims, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death. But the impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the safety and security of all nations it touches.

What is the United States doing to stop trafficking?

Trafficking impacts many nations, including the United States. That's why the U.S. Government has taken a number of serious and significant actions to combat trafficking occurring at home. A few examples of American efforts include:

-- Congress passed legislation so Americans who sexually prey on children abroad can be prosecuted and sentenced to as many as 30 years in prison.

-- The Department of Justice has focused on increasing the number of trafficking victims rescued and the number of prosecutions and convictions of traffickers.

-- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is certifying trafficking victims so they may qualify for the same assistance available to refugees. HHS is also running a major public awareness campaign to alert victims in the U.S. that help is available through the hotline number 888.3737.888.

-- The Department of Defense has implemented a zero-tolerance stand against any actions by Defense personnel that contribute to human trafficking and is instituting a service-wide mandatory training program.

-- The Departments of Labor and Homeland Security, USAID, and other government agencies are executing action plans to combat human trafficking.

What is the U.S. doing to help other countries?

Because human trafficking is transnational in nature, partnerships between countries are critical to win the fight against modern-day slavery. The U.S. is reaching out to other countries in a number of important ways:

-- In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, President Bush raised the issue of human trafficking and asked leaders of the world to work together to end it.

-- The State Department is working extensively with governments on action plans for prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution.

-- Congress last year strengthened anti-trafficking legislation and provided more than \$70 million in funding worldwide for efforts to end slavery. The U.S. is providing money around the world for:

-- Rehabilitation and work training centers for victims

-- Special housing shelters for victims

-- Law enforcement training and legal reform assistance

-- Information and awareness campaigns

-- Voluntary repatriation for displaced victims

-- Training for immigration officials, medical personnel and social workers

-- Combating sex tourism

-- Rescuing victims from slave-like situations

What needs to be done?

When dealing with an issue of this importance and urgency, there is much to be done. The U.S. is asking governments to immediately take action to step up their anti-trafficking efforts:

-- There is a critical need for increased rescues of trafficking victims and prosecutions of traffickers.

-- People freed from slavery must be treated as victims of crime, not criminals.

-- The demand for modern-day slaves must be stopped. This is not a victimless or harmless crime, and the public should be informed of the risks involved with it.

What are the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Trafficking in Persons Report?

Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 and strengthened it in 2003. This law provides tools for the U.S. to combat trafficking in persons, both domestically and abroad.

One of the key components of the law is the creation of the Trafficking in Persons Report. The Department of State produces this annual report assessing government response in each country with a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons. Countries in the annual report are rated in tiers, based on government efforts to combat trafficking.

What do the **tiers of the Trafficking in Persons** Report mean?

-- Tier 1: Countries that fully comply with the act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

-- Tier 2: Countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

-- **Tier 2 Watch List:** Countries on **Tier 2** requiring special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims; failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat **trafficking in persons**; or an assessment as **Tier 2** based on commitments to take action over the next year.

-- Tier 3: Countries that neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a significant effort to come into compliance. Countries in this tier are subject to potential non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions.

For more information, please log on to the Web site of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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268 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 15, 2004

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269 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 15, 2004

Colombian Hailed as Hero in Fight Against Trafficking in Persons; Ambassador Sierra calls for greater international involvement

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 877 words

By Brian Kaper

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- On any given day, two or three Colombian women fall victim to the deceit and lies of traffickers and begin a journey that has lured an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 Colombian women to leave home for a better life -- only to disappear into the dark underworld of sex slavery.

Francisco Sierra, Colombia's ambassador to Japan, has made it his personal goal to stop this trafficking in persons that has taken so many women into forced prostitution. For his efforts, Sierra was recognized by Secretary of State Colin Powell on June 14 as one of six heroes in the fight against an illicit industry that preys upon society's most vulnerable members.

Sierra said the women are told they will find a better life by working in other countries such as Holland, Japan, and Spain, but they most often find themselves trapped into working in brothels to pay off their so-called "transportation" fees; such fees may total as much as \$50,000 to \$80,000. Sierra said that the women are expected to pay their captors roughly \$2,000 every ten days or they will be severely punished.

"The reason is [the women] are from a low-income sector of the population with a lack of education and opportunities," Sierra said through an interpreter, when asked why so many women are likely to be exploited in their attempts to go abroad to find work. They are tempted by false promises and become victims of an elaborate network of traffickers.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Sierra and others who are working hard to save Colombian women from traffickers, Colombia was rated as a **Tier 1** country in the 2004 **Trafficking in Persons** Report issued by the U.S. Department of State. This rating signifies that the Colombian government fully complies with the minimum standards set by the United States government in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003.

In recent years, Sierra explained, a significant number of the trafficked women have found themselves ensnared in Japan's lucrative sex industry. "The girls arrive in Japan and pass through the immigration authorities," Sierra said. "Then the Yakuza, the Japanese mafia, take their passports and other documents. Also, they take their tickets."

Without any form of documentation or means of getting home, the women are forced to work for their captors in brothels -- essentially to buy back their own freedom, according to Sierra. And most are prevented from seeking help because they fear for their own safety as well as the safety of their family members in Colombia, whom the women believe the traffickers can harm.

"For that reason, sometimes the women don't even dare to escape. Most of the women are not willing to make depositions or statements or declarations to the authorities," Sierra said.

In recent months, he observed, there has been progress in preventing the trafficking of Colombian women to Japan. The breakthrough came with the arrest of Koichi "Sony" Hagiwara, a notorious trafficker, who helped supply Japan's brothels, and that arrest has encouraged more women to come forward and seek assistance to escape the sex industry.

However, Sierra added, the victims of trafficking are also the primary victims of the legal system in Japan, due to Japan's lack of anti-trafficking laws. "In Japan, currently, the victims of trafficking in persons are [treated as] the cul-

prits... and are the ones prosecuted because of the violations of the immigration law -- they don't have work visas," he said.

He noted that these women are often arrested for prostitution, despite the fact that they were forced to engage in it. The arrests serve merely to victimize the women even further, he pointed out.

"Meanwhile, those really responsible -- the brokers and traffickers -- are totally free to [pursue] their activities," said the ambassador. The traffickers can only be charged for violating various immigration laws, in the absence of anti-trafficking legislation.

"Colombia is making great efforts to counter trafficking in persons, but Japan specifically has to adopt a law to punish the traffickers," Sierra argued.

He said he is hopeful that the plight of his country's citizens will be more widely recognized by the international community, which would help garner aid and support in combating the trafficking industry.

Sierra's call for international action was echoed by Ambassador John Miller, director of the State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons.

At the June 14 launch of the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report, Miller said: "In the last month or two, the government of Japan, at the direction of the prime minister, has started to take an enormous number of steps that we hope will lead to more prosecutions, more investigations, more convictions, more pursuit of organized crime figures and more help for victims. The prime minister has just formed a new ministerial task force that will be chaired by one of the [Japanese cabinet] secretaries, and they are already at work with the parliament on a new comprehensive anti-trafficking law."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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270 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 15, 2004

Child Trafficking a Major Problem in Africa, Report Finds; Ghanaian chief describes efforts to combat child labor

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 707 words

By Tara Boyle

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- For the scores of boys who work in the fishing industry on Ghana's Lake Volta, life is more than simply grueling and monotonous -- it is slavery, with no schools, no medical care, and no hope.

The boys, some as young as six years old, have been sold by their families to spend their days rowing boats across the lake and pulling nets laden with fish from the water.

More than a year ago, Togbega Hadjor, paramount chief of Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where child trafficking has been common, committed himself to ending this exploitation of children when the International Organization for Migration (IOM) asked for his help in combating child slavery in the Lake Volta region.

Hadjor was among several heroes in the fight against human trafficking who were honored in Washington June 14 when the U.S. Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The report evaluated efforts by 140 countries around the world to combat **human trafficking**, and ranked countries in **tiers** that correspond to their efforts to end the practice.

When the IOM approached him, Hadjor put together a list of 13 villages in his region where child trafficking was taking place, and held community meetings to discuss ways to reintegrate boys who had been working in the fishing industry. Over the past year, 228 children have been rescued from forced labor on Lake Volta, and Hadjor has helped many of them enroll in school and reunite with their families.

"The problem is being overcome. When I have people approach me, I advise them that they should remove their children [from slavery], and they've been doing it," he said.

Among nations in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana was the only one to be listed as a "Tier One" nation for its strong efforts to prevent child trafficking. The report found that Ghana has excelled at protecting victims of trafficking and reintegrating them into their communities, although it still urged the Ghanaian government to pass anti-trafficking legislation.

Three nations in sub-Saharan Africa -- Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Sudan -- received a "Tier Three" or least favorable ranking in the report for failing to make reasonable attempts to end the exploitation of minors. In Equatorial Guinea, the report found, the government has not used the resources from its petroleum industry to do anything to alleviate the situation. In Sierra Leone, it said, the government recognizes that trafficking is a problem, but has not made substantial efforts to prevent it.

The report was particularly critical of Sudan, noting, "Government officials deny the existence of trafficking in Sudan." It is estimated that 17,500 people have been abducted in Sudan since 1980.

Nations ranked as **Tier Three** face the possibility of losing U.S. aid if they do not make an effort to combat **human trafficking**. Globally, 10 countries were included on the Tier Three list.

The report indicated that child trafficking is a particularly challenging problem in Africa because of the practice of "fostering" or "placement" of children. Under this traditional system, children are sent to live with relatives or other trusted

individuals, and are given schooling or learn a trade. Yet "in all too many cases, the child is trafficked into a situation of forced domestic servitude, street vending, or sexual exploitation," the authors wrote.

In Ghana's Bakpa Traditional Area, where Chief Hadjor has helped reunite children with their families, trafficking has been driven by economic need. Communities downstream from Lake Volta that once supported themselves through farming and fishing have been left destitute by the construction of two dams on the Volta River, and many families that sent their children to work on the lake did so because they could no longer support them.

Hadjor sees another underlying cause of child trafficking: polygamy. Men who marry several wives and have large families often find themselves unable to support their children, he said.

"I tell [villagers] that if you want a wife, take only one," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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271 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 14, 2004 Monday

Japan put on U.S. human-trafficking watch list

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 753 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 14

The United States on Monday downgraded its assessment of Japanese efforts to fight **human trafficking**, putting Japan on a special **watch list** of countries that are on the verge of falling into the worst category.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons Report, the U.S. State Department urged Japan to fully employ its resources and boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes and better assistance for victims.

'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' the report said. 'Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups that operate internationally are involved.'

The department put Japan, which was designated as a **Tier 2** country in last year's report, on the newly created **Tier 2 Watch List**, citing a lack of a comprehensive law against **human trafficking** and victim protection efforts.

John Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said at a news conference, 'We believe that there has been a tremendous gap in Japan that has a huge problem with slavery, particularly sex slavery, a tremendous gap between the size of the problem and the resources and efforts devoted to addressing the problem.'

North Korea, the report said, operates forced-labor prison camps to punish criminals and repatriated North Koreans. Thousands of North Korean men, women and children are forced to work and often perish under conditions of slavery.

'The government of North Korea does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making efforts to do so. The government does not recognize trafficking as a problem and imposes slave-like labor conditions on its prisoners,' the report said.

The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, enacted in October 2000, requires the department to submit an annual report to Congress on the status of severe forms of human trafficking.

Under the act, the department classifies other countries into three tiers. This year's report covers 131 nations.

The worst Tier 3 represents a group of countries that do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are making insignificant efforts to come into compliance.

Tier 3 countries could be subject to cutoffs in nonhumanitarian and nontrade-related U.S. aid, such as military, educational and cultural assistance, unless they improve their records in the coming months.

Tier 2 countries do not fully comply but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance, while Tier 1 nations are in full compliance with the act's minimum standards.

This year, the department introduced the Tier 2 Watch List category for countries that are in the danger of falling into the Tier 3 category in next year's report.

In this year's report, the department singled out 10 countries, including North Korea and Myanmar, as Tier 3 nations, down from 15 in last year's report.

The other Tier 3 countries in this year's report are Bangladesh, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Venezuela.

The department put a total of 42 countries on the newly created Tier 2 Watch List, including Georgia, India, Laos, Mexico, the Philippines and Russia, in addition to Japan.

The Japanese government, which lacks a comprehensive law against human trafficking, currently employs the Penal Code and a variety of labor, immigration and child-welfare statutes to carry out limited trafficking-related prosecutions, the report said.

'These laws provide for up to 10-year prison terms and steep fines, but actual penalties have been far less severe,' it said.

At the news conference, Miller, who visited Japan in February, also said Japan lacks efforts to protect human-trafficking victims.

'If you look at the victim-protection effort, when the victims number in the thousands, I found only two small shelters in Japan willing to take trafficking victims,' he said. 'I visited them both. They each have eight to 10 beds.'

Miller urged Japan to take a greater leadership in fight against human trafficking as 'one of the leading and wealthiest democracies in the world.'

'If Japan takes the lead and takes the steps that they have indicated that they will take, this will be a big, big step forward,' he said.

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272 of 359 DOCUMENTS

United Press International

June 14, 2004 Monday

U.S. raps allies on human trafficking

LENGTH: 165 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 14 (UPI)

U.S. allies Japan and Pakistan are on a **watch list** of countries that do not comply with a U.S. **human trafficking** act, the U.S. State Department said Monday.

In its document, "Trafficking in Persons Report," the department also lists Cuba and North Korea among 10 countries facing sanctions for failing to satisfy minimum standards or attempt to comply with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

As many as 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday while releasing the report.

Last year the report identified 15 countries that could face sanctions.

"Trafficking is ... a global security threat because profits from trafficking finance still more crime and violence, including very likely terrorist violence," Powell said.

The State Department is required by law to report each year to Congress on efforts by foreign governments to fight human trafficking. This year's report is the department's fourth.

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273 of 359 DOCUMENTS

United Press International

June 14, 2004 Monday

U.S. raps allies on human trafficking

BYLINE: By KRISHNADEV CALAMUR

LENGTH: 883 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 14 (UPI)

Close U.S. allies Japan, Pakistan and Turkey are on a **watch list** of countries that do not comply with a U.S. **human trafficking** act, the U.S. State Department said Monday in its annual **human trafficking** report.

The document, "Trafficking in Persons Report," also lists Cuba and North Korea among 10 countries that face sanctions for their failure to satisfy minimum standards or comply with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The report includes every country where investigators can establish 100 or more victims. Tier 1 countries are those that have victims but are meeting the minimum standards of the act. Tier 2 countries are not meeting the minimum standards but are making significant effort. Tier 3 governments are not making significant effort and could face sanctions. The Tier 2 watch list countries, a new category this year, are in danger of falling to Tier 3.

Twenty-five countries, including Britain, Australia and Canada, fall into Tier 1. Tier 2 countries, 54 in all -- include Afghanistan, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The Tier 2 watch list has 42 countries, including U.S. allies Japan, Pakistan, India and Turkey.

"Japan does not comply with the minimum standards," said John Miller, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. "We believe that there has been a tremendous gap in Japan that has a huge problem with slavery, particularly sex slavery ... between the size of the problem and the resources and efforts devoted to addressing the problem."

Countries on the Tier 2 watch list are expected to have an interim assessment at the beginning of next year.

"It won't be a re-ranking," Miller said. "But we hope to have an assessment so all of us can see what's going on."

The Tier 3 countries are Bangladesh, Burma (now Myanmar), Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, North Korea, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Venezuela. Countries listed in Tier 3 could have non-humanitarian and non-trade-related U.S. aid cut off unless they improve their performance or receive a waiver.

Miller noted that in countries such as Myanmar, there had been some progress, but not enough to get them moved off the list.

"Burma has made some progress in the area of sex slavery," Miller said. "But one of our criteria when you're looking at Tier 3 gets to government complicity, and this is something that we hope with regards to forced labor will end with Burma."

Last year the report named 15 countries -- Greece, Turkey, Belize, Bosnia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Suriname and Uzbekistan -- in Tier 3. The 2002 report had 19 countries that could face sanctions.

"Let me make clear that while Tier 3 under the law brings with it the possibility of losses of certain kinds of U.S. aid, the purpose of this report is not sanctions; it is to get progress," Miller said.

Countries that are in Tier 3 can avoid sanctions by making commitments to take steps over the next year. Miller denied this meant a country could get out of Tier 3 through commitments alone.

"Well, no, I wouldn't say that," he said, "but that is a key factor where there are promises of action and we have hope that the promises will be met in the next several months."

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell noted the progress being made in fighting human trafficking, but cautioned that an estimated 600,000-800,000 people were trafficked across borders each year. He said human trafficking was linked to international crime syndicates involved in terrorism, drugs, guns and false documents. He also cited its role in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"Trafficking is also a global security threat because profits from trafficking finance still more crime and violence, including very likely terrorist violence," Powell said.

This year's report mentions 140 countries. Miller pointed out that the United States did not have adequate information on those countries not on the list.

"Let there be no misunderstanding; modern slavery plagues every country in the world, including the United States," he said at the report's release.

Miller acknowledged that the data on slavery was "very inexact," but 80 percent of slave victims were female and 50 percent were children. Sex slavery was the largest category, he said.

As part of global efforts to fight human trafficking, this year 24 countries passed comprehensive anti-trafficking laws. Some 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted and 3,000 were convicted.

Powell, however, called for more international cooperation.

"Many international covenants and national laws condemn and outlaw trafficking, and that's important and that's good," he said. "But agreements and laws have to be honored and enforced fairly and consistently if they're to make any difference."

The United States has committed \$50 million to fight trafficking in addition to \$70 million already allocated for the past year. Of this money, \$10 million comes from the State Department, which is seeking an increase in funding to \$17 million in 2005.

The State Department is required by law to turn in a report each year to U.S. Congress on the efforts by foreign governments to fight human trafficking. Thursday's report is the department's fourth.

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274 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

June 11, 2004 Friday

Knesset to protect foreign workers

BYLINE: NINA GILBERT**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 5**LENGTH:** 287 words

A comprehensive bill against human trafficking was advanced in the Knesset for the first time this week with the aim of fighting white slavery and the abuse of foreign workers in Israel.

The legislation would impose a prison sentence of up to 16 years for those convicted of trafficking, buying, selling, holding hostage or forcibly employing humans, including for work in the sex trade. A minimum sentence upon conviction would be four years.

Until now, the law enforcement only operated according to laws in the Penal Code against work in prostitution when combating human trafficking.

The legislation passed a preliminary reading unanimously with the support of the government, although it was initiated by Yahad MK Zehava Gal-On, who heads the Knesset committee of inquiry into women trafficking.

Gal-On said the legislation would give law enforcement authorities the tools to combat the problem and thereby bring about a significant improvement in efforts to combat the phenomenon. The bill also has provisions to aid the victims, including granting them permits to work and stay in the country.

Israel has been put on **Tier 2** of the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** Report. The category includes countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards set by the US, but are making efforts to get into compliance.

Gal-On said the legislation would bring Israel into international compliance. It was drafted in coordination with the Justice and Internal Security ministries. The government intends to combine its own version of the bill with Gal-On's during committee discussions.

Justice Minister Yosef Lapid said the state wants to combat the "painful and worsening" phenomenon of human trafficking.

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275 of 359 DOCUMENTS

United Press International

May 26, 2004 Wednesday

Film challenges myths on human trafficking

BYLINE: By REENA VADEHRA

LENGTH: 773 words

In a dirty, village hut somewhere in Southeast Asia, a young girl is sold off by her parents to a trafficker for extra income. The girl ends up in a brothel in a big city, dancing and having sex for tourist dollars.

This has been the traditional image of trafficking of women in Southeast Asia. The issue has often been attributed to bad parenting, a non-caring culture, or to the growth of sex tourism in Asian metropolises. For anthropologist, David A. Feingold, however, this image is far from reality.

In his documentary "Trading Women," Feingold aims to dispel popular beliefs about trafficking of women in Southeast Asia. The film depicts a much more complex problem, that is often overlooked by the media, governments and organizations.

The path from village girl to trafficked woman for sexual purposes varies greatly. Some are kidnapped by traffickers and forced into sexual slavery. Others leave their home in search of greater opportunities or jobs but are coerced into the sex sector along the way. Some even voluntarily enter the trade, often out of desperation and a need for income.

Actress and U.N. Ambassador Angelina Jolie, who narrated the documentary, echoed the film's sentiment. Speaking at the State Department's Open Forum Tuesday, Jolie said, "If we truly want to end the cycle of abuse and exploitation, we must get at the underlying causes."

"Trading Women" sets out to answer one central question. Why has trafficking of women in Thailand shifted from Thai girls to minorities and refugees in the highlands of the country?

The answer is twofold. In Thailand, minorities, such as the Lahu and the Aka, do not have citizenship in the country. Without this right, hill tribes in the country cannot vote, cannot own land, and cannot get an education. Hence, young girls in hill tribes become the most vulnerable commodity for the sex trade.

The destruction of the upland economy, once heavily invested in narcotics, as well as the increase of refugees into northern Thailand are other factors leading to the rise of minority women being trafficked into the sex industry.

In Burma, one of the larger sources of trafficked women, the growth of the sex sector has been attributed to political repression and economic destruction. In a strange move by the military junta, universities, schools, and even kindergartens are closed down for months on end, leaving many children and young adults in search of jobs.

One such student was a 19-year-old girl depicted in the film. Hiding her eyes under a pair of sunglasses, she spoke in broken English about her journey into the sex sector. A former university student, majoring in biology, the Burmese girl told the story of her mother's death and her subsequent hard-reached decision to begin working as a prostitute, ending her virginity. In the last scene of the film, the girl hopefully declares her wish to go back to school to give herself a peace of mind.

The numbers of human trafficking in Asia are unavailable due to the incapability to measure and account for victims. However, the United States government estimates that 800,000 to 900,000 women, men and children are trafficked each year across the world for sexual purposes.

To combat the problem, the United States government has passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Under this bill, the State Department publishes the "Trafficking in Persons Report" each year, which rates countries according to their efforts in diminishing human trafficking. The third **tier**, the lowest **tier**, is rated for a country that has

serious **human trafficking** problems but not does do enough to meet the minimum standards set out by the U.S. government.

If a country should fall into the tier-three category, Congress has the option of imposing sanctions against those countries.

However, Feingold's film criticizes such international responses to human trafficking, claiming that the underlying root of the problem in Southeast Asia is poverty. Sanctions may undermine the economic and social reasons for the growth of the sex sector and create more avenues for women and children to be trafficked.

Human Rights Watch has also criticized the "Trafficking in Persons Report" for inconsistencies and inaccuracy. For example, the organization has pointed out that reasoning is not given as to why a country is moved from one tier to the next.

For Feingold, the true test for successful policy comes not from ratings or punishment.

At the State Department's Open Forum, Feingold said, "At the end of the day, are the Aka girls better off? Has anyone consulted them on the matter?"

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276 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Forward

May 7, 2004

U.S. Official Does 'God's Work': Eradicating Slavery

BYLINE: Ori Nir

SECTION: News; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 1457 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Critics think John Miller is a zealot. Supporters view the State Department official as a hero. Both sides agree that he is leading a crusade to abolish slavery worldwide.

Backed by an unlikely coalition of conservative Evangelical Christian and liberal human rights advocates, Miller, who is Jewish, unabashedly has infused religious fervor into his position as the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. The office follows slavery worldwide, country by country, and issues an annual report that is used as a basis for sanctions if countries do not take actions to combat the enslavement and trafficking of people.

According to State Department estimates, as many as 800,000 to 900,000 people are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide, some for forced labor, some for prostitution. Some are children forced to serve as combatants.

"I really believe that anybody fighting to free victims, to abolish slavery, is doing God's work," said the former Republican congressman from Seattle in an interview in his Washington office, which is not housed in the State Department's main building at Foggy Bottom. Faith-based groups, he said, can play a "key role" in advancing the modern-day cause of abolitionism.

Evangelical Christian groups were the driving force behind the creation of the office. But it was another Jew, conservative scholar and religious-freedom advocate Michael Horowitz, who pushed the coalition of mainly Christian organizations and activists to lobby for the cause. The coalition, Horowitz said, for years has focused on defending the rights of Christian minorities and Western missionaries in developing countries. Six years ago it started fighting slavery around the globe.

In 1998, after reading a New York Times front-page story on the sex trafficking of women from the former Soviet Union in Israel, Horowitz decided to harness his coalition in fighting sex slavery worldwide. "The second I saw the story, I knew what to do," said Horowitz, a senior fellow at the conservative Hudson Institute and a former general counsel for the Office of Management and Budget in the Reagan administration. "It was so powerful to me that Israel was so awful (as a) destination for women, that I immediately brought this to the coalition, and we started drafting legislation."

The chief organization in the coalition is the Wilberforce Forum, a division of the Prison Fellowship, headed by Chuck Colson, the former Nixon White House counsel who spent seven months in prison for his part in the Watergate affair. After his release from prison, Colson founded his group, which operates an Evangelical Christian rehabilitation program for inmates in several states. The Wilberforce Forum, named after 18th century British abolitionist William Wilberforce, strives "to help Christians approach life with a biblical worldview so that they can in turn shape culture from a biblical perspective," according to a mission statement posted on its Web site.

The evangelical activists reached out to the feminist community and found divisions, Horowitz said. "Some agreed with us. Others argued that prostitution was a legitimate career choice and that what these women need are ergonomic mattresses and a minimum wage."

In the Senate, the coalition of extremes found its parallels: conservative Republican Sam Brownback of Kansas and liberal Democrat Paul Wellstone, the late senator from Minnesota. The two senators sponsored the bill that became the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

The law requires that the State Department report on human trafficking in foreign countries, including whether authorities participate in, facilitate or condone trafficking, and what steps governments have taken to prohibit, investigate, prosecute and convict individuals for severe forms of trafficking.

The office's annual report ranks countries involved in trafficking in one of three "tiers." Tier 1 represents those countries in which the government complies with the act's minimum standards. Tier 2 represents those with governments that do not fully comply with the standards but "are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance." Tier 3 is for those countries not making significant efforts to meet minimum standards. Countries in tier 3 lose their non-humanitarian foreign assistance if they remain in that category the following year.

Does the threat of sanctions and humiliation work? "You'd better believe it," replied Miller. Israel, he said, is a good example. The 2002 Report on **Trafficking in Persons** classified Israel as a **tier 3** violator because of the government's nonchalant attitude in the face of a booming sex trade of women from the former Soviet Union, and its indifference to the exploitation of foreign low-skilled workers. Last year's report noted that although "the government of Israel does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking it is making significant efforts to do so."

His first report, Miller said, shamed Israel into action. "No country wants to be seen as supporting slavery," he said, noting that Israel has improved its performance further since the report was issued last June. The government there has passed tighter legislation, is collaborating with human rights groups and is focusing on stricter law enforcement, Miller said.

"That's what I am looking for: Prosecute! Arrest! Convict!," Miller said, raising his voice. "If a country has the will to arrest, prosecute and convict; if the country has the will to set up a referral system for victims - from police to NGOs, that is a lot."

Miller, 65, who says he is "revved up" after traveling overseas and meeting with former slaves, wasn't initially enthusiastic about the job.

In 1992, after eight years in Congress, Miller retired, promising his wife not to leave Washington State for Washington, D.C. again. In his hometown, he served as chairman of the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, a think tank that focuses on international affairs, trade, defense and science. He also taught English at Seattle's Jewish high school.

Less than two years ago, after the abolitionist coalition and its supporters in Congress convinced State Department chiefs to replace Nancy Ely-Raphael, the career diplomat who was appointed to head the office, members of the coalition tapped Miller for the job. Ely-Raphael was accused by the coalition of being too much of a bureaucrat and not aggressive enough, sources said. With the help of powerful conservative legislators, she was booted out.

In Seattle, Miller received a bundle of papers, sent by members of the coalition, documenting the scope of modern slavery. He was shocked, and convinced that he should take the job.

"I had no idea of the dimensions of this problem. I realized that it is the primary human-rights issue in the 21st century," he said.

Miller was a "perfect choice" for the job, Horowitz said. In addition to his conservative credentials, Miller had gained respect on both sides of the political aisle when he fought against granting China a "Most Favored Nation" status during the first Bush administration, snubbing a Republican administration and risking a confrontation with the biggest employer in his district, Boeing, which sold jets to the Chinese.

While his office still focuses mainly on "finding the victims" to liberate and rehabilitate them, it has also recently increased its efforts to tackle the demand for coerced prostitution. America is not immune to the phenomenon. Some 20,000 people, according to conservative estimates - Miller thinks the number is much higher - are trafficked annually into the United States. Many of them are young women - often girls in their early teens, who are brought by networks of pimps for forced prostitution.

The United States and other Western countries, are stepping up measures against the child-sex tourism industry. His office, Miller said, is also trying to facilitate tighter law-enforcement coordination between the countries in which people are being enslaved and those to which they are trafficked.

Asked if he sees himself as performing a mission akin to that of Moses, Miller burst out laughing, noting that he is just a civil servant. He did say, however, that Passover has a special personal appeal to him. It reinforces the notion, he said, "that God has told us that slavery is wrong and that we have a moral mission" to abolish it.

The Passover Seder, he said, "always reminds me that when God tells Moses, in Exodus, to demand of Pharaoh: 'let my people go,' he adds: "let my people go, so they may serve me." The message, he said, is that "you cannot be a slave to man if you want to have a full relationship with God."

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277 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 7, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Profiting from flesh and blood: Vancouver a hot spot for trafficking in migrants, who are then exploited to pay debts

SOURCE: Vancouver Sun

BYLINE: Daphne Bramham and Amy O'Brian

SECTION: News; Daphne Bramham and Amy O'Brian; Pg. A12

LENGTH: 1948 words

They come by the thousands across the Pacific in search of money and opportunity. But for the crime syndicates who bring them, they are nothing but a commodity to be sold in a dimly lit massage parlour or dank bawdy house.

They arrive at Vancouver International Airport under the vigilant eyes of men or women who have tens of thousands of dollars riding on the safe delivery of human goods.

Some arrivals have valid passports. Some have top-quality fakes that are quickly collected by their handlers once everyone is safely past the Canadian authorities. The documents will be recycled for the next shipment.

Those being smuggled may then leave or, if their destination is the U.S., they go somewhere to wait for their next guide.

Some of those being trafficked go directly to local massage parlours or karaoke bars and immediately are set to work to repay the debt owed to agents for arranging their transport and the establishment owners who bought them. Others end up in motels or "safe houses" waiting for a guide to take them on the next leg of the journey, either across Canada or over the border.

When the time is right, the travellers pile into motor homes, mini-vans and even U-Haul trucks.

If they're headed south, the drivers go to a remote part of the world's longest, undefended border where the migrants pour out of the vehicles, run through brush, forest, fields or tidal mudflats to meet their next driver -- usually a fellow countryman -- who will take them to their destination.

There the long process of earning enough to repay tens of thousands of dollars of debts begins.

*

When it comes to human trafficking, the U.S. government believes Canada is no better than countries like Albania, Cambodia, Nigeria, Angola and Japan.

In its annual report on human trafficking, released in March, the U.S. State Department pointed at Vancouver as a hot spot because it says thousands of migrants -- aided by organized crime syndicates -- arrive and then disappear into brothels and karaoke bars here and in the United States.

Canadian senior government officials, police intelligence agents, non-governmental organizations working with street kids and sex-trade workers agree human smuggling and trafficking is a problem.

"Whether it's importing women for the sex trade or importing refugees, it's organized crime and it's done for profit," Vancouver police Detective Constable Jim Fisher says. A specialist in Asian organized crime, he says Vancouver is one of the few cities where every major organized crime group is represented and has some sort of operation, whether drugs, prostitution or human smuggling or trafficking. It's an unprecedented level of organized crime activity, he says, and not much is done about it.

"There has yet to be an organized crime prosecution in this province," says Fisher. "It's a contributing factor for these guys to be here -- the lack of prosecution.

"As a cop, I'm offended. As a citizen, I'm offended."

But just how big the problem is, nobody is willing to estimate. The last Canadian estimate was in a 1998 report from the solicitor-general's office that said between 8,000 and 16,000 people are trafficked each year and the money involved was \$120 million to \$400 million US -- \$160 million to \$530 million Cdn.

One of the few estimates available is from the U.S. border patrol's anti-smuggling unit on the B.C.-Washington border. It estimates every month as many as 500 South Koreans arrive at Vancouver International Airport and head south.

Special Agent John Bryant says some are smuggled across the Canada-U.S. border to be reunited with their families. But many are women and girls recruited by agents in their home towns who charge them for passage and sell them as prostitutes to massage parlour and karaoke bar owners in Seattle and Los Angeles. The debts they are forced to work off sometimes never seem to diminish.

Gillian Blackell, co-chair of the federal government's recently established interdepartmental committee on human trafficking, insists human trafficking is a priority for Ottawa. But she says: "In Canada, we're more in the situation of grappling with the fact that trafficking even exists. Many people don't believe it exists here and we have few non-governmental organizations working on it."

Blackell calls it "a modern form of slavery because of the debt bondage."

"The victim does not know how long they will be held and as a result they are extremely vulnerable," she says. "They can also be resold. It's very lucrative because as a source of income generation, the human being is much higher than a one-off like selling drugs."

She says the government's plan is to start by raising public awareness of the issue and then coming up with a comprehensive strategy for how to deal with it.

As a first step, Blackell says the RCMP has been asked to come up with an estimate of how many people are smuggled and trafficked into Canada.

"It's an illicit crime," says Sgt. Alain Petit of the RCMP's immigration and passport section's policy branch in Ottawa. "It's really hard to put a figure to it."

But people like Roz Prober of Beyond Borders, in Winnipeg, wonder what has taken Ottawa so long to pay attention.

"It [human trafficking] is finally just coming up on everybody's radar screen," says Prober. "The problem has been there for a while, but most people you talk to on the street don't know it's going on."

Her organization is affiliated with an international network lobbying to end trade in children called ECPAT International -- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes -- and has been working on the issue for years.

The global trade in humans is estimated to be worth as much as \$10 billion. It's so pervasive the UN voted recently to appoint a special rapporteur, or commissioner, on human trafficking to oversee implementation of the 2003 protocol aimed at preventing and suppressing all forms of human trafficking, as well as prosecuting and punishing traffickers.

Selling people into the sex trade is so lucrative and so loosely policed that two months ago some traffickers brazenly offered two Vietnamese women for sale on EBay, the Internet auction site. The traffickers said the women could only be delivered in Taiwan.

EBay pulled it from the website., but is now being sued by a Taiwanese women's rights group.

Last month, a German couple put their eight-year-old child up for sale in another Internet auction with the starting bid equivalent to about \$1.65 Cdn. The auction was stopped by police and the couple faces trafficking charges.

Part of the reason the U.S. State Department dropped Canada from the top **tier** of countries in its **human trafficking** report is that Canada has little detailed information about the problem.

But most importantly, Paula Dobriansky, U.S. under-secretary of global affairs, said there is insufficient data on enforcement and prosecutions. "Laws and law enforcement do matter in combatting trafficking," she said.

Human trafficking became a criminal offence in Canada two years ago when the Immigration and Refugee Act was proclaimed, but so far there hasn't been a single conviction. However, the RCMP's Petit said 198 charges were taken to court in 2002 that had "trafficking connotations" including kidnapping, prostitution and assault. The 2003 figures have yet to be tallied.

Human trafficking is one of U.S. President George W. Bush's priorities. It fits well not only with his anti-terrorism agenda, but it dovetails nicely with the priorities of the Christian right, which has been lobbying for years to stop the trade in humans and sexual exploitation of women and children.

Here, the only time trafficking really grabbed Canadians' attention was five years ago when 600 migrants from China's Fujian province arrived in dilapidated fishing boats on the B.C. coast. Some of them were sent back, but many simply disappeared.

And, as immigration officials noted at the time, 600 people in boats seems like a lot, but nearly as many illegal migrants arrive weekly at Canadian airports and disappear. Most illegal migrants and victims of trafficking fly into Canada in economy-class seats next to tourists and business people.

For many, the journey begins when they are recruited by an agent, or see a newspaper ad promising a better life in Canada or the United States.

Young women and girls are often told they will be working as waitresses or hostesses in bars, cocktail lounges or karaoke bars, although most end up in the sex trade. Only after they arrive do they realize they will be working as prostitutes.

Most of the Thai, Malaysian, Korean and Chinese women found in raids on massage parlours, karaoke bars and brothels across Canada have told police they relied on an agent in their home countries, who charged them for their safe passage and job placements. Some demanded payment in advance, others said they could repay them once they were working in Canada.

In turn the agents sold them to bar and brothel owners for prices ranging from \$7,500 to \$15,000. Added to the price of safe passage, some of the women ended up with debts of \$40,000 or more.

Because of the high cost charged to smuggle people illegally into countries like Canada and the U.S., it's hard to make a distinction between those who are trafficked and those who are smuggled.

"What people need to understand is that a person can be transitioned from being an illegal migrant to being trafficked," says Bruce Harris, Central American director of Casa Alianza, the Latin American branch of Covenant House, which works with street kids in Canada and the U.S.

Because of the distances Central Americans travel as they're smuggled into the U.S. and Canada, Harris says they are vulnerable if they run into problems. Harris says it's not uncommon for grandparents to pay for smugglers to deliver young children to parents living illegally in the U.S. Harris has heard of smugglers selling boys and girls as young as seven or eight to brothels along the way.

But Blackell says the sex trade is also the easiest place to find trafficked people.

"In order to make money, you have to advertise the service. It's easier for law enforcement to find sex trade workers than it is to find sweat shops, because they don't need to reach out to the general public to sell their services.

"We haven't had any sweat shop cases in the justice system. But there are organizations that know that it exists."

The other area where Canada doesn't stack up well against the UN protocol or against the U.S. is how it treats victims of trafficking.

In Canada, they are routinely deported often within days or weeks of being found. In the U.S., foreign women and children picked up in raids of bawdy houses, massage parlours or factories can apply for a visa if they agree to testify against the people who helped them get into the country. A special visa allows them to stay for up to three years while they decide whether to apply for permanent residency or return home.

The federal health and human services department provides care, shelter and food. And non-governmental organizations, supported by federal grants, help the women and children to get out of the sex-trade by providing them with opportunities for education and job training.

In Canada, the only tangible evidence combatting human smuggling is a priority are posters and pamphlets recently printed by the justice department. But more change may be coming. Justice Minister Irwin Cotler has indicated the Criminal Code may be amended to include a human trafficking provision.

LOAD-DATE: May 7, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Map: U.S. State Department **Trafficking in Persons** Report, Vancouver Sun; CANADA: PEOPLE-TRAFFICKING GATEWAY?: American authorities place Canada in the second **tier** of nations -- those making positive efforts to clamp down on trafficking in humans, but still have some way to go. The U.S. State Department named seven countries and one region that are prime sources of smuggled prostitutes and "forced labour" headed for Canada and, via Canada, the U.S. They are shown on this map.; Photo: ...from South Korea being smuggled into the United States.; Photo: ...surveillance videos are said to be of individuals ...; Photo: These images from the U.S. Border Patrol ...; Photo: (Border patrol badge.); Photo: Glenn Baglo, Vancouver Sun; U.S. Border Patrol agents Sean Monroe (left, a field operations supervisor) and Greg Marshall (senior patrol agent) on the lookout for human smuggling near Blaine.

TYPE: Special Report; Column; Crime

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278 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Report

April 5, 2004

WAKING UP TO A BLIGHT

BYLINE: Ina Friedman

SECTION: Pg. 20

LENGTH: 1595 words

After years of neglect, Israel is finally cracking down on trafficking in women

The contrast between the brightly lit, spanking-clean courtroom of the Beersheba District Labor Court and the six men being sued in it for dark and dirty dealings is thoroughly jarring. As three of the six defendants gather in the room (the others fail to show), tensions briefly spark when they see an unfamiliar figure with an open notebook in hand. "We're the victims here," one shouts as he swaggers in my direction. "That filthy whore is trying to bleed us dry!"

Indeed, the claim they're fighting - for 791,130 shekels (\$ 175,600) in back wages and compensation for pain, suffering and mental distress - is not only punishing but, so far, also unique in Israel. The six defendants are ex-cons who have already done time for crimes ranging from soliciting for purposes of prostitution to consensual statutory rape. Essentially, though, they were not only pimps but slave-traders, and were they to be tried today, it would be under a 2000 law forbidding trafficking in women, which carries a maximum 16-year sentence. But as an anti-trafficking law was not yet on the books when they committed their crimes, they got off on lesser charges. The civil suit is designed to redress at least their monetary profit from that legal fluke.

The claimant is a 24-year-old Moldavian woman named Victoria, whose story was first told in The Report in "Victoria's - and Israel's - Ugly Secret" (March 12, 2001). Whatever the legal merits of her case, she clearly deserves a prize for sheer spunk and perseverance. Three years ago, at a time when the state was turning a blind eye to the trafficking of women for work in the sex industry, Victoria was discovered - by a fieldworker of the Hotline for Migrant Workers - battered, bewildered, but nonetheless brimming with outrage in Neveh Tirtzah women's prison. Having been freed by the police from her "owners" - who had traded her back and forth during the 16 months they held her captive and forced her into prostitution - she was being treated as a criminal, rather than a victim, and was sent to the lock-up pending her deportation. Sensing her pluck, the Hotline coaxed Victoria to take an unusual step at that time: to fight back by fingering her captors, testifying against them and, for good measure, suing them for compensation. She signed on for all three challenges.

The criminal proceedings ended with convictions in the summer of 2001. But the civil suit has plodded on for over three years now, with sessions sometimes scheduled months apart, leaving Victoria exasperated with the system. She still lives in hiding, terrified of revenge by the men she helped convict and still faces, from time to time, across a courtroom. And due to a melange of misunderstandings and bad luck, she's now on her third lawyer. Back in the spring of 2001, a hint of optimism vied with the heavy sadness that held Victoria in thrall. Now confusion and impatience are settling in. "I don't understand why this case is taking so long," she says in a mixture of pain and pique. "As long as my life is up in the air," she complains in serviceable Hebrew, "I can't start to move on, go back to school, or even get the psychological counseling I need. It's hard for me to even fantasize about the future."

Though sensitive to her plight, Victoria's lawyer, the soft-spoken Yacov Shimshi, says that the length of the litigation is not surprising. "This is a complex case because the court is being asked to make unusual decisions," he explains. "Standard employers who find themselves sued don't deny their essential status; there are salary slips and other documentation to prove it." But in this case there are no records - no receipts, for example, showing how much the traffickers earned from Victoria's repeated "sale" from pimp to pimp or from the sexual services she supplied under duress. Their criminal convictions notwithstanding, the defendants are even denying that they ever "employed" her. "So it's necessary

to go into the legal nuances of what constitutes an employer-employee relationship," Shimshi adds, "and this becomes all the more complicated when the employer's 'business' was in itself patently illegal."

There's a double irony embedded in Victoria's story. Originally conceived as a high-profile landmark suit meant to deter traffickers for the good of all, over the years the case has faded into an obscure, grueling, private battle by an isolated and all-but-forgotten young woman. Yet in these intervening three years, thanks to a process she helped start, Israel has nevertheless done an about-face and made great strides in combatting the heinous crime of trafficking for the sex trade.

Following Victoria's example, more and more women have been encouraged to testify against traffickers. And those who agree are now housed in a special state-financed hostel, which can accommodate 50 women, opened in Tel Aviv in mid-February. Thanks to the intensive activity of the Knesset's Inquiry Committee on Trafficking in Women, headed by Meretz Knesset Member Zahava Gal-On, a number of anti-trafficking amendments have been added to the penal code and a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill to be tabled this spring will also cover economic sanctions against traffickers and state protection for trafficked women.

The police - a key factor in this battle - have shed their indulgent attitude toward pimps (who were formerly pampered as prized sources of intelligence) and have established a special unit to hunt traffickers down. The State Attorney's Office has been toughening up the terms of plea bargains (which are widely used to ease the load of Israel's clogged court system). Judges have begun to impose truly stiff sentences on traffickers (the required minimum now being four years) while also requiring them to pay their victims compensation. And the state funds a hotline specifically for trafficked women. Even Egypt has been induced (albeit by the United States) to cooperate in the effort by helping to block the main route used to smuggle women into Israel, over the long and porous frontier with the Sinai Peninsula. As a result, say the police, that avenue has effectively been sealed.

Now the government has gone a step further by creating a special task force - comprised of representatives of the police, the State Attorney's Office, the Income Tax Authority and the Money Laundering Prohibition Authority (MLPA) - to paralyze traffickers by targeting their ties to international crime networks.

"The strategy behind this comprehensive approach is to strike directly at their assets, which is why the involvement of the MLPA is so important," says Leah Gruenpeter-Gold of the Awareness Center, an NGO dedicated to combatting trafficking. The police have recently surveyed 644 brothels throughout the country with the aim of nabbing their owners for more than just pimping, a crime that carries a relatively light sentence. "And they have already given the MLPA the names of 70 offenders deemed liable to the confiscation of their assets," says Gruenpeter-Gold.

There are also signs of a welcome change in Israel's consideration for the safety of women who have testified against traffickers and fear retaliation by their cohorts once they return to their native countries. "So far, we've been instrumental in obtaining temporary-residence visas for a number of women who fear for their lives if they return home," Gruenpeter-Gold reports. "The visas are for one year, with an option for renewal. But since this is a fairly new arrangement," she says, "we don't yet know whether they will be extended after a year."

It would be heartening to report that this surge of concerted activity was spawned by the persistent work of Israeli NGOs and responsible parliamentarians alone. But the fact is that they had critical help from an outside source: the U.S. State Department, whose 2001 **Trafficking in Persons** Report slated Israel in the ignominious "third tier," meaning countries that make no effort to meet even Washington's minimum standard of anti-trafficking efforts.

As third-tier states risk facing sanctions by the American government - including limitations on U.S. financial assistance - the report was treated in Israel as a loud wake-up call. Since then, Israel has been upgraded to the "second tier," dispelling the threat of economic sanctions, and may be on its way up to the highest rank. "The delay in creating a secure hostel for trafficked women was the main obstacle to the second upgrade," says Gruenpeter-Gold. "Now that one has been opened," along with the broader and newly energized campaign against traffickers, "we hope we'll be upgraded again."

"But even being bumped up to the highest tier means that we are satisfying only the minimal anti-trafficking requirements," cautions Nissan Ben Ami, co-director of the Awareness Center. "Much work remains to be done in order to shatter the organizational and financial infrastructure of trafficking." Still, there are ample grounds for satisfaction that a scandalously lazy and negligent system has been spurred to vigorous action. "A lot has been accomplished in the last few years," says Gruenpeter-Gold. But the main achievement, adds Ben Ami, "is the change in the government's mindset, to the point where wiping out trafficking in women has become a top priority. That alone is no mean feat."

For Victoria, all this has come too late. But her civil suit holds out the chance for a modicum of justice.

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279 of 359 DOCUMENTS

White House Press Releases

March 18, 2004

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASES**LENGTH:** 1101 words

Recent Developments in U.S. Government Efforts to End Human Trafficking

Human trafficking denies hundreds of thousands of people their basic human rights, poses a serious public health risk, and fuels organized crime around the world. It is a dark and uncomfortable subject, but one that must be illuminated.

The United States has taken significant action to combat trafficking in persons, including trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

In April 2003, the PROTECT Act was signed into law by President Bush. This bill serves as a historic milestone for protecting children while severely punishing those who victimize young people. The PROTECT Act allows law enforcement officers to prosecute Americans who travel abroad to abuse minors, without having to prove prior intent to commit illicit crimes. This bill also makes clear there is no statute of limitations for crimes involving the abduction or physical or SEXUAL abuse of a child-in virtually all cases. The bill also strengthens laws punishing offenders who travel abroad to prey on children ("sex tourism"). These U.S. "tourists" are now subject to domestic child abuse/child exploitation laws even if their crimes are committed abroad, and they face up to 30 years imprisonment, from a previous maximum of 15 years.

In December 2003, President Bush reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which accelerates our global work against modern-day slavery in a number of ways:

Provides new tools for addressing destination countries that may be turning a blind eye to trafficking, especially the abuse of foreign women.

Makes convictions and sentencing of traffickers as important as arrests in evaluating country progress.

Requires better statistical monitoring, giving us access to critical law enforcement data related to trafficking.

Creates a Watch List of countries weakening their commitment to prosecute traffickers, prevent abuse, and protect victims.

President Bush has made the fight against slavery an American priority. In a September 2003 speech he made to the United Nations, President Bush called slavery, "A special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent..." He declared: "Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others. Governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery." The president committed \$50 million to support the global fight against human trafficking.

The U.S. is actively partnering with other nations to combat this transnational crime, providing assistance to trafficking victims and striving to highlight the dangers of sex tourism and trafficking. Nearly \$74 million in U.S. government funding was devoted to anti-trafficking activities worldwide in FY 2003.

Our progress is real, and the fight is occurring on many fronts:

After 15 countries were ranked in **Tier 3** (the lowest category of a 1-3 scale) in the State Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report, 10 took swift action to combat trafficking: passing national anti-trafficking legislation, instituting law enforcement training, engaging in public education, and making arrests.

In FY02 and FY03, over \$54 M in assistance was provided to more than 70 countries to strengthen anti-trafficking law enforcement, victim support, legislation, and regional cooperation.

Tackling trafficking at home, the Justice Department has arrested eight U.S. citizens abroad for illegal sexual conduct with minors since May 2003. In FY 2001- 2003, 111 traffickers have been charged-nearly a three-fold increase compared to those charged in the previous three years. As of January 2004, the Criminal Section has 142 open trafficking investigations.

Sentencing expected in the largest anti-trafficking case in U.S. history: a Korean garment factory owner and two others were convicted in Hawaii of enslaving over 250 Vietnamese and Chinese workers in American Samoa.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) certified 491 victims of trafficking as of March 15, 2004, allowing them to receive services to the same extent as refugees.

HHS has implemented a public outreach campaign to boost awareness of assistance available to victims. The Rescue & Restore campaign is designed to increase the number of identified trafficking victims and to help those victims receive the benefits and services needed to live safely in the U.S. A critical component of the Rescue & Restore campaign is the creation of the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline, 1.888.3737.888, which connects victims of trafficking to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) who can help victims in their local area.

To learn more information about the Rescue and Restore campaign, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>.

The Department of Labor has increased the focus worldwide on illegal child trafficking and work exploitation, dispersing nearly \$48M for this purpose in 27 countries.

Labor Secretary Chao recently traveled to Africa to meet victims of child trafficking and highlight new efforts to expose child labor.

The Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General completed two assessments of U.S. military compliance with the Administration's zero tolerance policy on activity that might fuel sex trafficking and prostitution in Korea and Bosnia/Kosovo. In early 2004, DoD issued a directive that outlines specific objectives, including anti-trafficking education requirements for all service members and DoD civilians.

New language is being adopted in DoD contracts for services overseas making trafficking-related prohibitions crystal clear.

The Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator last summer, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists, traffickers, and prostitution rings using the full range of cyber, intelligence, investigative, and detention tools. Arrests have already been the result.

Partnering with World Vision and ECPAT, DHS is putting law enforcement muscle behind the best efforts of international NGOs.

The U.S. Agency for International Development implements anti-trafficking programs in over 40 countries supporting a wide range of anti-trafficking efforts including public education, victim protection through shelters and counseling, and legislative reform to strengthen prosecution of trafficking criminals.

The Central Intelligence Agency has collected and coded new information, compiling a database for the 2004 TIP report.

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

280 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

March 2, 2004, Tuesday**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Thailand to plead its case****BYLINE:** The Nation.**LENGTH:** 334 words

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Thailand to plead its case

<i>US ambassador will be summoned over plan to lower country's ranking</i>

The government will summon the US ambassador to Thailand to clarify what it believes will be Washington's significantly lower human-trafficking ranking for Thailand.

Noppadol Inna, deputy secretary-general to the prime minister, said Deputy Prime Minister Purachai Piumsombun would summon Ambassador Daryl Johnson to explain the implications for Thailand if it is downgraded to a tier-three country.

Although the US's annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report' has yet to be released, Thai officials believe the country's ranking will be lowered. Thailand has been lobbying the US not to lower its status for fear it will damage the country's international standing.

In response, the US might consider a new two-and-a-half-tier category as a compromise, an informed source said.

According to US State Department criteria, **tier-three** countries are those whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of combating **human trafficking** and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Tier-two countries may not fully comply with standards but are making significant efforts to combat **human trafficking**.

Tier-three countries could be subject to certain sanctions, notably the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance.

Thailand has for decades been a prime destination for illegal migrants and victims of human trafficking from neighbouring countries. Many have been lured here to work in the sex industry, as well as back-breaking jobs shunned by most Thai nationals.

'The government has recognised for years that trafficking in persons is a problem, but the issue is still not among Thailand's top priorities,' the latest US report released in June last year said. </P>'Thailand needs to give more focus on persecution and increase the number of arrests and convictions of traffickers at home,' the report said.

LOAD-DATE: March 1, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

281 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

February 22, 2004 Sunday

US praises Cambodia's fight against human trafficking, paedophiles

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 362 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH, Feb 22

A top United States official on Sunday praised Cambodia's efforts to combat human trafficking and arrest foreign paedophiles, including several Americans, but said more work was needed.

"We are looking very carefully at what is going on in Cambodia," John Miller, director of the US State Department's office to monitor and combat trafficking in humans, said at the end of a three-day visit.

"We are very pleased at some of the steps the government of Cambodia has taken, and we are urging them to take more steps and to continue the steps they are taking," he told a press conference.

"Some of the things that we are impressed with is the increasing number of arrests of traffickers... and foreign paedophiles, including paedophiles from the United States of America."

But Miller criticised endemic corruption in Cambodia and bribery in the judicial system.

"We cannot ignore all the reports that we hear from Cambodia and from foreigners about the challenges of corruption," he said. "We hope to see more effortful law enforcement."

Cambodia has earned notoreity as a haven for paedophiles, partly due to its lawlessness and culture of impunity after nearly three decades of war.

But recently it has begun a campaign to crack down on paedophiles, with heavy jail sentences and a policy of deporting foreigners arrested on sex charges to face trial in their home countries.

Since December, three Americans have been charged with molesting Cambodian children.

"I hope that all embassies here will cooperate with Cambodia in fighting against childsex tourism," Miller said.

In its annual report on **human trafficking** released last June, the State Department cited an improving record on the issue when it moved Cambodia and Indonesia from the "**Tier** 3" group of countries, inclusion in which can lead to sanctions, and into "**Tier** 2".

But Miller said Cambodia, Indonesia and Japan were still facing major challenges.

"Yes, it's very serious in Cambodia... but you are not alone," he said.

Trafficking in people, particularly women and children destined for the sex trade, is rife in Southeast Asia.

suy/sls/nj

Cambodia-US-trafficking

LOAD-DATE: February 23, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

282 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Malaysia General News

February 18, 2004, Wednesday

US YET TO DECIDE ON MALAYSIA'S CATEGORY IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SOURCE: Malaysia-Trafficking

LENGTH: 414 words

DATELINE: PETALING JAYA, Feb 18, 2004

The US Government has yet to decide on Malaysia's category in human trafficking as it was presently evaluating the country's actions in combating the human trafficking menace domestically.

Last year Malaysia was put under **Tier Two** of the US government **Trafficking in Persons** Report. Tier Two signifies countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves to compliance.

The US Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons, John Miller, who is here on a two day visit, said his office would identify steps taken by the Malaysian Government to eradicate human trafficking before re-categorising the country.

"We are now evaluating (the situation). Tier two or Three, it is possible. We have not made a judgment yet," he told reporters at a luncheon meeting here today.

Miller said during his visit here, he met victims of human trafficking, representatives of non-governmental organisations, government officials and representatives of the Malaysian Human Rights Commission.

"My mission to the region is two fold, one was to learn of the situation on the ground and the second is to spur action to combat slavery," said Miller, who would visit Singapore, Cambodia and Japan soon.

Last year US President George W. Bush in an address at the United Nations pledged US\$100 million to efforts to eradicate the problem and to date some US\$52 million had been spent.

"But the problem cannot be solved by money alone. We need to educate potential victims and the public. Victims too must be treated humanely by the authorities.

"We are looking for a model programme...not just solving the problem by throwing money," he said.

Miller also said the US government had yet to decide how much money would be injected into Malaysia to solve the human trafficking problem.

He said since Malaysia was known to be a leader in its fight against drugs the US government "looked forward to Malaysia to emerge as a leader" in eradicating the human trafficking problem.

Asked if the problem was rampant in the South East Asian region, Miller said it would be a mistake to say that the problem was rampant here as human trafficking existed in all nations whether they were poor or wealthy.

"It is everywhere...Malaysia used to be a source (of human trafficking) but now it's a destination. There is an extensive challenge, from what I have heard so far," he said.

LOAD-DATE: February 19, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

283 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

October 31, 2003

Testimony of State Dept.'s Steven Pifer to Senate subcommittee Oct. 30

BYLINE: Christine Johnson, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 5234 words

Strengthening the capacity of Russia and Ukraine to deal with the problem of transnational crime remains a major part of U.S. policy toward those countries, State Department official Steven Pifer told a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee October 30.

Pifer, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, focused his remarks on Russia and Ukraine, because they are "key to our efforts to combat transnational crime."

His testimony described the growth in organized criminal activities following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Pifer noted that "organized crime figures and groups have in some cases been linked with key government and business figures. Unfortunately, organized crime increasingly exercises both political and economic power, and there are numerous reports of corruption among government officials and members of legislative bodies... It is difficult to get an accurate picture of how widespread this problem is."

He described some of the measures taken by the Russian and Ukrainian governments, such as judicial reform, to cope with these problems, and also described the strategies and policy tools, including financial assistance, the United States uses to address these challenges.

"We recognize the reform path will be, in both countries, a difficult and lengthy process," Pifer said. "In order to succeed on this reform path, political leaders and law enforcement agencies will have to come to grips with and seriously tackle the problems of organized crime and corruption."

Pifer outlined in particular the progress that has been made, to varying degrees, in Russia and Ukraine against trafficking in persons, money laundering, and narcotics.

"Transnational crime is a real threat to stability in the countries of the former Soviet Union," he concluded. "However, in the last decade, with U.S. assistance, progress has been made in institutionalizing the rule of law, and developing criminal justice systems, especially in Eurasia."

"Strengthening the capacity of countries such as Russia and Ukraine to deal with today's transnational crime problems, as well as improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation to counter these threats, will remain major parts of the U.S. agenda with these countries," he said.

Following is Pifer's prepared testimony as it appears on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Web site (foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2003/PiferTestimony031030.pdf):

(begin text)

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE STEVEN PIFER

Transnational Crime in Europe

October 30, 2003

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to address the impact of transnational crime on U.S. priorities in Europe. I will focus my remarks today on Russia and Ukraine -- two countries that are key to our efforts to combat transnational crime.

I would like to discuss briefly the historical context that has given rise to crime and corruption in the former Soviet Union following the collapse of the USSR and focus on some of the steps that the Russian and Ukrainian governments are taking to cope with these problems. I would also like to describe the strategy and some of the policy tools that the U.S. Government brings to bear to address these challenges.

Historical Context

Along with the positive and historic possibilities created by the collapse of the Soviet Union, the early 1990's were marked by an increase in criminal activities in the region, in large part because of a vacuum in institutions resulting from the breakup. The process of privatization of vast state resources often took place in the absence of any effective legal or regulatory structure, and many valuable state assets were privatized in "insider transactions." As a result, property rights were unclear, and disputes over property rights often could not be resolved in courts of law. Insiders and organized crime took advantage of this situation to take control of major assets, often having to pay no more than a small fraction of their true value.

Privatization took place roughly simultaneously with the development of small-scale private businesses. Again, because of the absence of an effective legal and regulatory system governing the activity of private enterprises, these businesses were ripe for extortion by street gangs. In order to protect themselves, small businesses often had to turn to other gangsters to provide a "krysha" (roof) of protection. Consequently, gangsters gained control of many small businesses and accumulated capital, which they frequently used to acquire larger businesses during the privatization process. They often then used these businesses to make more money and to acquire public status, which they then used to obtain political office.

Organized crime figures and groups have in some cases been linked with key government and business figures. Unfortunately, organized crime increasingly exercises both political and economic power, and there are numerous reports of corruption among government officials and members of legislative bodies. Corruption weakens the ability of a government to conduct normal business; it undermines political processes, allows the trafficking of illegal drugs and terrorist activities, impedes trade and investment, and hampers participation in the global economy. It is difficult to get an accurate picture of how widespread this problem is. The situation is very opaque, and we often have little more than anecdotal glimpses. The proliferation of organized crime groups has had reverberations in the United States, where many of the same organized crime groups that plague Russia and Ukraine now have a foothold.

We wish to see Russia and Ukraine develop as modern states, with democratic institutions and prosperous market economies, and we have since the end of the Soviet Union urged political and democratic reforms in these directions. We recognize the reform path will be, in both countries, a difficult and lengthy process. In order to succeed on this reform path, political leaders and law enforcement agencies will have to come to grips with and seriously tackle the problems of organized crime and corruption.

Russia -- Reforms

To address organized crime, corruption and other threats to continued democratic and economic development, the Russian government has passed impressive legislation in the past several years.

In June 2002, the Russian Duma (parliament) passed a new Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation. The new Code substantially changes the previous Soviet-era criminal justice system. It establishes a more adversarial system of justice, extending jury trials for significant crimes nationwide and giving defense counsel a greater role in the proceedings.

The Code also strengthens the powers and independence of the judiciary by requiring the approval of judges for search and arrest warrants and for the pretrial detention of defendants. Additionally, it broadens the rights of criminal defendants by requiring, among other things, the review of pretrial detention within 48 hours after arrest. After the introduction of the new Code the number of criminal cases opened by the Procuracy declined by 25 percent; the number of suspects placed in pretrial detention declined by 30 percent; and the courts rejected 15 percent of requests for arrest warrants. Judges released some suspects held in excess of allotted time when the government failed properly to justify its request for extension, and the Supreme Court overturned some lower court decisions to grant pretrial detention considered inadequately justified.

Human rights advocates reported that the strict new limits on time held in police custody without access to family or lawyers, and the stricter standards for opening cases, have discouraged abuse of suspects by police as well. As a result of the passage of the new Code, 83 of 89 regions in Russia have introduced jury trials, 713 jury trials have taken place during the first nine months of this year, resulting in 614 convictions and 99 acquittals. This system should reduce the potential for corruption.

Ukraine -- Reforms

Ukraine has also taken significant steps in recent years to address deficiencies in its judicial system. Its ability to attract investment, and thus to sustain its recent economic growth, will depend on continued progress towards development of a legal infrastructure that protects investors' legal and contractual rights.

In 1999, the State Executive Service was established as a special department in the Ministry of Justice to execute court decisions. Its powers include enforcement of judgements in civil cases; decisions in criminal and administrative courts involving monetary compensation; and judgements of foreign courts, the Constitutional Court, and other authorities.

Legislation enacted in the past three years to regulate the court system and improve the administration of justice has brought Ukraine's legal framework more into line with the Constitutional requirements for an independent judiciary. Enactment in 2002 of the Law on the Judicial System of Ukraine and the Law on Enforcement of Foreign Court Decisions are hopeful signs, although these still need to be fully implemented. The Law on the Judicial System created an independent State Judicial Administration as well as a new appellate body, the Court of Cassation. Ukraine also enacted a new Criminal Code in 2001. The law also established a Judicial Academy to train new judges and continue the education of sitting judges.

Other legislative changes enacted in 2001 curtailed prosecutors' authority. The Procuracy no longer may initiate new criminal cases; its powers are limited to the observance of laws by law enforcement agencies only. In May 2001, the Constitutional Court ruled that citizens may challenge court actions by the prosecutors and investigative agencies, as well as government actions regarding national security, foreign policy, and state secrets.

While there has been significant progress in criminal justice reform in Russia and Ukraine, both governments must continue to make strides towards fully utilizing their justice systems to fight transnational crime.

Policy Tools

The U.S. Government would, of course, like Russia, Ukraine and all of the states of Europe and Eurasia to have the capacity to enforce their laws in accordance with international standards while employing up-to-date practices. While recognizing that the responsibility for fighting organized crime and corruption lies first and foremost with the countries themselves, the U.S. Government has increasingly made efforts to fight money laundering, narcotics and trafficking in persons a central element of our engagement with Russia, Ukraine and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

The U.S. strategy for combating transnational crime in the former Soviet Union has five prongs: 1) expand rule of law and law enforcement programs with an emphasis on criminal justice reform and enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement agencies at all levels, 2) provide judicial and law enforcement training that introduces modern crime-fighting techniques while also promoting concepts of respect for human rights and professional integrity, 3) promote the development of working relationships among U.S. and regional law enforcement counterparts, 4) institutionalize cooperation through law enforcement agreements (MLATs), and 5) promote the eventual integration of these countries into multilateral and regional institutions.

To implement this strategy, we have several policy tools:

Law Enforcement Working Groups with both Russia and Ukraine were established to provide high-level policy oversight and to serve as ongoing fora for the coordination of bilateral anti-crime efforts. Earlier this month I co-chaired a meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Law Enforcement Working Group via digital video conference. We addressed four transnational crime threats: 1) intellectual property rights enforcement, 2) counternarcotics efforts, 3) money laundering and 4) trafficking in persons. Representatives of many Ukrainian government agencies took part, which gave us the ability to engage the full spectrum of Ukrainian entities dealing with these crime issues. We engaged at a substantive level, noting the progress that has been made on these issues and the areas where continued progress is necessary.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) are not a traditional policy tool; the purpose of an MLAT is to improve U.S. law enforcement abilities, by enabling U.S. authorities to obtain evidence and other types of law enforcement assistance from other countries. Conversely, foreign governments can use the MLAT to request assistance from the United States.

Rule of law therefore is generally a consideration for the State Department and the Senate before a treaty is concluded; we do not want to create international legal obligations to provide assistance to criminal prosecutions in countries that do not respect the rule of law.

That said, an MLAT, by creating formal and regular bases for law enforcement cooperation, can help support other efforts towards promotion of rule of law. The dialogue and cooperation that is resulting from the MLATs with Russia and Ukraine advance the regularization and improvement of our joint law enforcement efforts. In the long term, these MLATs further the rule of law and help Russia and Ukraine regularize their law enforcement efforts overall. Having this kind of regularized process for seeking and obtaining evidence will help strengthen Russian and Ukrainian institutions and encourage the rule of law in these countries.

Our experience with the Ukraine MLAT has been particularly positive. Under the MLAT, the U.S. Government has sent the Ukrainian government requests in cases involving fraud, money laundering, homicide, computer crime, interstate transportation of stolen property, racketeering, corruption, and embezzlement. Each request has been executed promptly and thoroughly. In one high profile example -- the prosecution of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko -- Ukraine has handled numerous requests with exemplary professionalism. According to Justice Department records, we have conducted more formal depositions in Ukraine in connection with that case than in any other country in connection with any other case.

The U.S.-Russia Counterterrorism Working Group serves as a forum for cooperation on transnational crime issues linked to the Global War on Terror. For example, through the working group our two countries promote counternarcotics activities that will reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs through Central Asia to major markets. These activities are aimed at identified needs on the ground, including our recent agreement to work together to develop a narcotics-detecting canine program in Central Asia.

Multilateral efforts to address transnational crime have also been successful. For example:

The international Financial Action Task Force (FATF), with the U.S. Government as an active participant, has begun to tackle the problem of money laundering in Ukraine and Russia. As a result of improvements in its legislation and overall practices against money laundering, Russia was admitted to FATF. Under the threat of sanction from FATF, Ukraine finally passed new legislation earlier this year to deal better with the money laundering problem. I will come back to these cases in more detail.

The United States, along with many member states of the European Union, is a major contributor to projects managed in Central Asia by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC, for example, established a senior level Drug Control Agency (DCA) in Tajikistan several years ago, and is now in the process, thanks to a U.S. contribution, of replicating that success in the Kyrgyz Republic. We have also contributed to a number of other diverse UNODC-managed projects, from assisting border control between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, to providing video surveillance equipment for a major bridge crossing on the Uzbek-Afghan border, to helping the Uzbek prosecutor's office in archiving on a web site legal materials for the prosecution of narcotics cases across the country.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is expanding its work in law enforcement and prison reform in Eurasia. In Ukraine, for example, the OSCE is supporting rule of law development through a project to train the staff of the Office of the General Prosecutor. We are also encouraging efforts to cooperate regionally, based on the successful Bucharest Anti-Crime Center for Southeast Europe. A similar effort is underway with the GUUAM states (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova), which aims at the creation of a virtual law enforcement center to strengthen regional cooperation among those states' law enforcement agencies. We are supporting this effort and are exploring the possibility of a second center in Central Asia.

Bilateral assistance is vital to our anti-crime strategy. Our assistance program targeting Russia, Ukraine and the other states of the former Soviet Union is the FREEDOM Support Act (FSA). FSA assistance and exchanges have played and are playing a key role in helping the governments of states such as Russia and Ukraine make progress to deal with crime and corruption issues. We greatly appreciate the strong support that Congress has provided since the breakup of the Soviet Union for the transition to democracy and market economies of the states that emerged from Communism.

Since the start of the Anti-Crime Training and Technical Assistance program with FSA funding in 1995, we have allocated roughly \$166 million to the states of the former Soviet Union for reforms, training and capacity-building in the areas of law enforcement and counternarcotics. Close to one-half of that total has been allocated to our efforts in Russia and Ukraine, given their size and importance in the region, and the potential role that Russia can play as a model of reform for all of the former Soviet states. An increasing proportion of our assistance will now go to the states of Central

Asia, given the role they play as "front-line" states in the fight against terrorism and heroin smuggling out of Afghanistan. Congress, in fact, specifically appropriated \$22 million in Fiscal Year 2002 for law enforcement and counternarcotics efforts in Central Asia.

With regard to Russia, an important step forward was made in September 2002, when the United States and Russia signed our first bilateral agreement on law enforcement assistance. Under that agreement, over \$4 million in funds have been allocated to start a series of new projects. These will provide training and equipment to Russian units fighting drug trafficking along Russia's southern border with Kazakhstan and training and equipment to improve narcotics searches and seizures at key ports in the south of Russia and in areas that drugs transit in the northwest region of the country. Projects on fighting Internet child pornography and trafficking in persons will be started. Support to the new financial unit set up to combat money laundering will be provided, as will assistance to help implement the new criminal procedure code and the U.S.-Russia Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. A further \$4.7 million in Fiscal Year 2003 funds will be allocated to such projects in Russia to maintain the momentum we have achieved.

We have made a major transition in our assistance programs in the last few years. In the past, most of our assistance went to training, much of it provided at the U.S.-led International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest. Today, our FSA assistance has evolved and is focused on comprehensive, multidisciplinary institution-building, including major legal reforms, creating new forensics laboratories, setting up financial intelligence units to fight money laundering, helping introduce investigative methods that would eliminate the use of torture, creating "vetted" counternarcotics units, and more.

We are, of course, limited in what we can do by two things: the limits on the assistance we can provide and the political circumstances in the recipient countries. We cannot do it all. We continue to engage the European Union and its member states to increase their support for anti-crime and legal reform efforts.

Progress

There are three areas of major progress in the battle against transnational crime I would like to highlight today. All three of these areas, trafficking in persons, money laundering and counternarcotics, are linked with organized crime.

Trafficking in Persons: We have seen a concerted and welcome effort to combat trafficking in persons from our European partners this year. Russia and Ukraine have both shown some improvement, but at different paces and to varying degrees.

Our efforts to counter the Trafficking in Persons problem focus on three areas: prevention of trafficking; protection of the victims (and potential victims); and prosecution of those who perpetrate this crime. Progress on trafficking can be accomplished in a number of ways: legislation and amendments to criminal codes can be passed; public awareness of the **trafficking in persons** problem can be increased; and, most importantly, prosecution numbers can rise. In the State Department's **Trafficking in Persons** report from last year, the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs had eight countries in **Tier 3**, the lowest **tier**. Today, there are none.

Russia

Russia has begun to turn the corner on combating human trafficking. There is increasing recognition at the top of the problem. On October 27 President Putin said "trafficking in people is part of organized crime, it is one of the most serious and vital world problems."

The UN has cited Russia as the largest source country for trafficked women throughout Europe. Making use of substantial U.S. technical assistance, the Duma Committee on Legislation drafted aggressive anti-trafficking legislation that would criminalize human trafficking and all related crimes. The legislation would also provide protection for victims and witnesses in human trafficking cases and mandate government-funded public awareness campaigns designed to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking.

An omnibus criminal code amendment bill is pending before the Duma that includes the anti-TIP criminal articles that were originally put in the anti-TIP law. It appears that the criminal code amendments are also going through some unwelcome changes, according to our Embassy in Moscow, which closely follows this issue. Passage of the anti-TIP articles included in the President's Omnibus Criminal Code Reform Bill will require a concerted effort by key Duma members to gain the support of government agencies and regional governments. Currently, the Russians are using older and weaker laws to go after traffickers; last year Russia prosecuted some traffickers under lesser laws. We hope -- and it will be important -- to see convictions rise with the new legislation.

Ukraine

Ukraine is another large source country for trafficking victims to all parts of Europe and around the globe. The Ukrainian government has a comprehensive action plan for each government ministry to support public awareness, education, and prosecutions. The police opened 169 trafficking cases last year alone, double the number opened in 2001, and followed up with 41 prosecutions and 28 convictions. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has established 27 special anti-trafficking units at the national and oblast levels.

The Ukrainian anti-trafficking NGO community and police across the country have developed vital linkages that have resulted in prosecutions. We have seen political will on the part of the Ukrainians to engage on the trafficking issue but must continue to work with them to ensure further progress, and to ensure that such progress is not impeded by corruption.

Money Laundering:

Russia

In the last two years, Russia has made substantial strides in combating money laundering. On February 1, 2002, Russia's new financial investigation unit, the Financial Monitoring Committee ("FMC"), began operation. The FMC is responsible for collecting suspicious activity reports from banks and coordinating all of Russia's anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing efforts.

In 1997, Russia passed amendments to the Criminal Code criminalizing money laundering. In 2002, additional amendments were passed, strengthening the 1997 legislation and criminalizing all financial transactions designed to conceal the source of any illegal proceeds.

Largely as a result of the passage of broad anti-money laundering legislation and the FMC's successful monitoring work, in 2002, Russia was removed from the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories list. In 2003, following further progress, Russia was admitted to FATF. This was a major achievement. Since beginning operation, the FMC has received over a half million suspicious transactions reports. However, according to FATF, few criminal money laundering cases have been successfully prosecuted, and more needs to be done in this area.

Ukraine

The U.S. Government also engages with Ukraine on money laundering issues through FATF. In September 2001, FATF placed Ukraine on its Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories list, citing inadequacies in Ukraine's anti-money laundering regime. In November 2002, Ukraine passed a comprehensive anti-money laundering law, but FATF's Europe Review Group found it deficient in a number of areas and not in compliance with international standards.

In December 2002, FATF called on its members to impose counter-measures against Ukraine. The U.S. Government, in response, designated Ukraine a jurisdiction of money laundering concern under Section 311 on the USA PATRIOT Act. Following consultations between FATF and the Ukrainian government, and with assistance from our Embassy in Kiev, the Ukrainian Rada passed amendments to the anti-money laundering law, the criminal code, and the banking law that brought Ukraine's anti-money laundering law into compliance with international standards. At its mid-February plenary, FATF rescinded its call for counter-measures. Early this month, Ukraine submitted to FATF an implementation plan; that plan must now be vetted by FATF's Europe Review Group. Until full and satisfactory answers are provided to the FATF review group, no decision will be taken by the FATF to undertake an on-site visit -- the penultimate step prior to recommendation for removal from the FATF Non-Cooperative list. Ukraine's work with FATF nonetheless is an example of success -- fundamental reforms, combined with close international scrutiny, resulting in real progress.

Counternarcotics:

Russia

The flow of Afghan heroin into and across Russia has increased tremendously. While overall seizures have yet to increase noticeably, we are now seeing instances of seizures of roughly 50 to 60 kilograms of heroin at a time.

Russia is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention and other UN agreements on combating drug trafficking. In 1998, the Russian government enacted the Law on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, which criminalized the purchase and possession of drugs and stiffened penalties for large-scale trafficking. More recently, the Russian government has taken additional steps that show promise for future progress in this area with the support of U.S. assistance programs.

In March 2003, President Putin took primary responsibility for the investigation of narcotics trafficking away from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and reassigned it to the newly formed "State Committee for the Control of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances," known by its Russian acronym, GKN. GKN is still in the start-up process, so it is too early to evaluate its effectiveness. However, most observers view its creation, and the appointment of a close political ally of President Putin, Viktor Cherkessov, as its director, as signs that President Putin intends to take the war on drugs very seriously.

At the same time, Russian law enforcement authorities have come to support the use of drug demand reduction programs as a complement to their efforts to reduce the supply of drugs.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency is also seeing hopeful signs of growing cooperation between Russian law enforcement and a new counter-narcotics Special Investigative Unit created and vetted by the DEA in Uzbekistan. Such bilateral cooperation will be an important component of any successful effort to halt the flow of drugs out of Afghanistan.

Ukraine

The Ukrainian Government takes effective steps to limit illegal cultivation of poppy and hemp. Ukraine is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, and it follows the provisions of the Convention in its counternarcotics legislation. Combating narcotics trafficking continues to be a national priority for law enforcement bodies, although a lack of financial resources seriously hinders Ukrainian efforts. Corruption is also a problem, although it has rarely been linked to drug enforcement. Coordination between law enforcement agencies responsible for counternarcotics work has improved, but still remains a problem because of a lack of resources, some tendencies to resist interagency cooperation and sharing of information, and regulatory and jurisdictional constraints.

The National Counter-narcotics Coordinating Council, established in 1994 within the Cabinet of Ministers to coordinate the efforts of government and public organizations to combat drugs, is responsible for a counternarcotics program for the period through 2008. The main objective of the program is to make qualitative changes in the national strategy for combating narcotics. Although many of the measures in previous national counternarcotics plans (1994-1997, 1998-2000) were constrained by lack of funding, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is giving a high priority to counternarcotics actions and is providing overall support to the maximum extent available.

Conclusion

Transnational crime is a real threat to stability in the countries of the former Soviet Union as those countries move to develop more modern political and economic structures. However, in the last decade, with U.S. assistance, progress has been made in institutionalizing the rule of law, and developing criminal justice systems, especially in Eurasia.

While challenges remain, my colleagues will attest to the strengthened capacity of their law enforcement counterparts, and the strong law enforcement networks that have developed. Strengthening the capacity of countries such as Russia and Ukraine to deal with today's transnational crime problems, as well as improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation to counter these threats, will remain major parts of the U.S. agenda with these countries. We have made progress, but the challenges remain serious and will require our continued attention.

Thank you.

(end text)

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SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Statement of Kent R. Hill Assistant Administrator Bureau for Europe and Eurasia United States Agency for International Development

House Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness

October 29, 2003

Introduction

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to be here today to participate in your consideration of the nature and scope of human trafficking. This is a serious and heart-rending abuse of human rights, and it is a 21st century form of slavery which diminishes us all, not just its victims.

As Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), I have seen the impact of the trade in human beings firsthand in many countries in that region. And as the USAID representative to the United States Government Senior Policy Operating Group which deals with trafficking, I have become even more aware of the global nature of this terrible scourge and of the collective United States Government (USG) efforts to address this problem.

Trafficking in human beings has different faces in different parts of the world, but it has in common its total disregard for human freedom and dignity and the shameful immorality of those who live off the slavery of others. I am happy to have this chance to share with you how USAID has joined this fight against trafficking in persons, what we are doing now, and what we intend to do to meet this great challenge in the future.

What the trafficking problem is world wide

International slavery and human trafficking are not new. Slavery and slavery-like practices are documented in some of the earliest historical records. Tragically, the sale and exploitation of human beings is a global phenomenon. The U.S. State Department's 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report estimates that at least 800,000 to 900,000 are trafficked annually. This is in addition to large numbers of people who are trafficked within their own countries.

Not only are women, men, and children trafficked for forced labor, but a substantial part of this trade involves the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. In any circumstance, trafficking feeds on the poverty and powerlessness of its victims and the greed and immorality of its perpetrators. It also inflicts human suffering on individual victims whose rights and freedoms are violated by traffickers. The sale and exploitation of human beings is often dominated by criminal networks that work both locally and across international borders in source, transit, and destination countries. Human trafficking is highly profitable and relatively low risk for the perpetrators. Like other criminal activities, it thrives within and contributes to conditions of official corruption and weak law enforcement.

The increasing globalization of the world's economies has given rise to complex migration patterns, as workers have lost traditional sources of income or have been drawn to new job markets. As people move both internally and across borders in search of economic opportunity and what they perceive as a better life, what starts as voluntary migration, either legal or illegal, often leads to victimization by traffickers.

Conflict, like social and economic upheaval, also gives rise to conditions leading to trafficking. As populations are displaced and community and legal structures break down in the turmoil, women and children become more vulnerable. The presence of displaced male civilian populations among this chaos and violence, as well as combatants and sadly

even international peacekeepers, increases and concentrates demand for women in prostitution. Women and children - both girls and boys - are swept up by fighting forces as they are abducted or coerced to serve either as direct combatants, "child soldiers", "war wives" or porters, and cooks.

Trafficking is both a supply- and a demand-driven industry. People from impoverished countries most often are trafficked to areas that are relatively more wealthy or developed and the supply of trafficked victims is fueled by political, economic, social, ethnic and/or religious upheaval. Violence against women and children, and women's weaker economic position relative to men further contribute to their vulnerability to the deceptions and power of traffickers. The persistent demand for cheap labor and the increasingly created demand for services of prostitutes and child pornography through the internet feed the trafficking industry. At USAID we believe that both the conditions that lead to a supply of individuals who are vulnerable to traffickers and the attitudes of those waiting to exploit these victims sexually or economically must be addressed. We see prostitution as inherently degrading to those who are sexually exploited and as a factor in fueling the trade in humans, and thus we completely oppose the legalization or normalization of prostitution as a legitimate activity. To take any other position provides traffickers an open door to trade and exploit the most vulnerable of the human family.

USAID's Anti-Trafficking Activities

USAID began to mount anti-trafficking efforts in a few countries in the late 1990s. The Agency now has a worldwide effort with activities in around 40 countries. Field missions, regional bureaus, and central offices are all involved. USAID's Office of Women in Development coordinates the Agency's efforts and chairs USAID's Anti-trafficking Working Group, an internal group with representatives from all USAID bureaus. USAID has made steady progress in increasing the volume and geographic coverage of its anti-trafficking assistance. USAID obligations which specifically target anti-trafficking activities reached \$6.7 million in fiscal year 2001; in fiscal year 2002 the Agency increased its anti-trafficking assistance to \$10.7 million; and in FY 2003 USAID obligated just over \$15 million. Geographic diversity has also increased in USAID's anti-trafficking programs. The Europe and Eurasia region has the largest level of funding in the world for anti-trafficking activities. This is in part because this region of the world has more victims as a percentage of the population than any other region in the world. USAID has significant activities in South and Southeast Asia and some robust programs in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Of the 15 countries on **Tier 3** of the **Trafficking in Persons** List published in June 2003, USAID has development activities in nine and direct anti-trafficking projects in eight of these nine. These are: Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan. And we have now begun work in Georgia as well - the ninth country we provide assistance to which was on Tier 3 in June. By September, ten countries had demonstrated sufficient progress in the opinion of the State Department that they were moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2. The five which remained on Tier 3 were: Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea, and Sudan. According to a White House Press Release of September 10, "While Liberia and Sudan have also failed to meet the standards of the Act, and are thus subject to sanctions, the President has determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. For Sudan, the assistance will be limited to that which may be necessary to implement a peace accord."

The evidence is very encouraging. The strong pressure, particularly since 2000, exerted by the U.S. Congress and the Administration is having a positive impact around the world to heighten international efforts to counter trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in persons is a very complex issue which manifests itself in a variety of ways in different regions and countries. USAID's responses reflect this complexity through a wide range of country-specific as well as regional programs. Targeted anti-trafficking programs take advantage of USAID's field presence and expertise, addressing the underlying causes of trafficking through prevention efforts, working to provide care and assistance to victims through protection and strengthening aspects of national legislation and international prosecution. The broad range of USAID development assistance programs reinforces the Agency's direct anti-trafficking efforts by helping to reduce vulnerability to trafficking through activities that reduce poverty, strengthening governance and rule of law, decreasing conflict, increasing economic opportunities for women and men, and increasing girls' access to quality education. USAID's anti-trafficking efforts are conducted in partnership with international, regional, and local organizations, including NGOs, private voluntary organizations (both faith-based and secular), and multilateral institutions.

USAID's Anti-Trafficking Policies

In February 2003, USAID released its anti-trafficking program statement, "Trafficking in Persons: The USAID Strategy for Response." The strategy reflects and complements the U.S. Government's integrated approach to combating trafficking in persons, both internationally and domestically. Principles underlying the strategy include:

- Emphasis on a targeted set of countries and/or regions

- Anti-trafficking activities focused on prevention of trafficking, protection of victims, reform, and implementation of anti-trafficking legislation

- Development efforts that support and reinforce direct anti- trafficking activities, e.g., girls' education, reduction of violence against women and promotion of their rights, poverty reduction, administration of justice, and refugee assistance

- Partnerships with organizations such as NGOs and faith-based institutions that are fighting trafficking and assisting victims of prostitution, child labor, and other forms of slavery

- Coordination with other parts of the U.S. Government and with local, regional, and international institutions

The Strategy specifies how USAID will implement its activities through partnerships. In keeping with the Administration's position that prostitution is degrading to women, the USAID strategy states:

"Organizations advocating prostitution as an employment choice or which advocate or support the legalization of prostitution are not appropriate partners for USAID anti-trafficking grants or contracts. Missions will avoid contracting or assistance agreements with such organizations as primary or sub-grantees, or contractors."

Recognizing that USAID staff or contractors may come in contact with individuals who have been trafficked whom they cannot and should not ignore, the strategy states:

"In the course of their development work, especially in STD and HIV/AIDS programs, USAID staff and primary grantees, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors may become aware of individuals who may have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. When this occurs, USAID staff or grantees and contractors should report this information to the U.S. Embassy officer who handles trafficking."

Selected examples of USAID anti-trafficking activities

In Ukraine, USAID's "Trafficking Prevention Project" addresses two key factors that contribute to the vulnerability of Ukrainian women to trafficking: lack of economic opportunity and violence against women. This project began in 1998 and will continue through April 2004. In it, USAID and its partner, Winrock International, pioneered the strategy of increasing women's income-earning options as a way to prevent trafficking. Project activities are grounded on the assumption that in order to improve trafficking prevention efforts in Ukraine: 1) women in the at-risk group need to be trained in recognizing and creating viable economic opportunities for themselves; and 2) improved crisis prevention services for at-risk women and returned trafficking victims need to be enhanced. Through nine trafficking prevention centers run by Ukrainian non-governmental organizations, this activity offers both job skills training and resources for women including support groups, free legal consultations, and referrals to physicians and psychologists.

Children from marginalized populations in Albania, particularly ethnic minorities, are unusually vulnerable to being sold by their relatives, manipulated by traffickers, and ignored by law enforcement. Albania's proximity to developed countries in the European Union (notably Greece and Italy), combined with porous borders, has made it a prime illegal market for trade in human beings, especially children. A new USAID-sponsored activity, "Transnational Action Against Child Trafficking," links Albanian non-governmental organizations and public officials with their counterparts in Greece and Italy to identify trafficking routes, cooperate on voluntary and legal repatriation of trafficked children, and to improve care for trafficking victims both before and after repatriation. The activity includes prevention efforts such as information dissemination and assistance for at-risk children and their families. Terre des Hommes, an international non-governmental organization, is leading implementation of this activity, and other contributors joining USAID in supporting it include the Swedish International Development Agency, UNICEF, the Oak Foundation, and the National Albanian American Council.

Just this past week we received some very welcome and very tangible evidence regarding the effectiveness of our USAID anti- trafficking efforts in South Central Europe. On October 25, the USAID-funded International Organization for Migration (IOM) public information campaign against trafficking was selected by a jury of 11 experts as "the best comprehensive campaign in 2003" in Croatia.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, rebel forces and militias continue to abduct and forcibly recruit Congolese men, women, and children to serve as forced laborers, porters, combatants, and sex slaves in areas of the country under their control. USAID/DRC is providing survivors with legal advice and medical assistance and is building the capacity of local groups which provide counseling. USAID is using media to develop messages to inform the population about trafficking, connect victims with assistance, and encourage reintegration of survivors.

The Sudan Program in the Regional Economic Development Support Office (REDSO) is working to prevent and reduce abductions through the documentation, collection, and compilation of information on trafficking routes and abductions and is conducting awareness raising campaigns on the negative impact of raiding and abduction practices on relations and exchanges with neighboring communities. USAID is also supporting the provision of appropriate interim care and longer-term planning for identified victims through transit centers and reintegration support as well as reuniting of families, where possible.

One of the largest source countries for trafficking victims in the Western Hemisphere is the Dominican Republic. It is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The Government there is taking steps to combat trafficking. In May 2003, the Attorney General of the Dominican Republic announced the creation of a new unit to fight the exploitation and trafficking of children, and in July 2003 the nation's Congress passed anti-trafficking legislation. The USAID Mission in the Dominican Republic is supporting implementation of the new legislation by training judicial personnel and other government officials as well as victim protection agencies.

In Brazil, women and children are trafficked into prostitution and there is a significant problem with internal trafficking of men and children into forced labor in agriculture, mines, and charcoal production. USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brazilian Ministry of Social Assistance and the National Secretariat of Human Rights to improve social and psychological services to trafficking victims, assist the government of Brazil to develop national laws to prevent domestic trafficking in persons, and support a national trafficking awareness campaign targeting tourists and truck drivers. USAID is training government workers in the trafficking victim assistance network in a child/youth victim assistance methodology. Diagnostic studies carried out by USAID show that capacity building for NGOs providing shelter and psychosocial assistance to trafficking victims requires significant training in a number of areas including strategic planning, fund raising, activity design, and monitoring and evaluation. The USAID Mission in Brazil is designing and delivering a comprehensive training program for NGOs in several municipalities.

Haitian children are sometimes trafficked internally by poor parents who place their children as servants in households of better-off families. Not all of these children are victimized or kept in slave-like conditions, but significant numbers are sexually exploited and otherwise abused. In order to change attitudes in Haiti toward child domesticity and help prevent its recurrence, a network of community radio stations will disseminate information about trafficking patterns, living and working conditions of child domestics, Haitian legislation and international agreements condemning the practice, respect for the basic rights of children, and affects of trafficking on society.

USAID has established the South Asia "Regional Initiative on Women's and Children's Equity" to support South Asian efforts to protect rights and enhance opportunities for women and children in the region. This initiative includes programs for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka that cover child labor and violence against women as well as trafficking. The initiative promotes political and community support to combat trafficking, use of reliable research findings and data to support advocacy, and effective protection and prevention programs. This regional initiative is helping increase the capacities of and cooperation among Asian regional and national organizations to initiate and sustain more effective programs.

The anti-trafficking approach of the USAID Mission in Bangladesh includes targeted research, strengthening Bangladesh's anti-trafficking networks, supporting NGO capacity building, prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, and targeted prevention efforts. The Mission provides support and funding to the "Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children" (ATSEC), a regional anti-trafficking network of NGOs. ATSEC builds anti-trafficking alliances, disseminates information, and promotes awareness-raising activities, particularly among vulnerable populations such as rural populations and border region communities. USAID also supports the "Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association" (BNWLA) in its efforts to combat trafficking. BNWLA focuses on the protection of trafficking victims and the prosecution of trafficking perpetrators. The BNWLA provides legal aid, rehabilitation, and repatriation support services to trafficking survivors, and manages Proshanti, a shelter home for trafficking victims and abused women and children. BNWLA has provided shelter and services to nearly 1,000 women and children over several years. It also works in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh to promote the prosecution of traffickers.

At USAID, we are supporting mapping of trafficking routes and examining closely the geographic relationship between conflict; social, political, and economic disruption; and increases in human trafficking in those areas. We will link our anti- trafficking efforts with our involvement in post-conflict situations. We are committed to preventing the trafficking of more young women and children by providing economic opportunity, education, and effective public information. We are equally committed to protecting and helping those who have been trafficked to return to their own communities to find hope and a better life. Shelters run by NGOs are an important part of this effort. This year we are supporting the International Justice Mission's work in Cambodia to rescue trafficking victims from sexual exploitation and to prosecute the traffickers. We are designing a program for victims of trafficking in Liberia, where young women and girls were pressed into the conflicts as sex slaves or even fighters, and boys were forced to serve as child soldiers.

Because we recognize that there are two sides to the equation, supply and demand, we are working with cross-border programs involving both source and destination in countries such as Albania, Greece, Italy, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Finally, we will use the media, courts, and civil society to combat the demand for cheap sex and labor that drives the criminals who make profit from this demand at the expense of our fellow human beings.

Conclusion

The development assistance that USAID provides around the world is directly linked to the causes and effects of human trafficking. Our commitment to fight all forms of trafficking in persons is deep and long term. The challenges ahead are great. Traffickers are criminals who change their patterns of operation as they are discovered. We must be just as agile in shifting strategies to continually cut the ground out from under the criminals who feed over human misery.

As President George W. Bush put it on September 23, 2003, before the United Nations General Assembly, "the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our time." USAID is committed to playing its part in effectively combating the evil of trafficking in persons. Our success will be measured by the assistance and healing we provide to trafficking victims, and ultimately by the hundreds of thousands we hope to prevent from ever suffering the horrible degradation that accompanies the modern-day slavery which is trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: October 30, 2003

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COMMITTEE: HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELLNESS

TESTIMONY-BY: KENT R. HILL, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

AFFILIATION: BUREAU FOR EUROPE AND EURASIA

285 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

October 28, 2003

Senior State Department Official discusses human trafficking

BYLINE: Vicki Silverman, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 1431 words

Washington -- In early October 2003, John R. Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, traveled abroad to view the challenges and accomplishments related to U.S. efforts to end modern slavery around the world. At each location he sought opportunities to speak with victims, as well as representatives of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who provide essential aid to the victims and educate others, and police and government officials essential to eradicating the transnational movement of forced laborers.

Miller spoke with the Washington File October 21 about his working visits in The Netherlands, Greece, Sweden, Russia, India and Thailand, as well as what he characterized as "recent milestones" in U.S. efforts to end human trafficking.

A veteran human rights advocate and experienced public servant, Miller said the opportunities to talk to trafficking victims during his travels had left the deepest impression on him.

"You can read the statistics -- this office estimates the number of persons trafficked annually between 700,000 and 900,000, and there are other organizations with even higher estimates. You can read all the reports of this office but it's through the victims you come to understand the horror," Miller said.

"I spoke with a young Czech woman," he recalled. "Living in the Czech Republic, with a 2-year old daughter and bad marriage, she was told by a friend of the family' she could make a better life in The Netherlands working in a restaurant. The friend' turned her over to another Czech, who drove her and three or four other girls to The Netherlands. They were handed over to a Dutch trafficker, who took them to a brothel.

"When she refused to prostitute herself, she was told, 'You will do this if you want your daughter back in the Czech Republic to live.' She did it, day after day servicing men. The trafficker told her she had to pay off her debts. The other incentive was that if she worked really hard,' she could bring her daughter to live with her. She did manage to bring her daughter. Living in an apartment that cost twice what the trafficker had told her, she worked at night and returned in the morning to get her daughter off to school. Her thoughts began to turn to suicide, thoughts of killing her daughter and herself," Miller said.

"Later in my trip, I met with a Laotian girl delivered at age 10 or 11 to work in an embroidery factory in Bangkok. Forced to work 12 to 15-hour days, she received no compensation. She rebelled, was locked in a room and the factory owner's son shot a BB gun through her cheek. They dumped chemicals on her; she has scars all over her body. She's one of the lucky ones; she got out. There was a raid and she is now in a good shelter in Thailand. She had the courage to participate in a highly publicized prosecution. Now, at age 14, she's studying, but she is also still undergoing plastic surgery. She'll never forget this," Miller said.

In addition to underscoring the personal tragedies hidden behind the trafficking numbers, these conversations revealed the diverse manifestations of slavery. "Whether we are talking about the sex industry or factory labor, rich country or developing economy, this is slavery. Our conversations hammered in the fact that these victims come from somewhere else, never from the hometowns. They are the victims of brutality and greed," Miller said.

Working Toward Change

In September 2003, President Bush underscored the hidden crisis of human trafficking in his annual address to the United Nations General Assembly. "He was the first world leader to raise the issue to this level of international attention,"

Miller said, adding that the president's remarks at the U.N. are one important indication of the U.S. government's determination to end slavery at home and abroad.

Miller noted several other recent milestones in America's drive to end human trafficking. They include Bush's requirement in early 2003 -- Executive Order 13257 -- that every relevant agency of the U.S. government bring its expertise to the effort to end trafficking in persons and assist its victims.

"That is an effort that the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is charged with coordinating," Miller explained. "Our office has a modest amount of funds, \$10 million, to support programs abroad on prevention, education, law enforcement and prosecution.

"Overall annual U.S. government assistance for overseas programs is about \$55 million, most of which is channeled to non-governmental agencies. NGOs, in my view, have been the leaders in this effort," Miller said. In addition to linking resources, he hopes that coordinating policies among the various agencies within the federal government will result in a unified, streamlined grant process to aid NGO partnerships.

U.S. Annual Report on Trafficking

Another milestone, according to Miller, was passed just months before the Department of State issued its third annual Trafficking in Persons Report. "For the first time, in conjunction with the June 2003 report, countries would bear consequences -- some type of U.S. sanction -- for their inaction in facing the problem. What we saw in the months preceding the report was a marked increase in nations' willingness to take fundamental steps, such as anti-trafficking legislation, police training, public education," he said.

Miller believes the combined effect of known consequences, increased public awareness, shame, and targeted support for reform programs all contributed to the elevation of 10 out of 15 **Tier 3** countries to **Tier 2** status, meaning these 10 countries made significant progress in addressing **human trafficking**.

Today, approximately 70 percent of the countries with a documented problem (which the United States defines as 100 or more individuals brought or sent into slave labor) now lie within Tier 2, as defined by U.S. law.

"A majority of the countries in the world today have become aware of the problem and they are starting to undertake efforts. But a majority of the world is nowhere near meeting the seven standards, outlined on page 15 of the report, required for any nation to maintain a Tier 1 status. Congress is thinking of revising the law -- perhaps divide Tier 2 to further recognize the efforts and resources being brought to bear to combat trafficking, but I am not sure what will happen on that this year," Miller said.

Explaining further, Miller said, "Countries in Tier 2 are distinguished by the significant efforts' they are making. One of the interpretations we've made is that significant efforts' or the progress a country has made does not mean the same every year. The bar gets higher from year to year. For instance, once anti-trafficking legislation is in place, we'll be looking for evidence that investigations and prosecutions are being actively pursued. We will continue to work on a government-to-government basis and with our NGO partners to come up with the strategies and plans needed to effect change."

With a clear picture of the U.S. financial resources, increasing experience and direction, Miller is confident that the United States will maintain momentum in aiding the forces destined to end today's slave trade.

Further information on Executive Order 13257, which defines human trafficking and outlines U.S. policy toward it, is available on the Internet at [HYPERLINK "usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2003/Jun/10-239581.html"](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2003/Jun/10-239581.html)

President Bush's September 2003 UNGA speech can be found at [HYPERLINK "usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/usandun/03091201.htm"](http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/usandun/03091201.htm) .

The biography of John R. Miller is available at [HYPERLINK "state.gov/r/pa/pil/21777.html"](http://state.gov/r/pa/pil/21777.html) .

Other useful Internet sites related to U.S. policy on trafficking in persons include the State Department Bureau of International Information Programs at [HYPERLINK "usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html"](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html) ; , The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at [HYPERLINK " http://www.state.gov/g/tip/"](http://www.state.gov/g/tip/) ; and the June 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report at [HYPERLINK " http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2003/"](http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2003/) .

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: usinfo.state.gov)

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286 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

October 7, 2003, Tuesday

Washington frowns on Cambodians? repatriation

BYLINE: The Nation.**LENGTH:** 419 words

Washington frowns on Cambodians? repatriation

The recent forced repatriation of 600 Cambodian migrants is a major setback for Thailand's anti-human-trafficking record and will affect Washington's evaluation of the country next year, a visiting US State Department official said yesterday.

John R Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said the deportation was dangerous as it risked exposing some of those repatriated to their traffickers.

In an effort to clear the country of illegal migrants during the month of the Apec summit, the government last Monday repatriated 621 Cambodians ? some of whom Miller believes were victims of human trafficking ? without pre-arrangements to receive them at home.

Miller, in Thailand to evaluate the country's performance in human-trafficking prevention, told reporters: ?It is a beginning of the circle [of trafficking] again.?

The State Department's ?**Trafficking in Persons** 2003?? report classified Thailand as ?**tier** 2?, which means the country does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Thailand is a source, transit point and destination country for persons trafficked into sexual exploitation and forced labour, said the annual report released in June.

Economic disparity in the region helps to drive significant illegal migration into Thailand from its neighbours.

International trafficking victims come mainly from Burma, Laos, Cambodia and China, the report said.

Miller said Thailand had done some positive things, notably its effort to have joint-economic development with immediate neighbours in an attempt to curb trans-border migrants.

However, he added that the Kingdom needed to improve the prosecution of illegal migrants, pointing to the fact that out of 504 human-trafficking-related arrests last year, only 42 prosecutions and 21 jail sentences had followed.

In order to improve Thailand's ability to fight human trafficking, the State Department has approved \$38 million in financial assistance for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, Miller said.

Of that amount, only one-third will go to the government, with the remainder ? \$25 million ? going to non-governmental organisations, he said.

The money will go towards training police, prosecutors, NGO social workers and medical professionals to help them better protect victims, as well as aiding the fight against human trafficking, he added.

Supalak Ganjanakhundee</P>The Nation

LOAD-DATE: October 6, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

287 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

September 12, 2003, Friday

Turkish ministry says upgrade in US human trafficking report "positive but Inadequate"

SOURCE: Anatolia news agency, Ankara, in English 1553 gmt 12 Sep 03

LENGTH: 245 words

Text of report in English by Turkish news agency Anatolia

Ankara, 12 September: Foreign Ministry said on Friday 12 September that US State Department, in its **trafficking in persons** report, upgraded Turkey from **Tier 3** to **Tier 2**, stating that this was positive but inadequate.

Foreign Ministry statement said government attributed importance to fight against human smuggling that turned into a serious problem for all the countries in the recent years.

The statement said all legal measures were taken in the past one year under the coordination of Foreign Ministry and with the participation of all state institutions. The statement said despite this, in the "2002 **trafficking in persons** report" of US State Department, which was published on 11 June 2003, Turkey had been taken to group of countries "whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so". After US State Department re-evaluated the countries included in the **Tier 3**, Turkey was upgraded to **Tier 2**, "including countries whose governments do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards". Foreign Ministry statement said, "Although this decision is considered as positive, it is inadequate. We are following the issue with sensitivity and that cooperation between related institutions and NGOs will be continued efficiently."

LOAD-DATE: September 13, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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288 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

September 11, 2003, Thursday

USA approves of Georgia's recent efforts against human trafficking

SOURCE: Prime-News news agency, Tbilisi, in Georgian 1250 gmt 11 Sep 03

LENGTH: 154 words

Excerpt from report by Georgian news agency Prime-News

Tbilisi, 11 September: The US embassy to Georgia has expressed satisfaction with the progress made by Georgia in fighting against human trafficking. Georgia has now been included in the second **tier** of countries in the **human trafficking** report by the US Department of State .

Prime-News was told at the embassy that the US administration declared on Wednesday 10 September that Georgia had achieved certain success in the fight against human trafficking. The White House urged the Georgian government to continue fight against this inhuman practice.

Georgia was included in the in the third tier of countries not making significant efforts to deal with the problem on 11 June 2003. Passage omitted However, after the 90-day evaluation period, the US Secretary of State re-examined the Georgian government's efforts in this regard. Passage omitted

LOAD-DATE: September 11, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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289 of 359 DOCUMENTS

M2 PRESSWIRE

September 11, 2003

US STATE DEPARTMENT**Progress in the fight against trafficking in persons****LENGTH:** 586 words

Press Statement; Richard Boucher, Spokesman Washington DC

We announce today some excellent progress. The President announced that ten countries have made important progress over the last three months in the fight to abolish modern day slavery. This announcement reflects several months of intensive effort on the part of diplomats in the field and of foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons. These efforts merited effectively raising our ratings of those countries anti-trafficking performance. These ten countries are Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

These countries all made important progress: some passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation; some funded victims support programs; some formed national task forces to combat trafficking and to arrest and prosecute traffickers; some ran public announcements warning the public of the dangers of trafficking. In every one of these countries, public officials including in some cases heads of state, foreign ministers, and other cabinet officials spoke out on this emerging human rights issue. These positive actions deserve our recognition and support.

This is the first year that the President was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to make determinations regarding countries placed on **Tier 3** of the Departments annual **Trafficking in Persons** report.

One hundred sixteen countries were ranked in the June report, and 15 of them were placed on Tier 3, the lowest tier, for their governments failure to comply with the Acts minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and failure to make significant efforts to do so. In the months following the issuance of the report, the Secretary reviewed the anti-trafficking efforts of these 15 countries governments.

The Secretary determined that the governments of the 10 governments cited earlier are now making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance, the standard for placement on Tier 2.

Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan still meet the Tier 3 standard, because their governments still fail to comply with the minimum standards, and fail to make significant efforts to do so. The President, acting on the recommendations of the Secretary determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea. While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the President determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. For Sudan, that assistance will be limited to that which may be necessary to implement a peace accord.

These determinations by the President clearly demonstrate his personal commitment to this issue and the significant cooperation and effort that the United States and other nations are starting to make to fight this transnational crime and modern day form of slavery. These successes are attributable not only to the efforts of the countries themselves but to our Ambassadors and the Department, particularly its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

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290 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

September 10, 2003 Wednesday

STATE DEPARTMENT REGULAR BRIEFING**BRIEFER: RICHARD BOUCHER, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN****LOCATION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING ROOM, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

LENGTH: 5950 words

Q You know, Rumsfeld's briefing --

MR. BOUCHER: There's somebody more interesting somewhere. Anyway, that's fine with me. I'm happy to see you all here. And I have one thing that I do want to talk about, and that's trafficking in persons.

The White House has put out a short statement to indicate the president's notified Congress that 10 countries that were on the **tier 3**, the low -- the trafficking persons list from earlier this year, have made significant progress and therefore are being moved up to **tier 2**, and thereby have avoided possible sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This is in recognition of their quick work to address problems that existed with regard to their **trafficking in persons** policy. And so we're very pleased today to announce that this excellent progress has been made in these countries, and that the United States has worked very closely with these countries over the past three months to achieve it.

There's been several months of very intensive effort on behalf of diplomats in the field and foreign governments that made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons more effective. These efforts merited raising our ratings on the countries, on these 10 countries' anti-trafficking performance. The 10 countries are Belize, Bosnia -- Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan. All these countries have made important progress. Some have passed legislation. Victims support programs have been started. They've arrested and (are) prosecuting traffickers. There have been public service announcements and awareness campaigns. In every one of these countries, public officials spoke out on this important human rights issue.

This is the first year that the president was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to make determinations regarding traffic -- countries placed on tier 3 in the report. And sanctions were required. Unfortunately, there are still five countries that did not make improvements and still -- are still in the tier 3 -- under this tier 3 standard. Those countries are Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan.

The president, acting on the recommendations of the secretary, determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea. While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the president determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act, or is otherwise in our national interest. And so he's made the appropriate determinations of some certain bilateral -- multilateral assistance can continue. In the case of Sudan, that's assistance -- in the case of Sudan, this means assistance that would support a peace accord. In both cases, I point out that humanitarian assistance is not affected.

So, that's a determination that the president has notified the Congress of based on recommendations he received from the secretary of State, and I think a remarkable amount of progress that we've been able to make in three months through effective diplomacy, using the act, and the effort of our diplomats, and the effort of foreign countries to really address a very important issue.

So with that, I'd be glad to take your questions on this or other matters.

Q Not on this.

MR. BOUCHER: Start on this. Any particulars? All right, for -- for those who are interested, we'll put out a more complete statement, and the press office will have more specific information.

Q The president is withholding a judgment on the new Palestinian prime minister. I wondered if here at State there's any indication of who might be in the cabinet, and how important is it who he appoints? For instance, the security or interior minister.

MR. BOUCHER: Well, we note that that process, the -- we note that he has accepted the nomination, or the request to form a cabinet, and that the process of cabinet formation has begun. As I think the president made some reference to and the White House has said, it's essential the next prime minister have the authority and the control of the security forces and the finances of the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The issue is taking action to fight terror. So we urge that Mr. Qureia's cabinet appointments reflect candidates free from associations with terror and violence, committed to acting decisively on reform and peace negotiations. That will benefit all Palestinians.

Understand the way it works. He has three weeks to form a cabinet. And if he needs it, can get a further two-week extension.

The new Palestinian cabinet must make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism, demand that all acts of terrorism cease, and insist that terrorists and military organizations not under the control of the Palestinian Authority be disarmed and dismantled.

Our representatives in the region have continued their meetings. Our acting consul general Jeff Feltman has met with Mr. Qureia today again. He and Ambassador Wolf have continued to meet and speak with a wide variety of Israeli and Palestinian officials on a daily basis and to encourage both sides to recommit themselves to finding a way forward towards the president's two-stage vision.

Risa (sp)?

Q The prime minister of Kuwait is proposing to create a kind of national council for security in charge of supervising all the security agencies. Does it seem to you a good idea, a good step --

MR. BOUCHER: I don't -- I don't think it's for us to specify the exact governing arrangements. The point that we've made is there needs to be commitment, there needs to be authority, and there needs to be resources in the hands of the government to be able to effectively use the security services against the terrorist organizations. It'll be for them to figure out how exactly that can be done.

Yeah. Sir.

Q Yes. This is Nayyar Zaidi from Daily Jang in Pakistan. I didn't know we would move so fast to Middle East. But I want to go back to the trafficking persons.

MR. BOUCHER: Yep.

Q This trafficking obviously involves trafficking abroad, like exporting human beings to other countries, or is it only internal?

MR. BOUCHER: No, it's all forms of forced labor --

Q Okay.

MR. BOUCHER: -- forced prostitution, trafficking in persons. I think there are estimates, you know, of 50,000 people who are trafficked into the United States. So it's just -- it's a problem for countries where people are being taken, it's a problem for countries where they're showing up, and it's a problem that we think the whole world needs to work together against.

Q Yeah. This is what I was coming to.

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah.

Q Is the United States the only country, or is it in Europe, number one? Number two, in case of, say, nuclear technology, we fault the person who exported the technology and the person who imported it. Now, in this case, are the countries which are getting these people, like 50,000 in the United States, are taking any responsibility, and --

MR. BOUCHER: It's -- it -- these are the countries covered in the report, that are placed in different categories.

Q Yes.

MR. BOUCHER: Okay? It covers -- any country in the world where this problem exists in one form or the other is covered. Every country is expected to take action, whether people are trafficked out of that country or into that country or within that country. There may be forced labor in some of these cases inside the country, where we do expect people to take action against it, governments to take action. The United States has passed comprehensive legislation. The United States has taken any number of steps of public awareness, of law enforcement action, arrest, prosecution. And we are acting domestically as well as -- through the domestic agencies as well as part of our international agenda to work with other governments so we can effectively all fight this problem wherever it exists.

Okay?

Q Richard, going back to the Middle East for a second. The president called for the prime minister-designate to get control of all the security forces and unleash them on the militants. Absent his ability to do that, are you simply reconciled to the prospect of continuing violence? Do you see any other options, policy options for you?

MR. BOUCHER: The question is sort of -- I need to separate out the pieces because it's really three different questions. Are we -- you know, absent his ability to do that, to get control of the security services, I think I would complete the sentence by saying, absent the ability of the government to get control of the security services and use them effectively against terrorist groups, it will be impossible to make progress on the road map, to make progress towards a two-state vision, to achieve what the Palestinian people say they want, which is to build the institutions of their own state. So, absent progress on security, we really think it's -- we don't see how you can make progress on creating a Palestinian state, and that these bombers, in addition to harming innocent people, have harmed the lives of Palestinians but have also harmed the ability of Palestinians to achieve their dreams and their aspirations.

The second part is, are we reconciled to continuing violence if this doesn't happen the way we want? And I think the answer has to be no. We'll continue to work against violence, but -- or is there any other way? I think we've also made clear that we don't think there's any other way.

The road map lays out how to achieve the president's vision of two states living side by side. As the president noted again this morning, the road map is there as the mechanism to achieve that vision.

And we need to -- we need to continue to focus on the steps that both sides need to take as we move forward, the key one at this juncture, we think, being to end the activities of these violent groups.

Q Do you get the sense from what he has said so far that he has any intention of getting a grip on the security services?

MR. BOUCHER: I -- I don't think one can judge a government until it's formed, until it starts taking action. We have made the point -- I made it again today -- that as he forms a cabinet, it needs to be a cabinet that is committed to progress, and that the cabinet needs to make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism and its desire to move forward in a peaceful manner to achieving a Palestinian state.

Q Can you tell us why Mr. -- I'm sorry, go ahead --

Q No, no. Go ahead.

Q -- why Mr. Armitage has decided not to go -- not to carry through on what he said were his plans to go to the Middle East.

MR. BOUCHER: (Laughs.) The -- the deputy secretary talked to you all, I think, or talked to various media about the prospects of a trip. As it came to putting together that trip, there were questions of scheduling, there were questions of timing, there were questions of formation of the Palestinian government, and we're coming right up on the General Assembly, when most of the people will be traveling to New York, anyway. So in the end it was impossible to put together the kind of trip he was looking at in this immediate time frame and thought it was better to postpone it till later.

Q What kind of trip was he looking at? Was it a sort of Middle East peace process trip, or was it more -- he said "Arab capitals" --

MR. BOUCHER: He was looking at a number of stops, and will continue to look at a number of stops as we -- as we think about a later trip.

Q Are you thinking he will possible take a trip later this year, or is it sort of --

MR. BOUCHER: I'd expect something later in the fall, yeah. That's what they're thinking about now.

Okay.

Q Could all this happen with Arafat on the premises? All the things the U.S. wants to see happen? Like -- like security forces under one command?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. It's a question of will. It's a question of desire. It's a question of --

Q Whose will?

MR. BOUCHER: The will of all the people in the Palestinian community. The Palestinian legislature obviously has a lot of say over powers. The individuals involved in the political process have a lot of say over the powers. I think we're pointing to objective fact that we hope others would realize, that we're not going to make progress on the Palestinian agenda until the Palestinians make progress in eliminating the terrorist groups.

Q And so, I -- I guess that means the administration position on exile hasn't changed.

MR. BOUCHER: It hasn't changed. The secretary re-stated it on Sunday.

Q Okay.

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah.

Joel.

Q Richard, nearby in Syria the government has been shuffled there. Do you in talking to Bashir there, do you expect the same type thing in the formation of their new government?

MR. BOUCHER: Nothing in particular to say about that situation, no.

Q Is the prime minister urging that the -- Assad seems to be following through. He said he needed a more reform-minded government, and --

MR. BOUCHER: We'll -- we'll see what emerges. I -- I don't have anything to say at this moment.

Yeah.

Q Richard, if I can just go back to Arafat for one minute, please. I know you've said this before, but in light of the latest attacks, why does the U.S. believe that expelling Arafat is not the solution to the current impasse crisis?

MR. BOUCHER: For the reasons the secretary said on TV on Saturday -- Sunday.

Q If -- if you could just -- (laughter).

MR. BOUCHER: (Laughs.)

Q Short summary. Thirty-five seconds.

Q Preferably 10. (Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: Six and a half. I don't -- I don't have the transcripts with me. I --

The -- the United States has made clear our view that Arafat is not part of the solution, he's part of the problem. But at the same time as, I think, the secretary has made clear, the -- the Israelis need to think about potential actions, this discussion of expelling Arafat, because we don't see how it would be any better if he was outside the country working the capitals of the world. Pretty much the way he put it.

Sir.

Q So do you believe he would be more vocal and more extreme? So keeping him in the occupied territory will contain him? That's what we understand?

MR. BOUCHER: I -- we don't understand it one way or the other. We just don't see how it would help the situation or help anybody move forward towards a more peaceful situation for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Sir.

Q Do you think Arafat should be (confined ?) to Ramallah?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not going to dictate any particular treatment or location. We don't spend a whole lot of time worrying about Mr. Arafat anymore.

Nayyar?

Q Yes, sir. Nayyar Zaidi again. What --

MR. BOUCHER: I know. (Laughter.)

Q Yeah. Well, I was looking for the -- (laughs). So Mr. Arafat, we keep hearing, you know, various solutions to getting him out of the way. And what kind of obstruction is he putting up to the peace process? I mean, he has been a leader for, God knows, 35 years. And he should have the cause of Palestinians at heart. So what kind of political or other obstructions is he putting up that people are saying that he is part of the problem?

MR. BOUCHER: I think -- first of all, we've talked about this --

Q Yeah.

MR. BOUCHER: -- many times over many years, including in the president's speech last -- a year ago June 24th. The most recent question that's come up is whether or not he's going to allow the control and consolidation of the security services under a government that was chosen by the Palestinian legislature to take authority for the Palestinian Authority.

Q You took from him the financial control, now you want security. He will be left with nothing.

MR. BOUCHER: You sound like we're picking his pocket. (Laughter.) We're not.

The Palestinians are establishing institutions that can support a state. Let's not forget what this is all about; it's about creating a Palestinian state to take responsibility in its own areas, that can have responsibility vis-a-vis its own people and vis-a-vis its neighbors. If you're going to create those institutions, you have to operate on a transparent, and solid and legal basis. And that's what the Palestinian legislature has tried to do in giving the authorities to the government, that's what the Palestinian government has done in terms of finance, and that's what the Palestinian government needs to do in terms of security, as well.

You can't have a government competing with armed groups. No country has a government that has to rival other armed groups for control of the security situation -- at least not voluntarily. And therefore, if we're talking about creating institutions that can support a Palestinian state, we're talking about a Palestinian government that can take responsibility in all areas of government.

Terri?

Q Different subject?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes.

Q What's your reaction to the Security Council deciding to postpone the Libya vote -- the Lockerbie vote, the Libya vote?

MR. BOUCHER: As you noted, yesterday the Security Council went on record publicly in adopting an agenda item that includes a vote on the resolution to lift U.N. sanctions on Libya. That meeting will now convene on Friday, September 12th at 10:30 in the morning. The United States agreed to this formal procedural motion, essentially allowing a short additional period of time, while at the same time making the council's intent to vote on Friday in order to resolve the matter in a way that would ultimately result in adoption of the resolution. Nevertheless, we're very disappointed that the vote did not take place yesterday.

Our hearts go out to the victims -- to the families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing, who have been waiting so patiently for some closure. We strongly regret that the families were faced with a situation of having to wait again, for the fourth time, for a vote in order to avoid a French veto of this resolution. We do think the time is past due for bring-

ing this resolution to a vote, but given the circumstances in the council yesterday, we feel this is the best that could be worked out. We're satisfied that there is a strong commitment on the part of council members to proceed to a vote this coming Friday.

I'd note also that later yesterday, Ambassador Negroponte, along with U.K. Ambassador Jones Parry and the Bulgarian Ambassador Tafrov, met with the victims' families at the U.S. mission to confer and discuss the situation.

Q Has France given you any indications that it will not veto on Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not aware of anything like that. You'd have to ask the French what their intentions are.

Q Is this a final date, Richard, or is there a chance (of it ?) being postponed again?

MR. BOUCHER: This is a firmly-scheduled agenda item. It's a firm schedule for a vote, which we have not had before - when this was postponed before. There was a discussion, there was an unwritten understanding, there were things like that that were postponed. This is a much more firm commitment than we've had before. I suppose the council, in its infinite wisdom, can decide to do what it wants if it desires. But this is a more -- a much clearer commitment than we've had before.

Sir?

Q (Off mike) -- indication that they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday, or they think they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: Again, that will be something you'll have to ask the French, if they think they can get some additional compensation or whatever for the families of the UTA bombing. Of course, we have every sympathy with their attempts to do so. We just don't think the families of the Pan-Am 103 bombing should be forced to wait again and again.

Q Just so we're all current on the security issue in the Palestinian situation, on the one hand, the U.S. is clear what they want: unified command; on the other, you don't want to micro-manage Palestinian matters. Mr. Wolf's out there, and his speciality was to -- or, is to promote a better security situation. Is he involved, or is he -- is he there on call to deal with the mechanics of this, if it would be helpful, consolidating at all, lending his special expertise?

MR. BOUCHER: The -- I wouldn't describe his role as that way. I wouldn't say he's the mechanic here. The mechanics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government. The politics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government. And the effective use of the institutions have to be -- has to be handled by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government. Obviously, the United States has long had an important role in conferring with both sides about security issues, in talking to them about their plans, in hearing from them what their plans are, particularly their plans to move against terrorism. But the organization and the determination need to come from the Palestinian side.

Okay?

Q Richard, we've had a Rewards for Justice-type program. Is there something comparable that you'd like to see in the Middle East, so that some of these so-called terrorists would be deactivated?

MR. BOUCHER: The United States Rewards for Justice program has always applied to American citizens who have died because of -- or to the -- to those who have killed American citizens, regardless of where it's happened. So in some cases in the Middle East, it already applies.

Q New subject?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah.

Q Richard, to your -- does the U.S. government have an assessment of whether the North Korean nuclear facilities at Yongbyon are still active?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't have one that I can share with you.

Q Okay. Are you aware that there's a Japanese news report suggesting that a senior State Department official yesterday told legislators on the Hill that it's your assessment that that plant has ceased the activity that was detected earlier this year?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't have any assessment that I can share with you.

Yeah, sir?

Q Change of subject. Geneva.

MR. BOUCHER: Please. Quickly.

Q Geneva. Anything more you can tell us about the agenda for that?

MR. BOUCHER: Let me sort of walk to Geneva by reviewing where we are generally on the resolution, first, so you'll understand the context that Geneva comes in.

We've been continuing to discuss our draft resolution with other members of the Security Council in New York, in Washington and in capitals. There was a meeting -- informal meeting yesterday afternoon with the permanent five members of the Security Council. At that meeting, we got some feedback on our draft. As I think has been reported, we heard from the French on proposed amendments to the text. The Russians offered us a separate set of suggestions.

We're reviewing those proposals. We'll respond after further internal consultations. This is the normal process that one goes through negotiating a Security Council resolution.

There are no additional meetings planned for New York prior to the secretary's trip to Geneva on Saturday. We will keep in touch with other delegations and other governments, however, in other ways.

The secretary spoke this morning with Foreign Minister Ivanov of Russia. He also spoke with Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The discussion with Ivanov was -- I would describe it as a good and constructive exchange on the resolution and the elements of the resolution. We certainly welcome the work that we've been able to do with Russians so far on that matter.

We're also working with Secretary-General Annan to prepare for a good meeting, a meeting in Geneva on Saturday.

As I think we've said before, we see it as an informal discussion among the Perm 5 and the secretary-general to discuss the situation in Iraq and discuss ideas about the resolution. We would expect the discussion to be about the concepts of how we go forward in the resolution and generally with the United Nations on Iraq, not a negotiation of the text itself.

As the president and the secretary have both stated, we're committed to advancing the cause of the resolution. And if the Geneva meeting can move the process forward, then we're willing to do what we can, through that meeting and through our discussions in New York, to get to a satisfactory conclusion to these negotiations.

Q Can you go a step further -- (off mike)? I know you don't usually want to get into conversations, but Russia's position has been interpreted by some people as supportive and by other reporters as a little skeptical. Would you put them in the "helpful" column?

MR. BOUCHER: (Chuckles.) I don't --

Q They're not with France and Germany, for instance, are they?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think we've quite done all the columns on this one yet. The views are still coming in.

What I would note is that the Russian -- Russia's -- we've had a separate dialogue with Russia, than with France and Germany. We've had some separate discussions with Germany as well.

Our -- I'm not going to try to negotiate the specific ideas or proposals from different countries in a public forum, but I would say that we found the discussion with Russia very productive or constructive.

The comments on the substance that I would make are sort of our approach to the situation. We think that all council members do share essentially the same objective. That's to help Iraq and the Iraqi people exercise their full sovereignty as quickly as possible. The differences in the council, we think, should relate to the steps that need to be taken to get there. That's where the discussion should focus.

Proposals have to be grounded in the reality of the current situation. The -- you can't pretend the war never happened. You can't pretend the coalition never happened. You can't pretend that the Iraqis have not already made considerable progress under the Governing Council and that what we need to do is work with them, build on that progress and see how all of us can help.

Our proposal takes as a point of departure the reality of the situation: that the coalition is already working with the allies -- where the coalition is already working with the Governing Council, the Iraqis, to move forward in -- towards constitution and elections, and also to move forward on the exercise of sovereignty.

The point is not to argue either about which foreigner's going to take control in Iraq. The point is to go out and look and see what we can all do to support the Iraqis as they go forward in that process.

I would note also a press conference statement by the secretary-general two days ago, where he said it's not so much for the U.N. to go in and take over the administration or management of Iraq, but for us to ensure that we accelerate the establishment of a government and the transfer of authority and to have the Iraqis run their own affairs, as indicated in the Security Council resolution. That's what we would hope all parties would be prepared to go talk about in Geneva.

Terri?

Q You haven't mentioned the Chinese at all. Have there been discussions recently? How long ago did Secretary Powell speak with his --

MR. BOUCHER: The secretary talked to the Chinese foreign minister -- about a week ago?

STAFF: (Off mike.)

Q Last week? Right.

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah, last week. We -- certainly they've been participating and speaking up at the Perm Five meeting that took place yesterday and the other discussions in New York. I'm not trying to convey views on behalf of all those who have views. We've also had specific comments and constructive discussions with the British, with the Spanish, and probably with several others who I should probably mention but can't remember. So we've had some very specific discussions, heard specific proposals and constructive ones from a number of countries.

Q Have the Chinese given you a list of suggested --

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not aware that they have, but if you want a whole list of who's given us specifics, I think you'd have to check with the countries.

Q The P-5.

MR. BOUCHER: Well, if you want a whole list of the P-5 members who've presented changes, I'll have to demur on that, too, because I'm just not sure I've got the whole list.

Okay. Andrea?

Q Richard, can you help us understand what it is that these other governments are to get out of essentially contributing, you know, thousands of their own troops, who could potentially become cannon fodder for these terrorists, and allowing them to pitch in with various NGOs? What is it that they are supposed to get out of, you know, this whole participatory process?

MR. BOUCHER: A safer world. A better environment for their children and grandchildren to grow up in. I think, despite differences over the war itself, that most countries recognize that building of a stable Iraq that has representative government can be an important element in building a more stable region. It's important to their security that this process succeed, whether or not they agreed with going to war in the first place.

And I think we've actually had that and heard that and seen that in public from statements of various governments.

And the governments that are considering contributing troops or who are contributing troops, governments that are contributing money or are considering contributing money, the governments who are supporting or considering supporting U.N. resolutions, I'm sure are looking at it from their own point of view; that it's better for them in the long run for this process to succeed in Iraq than to have Iraq go back to being some kind of source of instability. Certainly, the United States has made that decision, and the president expressed that decision quite clearly on Sunday night when he asked for not only the commitment to do so, but the money to do so, as well.

Q Does the U.S. believe, then, that without the help of the international community beyond the countries that are already participating, that this process is destined to fail?

MR. BOUCHER: No. The president expressed our commitment to succeed. It's --

Q No, I understand. But you're reaching out to the international community, so I'm just wondering if the U.S. believes that without the additional troops, without the additional money, that it can't succeed?

MR. BOUCHER: No. The president expressed our commitment to succeed, and we are going to succeed in this. He also made clear there's an opportunity for others to take steps that contribute to their own security, that contribute to their own well-being and that contribute to the well-being of the people of Iraq.

Terri?

Q Change of subject. Vienna. How's it going with the new resolution? Does it look like you're going to get it passed?

MR. BOUCHER: Discussions continue in Vienna. I'm not sure there's any update. It's also not clear exactly when the vote might be, but I don't -- I was going to say, I don't think it will be today.

We're still working actively with other members on the strongest possible board resolution. France, Germany and the United Kingdom have jointly proposed a draft board resolution on Iran that highlights the international community's concerns. The resolution calls on Iran to take essential and urgent steps to answer fully the unresolved questions from the agency, to cooperate fully with the agency's ongoing investigation and to take these actions by the end of October. We strongly support these objectives, and I think as you know, we've worked with them in developing this resolution.

Negotiations are continuing today in Vienna, so we'll see where that leads to in terms of a vote and a text.

We would say once again that Dr. ElBaradei's June and August reports on Iran clearly confirm that Iran has failed to meet its obligations under its safeguards agreement.

We believe the director-general's reports provided compelling evidence of Iran's non-compliance with its obligations.

Got one more. We got one or two more back here.

Q In Indonesia --

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah.

Q In Indonesia, the person responsible for the Bali bombings last year was sentenced to death today. Do you have any reaction to this --

MR. BOUCHER: I think this is second, or maybe more, sentencing involving the Bali bombings. And we commend the government of Indonesia for the professional manner in which it conducted this trial. The court sentenced this Imam Samdura (sic - should be Samudra) for his role in planning and executing the bombing. This was the worst act of terrorism since September 11th, the attacks in the United States. And we once again extend our sympathy to the families. Bringing the perpetrators to justice is an important step in ensuring that whatever happened -- that what happened in Bali is not repeated.

Okay. Let's do these two, three, four.

Q I was hoping you could respond to some remarks published today by Joschka Fischer in a German magazine calling the U.S. post-war policy in Iraq a complete failure.

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen those remarks. I want to see how said it and where he said it and what the context was. Obviously, that's not the way we would characterize the situation.

Q On the case of Charles Li, do you have any updates on that?

MR. BOUCHER: U.S. embassy officials in Beijing spoke with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials on September 8th concerning imprisoned American Chuck Li. This was one of several matters involving U.S. prisoners which was discussed. The conversation was one of the many opportunities that embassy and consular officials in China have taken to express our continuing interest in Mr. Li's welfare and his well-being while he remains in custody serving his sentence. We last spoke to him directly on August 15th, the last visit was in early August. We have spoken with him, or met with him 10 times in the last three months.

Q Who requested this meeting?

MR. BOUCHER: I'll have to check on that. I think we went in to talk to him about a number of cases.

Q Does that meeting has anything to do with the genocide lawsuit filed by the Falun Gong practitioner around the world?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of.

Sir?

Q Any reaction on the Cuba vote last night in the House? And can you say more generally why the administration feels so strongly about this that it's fair to (have issued ?) a veto threat?

MR. BOUCHER: The administration position is available on the White House web site, the statement of the administration position. So -- I assume you've already seen that? All right.

So, let me -- for others who haven't seen that, go to the White House website and search on SAP and you can find the position on that. The basic rationale is that providing material benefit to a regime which only six months ago undertook the most significant act of political repression in the Americas in a decade strikes us as deeply unwise.

I had one more, I guess. Sir?

Q A brigadier general in Burma has said that if they do release Aung San Suu Kyi, it would cause instability, and they said they could face protests. They don't want to release her because of that, and you've criticized that in the last week. Is -- are you putting more pressure on the military --

MR. BOUCHER: I hadn't seen those remarks. They're obviously ridiculous. And we'll continue to work with others in the international community to try to see that she and her followers are freed from this detention.

Q Thank you.

Q One more.

MR. BOUCHER: One more. Sorry.

Do you want to ask one more there, ma'am?

Q Yes.

MR. BOUCHER: A late hand.

Q Do you know what's happened to the military and weapons expert who was arrested in China? He was trying to defect to Australia.

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't heard that story. Sorry.

Q Okay. Thanks.

END

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State Department

September 10, 2003

Daily Press Briefing for Sept. 10

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Richard Boucher, Spokesman

Washington, DC

September 10, 2003

TRANSCRIPT:

MR. BOUCHER: I'm happy to see you all here, and I have one thing that I do want to talk about, and that's trafficking in persons. The White House has put out a short statement to indicate the President has notified Congress that 10 countries that were on the **tier** three, the **Trafficking in Persons** list from earlier this year, have made significant progress and therefore are being moved up to **tier** two, and thereby have avoided possible sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

This is in recognition of their quick work to address problems that existed with regard to their trafficking in persons policy, and so we are very pleased today to announce that this excellent progress has been made in these countries and that the United States has worked very closely with these countries over the past three months to achieve it.

There's been several months of very intensive effort on behalf of diplomats in the field and foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons more effective. These efforts merited raising our ratings on the countries, on these ten countries' anti-trafficking performance. The 10 countries are: Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan. All these countries have made important progress. Some have passed legislation. Victims' support programs have been started. They've arrested and prosecuting traffickers. There have been public service announcements and awareness campaigns. In every one of these countries, public officials spoke out on this important human rights issue.

This is the first year that the President was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to make determinations regarding countries placed on tier three in the report, and sanctions were required. Unfortunately, there are still five countries that did not make improvements and are still in the tier three, under the tier three standard. Those countries are Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan.

The President, acting on the recommendations of the Secretary, determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea. While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the President determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act or is otherwise in our national interest, and so he has made the appropriate determinations that some certain bilateral -- multilateral assistance can continue. In the case of Sudan, that's assistance -- excuse me. In the case of Sudan, this means assistance that would support a peace accord. In both cases, I would point out that humanitarian assistance is not affected.

So that is a determination that the President has notified the Congress of based on recommendations he received from the Secretary of State, and I think a remarkable amount of progress that we've been able to make in three months through effective diplomacy using the Act and the effort of our diplomats and the effort of foreign countries to really address a very important issue.

So, with that, I'd be glad to take your questions on this or other matters.

QUESTION: Not on this.

MR. BOUCHER: Start on this? Any particulars?

(No response.)

MR. BOUCHER: All right. For those who are interested, we'll put out a more complete statement and the Press Office will have more specific information.

QUESTION: The President is withholding a judgment on the new Palestinian Prime Minister. I wondered if here at State there's any indication of who might be in the cabinet, and how important is it who he appoints, for instance, as security or interior minister?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, we note that that process -- we note that he has accepted the nomination or the request to form a cabinet and that the process of cabinet formation has begun. As I think the President made some reference to and the White House has said, it's essential the next Prime Minister have the authority and the control of the security forces and the finances of the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The issue is taking action to fight terror.

So we urge that Mr. Qureia's cabinet appointments reflect candidates free from associations with terror and violence, committed to acting decisively on reform, and peace negotiations that will benefit all Palestinians. I understand the way it works, he has three weeks to form a cabinet and, if he needs it, can get a further two-week extension.

A new Palestinian cabinet must make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism, demand that all acts of terrorism cease, and insist that terrorists and military organizations not under the control of Palestinian Authority be disarmed and dismantled.

Our representatives in the region have continued their meetings. Our Acting Consulate General Jeff Feltman has met with Mr. Qureia today again. He and Ambassador Wolf have continued to meet and speak with a wide variety of Israeli and Palestinian officials on a daily basis and to encourage both sides to recommit themselves to finding a way forward toward the President's two-state vision.

Christophe.

QUESTION: Prime Minister Qureia is proposing to create a kind of national council for security in charge of supervising all the security agencies. Does it seem to you a good idea, this step?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think it's for us to specify the exact governing arrangements. The point that we've made is there needs to be a commitment, there needs to be authority, and there needs to be resources in the hands of the government to be able to effectively use the security services against the terrorist organizations. It will be for them to figure out how exactly that can be done.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes, this is Nayyar Zaidi from Daily Jang in Pakistan. I didn't know we would move so fast to Middle East, but I want to go back to the trafficking in persons.

MR. BOUCHER: Yes.

QUESTION: This trafficking obviously involves trafficking abroad, like exporting human beings to other countries, or is it only internal?

MR. BOUCHER: No, it's all forms of forced labor, forced prostitution, trafficking in persons. I think there are estimates, you know, of 50,000 people who are trafficked into the United States. So it's just -- it's a problem for countries where people are being taken, it's a problem for countries where they're showing up, and it's a problem that we think the whole world needs to work together against.

QUESTION: Yeah, this is what I was coming to. Is United States the only country, or is it in Europe, number one?

And number two, in case of, say, nuclear technology, we fault the person who has exported the technology and the person who imported it. Now, in this case, are the countries which are getting these people, like 50,000 in United States, are taking any responsibility?

MR. BOUCHER: These are the countries covered in the report. They are placed in different categories. Okay? It covers any country in the world where this problem exists in one form or the other is covered. Every country is expected to

take action, whether people are trafficked out of that country or into that country, or within that country. There may be forced labor in some of these cases inside the country where we do expect people to take action against the -- take the government -- governments to take action.

The United States has passed comprehensive legislation, the United States has taken any number of steps of public awareness, of law enforcement action, arrest, prosecution, and we are acting domestically as well as through the domestic agencies, as well as part of our international agenda to work with other governments so we can effectively all fight this problem wherever it exists.

Okay?

QUESTION: Do you know, coming back to the Middle East for a second, the President called for the Prime Minister-designate to get control of all of the security forces and unleash them on the militants. Absent his ability to do that, are you simply reconciled to the prospect of continuing violence? Do you see any other options, policy options, for you?

MR. BOUCHER: The question is sort of -- I need to separate out the pieces, because it's really three different questions. Are we -- you know, absent his ability to do that, to get control of security services, I think I would complete the sentence by saying, "Absent the ability of the government to get control of the security services and use them effectively against terrorist groups, it will be impossible to make progress on the roadmap, to make progress towards the two-state vision, to achieve what the Palestinian people say they want, which is to build the institutions of their own state."

So, absent progress on security, we really think it's -- we don't see how you can make progress on creating a Palestinian state and that these bombers, in addition to harming innocent people, have harmed the lives of Palestinians, but have also harmed the ability of Palestinians to achieve their dreams and their aspirations.

The second part is: Are we reconciled to continuing violence, if this doesn't happen the way we want? And I think the answer has to be no, we'll continue to work against violence. But -- or is there any other way? I think we've also made clear that we don't think there's any other way. The roadmap lays out how to achieve the President's vision of two states living side by side. As the President noted again this morning, the roadmap is there as the mechanism to achieve that vision, and we need to -- we need to continue to focus on the steps that both sides need to take as we move forward, the key one at this juncture we think being to end the activities of these violence groups.

QUESTION: Do you get the sense from what he has said so far, that he has any intention of getting a grip on the security services?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think one can judge a government until it's formed, until it starts taking action. But we have made the point -- I made it again today -- that as he forms the cabinet, it needs to be a cabinet that is committed to progress, and that the cabinet needs to make clear it's opposition to all forms of terrorism, and its desire to move forward in a peaceful manner to achieving a Palestinian state.

QUESTION: Can you tell us why Mr. -- I'm sorry, go ahead --

QUESTION: No, no.

QUESTION: Why Mr. Armitage has decided not go, not to carry through on what he said were his plans to go to the Middle East?

MR. BOUCHER: The Deputy Secretary talked to you all, I think, or talked to various media about the prospects of a trip. As it came to putting together that trip, there were questions of scheduling, there were questions of timing, there were questions of formation of the Palestinian Government, and we're coming right up on the General Assembly, when most of the people will be traveling to New York anyway. So, in the end, it wasn't possible to put together the kind of trip he was looking at in this immediate time frame and thought it was better to postpone it till later.

QUESTION: What kind of trip was he looking at? Was it a sort of Middle East peace process trip, or was it more Arab capitals or --

MR. BOUCHER: He was looking at a number of stops, and will continue to look at a number of stops as we think about a later trip.

QUESTION: Are you thinking he will possibly take a trip later this year, or is it sort of --

MR. BOUCHER: I'd expect something later in the fall, yeah. That's what they're thinking about now, yeah.

QUESTION: Can all this happen with Arafat on the premises, all the things the U.S. wants to see happen, like security forces under one command?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. It's a question of will, it's a question of desire, it's a question of --

QUESTION: Whose will?

MR. BOUCHER: The will of all the people in the Palestinian community. The Palestinian legislature obviously has a lot of say over powers. The individuals involved in the political process have a lot of say over the powers. I think we're pointing to objective fact that we hope others would realize, that we're not going to make progress on the Palestinian agenda until the Palestinians make progress in eliminating the terrorist groups.

QUESTION: So I guess that means the administration's position on exile hasn't changed.

MR. BOUCHER: Hasn't changed. The Secretary restated it on Sunday.

Joel.

QUESTION: Richard, nearby in Syria, the government has been shuffled there. Do you, in talking to Bashar there, do you expect the same type thing in the formation of their new government?

MR. BOUCHER: Nothing particular to say about that situation, no.

QUESTION: Do you find it encouraging that Assad seems to be following through? He said he needed a more reform-minded government in --

MR. BOUCHER: We'll see what emerges. I don't have anything to say at this moment.

QUESTION: Richard, if I could just go back to Arafat for one minute, please. I know you've said this before, but in light of the latest attacks, why does the U.S. believe that expelling Arafat is not the solution to the current impasse, crisis?

MR. BOUCHER: For the reasons the Secretary said on TV on Saturday -- Sunday.

QUESTION: Well, if you could just -- (laughter).

QUESTION: For 35 seconds.

QUESTION: Preferably ten. (Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: Six and a half. I don't -- I don't have the transcripts with me.

The United States has made clear our view that Arafat is not part of the solution, he's part of the problem. But at the same time, as I think the Secretary has made clear, the Israelis need to think about potential actions, this discussion of expelling Arafat, because we don't see how it would be any better if he was outside the country working the capitals of the world. Pretty much the way he put it.

Sir.

QUESTION: He would be more vocal and more extreme, so keeping him in the occupied territory will contain him? That's what we understand?

MR. BOUCHER: We don't understand it one way or the other. We just don't see how it would help the situation or help anybody move forward towards a more peaceful situation for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Sir.

QUESTION: Is it better than being confined to Ramallah?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not going to dictate any particular treatment or location. We don't spend a whole lot of time worrying about Mr. Arafat any more.

QUESTION: Yes, sir, Nayyar Zaidi again.

MR. BOUCHER: I know. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Well, I was looking for that. (Laughter.)

So, Mr. Arafat, we keeping hearing, you know, various solutions to getting him out of the way, and what kind of obstruction is he putting up to the peace process? I mean, he has been a leader, for, God knows, 35 years, and he should have the cause of Palestinians at heart. So what kind of political or other obstructions is he putting up that people are saying that he is part of the problem?

MR. BOUCHER: I think, first of all, we've talked about this many times over many years, including in the President's speech last -- a year ago, June 24th. The most recent question that's come up is whether or not he is going to allow the control and consolidation of the security services under a government that was chosen by the Palestinian legislature to take authority for the Palestinian Authority.

QUESTION: You took from him the financial control. Now you want security. He will be left with nothing.

MR. BOUCHER: You sound like we're picking his pocket. (Laughter.) We're not.

The Palestinians are establishing institutions that can support a state. Let's not forget what this is all about. This is about creating a Palestinian state that can take responsibility in its own areas, that can have responsibility vis-a-vis its own people and vis-a-vis its neighbors.

If you're going to create those institutions, you have to operate on a transparent and solid and legal basis, and that's what the Palestinian legislature has tried to do in giving the authorities to the government, that's what the Palestinian Government has done in terms of finance, and that's what the Palestinian Government needs to do in terms of security as well. You can't have a government competing with armed groups. No country has a government that has to rival other armed groups for control of the security situation, at least not voluntarily. And therefore, if we're talking about creating institutions that can support a Palestinian state, we're talking about a Palestinian Government that can take responsibility in all areas of government.

QUESTION: New subject? What's your reaction to the Security Council deciding to postpone the Libya vote -- Lockerbie vote, the Libya vote?

MR. BOUCHER: As you noted yesterday, the Security Council went on record publicly in adopting an agenda item that includes a vote on the resolution to lift UN sanctions on Libya. That meeting will now convene on Friday, September 12th, at 10: 30 in the morning.

The United States agreed to this formal procedural motion essentially allowing a short additional period of time while, at the same time, making the Council's intent to vote on Friday in order to resolve the matter in a way that would ultimately result in adoption of the resolution.

Nevertheless, we are very disappointed that the vote did not take place yesterday. Our hearts go out to the victims of -- to the families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing who have been waiting so patiently for some closure.

We strongly regret that the families were faced with the situation of having to wait again, for the fourth time, for a vote in order to avoid a French veto of this resolution. We do think the time is past due for bringing this resolution to a vote, but given the circumstances in the Council yesterday feel that this is the best that could be worked out.

We are satisfied that there is a strong commitment on the part of Council members to proceed to a vote this coming Friday.

I would note also that later yesterday Ambassador Negroponte, along with UK Ambassador Jones Parry and the Bulgarian Ambassador Tafrov met with the victims' families at the U.S. Mission to confer and discuss the situation.

QUESTION: Has France given you any indications that it will not veto on Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: I am not aware of anything like that. You'd have to ask the French what their intentions are.

QUESTION: Is this the final date, Richard, or is there a chance it will be postponed again?

MR. BOUCHER: This is a firmly scheduled agenda item. It's a firm schedule for a vote, which we have not had before when this was postponed before. There was discussion, there was an unwritten understanding, there were things like that that were postponed. This is a much more firm commitment than we've had before. I suppose the Council, in its infinite wisdom, can decide to do what it wants, if it desires, but this is a more -- a much clearer commitment than we've had before.

Sir.

QUESTION: Do you have any indication that they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday, or they think they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: Again, that will be something you'll have to ask the French if they think they can get some additional compensation or whatever for the families of the UTA bombing. Of course, we have every sympathy with their attempts to do so. We just don't think the families of the Pan Am 103 bombing should be forced to wait again and again.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) on the security issue in the Palestinian situation. On the one hand, the U.S. is clear what they want, unified command; on the other, you don't want to micromanage Palestinian matters. Mr. Wolf is out there and his specialty was to -- or is -- to promote a better security situation. Is he involved, or is he -- is he there on call to deal with the mechanics of this if it would be helpful -- consolidating it all, lending his special expertise?

MR. BOUCHER: The -- I wouldn't describe his role as that way. I wouldn't say he's the mechanic here. The mechanics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government, the politics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government, and the effective use of the institutions have to be -- has to be handled by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government.

Obviously, the United States has long had an important role in conferring with both sides about security issues and talking to them about their plans and hearing from them what their plans are, particularly their plans to move against terrorism. But the organization and the determination need to come from the Palestinian side.

QUESTION: Richard, we've had a Rewards for Justice-type program. Is there something comparable that we'd like to see in the Middle East so that some of these so-called terrorists would be deactivated?

MR. BOUCHER: The United States Rewards for Justice Program has always applied to American citizens who have died because of -- or to those who have killed American citizens, regardless of where it's happened. So, in some cases, in the Middle East it already applies.

QUESTION: New subject?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes.

QUESTION: Richard, does the U.S. Government have an assessment of whether the North Korean nuclear facilities at Yongbyon are still active?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't have one that I can share with you.

QUESTION: Are you aware that there's a Japanese news report suggesting that a senior State Department official yesterday told legislators on the Hill that it's your assessment that that plant has ceased the activity that was detected earlier this year?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't have any assessment that I can share with you.

Sir.

QUESTION: Change of subject. Geneva?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. Quickly.

QUESTION: Geneva? Anything you can tell us about the agenda for that?

MR. BOUCHER: Let me sort of walk to Geneva by reviewing where we are generally on the resolution first so you'll understand the context that Geneva comes in.

We've been continuing to discuss our draft resolution with other members of the Security Council in New York, in Washington, and in capitals. There was a meeting, informal meeting yesterday afternoon, of the Permanent 5 members of the Security Council. At that meeting we got some feedback on our draft, as I think has been reported. We heard from the French on proposed amendments to the text. The Russians offered us a separate set of suggestions.

We are reviewing those proposals. We'll respond after further internal consultations. This is the normal process that one goes through negotiating a Security Council resolution. There are no additional meetings planned for New York prior to the Secretary's trip to Geneva on Saturday. We will keep in touch with other delegations and other governments, however, in other ways.

The Secretary spoke this morning with Foreign Minister Ivanov of Russia. He also spoke with Secretary General Kofi Annan. The discussion with Ivanov was, I would describe it as a good and constructive exchange on the resolution, and the elements of the resolution. We certainly welcome the work that we've been able to do with the Russians so far on that matter.

We're also working with Secretary General Annan to prepare for a group meeting, a meeting in Geneva on Saturday. As I think we've said before, we see it as an informal discussion among the Perm 5 and the Secretary General to discuss the situation in Iraq, and discuss ideas about the resolution. We would expect the discussion to be about the concepts of how we go forward in the resolution, and generally with the United Nations on Iraq, not a negotiation of the text itself.

As the President and the Secretary have both stated, we're committed to advancing the cause of the resolution, and if the Geneva meeting can move the process forward, then we're willing to do what we can through that meeting, and through our discussions in New York, to get to a satisfactory conclusion to these negotiations.

QUESTION: Can you go a step a step further on Ivanov? I know you don't usually want to get into conversations, but Russia's position has been interpreted by some people as supportive, and by other reporters as a little skeptical. Would you put him in the helpful column? I mean, they're not with France and Germany, for instance, are they?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think we've quite done all the columns on this one yet. The views are still coming in. What I would note is that the Russian -- Russia is -- we've had a separate dialogue with Russia than with France and Germany. We've had some separate discussions with Germany as well. Our -- I'm not going to try to negotiate specific ideas or proposals from different countries in a public forum, but I would say that we found the discussion with Russia very productive, constructive.

The comments on the substance that I would make are sort of our approach to the situation. We think that all Council members do share essentially the same objective as to help Iraq and the Iraqi people exercise their full sovereignty as quickly as possible. The difference is, in the Council, we think, should relate to the steps that need to be taken to get there. That's where the discussion should focus. Proposals have to be grounded in the reality of the current situation. You can't pretend the war never happened, you can't pretend the coalition never happened, you can't pretend that the Iraqis have not already made considerable progress under the Governing Council, and what we need to do is work with them, build on that progress, and see how all of this can help.

Our proposal takes as a point of departure, the reality of the situation, that the coalition is already working with the allies, where the coalition is already working with the Governing Council, the Iraqis, to move forward, towards constitutional elections and also to move forward on the exercise of sovereignty. The point is not to argue either about which foreigner's going to take control in Iraq. The point is to go out and look and see what we can all do to support the Iraqis as they go forward in that process.

I would note, also, a press conference statement by the Secretary General two days ago where he said it's not so much for the UN to go in and take over the administration and management of Iraq, but for us to ensure that we accelerate the establishment of the government and the transfer of authority, and to have the Iraqis run their own affairs, as indicated in the Security Council resolution. That's what we would hope all parties would be prepared to go talk about in Geneva.

Teri.

QUESTION: Do you want to mention the Chinese at all? Have there been discussions recently, or how long ago did Secretary Powell speak with the --

MR. BOUCHER: The Secretary talked to the Chinese Foreign Minister -- about a week ago?

QUESTION: Last week. Right.

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah, last week. Certainly they've been participating and speaking up at the Perm 5 meeting that took place yesterday and the other discussions in New York. I'm not trying to convey views on behalf of all those who had views. We've also had specific comments and constructive discussions with the British, with the Spanish, and probably with several others who I should probably mention but can't remember. So we've had some very specific discussions, heard specific proposals, and constructive ones from a number of countries.

QUESTION: Have the Chinese given you a list of suggested changes or --

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not aware that they have, but if you want a whole list of who's given us specifics, I think you'd have to check with the countries.

QUESTION: The P-5?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah. If you want a whole list of the P-5 members who presented changes, I'll have to demure on that too, because I'm just not sure about the whole list.

Andrea.

QUESTION: Richard, can you help us understand what it is that these other governments are to get out of, essentially, contributing thousands of their own troops who could potentially become cannon fodder for these terrorists, and allowing them to pitch in with various NGOs? What it is that they are supposed to get out of, you know, this whole participatory process?

MR. BOUCHER: A safer world. A better environment for their children and grandchildren to grow up in.

I think despite differences over the war itself, that most countries recognize that building of a stable Iraq as representative government can be an important element in building a more stable region. It's important to their security that this process succeed whether or not they agreed with going to war in the first place.

And I think we have actually had that and heard that and seen that in public from statements of various governments. And the governments that are considering contributing troops or consider -- who are contributing troops, governments that are contributing money or are considering contributing money, the governments who are supporting or considering supporting UN resolutions, I am sure are looking at it from their own point of view, that it's better for them in the long run for this process to succeed in Iraq than to have Iraq go back to being some kind of source of instability.

Certainly, the United States has made that decision and the President expressed that decision quite clearly on Sunday night when he asked for not only the commitment to do so, but the money to do so as well.

QUESTION: Does the U.S. believe, then, that without the help of the international community beyond the countries that are already participating, that this process is destined to fail?

MR. BOUCHER: No. The President expressed our commitment to succeed.

QUESTION: No, I understand. But you're reaching out to the international community so I'm just wondering if the U.S. believes that without the additional troops, without the additional money, that it can't succeed.

MR. BOUCHER: No. The President expressed our commitment to succeed, and we are going to succeed in this. He also made clear there's an opportunity for others to take steps that contribute to their own security, that contribute to their own well-being and that contribute to the well-being of the people of Iraq.

Teri.

QUESTION: Change of subject? Vienna. How's it going with the new resolution? Does it look like you're going to get it passed?

MR. BOUCHER: Discussions continue in Vienna. I'm not sure there's any update. It's also not clear exactly when the vote might be, but I don't -- I was going to say I don't think it will be today. We are still working actively with other members on the strongest possible board resolution. France, Germany and the United Kingdom have jointly proposed a draft board resolution on Iran that highlights the international community's concerns. The resolution calls on Iran to take essential and urgent steps to answer fully the unresolved questions from the agency, to cooperate fully with the agency's ongoing investigation, and to take these actions by the end of October. We strongly support these objectives, and I think as you know, we have worked with them in developing this resolution.

Negotiations are continuing today in Vienna, so we'll see where that leads to in terms of a vote and a text. We would say once again that Dr. ElBaradei's June and August reports on Iran clearly confirm that Iran has failed to meet its obligations under its safeguards agreement. We believe the Director General's reports provide a compelling evidence of Iran's noncompliance with its obligations.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MR. BOUCHER: We've got one more. We've got one or two more back here.

QUESTION: In Indonesia, the person responsible for the Bali bombings last year was sentenced to death today. Do you have any reaction to that?

MR. BOUCHER: I think this is the second, or maybe more, sentencing involving the Bali bombings, and we commend the Government of Indonesia for the professional manner in which it conducted this trial. The court sentenced Imam Samudra for his role in planning and executing the bombing. This was the worst act of terrorism since September 11th attacks in the United States.

And we once again extend our sympathy to the families. Bringing the perpetrators to justice is an important step in ensuring that what happened in Bali is not repeated.

Let's do these two, three, four.

QUESTION: I was just hoping you could respond to some remarks published today by Joschka Fischer in a German magazine, calling the U.S. postwar policy in Iraq a complete failure.

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen those remarks. I'd want to see how he said it, and where he said it, and what the context was. Obviously, that's not the way we would characterize the situation.

QUESTION: On the case of Charles Lee, do you have any updates on that?

MR. BOUCHER: U.S. Embassy officials in Beijing spoke with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials on September 8th concerning imprisoned American Chuck Lee. This was one of several matters involving U.S. prisoners which was discussed. The conversation was one of many opportunities that embassy and consular officials in China have taken to express our continuing interest in Mr. Lee's welfare and his well-being while he remains in custody serving his sentence.

We last spoke to him directly on August 15th. The last visit was in early August. We've spoken with him or met with him ten times in the last three months.

QUESTION: Who requested this meeting?

MR. BOUCHER: I'll have to check on that. I think we went in to talk to them about a number of cases.

QUESTION: Does that meeting have anything to do with the genocide lawsuit filed by the Falun Gong practitioners around the world?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of.

Sir.

QUESTION: Any reaction on the Cuba vote last night in the House, and can you say more generally why the Administration feels so strongly about this, its apparent position to veto threat?

MR. BOUCHER: The Administration position is available on the White House website, the statement of the Administration's position. So I assume you've already seen it? All right.

So let me, for others who haven't seen that, go to the White House website and search on SAP, and you can find the position on that. The basic rationale is that providing material benefit to a regime, which only six months ago undertook the most significant act of political repression in the Americas in a decade, strikes us as deeply unwise.

And one more, I guess. Sir.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) General in Burma has said that if they do release Aung San Suu Kyi, it would cause instability, and they said they could face protests. They don't want to release her because of that, and you've criticized that in the last week. Are you putting more pressure on the military junta?

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen those remarks. They're obviously ridiculous. And we continue to work with others in the international community to try to see that she and her followers are freed from this detention.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: One more?

MR. BOUCHER: Do you want to ask one more there?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. BOUCHER: A late hand.

QUESTION: Do you know what's happened to the North Korean weapons expert who was arrested in China who's trying to defect to Australia?

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't heard that story. Sorry.

QUESTION: Okay. Thanks.

LOAD-DATE: September 11, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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292 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

September 10, 2003

Progress in the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons

SECTION: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES

LENGTH: 547 words

Richard Boucher, Spokesman

September 10, 2003

Progress in the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons

We announce today some excellent progress. The President announced that ten countries have made important progress over the last three months in the fight to abolish modern day slavery. This announcement reflects several months of intensive effort on the part of diplomats in the field and of foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons. These efforts merited effectively raising our ratings of those countries' anti-trafficking performance. These ten countries are Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

These countries all made important progress: some passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation; some funded victims support programs; some formed national task forces to combat trafficking and to arrest and prosecute traffickers; some ran public announcements warning the public of the dangers of trafficking. In every one of these countries, public officials - including in some cases heads of state, foreign ministers, and other cabinet officials spoke out on this emerging human rights issue. These positive actions deserve our recognition and support.

This is the first year that the President was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to make determinations regarding countries placed on **Tier 3** of the Department's annual **Trafficking in Persons** report.

One hundred sixteen countries were ranked in the June report, and 15 of them were placed on Tier 3, the lowest tier, for their governments' failure to comply with the Act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and failure to make significant efforts to do so. In the months following the issuance of the report, the Secretary reviewed the anti-trafficking efforts of these 15 countries' governments. The Secretary determined that the governments of the 10 governments cited earlier are now making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance, the standard for placement on Tier 2.

Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan still meet the Tier 3 standard, because their governments still fail to comply with the minimum standards, and fail to make significant efforts to do so. The President, acting on the recommendations of the Secretary determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea. While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the President determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. For Sudan, that assistance will be limited to that which may be necessary to implement a peace accord.

These determinations by the President clearly demonstrate his personal commitment to this issue and the significant cooperation and effort that the United States and other nations are starting to make to fight this transnational crime and modern day form of slavery. These successes are attributable not only to the efforts of the countries themselves but to our Ambassadors and the Department, particularly its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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293 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

September 10, 2003

Ten governments improve counter-trafficking measures and avoid sanctions

BYLINE: Charlene Porter, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 812 words

U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said the efforts made by 10 nations to strengthen policies to stop human trafficking demonstrate that U.S. policies are proving effective in the battle to eradicate this form of modern day slavery.

The Bush administration has determined that 10 nations have made sufficient progress against human trafficking to avoid the imposition of U.S. sanctions. A State Department finding in a June report that the nations were not taking adequate actions could have led to sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In the three months since the report's release, however, Boucher said Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan all made important progress.

"Some passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation; some funded victims support programs; some formed national task forces to combat trafficking and to arrest and prosecute traffickers; some ran public announcements warning the public of the dangers of trafficking," Boucher said.

Burma, Cuba and North Korea will be subject to sanctions because of their failure to comply with minimum standards to prevent trafficking. Liberia and Sudan also fail to meet the standards, but sanctions will not be imposed, Boucher said.

Following is the text of the Boucher statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesman, September 10, 2003

Statement By Richard Boucher, Spokesman

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We announce today some excellent progress. The President announced that ten countries have made important progress over the last three months in the fight to abolish modern day slavery. This announcement reflects several months of intensive effort on the part of diplomats in the field and of foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons. These efforts merited effectively raising our ratings of those countries' anti-trafficking performance. These ten countries are Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

These countries all made important progress: some passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation; some funded victims support programs; some formed national task forces to combat trafficking and to arrest and prosecute traffickers; some ran public announcements warning the public of the dangers of trafficking. In every one of these countries, public officials - including in some cases heads of state, foreign ministers, and other cabinet officials spoke out on this emerging human rights issue. These positive actions deserve our recognition and support.

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(end text)

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294 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

September 10, 2003

Trafficking in Persons, Israel/Palestinians, Mideast, Syria, Libya, Department, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, China, Cuba, Burma,

BYLINE: Janelle Simmons, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 6280 words

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher briefed.

Following is the State Department transcript:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State, Daily Press Briefing Index, Washington, DC , September 10, 2003

BRIEFER: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, Daily Press Briefing Index, Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 1: 00 p.m. EDT

BRIEFER: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS -- President's Decisions on **Tier** Placement Under Trafficking Victims Protection Act -- Confronting Trafficking in Source and Destination Countries

ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS -- Formation of New Palestinian Cabinet -- Prime Minister Qureia's Security Proposal -- Impact of Current Violence on Roadmap/Security Situation -- Status of Yassar Arafat/Discussion of Expelling Arafat -- Arafat Obstructions to the Peace Process -- Creation of Palestinian Institutions/Palestinian State

MIDDLE EAST -- Deputy Secretary Armitage Travel Postponed

SYRIA -- Changes in Cabinet

LIBYA -- Security Council Vote on Lifting UN Sanctions on Libya Postponed -- Ambassador Negroponte's Meeting with Pan Am 103 Families -- Compensation to French Families for UTA Bombing

DEPARTMENT -- Rewards For Justice Program -- Secretary Powell's Phone Calls with FM Ivanov and UN Sec. Gen. Annan

NORTH KOREA -- Status of Nuclear Facilities at Yongbyon

IRAQ -- Secretary Powell's Trip to Geneva -- Security Council Members' Views on Draft Proposal -- Transferring Authority to Iraqi Governing Council -- Importance of International Cooperation -- U.S. Commitment to Succeed

IRAN -- U.S. Participation in International Atomic Energy Agency Discussions -- Director General's Report on Iran's Non-compliance under Safeguards Agreement

INDONESIA -- U.S. Reaction to Sentencing of Imam Samudra

CHINA -- Current Status of Charles Lee

CUBA -- U.S. Policy on Cuba Travel Restrictions

BURMA -- Reaction to Burmese Statement on Continued Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003, (ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

1: 00 p.m. EDT

MR. BOUCHER: I'm happy to see you all here, and I have one thing that I do want to talk about, and that's trafficking in persons. The White House has put out a short statement to indicate the President has notified Congress that ten countries that were on the **tier three**, the **Trafficking in Persons** list from earlier this year, have made significant progress and therefore are being moved up to **tier two**, and thereby have avoided possible sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

This is in recognition of their quick work to address problems that existed with regard to their trafficking in persons policy, and so we are very pleased today to announce that this excellent progress has been made in these countries and that the United States has worked very closely with these countries over the past three months to achieve it.

There's been several months of very intensive effort on behalf of diplomats in the field and foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons more effective. These efforts merited raising our ratings on the countries, on these ten countries' anti-trafficking performance. The ten countries are: Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan. All these countries have made important progress. Some have passed legislation. Victims' support programs have been started. They've arrested and prosecuting traffickers. There have been public service announcements and awareness campaigns. In every one of these countries, public officials spoke out on this important human rights issue.

This is the first year that the President was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to make determinations regarding countries placed on tier three in the report, and sanctions were required. Unfortunately, there are still five countries that did not make improvements and are still in the tier three, under the tier three standard. Those countries are Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan.

The President, acting on the recommendations of the Secretary, determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea. While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the President determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act or is otherwise in our national interest, and so he has made the appropriate determinations that some certain bilateral -- multilateral assistance can continue. In the case of Sudan, that's assistance -- excuse me. In the case of Sudan, this means assistance that would support a peace accord. In both cases, I would point out that humanitarian assistance is not affected.

So that is a determination that the President has notified the Congress of based on recommendations he received from the Secretary of State, and I think a remarkable amount of progress that we've been able to make in three months through effective diplomacy using the Act and the effort of our diplomats and the effort of foreign countries to really address a very important issue.

So, with that, I'd be glad to take your questions on this or other matters.

QUESTION: Not on this.

MR. BOUCHER: Start on this? Any particulars?

(No response.)

MR. BOUCHER: All right. For those who are interested, we'll put out a more complete statement and the Press Office will have more specific information.

QUESTION: The President is withholding a judgment on the new Palestinian Prime Minister. I wondered if here at State there's any indication of who might be in the cabinet, and how important is it who he appoints, for instance, as security or interior minister?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, we note that that process -- we note that he has accepted the nomination or the request to form a cabinet and that the process of cabinet formation has begun. As I think the President made some reference to and the White House has said, it's essential the next Prime Minister have the authority and the control of the security forces and the finances of the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The issue is taking action to fight terror.

So we urge that Mr. Qureia's cabinet appointments reflect candidates free from associations with terror and violence, committed to acting decisively on reform, and peace negotiations that will benefit all Palestinians. I understand the way it works, he has three weeks to form a cabinet and, if he needs it, can get a further two-week extension.

A new Palestinian cabinet must make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism, demand that all acts of terrorism cease, and insist that terrorists and military organizations not under the control of Palestinian Authority be disarmed and dismantled.

Our representatives in the region have continued their meetings. Our Acting Consulate General Jeff Feltman has met with Mr. Qureia today again. He and Ambassador Wolf have continued to meet and speak with a wide variety of Israeli and Palestinian officials on a daily basis and to encourage both sides to recommit themselves to finding a way forward toward the President's two-state vision.

Christophe.

QUESTION: Prime Minister Qureia is proposing to create a kind of national council for security in charge of supervising all the security agencies. Does it seem to you a good idea, this step?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think it's for us to specify the exact governing arrangements. The point that we've made is there needs to be a commitment, there needs to be authority, and there needs to be resources in the hands of the government to be able to effectively use the security services against the terrorist organizations. It will be for them to figure out how exactly that can be done.

Sir.

QUESTION: Yes, this is Nayyar Zaidi from Daily Jang in Pakistan. I didn't know we would move so fast to Middle East, but I want to go back to the trafficking in persons.

MR. BOUCHER: Yes.

QUESTION: This trafficking obviously involves trafficking abroad, like exporting human beings to other countries, or is it only internal?

MR. BOUCHER: No, it's all forms of forced labor, forced prostitution, trafficking in persons. I think there are estimates, you know, of 50,000 people who are trafficked into the United States. So it's just -- it's a problem for countries where people are being taken, it's a problem for countries where they're showing up, and it's a problem that we think the whole world needs to work together against.

QUESTION: Yeah, this is what I was coming to. Is United States the only country, or is it in Europe, number one?

And number two, in case of, say, nuclear technology, we fault the person who has exported the technology and the person who imported it. Now, in this case, are the countries which are getting these people, like 50,000 in United States, are taking any responsibility?

MR. BOUCHER: These are the countries covered in the report. They are placed in different categories. Okay? It covers any country in the world where this problem exists in one form or the other is covered. Every country is expected to take action, whether people are trafficked out of that country or into that country, or within that country. There may be forced labor in some of these cases inside the country where we do expect people to take action against the -- take the government -- governments to take action.

The United States has passed comprehensive legislation, the United States has taken any number of steps of public awareness, of law enforcement action, arrest, prosecution, and we are acting domestically as well as through the domestic agencies, as well as part of our international agenda to work with other governments so we can effectively all fight this problem wherever it exists.

Okay?

QUESTION: Do you know, coming back to the Middle East for a second, the President called for the Prime Minister-designate to get control of all of the security forces and unleash them on the militants. Absent his ability to do that, are you simply reconciled to the prospect of continuing violence? Do you see any other options, policy options, for you?

MR. BOUCHER: The question is sort of -- I need to separate out the pieces, because it's really three different questions. Are we -- you know, absent his ability to do that, to get control of security services, I think I would complete the sen-

tence by saying, "Absent the ability of the government to get control of the security services and use them effectively against terrorist groups, it will be impossible to make progress on the roadmap, to make progress towards the two-state vision, to achieve what the Palestinian people say they want, which is to build the institutions of their own state."

So, absent progress on security, we really think it's -- we don't see how you can make progress on creating a Palestinian state and that these bombers, in addition to harming innocent people, have harmed the lives of Palestinians, but have also harmed the ability of Palestinians to achieve their dreams and their aspirations.

The second part is: Are we reconciled to continuing violence, if this doesn't happen the way we want? And I think the answer has to be no, we'll continue to work against violence. But -- or is there any other way? I think we've also made clear that we don't think there's any other way. The roadmap lays out how to achieve the President's vision of two states living side by side. As the President noted again this morning, the roadmap is there as the mechanism to achieve that vision, and we need to -- we need to continue to focus on the steps that both sides need to take as we move forward, the key one at this juncture we think being to end the activities of these violence groups.

QUESTION: Do you get the sense from what he has said so far, that he has any intention of getting a grip on the security services?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think one can judge a government until it's formed, until it starts taking action. But we have made the point -- I made it again today -- that as he forms the cabinet, it needs to be a cabinet that is committed to progress, and that the cabinet needs to make clear it's opposition to all forms of terrorism, and its desire to move forward in a peaceful manner to achieving a Palestinian state.

QUESTION: Can you tell us why Mr. -- I'm sorry, go ahead --

QUESTION: No, no.

QUESTION: Why Mr. Armitage has decided not go, not to carry through on what he said were his plans to go to the Middle East?

MR. BOUCHER: The Deputy Secretary talked to you all, I think, or talked to various media about the prospects of a trip. As it came to putting together that trip, there were questions of scheduling, there were questions of timing, there were questions of formation of the Palestinian Government, and we're coming right up on the General Assembly, when most of the people will be traveling to New York anyway. So, in the end, it wasn't possible to put together the kind of trip he was looking at in this immediate time frame and thought it was better to postpone it till later.

QUESTION: What kind of trip was he looking at? Was it a sort of Middle East peace process trip, or was it more Arab capitals or --

MR. BOUCHER: He was looking at a number of stops, and will continue to look at a number of stops as we think about a later trip.

QUESTION: Are you thinking he will possibly take a trip later this year, or is it sort of --

MR. BOUCHER: I'd expect something later in the fall, yeah. That's what they're thinking about now, yeah.

QUESTION: Can all this happen with Arafat on the premises, all the things the U.S. wants to see happen, like security forces under one command?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. It's a question of will, it's a question of desire, it's a question of --

QUESTION: Whose will?

MR. BOUCHER: The will of all the people in the Palestinian community. The Palestinian legislature obviously has a lot of say over powers. The individuals involved in the political process have a lot of say over the powers. I think we're pointing to objective fact that we hope others would realize, that we're not going to make progress on the Palestinian agenda until the Palestinians make progress in eliminating the terrorist groups.

QUESTION: So I guess that means the administration's position on exile hasn't changed.

MR. BOUCHER: Hasn't changed. The Secretary restated it on Sunday.

Joel.

QUESTION: Richard, nearby in Syria, the government has been shuffled there. Do you, in talking to Bashar there, do you expect the same type thing in the formation of their new government?

MR. BOUCHER: Nothing particular to say about that situation, no.

QUESTION: Do you find it encouraging that Assad seems to be following through? He said he needed a more reform-minded government in --

MR. BOUCHER: We'll see what emerges. I don't have anything to say at this moment.

QUESTION: Richard, if I could just go back to Arafat for one minute, please. I know you've said this before, but in light of the latest attacks, why does the U.S. believe that expelling Arafat is not the solution to the current impasse, crisis?

MR. BOUCHER: For the reasons the Secretary said on TV on Saturday -- Sunday.

QUESTION: Well, if you could just -- (laughter).

QUESTION: For 35 seconds.

QUESTION: Preferably ten. (Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: Six and a half. I don't -- I don't have the transcripts with me.

The United States has made clear our view that Arafat is not part of the solution, he's part of the problem. But at the same time, as I think the Secretary has made clear, the Israelis need to think about potential actions, this discussion of expelling Arafat, because we don't see how it would be any better if he was outside the country working the capitals of the world. Pretty much the way he put it.

Sir.

QUESTION: He would be more vocal and more extreme, so keeping him in the occupied territory will contain him? That's what we understand?

MR. BOUCHER: We don't understand it one way or the other. We just don't see how it would help the situation or help anybody move forward towards a more peaceful situation for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Sir.

QUESTION: Is it better than being confined to Ramallah?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not going to dictate any particular treatment or location. We don't spend a whole lot of time worrying about Mr. Arafat any more.

QUESTION: Yes, sir, Nayyar Zaidi again.

MR. BOUCHER: I know. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Well, I was looking for that. (Laughter.)

So, Mr. Arafat, we keeping hearing, you know, various solutions to getting him out of the way, and what kind of obstruction is he putting up to the peace process? I mean, he has been a leader, for, God knows, 35 years, and he should have the cause of Palestinians at heart. So what kind of political or other obstructions is he putting up that people are saying that he is part of the problem?

MR. BOUCHER: I think, first of all, we've talked about this many times over many years, including in the President's speech last -- a year ago, June 24th. The most recent question that's come up is whether or not he is going to allow the control and consolidation of the security services under a government that was chosen by the Palestinian legislature to take authority for the Palestinian Authority.

QUESTION: You took from him the financial control. Now you want security. He will be left with nothing.

MR. BOUCHER: You sound like we're picking his pocket. (Laughter.) We're not.

The Palestinians are establishing institutions that can support a state. Let's not forget what this is all about. This is about creating a Palestinian state that can take responsibility in its own areas, that can have responsibility vis-o -vis its own people and vis-o -vis its neighbors.

If you're going to create those institutions, you have to operate on a transparent and solid and legal basis, and that's what the Palestinian legislature has tried to do in giving the authorities to the government, that's what the Palestinian Government has done in terms of finance, and that's what the Palestinian Government needs to do in terms of security as well. You can't have a government competing with armed groups. No country has a government that has to rival other armed groups for control of the security situation, at least not voluntarily. And therefore, if we're talking about creating institutions that can support a Palestinian state, we're talking about a Palestinian Government that can take responsibility in all areas of government.

QUESTION: New subject? What's your reaction to the Security Council deciding to postpone the Libya vote -- Lockerbie vote, the Libya vote?

MR. BOUCHER: As you noted yesterday, the Security Council went on record publicly in adopting an agenda item that includes a vote on the resolution to lift UN sanctions on Libya. That meeting will now convene on Friday, September 12th, at 10: 30 in the morning.

The United States agreed to this formal procedural motion essentially allowing a short additional period of time while, at the same time, making the Council's intent to vote on Friday in order to resolve the matter in a way that would ultimately result in adoption of the resolution.

Nevertheless, we are very disappointed that the vote did not take place yesterday. Our hearts go out to the victims of -- to the families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing who have been waiting so patiently for some closure.

We strongly regret that the families were faced with the situation of having to wait again, for the fourth time, for a vote in order to avoid a French veto of this resolution. We do think the time is past due for bringing this resolution to a vote, but given the circumstances in the Council yesterday feel that this is the best that could be worked out.

We are satisfied that there is a strong commitment on the part of Council members to proceed to a vote this coming Friday.

I would note also that later yesterday Ambassador Negroponte, along with UK Ambassador Jones Parry and the Bulgarian Ambassador Tafrov met with the victims' families at the U.S. Mission to confer and discuss the situation.

QUESTION: Has France given you any indications that it will not veto on Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: I am not aware of anything like that. You'd have to ask the French what their intentions are.

QUESTION: Is this the final date, Richard, or is there a chance it will be postponed again?

MR. BOUCHER: This is a firmly scheduled agenda item. It's a firm schedule for a vote, which we have not had before when this was postponed before. There was discussion, there was an unwritten understanding, there were things like that that were postponed. This is a much more firm commitment than we've had before. I suppose the Council, in its infinite wisdom, can decide to do what it wants, if it desires, but this is a more -- a much clearer commitment than we've had before.

Sir.

QUESTION: Do you have any indication that they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday, or they think they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday?

MR. BOUCHER: Again, that will be something you'll have to ask the French if they think they can get some additional compensation or whatever for the families of the UTA bombing. Of course, we have every sympathy with their attempts to do so. We just don't think the families of the Pan Am 103 bombing should be forced to wait again and again.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) on the security issue in the Palestinian situation. On the one hand, the U.S. is clear what they want, unified command; on the other, you don't want to micromanage Palestinian matters. Mr. Wolf is out there and his specialty was to -- or is -- to promote a better security situation. Is he involved, or is he -- is he there on call to deal with the mechanics of this if it would be helpful -- consolidating it all, lending his special expertise?

MR. BOUCHER: The -- I wouldn't describe his role as that way. I wouldn't say he's the mechanic here. The mechanics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government, the politics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government, and the effective use of the institutions have to be -- has to be handled by the people who are going to run the Palestinian Government.

Obviously, the United States has long had an important role in conferring with both sides about security issues and talking to them about their plans and hearing from them what their plans are, particularly their plans to move against terrorism. But the organization and the determination need to come from the Palestinian side.

QUESTION: Richard, we've had a Rewards for Justice-type program. Is there something comparable that we'd like to see in the Middle East so that some of these so-called terrorists would be deactivated?

MR. BOUCHER: The United States Rewards for Justice Program has always applied to American citizens who have died because of -- or to those who have killed American citizens, regardless of where it's happened. So, in some cases, in the Middle East it already applies.

QUESTION: New subject?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes.

QUESTION: Richard, does the U.S. Government have an assessment of whether the North Korean nuclear facilities at Yongbyon are still active?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't have one that I can share with you.

QUESTION: Are you aware that there's a Japanese news report suggesting that a senior State Department official yesterday told legislators on the Hill that it's your assessment that that plant has ceased the activity that was detected earlier this year?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't have any assessment that I can share with you.

Sir.

QUESTION: Change of subject. Geneva?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. Quickly.

QUESTION: Geneva? Anything you can tell us about the agenda for that?

MR. BOUCHER: Let me sort of walk to Geneva by reviewing where we are generally on the resolution first so you'll understand the context that Geneva comes in.

We've been continuing to discuss our draft resolution with other members of the Security Council in New York, in Washington, and in capitals. There was a meeting, informal meeting yesterday afternoon, of the Permanent 5 members of the Security Council. At that meeting we got some feedback on our draft, as I think has been reported. We heard from the French on proposed amendments to the text. The Russians offered us a separate set of suggestions.

We are reviewing those proposals. We'll respond after further internal consultations. This is the normal process that one goes through negotiating a Security Council resolution. There are no additional meetings planned for New York prior to the Secretary's trip to Geneva on Saturday. We will keep in touch with other delegations and other governments, however, in other ways.

The Secretary spoke this morning with Foreign Minister Ivanov of Russia. He also spoke with Secretary General Kofi Annan. The discussion with Ivanov was, I would describe it as a good and constructive exchange on the resolution, and the elements of the resolution. We certainly welcome the work that we've been able to do with the Russians so far on that matter.

We're also working with Secretary General Annan to prepare for a group meeting, a meeting in Geneva on Saturday. As I think we've said before, we see it as an informal discussion among the Perm 5 and the Secretary General to discuss the situation in Iraq, and discuss ideas about the resolution. We would expect the discussion to be about the concepts of how we go forward in the resolution, and generally with the United Nations on Iraq, not a negotiation of the text itself.

As the President and the Secretary have both stated, we're committed to advancing the cause of the resolution, and if the Geneva meeting can move the process forward, then we're willing to do what we can through that meeting, and through our discussions in New York, to get to a satisfactory conclusion to these negotiations.

QUESTION: Can you go a step a step further on Ivanov? I know you don't usually want to get into conversations, but Russia's position has been interpreted by some people as supportive, and by other reporters as a little skeptical. Would you put him in the helpful column? I mean, they're not with France and Germany, for instance, are they?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think we've quite done all the columns on this one yet. The views are still coming in. What I would note is that the Russian -- Russia is -- we've had a separate dialogue with Russia than with France and Germany. We've had some separate discussions with Germany as well. Our -- I'm not going to try to negotiate specific ideas or proposals from different countries in a public forum, but I would say that we found the discussion with Russia very productive, constructive.

The comments on the substance that I would make are sort of our approach to the situation. We think that all Council members do share essentially the same objective as to help Iraq and the Iraqi people exercise their full sovereignty as quickly as possible. The difference is, in the Council, we think, should relate to the steps that need to be taken to get there. That's where the discussion should focus. Proposals have to be grounded in the reality of the current situation. You can't pretend the war never happened, you can't pretend the coalition never happened, you can't pretend that the Iraqis have not already made considerable progress under the Governing Council, and what we need to do is work with them, build on that progress, and see how all of this can help.

Our proposal takes as a point of departure, the reality of the situation, that the coalition is already working with the allies, where the coalition is already working with the Governing Council, the Iraqis, to move forward, towards constitutional elections and also to move forward on the exercise of sovereignty. The point is not to argue either about which foreigner's going to take control in Iraq. The point is to go out and look and see what we can all do to support the Iraqis as they go forward in that process.

I would note, also, a press conference statement by the Secretary General two days ago where he said it's not so much for the UN to go in and take over the administration and management of Iraq, but for us to ensure that we accelerate the establishment of the government and the transfer of authority, and to have the Iraqis run their own affairs, as indicated in the Security Council resolution. That's what we would hope all parties would be prepared to go talk about in Geneva.

Teri.

QUESTION: Do you want to mention the Chinese at all? Have there been discussions recently, or how long ago did Secretary Powell speak with the --

MR. BOUCHER: The Secretary talked to the Chinese Foreign Minister -- about a week ago?

QUESTION: Last week. Right.

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah, last week. Certainly they've been participating and speaking up at the Perm 5 meeting that took place yesterday and the other discussions in New York. I'm not trying to convey views on behalf of all those who had views. We've also had specific comments and constructive discussions with the British, with the Spanish, and probably with several others who I should probably mention but can't remember. So we've had some very specific discussions, heard specific proposals, and constructive ones from a number of countries.

QUESTION: Have the Chinese given you a list of suggested changes or --

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not aware that they have, but if you want a whole list of who's given us specifics, I think you'd have to check with the countries.

QUESTION: The P-5?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah. If you want a whole list of the P-5 members who presented changes, I'll have to demure on that too, because I'm just not sure about the whole list.

Andrea.

QUESTION: Richard, can you help us understand what it is that these other governments are to get out of, essentially, contributing thousands of their own troops who could potentially become cannon fodder for these terrorists, and allowing them to pitch in with various NGOs? What it is that they are supposed to get out of, you know, this whole participatory process?

MR. BOUCHER: A safer world. A better environment for their children and grandchildren to grow up in.

I think despite differences over the war itself, that most countries recognize that building of a stable Iraq as representative government can be an important element in building a more stable region. It's important to their security that this process succeed whether or not they agreed with going to war in the first place.

And I think we have actually had that and heard that and seen that in public from statements of various governments. And the governments that are considering contributing troops or consider -- who are contributing troops, governments that are contributing money or are considering contributing money, the governments who are supporting or considering supporting UN resolutions, I am sure are looking at it from their own point of view, that it's better for them in the long run for this process to succeed in Iraq than to have Iraq go back to being some kind of source of instability.

Certainly, the United States has made that decision and the President expressed that decision quite clearly on Sunday night when he asked for not only the commitment to do so, but the money to do so as well.

QUESTION: Does the U.S. believe, then, that without the help of the international community beyond the countries that are already participating, that this process is destined to fail?

MR. BOUCHER: No. The President expressed our commitment to succeed.

QUESTION: No, I understand. But you're reaching out to the international community so I'm just wondering if the U.S. believes that without the additional troops, without the additional money, that it can't succeed.

MR. BOUCHER: No. The President expressed our commitment to succeed, and we are going to succeed in this. He also made clear there's an opportunity for others to take steps that contribute to their own security, that contribute to their own well-being and that contribute to the well-being of the people of Iraq.

Teri.

QUESTION: Change of subject? Vienna. How's it going with the new resolution? Does it look like you're going to get it passed?

MR. BOUCHER: Discussions continue in Vienna. I'm not sure there's any update. It's also not clear exactly when the vote might be, but I don't -- I was going to say I don't think it will be today. We are still working actively with other members on the strongest possible board resolution. France, Germany and the United Kingdom have jointly proposed a draft board resolution on Iran that highlights the international community's concerns. The resolution calls on Iran to take essential and urgent steps to answer fully the unresolved questions from the agency, to cooperate fully with the agency's ongoing investigation, and to take these actions by the end of October. We strongly support these objectives, and I think as you know, we have worked with them in developing this resolution.

Negotiations are continuing today in Vienna, so we'll see where that leads to in terms of a vote and a text. We would say once again that Dr. ElBaradei's June and August reports on Iran clearly confirm that Iran has failed to meet its obligations under its safeguards agreement. We believe the Director General's reports provide a compelling evidence of Iran's noncompliance with its obligations.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MR. BOUCHER: We've got one more. We've got one or two more back here.

QUESTION: In Indonesia, the person responsible for the Bali bombings last year was sentenced to death today. Do you have any reaction to that?

MR. BOUCHER: I think this is the second, or maybe more, sentencing involving the Bali bombings, and we commend the Government of Indonesia for the professional manner in which it conducted this trial. The court sentenced Imam Samudra for his role in planning and executing the bombing. This was the worst act of terrorism since September 11th attacks in the United States.

And we once again extend our sympathy to the families. Bringing the perpetrators to justice is an important step in ensuring that what happened in Bali is not repeated.

Let's do these two, three, four.

QUESTION: I was just hoping you could respond to some remarks published today by Joschka Fischer in a German magazine, calling the U.S. postwar policy in Iraq a complete failure.

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen those remarks. I'd want to see how he said it, and where he said it, and what the context was. Obviously, that's not the way we would characterize the situation.

QUESTION: On the case of Charles Lee, do you have any updates on that?

MR. BOUCHER: U.S. Embassy officials in Beijing spoke with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials on September 8th concerning imprisoned American Chuck Lee. This was one of several matters involving U.S. prisoners which was discussed. The conversation was one of many opportunities that embassy and consular officials in China have taken to express our continuing interest in Mr. Lee's welfare and his well-being while he remains in custody serving his sentence.

We last spoke to him directly on August 15th. The last visit was in early August. We've spoken with him or met with him ten times in the last three months.

QUESTION: Who requested this meeting?

MR. BOUCHER: I'll have to check on that. I think we went in to talk to them about a number of cases.

QUESTION: Does that meeting have anything to do with the genocide lawsuit filed by the Falun Gong practitioners around the world?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of.

Sir.

QUESTION: Any reaction on the Cuba vote last night in the House, and can you say more generally why the Administration feels so strongly about this, its apparent position to veto threat?

MR. BOUCHER: The Administration position is available on the White House website, the statement of the Administration's position. So I assume you've already seen it? All right.

So let me, for others who haven't seen that, go to the White House website and search on SAP, and you can find the position on that. The basic rationale is that providing material benefit to a regime, which only six months ago undertook the most significant act of political repression in the Americas in a decade, strikes us as deeply unwise.

And one more, I guess. Sir.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) General in Burma has said that if they do release Aung San Suu Kyi, it would cause instability, and they said they could face protests. They don't want to release her because of that, and you've criticized that in the last week. Are you putting more pressure on the military junta?

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen those remarks. They're obviously ridiculous. And we continue to work with others in the international community to try to see that she and her followers are freed from this detention.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: One more?

MR. BOUCHER: Do you want to ask one more there?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. BOUCHER: A late hand.

QUESTION: Do you know what's happened to the North Korean weapons expert who was arrested in China who's trying to defect to Australia?

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't heard that story. Sorry.

QUESTION: Okay. Thanks.

(The briefing was concluded at 1: 40 p.m.)

(end transcript)

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AMBASSADOR RICHARD A. BOUCHER HOLDS STATE DEPARTMENT REGULAR NEWS BRIEFING

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AMBASSADOR RICHARD A. BOUCHER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

STATE DEPARTMENT REGULAR NEWS BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR RICHARD A. BOUCHER

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BOUCHER: I'm happy to see you all here, and I have one thing that I do want to talk about, and that's trafficking in persons.

The White House has put out a short statement to indicate the president's notified Congress that 10 countries that were on the **Tier 3**, the **trafficking in persons** list from earlier this year, have made significant progress, and therefore are being moved up to **Tier 2**, and thereby have avoided possible sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

This is in recognition of their quick work to address problems that existed with regard to their trafficking-in-persons policy. And so, we're very pleased today to announce that this excellent progress has been made in these countries, and that the United States has worked very closely with these countries over the past three months to achieve it.

It has been several months of very intensive effort on behalf of diplomats in the field and foreign governments that have made the commitment to fighting trafficking in persons more effective. These effort merited raising our ratings on the countries -- on these 10 countries anti-trafficking performance. The 10 countries are Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

All these countries have made important progress. Some have passed legislation, victims' support programs have been started. They've arrested and prosecuting traffickers. There have been public service announcements and awareness campaigns. In every one of these countries, public officials spoke out on this important human rights issue.

This is the first year that the president was required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to make determinations regarding trafficking countries placed on Tier 3 in the report, and sanctions were required.

Unfortunately, there's still five countries that did not make improvements and are still under the Tier 3 standards. Those countries are Burma, Cuba, Liberia, North Korea and Sudan. The president, acting on the recommendations of the secretary, determined that sanctions will be imposed on Burma, Cuba, and North Korea.

While Liberia and Sudan are also subject to sanctions, the president determined that certain multilateral assistance for these two countries would promote the purposes of the act, or as otherwise in our national interest, and so he's made the

appropriate determinations of some certain multilateral assistance can continue. In the case of Sudan, this means assistance that would support a peace accord. In both cases, I point out, humanitarian assistance is not affected.

So that's a determination that the president has notified the Congress of, based on recommendations he received from the secretary of state. And I think a remarkable amount of progress that we've been able to make in three months through effective diplomacy using the act and the effort of our diplomats, and the effort of foreign countries to really address a very important issue.

BOUCHER: So with that, I'd be glad to take your questions on this or other matters. Start on this? Any particulars? All right, for those who are interested, we'll put out a more complete statement and the press office will have more specific information.

QUESTION: The president is withholding a judgment on the new Palestinian prime minister. I wondered if here at State there's any indication of who might be in the cabinet and how important is it who he appoints, for instance, as security or interior minister?

BOUCHER: Well, we note that that process -- we note that he has accepted the nomination or the request to form a cabinet and that the process of cabinet formation has begun.

As I think the president made some reference to and the White House has said, it's essential the next prime minister have the authority and the control of the security forces and the finances of the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist organizations, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The issue is taking action to fight terror. So we urge that Mr. Qureia's cabinet appointments reflect candidates free from associations with terror and violence, committed to acting decisively on reform and peace negotiations that will benefit all Palestinians.

I understand the way it works, he has three weeks to form a cabinet and if he needs it can get a further two-week extension.

New Palestinian cabinet must make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism, demand that all acts of terrorism cease and insist that terrorists or military organizations not under the control of the Palestinian Authority be disarmed and dismantled.

Our representatives in the region have continued their meetings. Our acting consul general, Jeff Feltman, has met with Mr. Qureia today again. He and Ambassador Wolf have continued to meet and speak with a wide variety of Israeli and Palestinian officials on a daily basis to encourage both sides re-commit themselves to finding a way forward toward the president's two-stage vision.

QUESTION: Apparently (inaudible) is proposing to create a kind of national council for security in charge of supervising of the security agencies. Does it seem to be a good idea?

BOUCHER: I don't think it's for us to specify the exact governing arrangements. The point that we've made is there needs to be a commitment, there needs to be authority and there needs to be resources in the hands of the government to be able to be able to effectively use the security services against the terrorist organizations. It'll be for them to figure out how exactly that can be done.

QUESTION: I didn't know we would move so fast to Middle East, but I want to go back to the trafficking persons. This trafficking obviously involves trafficking abroad, like exporting human beings to other countries, or is it only internally?

BOUCHER: No. It's all forms of forced labor, forced prostitution, trafficking in persons.

I think there are estimates, you know, of 50,000 people who are trafficked into the United States. So it's just -- it's a problem for countries where people are being taken. It's a problem for countries where they're showing up and it's a problem that we think the whole world needs to work together against.

QUESTION: Yes, this is what I was coming to.

BOUCHER: Yes.

QUESTION: Is the United States the only country or is it in Europe, number one?

And number two, in case of, say, nuclear technology, we fault the person who exported the technology and the person who imported it. Now, in this case, are the countries which are getting these people, like 50,000 in United States, are taking any responsibility?

BOUCHER: These are the countries covered in the report. They were placed in different categories, OK? It covers -- any country in the world where this problem exists in one form or the other is covered. Every country is expected to take action whether people are trafficked out of that country or into that country or within that country. There may be forced labor in some of these cases inside the country, where we do expect people to take action -- the governments to take action.

The United States has passed comprehensive legislation. The United States has taken any number of steps of public awareness, of law enforcement action, arrest, prosecution, and we are acting through the domestic agencies as well as part of our international agenda to work with other governments so that we can effectively all fight this problem wherever it exists.

QUESTION: The president has called for the prime minister designate to get control of all of the security forces and unleash them on the militants. Absent his ability to do that, are you simply reconciled to the prospects of continued violence? Do you see any other policy options?

BOUCHER: The question is, sort of -- I need to separate out the pieces because it's really three different questions.

Absent his ability to do that to get control of security services -- I think I would complete the sentence by saying, absent the ability of the government to get control of the security services and use them effectively against terrorist groups, it would be impossible to make progress on the road map, to make progress toward the two-state vision, to achieve what the Palestinian say they want, which is to build the institutions of their own state.

So absent progress on security, we don't see how you can make progress on creating a Palestinian state. And that these bombers, in addition to harming innocent people, have harmed the lives of Palestinians, but have also harmed the ability of Palestinians to achieve their dreams and their aspirations.

The second part is are we reconciled to continuing violence if this doesn't happen the way we want?

BOUCHER: And I think the answer has to be no. We'll continue to work against violence, but -- or is there any other way? I think we've also made clear that we don't think there's any other way.

The road map lays out how to achieve the president's vision of two states living side by side. As the president noted again this morning, the road map is there as the mechanism to achieve that vision. And we need to continue to focus on the steps that both sides need to take as we move forward, the key one at this juncture, we think, being to end the activities of this violent groups.

QUESTION: Do you get the sense from what he has said so far that he has any intention of getting a grip on the security services?

BOUCHER: I don't think one can judge a government until it's formed, until it starts taking action.

We have made the point, I made it again today, that as he forms the cabinet, it needs to be a cabinet that is committed to progress, and that the cabinet needs to make clear its opposition to all forms of terrorism, and its desire to move forward in a peaceful manner to achieving a Palestinian state.

QUESTION: Can you tell us why Mr. Armitage has decided not to go -- not to (OFF-MIKE) on what he said were his plans to go to the Middle East?

BOUCHER: The deputy secretary talked to you all, I think, or talked to various media about the prospects of the trip. As it came to putting together that trip, there were questions of scheduling, there were questions of timing, there were questions of formation of the Palestinian government, and we're coming right up on the General Assembly, when most of the people will be traveling to New York anyway.

So in the end, it was impossible to put together the kind of trip he was looking at in this immediate time frame and thought it was better to postpone it till later.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) was he looking at, was it a, sort of, Middle East peace process trip or was it more -- he said Arab capital.

BOUCHER: He was looking a number of stops, and will continue to look at a number of stops as we think about a later trip.

QUESTION: Are you thinking he will possibly take a trip later this year or...

BOUCHER: I'd expect something later in the fall, yes. That's what they're thinking about now.

QUESTION: Can all this happen with Arafat on the premises, all the things the U.S. wants to see happen, like the security forces under one command?

BOUCHER: Yes, it's a question of will. It's a question of desire. It's a question of...

QUESTION: Whose will?

BOUCHER: The will of all the people in the Palestinian community.

BOUCHER: The Palestinian legislature, obviously, has a lot of say over powers. The individuals involved in the political process have a lot of say over the powers.

I think we're pointing to objective fact that we hope others would realize, that we're not going to make progress on the Palestinian agenda until the Palestinians make progress in eliminating the terrorist groups.

QUESTION: So I guess the administration's position on exile hasn't changed.

BOUCHER: It hasn't changed. The secretary restated it on Sunday.

QUESTION: Richard, nearby in Syria, the government has been shuffled there. In talking to (inaudible) there, do you expect the same type thing with the formation of their new government?

BOUCHER: Nothing particular to say about that situation.

QUESTION: Asad seems to be following through. He said he needed a more reform-minded government.

BOUCHER: We'll just see what emerges. I don't have anything to say at this moment.

QUESTION: Richard, if I could just go back to Arafat for one minute, please. I know you've said this before, but in light of the latest attacks, why does the U.S. believe that expelling Arafat is not the solution to the current impasse crisis?

BOUCHER: For the reasons the secretary said on TV on Sunday.

QUESTION: Well, if you could just (OFF-MIKE)

QUESTION: Preferably ten.

BOUCHER: Six and a half.

I don't have the transcript with me.

The United States has made clear our view that Arafat is not part of the solution. He's part of the problem. But at the same time, as I think the secretary has made clear, the Israelis need to think about potential actions, discussion of expelling Arafat, because we don't see how it would be any better if he was outside the country working the capitals of the world.

Pretty much the way he put it.

QUESTION: (inaudible) more extreme, so keeping him in the occupied territory will contain him. That's what we understand?

BOUCHER: We don't understand it one way or the other. We just don't see how it would help the situation or help anybody move forward toward a more peaceful situation for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) to Ramallah?

BOUCHER: I'm not going to dictate any particular treatment or location. We don't spend a whole lot of time worrying about Mr. Arafat anymore.

QUESTION: So, Mr. Arafat we keep hearing, you know, various solutions to getting him out of the way. What kind of obstruction is he putting up to the peace process? I mean, he has been a leader for, God knows, 35 years and he should have the cause of Palestinians at heart. So what kind of political or other obstructions is he putting up that people are saying that he is part of the problem?

BOUCHER: I think, first of all, we've talked about this...

QUESTION: Yes.

BOUCHER: ... many times, over many years, including in the president's speech last -- a year ago, June 24th. The most recent question that's come up is whether or not he's going to allow the control and consolidation of the security services under a government that was chosen by the Palestinian legislature to take authority for the Palestinian Authority.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) initial control, now they want security. He will be left with nothing.

BOUCHER: You sound like we're picking his pocket; we're not. The Palestinians are establishing institutions that can support a state.

Let's not forget what this is all about. It's about creating a Palestinian state, to take responsibility in its own areas, that can have responsibility vis-a-vis its own people and vis-a-vis its neighbors.

If you're going to create those institutions, you have to operate on a transparent and solid and legal basis. And that's what the Palestinian legislature has tried to do in giving the authorities to the government, that's what the Palestinian government has done, in terms of finance, and that's what the Palestinian government needs to do in terms of security, as well.

We can't have a government competing with armed groups. No country has a government that has to -- it has to rival other armed groups for control of the security situation, at least not voluntarily.

And therefore, if we're talking about creating institutions that can support a Palestinian state, we're talking about Palestinian government that can take responsibility in all areas of government.

QUESTION: What's your reaction to the Security Council deciding to postpone the Libya vote, the Lockerbie vote?

BOUCHER: As you noted yesterday, the Security Council went on record publicly in adopting an agenda item that includes a vote on the resolution to lift U.N. sanctions on Libya. That meeting will now convene on Friday, September 12th, at 10:30 in the morning.

The United States agreed to this formal procedural motion, essentially allowing a short additional period of time while at the same time making the council's intent to vote on Friday, in order to resolve the matter in a way that would ultimately result in adoption of the resolution.

Nevertheless, we're very disappointed that the vote did not take place yesterday. Our hearts go out to the victims of -- to the families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing who have been waiting so patiently for some closure.

We strongly regret that the families were faced with a situation of having to wait again for the fourth time for a vote in order to avoid a French veto of this resolution.

We do think the time is past due for bringing this resolution to a vote, but given the circumstances in the council yesterday, feel this is the best that could be worked out. We're satisfied that there is a strong commitment on the part of council members to proceed to a vote this coming Friday.

I'd note also that later yesterday Ambassador Negroponte, along with U.K. Ambassador Jones Parry and the Bulgarian ambassador, Tafrov, met with the victims' families at the U.S. mission to confer and discuss the situation.

QUESTION: Has France given you any indications that it will not veto on Friday?

BOUCHER: I'm not aware of anything like that. You'd have to ask the French what their intentions are.

QUESTION: Is this the final date or is there a chance of it being postponed again?

BOUCHER: This is a firmly scheduled agenda item. It's a firm schedule for a vote, which we have not had before when this was postponed before.

There was discussion, there was an unwritten understanding, there were things like that that were postponed. This is a much more firm commitment that we've had before.

I suppose the council, in its infinite wisdom, can decide to do what it wants if it desires. But this is a more -- a much clearer commitment than we've had before.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) any indication that they can reach a deal with the Libyans by Friday? They think they can deal with the Libyans?

BOUCHER: Again, that'll be something I have to ask the French if they think they can get some additional compensation or whatever for the families of the UTA bombing. Of course, we have every sympathy with their attempts to do so. We just don't think the families of the Pan Am 103 bombing should be forced to wait again and again.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) occurred on the security issue in the Palestinian situation. On the one hand, U.S. is clear is what they want: unified command. On the other, you don't want to micromanage Palestinian matters.

Mr. Wolf's out there, and his speciality was, or is to promote better security situation. Is he involved or is he there on-call to deal with the mechanics of this if it would be helpful, consolidating and all, lending his special expertise?

BOUCHER: I wouldn't describe his role as that way. I wouldn't say he's the mechanic here.

The mechanics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government. The politics have to be put together by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government. And the effective use of the institutions has to be handled by the people who are going to run the Palestinian government.

Obviously, the United States has long had an important role in conferring with both sides about security issues, and talking to them about their plans, and hearing from them what their plans are, particularly their plans to move against terrorism. But the organization and the determination need to come from the Palestinian side.

QUESTION: Richard, we've had a rewards for justice-type program. Is there something comparable that you'd like to see in the Middle East so that some of these so-called terrorist would be deactivated?

BOUCHER: The United States Rewards for Justice Program is always applied to American citizens who've died because of -- or to those who've killed American citizens, regardless of where it's happened. So in some cases, the Middle East would already apply.

QUESTION: Richard, does the U.S. government have an assessment of whether the North Korea nuclear facilities at Yongbyon are still active?

BOUCHER: I don't have one that I can share with you.

QUESTION: Are you aware that there's a Japanese news report suggesting that a senior State Department official yesterday told legislators on the Hill that it's your assessment that that plant has ceased the activity that was detected earlier this year?

BOUCHER: I don't have any assessment that I can share with you.

QUESTION: Change subject, Geneva?

BOUCHER: Please. Quickly.

QUESTION: Geneva. Anything more you can tell us about the agenda for that?

BOUCHER: Let me sort of walk to Geneva by reviewing where we are generally on the resolution first so you'll understand the context that Geneva comes in.

We've been continuing to discuss our draft resolution with other members of the Security Council in New York, in Washington and in capitals. There was an informal meeting yesterday afternoon with the permanent five members of the Security Council. At that meeting, we got some feedback on our draft. As I think has been reported, we heard from the French on proposed amendments to the text. The Russians offered us a separate set of suggestions.

We're reviewing those proposals. We'll respond after further internal consultations. This is the normal process that one goes through negotiating a Security Council resolution.

There are no additional meetings planned for New York prior to the secretary's trip to Geneva on Saturday. We will keep in touch with other delegations and other governments, however, in other ways.

The secretary spoke this morning with Foreign Minister Ivanov of Russia. He also spoke with Secretary General Kofi Annan. The discussion with Ivanov, I would describe it as a good and constructive exchange on the resolution and the elements of the resolution. We certainly welcomed the work that we've been able to do with the Russians so far on that matter.

We're also working with Secretary General Annan to prepare for a good meeting, a meeting in Geneva on Saturday.

As I think we've said before, we see it as an informal discussion among the Perm Five and the secretary general to discuss the situation in Iraq and discuss ideas about the resolution.

We would expect the discussion to be about the concepts of how we go forward in the resolution and generally with the United Nations on Iraq, not a negotiation of the text itself.

BOUCHER: As the president and the secretary have both stated, we're committed to advancing the cause of the resolution. And if the Geneva meeting can move the process forward, then we're willing to do what we can through that meeting and through our discussions in New York to get to a satisfactory conclusion to these negotiations.

QUESTION: Can you go a step further on Ivanov? I know you don't usually want to get into conversations. But Russia's position has been interpreted by some people as supportive and by other reporter as a little skeptical. Would you put them in the helpful column? I mean, they're not with France and German, for instance.

BOUCHER: I don't think we've quite done all the columns on this one yet. The views are still coming in.

What I would note is that we've had a separate dialogue with Russian than with France and Germany. We've had some separate discussions with Germany, as well.

I'm not going to try to negotiate specific ideas or proposals from different countries in a public forum. But I would say that we found the discussion with Russia very productive, constructive.

The comments on the substance that I would make are sort of our approach to this situation. We think that all council members do share, essentially, the same objective; that's to help Iraq and the Iraqi people exercise their full sovereignty as quickly as possible. The differences in the council we think should relate to the steps that need to be taken to get there. That's where the discussion should focus.

Proposals have to be grounded in the reality of the current situation. You can't pretend a war never happened. You can't pretend the coalition never happened. You can't pretend that the Iraqis have not already made considerable progress under the Governing Council, and that what we need to do is work with them, build on that progress, and see how all of us can help.

Our proposal takes, as a point of departure, the reality of the situation, that the coalition is already working with the allies -- the coalition is already working with the Governing Council, the Iraqis, to move forward towards the constitutional elections and also to move forward on the exercise of sovereignty.

BOUCHER: The point is not to argue either about which foreigner is going to take control in Iraq, the point is to go out and look and see what we can all do to support the Iraqis as they go forward in that process.

I would note also a press conference statement by the secretary general two days ago where he said it's not so much for the U.N. to go in and take over the administration and management of Iraq, but for us to ensure that we accelerate the establishment of a government and the transfer of authority, and to have the Iraqis run their own affairs, as indicated in the Security Council resolution. That's what we would hope all parties would be prepared to go talk about in Geneva.

QUESTION: You never mention the Chinese at all. Have there been discussions recently? I mean, how long ago did Secretary Powell speak with...

BOUCHER: The secretary talked to the Chinese foreign minister about a week ago.

QUESTION: Last week? Right.

BOUCHER: Yes, last week.

Certainly, they've been participating and speaking up at the Perm Five meeting that took place yesterday and the other discussions in New York.

I'm not trying to convey views on behalf of all those who had views. We've also had specific comments and constructive discussions with the British, with the Spanish, and probably with several others who I should probably mention but can't remember.

So we've had some very specific discussions, heard specific proposals and constructive ones from a number of countries.

QUESTION: Have the Chinese given you a list of suggested...

BOUCHER: I'm not aware that they have. But if you want a whole list of who's given us specifics, I think you'd have to check with the countries.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

BOUCHER: If you want a whole list of the P-5 members who presented changes, I'll have to demur on that, too. I'm just not sure I've got the whole list.

QUESTION: Richard, can you help us understand what it is that these other governments are to get out of essentially contributing, you know, thousands of their own troops who could potentially become cannon fodder for these terrorists and allowing them to pitch in with various NGOs. What is it that they are supposed to get out of, you know, this whole participatory process?

BOUCHER: A safer world. A better environment for their children and grandchildren to grow up in.

I think despite differences over the war itself, that most countries recognize that building of a stable Iraq, has representative government, can be an important element in building a more stable region. It's important to their security that this process succeed, whether or not they agreed with going to war in the first place.

BOUCHER: And I think we've actually had that and heard that and seen that in public from statements from various governments.

And the governments that are considering contributing troops or who are contributing troops, governments that are contributing money or are considering money, the governments who are supporting or considering supporting U.N. resolutions, I'm sure are looking at it from their own point of view, that it's better for them in the long run for this process to succeed in Iraq than to have Iraq go back to being some kind of source of instability.

Certainly, the United States has made that decision, and the president expressed that decision quite clearly on Sunday night when he asked for not only the commitment to do so, but the money to do so as well.

QUESTION: Does the U.S. believe, then, that without the help of the international community, beyond the countries that are already participating, that this process is destined to fail?

BOUCHER: No. The president expressed our commitment to succeed.

QUESTION: No, I understand, but you're reaching out to the international community, so I'm just wondering if the U.S. believes that without the additional troops, without the additional money, that it can't succeed.

BOUCHER: No. The president expressed our commitment to succeed, and we are going to succeed in this. He also made clear there's an opportunity for others to take steps that contribute to their own security, that contribute to their own well-being, contribute to the well-being of the people of Iraq.

QUESTION: Change of subject? Vienna? How's it going with the new resolution? Does it look like you're going to get it passed?

BOUCHER: Discussions continue in Vienna. I'm not sure there's any update. It's also not clear exactly when the vote might be, but I don't -- I was going to say, I don't think it'll be today.

We're still working actively with other members on the strongest possible board resolution. France, Germany and the United Kingdom have jointly proposed a draft board resolution on Iran that highlights the international community's concerns.

The resolution calls on Iran to take essential and urgent steps to answer fully the unresolved questions from the agency, to cooperate fully with the agency's ongoing investigation, and to take these actions by the end of October.

We strongly support these objectives, and I think, as you know, we've worked with them in developing this resolution. Negotiations are continuing today in Vienna, so we'll see where that leads to in terms of a vote and a text.

We would say once again that Dr. ElBaradei's June and August reports on Iran clearly confirm that Iran has failed to meet its obligations.

BOUCHER: Under its Safeguards Agreement, we believe the director general's reports provide a compelling evidence of Iran's noncompliance with its obligations.

QUESTION: In Indonesia, the person responsible for the Bali bombings last year was sentenced to death today? Do you have any reaction to this?

BOUCHER: I think this is the second, or maybe more, sentencing involving the Bali bombings. And we commend the government of Indonesia for the professional manner in which it conducted this trial.

The court sentenced Imam Samudra for his role in planning and executing the bombing. This was the worst act of terrorism since September 11th attacks on the United States. And we, once again, extend our sympathy to the families.

Bringing the perpetrators to justice is an important step in ensuring that what happened in Bali is not repeated.

QUESTION: (inaudible) respond to some remarks published today by Joschka Fischer in a German magazine calling the U.S. postwar policy in Iraq a complete failure.

BOUCHER: Haven't seen those remarks. I'd want to see how he said it and where he said it and what the context was. Obviously, that's not the way we would characterize the situation.

QUESTION: On the case of Charles Li, do you have any updates on that?

BOUCHER: U.S. embassy officials in Beijing spoke with ministry of foreign affairs officials on September 8th concerning imprisoned American Chuck Li. This was one of several matters involving U.S. prisoners which was discussed. The conversation was one of the many opportunities that embassy and consular officials in China have taken to express our continuing interest in Mr. Li's welfare and his well being while he remains in custody serving his sentence.

We last spoke to him directly on August 15th. The last visit was in early August. We've spoken with him, or met with him, 10 times in the last three months.

QUESTION: Who requested this meeting?

BOUCHER: I'll have to check on that. I think we went in to talk to them about a number of cases.

QUESTION: Does that meeting have anything to do with the genocide lawsuit filed by the Falun Gong practitioner around the world?

BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of.

QUESTION: Any reaction on the Cuba vote last night in the House and can you say more generally why the administration feels so strongly about this that it's prepared to -- has issued a veto threat?

BOUCHER: The administration position is available on the White House Web site, the statement of the administration position. So I assume you've already seen it?

For others who haven't seen that, go to the White House Web site and search on SAP and you can find the position on that.

The basic rationale is that providing material benefit to a regime which, only six months ago, undertook the most significant act of political repression in the Americas in a decade strikes us as deeply unwise.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) general in Burma has said that if they do release Aung San Suu Kyi, it would cause instability and they said they could face protests. They won't want to release because of that and you've criticize that in the last weeks. Are you putting more pressure on the military junta?

BOUCHER: I hadn't seen those remarks. They're obviously ridiculous. And we continue to work with others in the international community to try to see that she and her followers are freed from this detention.

QUESTION: Do you know what's happened to the North Korean weapons expert who was arrested in China? He was trying to defect to Australia.

BOUCHER: I haven't heard that story. Sorry.

QUESTION: OK.

END

LOAD-DATE: September 11, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: NEWS BRIEFING

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[-] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

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296 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

September 8, 2003 Monday

Myanmar announces arrest of 400 human traffickers this year

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 389 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, Sept 8

Myanmar police have uncovered 223 cases of human trafficking this year, arresting 417 traffickers and rescuing over 1,000 youths bound for the illicit trade, according to figures announced Monday.

The announcement follows intense pressure on Yangon by arch-critic Washington to boost efforts to crackdown on the illegal trade in humans.

"Eighty-three of the human trafficking cases have already been decided by the courts, and those found to be guilty given effective sentences," the New Light of Myanmar cited new Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt as saying.

No details of the sentences were provided.

It said 192 females were among those suspected traffickers detained in the operations from January through August, while 1,106 "gullible youths" including 495 girls were saved from being trafficked outside the country.

"Today, the problem of human trafficking has become more prominent than before, and various nations have begun to address it seriously," Khin Nyunt was quoted as saying in a speech to police officers.

"As far as Myanmar is concerned, the issue is also serious, although indications are that this was not the work of syndicated gangs.

"We are addressing it as a national issue because we do not want our young women's lives to be destroyed," he added.

Myanmar youths, particularly girls, are routinely swept up into the sex trade, lured to neighbouring countries like Thailand under the pretense of being placed into service industry jobs such as housekeeping.

The daily also said authorities prevented 82,251 persons from crossing the border illegally as of July this year, of whom 11,544 were sent home after a reprimand while 10,028 were prosecuted.

Myanmar has been rebuked by Washington for what the US State Department perceives is a failure to combat human trafficking.

In its third annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released in June, the department kept Myanmar on its "**Tier** 3" list, a designation which can lead to a cut off in non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US aid unless Yangon acts to meet Washington's trafficking concerns.

Yangon is already under punishing new sanctions imposed by Washington last month, the product of international outrage following the arrest of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in late May.

kmt/mlm/pt/rcw

Myanmar-trafficking

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

297 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

July 31, 2003 Thursday

CORRUPTION IN ECONOMY OF NORTH KOREA

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 1684 words

Statement of Michael J. Horowitz Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

July 31, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to share information and my views on the issue that will best test America's capacity for decency and greatness - one that may also best determine the world's safety and security.

I'm particularly honored to participate in a hearing designed to expose the most corrupt aspects of North Korea's so-called "economy." A significant purpose of my testimony is to speak of a truly evil income-producing activity in which the Pyongyang regime is actively engaged, beyond its better-known export of missiles and drugs. There's a third export category which is a growing and increasingly important source of cash to Kim Jong Il and the leadership cadres around him: the export of human beings as slaves.

The **Trafficking in Persons** Office, in its June report issued pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, rightly listed North Korea as a so-called **Tier 3** country. It did so because of two separate categories of deliberately enslaved North Koreans whom the regime literally "exports": women sold either as prostitutes or "wives" of rural Chinese men; and men "contracted" to work in Siberian logging camps. As to the women, human rights and religious observers have reported that tens of thousands of North Korean women are sold to brothels or to Chinese "snake" traders. Here's a report that appeared in August 2002 in the South Korean magazine Women's News:

The victims are reported to be sold to old bachelors or widowers in the countryside for 3000 yuan (a little over \$400) each and forced into marriage. According to a North Korean women support group, in most cases a few men from the same village pool their money to purchase one woman. If five men buy the joint ownership of one woman, the woman is forced to have sex with all five of them by night and take care of all five households and farms by day. There are cases where brothers buy and share one woman. A woman caught and sold to a village becomes an important village property. And so all the villagers keep watch over the woman, making escape impossible. On top of this, marriage between North Korean refugees and Chinese nationals is not recognized by law, meaning that these women have nowhere to turn to for protection.

Originally reported by Claudia Rosett of the Wall Street Journal, the mistreatment and fate of men sent to Siberian logging camps is equally inhuman. Begun in the mid-sixties as a bargain between the regimes of Leonid Brezhnev and Kim Il Sung, father of North Korea's current "Dear Leader" dictator, the Pyongyang-Moscow labor program is now employed by the North Korean regime in part as a means by which it repays debts to Russia and finances trade barter with that country. North Korean loggers are housed in unheated facilities, often without windows notwithstanding 50 degree below zero temperatures. As reported by Human Rights Watch, men are required to work 16-18 hours a day, given almost no food, are of course wholly separated from their families and have their movements controlled by regime security guards. Other observers have noted that men seeking escape or asylum or even temporary respite from monitoring by their North Korean guards are routinely tortured and in most cases put to death. Needless to say, tens of thousands of "contract labor" men have died and continue to die in logging camps now estimated to employ no fewer than 15,000-20,000 men.

The above examples of deliberate, for-profit slave trade by the Pyongyang regime is and should be shocking to the conscience of all mankind. But there is an additional fact - even more shocking - that perhaps provides the best indication of what life is like inside the evil, lunatic regime of Kim Jong Il.

In fact, knowing much of the death camp character of Russian logging camps, many men seek to work there as an alternative to continuing life inside North Korea.

In fact, knowing that they risk capture in China either by traffickers who will rape and sell them or by Chinese authorities who will return them to North Korea for certain imprisonment in gulags, many women seek escape to China as an alternative to continuing life inside North Korea.

The reasons why people "choose" Siberian logging/death camps and fugitive lives inside China are not only, not primarily, "economic." North Korean Christians routinely risk their lives to escape North Korea's borders on any terms because they know that discovery of a bible which they or any member of their family may hold in secret will expose all of them to imprisonment and torture. Residents of portions of North Korea thought not to be sufficiently loyal to the regime also routinely risk their lives to escape because they know that the regime will initiate genocidal starvation campaigns on their villages. Others, human beings in the fullest sense of the term, crave basic freedoms and know they will be imprisoned and tortured for manifesting the smallest sign of that desire, and find it preferable to risk their lives to escape.

I also appear before the Committee today, Mr. Chairman, as a representative of an extraordinary group now being formed in the United States: the North Korea Freedom Coalition. Chaired by Concerned Women for America's president, Sandy Rios, who has been to North Korea and the North Korea-China border, this coalition held its opening session last week. More than 35 religious groups pledged their active participation in the coalition, as did - and this is critical - representatives of the Korean American communities of the United States.

This coalition, which ranges from the National Association of Evangelicals to the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, from Korean American leadership groups of New York to Korean American leadership groups of Los Angeles, has an overarching, strategic public policy goal. It will passionately work to put at the core of U.S. foreign policy towards North Korea a commitment to address and ameliorate the human rights conditions under which those living under the Pyongyang regime must now endure. Put in other terms, the North Korea Freedom Coalition and its members will use every democratic resource at its command to ensure that no agreement with Pyongyang of which the United States is a part purports to exchange promises by Pyongyang not to export its terrorism for licenses and subsidies to the regime to continue practicing terrorism against its own people.

The Coalition also intends to work with church and human rights groups in South Korea to oppose the South Korean government's current unwillingness to seek human rights and democracy for the people of North Korea. In particular, the Coalition intends to do all within its power to broadcast and counter the seeming policy of the South Korean government to maintain the Pyongyang regime in power because it fears, based on the experience of West Germany following the collapse of East Germany, that freedom for its North Korean brothers and sisters will impose unduly costly burdens on the South Korean economy.

The Coalition will also focus on the condition of North Korean refugees and would-be defectors and will work to provide safe harbor protection for those starving and vulnerable victims. This will be done through calls to revise U.S. immigration law, through pressures the Coalition intends to place on the United Nations to more aggressively seek access to North Korean refugees in China, and through efforts it intends to make with the South Korean and Chinese governments to ensure fair, safe and legal treatment of North Korean refugees.

The Coalition expects to soon begin active work with Members of Congress to introduce and enact major legislation focused on true Korean Peninsular security and North Korean freedom. As indicated, any such legislation will contain provisions to protect North Korean refugees, and provisions restricting U.S. burden-sharing support for countries impacted by the North Korean economy to those actively committed to promoting North Korean human rights. In addition, the Coalition will support legislation to provide financial support for North Korea human rights organizations and will seek to ensure fulfillment of Chairman Lugar's recent request to Kofi Annan that the U.N. prepare reports on the North Korean gulag system, and will seek to mandate United States intelligence agencies to prepare similar, public reports. The Coalition will seek to expand Radio Free Asia and Voice of America Korean language broadcasts into North Korea, will seek authorization for the Commission on International Religious Liberty to hold educational hearings on religious persecution in North Korea, and will seek more active United States monitoring of North Korean drug smuggling activities.

But perhaps most of all, the legislation and the Coalition will seek to ensure that no financial aid will be given to the Pyongyang regime under any negotiated agreement to which the United States is a party unless the agreement ensures measurable progress in such areas as family reunification, expanded religious freedom, freedom to migrate by families of persons kidnapped by the North Korean regime, modification of the regime's definitions and prosecutions of "political crimes," active gulag monitoring by outside bodies and monitored assurances that food aid to the regime actually goes to starving people on a needs basis.

The Coalition believes as, from all we know, what President Bush believes: That American interests are best pursued by respect for American values, and that American security in a post-9/11 world is best ensured by the spread of human rights and democracy.

I thank this Committee for holding hearings today based on those principles and thus believe that today's hearings will contribute both to American security and to the amelioration of the inhuman conditions which the current residents of North Korea must now endure.

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298 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

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PREPARED TESTIMONY OF GARY A. HAUGEN PRESIDENT & CEO, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

SECTION: PREPARED TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 4317 words

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Gary Haugen and I serve as the President of International Justice Mission (IJM). On behalf of IJM, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for the privilege of participating in this important hearing on Global Trends in Trafficking and the Trafficking in Persons Report.

International Justice Mission is an international human rights agency that provides a hands-on, operational field response to cases of human rights abuse referred to us from faith-based ministries serving around the world. Frequently these workers observe severe human rights abuses in the communities where they serve. These workers refer these cases to us, and then we conduct a professional investigation to document the abuses and mobilize intervention on behalf of the victims. Many of the cases referred to us involve women and children abducted into sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Accordingly, we deploy criminal investigators to infiltrate the brothels, use surveillance technology to document where the victims are being held, and then identify secure police contacts who will conduct raids with us to release the victims and arrest the perpetrators. We then coordinate the referral of these victims to appropriate aftercare, and support and monitor the prosecutions.

Ijm investigators have spent literally thousands of hours infiltrating the sex trafficking industry and working with government authorities around the world to bring effective rescue to the victims and accountability to the perpetrators. In the process, Ijm is gaining, I believe, some precise insights about the nature of the problem and helpful lessons about concrete steps that actually prove effective in fighting sex trafficking. We are grateful, therefore, for the opportunity to share something of what we have learned with this Committee.

Of course, most of what we have learned has come from the victims of sex trafficking themselves - the hundreds upon hundreds of individual women and girls whom we have come to know by name around the world. The hundreds of women and children who have been abducted, assaulted, bought and sold, tortured and raped as part of a moneymaking enterprise. Everything useful that we have learned has emerged from entering into the nightmare experience of girls like Balamani. We first came to know Balamani because another girl we had rescued from a brothel took us back on a follow-up raid to show us the underground dungeon in which other young trafficking victims were being hidden. Balamani was about 17-years-old when she was lured from her rural village in South Asia with promises of a job working as a domestic servant or at a medical center in the city. A local trafficker won her trust and diverted her to a larger city on the other side of the country where she was sold into a brothel for about \$170. Once inside the brothel she was ferociously beaten by the brothel keepers and forced to provide sex to the customers. From then on, Balamani had to service between 15 and 20 customers per day- 7 days a week- from 11.00 am until 5:00 am- everyday for 10 months. Some police regularly frequented the brothel to collect their weekly bribe, and routinely threatened to take the young girls out as a way of extorting a larger bribe from the brothel keeper.

Based on information from other rescued girls, IJM was able to lead a raid on the brothel and rescue Balamani and about a dozen other girls out of this nightmare of brutal rape and slavery. Balamani responded well to the provision of aftercare and was able to return to her village, find work, and even expressed a willingness to testify against the brutal brothel keepers who were now facing prosecution. But before she was able to do so, the deadly legacy of her abuse in the brothel seized her body. The HIV virus that had been forcibly injected into her body exploded into full-blown AIDS and soon she lay dying on a gurney, painfully assaulted now by tuberculosis, meningitis and a host of sexually transmitted diseases. A few days ago, Balamani died with my colleagues by her side. She was slowly, and horribly murdered by the traffickers, pimps and brothel customers who abused her. And by the police who protected the criminals rather than the vulnerable teenage girl.

Balamani's story gives a face and a heart to the otherwise mind-numbing statistics about the epidemic of sex trafficking in our world. But also within Balamani's story are insights about why this global atrocity is one of the most preventable catastrophes in our world today.

The simple fact of the matter is this: sex trafficking only flourishes where it is tolerated by local law enforcement. The business of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation requires that the perpetrators commit multiple felonies of abduction, rape, assault, and false imprisonment - and then it requires that the perpetrators hold out the victims of these crimes openly to the public so that the customers can find them. It does no good at all for the brothel keepers and pimps to hide their victims. In fact, to make money on their investment, the pimps and brothel keepers must make their victims openly available to the customer public - and not just once, but continuously, and over a long period of time. Obviously, therefore, if the customers can find the victims of sex trafficking whenever they want, so can the police. How, therefore, do you possibly get away with running a sex trafficking enterprise? You do so only if permitted by local law enforcement. Generally, this is facilitated by bringing the police into the business and sharing the profits with them in exchange for protection against the enforcement of the laws that are openly and continuously violated every single day the business is in operation. Certainly sex trafficking is exacerbated by poverty and economic desperation; but we do not find epidemic levels of sex trafficking wherever we find poverty in the world. Rather, sex trafficking flourishes on a large scale only in those countries where it is tolerated by local law enforcement.

This is the indispensable insight about the fundamental vulnerability of sex trafficking that must be grasped. Sex trafficking requires the commission of multiple felonies in a way that is held out openly to the public. Therefore it can be shut down wherever there is the political will and operational resources to do so.

Sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation can be drastically reduced wherever a country has the political will and the operational capacity to send the perpetrators to jail and to treat the victims with compassion and dignity. This is a fight that can actually be won. In fact, this was the animating conviction behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The TVPA sought to influence the political will of countries with serious trafficking problems by making clear that there would be consequences for a country's relationship with the United States, including the possibility of sanctions, if that country did not make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking. Secondly, the TVPA also authorized grants to help strengthen a country's capacity to address sex trafficking through prevention, prosecution, and protection activities.

The authors of the TVPA understood that it was essential to strengthen both the political will and the operational capacity of countries to fight sex trafficking. It was well understood that in many countries the victims of sex trafficking fundamentally lack the voice and power to make themselves a priority for national law enforcement.

Sex trafficking operations prey upon the most marginalized groups in society - women, children, refugees, undocumented persons, ethnic minorities and the poor. Fundamentally, political leaders do not feel threatened in their hold on power if they fail to protect impoverished and low-status women and girls. Scarce law enforcement resources are deployed to protect the things that societies value the most, and thus women and children are often left utterly vulnerable to the brutalities of the commercial sex trade. Accordingly, the TVPA endeavored to place the voice and values of the American people on the side of these vulnerable women and children by making it clear that their abuse would not be tolerated. Specifically, the TVPA established the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons to provide a voice of accountability for the otherwise voiceless victims of trafficking. This new office would tell the truth about whether a country was vigorously defending women and children against the horrors of trafficking, with the understanding that those countries unwilling to provide such basic protections would find an adverse impact on their relationship with the United States.

This was the theory behind the policy expressed in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. All of the great effort in passing the TVPA was intended to actually make a real-world difference for the women and children being

crushed by the forces of sex trafficking. I offer this review simply to ask whether the policy is actually having its intended effect. What have we learned about the efforts to implement the policy that actually make a difference and what have we learned about those actions that undermine the impact of the policy? In a number of countries, IJM has been working hand-in-hand with foreign governments, NGOs and State Department personnel to conduct hands-on operations to rescue victims and to bring perpetrators to justice, and we are learning about the practical impact of U.S. policy at the street level. Our experience is starting to demonstrate that, as we all hoped, the policy can have a tremendous impact if implemented vigorously.

What makes the policy actually work?

I would suggest three things:

1. Vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions;
2. A credible and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business; and
3. Focused and practical capacity building for sending perpetrators to jail and caring compassionately for victims.

I would like to take a moment to examine these one at a time. First, vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions.

The purpose of the Trafficking In Persons Report is simple: it is intended to provide accountability. Therefore, the report has its intended effect when it is actually written in a way that makes accountability easy, rather than making it hard. We should make no mistake. There are those who will have an interest in making clear accountability harder rather than easier- and there are ways to fashion a document that either promotes accountability or obscures accountability. Effective accountability is achieved when the Report provides specific, objective, transparent data on a government's actions that actually matter. And from the perspective of the sex traffickers, only two government actions matter: a) Is the government seriously threatening to actually send me to jail for doing this? and b) Is the government seriously threatening to remove the police protection that I have paid for?

Consequently, effective accountability regarding the seriousness of a government's efforts to combat trafficking will only begin to emerge when there is specific objective data on the number of successful trafficking-related convictions resulting in jail time, as well as data on the number of disciplinary actions that have been taken against police who are complicit in protecting sex trafficking operations (remembering that such operations simply don't exist on a significant scale without such protection).

Again, it must be emphasized that the relevant data point is convictions - not raids, arrests, and prosecutions. Traffickers, brothel keepers, and pimps are quite willing to endure raids, arrests, and even prosecutions if, at the end of the day, they don't have to actually go to prison. In fact, such actions are just considered part of the cost of doing business. Moreover, even the most corrupt police carry out raids, arrests and initiate prosecutions. In fact, they must do so in order to maintain the credible threat by which they extort bribes from the perpetrators. That is why countries with the worst sex trafficking records can report raids, arrests, and prosecutions; but such countries have very little to report in terms of actual convictions. None of these other actions turn into a credible law enforcement threat that actually deters sex trafficking unless they result in convictions with imprisonment. This is the only cost of doing business that the perpetrators are unwilling to pay. This is why IJM is so pleased that the new Director of the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons, the Hon. John Miller, has adopted as the policy of his office that governments wishing to be certified as making serious efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking must bear the burden of providing objective data on trafficking-related convictions and police disciplinary actions. After all, these governments are themselves in the best position to report on their own positive actions, and the Office cannot be reasonably expected to affirmatively certify that a government is making significant efforts if the government provides no verifiable data on these two most basic responsibilities. Self-reporting by a government regarding its own counter-trafficking initiatives with follow-up by the State Department provides the best means for transparency and accountability. As the TIP Report states, "... national governments must supply such information." (See Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2003, p. 17).

The second ingredient for making the TVPA policy actually work has been a credible and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business.

In order to bring effective protection to women and children vulnerable to sex trafficking, governments must move counter-trafficking efforts from being a good idea to being an urgent priority. And in reality, the only dynamic that

generates such a shift is usually the belief that something bad will happen if they fail to do so. This is why the threat of possible sanctions was incorporated within the legislation for countries placed on **Tier 3** of the **Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP)**. In this regard, we have found that trafficking issues become an urgent priority for the worst offending countries only after they have been placed on **Tier 3** or faced a credible risk of being placed on **Tier 3**. While some countries may diplomatically protest their placement on **Tier 2**, foreign governments clearly understand that actual consequences for their poor trafficking record only kick in if they are on **Tier 3**. Among countries with serious trafficking problems, therefore, it is only the credible risk of **Tier 3** sanctions that actually moves countries to earnestly make the work of combating trafficking an urgent law enforcement priority, rather than just a public relations nuisance.

Accordingly, a TIP Report that presumes that Tier 3 status for certain countries is diplomatically intolerable or politically untenable severely undermines the effectiveness of the TIP Report process. An unspoken but de facto presumption against a Tier 3 ranking effectively freezes the status quo of the worst offending nations and weakens the TVPA's capacity to impact political will. It profoundly dishonors the suffering of women and children brutalized by sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Likewise, the TVPA's capacity to strengthen the political will of authorities to end the toleration of sex trafficking is utterly diluted by the failure to articulate clearly to foreign governments the straightforward requirements of the TVPA and the real risks of consequences associated with a poor trafficking record.

Finally, U.S. policy is effectively advanced through focused and practical capacity building for programs that send perpetrators to jail and care compassionately for victims. In addition to political will, foreign governments also need the practical wherewithal to take decisive law enforcement measures to combat trafficking and to care for the victims. Accordingly, U.S. policy is advanced by funding programs that address the intensely practical challenges of strengthening law enforcement capacities to investigate, arrest and successfully prosecute sex trafficking offenders.

Programs are needed to support special anti-trafficking police units and prosecutorial teams with training, operational support, and hands-on assistance in achieving the priority outcome of sending offenders to jail and removing dirty cops.

Education, awareness, and poverty alleviation programs are important preventative measures, but such programs will never be able to keep pace with the entrepreneurial energy and creativity of the traffickers unless they are combined with practical programs that act, tally help make national law enforcement successful in sending perpetrators to jail. Police complicity in sex trafficking has been so pervasive and ugly that many have been tempted to imagine solutions that simply ignore the police. But in combating any crime, the answer to bad law enforcement is never no law enforcement - the answer must always be a committed struggle for better law enforcement.

Accordingly, IJM is very pleased that recent legislation has cleared the way for funding by USAID and other agencies of targeted programs that strengthen counter-trafficking activities of specialized police and prosecution units, as well as legal advocacy to protect victims and to bring perpetrators to justice. (See the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (PL. 108-7).)

Equally critical are programs that fund comprehensive and compassionate aftercare services for the victims of sex trafficking. Not only are such programs necessary to treat victims with the dignity and care that they deserve, but they are also absolutely indispensable for establishing the victim cooperation that is essential for any meaningful counter-trafficking endeavor. At present, the existing capacities for providing comprehensive aftercare for the victims of sex trafficking are tragically inadequate. In fact, IJM has found itself limited in the rescue operations it could conduct for victims because of the lack of aftercare capacity. This is a need that can and must be addressed by targeted and generous appropriations.

Additional opportunities to fund programs to fight sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation have emerged as a result of President Bush's bold initiative to combat the AIDS epidemic. Research has demonstrated that sex trafficking is one of the great engines driving the spread of the AIDS global pandemic, and while traditional AIDS prevention programs of education and awareness go a long way in helping women and girls make good choices in avoiding high-risk sexual activities, these programs do nothing to protect the millions of women and girls who do not get to make choices about their sexual encounters - particularly the millions of victims of commercial sexual exploitation like Balamani who are forcibly infected with the HIV virus. Accordingly, federal funding of programs aimed at combating the international AIDS epidemic must include support of programs to combat sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, or else America's effort to fight AIDS will simply fail to address one of the fundamental and certainly most brutal causes of the epidemic.

Finally, in recent weeks IJM has directly experienced the positive impact of U.S. policy in combating sex trafficking in Cambodia. More than two years ago, IJM began conducting extensive investigations into one of the most appalling

cesspools of child prostitution in the world, a village called Svay Pak outside Phnom Penh where scores of girls between the ages of 5 and 12 were being sold in an open market for pedophiles and sex tourists. Over a two-year period we turned our investigative findings over to Cambodian authorities, but failed to obtain a satisfying response. Then last year, the TIP Report placed Cambodia on Tier 3 and the new U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Ambassador (3.aries A. Ray, initiated a very proactive engagement with the senior Cambodian authorities on U.S. policy toward trafficking. %is direct advocacy with Cambodian authorities and the excellent work of Ambassador Ray's staff, helped make it possible for IJM and the Cambodian authorities to bring rescue to 37 minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation out of Svay Pak, including about a dozen children between the ages of 5 and 10. In addition, approximately 12 suspects have been arrested and charged, with cooperative police investigations continuing with IJM to locate and prosecute additional suspects identified in our initial report.

Not only did these actions lead to the release of children from unspeakable horrors of sexual abuse; but also perhaps of even greater long-term significance, the senior Cambodian police official who was allegedly protecting and profiting from the child sex industry in Svay Pak has now been fired and finds himself behind bars facing a closely monitored prosecution. This is, of course, the other face of sex trafficking - the face of those police and public authorities who provide the official protection without which the open assault and rape of children could never flourish. When such corrupt authorities are brought to account, it will be the traffickers and brothel keepers who will live in fear, rather than the children of a, or South Asia, or West Africa or Eastern Europe. We will not have to watch the Balamanis waste away in pain and death, but can secure for them the life of goodness and hope we seek for our own daughters.

In the case of Cambodia, Ambassador Ray, and representatives of the U.S. State Department were very successful in making clear to the Cambodian authorities the priority that American foreign policy places on addressing sex trafficking. Senior Cambodian authorities were well and effectively briefed on the dynamics and significance of the tier rating system of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and on the consequences of failing to make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating trafficking. Cosequently, by the time IJM was able to brief the Cambodian authorities on our latest Svay Pak investigation, they were prepared to provide extraordinary cooperation in working with IJM to seek rescue for the victims and to pursue accountability for the perpetrators. We believe that the advocacy of the U.S. Embassy with the Cambodian authorities was an indispensable and decisive factor in generating effective law enforcement cooperation.

These actions have paved the way for significant and continuing progress in mobilizing effective law enforcement responses to human trafficking in Cambodia. Cambodian police authorities have had a positive experience of effective counter-trafficking investigations and enforcement actions with IJM that produced arrests, proper charges, and compelling evidence for prosecution. They have participated in groundbreaking procedures for humanely conducting victim interviews in the presence of a social worker and an NGO lawyer-monitor while being videotape& They have also requested further training from IJM in effective counter-trafficking investigations and enforcement actions.

Of course, it will be very important to continue to monitor the actions of the Cambodian authorities as they follow up on these specific cases, and as they persevere in vigorous efforts to investigate and successfully prosecute sex trafficking crimes on an on-going basis. Cambodia has had a very poor record of tolerating sex trafficking (especially among very young children) and such a record cannot be turned around overnight. But we believe that a very promising beginning has been made in supporting the Cambodian government in taking a new direction to seriously combat sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

We believe these encouraging events help to serve as a model for what can be achieved when there is transparent reporting through the TIP Report, a meaningful application of the der rating system, direct advocacy by U.S. authorities at the highest levels of government, and tangible, practical assistance to foreign governments in bringing rescue to trafficking victims and justice to perpetrators.

I would also like to thank Congress for recently passing the PROTECT Act, paving the way for U.S. Attorneys' Offices to vigorously prosecute Americans who travel abroad and exploit young girls. The Act eliminates the intent requirement and necessitates only that a prosecutor prove an American committed an illicit sexual act abroad. As the little victims in Cambodia have told my colleagues, many of their clients were Americans. It is imperative that the U.S. crush the demand created by ks own citizenry.

IJM looks forward to continuing its constructive work with the U.S. State Department, foreign governments, and panner NGOs in helping to ensure that the promises of U.S. policy in fighting sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation deliver tangible results to vulnerable women and children and hastens the day when these brutal enterprises of rape-for-profit are simply put out of business.

Thank you very much.

END

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299 of 359 DOCUMENTS

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June 25, 2003 Wednesday

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MOHAMED Y. MATTAR, S.J.D. CO-DIRECTOR, THE PROTECTION PROJECT AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

SECTION: PREPARED TESTIMONY

LENGTH: 10879 words

A Comparative Analysis of the Anti-Trafficking Legislation in Foreign Countries: Towards a Comprehensive and Effective Legal Response to Combating Trafficking in Persons

The Status of the Early "Procuration Laws" and the "Prostitution Laws." On June 28, 1999, Laura Lederer, the former Director of The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies testified before the 106th Congress stating:

"We have found that more than 154 countries currently have legislation that at least minimally target the prosecution of traffickers by prohibiting the procuration of women or children for the purposes of prostitution and forced labor. Most of these laws were drafted between 1912 and 1960 to address earlier waves of trafficking. However, these laws are poorly, if ever, enforced. In fact, we found that the prostitution laws are enforced, but the procuration laws are ignored. They're rarely invoked. So that the women and children end up in jail and the traffickers go free."

This was the status of anti-trafficking legislation in foreign countries prior to the passage of the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (hereinafter referred to as the "TVPA") and the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as the "UN Protocol").

I am privileged to speak to you today on the current status of existing anti-trafficking legislation and to report to you on what has been done in the anti-trafficking legislative movement in foreign countries and what should be done to move towards a more comprehensive and effective legal response to combat the problem of trafficking in persons.

I would like to give you a brief overview of early anti-trafficking legislation.

First, most anti-trafficking legislation was enacted as a part of the Penal Code or Criminal Code rather than as separate comprehensive acts and, as such, they only addressed trafficking as a criminal offense. Since the function of criminal law is to describe crimes and determine punishments for such crimes, protection of women and children was not part of these laws.

Second, trafficking in persons was prohibited mainly as a prostitution related activity. Anti-trafficking legislation during this time were influenced by the "White Slave Traffic" Conventions, especially the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others. The Convention mandated that "The Parties to the present Convention agree to punish any person who, to gratify the passions of another: (1) Procures, entices or leads away, for purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person; (2) Exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person." In fact, this language was explicitly used in the criminal codes of many countries.

Third, trafficking in persons was not recognized as a specific crime. Instead, it was addressed under other related offenses such as kidnapping, abduction, illegal confinement, deprivation of liberty, international prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual violence, illegal transportation of aliens across state borders, torture, violation of equality, procurement and compelling a person to engage in sexual intercourse.

Fourth, criminal sanctions for the procurement of prostitution were limited to a small fine and/or short term of imprisonment, which is not comparable to the gravity of the crime. Fifth, the trafficked person was treated as a criminal who is subject to deportation for the commission of the acts of illegal entry, falsification of travel documents and prostitution.

Inadequate Measures in Satisfying the Special Needs of Victims of Trafficking. Domestic laws provided limited measure of protection. In particular, the 1956 Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act of India called for "rescue of women and girls" and "protective homes," the 1956 Prostitution and Prevention Act of Japan called for taking measures of "rehabilitation" of women in prostitution, the 1973 Women and Girls Protection Act of Malaysia provided for the removal of the women in prostitution to "a place of refuge" (Section 7), the 1973 Women and Girls Protection Act of Brunei provided for "care" and "education of women and girls detained under this act" (Section 25(1)), and the Measures in Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act of 1997 in Thailand provided for "appropriate assistance" to the trafficked woman or child including "primary shelter" and repatriation. However, these measures were inadequate in meeting the special needs of victims of trafficking.

Regional Initiatives Calling for Adopting Domestic Measures to Combat Trafficking. On the regional level, there have been a number of initiatives calling for drafting comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that not only criminalize the trafficking offense, but also prevent the act of trafficking and protect the victims of trafficking. The February 24, 1997 Joint Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children adopted by the European Council mandates that Member States "review their relevant national laws" to classify trafficking as a criminal offense, provide the appropriate penalties for such offense and take the necessary measures that to ensure "appropriate assistance for victims...". The European Parliament, in a May 19, 2000 resolution, called for "legislative action against trafficking in human beings, including common definition, incriminations and sanctions." The European Council Framework Decision of July 19, 2002 mandates that Member States must take the necessary measures, no later than August 1, 2004 to criminalize trafficking in persons and provide for the appropriate penalties in addition to assistance to victims of trafficking. The 1994 Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors mandates that "The States Parties undertake to adopt effective measures, under their domestic law, to prevent and severely punish the international traffic in minors defined in this Convention" (Article 7). The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Declaration of December 2001 on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons calls upon Member States to "adopt... such legislative... measures as that are necessary to establish as criminal offenses the trafficking in persons..." (Para. 5). The January 2002 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution mandates that "The State Parties to the Convention shall take effective measures to ensure that trafficking in any form is an offence under their respective criminal law and make such an offence punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account its grave nature" (Article 3). The Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings of December 2002 states "We will consider adopting legislative..., measures that permit victims of trafficking to remain in our territory, temporarily or permanently in appropriate cases..."

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Recognition of Trafficking in Persons as a Human Rights Violation Under International Treaty Law. International conventional law has recognized trafficking in persons as a human rights violation. The 1956 Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery outlawed slavery practices including debt bondage, serfdom, bride price and exploitation of child labor. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) explicitly prohibited "exploitation of prostitution of women" and "all forms of traffic in women" (Article 6). The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child mandated that state parties must take all appropriate measures to prevent "the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form" (Article 35). The 1999 Convention to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour similarly prohibited "the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution..." (Article 3(c)). However, it was the UN Protocol that provided the first definition of trafficking in persons and a comprehensive approach to the problem of trafficking. The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families which goes into effect July 1, 2003 provides that "No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be held in slavery or servitude" and "No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour." (Article 11 (1)-(2)).

Recent Anti-Trafficking Legislation Recognizing the Trafficked Person as a Victim of a Crime. In response to these international mandates a number of new anti-trafficking legislation have been enacted. These laws shifted the focus from criminalizing the behavior of the trafficked person to recognizing such a person as a victim of a crime. These laws include: the "Prohibiting Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Purposes Act" of Sweden, which entered into force on July 1, 2002; the Nigerian Act to Establish the National Agency for Traffic in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration to Enforce Laws Against Traffic in Persons, To Investigate and Prosecute Persons Suspected to be Engaged in Traffic in Persons, and to Take Charge and Co-ordinate the Rehabilitation and Counseling of Trafficked Persons and For Other Matters Connected Therewith; the UNMIK Regulation No 2001/4 on the Prohibition of Trafficking; Law Number 678 of Romania on the Prevention and Combat of Trafficking in Human Beings (D tuber 2001); Combating of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of Cyprus of 2000 and the Bulgarian Law On Combating Illegal Trafficking of Human Beings of 2002. In 2002, Greece, Denmark and Pakistan enacted anti trafficking legislation and in 2003 France and the Philippines enacted anti-trafficking legislation.ending Existing Criminal Laws to Criminalize Trafficking in Persons as a Specific Offense. In addition to the enactment of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, some countries have amended existing Criminal Codes to criminalize trafficking in persons as a specific offense. These amendments include: Article 169 the Criminal Code of Portugal, as amended by Act 99/2001, of August 25, 2001; Article 165 "Trafficking in Human Beings" of the Criminal Code of Moldova as amended, which entered into force September 13, 2002; Article 149 "Trafficking in Human Beings or Other Transfer Deals in Respect of Human Beings" of Ukraine which entered into force on September 1, 2001 and Article 110a "Trafficking of Human Beings" of the Criminal Code of Albania, as amended by Law No. 8733 of January 24, 2001. In addition, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Tanzania and Turkey have amended their existing Criminal Codes to recognize trafficking in persons as a specific offense.

Recent Draft Anti-Trafficking Legislation. Many countries are considering drafting new antitrafficking legislation. These drafts include: the Federal Law of the Russian Federation on "Countering Trafficking in Persons and Measures to Protect Victims of Trafficking in Persons;" the Georgian Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code on "Trade in People (Trafficking in Persons) and other Unlawful Deal (bargain, agreement) Regarding Transfer of a Human" Article 144; and the Draft Amendments to the Criminal Code of Tajikistan Article 130, "Trafficking in Human Beings." In addition, the following countries are in the process of enacting new anti-trafficking laws: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Gabon, Jamaica, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritius, Niger, Slovenia and Togo.

A Call for a Comprehensive Legal Approach to Trafficking that Include Crime Control, Human Rights, Immigration Status, Behavioral Model, and Foreign Policy. A study of these recent anti-trafficking laws indicates that the crime control approach to trafficking in persons has been coupled with a human rights-based approach to trafficking. Many immigration policies have been redefined to allow for a legitimate immigration status for the trafficked person. Some laws even provide for what I call a behavioral approach. In addition, the United States recognizes trafficking in persons as a foreign policy objective.

The following is a discussion of these five approaches to the problem of trafficking.

1. Crime Control: An Effective Criminal Law Approach to the Offense of Trafficking in Persons Anti-Trafficking Legislation Must Criminalize All Forms of Trafficking. Obviously any anti-trafficking legislation must address the scope of what it considers to be an offense of trafficking. Some criminal codes only criminalize trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, such as the Criminal Code of Germany as amended by the Criminal Law Reform Act (trafficking in human beings) of 1992; Article 246 entitled "Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual relations" of the criminal law of the Czech Republic, as amended in 2002; the 2002 'Prohibiting Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Purposes Act" of Sweden; Article 169 of the Criminal Code of Portugal, as amended by Act 99/2001 which prohibits trafficking for "Prostitution" and Article 250(a) of the penal code of the Netherlands prohibits trafficking in human beings for the purpose of "the performance of sexual acts" (Draft of 2001).

A Distinction Between Commercial and Non-Commercial Sex. A comprehensive antitrafficking law should not be limited to criminalizing trafficking for the purpose of prostitution. Here I would like to draw a distinction between commercial sex and non- commercial sex.

Commercial Sex. Commercial sex typically covers prostitution. However, there are other forms of commercial sex such as pornography and sex tourism, which may constitute a form of trafficking. For example, the Criminal Code of Colombia explicitly criminalizes sex tourism. The Code provides that "any person who directs, organizes, or promotes tourist activities that include the sexual use of minors shall be punished by imprisonment of three to eight years. The

penalty shall be increased by one half if the conduct is committed with a minor under the age of twelve years" (Article 219). Section 2423 of the Mann Act prohibits a United States national or resident from traveling abroad with the intent to engage in illicit sexual activity with a child.

Non-Commercial Sex. In the event that non-commercial sex involves abuse, it should be considered an illicit activity, especially in cases of forced marriages, arranged marriages, early marriages, temporary marriages, marriages for the purpose of child bearing and mail-order brides. It must be noted that mail-order brides may be classified as trafficking for the purpose of labor or a case of sex trafficking. Section 652 of the United States Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 imposes upon the matchmaking organizations an obligation to inform the prospective bride "upon recruitment, such immigration and naturalization information as the Immigration and Naturalization Service deems appropriate, in the recruit's native language, including information regarding conditional permanent residence status and the battered spouse waiver under such status, permanent resident status, marriage fraud penalties, the unregulated nature of the business engaged in by such organizations, and the study required under subsection (c)."

The 2003 TIP Report *Monitoring the Status of Commercial Sex and Non-Commercial Sex*. Section 105(d)(5) of the TVPA calls for the Inter Agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to "examine the role of the international "sex tourism" industry in the trafficking of persons and the sexual exploitation of women and children around the world." The 2003 United States Department of State *Trafficking in Persons Report* (hereinafter referred to as "TIP Report") examines the problem and makes explicit reference to its significance in the countries of Brazil, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Gambia, India, Jamaica, Japan, Malawi, Mauritius, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

The TIP Report, in addition to documenting cases of sex trafficking and labor trafficking, also addresses the problem of marriage which may contribute to the problem of trafficking in the countries of Armenia, Belarus, Finland, Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Taiwan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The TIP Report also makes references to pornography and trafficking for the purpose of pornography in Gambia, India, Lithuania, Mexico, the Philippines and Zimbabwe.

The TVPA Limiting Sex Trafficking to Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. It must be noted, however that the TVPA narrowly defines sex trafficking to mean "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act" and defines "Commercial Sex Act" to mean only "any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person" (Section 103(9) and 103(3), respectively).

An anti-trafficking legislation must address all forms of trafficking including trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex and non-commercial sex, trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, including domestic service, street begging, camel jockeying, trafficking for the purpose of illicit inter-country adoption, trafficking for military purposes, trafficking for the removal of organs and trafficking for other forms of exploitation.

Determining the Elements of Criminal Liability in a Trafficking Case: What Should Be Included and What Should be Excluded. My reading of recent anti-trafficking legislation suggests that some legal systems make prosecution of cases of trafficking difficult by including unnecessary elements, which make such proof difficult or impossible.

Is Proof of Material Profit Required? Some anti-trafficking legislation require material profit. For instance, Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Albania of 1995 requires proof of "material profit or any other profit." Likewise, Article 113-2 of the Criminal Code of Moldova, as amended in 2001, defines trafficking in human beings to include trafficking "with the purpose of obtaining profit." Article 180Co) of the German Law on Trafficking in Human Beings also makes material benefit an element of the crime of trafficking. Although, in the event that the act of trafficking was "committed with the intention of gaining valuable benefit," such act may warrant an enhanced penalty as provided, for example, by Article 246 of the Criminal Code of the Czech Republic.

Should Organized Trafficking Be Required for the Establishment of the Crime? Criminal liability of a trafficker should not depend upon whether the activity is organized. Many cases of trafficking involve only an individual and individual trafficking should not be excluded from the definition of the crime. If the act of trafficking is committed by a member of an organized gang the punishment for such crime should be enhanced such as the case under Article 246 of the Criminal Code of the Czech Republic. Similarly, Article 181 of the German Law on Trafficking in Human Beings makes "professional recruitment" grounds for an enhanced penalty of 10 years instead of 5 years.

Defining Trafficking to Include Transnational Trafficking and Internal Trafficking. Most cases of trafficking are transnational in nature; however, internal trafficking must be included in any definition of trafficking in persons. Crossing international borders should not be an element of the crime itself; although it may warrant an additional penalty. Internal

trafficking is a problem in many countries, including Afghanistan, Brazil, Haiti, India, Malawi, the Philippines and Russia, and should not be excluded from the definition of trafficking.

Recognizing Trafficking as a Form of Violence Against Women or as a Form of Slavery Should Not Effect the Prima-Facie Case of Trafficking. Violence also should not be an element of the crime of trafficking, although it may be grounds for increasing the penalty for such crime. Likewise, while trafficking is a form of slavery, enslavement, as traditionally, defined should not be required for the existence of the crime of trafficking.

The TVPA Narrowly Defining "Illegal Means" by Requiring Force, Fraud, and Coercion. Illegal means should be broadly defined to include debt bondage, disclosure of confidential information to the victim's family or to other persons, confiscation of travel documents, abuse of power, abuse of office, bribery, abuse of a position of vulnerability and other illegal or improper means. The TVPA requires force, fraud or coercion to prove a case of trafficking. Such requirement may render prosecution of a case of trafficking difficult where the victims of trafficking are not coerced into prostitution. Suffice here, to mention the case of *United States v. Wu* was prosecuted under Title 18, United States Code Sections 2421 and 2422 and not under the TVPA.

Trafficking in Persons Must Be Recognized As A Serious Crime. Many anti-trafficking laws do not provide for the appropriate sentence to the crime of trafficking. For instance, Article 367 of the Criminal Code of Chile only provides for a fine for "one who promotes or facilitates the entry or exit of persons to or from the country to exercise prostitution in the national territory or abroad." According to Article 436 of the Criminal Code of Turkey "Whoever transports from one place to another a virgin or a woman who has not yet reached the age of twenty-one for the purpose of prostitution...seduction or procurement or transportation, will be sentenced to between one and three years of imprisonment and be fined from nine thousand to ninety thousand liars."

Legal systems do not always consider sex trafficking as grave a crime as other sexual offenses. Many laws do not impose similar punishments for trafficking offenses as for other serious crimes such as rape. For example, in Guatemala, the punishment for rape under the Criminal Code is six months to one year in prison, whereas the punishment for trafficking is only a fine.

Recently, many anti-trafficking laws increased the criminal sanctions for the crime of trafficking in persons. For instance, Israel has changed its law to enhance the penalty to 16 years of imprisonment for "any person who buys or sells another person for the purpose of prostitution..." The Women and Children Suppression Prevention Act of 2000 of Bangladesh states that "whoever brings or traffics or sends any (women) abroad with the intention of using that woman in prostitution or using for unlawful or immoral purposes or buys or sells or lets to hire or hands her over for any kind of torture or similar reason, keeps a woman in his possession, (care) or puts under his custody, shall be punished with death sentence or life imprisonment..." (Section 5(1)).

I have no contention with the maximum penalties provided in most of the countries of the AsiaPacific region, although the minimum sentence should not be less than 4 years in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Article 2). In Burma punishment is up to 10 years imprisonment. In Cambodia punishment is 5 to 10 years, which is enhanced to 10 to 20 years if the offense is committed against a minor younger than 15. In Indonesia punishment for trafficking is imprisonment up to 6 years. In Malaysia punishment for trafficking is imprisonment for up to 5 years. In Singapore the punishment for trafficking is also imprisonment for up to 5 years.

Prison sentences tend to be shorter in most European countries, including the sentences for trafficking in persons. The European Council Framework Decision of July 19, 2002 mandates that European countries provide penalties for trafficking of at least 8 years imprisonment. It must be noted that European domestic laws as well other legal systems following the civil law model do not recognize plea-bargaining as a device, which may result in a lesser sentence. The TVPA provides for up to 20 years imprisonment and recognizes plea-bargaining.

Criminal sanctions for trafficking in persons should not be limited to prison sentences. An antitrafficking legislation must also provide for the forfeiture of the assets of the trafficker, the proceeds of which are to be used to compensate victims of trafficking.

Recognition of Trafficking in Persons as a Transnational Crime. Since trafficking is transnational in nature, combating the problem requires transnational legal responses.

Applying the Extraterritorial Principle to the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. For instance, Article 5 of the Criminal Code of Macau provides that the criminal law is applicable to acts carried outside of Macau when such acts constitutes the crimes of "trafficking in human beings," "trade in slavery" and such acts are committed by a national or resident of

the country. In Thailand, the Penal Code Amendment Act has expanded the territorial jurisdiction of courts to cover "indecent sexual acts" and "trafficking offenses" provided in Section 282 and 283 of the Penal Code, irrespective of where such offenses are committed. In New Zealand, The Crimes Act Amendment of 1995 applies to offenses concerning sexual conduct with children committed by nationals abroad (Article 144A). The Act also prohibits assisting persons traveling overseas for the purpose of having sex with children. In Ireland, under the Sexual Offenses (Jurisdiction) Act of 1996, persons who are nationals or residents of Ireland may be prosecuted for sexual offenses committed against children abroad.

Law No. 269 of August 3, 1998 amended Article 604 of the Penal Code to extend its application to sexual offenses committed abroad by an Italian national or to the harm of an Italian national or by a foreign national in conjunction with an Italian national sex tour (Article 144C). The Crimes (Child Sex Tourism) Amendment Act of 1994 of Australia provide for a similar rule. Other legal systems must consider the application of anti-trafficking legislation on extraterritorial basis, irrespective of the place where the crime of trafficking occurs.

Recognition of Trafficking in Persons as an Extraditable Offense. Trafficking in persons must be recognized as an extraditable offense. For instance, in Cyprus trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of children are deemed as extraditable offenses under the Extraction of Fugitive Law No 97 of 1970.

Under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, it is interesting to note that in Article 16(4) if a State Party that makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another State Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider the Convention the legal basis for extradition in respect of any offence to which this article applies.

Recognition of Trafficking in Persons as an Offense for the Purpose of Applying AntiMoney Laundering Legislation. Countries should expand the scope of the offense of money laundering from one solely related to goods arising from illicit-drug trafficking, to one related to all proceeds derived from trafficking in persons and other serious crimes. An anti-money laundering law must authorize the seizure of proceeds from prostitution, trafficking in persons, or other illegal activities.

Cooperation Between Countries of Origin and Countries of Destination. Bilateral treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters must be a part of any transnational legal response since apprehension of traffickers, investigation of cases of trafficking and prosecution of the traffickers sometimes require cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination in matters including request for assistance, search, seizure, attachment and surrender of property, measures for securing assets, service of judicial decision, judgments and verdicts, appearance of witness and expert witnesses and transmittal of information of records. This regional approach has been adopted by the 1996 Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. Likewise, the 1959 European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters provides for similar measures.

Building Consensus as to the Appropriate Legal Response to Trafficking in Persons Through a Regional Approach. Consequently, a regional approach to the problem of trafficking is imperative. Such an approach builds regional consensus as to the forms of trafficking which must be subject to criminalization and the appropriate response for the prosecution of such crimes.

2. A Behavioral Model Approach to Trafficking in Persons: Targeting All Principle Actors in the Trafficking Enterprise.

Any comprehensive legal response to trafficking in persons must extend liability to all those who are responsible for committing or facilitating the act of trafficking.

Distinction Between Private Actors and Public Actors. I would like to first draw a distinction between public actors and private actors. While the trafficking act, whether the act of "recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons" (UN Protocol, Article 3(a)) may be committed by a private individual or group, many cases involve a public official, an immigration officer, a law enforcement agent, a border patrol officer or other officials who facilitate the act of trafficking or refrain from prosecuting such an act. In such cases, an antitrafficking law must render such an act a crime and provide for an enhanced penalty for such crime.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime criminalizes the corruption of public officials (Article 8) and requires that "Each state party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offenses, when committed intentionally: (a) the promise, offering, or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that

the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties; (b) the solicitation or acceptance by a public officials, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties." The Convention further requires that State Parties shall "adopt legislative, administrative or other effective measures to promote integrity and to prevent, detect and punish the corruption of public officials" (Article 9).

Some anti-trafficking laws explicitly consider public corruption in the context of trafficking. For instance, the Criminal Code of Moldova recognizes not only "abuse of power" but "abuse of office" as an illegal mean which give rise to an enhanced penalty (Article 113/2). Distinction Between Natural Persons and Legal Persons. I would like to draw a second distinction between natural persons and legal persons. Any effective legal response to trafficking in persons must address not only the liability of the trafficker, a natural person, but also the legal person or the corporate person that facilitates such acts. Travel agencies, employment agencies, adoption agencies, matchmaking organizations, advertisement agencies, hotels, restaurants, bars, taxi companies and sex operators must all be criminally liable for any illicit activity

The liability of sex operators including, strip clubs, massage parlors, escort services, should not be limited to compliance with residential zoning regulations. Instead, nuisance/ton liability should be combined with criminal liability in examining the legitimacy of sex operators. Sex operators who abuse their employees or force them to engage in illicit sexual activities should be fined, have their business license revoked, or be forced to close their business. European Council Framework Decision on Trafficking in Persons calls upon countries to provide for liability of legal persons. The UN Protocol explicitly addresses the liability of commercial carders "including any transportation companies or the owner or operator of any means of transport" (Article 11(3)).

Who Should be Liable.* The Customer or the Victim: Addressing the Issue of Demand. "Prostitution laws" are divided as to whether to criminalize the act of the person in prostitution or the person who is buying the sexual services. However, few legal systems criminalize the behavior of the customer.

Criminalizing the Act of Prostitution and the Act of Purchasing Sexual Services. Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Mauritania, Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Tunisia, Malaysia, Brunei and the United Arab Emirates punish both the woman in prostitution and the customer.

Making the Purchase of Sexual Services a Crime. The Swedish Act "Prohibiting Purchase of Sexual Services" provides that "a person who obtains casual sexual relations in exchange for payment shall be sentenced--unless the act is punishable under the Swedish Penal Code-- for the purchase of sexual services to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months." Attempts to purchase sexual services is punishable under Chapter 23 of the Swedish Penal Code.

Knowledge of Trafficking Makes the Customer Liable. Another approach is adopted by Article 418-a of the Criminal Code of Macedonia which provides that "The one that uses or enables another person's usage of sexual services from the persons for whom he knows are victims of human trafficking will be punished with from six months up to five years imprisonment." The new draft legislation of Croatia of May 2003 follows the Macedonian model in criminalizing the act of the customer if he has knowledge that the person in prostitution has been trafficked. When the Customer is Associated with United States Military. According to the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000 (18 U.S.C. 3261-67 2000), criminal jurisdiction is established for acts committed by persons employed by or accompanying military forces outside the United States, including civilian employees of the Department of Defense and its contractors, if such acts would carry prison sentences of over one year within the United States.

When the Customer is a Tourist Engaging in Sex with a Child. Title 18, United States Code Section 2423 makes sex tourism a crime by prohibiting travel of United States citizens and residents who travel abroad to engage in illicit sexual activities with a child.

When the Customer is a Diplomat. I would like to say that the law of diplomatic immunity should not be used as a shield to justify abuse of domestic servants in the United States.

The Principle of Non-Criminalization of the Behavior of the Victim of Trafficking. While the customer should be penalized, the victim should be immune from liability every time she commits an illegal act as long as such act is related to their trafficking, whether this act is illegal entry, falsification of travel documents, or prostitution. This is the principle of noncriminalization of the behavior of the victim of trafficking, which has been articulated in United Nations Regulation No 2002/4 on the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Kosovo, stating that "a person is not criminally responsible for prostitution or illegal entry, presence or work in Kosovo, if that person provides evidence that supports a reasonable belief that he or she was the victim of trafficking."

The Principle of No-Fault Liability in Civil Actions. Treating trafficked persons as victims means that the fault of the victim of trafficking should not be a hindrance in a civil compensation action. A victim should not be denied civil remedy by being blamed for her own victimization. This is principle of no-fault liability, which should implemented by a civil judge. Treating trafficked persons as victims also means that a victim of trafficking must be granted the opportunity to abandon the illegal work and allowed to apply for employment, which is valid under the law.

To What Extent Does the 2003 TIP Report Consider the Issue of Demand? The TIP Report addresses the issue of demand by making explicit references to the law of Sweden stating that "the Government...passed a pioneering law that criminalizes the purchase rather than the sale of sex..." The TIP Report also makes reference to the Islamic law approach to the issue of demand explicitly stating that in Saudi Arabia "Islamic law prohibits sexual relationships outside the context of marriage and provides for strict penalties if the law is breached." The TIP Report rightly criticizes the application of Islamic law in Pakistan when it states "If rape or forced prostitution cases are prosecuted under the Islamic law-oriented Hudood ordinances, victims are reluctant to testify since, the woman's testimony is tantamount to an admission of adultery if prosecutors conclude that her testimony does not meet the burden of proof." This application is inconsistent with the Qur'anic legislation, which states that women should not be forced into prostitution and if they are compelled they should not be punished because they have been forced into prostitution (Holy Qu'ran, Surah 24:33).

In a statement I submitted for the hearing before the Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, 107th Congress, Second Session, June 19, 2002, I stated that although the TVPA does not require that the TIP Report takes into consideration "the extent of trafficking" but only "the extent to which the country is a country of origin, transit, or destination for severe forms of trafficking" warning about the harm of prostitution must be addressed in any program warning against the danger of trafficking. It is not clear to what extent the TIP Report takes into consideration the issue of demand in placing countries in certain tiers. Only the countries of Ghana, Lithuania, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates out of the 26 countries placed on Tier 1 outlaw prostitution. The other 22 countries legalize, decriminalize, or tolerate prostitution.

This approach is inconsistent with the TVPA, which explicitly distinguishes between sex trafficking and labor trafficking and does not consider sex as a form of labor. A review of this approach is imperative in light of the Trafficking in Persons National Security Directive of February 2003 which explicitly states that "Prostitution and related activities, which are inherently harmful and dehumanizing, contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons..."

Potential Victims of Trafficking: Preventive Legal Measures to Combat Trafficking. The causes of vulnerability of women and children must be addressed in any preventive legal response, which must address poverty, lack of education, unemployment, gender discrimination, and other root causes of the trafficking infrastructure.

Birth registration laws should be enforced in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child since unregistered children, such as 400,000 children in Honduras, are left vulnerable to exploitation. They do not attend school and they are targeted by traffickers who force them to work or sexually exploit them. Labor laws regarding the minimum age of employment should be enforced so that children do not enter the workforce at an age where they can be subject to exploitation. Similarly, the laws regarding the age of marriage, the age of consent and the age of majority must also be enforced.

The Legal System Must Allow For a Role of Non-Governmental Organizations. Laws that regulate the activities of organizations within civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations and advocacy groups, must also be reviewed in any legislative attempt to combat trafficking in persons. NGOs play a vital role coordinating with governmental agencies and providing services to victims of trafficking. Unfortunately, many countries are still ruled by authoritarian leaders who do not allow elements of civil society to perform these functions. 3. An Immigration Policy Approach: Granting a Victim of Trafficking a Residency Status in the Country of Destination

The Trafficked Victim: A Prohibited Immigrant Under Traditional Immigration Law. Traditional immigration law treated a trafficked victim as a "prohibited immigrant" who is ineligible for admission or entry into the country "if such persons is a...prostitute" and "prostitution is a grounds for deportation." This is the rule in Section 22 of the Immigration and Deportation Act of Zambia, Section 8 of the Immigration Act of Uganda, Article 10 of the Tanzania Citizenship Act, Section 9 of the Immigration Act of Swaziland, Section 31 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act of Sri Lanka, Section 8 of the Immigration Act of Mauritius, Section 5 Immigration Law of Malta, Section 3 of the Proclamation Regulation the Issuance of Travel Documents and visas and Registration of Foreigners of Ethiopia and Section 14 of the Immigration Act of Zimbabwe. This traditional immigration law policy must shift its focus from denying women in prostitution entry into a foreign country to recognizing trafficking as a grounds for inadmissibility.

The Entertainment Visa as a Disguised Vehicle for Trafficking: Strict Regulations Must be Enforced. A legal system must control issuance of visas so that traffickers do not take advantage of existing types of visas that disguise the real purpose of travel of the holder of the visa. Although entertainment visas are used properly and legally in some countries, the law must provide for strict requirements so that such visas are not used illegally by the traffickers. In Cyprus the law allows for only 15 entertainment visas per nightclub and requires that prospective employers apply for the visa on behalf of the employee. The Thai law requires a letter issued by the employer confirming responsibility of the applicant for the entertainment visa and specifying the time of employment. In Norway, an entertainer who obtains an entertainment visa may work for a period of no more than one year, and an applicant for an entertainment visa must submit a written contract specifying the terms of employment. In Chile, the law requires an explicit authorization from the Ministry of Interior for the approval of an entertainment visa. In Portugal before the issuance of the entertainment visa, an inquiry is conducted into the criminal record and medical history of the applicant. The South Korean law requires HIV testing in addition to identity references. This month, South Korea ceased issuing entertainment visas to Philippine dancers because of the high numbers of women being trafficked to South Korea under the auspices of working as dancers.

Withholding the Travel Documents of Foreign Nations: A Call for the Abolition of the Sponsorship Rule. The February 23-26, 2003 International Conference on Pathbreaking Strategies in the Global Fight against Sex Trafficking states in its recommendations released by the State Department that "the holding of passports and other travel documents by employers of foreign workers" must be outlawed. As I stated in an article published in Volume 26, Fordham International Law Journal, March 2003 entitled "Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in Countries of the Middle East: The Scope of the Problem and the Appropriate Legislative Responses," the sponsorship rule is still followed in some countries of the Middle East and it must be abolished. It is encouraging that the Council of Ministers Decree, No. 166 (July 12, 2001) of Saudi Arabia has provided that the relationship between the employer and the alien employee must be regulated in accordance with the employment contract and not the sponsorship rule.

Is Trafficking in Persons a Crime Against the State or a Crime Against the Individual: A Call for a Humanitarian Basis for Granting Victims of Trafficking an Immigration Status.

Deportation is still the norm in most parts of the world including the countries of the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Asia. It reflects a traditional immigration law approach. Legal systems differ as to the basis of granting victims of trafficking a residency status.

In Belgium, a residency status is dependent upon the "legal proceedings." First, a 45 day period is granted to allow the victim to decide whether to make statements (a complaint against the trafficker) or to prepare for a return to his or her country of origin. Second, a victim who has made a statement or filed a complaint during the 45 day period receives a temporary permit valid for three months and a temporary work permit for the same period. Third, if the prosecuting authorities decided to proceed with the case, the residency permit becomes valid for longer periods, usually six months, which may be renewed until the legal proceedings are concluded. Then the victim returns to their country of origin.

In Germany, the Aliens Act grants victims of trafficking a grace period of at least 28 days to decide whether to cooperate with the authorities as witnesses or prepare to return to their country of origin. In Portugal, victims of trafficking can obtain a residency permit if they cooperate with prosecutors. In Hungary, the Alien Act provides for the possibility of suspending an expulsion order against victims of trafficking if they intend to testify against their traffickers. In Italy, the immigration law of 1998 provides victims of trafficking who are aliens, a special residency permit for a six month period. In Spain, a victim of trafficking, under a 2000 Act, is not to be deported if such victim reports the perpetrators of such trafficking to the proper authorities. They are granted temporary work permits. Once the legal proceedings are completed, the government facilitate the return of the victims of trafficking to their country of origin.

In the Netherlands, expulsion of an illegal alien who is a victim of trafficking may be suspended for three months during which such victim decides to report the trafficking offense. If the victim decides to report, a residency permit is issued for the complete duration of the investigation, prosecution and trial. However, a residency permit may also be issued to a victim of trafficking upon the conclusion of the criminal proceedings. Such permit is granted on humanitarian grounds which includes the risk of reprisals against the victim or her family, the risk of persecution in the victim's country of origin for committing an offense related to prostitution, and the difficulty of social reintegration in the country of origin.

The TVPA does not require the victim of trafficking to testify in court to be eligible for a residency status under T-visa regulations. A victim of trafficking need only comply with any reasonable request for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of acts of trafficking. A victim may apply for an adjustment of the temporary status to acquire a permanent residency status. This new immigration policy shifts the focus from interception-detention-repatriation to prevention-

protection-prosecution. This is a human rights approach to trafficking in persons, which must be followed by all legal systems.

The 2003 TIP Report Documenting Countries that Provide a Residency Status. The TIP Report takes into consideration whether a country provides a victim of trafficking a temporary or permanent residency status. The TIP Report made references to the following countries:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Moldova, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Israel, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Macedonia, Pakistan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Bahrain. Other countries of destination must consider granting victims of trafficking a residency status.

4. A Human Rights Based Approach to Trafficking in Persons

Colombia, which is listed on Tier 1 of the 2003 TIP Report, recognizes, in Law No. 360, that "every person who is a victim of crimes against sexual liberty and human dignity has the right to be treated with dignity, privacy, and respect." This human rights approach must be emphasized in any anti-trafficking legislation in all legal systems.

A Bill of Rights for Victims of Trafficking. Victims of trafficking in persons should be entitled to basic human rights, especially the right to safety, the right to privacy, the right to information, the right to legal representation, the right to be heard in court, the right to compensation for damages, the right to medical assistance, the right to social assistance, the right to seek residence, and the right to return to their country of origin. Victims of trafficking should be treated with dignity, fairness, compassion and respect for their human rights.

The Double Witness Rule or the Corroborative Evidence Rule: A Violation of the Right of a Victim of Trafficking to be Heard in Court. These rights are being violated by legal systems that still follow the double witness rule or the corroborative evidence rule, which provides that in cases of trafficking in persons, the admission of evidence of only one witness is not permissible unless the witness's testimony is corroborated by another witness or other material evidence implicating the accused. This rule means that we are not treating the victim of trafficking as a credible witness. The rule is contradictory to the UN Protocol which mandates that "views and concerns (of the victims of trafficking) must...be presented and considered...against offenders." (Article 6(2)(b)). This rule is followed by the legal systems of the countries of The Bahamas, Botswana, Fiji, Gambia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, and St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Zambia.

Special Testimonial Rules for a Child Witness. Special testimonial rules must be adopted to meet the special needs of child witnesses. A child witness should be allowed to testify outside the court or in court without the presence of the offender. A child witness should also to be accompanied by a proper guardian.

Protection of the Right of Privacy of the Victim and the Derivative Victim Doctrine. Victims of trafficking are entitled to the right to privacy, which should extend to members of the victim's family, in accordance with the derivative victim doctrine. The United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power defines the term victim to include "the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization." The Declaration calls for "taking measures to minimize inconvenience to victims, protect their privacy, when necessary, and ensure their safety, as well as that of their families and witnesses on their behalf; from intimidation and retaliation." These measures must be explicitly recognized in an anti-trafficking legislation.

Extending Witness Protection Programs to Victims of Trafficking. Victims of trafficking should be entitled to the right to safety. They must be included in any witness protection program. Such program does not apply except when a witness is testifying in cases involving serious crimes. For instance, the witness protection program under the United States Victim and Witness Protection Act provides for protection of a witness in proceedings concerning "an organized criminal activity or other serious offense." So the TVPA had to recognize trafficking as "an organized criminal activity or other serious offense" for the purpose of applying the witness protection program to victims of trafficking.

Recently, a number of countries enacted special witness protection laws including the law of July 14, 1999 of Portugal on "Governing the Enforcement of Measures on the Protection of Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings;" the law of March 2, 2001 of Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Special Witness Identity Protection in Criminal Proceedings;" the Law No. 137/2001 of Czech Republic on "The Special Protection of a Witness and Other Persons in Connection With Criminal Proceedings," the Law of January 28, 1998 on "State Protection of the Victim, of Witnesses and Other Persons Who

Provide Assistance in the Criminal Proceedings" of Moldova; and the August 31, 2001 Witness Protection Program Act of Canada. Other legal systems should adopt similar measures to include victims of trafficking in witness protection programs. Victims of Trafficking Should be Entitled to Civil Compensation: a TVPA Shortcoming. Victims of trafficking should be entitled to the right to compensation for damages. Civil compensation is not restitution and restitution should not be a substitute for civil compensation. While the TVPA empowers a criminal court to order restitution, it does not provide victims of trafficking the ability to file a private civil action for damages. Other legal systems allow for such possibility including the right of trafficked person to seek punitive damages "when the degree of the exploitation or the degree of relationship or the dominating position of the offender with regard to the victim so require.

" And I am quoting the 2000 Cyprus Combating of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law. So while the award of restitution depends upon a conviction of a crime and is a part of the sentencing of such crime, civil compensation should be awarded even if the trafficker is not convicted. I would also like to see the state itself paying for such compensation when an official of the state, whether that official is a police officer, an immigration officer, or any other public official is involved in the trafficking scheme.

5. Trafficking in Persons as a Foreign Policy Objective: The Role of the United States in Assisting Foreign Countries in Drafting Anti- Trafficking Legislation.

As I stated in an article entitled "Monitoring the Status of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Foreign Countries: Sanctions Mandated Under the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act", *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Summer/Fall 2003, Vol. X, Issue 1:

"Human rights have been an important foreign policy objective of the United States... This policy provides that "the United States shall, in accordance with its international obligations as set forth in the charter of the United Nations and in keeping with the constitutional heritage and traditions of the United States, promote and encourage increased respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Accordingly, a principal goal of the foreign policy of the United States shall be to promote the increased observance of internationally recognized human rights by all countries."... The TVPA explicitly recognized trafficking in persons as a "grave violation of human rights" and "a matter of pressing international concern." I also stated that "(M)onitoring and combating trafficking in persons in foreign countries is not limited to reporting on the status of severe forms of trafficking in these countries. The United States Congress was not satisfied with merely making a statement of condemnation of human rights violation in the context of trafficking. Congress, in addition to the reporting process, decided to "name names" or engage in "shaming" by classifying countries into different categories, depending on their efforts to combat trafficking through the three tier model. It is also the policy of the United States, under the TVPA, to take actions against governments that do not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and are not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with such standards. However, sanctions against governments must be carefully considered and applied in light of the numerous exceptions stipulated in the TVPA, especially when sanctions have adverse affects on the innocent population, including women and children. Sanctions should not be imposed when providing assistance instead of imposing sanctions will induce the offending government to make the necessary efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as required by the TVPA." The United States should continue its policy of constructive engagement.

Constructive Engagement: The Need for Extending the State Department Legislative Assistance to Countries of the Middle East and Latin America. Congress recognized in Section 102 of the TVPA states that "(E)xisting legislation...in ...other countries (is) inadequate to deter trafficking and bring traffickers to justice, failing to reflect the gravity of the offenses involved." The TVPA provides for assistance to foreign countries especially in "... drafting of laws to prohibit and punish acts of trafficking" (Section 109).

The United States, through the Department of State and in cooperation with the Department of Justice and other agencies, has been assisting countries in drafting comprehensive antitrafficking legislation. These countries include: the ECOWAS countries, countries in Southeastern Europe, the Philippines, Togo, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Russia.

It is to be noted that none of the countries of the Middle East except Sudan were placed in Tier 3, although none of these countries have a specific anti-trafficking legislation. Morocco and United Arab Emirates were placed in Tier 1, while Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were placed on Tier 2. The Department of State has worked closely with some of these countries to improve the status of victims of trafficking and the results of these efforts were fairly documented in the narratives of the 2003 TIP Report, regardless of the discretionary judgment that was made re-

garding the placement of a country in a particular tier. I urge the Department of State to continue such efforts in the area of legislation, which I think believe reform.

Similarly, most legal systems in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean still follow the traditional legal approach to trafficking and do not have a specific anti-trafficking legislation. Again, many countries within this region need the guidance of the Department of State in drafting comprehensive and effective anti-trafficking legislation.

The Role of Anti-Trafficking Legislation in Placing Countries in a Particular Tier in the 2003 TIP Report. Although the TIP Report takes into consideration whether a country has a specific anti-trafficking legislation that criminalizes trafficking and provides for the appropriate sentence for such trafficking, it is not clear to what extent the TIP Report considers legislation in placing countries in the three tiers. It may be argued that absence of an anti-trafficking legislation should be a determinative factor excluding a country from **Tier 1**. The same argument has previously been made regarding prosecution, which has been characterized as the most important criterion of serious and sustained efforts to eliminate **trafficking in persons**. In my judgment the TVPA rightly does not indicate any priority to be given to any particular criterion of the seven criteria stipulated in Section 108.

As I stated in my aforementioned article: "The minimum standards adequately address the various aspects of the problem of trafficking. There is no doubt that combating trafficking requires effective prosecution of the traffickers, but the root causes of the problem must also be addressed. Preventive measures must be taken to decrease the supply of innocent women and children. In the meantime, the trafficked person must be treated as a victim and governments must establish the necessary protective programs to assist victims of trafficking."

"Does the TVPA require equal weight of these criteria in assessing government efforts to eliminate trafficking? It has been argued that prosecution should be considered the most important criterion of serious and sustained efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons, since the very first indicator is "whether the government of the country vigorously investigates and prosecutes acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons that take place wholly or partly within the territory of the country." The TVPA, however, does not indicate that it lists these criteria in any particular order. The seventh and last criteria in determining such efforts, is "whether the government of the country vigorously investigates and prosecutes public officials who participate in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking in persons, and take all appropriate measures against officials who condone such trafficking." If one follows this argument, it may be concluded that the TVPA considers combating public corruption as the least important indicator of government efforts in eliminating trafficking. Official corruption threatens any efforts to combat trafficking and it must be confronted, otherwise any preventive measures or protective initiatives taken by the government would be severely and adversely affected. Abuse of public office for private gain circumvents the implementation of human rights, since misuse of government expenditures results in misallocation of resources, denying the population the right to education, employment, health and adequate living conditions. Another problem with this argument is that it may implicitly indicate that prevention of the root causes of trafficking is less important, although as it has been pointed out that "prevention is the key" in combating trafficking in persons. In addition, while prosecution of the traffickers is an important tool in the fight against trafficking, many governments still treat trafficked persons as criminals who are not entitled to any rights. The mere fact that governments have changed their policies towards the protection of the trafficked person must be considered a "serious" step towards eliminating trafficking, even if such governments have not yet taken all the necessary measures to investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking, especially since the legislator never intended that governments would be required to fulfill all the criteria listed in the TVPA as an indication of its serious and sustained efforts."

The United States "Model Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons" as a Model of a AntiTrafficking Legislation to be Borrowed by Foreign Countries. The Model Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons released by the Department of State in March 2003 serves as a good model of an anti-trafficking legislation. The Model Law is based upon the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the United Nations Regulation No 2002/4 on the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Kosovo; the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and the Romanian Law on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The explanatory notes to the Model Law make references to these laws. I believe that other comparative anti-trafficking laws must also be considered in assisting foreign countries to design a comprehensive and effective legal response to combat trafficking in persons.

Bernhard Grossfeld, a comparative law scholar, recognized in "The Strengths and Weakness of Comparative Law" that "law develops mainly by borrowing" and "the ability of a legal system to react to change depends in large part on its ability to make good use of the experiences of other systems."

Since the Model Law follows the UN Protocol and promotes its definition of trafficking and the approach to combat the problem of trafficking, the United States should expedite the UN Protocol ratification process. As of today there are 25 countries that have already ratified the UN Protocol. We need forty instruments of ratification for the UN Protocol to become international law.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that a more comprehensive legislative reform is needed. An anti-trafficking legislation should not be limited to the specific provision in the criminal code. While any effective legal response to combating trafficking in persons should ideally be embodied in a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, such legal response should take into consideration all relevant laws to which I made reference in my testimony.

Thank you.

END

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Statement of Gary A. Haugen President & CEO, International Justice Mission

Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights Committee on House International Relations

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Gary Haugen and I serve as the President of International Justice Mission (IJM). On behalf of IJM, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for the privilege of participating in this important hearing on Global Trends in Trafficking and the Trafficking in Persons Report.

International Justice Mission is an international human rights agency that provides a hands-on, operational field response to cases of human rights abuse referred to us from faith-based ministries serving around the world. Frequently these workers observe severe human rights abuses in the communities where they serve. These workers refer these cases to us, and then we conduct a professional investigation to document the abuses and mobilize intervention on behalf of the victims.

Many of the cases referred to us involve women and children abducted into sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Accordingly, we deploy criminal investigators to infiltrate the brothels, use surveillance technology to document where the victims are being held, and then identify secure police contacts who will conduct raids with us to release the victims and arrest the perpetrators. We then coordinate the referral of these victims to appropriate aftercare, and support and monitor the prosecutions.

IJM investigators have spent literally thousands of hours infiltrating the sex trafficking industry and working with government authorities around the world to bring effective rescue to the victims and accountability to the perpetrators. In the process, IJM is gaining, I believe, some precise insights about the nature of the problem and helpful lessons about concrete steps that actually prove effective in fighting sex trafficking. We are grateful, therefore, for the opportunity to share something of what we have learned with this Committee.

Of course, most of what we have learned has come from the victims of sex trafficking themselves - the hundreds upon hundreds of individual women and girls whom we have come to know by name around the world. The hundreds of women and children who have been abducted, assaulted, bought and sold, tortured and raped as part of a moneymaking enterprise. Everything useful that we have learned has emerged from entering into the nightmare experience of girls like Balamani. We first came to know Balamani because another girl we had rescued from a brothel took us back on a follow-up raid to show us the underground dungeon in which other young trafficking victims were being hidden. Balamani was about 17-years-old when she was lured from her rural village in South Asia with promises of a job working as a domestic servant or at a medical center in the city. A local trafficker won her trust and diverted her to a larger city on the other side of the country where she was sold into a brothel for about \$170. Once inside the brothel she was ferociously beaten by the brothel keepers and forced to provide sex to the customers. From then on, Balamani had to service between 15 and 20 customers per day - 7 days a week - from 11:00 am until 5:00 am - every day for 10 months. Some police regularly frequented the brothel to collect their weekly bribe, and routinely threatened to take the young girls out as a way of extorting a larger bribe from the brothel keeper.

Based on information from other rescued girls, IJM was able to lead a raid on the brothel and rescue Balamani and about about a dozen other girls out of this nightmare of brutal rape and slavery. Balamani responded well to the provi-

sion of aftercare and was able to return to her village, find work, and even expressed a willingness to testify against the brutal brothel keepers who were now facing prosecution. But before she was able to do so, the deadly legacy of her abuse in the brothel seized her body. The HIV virus that had been forcibly injected into her body exploded into full-blown AIDS - and soon she lay dying on a gurney, painfully assaulted now by tuberculosis, meningitis and a host of sexually transmitted diseases. A few days ago, Balamani died with my colleagues by her side. She was slowly, and horribly murdered by the traffickers, pimps and brothel customers who abused her. And by the police who protected the criminals rather than the vulnerable teenage girl.

Balamani's story gives a face and a heart to the otherwise the mind-numbing statistics about the epidemic of sex trafficking in our world. But also within Balamani's story are insights about why this global atrocity is of the most preventable catastrophes on our world today.

The simple fact of the matter is this: sex trafficking only flourishes where it is tolerated by local law enforcement. The business of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation requires that the perpetrators commit multiple felonies of abduction, rape, assault, and false imprisonment - and then it requires that the perpetrators hold out the victims of these crimes openly to the public so that the customers can find them. It does no good at all for the brothel keepers and pimps to hide their victims. In fact, to make money on their investment, the pimps and brothel keepers must make their victims openly available to the customer public - and not just once, but continuously, and over a long period of time. Obviously, therefore, if the customers can find the victims of sex trafficking whenever they want, so can the police. How, therefore, do you possibly get away with running a sex trafficking enterprise? You do so only if permitted by local law enforcement. Generally, this is facilitated by bringing the police into the business and sharing the profits with them in exchange for protection against the enforcement of the laws that are openly and continuously violated every single day the business is in operation. Certainly sex trafficking is exacerbated by poverty and economic desperation; but we do not find epidemic levels of sex trafficking wherever we find poverty in the world. Rather, sex trafficking flourishes on a large scale only in those countries where it is tolerated by local law enforcement.

This is the indispensable insight about the fundamental vulnerability of sex trafficking that must be grasped. Sex trafficking requires the commission of multiple felonies in a way that is held out openly to the public. Therefore it can be shut down wherever there is the political will and operational resources to do so.

Sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation can be drastically reduced wherever a country has the political will and the operational capacity to send the perpetrators to jail and to treat the victims with compassion and dignity. This is a fight that can actually be won. In fact, this was the animating conviction behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The TVPA sought to influence the political will of countries with serious trafficking problems by making clear that there would be consequences for a country's relationship with the United States, including the possibility of sanctions, if that country did not make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking. Secondly, the TVPA also authorized grants to help strengthen a country's capacity to address sex trafficking through prevention, prosecution, and protection activities.

The authors of the TVPA understood that it was essential to strengthen both the political will and the operational capacity of countries to fight sex trafficking. It was well understood that in many countries the victims of sex trafficking fundamentally lack the voice and power to make themselves a priority for national law enforcement. Sex trafficking operations prey upon the most marginalized groups in society - women, children, refugees, undocumented persons, ethnic minorities and the poor. Fundamentally, political leaders do not feel threatened in their hold on power if they fail to protect impoverished and low-status women and girls. Scarce law enforcement resources are deployed to protect the things that societies value the most, and thus women and children are often left utterly vulnerable to the brutalities of the commercial sex trade. Accordingly, the TVPA endeavored to place the voice and values of the American people on the side of these vulnerable women and children by making it clear that their abuse would not be tolerated. Specifically, the TVPA established the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons to provide a voice of accountability for the otherwise voiceless victims of trafficking. This new office would tell the truth about whether a country was vigorously defending women and children against the horrors of trafficking, with the understanding that those countries unwilling to provide such basic protections would find an adverse impact on their relationship with the United States.

This was the theory behind the policy expressed in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. All of the great effort in passing the TVPA was intended to actually make a real-world difference for the women and children being crushed by the forces of sex trafficking. I offer this review simply to ask whether the policy is actually having its intended effect. What have we learned about the efforts to implement the policy that actually make a difference and what have we learned about those actions that undermine the impact of the policy? In a number of countries, IJM has been

working hand-in-hand with foreign governments, NGOs and State Department personnel to conduct hands-on operations to rescue victims and to bring perpetrators to justice, and we are learning about the practical impact of U.S. policy at the street level. Our experience is starting to demonstrate that, as we all hoped, the policy can have a tremendous impact if implemented vigorously.

What makes the policy actually work?

I would suggest three things:

Vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions; # A credible and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business; and # Focused and practical capacity building for sending perpetrators to jail and caring compassionately for victims.

I would like to take a moment to examine these one at a time. First, vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions.

The purpose of the Trafficking In Persons Report is simple: it is intended to provide accountability. Therefore, the report has its intended effect when it is actually written in a way that makes accountability easy, rather than making it hard. We should make no mistake. There are those who will have an interest in making clear accountability harder rather than easier - and there are ways to fashion a document that either promotes accountability or obscures accountability. Effective accountability is achieved when the Report provides specific, objective, transparent data on a government's actions that actually matter. And from the perspective of the sex traffickers, only two government actions matter: a) Is the government seriously threatening to actually send me to jail for doing this? and b) Is the government seriously threatening to remove the police protection that I have paid for?

Consequently, effective accountability regarding the seriousness of a government's efforts to combat trafficking will only begin to emerge when there is specific objective data on the number of successful trafficking-related convictions resulting in jail time, as well as data on the number of disciplinary actions that have been taken against police who are complicit in protecting sex trafficking operations (remembering that such operations simply don't exist on a significant scale without such protection).

Again, it must be emphasized that the relevant data point is convictions - not raids, arrests, and prosecutions. Traffickers, brothel keepers, and pimps are quite willing to endure raids, arrests, and even prosecutions if, at the end of the day, they don't have to actually go to prison. In fact, such actions are just considered part of the cost of doing business. Moreover, even the most corrupt police carry out raids, arrests and initiate prosecutions. In fact, they must do so in order to maintain the credible threat by which they extort bribes from the perpetrators. That is why countries with the worst sex trafficking records can report raids, arrests, and prosecutions; but such countries have very little to report in terms of actual convictions. None of these other actions turn into a credible law enforcement threat that actually deters sex trafficking unless they result in convictions with imprisonment. This is the only cost of doing business that the perpetrators are unwilling to pay.

This is why IJM is so pleased that the new Director of the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons, the Hon. John Miller, has adopted as the policy of his office that governments wishing to be certified as making serious efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking must bear the burden of providing objective data on trafficking-related convictions and police disciplinary actions. After all, these governments are themselves in the best position to report on their own positive actions, and the Office cannot be reasonably expected to affirmatively certify that a government is making significant efforts if the government provides no verifiable data on these two most basic responsibilities. Self-reporting by a government regarding its own counter-trafficking initiatives with follow-up by the State Department provides the best means for transparency and accountability. As the TIP Report states, ". . . national governments must supply such information."

The second ingredient for making the TVPA policy actually work has been a credible and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business.

In order to bring effective protection to women and children vulnerable to sex trafficking, governments must move counter-trafficking efforts from being a good idea to being an urgent priority. And in reality, the only dynamic that generates such a shift is usually the belief that something bad will happen if they fail to do so. This is why the threat of possible sanctions was incorporated within the legislation for countries placed on **Tier 3** of the **Trafficking In Persons**

Report (TIP). In this regard, we have found that trafficking issues become an urgent priority for the worst offending countries only after they have been placed on **Tier 3** or faced a credible risk of being placed on **Tier 3**. While some countries may diplomatically protest their placement on **Tier 2**, foreign governments clearly understand that actual consequences for their poor trafficking record only kick in if they are on **Tier 3**. Among countries with serious trafficking problems, therefore, it is only the credible risk of **Tier 3** sanctions that actually moves countries to earnestly make the work of combating trafficking an urgent law enforcement priority, rather than just a public relations nuisance.

Accordingly, a TIP Report that presumes that Tier 3 status for certain countries is diplomatically intolerable or politically untenable severely undermines the effectiveness of the TIP Report process. An unspoken but de facto presumption against a Tier 3 ranking effectively freezes the status quo of the worst offending nations and weakens the TVPA's capacity to impact political will. It profoundly dishonors the suffering of women and children brutalized by sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Likewise, the TVPA's capacity to strengthen the political will of authorities to end the toleration of sex trafficking is utterly diluted by the failure to articulate clearly to foreign governments the straightforward requirements of the TVPA and the real risks of consequences associated with a poor trafficking record.

Finally, U.S. policy is effectively advanced through focused and practical capacity building for programs that send perpetrators to jail and care compassionately for victims. In addition to political will, foreign governments also need the practical wherewithal to take decisive law enforcement measures to combat trafficking and to care for the victims. Accordingly, U.S. policy is advanced by funding programs that address the intensely practical challenges of strengthening law enforcement capacities to investigate, arrest and successfully prosecute sex trafficking offenders. Programs are needed to support special anti-trafficking police units and prosecutorial teams with training, operational support, and hands-on assistance in achieving the priority outcome of sending offenders to jail and removing dirty cops.

Education, awareness, and poverty alleviation programs are important preventative measures, but such programs will never be able to keep pace with the entrepreneurial energy and creativity of the traffickers unless they are combined with practical programs that actually help make national law enforcement successful in sending perpetrators to jail. Police complicity in sex trafficking has been so pervasive and ugly that many have been tempted to imagine solutions that simply ignore the police. But in combating any crime, the answer to bad law enforcement is never no law enforcement - the answer must always be a committed struggle for better law enforcement.

Accordingly, IJM is very pleased that recent legislation has cleared the way for funding by USAID and other agencies of targeted programs that strengthen counter-trafficking activities of specialized police and prosecution units, as well as legal advocacy to protect victims and to bring perpetrators to justice. [See the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108- 7).]

Equally critical are programs that fund comprehensive and compassionate aftercare services for the victims of sex trafficking. Not only are such programs necessary to treat victims with the dignity and care that they deserve, but they are also absolutely indispensable for establishing the victim cooperation that is essential for any meaningful counter-trafficking endeavor. At present, the existing capacities for providing comprehensive aftercare for the victims of sex trafficking are tragically inadequate. In fact, IJM has found itself limited in the rescue operations it could conduct for victims because of the lack of aftercare capacity. This is a need that can and must be addressed by targeted and generous appropriations.

Additional opportunities to fund programs to fight sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation have emerged as a result of President Bush's bold initiative to combat the AIDS epidemic. Research has demonstrated that sex trafficking is one of the great engines driving the spread of the AIDS global pandemic, and while traditional AIDS prevention programs of education and awareness go a long way in helping women and girls make good choices in avoiding high-risk sexual activities, these programs do nothing to protect the millions of women and girls who do not get to make choices about their sexual encounters - particularly the millions of victims of commercial sexual exploitation like Balamani who are forcibly infected with the HIV virus. Accordingly, federal funding of programs aimed at combating the international AIDS epidemic must include support of programs to combat sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, or else America's effort to fight AIDS will simply fail to address one of the fundamental and certainly most brutal causes of the epidemic.

Finally, in recent weeks IJM has directly experienced the positive impact of U.S. policy in combating sex trafficking in Cambodia. More than two years ago, IJM began conducting extensive investigations into one of the most appalling cesspools of child prostitution in the world, a village called Svay Pak outside Phnom Penh where scores of girls between the ages of 5 and 12 were being sold in an open market for pedophiles and sex tourists. Over a two-year period we turned our investigative findings over to Cambodian authorities, but failed to obtain a satisfying response. Then last

year, the TIP Report placed Cambodia on Tier 3 and the new U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Ambassador Charles A. Ray, initiated a very proactive engagement with the senior Cambodian authorities on U.S. policy toward trafficking. This direct advocacy with Cambodian authorities and the excellent work of Ambassador Ray's staff, helped make it possible for IJM and the Cambodian authorities to bring rescue to 37 minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation out of Svay Pak, including about a dozen children between the ages of 5 and 10. In addition, approximately 12 suspects have been arrested and charged, with cooperative police investigations continuing with IJM to locate and prosecute additional suspects identified in our initial report.

Not only did these actions lead to the release of children from unspeakable horrors of sexual abuse; but also perhaps of even greater long-term significance, the senior Cambodian police official who was allegedly protecting and profiting from the child sex industry in Svay Pak has now been fired and finds himself behind bars facing a closely monitored prosecution. This is, of course, the other face of sex trafficking - the face of those police and public authorities who provide the official protection without which the open assault and rape of children could never flourish. When such corrupt authorities are brought to account, it will be the traffickers and brothel keepers who will live in fear, rather than the children of Cambodia, or South Asia, or West Africa or Eastern Europe. We will not have to watch the Balamanis waste away in pain and death, but can secure for them the life of goodness and hope we seek for our own daughters.

In the case of Cambodia, Ambassador Ray, and representatives of the U.S. State Department were very successful in making clear to the Cambodian authorities the priority that American foreign policy places on addressing sex trafficking. Senior Cambodian authorities were well and effectively briefed on the dynamics and significance of the tier rating system of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and on the consequences of failing to make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating trafficking. Consequently, by the time IJM was able to brief the Cambodian authorities on our latest Svay Pak investigation, they were prepared to provide extraordinary cooperation in working with IJM to seek rescue for the victims and to pursue accountability for the perpetrators. We believe that the advocacy of the U.S. Embassy with the Cambodian authorities was an indispensable and decisive factor in generating effective law enforcement cooperation.

These actions have paved the way for significant and continuing progress in mobilizing effective law enforcement responses to human trafficking in Cambodia. Cambodian police authorities have had a positive experience of effective counter-trafficking investigations and enforcement actions with IJM that produced arrests, proper charges, and compelling evidence for prosecution. They have participated in groundbreaking procedures for humanely conducting victim interviews in the presence of a social worker and an NGO lawyer-monitor while being videotaped. They have also requested further training from IJM in effective counter- trafficking investigations and enforcement actions.

Of course, it will be very important to continue to monitor the actions of the Cambodian authorities as they follow up on these specific cases, and as they persevere in vigorous efforts to investigate and successfully prosecute sex trafficking crimes on an on-going basis. Cambodia has had a very poor record of tolerating sex trafficking (especially among very young children) and such a record cannot be turned around overnight. But we believe that a very promising beginning has been made in supporting the Cambodian government in taking a new direction to seriously combat sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

We believe these encouraging events help to serve as a model for what can be achieved when there is transparent reporting through the TIP Report, a meaningful application of the tier rating system, direct advocacy by U.S. authorities at the highest levels of government, and tangible, practical assistance to foreign governments in bringing rescue to trafficking victims and justice to perpetrators.

I would also like to thank Congress for recently passing the PROTECT Act, paving the way for U.S. Attorneys' Offices to vigorously prosecute Americans who travel abroad and exploit young girls. The Act eliminates the intent requirement and necessitates only that a prosecutor prove an American committed an illicit sexual act abroad. As the little victims in Cambodia have told my colleagues, many of their clients were Americans. It is imperative that the U.S. crush the demand created by its own citizenry.

IJM looks forward to continuing its constructive work with the U.S. State Department, foreign governments, and partner NGOs in helping to ensure that the promises of U.S. policy in fighting sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation deliver tangible results to vulnerable women and children and hastens the day when these brutal enterprises of rape-for-profit are simply put out of business.

Thank you very much.

LOAD-DATE: July 2, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TESTIMONY-BY: GARY A. HAUGEN, PRESIDENT & CEO

AFFILIATION: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

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301 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Bahrain Tribune

June 19, 2003 Thursday

Kingdom lauded for protection of expats' rights, BAHRAIN TRIBUNE**LENGTH:** 578 words

Recent efforts by the government of Bahrain to push through legal measures and increase awareness of human-rights issues among migrant workers has won conditional praise for the Kingdom from international rights groups. The Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons** (OMCTP), which maintains a record of countries' efforts to eliminate such activities, recently moved Bahrain from **tier 3** to **tier 2** level in light of its improvement in legal and human-rights conditions in the Kingdom.

"It's a significant victory for Bahrain, and although everybody acknowledges that much still needs to be done, it's a sign that we're proceeding in the right direction," said Nabeel Rajab, vice-president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) which has a subcommittee, the Migrant Workers Group (MWG), that works with victims of workplace abuse.

"The government of Bahrain has made significant efforts to do so. The government has made great progress in the areas of prevention and prosecution but it should expand services provided to victims and needs to continue to expand prosecution efforts," commented OMCTP in its report announcing the improvement in Bahrain's status. Bahrain's newly created inter-ministerial task force which drafted and organized the distribution of a manual on the rights of expatriate workers came in for special praise. The manual was distributed earlier this year to local embassies, Bahraini embassies abroad and manpower-recruitment agencies in Bahrain. It also drafted a simpler brochure for distribution to workers in their languages.

The task force also announced plans to set up a shelter for workers caught in disputes with their employers, a move that was welcomed by rights groups and embassies as being particularly necessary for housemaids. While the government does not regularly provide assistance to victims, it does provide shelter in many cases. There is no established system for providing legal or psychological services but emergency medical treatment is available to anyone in Bahrain. In cases where mediation does not succeed, government officials assist workers in finding lawyers to pursue legal action.

The government often allows temporary residency during disputes and permits a foreigner to work while he or she seeks settlement or legal redress. These were considered by OMCTP in its assessment of Bahrain and helped swing the vote in favor of Bahrain's "improved status," according to BCHR.

In order to certify that employers need the number of foreign workers for whom they are requesting visas and to inspect working conditions, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs increased the number of labor inspectors from nine to 40.

The government recently reformed work-sponsorship rules to allow foreign workers to change sponsors or jobs without a no-objection letter from their current sponsor. This allows foreign workers to legally remove themselves from potentially abusive situations.

Victims of abuse in Bahrain come primarily from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka to work as domestic servants and in the construction industry. Female domestic servants have also often complained of abuse. Many low-skilled foreign workers in Bahrain have their passports withheld, their contracts altered and suffer non-payment of salaries of varying degrees and duration's.

The government has issued clear signals that trafficking and prostitution will be punished.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**EMEDIA-ACC-NO:** 200306194939.m38

JOURNAL-CODE: m38

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302 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Worldstream

June 17, 2003 Tuesday

Haitians protest trafficking of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic, lack of justice in shooting years ago

BYLINE: MICHAEL NORTON; Associated Press Writer

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 579 words

DATELINE: PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

Nearly two dozen Haitians demonstrated outside the Dominican Embassy on Tuesday to protest the Dominican government's failure to try a group of soldiers who allegedly shot and killed six Haitian migrant workers three years ago.

The migrants were aboard a truck entering the Dominican Republic when four soldiers, who said the vehicle failed to stop, opened fire on June 18, 2000. Six Haitians were killed and 22 were injured. One Dominican man, who was a friend of the truck driver's, was also killed.

"The soldiers have not been brought to justice. We are demanding justice for the victims," said Colette Lespinasse, director of the Haitian Refugee and Repatriate Support group that organized the demonstration of about 20 placard-brandishing protesters in suburban Petionville.

Haitians, who live in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, often pay traffickers to take them to the Dominican Republic where they work on farms or in construction. Although they provide a source of cheap labor, Haitians are often mistreated and discriminated against once they arrive in the Spanish-speaking country, which shares the same island as Haiti.

The workers who survived the border shooting three years ago said they paid about 1,000 gourdes - which at the time was about \$US50 - to a Dominican driver who organized the trip.

A Dominican court summoned the soldiers for questioning but they have failed to show up for each the hearings, Lespinasse said.

It is unclear whether the soldiers have been charged, or whether they are still in the Dominican military.

The State Department has put 15 countries on a **blacklist**, accusing them of failing to reduce **human trafficking**. Among the countries on the list that could face sanctions are the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

It is not known how many Haitian workers, fleeing poverty and unemployment at home, cross the border illegally every year. But about 500,000 Haitians live in the Dominican Republic.

An estimated 350,000 live in the country illegally. Last year, Dominican authorities expelled some 15,000.

The two countries' rocky relations date back centuries. In the late 1930s, troops taking orders from Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo massacred at least 20,000 Haitians along the border. Both sides have tried to mend the relationship since.

"The fundamental problem is poverty in Haiti. Two hundred years of bad government is responsible for that," said Dominican Ambassador Alfredo Despradel Cabral, who met the demonstrators at the embassy's gate on Tuesday and accepted their letter of protest.

The State Department report, which came out last week, also named Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burma, Cuba, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Liberia, North Korea, Sudan, Suriname and Uzbekistan as countries who weren't doing enough to stop human trafficking.

For the first time, countries that do not take actions to stop human trafficking could face the loss of U.S. assistance, though the government can waive any penalties. The sanctions would take effect Oct. 1.

"Haiti is doing a lot to combat this scourge, in fact it is doing more to fight it than are other countries that have not been blacklisted," government spokesman Mario Dupuy said.

The Haitian Parliament prohibited trafficking in persons on May 15.

Border efforts include steps to increase specialized patrols. A presidential commission is also addressing border issues, he said.

On the Net:

State Department: <http://www.state.gov>

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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303 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Bahrain Tribune

June 17, 2003 Tuesday

Kingdom praised for rights awareness, BAHRAIN TRIBUNE

LENGTH: 580 words

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304 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Kenya; Women Forced to Toil Abroad

BYLINE: The Nation**LENGTH:** 365 words

An unspecified number of Kenyan women are on forced labour in Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries.

Kenyan children were often trafficked to Uganda for work, says the US State Department in a new report on human trafficking worldwide.

It claims that internal trafficking also occurred in Kenya in form of forced child labour and prostitution, adding that many of Kenya's estimated 200,000 street children were engaged in prostitution.

The Nation was unable to independently verify claims in the report, which is compiled with the help of US embassy staff.

"The Government of Kenya does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, it is making significant efforts to do so despite severe resource constraints," says the document.

As a result of that assessment, Kenya is included in a group of 74 countries that, according to the State Department, are striving to comply with international anti-trafficking agreements. This "Tier 2" category includes most sub-Saharan nations. "Kenya should prosecute traffickers more vigorously and act against corruption among police and immigration officials," it says.

The country had made some progress in protecting its children, the report says, adding that district advisory committees had been established to monitor child-labour issues and provide services.

It adds that "the government is removing street children, placing them in youth homes and in social halls, and providing them with meals and shelter to prevent them from being victimised."

"Free primary education has been reinstated as a means to assist vulnerable populations and prevent trafficking," the report says.

Some 26 countries - mostly in Europe but also including Ghana and Mauritius - are listed in the report's top tier of states fully compliant with anti-trafficking standards.

Sudan and Liberia are among 15 countries consigned to the bottom **tier** and the US says it may cut off most forms of aid to them unless they acted more effectively to prevent **human trafficking**. The department said it could not get information to assess conditions in seven countries, including Somalia and Mauritius.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

305 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 13, 2003**Transcript: U.S. "Strongly Committed" to Combating Human Trafficking; June 12: Douglas Davidson to OSCE Permanent Council****SECTION:** NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE**LENGTH:** 1065 words

U.S. diplomat Douglas Davidson told the OSCE Permanent Council June 12 that the United States is working with international organizations, foreign governments and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons both in the U.S. and abroad.

Davidson made his remarks the day after the U.S. State Department published its annual human trafficking report. "Trafficking in persons, whether in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation, is a serious human rights abuse and transnational crime," he said, adding that "our goal in issuing this report is not to finger-point, but rather inspire all of us to strengthen our efforts to fight this scourge."

He also said the Justice Department will be issuing a progress report on the U.S. government's domestic anti-trafficking efforts later this year.

The United States "will continue working with other countries to develop programs, policies, law enforcement capabilities, and protection efforts to step up our fight against trafficking in persons," Davidson said. "We believe that the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Action Plan currently being negotiated will help forward this agenda."

Following are Davidson's remarks:

(begin transcript)

United States Mission to the OSCE Vienna June 12, 2003

RELEASE OF THE REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Douglas A. Davidson to the Permanent Council

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to announce the release yesterday of the United States Trafficking in Persons Report for year 2003. A U.S. federal law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, requires the Secretary of State to submit to United States Congress an annual report on Trafficking in Persons. The Department has prepared the third such report.

This year's report records the efforts of more than 100 countries, most of which share our concern over this issue and, which like us, are working to combat trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in persons, whether in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation, is a serious human rights abuse and transnational crime. Various United States Government agencies are working to combat this growing phenomenon in cooperation with international organizations - including the OSCE, as well as with foreign governments and NGOs.

We are also doing a bit more at home. The U.S. Government is strongly committed to combating trafficking in persons both in the U.S. and abroad. Our domestic efforts include an anti-trafficking law that enhances pre-existing criminal penalties and affords protections to trafficking victims, the President's Interagency Task Force to coordinate implementation of the Act, training for our law enforcement and prosecutorial officers, and funding for programs to help victims. We are also anticipating the release of our own Department of Justice report, which will explain the United States' efforts to combat trafficking in persons within our own borders.

The transnational character of trafficking in persons means that countries of origin, transit and destination must recognize that trafficking is a crime that threatens both societies and individuals, and therefore must collaborate to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers. This requires government coordination on national strategies, and coordination on the local level.

We are pleased that we have strengthened cooperation with many states since the first two reports. The USG will continue working with other countries to develop programs, policies, law enforcement capabilities, and protection efforts to step up our fight against trafficking in persons. We believe that the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Action Plan currently being negotiated will help forward this agenda.

In addition, we continue to expand our programmatic assistance to NGOs and committed governments working aggressively to combat trafficking in persons. In the last two years the U.S. government has invested over \$100 million in programs to address prevention of trafficking, protection and assistance to victims, and prosecuting of traffickers for over 60 countries around the world.

In listing countries in this report it is our intention to recognize the efforts of countries making concrete efforts to fight trafficking as well as those countries that are not.

I want to note here that we do not exclude ourselves from scrutiny when it comes to combating trafficking in persons. The Department of Justice will be issuing a progress report on the U.S. Government's domestic anti-trafficking efforts later this year. Our goal in issuing this report is not to finger-point, but rather inspire all of us to strengthen our efforts to fight this scourge.

In compiling this report, the State Department drew from information from our embassies as well as reports by international organizations, media and NGOs. Additional information came from host governments, the Department of Justice, Department of Labor and USAID.

Each country was evaluated separately and was not compared to other countries. The State Department considered each country's efforts in light of the magnitude of the problem, and its resources and technical capabilities.

The 2003 **Trafficking in Persons** Report can potentially have serious policy and programmatic implications for those countries listed on **tier 3** of the report. Under the trafficking victims protection act (TVPA), sanctions, effective October 1, may be imposed on tier 3 countries. The TVPA's possible alternatives to these sanctions include a determination of subsequent compliance, for example, that since the end of the reporting period the government has taken steps that effectively move it out of tier 3. If the facts support it, the Secretary of State can make a determination of subsequent compliance, and the government would no longer warrant being sanctioned.

So, the sanctions may not actually be applied to countries currently in Tier 3 if significant progress can be made prior to the October 1 deadline. The USG is committed to working with these and other countries to increase their success in combating trafficking, in the hope that all designated countries will make significant improvements by 2004. Our goal is to not see any country listed on tier 3.

Thank you.

(end transcript)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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306 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 13, 2003

Official Urges Expanded Alliances with NGOs Against Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Anthony Kujawa, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 550 words

Washington -- The United States needs to expand alliances and information sharing with non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the fight to end trafficking in persons, according to John Miller, Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Speaking June 12 to a group of NGO leaders at the department the day after his office released the third annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Miller called human trafficking the most important human rights issue of the century and urged greater cooperation between NGOs and governments to end the practice. Miller praised NGOs as "the pillars" in the fight against human trafficking.

Compilation of the trafficking in persons (TIP) report is required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act passed by Congress in 2000. It outlines a three-tier system for classifying nations depending on how aggressively they are acting to prevent **trafficking in persons**, to prosecute those associated with this form of organized criminal activity, and to protect victims.

Those nations found to be unresponsive to international calls for specific actions to control **human trafficking** are placed in **Tier 3**. Now reaching its third year of implementation, the law calls for the possible imposition of certain sanctions against nations found to be in that category.

"It is not just about the courts, the documents, laws and sanctions, this is about individuals who have lost their freedom," said Miller.

Recently passed anti-trafficking laws in Haiti and the Philippines, arrests of human traffickers in Cambodia and Serbia, and U.S. embassy reports of an increase in anti-trafficking activities by many governments in the months leading up to the report's release, Miller said, demonstrate "how powerful a tool this report can be."

"This shows that the U.S. legislation with its combination of carrots and sticks is having some effect," said Miller.

"It shows how much more effort there can be in the next four months [by October 1, 2003]," he said, before President Bush, as required by the law, decides whether sanctions will be applied or waived for nations in the "Tier-3" category.

The nations placed in "Tier-3" that could be subject to sanctions, according to the 2003 TIP report, are Belize, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burma, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Liberia, North Korea, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

But Miller emphasized that the goal of the report is "not to punish, but to bring about progress" and to gain "more significant efforts by countries to abolish modern-day slavery."

One of our priorities in the coming year, added Miller, is to examine the demand side of trafficking. The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, he said, plans to create a program that developed nations can implement to reduce demand for sex tourism, such as working with airlines to enforce criminal laws.

"Don't think that this is just the end of the dialogue," said Miller, who urged NGOs to continue to make suggestions on how to make the report more effective, better pool resources and reach the common goal of ending human trafficking.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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307 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2003 Thursday

US lauds Russia's 'Herculean' anti-trafficking efforts

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 348 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 11

The United States on Wednesday lauded Russia for its "Herculean" effort to draft a law banning the trafficking in human beings that it said could be a model for the rest of the world.

The State Department, in its third annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report," rewarded Moscow for its work by promoting Russia from a "**Tier 3**" to "**Tier 2**" country, a designation that means it will escape possible sanctions for failing to combat trafficking.

Countries in Tier 3 risk losing non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US assistance unless they improve their records by October 1 or receive a waiver.

Russia was elevated to Tier 2 -- a designation that means it does not yet fully comply with US and international anti-trafficking requirements but is making a "significant effort" to do so -- because of improvements in its record, mainly in the drafting of the new law.

"Russia has been engaged in a Herculean effort in drafting what could well be a model anti-trafficking law," said John Miller, the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In addition, he said Russia had begun to sponsor and promote public awareness events educating mainly children and women of the dangers of trafficking and the perils of the sex trade and forced labor.

Still, the report notes deficiencies in Russia's efforts and says that the new law -- which is expected to be passed this month -- has not yet come into force.

"Russia's legal structure still does not allow for effective prosecution of traffickers, nor for victim assistance, and efforts to prosecute traffickers for related crimes have been largely unsuccessful," the report said.

Miller stressed that the United States would be watching Russia to see how the law is enforced and whether violators are prosecuted to the fullest possible extent.

"We're going to be looking closely at Russia and see how they perform over the coming year," he said. "We're going to look and see if this law is indeed passed and if on the ground it is implemented."

mvl/aln

US-trafficking-Russia

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

308 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2003 Thursday

Gulf countries improve trafficking records, escape US sanctions

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 468 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 11

The Gulf nations of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday escaped US censure for their efforts to combat the trafficking of human beings and were spared the possible imposition of sanctions, the State Department said.

In its third annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released on Wednesday, the department moved Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar out of its so-called "**Tier 3**" group of countries, inclusion in which can lead to sanctions, into "**Tier 2**" citing improvements in their anti-trafficking records.

Countries in Tier 3 will lose non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US assistance unless they improve their records by October 1 or receive a waiver.

The UAE was promoted directly from Tier 3 to Tier 1, skipping Tier 2, members of which do not fully meet US standards but are making "significant efforts" to comply and are therefore not subject to sanctions, the report said.

Tier 1 countries are those the department has found to be in full compliance with US and international efforts to stamp out the trafficking in human beings for forced labor and the sex trade.

The UAE's leap was almost entirely due to the country's decision last year to ban child camel jockeys, according to John Miller, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

"The United Arab Emirates has taken the lead in the Middle East in what has been a severe trafficking challenge in the Middle East camel jockeys," he told reporters.

The UAE is also moving to enforce the law using retinal scans and DNA tests which has led other countries in the region to consider similar bans, he said.

Qatar, another Tier 3 country last year, has improved its anti-trafficking efforts but is included in Tier 2 this year in part because it has not yet followed the UAE lead on the child camel jockey ban, according to the report.

"The government needs to take additional steps to prevent the use of children in camel jockey races," the report said.

Saudi Arabia was promoted from Tier 3 to Tier 2 because it "showed significant effort," Miller said, noting that Saudi embassies abroad had begun to inform foreign workers going to the kingdom to work of their rights.

In addition, Saudi Arabia established a reporting mechanism for victims of trafficking to report abuses, he said.

Bahrain's record also improved over the past year but still does not meet US standards for elevation beyond Tier 2, according to the report, which cited the chief trafficking problem there to be abuse of workers.

"The government has made great progress in the areas of prevention and prosecution, but it should expand services provided to victims, and needs to continue to expand prosecution efforts," it said.

mvl/aln

US-trafficking-Gulf

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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309 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2003 Thursday

Cambodia, Indonesia escape US trafficking sanctions, Myanmar berated

BYLINE: MATTHEW LEE

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 537 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 11

Cambodia and Indonesia on Wednesday escaped US censure for their efforts to combat the trafficking of human beings and spared the possible imposition of sanctions while Myanmar, already under heavy US criticism, was rebuked anew by the State Department.

In its third annual "**Trafficking in Persons** Report" released on Wednesday, the department moved both Cambodia and Indonesia out of its so-called "**Tier 3**" group of countries, inclusion in which can lead to sanctions, into "**Tier 2**" citing improvements in their records.

But Myanmar, the only other Southeast Asian nation to have been included in Tier 3 last year, remained so designated and will face a cut off in non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US aid unless it acts to meet Washington's trafficking concerns, according to the report.

"The government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the report said, using the former name of the country.

The report accused Myanmar's military rulers, now under US fire for their continued detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and their failure to adequately fight the narcotics trade, of complicity in trafficking people for forced labor.

"Government involvement in forced labor continues," it said, adding that Yangon's efforts to stamp out sex trafficking had been reluctant and achieved only mixed results.

"Burma's failure to make progress on forced labor more than offsets the government's improving, but still inadequate, record of combating trafficking for sexual exploitation," the report said, explaining the failing grade.

The problem of trafficking still exists in Cambodia and Indonesia, the report said, and much more needs to be done to successfully combat it but Phnom Penh and Jakarta both recognize their deficiencies and are working to fix them.

"Faced with limited resources, government officials have recognized that trafficking is a major problem confronting the country and have put in place new measures -- particularly in prosecution and law enforcement -- to address the challenge," the report said of Cambodia.

"Much remains to be done to build upon this modest start," it said.

In Indonesia, the report said the government had approved legislation aimed at protecting children from trafficking and was moving to improve its criminal code to effectively prevent and punish traffickers.

"Indonesia is (also) open to multilateral cooperation to combat trafficking ... but much remains to be done, particularly within the country," it said.

Southeast Asia has historically suffered from massive trafficking of people, particularly women and children, for the thriving international sex trade, but with the exception of Myanmar, all 10 of the countries in the region passed US muster, according to the report.

Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam remained in Tier 2 -- which means they do not fully meet US standards but are making "significant efforts" to comply -- for the second year in a row.

Singapore, which had been included in Tier 2 in 2002, was not mentioned in the 2003 report.

mvl/gs

US-trafficking-SEAsia

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310 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 12, 2003 Thursday

US allies Greece, Turkey angry over naming on sex trade blacklist

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 660 words

DATELINE: ANKARA, June 12

Greece and Turkey slammed as unjustified Thursday their inclusion on a US **blacklist** of countries that could face sanctions for failing to fight **human trafficking**.

The two countries, both key US allies in NATO, were indignant at being named on a list of 15 nations issued by the US State Department which risk losing aid from Washington if they do not make significant efforts to crack down on trade in women and children.

"The picture given in this report does not correspond to reality," said Greek foreign ministry spokesman Panos Beglitis, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Ankara, under international pressure over its human rights record and whose relations with Washington have been strained over its refusal to admit US troops for the Iraq war, also said the move was unfair.

The list also includes Belize, Bosnia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Suriname and Uzbekistan.

At an International Labour Organisation conference devoted to the problem Thursday, Queen Rania of Jordan described child trafficking as a "brutal trade" which affects about 1.2 million children every year.

In a speech to mark World Day Against Child Labour, she told ILO delegates meeting in Geneva that the business of human trafficking was fuelled by poverty, lack of education, conflict and natural disasters.

And she said that global integration had increased the problem.

"The mentioning of Turkey among countries which have failed to fulfill the minimum standards in combatting human-trafficking shows that all progress (in Turkey) has been disregarded," Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said.

"We think that this decision is not based on objective information and we regret it," Anatolia news agency quoted him as saying.

The US "Trafficking in Persons" report released Wednesday described Turkey as a destination country for women -- mainly from former Soviet Union countries -- trafficked for sexual exploitation and as a country of transit for such women.

People were also trafficked to Turkey for labour, it said.

The countries named will be subject to cut-offs in non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US aid unless they take steps to improve their performance by October 1 or receive a waiver.

Affected aid could include military, educational and cultural assistance.

If Turkey fails to improve its record by October, ensuing sanctions could also target a one-billion-dollar (850-million-euro) aid fund allocated to Ankara -- but not yet released -- in a supplementary budget adopted by Congress for the war in Iraq.

Congress agreed to the one-billion-dollar aid package despite Turkey's failure to allow US troops to use its bases as staging areas for an invasion of northern Iraq.

A US official in Ankara said Turkey was failing particularly in the prosecution of traffickers, in assisting their victims and in raising public awareness of the problem.

He said that under US law, Washington is required to oppose funds from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for countries which fail to toe the line in international efforts to fight trafficking.

Turkey, which is struggling to overcome one of its worst recessions, has received multi-billion-dollar loans from both financial institutions.

"We do recognize that Turkey has been making greater efforts over the last year. Those efforts also accelerated into the spring. We hope... that further evaluation in 90 days from now will provide some new positive developments," the US official said.

In Athens, the foreign ministry spokesman said the report did not take account of policies implemented by the Greek government to fight the problem of trafficking.

Beglitis said Foreign Minister George Papandreou would be bringing up the issue in a meeting with US ambassador to Greece Tom Miller later Thursday.

bur-txw/gk

US-trafficking-reax

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311 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 12, 2003

Excerpt: State Dept. Report Says Burma's Military Uses Forced Labor; Trafficking in persons report also cites sexual exploitation

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 866 words

The State Department designated Burma as a **Tier 3** government in its third annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report due to the Burmese government's lack of significant efforts to meet congressionally set standards for combating **human trafficking**.

The report, released June 11, faults Burma's military rulers for continued extensive use of internal forced labor.

"The military is directly involved in forced labor trafficking," the report says.

The report acknowledges that the military junta ruling Burma has taken steps to combat trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, but it describes Burma's record as "inadequate."

"The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so," the report says.

The State Department is required to report to Congress annually whether foreign governments fully meet the minimum standards set for the elimination of trafficking as detailed in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of October 2000. Governments that are not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed on the Tier 3 list.

The full text of the report is available at: [http:// www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2003/](http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2003/)

Following is an excerpt on Burma from the report released by the Department of State June 11:

(begin excerpt)

Burma (Tier 3)

Burma is a source country for persons trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation. Although the government has taken steps to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation, significant use of internal forced labor continues, especially by the military. Burmese are trafficked mainly to Thailand, but also to China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Japan for sexual exploitation, as well as domestic and factory work. Internally, trafficking of women and girls for prostitution occurs from villages to urban centers and other areas, such as trucking crossroads, fishing villages, border towns, and mining and military camps.

The Government of Burma does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. The military is directly involved in forced labor trafficking. The ILO's attempts to work with the government to address forced labor abuses have had only limited success. Burma's failure to make progress on forced labor more than offsets the government's improving, but still inadequate, record of combating trafficking for sexual exploitation. The government has allowed some limited but important NGO and international organization activity to educate officials and vulnerable populations, and to assist trafficking victims returning from abroad.

Prevention

Governmental measures to prevent trafficking for sexual exploitation include publicizing the dangers in border areas via government-sponsored discussion groups, distribution of printed materials, and media programming. The government has worked with the UN to educate officials and potential victims on the nature of trafficking for sexual exploitation. The results are uneven and their effectiveness is often undercut by the repressive political climate in Burma and con-

strained by the government's limited financial resources. Government involvement in forced labor continues. Forced labor prevention efforts are limited to posting directives prohibiting such practices. The government has not publicly acknowledged that forced labor is a widespread problem and has rebuffed recommendations on prevention made by the ILO, which maintains an office in Rangoon.

Prosecution

Burma lacks a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, but a combination of statutes against kidnapping and prostitution is used to arrest and prosecute offenders who traffick in persons for sexual exploitation. According to official government data, Burma prosecuted about 100 such traffickers over the last year. Although information on convictions is incomplete, sentences reportedly ranged from 5 to 12 years, with most carrying a prison sentence of seven years. Corruption is a problem as some local and regional officials are suspected of turning a blind eye to trafficking. The Burmese military has generally not implemented directives prohibiting forced labor trafficking, while continuing to carry out abuses including forced portering, road construction, and military conscription (including of children). There have been no arrests or prosecutions of corrupt officials related to trafficking.

Protection

The government provides limited programming to provide women with income-generating skills and to assist returning victims of trafficking, but there is no specific budget for such activities, which are largely "self-financing." It allows two foreign NGOs and the UN to provide some services and support for repatriation of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. The government provides no assistance to victims trafficked for forced labor.

(end excerpt)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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312 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 11, 2003

More Nations Acting to Counter Human Trafficking, New Report Finds

BYLINE: Charlene Porter, Washington File Staff Writer

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 836 words

Washington -- More than 100 governments around the world are making concrete efforts to end trafficking in persons, according to a wide-ranging international survey released by the U.S. Department of State June 11.

At a Washington briefing, Secretary of State Colin Powell said "We hope that this report will help to raise awareness among governments and publics and serve as a catalyst for coordinated international action."

Compilation of the trafficking in persons (TIP) report is required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act passed by Congress in 2000. It outlines a three-tier system for classifying nations depending on how aggressively they are acting to control trafficking within their jurisdictions. A nation's **tier** placement is determined by the actions it is taking to prevent **trafficking in persons**, to prosecute those associated with this form of organized criminal activity, and to protect victims.

Those nations found to be unresponsive to international calls for specific actions to control **human trafficking** are placed in **Tier 3**. Now reaching its third year of implementation, the law calls for the imposition of certain sanctions against nations found to be in that category.

"Countries can avoid sanctions by working with us and taking prompt action to improve their policies and practices," Powell said.

The nations that could be subject to sanctions according to the 2003 TIP report are Belize, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burma, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Liberia, North Korea, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

The TIP report emphasizes that several governments have increased their efforts to combat trafficking in the year since the last such survey, Powell said. "Mauritius has developed a multiagency initiative to combat the sexual exploitation of children. Brazil is fighting sex tourism by working with hotels to stop child prostitution, he noted.

The United Arab Emirates provides an "admirable example," according to the report, having made "great strides to strengthen its efforts throughout the year." The UAE's progress has moved it into Tier 1 in this year's report, among those nations fully compliant with standards for reducing trafficking, as contrasted with the UAE's Tier 3 placement last year.

Benin, Ghana and Morocco also improved their rankings this year, moving from Tier 2 -- those countries making "significant efforts" toward compliance -- to Tier 1.

Regarding the possibility of sanctions on non-compliant nations, the director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, John Miller, said the law requires the president to make a decision on whether to impose or waive sanctions by October 1.

"It is my hope, and I think the hope of everybody in this department, that the president, when he reaches that decision, will find that such countries have made significant efforts to improve their performance in the fight against trafficking so that that consequence will not happen," Miller said. "That's what this four-month period is for."

The report says that it is meant to be a diplomatic tool, "a guide to help focus resources on prosecution, protection and prevention programs and policies." Miller said the three-year history of the 2000 law requiring the report does indicate that nations have been responding to that intent.

"One of the fascinating developments has been how efforts have increased in the last several months," Miller said. "As this report neared its publication date, we have seen laws passed from the Philippines to Haiti; we've seen more arrests, from Serbia to Cambodia; we've seen special prosecution units set up."

Another significant finding of the report is that estimates on the number of victims have been scaled back considerably from previous years. The 2003 TIP report cites U.S. government estimates that approximately 800,000 to 900,000 people may be trafficked around the world each year. Estimates in previous years set the possible number of victims anywhere from 700,000 to 4 million, though experts readily acknowledge that estimates are unreliable in an area of such covert, underground activity.

The number of victims estimated to be trafficked into the United States annually is between 18,000 and 20,000, down from an estimate of 50,000 in previous years.

Both Powell and Miller emphasized that the United States and all Tier 1 nations can still do a better job to stop trafficking. Powell noted that the United States has spent \$100 million on international counter-trafficking programs over the last two years.

Miller said the United States is continuing its efforts to support other nations in stopping this form of organized criminal activity. "We're going to work with all countries, whether they're in the report, not in the report, on Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3. The goal has to be to abolish modern-day slavery."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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313 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

April 9, 2003 Wednesday

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN**SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY****LENGTH: 1538 words**

Statement of John Miller Senior Advisor & Director Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Department of State

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs

April 9, 2003

Thank you, Senator Brownback, for this opportunity to discuss the United States' efforts to fight trafficking in persons in East Asia. Let me start by thanking you for your visionary leadership in combating human trafficking worldwide, which you often say, is truly the modern-day face of slavery. As the recently appointed director of this office, which you helped establish through your landmark legislation, I look forward to working with you in this continuing fight to eradicate human trafficking worldwide.

I would like to give an overview of our anti-trafficking efforts, particularly regarding the East Asian and Pacific region. The focus in East Asia and Pacific is concentrated on the following strategies:

- Emphasizing the importance of continuing and expanding regional collaboration
- Engaging governments bilaterally to bring all possible tools to bear to encourage and assist countries in addressing their trafficking problem

To date, U.S. engagement on trafficking in the East Asia Pacific region has generated positive progress, but the countries in the region need to do much more. As you know, most of the countries in the region face serious trafficking problems. The good news is that almost all of these governments are aware of this transnational problem and seek cooperative solutions. The diversity of the region means there is no one-size-fits-all model for a response to the trafficking problem. Governments are at different points along the continuum in responding to this arduous task.

As noted, my office seeks to expand and encourage cooperation between and among neighboring governments. After working closely with the governments in the Mekong region, we have seen, for example, the beginnings of cooperative efforts between governments to ensure that trafficking victims are humanely treated and where appropriate, are helped to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.

Similar bilateral and regional cooperation is occurring as governments more fully recognize that trafficking in persons is a transnational crime. There have been positive practical responses by governments. Governments have begun to build capacity by exchanging law enforcement information, enhancing their ability to better challenge the international syndicates. For example, Thailand has begun taking measures to build a transnational law enforcement unit. This development has the potential to demonstrate the Thai government's long-term commitment to regional law enforcement. Also, such cooperation should help governments improve their own domestic law enforcement efforts.

The Government of Indonesia hosted the first Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime last year. The Second Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime will be held on April 29- 30 in Bali. We support Indonesia's effort to confront trafficking issues in a pragmatic and results-oriented fashion, and we look forward to participating in the next conference as an observer. We consider this to be a positive opportunity to stimulate much-needed regional cooperation.

These are important steps forward, but many challenges remain. Generally, domestic law enforcement efforts, particularly "prosecutions" are the most problematic area in combating trafficking in the East Asia and Pacific region. We have communicated with a number of governments, including Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia, that much more needs to be done in this respect. We have emphasized that prosecution efforts, in addition to protection and prevention measures, are an important component in their **tier** placement on the annual **Trafficking in Persons** Report.

A related concern is that a lack of transparency and weak institutions are hampering the effectiveness of efforts to combat trafficking in some countries. We have expressed these concerns to our partners and are working vigorously to help them address these broader issues. We recognize that trafficking networks build up over time and will take some concerted long-term efforts to dismantle. We do not, however, see these systemic problems as an excuse for weak political will. In this context, we have clearly communicated to relevant partners that any complicity of public officials in trafficking must be addressed urgently.

Simply stated, we are engaged in a vigorous fight to eradicate trafficking in persons, which is a modern day form of slavery. Key actors throughout the region - government officials, activists and NGOs, and engaged citizens - are with us in this anti-trafficking fight, and we continue to expand our cooperation with these friends.

We have the assistance of some governments in the region, which like the U.S., are providing program assistance in the fight against trafficking. Like the U.S., they also face their own trafficking problems at home. For example, we are developing closer cooperation with destination countries such as Australia, Japan and South Korea, in funding anti-trafficking programs in source and transit countries. Australia, for example, is spending \$6.4 million in the region to fight both human trafficking and child sex tourism. After a review of their trafficking projects in 2001, Australia developed a pilot program to build the capacity of South East Asian countries, coordinated through a workshop of representatives from sponsored countries, and including the U. S. Government as a participant. The six diverse components of the project range from boosting law enforcement capacity in Cambodia to an integrated early detection system in Laos.

During the 2002 fiscal year, the U.S. Government approved approximately \$11 million for anti-trafficking programs in the East Asia Pacific region during the 2002 fiscal year, with funds supplied from the Departments of State, Labor, and USAID. Of this amount, \$5 million came from the Department of State from INCLE, ESF and MRA funds. These programs were designed to improve the capacities of governments and NGOs to fight trafficking by assisting law enforcement, providing protection and assistance to victims, and bolstering prevention efforts. Such programs include helping the Government of Vietnam to develop a national plan of action. Other measures include a program in Laos promoting education and awareness-raising on the dangers of trafficking in the villages; supporting victims' shelters in Vietnam; and, sending technical experts from the Department of Justice to train Indonesian police officials on investigating trafficking crimes.

There are impressive programmatic successes in the region, although much more needs to be done. In the Philippines, for example, the U.N. Center for International Crime Prevention created a National Coordination Project involving several components including a trafficking study, review of governmental efforts, and a profile development of trafficked women. The project addressed better coordination of governmental efforts so successfully, it has become a model for other countries in the region with a significant trafficking problem suffering inadequate national responses. The Department provided funding in FY2002 for this program to be reproduced in Vietnam.

Another example of program success in the region involves child victim advocacy and law enforcement in Thailand. With funding from the Department, the Asia Foundation administered 9 projects to improve the capacity of NGOs addressing regional trafficking. One particularly notable Thai NGO is the Coalition to Fight Against Child Exploitation (FACE), which is in the forefront of efforts to secure convictions of traffickers and pedophiles. The Department funding helped FACE expand to include advocacy on behalf of Cambodian children trafficked into Bangkok. Additionally, since this funding, FACE was empowered to provide key data on prosecutions and investigations, previously unavailable.

As you know, my office leads preparation of the Department's legislatively mandated Trafficking in Persons Report, otherwise known as the TIP Report, issued each June. In compiling this report, my office will maintain its high standards of objective and fair reporting that is consistent with our role as advocates for victims. This year for the first time, those countries in Tier 3 of the TIP Report will face the loss of non-humanitarian and nontrade related aid absent a national interest waiver.

This is a good beginning, but it is only the start of a long-term effort. We must press for immediate action while assisting in promoting sustained regional and country strategies. Human trafficking is many insidious things. It is a human

rights atrocity. It is a transnational crime. It is an offense against human dignity. I look forward to working with you combating this scourge which is counted among the great human rights battles of our time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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TESTIMONY-BY: JOHN MILLER, SENIOR ADVISOR & DIRECTOR

AFFILIATION: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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314 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

April 9, 2003 Wednesday

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN**SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY****LENGTH: 3821 words**

Statement of Gary A. Haugen President & CEO International Justice Mission

Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs Senate Foreign Relations Committee

April 9, 2003

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman

My name is Gary Haugen and I serve as the President of International Justice Mission (IJM). On behalf of IJM, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for the privilege of participating in this important hearing to Review U.S. Policy on the Trafficking of Women and Children in East Asia and Beyond.

International Justice Mission is an international human rights agency that provides a hands-on, operational field response to cases of human rights abuse referred to us from faith-based ministries serving around the world. Frequently these workers observe severe human rights abuses in the communities where they serve. These workers refer these cases to us, and then we conduct a professional investigation to document the abuses and mobilize intervention on behalf of the victims.

Many of the cases referred to us involve children taken into sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Accordingly, we deploy criminal investigators to infiltrate the brothels, use surveillance technology to document where the children are being held, and then identify secure police contacts who will conduct raids with us to get the children out. We then coordinate the referral of these children to appropriate aftercare.

At a time when our nation is vigorously engaged in a struggle against tyranny and terrorism in the world, this Committee manifests the generous and conscientious spirit of the U.S. Senate by making room in its agenda for vigilant oversight of our national commitment to combat the global scourge of human trafficking.

I would like to focus my remarks today on the nightmare of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation. Quite simply, sex trafficking is the ugliest and most preventable man-made disaster in our world today. It is ugly because it is massive and brutal. UNICEF estimates that about a million children are victimized by sex trafficking each year around the world. IJM investigators have spent literally thousands of hours infiltrating the sex trafficking industry, and the reality we find is a horror one only encounters in nightmares. I've just returned from an investigation of a sex trafficking ring in a South East Asian country where I entered a brothel and was promptly offered a dozen children between the ages of 6 and 12 who, for a modest price, were made available by the pimps to be raped and molested.

At the same time, this ugly and appalling epidemic is also one of the most preventable catastrophes on our globe today. The simple fact of the matter is this: sex trafficking only flourishes where it is tolerated by local law enforcement. The business of sex trafficking and forced prostitution requires that the perpetrators commit multiple felonies of abduction, rape, assault, and false imprisonment - and then it requires that the perpetrators hold out the victims of these crime openly to the public so that the customers can find them. It does no good at all for the brothel keepers and pimps to hide their victims.

In fact, to make money on their investment, the pimps and brothel keepers must make their victims openly available to the customer public - and not just once, but continuously, and over a long period of time. Obviously, therefore, if the

customers can find the victims of sex trafficking whenever they want, so can the police. How, therefore, do you possibly get away with running a sex trafficking enterprise?

You do so only if permitted by local law enforcement. Generally, this is facilitated by bringing the police into the business and sharing the profits with them in exchange for protection against the enforcement of the laws that are openly and continuously violated every single day the business is in operation. Certainly sex trafficking is exacerbated by poverty and economic desperation; but we do not find epidemic levels of sex trafficking wherever we find poverty in the world. Rather, sex trafficking flourishes on a large scale only in those countries where it is tolerated by national law enforcement.

This is the indispensable insight about the fundamental vulnerability of sex trafficking that must be grasped. Sex trafficking requires the commission of multiple felonies in a way that is held out openly to the public. Therefore it can be shut down wherever there is the political will and operational resources to do so.

Sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation can be drastically reduced wherever a country has the political will and the operational capacity to send the perpetrators to jail and to treat the victims with compassion and dignity. This is a fight that can actually be won. In fact, this was the animating conviction behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The TVPA sought to influence the political will of countries with serious trafficking problems by making clear that there would be consequences for a country's relationship with the United States, including the possibility of sanctions, if that country did not make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking. Secondly, the TVPA also authorized grants to help strengthen a country's capacity to address sex trafficking through prevention, prosecution, and protection activities.

The authors of the TVPA understood that it was essential to strengthen both the political will and the operational capacity of countries to fight sex trafficking. It was well understood that in many countries the victims of sex trafficking fundamentally lacked the voice and power to make themselves a priority for national law enforcement. Sex trafficking operations prey upon the most marginalized groups in society - women, children, refugees, undocumented persons, ethnic minorities, and the poor.

Fundamentally, political leaders do not feel threatened in their hold on power if they fail to protect a bunch of impoverished and low-status women and girls. Scarce law enforcement resources are deployed to protect the things that societies value the most, and in countries where the women and children have been relegated to the status of a lower life form, they are left utterly vulnerable to the brutalities of the commercial sex trade. Accordingly, the TVPA endeavored to place the voice and values of the American people on the side of these vulnerable women and children by making it clear that their abuse would not be tolerated. Specifically, the TVPA established the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking to provide a voice of accountability for the otherwise voiceless victims of trafficking. This new office would tell the truth about whether a country was vigorously defending women and children against the horrors of trafficking, with the understanding that those countries unwilling to provide such basic protections would find an adverse impact in their relationship with the United States.

This was the theory behind the policy expressed in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. All of the great effort in passing the TVPA was intended to actually make a real-world difference for the women and children being crushed by the forces of sex trafficking. I offer this review simply to ask the question whether the policy is actually having its intended effect, especially in East Asia. What have we learned about the efforts to implement the policy that actually make a difference and what have we learned about those actions that undermine the impact of the policy? In a number of countries, IJM has been working hand-in-hand with foreign governments, NGO's and State Department personnel to conduct hands-on operations to rescue victims and to bring perpetrators to justice, and we are learning about the practical impact of U.S. policy at the street level. Our experience is starting to demonstrate that, as we all hoped, the policy can have a tremendous impact if implemented vigorously.

What makes the policy actually work?

I would suggest 3 things:

1. Vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions.
2. A credible, and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business.

3. Focused and practical capacity building for sending perpetrators to jail and caring compassionately for victims.

I would like to take a moment to examine these one at a time. First, vigorous and transparent reporting on a government's record on sex trafficking convictions and police disciplinary actions. The purpose of the Trafficking In Persons Report is simple: it is intended to provide accountability.

Therefore, the report has its intended effect when it is actually written in a way that makes accountability easy, rather than making it hard. We should make no mistake. There are those who will have an interest in making clear accountability harder rather than easier - and (as all of my fellow lawyers well know) there certainly are ways to fashion a document that either promotes accountability or obscures accountability. Effective accountability is achieved when the Report provides specific, objective, transparent data on a government's actions that actually matter. And from the perspective of the sex traffickers, only two government actions matter: a) Is the government seriously threatening to actually send me to jail for doing this? b) Is the government seriously threatening to remove the police protection that I have paid for?

Consequently, effective accountability regarding the seriousness of a government's efforts to combat trafficking will only begin to emerge when there is specific objective data on the number of successful trafficking-related convictions resulting in jail time, as well as data on the number of disciplinary actions that have been taken against police who are complicit in protecting sex trafficking operations (remembering that such operations simply don't exist on a significant scale without such protection).

Again, it must be emphasized that the relevant data point is convictions - not raids, arrests, and prosecutions. Traffickers, brothel keepers, and pimps are quite willing to endure raids, arrests, and even prosecutions if, at the end of the day, they don't have to actually go to prison. In fact, such actions are just considered part of the costs of doing business. Moreover, even the most corrupt police carry out raids, arrests and initiate prosecutions. In fact, they must do so in order to maintain the credible threat by which they extort bribes from the perpetrators. That is why countries with the worst sex trafficking records can report raids, arrests, and prosecutions; but such countries have very little to report in terms of actual convictions. None of these other actions turn into a credible law enforcement threat that actually deters sex trafficking unless they result in convictions with imprisonment. This is the only cost of doing business that the perpetrators are unwilling to pay.

This is why IJM is so pleased that the new Director of the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking, the Hon. John Miller, has adopted as the policy of his office that governments wishing to be certified as making serious efforts to meet minimum standards in combating sex trafficking must bear the burden of providing objective data on trafficking-related convictions and police disciplinary actions. After all, these governments are themselves in the best position to report on their own positive actions, and the Office cannot be reasonably expected to affirmatively certify that a government is making significant efforts if the government provides no verifiable data on these two most basic responsibilities. Self-reporting by a government regarding its own counter-trafficking initiatives with follow up by the State Department provides the best means for transparency and accountability.

The second ingredient for making the TVPA policy actually work has been a credible, and clearly communicated threat of consequences for governments that are not taking serious steps to actually send perpetrators to jail and to get police out of the trafficking business.

In order to bring effective protection to women and children vulnerable to sex trafficking, governments must move counter- trafficking efforts from being a good idea to being an urgent priority. And in reality, the only dynamic that generates such a shift is usually the belief that something bad will happen if they fail to do so. This is why the threat of possible sanctions was incorporated within the legislation for countries placed on **Tier 3** of the **Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP)**. In this regard, we have found that trafficking issues become an urgent priority for the worst offending countries only after they have been placed on **Tier 3** or faced a credible risk of being placed on **Tier 3**. While some countries may diplomatically protest their placement on **Tier 2**, foreign governments clearly understand that actual consequences for their poor trafficking record only kick in if they are on **Tier 3**. Among countries with serious trafficking problems, therefore, it is only the credible risk of **Tier 3** sanctions that actually moves countries to earnestly make the work of combating trafficking an urgent law enforcement priority, rather than just a public relations nuisance.

Accordingly, a TIP Report process that proceeds with a presumption that Tier 3 status for certain countries is diplomatically intolerable or politically untenable severely undermines the effectiveness of the TIP Report process. An unspoken but de facto presumption against a Tier 3 ranking effectively freezes the status quo of the worst offending nations and weakens the TVPA's capacity to impact political will. It profoundly dishonors the suffering of women and children bru-

talized by sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Likewise, the TVPA's capacity to strengthen the political will of authorities to end the toleration of sex trafficking is utterly diluted by the failure to articulate clearly to foreign governments the straightforward requirements of the TVPA and the real risks of consequences associated with a poor trafficking record. Ultimately, it will be up to congressional committees such as this to thoroughly and rigorously scrutinize the precise factual basis upon which the State Department grants passing grades to the some of the most notorious sex trafficking countries.

Finally, U.S. policy is effectively advanced through focused and practical capacity-building for programs that send perpetrators to jail and care compassionately for victims. In addition to political will, foreign governments also need the practical wherewithal to take decisive law enforcement measures to combat trafficking and to care for the victims. Accordingly, U.S. policy is advanced by funding programs that address the intensely practical challenges of strengthening law enforcement capacities to investigate, arrest and successfully prosecute sex trafficking offenders. Programs are needed to support special anti- trafficking police units and prosecutorial teams with training, operational support, and hands-on assistance in achieving the priority outcome of sending offenders to jail and removing dirty cops.

Education, awareness, and poverty alleviation programs are important preventative measures, but such programs will never be able to keep pace with the entrepreneurial energy and creativity of the traffickers unless they are combined with practical programs that actually help make national law enforcement successful in sending perpetrators to jail. Police complicity in sex trafficking has been so pervasive and ugly that many have been tempted to imagine solutions that simply ignore the police.

But in combating any crime, the answer to bad law enforcement is never no law enforcement - the answer must always be a committed struggle for better law enforcement. Accordingly, IJM is very pleased that recent legislation has cleared the way for funding by USAID and other agencies of targeted programs that strengthen counter-trafficking activities of specialized police and prosecution units, as well as legal advocacy to protect victims and to bring perpetrators to justice.

(See the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108- 7).

Equally critical are programs that fund comprehensive and compassionate aftercare services for the victims of sex trafficking. Not only are such programs necessary to treat victims with the dignity and care that they deserve, but they are also absolutely indispensable for establishing the victim cooperation that is essential for any meaningful counter- trafficking endeavor. At present, the existing capacities for providing comprehensive aftercare for the victims of sex trafficking are tragically inadequate. In fact, IJM has found itself limited in the rescue operations it could conduct for victims because of the lack of aftercare capacity. This is a need that can and must be addressed by targeted and generous appropriations.

Additional opportunities to fund programs to fight sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation have emerged as a result of President Bush's bold initiative to combat the AIDS epidemic. Research has demonstrated that sex trafficking is one of the great engines driving the spread of the AIDS global pandemic, and while traditional AIDS prevention programs of education and awareness go a long way in helping women and girls make good choices in avoiding high-risk sexual activities, these programs do nothing to protect the millions of women and girls who do not get to make choices about their sexual encounters - particularly the millions of victims of commercial sexual exploitation who are forcibly infected with the HIV virus. Accordingly, federal funding of programs aimed at combating the international AIDS epidemic must include support of programs to combat sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, or else America's effort to fight AIDS will simply fail to address one of the fundamental and certainly most brutal causes of the epidemic.

Finally, in recent weeks IJM has directly experienced the positive impact of U.S. policy in combating sex trafficking in Cambodia. More than two years ago, IJM began conducting extensive investigations into one of the most appalling cesspools of child prostitution in the world, a village called Svay Pak outside Phnom Penh where scores of girls between the ages of 5 and 12 were being sold in an open market for pedophiles and sex tourists. Over a two-year period we turned our investigative findings over to Cambodian authorities, but failed to obtain a satisfying response. Then last year, the TIP Report placed Cambodia on Tier 3 and the new U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Ambassador Charles A. Ray, initiated a very proactive engagement with the senior Cambodian authorities on U.S. policy toward trafficking. This direct advocacy with Cambodian authorities and the excellent work of Ambassador Ray's staff, helped make it possible last month for IJM and the Cambodian authorities to bring rescue to 37 minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation out of Svay Pak, including about a dozen children between the ages of 5 and 10. In addition, approximately 12 suspects have been arrested and charged, with cooperative police investigations continuing with IJM to locate and prosecute additional suspects identified in our investigative report.

Ambassador Ray, and representatives of the U.S. Department of State were very successful in making clear to the Cambodian authorities the priority that American foreign policy places on addressing sex trafficking. Senior Cambodian authorities were well and effectively briefed on the dynamics and significance of the tier rating system of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and on the consequences of failing to make significant efforts to meet minimum standards in combating trafficking. Consequently, by the time IJM was able to brief the Cambodian authorities on our latest Svay Pak investigation, they were prepared to provide extraordinary cooperation in working with IJM to seek rescue for the victims and to pursue accountability for the perpetrators. We believe that the advocacy of the U.S. Embassy with the Cambodian authorities was an indispensable and decisive factor in generating effective law enforcement cooperation.

These actions have paved the way for significant and continuing progress in mobilizing effective law enforcement responses to human trafficking in Cambodia. Cambodian police authorities have had a positive experience of effective counter-trafficking investigations and enforcement actions with IJM that produced arrests, proper charges, and compelling evidence for prosecution. They have participated in groundbreaking procedures for humanely conducting victim interviews in the presence of a social worker and an NGO lawyer-monitor while being videotaped. They have also requested further training from IJM in effective counter- trafficking investigations and enforcement actions, and have developed new relationships with local NGO's.

Of course, it will be very important to continue to monitor the actions of the Cambodian authorities as they follow-up on these specific cases, and as they persevere in vigorous efforts to investigate and successfully prosecute sex trafficking crimes on an on-going basis. Cambodia has had a very poor record of tolerating sex trafficking (especially among very young children) and such a record cannot be turned around overnight. But we believe that a very promising beginning has been made in supporting the Cambodian government in a new direction to seriously combat sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

We believe these encouraging events help to serve as a model for what can be achieved when there is transparent reporting through the TIP Report, a meaningful application of the tier rating system, direct advocacy by U.S. authorities at the highest levels of government, and tangible, practical assistance to foreign governments in bringing rescue to trafficking victims and justice to perpetrators. IJM looks forward to continuing its constructive work with the U.S. State Department, foreign governments, and partner NGO's in helping make sure that the promises of U.S. policy in fighting sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation deliver tangible results to vulnerable women and children and hastens the day when these brutal enterprises of rape for profit are simply put out of business.

Thank you very much.

LOAD-DATE: April 10, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY-BY: GARY A. HAUGEN, PRESIDENT & CEO

AFFILIATION: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

315 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

March 15, 2003 Saturday

US may downgrade Thailand's rating on human trafficking

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 289 words

BANGKOK, March 15 (AFP) The United States has threatened to downgrade Thailand's rating on human trafficking prevention in light of alleged poor performance by the kingdom in stemming illicit migration, Thai lawmakers said Saturday.

MP Lalita Ruerksamran, chairwoman of the House committee on women, children and the elderly, said Thai police presented a letter from the US embassy in Bangkok blaming local authorities for insufficient action to solve prostitution and human trafficking.

"They blamed the overall domestic picture on Thai authorities for allowing a flourishing of prostitution of foreign women while exporting Thai women for the sex trade," she said.

If the United States downgrades the country to **tier** three from **tier** two, in an upcoming review, it would suggest Thailand is unable to meet some requirements for fighting **human trafficking** and its image would suffer, the MP said.

"Like drugs, prostitution also destroys our country in terms of culture and identity," she said.

Thailand and the United States agreed last year to boost cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, which ranks among the world's fastest growing transnational crimes.

Three years ago the trade was estimated as being worth 7.0 billion dollars annually -- more lucrative, experts said, than the trade in illicit weapons.

Thailand's trafficking problem is particularly acute, as the kingdom is simultaneously a country of origin, transit and destination.

It was not immediately clear whether there would be and penalties imposed on Thailand, such as a slashing of US aid.

Lalita said she would address the issue with US embassy officials in a meeting next Thursday.

ask/mlm/nj

Thailand-US-trafficking

LOAD-DATE: March 16, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

316 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Moscow Times

February 19, 2003

Bill Makes Human Trafficking a Crime

BYLINE: Nabi Abdullaev

SECTION: No. 2622

LENGTH: 923 words

Staff Writer

With an eye on ratifying a UN convention combating organized crime, the State Duma has drawn up legislation that for the first time outlaws human trafficking and slavery. The bill, which was approved by the Duma's legislation committee Monday and will go up for a vote this spring, seeks to crack down on a problem that human rights activists say has reached epidemic proportions over the past decade.

Hundreds of thousands of people are forced into prostitution both in Russia and abroad each year, while slavery has become commonplace in the North Caucasus.

The Russian sex trafficking industry is worth \$ 7 billion per year, said Marianna Solomatova, the Moscow director of Angel Coalition, a nongovernmental organization that fights human trafficking and helped draft the Duma bill.

"Trafficking in drugs and weapons is punishable by law, while human trafficking has remained a relatively safe business," she said.

Yelena Mizulina, the deputy head of the Duma's legislation committee, said it was time that something be done.

"This is a very serious problem for Russia, which has become an active supplier of slaves to customers here and in foreign countries," she said in an interview Tuesday. "Slaves are used on farms and they are forced to work as prostitutes. Women are forced to bear babies for childless couples." Her committee hammered out the human trafficking legislation with the Interior, Labor and Justice ministries, the Prosecutor General's Office and nongovernmental organizations -- in a sign that the government is taking the issue seriously.

The bill provides Russia's first legal definition for slavery and human trafficking and pursues three main objectives, said Mizulina, who oversaw the drafting of the legislation.

These are to educate the public about human trafficking and slavery; oblige the government to protect and rehabilitate victims; and give law enforcement a legal basis to fight human trafficking and slavery, which should in turn discourage the practices.

Mizulina said the part of the bill involving a victim's right to be protected and rehabilitated was especially significant.

"These people are now considered criminals. Under Russian law, they are accomplices in a crime that was actually committed against them," she said.

The bill adds seven new crimes to the Criminal Code, including human trafficking, recruiting people for sexual exploitation and using slave labor.

Penalties outlined in the bill closely adhere to those used in the West, said a senior official in the Interior Ministry.

For example, a person convicted of trafficking another person within Russia faces up to six years in prison. A person convicted of belonging to a human trafficking ring or of trafficking with another country faces up to 10 years in prison.

"Slavery and forced prostitution have become systemic across Russia and account for hundreds of thousands of cases," the Interior Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Russia is going to ratify the UN Convention

Against Transnational Organized Crime. To do this the government must comply with the demands of the convention, which include anti-trafficking laws." He said existing laws that can be used against traffickers do not have enough bite. Those laws cover border violations, kidnapping, rape, fraud, organized crime and pornography.

There are no official statistics on human trafficking or slavery because they are not considered a crime. Under the law, only those who use minors can be punished, with prison terms of up to 10 years. Sixty-four such cases were opened in 2000 and 2001, according to the police.

The Angel Coalition estimates that as many as 50,000 Russian women are forced into sex slavery abroad each year.

Mizulina said human trafficking is closely tied with migration.

In Moscow, a haven for migrants from all over the former Soviet Union, migrants reportedly are being forced to build out-of-town mansions for the newly rich, and women are being lured from the regions with promises of steady jobs but then forced into prostitution.

The North Caucasus is notorious for human trafficking, where the kidnapping of people for ransom is a lucrative business for local gangsters, Chechen rebels and, in some cases, federal troops.

The proposed legislation calls for the creation of a countrywide network of protection and rehabilitation centers for victims. Part of their expenses are supposed to be covered by assets seized from convicted traffickers.

"Protection of the victims will be the most difficult task in implementing the anti-trafficking legislation," the Interior Ministry official said. "The creation of these centers will demand a considerable amount of money from the federal budget." In fighting human trafficking, Russia lags behind most of the other former Soviet republics. Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus and the countries of Central Asia already have laws against trafficking.

Last June, the United States put Russia on a **blacklist** of countries facing sanctions for not doing enough to crack down on **human trafficking** and slavery. In the U.S. State Department's 2002 Trafficking in Persons Report, Russia was ranked with 18 other countries in the worst category of 89 countries surveyed.

Countries in this category risk losing nonhumanitarian aid from the United States.

The report played an important role in getting the government to tackle the human-trafficking legislation, the Angel Coalition said.

LOAD-DATE: February 19, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUB-TYPE: PAPER

317 of 359 DOCUMENTS

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

January 29, 2003, Wednesday

Human trafficking reaches "critical level" in Thai Northern border provinces

SOURCE: The Nation web site, Bangkok, in English 29 Jan 03

LENGTH: 340 words

Text of report in English by Thai newspaper The Nation web site on 29 January

The problem of transnational human trafficking has reached a critical level in three northern border provinces and Thailand is seen as making only moderate efforts to tackle it, women's and children's advocates said yesterday.

Tak, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai have emerged as notorious transit points for traffickers of women and children from neighbouring countries, Bandit Paenwiset of the Friends of Women Foundation said.

Government officials and non-governmental organization (NGO) workers should step up their cooperation to crack down on transnational people-smuggling and launch a rehabilitation programme for victims before repatriation, Bandit said.

"Victims of human trafficking suffer the ordeals associated with prostitution and forced labour and they deserve care and treatment to overcome their trauma," he said.

To lessen the burden on Thai authorities and NGOs, the government should open talks with neighbouring countries and ask them to open shelters for victims awaiting repatriation, he said.

Children's rights advocate Sudarat Seriwat called on the government to start collecting detailed data on trafficked women and children, saying accurate information was needed to map out appropriate measures.

"Thailand needs to put more effort into the suppression of human trafficking if it is to avoid possible trade sanctions by Western countries like the United States," she said.

The US government enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000 and has encouraged other countries to join the fight against human trafficking, she said.

The act is seen as a pretext for the US to impose trade barriers against countries uncooperative on the matter, she said.

In a US government report, Thailand was classified as a **tier-2** country on a scale of one to three in terms of efforts to eradicate **human trafficking**, she said, adding that the report was based on an assessment done by a foreign-based NGO.

LOAD-DATE: April 15, 2005

LANGUAGE: English

318 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Nation (Thailand)

January 29, 2003, Wednesday

PEOPLE SMUGGLING: Trafficking in North at crisis levels**BYLINE:** The Nation.**LENGTH:** 334 words

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LOAD-DATE: January 28, 2003**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

319 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Straits Times (Singapore)

**Migration boom;
When Malaysia took steps to send thousands of illegal workers back to Indonesia and the Philippines, it sparked tensions between the Asean neighbours. But these workers are just a small part of the regional flow of workers, legal and otherwise.**

September 30, 2002 Monday

Yeoh En-lai

TEN million South-east Asians left their homes seeking work outside their countries in the past eight years.

But this might just be the beginning of a migration boom in the region.

Experts believe that workers from China will be a major presence in the next 20 years as labour migration - legal and illegal - becomes a feature of cross-border relations.

'China has not peaked, and could flood the region with cheap, semi-skilled workers,' said Mr Nilim Baruah, a key author of the upcoming World Migration Report, published by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

One reason for this: China's internal migration (estimated at 150 million) to its larger cities cannot immediately sustain such a large move.

In 2000, an estimated one million workers from China entered the region but that hardly takes into account the illegals who mostly utilise 'snakeheads' or illegal traffickers.

The Scalabrini Migration Institute in Australia estimates that 100,000 migrants from China are smuggled out every year, with the gangs raking in over US\$1 billion (S\$1.8 billion) from them.

The expected influx into South-east Asia, said Mr Jean-Louis Rallu of France-based migration think-tank Institut National d'Etudes Demographiques, is going to come from 'illegal migration of labourers and small business migration'.

But it is not the numbers, but the nature of work and the virtual impossibility of integration into local society, which can cause problems.

Irregular, short-term, mostly illegal work is a problem, as is locals' resentment of foreigners.

Labourers move from one employer to the next, and even after the contract work is done, they rarely head home.

Most prefer to remain in their 'host' country.

'This migration of workers, determined by the short duration of contracts and the non-availability of long-term integration, and the increasing presence of migrant women, employed as nurses, domestic workers and entertainers are contributing to the problem,' said Mr Nilla, who is IOM's labour migration head.

'The widespread irregularity in the migration movement appears the most marked and troublesome feature of labour migration in Asia.'

Most recent data from the Scalabrini centre places the figure for both legal and illegal migration into Malaysia at over 1.5 million five years ago. Indonesia alone contributed 716,000 legal and 450,000 illegal migrants.

It is not immediately known how many of them were trafficked in but Indonesia has been placed as a 'tier three' trafficking country by the US State Department.

A 'tier three' country is one which makes 'unsatisfactory progress towards meeting international standards' of **trafficking in persons**.

Mr Nilim told The Straits Times that as the more developed countries in the region lose labour to the West and North Asia, they still need to import labour from within the region, no matter how much they claim they do not need it.

Most Indonesians work in Malaysia's plantation and manufacturing industries.

Mr Rallu added: 'Malaysia and Thailand remain resource- and labour-based economies, with large plantation- and farm-produce industries, and receive the largest number of migrant workers.'

He said that migration in the Asia Pacific is categorised by large flows in two areas - illegals from Indonesia and the Philippines pour into Malaysia and those from Myanmar go to Thailand.

Malaysia's recent crackdown on illegals led to protests from Indonesia and the Philippines over alleged poor treatment of its citizens.

Still, many workers are trying to get back in - legally this time.

Immigration centres in Tanjung Pinang, Bintan and Nunukan are flooded by passport-seeking Indonesians.

Mr Rallu claims the expulsion has only been 'partly successful', with employers still heavily reliant on foreign labour.

Thailand is also under pressure to deport its illegals, mostly from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia.

There is no easy solution for, until the poorer home economies pick up, migrants will still try to cross their borders, with or without passports.

SECTION: EAST & SE ASIA

LENGTH: 679 words

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

320 of 359 DOCUMENTS

International Enforcement Law Reporter

August 2002

Trafficking in Human Beings: The U.S. Department of State Issues 2002 Trafficking in Persons Report

BYLINE: Dimple R. Shah

SECTION: MIGRATION ENFORCEMENT; Vol. 18, No. 8

LENGTH: 2933 words

It is estimated that over 50,000 people are trafficked to the United States each year for the purpose of sexual and labor services that violate the prohibition against involuntary servitude. These individuals are trafficked from one country to another under conditions of fraud, misrepresentation, and coercion. Once they arrive in the United States they become vulnerable as they are unfamiliar with the language, culture, and local customs. In order to combat trafficking in persons the United States Congress passed the Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 (herein "the Act")ⁿ¹ which requires the Department of State to publish the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.ⁿ² This article highlights critically the report and its contribution to the international efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

ⁿ¹ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, § 106, 114 Stat. 1464, (2000).

ⁿ² OFFICE TO MONITOR & COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, REPORT NO. 2, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT (2002).

I. Criteria Utilized TIP Report in conjunction to Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000

The TIP report issued by the Department of State addresses the international problem of trafficking in persons in persons in conjunction with the Act whereby, nations should comply with minimum standards set out by the Act in order to combat the scourge of trafficking in persons. The minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are as follows: (1) the government of any country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish such acts of trafficking;ⁿ³ (2) for the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force fraud or coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or trafficking includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes such as forcible sexual assault;ⁿ⁴ (3) for the knowing commission of any act of severe forms of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense;ⁿ⁵ and (4) the government should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking.ⁿ⁶

ⁿ³ § 108(a)(1), 114 Stat. at 1474.

ⁿ⁴ § 108(a)(2), 114 Stat. at 1474.

ⁿ⁵ § 108(a)(3), 114 Stat. at 1474.

ⁿ⁶ § 108(a)(4), 114 Stat. at 1474.

The Act also sets out seven criteria that should be considered as indicia to determine whether a nation is making a "serious and sustained effort to eliminate trafficking." As summarized in the TIP report they are: (1) whether a government vigorously investigates and prosecutes trafficking acts within its territory; (2) whether the government protects victims of trafficking, encourages victims' assistance in investigation and prosecution, provides victims with legal alternatives to removal to countries where they would face retribution or hardship, and ensures that victims are not inappropriately

penalized solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being trafficked; (3) whether the government has adopted measures such as public education to prevent trafficking; (4) whether a government cooperates with other governments in investigating and prosecuting trafficking; (5) Whether the government extradites persons charged with trafficking; (6) whether the government monitors immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking, and whether law enforcement agencies respond appropriately to such evidence; and (7) whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes public officials who participate in or facilitate trafficking, and takes all measures against officials who condone trafficking. n7

n7 *See* note 2, *Id* at 8-9.

2. Methodology Used for the TIP Report

In order to compile the report the Department of State utilized a "statistical compilation" to determine whether a country is "a country of origin, transit, or destination for a significant number of victims" of trafficking. In order to make such a determination there must be data where at least one hundred or more persons are trafficked to a country. The State Department obtained the information from embassies, journalists, host governments, international non-governmental organizations (NGO), NGO reports, and international organizations. n8

n8 *Id.* at 7.

The Department of State applied a similar approach utilized in the 2001 report. Based on the criterion described above, the TIP report places countries into 3 tiers. Countries placed in Tier 1 consist of countries that are already in compliance with the minimum standards. Countries placed in tier 2 are not yet fully in compliance with the acts minimum standards but have implemented some of the seven indicia to combat trafficking. Countries placed in tier 3 have not fully complied with the minimum standards and have not taken significant steps to bring themselves into compliance. n9 The purpose of the tier system is to determine which penalties are appropriate for a country. The countries in tiers 1 and 2 will receive aid while countries in tier 3 receive sanctions. There are 18 countries in tier 1, 53 in tier 2, and 19 countries in tier 3.

n9 *Id.* at 9-10.

3. The Application of the Minimum Standards to the Report

The first standard requires the report to examine the criminalization of "severe forms of trafficking in persons." This is interpreted to mean whether a country has a law that recognizes trafficking as a criminal offense and whether such law prohibits all forms of trafficking in persons. n10

n10 Mohamed Mattar, *The 2002 Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2002: Does the Report serve the Purposes of the Act?* (2002) at www.protectionproject.org/commentary.

The TIP report addresses whether a country has a trafficking law, however some of the report's findings seem inconsistent with other data. For example, the report states that in Burma "There is no trafficking law, although there are laws against migrant smuggling and kidnapping, which can be used against traffickers." n11 However, the Penal Code of Burma "prohibits habitual dealing in slaves." According to Article 371 of the Code, "whoever habitually imports, buys, sells, traffics, or deals in slaves shall be punished with deportation for life or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine." n12 The Code also prohibits "buying or disposing of any person as a slave." n13 Furthermore, "whoever imports into the Union of Burma, any girl under the age of 21 years with intent that she may be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 10 years and shall also be liable to fine." n14 From the evidence it is clear TIP report's documentation is inconsistent with Burma's penal code. n15

n11 *Id.* at 35.

n12 BURMA CODE Vol. VIII, Art. 371.

n13 BURMA CODE Vol. VIII, Art. 370.

n14 BURMA CODE Vol. VIII, Art. 366B.

n15 *See* note 9.

Although there are some inconsistencies, the report does attempt to adequately address whether a country has a specific law that penalizes trafficking. However, the report does not clearly define "severe forms of trafficking." Trafficking in persons occurs in many forms that include but are not limited to domestic service, forced marriages, forced labor, inter-country adoption, and child soldiers. n16

n16 *Id.*

According to the Act, sex and labor trafficking fall under the umbrella of "all forms of trafficking." n17 The Act defines sex trafficking as "any commercial act of sex". The report mentions some of the various forms of sex trafficking when it discusses certain countries, but it does not do so as required by section 105 of the Act which states that it is necessary to "examine the role of the international sex tourism industry in the trafficking of persons and the sexual exploitation of women and children around the world." Thus, the definition of severe forms of trafficking as mandated by the Act is not a comprehensive one because it is unclear exactly what forms of trafficking the Department of State should adopt in its report. n18

n17 B 103(8), 114 Stat. at 1474.

n18 *Id.*

The report does not adequately address points 2 and 3 of the minimum standards of the Act that require a country to implement adequate punishment that will deter criminal acts of trafficking because the report does not state penalties that exist for trafficking in persons, how many convictions are issued, and how much prison time is actually served as required by the minimum standards.

For example, the report documents that Austria complies with the minimum standards of the Act because "the government investigates all cases filed, and prosecutes these cases rigorously. The Austrian court has handed down many convictions." n19 Based on this simple analysis Austria receives a Tier 1 rating. Such an analysis is vague because it does not clearly address the manner in which Austria complies with standards 2 and 3 although data on charges, prosecution, penalties, convictions, and sentences related to trafficking in Austria are available. The Protection Project's 2002 Trafficking in Persons Report documents that "Several traffickers in Austria have been prosecuted and charged with repeat offenses. Of 49 people convicted, 27 had previous convictions and 10 were formerly convicted of trafficking, 35 out of 49 convicted traffickers were Austrian natives." n20

n19 *See* note 6, *id.* at 25.

n20 THE PROTECTION PROJECT, HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN (THE PAUL H. HITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY) at 28 (2002).

Another example of a lack of specific data is the documentation on the Republic of Korea, the only country to move from a tier 3 rating in 2001 to tier 1 rating in the 2002 report. The report states that Korea has no trafficking law but has used other laws to prosecute traffickers and has done so in more than 100 cases. n21 The change in the tier rating becomes questionable when there is no evidence in the report of charges, convictions, sentences, and actual time served by the 100 traffickers who were prosecuted.

n21 *See* Note 6, *id.* at 86.

The report must address standards 2 and 3 in a more specific fashion. Otherwise it is unclear why a country is placed in a **tier** and what the country did to combat **trafficking in persons** via law enforcement. Discussion of the fourth standard again requires consideration of the definition of "severe forms of trafficking" as discussed above. The steps that a government should take to make "serious and sustained efforts" to combat trafficking are clearly defined by the seven criteria of indicia from the Act. The seven criteria are quite thorough. However, they are not consistently utilized by the report. For example, there is no discussion in the documentation on either Korea's or Austria's extradition policies though extradition is listed as point 5 of the indicia to combat trafficking. The report instead utilizes the conventional

prosecution, protection, and prevention analysis. Though the conventional approach is effective, the report should have taken into consideration the seven criteria of the act as it presents a clear analysis of a country's "serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking" n22.

n22 See note 13, *id.*

4. *The Application of the Statistics to the Report*

The statistical compilation created by the Department of State incorporates 90 countries out of a possible 190 countries and territories. Other organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Protection Project have documented numerous cases of trafficking in a number of countries that are not included in the report. Hence, data on trafficking is available in many countries that were not included in the report. However, many NGOs have resources and reporting capabilities in regions where the United States does not, specifically in regions where the United States has no diplomatic ties. Even so, adequate information must be available before a country is placed in a tier. Thus, the Department of State must collect reliable information regarding countries for the 2003 report so that nations will not receive aid or be exempt from sanctions only on the basis of insufficient information. Countries not discussed in the report include but are not limited to Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Peru, Sweden, and Venezuela. The majority of the countries listed have diplomatic ties with the United States and have more than 100 documented cases of trafficked persons. For example, upon request by the Protection Project via a law enforcement survey, the Embassy of Denmark submitted detailed reports on the number of people to be prosecuted, convicted, and deported based on prostitution and related activities.

Countries should not be included in the report where there is little or no information on trafficking in persons. In some instances the report documents abuses in trafficking where there is little evidence. For example, Iran was added to the 2002 report and placed in tier 3 when it was not in the previous report. Iran may now receive sanctions though the report itself acknowledges that "there is no information available" in certain areas with respect law enforcement. n23 Furthermore, the documentation on Iran does not consider "severe forms of trafficking" but focuses on women's rights and human rights violations that occur in Iran.

n23 See note 6, *id.* at 62.

5. *Analysis of Tier Divisions and Country Placement*

Many of the countries that are placed in tier 1 have made significant steps to combat trafficking. However, 16 out of 18 countries in tier 1 have legalized prostitution. This means that the report does not recognize any correlation between legalized prostitution and trafficking.

All of the countries in tier 1 are destination countries for trafficked women. This means that the countries in tier 1 are consumer nations. Hence, the fact that a country does not affect its rating as a Tier 1 country and is decidedly under compliance with the minimum standards of the act.

The criminalization of prostitution should be an important preventive measure to be taken into consideration with compliance of the minimum standards when trafficked persons and other migrants are estimated to comprise 80% of the prostitutes in Vienna, Austria, 75% of the prostitutes in Germany and, 80% of prostitutes in Amsterdam, Netherlands. n24 All of these countries have legalized prostitution. Destination countries where prostitution is legalized contribute significantly to the trafficking problem and must be held accountable by the TIP report.

n24 See Note 18 at 28, 212, 386.

There are a range of countries included in tier 2; many of which appear to be combating trafficking to the best of their ability in light of scarce financial resources. For example, there are an overwhelming number of countries in this tier where prostitution is illegal or in the process of being criminalized but there are also countries in this tier that are seemingly complacent after being placed in tier 2 twice because governments are aware that they have avoided sanctions and will still receive aid.

Countries such as India and Thailand are placed in this tier but have done little to combat trafficking. Many government officials facilitate trafficking. Moreover, these countries have not made strides with NGO's. Few people are charged with trafficking offenses, even fewer are convicted, and many refuse to acknowledge that the scourge of trafficking exists. For example, in India it is believed that 2.3 million women are involved in prostitution -- the majority of them trafficked. However, not one person in India has been prosecuted for a trafficking related offense in the past year. n25

n25 Coalition Against Trafficked Women, Country Specific Statistics, <http://www.catw-ap.org/facts.htm>.

The TIP report must not allow countries to become complacent. Countries must be evaluated strictly on the basis of measures taken to combat trafficking in persons. Strategic, economic, and political reasons should not be a factor in the report, otherwise the report will not serve as an effective tool to eliminate all practices of trafficking in persons.

6. Conclusion

The report and the Act are the beginning of the effort to combat trafficking in persons. Many goals remain to be accomplished. The report must clearly apply the minimum standards of the Act to its documentation. The report must make a serious attempt to obtain accurate data on a country and present documentation once such information is obtained. The report must address the role of law enforcement by cataloging and analyzing the number of cases of trafficking, penalties, punishment, and convictions. The problem of trafficking must be addressed in both source and destination countries. The report should address the criminalization of prostitution and its correlation to trafficking in persons.

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321 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Channel NewsAsia

July 8, 2002 Monday

S'pore disagrees with US rating on people smuggling

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS**LENGTH:** 154 words

Singapore is surprised that the United States feels it's not doing enough to combat human trafficking across its borders.

Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee told Parliament that this is the second year in a row that the US State Department has classified Singapore as a second **tier** country in its report on **human trafficking**.

He said: "We did not agree with this classification as we are the only country in tier two to have met the minimum standards but still placed in tier two instead of tier one.

"We pointed out the inaccuracies in the report to the US embassy in Singapore. We will continue to point out inaccuracies in this annual report to the US embassy here.

"No country, including the US, can claim to be completely immune to the problems of human trafficking. Indeed some would say even the US has problems of its own in this area and falls short of its own criteria."

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322 of 359 DOCUMENTS

XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

July 8, 2002, Monday

S'pore displeased with US anti-human-smuggling rating**SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL**LENGTH:** 190 words**DATELINE:** SINGAPORE, July 8

Singapore Monday voiced its displeasure with the US rating of its efforts against human smuggling across the border.

In a reply to a question in the parliament, Singapore Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee admitted that the United States feels Singapore is not doing enough to combat **human trafficking** across its borders and for the second year in a row that the US State Department has classified Singapore as a second **tier** country in its report on **human trafficking**.

He said: "We did not agree with this classification as we are the only country in tier two to have met the minimum standards but still placed in tier two instead of tier one."

"We pointed out the inaccuracies in the report to the US Embassy in Singapore and will continue to point out inaccuracies in this annual report to the US Embassy here," he added.

He underlined that no country, including the United States, can claim to be completely immune to the problems of human trafficking.

"Indeed some would say even the United States has problems of its own in this area and falls short of its own criteria," he said.

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323 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 20, 2002 Thursday

Cambodian police arrest 14 girls trafficked into brothels

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 342 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH, June 20

Cambodian police arrested 14 girls for illegal immigration after they were trafficked into local brothels from Vietnam and then rescued by human rights advocates, witnesses said Thursday.

The arrests outraged aid workers and came as international donors were meeting here to assess the situation in Cambodia before deciding how much foreign assistance to give the country for the next 12 months.

Pierre Legros, an advisor to the non-governmental organisation Afesip which sought to protect the girls, said they were aged between 12 and 18.

This was disputed by Cambodian authorities who said they were between 18 and 20.

"It's a tragic misunderstanding of justice," Legros said. "These girls should be considered victims of trafficking now they are considered the perpetrators."

The girls, arrested because they did not have the correct travel documents, were apparently going to be held at Prey Sar prison.

A warrant for their arrest was issued by the courts last Monday.

Phuong Sophy, deputy bureau chief of the Ministry of Interior's Juvenile Protection Against Child Exploitation Department, confirmed that the girls had been rescued from a brothel after being trafficked into Cambodia.

"Now there is a court warrant that these 14 Vietnamese girls aged between 18 and 20 had illegally entered Cambodia so we are taking them to the prison," he told AFP.

Legros said legislation was before the national assembly to offer protection to minors who were trafficked.

Cambodia is seeking 1.46 billion dollars from international donors who will make their pledges based on an assessment of this country's troubled past 12 months.

That includes a report by the US State Department on "**Trafficking in Persons**" which added Cambodia to a **blacklist** of states Washington blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge.

From 2003 Cambodia could be subject to US sanctions, including the halting of non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance, unless it shows a vast improvement in combatting human trafficking.

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ARRESTS (94%); HUMAN TRAFFICKING (91%); IMMIGRATION (91%); ARREST WARRANTS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); JUVENILE CRIME (90%); HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (90%); ALIEN SMUGGLING (89%); HUMAN RIGHTS (89%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (85%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (78%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (78%); JUVENILE JUSTICE (78%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (77%); INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (77%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (73%); INTERNET CRIME (73%);

324 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 20, 2002

Text: U.S. Official Cites New Information in Latest Trafficking Report; Data provided by NGOs played significant role

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 2235 words

The U.S. Department of State took new steps to improve this year's recently released Trafficking in Persons Report, according to Under Secretary Paula Dobriansky. In the second annual compilation of the congressionally mandated report, Dobriansky said the department collected additional information from overseas ministries, law enforcement and border officials, local nongovernment organizations (NGOs), academics and journalists.

In testimony delivered June 19 before the House International Relations Committee, Dobriansky said the team preparing this year's report supplemented the information it gathered from 186 overseas posts with assessments from the intelligence community. The team also invited 150 U.S. NGOs to submit information on trafficking in persons through a specially established e-mail address.

Based on the NGO input, Dobriansky said, U.S. missions overseas were able to include specific inquiries about numbers of arrests, indictments and prosecutions, evidence of governmental involvement or corruption, and what steps have been taken to deal with these circumstances.

"As a result, the report reflects our increased collection of data and consideration of the scope of the trafficking problem in many countries," she said. Dobriansky's remarks came in response to some criticisms that the report was based on inadequate data.

Dobriansky said political considerations were not a factor in assessing whether a foreign government is complying with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons. "Many of our friends and allies are on Tiers II and III," she said. "They simply do not comply with minimum standards."

Countries that are in full compliance with minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act merit a Tier I ranking. Countries not yet in full compliance but making significant efforts are listed on **Tier II**, and countries neither meeting minimum standards nor making significant efforts are listed on **Tier III**. Those minimum standards as outlined by the law include prosecution of perpetrators, protection of victims and educating the public about **human trafficking**.

Following is the text of Dobriansky's testimony as prepared for delivery:

(begin text)

Testimony of Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky Before the House International Relations Committee

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: An Overview of Current U.S. Policy and the Trafficking in Persons Report

June 19, 2002

Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss U.S. policy to combat trafficking in persons and the second annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Your strong leadership on this issue, first by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and then by focusing national attention on its implementation has been crucial. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Congress - as well as foreign governments and NGOs - toward eradicating this egregious human rights abuse and crime.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is an essential tool available to the U.S. Government for achieving this objective. As Secretary Powell has said, the "annual Trafficking in Persons Report shines a much-needed light on this global

problem. We use the information we collect for the report to bolster the will of the international community to combat this unconscionable crime."

In accordance with the legislative mandate, foreign governments are judged on whether they comply with the minimum standards to eliminate **trafficking in persons** and are ranked in one of three **tiers**. These governments are judged on their actions, not on plans that are merely in progress. According to the statute's minimum standards, countries must treat victims as victims, not criminals; they must prosecute traffickers, recognizing that trafficking is a crime that must be punished with sentences commensurate for those of other grave crimes, such as sexual assault; and they must prevent trafficking, recognizing the importance of public education campaigns in not only urban but also rural areas.

Since the release of the first report, we have used its contents to engage aggressively with other countries about what more effective concrete steps they can take in the area of prevention, protection and prosecution. To that end, I have met personally with representatives from India, Cote d'Ivoire, Romania, South Korea and numerous other countries to discuss trafficking in persons. Ambassador Ely-Raphel and her team in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons have met with representatives from more than two dozen countries -- some of them repeatedly. Our ambassadors and their staffs, as well as others in the Department, have also raised this issue numerous times with foreign government officials. These efforts have made a difference, and over the last year there were some improvements. At the same time, there was, disappointingly, regression and no change in a number of countries.

In preparing this year's report, our team undertook some new steps. They gathered information from 186 posts overseas, with input from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior, as well as law enforcement, border officials, local NGOs, representatives of international organizations working in those countries, academics, and journalists. The Trafficking in Persons Report team also supplemented the information with assessments from the intelligence community. Moreover, in December 2001, the Trafficking in Persons Office invited 150 U.S. NGOs to submit information on trafficking in persons through a specially established email address.

It's important to note that the Report goes beyond what is called for in the Act, which requires a listing of three tiers. Instead, we included brief country summaries, which are invaluable in identifying for foreign governments the areas in which they need to improve their efforts. Based on NGO input, we directed U.S. missions overseas to expand their information-gathering efforts to include specific inquiries about numbers of arrests, indictments and prosecutions, evidence of governmental involvement or corruption and what steps have been taken to deal with these circumstances. As a result, the report reflects our increased collection of data and consideration of the scope of the trafficking problem in many countries.

The report analyzes the actions of countries based on the determination of whether they were "a country of origin, transit or destination for a significant number of victims" of trafficking and whether they were meeting the minimum standards to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons, and, if not, whether they are making significant efforts to do so. Political considerations were not a factor in our assessments. Many of our friends and allies are on Tiers II and III. They simply do not comply with minimum standards.

The release of this year's report has already generated many responses from a number of countries on Tiers II and III, including Japan, Malaysia, Greece and Turkey. We are meeting with each to discuss the report and suggest concrete follow-up steps. In addition, throughout the year we work with foreign NGOs to obtain feedback on whether the report's descriptions ring true to their experiences working with trafficking victims. We also distribute and publicize the report within the United States to educate Americans about the global scope of trafficking in persons.

Just as the report has already elicited feedback from countries listed in the report, it has also generated considerable reaction among activists in this country, as well as Members of Congress. I appreciate - and indeed share - the fervor that so many people bring to this issue. Let there be no mistake about it: we are all in pursuit of the same goal, namely the eradication of trafficking once and for all. In response to some of the criticisms I have heard expressed since release of the report and in anticipation of some of your questions today, I wish to address some of the criticisms of the report.

First, I have heard people say that placement of certain countries on Tier II constitutes their receiving a "passing grade." The legislation calls for three lists. Countries that are in full compliance with the Act's minimum standards merit a Tier I ranking. Countries not yet in full compliance but making significant efforts are on Tier II. Countries neither meeting minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are placed on Tier III. Countries with some of the worst trafficking problems are also some of the countries making a significant effort to combat them. The two are not mutually exclusive.

There is no question that Tier III placement is for the worst offenders, but being listed on Tier II means that countries are not in full compliance. It's not a pass to be listed on Tier II. Countries do not like to be listed on either Tier II or III and have challenged our findings. Moreover, countries on Tier II do not want to run the risk of falling to Tier III next year and face sanctions, including the possible cutoffs of non-humanitarian aid.

Second, and related to this, is the fact that honest people can disagree on the tier placements of certain countries. Congress asked that we look at the "significant effort" that a country is making. What constitutes a significant effort as defined in the Act is something that people can discuss and analyze differently. No country - including our own - is doing enough as long as trafficking continues to exist. That said, progress in one country will look very different from progress in others - as circumstances are different and what can impact the situation may also be different. At the same time, in our diplomatic engagement, we will set a high bar for these countries and demand solid action, not rhetoric. This is an extremely complex issue in which numerous factors - law enforcement, judicial action, legislative action, women's and children's rights, protection, economic conditions, and social assistance - have a bearing on how effective a country is in dealing with the problem and how we can engage and pressure that country to make progress. Simply, in each case there is not just one defining issue. We recognize the complexity and will take a hard look at each country.

Lastly, some have criticized the report for lacking data. I'd like to assure you that we have made significant efforts to collect data, which we then factored into our decision-making. With a world estimate of between 700,000 and four million trafficking victims, this underground crime is not easy to pinpoint. Accumulating verifiable data is extremely difficult, even here in the United States. Statistics are important and we will continue to push our various sources on collection. But statistics are one part of what we are looking at. Action, or inaction, is the primary focus.

The report is one of many tools at our disposal to address this criminal activity, to shed light on the terrible problem of trafficking, and to crack down on traffickers. The report is most effective when combined with a comprehensive strategy of diplomacy and direct engagement with other governments, multilateral fora, public affairs, programmatic support and technical assistance. That is why we are moving forward on developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to dealing with this issue. We have taken other steps, which we believe reinforce the impact of the report. These include:

- (1) The meeting of the President's Cabinet-level Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which established the Senior Policy Advisory Group of representatives from the various task force agencies. This Senior Policy Advisory Group has already undertaken two significant actions: the completion of the Overview of the Administration's Implementation of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act and a review of our policy parameters.
- (2) A comprehensive review of prospective programs with a view to having the greatest amount of influence on these problematic areas.
- (3) Seeking to use every forum - bilateral, regional and global - to aggressively address the issue of trafficking in persons. Working closely with our partners to spotlight such egregious human rights abuses can only strengthen our hand in eradicating trafficking.
- (4) Moving forward with the ratification process of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2000. To date, the United States and 104 other countries have signed the Protocol.
- (5) Educating the public about the issue, by expanding the section on trafficking in persons in our annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which has contributed to our keeping the issue of trafficking in persons central in our discourse with other countries - particularly the offenders; and speaking at conferences and with the media.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we want to continue to work vigorously with you, the NGOs and other governments to eradicate the often-hidden phenomenon of human bondage in modern-day society.

Thank you.

(end transcript)

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325 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal News Service

June 19, 2002 Wednesday

HEARING OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**SUBJECT: FOREIGN GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A REVIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S 2002 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT****CHAired BY: REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J. HYDE (R-IL)****LOCATION: 2172 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.****SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING****LENGTH: 26690 words**

REP. HENRY J. HYDE (R-IL): The committee will come to order. I am pleased to convene this hearing, which is the second in a series of hearings being held by the House Committee on International Relations on implementation of the Smith-Gejdensen Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000.

The Smith-Gejdensen Act provides a comprehensive plan for putting an end to modern day slavery. A key component of this plan is the State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons" report. This report is intended to inform the president and the Congress about which foreign governments are making serious efforts to combat the most egregious forms of trafficking in persons, the buying and selling of women and children into the international sex industry, and the trafficking of men, women and children alike into slavery and involuntary servitude, and which governments are failing to make such efforts.

At today's hearing, the committee will hear testimony on the State Department's second annual "Trafficking in Persons" report. This year's report is particularly important because it's intended to serve as a final wake-up call to governments which are doing little or nothing to combat human trafficking. This is because the Trafficking Victims Protection Act contemplates that the United States will withdraw non-humanitarian aid from governments which remain on the Tier 3 list after the next year's report. The **Tier 3** governments are those that not only fail to meet minimum international standards for combating **human trafficking**, but who are not even making serious efforts to bring themselves into compliance with these standards.

In addition to providing an overview of the state of the war against human trafficking and the general assessment of the "Trafficking in Persons" report, I hope our witnesses will address one question in particular. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act places particular emphasis on the need to take action against governments that not only tolerate human trafficking, but are actively complicit in such trafficking through their agencies and officials.

Both this year and last year, criticism of the report by human rights advocates and humanitarian organizations has singled out governments that are omitted from the Tier 3 list, even though they appear to give impunity to their own officials who participate in, and profit from the sex trafficking and slave trafficking. In some cases the report acknowledges this problem but finds nevertheless that the government has engaged in significant efforts to end trafficking. These efforts typically include co-sponsoring rehabilitation and training programs with international organizations or perhaps prosecuting an occasional perpetrator.

This raises the question whether governments whose own agencies or officials are pervasively involved in human trafficking and who lack the political will to take the difficult measures that would be necessary to put an end to such involvement, will nevertheless be able to avoid sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. If so, what must be done to put an end to this impunity? Should the State Department reassess its standard for what constitutes significant efforts by a government whose officials or agencies are engaged in human trafficking? Or does the act need to be amended in order to make clear that government complicity in sex trafficking and slave trafficking, is simply unacceptable.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today and I am pleased to yield to the distinguished ranking member of the committee, Representative Tom Lantos, for any opening remarks he may have.

REP. TOM LANTOS (D-CA): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me at the outset thank you for holding this extremely important hearing on trafficking in persons, a heinous practice that amounts to nothing less than modern day slavery.

At the outset I would like to pay special tribute to my good friend, Chris Smith, of New Jersey who has played such a pivotal role on this whole issue and to my friend and colleague the Republican co-chair of the Human Rights Caucus, Frank Wolf of Virginia who has been such a staunch advocate for all of these human rights issues.

I also want to express publicly my personal gratitude to three women who taught me everything I know about human rights and particularly this issue. My wife, Annette, who is here in the audience and our two daughters Annette, and Katrina. Katrina, when she lived in Copenhagen the last three years as the wife of our ambassador, took it upon herself to choose the issue of trafficking as her cause and devoted untold hours on behalf of fighting this important issue.

From the foothills of the Himalayas to the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta and from the steps of Central Asia to the desert sands of the Arabian Peninsula, hundreds of thousands, probably millions of women and girls, are suffering under the yoke of sexual slavery, and other unthinkable forms of forced labor. Tragically, this terrible practice extends to our own shores.

Each year, Mr. Chairman, thousands of kidnapped or manipulated women and children slip through our own borders to join the underground workforce of coerced labor here in the United States. Sadly, our government has for too long been woefully unprepared to combat this barbarous behavior. Recognizing this growing problem, our committee during the last Congress, successfully worked for the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In addition to initiatives to prevent trafficking, to protect victims and to punish traffickers, one of the most important achievements of our legislation was the creation of the report we are to hear about today which focuses international attention on these horrendous abuses.

This report's primary purpose of course is to penetrate the darkness surrounding the subject and shed light on the countries where trafficking occurs, where trafficking is tolerated and in some instances, where trafficking is encouraged. The report holds foreign governments accountable for the persistence of trafficking on their soil. No longer will they get away with making excuses rather than taking action.

Many argue, Mr. Chairman, that human rights reporting such as this needlessly complicates our diplomacy and often proves counterproductive. I couldn't disagree more. Since the publication of the first "Trafficking In Persons" report, 14 countries have responded by intensifying their efforts to combat trafficking. This year's report by the Department of State recognizes these countries for their progress and they are properly praised for making important strides in achieving the goal of eliminating this sickening practice.

For example, the state of Israel, despite being under unceasing attacks by terrorists and human suicide bombers, has passed a new law against trafficking. Israel has been actively prosecuting trafficking cases. It has been cracking down on government officials who have been connected with trafficking activities. In direct response to last year's report, our friends in South Korea established new mechanisms to prosecute traffickers, to promote public awareness, and to protect victims.

Mr. Chairman, while the effectiveness of this report has already been seen, we must do much more. There are still far too many trafficking victims. Countries that are making progress need to sustain that progress, and countries that have yet to act must do so, now. If not, U.S. law will require that we impose sanctions on these countries.

Let there be no mistake, Mr. Chairman, we will not hold back from taking action where we must. The voices of thousands of women and children from all over the world who are suffering every day, compel us to expose these horrible practices and to take stern measures to ensure that these practices end.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to listening to our witnesses.

REP. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Smith.

REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH (R-NJ): Thank you very much, Chairman Hyde, for convening this very important hearing to review the 2002 "Trafficking In Persons" report that has been issued by the State Department. And I want to especially thank you for the leadership. I think everyone, every member, knows this that this bill was referred to four major committees, I believe it was 11 or 12 subcommittees, and one of the key pieces of the legislation was protection for the victims. A sea change, a radical change we were seeking to effectuate that would protect the women and cease the treatment of those women as criminals and to treat them as victims. That piece went to the Judiciary Committee when Chairman Hyde was chairman of that committee and there was reluctance among some of the key members including a key subcommittee member and without Chairman Hyde's leadership, the new T- visa and the protection side of this would not have been enacted into law.

So I want to thank especially our distinguished chairman. Now that he chairs this committee but in his previous chairmanship for making that possible. It was a dead letter and he was -- he just made it --

REP. LANTOS: Will my friend yield for a second? I want to associate myself with these remarks concerning Chairman Hyde.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Lantos. And let me just say as well that Joseph Reece (ph), David Abramowitz, you mentioned Sam Gejdensen who was our chief Democratic sponsor and we worked together on that. On the Senate side, it was Brownback and Wellstone, it was a team effort, and that's why this legislation is law and now it's being safely implemented by the Bush administration.

Let me just say that when the law was enacted there were many people who didn't want to publicly name offending countries. The experience of the first two TIP reports, however, supports the argument that I and others made, that some countries would only get serious about their failure to address this travesty of human rights if their deficiencies were publicly identified.

During the year between the first and second reports the government of more than two dozen countries improved their behavior and policies enough to merit an improved mark. Only Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan dropped in ranking from the first year to the second. Naming names commands the attention of the countries around the globe and puts all countries on notice. If they are found to have significant amount of human trafficking taking place on their soil, they too will be included in the next report.

The guiding principle for the State Department in preparing this report should be to go where and anywhere that the evidence leads. Countries which are not making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standard must be placed on Tier 3 and remain there, regardless of competing political considerations, until their efforts truly warrant their elevation.

Even our allies should not escape, nor do they escape scrutiny, if the facts show that they are failing to address modern day slavery. If the report is to continue to be an effective document, it must continue to honestly evaluate countries according to the evidence. In this regard, although I agree with most of this report, I do take exception to the placement of India, Thailand and Vietnam on Tier 2 rather than Tier 3 again this year, as they were in the 2001 report. In the case of Vietnam there is clear evidence that the government's own labor export program is deeply complicit in human trafficking. Indeed, much of this evidence can be found in a recent decision by a U.S. court in American Samoa. This landmark anti-trafficking case found that two Vietnamese government owned labor export companies actively participated in trafficking several hundred workers into slavery in a factory in American Samoa, and repeatedly threatened them with retaliation if they complained about the abuses to which they were subjected.

In India more than 200,000 persons are trafficked in the country each year. More than 2.3 million girls and women are believed to be working in the sex industry against their will at any given time in India. Possibly as many as 40 percent are children. Indian boys, some as young as age 4, are trafficked abroad to be enslaved and brutalized as jockeys in camel races. Evidence exists that law enforcement and government officials help facilitate human trafficking and inves-

tigations and prosecutions of traffickers are rare. Indeed, the State Department points to just 47 cases in Delhi to support the statement that investigations and prosecutions are rare, but increasing. In any event, local corruption renders most prosecutorial efforts ineffective.

I do not mean to suggest that the governments of India, Thailand and Vietnam are not taking any steps to address trafficking or to assist victims. I am saying that their efforts to combat trafficking cannot reasonably be judged to be significant in light of the enormity of the human trafficking problems in those countries, and the absence of meaningful legal accountability for the traffickers. In Vietnam, India and Thailand, and frankly in other Tier 2 countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, traffickers or corrupt officials are rarely prosecuted and even more rarely convicted. This lack of accountability is not made acceptable by the fact that the NGOs are allowed to run awareness raising campaigns in the country, or that police officers or other government officials participate in training seminars. Nevertheless, the State Department deem these countries to be making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards.

There should be no question in anyone's mind, however, that countries on Tier 2 and perhaps even on Tier 1 still have a great deal of work to do to combat trafficking. Countries on Tier 2 are not meeting the barest minimum standards to effectively end the trafficking of persons on their territory. Being placed on Tier 2 is not by any stretch of the imagination a badge of honor. I applaud those governments such as Romania, Yugoslavia and Israel which created the political will in the past year to raise themselves from Tier 3 to 2. Last January in Yugoslavia, for example, Serbian police launched a nationwide crackdown on human trafficking, which involved raids on 441 different locations where trafficked women were likely being held. The government today is cooperating with the OSCE and other international organizations. Anti-trafficking initiatives and new anti-trafficking law is currently under consideration by their parliament.

Despite the improved rankings of Yugoslavia, Romania and Israel and others, let us be clear on one point. Appalling human rights violations continue in these countries. In Belgrade today women and girls are still being sold to the highest bidder at auctions, where they are stripped of their clothes and inspected like cattle. I wrote to each of these countries to press forward with the same political will in the coming year until the day that they can say that trafficking and slavery has been eradicated in their land, and the victims of trafficking and slavery were protected in the process.

Finally, I just want to thank -- we have -- we're jointed, Mr. Chairman, as you know by Congressman Frank Wolf, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice and State Committee in the Appropriations Committee, who in his bill last year, and again this year, has ensured that sufficient monies are allocated, appropriated, to fight this terrible scourge. And Frank has been a leader on human rights as well on a whole host of areas like religious freedom. So great to have him here and thank you.

REP. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Smith. One of the benefits of being chairman of a committee is you get to pronounce some very exotic names. Shalikashvili, General Shalikashvili. I learned that one. Former prime minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu. But we have on this committee the most exotic name of all, belonging to one of the really fine Congressman from American Samoa: Eni Faleomavaega.

Eni.

REP. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVEGA (D-AS): Mr. Chairman, thank you for such a pronounced introduction.

(Laughter.)

And for which I really do appreciate. I would look forward to hearing from our witnesses this afternoon, and curious also to find out how our State Department makes the valuations in classifying different countries in Tier 1, 2 and 3. And from all that I've heard so far, Mr. Chairman, I suspect that maybe even our own country might qualify for Tier 1. But I look forward to hearing from our good friends and witnesses representing the State Department.

As my good friend from New Jersey has alluded to earlier, we did have a little problem of Vietnamese workers that were brought in by a foreign national. I just wanted to know -- let my friend from New Jersey know that the situation has been resolved. And quite critically one of the biggest problems we had were the companies that were representing by the government of Vietnam, that caused so much of the mess that we ended up with. But I do want to assure my good friend from New Jersey that the problem no longer exists, and I would welcome any member of this committee to come and join me to visit my humble jurisdiction out there in the middle of the Pacific.

But with that, Mr. Chairman, I do look forward to hearing from our witnesses this afternoon. Thank you.

REP. HYDE: Thank you. Mr. Tancredo of Colorado.

REP. THOMAS G. TANCREDO (R-CO): Mr. Chairman, thank you. In order to expedite this part of the hearing, I would only want to say that I want to associate myself with all of the comments that have been made to this point, especially the accolades that have been heaped upon you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. HYDE: Does the gentleman require additional time?

(Laughter.)

Thank you, Mr. -- we'll cut you off now, thank you.

Mr. Smith of Michigan.

REP. NICK SMITH (R-MI): Mr. Chairman, likewise, thank you for having this hearing. Certainly I would like to align myself with a lot of the comments made so far. I would like my full statement -- written statement to be entered into the record without objection.

REP. HYDE: Without objection, so ordered.

REP. N. SMITH: But let me just say trafficking affects virtually -- and let me also comment that our former Congresswoman Linda Smith, who has done so much in the last several years to rescue women from trafficking throughout the world. So thank you, Linda, for being here and for all that you've done. Trafficking affects virtually every country in the world and is one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity. Chinese and Vietnamese Triads, the Japanese Yakusa, South American drug cartels, the Italian Mafia, the Russian gangs are some of the worst offenders. But it's also believed that some 50,000 people are trafficked here to the United States in reports that I've recently surveyed. Hopefully, strengthening our INS is going to result in a better job of reducing that trafficking, at least in the United States.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2004 countries that remain in Tier 3 will be subject to sanctions from the United States. And although I support harsh actions against countries who refuse to make the necessary changes to combat trafficking, I do have serious concerns that by withdrawing aid, or some of the other penalties, we will in some cases exacerbate conditions that increase the likelihood of trafficking. Chronic unemployment, widespread poverty create opportunities for trafficking, so I think it's very important that we examine these on a case by case basis, to make sure that our reaction and penalties for trafficking don't exacerbate the situation. And with that I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

REP. HYDE: I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Pitts of Pennsylvania.

REP. JOSEPH R. PITTS (R-PA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for holding this important and timely hearing regarding the "Trafficking In Persons" report.

I think it is vital that the Congress and the administration continue to shine the spotlight on the terrible violence against women and children and men as they are forced into slave labor or sexual servitude. The human rights violations, the criminal actions, must be addressed in the strongest possible manner so that the criminals and the violators receive a clear message that their actions will not be tolerated.

And thank you to all the individuals who worked on this report, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, other officials who are working on trafficking issues and helping bring perpetrators to justice. And I would like to specifically thank Under Secretary Paula Dobriansky and Ambassador Nancy Ely Raphel for their work on this report, and their efforts to raise the profile of this issue. In its continued aid to erase this terrible form of slavery, clear leadership from the administration will help millions of enslaved women, children and even men, around the world.

There are horrifying stories of young girls imprisoned, forced to sexually service large numbers of men each day. The physical, the psychological toll on these individuals is heart wrenching. And the rescue and the rehabilitation work being done by many NGOs on behalf of those in forced servitude is commendable, and should be supported.

We also need, however, to focus on preventing this servitude from ever occurring, and on prosecuting those involved in criminal activities. A number of NGOs working on trafficking in persons issues, as well as a number of members of Congress, have concerns about the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, and the lack of clarity regarding data collection and methodology of decision making.

There have been particular concerns regarding the placement of India, of Vietnam and Thailand, in the ranking as -- there seems to be substantial evidence that these nations deserve to be placed in Tier 3, instead of Tier 2. It would be helpful, as this report develops, for the State Department to clarify their decision-making process that was used.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses today.

REP. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Pitts.

I would like to welcome Dr. Paula Dobriansky.

Prior to her appointment as Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Dr. Dobriansky served as Senior Vice President and Director of the Washington Office of the Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, she served as Senior International Affairs and Trade Adviser at the law firm of Hunton and Williams, and as co-chair of the International TV Council at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Dr. Dobriansky is accompanied by Ambassador Nancy Ely-Raphel, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State on Trafficking in Persons.

We are very honored to have you appear before the committee today, both of you. And if you could proceed with a five-minute summary, give or take, your full statement will be made a part of the record.

Secretary Dobriansky.

MS. PAULA DOBRIANSKY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, thank you for inviting me, us, here today to discuss U.S. policy to combat trafficking in persons, and the second annual Trafficking in Persons Report. I will submit a longer version for the record, and will condense my report.

Your strong leadership on this issue, first, by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000, and then by focusing national attention on its implementation, has been crucial. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Congress, as well as with foreign governments and NGOs towards eradicating this egregious human rights abuse and crime.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is an essential tool available to the United States Government for achieving this objective. And in accordance with the legislative mandate, foreign governments are judged on whether they comply with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons. Governments are judged on their actions, not on plans that are merely in progress. Countries must treat victims as victims, not criminals; they must prosecute traffickers; and they must prevent trafficking, recognizing the importance of public education campaigns, and not only urban but in rural areas.

Since the release of the first report, we have used its contents to engage aggressively with other countries about what more effective concrete steps they can take in the area of preventing, protection and prosecution. To that end, I have met personally with representatives from India, Cote d'Ivoire, Romania, South Korea and numerous other countries to discuss trafficking in persons. Ambassador Ely Raphel and her team in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons have met with representatives from more than two dozen countries, some of them repeatedly. Our ambassadors and their staffs, as well as others in the department, have also raised this issue numerous times with a very broad range of foreign government officials.

These efforts have made a difference. And over the last year, there were some improvements. At the same time, there was disappointingly, regression and no change in a number of countries. It is important to note that the report goes beyond what is called for specifically in the act, which requires a listing of three tiers. Instead, we include country, brief country narrative, which are invaluable in identifying for foreign governments the areas in which they need to improve their effort.

Based on NGO input, we directed U.S. missions overseas to expand their information gathering efforts to include specific inquiries about numbers of arrests, indictments, and prosecutions, evidence of government involvement, or corruption, and what steps had been taken to deal with these circumstances. As a result, the report reflects our increased collection of data, and consideration of the scope of the trafficking problem in many countries.

The release of this year's report has already generated many responses from a number of countries on Tiers 2 and 3, including Japan, Malaysia, Greece and Turkey. We are meeting with each to discuss the report, and to suggest concrete follow-up steps. Just as the report has already elicited feedback from countries listed in the report, it has also generated considerable reaction from activists in this country, as well as members of Congress.

I appreciate and, indeed, share the fervor that so many people bring to this issue. Let there be no mistake about it. We are all in pursuit of the same goal, namely, the eradication of trafficking once and for all. In response to some of the criticisms I have heard expressed since release of the report, and in anticipation of some of your questions today, I wish to address some of the criticisms that have been rendered.

First, I have heard some people say that placement of certain countries on Tier 2 constitute their receiving a passing grade. The legislation calls for three lists. Countries that are in full compliance with the act's minimum standards merit a Tier 1 ranking. Countries not yet in full compliance, but making significant efforts, are on Tier 2. Countries neither meeting minimum standards, nor making significant efforts to do so, are placed on Tier 3. Countries with some of the worst trafficking problems are also some of the countries making a significant effort to combat them. The two are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

There is no question that Tier 3 placement is for the worst offenders. But being listed on Tier 2 means that countries are not in full compliance. It's not a pass to be listed on Tier 2. Countries do not like to be listed on Tier 2 or on Tier 3 and, in fact, have challenged our finding. Moreover, countries on Tier 2 do not want to run the risk of falling to Tier 3 next year and face sanctions, including the possible cut-off of non-humanitarian aid.

Second, and related to this, is the fact that honest people can disagree on the tier placements of certain countries. Congress asked that we look at the significant effort that a country is making. What constitutes a significant effort, as defined in the act, is something that people can discuss, and maybe analyze differently. No country, including our own, is doing enough, as long as trafficking continues to exist. That said, progress in one country will look very different from progress in others, as circumstances are different, and what can impact the situation may also be different.

At the same time, in our diplomatic engagement, we will set a high bar for these countries, and demand solid action, not rhetoric. This is an extremely complex issue in which numerous factors, law enforcement, judicial action, legislative action, women's and children's rights, protection, economic conditions, and social assistance, have a bearing on how effective a country is in dealing with the problem and how we engage and pressure that country to make progress. Simply, in each case there is not just one defining issue. We recognize the complexity and will take a hard look at each country.

Lastly, some have criticized the report for lacking data. I'd like to assure you that we have made significant efforts to collect data, which we then factored into our decision making. With the world estimate of between 700,000 on one hand and four million trafficking victims on the other hand, this underground crime is not easy to pinpoint. Accumulating verifiable data is extremely difficult even here in the United States. Statistics are important and we will continue our various sources on collection. But statistics are one part of what we are looking at. Action or inaction is the primary focus. The report is one of many tools that are at our disposal to address this criminal activity, to shed light on the terrible problem of trafficking and to crack down on traffickers.

The report is most effective when combined with the comprehensive strategy of diplomacy and direct engagement with other governments, multilateral fora, public affairs, programmatic support and technical assistance. We have taken other steps which we believe reinforce the impact of the report. These include the president's cabinet level interagency taskforce, the newly established senior policy advisory group, a comprehensive review of prospective programs, the usage of every forum, bilateral, regional, global, the ratification process of the U.N. protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, educating the public, for example, through the annual country reports on human rights practices.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we want to continue to work vigorously with you, the NGOs and other governments to eradicate the often hidden phenomenon of human bondage in modern day society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you very much, Secretary Dobriansky.

Ambassador.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I don't have a statement.

REP. C. SMITH: Okay, thank you. Without objection, a number of written statements by groups and individuals who were unable to testify today will be included in the record. And I do want to make clear to my good friend from American Samoa, Mr. Faleomavaega, that while I'm aware and very pleased that the justice system on that island has operated well, the problem is with the Vietnamese government, and the fact that these people were working for state run organi-

zations. So I think his point was well taken. The judicial system worked and worked well. But there still is a problem with the government and that's -- sir, that's very clear.

I do have some questions and again, I want to thank both of you for being here and for the work you're doing on behalf of trafficked human being, especially the women who disproportionately are being mal-affected by this egregious practice. A couple of questions. I was wondering if you could tell us, either of you, how well are our embassies abroad using this issue? Are they raising it in their diplomatic discussions? Data collection is important. Certainly it is part of a diplomatic process. Are they letting particularly the egregious violators know that sanctions are really real, they're in the offing if significant reform is not made and what has been the response, Madam Secretary?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes. Our ambassadors and our officials in our posts abroad I believe have been very aggressive in raising the issue of trafficking in persons with foreign counterparts. First, before many of our ambassadors go overseas, I have had the benefit of briefing them through ambassadorial seminars that we hold at the state department and which this topic has been extensively discussed. Many of our ambassadors have also come to see me personally, have also visited with ambassador Ely Raphael to discuss the issue prior to departure.

In addition, when the report comes out and even before the report comes out, the posts are extremely well engaged in this. As you know, we derive our information from our posts. We solicit prior to the putting together of the report a rather extensive amount of documentation from our posts abroad in which we post questions that emanate from the standards and the criteria as set forth in the act.

In addition, our posts have not only come back but also have been very engaged, particularly in those countries that have been very willing and interested in partnering with us. They have been very engaged in setting forth programs and plans by which countries can become much more effective in their trafficking programs.

REP. C. SMITH: If I could ask you, I was wondering why in countries like Syria, Iraq, Cuba and Libya, known sponsors of terrorism are not included in the report and are not analyzed in the report?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, let me respond to those in the mix that you mentioned where we not have a post and we don't have diplomatic relations. First, in terms of our access in those countries in which our relationship is virtually non-existent, the ability in acquiring access to information is limited one. In fact, this time in the introduction of the report, we addressed this. The fact that a number of our posts have been in fact constrained, the example that we cite, not one of the ones that you've mentioned but is in fact North Korea, which has come up and we've had under discussion where we don't have the direct access through a presence on the ground. Having said that, we are determined through other ways and means of trying to get information as we can.

REP. C. SMITH: If I could encourage you, as you go forward, to look at those countries because borrowing access, we had the same problem with the International Religious Freedom Act, countries of interest and you mentioned North Korea. North Korea in particular was left out of the mix and as our recent hearing in this committee, chaired by Mr. Hyde pointed out, or Mr. Leach pointed out, the subcommittee chairman, and it is now a country of interest to the United States in that regard, the crackdown on religious believers is comprehensive and barbaric in that country.

So, I just point that out as -- I mean, there is some, at least from the human rights organizations and other means of deriving information that might be, at least give us the ability to classify. Let me just ask you, were there cases and you don't have to tell us which ones in which the trafficking office staff initially recommended a country be placed on Tier 3 but in which the country was eventually put on Tier 2 after a push back from the U.S. embassy in that country? Were there any examples of that?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I will respond and I think Nancy should respond to this. I'm not aware. I will say this because your question was about whether our posts came in and challenged. Is that correct?

REP. C. SMITH: That's correct. That's basically the bottom line, that it might muck up the relationship that's being --

MS. DOBRIANSKY: They come in and they provide the data and discussions take place within the department in an inter-agency basis. I'm not aware of, in this round, last year's round, there were some challenges. In this year round, I'm not aware of any.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: No, I am not aware of any either. The decisions were really made back in the state department and we would go back out to them asking questions. But there really was not a post that came in -- they're complaining now but they didn't complain at the time.

REP. C. SMITH: Okay. Let me ask a question on China. In today's USA Today there's a front page story, "China thrown off balance as boys outnumber girls." Many of us on this panel, and I've been doing it since the early 1980s, have raised the specter of a disproportionate number of boys vis-a-vis girls. That is to say, much fewer girls or women in that country. As a matter of fact, the State Department report suggested that the imbalance may be as high as 100 million girls versus boys, males versus females in that country, which is because of the one child per couple policy. But it creates, as we all know, a magnet for a bride. This points out that there may be 40 million young Chinese men who won't be able to marry or start families because of this disproportionality.

China is Tier 2 country. In other words, it has a serious problem but has been judged to be making some progress. The point is made in the narrative that it has a law on trafficking, but the police maintain a national database of abducted and rescued people and a DNA database to facilitate the return of abducted children. Do we have any figures on how many have been prosecuted, because that's also mentioned in the narrative? How many have been abducted children and women and how many have been rescued?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I don't have on me -- with me the specific data. But congressman, you -- Mr. Chairman, excuse me, you raised I think an important point which I did address in my opening remarks and that is the issue about data collection. We did go out to all of our posts to solicit specific data across the board. And the responses back were varied and in some cases, contingent upon what they were honestly were able to get on the ground. In some cases because of lack of access and in some cases because of very poor record keeping. There were a combination of factors.

Having said that in this we can certainly provide you with that information. We have not in our narrative gone through and provided documentation and statistics but through this process of hearing critiques from Congress, from the NGO community, it seems that it would be very helpful in our future go round for us to look at that integration into our future reports.

REP. C. SMITH: I raise that question about the numbers especially. We all know and we recently and as a matter of fact I had a resolution that passed on behalf of one of the scholars that when information very quickly is classified as state secrets by the Chinese government and even the Dow Jones or Reuters or one of them ran into a problem with financial information being somehow being construed to be state secrets, it would seem to me that, if we had that information, it would be helpful to know. With a police state, I would be concerned about national DNA data banks, particularly in China, with the dictatorship running that country but I think the committee would benefit greatly if you could provide that to us in as great as detail as possible.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: On your specific question concerning China, we will come back to you with that information.

REP. C. SMITH: Finally, because then I'll yield to my good friend and colleague, Mr. Faleomavaega, on India the narrative makes clear and I said this in my opening comments about making significant investigations and prosecutions of traffickers are rare. If you could just perhaps touch on that. Part of it is, as is pointed out here and I've seen this elsewhere, is the lack of coordination between the federal and the states, the bribing of local police. As a matter of fact, local police have actually been on the take. But you do point out this Swadhar which is a government shelter program is being at least a positive that needs to be lifted up and hopefully increased in India. You might want to touch on that as well.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Okay. Well, several points. First, with regard to our evaluation of India, we would certainly not dispute and, in fact, we documented it here by saying that India in the case of looking at prevention, protection and prosecution. In the area of prosecution, India's record has been abysmal. We ranked India because of what it has done with respect to prevention and protection. But let me comment first on the point of the issue of prosecutions.

Here, you're quite right, Mr. Chairman in pointing out -- in fact in my discussions with Indian officials, the frustration that exists whereby the federal authorities have not been able to secure the kind of cooperation and the kind of responsibility that should exist from state authorities. I think there is a recognition that this is an area that is extremely weak, to say the least, and that there needs to be much more aggressive action. Having said that, we ranked India the way we did because, in looking at what India has done in the area of prevention and protection, in the area of protection India has provided resources, given the very limited finances and budget which it has which is one of the criteria that one must look at. The availability from which a country is able to commit itself against trafficking in persons. Here there are some 80 shelters that do exist.

This program by the way that is mentioned in there is a program which has been announced and which it is a continuation of establishing more shelters. In fact, the goal is to establish more shelters to basically rescue those women who are confronted not only with circumstances of trafficking but even other human rights abuses which they've been confront-

ed with. The Indians have announced this. This has gotten underway, but what we based our information on was not this program but already the 80 shelters that are in place not only what they're planning as we said for the future.

Last point, on prevention the federal government has been centrally involved. The president of India delivered a speech Republic Day in which he addressed the issues of trafficking in persons. There have been other efforts taken by the government to wage a number of prevention campaigns, not only in urban areas but in rural areas, through the media, through the theater, through a variety of means and that is the reason why we gave the ranking which, by the way, I have to say again we do not see that as a past. But we also do take note of clearly the emphasis that has been placed in the critiques on the significance of prosecutions and the significance of taking concrete action to curb corruption.

REP. C. SMITH: Let me just ask one final question. I do have others which I will submit for the record, or if we do a second round. I recently viewed some video tape that Tom Merriman from Fox news channel out in Ohio had filmed in an undercover operation that he embarked upon in South Korea, right outside Camp Casey and it raised the question of whether or not we're doing all that we can possibly do to mitigate and hopefully have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to exploitation of women, trafficked women, in this case Russians, Filipinos and indigenous women from South Korea and I know, ambassador, your office reviewed it and was outraged by it and expressed deep concern.

We have fired off a letter to Secretary Rumsfeld asking for a complete investigation, but secondly, or firstly, to stop it. If it is going on, military police should not be policing in a way that protects the traffickers. They ought to be arresting - - the South Korean police ought to be arresting these traffickers rather than providing some protection so that the exploitation can continue unabated and you might want to comment on it but it's very, very disturbing. We want no part of this. We need to lead by example and again I was glad to see that, ambassador, your office very strongly denouncing what was going on there. So thank you for that. But if you wanted to comment on it. Yes.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I'll make a quick comment and then you should comment. My only quick comment is we do plan to follow up with our colleagues at the Department of Defense in response to the letter that you've sent to them. We want to ensure that we collaborate on this. Our policy is one of zero tolerance.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: And I did follow up and, secretary, the army is responding and it's his office that's handling this and they will get back to you and they are in coordination with us as well.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you very much.

Mr. Faleomavaega, thank you.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I certainly want to thank Secretary Dobriansky for a very eloquent statement. I would be the last person to render judgment in terms of having to be tasked in trying to resolve such a very complex issue and a problem that is certainly worldwide in scale.

As you mentioned, Madam Secretary, there was some minimum standard being applicable in rendering some 90 countries, if my math is correct to these three tiers -- Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3, and I just wanted to ask you how did the State Department make a determination of these minimum standards. I mean, for example, how does our ally countries like France, Germany and the United Kingdom got to qualify for Tier 1 in your assessment?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: The reason why these countries are listed on Tier 1 first and foremost is we use a standard of how many individuals, based on our data, are trafficked into or through a country and the gauge is 100 persons. That's what we use. So, why you see some countries for example on Tier 1 simply starting with the premise that there are over 100 persons trafficked through those countries and then as I mentioned --

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: So, with a country like France with 70 million people if, in your statistical analysis, even if there was over 100 people being trafficked, France qualifies for Tier 1.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Correct. Because it's over 100. That's what we start with. And then secondly, then those are the countries that we have, according to the legislation, in evaluating we see them as complying with the minimum standards set forth.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: : You consider the standard pretty fair in assessing -- I'm trying to get a sense of relativity here. India with 900 million people and if a 100 people are trafficking therefore they automatically fall into Tier 1. I'm trying to deal with a sense of scale with a population of some of these countries. It's --

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I think we think that the legislation did set forth important parameters for judgment. The minimum standards -- let me just give you a thumbnail sketch here. One, the government prohibits severe forms of trafficking and punish acts of trafficking. Governments prescribe punishment with grave crimes. Governments should prescribe punishments sufficiently stringent to deter and reflect trafficking. Governments should make serious and sustained efforts.

Those are broad parameters, if you will, but we have looked at those minimum standards and then the seven criteria laid out in the legislation. My response to you is, first, we think that those standards were certainly very appropriate because they do place an emphasis on looking at what governments are doing in the three critical areas -- prevention, protection and prosecution.

Secondly, I would also add that from this process of hearing critiques, I think there are some areas that we can refine more. That I think that in our evaluations we can be much more specific in terms of the information that we render in the report and also issues that we push on further with governments.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: If my arithmetic serves me correctly, I think we've listed some 90 countries out of some 189 nations that make up the United Nations.

The fact that the other 100 nations are not listed, what does this mean in terms of our report? That means they're doing an outstanding job or they're just so miserably bad, we can't even put them in a Tier 3.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: No, that is not the case. The first determination we have to make in doing an analysis on every country in the world is whether or not there are a significant number of trafficked victims in that country, either as a source from the country, through the country or as a destination to that country.

If we determine that there are in the order of 100 victims, we then look to see if the government is meeting the minimum standard set out in the legislation and the countries that are not on the list are those countries that we were not able to get sufficient evidence through our investigation to determine that there were a significant number which the number we use is 100 or, if a country like North Korea that we haven't been able to get enough information on, there are many countries that we're still looking at. Some that are right in an area -- a region -- where there's a lot of trafficking and we look at the countries that border those countries to see if there are traffic victims there. Where do they come from. So that ultimately we can come up with enough to get to the 100 figure and then make the analysis.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: There is always a sensitivity, a reaction from our friendly allies in other nations of the world where making a judgment against them putting a standard and saying 100 traffickers, therefore you're it. And my question is how does our nation bear this standard that we're applying against other nations as far as human trafficking is concerned?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Congressman, you posed that in your opening remarks and let me reference. In the opening of the report and our introduction, we referenced the fact that in the United States we have a problem. We cite the rough figures that we do have -- some 40,000 to 50,000 -- and, in fact, when do sit down with other countries we do so referencing the fact that we do have a problem in the United States and by the way also what other countries do has ramifications for us. Just as what we do, has ramifications for others. That's why this is not, and cannot be, an individual effort. We have to see action from all those in which significant numbers are being trafficked through.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: I understand you, you said that in our own country we have 40,000 traffickers going on.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Yes, it is in the introduction.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: Why are we not listed then, ourselves, in these tiers?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: We don't because the State Department doesn't rank the United States itself. We don't in our country human rights reports as you know. But we have called attention to the reality in this country quite openly in the introduction.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: I see. Do you consider, Madam Secretary, that there are any other provisions of the current law that might need improvements in terms of human trafficking?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, you know, I will say the point about more specific data in its integration, not just only in our solicitation to the Post, but actually putting this into the report is something, as I've already suggested, that we certainly should be considering. There have been a number of ideas that have been put on the table by many of the NGOs. I'll just say this, that at this time, we want to have the benefit of hearing these ideas, thinking about how to integrate

them. But, as a result of the issuance of this report, there have been clearly certain ideas like it's clear to me, as I said, there seems to be of the three areas -- protection, prevention and prosecution -- a heavy emphasis on particularly prosecution even over maybe protection and prevention.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: What about in some of these countries that have an entirely different cultural bearing as far as relationships go? Not necessarily to say one is right or one is better but how do you pass judgment? Some of the countries among the Middle Eastern countries that have entirely different standard or different ways of looking at making judgments and say whether the person should be convicted of committing, breaking a law or code or whatever it is in their society, is quite different from western societies.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, I'll make two comments. I don't know if my colleague would like to mention. But two comment I have. First, I know from having worked extensively in the broad human rights field -- I start with the premise that there are some outright human rights abuses that can't be explained away by culture. I mean remember when we had discussions and I was in the Human Rights Office on torture. Torture cannot be explained away by culture. A human rights abuse is a human rights abuse.

Secondly, though is we've tried to suggest that there are a number of tools which we could use which we think could be effective. The report provides us one in which we can and should use in our diplomatic discussions and break through some barriers that may exist with other countries. Some countries that, not even for cultural reasons, but outright are not even willing to acknowledge the existence of the problem.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: But that's basically a minority among the countries though, I mean, outright rejection of what we're trying to resolve here. I mean you can't say that that's generally the sense of the all the countries.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: No. I have to --

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: Would you agree that perhaps -- and I've got one more question, Mr. Chairman -- that perhaps the common factor that really ties into the problem that we have in trying to resolve the situation with these countries is lack of resources?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: It does tie in. In fact, that's one of the points mentioned in significant efforts. It says what measures are reasonable to bring the government into compliance with minimum standards in light of resources and capabilities. That is one of the factors that we have to also weigh into this.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: And India is probably the greatest example of that. It is not because the officials don't want to enforce human trafficking, it's simply that the resources are so limited.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I think it's a combination of factors but, in my own response to the chairman, I did reference that. I do think that the resources have had an impact on what they have been able to do but I would say at the same time I think that in the area of prosecution certainly they could be doing a lot more than they have.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. C. SMITH: Mr. Pitts.

REP. PITTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And in follow up for those questions of the previous member, could you tell us how the United States government is encouraging the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, law enforcement provisions in the United States.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, I know that we had, in fact, as a result of our senior policy review group, we called upon all of the agencies like justice, like the FBI and others to come forward with a report on what they are doing quite specifically to implement the act. In fact in brought with me a copy here. We sent up to you a copy a couple of months ago when we concluded this. It documents what different agencies are doing. I can't, with the exception of the recent announcement about the T-visa which I think was important, by the Department of Justice, each agency has responsibility for what it has been doing.

I would be glad to certainly share another copy of that with you. You know if you have any comments on that.

REP. PITTS: Yes. Sure. Thank you.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I would just add one other thing, and that is that we have detailees from the Department of Justice, two lawyers, and we have another -- had another one from Health and Human Services, which has been a great advantage in dealing with those agencies, and I think when they return to their agencies they will know much more about what all the agencies are doing. We also will have someone detailed to our office from the Bureau of Consular Affairs and I believe the Labor Department.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Congressman, may I just add one thing?

REP. PITTS: Yes.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I should add that that was only our first round and I hope you did receive that report because we sent it to each of you when we concluded it. When we set up our senior policy review group, in fact, separate from the policy review that is almost being concluded, we did ask, as I said, all of the participating agencies to document how they have followed the Act and what steps they have taken to fulfill the Act, and each agency came in. Ambassador Ely-Raphel's office put the report together and this was sent to you. But as I said, we will make sure you get another copy.

REP. PITTS: Thank you. When we last met madam secretary you informed us that some 85 countries had signed the new UN protocol on trafficking. I'm wondering, has this translated into concrete steps by the signatory countries to address the problem. Has it resulted in increased pressure on traffickers? Has it facilitated international cooperation to address a crime? And how many Tier 3 countries, for instance, are signatories to the protocol? Is support for the protocol a measure used by the Department to differentiate between Tier 3 countries?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, let me respond first in terms of the last question about whether it's not a measure. Each of our posts, when they come back in and report on the progress or lack thereof by various countries, almost, I believe, all of them have indicated whether a country is or is not a signatory. Having said that as to what influence, I think the greatest influence that the protocol has is that it brings international attention certainly to bear on the issue of trafficking in person.

However, I think back to my days in the Human Rights Bureau where you have at times situations where you may have countries that may be signatories, but their record may not necessarily equate with the signing of a protocol or a convention. In this case, actually, I'd have to get back to you in terms of all the entire Tier 3 as to who has signed and who has not. But I could tell you a few that have and that are on Tier 3, Bosnia Herzegovina, for example, has been one, Indonesia, Greece. And yet we have placed them on Tier 3.

REP. PITTS: Okay. Based on the feedback that you receive from U.S. embassies, can you talk about the willingness of foreign governments to share data with the United States regarding the extent of their trafficking problem or their efforts to combat it, specifically how willing are governments to compile and share data on investigations, arrests, prosecutions or convictions against traffickers, and does the willingness vary a great deal, depending on the country's ranking in the TIP Report? You know, which governments provide data on prosecutions, which don't. Do you have a list of those?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: I will give my response and if you'd like to comment on this as well. First, in terms of the data I would say that in terms of the actual scope of how forthcoming countries have been, honestly it does depend on the number and the specific country. In some cases it may be attributable not to a lack of intent, if you will, or the intent to avoid giving data, but it can be attributable to what we were discussing earlier, a lack of gathered or collected information, a lack of resources, problems that exist in the country.

I'll give you one example which I think that we need to do a much better job in terms of getting data, is in the case of Vietnam. I was sharing with the chairman that in looking at the record of Vietnam, the way in which they compile their statistics based on our embassies reporting, they do it in groupings over a period of a number of years. When you look at it, the number of cases that they say that have been addressed, you can view it as possibly being significant. But what is very unclear is the way the data is presented in terms of the area of prosecution, what is the end result.

The point I would make is I think in this area, this is the area that going back to the question of areas of improvement, I think we need to be much more vigilant and really pin down and maybe document in our report those that are forthcoming with data, those that are not forthcoming with such data. Do you have a comment on that?

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: No. I would just say that it does really -- it varies from country to country, and a great deal of it is whether or not that data is even available to them. This morning I had a television, a DVD with the government of Ukraine through our embassy, and their minister of interior and justice were there, and I asked them about that. They

had statistics, they had figures, but they were aggregate figures. They could tell you how many cases they had from 1998 to now, but they didn't break it down. So I think you find this -- it really does vary.

REP. PITTS: One last question. How has the war on terrorism affected our efforts with the Central South Asia countries' efforts to monitor and combat trafficking? You know, we have a sensitive relationship, some improved relations with some of those countries who are allied with us in this war. How does that balance against their traditionally poor record in the area of trafficking?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Well, first, congressman, the way in which we did these evaluations we undertook these evaluations based on the criteria set forth in the legislation. And as I said, looking at prevention, prosecution, protection. In terms of coalition members and whether there's influence or not in this rating, there is no correlation. But I will say this, in the broad area of human rights, and this being one of the issues and a very egregious one, interestingly enough because of the coalition effort, we have been afforded opportunities at more direct engagement with countries, countries that have -- heretofore have shunned many of these issues and have been very unwilling to discuss these issues with us.

Actually now by being coalition members, the door is open and we are aggressively addressing them with a number of countries. In fact, there are several on the list which we have ranked in Tier 3, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, that I believe were in fact not listed last year. We want to be able to, through the open door, be able to engage and hope that that does not deter countries from moving away and being open and honestly addressing this very serious problem.

REP. PITTS: Thank you for that answer and for your efforts, and finally let me just say, regardless of cultural differences, slavery, specifically sex slavery and exploitation of women and children is always wrong. Thank you.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Pitts.

Ms. Watson.

REP. DIANE E. WATSON (D-CA): Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, for having the witnesses here so we can hear their report. And I understand that according to the State Department report, the United States is principally a transit and destination country for approximately 50,000 or more enslaved persons. These persons are primarily women and children who are exploited and abused to perform commercial sex services and to work in sweat shops or the agricultural sector under conditions that are comparable to slavery.

Furthermore, studies have shown that more than eight million children are currently enslaved around the world. There is little discussion of whether race or other forms of discrimination contribute to the likelihood of women and children becoming victims of trafficking. Despite the success of the department's report in highlighting the extend of human trafficking, I'm concerned that we are not paying more attention to the man side of human trafficking, especially here in the United States, we might -- should be listed in that report.

Furthermore, I am concerned that the report does not recognize explicit connections between trafficking, racism and racial discrimination.

The demand and supply aspects of this issue is similar to the war on drugs. As a country we can assist foreign nations in helping poor rural farmers find alternative crops to grow in place of the poppy. And we can supply air support and training to detect and bring down planeloads of cocaine. But what remains is a demand. Simple economics teach us that without demand there is little need for supply.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman and members, I wonder if we're doing enough to address the demands affixed to tourism, commercial sex, human servitude and inexpensive labor here in our own country. I am also concerned that political decisions are driving how countries are placed in this tier scheme. Some of the worst offenders seem to be granted some leniency and are we too concerned about causing offence that might damage other U.S. interests, and turn a blind eye to the offenders such as India, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia and the list goes on? Addressing this problem and bringing relief to its many victims will only be possible with international cooperation. And trafficking has reached staggering dimensions around the globe and we must address all aspects of this problem.

In addressing this issue, we need to focus upon the long term approaches which will address each aspect of the trafficking cycle and which recognize explicitly the connection between demand, trafficking, migration, racism and racial discrimination. And that's the statement, I'll give the rest for the record, Mr. Chair, but I would like to bring some attention to an issue that was brought up in Los Angeles. And we have been told just this afternoon that our country does not help the victims of trafficking. Rather, what we're doing, particularly where there's women and children, is putting them in

jail and waiting for them to be deported, and some of them have been there for years. So you might want to comment on that.

And also I'd like to raise this question and I won't be here for the answers because I have two more hearings going on at the same time. But I do have staff here that will report back to me. And the last two questions are: What is the status of the U.N. protocol that we talked about in the last hearing that we had on trafficking? And why hasn't the United States submitted whatever they have to the Senate for its advice and consent? So if you can remark on the overall statement and on these two questions, I would appreciate it. Thank you so much for being here and supplying us with the details.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Okay, thank you. Congresswoman, if you're here I can respond very quickly --

REP. WATSON: Go ahead.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: -- before you go off. First, let me address the three specific -- on the issue of helping the victims here in the United States, I am going to suggest that we have -- who joined me here in the hearing last year, Dr. Wade Horn of the Health and Human Services. HHS is very responsible and very engaged in this issue of helping victims in the United States, providing the kind of assistance that is necessary. I will make sure that we follow up directly with you and your office on this issue. But I will say that they have -- the State Department doesn't do this, but we work with them, clearly. HHS has been very aggressive about helping victims here in the United States.

REP. WATSON: Let me just say this to the issue of deportation. Can you address -- are they placed in jail while they are waiting to be deported?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Not to my knowledge.

REP. WATSON: Okay. We'll just check that out, will we?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: To my knowledge. But that's why both I am going to ensure that we come to visit you with --

REP. WATSON: Thank you, I'd appreciate that.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: -- our colleagues from Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice and INS. On the status of the U.N. protocol, we are almost there. We do expect that this will be moved shortly to the Senate. Some colleagues of mine are here from our legal advisors office. We've had issues that we've had to clarify, but we expect fairly quick movement on that.

REP. WATSON: Okay, time.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I believe we're expecting to send that up this summer.

REP. WATSON: Thank you.

REP. C. SMITH: Would the gentle lady yield?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: And then --

REP. WATSON: I'm sorry.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: -- I was going to make one final comment, and that is on your broader points I will just say I've taken notes -- we've taken notes and we certainly will take that all into account in terms of our deliberations as to how we refine this report and our narrative in the future.

REP. WATSON: In closing, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank you. You did come to my office, we did have some discussions on these concerns that I raised then and I continue to raise, and I would appreciate it if we could set up another time, Madam Ambassador.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: We will.

REP. WATSON: Absolutely when we can sit down and talk about some of the trouble points. I do plan to take Poudel down to Micronesia. We might also look at going to Burma where we've just got a report earlier today, and we might be able to check out some of these other points too. So thank you very much and I'll look forward to talking with you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield.

REP. C. SMITH: If the gentle lady would yield. Just the law itself established that the women should be treated as a victim and not as part of -- not as a criminal. If you have any instances or you know of any where that law -- our law is

not being followed, please let us know because I think that -- you know, we have asked INS, we have asked HHS and all the other people who have a piece of this, make sure that they adequately implement it. And Attorney General John Ashcroft has been very faithful in promulgating -- we think it's a little bit slow, but it's still nevertheless happening, and issuing guidance to the prosecutors, U.S. attorneys to go after the traffickers, but to treat the women, the victims, as victims and not as part of the problem. So --

REP. WATSON: I'll get in touch with you.

REP. C. SMITH: Please do. Thank you for bringing that up.

Mr. Tancredo.

REP. TANCREDO: Madam Secretary, Madam Ambassador, I am trying very hard to believe that this report was not influenced at all by the State Department's perspective vis--vis each of these countries, and any other kind of relationship that the United States has with them. I'm trying to believe that that didn't enter into this report at all, and that the report was based solely and entirely on the legislation that we passed. I must say that something appears to be wrong here and I do not know exactly where to affix the blame, if any is actually necessary.

But when you have -- let's see, the Wilberforce Forum, the International Justice Mission, Protection Project, the Salvation Army, Human Rights Watch, European law enforcements, the International Justice Mission, Southern Baptists Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Concerned Women for America, when you have these organizations expressing such opposition, such concern about this report, it seems to me something is wrong. Just as pure and simple as that. It seems as though they understand fully well, I think at least -- you know, most of the people that I mention here, most of the organizations are relatively sophisticated in this particular arena.

They understand the kind of constraints that you face and that you actually address here in your testimony with trying to obtain good data.

And so I guess my question to you is this: is there a legislative change that you would -- are there legislative changes that you would propose that would enable us to avoid what is apparently a contradiction in the listing? That is to say, where we have organizations -- I mean countries that end up in Tier 2, for instance, that are so blatantly, again it appears from my point of view, undeserving of even that status and have a much more severe penalty that should be attached to their inability, unwillingness to participate in any effort to try and stop this horrendous activity? And if it is our fault, if it is something that there's something in the law -- something in the law that we passed that prevents you from doing what you would do if you did not have the constraint of the law and actually were able to call a spade a spade here and call one of these countries, put these countries into the position, into the categories that we really think they should be, is there something that we need to do that will help you to do that?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Congressman, if I may first address the first part of your question about the doubts about placement, let me call your attention to not only last year's report but this year's report in terms of some of our closest allies who are on Tier 3. Israel and South Korea were on Tier 3 last year. This year, we have close relationships with Greece and Turkey and that did not interfere with the placement of these countries on Tier 3. So, first on that.

Secondly, I tried to suggest and honestly address in my testimony. I think we're sometimes -- as I said, honest people who are committed to the same goal and objective can honestly and genuinely disagree. Here we did evaluate countries on the three equally. It is clear to me from a number of comments that have been made today and also the comments from all of the very extremely engaged groups that you have mentioned and groups that we have benefited from, the NGOs that a heavy emphasis is placed on prosecution.

And as we go forward, I want to, because a number of you have raised what could we do and what would we recommend -- maybe, despite my earlier comments, I've mentioned a few. I'd like us to be able to give thought, if I can say so, to your last question as to how it can be more refined because when one looks at the issue of significant efforts. For example, the congressman from Samoa asked -- I won't venture to pronounce, my name is difficult enough -- the congressman from Samoa had indicated that, well, how do you factor in resources?

We do factor that into our deliberations. At the same time, we do look back to magnitude. We do look at concrete action. Separate from our evaluation, totally separate from the evaluation, is, in my judgment, and I have to make that clear, is also the engagement. I've been very struck by, based on the report as I said, who comes in and who we can go to have a discussion where you know that there's political will to try to bring about change versus cases where there is no political will. And it is a solid placement in Tier 3.

I'd like to, in sum, give thought seriously to the question. It's been raised by almost everyone here and I think that is worth our giving serious consideration to and coming back in a very thoughtful way as to ways that we can refine this more and be more effective in our targeted approach.

REP. TANCREDO: Thank you very much.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you very much.

Madam Secretary, I'm sure you were referring to Smith when you were talking about pronunciation then.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Yes (laughs.)

REP. C. SMITH: Gary Haugen makes, after our hearing that we had last fall, winter, made some recommendations and I know we made them to the State Department in terms of improving and of course, everything is a work in progress and I think he had some very good ideas. One, the estimated number of victimizations ought to be included. The number of prosecutions and convictions for sex trafficking offences, number two and number three, the number of government employees, including police officers, who were disciplined for complicity in sex trafficking.

I think it's a very worthwhile recommendation to add more specifics to it, which may already be in your database. Maybe that's already part of the qualitative analysis that you're making. But it would help us to make a better analysis as well, specially since there seems to be, I think, almost uniform concern about India, Thailand. Holly Burkhalter will be testifying later and she points out Thailand and India. Others have done likewise. So, I just would ask you to consider those three recommendations by the International Justice Commission. I think they're very well thought out.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Mr. Chairman, if I may. In fact, Gary Haugen visited with us and we were discussing that. We did use his information in our solicitation, or his suggestion, excuse me, in our solicitation to our post. However, this gets back to the other point which we discussing with Gary, the need to also work this at the other end, meaning in terms of our embassies, thinking of ways and means and strategies of getting as much reliable information and documentation as we can. We also, as I said, we did not register it here in these reports and clearly, there's a great interest in that. For our next go around, that is one of the changes that we will in fact make.

REP. C. SMITH: Let me just ask you on Cuba, if I could. When I mentioned earlier about countries that are terrorist countries and were not included in the list, obviously we have an interest section there. So we do have some reporting capabilities. But they do have Internet sites where Cuban girls are actually promoted for sale as escorts, offering them as merchandise, and obviously the sex tourism industry there is alive and regrettably very profitable for Fidel Castro. Are we looking at Cuba at all, Ambassador?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Yes, we are. Again however, we are not able to generate the numbers. But that is clearly one of the countries that are --

REP. C. SMITH: I know you know this. But you know, there's an annual report that is prescribed by law. But we also put language in the statute that says interim reports can be offered up at any time that data is available. So, that's important too. Even as you do analysis or re-analysis of countries that are on two or three, Tier 2 or Tier 3, if based after these hearings and looking at the body of evidence, you want to put Thailand, for example, or India. Thailand is, like I said before, offered up by many of the NGOs and Human Rights organizations as a country that ought to be on Tier 3. Perhaps they could be re-evaluated and a report issued but before next year, because obviously interim reports can be proffered at any time. So I ask you if you would look into that.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Chairman --

REP. FALEOMAVEGA: I was just wondering. I was thinking in the years past, hasn't our country taken the lead in bringing this issue before the United Nations? There was tremendous resistance from our own ally countries who wanted to get into this issue which they consider as an internal problem. It is none of your business sort of reaction. Are we still trying to pursue this issue before the United Nations to make this clearly as a global issue and not just something that is pursued just by our country and put in the mandate on these other countries to comply and really to resolve this hideous activity?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Yes, we have brought it forward to the United Nations. There has been a number of meetings that have taken place and in which the United States has been very much in the lead. As to your other point, I would even say it more broadly whether we're talking about allies or we're talking about non-allies. There has been, depending upon

the country a great uneasiness and that's also been very broadly with the issue of human rights and how human rights issues have been addressed, for example, in the U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting, for example.

REP. SMITH: Madam Secretary, last year at the hearing, you mentioned that the Democratic Republic of Congo was one of the, quote, "major violators in terms of human trafficking and a country which has not engaged in a positive manner with the U.S. government on the issue.

" Can you explain why the Congo does not appear in this year's report?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Yes. My understanding is a -- like I said, you may want to comment a bit more on this -- my understanding is that given the conflict there, our post, in fact, came in because of seriously under the circumstances being able to provide the kind of information that would be warranted in this report. This goes back to the point as to why some countries are listed, why some other countries are not listed. And that may be, for example, something that we need to consider because it's not necessarily the case that there may not be a problem. We may not know precisely the scope of the problem and particularly, if you have an ongoing war and conflict situation, it's particularly difficult to get data. That is the reason. I don't know if you have anything to add.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I would just add that we got additional information this past year that did not corroborate the information that we had the year before.

REP. C. SMITH: Really? Okay. I appreciate that explanation. The Interagency Working Group, how well is that working?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: The Interagency Working Group, if you mean in this case, the senior policy review?

REP. C. SMITH: Yes.

MS. DOBRIANSKY: Prior to the report we met with the two goals that I mentioned earlier. One was to undertake a policy review. We're almost at the end of that which I think will be quite important. And then secondly is that we did call upon all participants there to report how they are fulfilling the act, which is the report that we shared and sent to you a couple of months back.

What we are looking to in our next phase in bringing the group together is to sit down and looking at programs, quite specifically. How, in light of problems, problematic areas, how our resources would be used effectively. And that's the next goal and objective of the group.

REP. C. SMITH: If I could just on the -- ask for some hurry up in terms of the program. This year's fiscal year, preparations bills are making their way. Last year I think we got less than what was possible in the House Senate Conference on Foreign Ops. Mr. Wolf was very faithful and came forward with his piece on Commerce, Justice and State but I think we lost out on an opportunity. And from my continued conversations with government -- this morning I met with several parliamentarians from Kosovo who were here for that warrant in Virginia. There were 30 of them in the room and then we had a hearing on Kosovo to elaborate in the area of trafficking, there's still not enough resources.

So, I mean -- the money, even while we can't pinpoint exactly how every dollar will be spent going in, I'm sure the need so far outnumbers the current authorization levels that we should at least meet those authorization levels. So I would hope that you could provide us with a --

MS. DOBRIANSKY: We agree with you and we want to move expeditiously, sorry.

REP. C. SMITH: Let me just, finally, before going -- Mr. Wolf, do you have any questions, Chairman Wolf? No.

According to written testimony that was submitted today to the committee that a Vietnamese-American Human Rights Organization, boat people SOS -- the trafficking report from Vietnam focuses on relatively insignificant government actions and misses the big picture, according to SOS, when it finds that the government has made significant efforts. For an example, the government prosecuted one junior official but did not -- not for anything he did to the women. It was for misappropriating government funds which he lost when his Korean accomplice absconded. The report also ignores the fact that the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor official who traveled to American Samoa and publicly threatened the workers, is now deputy director of the government whole labor export program.

How did we manage to miss these very important facts and could it be that our embassy in Hanoi is getting too many of its facts from the government itself and not enough from the human rights advocates?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: On the last point. Our embassies do gather information from foreign NGOs, from our NGOs, as well as from government sources. In this case you're quite right. We did not cite and I don't know the specific reason why, the case that you mentioned was not referenced in here but in fact the American-Samoa court case is referenced in here and what action, although as we cite belatedly, was taken by the Vietnamese.

This gets back I think to the broader point. We evaluated Vietnam based on efforts that it is taking in terms of prevention campaigns. Efforts that it's taking in terms of protection campaigns where it certainly is and has not been doing well, has been in the area of prosecution, which that is something that we need to address much more aggressively, I think, with them.

REP. C. SMITH Thank you.

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I would just add that as we gather evidence after the American-Samoa case we may find that there was a lot more government corruption involved in that case.

REP. C. SMITH: I do have one final question. It's on Indonesia and in the report you mention that there was a conference held by a number of the source transiting and destination countries. What was our low on that and what are your -- what is your sense I should say with regards to Jakarta? Do you think they are putting some programs in place that might get them off Tier 3 and most importantly protect the women?

MS. ELY-RAPHEL: I was the representative to that conference in Bali and it was the first ministerial to be held in that region and all the governments came and I must say, I was impressed with the statements, certainly the president of the Philippines was there, and made a very moving statement on trafficking. So, I think the governments -- and this was a conference that was co-sponsored by Australia and Indonesia. They have lots of plans in the works. I want to see these plans implemented. There were a lot of words that were said at the conference and I hope still there will be follow up, particularly on trafficking. There was also a lot of focus on smuggling.

The government of Indonesia, I met with many of the government officials in Jakarta before I went to the meeting, in Bali. They need to do a lot more than they are doing now to address the problem of trafficking, particularly, drafting legislation, having a criminal statute and implementing it. I would -- they need to make improvements. They do some -- do cooperate and there are very active NGOs on the prevention and the protection side. But I was disappointed with what I found on the prosecution side.

REP. C. SMITH: Let me, and I know time -- it is getting late and I apologize to the second panel of witnesses and to many of you that this has gone longer than I think you might have anticipated, but on Russia and I do appreciate, Secretary Dobriansky, that you made the point, Turkey is on the list. Greece is on the list. I mean these are NATO countries. Obviously Turkey is the underbelly of NATO as it's often been referred to, a very important strategic ally and yet no punches were pulled there, and we all appreciate that.

And Russia, with whom we have a very close friendship, at least it would appear that way and there have been recent agreements in the area of our arms control with President Bush. Is this issue being raised at the highest levels? I've been to Russia many times. I've met with their Duma speaker. I've met with many of their leaders. They just don't seem to get it yet that Russian women are being raped day in and day out having been trafficked to New York and Philadelphia and elsewhere in the United States. Why don't they want to do more? And as pointed out in the report, age 14 is the age of consent so it makes it even harder to pass a law. Perhaps the Duma will move to change that, but at the highest levels is it being raised?

MS. DOBRIANSKY: We clearly need to do more because as the report demonstrates in three areas, Russia has really come up miserably short. And we need to think about other creative ways and means diplomatically at all levels, in raising this issue. And I think you raise a very important point because given the strides that we have made with Russia in other areas and that gets back to the earlier point, you know, we have a vibrant exchange in many areas but this hasn't translated into action in this case. And in the area of trafficking in persons.

We need to do more and we would welcome any suggestions that you may have because you have dealt with Russia for quite some time and thinking about ways and means of applying pressure, not only the threat of sanctions if they do not improve their record by 2002.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you very much. I want to thank both of you for your personal strong commitment to eradicating this modern slavery. We do appreciate it on the committee in a bipartisan way and look forward to working with you in a cooperative way. I appreciate your testimony and your work.

I'd like to now welcome our second panel of witnesses. Mr. Gary Haugen, president of the International Justice Mission. Mr. Haugen has worked in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice and served as the officer in charge of the United Nations Genocide Investigation in Rwanda in 1994. Mr. Haugen also served on the executive committee of the National Initiative for Reconciliation in South Africa. He is the author of numerous articles and books on foreign affairs, international law in human rights. We welcome Mr. Haugen to the full committee.

The next witness will be our distinguished former member of Congress, the Honorable Linda Smith. Ms. Smith began her political career by serving in the Washington State Legislature and was elected to the U.S. House in 1994. During her tenure in Congress, Ms. Smith has visited India and Nepal to witness first hand the situation of young women and children who were being exploited there. After leaving Congress in 1998, Ms. Smith formed Shared Hope International in partnership with Teen Challenge International. These two groups work together to rescue victims of trafficking and to supply them with shelter, health care, and vocational training. And, Linda, welcome to the committee today.

Next I'd like to welcome, Ms. Manjou Poudel, a woman from Nepal. Ms. Poudel began her career as a journalist for the Nepali Daily. In 1994 she founded the women's section of the NGO federation of Nepal. And for the last two years has worked as a full-time social worker and researcher on women in development for INHRD (ph) International in Nepal.

Donna Hughes is a professor in the Oscar and Carlson Endowed Chair in women's study at University of Rhode Island. Professor Hughes has done research, and published reports on the trafficking of women in the United States, Russia, Ukraine and South East Asia. From 2000 to 2002, she was team leader for research trafficking with the National Institute of Justice U.S. Ukraine research partnership.

And, finally, we will be hearing from Holly Burkhalter. Since 1997, Ms. Burkhalter has been the Advocacy Director of Physicians for Human Rights, a Boston-based human rights organization that works to promote health by promoting human rights. Previously, for 14 years, she was affiliated with Human Rights Watch as its Advocacy Director, and Director of its Washington Office, and frequently provided her insights and counsel to the subcommittees that I previously chaired, the International Human Rights and International Committee, and we always valued her opinion. From 1981-82, Ms. Burkhalter was a professional staff member of our committee's subcommittee on human rights and international organization. She was a frequent witness, as I just pointed out.

We look forward to your testimony. All of your testimonies will be made a part of the record.

Mr. Haugen, if you could begin.

MR. GARY HAUGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I'd like to thank, of course, Chairman Hyde for convening this hearing, and I'm grateful to you, sir, for your continued persistent leadership on this issue. We will be submitting our written statement for the record.

I'm specifically grateful that this hearing on the TIP Report is focusing on government complicity in human trafficking. As congressmen would know, the International Justice Mission spent thousands of hours infiltrating the commercial sex industry to specifically rescue victims of sex trafficking. And in the process we've learned, I think, some important lessons about the way the industry works, and the way it can be most effectively combated.

Sex trafficking is, I think, clearly the ugliest and yet the most preventable man-made disaster on our globe today. Why is it so preventable? It's preventable because it requires the commission of multiple felony openly before a customer public. You have to abduct these girls, you have to confine them, rape them, assault them, hold them against their liberty, and hold them out for the public, so that they can come as customers.

So there are, in fact, 2.3 million women and girls held in forced prostitution in India. And they service about four to five customers a day, which means there are 10 million men every day who find the victims of sex trafficking. So this is not something that is really hard to find. I wish I could say that it was.

Why is it so preventable? Because, first it requires the open commission of these multiple crimes, and then it then simply requires that you hold it out to the public on a continuous basis. Unlike drugs which you can consume and then it goes away, you have to hold out these victims for months and months, and years and years.

How do the traffickers get away with this? They only do it with means, and that is with the complicity of government officials who are supposed to enforce these laws. Massive levels of sex trafficking simply don't occur everywhere in the world. They only occur in most parts of the world where it's tolerated by local authority. You can't have high levels of sex trafficking without government complicity, because it has to be held open to the public.

We have just a couple of minutes of video that we wanted to share with the committee that makes two points. One, to show just how open and ugly the sex trafficking is. But, secondly, to also show you how casual the official complicity is in the crime of sex trafficking. And if we can get that up on the monitor, let's go ahead and run that.

The first is some footage which was taken just a few weeks ago in Cambodia, in Sle Pok(ph), a particular neighborhood outside Phnom Penh, where anyone can simply enter to buy in an open market these young girls for sex. These are girls between 11, 12, 13 years of age. They can be purchased for a dollar or two for short time sex, or you can purchase them outright for between \$50 and \$100. You can see this young girl here being presented to our investigator for sex, a very young girl. "If you don't like that one, here's another little girl." Just one after another in this open market. There are hundreds of these minor girls simply offered for sale.

You'll see here, actually, a girl eventually being offered to us who was being held in the arms of the older woman there. That little girl, about 6 or 7 years of age, was being offered for sale for sex. As the video goes on, you can see just these very little girls that are sold out of these brothels openly to our customers. These are girls that should be tucked in bed at night in the proper way, but instead these are little Vietnamese girls in Cambodia right now who are being sold for sex. We've been supplying this information to the Cambodians for more than a year and a half.

This shows you in India, when I say 2.3 million girls held in forced prostitution, that's sort of a vague statistic. But these are the conditions under which they are held. These are underground cells where these young girls are held and confined, and they are forced to provide sex to customers, between 10 and sometimes 30 times a day, seven days a week. The end story for the vast majority of these girls is, of course, the death sentence because they will simply be forcibly injected with the HIV virus, and they will eventually die of AIDS.

This has a very human face to it and it's totally out in the public. How do you get away with this? With complete complicity. This is a video --

(Video played.)

-- here on the video, and something which we've been able to capture on video several times in a country like Thailand, the police are just very casual about their protection. Now, the good news in all of this, is that sex trafficking can be drastically reduced if government simply switches sides. If they do two things: if they get their own officials out of the business, and if they send to jail the perpetrators who openly commit the crime.

This is why this hearing is so important, because it focuses specifically on the two actions that are most important for stopping sex trafficking, and the two actions that are most doable for any government. One, disciplining their own police authorities who protect sex trafficking. And, two, convicting the perpetrators.

And, frankly, that is why this TIP Report is so devastatingly disappointing to the International Justice Mission. That's a strong word to say. But the report simply refuses to provide verifiable data on the two things that matter most: "Have you put anyone in jail? Have you dismissed anybody from the police force who is protecting this?" Is such information difficult or mysterious to obtain? No. Because this is information about the government's own actions. It might be difficult to obtain precise numbers of victimization and other things. But the government knows what the government has been doing, or not doing. So, this is the information that can be easily provided.

We met with the State Department early in January and began to discuss the need for this information. And it may be, as I understand from the secretary, that the requests were made. But our concern is that it doesn't show up in the report. There are numbers on this. It would just be great for transparency to know what they are.

The result of rejecting that move is that the report gives passing grade to some of the worst offending countries, who have the highest levels of victimization, countries that have no known convictions, and no known proof of disciplinary action. So India, with its 2.3 million women and children held in forced prostitution, zero known conviction, zero known disciplinary action. Thailand, with hundreds of thousands of victims, zero known conviction, zero known disciplinary action.

All we have to do is think about if this applied to our own country. If we had an epidemic of rape in one of our cities, and we said we want our officials to do something significant about it. And they said, "Well, we've got protection centers to educate women that they shouldn't do certain things that make them vulnerable. And here's some after-care facilities. But, no, we don't ever send anybody to jail for this. And, no, we don't discipline the police officers who protect it." No American would accept that as being significant.

The TIP Report has arrived at this tragic result simply because it has ignored the requirements of the statute, which I think were quite straightforward. The battle is over whether you are on Tier 2 or Tier 3. We can see that Tier 2 is not really a passing grade, but I can say that in these countries I found that it is treated as so.

There is in the legislation three clear points on whether or not you get to be on Tier 2. What's the extent of victimization? What's the extent of official tolerance or complicity? And, thirdly, have you taken reasonable steps? The report should just report on those three things: what do you estimate the victimizations to be, what do you estimate the extent of official tolerance and complicity to be? And the way to answer that question is to see whether or not they've disciplined any police officers and sent anyone to jail.

Instead, what does the report say? Here is how the report summarizes how countries like India and Thailand get to stay on Tier 2, and this is also just on page 9 I believe of the report. It says: "The governments of countries in Tier 2 do not yet fully comply with the act's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards by: (1) some are strong in the prosecution of traffickers, but provide little or no assistance to victims. Others work to assist victims and punish traffickers, but have not yet taken any significant steps to prevent traffickers, or; (3) some governments are only beginning to adjust trafficking but nonetheless have already taken significant steps towards the eradication of trafficking."

So if you ask which of these is India? Are they strong in the prosecutions of traffickers? No, it can't be number one because they've never convicted anyone. Could they be number two, work to assist victims and punish traffickers? Well, you can't punish a trafficker if you've never convicted them. So it's not one and it's not two, so then we're stuck with three. Is it a government that's only beginning to address trafficking, but nonetheless have already taken significant steps towards the eradication of trafficking? I don't see how that helps our understanding.

Therefore, in the absence of simple objective facts we're left with an utterly confusing and thus utterly subjective evaluation that undermines the usefulness of the accountability process that the statute was intended to provide. We have a simple and what we think is a very doable request, and I'm so grateful that the madam secretary has admitted that there is a need and she has been very positive in working with us, a need to improve. And we'd just like to make a simple suggestion for improvement. For any country that is not meeting minimum standards, that country should be required that they tell how many, if any, perpetrators they've sent to jail and how many of the dirty police they've dismissed.

In other words, if you right now aren't meeting minimum standards, you, the government, bear the burden of providing that data on the perpetrators you've sent to jail and any police you've dismissed. The embassy doesn't have to chase you to find that, the NGOs don't have to exhaust themselves. It's your government, you tell us who you've sent to jail and whether you've disciplined any police officers. To do otherwise is to say that a country can be making significant efforts without any conviction and without ever dismissing any police officers that protect the crime. And I think the State Department should say so. If it is saying, well, there can be sufficient after care facilities and sufficient education programs that even if there's zero convictions and zero police dismissals, that meets the standard. If that's the policy, that should be well stated.

I've had to meet with scores of girls who've been victimized by sex trafficking. They've explained to me what it's like to have their mouth taped shut when their first customer is raping them. I see girls that limp because they've been so continuously brutalized. I've seen girls that are just laying in fetal positions in these homes because they have been brutalized over years of time, and I've seen them being carried out in little coffins, dying from AIDS. What we have to do is picture that audience and tell them "Your country is meeting minimum standards, even though" -- or rather "Your country is making significant efforts, even though we've never sent anyone to jail for these crimes against you and we've never dismissed a police officer for protecting these crimes." I think we can do much better than that, and that's what I would urge: for a concrete change and improvement in next year's report. And, again, I thank Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to provide a testimony at this hearing.

REP. C. SMITH: Mr. Haugen, thank you very much for your testimony and your very useful recommendations, and the record should note that as we crafted this legislation in the first place, you were very helpful in helping guide us as to what it ought to look like. So I do thank you for that as well.

I'd like to introduce Ms. Smith, former member of Congress. And, you know, some people when they leave Congress go out and get these lucrative contracts with lobbying organizations. Linda Smith jumped into this very, very important human rights fight on behalf of women who are being exploited, and we're very grateful for the work you do, Ms. Smith.

REP. FALEOMAVAEGA: Would the chairman yield? I'd like to offer my personal welcome to our former colleague and member of the Congress, Ms. Smith, whom I've had the privilege of serving with years past in our membership in the Resources Committee. I'm just so happy to see her as a witness this afternoon. So welcome, Linda.

MS. LINDA SMITH: Thank you. I want to first thank you and all of your efforts, particularly Chairman Smith. This is not an issue where there are people that vote and so often it's easy to get caught up in votes, or in issues where your constituency is pressuring you. And this is a silent constituency. It's a group of people with no one to speak for them, not even in their own countries. When I left Congress I had to make a decision on where I would go, but I spent a night in a brothel. And in that brothel in Bombay, India, it got my heart, it made me sick and I had to face a question, and that was whether I was going to leave the girls there. And I just couldn't. When I'm faced with little girls younger than my granddaughters, aged six to 14 -- for any of you that want to know how old I am, I do have a 14-year-old granddaughter.

And these little girls were being used by men every 15 minutes, used as virgins because they believed it cured AIDS.

Most of these women that I serve now, and we have 19 homes around the world and the homes started in India, most of these girls were seven, eight, nine, 10 years old when they were put into prostitution. I don't think about them as them. I don't think about it as that issue over there. It has names: Mannisha. I carry this little girl's picture with me because some day I want to tell somebody in some country I'm frustrated with others and sometimes I don't think I can go on, because I've never dealt with anything that made me cry like this, because you see I didn't cry until I was probably 40 years old, and these little girls make me cry.

So I would like to summarize my testimony with about two-and-a-half minutes of my girls, and then I would like to conclude with the recommendations that I have in my limited experience of four years with these girls, and what I think our government should do as it relates to the TIP Report. So if we could see that with the permission of the chair?

(Video played.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted you to see the faces because so often I sat where you are and you -- we talk about issues, and I want you to know that, Mr. Smith, you are changing the lives of little girls like you just saw, because shining the light on this problem itself is a strong first action to helping Gina, and Ganga(ph) and Mannisha. And I have been encouraged by the Bush administration.

September 11th could have had this fall of the radar screen, I know what it's like here. I know when there's all these issues and all this pressure that something could just make something like that go away because they don't vote. And yet, the administration literally continued keeping this on the top burner, and I want to commend the administration. Ambassador Ely-Raphel, I know she got a new office, but this would not have been an easy one. And Paula Dobriansky. I think what they ended up getting was a lot of work in a very difficult time. And I say this right before I'm going to just really be very -- in very much opposition to some of their report. I think heavy lifting is what they did. This report and the number of countries was heavy lifting. This administration has been what, 18 months? Just about 18 months. And they've had two reports so far. And so I have to believe that they're going to do better later. But if they don't do better later, I think that we have to rewrite the legislation or you have to rewrite the legislation to make it explicit as to what you want.

I encourage this administration to keep the light on India, Nepal and several other countries. I would like them to tell them in writing that we can see something that says this was a D minus. The only thing that's going to give you an A, or even a C, a passing grade, is prosecutions. We want to see the name of that affluent man in Bombay who is selling his little girls and comes to America for his vacations. We want to see his name. We want to see the prosecutions of these people who are going to die of old age, who have been prosecuted for selling these girls into other countries. We want to see that if you're going to get a passing grade next time.

Now, I know that this is very difficult to address but I also would like to have the committee consider this issue very strongly. Any country that is tolerant of prostitution, regulates or causes to be legal prostitution, is a cover for the violation of the girls you just saw. Any reports you've seen, and I've been looking at a lot of them, as well as our experience in these countries, will tell you that where there is legalized prostitution, it's hard to tell who's legal and who isn't, and you can't tell the ages. And it's just a blanket of cover to use these children.

I would like you to encourage this administration and the trafficking office to rate next year on these two top issues. Do you have legalized prostitution? If you do, then you are not giving your best significant effort. Second, if you do not have prosecutions you are not giving a significant effort to eliminate prostitution -- or excuse me, trafficking.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I want to again thank you for everything that you've done and I want to say that we stand willing and able and anxious to be a part of the next report which I believe will hopefully be a much better report than the one that we just received. Thank you.

REP. C. SMITH: Thank you very much, Congresswoman Smith. And I just want to point out for the record, and I don't know if it's actually been implemented yet because the Justice Department is still in the process, but section 111 of our law did provide for significant sanctions against those who traffic -- the persons who traffic, inadmissibility to the United States and other kinds of actions that could be taken against those persons so that that person you mentioned in Bombay making that money off of these little girls couldn't come to the United States to vacation because of the sanctions that are in this statute.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. C. SMITH: But it needs to be implemented.

Ms. Poudel.

MS. MANJU POUDEL: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for receiving me in your Congress.

My name is Manju Poudel and I am a director of the Daywalka Foundation, an American and Nepali NGO that has been researching and working to the -- on the problems of the girl trafficking in South Asia for several years. Still, I would like to explain about the human rights crisis that we've seen in Nepal and the danger it brings to the region. I hope you will forgive me if my English is not perfect, but I have come very far away and I do want to tell you some important things.

It is very difficult to say the exactly number of Nepalese girls who have been trafficked to the brothels in India, but most women's NGOs in Nepal agree it is about the 200,000. There is no trafficking problems in the world bigger than Nepal and India. One in 10 Nepalese girls live in these terrible conditions in the brothels of India. Each one at risk of HIV. One in 10, this is equivalent to 10,000 girls from just one major American city like Washington.

What does this look like? Why do small communities make such terrible choices and send their daughters away? First we must see the village. In my fieldwork I have visited many remote areas of Nepal's very poor population of 23 million, and too often it is the same. Great poverty and a male dominated society keeps this problem going. I have walked all day through one village in search of girls, only to find none. I have visited with one family who sold four daughters.

One victim girl of many I have met was named Nita. She was trafficked from Eastern Nepal from an extremely poor family in a town called Melumchi. Nita was one of the first girls I interviewed in my research. Nita refused to cooperate with her brothel owners. She received a very harsh treatment, torture of her genitals, burning and -- I'm sorry -- burning and very bad beating, but she never gave in. She was eventually sold and resold to eight different brothels. Nita told me, "I never respect my customers and never cooperated with them." Nita also told me, "I got sick and it took a long time to get -- recover, and the sickness repeated. After the brothel owners found I have HIV they sent me back home with AIDS as a present."

Nita spent some time in a rehabilitation center in Katmandu, but soon she was too sick to continue her training and daily chores. In the end, after a year, she returned to her village where I saw her one last time. As I came down the hill I saw her standing in front of her house. She wore a torn blouse without money for a sari -- sari means like me. Her body had swelled up, she had the most big rashes, her illness was getting worse and she was dying alone, and she had one mother -- she also left alone in her last days.

Unfortunately, it is not only the hundreds of thousands of Nepalese girls who will suffer. The consequence of an epidemic for all of Asia are beyond imagination. Lately, the girls trafficking is a primary cause of what could be an AIDS epidemic in Asia in the next 10 years. As we know, Nepal is located as a crossroad between the two largest countries in the world, India and China. Countries which are the major trading partners with the United States. Countries which are nuclear rivals. Along with an AIDS epidemic comes the collapse of health care infrastructure, and with that the collapse of economies and then regional instability.

In all of this darkness there is some hope. Slavery once existed in your country for 300 years and no one thought it might one day be ended but it was. The United States can assist us in our anti- trafficking efforts by helping our local NGOs to keep working.

Thank you for inviting me to testify. I have two young daughters myself and I grew up in a Nepalese hill village. It can be Heaven on Earth. Please, help us find a way back. Thank you.

REP. C. SMITH: Ms. Poudel, thank you, very much, for your testimony and we do very much appreciate it.

Professor Hughes.

MS. DONNA HUGHES: Thank you for this invitation to speak before the committee. It's got to be tough following these three powerful previous testimonies but I'll see what I can do.

As you all know, the trafficking of persons is a modern day atrocity that we should take every opportunity to abolish. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act criminalized severe forms of trafficking for commercial sex acts and forced labor. These are two distinct crimes with different impact of the victims. Those are serious and all efforts should be made to combat those forms of trafficking in persons.

Today, my comments will focus on trafficking for commercial sex acts. The trafficking process begins with the demand for victims to be used in prostitution. Countries with legal or widely tolerated prostitution creates a demand in other destination countries. While countries where traffickers easily recruit victims are the sending countries. Unless compelled by poverty, past trauma or substance addiction, few women will voluntarily engage in prostitution.

Where insufficient numbers of local women can be recruited, brothel owners and pimps place orders with traffickers for the number of women and children they need. In destination countries, pimps organize crime groups, corrupt officials and even governments, devise strategies to protect the profits derived from the sale of women and children which depends on maintaining the flow of foreign women to the brothels.

It's this flow of victims that the Trafficking Act aims to stop. The Trafficking in Persons Report is a tool to evaluate countries in the world on their efforts to combat trafficking. It's a powerful tool to hold countries accountable for the trade of women and children that goes on within their borders. Consequently, it should be used wisely and vigorously.

The 2002 TIP Report has been widely criticized. I believe this universal criticism is the result of two major deficiencies in the report. First, the efforts to combat trafficking that a country had to make were pathetically low. Supposedly the prosecution of traffickers was the heaviest weighted factor in determining peer placement, yet there are countries on Tier 2 and even Tier 1 that have imprisoned few if any traffickers. Even in countries where there are more convictions, there's little evidence that they have been sufficient to stem the tide of trafficking of thousands of victims.

Second, the TIP Report fails because of a lack of comprehension of demand factors that cause trafficking for the sex trade. Ambassador Ely-Raphel has said that the TIP Report team did not consider prostitution or the demand for trafficking victims in their evaluation of countries. Trafficking is a modern form of slavery. To not understand the relationship between prostitution and trafficking is like not understanding the relationship between slavery in the old South and the kidnapping of victims in Africa and the Trans-Atlantic shipment of them to our shores. Ambassador Ely-Raphel has said that the connection between legalized prostitution and trafficking is only anecdotal. I believe that view is either naive or a lack of political will to face up to what the trafficking and the sex trade is all about. There is a connection between prostitution and trafficking. In this brief oral testimony, I do not have time to review all the statistics I have. I refer you to the written text which I have submitted.

There are destination spots in every region of the world. To make my point I'm going to focus on the countries of Europe. First, they're popular destination countries. And second, most of them are ranked on Tier 1, meaning the trafficking office judged that they fully complied with the Trafficking Act minimum standards.

In the brothels of Europe, foreign women make up a significant portion and in most cases the majority of women in prostitution. In the last two years, two European countries, both with a significant trafficking problem, legalized prostitution, pimping and brothel keeping.

In the case of the Netherlands, women in prostitution come from 32 different countries. There are few Dutch women in the brothels. One year after legalization of prostitution in brothels, the traffickers control 50 percent of the women. The situation is similar in Germany where there are an estimated 400,000 women in prostitution. Seventy-five percent of those women come from other countries.

Tolerance and legalization of sex industries also leads to an increase in child prostitution. In the last five years, the number of children in prostitution in the Netherlands increased from 4,000 to 15,000, a 400 percent increase, yet the Netherlands is placed on Tier 1 in the TIP Report. Increasing the demand for women in prostitution violates the criteria set out in the Trafficking Act that governments should adopt measures to prevent trafficking.

The 2002 TIP Report profoundly fails to grasp the scope, magnitude and causal factors of trafficking and what efforts are needed to hold countries accountable for the complicity and the trafficking. The trafficking of women and children for prostitution will decrease when two things happen: one, there are sufficient arrests and convictions with sentences commensurate with the severity of the crime to deter traffickers and corrupt officials from engaging and the buying and selling of victims. And two, there's a reduction in the demand for women and children to be used in prostitution.

Those two crucial factors are missing in the evaluation and ranking of countries in this year's TIP Report. This report is a lost opportunity to render assistance to millions of victims who have no one to speak on their behalf. It's a missed leadership opportunity to advance human rights for women and children in the world. We need a TIP office that is led by people with the insights, vision and courage to take a stand against the trafficking of women and children who aren't afraid to name the brutal violence for what it is and not flinch at holding the perpetrators accountable.

Members of this committee, I ask you to use the power invested in you to ensure that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is implemented as intended, so that the victims of the global sex trade are freed from bondage and new victims are not recruited to replace them.

REP. C. SMITH: Ms. Hughes, thank you, very much, for that very powerful statement and we will weigh each of your comments and I think you made a number of important contributions. The idea that the conditions and penalties need to be commensurate with the crime that's committed at least for our legislation for the United States, we looked at our own law, found that it was incredibly infirm and had no real teeth which is why we provide 20 years to life for the commission of these crimes by either harboring, transporting or the final end game exploitation of the women. It seems to me that as we look at other countries, we ought to use that as the prism through which we look and say, how serious do you take it? Is it the equivalent of rape or not? Is it the equivalent of what we would consider slavery, which it is, or not? So I think your points were very well taken and we thank you for it.

Ms. Burkhalter.

MS. HOLLY BURKHALTER: Thank you, Chairman Smith, for having me, I appreciate being here and I will not take too much time since the preceding testimony has been so thorough and so excellent.

I was asked by the committee staff to comment on the TIP Report and I'm glad to do so from an advantage point of about two decades of working on conditionality of one type or another. We've worked together on many human rights conditions on different parcels of foreign aid over the years so I do have a perspective.

But I wanted to begin by saying that my irritation over particularly the inclusion of Thailand and India in the second tier, I think persuaded me to write a sentence or two in the written testimony that is intemperate and I would not want the record to be left with any lack of appreciation, for not only the enormous changes that this law has effected in the world in the area of protection of victims, prevention of the crime, et cetera. It is one of the most extraordinary pieces of human rights legislation I've ever seen. Maybe the most -- and I also don't want to in any way disregard the extraordinary work done by my friends at the State Department in the trafficking office. So my criticism of the TIP Report should be also tempered with those initial remarks.

Mr. Chairman, these days I'm working almost full time on the global AIDS epidemic, representing many, many American doctors and nurses who are concerned about the epidemic. And I know of no way that the epidemic can be checked and stopped, what with 65 million infections over the last 20 years and hundreds of thousands of new infections every year with India and China, the second wave, with Africa just dying as we watch.

But I will tell you that it should be possible to protect the youngest victims of HIV/AIDS and that would be children around the world who are trafficked into prostitution. I note that UNICEF estimates that there may be as many as 2 million additional children induced into, or forced into prostitution every year. Now that's millions of victims that shouldn't be there and can be helped. They are now being subjected, in addition to crimes that are life and soul destroying in and of themselves, a death sentence within a matter of years because of HIV/AIDS.

They are victims of violent transmission of AIDS and those crimes against them must be stopped and can be. But I only know of one way and that of, is to prosecute or otherwise discipline, convict, administratively punish, persons involved in the trade. And I don't need to amplify Gary's spectacularly good testimony. He's been my tutor on this subject.

So I'd like to look at the State Department reporting with regard to accountability. Secretary Dobriansky, who is a great friend of the human rights community and of myself and my colleagues at PHR, admitted that she weighed equally, and I think if I heard her correctly, she said she evaluated equally three factors in determining placement on the three tiers. She evaluated equally prevention, protection and prosecution. I don't understand why they are taking that stance in terms of evaluating placement, when I think the act makes it pretty clear that prosecution is your first consideration.

The first four of the standards listed in section 104 in the reporting requirement all relate to accountability and in the minimum standards, the first -- all of them relate to accountability and under criteria of serious and sustained efforts, the very first indicator is investigation, prosecution and conviction. So I would encourage the administration not to give equal weight to all three important features of determining a government's alacrity with regard to trafficking and elevate, as you did, the office of the law -- elevate the issue of accountability.

How can we do this? There was a long and interesting discussion about data collection. A topic I'm very interested in because I know how hard it is to collect data. We at Physicians for Human Rights use some very interesting data collection tools, using public health surveys to get at health data and human rights data in large populations. But it seems to me, as Gary mentioned, the people who can give you the data about prosecutions and convictions and administrative punishments are the governments themselves and if they refuse to do so, or fail to do so, that alone should be a reason not to include them in the first two tiers. Withholding the information or being unable to produce the information in an of itself, shows that a government is simply not engaged in even asking local officials what they're doing with regard to prosecution.

If one can imagine, for example, if government officials were to query local officials who don't get any rewards whatsoever for proper policing. There's no rewards and no promotions for providing police protection to the poor in this world. And if it becomes of interest to do so, then one can imagine a policeman being able to try to swim against the tide. The tide of corruption, the tide of low pay, you know, the tide of indifference and injustice against the poor everywhere, if there were a reason to. Well, this report gives them a reason to. If their own higher ups are demanding the data, well how many are there? You can imagine the very asking of that question might cause a few people to scurry around and it wouldn't take thousands of prosecutions. It might just take a dozen for goodness sake. We're not asking governments to prosecute everyone involved or every corrupt official. Just enough to catch the attention of others who will modulate their activities accordingly.

So I think that -- what was your data collection is actually the kind of key here in terms of using the report alone, never mind all the other really marvelous features of this law that provide help for the victims and assistance to governments of goodwill who are trying to do the right thing. I really think if governments are holding out on data, they themselves are not engaging in a key way of getting at the crime and getting at the -- stopping the crime, which is why we're all here at the table.

So I would think that the law should -- given the goodwill in the executive branch on this issue, I can't imagine that the law would actually have to be amended since it's a model of clarity as it is. But if it should have to be amended or if there were follow up conversation between the members and the bureau and the deputy secretary, perhaps this issue of requiring that data be produced by governments that don't expect to get a failing grade, would be one way to go about it.

A couple of very other tiny suggestions then I will stop and let everybody go home after a long, though unusually important hearing I would say. You know, I remember, and you'll see some of this reflected in my testimony, the various efforts we made, frequently together, over the years to try to use the leverage of foreign aid to make change. What were the successful ones and what were the unsuccessful ones? Well, we need a couple of hours for that and I know you would probably like to stay that long but the rest of the group would not.

So I will take you down memory lane about 20 years but I would direct your attention to the nuns case in El Salvador. A case of high importance to every member of this body and to our government, because four American churchwomen were raped and butchered by national policemen and other security officials in El Salvador in 1981. They just wouldn't prosecute that case because it implicated higher ups. And finally, Congress which was willing -- the majority in Congress were willing to provide continued large amounts of military aid, simply said a portion of this is going to be held back until we get a conviction in that case. And by golly, they did.

They held back -- I can't even remember the numbers any more, I want to say 25 percent, but it's been a long time. It doesn't actually matter what percentage or what chunk -- but there was this notion of we don't want to stop all of your foreign aid. And by the way, I have no problem stopping military aid but I'm not a proponent of holding back humanitarian aid or other poverty alleviation assistance, and I know you've sheltered that in your bill, quite appropriately.

But there was this kind of, put this money in escrow, till we see something here. But you might want to think about, in terms of providing a little encouragement to those that do take the -- gather the political and the -- what's necessary to prosecute these crimes. And if they could get a little assistance after they do that, or maybe hold back some of the assistance they otherwise would have gotten, it would be a way to go about this.

I might also add, just back in terms of rewarding good behavior. Another reason for including the data in this report, is that because there are so few rewards for doing the right thing in corrupt judicial systems and very poor judicial systems, you know this is one way to lift up and highlight and reward good example. You know, you can simply name the cases where a police jurisdiction was cooperative in an investigation, or a bust or a raid, or a liberation and name the brave magistrates who took these cases to trial, and it would be something that lifts them up above their colleagues and could even -- particularly if there could be resources associated with doing that good work. You know, I have no objection whatsoever to providing police and judicial assistance to governments of goodwill really trying, that need a little help. And I would envision doing that, to reward precisely those jurisdictions that are making a good effort. And then that sort of enhances the respectability and the value and the -- well, I've gone on too long.

In closing, I would just direct your attention to seven recommendations for donors with regard to the global AIDS epidemic and violent transmission of HIV/AIDS through rape and sexual violence.

It's an issue that the donors are largely not taking into account, but they lie at the heart of the spread of the pandemic, and I simply offer them for your consideration. Thank you very much.

REP. C. SMITH: Ms. Burkhalter, thank you very much for your testimony and your fine work. You mentioned El Salvador and you worked on that when you were here, those -- that conditionality. I'll never forget 1984 when I was in El Salvador meeting with our ambassador, Ambassador Core(ph), but more importantly with President Duarte, and I asked him what he thought about the human rights conditions on the aid to El Salvador. And he looked at me and he said "Keep them. It helps me within my own government."

So just like the men's case -- I mean, there are bad actors even in a government that -- I think he made a good faith effort to provide a good government. Some may disagree. But he wanted those human rights conditions and said so very candidly. And while we fight Democrat and Republic administrations who always say, no, that is counterproductive, I think 99.9 percent of the time it is very productive. Just like the naming of names in this legislation. This legislation was almost defeated and it would have been defeated by killing it in committee or killing it and never getting it onto the floor because we insisted on naming names. Thankfully, it was done in a bipartisan way so we had actors on both sides of the aisle pulling on the oar, and that's very important.

I do have a couple of questions, not many because your testimonies collectively have been thoroughly comprehensive. Frontline NGOs like Congresswoman Smith, what kind of risks do you, your workers and the women and girls themselves take? I mean, obviously there has to be a retaliation factor. And how do you encourage the governments -- and we do this -- I do it every -- every parliamentarian I meet, every government official I talk to, I bring up not just the women and trafficking and the idea of trading them as victims, but also this issue of retaliation against the NGOs and the frontliners who are out there. We know that, for example, in Russia, in St Petersburg in meeting with some of the NGOs that do business there, they have been threatened. They have been told that -- you know, the women themselves get threatened, their families get threatened, but also those brave souls who step up to plate to protect the women who get threatened.

What about your experience, Ms. Smith? And perhaps Gary or some of the others might want to touch on that as well.

MS. SMITH: I don't call myself an authority on anything, Representative Smith, because I don't think four years gives us that. We have had some experiences where we have lost girls that have decided that they're going to go back in and tell other girls that there's a place, there's a safe house. We've had one moved. As we get larger, we are Teen Challenge International in Bombay and we were just written up as being the largest NGO in that area, under Teen Challenge. We're less likely to be touched when there's more visibility.

I think, though, that we have to remember that we do put those are working with us in jeopardy if we're not careful. We can do things in some of these countries and we have and after four years there's some things we've done that I am

proud of, and some that I wouldn't do again. But we do believe they're still there and as long as there's police corruption making money at the lower levels, and the upper levels of India are saying "Well, we don't have good coordination" we have very bad cover at the lower levels and our people are in danger. And so I think the important thing that I heard today from the under secretary was this: there is not a good coordination in India between the higher levels and the different jurisdictions. Then they need to have one. And they need to have prosecutions of lower level officials, and higher level officials, to understand that retaliating against people that are abiding trafficking is an offence, and it will give us some cover. But right now, we just know that we take risks, and they're worth the risk.

MR. HAUGEN: I would just add that, as everyone knows in a society, the scariest thing is a police that's on the wrong side. And that we feel most exposed, most vulnerable, when we sense that the police are part of perpetrating the crimes. But the police, as scary as they seem, are very accountable to their political superiors. And they will respond to what the priorities are, the political superiors, about what it is they are required to report on.

And it would significantly change our sense of protection out in the field to know that the very highest authorities in the land were sending the message all the way down to the street level police, that I want to know whether police are getting dismissed from complicity with these crimes, and I want to see whether or not you are collecting evidence and prosecuting in such a way that you actually convict someone.

A lot of our girls that we interact with in the brothels in some of these police raids are very reluctant to come out, because they are totally scared of the police. Now, we will go on police raids and bring the police with us, usually with a secure group of police that we've worked with before and we can trust. But many times, the girls will see in that police party, girls that have been visiting -- I mean, police that have been visiting the brothel, and protecting the brothel, they do do raids, but it's usually just for the purpose of extorting more money out of the brothel keepers.

But what will change that? When the idea that the police are in a chain of command, understand that the bosses up top want to see prosecutions succeed, and they want to see dirty police dismissed.

REP. C. SMITH: Yes, Ms. Poudel.

MS. POUDEL: My opinion is a little different. I think it's -- in my country, I don't know like the international sectors. In my country is very poor nutrition and people is not educated in their -- that's why we need -- like most important is education. And if it stop that one -- first of all we go to the very root area, not like a police. And they say first we go to the root area, where the girls come from, the village. We have to stop it at that point. And we have to give them the, like, education and some economic resources like training or income generating programs, like that.

REP. C. SMITH: I am just thinking aloud, but -- and I'd appreciate your thoughts on this. When we began looking, as a committee, we had some seven hearings on it, the issue in Northern Ireland. One of the issues that jumped out, it wasn't just the extremism on the part of the IRA or the other paramilitaries on the -- whether it be the loyalist side, or either side of that conflict, it was the policing, and the collusion that we found, and the corruption, in the police department that was aiding and abetting and creating a climate where this impunity could continue.

Perhaps we need a new initiative. And you've already said it in so many words, in the area of policing. I mean, put the heavy emphasis on the prime ministers, the parliamentarians, and everybody in between, the attorneys general, but focus as well on police as being the point of contact, and the point of corruption, that facilitates these horrendous crimes.

I know for a fact that we do train a number of police, there are all kinds of collaborative efforts between the U.S. and other police departments. As a matter of fact, one amendment I had relative to Northern Ireland, was that there could be no more training of the RUC, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, from Northern Ireland at Quantico unless they were vetted, and properly vetted, to make sure that they were not in collusion with a terrorist.

Perhaps we need to look at an initiative on police, and use every venue imaginable, because there's an interface on an ongoing base stream, New York police, and everyone else, with regard to this issue to try to get at it, and make this another avenue of attack, and certainly reporting on the number of police who have been held to account at the barest minimum, to begin to get a handle on just how large in scope this is, and as you indicated.

MR. HAUGEN: If I can just comment, Mr. Chairman. There is no way to combat trafficking that leaves out the police. The brothel keepers and the traffickers care about one thing: money, and whether they'll go to jail. Whether they go to jail depends upon whether or not the police in the street is on his side or not. So, the great problem now is the police, but the great hope is the police. And whenever we rescue girls out of forced prostitution on raids, we do it with police. You can't do it without police.

And so they are, in fact, the great hope. And there are wonderful ways to radically change the way police do their job. Here in America 100 years ago, in an urban setting, the police were thoroughly corrupt, thoroughly protective of forced prostitution within our own country.

There were steps that were taken to improve that. And we are continually trying to do that. But it's not all dark and dreary. There can be drastic change by addressing the police.

REP. C. SMITH: Frankly, are we doing that? Isn't the U.S. State Department and other agencies of the U.S. Government promoting that?

MR. HAUGEN: I would just say that, right now, from the countries that we work in, the priority of dealing with sex trafficking has not been communicated down to the police. And this is part of one of the questions I would want to ask Secretary Dobriansky. Where in the government are you interfacing? Because if your meeting is with the commissioner of Women's Affairs or something, someone within the government or someone who is most likely to be sympathetic, you're going to get very earnest responses. But the question is, are you meeting with the people who are -- the general in charge of the police in the country? Do you have commitments from him? Does he have a sense of understanding that he understands his police force is riddled with people who are making off this? What is the point of interface? And as far as I know, there perhaps has not been a strong or direct interface with police and military who, in these countries, controls who goes to jail.

REP. C. SMITH: Anyone else like to comment on that?

MS. BURKHALTER: The only addition is that you don't want to forget about customs officials and immigration officials in terms of complicity particularly when you're talking about people moving across borders. My testimony focused on child rape, child prostitution. But in terms of bringing people in and out of sovereign nations, the role of your customs and your immigration and your border patrol and your border police, oftentimes military forces play that role in countries, particularly those that are in conflict or newly out of conflict. So, don't forget the interface with them, particularly when you're talking about the movement of people.

I was thinking just for a moment about another issue I was much involved with last year: conflict diamonds. It's pretty hard to find a way to monitor conflict diamonds coming across a border. They are little and they are valuable and you can put a whole bunch of dollars' worth of them into your mouth. Transporting people across the border, on the other hand, is a little different. You know, they are pretty visible and thus you have to have official complicity for this to really go on without interference.

MR. HAUGEN: Can I just add one word on the minute -- sorry.

MS. BURKHALTER: Please.

MR. HAUGEN: Just that police are maybe 75 percent of it. The extra 25 percent of getting to the goal line is the prosecutors and the courts who actually need to convict. And so, there's a tremendous role of the U.S. government being able to assist either through its own resources or through NGOs hands-on training of prosecutors and courts. Because we're in countries where they've never done this successfully. So there, they're dealing with it for the first time, they go find a friend who's done this before and figure out how to do it. In these countries, they don't have that person to go to. And so, there's a significant need for training of prosecutors in the courts, in a hands-on practical way.

REP. C. SMITH: As you know, Mr. Haugen, again the legislation that we have contemplated at least some of that, providing an authorization for \$10 million for that kind of program in other countries. So I would hope that we would fully implement it. We've got to get a better accounting as to how that money is being spent.

MR. HAUGEN: Maybe we need more.

REP. C. SMITH: Yes, Ms. Hughes. Professor Hughes.

MS. HUGHES: Yes, I would just say that I would agree with that. In my experience, in Ukraine, although certainly there are some very good police officers who really want to do the right thing, the majority of them that I interviewed really thought there wasn't a problem at all trafficking of women and had many excuses to either blame the victim or say the problem simply didn't exist. In one particular case, I went with my research partner to a nightclub which was known to have under-age girls performing sex acts there and was a site of recruitment by traffickers. The owner came and sat down and had dinner with us and then the regional prosecutor joined us as well as his best friend. So that

showed us right there that there really was not going to be much action taken against what was happening in that night-club.

REP. C. SMITH: Yes, Ms. Poudel.

MS. POUDEL: In my experience, we have like open border with India and Nepal and police also, our government also with police, they try to stop the Date(ph) soldiers. Police also involving working with the anti-trafficking. But they cannot every day passing across border to the guards because the broker, they came, they say this is my wife, she is sick. My sister, she's sick. We are going to visit in India somebody, like this. It cannot be stopped. That means in my country we need like education, like a health assistant to go to the village and you know, around this program like that. This is my experience. But ours is a open border.

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chairman?

REP. C. SMITH: Yes.

MS. SMITH: I had two things that I did want to address. They are now a little beyond the time where they were addressed. One, the RFP. Last year, the funding for this bill was an extensive focus of Shared Hope International and the World Trafficking Alliance and we spent all year trying to make sure that the money was appropriated, working with Chairman Wolf's office extensively. And we were pleased with what came through. My concern is that money is not being distributed. The RFP from the State Department, Justice Department and others, the money is still there and has -- I know they're working and thinking we need the training the International Justice Mission could do. I mean they did a great job, they're in places we are and why aren't they training the policemen? I come back home and I find out there's \$2 million sitting there waiting for a bureaucracy to give it out. And I guess it is bothering me a little bit. If I were a member, I think I would be knocking on the doors and I would imagine you are.

We need to get that money out there to credible groups that are doing the work, not just to ones that will talk about it. It appears what's been happening with money is often it's been at the level of the ambassador level. And they pass out condoms in some places. They do things. But I don't see any real strong programming. I'd like this committee to please take a look at those RFPs, get the money out to groups like IJM. We don't have an RFP so I can say this.

The other thing that I would like to bring to your attention is I'm very concerned about that Korean incident with the military, but not so much the military as I was with the issue of the airport. If they were lining the woman that were coming off the airplane at the airport along the side to be sold at auction, somebody had to be involved in that. Immigration officials, Korean officials. It's an airport. It's an international airport and it appears that it was done publicly and in front of everyone. Why was Korea given a number one rating when they have an airport that has public auctions of women at the airport?

I think that's is a very serious issue of omission on the State Department's problem -- side. But also I think that the issue of Korea needs to be visited. When I saw that tape, and I just saw it in your office, I was not -- the issue of our American military is very serious. But the bigger issue to me was they take them aside, line them up at the airport and then auction them. Now, tell me that that isn't visible. So I think that we've got a real, real issue with our officials accepting this because we're very visible in the airports in these countries and we have officials there also that had to have known it besides the military.

REP. C. SMITH: I appreciate you bringing that up. We will get to the bottom of that. I mean, the request that we've made of Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense, still has not been answered.

Earlier today, Secretary Dobriensky, I think it was who said that a letter will be forthcoming -- or maybe it was the ambassador -- to us, explaining it. But orders need to be issued, cut immediately if they are not already out there on an absolute cessation and even a prosecution to the fullest extent of Korean law or any other breached military order -- code of conduct breaches, to ensure that those who have committed these crimes -- I mean, on the tape, as you saw I'm sure, a member of the military police acting as a courtesy patrol, talking about how this is standard operating procedure. The passport is taken away, these women are held in captivity and then are offered --

MS. SMITH: And lined up at the airport. You know, Chris -- excuse me, Chairman, what bothered me about that whole thing was this: it was very clear everyone knew. But also what bothered me was the statement earlier today where she said, "We'll issue a letter on it." Today, right now, as you and I are sitting here, women are being auctioned and they are talking about issuing letters. So I guess it's a concern to me that they act quicker than issuing a letter.

REP. C. SMITH: You know, in all candor, we have -- one of the reasons why we had the implementation hearing last fall was that we were unhappy with the pace of implementation. Of course, 9/11 -- and Mr. Pitt did ask a question about that, whether or not the war on terror had a chilling effect or caused us to operate at less than optimum speed on this. The TB's (ph) still have not been issued, or the final regs -- I understand are on final approach here, but they should have been issued much sooner so that women could garner the protections as envisioned by the law. So hopefully this goes a little faster now. You know, we've been through this now the second time. I mention -- and I would encourage all of you as very, very influential and knowledgeable non-government organizations and individuals to encourage the department to issue interim reports. I mean this isn't something that just shouldn't come around every year like the country reports on human rights practices, which is a very good document, but information as it becomes available, particularly when it becomes available in a way that is compelling either way, ought to be issued as a report as envisioned by the statute.

For example, much has been stated about Thailand and India and Vietnam. Hopefully the department will go back and get out the documentation and have a second look at that. You know, this is not frivolous criticism. This is very constructive criticism by people who care deeply and have sacrificed their time and their lives working on these issues. So I, you know -- there are members of the department here I hope they would re-look at those countries with an eye towards a revision and a revision would be towards Tier 3 based on the documents and based on the documentation, as you'd say.

Looking at that -- those tapes both of you have provided and others that I've seen as well, it just absolutely breaks your heart. And to see the cop getting his cut, Gary, is very disturbing.

Let me just ask Ms. Burkhalter. You mentioned the UNICEF numbers, I think it was two million children, that are unfortunately put into this terrible exploitation. In terms of the AIDS transmission, are there any numbers of how many of these children are getting AIDS or other STDs, but especially AIDS.

MS. BURKHALTER: No. To my knowledge no one has done a kind of public health data collection on its prevalence among child prostitutes and to be honest with you that would be a very difficult -- ethically speaking, that would be a very difficult study to do because those children are torture victims and to take data about their situation while they're there is something I think health professionals have a lot of difficulty doing. But I think we can assume that anybody in prostitution is -- has a very good chance of getting AIDS.

I can't tell you what that chance is but just to give you a sense about the exponential spread, we were looking at -- we had a report on child prostitution, PHR, Physicians for Human Rights on child prostitution in Cambodia in 1997, which is the early, you know, it's the forward end of the AIDS epidemic and prevalence among prostitution -- among prostitutes of AIDS problems, went from like you know 11 percent to 35 percent in a couple of years. And so the -- when you consider that the CIA is estimating that the entire number of cases of AIDS in Africa are going to double by the year 2005-'06 just because of prevalence in Nigeria and Ethiopia alone, you can see that people who are having non consensual sex 20 or 25 times a day or six or 10 times a day, are going to be very vulnerable to AIDS. And as you know, women are much more likely to be infected through sexual transmission of AIDS than men, which is partly just physiological, which is part of the reason why prevalence is higher among women.

But I would also say that the technical responses of female condoms and microbicides as helpful as they would be for men and women to be able to use them for a choice or for women to have -- this does not get at women who have no choice, none whatsoever. In terms of determining the terms of reference prevention education -- AIDS prevention education and strategies particularly insisting upon cleanliness are -- cannot help those least able to negotiate the terms of reference. That applies by the way to many married women as well in Africa and Asia. But particularly vulnerable, more vulnerable than any I would think, are children in the sex trade who have no possibility of negotiating condom use that could save their lives.

REP. C. SMITH: Yes, Professor Hughes.

MS. HUGHES: I can give you some information that I just got from Steve Cook who is the International Organization for Migration representative for Ukraine and Moldova and they're assisting about 50 victims returning each month and he said 100 percent of them have sexually transmitted diseases. He didn't say what percentage of that was HIV but 100 percent some type of sexually transmitted infection.

REP. C. SMITH: Are there any other comments any of you would like to make before we conclude the hearing?

MR. HAUGEN: I, on behalf of the International Justice Mission, would like to echo Holly Burkhalter's comments about our commitment to engage constructively with the State Department in this. We appreciate the way Secretary Dobri-
ansky has had an open door for us. We feel like it's been a constructive give and take. Sometimes we're giving, obvious-
ly on a critical way but we felt like there's been an open door to that and that this is something that can get better and for
the International Justice Mission's part, I just want to say for the record that we've appreciated that very much.

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I would that I think that the relationship especially with the ambassador -- excuse me, with
Paula Dobri-ansky, is a very open door. Not that the other levels aren't, it's just, it's been an office in making that she has
put together. She is -- I was a part of forming the summit idea last year of having a summit, a world summit right here
in Washington D.C. and worked with Chairman Wolf on getting that funded and now the world alliance, of which In-
ternational Justice Mission, Shared Hope International, Johns Hopkins University, Protection Project and Salvation Ar-
my are the leaders. We are in cooperation with them in forming a summit where we can bring these people together who
have not been able to be anywhere other than in isolation in their own countries. The real people that are doing the
work.

And if there's any criticism I've had, it has been often we get these reports and they come from ambassador level and
that level really doesn't have a clue what's going on. And so our reports are insufficient because of that. And we believe
that the World Summit, in cooperation with the State Department, will be able to bring together greater knowledge and
also better reporting, and a more openness in reporting because of these groups will not tell us anything as well as not
their government because they are frightened of what will happen to them.

So we believe this will shine light on the issue and the State Department and -- what is her title, Under Secretary Paula
Dobri-ansky, has been a leader in that. So we're looking forward, all of us, to working with them and have a meeting
tomorrow to bring this effort forward.

REP. C. SMITH: Yes, Professor Hughes.

MS. HUGHES: I would just like to second that about Paula Dobri-ansky's office. I've met with her on a couple of occa-
sions. She and her staff have been very open for comment.

REP. C. SMITH: Let me conclude just by reminding us that the Foreign Office Appropriations Bill, I mean, Mr. Wal-
ter's been very, I think, generous with his part but last year I offered the amendment to provide \$30 million to fully fund
the sections that are in the Foreign Ops part. That is to say, you know, the shelters that are overseas, assisting countries
overseas in the development of their laws and policies. It passed unanimously. I don't think there was a single vote
against it, 400 and something to zero. It got up to conference and we lost a third of that funding and part of the idea
coming from the professional staff at the Foreign Ops Committee and others, was that they can't absorb this money.
And I said that's why we designed the legislation and that's what we want you to think about new initiatives. And again
we'll have another fight with this on the floor and they'll probably say, oh, we only need 20 million not 30 or something
along those lines.

I encourage you to be in touch with the appropriators, particularly the chairman and the ranking member to fully fund
the authorized levels and to exceed it, get a waiver and exceed it. I mean, it seems to me that we could be building shel-
ters until the cows come home and we will not have enough shelters to help those women who are in need of rescue. So
it's -- I just encourage you to help us on that as we go forward.

The hearing's adjourned. Thank you very much.

(Adjourn)

END

LOAD-DATE: June 21, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

WITNESSES: PAULA DOBRIANSKY, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS, UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

DONNA M. HUGHES, PROFESSOR AND ELEANOR M. AND OSCAR M. CARLSON ENDOWED CHAIR IN
WOMEN'S STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND;

HOLLY BURKHALTER, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS;
GARY A. HAUGEN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION;
LINDA SMITH, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL;
MANJU POUDEL, FOUNDING MEMBER, THE DAYWALKA FOUNDATION

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326 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

June 19, 2002 Wednesday

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 637 words

Statement of Representative Henry Hyde

Committee on House International Relations

"Foreign Government Complicity in Human Trafficking: The State Department's 2002 Trafficking in Persons Report"

June 19, 2002

I am pleased to convene this hearing, which is the second in a series of hearings being held by the House Committee on International Relations on implementation of the Smith-Gejdensen Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The Smith-Gejdensen Act provides a comprehensive plan for putting an end to modern-day slavery. A key component of this plan is the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This report is intended to inform the President and the Congress about which foreign governments are making serious efforts to combat the most egregious forms of trafficking in persons ---- the buying and selling of women and children into the international sex industry, and the trafficking of men, women, and children alike into slavery and involuntary servitude --- and which governments are failing to make such efforts.

At today's hearing, the Committee will hear testimony on the State Department's second annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This year's report is particularly important because it is intended to serve as a final "wake-up call" to governments which are doing little or nothing to combat human trafficking. This is because the Trafficking Victims Protection Act contemplates that the United States will withdraw nonhumanitarian aid from governments which remain on the "Tier Three" list after next year's report. The "**Tier Three**" governments are those that not only fail to meet minimum international standards for combatting **human trafficking**, but who are not even making serious efforts to bring themselves into compliance with these standards.

In addition to providing an overview of the state of the war against human trafficking and a general assessment of the Trafficking in Persons Report, I hope our witnesses will address one question in particular. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act places particular emphasis on the need to take action against governments that not only tolerate human trafficking, but are actively complicit in such trafficking through their agencies and officials. Both this year and last year, criticism of the report by human rights advocates and humanitarian organizations has singled out governments that are omitted from the Tier Three list even though they appear to give impunity to their own officials who participate in and profit from sex trafficking and slave trafficking. In some cases, the report acknowledges this problem, but finds nevertheless that the government has engaged in "significant efforts" to end trafficking. These efforts typically include co-sponsoring rehabilitation and training programs with international organizations, or perhaps prosecuting an occasional perpetrator.

This raises the question whether governments whose own agencies or officials are pervasively involved in human trafficking --- and who lack the political will to take the difficult measures that would be necessary to put an end to such involvement --- will nevertheless be able to avoid sanctions under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. If so, what must be done to put an end to this impunity? Should the State Department reassess its standard for what constitutes "significant efforts" by a government whose officials or agencies are engaged in human trafficking? Or does the Act need to be amended in order to make clear that government complicity in sex trafficking and slave trafficking is simply unacceptable?

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today, and I yield to the distinguished Ranking Member of the Committee, Representative Tom Lantos, for any opening remarks he may have.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TESTIMONY-BY: HENRY HYDE, REPRESENTATIVE

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327 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

June 19, 2002 Wednesday

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 1851 words

Statement of Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky

Before the House International Relations Committee

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: An Overview of Current U.S. Policy and the Trafficking in Persons Report

June 19, 2002

Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss U.S. policy to combat trafficking in persons and the second annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Your strong leadership on this issue, first by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and then by focusing national attention on its implementation has been crucial. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Congress - as well as foreign governments and NGOs - toward eradicating this egregious human rights abuse and crime.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report is an essential tool available to the U.S. Government for achieving this objective. As Secretary Powell has said, the "annual Trafficking in Persons Report shines a much-needed light on this global problem. We use the information we collect for the report to bolster the will of the international community to combat this unconscionable crime."

In accordance with the legislative mandate, foreign governments are judged on whether they comply with the minimum standards to eliminate **trafficking in persons** and are ranked in one of three **tiers**. These governments are judged on their actions, not on plans that are merely in progress. According to the statute's minimum standards, countries must treat victims as victims, not criminals; they must prosecute traffickers, recognizing that trafficking is a crime that must be punished with sentences commensurate for those of other grave crimes, such as sexual assault; and they must prevent trafficking, recognizing the importance of public education campaigns in not only urban but also rural areas.

Since the release of the first report, we have used its contents to engage aggressively with other countries about what more effective concrete steps they can take in the area of prevention, protection and prosecution. To that end, I have met personally with representatives from India, Cote d'Ivoire, Romania, South Korea and numerous other countries to discuss trafficking in persons. Ambassador Ely-Raphel and her team in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons have met with representatives from more than two dozen countries -- some of them repeatedly. Our ambassadors and their staffs, as well as others in the Department, have also raised this issue numerous times with foreign government officials. These efforts have made a difference, and over the last year there were some improvements. At the same time, there was, disappointingly, regression and no change in a number of countries.

In preparing this year's report, our team undertook some new steps. They gathered information from 186 posts overseas, with input from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior, as well as law enforcement, border officials, local NGOs, representatives of international organizations working in those countries, academics, and journalists. The Trafficking in Persons Report team also supplemented the information with assessments from the intelligence community. Moreover, in December 2001, the Trafficking in Persons Office invited 150 U.S. NGOs to submit information on trafficking in persons through a specially- established email address.

It's important to note that the Report goes beyond what is called for in the Act, which requires a listing of three tiers. Instead, we included brief country summaries, which are invaluable in identifying for foreign governments the areas in which they need to improve their efforts. Based on NGO input, we directed U.S. missions overseas to expand their information-gathering efforts to include specific inquiries about numbers of arrests, indictments and prosecutions, evi-

dence of governmental involvement or corruption and what steps have been taken to deal with these circumstances. As a result, the report reflects our increased collection of data and consideration of the scope of the trafficking problem in many countries.

The report analyzes the actions of countries based on the determination of whether they were "a country of origin, transit or destination for a significant number of victims" of trafficking and whether they were meeting the minimum standards to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons, and, if not, whether they are making significant efforts to do so. Political considerations were not a factor in our assessments. Many of our friends and allies are on Tiers II and III. They simply do not comply with minimum standards.

The release of this year's report has already generated many responses from a number of countries on Tiers II and III, including Japan, Malaysia, Greece and Turkey. We are meeting with each to discuss the report and suggest concrete follow-up steps. In addition, throughout the year we work with foreign NGOs to obtain feedback on whether the report's descriptions ring true to their experiences working with trafficking victims. We also distribute and publicize the report within the United States to educate Americans about the global scope of trafficking in persons.

Just as the report has already elicited feedback from countries listed in the report, it has also generated considerable reaction among activists in this country, as well as Members of Congress. I appreciate - and indeed share - the fervor that so many people bring to this issue. Let there be no mistake about it: we are all in pursuit of the same goal, namely the eradication of trafficking once and for all. In response to some of the criticisms I have heard expressed since release of the report and in anticipation of some of your questions today, I wish to address some of the criticisms of the report.

First, I have heard people say that placement of certain countries on Tier II constitutes their receiving a "passing grade." The legislation calls for three lists. Countries that are in full compliance with the Act's minimum standards merit a Tier I ranking. Countries not yet in full compliance but making significant efforts are on Tier II. Countries neither meeting minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are placed on Tier III. Countries with some of the worst trafficking problems are also some of the countries making a significant effort to combat them. The two are not mutually exclusive.

There is no question that Tier III placement is for the worst offenders, but being listed on Tier II means that countries are not in full compliance. It's not a pass to be listed on Tier II. Countries do not like to be listed on either Tier II or III and have challenged our findings. Moreover, countries on Tier II do not want to run the risk of falling to Tier III next year and face sanctions, including the possible cutoffs of non-humanitarian aid.

Second, and related to this, is the fact that honest people can disagree on the tier placements of certain countries. Congress asked that we look at the "significant effort" that a country is making. What constitutes a significant effort as defined in the Act is something that people can discuss and analyze differently. No country - including our own - is doing enough as long as trafficking continues to exist. That said, progress in one country will look very different from progress in others - as circumstances are different and what can impact the situation may also be different. At the same time, in our diplomatic engagement, we will set a high bar for these countries and demand solid action, not rhetoric. This is an extremely complex issue in which numerous factors - law enforcement, judicial action, legislative action, women's and children's rights, protection, economic conditions, and social assistance - have a bearing on how effective a country is in dealing with the problem and how we can engage and pressure that country to make progress. Simply, in each case there is not just one defining issue. We recognize the complexity and will take a hard look at each country.

Lastly, some have criticized the report for lacking data. I'd like to assure you that we have made significant efforts to collect data, which we then factored into our decision-making. With a world estimate of between 700,000 and four million trafficking victims, this underground crime is not easy to pinpoint. Accumulating verifiable data is extremely difficult, even here in the United States. Statistics are important and we will continue to push our various sources on collection. But statistics are one part of what we are looking at. Action, or inaction, is the primary focus.

The report is one of many tools at our disposal to address this criminal activity, to shed light on the terrible problem of trafficking, and to crack down on traffickers. The report is most effective when combined with a comprehensive strategy of diplomacy and direct engagement with other governments, multilateral fora, public affairs, programmatic support and technical assistance. That is why we are moving forward on developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to dealing with this issue. We have taken other steps, which we believe reinforce the impact of the report. These include:

(1) The meeting of the President's Cabinet-level Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which established the Senior Policy Advisory Group of representatives from the various task force agencies. This Senior

Policy Advisory Group has already undertaken two significant actions: the completion of the Overview of the Administration's Implementation of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act and a review of our policy parameters.

(2) A comprehensive review of prospective programs with a view to having the greatest amount of influence on these problematic areas.

(3) Seeking to use every forum - bilateral, regional and global - to aggressively address the issue of trafficking in persons. Working closely with our partners to spotlight such egregious human rights abuses can only strengthen our hand in eradicating trafficking.

(4) Moving forward with the ratification process of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2000. To date, the United States and 104 other countries have signed the Protocol.

(5) Educating the public about the issue, by expanding the section on trafficking in persons in our annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which has contributed to our keeping the issue of trafficking in persons central in our discourse with other countries - particularly the offenders; and speaking at conferences and with the media.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we want to continue to work vigorously with you, the NGOs and other governments to eradicate the often-hidden phenomenon of human bondage in modern-day society.

Thank you.

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TESTIMONY-BY: PAULA DOBRIANSKY, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

328 of 359 DOCUMENTS

U.S. Newswire

June 19, 2002 Wednesday

UPDATE: Human Rights in Greece Subject of Commission Hearing; New Time & Witnesses

SECTION: Assignment Desk, Daybooks

LENGTH: 422 words

News Advisory:

The United States Helsinki Commission will conduct a hearing to highlight the human rights developments and the prospects for further improvement in Greece, an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

WHAT:

Human Rights in Greece: A Snapshot of the Cradle of Democracy

WHEN:

Thursday, June 20

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

WHERE:

334 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

WHO:

Mania Telalian, legal advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-- Dimitrios Moschopoulos, counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-- Vassilios Tsirbas, senior counsel for the European Centre for Law and Justice

-- Adamantia Pollis, PhD, professor emerita, New School University

-- Panayote Dimitras, founding member and spokesperson, Greek Helsinki Monitor & Minority Rights Group - Greece; director, Center for Documentation and Information on Minorities in Europe-Southeast Europe

Topics of the hearing will include minority rights; religious liberty; freedom of the media; human trafficking; and domestic terrorism.

As Athens prepares to host the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, Roma have been uprooted from villages and areas around Athens in a "beautification" effort. Other ethnic and religious minorities face discrimination and harassment in Greece, the most homogeneous country in the Balkans.

There are an estimated 40,000 women and girls trafficked into Greece each year, many of them underage and living in virtual servitude after being forced or tricked into leaving their home countries. The government has recently introduced legislation to combat **trafficking in persons**, but the Department of State's **Trafficking in Persons** Report released on June 5 has ranked Greece as a **Tier 3** country indicating that there have not been significant efforts to meet minimum anti-trafficking standards.

Freedom House recently ranked Greece last in media freedom among free countries, citing a pattern of criminal defamation lawsuits against journalists, some being sentenced to prison for their reporting.

An un-official transcript will be available on the Helsinki Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.csce.gov> within 24 hours of the hearing.

The United States Helsinki Commission, an independent federal agency, by law monitors and encourages progress in implementing provisions of the Helsinki Accords. The Commission, created in 1976, is composed of nine Senators, nine Representatives and one official each from the Departments of State, Defense and Commerce.
<http://www.usnewswire.com>

CONTACT: Ben Anderson of the United States Helsinki Commission, 202-225-1901; <http://www.csce.gov>

LOAD-DATE: June 20, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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329 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

June 15, 2002 Saturday**HR (Government to combat human trafficking, narcotics, bonded labour)****SECTION:** Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 118 words**DATELINE:** Islamabad, June 15

The Government has taken a number of measures to combat human trafficking, narcotics and bonded labour. According to a press release issued by the Interior Ministry here Saturday, these steps include issuance of computerized National Identity Cards, registration of aliens living in Pakistan and introduction of Automated Border Control System on all exit and entry points . A comprehensive draft law has been prepared which prescribes severe punishment for human traffickers and simultaneous rehabilitation of victims. As a result of Government measures, the US State Department in its recent report on **human trafficking** has improved the rating of Pakistan and has placed it in the second **tier**.

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 2002**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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330 of 359 DOCUMENTS

U.S. Newswire

June 12, 2002 Wednesday

Human Rights in Greece Subject of Commission Hearing

SECTION: Assignment Desk, Daybook Editor

LENGTH: 392 words

News Advisory:

The United States Helsinki Commission will conduct a hearing to highlight the human rights developments and the prospects for further improvement in Greece, an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

WHAT:

Human Rights in Greece: A Snapshot of the Cradle of Democracy

WHEN:

Thursday, June 20

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

334 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

Witnesses:

Adamantia Pollis, PhD, professor emerita, New School University

-- Panayote Dimitras, founding member and spokesperson, Greek Helsinki Monitor & Minority Rights Group - Greece; director, Center for Documentation and Information on Minorities in Europe-Southeast Europe

-- Other witnesses may be added.

Topics of the hearing will include minority rights; religious liberty; freedom of the media; human trafficking; and domestic terrorism.

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<http://www.usnewswire.com>

CONTACT: Ben Anderson of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, 202-225-1901; Web <http://www.csce.gov>

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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331 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Africa News

June 10, 2002 Monday

Uganda; US Accuses Kampala, TZ of Slavery

BYLINE: The East African

LENGTH: 616 words

Significant numbers of women and children in Tanzania and Uganda are abducted or coerced to serve as sex slaves, prostitutes and forced labourers, the US State Department says in a new report on worldwide Trafficking in Persons.

Kenya is not included in the survey because it is among the countries where the State Department could not gather enough reliable information about what it terms "this modern form of slavery."

In Tanzania, the practice is said to occur mainly on an internal basis, although the report cites unidentified sources as suggesting that Tanzanian women and girls may be trafficked to South Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe to work as prostitutes. "To a lesser degree," the report adds, "Tanzania is a destination point for trafficked persons from India and surrounding African countries."

The United States itself is not exempted from the findings. Describing the US as principally a transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, the State Department cites a 1997 estimate that some 50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the US for sexual exploitation.

In its section on Uganda, the report focuses on the "tens of thousands" of women and children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army during the past 15 years. Other instances of trafficking in Uganda are not mentioned in the study.

Neither the Tanzanian nor Ugandan governments fully complies with minimum standards for combating trafficking in persons, according to the State Department. The report consequently places the two East African countries in a "Tier 2" category, which includes about 50 nations making "significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance" with the standards.

Tier 1 countries, those judged to be carrying out the most rigorous anti-trafficking initiatives, are mostly prosperous and politically stable states. Tier 3 consists of 19 countries, including Sudan, that are said to be making no effort to institute safeguards against enslavement of their people.

The US law requiring issuance of an annual international survey on **human trafficking** calls for imposition of penalties on **Tier 3** countries beginning next year. The punishments could take the form of cuts in US aid as well as moves by Washington to block World Bank lending to the condemned countries.

The State Department report says Uganda is striving to stem trafficking despite "limited resources, a civil conflict and continued kidnapping raids" by LRA forces. At the same time, however, the Ugandan government "does not actively investigate or prosecute cases of trafficking," according to the report.

Tanzania's efforts to curb the practice are hampered by "severe financial constraints, pervasive corruption and porous borders." A new section of Tanzania's penal code makes trafficking inside or outside the country a crime, but the penalty for it is "relatively light," the State Department says.

Tanzania is one of three countries participating in a pilot programme intended to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, the report notes.

Children are trafficked from rural to urban areas in Tanzania for domestic work, commercial agriculture, fishing and mining. Young members of the country's large refugee population are especially vulnerable to being used as labourers on Tanzanian plantations, the report says.

The State Department says there are no firm estimates of the total number of people being trafficked worldwide. No fewer than 700,000 and as many as four million were bought, sold, transported and held in slave-like conditions during the past year, the report suggests.

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LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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332 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 7, 2002 Friday

Cambodia hits back at US over human trafficking

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 338 words

DATELINE: PHNOM PENH, June 7

The Cambodian government hit back at a US report on human trafficking on Friday arguing it had taken a clear stance against the slave trade.

Co-Interior Minister Sar Kheng told reporters that several people had been arrested for human trafficking "but we don't know whether the US knew about that or not."

"It is the United States' issue, and the US can say whatever they want," he said.

On Wednesday the US State Department released its annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report which added Cambodia to a **blacklist** of states Washington blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge.

Sar Kheng, who had just returned from Australia where he held official talks on human trafficking, pointed out that US citizens had come to Cambodia to adopt children and marry local women.

He said many of the women would end up as prostitutes while US citizens had paid money to adoption agencies.

"For that reason, this could mean that US citizens are corrupt," he said.

However, government spokesman Pen Thol said Cambodia admitted that there were some problems related to the issue of human trafficking.

On May 20, authorities arrested a Cambodian polygamist and his two wives for trading Vietnamese virgins in a scam that indicated a new trafficking route has emerged across three Asian countries.

Police said four girls -- one was acquired for 75 dollars -- along with another six Vietnamese women were smuggled from Vietnam to Cambodia where they were to receive fake passports while being held in a Phnom Penh brothel.

They were then to be sold on to brothels in Malaysia.

"We have to recognise the truth," Pen Thol quoted Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen as saying.

From 2003, Cambodia could be subject to US sanctions including the halting of non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance, unless it shows a vast improvement in combatting human trafficking.

The State Department report found that up to four million people had been bought and sold around the world in the last year.

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH HUMAN TRAFFICKING (94%); ARRESTS (90%); ADOPTION (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (89%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (89%); PROSTITUTION (88%); SMUGGLING (78%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (74%); PRIME MINISTERS (73%); MARRIAGE (73%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (73%);

333 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

June 7, 2002, Friday**4 million in slave trade****LENGTH:** 98 words

THE United States said yesterday that up to four million people had been bought and sold in the 21st century slave trade in the past year, and accused 19 countries of doing too little to stamp it out.

In its annual '**Trafficking in Persons**' report, the State Department added Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Iran and the Krygyz Republic, to a **blacklist** of states it blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge, which also includes Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The report said that people were trafficked to supply the international sex trade.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2002**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**JOURNAL-CODE:** GCB

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334 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 7, 2002 Friday

Cambodia accepts critical U.S. report on human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 302 words**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH, June 7

Prime Minister Hun Sen said Friday he accepts a U.S. State Department report designating Cambodia as one of 19 countries taking less action against human trafficking.

'We realize the fact, we must try our best to further prevent such a matter,' government spokesman Pen Thol quoted Hun Sen as saying in a weekly cabinet meeting.

Hun Sen admitted that some Cambodian women were trafficked by fake marriages orchestrated by foreigners, Pen Thol said.

The premier's remarks came two days after the U.S. State Department accused 19 countries of failing to act against human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation.

'Traffickers often force them into pornography and prostitution, subjecting them to terrible mental and physical abuse and putting them at risk from devastating diseases, such as HIV-AIDS,' U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell released the second annual report on human trafficking, which put the annual number of victims at between 700,000 and 4 million.

The State Department report classifies countries in three **tiers**, depending on their legal systems and government measures to combat **human trafficking**.

Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan fell into 'Tier 3' in the latest report. Last year, Cambodia was placed in Tier 2, a category for countries which do not yet fully comply with the minimum standards as defined by U.S. law but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Observers said human trafficking in Cambodia has been increasing over the last few years due to poverty.

Thailand and Vietnam, meanwhile, were listed in Tier 2 for making significant efforts to tackle the problem, the report said.

Sexual exploitation for commercial purposes and demand for inexpensive labor have risen over the past several decades, the report said.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2002**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

335 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Saint Paul Pioneer Press (Minnesota)

June 7, 2002 Friday

Can U.S. avoid political expedience in fight against human exploitation?

SECTION: MAIN; Pg. 12A

LENGTH: 731 words

Expedience, the hemoglobin of diplomacy, seems inseparable from the whole blood coursing through the bruised body of wartime American foreign policy. A reminder of the power of expedience arrived this week via the U.S. State Department's second annual report on trafficking in human beings.

Five of the 19 worst-offender nations in the assessment are Persian Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia. The State Department assessment is mandated by Congress in a law aimed at curtailing slavery, forced prostitution, sweatshop labor practices and other gross exploitations that bring financial benefit to the exploiters.

In releasing the report on Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States is determined "to stop this appalling assault on the dignity of men, women and children." He also noted that 50,000 such exploited people are in the United States. Worldwide, the report estimates, from 700,000 to 4 million people fall in the category of "trafficked" people. Obviously, an accurate count is one challenge in addressing the problems.

So, too, is making objective assessments of national performance to own these problems. The State Department observes 89 countries in the context of **human trafficking** and sorts them into three **tiers**, according to their commitment to stop these abuses, with **Tier 3** comprising the worst offenders. Powell's senior adviser on trafficking defends the methodology.

"There were absolutely no political considerations entering into this," said Nancy Ely-Raphel at a press conference. "Some of our closest allies are on Tier 3, and they were on Tier 3 last year. This is a straight-out, objective report determining whether a country meets the minimum standards and whether it's making serious and sustained efforts to meet those minimum standards."

Let's take her at her word while remembering that the expedient avenues next year raise cause for concern that the important human rights work of stopping human trafficking could stumble to alliances of economics and immediate security.

One has to wonder what will happen next year, when the law provides that a country that hasn't improved its performance enough to emerge from the cellar of human rights behavior during the three years becomes subject to U.S. economic punishment.

One also has to wonder how many three-strikes offenders President Bush will exempt (his right under the trafficking victims law) if he sees punishing them as against U.S. national interests. With fortunate rarity in Washington, the anti-trafficking impetus is not partisan. The law, passed in 2000, was championed in the Senate by the odd couple of Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia, Greece, Indonesia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates appeared this year in Tier 3 for a second time. The economically hard-pressed countries, of course, are mined for people vulnerable to trafficking. The rich nations consume the victims.

Note the high number of pivotal U.S. "allies" in the war on terrorism and in trying to stabilize the Mideast's violence. Note also that some countries with ghastly records on allowing human exploitation but are newfound friends of great strategic importance -- for instance, Pakistan the Philippines and India -- have risen from the bottom category to Tier 2 in this year's State Department report.

The idea of economic leverage, even if applied, will move nothing in places like Saudi Arabia or the small Gulf States. Expedience in dealing with the rulers of countries that feed us oil has always trumped engagement, just as neglect of Afghanistan's human rights horrors was expedient after it served no geostrategic importance to the United States.

The notion that trafficking concerns would take a priority in relations with Russia is an unlikely one.

But putting systematic focus on trafficking, however imprecise the measure and however subject to the whole of foreign policy judgment, makes an important difference by saying that nations are accountable for human misery perpetrated in the name of economic profit. The next year will be telling for this effort to build diplomatic capacity on behalf of the victims of trafficking.

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336 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 6, 2002 Thursday

Japan among worst human trafficking offenders: rights group

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 245 words**DATELINE:** NEW YORK, June 6

The U.S.-based group Human Rights Watch on Thursday faulted the U.S. State Department for giving Japan more credit than it says the Japanese government deserves in dealing with human trafficking.

The group raised the issue a day after the State Department released an annual report that says Japan is 'making significant efforts' to end the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

The State Department report, which classifies countries in three **tiers**, depending on their legal systems and government measures to combat **human trafficking**, kept Japan in '**Tier 2**,' along with 51 other countries such as Brazil, China, India, Laos, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

'Japan should be a Tier 3 country,' Human Rights Watch said.

Under the State Department classification, a 'Tier 2' country does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards as defined by U.S. law but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Pakistan, another country listed in 'Tier 2,' should be in Tier 3, Human Rights Watch said.

Human Rights Watch said the State Department report mentions only trafficking of women for sexual exploitation in Japan and does not distinguish debt-bondage as forced labor.

The rights group criticized the Japanese government, which it says continues to treat trafficked women as illegal immigrants or criminals.

'They are often arrested and deported. Traffickers are rarely punished,' it says.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2002**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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337 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 5, 2002 Wednesday

Up to four million trapped in global slave trade

BYLINE: STEPHEN COLLINSON

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 551 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 5

The United States said Wednesday that up to four million people have been bought and sold in the 21st century slave trade in the last year, and accused 19 countries of doing little to stamp it out.

In its annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, the State Department added Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic, to a **blacklist** of states it blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge, which also includes Russia and Saudi Arabia.

"Over the last year, at least 700,000 and possibly as many as four million men, women and children were bought, sold, transported and held against their will in slave like conditions," the report said.

"In this modern form of slavery, known as 'trafficking in persons' traffickers use threats, intimidation and violence to force victims to engage in sex acts or to labor under conditions comparable to slavery."

The report, which includes input from various US government agencies and embassies overseas, said that people are trafficked to supply the international sex trade in prostitution, sex tourism and commercial sex services.

Others find themselves working in appalling conditions for low pay in sweatshops, construction or agriculture.

Most of the countries deemed as not doing enough to combat trafficking are in east and central Asia, southern and eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On the basis of the report, governments in Africa and South America seem to be taking the problem seriously.

The report groups countries in three tiers based on the government's efforts to combat trafficking, as defined by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000.

The law defines trafficking as an offence in which a person is forced, coerced or transported to commit a sex act, or to indulge in forced labor or provision of services.

States in tier three are deemed to be in violation of the Act's minimum standards and not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

In this report, they are : Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Several countries placed in tier three last year, have moved up, including South Korea, which the report said had made "extraordinary strides" to combat trafficking over the last year and is now in tier one.

Romania, Israel, Albania, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Yugoslavia moved up from tier-three to tier-two, which reflects a judgement that their governments do not fully comply with the Act but is trying to do so, the report said.

States and territories in tier one are deemed to fully comply with the Act's standards, and this year include, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and Colombia.

Governments were assessed on whether they vigorously investigate acts of trafficking, protect victims, and adopt measures to prevent trafficking and cooperate with other countries to cut down on the trade in humans.

They are also held up for scrutiny on the extent to which they extradite traffickers, monitor immigration patterns for evidence of trafficking and prosecute public officials caught in the trafficking trade.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH HUMAN TRAFFICKING (91%); PROSTITUTION (90%); HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (88%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (77%); VICTIMS RIGHTS (75%); CRIMINAL FALSE IMPRISONMENT (74%); GARMENT WORKERS (73%); UNITED ARAB STEVEDORING (52%);

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338 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Agence France Presse -- English

June 5, 2002 Wednesday

Up to four million trapped in global slave trade : US report

BYLINE: STEPHEN COLLINSON

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, General News

LENGTH: 603 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 5

The United States said Wednesday that up to four million people had been bought and sold in the 21st century slave trade in the last year, and accused 19 countries of doing little to stamp it out.

In its annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, the State Department added Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic to a **blacklist** of states it blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge. The list also includes Russia and Saudi Arabia.

"Every year an estimated 700,000 to four million people around the world are victimized by traffickers through fraud, coercion and outright kidnapping," said Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"The overwhelming majority of victims are women and children.

"Traffickers often force them into pornography and prostitution, subjecting them to terrible mental and physical abuse and putting them at risk from devastating diseases, such as HIV-AIDS."

The report, which includes input from various US government agencies, NGOs and embassies overseas, said that some people are trafficked to supply the international sex trade in prostitution and sex tourism.

Others find themselves working in appalling conditions for low pay in sweatshops, construction or agriculture.

Most of the countries deemed not to be doing enough to combat trafficking are in east and central Asia, southern and eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On the basis of the report, governments in Africa and South America seem to be taking the problem seriously.

The report groups countries in three tiers based on the 89 governments' efforts to combat trafficking, as defined by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000.

Some countries are not included owing to a lack of reliable data.

The law defines trafficking as an offence in which a person is forced, coerced or transported to commit a sex act, or to indulge in forced labor or provision of services.

States in tier three are deemed to be in violation of the Act's minimum standards and not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

In this report, they are : Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

From 2003, states which remain in tier three will be subject to sanctions including the halting of non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance, and could also see the United States block aid from world finance bodies.

Several countries placed in tier three last year have moved up, including South Korea, which the report said had made "extraordinary strides" to combat trafficking over the last year and is now in tier one.

Romania, Israel, Albania, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Yugoslavia moved up from tier three to tier two, reflecting a judgment that their governments do not fully comply with the Act but are trying to do so, the report said.

States and territories in tier one are deemed to fully comply with the Act's standards, and this year include France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and Colombia.

Governments were assessed on whether they vigorously investigate acts of trafficking, protect victims, and adopt measures to prevent trafficking and cooperate with other countries to cut down on the trade in humans.

They are also held up for scrutiny on the extent to which they extradite traffickers, monitor immigration patterns for evidence of trafficking and prosecute public officials caught in the trafficking trade.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (90%); HUMAN TRAFFICKING (90%); NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (90%); KIDNAPPING & ABDUCTION (90%); PROSTITUTION (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (89%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (77%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (73%); GARMENT WORKERS (71%); AIDS & HIV (69%); UNITED ARAB STEVEDORING (52%); COLIN POWELL (56%);

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339 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

June 5, 2002 Wednesday

U.S. seeks Japan action to stop human trafficking

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 338 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 5

The United States asked Japan on Wednesday to redouble its efforts to combat international traffic in people.

'Japan is a destination country for women trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and for men trafficked for labor purposes,' the State Department said in an annual report.

'Some internal trafficking exists, as illegal migrants engaged in commercial sexual exploitation are sold and become bound by debt to the new 'owner,' the report said.

The report, the second of its kind, was compiled under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, which calls for imposing economic sanctions in 2003 against countries that fail to take full action against human trafficking.

It classifies countries in three **tiers**, depending on their legal systems and government measures to combat **human trafficking**.

Japan continued to be put on a list of 'Tier 2' countries, which do not yet fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with them.

Female trafficking victims in Japan come from Southeast Asia, especially Thailand and the Philippines, and increasingly from Colombia, Russia and other former Soviet republics, the report said.

Male victims in Japan come primarily from Asian countries such as China.

This year's report put 51 other countries on the Tier 2 list, including Brazil, China, India, Laos, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The department designated 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia and Russia, as 'Tier 3' countries that do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to bring them into compliance.

There are 18 'Tier 1' countries and territories, defined as those which fully comply with the act's minimum standards. They include Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy and South Korea.

South Korea jumped to Tier 1 from Tier 3 in last year's report.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 2002**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

340 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 5, 2002

14 Nations Make Gains in Combating Human Trafficking; State Department issues annual Trafficking in Persons Report

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 873 words

Washington -- The U.S. Department of State issued a congressionally-mandated report June 5 evaluating 89 nations in their efforts to control human trafficking, a "modern form of slavery" and an "unconscionable crime," according to Secretary of State Colin Powell, who explained the findings to reporters.

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2002 "represents the resolve of the entire United States government to stop this appalling assault on the dignity of men, women and children," said Powell. The study estimates that between 700,000 and four million people fall victim to the deception, coercion and fraud that are the hallmarks of trafficking, even while acknowledging that the collection of data on such a covert activity is difficult.

Powell said the survey is achieving the goal that Congress outlined with passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000: encouraging nations to adopt more aggressive policies toward trafficking.

"In the year since the last report I am pleased to announce that South Korea by the standards of the report has made great strides in improving its record," Powell said. "Romania and Israel have also worked with us to significantly strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts."

The TIP report categorizes nations in one of three tiers. The first tier, the most favorable ranking, is made up of nations that have met the minimum standards outlined in the law for the elimination of trafficking. The State Department analysis concludes that these **Tier 1** nations are clamping down on **human trafficking** by prosecuting perpetrators, protecting victims and educating the public about this activity, which has been described as one of the most rapidly expanding criminal enterprises in the world.

Tier 2 comprises those nations that have not met the minimum standards set by law but are making progress toward them. The third tier is reserved for those nations that don't meet the standards and have not been able to make significant efforts to do so.

When the law reaches its third year of implementation in 2003, it calls for sanctions to be imposed on nations that remain in the Tier 3 ranking and are not taking action against trafficking. Ambassador Nancy Ely-Raphel, of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat **Trafficking in Persons**, said the sanctions will limit non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance and will invoke U.S. opposition to the issuance of loans to **Tier 3** nations from international financial institutions.

Ely-Raphel said the intent of the TIP report is not to grade countries but rather to empower and assist nations in joining the world community in prevention of a crime with many victims. In the 2002 report, 14 nations have advanced to a more favorable ranking, evidence that the report is creating "success stories" according to Ely-Raphel.

Like Powell, she cited the positive action taken by Romania in response to the 2001 report. "The government of Romania passed a law in December 2001 that criminalizes trafficking," Ely-Raphel said. "They organized a crime directorate that is investigating trafficking and arresting traffickers, and the government has prosecuted traffickers under kidnapping and pimping codes."

Albania, the Czech Republic, France, Gabon, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, South Korea, Romania, and Yugoslavia are all nations that have progressed in their anti-trafficking efforts over the last year.

Ely-Raphel did not speak harshly of the countries in Tier 3; she credited many with having introduced anti-trafficking laws and having taken some strides toward addressing the problem. She said that many are developing action plans, and she anticipates their efforts will be recognized in next year's assessment. The head of the primary office for monitoring trafficking issues said the most serious problems exist in those countries that won't admit to having any trafficking problem at all.

The TIP report is described as the most comprehensive international anti-trafficking review issued by any single government despite its acknowledged limitations in data collection. The report cautions that the non-inclusion of some countries in the survey does not necessarily mean they have no trafficking problem. It could mean that sufficient data was unattainable or that data was difficult to analyze to ascertain whether observed activity was actually human trafficking or migrant smuggling.

Asked about possible links between human trafficking and organized crime networks, El-Raphel said, "There's got to be a tie-in." She said that traffickers are using the same types of falsified documents and money-laundering techniques that terrorists and drug traffickers use, so authorities are still looking for direct connections.

The U.S. government supported more than 110 anti-trafficking programs around the world last year in several dozen countries. The programs dealt with the problem from a variety of angles, including development of anti-trafficking laws; support for victims; and training of government, law enforcement and medical personnel.

(The Washington File is a product of the Office of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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341 of 359 DOCUMENTS

State Department

June 5, 2002

Transcript: Trafficking in Persons Report Produces "Success Stories"; 89 countries surveyed for human trafficking, 14 improve

SECTION: NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

LENGTH: 3849 words

The U.S. State Department issued the Trafficking in Persons report June 5, assessing the state of the modern slave trade in 89 countries found to have significant trafficking activity. Upon the release of the second annual report required under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Ambassador Nancy Ely-Raphel, of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said, "The report is working. Already we are seeing success stories."

A primary purpose of the Congressionally-mandated report is to assess how well nations are doing in their efforts to comply with certain minimum standards to control trafficking, including prosecution of perpetrators, protection of victims and educating the public about this form of criminal activity. Briefing reporters upon the release of the document, Ely-Raphel said that 14 nations have strengthened their anti-trafficking policies since last year's report, notably South Korea, Romania and Israel.

"This report is intended to empower everyone fighting to stop slavery in the 21st century," said Ely-Raphel.

The report finds that at least 700,000 and perhaps as many as four million people each year were "bought, sold, transported and held against their will in slave-like conditions."

The report ranks nations in three **tiers** based upon their governments' commitment and action to clamp down on **human trafficking** crimes. Next year, after the third survey, Tier 3 nations -- those showing a lack of action against trafficking -- will be subject to sanctions on non-humanitarian and non-trade assistance.

Following is the transcript of the Ely-Raphel remarks:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesman June 5, 2002

SPECIAL BRIEFING

Ambassador Nancy Ely-Raphel, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Officer to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Release of 2002 Trafficking in Persons Report

June 5, 2002

(11:05 p.m. EDT)

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Thank you, Secretary Powell, for your inspiring introduction of this second annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

I am proud to say that this is the largest annual report of its kind created by any single government worldwide. To compile this document, which reports on 89 countries, information was gathered from 186 US embassies and consulates, among other sources, including NGOs and media reports.

The Report is many things. It's a sober reminder of the reality of this modern-day form of slavery. It is a tool for our engagement with other countries, a starting point for dialogue. It's a platform for advocates. It's a coordination opportunity for regional, anti-trafficking efforts among governments. Hopefully, and most importantly, it's a freedom-promoting mechanism for individual victims of enslavement everywhere.

Ultimately, the Report should be employed as a practical tool for producing anti-trafficking strategies globally. And I invite NGOs, think tanks, Congress, and other experts to embrace this opportunity.

Trafficking in persons is a leading international crime and human rights abuse. As the Secretary noted, the global magnitude is staggering. Annual estimates range from 700,000 to 4 million people bought, sold, transported and held in slavery-like conditions for sex and labor exploitation. The nature of this crime -- underground, often unacknowledged -- contributes to the inability to pin down the number of people who are victimized by traffickers each year. The scope of this hideous exploitation is wide and varied, but typically involves victims entrapped into commercial, sexual exploitation such as prostitution and pornography, and labor exploitation such as sweatshops, construction sites and agriculture. Additional forms of forced labor and abuse include domestic servitude, forced marriages, and camel jockeys, to name just a few.

The Report is produced by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was established at the Department of State last October, pursuant to comprehensive legislation adopted by the Congress. In addition to reporting duties, the Office assists in the coordination of the US Government's anti-trafficking efforts, both domestically and abroad, guided by the vision of eradicating trafficking worldwide.

The Report includes a three-tiered country list, which evaluates governmental efforts to combat trafficking on the basis of minimum standards described in the law, followed by individual country narratives. This year, 89 countries are listed as follows: 18 countries in Tier 1, 52 countries on Tier 2, and 19 countries in Tier 3. The last, or third, tier identifies countries that neither fully comply with the minimum standards, nor are making significant efforts to do so.

Since the Report last year, many countries improved their anti-trafficking efforts, 14 of them so much that they are placed in a more favorable tier from last year. Furthermore, because of changed circumstances or new information, two countries that were on the 2001 Report are not included on this year's Report.

The Report is working. Already we are seeing success stories, as mentioned by the Secretary. The Republic of Korea, as well as Romania and Israel, have aggressively pursued anti-trafficking initiatives since the first report was issued last year, extensively coordinating with us on practical measures and policy strategies.

Acknowledging the huge task before us, this is a good beginning for concerted anti-trafficking efforts internationally. In closing, the degrading, insidious practice of slavery is found worldwide. It is found in rich countries and in poor countries, in sending countries and destination countries. It is found in democracies such as the United States, into which at least 50,000 people are trafficked annually. It is found in conflict-ridden countries and among displaced, vulnerable populations.

As we enter the 21st century, trafficking must be challenged worldwide. Trafficking must end. This Report is intended to empower everyone fighting to stop slavery in the 21st century.

I'd be happy to answer your questions.

QUESTION: Which countries might face sanctions next year, as the Secretary said? And what kind of sanctions does the law require or would impose on those countries?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: It will be all of the countries in 2003 in the report that comes out a year from now that are on Tier 3, and the sanctions will involve non-humanitarian and non-trade-related sanctions, and in directions in the international financial institutions to vote against loans in the World Bank and the IMF, for example.

QUESTION: A group that's dedicated to freeing young girls from sexual trafficking has indicated they think that India and Thailand are among the worst offenders, and yet they are in Tier 2. Why is that the case?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: The evaluation we make on India and Thailand is, first of all, whether they have significant numbers of traffic victims. They both, of course, meet that category. So they are then immediately analyzed to determine whether they are making serious and sustained efforts to meet those minimum standards. Neither India nor Thailand meets the minimum standards.

However, they have over the last year sustained the efforts that they were making to combat trafficking in persons. For example, India supports 80 homes for victims of trafficking. It has invited NGOs to provide specialized services to victims, including counseling and legal advocacy. In many cities, NGOs and police work closely together to help rescued women. They have a very, very low conviction rate. They have serious problems in prosecutions. However, in a number of cities -- New Delhi, for example -- they now have 47 cases in the courts of prosecuting traffickers.

QUESTION: Is it -- we are certainly -- this is a very sensitive time for India right now, and there are some on Capitol Hill, well, wondering whether political considerations entered into this.

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Not at all. This is, I think, the most objective report that we could issue. There were absolutely no political considerations entering into this. Some of our closest allies are on Tier 3, and they were on Tier 3 last year. This is a straight-out, objective report determining whether a country meets the minimum standards, and whether it's making serious and sustained efforts to meet those minimum standards, which would then place it in Tier 2.

QUESTION: Those were quite harsh words for the Afghan Interim Administration. I know it only covers last year, but can you tell us if you have anecdotal information of them making an effort this year?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: It's very difficult with a situation such as Afghanistan to come up with adequate information and statistics. We did determine that there were over 100 trafficking victims either trafficked into Afghanistan or out of Afghanistan, so that we would make that determination and evaluate them.

But the Afghan Interim Administration hasn't been there long enough. The Report runs through March, and we were basing our information on what they are doing, but also what the Taliban was doing. And they were very much involved in trafficking.

So we'll look at Afghanistan again next year, after we have had a whole year of the Afghan Interim Administration.

QUESTION: Russia is on Tier 3. You say the Report says that they are making an effort, but they still remain on the bottom. Could you discuss why they are still there?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, I wouldn't say they remain on the bottom. I don't think that's fair. The countries that I think of as on the bottom are the ones that don't acknowledge they have a trafficking problem. And Russia is not one of them. Russia is working; Russia acknowledges it has a trafficking problem. It's providing funding for some victim services and compensation, as well as protection of rights. It is dealing with victims. They are not jailed any more or prosecuted for prostitution, which had been going on before.

And the Duma has requested advice and information from us to help draft a trafficking law, so that is all good news. However, they don't have a trafficking law, and there are rarely cases that are investigated. So that is why they are still on Tier 3, but they are making efforts. And that is what we want to encourage as a result of this Report.

QUESTION: If I could ask you a question about the figures. Last year's Report spoke of 700,000 people possibly involved in trafficking or who were kind of snared by trafficking. This year's Report includes the upper figure of possibly 4 million people. Can I just ask you the kind of basis of those figures, how you come up with --

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Right. It's very, very hard to come up with statistics, which is one of our problems. It's very difficult to count, to get accurate figures. And the 700,000 figure is, I think, from 1994 or 1996. The 4 million figure comes from a study that was done by the International Organization of Migration, and that's an organization that's very, very active in the field of trafficking. So we don't really have good statistics, and we're hoping to when the State Department and the Justice Department opens a new center to share intelligence on trafficking and migrant smuggling, and I'm hoping that will produce better information for us than we have presently.

QUESTION: That might answer my question. Some senators are concerned that the Report doesn't include any numbers, and since the Act was theirs, they feel like they should be able to -- not dictate, but more or less suggest some things they would like included in that. And some even suggested the Report be delayed while you try to add more numbers in, which I don't believe was done.

Could you address that, and see if you're going to be able to put in some more numbers, as they wish?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: See, that's a real problem. That's even a problem in the United States. We didn't have an anti-trafficking law, until the year 2000 when this landmark legislation was passed. So if you want to keep track of the numbers of anti-trafficking cases in the United States, you have to look at the Mann Act, you have to look at various state kidnapping statutes, in order to add up and come up with a figure that would give you those kinds of statistics.

And we have that problem in the United States. Can you imagine what the problem is in countries that don't keep those statistics? And in fact, it would look like the Western countries, or the countries that keep very good criminal justice statistics on the numbers of cases, would look like the worst offenders.

So it's very, very hard. We're trying to get more figures, and we're trying to get more statistics, and we will over the coming year. But it's a very dicey area.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Most of the victims from South Asia, they come -- they are bought and sold for Saudi Arabia or many other Middle Eastern or South Arabian countries. And Saudi Arabia is in two or three. So what the United States doing, because Saudi Arabia was involved in many other low-level trafficking and other things, and it's friends with the United States?

And also, under Saudi Arabia, you have mentioned that victims come from India and Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and so forth, so many other countries, but you have not mentioned that victims also come from Pakistan, because I was told that so many Pakistanis are also trafficked in Saudi Arabia.

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Absolutely. You're absolutely correct. There are many, many people who are trafficked from South Asia into the countries in the Gulf. And Saudi Arabia is one of them. The government has an extensive system of labor courts that enforce terms of work contracts, because, as you know, many, many go as workers. But a lot of these workers are exempt from the labor laws.

QUESTION: But also protects the young girls --

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Exactly, exactly. So there is really no protection, and there is certainly no protection for those people who are trafficked into the country because they don't have any legal documentation frequently. And we hope to raise this, and I hope -- I plan -- to meet with the government representatives and expect that they will seriously look at the problem that exists in Saudi Arabia.

QUESTION: As far as India is concerned, what are you -- this earlier question that -- what response are you getting from India or other South Asian countries what they are doing about this trafficking, because it's a very serious problem. Is it economy, or it's under -- it's out of control from the government hands? Or if they are coming also in the United States, that means we have border problems, or what are the latest problems?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: It's all of those problems, as I said before. The Government of India recognizes it has a problem. It's working cooperatively with NGOs to provide protection for victims. It needs to do it much more prosecution.

QUESTION: Speaking about the cooperation between the United States and Romania in fighting trafficking, can you give us more detail what has been done, what remains to be done in this field?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Yes. I would cite the Government of Romania as one of those governments that really was a model at responding to our Report last year and working very, very closely with us. Your Foreign Minister, in fact, came and met with us and sat in a room with a table of all kinds of people talking about trafficking, and responded and answered their questions and was really engaged, which is what I hope to see as a result of this Report this year. The Government of Romania passed a law in December of 2001 that criminalizes trafficking. It organized a crime directorate that is investigating trafficking and arresting traffickers. And the government has prosecuted traffickers under kidnapping and pimping codes. For protection, the government has allocated space for the shelter of trafficking victims, cooperates with other governments in repatriation for its trafficked citizens abroad, and has made substantial efforts to comply with our Report last year. And I hope that other governments will respond as well.

QUESTION: Do you have anything to look at, I guess you could call them subcontract companies, some which are maybe highly illegal, that are tied in to the underworld here in the United States, for instance -- Las Vegas, overseas and other countries that shadow type of subcontract work where people find work from vans or trucks in the area where they're --

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, within the United States, that jurisdiction is with the Department of Justice. And I know that they are looking very carefully into that. We are also raising that with other governments, and there are a number of governments that have shut down operations that have been phony front organizations, travel agencies, employment agencies, that are soliciting particularly women for jobs and are really phony organizations and fronts for traffickers.

QUESTION: Thank you. I think maybe this goes to (inaudible) State Department, but precisely has been to take the kind of network of mafias that are managing all these situation, and what is done about that?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, it's obvious that the documentation, the false documentation that traffickers in persons get, is similar to the false documentation that drug traffickers get, that arms dealers provide. The money laundering operations are very similar. There has got to be a tie-in with organized crime. We see it. It's more difficult to do something about it, but we are working on it.

QUESTION: Can you say who you think the worst offenders are? You said that some of the Tier 3 list aren't the bottom. Who are on the bottom?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, we don't grade countries. We just look at what they are doing in an objective fashion. As I said before, the countries that have a serious, serious trafficking problem, who refuse to acknowledge that they have a problem--it makes such a difference if you have a country that maybe does not have the capacity to deal with a serious problem, but recognizes that they have a problem and are willing to work regionally with us, with other countries, particularly if it's a source country, and we can get a destination country that is able financially to provide economic assistance; alternative assistance to those countries.

But I can't say that one is the worst. I mean, we really don't grade them that way.

QUESTION: Two questions. First of all, is there any evidence -- I remember some talk a while back that perhaps terrorist financing, some of it anyway, was coming from trafficking in persons. If you can respond to that?

And then also, in addition to this Report, and you going out or diplomats going out and talking to governments? One of the tools of US diplomacy, and its leverage, is public criticism of countries for these practices. And you don't -- contrary to some human rights violations or drug trafficking problems, you don't hear a lot of US officials criticizing countries publicly to make them take more efforts in terms of trafficking in persons. Do you think that the creation of this office, and this legislation and perhaps the sanctions will increase public attention to the problem of trafficking, and perhaps tougher US diplomacy on the subject?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: I think the Report has increased the attention that the world pays on trafficking, and that the United States, that the American people pay to trafficking, but we need a lot more publicity, and I would call on all of you to help us get the word out and publicize the trafficking cases because we really do need the assistance of all of you.

QUESTION: If I could follow up, though, do you see a scenario where, in addition to a lot of the other issues of bilateral relations that the US has with other countries, are we going to see this issue being raised publicly, on a public level?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: This issue is raised all the time in all of the meetings that we hold. In some cases, it pays to do it in quiet diplomacy. Sometimes the reverse is true. But we tailor what we do to the country that we're dealing with bilaterally.

MR. BOUCHER: Can we just do one or two more?

QUESTION: Some of the Tier 3 countries are both very strong US allies and also fairly well-to-do countries -- I mean, not rich, but -- Saudi is one of them; Greece, being an EU country; and even on Tier 2, with Israel. Why -- when -- in the country profiles, you say that government has yet to comply fully or doesn't seem willing to comply fully; what excuses are given, if it's not a financial reason, like with some of these countries?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, some of it is that they don't have the legislation; they don't have the criminal law in place. They haven't trained their prosecutors to recognize the difference between trafficking and smuggling, for example. They have not provided any protection for victims. The government is not providing any kind of secure places for victims, a hotline for them to call to get assistance.

QUESTION: My question is, what excuses do they give for not having this, other than -- I mean, if they don't have legislation, why aren't they pushing it through? If they don't have hotlines, why do they say they're not setting them up?

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Well, some of them are. But a law that's been introduced in parliament won't do it; you have to be implementing the law. And an action plan -- some of the countries you mentioned have action plans, but they have to implement the action plans. We can't just say, you know, that's great; you have wonderful plans. But let's see what you do with it.

And so that's the problem. And I think a number of the countries that you mentioned do have action plans and will be making efforts. But we haven't seen the results. And this Report only reports results.

MR. BOUCHER: Last question to Elaine.

QUESTION: Speaking of results, I wonder if you could update us on some of the information that was released by this building in April that talked about plans for centers to be set up in Central and Eastern Europe, and for -- and US laws? I know it's not your area, but maybe you could update us, for US laws to be made tougher so that prosecutors have an easier task prosecuting Americans who are --

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: Americans in the Balkans, you're talking about?

QUESTION: Well, just generally refer to plans to make laws tougher and to set up special centers and so on; is there any progress since --

AMBASSADOR ELY-RAPHEL: The Justice Department has draft statutes that they're working on presently, and I would refer you to the Justice Department. But we have been talking to them, and they are very serious about getting this introduced.

MR. BOUCHER: Okay. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

(The briefing was concluded at 11:35 p.m. EDT.)

(end transcript)

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

342 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

April 24, 2002 Wednesday

U.N. PEACEKEEPERS AND SEX SLAVE TRADE IN BOSNIA**SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY****LENGTH: 2954 words**

Testimony of

Martina E. Vandenberg, J.D. Europe Researcher, Women's Rights Division

Human Rights Watch

House Committee on International Relations

Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights

April 24, 2002

Madame Chairperson and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for inviting Human Rights Watch to provide testimony on trafficking of women and girls to Bosnia and Herzegovina for forced prostitution. My name is Martina Vandenberg and I serve as the Europe Researcher for the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. It is an honor to testify before you today. My colleagues and I at Human Rights Watch thank you for the attention that you have focused on these important human rights violations.

Human Rights Watch has documented and monitored trafficking for almost a decade, publishing reports on trafficking of women and girls from Burma to Thailand, Nepal to India, Bangladesh to Pakistan, Thailand to Japan, and from Eastern Europe into Greece.

Trafficking flourishes throughout the world, aided by corruption, complicity, and neglect by states. Seeking better lives and opportunities, trafficking victims migrate only to find themselves trapped in debt bondage, forced labor, and slavery-like conditions. The United Nations has estimated that as many as 700,000 people are trafficked into forced labor and forced prostitution around the world each year. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has estimated that between 750 and 1,000 trafficked women and girls remain trapped in brothels scattered around the country. Non-governmental organizations, such as Lara, an anti-trafficking group in Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, place the figure at 2,000 or more. Stripped of their passports, sold as chattel, and forced to work for little or no pay, these women, many of whom anticipated lucrative job opportunities in Italy and other western European countries, instead face danger and human rights abuses.

In researching trafficking, Human Rights Watch has relied since December 2000 on the definition of trafficking enunciated in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol). In Article 3(a), the Protocol defines trafficking in persons as: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The Trafficking Protocol encourages states to provide human rights protections for victims of trafficking, including temporary residence, legal assistance, appropriate shelter, psychological and medical care. The protocol, like the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, covers all forms of trafficking, not just trafficking into the sex industry. To date,

104 countries have signed the protocol and six have ratified. The government of Bosnia signed the Trafficking Protocol and has committed to ratifying it.

I'd like to begin this afternoon by briefly summarizing our findings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I will then turn to the question of the international community's links with trafficking and close with recommendations for alleviating these abuses.

Trafficking of Women and Girls to Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution

Human Rights Watch began researching the trafficking of women and girls into Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1999, interviewing victims of trafficking, U.N. Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina officials, members of the International Police Task Force (international unarmed police monitors serving with the U.N. mission under Annex 11 of the Dayton Agreement), and local officials. The investigations uncovered extensive trafficking into the country, with traffickers luring women from their homes in Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Bulgaria with promises of high wages and good jobs. Traffickers quickly broke those promises, selling the women to bar and nightclub owners for prices ranging from 500 Deutschmarks (US\$231) to 5,000 Deutschmarks (US\$2,314). In many cases, these transactions took place in Belgrade, the capital of the neighboring Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; from there traffickers or owners transported the women and girls to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The women's prices became their debts. Owners and employers promised the women and girls that they would receive 50 percent of their earnings after clearing their debt; this rarely happened in practice. Instead, owners often sold women to new "employers," saddling them with new debts and ending their hopes of sending money to parents and children at home.

In one illustrative case, a twenty-two year old Ukrainian woman interviewed during a brothel raid told Human Rights Watch, "I have been in Bosnia for three months [since December 1998]. I came to work here in a bar. I knew nothing when they took me to Serbia - I was sold there four times to different men." 2

While some of the women agreed to migrate and work in the sex industry, none of them anticipated that they would be sold, forced to work without payment, and abused. Human Rights Watch obtained the verbatim transcript of one woman trafficked into Prijedor, Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2000. She told International Police Task Force investigators:

The girls were obliged to dance, drink a lot and go into their rooms with anyone. All girls were working three months for free. We were eating once per day and sleeping 5-6 hours per day. If we would not do what they [the owners and guards] wanted us to do, the security guards would beat us. 3

Some bar owners allowed women to keep their tips. But in many cases, the owners simply levied fines that sucked even those small earnings away from the women. Through fines, forced purchases of lingerie and food, or outright theft, the women found that they effectively earned no money. One woman, D.D., trafficked to Bosnia from Ukraine in 1998 told Human Rights Watch, "I did not earn anything. I earned money at the [first bar that I worked in], but [the owner] fined me for any small infraction and took 300 Deutschmarks (US\$138) that I had saved away from me." 4

In 1999, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental organization, initiated a program to provide shelter and voluntary repatriation to trafficking victims trapped in Bosnia. The women accepted into the IOM voluntary repatriation program receive shelter in Bosnia, assistance with procuring travel documents, plane tickets, escorts at transit airports, overnight shelter upon arrival at their country of origin, and train or bus tickets home.

Involvement of Local Police

Trafficking of persons cannot flourish without the cooperation of state officials and law enforcement authorities. In Bosnia, involvement of local police ranged from visiting brothels as "gratis" clients to facilitating the trafficking of women in the country. This complicity and corruption on the part of local police officers facilitated and exacerbated these human rights abuses. Victims spoke of police officers who visited the brothels to partake of free sexual services in exchange for assistance in procuring false documents and tipping off owners to upcoming raids. Some police officers moonlighted as waiters in the brothels. Still others engaged in trafficking directly.

For the most part, the police engaged in these activities with complete impunity. As of April 2002, according to a letter from the United Nations Headquarters in New York to Human Rights Watch, only six local police officers faced deauthorization (removal) as a result of UNMIBH investigations. In one case a police officer received a prison sentence of one year and three months for trafficking women from Belgrade into Banja Luka. Unfortunately, the paucity of success-

ful criminal investigations and disciplinary proceedings against local police underscored the record of failure in this area.

The International Community and Trafficking

In July 2001, the United Nations created the Special Trafficking Operations Program (STOP) to fight trafficking more aggressively. Since July 2001, the mixed International Police Task Force and local police teams have conducted over 270 raids and interviewed over 800 women. Those women and girls identified as trafficking victims are referred to the International Organization for Migration for assistance. IOM assisted 14 women in 1999, 199 in 2000, and over 200 in 2001 with shelter, medical care, and voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin. Local non-governmental organizations, such as Lara in Bijeljina, have provided shelter and assistance to victims with funding from international sources.

While these interventions by the international community have served a positive role in combating trafficking, other activities have only exacerbated this human rights abuse. I believe that others testifying today will give more information on specific allegations concerning the international community and trafficking, but I would like to give an overview of Human Rights Watch's own conclusions.

Our researchers scoured internal investigative International Police Task Force (IPTF) reports, conducted interviews with IPTF monitors, and reviewed verbatim transcripts of testimony given to IPTF by trafficking victims. These sources all pointed to one conclusion that IPTF monitors visited the brothels or arranged to have trafficked women delivered to their residences in violation of their code of conduct. Most striking, however, was the evidence that at least three IPTF monitors purchased women and their passports from traffickers and brothel owners.

Human Rights Watch takes no position on prostitution. However, IPTF officers, who through their work and training knew or should have known that the brothels contained trafficked women, violated the United Nations "zero tolerance" policy by even visiting the brothels. More importantly, according to NGOs in the field working with victims, the presence of IPTF monitors in the clubs as clients discouraged women from seeking safe haven in IPTF stations.

In at least one case, an IPTF officer who purchased a woman maintained that he had done so in order to "rescue" her. But, like his colleagues, he should have known that this is not the proper procedure for a police officer to free someone from captivity. The "rescues" thwart efforts to enforce the law and remain factually questionable. From the perspective of the victim, she may have traded one owner for another.

In November 2000, International Police Task Force monitors conducted raids of three nightclubs - Crazy Horse I, Crazy Horse II, and Masquerade in Prijedor. The raids, which freed 34 women trafficked into these three brothels in that city, resulted in the repatriation of six IPTF officers - two Americans, two Spaniards, and two British nationals. The official reason given for the disciplinary measures was "exceeding the mandate" of the IPTF - a reflection of accusations that the monitors had conducted the raids themselves, rather than supervising the actions of local police officers as required under the IPTF mandate. However, one United Nations official in the Bosnia Mission with extensive knowledge of the case and who interviewed the women told Human Rights Watch, "SFOR [the NATO Stabilization Force] and IPTF brought the girls to Sarajevo, and then the girls pointed out that the guys driving them had been their clients." 5 In all, according to verbatim statements obtained by Human Rights Watch, five of the trafficking victims asserted that IPTF monitors had numbered among their clients.

The fact that officers who had used the sexual services at the nightclubs transported the women to Sarajevo created an opportunity for witness tampering. The internal report on the investigation, examined in full by Human Rights Watch, quoted one of the trafficked women as saying, "[The IPTF officer from Spain] told me that this was the last chance for me to go back to my country and to tell all the truth but not too much or anything about our relations."

Allegations of purchase of trafficked women have also been raised in relation to U.S. military contractors providing support services to the U.S. contingent of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). In 1999, the direct employer of these contractors, DynCorp, repatriated a group of contractors after allegations emerged that the men had purchased women from the brothels. 7 And again in 2000, two DynCorp contractors returned home after the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division learned of allegations of the purchase of women and weapons from local brothel owners.

A Record of Impunity

Although immense attention has focused on the international community's involvement in trafficking in Bosnia, it is important to note that the majority of those involved are civilians, local crime figures, and local governmental officials.

Nevertheless, IPTF officers and SFOR contractors share one major characteristic: impunity. United Nations Bosnia Mission officials admitted that repatriation served as the only punishment for involvement in trafficking-related misconduct. They could not point to any cases where the U.N. secretary-general had waived immunity, nor could they point to any prosecutions in home countries. In February, the United Nations reported that twelve international police officers in Bosnia were expelled or voluntarily left the country after facing allegations of involvement in trafficking. The U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) has investigated and cleared the IPTF of wrongdoing, issuing a statement in February this year that there was "no evidence of widespread or systematic involvement" in trafficking by the U.N. police force.

The U.N. statement was attacking a straw man; no one had claimed that IPTF involvement was broad-based. The concern not addressed was that IPTF monitors who violate the law enjoy complete impunity: they cannot be prosecuted in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the terms of the 1995 Dayton Agreement nor are they likely to face liability under the criminal laws of their home country. For American IPTF monitors implicated in trafficking, because of a gap in U.S. jurisdiction, U.S. courts lack jurisdiction to prosecute them when they return to the United States. Civilian contractors to the U.S. military could similarly evade prosecution in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the passage of the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA) in November 2000 remedied the jurisdictional gap, permitting prosecutions to be brought in the U.S. for criminal acts committed abroad by civilian contractors to the U.S. military.

But multiple FOIA requests to the U.S. government have not unearthed even one prosecution for crimes relating to trafficking committed by Americans while serving abroad. The de facto blanket immunity enjoyed by IPTF officers and civilian contractors also troubled local officials struggling to establish the rule of law in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local police, prosecutors, and judges told Human Rights Watch that they lacked jurisdiction to investigate or prosecute any of these cases.

In light of these concerns, Human Rights Watch makes the following recommendations to the U.S. Government:

Explore legislative changes to allow for the prosecution of U.S. citizens serving as international police monitors in U.N. missions. Such legislation should be tailored to end the jurisdictional gap that currently allows such persons to avoid prosecution for trafficking-related crimes committed abroad.

Investigate thoroughly all allegations of SFOR contractors and U.S. IPTF officers involved in trafficking, the purchase of women or girls and their passports, or witness tampering.

Investigate thoroughly allegations of physical or sexual abuse of women or girls by SFOR contractors in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ensure that the records of all investigations are delivered to the Department of Justice and the Department of State. Ensure that federal prosecutors receive all records necessary to bring charges against U.S. contractors found to have engaged in trafficking or other illegal activities related to trafficking in persons.

Prosecute U.S. citizens implicated in participation in trafficking to the fullest extent of the law.

Allocate funds authorized in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act for use in Bosnia and Herzegovina for anti-trafficking training programs for police and prosecutors, financial support for non-governmental organizations fighting trafficking, and for the establishment of witness protection programs.

Condemn the Bosnian government's failure to take effective measures to end impunity for trafficking by continuing to classify the country as a **tier three** nation in the **Trafficking in Persons** report, required under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Pressure the United Nations to respond with more transparency on disciplinary proceedings on international personnel accused of involvement in trafficking and trafficking-related crimes.

Thank you.

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COMMITTEE: HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE: INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

TESTIMONY-BY: MARTINA E. VANDENBERG, J.D., EUROPE RESEARCHER,

AFFILIATION: WOMEN'S RIGHTS DIVISION

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343 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Bulletin's Frontrunner

December 3, 2001

State Department Moving To Enforce Human Trafficking Law.

SECTION: International News**LENGTH:** 163 words

The Washington Post/AP (12/3, A19, Holland) reports, "Despite a slow start, US officials say they are moving forward on implementing a law passed by Congress last year cracking down on human trafficking and countries that allow it around the world. 'We have covered a lot of ground, from establishing the new trafficking office to releasing the first Trafficking in Persons report to getting some 85 countries to sign the new UN protocol on trafficking,' Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky said." The State Department "opened its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in October, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 15, Dobriansky said." The first "annual report on **human trafficking**, issued by the State Department in July, listed 23 countries that were not complying with the law -- including Israel, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Romania, Turkey and South Korea -- and 47 other '**tier** two' nations that did not meet requirements but were making progress."

LOAD-DATE: December 3, 2001**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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344 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

December 3, 2001 Monday
Final Edition

State Department Says It Is Enforcing Law to Combat Human Trafficking

BYLINE: Jesse J. Holland, Associated Press

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A19

LENGTH: 448 words

Despite a slow start, U.S. officials say they are moving forward on implementing a law passed by Congress last year cracking down on human trafficking and countries that allow it around the world.

"We have covered a lot of ground, from establishing the new trafficking office to releasing the first Trafficking in Persons report to getting some 85 countries to sign the new U.N. protocol on trafficking," Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky said.

Women and children are the main targets of human traffickers. Women and girls are often duped into believing they will become wealthy as maids or dancers. Others are kidnapped. After the women surrender their savings, traffickers often take their passports and pressure them into prostitution or sweatshop labor.

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"We've been busy," she said. "But we know there remains a lot to be done."

But some lawmakers say more progress should have been made. "I have been deeply concerned about the slow pace," Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) said at a House International Relations Committee hearing. "Many important tasks remain undone."

Smith questioned why the State Department office in charge of enforcing the new law only opened in October and why rules have not yet been issued to allow human trafficking victims to apply for visas as provided by the law.

Smith was one of the driving forces behind the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, which provides life sentences for some categories of trafficking, threatens sanctions against countries that allow trafficking to flourish and permits victims to remain in the United States, rather than be immediately deported.

Officials say an estimated 700,000 people are taken across borders to work annually. The report said the United States is a transit and destination point, with as many as 50,000 people brought into the country each year.

International Relations Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.) said Congress will continue to monitor how quickly the government moves on getting the law enforced.

"A law without vigorous and effective implementation is worse than no law at all, because it lulls us into the false sense that we have done something to solve the problem," he said.

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345 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Associated Press Online

November 29, 2001 Thursday

Human Trafficking Laws Eyed

BYLINE: JESSE J. HOLLAND; Associated Press Writer**SECTION:** WASHINGTON DATELINE**LENGTH:** 445 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

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LOAD-DATE: November 29, 2001**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

346 of 359 DOCUMENTS

November 29, 2001, Thursday, BC cycle

Government agencies say they're working hard to implement new anti-trafficking law

BYLINE: By JESSE J. HOLLAND, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 446 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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The Associated Press

347 of 359 DOCUMENTS

THE KOREA HERALD

November 2, 2001, Friday

Trapped in modern slavery: Sex trafficking turns Russian women into Korean pawns

BYLINE: By Ben Jhoty Staff reporter

LENGTH: 1762 words

Choice is something Olga, a young woman from Havaropsk in Russia's far east, clings to. Working as a dancer in a bar in Anjeong-ri, a red light area close to the U.S. military base in Pyeongtaek, she says it was her choice to come here. Her choice to leave her boyfriend of four years, her family and her job selling electrical goods. And it is her choice she insists, whether she has sex with customers for money or not. Sadly however, circumstances in Korea's sex industry leave little room for such freedom. Her manager has her passport. She cannot return home until her contract finishes. She must work from 5 p.m. till 2 a.m. seven nights a week, drinking juice while talking to customers and dancing in little more than her underwear once every hour. Living in a small apartment with seven other Russian women, she is given little money for food and must abide by a strict curfew, however, she says she is better off here than she would be back in Russia.

The girls - attractive, fair skinned young women hailing from Russia and former Soviet bloc countries - are but the visible face of an insidious trade that reduces women to little more than commodities and is driven by the realities of the global economy and the U.S. military presence in Asia.

Sex trafficking of women like Olga (the name she gives, although not her real name), has been on the rise in Korea since the late 1990s, when growing numbers of Russian women began to enter the country on E-6 visas reserved for entertainers and artists, ostensibly to work in bars and clubs.

While women from Russia and the CIS are the current "product" of choice in the Korean market, they work alongside women from the Philippines, Bolivia, Peru, Mongolia, China and Bangladesh, taking the place once occupied by Korean women in red light areas near the U.S. military bases in Pyeongtaek, Dongducheon and Gunsan. In Busan, meanwhile, clubs employing Russian women have proliferated in an area known as Texas Street.

Figures from the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice illustrate the extent of the problem. The number of immigrants issued E-6 entertainment visas jumped to 7,044 last year, from 4,486 in 1999 and 2,150 in 1998. Of last year's total, 3,064 were Russian, 2,927 of them women. This, of course, doesn't take into account the huge number of women working illegally on C-3 tourist visas. According to a report by the Joonggang Ilbo on April 24 this year, up to 6,000 Russian women entered Korea through Busan port and Gimpo airport between January 2000 and March this year.

'The Korean Dream' The phenomenon has been dubbed the "Korean dream" by the Korean media, and while Olga and others like her claim to be happy, her story is laced with dark facts that no amount of shoulder shrugging or game smiles can mask.

Beautiful, statuesque and vivacious, she was recruited by one of the many companies in Havaropsk that advertise for entertainers to work throughout Asia. Only half joking, she says that probably half of the women in Havaropsk are working in countries across Asia and that the competition was so tough she was on a waiting list for two months before being deemed suitable. The company then organized her visa and paid for her flight here, after which a Korean agent decided she would work in Anjeong-ri. Olga says she makes roughly \$300 a month compared to under \$100 back in Russia, where there are few opportunities, even for educated women. And so, if all goes well she will probably remain in Korea next year, after her contract finishes in May.

While Olga is frank about her circumstances and appears relatively sanguine, Kim Joo-young, secretary general of Saewoomtuh, a civic group that provides shelter and counseling to women involved in the sex trade around U.S. bases, says that though many women like Olga try to be positive about their circumstances, they are merely burying the shame and humiliation they feel. "They try to justify it, by saying 'I'm just an entertainer', but when they sell their body they feel awful," he said.

Living in oppressive conditions with little freedom, they must abide by a strict curfew, Kim says, and are prohibited from making contact with outsiders during non-working hours. It was this kind of detainment he says, that led to five foreign women dying in a fire in a Gunsan house last year. Sometimes packed into one room with six or more women, they often survive on little more than ramyeon and are forced to work, even when ill.

Saewoomtuh volunteer Teresa Oh, who through her counseling and support has won the confidence of many foreign women, is in a position to offer deeper insight into the anguish they feel. She says the women mentally condition themselves to cope with the physical demands imposed on them by drinking alcohol to drown the pain and shame and sometimes take drugs to help cope with the ordeal.

Oh, who usually contacts the women through a third party and strives to develop a rapport with them, said they feel stress, anger and frustration at the inhumane conditions inherent in their job.

The nightmare of prostitution According to Oh, while some women such as Olga insist that it is their choice as to whether they sleep with customers or not, their circumstances leave them little alternative. "They have no choice except to work in prostitution, because they have to earn money to repay their debt to the trafficker, which can range from \$3,000 to \$30,000, depending on where they come from," she said.

Kim Joo-young agrees. "They have two sentiments in conflict: 'I want to escape the situation but I came here to make money and I have to support my family,'" he said.

According to a report by Saewoomtuh titled "The Reality of Prostituted Women in South Korea," women must sit by customers and drink more than 200 glasses of juice per month. If they fail to meet the quota, as most do, they have to "sell tickets" also known as "barfine," meaning prostitution. The cost of the barfine depends on the time, amounting to U.S. \$300 in the early evening and U.S. \$150-\$200 in the late evening. Korean customers have to pay 200,000-250,000 won. The women receive 30 percent, although the money is usually not paid to them directly but instead reduces the number of glasses they must drink. If the women fall short of the 200-glass quota they receive severe verbal abuse and often have part of their wages extorted, the report said.

In Pusan, the problem is even more acute, with large numbers of Russian women from Vladivostok and Havaropsk entering through the port. The Association for Foreign Workers' Human Rights in Pusan (FWR) compiled a report last year titled "Russian Migrant women in Entertainment sites in Pusan." The report found that women working in the Texas street area were isolated due to language barriers, and since many had overstayed on E-6 visas or were working illegally on C-3 visas, were unable to seek legal recourse for human rights violations. They also received no medical services or STD tests. Many also had their passports confiscated, had to abide by a strict curfew and were openly asked to engage in prostitution by club owners, the report said.

Is there a way out? Naturally, large numbers of women flee such circumstances. However, foreign sex workers have few avenues for assistance. "They feel completely isolated because they can't get help from their embassies," said Kim Joo-young. "They are here on E-6 visas for entertainment, so as soon as they escape from their clubs they become illegal aliens and are sent to an immigration detention center and deported."

The Russian embassy was asked for its position on the issue but declined to comment on the record.

Despite anti-prostitution laws that have been in place since 1961, crimes related to **human trafficking** have been on the increase in Korea and the country was rated in the third **tier**, comprising 23 countries in regard to **human trafficking** by the U.S. State department earlier this year.

While the report titled "Trafficking in Persons" labeled Korea a country of origin and transit, it only briefly made reference to the country as a destination for human trafficking, saying that the government treated aliens as immigration law violators and subsequently deported them. The Korean government responded by saying it has made it a rule to treat these women leniently, returning them to their country of origin rather than punishing them. It also pointed out that those women should not be categorized as trafficking victims, since they voluntarily engaged in certain activities to make money.

According to Kim Joo-young, the State Department's rating was fair. "That the government argues that it was groundless is funny to me. I believe it was deserved," he said.

Teresa Oh, meanwhile, said that as the rating was based on Korea as a country of origin and transit, rather than destination, it was not accurate. In contrast to the justice ministry however, she believed that the women were victims of trafficking. "Because the contract is vague and deceitful ... they do not know they have been trafficked for the sex industry," she said. "Being trafficked for the sex industry means that women are denied their dignity and human rights as people, they are exploited for the financial gain of their brokers and are forced into situations of prostitution."

Both Oh and Kim called for the government to draw up legislation and develop strategies for prevention, protection, prosecution, reintegration and repatriation. Kim said Saewoomtuh and other civic groups are pushing for a revision of the Anti-Prostitution law, which would be inclusive of prohibiting sex trafficking in Korea.

The justice ministry as recently as this week announced that it is considering banning hotels ranked second class and below and hotels and restaurants outside special tourist zones and regions where U.S. troops are stationed, from hiring foreign entertainers. This measure however, would not have any effect on the red light areas around the U.S. bases.

In regard to the revision of the anti-prostitution law, an official from the women's policy bureau at the justice ministry said, "In the past, prostitutes were considered law breakers. However, this bill intends to view prostitutes as victims of organized crime and therefore protect them while being directed at the organizers." He continued that although various civic groups were pushing for the bill to go before the national assembly this year, it was unlikely.

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348 of 359 DOCUMENTS



July 20, 2001

NEW LITHUANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS NATION FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LENGTH: 588 words

DATELINE: VILNIUS, Jul 20

Lithuania's new interior minister Juozas Bernatonis says Lithuania really is fighting and determined to stop human trafficking.

The minister was commenting to BNS Friday in response to the first annual report by the U.S. State Department on human trafficking worldwide. The report put Lithuania in a second **tier** along with 43 other states it said failed to meet minimum criteria in the war on **human trafficking** but were making significant efforts to stop the practice.

Minister Bernatonis told BNS his ministry doesn't have any information on what the U.S. State Department defines as minimal criteria.

He said Lithuania is taking strong measures to stop human trafficking.

He cited a draft project called Prostitution and Human Trafficking Control and Prevention Program, slated for consideration in the government cabinet soon.

The program is aimed at curbing the causes of prostitution and human trafficking and will create a system of prevention measures to stop sex-slavery, prostitution and human trafficking as well as organized crime syndicates profiting from these practices.

The new program will bring Lithuanian law enforcement and other governmental institutions up to date, encourage action by NGOs, put the heat on criminal gangs specializing in human trafficking, create a social support system to keep people from entering prostitution, institute social as well as psychological and legal help for victims, step up the system for searching for lost and missing persons, create a framework for sharing information on human trafficking and its prevention and investigation and expand international cooperation.

The Lithuanian State Border Security Service under the Interior Ministry should soon introduce a new digital data base containing information on people detained with false passports, suspected of pimping or trafficking in humans, missing persons and people deported from and to Lithuania. Recommendations contained in international agreements for controlling human trafficking and the sex trade are also scheduled for implementation.

Minister Bernatonis said the Lithuanian criminal code was updated in 1998 with an additional section on human trafficking. The new article of legislation provides penalties for human trafficking from 4 to 8 years imprisonment, and in extreme cases from 6 to 12 years.

The Lithuanian minister presented information showing there were 4 criminal cases brought last year under the law. During the first half of this year an additional five charges have been brought in Lithuania for human trafficking.

"Unfortunately there haven't been any convictions on human trafficking in Lithuania yet," Bernatonis said. He said there were objective as well as subjective reasons behind the lack of a conviction so far.

Commonly investigations into human trafficking take a long time because victims are usually abroad, and interviews with witnesses are drawn out because of the time it takes to correspond with foreign law enforcement agencies.

"Moreover, we haven't signed the needed treaties on cooperation in criminal and other cases with every country," Bernatonis said, mentioning Germany as a prime example.

The U.S. State Department report on human trafficking around the world was released last week.

The new annual report is required by a law passed in the U.S. last fall introducing sanctions beginning in 2003 against countries which don't take measures to fight human trafficking or don't provide for victims' safety.

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349 of 359 DOCUMENTS

THE KOREA HERALD

July 18, 2001, Wednesday

Human trafficking in Korea

LENGTH: 720 words

The U.S. State Department's report on trafficking in persons is a shocking reminder to South Koreans that, in spite of all the phenomenal growth in many areas, their society still has some distance to go before shedding its disgraceful reputation for fostering the abominable business of dealing in human beings. In the first report of its kind offering a nation-by-nation account on **human trafficking** in 82 countries around the world, South Korea takes an inglorious place among the so-called "third **tier**" group. Twenty-three nations belong to this category reserved for those nations "that do not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking and are not making significant efforts to do so."

According to the U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 that required the report, these nations could become subject to sanctions on non-humanitarian and non-trade-related assistance if they fail to improve their standards by 2003. Aside from the possible economic disadvantages, it should certainly be insulting for many Koreans who believe that their society has shown remarkable progress in terms of democracy and human rights.

The government embarrassment was reflected in the statement by the Foreign Ministry expressing regret over the report's portrayal of Korea in a negative light without sufficient analysis of its situation. The ministry called on Washington to revise the report, arguing that the Korean government is doing its utmost to crack down on human trafficking by implementing laws and joining related international conventions. It is a shame however that, contrary to its stance, the government hardly seems to do its very best. Those who feel this assessment is unfair need only take heed of a lawyer's recent revelations about the case of five young women who were burned to death in an iron-barred brothel room in Gunsan, North Jeolla Province last year. The tragic death of these women, who were all in their early 20s and enslaved due to perennial debt bondage, epitomized the inhumane sufferings of most women in the profession anywhere. Strangely, however, the case was brought to a quick close after a brief investigation that brought nobody under due punishment. Now to our dismay, some 10 months after the unfortunate young women perished in the flames, it has been made known that some officials of the provincial city were provided with sexual services by the brothel owners for closing their eyes on the illegal businesses. This represents a classic case of lobbying at the expense of the exploitation of hapless women. It is a sad fact that Gunsan is by no means the only city where prostituted women find themselves shackled by debts and threats of physical and mental abuse. And what is even more serious is that the sex industry is so widespread throughout our society that a debate has begun in public whether it is becoming necessary to consider decriminalizing prostitution and designating certain areas for its lawful practice. This is truly disturbing, because decriminalizing prostitution is tantamount to the legalization of human trafficking, albeit in limited areas, in a most despicable form. This should not be allowed to happen because the idea goes against time, the principle of human dignity and the equal rights of genders.

The State Department report describes Korea as a "country of origin and transit in trafficking in persons." The report elaborates on the trafficking of young Korean women for sexual exploitation in other countries. It also brings to light Korea's role in the smuggling of women from other countries "through visa fraud and possession or sale of fraudulent civil documents, against which there are no laws to regulate."

Protesting what appeared to be an unfair report is one thing but, on the other hand, the government should also take stern measures to root out those immoral businesses. Yet, no smaller challenge facing the nation is stemming the growing moral laxity and demands for commercialized sex among people of various age groups, which has much to do with a quest for easy money and greater pleasure. This is a crucial issue that the nation should tackle with a carefully-considered strategy in order to prevent our society from turning increasingly shallow and vulgar.

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350 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Central News Agency - Taiwan

July 13, 2001, Friday

TAIWAN RECOGNIZED IN EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT HUMAN SMUGGLING

BYLINE: By Nelson Chung and Flor Wang**LENGTH:** 299 words**DATELINE:** Washington, July 12

Taiwan and Hong Kong were named in a U.S. report released Thursday by the State Department as tier-one states which are judged to fully comply with the seven criteria laid out in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000.

Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland also belong to the group of **tier**-one states for their efforts to conform to the law's minimum standards despite the fact that there are still victims of **human trafficking** in those countries.

The U. S. government thinks that tier-one states should vigorously investigate acts of trafficking, protect victims and adopt measures to prevent trafficking and cooperate with other countries to cut down on the buying and selling of people.

Mainland China, Japan, France, and 44 other countries are tier-two countries, as they are judged to be making noticeable efforts to bring themselves into line with the law, although they are not yet in full compliance.

A total of 23 countries, such as Russian, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Greece, South Korea, Turkey and Israel, made the tier-three group, according to the report. They are judged not to be making significant moves to resolve the problem.

According to the report, the first of its kind in U. S. history, root causes of trafficking include greed, moral turpitude, economics, political instability and political transition.

Some 700,000 people around the world, from both developed and developing countries, are smuggled across international borders and forced into the sex trade, sweatshops, construction sites and into farm labor after being drawn in by human cargo rings in the hope of seeking a better life and opportunities, the report said.

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351 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Jerusalem Post

July 13, 2001, Friday

US: Israel among states lax on human trafficking

BYLINE: Janine Zacharia

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 557 words

WASHINGTON - The US has grouped Israel among countries most lax in fighting human trafficking.

In its first annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report the State Department yesterday listed Israel in "**Tier 3** a group of 23 nations that do not take minimal measures to halt the buying and selling of people, mainly women and children, across their borders.

Under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act passed last year by Congress, any country still listed in Tier 3 in the 2003 report will be subject to economic sanctions, though the president can waive the penalties if it is in the US national interest to do so. Israel receives just under \$ 3 billion in assistance from the US each year.

The Government of Israel does not meet the minimum standards for combating trafficking in persons and has not yet made significant efforts to combat the problem although it has begun to take some steps to do so the report said. The government recognizes that trafficking in persons is a problem but devotes limited resources to combating it."

The report criticized Israel for not working enough with other governments on trafficking cases. It also said Israel has not conducted anti-trafficking campaigns or other efforts aimed at prevention does not actively encourage victims to raise charges against traffickers, and provides inadequate funds to Israeli non-governmental organizations who assist victims of trafficking.

"The State Department report could cost the State of Israel its US foreign assistance. We hope that this report will cause the Israeli authorities to understand the seriousness of the problem and begin to treat the phenomenon with the seriousness it deserves said a statement issued by Kav LaOved (Workers' Hot Line), a volunteer organization that assists foreign workers and victims of trafficking in Israel.

Israel has long been a top destination for women trafficked primarily from former Soviet republics like Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova.

According to Kav LaOved director Sigal Rozen, police estimate between 2,000 and 3,000 women are trafficked into Israel each year, the bulk of them forced into prostitution by traffickers who take all the money the women earn.

According to Kav LaOved, 392 foreign women without proper work or residential permits were arrested in brothels throughout the country last year. All of them were bought or sold at least once, but only a handful testified against the people who had brought them to Israel.

Israel said it is studying the report.

Israel takes the issues raised very seriously. We received the report today and are studying it closely. Israel is making an ongoing effort to improve our record both in updating laws and enhancing policing. We hope that our effort will be reflected in next year's report said Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told a news conference yesterday that the overwhelming majority of the victims of trafficking worldwide are women and children who have been lured coerced or abducted by criminals who trade in human misery." He called for collective action by all nations to deal with the problem.

Among the other countries listed in Tier 3 were Bahrain Lebanon Qatar Saudi Arabia Sudan United Arab Emirates Greece and Turkey.

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352 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

July 13, 2001, Friday

Many nations not fighting human trafficking, State Department reports

BYLINE: By Warren P. Strobel

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 791 words

WASHINGTON _ Many nations have failed to fight "a modern-day form of slavery" that ensnares 700,000 people every year, mostly women and children, the State Department said in a report released Thursday.

The report cited several close U.S. allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey, as not meeting minimum standards for prohibiting trafficking in humans across their borders and prescribing stringent punishments for it.

Others in that category include Russia and several Balkan nations, where women seeking better lives frequently are duped into sexual bondage abroad, and Sudan, where militias abduct women and children and force them into slavery.

The 102-page document is the first official U.S. government report on the subject. It divides countries where a problem with **human trafficking** could be documented into three categories, or "**tiers**," that reflect a country's level of efforts against the problem. The data could be used in the future to restrict U.S. foreign aid to nations that do not comply with minimum standards in fighting trafficking.

U.S. officials said that by issuing the report, required annually under a law passed last year, they were not trying to embarrass individual nations but to underscore the need for cooperative international efforts against a problem that has received little attention until recently.

"It is incomprehensible that trafficking in human beings should be taking place in the 21st century. Incomprehensible, but it's true. Very true," said Secretary of State Colin Powell. "We hope that this report will help to focus international attention on this abhorrent practice and galvanize systemic worldwide efforts to combat it."

Recent articles by Knight Ridder correspondents documented how enslaved boys as young as 11 pick cocoa beans in Ivory Coast that can end up in Americans' chocolate.

Ivory Coast, according to the report, is a "**tier 2**" country, meaning it does not comply with minimum standards to combat **human trafficking** but is making significant efforts to do so. The report cited Ivorian authorities' prosecution of at least 22 traffickers and the repatriation of 3,000 children to their home countries.

An earlier Knight Ridder investigation described how women from Nepal, Brazil and Ukraine were tricked or forced into sexual servitude.

The United States itself is far from immune from the problem. An estimated 45,000 to 50,000 people are trafficked into this country each year, the State Department report said.

Sen. Paul Wellstone, a co-author of last year's law, praised the report. "Often, trafficking is treated as an issue of illegal immigration and criminal activity," the Minnesota Democrat said. "Trafficking is a profound human rights abuse _ a modern-day form of slavery _ and I believe the report released today recognizes this."

The law, signed last October by President Bill Clinton, would block U.S. foreign aid, except for humanitarian and trade-related assistance, to countries that do not meet the minimum standards for trying to stop human trafficking.

The sanctions would not take effect until 2003, however, and the law gives the president broad authority to waive them. Powell and other top aides to President Bush have expressed caution about economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool, saying the United States often has been too quick to impose them.

State Department officials said they preferred working with countries on the issue to sanctioning them.

"This report is about trying to raise awareness around the world and get nations together to have dialogue to work to resolve this problem. This is not intended, although there will always be that aspect of it, to point fingers," Assistant Secretary of State Rand Beers said.

The report puts 23 countries in the "tier three" category, those that do not comply with minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

They are Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia.

Israel, a major destination for women from the former Soviet Union lured into prostitution, recognizes it has a problem "but devotes limited resources to combating it," the report said. Victims get little protection, it said.

In Saudi Arabia, expatriate workers from Asia frequently are forced into domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. The Saudi government "does not believe that trafficking is a problem" because the workers come to Saudi Arabia voluntarily, the report said.

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353 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Pakistan Newswire

July 13, 2001 Friday

Foreign: US blacklists 23 countries for violation of human trafficking**SECTION:** Nationwide International News**LENGTH:** 556 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, July 13

The United States has issued a news list of 23 countries including their allies Israel and Saudi Arabia which have been blacklisted for failing to tackle human trafficking.

Secretary of State of USA Colin Powell released the report Thursday with a view to withholding U.S. aid from nations who fail to address the issue by 2003.

Powell said report should make it abundantly clear that trafficking is going on all over the world in both developed and developing countries, even within the United States.

At least 700,000 people around the world fall victim to the practice every year, Powell said. Between 40,000 and 50,000 of them end up in the United States, the report noted. He said most victims are women and children who have been duped or coerced by criminals.

He said deprived of the most fundamental human rights, subjected to threats and violence, victims of trafficking are made to toil under horrific conditions in shops and on construction sites, in fields and in brothels.

In the first annual "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act," Israel was in the lowest category, "tier three," as a trafficking destination mainly for women from ex-Soviet states, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa and Asia.

In a sign this key U.S. ally could end up getting a waiver, however, the State Department has claimed that the Israeli government had "begun to take some steps" to combat the problem.

Under the law, the president can exempt any country from sanctions if punishing them is seen as counter-productive to fighting the problem -- or against U.S. national interests.

The report stated that Greece, a transit and destination point, "Has not yet acknowledged publicly that trafficking is a problem.

In Saudi Arabia, some expatriate workers were "forced into domestic servitude and sexual exploitation," it added.

Another U.S. ally in tier three was South Korea, a source of women forced into the sex industry primarily in the United States but also in other Western countries and Japan. The others countries in tier three are Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"It s a clear message to all countries, including even some of our closest allies: If you do not make ending the trafficking in human beings a top priority, you will place at jeopardy your relations with the United States," said Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who co-authored the law. Fellow co-authors, Sens. Paul Wellstone and Sam Brownback also praised the report, with Brownback calling it "one volley in that global fight for the freedom of countless people."

The report stated that 47 countries in "tier two," which included countries like China, France and Japan that failed to meet minimum standards, but were trying to.

Countries put in "tier one," ranked because they had a significant number of victims, got into the top category by prosecuting those behind the illegal trade, protecting the victims and sponsoring or coordinating prevention campaigns. Brit-

ain, Canada, Germany and Hong Kong were in this section, along with Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Taiwan.

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354 of 359 DOCUMENTS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

JULY 13, 2001 Friday CITY-D EDITION

State Dept. cites nations for human trafficking

BYLINE: Warren P. Strobel INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 628 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Many nations have failed to fight trafficking in humans across their borders, "a modern-day form of slavery" that ensnares 700,000 people every year, mostly women and children, the State Department said in a report released yesterday.

The report cites several close U.S. allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey, as not meeting minimum standards, such as prohibiting trafficking and prescribing stringent punishments for it.

Others in that category include Russia and several Balkan nations, where women seeking better lives frequently are duped into sexual bondage abroad, and Sudan, where militias abduct women and children and force them into slavery. Traffickers also force people to work in sweatshops, construction sites and fields.

The 102-page document is the first official U.S. government report on the subject. It divides countries where a problem with **human trafficking** could be documented into three categories, or "**tiers**," that reflect a country's level of effort in combating the problem. The data could be used in the future to restrict U.S. aid to nations that do not comply with minimum standards in fighting trafficking.

U.S. officials said that by issuing the report, required annually under a law passed last year, they were not trying to embarrass individual nations but to underscore the need for cooperative international efforts against a problem that has received little attention until recently.

"It is incomprehensible that trafficking in human beings should be taking place in the 21st century. Incomprehensible, but it's true. Very true," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said. "We hope that this report will help to focus international attention on this abhorrent practice and galvanize systemic worldwide efforts to combat it."

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The United States itself is far from immune from the trafficking problem. An estimated 45,000 to 50,000 people are trafficked into this country each year, the State Department report said.

Sen. Paul Wellstone (D., Minn.), a coauthor of last year's law, praised the report. "Often, trafficking is treated as an issue of illegal immigration and criminal activity," he said. "Trafficking is a profound human-rights abuse - a modern-day form of slavery - and I believe the report released today recognizes this."

The report puts 23 countries in the "tier three" category, those that do not comply with minimum antitrafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

They are Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Congo, Gabon, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia.

Israel, a major destination for women from the former Soviet Union lured into prostitution, recognizes it has a problem "but devotes limited resources to combating it," the report said. Victims get little protection, it said.

In Saudi Arabia, expatriate workers from Asia frequently are forced into domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. The Saudi government "does not believe that trafficking is a problem" because the workers come to Saudi Arabia voluntarily, the report said.

Warren P. Strobel's e-mail address is wstrobel@krwashington.com.

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355 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Saint Paul Pioneer Press (Minnesota)

July 13, 2001 Friday CITY EDITION

U.S. REPORT CRITICIZES 'SLAVERY'**BYLINE:** WARREN STROBEL, WASHINGTON BUREAU**SECTION:** MAIN; Pg. A2**LENGTH:** 371 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

Many nations have failed to fight "a modern-day form of slavery" that ensnares 700,000 people every year, mostly women and children, the State Department said in a report released Thursday.

The report cited several close U.S. allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey, as not meeting minimum standards for prohibiting trafficking in humans across their borders and prescribing tough punishments for it.

Others include Russia and several Balkan nations, where women seeking better lives frequently are duped into sexual bondage abroad, and Sudan, where militias abduct women and children and force them into slavery.

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Sen. Paul Wellstone, a co-author of last year's law, praised the report. "Often, trafficking is treated as an issue of illegal immigration and criminal activity," the Minnesota Democrat said. "Trafficking is a profound human rights abuse -- a modern-day form of slavery -- and I believe the report released today recognizes this."

The law, signed last October by President Clinton, would block U.S. foreign aid, except for humanitarian and trade-related assistance, to countries that do not meet the minimum standards for trying to stop human trafficking.

This report includes information from the Associated Press.

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2001**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

356 of 359 DOCUMENTS

San Jose Mercury News (California)

July 13, 2001 Friday MORNING FINAL EDITION

U.S. ENCOURAGES NATIONS TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BYLINE: WARREN P. STROBEL, Mercury News Washington Bureau

SECTION: FRONT; Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 796 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

Many nations have failed to fight "a modern-day form of slavery" that ensnares 700,000 people every year, mostly women and children, the State Department said in a report released Thursday.

The report cited several close U.S. allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey, as not meeting minimum standards for prohibiting trafficking in humans across their borders and prescribing stringent punishments for it.

Others in that category include Russia and several Balkan nations, where women seeking better lives frequently are duped into sexual bondage abroad, and Sudan, where militias abduct women and children and force them into slavery.

The 102-page document is the first official U.S. government report on the subject. It divides countries where a problem with **human trafficking** could be documented into three categories, or "**tiers**," that reflect a country's level of efforts against the problem. The data could be used in the future to restrict U.S. foreign aid to nations that do not comply with minimum standards in fighting trafficking.

Call for cooperation

U.S. officials said that by issuing the report, required annually under a law passed last year, they were not trying to embarrass individual nations but to underscore the need for cooperative international efforts against a problem that has received little attention until recently.

"It is incomprehensible that trafficking in human beings should be taking place in the 21st century. Incomprehensible, but it's true. Very true," said Secretary of State Colin Powell. "We hope that this report will help to focus international attention on this abhorrent practice and galvanize systemic worldwide efforts to combat it."

Recent articles by the Mercury News Africa Bureau documented how enslaved boys as young as 11 pick cocoa beans in Ivory Coast that can end up in Americans' chocolate.

Ivory Coast, according to the report released Thursday, is a "**tier two**" country, meaning it does not comply with minimum standards to combat **human trafficking** but is making significant efforts to do so. The report cited Ivorian authorities' prosecution of at least 22 traffickers and the repatriation of 3,000 children to their home countries.

An earlier Mercury News investigation described how women from Nepal, Brazil and Ukraine were tricked or forced into sexual servitude.

U.S. troubles

The United States itself is far from immune from the problem. An estimated 45,000 to 50,000 people are trafficked into this country each year, the State Department report said.

Sen. Paul Wellstone, a co-author of last year's law, praised the report. "Often, trafficking is treated as an issue of illegal immigration and criminal activity," the Minnesota Democrat said. "Trafficking is a profound human rights abuse -- a modern-day form of slavery -- and I believe the report released today recognizes this."

The law, signed last October by President Clinton, would block U.S. foreign aid, except for humanitarian and trade-related assistance, to countries that do not meet the minimum standards for trying to stop human trafficking.

Flexible law

The sanctions would not take effect until 2003, however, and the law gives the president broad authority to waive them. Powell and other top aides to President Bush have expressed caution about economic sanctions as a foreign-policy tool, saying the United States often has been too quick to impose them.

State Department officials said they preferred working with countries on the issue to sanctioning them.

"This report is about trying to raise awareness around the world and get nations together to have dialogue to work to resolve this problem. This is not intended, although there will always be that aspect of it, to point fingers," Assistant Secretary of State Rand Beers said.

The report puts 23 countries in the "tier three" category, those that do not comply with minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

They are Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia.

Israel, a major destination for women from the former Soviet Union lured into prostitution, recognizes it has a problem "but devotes limited resources to combating it," the report said. Victims get little protection, it said.

In Saudi Arabia, expatriate workers from Asia frequently are forced into domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. The Saudi government "does not believe that trafficking is a problem" because the workers come to Saudi Arabia voluntarily, the report said.

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357 of 359 DOCUMENTS

U.S. Newswire

July 13, 2001 Friday

Helsinki Commissioners Praise Report on Trafficking in Persons; Report a Manifestation of Legislation to Combat Modern Day Slavery

SECTION: National and International Desks

LENGTH: 459 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 13

United States Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) and Commissioner Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), principal sponsors of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, commended the State Department for its first annual report on human trafficking on Thursday.

"Friends don't let friends commit human rights violations," Smith said. "With the release of this report on trafficking in persons, the United States has demonstrated bold leadership in the battle to end the trade in human beings. We wrote this law precisely for the purpose of setting a benchmark from which to judge the efforts and progress in those countries where the trafficking problems are most egregious," Smith said.

Trafficking in human beings "includes the classic and awful elements associated with historic slavery such as abduction from family and home, use of false promises, transport to a strange country, loss of freedom and personal dignity, extreme physical abuse and depravation," said Sen. Brownback.

The report is mandated by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, which was signed into law on October 28, 2000. The State Department will issue the Trafficking in Persons report annually and may also issue interim reports. Beginning in 2003, those countries that are listed in Tier 3 -- signifying that they do not satisfy the law's minimum standards to combat trafficking and are not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards -- may be denied non-humanitarian assistance from the United States, barring a Presidential waiver.

Nine of the current "Tier 3" countries -- namely Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia -- have committed in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to punish those who traffic in human beings and to better protect their victims.

"The United States expects the OSCE countries to fulfill their commitments. If the countries listed in **Tier 3** needed a reminder of the importance that the United States places on combating **human trafficking**, then this report is it," Smith said. Earlier this week, Smith successfully advanced a resolution against trafficking at the annual meeting of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly.

"This report will serve as a catalyst for reinvigorated international efforts to end this scourge," said Smith. "We will just as vigilantly work to expeditiously implement those provisions of the legislation that provide tough new penalties for persons convicted of trafficking in the United States-up to life imprisonment-as well as compassionate new protections for victims of trafficking here," said Smith.

CONTACT: Ben Anderson of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 202-225-1901 Web site: <http://www.csce.gov>

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358 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Japan Economic Newswire

July 12, 2001, Thursday

U.S. raps Japan for lack of action to prevent human trafficking

LENGTH: 413 words

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 12 Kyodo

The United States on Thursday criticized Japan for lack of full actions to protect the victims of trafficking in persons.

Japan is a destination country for women, primarily from Asian countries, such as Thailand and the Philippines, who are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, the State Department said in a report.

The department said some law enforcement units in Japan have been 'reluctant' to investigate reports of trafficking and that the Japanese government has 'not been aggressive' in arresting and prosecuting suspected traffickers.

'Victims are often treated as criminals (prostitutes or illegal aliens) by the legal system because the government does not consider people who willingly enter for illegal work to be trafficking victims,' it said.

The report, compiled under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, classified countries in three **tiers**, depending on their legal systems and government measures to combat **human trafficking**.

Japan was placed on Tier 2 -- countries that do not yet fully comply with the act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

According to the report, at least 700,000 persons, especially women and children, are trafficked each year across international borders and victims are forced to toil in sweatshops, construction sites, brothels, and fields.

Criminal groups choose to traffic in human beings as well because it is highly profitable, the report added.

As for China, which was also put on Tier 2, the department said most trafficking is internal.

'The vast majority of internal trafficking is for the purpose of providing lower-middle income farmers with brides or sons,' it said.

The department placed South Korea on Tier 3 -- countries which do not fully comply with the act's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

'South Korea is a country of origin and transit for trafficking in persons. Young female Koreans are trafficked primarily for sexual exploitation, mainly to the United States, but also to other Western countries and Japan,' it said.

The report said the South Korean government has done little to combat this relatively new and worsening problem of trafficking in persons.

The department defined Tier 1 countries as those which fully comply with the law's minimum standards. Hong Kong and Taiwan are on Tier 1.

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359 of 359 DOCUMENTS

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

July 12, 2001, Thursday

State Department Report Reveals Counties with 'Modern-Day' Slavery

BYLINE: By Warren P. Strobel

LENGTH: 1033 words

WASHINGTON -- Many nations have failed to fight trafficking in humans across their borders, "a modern-day form of slavery" that ensnares 700,000 people every year, mostly women and children, the State Department said in a report released Thursday.

The report cites several close U.S. allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey, as not meeting minimum standards, such as prohibiting trafficking and prescribing stringent punishments for it.

Others in that category include Russia and several Balkan nations, where women seeking better lives frequently are duped into sexual bondage abroad, and Sudan, where militias abduct women and children and force them into slavery.

The 102-page document is the first official U.S. government report on the subject. It divides countries where a problem with **human trafficking** could be documented into three categories, or "**tiers**," that reflect a country's level of effort in combating the problem. The data could be used in the future to restrict U.S. foreign aid to nations that do not comply with minimum standards in fighting trafficking.

U.S. officials said that by issuing the report, required annually under a law passed last year, they were not trying to embarrass individual nations but to underscore the need for cooperative international efforts against a problem that has received little attention until recently.

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The law, signed last October by former President Bill Clinton, would block U.S. foreign aid, except for humanitarian and trade-related assistance, to countries that do not meet the minimum standards for trying to stop human trafficking.

The sanctions would not take effect until 2003, however, and the law gives the president broad authority to waive them. Powell and other top aides to President Bush have expressed caution about economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool, saying the United States often has been too quick to impose them.

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They are Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia.

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In Saudi Arabia, expatriate workers from Asia frequently are forced into domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. The Saudi government "does not believe that trafficking is a problem" because the workers come to Saudi Arabia voluntarily, the report said.

STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

The State Department released its first annual Trafficking in Persons Report on Thursday. Trafficked victims often end up in the sex trade, sweatshops, construction or agriculture. An estimated 45,000 to 50,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked to the United States each year.

Congress legislated three tiers of standards for judging countries on their "serious and sustained efforts to eliminate trafficking":

One -- Countries have victims of trafficking but have complied with minimum standards, such as making the practice a criminal offense and prosecuting traffickers. They also have programs aimed at stopping trafficking. These countries include Austria, Colombia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Two -- Countries that are making efforts to prosecute traffickers but do not help the victims, or are helping victims but not making a strong effort to prevent trafficking. These countries include Bulgaria, China, Ivory Coast, Japan, Morocco and Sweden.

Three -- Countries that deny the problem exists or have made only weak efforts to combat it. Some of them are beginning efforts to prevent trafficking. These countries include Sudan, Israel, South Korea, Russia and Greece.

For the report and the complete list of the countries, see the State Department's Web site, www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/tiprpt/2001

Compiled by researcher Tish Wells

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